



The Abbey

Gateway

11 March 2022



Earth Prize 2022 - Cave Painting - Hispanic Women

National Children's Orchestra



Whilst many of her choir friends were singing at Woodley Festival, Emma (UI) was in London with other musicians for the National Children's Orchestra Project Programme.

The NCO has a number of orchestras that meet yearly for weekly residentials as well as Project programmes for non-residential weekends throughout the year.

Emma thoroughly enjoyed her weekend in London meeting like minded musicians (aged 8 -14) and enjoyed playing music by Strauss and Florence Price as well as being lucky enough to play music specially written for the NCO by Ryan Linham - NCO Mambo, NCO Stomp and Windrush. The weekend finished with a special performance for parents and Emma is looking forward to the next one in June.

Strictly Come Dancing

Over the weekend, Naomi in Upper I competed in the NATD medalist dance competition.

It was her first competition and she did brilliantly, achieving 3rd place in Ballroom and 5th in Latin.

As a result, she has qualified for the grand final which will be held in the famous Blackpool Ballroom.

Good luck in the final Naomi!



Heads: Connected

Solidarity, fellowship, peace

Last year I wrote about one of the core obligations we, as a school, are asked to fulfil by the Government: to promote what are known in education as the four Fundamental British Values. These are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance.

These values were first codified in 2011. As with all worthwhile aspects of education, they prompt debate. The principles are indeed fundamental: they are the basis of our society. But we discuss how they are implemented; cultural difference and competing ideas (and ideals) of Britishness; how we can work to ensure these principles are applied inclusively, without fear or favour, to bring equal benefit to all.

Since their introduction as a central educational requirement, these values have perhaps never resonated as strongly as they do now.

[Read more](#)

DofE Awards

The following two students (2021) have completed their Gold DofE Awards in the past couple of weeks.

Well done to them!

Oonagh
Alice

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

This week's Heads Connected: [Solidarity, fellowship, peace](#) by Will le Fleming



Woodley Festival



Meanwhile over in Woodley at The Oakwood Centre a number of students from Upper Prep, LI and Upper I were taking part in the instrumental class of Woodley Festival.

Meiyu (Upper I) performed on her violin in the Grade 4- 5 String Solo class and was awarded first place. Her sister Melody (Upper Prep), also playing the violin, came second in the beginner string class.

Manxi (Upper I), violin, and Meiyu also played in the 9 years old and under String solo class and were placed first and second respectively. They didn't stop there and, along with another friend, played in the Ensemble 13 years and under class and won with the top mark of Outstanding.

Meanwhile, Isabella (Lower I) played her cello in the 11 years and under Recital class, placing first and Katherine (Lower I) played her violin in the beginners class, placing second.

We woke up to a grey and cold Saturday morning but the dreary weather soon was forgotten with the sound of choirs singing at Emmbrook School. It has been three years since the choirs from the Junior School have taken part in Woodley Festival due to the pandemic and over 150 students in four choirs were really excited for the opportunity to finally be able to sing in public for a live audience and adjudicator. First to perform were Cantilena, a choir that consists of every single member of Lower and Upper Prep. They entertained the audience with a two part song called The Puzzle followed by a gentle song called Silver Moon by one of our favourite composers, Lin Marsh, showing such concentration for students so young. The adjudicator said the choir sang with good expression and phrasing. A second place and silver medal was presented to the choir.

Next followed Kensington Choir who sang two contrasting songs of Rock Paper Scissors, and The Moon. They sang with such enjoyment and faces awash with smiles. The strong two part singing was mentioned by the adjudicator and when it was announced that they had come second and gained a silver medal, the cheer resounded round the hall.



Lunch beckoned for everyone and a chance to regroup before Somerleaze

Singers arrived. Somerleaze Singers has 90 members from Upper II and Lower III and all were ready to finally sing for a live audience. A number of the choir from last year had spent the year singing on their own in their homes, videoing their parts to become a virtual choir, and it was such a delight to finally hear them sing as one. Another Lin Marsh song, Catch me if



you Can, followed by a complex clapping song, Clap Your Hands, was met with cheers from the audience. Every member of the choir stood proud with a smile and the students were over the moon when it was announced that Somerleaze Singers had won their class. The adjudicator mentioned their descriptive tone, energy and impressive clapping!!

Whilst Somerleaze Singers were celebrating, members of the Chamber Choir were getting ready to sing in their class. They were up against it, as they were a few members down due to illness, but they rose to the occasion and sang with such passion and commitment that they couldn't have done any more. The adjudicator commented upon the energy and commitment of the choir. It was a close class, but Chamber Choir was awarded first place. What a fantastic return to singing!

Shanaya and Zuleyha also took part in string solo classes during the weekend receiving certificates for their performances.

What a fantastic weekend for all our musicians. Woodley Festival continues over the next couple of weekends and there are more performances from Junior School students.



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 Dave Battimelli, Deputy Estates Manager.

Music:

American Pie - Don McLean

My karaoke song. I could take the microphone around my imaginary crowd!

Walking on Sunshine - Katrina and the Waves

My dancing party piece

I Love to Boogie - T.Rex

My boyhood hero, Marc Bolan, taken so young

Music - John Miles

Just a great song by an underrated artist

Maggie May - Rod Stewart

My hero after the loss of Marc Bolan. I never got to see T.Rex live, but have been several times to see Rod

Songbird - Eva Cassidy

Relaxing song to listen whilst lying on the desert island beach

I Knew I Loved You - Savage Garden

Our song for our first dance at our wedding in 2015

I Have a Dream - Martin Luther King

The most moving speech. I watched this after reading my book selection below. Who would have thought that it would still be relevant nearly 60 years on.

Book:

To Kill a Mockingbird

I read this for 'O' Level English Literature at Grammar School in 1973 (yes, that long ago!). It changed my outlook and attitude to a lot of things. Still a powerful book to this day.

Luxury Item

Salt and Pepper. I like to cook, and if it's a case of eating strange stuff to survive, at least I could season it!

Musical Moments



Tuesday morning saw Lower I enjoying an early morning concert from their peers. This was a chance for students to experience playing for an audience, some

playing after just a few weeks of lessons. From 'Chimes' to 'The Happy Farmer' there was something for everyone.

Cave Paintings



Lower I have been learning about cave painting as part of their new unit of inquiry - 'Inventions can impact our daily lives and can benefit society'.

Miss Pinchbeck even found some of her students having a go at their very own cave drawings during lunchtime on Wednesday!

Chedworth Roman Villa Trip

Going to Chedworth was a great experience and definitely worth the long journey. Some of us started off making mosaics - they were small 8 by 8 squares...much smaller than the actual floors in a Roman villa. The tesserae were made of plastic and were very fiddly but everyone made one. We could have made one telling a story but most people did geometric patterns.



After we made our mosaics we went on a tour of the Roman villa and saw the inside dining room, the changing room and the hot and cold baths.

We also saw the spring where people would have burnt bread or wine for the gods in hope that they would keep giving them water. Now it has been turned into a nature reserve and there is greenery planted inside it for the wildlife. Finally after the tour was done we had lunch and then went to the gift shop.

It was a very fun and educational experience and would be worth doing again next year.

Pippa, Upper III



Phoebe, Upper VI is part of a team which has been nominated for the Earth Prize 2022 - one of the final ten teams from hundreds of entrants.

At the beginning of 2021, my friend Cosmo and I decided we wanted to find a way to support a local school in producing their own green energy via solar panels. We desired to do this as many schools cannot afford this type of investment, both because the price upfront is too high or due to the fact that it takes time for a profit to be produced. We obtained the support of Pauline Herbommez, who is in charge of sustainability at Eton College, as well as Councillor Donna Stimson; it has been full steam ahead ever since! We decided to collaborate with Altwood Church of England School in Maidenhead as they had a fabulous interest in being involved and their students were so excited to be involved. We had the sports hall roof

of Altwood surveyed, to ensure that it was suitable for solar panels, which it was, and now all the schools involved are beginning to fundraise! We hope to raise £25,000 by the summer in order to install the solar panels.

We decided to push ourselves even further by expanding our project to add another school, located in South Africa, and work with them as well to install solar panels on their own school. We are working with the incredible KwaThintwa School for the Deaf, Kwazulu Natal, as they continuously have blackouts due to lack of funds to pay for electricity bills. Students at the school lose one day of education every week due to this.

The energy will support the students' education through electronic devices, as the school relies heavily on visual electronics in order to support the

special needs teaching at the school. Any excess energy will also help to power the projectors the school plans to install. Our donor will match every pound raised for Altwood in order to fund solar panels for KwaThintwa.

I am so grateful and proud that we will be able to help these two amazing schools in their journey to having their own sustainable and reliable energy source. All young people deserve the right to live in a world powered by green energy, which can support them in obtaining a good education and looking forward to their prospects for the future; this being both for their working and recreational lives, but also in a biodiverse world with clean, unpolluted air.

I hope that our project will be a catalyst for the creation of similar ideas by other young people across the world. By collaborating together as a global community, we can truly fight the climate crisis head-on.

We are now one of ten finalists of the international Earth Prize 2022, with the winners receiving \$100,000, or \$25,000 for the runners up! I am so happy at the prospect of the project being able to use this money in order to help the amazing schools involved, as well as seeing the recognition of the incredible achievements of fellow students at Eton and Altwood, as well as my own!

Please consider supporting the Collaborative Schools Solar Project here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/schoolssolarproject>

A poster for an IB Visual Arts Exhibition. On the left, a vertical banner reads '14th-18th MARCH'. The main title is 'IB Visual Arts EXHIBITION 2020-2022' in large blue letters. Below the title, it says 'The Gallery, Turret House'. On the right, there is a logo for 'The Abbey' featuring a crest. At the bottom, it lists 'PRIVATE VIEW Tuesday 15th March 2022 3.45-5.30PM' and 'Gallery Opening Hours 9.00-4.30PM Daily'. Three portraits are featured: Mimi (top), Lily (middle, with circular artwork), and Millie (bottom).

Skill in Sport



Our Upper VI IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science cohort are currently studying the topic of 'skill in sport'.

This week, they completed practical sessions on teaching styles and feedback in order to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the varying style characteristics. The group had a great time taking on the teacher role whilst learning about Mosston and Ashworth's (1986) spectrum of teaching styles!

Anabelle, Maddie and Mimi - 'Command style'

This group decided to teach the tennis serve and were allocated the 'command style' approach. The group fulfilled the criteria by making sure they directed all the

instructions and that the class was set up in an orderly fashion.

Amelie and Rosa - 'Reciprocal style'

Amelie and Rosa set up their triple jump task by placing the rest of the class into two small groups. Students were allocated either a 'participant' or an 'observer' role with the aim of the student taking increasing responsibility for their learning.

Lizzie, Mahi and Mira - 'Divergent style'

The divergent style utilises a highly individual approach whereby the learner designs the questions and the solutions. This group utilised netball shooting as their task and they supported the class by observing and guiding via 'individual conferences'.

Fun in Physics



Upper III certainly saw the light in their Physics Class when they were investigating the Laws of Reflection.

After carrying out some experiments with ray boxes and mirrors they then put theory into practice by making periscopes. They all agreed that Physics is Fun.

Sound Investigations



This week Lower I had a great time investigating how different instruments make sounds.

They even had a few instruments they have never seen before including a vibraslap and whirlybird tubes.

World Book Day Author Visit



On World Book Day we welcomed a guest author to our Senior and Junior Schools. Jess Butterworth met with Lower IV and Upper IV in the morning and with Upper II and Lower III in the afternoon.

During her visit, Jess delivered a fascinating presentation about her experiences living in India, The Himalayas, and the USA which have inspired her middle fiction books. In addition to being a best-selling author,

Jess has achieved a masters in Creative Writing and delivers workshops in colleges and schools, so she was able to give advice and tips on the writing process.

The students also had the opportunity to have their copies of Jess' novels autographed by the author with a personalised message.
Ms Wenman and Ms Botterill



CATHARSIS

SAATCHI GALLERY LONDON

10TH March – 18TH April 2022

Opening hours: Monday - Sunday: 10am-6pm

By Appointment only – education@saatchigallery.com / florence@saatchigallery.com



The Abbey

Berkshire Schools Under 13 In2Hockey



In the afternoon groups, the A team continued their fine form with two wins (2-0 against Newlands and 1-0 against St Andrew's) to advance to the knockout stage, however a narrow 0-1 defeat in the final game against Cheam, meant that the team faced the winner of the second group in the semi-final. Despite another close game against Lambrook, the team fell to a 0-2 defeat when trying to score an equaliser in the final stages of the game. A final 3-0 win against Holyport ensured that the team finished third overall and secured the bronze medals.

The B team continued with creditable performances in the Plate groups, but two further draws were not enough to reach the knock-out competition. But this did not curb the girls' enthusiasm as they cheered on the A team in the later stages of the competition.

A great performance by all concerned and certainly something to build on as this cohort moves to 11-a-side hockey from September.

Last week, 19 Lower IV students travelled to Reading Hockey Club to take part in the Under 13 County Championships.

With two teams entered into the 7-a-side competition, it was to prove a busy day. In the morning groups the A team achieved two wins (1-0 against Charters

and 4-1 against Licensed Victuallers) and two draws (0-0 against The Marist and Lambrook) to advance to the Cup competition in the afternoon. The B team achieved two draws (0-0 against St Mary's and 1-1 against Downe House) and two losses to move into the plate competition.

Abbey Interludes Recital



This week's Abbey Interludes Recital proved to be another successful and wonderful programme of music, delivered by Eleanor (singing), Joanna (piano), Grace

(piano) and Imogen (violin).

Well done to all performers for providing such assured and confident performances,

and our warmest thanks to Mrs Cornford for providing the accompaniment for some of this week's students.

Hispanic Women



Our Lower VI Hispanists have been researching inspirational Hispanic women for International Women's Day. They created presentations and games that they all delivered to all the students in Years 8 and 9. The students were amazing at engaging their young audience with thought-provoking facts about these truly fascinating women such as Frida Kahlo, Evita Perón, Sonia Sotomayor, Margarita Salas, and Ellen Ochoa.

The games the Lower VI students designed created a fun atmosphere with interactive learning taking place. These Spanish LVI students are great Spanish ambassadors! Sra. Trujillo



Eva Perón

We chose Eva Perón, the First Lady of Argentina from 1946 until 1952. For us, she is an admirable figure as she made several decisions to help people in need, such as giving out four million toys to needy children and creating her 'Fundación Eva Perón' to get people better healthcare.

Additionally, she also founded the Female Peronist Party to get more women into politics in a time when they were seen as inferior. The girls really enjoyed the fun Kahoot - though we didn't give them any information beforehand, they did really well and learnt a lot of new things about a woman as influential as Eva Perón.

Mariam and Cristina, Lower VI

Rosalía

Rosalía is a feministic singer whose music has taken the world by storm. Her songs provide a refuge for those who have suffered domestic abuse and show women in Spain and across the world that they have been given power, in mind, body, experience and talent to use and exploit and to take them wherever they want to go.

Siena, Lower VI

Frida Kahlo

Frida embraced her whole self her true self - her femininity and masculinity and never once did she hide, cower or expect

to be shielded from the realities of her life instead she was proud to a woman and lived that confidently and that is why she was and still remains a feminist icon today.
Maria, Lower VI

Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic woman in space and she invented and patented several optical systems for information processing.

Jo, Heather, Natalia and Tiana, Lower VI

Margarita Salas

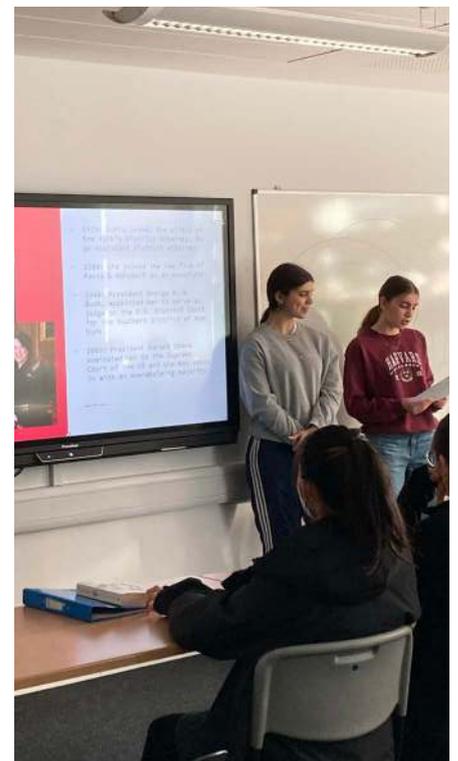
Margarita Salas broke boundaries in the field of biology and was tireless in her vocalisation for equality for women in science. Her groundbreaking discoveries paved the way for understanding our genome as we do today. She acted as a role model for other women to follow in her footsteps.

Libby, Izzy and Mia, Lower VI

Sonia Sotomayor

Sonia Maria Sotomayor (born June 25, 1954) is an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was nominated by President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009 and has served since August 8, 2009. She is the third woman to hold the position. She remains an inspiration to all young Americans who feel marginalised or excluded in American society.

Lara and Naz, Lower VI



Alumna Webinar

With coverage of the war in Ukraine focusing international attention on the role of the media, Alumnae and International Correspondent Joanna Jolly (1988) shared her top tips on being a journalist with Abbey students this week. Joanna took part in our Aspire Alumnae Webinar Series this week and told students how her interest in writing and travel led her into a career as a BBC foreign correspondent - developing language skills is also important if you want to work internationally, she said.

Joanna's advice to journalism students is to have direct conversations with people to find out EXACTLY what they care about - and to get different views by speaking to a number of people. "Be tenacious, get your stories into print (school, university or local newspapers) and try radio & TV reporting too".

"Finding out the facts and letting people know what is going on is a respected profession the war in Ukraine is showing just how important it is to get accurate and clear reporting from on the ground".

English and Journalism Club teacher Mr Hickman said 'the writers and editors of The Abbey Correspondent and all the members of Journalism Club found Joanna's talk inspiring. Whether it was the practical advice about cultivating sources and writing style or larger issues like the future of investigative journalism in our culture, Joanna's ability to make the connection between The Abbey School and the world of news media is unique. Our



students were fortunate and grateful for such a resource.'

UIV student Maria stated 'it was very interesting to hear Joanna's views and advice on journalism. I will definitely be attending more of these fantastic events in the future.'

Joanna's career highlights:

- English Literature BA (Hons), Birmingham University
- Teacher, Japan
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC Foreign Correspondent (including India, Indonesia, Nepal, South Africa, Washington DC)
- Author: Red River Girl
- Freelance Correspondent / Producer

Amersham Field Trip



This week Upper III went to Amersham Field Centre on an exciting Geography trip. We learnt about the similarities and differences between deciduous and coniferous woodlands.

We experimented and learnt how to use new equipment that we hadn't encountered before. First we did a set activity where we studied the plants, temperature, soil and light in both forests

to then compare the results. During this time, we also learnt some important skills on identifying species of plants by using the equipment provided.

After a quick lunch and analysing the morning's data, we were back out in the field, and this time, we were working towards our own target. Each group came up with a research question and then we collected data using the equipment and skills we had learnt in the morning to see if our hypothesis was correct.

We all agreed that it was really fun and a great independent learning experience. Each group came up with something unique and interesting which we shared with the rest of the class. We all can't wait for more exciting trips like this.

Amelia, Darcy, Nona - Upper III