



The Abbey



Gateway

28 January 2022

County Champions - Textiles Project - Inspiring Art

Saatchi Gallery Visit



Our talented LVI Art students have been working on a collaborative project since the beginning of the new academic year. It has had staff and students participants from both the Junior and Senior Schools, and even had contributions from our Senior School Open Day visitors.

The project is one which deals with the therapeutic act of writing and then discarding. The thoughts and feelings inscribed on paper are those which deal with the emotions that have risen up as a result of the persistence of the ongoing pandemic. These sentiments, anonymous and private, have then been immortalised in porcelain clay. Its fragility, scale and purity echoes the emotional trauma and totality of a world in shock. The project is titled Catharsis.

The Saatchi Gallery, London, has been home to artists such as Damien Hirst, Sarah Lucas, Jenny Saville and Tracy Emin (to name a few) and we are delighted that our Lower VI artists have been given the opportunity to join this prestigious list of exhibitors.

Armed with cameras, tape measures and notebooks in hand, the Lower VI embarked on a site visit on 13 January. They met with the gallery manager and exhibitions team to talk through different methods and ideas for display of their installation. After thrashing through many concepts and possibilities, the students were then free to take a look around the London Graduate Show which was currently on display in the gallery.



Their fantastic installation will be on display at the Saatchi Gallery for the whole month of March.

[Mr Suret](#)

Heads: Connected

The nicest things you can have...

A firm friend in our Junior School celebrated his 96th Birthday last week, and to mark him being Very Old Indeed, we have been reflecting on his character and the wonderful adventures which he has embarked on while dwelling happily in the Hundred Acre Wood.

Winnie-the-Pooh's vibrant and enduring stories are part of the fabric of our school; in the same way in which we grew up reading them, so we now read them to the children in our care.

Pooh's best friends are loveable in their individual ways, demonstrating thoughtfulness, kindness and even heroism in their attitudes towards each other.

[Read more](#)

Podcast With A Cake

In this week's Podcast with a cake, the team discuss the recent mock examinations, and offer advice to younger students on preparation techniques and wellbeing strategies.

This episode is available on Spotify, Apple Podcast, and Amazon Music. You can now also play Podcast with a cake on your Alexa device.

[Apple podcast](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Amazon Music](#)

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

This week's Heads Connected: [The nicest things you can have...](#) by Nisha Kaura



Korean Speech Contest



Korean Language Clubs are run in 26 secondary and 19 primary schools in the UK, supported by the Korean embassy.

The Abbey School is one of them and has run the Korean Language Club for six years. Many students have learned Korean language, culture and cooking with Ms Chung who works for Korean Education Centre UK.

Recently, Korean Education Centre UK held a Korean Speech Contest. Students made a short video about why they want to learn Korean and how much they enjoy it. Amazingly, four students in the Abbey

School were selected, out of 11 winners.

Huge congratulations to Sofia (Lower VI) who won the first prize (£50 Amazon voucher) in the UK.

Josslyn and Chloe (Lower VI) won second prize (£30 Amazon voucher) and Sophie (Upper IV) got 'Highly Commended' (£10 Amazon voucher). Well done!

Mrs Mallett

All About Pets

The Reception children enjoyed finding out how to look after pets on Monday morning, as part of our current unit of inquiry, in which we are thinking about how we can appreciate the natural world by learning about living things.



First of all, we had a very special visit from Bodhi and Mrs Hawkins, who told us about taking care of a pet dog; they brought lots of interesting things for us to look at too, including Bodhi's food, toys and his favourite blanket (he was particularly interested in the bag of snacks!).

After that, the children learned about looking after different kinds of pets through various activities, including a pet grooming parlour, small furry pet-care play trays and iPad learning stations using Seesaw.

Finally, the Knell House art room became a hive of activity, with our students making some very imaginative junk models of pets, including cats, dogs, rabbits and a rainbow coloured parrot.

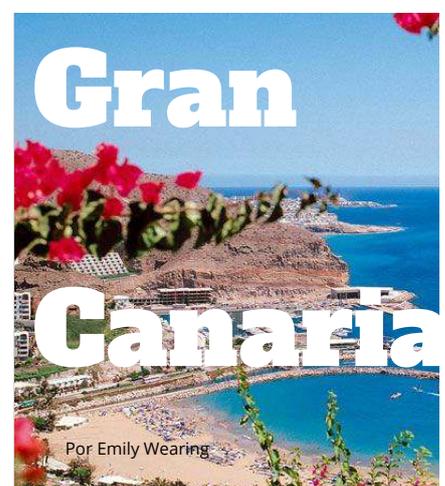
Spanish Project



As well as performing extremely well in their recent speaking exams, Upper IV students were set an additional challenge once finished. Students had to create a project on the Book Creator app describing their holidays.

They applied their learnt content (vocabulary and grammar) with great proficiency, and that, along with their design skills, makes us eager to know more about their next holiday!

Miss Cangiano





Textiles Pyjama Project

The Upper III were super excited to try on their completed pyjamas this week. They have achieved so much in their Textiles lessons since September, mastering the sewing machine, creating zipped printed

bags and pyjama shorts as well as tie-dyed customised T-shirts to match. We are so pleased and very proud of them all. Well done, Upper III!

German Film Study Day

Lower VI German students went to the IMax cinema in London last week for a study day on films about East Germany around the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The cinema was packed with Sixth Form German students keen to build their cultural capital, expand their vocabulary and explore key themes and styles of contemporary German cinema.

Conducted entirely in German, the workshop touched on the German films *Ballon* (2018), *Goodbye, Lenin!* (2003) and *The Lives of Others* (2006), and the day focused on the legacy of East Germany with and through film.

Our verdict? It was great to be able to go out on school trips again! Our tip? If you fancy a family German film night (with English subtitles), watch 12-certificate "Balloon" (the English title). It's an exciting true-life story. Frau Seabrook Moore

Seniors - Juniors Mural Planning

This week our Upper V project managers from the mural team, Lily and Phoebe, visited the Junior School to hold a project session during lunchtime.

The purpose was to discuss the process of planning a mural, and to offer some pearls of wisdom to our Lower III team who are in the early stages of their own mural journey.

The Lower III team are busy preparing a piece that will later be exhibited at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The team is coordinating a mural design with the help of our Artist in Residence, Emily Kelly, and Mrs Munton.

Phoebe and Lily offered some sound advice and ideas moving forward to help the team with their 'Joy' inspired piece. We look forward to visiting again very soon to offer support and see the exciting progress being made.
Mrs Barrett



Senior School Abbey Interludes Recital

On Wednesday we had the pleasure of listening to four fantastic musical performances as part of our weekly Abbey Interludes recital series.

Music was provided by Isabella (piano), Anya (singing), Natasha (guitar) and Tara (piano). A huge congratulations to all performers,

and a very big 'thank you' to Mrs Cornford for accompanying our performers each week.

This event is open to all students at Seniors, regardless of whether they receive instrumental lessons in school or not, and encourages and supports our musicians to become more confident performers.

The Abbey Correspondent - The Launch

Over the last term our Journalism club has put together the first issue of *The Abbey Correspondent* and we're very proud and excited to be releasing this via the website on Tuesday 1 February.

Our goal is to research and deliver articles and podcasts about topics we feel are important to us and our world, and to bring our own individual spin on it whilst doing so. Our amazing team of budding

journalists have come together quickly, brainstorming ideas and concepts. The articles reflect what we think are far-reaching subjects and/or issues, and we hope you find them important and interesting too.

We decided on the name *The Abbey Correspondent* because of the link it offers to the world: we want to write about authentic things, and have the opportunity

to do so within school. We are hoping to leave *The Abbey Correspondent* as a legacy that will run for years to come. If you are interested in becoming a part of our team and want to raise awareness of topics you believe are important, please come and join us on Monday lunchtimes at 12.30 in C10!

[Lexie](#), [Zara](#) & [Gwen](#)

Meet the Peris: Mr Malafronte

The Abbey Music department is very fortunate to be supported by a vastly experienced team of peripatetic teachers.

In this feature, we get to know one of them a little better:

Name: Mr Malafronte

What instrument(s) do you teach?
Guitar

When did you discover your love of music?

Seeing my father's guitar made me very curious about how it felt and sounded. As soon as I started to hear notes and chords being played, there was no turning back!

What advice would you give to young musicians?

Try to learn from everyone, not just your music teachers. It could be a friend that you discuss music with or a programme on tv. If you have an open mind, you'll never stop learning.

What is your favourite piece of music and why?

That's far too hard! I really am fascinated by all kinds of music and it can also depend on my mood. Sometimes I might find myself listening to Ravel's piano concerto, another day I might be listening to a Piazzolla tango and the next day I might be listening to Bob Dylan! All music is truly fantastic and there's no way I can have a favourite.

What is your funniest musical moment?

When I was a student at Chetham's School of Music, I was playing in a school guitar quartet. We were performing in a concert and forgot to arrange our music before we went on to perform. Two of us started one



piece and the other two began another. Let's just say it didn't sound too great!

What is your most memorable musical moment?

I've enjoyed some really great musical moments such as performing at amazing venues like the Wigmore Hall and being asked to develop a musical programme based on the artworks of the National Gallery and then perform there. However, the most touching and memorable moments have always been performing in the community. I remember performing at a hospice and afterwards being told that my music had made a difference and even if it was only in some small way, it was by far the most memorable moment.

If you could meet any composer from any point in time, who would it be and why?

It would be extraordinary to have a group meeting with Domenico Scarlatti, J.S. Bach and Jean-Phillipe Rameau. They were some of the wonderful pioneers of the golden baroque era of music and I'm sure it would be a very interesting conversation although we might need some translators!

Berkshire Football Squad

Emily in Upper IV, has recently represented The Abbey in the Berkshire Schools FA U14s - playing in goal for their first two matches against Hampshire and Oxfordshire.



She did herself and the school proud with great performances in both matches, in particular against a very strong Oxfordshire side. After that match, the coach singled her out for individual praise saying "Special mention to Emily for her blinding performance in goal!". Well done, Emily, and we look forward to hearing more about your progress!

Junior School Musical Moments

Musical Moments on Tuesday this week saw Upper II perform for their friends and teachers.

Eight musicians gave accomplished performances on a variety of instruments from flute to guitar and violin to piano.

For five of them this was their first time performing in public, with some who have only been learning their instrument for just over a term.

What a fantastic start to their musical journey.





County Cross Country Success - County Champions!

Last Saturday a number of students from the Senior School competed at the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships at Newbury Showground. They all ran superbly against some tough opposition. From U11, Isabella, Margherita and Amara ran a great race and came 33rd, 63rd and 70th respectively.

Out of over 100 runners, in the U15 age group we had 10 runners from LIV and UIV who all did amazingly well. Our first team was crowned team county champions! Well done Grace for placing 3rd, Isabella 6th, Lily 9th and Ruby 21st. Another Abbey team was placed 6th (Imogen 32nd, Amelia 39th, Emily 40th and Gabby 42nd). Matilda in 46th place and Cara in 82nd completed our excellent set of results.

In the U17 race Matilda performed very well and finished in 20th place. Grace, Isabella, Lily and Carys have qualified to



run for Berkshire at the South East Regional Inter County Schools Cross Country Championships in Reigate on 5 February and from here could qualify to run at National finals. Good luck to those girls and well done to all who ran so fantastically last weekend!



National Biathlon Qualification

Congratulations go to the 17 students from the Juniors and Seniors who have qualified to represent the school at the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships being held in Bath on 20 March.

This is a fantastic achievement, to be competing with some of the top biathletes

in the country. We wish them good luck with this national competition.

Junior School: Alice, Pippa, Evie, Emily, Araliya

Senior School: Esme, Matilda, Shumeng, Riya, Susie, Lauren, Grace, Holly, Carys, Maya, Matilda and Lily



Despite the pandemic, 2021 has been a successful year for Cerys (Upper I) in her tennis.

She's busy playing most days with group sessions, County training, individual lessons and she still fits in playing with her dad too!

Following the Berkshire Team success, Cerys has immersed herself in training and entered numerous tournaments. She is very proud of all her medals, always "fighting hard against opponents" and accepting if she's beaten that she "needs to just get better"! Cerys admitted that she recently had a bit of a dip with performance going up and down but is excited that her dedication has led to a jump in the LTA National rankings to fifth-place for U9 and yesterday she was invited to a 1:1 assessment with the National Head Coach for U10 girls.

Cerys loves watching tennis too and has a few role models that she aspires to. The obvious one is Emma Radacanu, and although Cerys hasn't had blisters from so much playing, her arm does sometimes ache! She also follows Ash Barty; and Nadal has just knocked Djokovic off her top spot in the men's game.

In school, Cerys is up for being involved in all sports and is especially pleased to be selected for today's cross-country event: it's great fitness training for tennis and she's been doing some extra work on the treadmill! She would definitely recommend tennis though, being such an "athletic sport, with running & jumping, but also having to think a lot – it's like multitasking!" These are skills that usefully help her to juggle school and home too.

Never mind all the anticipation with moving up the National ranks; Cerys is also excited at the prospect of playing a game with Mrs Barlow, JS PE teacher, and member at the same Caversham club! May the best player win!

Mrs Orr

Getting To Know You: Desert Island Discs



This weekly feature gives us a little insight into The Abbey staff, and our next Desert Island Disc 'castaway' is Julia Dahmann, Administration Assistant (Music).

Music:

Stardust - Nat King Cole

This song always reminds me of listening to my parents' records on their record

player as a child. They had quite a big record collection, lots of great music by Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and lots of classical music too. I love how old-fashioned and romantic this song is.

Valse Triste, Op.44 - Jean Sibelius

This is one of the first pieces of classical music I fell in love with - the idea of a sad waltz and the story behind it. It's beautiful.

The Way It Is - Bruce Hornsby and the Range

I always feel happier when I listen to this! I love the sound of the piano, and it makes me think of summer and an 80s childhood. It really cheers me up if I feel down.

I Wanna Be Adored - The Stone Roses

The Stone Roses sum up the early 90s for me and I still listen to them often. They just have such a cool sound and listening to them brings back lots of happy memories.

Common People - Pulp

Whenever I hear this, I'm transported to a soggy field in Glastonbury, jumping up and down to this song with mud splashing over the top of my wellies! I've been

lucky enough to see Pulp play live quite a few times, and they have always been amazing. There's no-one quite like Jarvis.

Insomnia - Faithless

This song makes me want to dance dance dance!!!

Daydreaming - Radiohead

Radiohead are just amazing. I will never tire of listening to Thom Yorke's beautiful, haunting voice - he's a genius. My son Lukas also loves Radiohead, and this track makes me think of him and of listening to their music together. He's obviously got great taste!

Cherry - Harry Styles

My daughter Judith keeps playing this album and we sing to it loudly in the car. This track is one of my favourites: it reminds me of Simon & Garfunkel, and The Beatles. I think he's really talented and has a great voice.

Book:

Far From The Madding Crowd - Thomas Hardy

Luxury item:

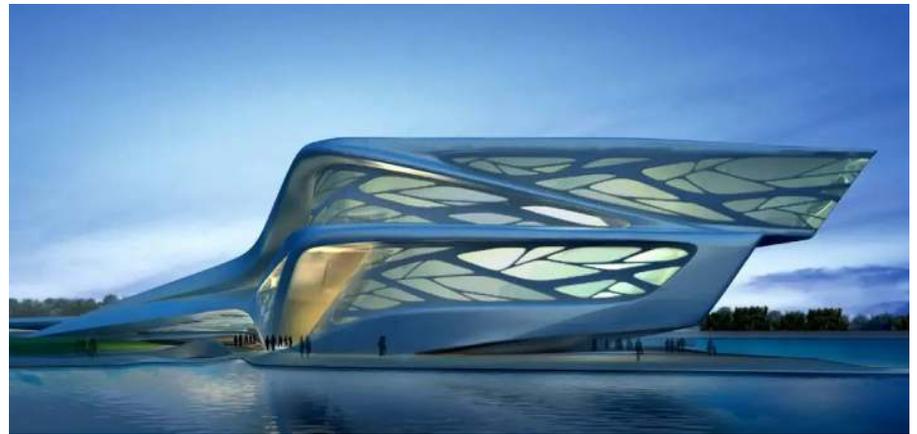
A hairbrush

Inspiring Art - Abu Dhabi Performing Arts Centre, Zaha Hadid

'I think about architecture all the time. That's the problem. But I've always been like that. I dream it sometimes.' - Zaha Hadid

This breathtaking building is a stunning example of the best in contemporary and futuristic architecture. Built on an island, this complex, intertwined creation houses five theatres and has developed and grown from intersecting, pre-existing pedestrian pathways. Both geometrics and natural forms are key elements which inspired the design of this Arts Centre.

I am completely in awe of this building. The streamlined formation and leaf-like structure presented within the windows inspire me. This building, to me, promotes



connectivity through the network of 'branches' that 'sprout into an organism'. I love that the architecture reflects Hadid's

creativity as well as tells a story. **Izzy, Upper V**



Foreign Language Wordle

If you have caught the Wordle bug, why don't you try Wordle in a different language?

After the game took the online world by storm, developers across the globe have had a stab at making the game work in other languages. You can now play equivalents in French (as Le Mot), Italian (Verba), Spanish (Wordle), Portuguese (Termo), Swedish (Ordlig) and German (Wordle), with the

number of translations increasing by the day. Tamil, Urdu, Turkish, are the latest additions I could find.

It is easier than you might think: Oya Bella Looker in my LV German group solved the first Wordle in German in three attempts.

Happy Wordleing!
Frau Byrne

