



The Abbey



Gateway

9 July 2021

Aerobic Gymnast - History Trip - Music Festival

World-Class IB Results at The Abbey



The Abbey School is celebrating another outstanding set of IB results - reaffirming our globally renowned status as one of the top IB schools in the world.

An IB Diploma point score of 39 is the level required to gain admission to the most competitive courses at Oxbridge, so The Abbey average of 40 points (30 is the world average) is testament to the exceptional dedication of both students and staff despite the disruption they have faced this year.

Congratulations go to all students, with particular praise for three students who achieved a perfect '45'. Typically only 0.01% of IB students globally celebrate this remarkable achievement. Alyssa will now go to read Mathematics and Philosophy at Warwick, Poppy is going to read Anthropology at Durham, and Annabel is heading off to Queen's University, Belfast to read Medicine.

Three further students all achieved 44 points including Emily who leaves The Abbey to read Law at King's College London.

Overview:

- Remarkably 3 separate students achieved a perfect score of 45 placing in the top 0.01% globally
- Over 60% of students achieved more than 40 points
- All of our students are progressing to world-leading higher education institutions

Mr le Fleming is delighted with the students' achievement: "The IB Diploma has for many years offered our students access to an academically rigorous and internationally-respected gold standard. I'm hugely proud of our students and warmly congratulate them on their results, achieved during the most challenging of times. Their determination to succeed and overcome obstacles will stand them in good stead in their next educational steps and in the world beyond.

"A special mention must also go to our wonderful teachers, who faced these most unprecedented times with resolve and unwavering commitment to support their students."

Heads: Connected

The end and the beginning

There is an ancient symbol, found across the world from Norse mythology to Ancient Egypt, that depicts a circle formed by a snake eating its own tail. The symbol is known as Ouroboros and symbolises all sorts of things, but mostly the cycle of life, renewal and rebirth.

[Read more](#)

Berlin City tour...by Zoom

Friendly Berlin tour guide, Martin, took the Lower and Upper V German students on a live Zoom walking tour of Germany's capital city this Wednesday lunchtime.

Abbey students rose to the challenge of following the entire trip in German and saw for themselves the Reichstag (German parliament), the Brandenburger Tor, Checkpoint Charlie, the unremarkable carpark which is the site of Hitler's bunker and the remains of the Berlin Wall which divided communist East Berlin from capitalist West Berlin until 1989.

Hardly a substitute for a real school trip to Germany, but it certainly whetted our appetites for the return of language visits as soon as COVID regulations make this possible. Our wonderful students coped brilliantly with this immersive German experience.

For weekly events and reminders, please go to your [My School Portal account](#)

This week's Heads Connected: [The end and the beginning](#) by Will le Fleming



Aerobic Gymnast - European Championship Call-up



Zoë (left) selected to represent Great Britain at the Aerobic Gymnastics European Championships

Zoë Aerobic gymnast Zoë, Lower V, recently received the exciting news that she had been selected, as part of a trio, to represent Great Britain at the Aerobic Gymnastics European Championships in Italy later this year.

Zoë started doing gymnastics when she was two years old at Bulmershe Gymnastics Club and joined the squad when she was six. Since then, Zoë has represented Great Britain and won a

number of medals in both national and international competitions.

Zoë, who is a Sports Scholar at The Abbey, said 'I am thrilled to have been selected to represent Great Britain with my partners Daisy and Eesha. We have been working on our routine for months and that included training at home over Zoom during lockdown. It can be hard to balance training and school work but my teachers and coaches are always very supportive which is a great help'.

Aerobic gymnastics involves acrobatic and dance elements, and requires balance, flexibility and strength to compete the choreographed routines on a sprung floor. Zoë, Daisy and Eesha recently had a great opportunity to showcase their skills close to home. Covid-19 restrictions have made it very hard for gymnasts to train and compete so a new approach had to be taken to organising competitions and The Abbey was delighted to host two 'Return to Action' competitions in May and July. The school was ideally located for gymnastics clubs from across the South East of England to attend.

The competition was conducted under strict Covid-19 guidelines, with clubs competing one by one rather than altogether. Zoë said 'It was great to be able to compete at school and I enjoyed performing in the Richards Hall.'

Zoë, Daisy and Eesha will be training hard over the summer to perfect their routine and prepare for the competition.



Lower I German

Lower I students have now been learning German for a year. They very much enjoyed the lessons and the help from Felix and Franz, the puppets who come from Berlin and live in a German letterbox in England.

In our final lesson this week, everyone went on a virtual tour to Germany (with Felix and Franz, of course!) and we explored Berlin and revised some German vocabulary. A big thank you goes to Beatrice, Mia, Kanyin and Mayowa from the German Club for preparing a lovely Google Slides presentation as an introduction to Berlin.

Salsa Fun in Upper IV



To end our Upper IV course in Spanish, we decided to have a latino dance party. Students were introduced to different styles of Hispanic dance and spent some time researching their history and country of origin.

Dances included la salsa, la bachata, el flamenco, el tango and la samba. We spent some time in class discussing the roots of some of these dances and how they reflect something of the country's identity and culture.

We then taught some useful instructions in Spanish such as; "manos arriba" - hands in the air, "da la vuelta" - turn around, "mueve

la cabeza" - shake your head. We took inspiration from a modernised version of latin dance and learnt a zumba-salsa routine for the song 'Danza Kuduro.' After spending some time in class honing our dance moves we took over the gym for half an hour and let loose on the dance floor to a variety of latin dance songs.

Both the students and the Spanish department had a lot of fun!

Srta Cross

Alumna of the Week: Kiki Lawrance (2008)

Kiki Lawrance (2008) produces and directs science based television for a wide variety of audiences. She has been on many adventures shooting stories all around the world, from Australian deserts to the Arctic.

When did you leave The Abbey and what are you doing now?

I left The Abbey in 2008. I took a gap year afterwards to work and travel, before attending university at UCL to study Neuroscience. During study and after graduation I did many jobs including: recruitment consulting, working at a bowling alley, touring Europe with a circus company and working in a lab. I fell into television where I could merge my curious creative side with my scientific knowledge and vigor. I am now a freelance Producer/Director making factual science television for various channels, including the BBC, Disney Plus, National Geographic and Netflix.

What do you miss the most about The Abbey?

I miss the ability to cram so much in! When I look back on my time at The Abbey my schedule was packed with not just exams and studying, but a huge amount of extra curricular too. Especially in the sixth form when I was volunteering

for Millennium Volunteers, completing various sections of all my D of E Awards and doing Young Enterprise, on top of all the sports and social pursuits I had. I have no idea how I had the energy, but I really enjoyed being pushed into so many different activities.

What would you say is your biggest achievement?

My biggest achievement is loving my job and always pushing to be the best I can be in it. So many people dislike their jobs and use them purely as a means to enrich other areas of their life. Which is totally valid, it is just something I can't live with. I adore what I do and the happiness from that trickles down into the rest of my life.

What advice would you give to current students?

My advice to current students is don't be afraid to try things out or change your mind. Nothing you do has to be forever and the experiences, people and wisdom you take from different avenues is invaluable.

When I left school I wanted to be a circus performer or a research scientist (two very compatible choices!) I wanted to be creative, but my ego was dying to prove my intellect and do a PhD. But



after spending time working in a lab and performing in a touring circus company, the reality was that neither were for me.

When we change paths we are programmed to think of it as a failure, rather than a great opportunity to filter out what does not suit you and get you closer to something that does. So many times a random nugget from my past has served me immeasurably in my current job. Such as the patchy Norwegian I picked up touring with the circus, enabling me to bond with locals and get great access when filming in the Arctic earlier this year. All knowledge is worth having, the trick for me is always being open to new things.



Classical Indian Dance

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Classical Indian Dance Faculty hosted their first online competition which was open to all global members and included 70 submissions from all over the world.

We are delighted to announce Suhani's (Lower IV) selection as a finalist in the Classical Indian Dance genre in these Theatre Bursary Awards. A wonderful achievement and many congratulations to Suhani for her achievement.

ISTD is one of the world's leading dance examination boards with the widest range of dance genres available.

Second Hand Uniform

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is moving over the summer and the Shop Manager will not have access to it. Orders placed during the holidays will be processed in September.

Donations can be left at Senior School Reception over the summer or at the Shop Manager's house. She lives near the Junior School.

The Shop can be contacted at abbeyuniformshop@yahoo.com

Be inspired!

Be Inspired by Queen Elizabeth II (1926-present day)

In 2017, The Queen became the first British monarch to reach a Sapphire Jubilee and is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch. Her Majesty is the longest-serving female head of state in world history, and the world's oldest living monarch, longest-reigning current monarch, and oldest and longest-serving current head of state.

Looking Back...Juniors PE



Looking back over the year where we were returning to school with no fixtures, it has been amazing that we have managed to keep sport so alive in school and have actually involved far higher numbers of students than we'd imagined.

The only disappointing element has been the lack of parental spectators and support from the sidelines cheering them on.

Every student from Lower I up has competed in their House swimming gala, a baptism by fire for one student having only started at school the previous day - what a great effort.

The victorious Houses across the year groups have been:

Lower I- Paget
Upper I- Paget
Upper II- Ducat
Lower III - Kensington

Cricket training has been open to all in year group sessions after school, culminating in House tournaments, and Upper II & Lower III have all had the opportunity to compete in tennis tournaments after school too.

Despite the recent deluges, all year groups will have had their own Sports Day – a total of 7 across the Junior School – running the PE department near ragged! Yet, allowing time for each girl to be competing in every single event, so really supporting their House to the full. Congratulations go to everyone for their

whole-hearted participation, but especially to the winning Houses, which this year has been dominated by just two:

Rec & Lower Prep - Ducat
Upper Prep - Carrington
Lower I- Carrington
Upper I- Ducat
Upper II- Ducat
Lower III - Carrington

In addition, House long jump, high jump and throwing events have been open to all during lunchtimes and have led to some tense competition and in particular, a fantastic new school record by Luna in Upper II leaping 3.95m in long jump.

Stickers, ribbons and certificates have been proudly gained and displayed on PE tops, and water bottles. House trophies have been held high, yet so too have the heads of those that have been disappointed in defeat, as the overriding emotions have been ones of fun and enjoyment of all being together and participating, pushing themselves and supporting their House teams.

Hopefully you've celebrated your daughter's participation from afar, relishing her involvement if she has been new to extra-curricular sport and maybe she has inspired you to also reap the benefits of a return to sport over the summer, both off as well as on the television.



Sustainable Cities

Upper III have been designing mini sustainable cities, having first researched what it means to be sustainable and looking at examples of sustainability around the world.

They learnt that sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Working in pairs, the students have designed and built their cities using material which has been recycled or reused.

They were required to think about energy supply, housing, jobs, health care, education, open spaces, leisure facilities, transport and rubbish collection.

Tennis Star



In a week where ladies tennis took centre stage at Wimbledon, The Abbey may have the next Emma Raducanu in its midst?

Last weekend, Cerys in Lower I, represented Berkshire Tennis County Girls team in LTA East Region 8U Inter County tournament held in Cambridge.

The Berkshire team of six students competed against Anglia, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Suffolk county teams and won the Gold medal.

Cerys is very thankful for all the support and motivation provided by her PE teachers.

National Youth Orchestra Music Upper II Workshop

On Thursday morning, Helena (Upper V) and Tara (Lower V) led music workshops with the whole of the Upper II at the Junior School as part of their involvement with the National Youth Orchestra's (NYO) Hope Exchange initiative

After gaining places at the hugely prestigious NYO, Helena and Tara were determined to make a difference to as many students as possible. Below they reflect on their NYO experiences:

In early June, just when lockdown restrictions were starting to ease, Tara and I received an email from the National Youth Orchestra (NYO); inside was an initiative to visit a local primary school and spread hope for the future through our music.

Having spent many months at home, faced with endless hours of online learning, infinite essays, GMeets and abundant assignments, we both recognised the all too familiar feeling of diminishing hope and burgeoning doubt, a feeling that had also pervaded the majority of our peers.

With this in mind, the opportunity to run a workshop at Juniors, focused solely on hope within music, seemed an ideal way to revive and revitalise the sentiment within the school community, combating the diminished social contact that so prominently defined life within the pandemic. Particularly for the younger students, whom we felt had missed out on important childhood experiences, we wanted to renew their excitement and provide them with a memorable way with which to ingrain music into their lives.

For many children, music can seem a far reached medium, inaccessible and even aloof, beyond the realms of their capabilities. In performing this workshop, we aimed to demonstrate the antithesis, opening their eyes to the boundless possibilities, ensembles and music-making opportunities available to each and every one of them. We wanted to prove that music is an integral, accessible



part of human existence, that can and will ultimately bring them great joy both now and in the future.

Helena, Upper V

I first heard about NYO from my mother, as she was in NYO when she was a teenager, and now my older brother is a member of the bassoon section, so it runs through the family.

Over previous lockdowns I have been involved in NYO Inspire projects digitally, where we have done creative workshops and also more technical workshops.

NYO is such an amazing community as well as an orchestra, and this has always appealed to me, as they not only focus on the music but also the wider ideas, for example through the Mighty River project, where they promoted music by black composers, and now through the Hope Exchange.

Tara, Lower V

Carnegie Shadowing Challenge



This term, 15 students, from Upper III to Lower IV, took part in the Carnegie Shadowing Challenge which is organised

by The Chartered Institute of Library Professionals.

Thousands of schools across the globe take part which involves reading eight new books from a selection of middle school and young adult fiction. The students are required to read the books, submit reviews and vote for their favourite book.

This year, 'Look Both Ways' by Jason Reynolds was voted as the winner. All the shortlisted books are available in The Taylor Library of

which one must be read in this summer's reading challenge (see your library Google Classroom for more information).

Although we gave Rosas and prizes for the most books read and for the reviews written, it was wonderful to see The Abbey Students participating so enthusiastically all for the joy of reading.

Ms Wenman



Lower IV Masks

What a year it has been... from remote learning to lessons in school, it has been like no other. What it has taught us is how resilient our Lower IV's are and continue to be.

While honing their skills as artists through a range of mediums, they have been exploring the overarching theme of 'culture'. What is it? What defines it? Where they fit into it and how it is applied in a worldwide context. They have researched and selected a myriad of topics and cultures that truly define our world

and our global society in the 21st century.

In their quest to create a three-dimensional mask which represented both a culture and an event, Lower IV have been current affairs researchers, artists, draftspeople, designers, engineers and makers! All their multidisciplinary hard work has culminated in a fabulous set of masks worthy of being displayed on the walls in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Well done.

Mr Suret and the Senior Art Department

Lower V History Trip

On Tuesday 6th our LV History class visited MERL (the Museum of English Rural Life) to help film an advertisement for the museum. Whilst the first group were filming, the rest of us bonded with some chickens, and revisited our childhood by playing on a tractor. In a competitive game of hide and seek we stumbled upon a hidden garden with herbs, such as sage, and descriptions of certain plants and their history, such as woad, a plant used in Europe to dye fabric blue.

Upon entering the museum for our film debut, there were many fascinating items on display, one of which was a steam lawnmower from the early twentieth century. Upstairs, there were original ploughs and many woven baskets and tools that have since been collected by the museum, as well as wagons and pulley systems. It's interesting to see how modern items have been influenced by the past.

We loved our visit to the museum and hope to come back as part of a workshop or visit in the future.

Phoebe and Reeti

DofE Awards

Very well done to Michal on achieving her Gold Award during the last week.

Well done on this achievement

Upper I Moving Up Art

Last Thursday, Upper I's Moving Up Celebration provided the Senior School Art team the wonderful opportunity to get creative (and make a mess) outside of our usual four walls up at the Junior School.

We thoroughly enjoyed the collaboration which enabled us to work with some wonderful students and staff on a Jasper Johns (Abstract Expressionist) piece. The canvas artworks combined spontaneous, fluid, primary colour with layered, stencil techniques.

The Abbey Learner Profile and keywords were used to help the students identify and reflect on the key skills that they had gained confidence in, or developed this academic year. We hope you agree that the activity culminated in some beautifully experimental, bold and vibrant work from all. A fun afternoon indeed - thank you and well done.

Mrs Barrett, the Senior Art and Upper I Teams



Reflecting on the Year in Art

Throughout this year in UIV art, we have attempted and learnt a range of skills and experimented with a variety of media.

For example, during the winter term we investigated and trialled fragmented portraiture utilising facial features and cutting knives to enhance certain parts of our chosen pictures; later we developed those skills and researched our chosen artist, Naum Gabo, to develop 3D statue making.

Within the lockdown period we started our research on Paul Giovanopoulos, producing a portrait of a chosen influential figure using his style of work through weeks of evolving artist research on artistic figure heads such as Louis Jouver, Banksy and Roy Lichtenstein.

Our artist research has developed our collage skills, knowledge and expressionism techniques and enhanced our current skill sets.

Personally, I struggled to create flesh tones on my portrait as I enjoyed the black and white palette used in Banksy's compositions; however our teachers allowed us to experiment with the colour wheel, colour mixing and using differing media to produce flesh like textures.

As a collective, we have really enjoyed learning about new artists and translating that into our personal work and have progressed massively because of this.

Isabella UIV



Live Music returns to The Abbey



On Monday and Tuesday this week there was an air of excitement surrounding the Music Department. Instruments were dusted off, voices warmed up and fabulous sounds filled the air.

Over 120 young musicians performed in their year group bubbles and audiences of students and staff from the same year groups were treated to an eclectic array of music. Students performed as soloists,

duos, ensembles and even a whole class took to the stage.

From the sublime perfection of Bach's Concerto in A minor to the thrill of Kreisler's Preludium and Allegro; from Debussy's Jardins sous la pluie to Julián Arcas' Bolero; and from Ben E King's Stand by Me to the White Stripes' Seven Nation Army, we were treated to a smorgasbord of musical flavours. Thank you to everyone who took part and we look forward to even more live music next year.

