



The Abbey



Gateway

4 March 2022

Shadow Puppets - Book Review - Alumna Webinar



World Book Day

This year marks the 25th anniversary of World Book Day.

This special day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. Designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

We celebrated the day at the Junior School by dressing up as an influential character from books that we had read. Having been unable to celebrate in this way during the past 2 years it has been particularly delightful to see the wonderful variety of character costumes that have been worn and the magical hubbub that the day created for us.

A buzz of literary conversations has been heard throughout every year group. Our school library representatives enthusiastically presented an assembly



based on 'Doorways' in books with encouragement for us all to challenge ourselves with reading choices.

Ms Botterill



Heads: Connected

Betwixt and Between

We talk a lot about beginnings and endings in schools, in stories and indeed, in life. And it's easy to understand why. They are simple to comprehend, and precise about what's occurring at that point in time. There's a satisfying clarity to declaring that while one year, term or lesson is over, another has just arrived. New starts are exciting and, although reaching the end of some things can be sad, there is at least a definitive full stop to sign post where we are. We turn the page and the next chapter is there, waiting for us to dive in.

But what about those times that do not cleave to the narrative in that way? Those fuzzy, indistinct, in-between times that don't feel like a beginning or an end, though they may hold the seeds of both?

[Read more](#)

Podcast With A Cake

In this week's 'Podcast with a cake', the team is joined by Dr Tullis to revisit the popular subject of conspiracy theories.

Walt Disney and Michael Jackson are amongst the topics of conversation, as well as discussing conspiracies that have been proven to be true.

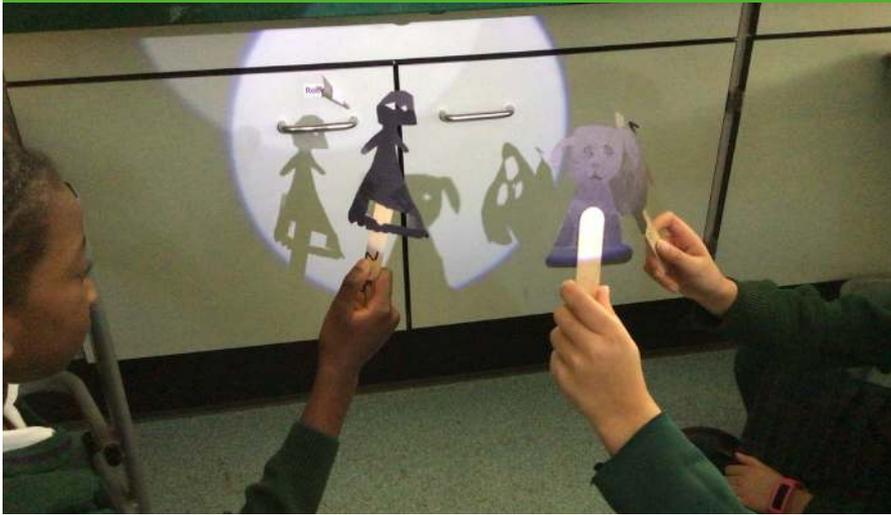
This episode is available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), [Castbox](#), and [Amazon Music](#).

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

This week's Heads Connected: [Betwixt and Between](#) by Nisha Kaura



Shadow puppets



Before half term, Lower I enjoyed putting all their knowledge about lights and shadows to good use - by creating their own shadow puppet theatres.

The students had been studying light and shadow as a topic of study and took the opportunity to show off their skills with this fun activity. Well done for all the wonderful creations.

Abbey Interludes



On Wednesday we had the pleasure of listening to some wonderful musical performances as part of our Abbey Interludes Recital series.

Music was provided by Jennifer (piano & clarinet), Kate (clarinet), Frances (piano),

Louisa (voice) and Natasha (guitar). Our congratulations go to all performers for their delightful performances, and our thanks are extended to Mrs Cornford for accompanying some of this week's performers.

Book review

Congratulations to Meiyu in Upper I who wrote a book review of David Walliams' Code Name Bananas which was recently published by FirstNews.

Meiyu loves reading all kinds of books. She likes adventure, mysteries and fantasy books. David Walliams is one of her favourite authors and she really gets lost in reading his stories.

Meiyu commented, "When I was reading the book, I could imagine myself as a sword-wielding heroine who I could travel over seas and continents, tracing my imaginary journeys over the pages of an atlas with my fingertip."



She also believes reading is a wonderful hobby that will not only improve your imagination but also when you read a good book you can experience a whole new world. Well done Meiyu.

Upper IV Launch Pad

Just before half term Upper IV took part in Launch Pad - a small business challenge day run by Young Enterprise.

Working in small teams, the students enthusiastically developed their fledgling businesses guided by a business volunteer. With many ambitious and innovative ideas in evidence, they used their creative skills to design logos, plan interiors, uniforms and marketing materials.



Their finance teams had clearly negotiated large budgets as many of their launch events had secured celebrity guest appearances ranging from Serena Williams, Joe Wicks to Ed Sheeran!

The students also really enjoyed listening to the "Real Stories, Real People" sessions where the Business Advisers shared their own work journeys and experiences. After an action packed afternoon of planning, the day culminated in each team giving their presentation.



Delivered with confidence, it was fantastic to hear their pitches which were timed to perfection! Well done to all of the teams and a special congratulations goes to "The Trailer Shakes" who won the Overall New Business Award.

Mrs Lesbirel



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 Joanne Wenman, Senior School Librarian.

Music:

Forever Young - Bob Dylan

My mother's favourite song and it reminds me of when mum and I went to see Dylan in concert in 2002

Joanne - Lady Gaga

Beautiful track, which obviously features my name so if I was lonely on a desert island, I would feel as if someone was talking to me! I am also a fan of Lady Gaga as I think she is incredibly talented and versatile

I Will Survive - Gloria Gaynor

For obvious reasons I think this song might keep me going

Happy - Pharrell Williams

For the same reasons as no.3 above but also reminds me of when I lived in Dubai; the children in my school liked this song and played it quite a bit at the time of its release

Sitting on the Dock of a Bay - Otis Redding

Maybe if he was happy looking at water all day, there's hope for me

The Whole of the Moon - The Waterboys

One of my favourite tracks ever. which reminds me of my student days and when I saw The Waterboys in concert. It also has a profound message about what it means to be happy

Bitter Sweet Symphony - The Verve

Another favourite song - uplifting instrumental but with depressing lyrics, which I listened to a lot in the late 1990s

Let It Be - The Beatles

This is a great song by the fab four with a really important message attached to it about accepting what we cannot change and having the strength to carry on

Piano Concerto no.5 op.73 'The Emperor' - Beethoven

My favourite piece of classical music which has appeared in the soundtrack of a couple of films I have enjoyed: Picnic at Hanging Rock and Dead Poets' Society

Book

How to Survive on a Deserted Island - Tim O'Shea or Tolstoy's War and Peace (to keep me busy)

Luxury Item

Sun protection cream or vast supply of coffee

Inspiring Art



'Infinity mirrored rooms - filled with the brilliance of life' Yayoi Kusama is currently an installation at the Tate modern, first created in 2011

I have never seen/experienced anything quite like her installation, and so I really wanted to talk about it because I think her work is so unique and powerful.

At the exhibition, I found out that she lives voluntarily in a psychiatric hospital due to hallucinations she sees patterns moving, multiplying, engulfing everything around her and finally consuming her, a process she termed 'Self Obliteration.'



She started painting to help her control her 'visions', which then progressed to installations and other forms of expression. The aim of her art was to make the viewer part of it - which she really has done - creating a seemingly endless abyss of colours and shapes. I felt like I was just immersed in something I couldn't quite put into words. It is like an insight into her world.

I love that her work is so open to interpretation, and also really beautiful.

'My life is a dot lost among thousands of other dots' - Yayoi Kusama

Rosie, Upper V

Winchester Science Centre Trip

On 16 February, the whole of Upper II and Lower III went on a trip to the Winchester Science Centre.

Upon arrival, we were split into groups and started our activities. I particularly enjoyed the Planetarium, where they explained about constellations and galaxies.



I also enjoyed learning about the James Webb telescope and how light is made up of every colour of the rainbow. I would strongly recommend this trip to anybody of any age.

I enjoyed this trip very much, and I think everyone else did too. If you like to have fun with science, you should go!

Anvitha, Upper II

Alumna Webinar: A Career as an Interpreter at the United Nations

A love of travel and a passion for modern foreign languages led an Abbey alumna to her 'dream career' working as an interpreter for The United Nations.

For the latest in our series of Abbey Alumnae Webinars, connecting classrooms to careers, Rebecca Wallen (2002), joined students from her home in New York on Monday to share her career story, which included translating at a meeting of the UN Security Council after the coup in Mali. Rebecca told students "it was my teachers who instilled the passion in me to do what I do today".

Head of Modern Languages, Frau Byrne said "everyone found Rebecca's career exceptionally interesting and was fascinated to hear about her recurrent work as an interpreter in New York. We were inspired by her talk and students are now aspiring to take on this dream job at the UN using the languages they have learnt at The Abbey."

Rebecca's Career Highlights:

French & Spanish MA (Hons) at Edinburgh University
Corporate lawyer, Paris
Postgraduate diploma, Conference Interpreting
Freelance interpreter, United Nations

The next in the series of Abbey Alumnae Webinars will consider a career in publishing & journalism with author & BBC international correspondent, Joanna Jolly, on 7 March.



Gender and LGBTQIA+ societies



On Monday lunchtimes Senior School students are invited to come along and discuss worldly and in school issues, surrounding topics about gender, diversity and the LGBTQ+ community.

The gender and LGBTQIA+ societies are a safe space for any student to express and share their thoughts, feelings and ideas or simply to listen and get involved with the community.

Each week students choose a new area of discussion, with sixth formers leading conversations to help younger students find solutions to potential problems, or to simply lend an ear to someone who wants to talk.