

broadsheet

Summer 2020

Go Joseph!



Wellbeing
Day
p.11



Henry performs
at Chester
Cathedral
p.5



Abbey Gate College

“Uncertainty, separation and Zoom classes... but we’ve come out the other side more resilient, appreciative and thankful”

This is one of the strangest introductions to Broadsheet I have ever had to write, having missed a whole summer term after school closing its doors on March 20th due to the covid-19 outbreak.

Much of this edition of the Broadsheet will seem like a long time ago but I still felt it important to celebrate everything that has happened since the start of 2020 including the mesmerising production of Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat, Wellbeing Day and so much more.

Never in all my years of teaching did I think we would have to prepare for circumstances such as online classes, zoom meetings with colleagues, video messaging or removing artwork from corridors. Coronavirus, social distancing, bubbles and face masks were phrases barely heard of before and yet overnight became regulars in our daily dialogue.

In preparation for the September return we worked tirelessly on how classrooms will work to ensure the safety of all of our pupils, as well as considering how break times will operate and the all-important lunch times in the refectory; I hope as parents you are reassured that your children are coming back to a hygienic environment where their welfare is the priority.

Life was breathed back into the College during August with results days for both our Year 11s and 13s with A Levels and GCSE results. It was wonderful to see so many faces back. To say I am delighted that so many of our students have succeeded in their exams this year would be an understatement. It has been difficult to predict what results days would look like and our students have risen to the challenge and not let the circumstances stand in their way of achieving what they have worked hard for. Not only have they achieved in the way of results but also as individuals; they’ve demonstrated resilience, determination and the ability to adapt, and for this they should be extremely proud of themselves. I wish each and every one of them all the luck and happiness for whatever path they chose to take in the future.

The vision of Abbey Gate College has not changed since it first opened its doors in 1977 and that is simply that education is about not only grades but building self-esteem, a love of learning and a desire to ensure that all pupils fulfil their potential. This vision has been reinforced during the last few months. With so much time apart from each other, I think we have all had our eyes opened to what’s important in life.

Starting a new term, life may not be completely back to the version of normal we used to know but after so long apart we hope as a school we can start to mould a new normal that still revolves around being the best you can be and enjoying school life.

I welcome ALL of you back – pupils, parents, grandparents, teachers and staff - with gratitude that we are all back together, ready to learn. It’s wonderful to have you back.”

Mrs Pollard
Headmistress



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Abbey Gate College

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Go, Go, Go Joseph!

At the end of November, 30 pupils across the Senior School performed, played or undertook technical roles in an incredible production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.

This special production saw L6 Drama pupil Caitlin McNamee take on the leading role of Joseph. The musical featured pupils from every year group across the College playing the brothers, Jacob's wives and many more fun roles.

The band, led exquisitely by Head of Music, Mr Andrews was made up of both pupils and staff and was the perfect accompaniment for the feel-good musical.

Head of Drama and director, Mrs House said: "We are so proud of the cast, crew and band for this production. It's tough performing in a musical which comprises completely of song and we tackled it with the utmost professionalism. There was so much talent displayed both on and offstage; the West End is certainly beckoning for our performers!"





Renowned Choral Director Adjudicates Abbey Gate College Music Festival

Abbey Gate College recently welcomed choral director, Ralph Allwood MBE DMus as adjudicator at their Margaret Caven House Music Festival.

Ralph Allwood, was for 26 years Director of Music at Eton College and was founder of the Eton Choral Courses. He is also Director of Chapel Music at Queens' College Chapel, Cambridge, has conducted choirs for 40 live broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and has written much music heard worldwide on radio and television.

The annual competition saw 65 competitors aged 11 to 18 perform in classes throughout the day. Categories included piano, brass, woodwind, singing, percussion and strings. The winner from each class went through to perform at the final in

the evening to an audience of family and friends.

The Margaret Caven Music Salver for the best performance of the day was awarded to Joe Martin (Year 11) for his vocal performance of 'Where'ere You Walk' by Handel. Class winners included Jessica Mills (Woodwind), Frankie Conyers (Strings and Guitar) (Drum Kit), Henry Smith (Piano and Brass) and Sam Tomlins (Organ).

Head of Music, Mr Andrews said: "Ralph Allwood was inspirational and constructive in his feedback to all pupils. I am very proud of all the competitors who entered and the standard was incredibly high across the whole day. The success of the day was down to the pupils' hard work and perseverance, and the enthusiasm of the peripatetic staff."

Henry Picked to Perform The Snowman Solo at Chester Cathedral

Abbey Gate College pupil, Henry Kitchen was chosen to sing the much-loved classic 'Walking in the Air' from The Snowman at Chester Cathedral in December.

The Cathedral chorister performed the iconic solo at the screening of the animated tale, accompanied by a live orchestra.

The 11-year-old singer was guaranteed a packed audience as the performances have become a family festive favourite and are always a sell-out.

Mr Andrews, Head of Music said: "Henry has an excellent voice and is a very valuable member of the school's Chapel Choir. Music is an important part of school life at Abbey Gate College and performance opportunities such as this are recognised as a hugely valuable experience."



Music Students Watch Moscow City Ballet's Swan Lake

In January, a group of Year 11 and L6 students visited Birmingham's Symphony Hall to watch Swan Lake by Moscow City Ballet, presented in classic Russian style with a live orchestra.

Swan Lake is a signature piece of Moscow City Ballet's repertoire. The choreography, interpretation and stand-out virtuoso performances win consistently rave reviews. The epic story of Prince Siegfried and his doomed love for Odette was magnificently brought to life in all its original splendour by Tchaikovsky's hauntingly familiar score.

Head of Music, Mr Andrews said: "The experience was another example of the music department broadening the development of our pupils outside the classroom with a performance steeped in culture from an incredibly experienced ballet troupe."



British Composer holds Choral Masterclass with Abbey Gate College Choir

British composer and choir director, Philip Stopford visited Abbey Gate College from New York to hold a choral masterclass with the Chapel Choir.

The 63 members of the Choir had the amazing experience of meeting the renowned composer in person and performing his beautiful choral music to him. Pieces included, 'In My Father's House' and 'Lully, Lulla, Lullay', with a solo by Maisie Watkins, Year 10. Stopford, who has an enviable reputation as an engaging and meticulous choir trainer, gave encouragement and constructive feedback as well as explaining his compositional intent to the Choir during the masterclass.

Sixth Form music students were then treated to a composition workshop with Stopford, where he explained his own personal process of musical composition and critiqued the students' work.



Clubs that give extra

One of the greatest benefits of extra-curricular clubs is that they promote mental, emotional and physical health. Here are just a few of the fun activities available for pupils to try...



Be Kind

At Abbey Gate College we are passionate about creating a culture of positive wellbeing and mental health, and are committed to building a healthy, calm and safe environment that fosters wellbeing for all our pupils.

With increased pressure on young people from social media, exams and social expectations amongst other factors, stress, anxiety, panic attacks, self-harm and depression are being reported more and more in schools.

Many of the staff at College have completed a mental health first aid course and we have an open door approach.

Our school nurse, Miss Sheckley, is available on a daily basis and we also offer the services of our wellbeing coach, Laura Jones who comes into College once a week. Appointments for Laura can be made through the school nurse.

Meet Laura...

"My name is Laura Jones. I am the Wellbeing Coach at Abbey Gate College.

I see young people for various reasons from anxiety around exams to friendship/family difficulties to general worries to low mood. The sessions are confidential and the information shared in them is not shared with school or parents. I only share information if there is risk. The young person is generally informed that I am going to share information.

"A little about me - when I am not at Abbey Gate College I work as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner. Prior to this I was a secondary and sixth form teacher and taught Psychology. I love spending time with my little boy and two cats."



College Identifies Sports Stars of the Future

In February, Project MVP, a national fitness testing and data analytics company, visited College to put 50 of the most gifted and talented athletes through high tech fitness testing.

The wide range of tests, tested pupils' speed, strength, agility, aerobic fitness and power and are used worldwide by talent identification coaches.

The young athletes approached each test with fantastic competitive

spirit. Tests included the isometric mid-thigh pull, the pro-agility test, the Yo-Yo intermittent recovery test and the vertical jump.

Analysis of the performance results and feedback enabled pupils to decide if they are competing in the sport that is best suited to them and how to perform at their best on an ongoing basis.

A personal profile was provided to each pupil to help them reach their physical potential and to the College's PE department to enable them to spot sports stars of the future!



Alumni News

Alumni Choir Perform at Chester Cathedral

In January, Abbey Gate College Alumni Choir had the privilege of singing Evensong at Chester Cathedral.

It was only the second performance the newly formed choir has given, which includes ex-pupils from London and Northern Ireland.

The music performed included pieces which the choir sang during

their time at school. The Introit was John Rutter's Carol 'Cradle Song', the Canticles were to Dyson in D and the anthem was 'In Dulci Jubilo' by Robert Pearsall.

The choir was directed by Stewart Smith and the organ accompanist was Head of Music, Mr Andrews.

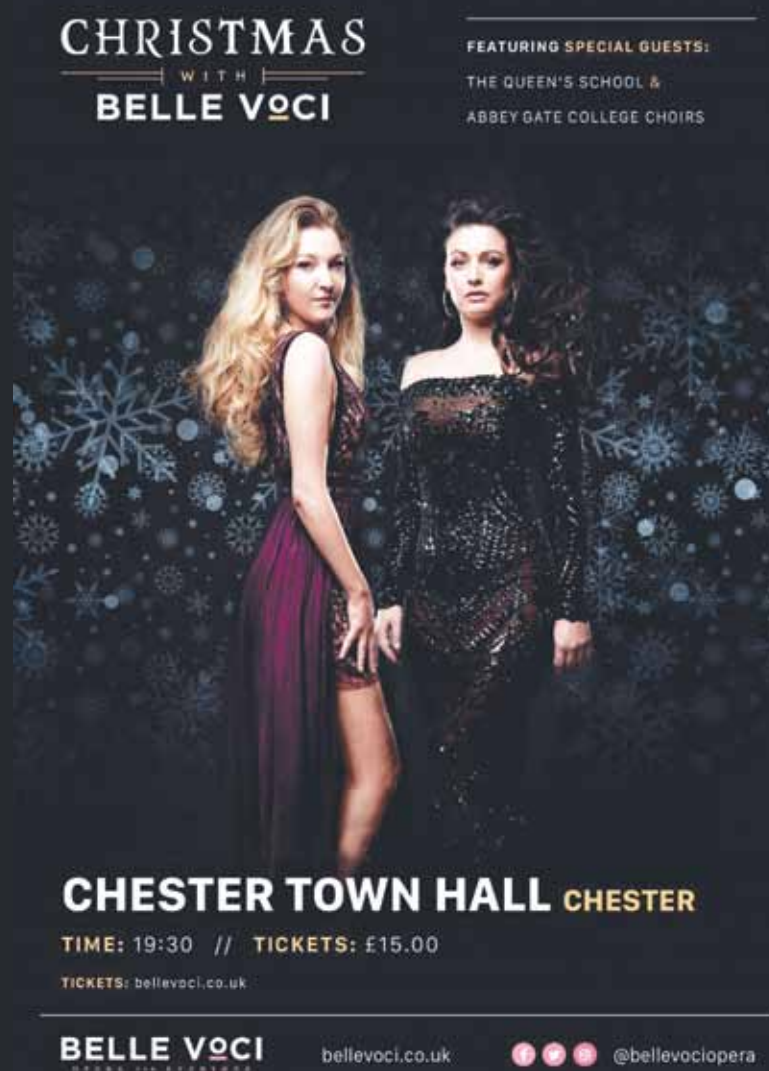
Chapel Choir Perform with Opera Star and Alumna Emily Burnett

Chapel Choir was delighted to perform with opera duo and stars of ITV's The Voice, Belle Voci at Christmas.

The choir joined former pupil and alumna, Emily Burnett and her singing partner, Sophie Rowland to perform much-loved Christmas songs and festive favourites at Chester Town Hall.

Since appearing on the final of The Voice, the dynamic duo has risen to stardom, performing the National Anthem at Wembley Stadium for the FA Cup Final and duetting with tenor, Alfie Boe OBE.

Returning to their hometown of Chester as part of their Christmas Tour, Emily said: "It was wonderful for us to be able to give back to the places that made us and hopefully inspire some musicians along the way."



Looking to Reconnect with Old Friends? ▶▶▶▶

It's never been easier! If you haven't already, check out our newly upgraded alumni platform, OS Connect. Login or sign up at <https://osconnect.co.uk/>

Alumni Gallery

Can you help?

We're incredibly proud of everything our Alumni go on to achieve after they leave Abbey Gate College. We'd love to inspire future generations of pupils by creating our very own Alumni Gallery to be displayed in College.

How you can help...

Just send us a high res colour photo of yourself (no smaller than 2MB) and some brief information, which could be your current or previous job title, a notable achievement or award, for example are you a CEO, do you run your own business or have you trekked across the Antarctic? Please email your photo and information to Alumni Officer - sara.knowles@abbeygatecollege.co.uk





Wellbeing DAY

steps

According to the NHS there are five steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing.

These are connecting with other people, being physically active, learning new skills, giving to others and paying attention to the present moment.

With this in mind, Abbey Gate College held its third annual Wellbeing Day in February. The day provided an opportunity for pupils from Foundation to Sixth Form to attend talks and participate in a variety of activities to raise awareness and support positive mental health and wellbeing.

Morning sessions promoted positive social and emotional wellbeing with younger pupils taking part in activities including meditation and yoga, a healthy eating workshop with smoothie bike and a West End workshop, and older pupils receiving information on topics such as money skills, healthy relationships and alcohol awareness.

Afternoon sessions based on mindfulness and resilience encouraged pupils to learn new skills and potentially discover a new hobby. Pupils chose three of the 50 minute sessions on offer from the five key strands of positive mental health. Activities ranged from archery to chess, musical theatre to skincare, first aid to bird watching!



This year saw the introduction of therapy dogs from the charity, Therapy Dogs Nationwide. The volunteers and their dogs work with a wide group of people within the community such as care homes, hospitals and schools to give comfort, distraction, and stimulation. The therapy dogs proved to be very popular, with both pupils and staff keen to meet them!

On the day, Sixth Form students also had the opportunity to attend an accredited Half Day Mental Health First Aid England Course and personal training sessions with former pupil, Nic Bellis at Powerzone in Wrexham.

Abbey Gate College cares about the whole individual and aims to nurture pupils not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. Wellbeing Day actively promotes positive mental, emotional and physical wellbeing, ultimately to empower all pupils to be the best version of themselves.

Infants and Juniors NEWS

1 Year 3 and 4 Production of Zoom!

29 pupils from Year 3 and 4 performed the sparkling musical comedy 'Zoom!' to an audience of family and friends in the Senior School theatre.

Pupils were transformed into a variety of woodland characters including tortoises, hares, hedgehogs and foxes.

The play followed the traditional fable of 'The Tortoise and the Hare' where a very confident Harvey Hare thought that he would undoubtedly beat Toby Tortoise in a race. However, Harvey's antics with the pesky foxes meant that Toby finished the race first and was the ultimate winner!

The children all engaged with their characters and were absolutely amazing on stage.

2 Pupils have an Important Voice

Following discussions at the end of the last academic year it was decided to increase 'pupil voice' and give pupils a chance to share their thoughts and opinions on different aspects of school life.

The school wanted to give pupils a say in which peers were representing them, hence Pupil Parliament was born. Each class held an election, anybody who was interested in standing for class representative was able to introduce themselves, then each class held a secret ballot to elect their representative.

The first Pupil Parliament was held following class consultations, they voted for half termly house prizes and shared their ideas on 'treats' for the winning house. The first winner, Talbot chose a Christmas cinema afternoon, during which they enjoyed watching 'Nativity' whilst relaxing on cushions and eating snacks!

Parliament also discussed the environment and impact of Eco Club. Following consultation with the classes, children have been encouraged to bring fruit or vegetables for snacks. The children hope this will cut down on single use plastic waste as they are bringing snacks in reusable pots and containers. The school is also introducing food waste bins on the playground and will be using this waste to develop a compost heap to use on the vegetable patch in Nature's Nursery.

The second Pupil Parliament meeting followed suggestions by parent representatives that they would like to see different menu options. The class representatives again held class meetings, met as a Parliament and with the Director of Finance and Operations. They shared great ideas such as seasonal or themed meals each half term exploring food around the world or linked to different festivals. Representatives were asked to inform the classes that all the meals will be nutritionally balanced, with appropriate sugar and salt content for their age.

3 Music Festival

Parents, teachers and pupils were impressed by the talented young musicians who performed in the Music Festival at the Infant & Junior School.

Adjudicator and Head of Music, Mr Andrews said: "It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for music. The pupils performed with confidence and the competition was fierce!" Congratulations to the winner, Erin (Year 6) who sang 'I Dreamed a Dream' by Schonberg.

4 Pupils Take Part in Biggest Wildlife Survey in Schools

Year 4 and 5 members of Eco-Club became conservation scientists in February when they took part in Big Schools Birdwatch helping the RSPB track birds across the country.

5 The Art of Collage

In February, pupils enjoyed an exciting and creative afternoon.

Dr Lloyd-Johnson and six Year 9 pupils shared their expertise with the children and helped them to create portraits in the style of Michel Keck. The children used the process of collage to complete their art work.

6 Pupils Hit the Polls

As people across the UK hit the polls in December, pupils at Abbey Gate College Infant and Junior School held their own parallel election!

Pupils learnt about what an election is, how it is structured in the UK and the role of politics in Britain. Infants discovered what the Prime Minister does, whilst Juniors delved more into what a political party is and explored topics relating to the legal voting age and what young activists do.

Year 6 children were randomly selected to represent the five political parties. They researched the manifestos of their party, designed posters and prepared election campaign speeches.

Pupils then went to polling stations to cast their vote. Two parties came out on top, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party, but by four votes the Green Party were announced as the Aldford election winners!



A selection of artwork from our young artists



Year 11



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



Sixth Form

Year 7



Sixth Form



Sixth Form



Year 7

Library News

Thank you to Andy Guan (Year 7) who helped pupils celebrate 'Chinese New Year Week'. He made a fabulous PowerPoint presentation showing how Chinese New Year celebrations have developed and why they have certain traditions.

Andy taught pupils a range of phrases and to count to ten, then gave a Q&A session about the country, the language and the culture. Everyone really enjoyed it!

During 'Postcards of Kindness and Postpals Week' pupils wrote cheerful postcards to residents in care homes and to poorly children in the UK and their siblings. Samuel Holroyd (Year 8) wrote to a boy who loves Manchester United, Sam approached the club, who kindly donated a stunning signed shirt from Mata in a presentation box to send to his postpal!



Abbey Gate College Sixth Form Students In High Demand



Upper Sixth Formers have received a large number of offers from top Universities during the 2019-20 admissions cycle and are currently finalising their Firm and Insurance choices as their A Level studies near their completion.

Our Sixth Form students have been considering their Higher Education options since choosing their GCSE subjects in Year 9. Their Careers and Higher Education programme has featured visits to local Universities beginning in Year 10, along with a visit to Manchester's UCAS Exhibition and input from University Admissions and Student Liaison Officers on choosing a University and course, writing personal statements, studying in Scotland and Wales, Student Finance and Budgeting, Student Life and Summer Residentials during the Lower Sixth. Every student option is carefully considered, as the College's Lower Sixth PSHEE programme includes speakers on Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, Graduate Training programmes, Studying in Europe and Studying in the USA as well as regular careers interviews with our independent Careers Adviser Matt Paulson (MPLOY).

In particular, the students are reaping the rewards of the College's Higher Education week in June where they spent significant time researching and selecting appropriate courses, particularly making the most of Unifrog (the College's online Careers platform). Each A Level subject also invited a visiting speaker, ranging from those with successful careers in a related field to ex-students who have or are currently studying the subject at degree level. The week culminated in drafting the highly important Personal Statement.

So far, of the 37 Abbey Gate College students who have applied for university, over 80% have received offers from all their chosen Universities. Also, nearly 50% of our students have received Unconditional offers from one or more of their chosen Universities – a testament to the strength of their applications - and nearly 50% of students are expected to gain places at top Russell Group universities or a Conservatoire. All of these statistics compare very favourably with the national statistics.

The courses for which the students have received offers range from Marine Biology to Law, from Business Management to Automotive Engineering and from Creative Writing to International Relations and Politics alongside traditional subjects like English, Geography, Biology and Psychology, illustrating the diverse range of aspirations of our students.



"An amazing insight into the history and culture"
(Ben, Year 9)

"It was a welcome break following our mock exams and a chance to practise our German in real life!
(Amy, Year 11)

"The best part was getting to know the German culture. It really is amazing being there"
(Sergio, Year 10)

MFL Pupils Visit Cologne Christmas Markets

You haven't truly experienced German culture until you have visited one of their world-famous Christmas markets! So in December, 17 pupils from Year 9 to L6 set off to Cologne for a weekend of Weihnachtsmarkt magic.

The ever-reliable S-Bahn delivered us safely to Rudolfplatz and our neighbourhood market, Nikolausdorf. Wie schön! Festive images were being projected onto the medieval city gates – Hahnenort.

We explored the star-lit Markt der Engel where pupils sampled Cologne Cathedral-shaped waffles, crêpes, warming Heiße Schokolade and Kinderpunsch whilst admiring the beautiful decorations, artwork and crafts on display.

The next two days saw us clock up almost 40,000 steps; climb 533 stairs up Cologne Cathedral's tower; visit six different markets; explore two museums; play basketball and football overlooking the Rhein; drink approximately 60 hot chocolates and eat around 40 Bratwurst; play 10 rounds of curling; complete a Virtual Time Ride and a walking tour, and one pupil even discovered the McCurrywurst!

It was an unforgettable and energetic weekend. Pupils embraced the experience with great enthusiasm and were fantastic ambassadors for languages and multiculturalism. It was a pleasure to see the benefit of their classroom skills in real life situations.

Mrs Garratt - German and French teacher



Abbey Gate College



Year 7 Taster Days 2020

Thursday 15 October
Tuesday 10 November
Wednesday 25 November

Register at abbeygatecollege.co.uk
admissions@abbeygatecollege.co.uk | 01244 564170

REGISTRATION
ESSENTIAL



SPORT NEWS

Trampolining Stars

Well done to Charlotte Ashfield and Issy Cook who competed in the Year 11 Chester and District Trampolining competition.

Both pupils produced excellent 10 bounce routines performed to a high standard. Congratulations to Issy who gained 2nd place in the overall competition.



ISA North Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Year 7 and 8 pupils for their outstanding performances at the ISA North Cross Country Championships. Special mention goes to Reece Munro who took 3rd place and Alex O'Hare who came 12th in the boys' race, and in the girls' race, Emma Nevett who came 8th and Olivia Stockton who came 13th.



Junior Cross Country Team perform admirably at Scarisbrick Hall



In January, the Junior Cross Country Team headed to Scarisbrick Hall to take part in the North Region Junior Cross Country event.

It was a particularly miserable, damp and foggy day, perfect for cross country, and guaranteed MUD!

There were so many runners in each race, almost 150. Notable results were Fabian, who finished 4th in the Year 5/6 boys 2000m race, Felix who finished 19th and Caelan who finished 12th in the Year 3/4 boys 1500m race.

Well done everyone.

AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships



Year 5 and 6 pupils performed fantastically well at the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships.

Fabian earned himself two gold medals for the one lap race and the speed bounce!

Congratulations also to our other gold medallists, Charlotte (standing long jump), Kiri (balance) and Felix (soft javelin), and to Louis for his silver medal for the chest push.

Well done all - a great result!



Luis to Enter Two National Competitions

After a very successful season in 2019, Year 10 pupil Luis Gardener has been asked by his team to enter two nationals, The British Clubs and also a new national televised competition, The Ultimate Karting Championship. Good luck Luis!

Emma to Run for Cheshire

Congratulations to Emma Nevett, Year 7 who competed for Chester in the County Cross Country Championships!

Emma had a fantastic run and represented both Chester and Abbey Gate College brilliantly. Emma placed 17th, which means that she has been selected to run for Cheshire in the National Cross Country Finals.





Chester and District Table Tennis Championships

Well done

to Hunter Brownrigg (Year 8), Zak Rogers (Year 8), Joseph Harrison (Year 7) and Ben Cutler (Year 7) who were runners up at the Chester & District Table Tennis Championships.

U11 Team Through to the Semi-Finals of AJIS Football Cup

The U11 football team continued 2020 the way they finished 2019, keeping their fine run of form intact to beat St Mary's, at Crosby, 8-2 and ensure their progression to the semi-finals and a match versus Rossall! Good luck in the next round, boys!



Ben selected to represent Cheshire Rugby U16's

Ben Mason, Year 11 has recently been selected to represent Cheshire Rugby U16's.

Although missing their first two matches due to a broken finger, he played his first match in February against Lancashire.

The artificial surface at Chester Rugby Club led to fast, free flowing rugby with plenty of tries scored by both sides. Cheshire eventually coming out on top by aggregate scores to take home the Vin Hughes Memorial Trophy.

"It's great to be able to play with players of such a high standard in your own team and against such strong opposition", Ben said.

Keira Competes in the English Alpine Championships

The 24th English Alpine Championships were recently held in Bormio, featuring hundreds of the country's most talented skiers including Year 10 pupil, Keira Meadows who raced for Snowsports England.

Keira turned out two solid performances in the highly competitive Girls U16 Slalom race, coming in the top 40 out of a field of 60.

In the Girls U16 GS Championships, Keira raced hard in her first run with an impressive time but a small mistake at one of the gates, causing her to crash out, saw her disqualified. Still, a fantastic experience and she'll be back next year to better her performance.



Pupils Selected by West Cheshire & Wirral Junior Hockey Academy

Congratulations to Keira Meadows Year 10, Ellie Stammers Year 7, Olivia Stockton Year 8, and Matilda Tilley Year 8 who have been selected to represent West Cheshire and Wirral Junior Hockey Academy.

The girls attended trial dates, where they were put through their paces, both in terms of skill level and match play.

They will attend training and play tournaments, following which players may be selected to attend England Hockey North West Performance Centre in September.



U11 Netball Team Win Silver!

Congratulations to our U11 Netball team who won the silver medal at the Chadwick Cup.

Fantastic teamwork from all the girls and lots of brilliant goals scored by Erin and Lexi.



Doing our little bit in the fight against Covid-19

At the start of 2020 we began the New Year like any other, with enthusiasm, passion for providing children with the best and striving to ensure each and every child was happy in their school life.

Little did we know how things would quickly change and daily life became unrecognisable for our teachers and support staff. But as is the Abbey Gate way, we soon started to look at ways we could use our skills to help those still working hard to protect us.

As a result, some staff began to produce various types of PPE, whether it was crocheting face masks, setting up GoFund me pages to buy materials, providing safety goggles to local hospitals, utilising 3D printers to make face shields and even sharing sewing patterns for masks to enable people to make their own at home. Thanks to all those who made a contribution, no matter how big or small.



*When it was first announced
It seemed unreal,
Having to stay inside
And not getting to feel*

*The wind upon your face
or the sounds of the breeze in the trees.
Not receiving a friend's embrace
Or hearing the buzz of bees.*

*No school was to occur
no meeting with your gran.
Who would ever have thought that
Education would have a ban.*

*I never would have imagined
Getting bored of games
Or Netflix running out of options
Every single day.*

*However, there is a light to this.
Something to take away
Spending time with family
And on your bed, getting to lay.*

*Sure, it can be boring
And downright tedious too,
But someday it will all be over.
Back to normal for me and you.*

Cameron Morrison, Year 11