



Weekly Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

A Special Celebratory Edition!

Many students across all year groups have been achieving remarkable feats in various fields, showcasing their exceptional talent, dedication, and hard work. From academic excellence to ground-breaking opportunities, artistic prowess to athletic achievements, these students exemplify the potential of our younger generation. This edition aims to highlight some of the fantastic achievements accomplished by students in the last few weeks of term and during the summer break, achievements that are a testament to their commitment to education and their unwavering pursuit of knowledge. Notable achievements include:

- **Academic competitions:** Students have excelled in prestigious competitions such as Sports Day; Sports Personality Awards; The PGMOL VAR Tournament; 'Young Volunteer of the Year; The Sparx Maths Homework Competition; House Competition Champions; 'Star Bakers and Designers', amongst many more, all showcasing their exceptional talent, skills, problem-solving, creative and critical thinking abilities.

- **Further education, Higher education and Scholarships:** many students have achieved places in the 6th form provision of their choice, and at university, plus a prestigious scholarship in the USA, enabling them to pursue higher education at renowned institutions. These destinations recognize their academic brilliance, sporting, prowess, leadership qualities, and potential to make a positive impact in their fields of study.

6th Form Achievements

Back in August, we were delighted to share our 6th form students' latest success as the school community came together to celebrate remarkable Sixth Form results, showcasing an exceptional 22% of outcomes achieved at A*-B grades.



The achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of both students and subject departments. Among the highlights of these impressive results, the History A-Level grades stood out, boasting an impressive 60% A*-B grades. Additionally, the Economics A-Level results also hit the 75% mark for A*-B grades, reflecting the collective determination of the school's educators and learners.



GCSE Results - Key Highlights:

- **EBacc Achievement:** An impressive 18% of students attained passes in all EBacc subjects, including Mathematics, English, Science, History or Geography, and Languages. This achievement reflects an increase from 2022, emphasising our commitment to delivering a comprehensive and well-rounded education and nurturing versatile learners who excel across a range of disciplines.
- **Demonstrating Resilience:** Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, and the disruption that followed, our community has exhibited exceptional resilience, adaptability, and determination. The 2023 results stand as a testament to the unwavering dedication and perseverance of both students and educators.
- **Individual Excellence:** Freya S achieved three grade 8s and a grade 7 among her total of nine GCSEs. Jessica F achieved three grade 8s and four grade 7s as part of her impressive results. Similarly, Phoebe W achieved 3 grade 8s and two grade 7s alongside her other passes, whilst also achieving the best progress score in her year group.

Dr Speller commented, "The Abbey School takes immense pride in the achievements of our students this year. The increase in students achieving passes in all EBacc subjects reflects our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that enables students to excel in diverse fields.

The Abbey School extends gratitude to students, parents, staff, and the entire community for their unwavering support. The results not only signify academic accomplishments but also the growth of each student as a resilient and adaptable learner, poised to make positive contributions to society.



STARS OF THE YEAR

Well done to our Stars of the Academic Year 2022-2023



Stella
Sunley
Y8

1151 House Points



Ella
Denton
Y10

1401 House Points



Oliver
Smith
Y10

1244 House Points



Olivia
Irving
Y8

1348 House Points

STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES for w/c 11th September 2023

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Monday	3.10pm	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.25pm	3.30pm	10.30am	3.30pm
Tuesday	3.10pm	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.25pm	3.30pm	3.30pm	3.30pm
Wednesday/Friday	3.10pm	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.25pm	3.30pm	3.30pm	3.30pm
Thursday	2.10pm	2.15pm	2.20pm	2.25pm	2.30pm	2.30pm	2.30pm

Spotlight on...Time for Goodbye ☹️

This summer, we said a final 'Goodbye' to Mr Kevin Dickens MBE!

Many of our current parents, ex-parents, ex-students will be aware that Kevin Dickens has worked for The Abbey School for 40 years. Throughout this time he has modelled kindness, respect and grace. He has worked with multiple headteachers during this time and throughout has been regarded by the wider school community as the backbone of the school. When he initially joined in 1983, Kevin was a music teacher and was quickly promoted to the role of Head of Music. In the late 1980s and 1990s he led the school's nationally recognised steel band and was frequently the face of the school at events across the South East.

He was promoted to a role in charge of SEN and then to the leadership team under Headteacher, Peter Walker. In the late 1990s Kevin wrote his own Management Information System for the school which remained in use up until the pandemic - a mark of the intelligence and skill of this much loved colleague. In more recent times Kevin was promoted to Deputy Headteacher under Catrin Woodend and then to Head of School for the most recent Headteacher, Roly Speller. Whilst Kevin retired from his post as Head of School a couple of years ago, he has continued until recently to be our Director of Resources.

Dr Speller commented: "I can also testify that when Kevin leaves The Abbey it will feel like I have lost my right arm. His wise counsel and encouragement for me to be brave has held me in good stead as headteacher. Kevin was awarded an MBE for services to education 18 months ago for the contribution that he has made to The Abbey School, but as we join a new trust it is important that his contribution in getting us to this point is recognised. Kevin is unflappable, always speaks truth to power and is a model of integrity that everybody on our leadership team looks up to."

Kevin will be much missed by us all and we wish him very well in his retirement and hope it is long, happy and healthy.



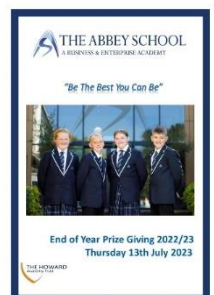
Here is Kevin receiving yet another (!) long-service award at the recent THAT Awards Ceremony, pictured with Dr Speller, Headteacher, and Owen McColgan, CEO of the Trust.



End of Year Prize Giving Event

On Thursday 13th July we held another highly enjoyable and very successful celebration of our students' achievements. The evening promised to be another wonderful celebration of the diverse talents and star qualities of our brilliant students and it certainly delivered!

Thank you to our Guest of Honour, Owen McColgan, CEO of The Howard Academy Trust, and to all the parents, carers and students who attended. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.



Just a selection of photographs of our worthy winners – if any parents would like a copy of their child's photographs, please do contact us via info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

We also invited a representative from **Faversham Foodbank** to the awards ceremony where Owen McColgan presented a cheque on behalf of all at The Abbey.



We are now hoping to forge a closer working relationship with the Foodbank which could bring a range of benefits to the whole community, for example:

The school could be set up as a 'referral agency', to enable us to issue a voucher to a pupil's family that can be redeemed at the foodbank for three days' emergency food. <https://faversham.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/> ;

One or two sixth form students each year might like to volunteer at the foodbank;

They could deliver talks to pupils about the work of the food bank; and Could work with us at certain times during the year (e.g. Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter) if the pupils and / or staff wanted to collect food donations for the foodbank.

We think this could be a highly valuable partnership, so watch this space.

Abbey student, Archie Suter, presented with national award at Wembley by England manager Gareth Southgate



England manager Gareth Southgate presented Abbey School student, Archie Suter, from Faversham, with a national award for his selfless volunteering in youth football.

Archie was named **Young Volunteer of the Year** at the FA's National Grassroots awards, adding to the same honour he received from Kent FA last month for his work with Faversham Strike Force. He was handed his trophy by the national team boss, Gareth Southgate, at Wembley and enjoyed a dream day out at the Community Shield on 6 August.



Not only did he get to meet the likes of World Cup-winner Geoff Hurst and Liverpool legend John Barnes at a star-studded event, Archie also got a taste of his dream job by shadowing the FA's social media team as they filmed pre-match interviews and warm-ups on the pitch.

"Meeting Gareth Southgate was unbelievable," he said. "We joked before about how amazing it would be if the England manager presented my award and then it happened. I got to meet all the Manchester City and Arsenal players as they arrived including my hero, Jack Grealish."

Archie, 13, dedicates hours each week to Strike Force and fulfils multiple roles including coach, stadium announcer and social media content creator. He also plays for the under-14s.

He has played a major part in the club's new Mini Bolts sessions for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Archie, who is dyslexic, is a favourite with children and parents alike who have praised the empathetic way in which he deals with young footballers with diverse needs.

"Arch is often the first one to arrive at sessions and shows huge maturity and communication skills," said club manager Gary Axford. "He's an absolute credit to the club and the town. What makes him stand out is his willingness to take on new challenges - he goes above and beyond 100 per cent of the time. He never says no to the club or anyone asking for help."

Archie is a fantastic example of our motto – 'Be The Best You Can Be' – well done for this huge achievement, all of us at The Abbey are extremely proud of you!



A report from the 25th World Scout Jamboree

Hello, I am Megan, a current year 11 in the Abbey School. 2 years ago, I attended a selection day for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. I was successfully selected as one of two people to represent Faversham. I was also one of 108 young people in Kent.

The World Scout Jamboree is where Scouts from all over the world meet together and share cultures. The Jamboree happens every 4 years and is held in a different country each year. Last year it was in America and this year, it was in South Korea. After fundraising the massive £4,000 to go, I left for my big adventure on the 26th July 2023 at 6am.

I met all of the other scouts in Maidstone before taking a coach trip to the airport. I then had a 14 hour flight to Hong Kong, followed by another 5 hour flight to South Korea. When arriving, we found a KFC and could not resist after eating airplane food for over 24 hours.

We stayed in the city (Seoul) for the first week of our trip. My favourite place there was the DMZ. That stands for the Demilitarised Zone. It is where the border of South and North Korea meet. We got to explore the tunnels that North Korea made to invade the South, as well as going to a viewing point where we could see the whole of the North.

After the week in Seoul, we headed to the Jamboree. We were supposed to be there for 12 nights, but we only stayed for 3. We were evacuated after 3 nights due to the extreme 48 degree heat, as well as there being no shade in the field and not everyone having water.

The last night on the Jamboree Site was the best night of my life. My friends and I headed out at 6pm for a little walk and got a message from our leader to go back to camp. When we got back, we got told the news that we were leaving site. That night, I swapped a lot of badges with people from other countries as well as going to site beach and being taught how to explode water bottles by the Scottish Scouts.

We got back to camp at 4am after experiencing many different cultures. It was tiring, but we all slept on the coach on the way to the hotel the next morning. We spent the time we were supposed to be at the Jamboree for in the city. Although it was not what we expected, it was the best experience of my life. My favourite experience would probably be the closing ceremony where we saw a lot of k-pop artists and other talented people perform.

I have many so many friends that I will keep for a life time and I cannot wait for the reunion camp where I get to see everyone from Kent once again. In total, I was there for 3 weeks without my parents, and with a whole load of other scouts like me.

I would definitely recommend scouting, as well as the next Jamboree in 4 years' time. It will be held in 2027 in Poland for anyone between the ages of 14-18 at the time.

Thank you for reading

Megan Burney



Sports Day

On Friday 14th July, The Abbey School held its annual Sports Day for Years 7, 8 and 9. Once again, students were competing for their house and against their personal bests in a number of athletic events and football tournaments, some aiming for school records, some just enjoying taking part. The temperature was perfect, but unfortunately, overcast and windy conditions meant that not many records fell this year. However, we did see a number of excellent performances from our students on the track, in the field and on the football pitch. The support from the students and staff was amazing all afternoon. The students loved having their faces painted in the colours of their houses and waving banners and flags (made in their art lessons) as the competitors raced by. It was brilliant to see the joy on the students' faces as they stood on the podium to receive their medals and the numerous displays of sportsmanship, teamwork, and encouragement were fantastic and a real credit to the school. The teachers also played their part as the whole school cheered on the staff relay at the end of the day. Overall, Pioneer ran out clear winners with 546 points

Thank you to the PE team for organising and thank you to everybody that supported this event - a great celebration of health and fitness.

Mr Nuttall, Director of Sport, commented: "It was great to see the students having such a good time, competing hard and supporting each other. From my perspective, as always, I felt like it was one of our best Sports Days. It really does help when everyone is so enthusiastic and supportive. I was really impressed with the level of competition, the number of students participating, the fantastic banners/posters, and the true sportsmanship displayed by our students".

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Overall
1st	Pioneer - 199	Voyager - 226	Pioneer - 180	Pioneer - 546
2nd	Discovery - 157	Pioneer - 167	Discovery - 155	Voyager - 510
3rd	Voyager - 148	Discovery - 144	Endeavour - 140	Discovery - 456
4th	Endeavour - 115	Endeavour - 94	Voyager - 136	Endeavour - 349



The Abbey's 'Sports Personality of the Year Awards'



The annual SPOTY awards took place on Tuesday 11th July. Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were invited to attend the event if they had participated in extra-curricular sport activities or if they had represented the school at a sports fixture. The awards up for grabs were 'Most Improved Player' and 'Player of the Year'. As a new addition to our awards presentation, we also recognised the positive contribution and excellent leadership of our team captains by presenting them with a team pin. The finale of the awards ceremony focused on some outstanding achievements listed below:

Key Award Winners:

- Gordon Pover Award for Contribution to Girls Football: **Mia Gossling**
- Girls Team of the Year: **Year 7 Athletics**
- Boys Team of the Year: **Year 8 Rugby**
- Sportsman of the Year: **Jack Haile**
- Sportswoman of the Year: **Nuala Armstrong**

The PE Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all students who have participated in school sport this year and we look forward to seeing you all again next academic year!

Dover Athletic – more success and keeping up the training during the holidays

In July, the Academy once again won the PGMOL VAR Tournament at St George's park for the fourth year running. 10 games in the space of 2 days showed a lot about the character of the group. Another trophy for the cabinet!



During the summer holidays, pre-season training started well for Dover Athletic Football Academy, with some enthusiastic newcomers. We are looking forward to seeing where the league takes us this year, after a successful year last year.





What is Summer Communities?

Even with the most engaging classroom offer, sometimes the most memorable moments in schools are created in activities that take place outside of the typical classroom experience.

As part of our mission to 'Be the Best You Can Be' and to allow for opportunities where our students can explore in greater depth The Abbey School and THAT core **Attitudes** and **Values**, we are running a two-day extravaganza of events called 'Summer Communities'.

The aim is to give our students the opportunity to try something different, explore a range of activities, get creative, build a sense of community and hopefully discover something they didn't know about themselves.



Communities Week Feedback - tell us what you enjoyed and what went well...

- I love the colour run
- I liked that we got to learn things that we wouldn't have learnt before like sign language, I also liked the colour run because it was something I never experienced before and it was really fun
- The fire extinguisher and getting the teachers
- I enjoyed trying new and different things and the colour run mostly
- We all had such a great time
- I got messy with my friends
- All of the events were brilliant 😊
- I think the geography based eco-friendly house activity was fun and helped people use the money responsibly
- I enjoyed making bird feeders!
- The end of the year lessons were funny
- I enjoyed the code session with Miss Collins
- I liked the geography where we had to make houses
- The fun activities in lesson
- All was so good, thank you for everything ♥
- Everything went well, absolutely amazing. It was an incredible experience to learn more about one punch and to be involved with the Aim a little higher!. Such a wonderful opportunity to learn so much. Thank you😊
- I loved doing baking all day and seeing happy faces when we hand out the food

- The colour run was really fun as it gave us a chance to release our energy after a hard year at school and it helped us understand the different circumstances of other people that may have a disability or have had a life-changing experience.
- I really enjoyed the colour run! It was sooo fun. I would 100% do it again.
- I enjoyed taking part in the community day activities on Wednesday and being with my friends in my form group
- Going in the boats, mostly submarine and the Destroyer.
- The Chatham Dockyard trip was the most interesting because it was our first school trip since starting here as a whole

The Colour Run

Led by Mrs Green and Mrs Le Brunn-Healey, Year 8 found out what being different means and how the festival of Holi and our Colour Run can be a great way to express your differences. We looked carefully through the lens of what 'being different' means to different communities and had the opportunity to reflect on how we can treat others with dignity despite our differences.

What is the Colour Run? The Colour run has been inspired by the Holi Festival, which is a festival that celebrates spring, love and colour. This festival is a spectacularly beautiful event, as well as a great excuse to get extremely messy. Originating in India, this two-day festival culminates with coloured powders (known as 'Gulal powder') being pelted at each other and water used to help ensure that the colour sticks! Students learnt about the Holi Festival as part of their Religious Education curriculum so this was a fantastic opportunity for them to enjoy a similar experience, putting what they have learned into a relatable context. The different colours of powders created a rainbow effect which gave us the chance to reflect on what makes everyone unique and different. All students were gifted an Abbey School Colour Run t-shirt and a pair of sunglasses!



Norfolk Lakes Trip – Year 9 Residential

During the Community Week a group of Year 9s visited one of the UK's best facilities for school groups - Norfolk Lakes which provided students with the opportunity to not only experience a range of new activities, but also to receive some real tuition from professional activity instructors.

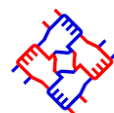
The instructors were engaging and fun, while offering supervision and teaching of an excellent standard. The emphasis is on water based activities such as sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle-boarding and more! Our students had a great time too participating in the huge variety of activities on offer. We hope they've made some wonderful memories that they will look back on for many years to come.



The One Punch Assembly

One Punch UK was set up in 2014 to raise awareness about the devastation a One Punch assault can cause. The charity founders unfortunately have first-hand experience as they lost their 19 year old son Kristian to a One Punch Assault in 2011. They set up their campaign with the support from many other organisations and now raise awareness by delivering workshops to school, colleges, prisons, probation hubs, Etos units, clubs and groups.

Within the session, they openly discussed all the factors that lead up to One Punch assaults to make people aware of their actions and the potential consequences.



One Punch UK
One Punch Can Kill
Awareness - Education - Support

Sign Language Session

On the Wednesday of Communities Week, students had the opportunity to learn some basic sign language, a visual means of communicating using gestures, facial expressions, and body language. Sign language is used mainly by people who are deaf or have hearing impairments.

Why did we deliver this? This is such a useful skill to have, especially in an emergency situation. During the session, students had to be resourceful and work hard to master basic sign language. This was followed by a group reflection on why knowing basic sign language is so important.



Carousel of 3 Different Activities

A further session on Wednesday focussed on helping those who may be less able.

Using different support aids – students had the opportunity to learn about different support aids used to help those who are less able

Blind obstacle course – students navigated a blind obstacle course which gave them the opportunity to be resourceful.

Creating a plan for supporting those less able – students reflected on how they could support someone in a workplace or school who is less able. This was an important session for them to reflect on what able-bodied people can take for granted.

Sport with Dignity

Students were given the opportunity to take part in several sporting events with their tutor group. However, there was a twist...the students had to be very resourceful as there were not the typical events, but were a mix of skill, quick-thinking, with participants making sure they worked together as a team.

The Fire Fighters Charity – 80th Celebration

In celebration of [The Fire Fighters Charity](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk) 80th anniversary, Year 9s and staff formed a huge human 80 which was captured by drone - how amazing is this? It's been a delight and a huge privilege to support this wonderful charity this year so huge thanks to our local fire service for giving so much of your time. This charity is really important to us as we have a number of students who have families and friends who need and rely on the support this charity provides. It's personal to us as a school and we want to help in whatever way we can.



Aim A Little Higher

Aim a Little Higher is an organisation that provides support to schools to raise student aspirations and prepare them for the real world. This can be by delivering assemblies, speeches and programmes which raise their self-awareness, develop a vision for their future, and to understand how their behaviours and decisions now will prepare them for not only their exams, but the world beyond. They really do help to improve students' self-confidence, resilience and career aspirations. During Communities Week, a group of Year 9s had the opportunity to work with one of their team.



University of Kent Visit

As part of the final week of 'Summer Communities', the Careers department organised a trip to **The University of Kent and Canterbury** to give our Year 10s a better understanding of the range of courses on offer within Higher Education and also to provide an insight into university life. It was an extremely informative day as we completed a tour of the campus, met the lecturers and attended a lecture!

This was a great experience for our students to boost their aspirations and to provide awareness of the range of career pathways that a university can offer.



THE FETE!

And finally, for the perfect end to Communities Week, we ended the term with our annual Summer Fete. This was such a fabulous way to celebrate the best of what The Abbey School can offer our students, both in and out of the classroom. Our grateful thanks to the awesome team of organisers who provided a huge variety of stalls and entertainment, food and drink. Plenty of ways to spend those well-deserved House Points!



Wilder Kent Award

We are delighted to announce that we have won **Bronze** at this year's Wilder Kent Awards for all our hard work in helping to create a 'Wilder Kent'. These awards were set up by Kent Wildlife Trust in 2020 as a way of recognising and rewarding the positive actions that groups across Kent are taking in order to protect wildlife and safeguard nature for future generations.

Now in its 3rd year, 2023 saw the Wilder Kent Awards gain over 65 entries from groups and organisations across the county so we are extremely proud to be part of a growing army in the fight against the nature and climate crisis.

This was a huge achievement for us and we're excited that we've set the foundation to confidently progress to the silver award next year! Watch this space for more information regarding our extra-curricular Gardening Club that will be launched later this term.



Kent Air Ambulance

Last year we supported the Firefighters Charity raising thousands of pounds for this very worthwhile cause. For this next academic year, we intend to support Kent Air Ambulance. Dr Speller met a couple of members of their team recently, following a medical emergency in the local community which necessitated the helicopter landing on the school field. During his conversation, Dr Speller offered to support this independent charity for the next school year. The Kent Air Ambulance service have dedicated the last 34 years to saving lives and providing cutting-edge, pre-hospital critical care and are a vital part of the South East community.



It costs over **£16.6m** a year to sustain this innovative service and amazingly **87%** of their income is donated and raised by the people of Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Every life matters, so with your support, we can provide donations that will aim to give every patient the best possible chance of survival and recovery.

Year 12 Induction Day

It's been a lovely start to the induction earlier last week for our new year 12s. They really are a great group of students. Throughout the day students worked on different team-building activities building upon communication, resilience, planning, working together and motivation.



House News – A Year in Review

So much has been happening this school year!

DISCOVERY

Discovering the world
Dive deep with honour,
motivate your peers with
intelligence, surf the
ocean without fear.
Discover!

VOYAGER

Victory through positivity!
Resilience breeds respect,
Forever voyaging towards
the best!
Voyager!

PIONEER

Be a pioneer in your field,
show us what you can do,
it's your chance to shine,
Pioneer!

ENDEAVOUR

Engaging not disappointing,
Be friendly not selfish,
Be trustworthy not fake,
Be Endeavour!

- Head of House team elected
- Student voice set up including a new school council
- Student meetings with SLT
- Fundraising and charity awareness
- Swale Youth Forum meetings
- Consultations with Swale Council
- Trips
- Competitions
- Lots of planning for next year



Thank you to everyone who has helped raise money for this year's charity!



So much has been happening this school year!



So much has been happening this school year!



Lovely World T-shirt design Competition

Representatives from the organisation 'Friends of the Earth' shortlisted entries and had these on display throughout the Lovely World Event. They were judged on the 2nd day.



Lovely World T-shirt design Competition

- Theme was to imagine how lovely the world would be in the future if we addressed all issues and concerns about the environment right now
- This linked in with the Lovely World event at the Alexander Centre that took place 24th/25th June. A big thank you to students who volunteered for this event.



House Point totals last week



Voyager

51041

Points total

Average per student:

221



Endeavour

58017

Points total

Average per student:

231



Discovery

60919

Points total

Average per student:

267



Pioneer

55227

Points total

Average per student:

232

How will YOU get involved next year?

