



The Abbey



Gateway

17 February 2022

Swimming Star - Place Project - PoT Club

Upper III Gamelan Workshop



Over the course of this week, Upper III have been taking part in a pentatonic Indonesian music style (called Gamelan) workshop. We have been learning about it in music lessons for the past term but it was really amazing to be able to play the wide variety of traditional instruments there. These instruments ranged from sarons, which are iron and bronze metallophones that come in all different shapes and sizes, to gongs that are so low that you can barely hear them.

After an explanation on how to respect the instruments the traditional way and after going over what they were all called, we each got assigned an instrument. We then worked out the core melody before playing it altogether as a group. After a few tries and a lot of laughing and accidentally playing it wrong, we finally got it to play it all in time and all the right notes, making it sound really good.

Little did we know that this was the easy part! We then all moved to different instruments and had to figure out the notes, which were in different places than

they had been before. Once we had all adjusted to the feel of our new positions, it was time to change the notes up a bit. For some instruments such as the gong, the kenong (which is an instrument made up of 5 large iron pots) and the larger sarons, this meant only playing a few notes of the tune, for example every second note. Unfortunately, some other players weren't so lucky. The smaller and higher sarons had to play the tune but with each note twice and double speed.

The bonang players too, were in for a hard time; because their instruments aren't as tuned up as some of the others, they tend to play more the rhythm than the tune, which definitely seems to be harder!

Once we had all mastered our parts and were playing them to the best of our abilities, the piece ended up sounding really good. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that we all thoroughly enjoyed it and thought that it was an amazing experience.

[Amelia and Honor, Upper III](#)

Heads: Connected

The great sorting hat debate

One of the pleasant aspects of working at Hogwarts must be the admissions policy. There's no agonising about student selection: candidates simply show up on the magical register and off they go. Choosing a tutor group or house for new entrants presents no challenges either: a hat takes care of that. The school is able to ignore any issues over positive character education: openly evil applicants are more than welcome and there is a house in which to store them all conveniently to help manage their impact on others.

Pretty much everywhere else in education, admission to schools remains an enormous challenge. The non-selective state system, especially in cities, is gamed by catchment: class enclaves cluster around outstanding schools.

[Read more](#)

Podcast With A Cake

In this week's 'Podcast with a cake', four new podcasters join regular star of the show Liv, to discuss their perfect dinner party guests.

There were some great suggestions, along with compelling reasons why each dinner party guest would be invited.

This episode is available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), [Castbox](#), and [Amazon Music](#).

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

This week's Heads Connected: [The great sorting hat debate](#) by Will le Fleming



Abbey Interludes Recital



On Wednesday 16 February we were treated to truly wonderful performances given by our Senior School Music Scholars. We were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to perform at Christ Church for this recital and were impressed with the calibre and professionalism of all the students involved.

Music was provided by Louisa (guitar), Oya (alto saxophone), Shumeng (violin), Mia (violin), Emily (violin), Katherine (piano), Alexia (piano), Elena (violin), Louisa (voice), Megan (piano), Tara (violin) and Seohyeon (violin).

We would like to congratulate all students for their performances and to thank Mrs Cornford for accompanying our music scholars.

Our regular Abbey Interludes recital series will continue after half term and is open to all students at the Senior School, regardless of whether they receive instrumental lessons in school or not, and is organised with the sole aim of encouraging and supporting our musicians to become more confident performers.

Nursery Music



As part of our inquiry unit, 'How we express ourselves', Nursery have been considering how music can be used to represent and evoke different emotions.

After listening to the Toy Symphony by Mozart, the children brought their favourite toys into school to compose their own Toy Symphony.

Lots of the students chose to use rain sticks, maracas and shakers as their toys were soft and fluffy. The students played along to the original piece and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the recordings of their performances, with lots of them expressing that their music made them feel 'happy'.

Miss Wallis

Duke of Edinburgh Achievements

The following students have recently completed DofE Awards. Well done and congratulations to all!

Silver
Amelia
Heather

Gold
Lily-Sofia

Swimming Star



The Berkshire & South Bucks ASA held their county & age group championship for long course swimming across two weekends in January between 15-16th & 29-30th.

We are delighted to share the achievements of Anaya in Upper III, at the recent County Swimming Championships.

She won two gold medals and three silver medals for her age group (12 yrs) . Her wins are as follows:

100 m freestyle - silver
100 m backstroke - silver
50 m butterfly- silver
200 m freestyle - gold
200 m medley - gold

Her new rankings at the South East region are :

200 m freestyle - 2nd
100 m freestyle - 2nd
50 m freestyle - 12th
200 m medley- 2nd
100 m butterfly - 7th

Anaya has learnt a lot from this event and this will help build her resilience and self confidence.

Under 14 National Hockey Finals



Last Sunday saw the Under 14 Hockey team pack up the mini buses and travel north to Nottingham for the National Schools Tier 2 Finals.

After arriving at the local Travelodge we ventured out for a pre-match meal and birthday celebration at Frankie and Benny's. Once we arrived back it was conveniently bed time! The girls eventually settled down despite being excited for the day ahead!

The tournament was held at Beeston Hockey Centre which was a fantastic venue. Play was delayed due to the frozen pitches but we eventually got underway at 9.30am against Bedford Grammar School. This was a close game, we saw a shot go narrowly wide and we also hit the post. We were extremely unlucky to lose 1-0.

Our second match was against Durham School. The girls began to move the ball and we created space to attack. We controlled this game and thoroughly deserved our 2-1 win. This win really lifted our spirits and we were keen for the next game.

Due to the high intensity of these games, it was important to rotate players to ensure that players were able to rest and recover before being called on again! Our final group game was against Latymer Upper School. We fought throughout this game and were on top for the majority of it; we camped in

their 25 yard area, and dominated play, but the ball just wouldn't go in the net and in the last five minutes they got a breakaway and scored.

This meant that we finished 3rd in our group and were paired against Manchester High School for Girls for the 5th/6th play off. This was by far our toughest opposition of the day, MHSG moved the ball well and completely dominated the game. We unfortunately lost 5-0, meaning we finished 6th nationally.

Despite this, the team had a great day and as a team we learnt many things about game management. We also learnt that at this level when opportunities arise you have to take them. I am sure the team is looking forward to trying to qualify again as this squad has huge potential.

We were not outclassed by anyone in our group games and to lose only 1-0 to Bedford (who eventually came 2nd) was a great achievement. The team should be immensely proud of what they achieved last weekend and throughout this season.

Finally, well done to all the players and their fantastic parents who travelled up and supported the players. It was a long two days but I am positive that they all enjoyed the experience and will be back for more!

Miss Floyd



Children's Mental Health Week

Parents, students and staff at the Junior School all came together on Wednesday to raise awareness of children's mental health.

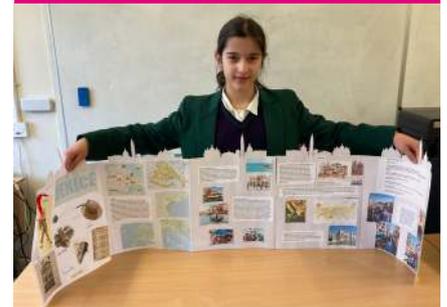


The day started with a successful coffee morning for our parent community who enjoyed pastries and cakes, whilst taking the time to socialise and chat, a recognised important aspect of positive wellbeing.

Staff and students were also treated to hot chocolate and cookies at breaktime and encouraged to take the time to sit and chat whilst they enjoyed them.

All of this was done whilst wearing their own clothes for 'Dress to Express Day'. An opportunity for self-expression and to celebrate the diverse community here at The Abbey. The day supported 'Place2be' and was held as part of the Children's Mental Health Week.

Upper III Place Project



We all really enjoyed the 'place project' because we had so much freedom, and we could research about a place which was important to us. It was a very fun way to learn more about a place! I chose Bangalore as it means a lot to me because it was where I was born, and where some of my close relatives live.

I used three pieces of A3 paper to make my project and I learnt so much about Bangalore. Before, I didn't know about the Silicon Valley of India, and this project also helped me understand the geography of Bangalore. As you can see in the picture, others enjoyed it just as much as I did.

Suhana, Upper III

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 Cath Venning, Teacher of PE and Ducat Housemistress.

Music:

I can only imagine - J.Michael Finley

This song is from the film of the same name. (I like the film version, not the band version). The film is about the formation of the band MercyMe and about the relationship between a father and son; it is based on a true story. This song is about imagining what might happen once you have passed away.

I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston

My favourite song when I was at university, makes me smile, dance and think I can sing!

Shut up and dance with me - Walk The Moon

Such a feel good song!

Defying Gravity - Idina Menzel

I LOVE a musical and I think this has to be one of my favourite songs.

December Prayer - Idina Menzel

Idina made the cut twice. Christmas is my favourite time of the year for many

reasons, but this song I find makes me just stop and reflect during the festive season.

Oh My Soul - Casting Crowns

This was written at the time the lead singer was diagnosed with cancer and it was an honest reflection of his fears and doubts.

Do they know it's Christmas - Band Aid 1984

I love Christmas!

Man in the Mirror - Michael Jackson

This song is about making a change and realising that this has to start with you.

Book

I would probably take all of the HP books (I know there are more than 1) but I think that will keep me going for a while.

Luxury item

Sad to say it would probably be my phone; however I know there would not be chargers, so being in PE, probably a ball of some sort.

Art Competition



For our young and talented Abbey artists aged 10-14 years, an exciting opportunity awaits.

They have the chance to share three pieces of work, discuss their inspiration and appear on TV in CBBC's 'Britain's Best Young Artist'.

The wannabe artist must impress the programme host Ricky and a guest judge who will be on hand to critique the finished artwork and decide who moves onto the next round. Those that make the semi-finals are commissioned to create an original piece of art for a celebrity.

The series culminates with the grand finale, in which the top 3 artists have

to draw on all of their creative skills and experience to produce a winning masterpiece which best depicts their hometown. The winner will be crowned Britain's Best Young Artist and win the prize of their final masterpiece displayed at an art gallery in their hometown.

Please [click here](#) for more detail. If you would like any advice or support, then just let any of the Abbey Arts team know. The deadline for entry is 13 March.

We wish you the best of luck! The Abbey Arts team

Cross Country

Grace and Isabella from Lower IV, and Carys from Lower V, have all been selected due to their excellent performances at the SE Inter County Schools Cross Country Championships last weekend.

They will represent Berkshire at the ESAA National Schools Cross Country Championships being held in Kent on Saturday 19 March.

This is an excellent achievement and they are part of a team of eight in their age group to be chosen.

All three girls are in the bottom year group out of two so it is a fantastic effort to be selected as some of the top athletes in the county. Good luck!

Tennis Development

Last weekend, Grace in Lower I played for Wokingham Tennis Club in the Berkshire National League Winter Tennis.

Her club finished 2nd place in Group B and Grace won all her four matches. It was her first appearance in the league since starting tennis training at the club one year ago.

She was very happy with her performance and is already looking forward to her next competitive outing.

GCSE PE



One of our Lower V GCSE classes has been implementing their knowledge of guidance and feedback into practical coaching sessions over the past couple of weeks.

The class were tasked with delivering practical teaching sessions, which included various guidance methods to improve skill learning, whilst also ensuring they included appropriate types of feedback to the group.

Well done, everyone!

Sophie and Jasmine - football penalties

Sophie and Jasmine provided constant feedback (positive and negative) to their students throughout their session and they demonstrated excellent leadership skills by leading a warm up.

Siya and Sophie - cricket bowling

Siya and Sophie were the first group who used manual guidance during their session. They also catered for those students who were less experienced in the

technique by moving them closer to the wickets, if necessary.

Sarah and Sophie - tennis serving

Sarah and Sophie created a fun, team atmosphere in their session. Sarah and Sophie gave their students plenty of time to try the skill, enabling them to progress quickly and give plenty of time for feedback.

Emma and Naiya - long jump

Emma and Naiya used engaging methods in their long jump session and their use of visual guidance through demonstrations was effective. I liked the way they used positive feedback, followed by an area for improvement (negative feedback).

Louisa and Harriet - cartwheels

Louisa and Harriet used knowledge of performance feedback through their students giving feedback to one another. They split their students into groups for the session and finished with a fun challenge.

Young Enterprise Trade Fair

The trade fair went really well and overall we were very happy with our performance. In total we sold a good number of books, especially in comparison to the other teams (but sadly we missed out on quite a few customers who were willing to buy our book if we took card payments).



We also received very good feedback; many people complimented our book especially praising the concept of having a fun storyline with easy recipes throughout that teaches kids useful cooking skills and an important moral 'you never know until you try'.

Additionally we really felt that we upped our game with the presentation because at the last trade fair our stall looked quite bland. We think that our improved presentation helped attract more customers to our stall. We were also very pleased because out of the teams who were present, we won the prize for the best trade stand. Caitlin, LVI

Beyond Cop21 Symposium Eton College



On Thursday 10 February 2022 The Abbey was lucky enough to be invited to take a small group of Upper IV, Lower V and Lower VI students to the Beyond Cop21 Symposium at Eton College.

During the course of the day students listened to a number of inspirational presentations by Peter Milne, founder of Target 4 Green and Beyond Cop21 Symposium, Tara Golshan, Director Of

Education for the Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Foundation and Aliza Ayaz, UN Goodwill Ambassador /Chairperson at CAS (Climate Action Society).

Along with taking part in workshops run by the organisation Ocean Generation and Design Nature CIC, students also had the opportunity to visit an exhibition to find out about a number of environmental organisations such as Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Wild Maidenhead, Reading Hydro, Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

The day was really thought-provoking and allowed students to learn more about environmental issues and have the opportunity to discuss and think about how everyone can play their part when tackling climate change.

Miss Harris

Under 11 Hockey



The U11 team played in the Berkshire Hockey Championships on Thursday 10 February. The team were in a group with St Andrew's, Lambrook, St Piran's, LVS and Claires Court.

During the first stages of the tournament the team were upbeat and in high spirits with Olanna saving many goals and forwards Pippa, Araliya, Verity, Audrey and Mariam dominating the game.

We came to the final match against LVS and Pippa scored the first goal of the tournament - everyone jumped up and down with joy and excitement. This put the team through to the CUP group in the final stages of the competition.

The next game was against Lambrook - which ended in a 3-0 defeat. As a team we

huddled together to reflect and learn from our performance. The last game against St Piran's was an intense 12 minutes with The Abbey scoring in the 10th minute, followed by St Piran's equalising a minute later. The draw meant The Abbey finished 5th out of 12 overall.

The students have worked incredibly hard with Mr Stuart-Thompson and Mrs Barlow during after school training and lunchtime clubs and should be proud of themselves. We will look forward to hearing all about their future matches at the Senior School next year.

Well done!
Miss Steele

Sport Round-up

Sports Leaders

Sports Leaders visit Addington
On Wednesday, the second group of Sports Leaders visited Addington School to learn about the institution, and to deliver a fun fitness session that would help their students, and allow our to develop their skills.

This was a fantastic experience for all involved and I know that everyone got something out of the morning.

U14 Football County Cup

The U14's competed in the quarter finals of the County Cup competition on Tuesday.

Everyone gave 110% effort and commitment and it was a lovely fixture to be a part of.

Unfortunately, we will not progress further, but the students should be very please with how they played

Sixth Form House Sport



The Sixth Form were really keen to represent their houses in both netball and football in healthy rivalry.

They donned their house colours and competed over two lunchtimes, not allowing the rain to stop their fun and enjoyment, and of course their desire to win!

Well done to all who participated and we are looking forward to running house swimming and possibly rounders for Sixth Form in the not too distant future.

Results:
Netball = Paget
Football = Paget



Great Fire of London

As part of their recent inquiry focus - 'How We Organise Ourselves', Upper Prep have explored how the events surrounding the Great Fire of London helped to shape the London we know today.

Through a carousel of activities, they were able to get hands on experience of fighting the fire using artefacts from the time, writing a letter to the Lord Mayor using a quill pen and ink, and dressing up to reenact the events that led to the outbreak of the fire in Pudding Lane.

'I enjoyed dressing up and being Thomas Farriner's maid.'

Zara, Upper Prep

'I liked passing the bucket to put out the fire.'

Kanvika, Upper Prep

'I enjoyed wearing the hat and using the quill pen to write like Samuel Pepys.'

Camilla, Upper Prep



PaT Club

Last week's PaT (Philosophy and Theology) club was led by two Year 11 students who ran a great session about the soul.

They provided Lego bricks and attendees were encouraged to make their soul. What colour/ shape/ size would it be? Would it be separate?

They then provided lots of thought provoking questions about what the soul is and how what we believe about the soul might shape our views on life after death. A great session, well done to Isabelle and Lily for organising it.

Mrs Pettet

Inspiring Art - Walking Man Diary by Ian Breakwell



Ian Breakwell was a prolific artist who took a multi-media approach to his observations of society.

Many artists of this generation turned 'social scientist', documenting their lives or the lives of those around them using photography, recorded notes and journals. Seeing his work as part of 'Diary', an exhibition I visited during my degree encouraged me to push forward my own

Art Practice, exploring map making and documentation.

The Walking Man Diary records the repeated appearance of an unknown man walking a regular route around the Smithfield area in the City of London, where Breakwell was living at the time.

Breakwell began to take photographs of the unknown man if he happened to be

passing by. All the photographs are taken from the same third floor window vantage point: the view is the same but the time passes. Two adjoining photographs may be separated by seconds, or weeks, or months.

Mrs Munton