



The Abbey



# Gateway

25 March 2022

Cyber Security - Fastnet Tournament - Science Week

## European Youth Parliament UK Competition



On Wednesday 16 March eight Lower VI students qualified for the national finals of the European Youth Parliament UK competition, beating fierce debating from schools across the south of England.

Topics included subjects as diverse as repatriation for African artworks, how best to increase vaccine uptake in the EU and the safety of migrants in transit. Students researched widely and used this information to make astute suggestions on how legislation could be improved.

Helena writes:

EYP was an incredible experience from start to finish. The researching process was fascinating and broadened the depths of our knowledge in a range of subjects, such as the dangers of fast fashion and legislation surrounding end-of-life treatment. Subsequently applying

this knowledge in such a lively and fun event both helped us gain confidence in speaking and debating itself, as well as letting us work together as a team.

The beginning of the day was exciting, if a little intense, and as the adrenaline of first speaking wore off we gradually became more assured; each person was eager to contribute. Everyone gave their unique viewpoints and supported one another, and by the end we felt as though we had gained so much insight, both into the topics and the skill of debating as a whole.

We were overjoyed when they announced we would be going to nationals! It was such a fantastic day and I can't wait until we debate again!

## Heads: Connected

### Joy and sorrow

This sun-drenched week brought experiences so vividly contrasting that the effect was disorienting.

On Wednesday The Abbey was hosting (and, naturally, winning...) a Fast5 netball tournament. The skill, passion and commitment on show were exhilarating. There was also a spectacular blend of grit and insouciance. The rules in Fast5 allow for shots from outside the circle, powerplays, all kinds of bells and whistles. One of our team lined up an ambitious shot that sailed wide, turned, grinned, shrugged - not a care in the world. The next moment play was breaking and she was chasing it down with remorseless determination.

[Read more](#)

## Podcast With A Cake

In this week's 'Podcast with a cake', the team delves into the world of star signs and horoscopes.

They discuss the rumours surrounding a 13th sign, as well as detailing the importance of star sign to them as individuals.

And for extra fun...the host attempts to guess the star sign of each podcaster, based on their personality. How accurate was he? Tune in to find out.

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: [Joy and sorrow](#) by Will le Fleming



## Abbey Interludes



In last week's Abbey Interludes, Sophie opened the recital, singing Where The Bee Sucks, by Arne. She performed from memory and this was a stylish, secure and characterful account. Suhana followed, with Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, played on the descant recorder.

There were controlled and varied articulations and it was a sparkling and

rhythmic performance. The final item was a vocal duet by Upper VI students: Louisa and Frances. Flight, by Carnelia, highlighted the excellent blend of the two voices, with Louisa's pure tone on the upper part and Frances' warm alto sound below. All the performances were cordially appreciated by the audience.

## Comic Relief

After watching Comic Relief on Friday evening, Kara was inspired to raise money for it, so she got up early Saturday morning and baked a big batch of brownies, made delicious lemonade and some flour-filled squishies and set up a stall outside her house.

She was successful in raising £15 with the brownies being particularly popular!



## Lower IV Spots and Stripes Disco



Lower IV's were lucky enough to have a fun disco planned especially for us. We

enjoyed an evening full of fun, laughter and, of course, lots of dancing! After asking some of the Lower IV students what they liked most about their evening, the most popular response was that the best part of the evening was the music played by the DJ.

Another greatly adored aspect of the disco was the cool lighting. We have to thank the kind staff for organising the brilliant disco which was hugely successful and loved by all. Not only was the atmosphere and music wonderful but the chance for the Lower IV students to enjoy quality social



time was very appreciated. We were so grateful to have a break from our normal weekly routine and are delighted to have such great staff at The Abbey.

**Silvie, Lower IV**

## Cyber Security



Last week Lower IV students had a Cyber Security lecture from a Thames Valley Police Cyber Security Advisor. The aims and objectives of the session were:

To understand key cyber threats against businesses

To recognise the most important steps in improving cyber security

To improve your ability to recognise, ransomware, phishing, fraud

To understand how to report phishing to protect others

To better secure your accounts and devices, work from home

To provide signposting to additional guidance and services

## Piano Recital

Last Tuesday afternoon we had a wonderful piano recital given by students from all year groups at the Senior School. It was lovely to see the Lecture Theatre full of parents, teachers and friends who had all come to listen and show their support to the performers.

We heard various piano repertoire which performers personally selected, ranging from Initial grades to pieces of Diploma standard. All students were extremely well prepared and gave very musical performances.

We would like to congratulate all 16 performers for a truly tremendous recital: Isabella, Shumeng, Alice, Grace, Anya, Cara, Carys, Katherine, Alexia, Poppy, Ariana, Beatrice, Mia, Tara, Nancy and Keyi.

We are already looking forward to the next piano recital which will take place during the summer term.

## Woodley Festival

It was another busy week for the Junior School students at the final weekend of Woodley Festival.



Amy - awarded a silver medal in piano solo 9 years and under class

Emma - awarded a silver medal in piano solo 8 years and under class

Peipei - awarded a bronze medal in the piano solo 9 years and under class

Aadhira - awarded a silver medal in the vocal solo 10 years and under class

Katherine - won the Family Duet class 9 years and under playing with her mum and was awarded the Ellen Goodworth Music Trophy for the best performance in a duet class.

Margaret Warrior - Highly commended in the piano solo beginners 8 years and under class

Elena - awarded a bronze medal in the vocal solo 10 years and under class



It was an extra busy weekend for Emma having won her silver medal at Woodley she then went to Windsor on Sunday to play in the finals of the Berkshire Young Musician Piano finals. Having already performed in two previous rounds of the competition she was one of just three chosen in the 9 years and under section to play in the final. We were delighted to hear that Emma won the final for her age group. Congratulations, Emma!

## Biz School Projects



As part of the build up to launching their Biz School projects, the Lower III students are starting to build websites for their wonderful products.

When they are complete, we hope to publish the websites for the rest of the school to see and build up some enthusiasm for their sales targets! It's a brilliant opportunity to link across the

curriculum and provide the students with an authentic audience for their creativity.

**Aarika and Tereza. Lower III:**

"We like building our websites because we can lay down all our information and send it out to everyone. It's a real website and it's really cool."

## Under 9 Netball



At the weekend the U9s took part in their first netball tournament at Hallgrove School in Bagshot. The students played 7 other schools in a fun festival where enjoyment and learning the game were key priorities. The team consisted of Sophie, Hannah, Mayowa, Rina, Flossie and Kanyin.

We had some tough games and scored a lot of goals, survived the rain and competed in a shooting competition. Sophie and Flossie were named most valuable player and most improved, winning additional prizes for their hard work during the matches.

## Fastnet Tournament



On Wednesday afternoon, The Abbey hosted a Senior Fastnet tournament for other local schools. Following the weather last week, we had to postpone - but what a good decision this was! Fastnet is a 5-a-side version of the game. With fewer players on the court, this version is a fast paced, exciting form of netball to watch, including shooting from outside the circle and 'power play' halves, giving teams the chance to double their scores.

Abbey A (U18s) and Abbey B (U16s) played in a round robin tournament, aiming to secure a place in the top 3, giving them the opportunity to win the tournament. Abbey A got off to a flying start, utilising their power plays to their

advantage and sinking a number of 3 pointers! Abbey B also got off to a strong start, demonstrating rapid movement and passing down the court. Abbey A vs Abbey B proved to be a scintillating game - starting off with a 3 pointer each - with Abbey A coming away with the win.

Following a 4th - 5th play off, Abbey B beat Heathfield to secure 4th position, whereas Abbey A saw off Queen Anne's to secure 1st place, along with the prize for Top Goal Scorers!

Congratulations to all students involved. Particular well done to Amelia in Abbey A, who secured one of three 'Player of the Tournament' accolades.

## Creative Writing Club

On Monday 21 March the Upper III Creative Writing club went to The Wallace Collection in London for a school trip. We walked through the beautifully decorated halls of the museum once owned by rich, British aristocrats, which featured many breathtaking 18th century paintings, detailed statues and vintage furniture sets.



Later we wrote small stories about the unique pieces on display in the collection as we were told about the fascinating history of the artefacts by some authors who work there.

## Solidarity for Ukraine



On Wednesday evening, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a plea for people around the world to gather in solidarity for his country, and to call for peace and freedom today to mark one month of conflict.

On Thursday afternoon, The Abbey School showed their support to the people of Ukraine. The Abbey School stood for peace.

At the Junior School, Mrs Kaura hosted an assembly where she invited students to repeat the school creed, and they later held up blue and yellow to denote the Ukrainian flag.

Led by Mr le Fleming, the Senior School sat in silence as Head Girls Bhaavya and Kate read passages from President Zelensky at the start of the conflict, as well as his recent call for a display of solidarity around the world.

There are additional efforts within the school to support Ukraine - including a 24-hour goods drive, working with Reading School who are supporting a convoy delivering humanitarian aid to eastern Europe and thence into Ukraine with local volunteers.



## 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 Pete Holliday, Head of Marketing.

### Music:

#### **Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond**

An absolute classic and it puts a smile on my face everytime I hear it played. I can often be seen belting out the chorus on a long drive to Devon - much to the dismay of other motorists on the M5.

#### **The Winner Takes it All - ABBA**

Guilty secret - I love ABBA. However, I only had three records as a child - this one, Shakin' Stevens 'Green Door' and Orville the Duck's 'Come to my party'. So in fairness, it is easy to see why ABBA got the majority of airtime in my house. Love the song, and the Meryl Streep version from 'Mamma Mia' gives me goosebumps.

#### **Chevaliers de Sangreal - Hans Zimmer**

A stunning piece of music. It is the musical cornerstone for the film 'The Da Vinci Code'. I find this track very spiritual and powerful and often play it two or three times in succession to absorb every aspect of the music.

#### **Blinding Lights - The Weeknd**

I sang this as 'The Singing Stormtrooper' for The Abbey's Masked Singer competition in 2021. I was delighted to finish 4th and was really proud of my achievement. I must say I thought the other three competitors were amazing too.

#### **God is a DJ - Faithless**

One of my dance anthem favourites and I used to play this song before going out to bat when playing cricket back in Peterborough. Although voted the worst city to live in England two years running, the standard of cricket in Peterborough wasn't bad, and the song seemed to help me focus before the innings started.

#### **I will survive - Gloria Gaynor**

I love this song and I adore dancing to it as my wife will testify. Mid conversation with a French couple whilst holidaying in Cape Verde, I burst out of my seat when hearing the opening lines of this classic, and danced solo to stunned holiday makers who were expecting some entertainment for the evening. Three minutes later I received a standing ovation for my 'unique' performance and was handed a drink by the bar staff on the way back to my table. Weirdly, we didn't see the French couple again that holiday.

#### **Desiderata - Max Ehrmann**

Not a song as such, but a piece that is

etched in my memory forever. This poem was put to music, and was selected by my Dad as the song he wanted played as his coffin was carried into the crematorium. He had asked me to be a pallbearer too - so the saddest time was also one of my proudest moments too...fulfilling his final wish. I often read or play the piece...it brings me a lot of peace in my soul.

#### **Hey Jude - The Beatles**

I may look old, but The Beatles were before my time. However, the song will always make me smile as it was played by the hospital staff whilst my oldest son was being born. Having being told that his name was going to be Jude, the staff surprised us by playing 'Hey Jude' as my son was delivered by c-section, and when his mum and I cradled him for the first time, there was the gentle background sound of everyone else singing. It was perfect.

#### **Book:**

Any book by fictional TV host Alan Partridge. Doesn't matter how many times I read his books, I still end up laughing out loud.

#### **Luxury item:**

My initial thought was shampoo, but I changed my mind to a digital radio so I could listen to Test Match Special and live football - without sport I am not sure I would cope.

## Studios Sounds

This week saw our final Studio Sounds for the term. The concert saw the debut performance of the Harp Ensemble, which consisted of three Lower I students who started learning the harp only this academic year.

They played with such flair. We also saw a performance from the Percussion Club which meets every Thursday lunchtime. These two groups were joined by a number of soloists from across Lower I - Lower III and it was a wonderful way to end the day.

For more than half of the performers it was their first time performing in public and they all rose to the occasion magnificently.



## National Biathlon Success



It was fantastic to see both Junior and Senior Abbey students compete in the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships last Sunday 20 March, which was held at The University of Bath.

Competing in the U16 group, the team of Carys, Maya and Matilda had an outstanding day, coming away with the National team title. The individual standings placed Matilda in 4th and Maya in 5th, with Carys coming away with another National Champion award.

Esme (finished 89th in U12), Shumeng (finished 52nd U13) and Lauren (finished 19th in U14) performed in the U12 - U14 age category. Each student worked really hard in both the swimming and running disciplines.

Finally, Lily produced an excellent swim and run to gain a podium place, finishing as 3rd in the U19 competition.

From Juniors Araliya and Pippa performed in the U11 category. Both had fantastic runs with Araliya taking 11 seconds off her personal best, finishing in 2.59 and Pippa finishing in a time of 3.17. Overall Araliya finished 11th and Pippa 70th.

In our U10 category, Alice showed tenacity and resilience in her run with a finishing time of 2.57 and finishing 13th overall.

Well done to all Abbey athletes - they most certainly finished the Biathlon on a high!

## National Cross Country Championships

Grace, Isabella and Carys competed for Berkshire and The Abbey at the ESAA National Schools Cross Country Championships at Hop Farm in Kent.

Grace and Isabella, who were part of the Junior girls team, came a credible 129th and 246th; with Grace being the 2nd Berkshire athlete home.

Carys was in the Inter girls team, who came 6th overall out of 45 counties. Carys was the 1st Berkshire athlete home, coming 29th out of over 300 runners.

Congratulations to everyone who participated.



## Regional GSA Swimming



Last Thursday evening, the Swim Squad travelled to St Catherine's School in Bramley to compete in the GSA South Central Regional Swimming Championships. The Abbey team swam against ten other GSA schools, producing some fantastic results.

The U13 and U15 teams came 2nd, and the U18's came 1st. Overall, The Abbey placed 2nd overall, which is a fantastic end to a successful year. Particular highlights were Maya and Libby breaking two records.

## Abbey Science Week 2022



Last week the Junior School celebrated British Science Week 2022; there were competitions, assemblies, quizzes and more!

The week kicked off with an interactive assembly from our Science Captains. Ishita, Shreeya, Matilda and Aarika led a fascinating assembly, and were able to share their knowledge of electricity and the human body with hands-on activities for Upper and Lower Prep. The assembly was also live streamed to the rest of the school, who had their own resources, so they could also take part in the fun!

One tradition that the students always look forward to is the annual Inter-House Science Quiz. All students from LI to LIII took part in the online quiz that tested their knowledge of all aspects of science including rocks, space and parts of the

skeleton. All the scores from each year group were totted up and the final scores were...

1st -	Paget	3389 points
2nd -	Ducat	3290 points
3rd -	Kensington	3013 points
4th -	Carrington	2886 points

Well done Paget!

Each break time the Science Captains led interactive activities for the students. LI enjoyed making their own paper planes and seeing how far they could fly. UI were challenged to create the most stable, plasticine boat that would hold the largest number of bears. UII enjoyed making spinners and testing how they travelled when dropped from different heights. The competitive spirit was high in LIII, when they had a number of small competitions



that tested the accuracy and strength of their catapults. A lot of fun was had by all.

In the Early Years, the Nursery and Reception students had a special assembly with Mrs Jones where they experienced chemical reactions and electric circuits. They were able to continue their learning though the week and really enjoyed investigating the energy stick Mrs Jones lent them.

Another highlight was our annual science competition. This year over 100 students from across the school worked hard to design a logo for the 'Logo Lift Off' competition. All entries were submitted for judging for this national competition. So fingers crossed, we might have one of our designs blasting off into space some time soon.



In addition to all these wonderful activities, every morning an inspirational story of an individual smashing stereotypes and highlighting the importance of inclusion and diversity in STEM was shared with the students.

Mrs Jones

