



Weekly Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Mr Kevin Dickens, MBE investiture

Most of our school community will be aware that Kevin Dickens, our longest-serving member of staff, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. This was for services to education over 40 years, but his award also noted the excellent work he carried out during Covid-19 supporting all the families in the community who were at financial disadvantage.

We recognise that Mr Dickens has been a common thread in so many lives in the local community over the many decades he has been at The Abbey School. We are incredibly proud and delighted that his loyal service has been acknowledged in such a public and special way.

Best wishes

Dr R Speller
Headteacher

In Kevin's own words: "I had a lovely day at Windsor Castle. The weather was perfect and all the logistics worked out. It was cool driving up the long walk and we drew quite a crowd when we pulled up at the gates – maybe they were expecting a celebrity! There was a massive security check of the vehicle before we could drive in. We were directed into the quadrangle where the state rooms are on one side and the private apartments on the other. This square is not normally open to the public.

Lifeguards were stationed at various points and they looked amazing. We waited in one room and then moved to the next as groups filed through the main room collecting their awards. The rooms were amazing, with paintings of all the kings and queens and most of the decor was covered in 24 carat gold. I got my bows right and I approached Princess Anne. She pinned on the medal and asked, "So, do you do everything at that school then?" She had obviously researched my career, so we had quite a long chat about education and my love of music. Finally, I backed off, bowed and turned away as the next recipient took their turn. We then had an opportunity for lots of photos and stood near to the dancer, Ashley Banjo, who was having his photo taken having collected an award for services to dance.

It was a fabulous day, I feel very honoured to have had this amazing opportunity; the Windsor Castle staff looked after us so well and made me feel very special. Back to normal work now!



Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)



Achievement or service in and to the community which is outstanding in its field and has delivered sustained and real impact which stands out as an example to others.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week!



Anna Buga
Y7
55 House Points



Henry Austin
Y7
45 House Points



Emilija Jodcika
Y7
46 House Points



Daisy Cook
Y9
31 House Points

STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES w/c 7/11/2022

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	3.20	3.15	3.10	3.30	3.25	3.30	3.30
Thursday only	2.20	2.15	2.10	2.30	2.25	2.30	2.30

Spotlight on...Disneyland Paris 2022

On Monday 17 October 2022, 30 Dance students in Years 10, 11 and 13 made their way to Disneyland Paris for 3 days.

The first day was spent travelling to the destination. After checking into our hotel, we made our way to Disney Village for some dinner and a look round the Disney stores. The weather was horrendous, however this didn't dampen our spirits.



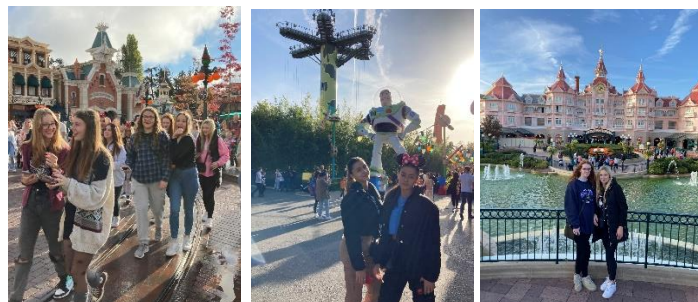
The next day, we got up early and made our way to the park. The weather was now on our side! We had an amazing first day. We went on lots of rides and rollercoasters such as Thunder Mountain, Buzz Lightyear, Space Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean and Indiana Jones. We even bumped into Mickey Mouse and Captain Hook. Everyone stepped out of their comfort zone and tried all the rides! The evening ended with watching the light display and fireworks at the castle as the crowds sang Disney songs. It was magical!



On the final day of our trip, we made our way to Walt Disney Studios. Here again we managed to go on plenty of rides! The Avengers, Crush Coaster, Ratatouille and Tower of Terror, to name a few. We loved Tower of Terror so much we decided to go on it for a second time! I wouldn't be surprised if the town of Faversham heard the screams of us all, but we loved it! We were lucky to spot some more characters in Walt Disney Studios: Buzz Lightyear, Goofy, Jesse and we managed to get a photo with Captain Marvel.



The trip was a fantastic couple of days away and seeing students in a different environment was so wonderful to see. Students behaved impeccably on the trip and were an absolute joy to be around. So much laughter, happiness and a community of individuals who made the absolute most of the experience.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Harris and Miss Pointer for accompanying me on the trip and a huge thank you to all the parents who supported both myself and their children in coming.

Dance Students... Thank you for the best memories! I hope you had as much fun as I did! Bring on next time!

Miss Nunn

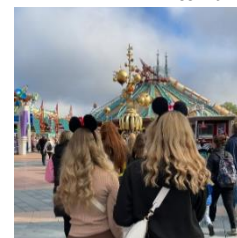
Comments from students:

'The Disney fireworks were amazing and experiencing it with my friends made it even better.'

'Throughout our time at Disney, we got to experience watching shows, going on rides, and stepping out our comfort zones. We got to see the performance opportunities that dance can lead to in the future. The trip also allowed us to create bonds with students in the other years. It was an amazing experience, and I was fortunate enough to have experienced it. As well as the other girls I am truly thankful for Miss Nunn to have organised this.'

'Thank you to everyone who came on the Disneyland Paris trip, I had the best time away and made some memories I will never forget!'

'Going to Disneyland Paris was an amazing opportunity because it was so fun! I even got to practice some French!'



Year 11 After-School Support

In order to provide additional support for our year 11 students, we have put together the following rota, starting next Monday:

- Mondays - Science and Geography
- Tuesdays - English, MFL and History (WHK and ZAM)
- Wednesdays - Maths and History (SSH)

Year 11 Kent Choices Week

A reminder to all year 11 parents that students begin their Kent Choice application process next week. All students have been given a worksheet that they should have completed.

How KentChoices supports students:

[KentChoices](#) is an online prospectus and application system run by Kent County Council's commissioned provider, The Education People. It allows Year 11 learners to search and apply for courses in Kent sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and other alternative training. The KentChoices website also provides lots of advice and information for 16 to 19 years olds to help them make their decisions, including:

- [Options after Year 11](#)
- [Need help finding education, employment or training?](#)
- [Become an Apprentice](#)
- [School and college open events](#)
- [Health and wellbeing](#)
- [Workshop and resources](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)



Peer Mentors – an update

Peer mentoring is a one-to-one non-judgemental relationship where an individual (Mentor) voluntarily gives time to support and encourage another (Mentee). At our school, the Peer Mentors provide advice and guidance to their mentees and they allow them the opportunity to discuss any concerns that they have in or out of school.

The Peer Mentor programme is in full swing with sessions continuing next week. Our trained Year 7 and 8 mentors have been running group sessions in the canteen, checking in with Year 7s and their transition into Abbey School life!

Thank you to Mr Easter for his fantastic work with this initiative.



Our 6th Form Role Models

Scott, Eleisha, Ella and Henry are fantastic role models to both The Abbey School and our Sixth form. Having all been a part of the school since year 7, they have seen many changes, been taught by numerous staff and embedded themselves into the culture and ethos that we pride ourselves on. These individuals are simply brilliant and have been recognised for this, following an application process and interview with Dr Speller and Mrs Crouch. As part of their roles the students are keen to support our younger years and engage in activities around the school. They are approachable young adults, and we are excited to be working with them in a different capacity alongside their education.



Upcoming Key Dates

Year 11 Kent Choices Week	w/c Monday 7 th November
Year 9 'Big Explore' with Miss Harris	Tuesday 8 th November
Swale Youth Forum Day with Miss Green	Wednesday 9 th November
Final day of mock exams	Wednesday 9 th November
Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 14 th November
Student Council Meeting with Caterers	Tuesday 15 th November
6 th Form Open Evening	Wednesday 16 th November
Kenward Trust Drugs Focus Sessions	Wednesday 23 rd November
Year 11 Subject Consultation Evening	Wednesday 23rd November
District Cross Country Championships	Friday 25 th November
KS5 Business Studies Grade Booster Day	Tuesday 29 th November
Mock Practical Art Exam Y11	Wednesday 30 th November
Years 7-9 Flu Vaccinations	Monday 5 th December
Swale Youth Forum Day	Wednesday 7 th December
Year 11 Big Interviews	Wednesday 7 th December
Year 11 Big Interviews	Thursday 8 th December
Year 11 Big Interviews	Friday 9 th December
KS4 Dance Showcase at CCCU	Saturday 10 th December
Rewards Assemblies	Tuesday 13 th December
GCSE Practical Dance Exam	Wednesday 14 th December
Last Day of Term – early closure	Friday 16 th December

Wet Weather Conditions

A lot of students got caught out in the extremely bad weather this week, so this is just a quick reminder that they should have a coat and watertight shoes.

Remembrance Week

Next week, there will be a series of assemblies, one for each year group, focusing on the importance of commemorating this important week.

On Remembrance Day, we recognise the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought so hard to achieve. We will be observing a two minute silence on Friday 11th November which is dedicated to those soldiers who have died fighting to protect the nation. Our cadets will be invited to take part in a short parade on the playground with a number of scouts holding the flag.

This tradition first began in 1919, one year after the end of WW1, and is undertaken at the 11th hour of the 11th month (11am on the 11th of November) as **this was the exact time that troops fell silent and saw the end of the four year battle of WW1.**

Weather permitting, the whole school will come out of lessons to observe the two minute silence.



Cost-of-living support

Find out what help and support is available to you and your family as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.

Get in touch with us to let us know if you're struggling with your finances

We know everyone is feeling the pinch this winter and we want to support those families in our school community who are impacted the most. If you're struggling with your finances, please do get in touch to let us know, as there may be things we can suggest which will help. We want to do everything we can to help you and your child through this difficult winter.

Let us know if your child is entitled to free school meals (FSM) or if you think they might be

If your child is eligible for free school meals (FSM) or you think that they might be, you need to get them registered. This will allow them to get a free meal at school, and we'll get extra funding to support your child's learning. For more information on FSM or your eligibility, contact info@abbeychoolfaversham.co.uk or call 01795 532633

See what other support you can get from your local authority

Local authorities have lots of different schemes that you might be eligible for, including:

- > The [holiday activities and food programme](#) – access to food and activities over the school holidays
- > [Help with transport to school](#)
- > [Help with the cost of uniform](#)

Get free or low-cost food

If you're worried about not having enough food to feed your family, you're not alone. There are a number of places offering support.

- > If you have a child under 4, and meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to [healthy start food vouchers](#)
- > Please call 0344 848 7978 to speak to Citizens Advice Swale / Faversham who will be able to issue you with a food bank voucher if necessary. Or use these websites: [Bankuet](#), [The Independent Food Aid Network](#), the [Trussell Trust](#), or your local [community fridge](#)
- > Use food waste apps and websites like [Olio](#) (for free food and household items from your local community), [Too Good To Go](#) (for low cost food from local restaurants), or [Low Price Foods](#) (food that has passed its best before date, but is still safe to consume)

Find out what help you can get with your energy bills

Take a look at these resources from [Simple Energy Advice](#), the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving Expert](#) website.

Further information

- > Contact [StepChange](#), if you're struggling with debt
- > Contact [Shelter](#) if you're having issues related to housing
- > Get free household goods on [Freecycle](#)
- > Contact the [Salvation Army](#) for emergency assistance
- > See if you're eligible for [grants from Turn2us](#)
- > Single parents can get support from [Gingerbread](#)