

broadsheet

Winter 2019

Chapel Choir

Perform at
Two Magnificent
Cathedrals



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Animation
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A Level
Results
p.5



Abbey Gate College

Abbey Gate College pupils have an important voice...



“ This term we have looked at how we engage our pupils in decision making processes to manage school improvement.

I genuinely believe that we have to look at all that goes on in College from the pupils' perspective, that means tuning in to their experiences and views and creating a new order of experience for them as active participants.

Following discussions at the end of last year at the Infant and Junior School we felt that we needed to increase 'pupil voice' and give the pupils a chance to share their thoughts and opinions on different aspects of school life. We also wanted to give the pupils a say in which peers were representing them and hence Pupil Parliament was born. Following the launch each class held a democratic election, anybody who was interested in standing for class representative was able to introduce themselves and the class then held a secret ballot to elect their representative.

The first Pupil Parliament was held following class consultations. The Parliament voted for half termly house prizes and shared their ideas on 'treats' for the winning house. Talbot were the first winners and chose a Christmas cinema afternoon where 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 our single use plastic waste as they are bringing snacks in reusable pots and containers. We are 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.

Two Lower Sixth pupils have taken over the senior 'pupil voice', called College Forum. They have identified several targets for the year and want to encompass change, to bring innovation, efficiency and structure to the forum. Through a shared understanding of all things Abbey Gate, they want to look particularly at the opportunities afforded to the pupils in five different areas: physical, emotional, environmental, personal and learning. One of the first things that they want to look at is what makes an excellent lesson and how do pupils learn best. To work collaboratively with a working party of pupils and teachers makes for a very exciting first project.

To be an evolving and improving school we need to listen to the view of our pupils and to assure them that they are being listened to and their views, ideas and efforts are valued. I look forward to sharing the fruits of their efforts with you in the near future.

It has been a wonderfully busy term and as always Christmas has appeared rather quickly on the horizon. I wish you all a very happy Christmas, some festive fun and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

Mrs Pollard
Headmistress



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Chapel Choir

Perform at Two Magnificent Cathedrals

In July, the 40 strong Abbey Gate College Chapel Choir undertook a five-day tour of the West Midlands.

The tour began with Evensong in Worcester Cathedral and a performance of George Dyson's 'Evening Service in F' during which Anna Kinnear (Year 11) and Henry Smith (L6) both sang solos with confidence and clarity.

The group then travelled to Coventry to perform at services in the unique Cathedral. The repertoire included 'Lord there are Times', a piece written especially for the Chapel Choir by Geoffrey Nobes and Elgar's 'Give unto the Lord'.

The Choir also had the opportunity to experience the amazing acoustics in the Lady Chapel of Coventry Cathedral when they gave an impromptu performance of Tallis' 'If Ye Love Me' and an acapella version of 'I was Glad!'

Head of Music, Mr Andrews said: "It was a privilege to perform at two such magnificent Cathedrals. In particular, the children were amazed by the acoustics and architecture of Coventry Cathedral, and the amazing palpable sense of history in the place."



Talented Singers Attend Rodolfus Foundation Choral Course

This summer, four talented Abbey Gate College students attended the Rodolfus Foundation Choral Course, formally the Eton Choral Course.

Tom Fesmer, who has been awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London was joined by his brother Matthew Fesmer, Harry Tomlins and Henry Smith, who attends the Junior Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The eight-day course, based at St John's College in Cambridge, was attended by 90 singers aged 16-21. As well as individual singing lessons, the boys enjoyed choral group sessions specialising in close harmony singing, various ensembles and solo performances.

The main events were a Concert held in Trinity College directed by the course founder, Ralph Allwood MBE and Evensong at King's College conducted by Daniel Hyde, who has just become the director of music at King's College.

The final Evensong performance in St John's College, to a packed Chapel of parents and visitors, was conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, who is world famous for his direction of the St John's College Choir.

The choral repertoire included 'Rejoice in the Lamb' by Britten and 'Lo the Full Final Sacrifice' by Finzi. Other music ranged from Renaissance to 21st century.



Learning About Exotic Animals Up Close!

After a presentation by Exo Teach about the world of exotic animals, pupils had a magical and thoroughly enjoyable hands-on session.

Animals included toads, scorpions, tarantulas, bearded dragons and a 15ft reticulated python. The barn owl was also particularly well received. It was brilliant to see some pupils (and staff!) facing genuine fears of holding some of the animals present.





The College celebrated an outstanding 100% pass rate for all 41 students, with 84% obtaining a grade A* to C and 100% of students who sat Further Maths achieving an A*.

Luke Burnett excelled in his chosen subjects, achieving A*s in Maths, Further Maths and Physics and an A in Politics. Luke is now reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge University.

Amongst the highest achievers were Head Boy, Harry Tomlins who obtained three A*s and has gone on to study Physics at Imperial College London, Felix Gideonse who gained two A*s and an A, and Harry Hook who gained an A* and two As.

Notable successes also included Joseph Hartley and Jack Green who both earned two As and a B. Joseph is now reading Plant Science at Sheffield University.

Grace Patton achieved two As and has gone on to do an Art Foundation course at Manchester Metropolitan University. Lewis Maundrell acquired an A* and two Bs which gained him a place at Loughborough University. Laura Cameron achieved an A and two Bs and is studying Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at the University of Leeds.

Headmistress, Mrs Pollard said: "I am delighted that so many of our students have gained places at their first choice of University and that they are studying academically challenging courses at top Universities.

"I would like to thank the teachers for their commitment throughout the year which has ensured the students achieved their personal potential."



College Celebrates Impressive GCSE Results

The College were delighted to report an impressive set of GCSE grades in 2019 despite new tougher exams.

93% of results were Grades 9-4, with over half of pupils gaining 9 or 8 in one or more subjects.

Over a third of results were given a top grade (9-7), well above the national average of 20.8%. Excellent results were achieved in a wide range of subjects, including Art which saw 76% achieve 9-7.

Outstanding achievements by pupils included Charlie Bromley-Davenport and Henry Smith who gained 9-7 in all of their chosen subjects.

Fantastic results, including elite Grade 9s, were also achieved by Charlie Cheadle who gained four 9s, Jack Tomlins who obtained three 9s and Mimi Jayaram who gained two 9s.

Headmistress, Mrs Pollard said: "Congratulations to all of our Year 11 pupils, their hard work and dedication has paid off and been rewarded with these fantastic grades. Our aim is for all our pupils, through the support of dedicated staff, to reach their academic and personal potential and these pupils should be extremely proud of their achievements."



During Activity Week, Year 8 went on an exciting trip to Anglesey Outdoors Centre. Pupils have written about their experiences...

Year 8 Get Active

“Our trip to Anglesey was amazing! We had many wonderful adventures, doing so many different amazing activities that I would never otherwise have done: climbing, abseiling, coasteering, kayaking and sea level traversing.”

“Many of us enjoyed the coasteering, because we got to jump off rocks, swim in the sea and explore caves - it was really fun jumping off the rocks into the sea and swimming in the open water.”

“The activities we did were both exciting and adventurous. The instructors would help you if you were struggling and guided you every step of the way on your journey to success.”

“In the evening we did some fun teambuilding activities, including a blindfolded obstacle course which everyone kept falling over on and creating a ramp over the mud course where unluckily some of us got drenched in mud!”

“I enjoyed the trip because we saw all of our friends every day, and we got to spend time with friends doing amazing activities. There is nothing better than spending time with friends and having fun.”

Quotes from pupils in Year 8



Year 7 Team Building

Year 7 engaged in a number of team building activities this term. The first day saw them create new and innovative products in a Dragons Den style event.

Each group designed a product, developed a marketing strategy and financial plan before pitching for investment from our formidable dragons, Mrs Pollard, Mr Bailey and Mr Allmand. The pupils developed some weird and wonderful products including self-heating shoes, a spelling pen and a wakey-shakey alarm clock!

The afternoon was spent enjoying a dynamic study-skills session which gave the pupils fun and interesting ways to revise and learn.

The second day was spent at the Conway Centre completing a range of challenging activities including rope swinging, climbing and building rafts which the pupils then set sail on! It was a really enjoyable couple of days and we are proud of all the pupils for getting involved.



Day 1

19 Sixth Formers touched down at Krakow airport for the first day of their visit to Poland. There was much to fit into this important trip, so lunch in the Jewish district of Kazimierz was a welcome start and many were sampling cuisine that would have been eaten here for centuries.

Our first stop was Oscar Schindler's factory, south of the River Vistula and it was here where the German businessman bribed so many Nazi officials to keep his labour force safe. The museum is an impressive one, charting the suffering of Polish citizens up to the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and the transporting of Jews to labour/concentration camps throughout the East. Nazi memorabilia were everywhere helping recreate the suffocating atmosphere of being subject to an occupying power.

Day 2

After a comfortable night at the hotel we then went forward in time to Stalinist Poland, joining a tour of the Communist show piece Nowa Huta. We arrived in a 1950s bus to view the impressive town which aimed to demonstrate the prowess of communism to western states benefiting from money flowing in via the USA's Marshall. Everyone also had a ride in an East German Trabant, complete with 2 stroke air-cooled engine and a fibre glass body.

We then drove out to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the main purpose of our visit and the site of unimaginable crimes against humanity. This year was particularly harrowing because one of our student's had a personal connection to the camp. His Great Grandmother, a Hungarian Jew had been rounded up in the summer of 1944. Together with her husband, who was not a Jew but who insisted on going with her, the two made the arduous journey to the camp. Nearly 75 years later her Great Grandson walked the route of her final steps and of this he wrote the following:

"The trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau was very emotional and breath-taking at first, it was unbelievable that I was actually there. I finally understood what my Great Grandparents experienced during their time there. Even though I never had the chance to meet them, it felt like they were next to me the entire time."

By some miracle, his Great Grandfather survived.

As the sun set on Birkenau we returned to Krakow and it was time to put aside our experiences for a while and enjoy something of Polish culture in a folklore evening that included local music, dances and a three-course meal.

Day 3

With just a few hours before our flight, the group made its way into the Old Town once more and wandered round the Rynek for some final shopping. Some sat in the square drinking the legendary hot chocolate while others visited St Mary's Basilica and most browsed the stalls in the impressive cloth hall. By 2pm we were on our flight home and so ended a trip that moved us all and will remain a part of us for the rest of our lives.

Sixth Formers visit Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau



Celebrating Achievement at Speech Day

Abbey Gate College's annual Speech Day and prize giving ceremony took place on Thursday 12 September at Chester Racecourse.

Pupils, parents, staff and governors were all in attendance.

The guest speaker was alumnus and former Head Boy, John Ward. After qualifying as a solicitor, John worked in the European Commission and then joined the Government Legal Service, becoming Legal Counsel in Number 10 Downing Street. He gave an inspiring speech to pupils about the importance of trust, learning to trust in themselves and the future.

Following speeches by Heads of School, Ella Dayton and Joseph Watkins and Deputy Heads of School, Elizabeth Jacobson, Laura Mount and Jasper Naylor, a cheque for £7,500 was presented to the College's house charity, Trauma Response Network.

Prizes were awarded to celebrate achievement by Guest Presenter, retired Deputy Head, David Meadows.

A musical interlude was provided by the Chapel Choir who sang 'Lord There are Times' by Geoffrey Nobes.

Congratulations to our prize winners and good luck to all Abbey Gate College leavers. 'Audentior Ito'.



Mental Health First Aid Training

In partnership with MHFA England, Abbey Gate College are proud to have trained 86% of its teachers in Mental Health, with 53% of teachers now having the full Mental Health First Aid certificate.

In November, the College rolled out another Mental Health First Aid course, presented by Julie Paterson, which allowed local businesses and schools to train their staff in Mental Health.

We believe that if our staff have confidence in understanding good mental health and the signs to enable early intervention, our pupils will positively benefit from our investment in training.



Biology Field Trip

In September an enthusiastic group of U6 Biology students travelled to Loggerheads Country Park near Moel Famau in North Wales to carry out some Ecology fieldwork.

The students were equipped with tape measures, a flow rate meter and a kick net. Using these instruments, they were able to systematically measure the flow rate of the river and record the distribution of freshwater shrimp.

The students worked incredibly hard throughout the day and demonstrated excellent teamwork. They didn't even complain when their wellies filled up with freezing cold river water! A well-deserved drink of hot chocolate was had before returning to the College.

A Love of Languages

“ I am studying A Level German at Abbey Gate College and I am also studying Russian and Spanish outside of school.

I am very interested in learning languages because it allows me to connect with many more people and cultures than if I only spoke English. It is true that when you start learning a new language, a whole new world opens up.

In the summer of 2018 and 2019, I took part in international German summer camps, where young people from all over the world go to learn German. The experience has greatly widened my horizons and learning about topics in German has given me a whole new perspective on them.

I am currently an ambassador for the Modern Foreign Languages department at College. My role includes helping with different MFL events and helping in lessons with younger years.

In the future, I hope to work in international relations. I will be able to utilise my language skills in this sector and hope to aid in bettering countries. I thoroughly encourage pupils and staff to learn a foreign language. ”

Edward Jordan, L6



The Netherlands



In October, 41 pupils visited The Netherlands, learning about key geographical topics such as coastal defences, sea level rise and urban regeneration.

“The Netherlands trip was extremely helpful for developing a deeper understanding of the A Level geography content and provided me with an insight into the real-world application of geography. Having an array of qualified staff with the group made for a very informative trip with no questions left unanswered. I particularly enjoyed the trip to the delta park where we were shown the coastal defence systems put in place to protect the surrounding area and a visit to the massive harbours contributed to my Business and Geography understanding of containerisation and globalisation. Additionally, I was able to enjoy a number of tourist attractions that I would have otherwise been unable to see.”

Jasper Naylor, U6

Where Are They Now?

Congratulations to ex-pupil, Libby Smith who graduated in June in Earth Science at Glasgow where she had lots of wonderful and challenging experiences.

Libby is now at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh taking a Masters in International Marine Science. They have a campus in Malaysia where she will be able to continue her scuba diving.



Library News

Postcards of Kindness

Over the summer, whilst holidaying in the UK or abroad, pupils wrote postcards as part of the #postcardsofkindness campaign. Launched by a nursing and residential care home provider, the campaign aims to trigger memories in residents. Pupils collected the postcards and sent them to local care homes.

International Wool Week

In celebration of International Wool Week art staff kindly taught pupils knitting, crochet, French knitting and weaving! Pupils created enough squares to make a blanket which will be raffled in aid of the house charity, Carers Trust 4all.

Carpe Librum

Congratulations to Joseph Harrison, Year 7 who was the first pupil this year to complete 5 quality book reviews and earn himself a free book of his choice. Carpe Librum is a whole school initiative which runs throughout the year. Each book review earns a house point and every 5 book reviews earn a free book, up to 6 books a year!

Save your stamps for RNIB

This Christmas, we are collecting stamps in the Library for RNIB. Donate your stamps (new or used) and make a real difference to people with sight loss.



Infants and Juniors

NEWS

Events and stories from the Infants and Juniors

The Changing Face of Playtimes at the Infant and Junior School

The benefits of physical exercise and being out in the fresh air is well documented and was a driving factor for us to look at playtimes to see what we could do to improve the experience for our pupils.

Our Pupil Parliament were tasked with finding out what the children wanted and the result was Play Zones. All available areas are now zoned with activities; the netball court is the designated area for ball games, the 'infant' playground is the home of traditional games such as hopscotch and the wooden train is now our reading train. By far the most popular area however is the construction zone, set up under the magnificent canopy of the Cherry classroom.

The children are now free to move around the zones and engage in activities that interest them. They can socialize with children of any age and are able to see their siblings. One of

the most delightful things to observe is our older pupils sitting reading stories in the reading train to our Foundation pupils.

The zones are organized and led by the pupils who have taken on positions of playground monitors. They are responsible for setting out and returning the equipment. Friendship monitors are also visible for pupils to approach if they need support. They quickly find them a group of likeminded children to play with.

But the initiatives don't stop there. Pupil Parliament and the Parent Representatives put forward the bold idea of having a fruit and vegetable only break time. Not only are the children benefitting from a healthy snack and reducing their plastic use, they are also composting their waste which will be used in the allotment to help to grow even more healthy food.

Playtimes are not simply a break from learning but an important aspect of school life where friendships are formed and social skills are developed.



1 Hawkstone Follies Adventure

As part of their English topic, Year 5 headed to Hawkstone Follies on a beautifully clear and crisp autumnal day.

For over 3 miles pupils clambered up steps cut from the huge, protruding sandstone outcrop on which the follies are situated. Once atop this giant slither of rock many adventures were to follow: the rhododendron jungle, where the trees literally have eyes; scaling the 150ft monument, affording amazing views over Shropshire, but mainly giving pupils the opportunity to shout and wave to friends below; illuminating the many tunnels with torches before scrambling up through the ever-narrowing Cleft, where the walls oozed a suspicious brown slime, that eventually led to the Grotto - a fantastic, magical network of caves to explore with or without torches! It truly was an adventure during which pupils made notes of specific language to aid them in their work over the coming weeks.

2 Conservation Animation

Year 6 visited Chester Zoo in October.

The visit was linked to the work they have been doing in both English and Science. The children have been studying endangered animals, with a particular focus on tigers and the threats to their survival in the wild. Part of the trip involved a workshop called Conservation Animation, in which the students explored the problems faced by tigers in Nepal and what Chester Zoo is doing to help them. They then became budding movie directors, collaborating to create a story about tiger conservation before working in small groups to film different scenes of their story in stop-motion animation.

3 Horrible Histories: Awful Egyptians

In November, Junior School pupils went to Storyhouse in Chester to watch Horrible Histories: Awful Egyptians.

With an exciting combination of fantastic actors and 3D special effects, the children were captivated from start to finish! The show helped them to learn all about the fascinating Pharaohs, the power of the pyramids and the foul facts of mummification.

4 Harvest Festival Celebrations

The Infant and Junior School Harvest Festival was celebrated at St John the Baptist's Church in Aldford.

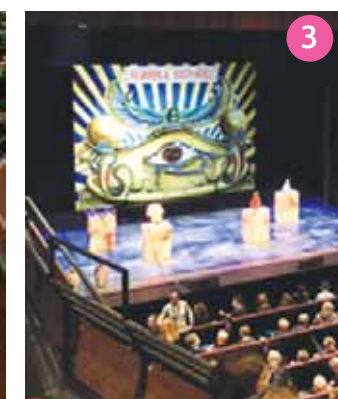
The Rev. Jones led the celebrations that included performances by the choir, the school band, and Infants as well as a recital of a Harvest prayer written by Year 1 and 2 pupils.

Every year our parents generously donate food and clothes to support the Charity, ShareShop Chester. Our House Captains helped to pack the products which were very gratefully received. It was a beautiful and uplifting event.

5 Tate Liverpool

Year 2 spent the day at Tate Liverpool where they explored modern art, finding inspiration for their own pieces, trying different art and media techniques and enjoying an exploration of colour.

The children loved becoming art themselves when interacting with different exhibits! They were extremely excited to find a Mondrian and a Miro (both of which they have studied in school) as well as pieces by Lowry, Kandinsky, Warhol and Hirst.





Sixth Form



Sixth Form



Sixth Form



Year 7



Year 7



Year 7



Year 8



Year 8



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 10



Year 11

Business Students Conduct Market Research

In September, Year 10 Business students took a trip to Chester as part of their studies on market research. We conducted a questionnaire in which we asked members of the public for details about their trip to Chester such as why they were visiting, how they had travelled to Chester and what they felt the city was potentially lacking.

We found out that most people would recommend Chester to friends and family, most people travelled to Chester via bus and that most people felt that Chester needed to fill empty shops and have better (less expensive!) parking facilities.

Our trip helped us apply the theory we had learnt in class as it gave us a first-hand experience of conducting market research ourselves.

Business Student, Year 10

Everybody's Talking about London!

This term GCSE and A Level Drama pupils visited London for a workshop and performance.

The workshop was led by professional theatre company, Theatre Workout and taught the pupils key skills for stage combat. Pupils learnt a range of stage fighting techniques including punches, kicks and even ear and nose pulls!

The pupils were then taken into the heart of the West End to the infamous Apollo Theatre to see feel-good musical 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie' starring Layton Williams and Rita Simons. The musical tells us the importance of being comfortable in who you are and ended with the whole audience up on their feet dancing!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

In June, a team of 7 Lower Sixth students set off on their 4-day Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Assessed Expedition from YHA Llanddeusant, one of YHA's most remote hostels, to trek 49km across the Brecon Beacons.

The route on Day One included a ridge walk in sweltering and muggy conditions, which the team braved to safely reach camp at Glyntawe to refuel and prepare for an early morning start.

The next three days involved remote and rugged terrain and saw the group hiking over the majestic peaks of the stunning National Park including Pen y Fan, the highest mountain in southern Britain.

Luckily the temperature relented slightly and the team made steady progress without any errors in navigation.

The students displayed great cohesion and resilience throughout the expedition, with allocated roles in camp. The finish in the village of Pencelli near Brecon saw some very tired bodies and a few sore feet, but everyone arrived in good spirits!

Well done to all the group who en-route, as part of their expedition aim, made a video of how to stay safe and follow the countryside code.

Gold



Despite a deluge of rain on Day 1 of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Practice Expedition, all 21 pupils coped amazingly well, as they trekked from Llangollen to Glyn Ceiriog.

The walk from Glyn Ceiriog to Carrog station, in improving weather and a warm log fire, raised spirits before the final day's trek to the Ponderosa Cafe.



Silver



In October, 56 Year 9 pupils started the training for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition with an overnight camp in the College gardens.

Bronze





Forensic Linguistics - Language Matters!

A group of Year 11 and U6 students visited Lancaster University for a workshop on Forensic Linguistics.

These students are those who may be interested in further study or careers related to English. Forensic Linguistics is the use of language in criminal investigations, for example analysing texts to verify or dispute authorship. The students looked at a real life murder case where it was proved that texts sent to a missing person's family (supposedly from her) were actually sent by her murderer. The day also looked at how we can use language studies to identify fake news or spot liars. It was a very productive and interesting day and hopefully spurred a few students on to considering a career in linguistics!

ISA Sixth Form Essay Award Winner

Congratulations to head girl, Ella Dayton, U6 who won 1st place in the English and Linguistics category for the ISA Sixth Form Essay Competition 2019.

She wrote an essay on representations of mental health in literature, specifically focusing on 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte and 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower' by Stephen Chbosky. Ella won a year's subscription to 'Philosophy Now' magazine.



The Great European Bake Off

26 September is European Day of Languages and once again the Modern Foreign Languages Department celebrated in style!

Pupils watched videos on 'Learning how to say hello in 40 different languages', looked at careers involving languages, stuck labels in different languages all over school to raise awareness of vocabulary and sent a postcard home in a different language.

However, the highlight was hosting our own 'Great European Bake Off' which raised over £60 for the house charity, Carers Trust 4all. Pupils were encouraged to bake a 'European' inspired cake of their choice and bring it in for judging and taste testing. We had an excellent array of cakes from all over Europe including Welsh cakes, a Polish tart, French profiteroles, German Black Forest gâteau, a chocolate torte from the Netherlands, Austrian biscuits and a European Union flag cake. There was so much effort put into the entries, we would like to thank all pupils and parents who got involved! This year, our Star Baker was Alex Clinton-Hunt, Year 11 with his absolutely delicious German Black Forest gâteau. He wins a £20 Amazon gift voucher.

AJIS Cross Country

The Year 5 and 6 Cross Country team took part in the AJIS Cross Country at Rossall School in Fleetwood.

This is a long and demanding course, over almost a mile, through flood water and up and over sand dunes.

Each year group had a girl and boy race, with large fields of around 130 pupils in each. All groups ran incredibly bravely with notable results from Fabian, coming 4th overall in the U10 Boys race and Felix, coming 11th overall in the U11 boys race. Well done team!



SPORT NEWS

Congratulations

Congratulations to Oscar Ghattas, Year 9 who has been awarded Best Newcomer by North Wales Crusaders U13s Rugby League team for last season.



Elite Excellence in Cricket Awarded to Charlie Fleet

Congratulations to Charlie Fleet, U6 who has received the Elite Excellence in Cricket Award.

Charlie plays for Cheshire U17s Youth Cricket team, who made it to the National Finals at Arundel and were guests of Lancashire Cricket Club at Old Trafford.

Charlie has continued to progress, taking 25 wickets for Chester Boughton Hall Cricket Club 1st XI in open age cricket. The team also won the Cheshire Premier League with two games to go.

Charlie has recently been selected for the Cheshire Development team to play against Lancashire Academy, which is a fantastic achievement.



English Schools' Ski Association National Championships Qualifying Race at Pendle

Three teams from the College took part. Poppy and Holly (Year 3), Charlotte (Year 3) and Joseph (Year 4) skied in the Junior School section.

All three girls were the youngest in the race and did well to each complete a run in a respectable time. Poppy was 3rd fastest Primary School girl. Joseph skied outside the competition as we had no Junior boys' team but showed progress over his last race.

Matthew Morris (Year 11), Robert Harries (Year 10), Jake Wall and Dylan Wilson (Year 8) were under pressure against some very good teams of much older skiers. Nerves got the better of them and the team was unfortunately disqualified but there were creditable individual runs nonetheless.

Skiing for the Girls' Team were Keira Meadows (Year 10), Amy White (Year 9), Daisy Banks (Year 8) and Phoebe Gartside (Year 7), again three of them were skiing against much older girls. The team came second in their category but were not fast enough to make the finals this year. Phoebe was 5th fastest Category 2 girl and Keira was 3rd in Category 3.

Well done to everyone who took part.



National Schools Equestrian Association Championships

Our Equestrian team made the journey to Addington in Buckinghamshire for their final outing of the year, at the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships.

Mollie Pickering managed to beat off stiff competition to qualify as an individual in show jumping at both 80cm and 90cm. Mollie and her horse Joleen jumped some lovely clear rounds across 3 days of competition.

Then it was the turn of our dressage team, Rufus Taylor rode a beautifully presented test to post the highest score for the team and Lucy Antrobus coped amazingly well with nerves to produce an excellent test at her first competition on such a huge stage. Mary Goodridge rode a very professional looking test for a judge who seemed difficult to please, and Mollie (who gallantly stepped up to be our 4th team member) managed a tricky test very well on a horse who was not familiar with the etiquette of dressage.

A huge well done to all the squad. We had a great team spirit, everyone enjoyed the experience and wore their college colours with pride.



Superb Team Spirit Shown in U16 North ISA Netball Tournament

The Year 10 & 11 Netball team recently made the journey to Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate in York where they competed in the U16 North ISA Netball Tournament.

The level of competition was the best that had been witnessed in a number of years.

A fantastic win was witnessed against Queen Ethelburga's with a score of 7-5 to Abbey Gate College. The team narrowly missed out on a draw with Scarisbrick Hall School, an unforced error gave Scarisbrick Hall a penalty shot in the last 30 seconds. And finally, a superb 10-1 win against Tower College finished the afternoon in high spirits.

The player of the tournament went to Ffion Schofield, for the way in which she seamlessly linked the defence and attack in each and every match.



Year 7 Netball Team Unbeaten in all of their Matches!

The Year 7 Netball team had a fantastic start to the season winning all of their matches.

The girls took part in a triangular fixture against Queen's Park High School (6-1) and Blacon High School (5-2), and also competed in a full four quarter match against Tarporley High School (11-1). It has been great to see how the girls have created such a highly skilled team with excellent spirit and determination in just a few weeks.



ISA Swimming

In October, a number of pupils represented the College in the North Independent Schools Association Swimming Gala hosted by Queen Ethelburga's in York.

All swimmers competed well with some excellent individual and team efforts. Special mention goes to:

- Jack Leatherbarrow - 1st in the individual 50m Backstroke (42.26sec) and 2nd in the individual Breaststroke (46.95sec)

With this performance, Jack went on to represent the North at the National Independent Schools' competition in London in November. Despite having been ill the week before, Jack came 5th in the individual Backstroke and 4th in the Medley relay.

Other notable performances were:

- George Young - 2nd in the Individual Medley (2:38.24) and 3rd in 100m Backstroke (1:13.75min)
- Seb Roberts also competed well with a 3rd in the individual Butterfly (38.19sec) and individual Breaststroke (51.00sec)
- Katy Howell - 3rd in individual 100m Freestyle (1:07.46min) and 100m Backstroke (1:22.79)
- Amber Young - 3rd in individual butterfly (46.25)



SPORT NEWS

Year 7 Win Chester & District 7-a-side

The Year 7 football squad continued their impressive start to the season by winning a 7-a-side tournament that comprised of six other local Year 7 teams.

The squad of eight players all contributed and they won 4 and drew 2 of their games, without conceding a goal. Congratulations to all the players on achieving their first piece of silverware.



Chester & District Cup

Congratulations to Year 10 for their victory in the Chester & District Cup!

In a keenly contested game against King's School, goals from Harry Green, Luca Warwick and Jack Scaiffe secured a hard earned win. Well done team.

U11s Win 5-a-side Football Tournament

The U11 football team took part in the annual Firs 5-a-side Tournament being held at Goals, Chester.

As is typical at these events, the boys first needed to progress through the group stage: four matches with the top two going through. We did this in some style, with as good an attacking display as you will see at this level, winning 6-0, 6-3, 7-2 and 7-0, each game lasting 14 minutes.

In the semi-final we were to meet our old foes, The Firs but with some heroic team defending and clinical counter-attacking we came out 4-3 winners!

And so to another final, this time against an impressive and well-drilled Mill View who had topped their group earlier. Within three minutes we were 3-0 down. However, they pressed the ball as a unit and quickly nicked a goal from the restart. Next followed a penalty, 3-2, and then a third! Nervous times were to follow with a cracking ebb and flow... 3-4...4-4...5-4 to us...With some awesome defending we managed to hold out for the win!



Senior School Entrance Exam

- For Year 7 Entry in September 2020 | Friday 10 January 2020

Junior School Assessment

- Year 3 to 6 | Friday 10 January 2020

Infant School Assessment

- Foundation to Year 2 | Friday 17 January 2020

For more information contact 01244 564170 or admissions@abbeygatecollege.co.uk



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