

# Abbey Hill Academy



## Summer Term Newsletter

July 2024 Volume: 29


### Message from the Principal

Welcome to the summer 2024 edition of the Abbey Hill Academy newsletter.

I am writing this after attending the summer enterprise event and thankfully, the weather was kind to us. This event is perhaps the perfect way to show the Abbey Hill community at its best. Firstly, the dedication, hard work and passion shown by all staff members was clear for all to see. I am sure that you will know that such events don't just happen, and the work carried out was additional to the normal day to day tasks so I would like to publicly thank everyone who made this happen. This event, along with others such as the sports days and various productions really highlight the huge amount of parental and carer support that we are so lucky to have. The turn out from families, carers and friends is always overwhelming and without your support and dedication to events like this, they would just not be the same. Finally, and most importantly, our students showed just how fantastic they are. The students were an integral part of the day and they put in a great deal of work and dedication over the last few days to make the day a truly special one.

<https://abbeyhill.horizonstrust.org.uk>

<https://x.com/HorizonsTrust>



## Message from the Principal

This week, students have been learning about enterprise and the different stalls and activities were all devised and organised by the students to enable them to explore the different ways in which businesses can work. The maturity and passion shown by all students throughout the week to their learning and activities has been top notch, and this will really help them as they make their journey to adulthood.

Reading through this newsletter, it is clear just how many different activities students undertake as part of their everyday routines. The Abbey Hill curriculum is more than just about learning things in a classroom, it is about gaining new experiences and skills that students can use now and in their future. By applying knowledge and skills to a more real life activity, students are then able to put these into practice and help them make good progress. These activities also enable students to become the best people that they can be, helping them navigate the many different and difficult social, cultural and moral issues that they not only face now, but will also face in the future.

As we come to the end of another academic year, I hope that, like me, you are really proud of all students' hard work, dedication and most importantly the way they have matured into good and helpful individuals. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and are also looking forward to the summer break.



## Science

It has been a fantastic year in the science department and our year 11 have done us proud. They worked so hard to complete their qualifications and their commitment has been nothing short of amazing. We look forward to seeing their results in August. Year 10 continue to work through their entry level qualifications and are more than ready for the challenges of year 11. They have enjoyed studying chemical reactions, making slime and investigating mixtures. Our key stage 3 students continue to make great progress and have enjoyed a variety of units, including forces, magnets, chemical reactions and plants. We look forward to see what they can achieve next year. Well done everyone the science department is proud of you all.







## PSHE — Careers and Enterprise

We have had a super busy term in careers and enterprise. As a team we strive to provide our young people with as many experiences as we can to support in their preparation for adulthood.

### A day in the life of a student at Stockton Riverside college



Year 10 students along with other local schools were invited to attend a taster day at the college. Students were invited to select and experience two subject areas of their choice whilst on site.

#### How the day went...

Supported by SRC staff students had a 1 hour session, enjoyed a tasty lunch in the canteen, took a quick snap in the photo booth with props, followed by a second 1 hour session. Students finished the day completing an evaluation form and entering into a prize draw for an Amazon voucher, sadly we didn't have any lucky winners from Abbey.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and for some it has broadened their horizons and understanding of selected courses, supporting in their next steps decision making.





SUEZ, energy from waste plant.  
Year 7 students visited SUEZ for a workplace tour.



Students learnt how our waste is being used to generate clean energy.

They toured the workplace and met various staff members along the way who shared details about their job role and daily activities.





## Tees Valley combined SEND enterprise week.



TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



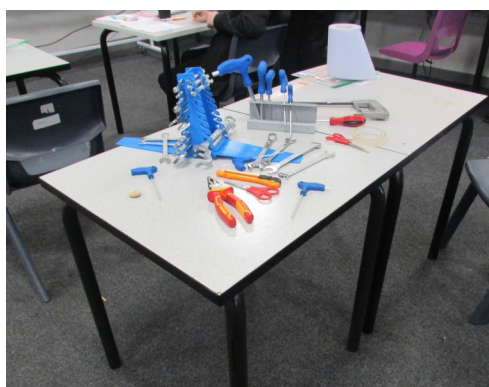
### The challenge

Altrad set students the challenge of creating a working wind turbine made only from recycled goods. Strict rules were in place, turbines had to be a minimum height of 1.2 metres and have a blade span of at least 40cm.

The winning turbine would be the turbine that span for the longest after being powered by an electric fan. The competition soon heated up!

All wind turbines were tested out in school before the winners were showcased at the Arc Stockton alongside other schools.

Awards for the most used recycled materials was collected by the Windy Winners team, well done!





# PSHE — Careers and Enterprise

## Mock interviews

Year 10 students had their mock interviews with local employers and training providers. Despite their nerves every student had a successful interview and received positive criticism to support and improve in preparation for the real thing.



## Tour of TeesWorks

Students gained valuable labour market information during a tour of the TeesWorks site based in Eston. A guided tour of the site was provided by TVCA to introduce the various projects set to bring thousands of jobs to our community.

**TEESWORKS**

The UK's largest industrial zone



**SeAH** Wind

**k2**  
CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGEMENT







PSHE — Careers and Enterprise

# LOUDSPEAKER

## Year 9

Loud Speaker provided students a unique, high-energy workshop that gives learners the tools to develop confidence to speak professionally and leave them confident enough to take up opportunities.

Students covered topics such as public speaking, confidence building, personal storytelling, teamwork, leadership and so much more.

Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed this interactive workshop.



## Liz Million comes to Abbey Hill!



Abbey Hill students enjoyed a fun-filled day with a visit from illustrator and author Liz Million. Liz was in school for the whole day and delivered workshops to all students, focusing on characters they could use in their own stories.

Everyone had a fantastic day, enjoying learning about Liz and her background, including how she became an author and how her job now takes her travelling around the world. Not only did we learn how to draw amazing new creatures, but we were able to keep some of the artwork for our display boards in the library and some children even got to take some original work home.

All in all, we had a fantastic day and can't wait for Liz to come back and visit us at Abbey!





## Humanities

It has been a busy term in humanities. Year 7 have been learning about castle building and defence, then worked on understanding farming in the UK. It was a great opportunity to try lots of different foods.

Year 8 have looked at our local environment. We carried out traffic surveys, looking at the amount of vehicles passing close to school. Students are now planning their own towns, being as environmentally friendly as possible.



Year 9 have been carrying out in-depth research into the problems of pollution in the north east, especially the River Tees and Tees estuary. This linked our history looking at the industry of the 19th and 20th century and the geography of the environment today. Students have written some amazing newspaper articles.

6AP have carried out many studies this year. Recently they travelled to Preston Park to study the life and work of Sir Robert Ropner. They enjoyed the exhibitions throughout the museum, especially the talk by a bee keeper. Students then had a great time in the play area.





## 6AP Visit to Preston Park

Nate entertaining the group

Amazing ships  
from the Ropner  
ship yard.



Bee keeping



Fun in  
the park







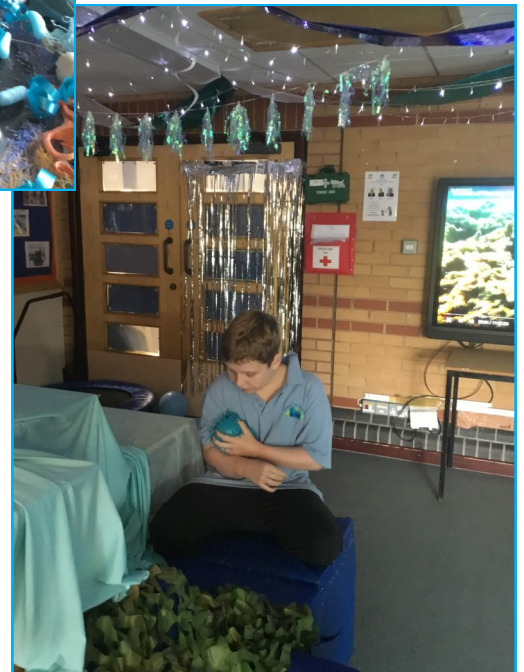
SMSC

# World Oceans Week—WOW!

Students at Abbey Hill had lessons themed around the oceans of the world. Each subject carried out some amazing work from food tasting in cookery to researching jobs at sea.



Sensory Assembly and  
sensory immersion days





# World Oceans Week—WOW!

SMSC



Rev Hannah came into school to share the bible story of the creation of the earth and how religion s ask us to protect the planet.

Aboriginal style art reflecting the spirit of water.







# World Oceans SMSC Week—WOW!

Several classes enjoyed a morning cruise on the Teesside Princess. We searched for wildlife, monitored and environmental problems—then had a disco on our way back!

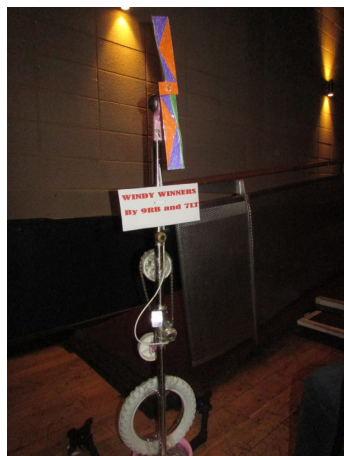
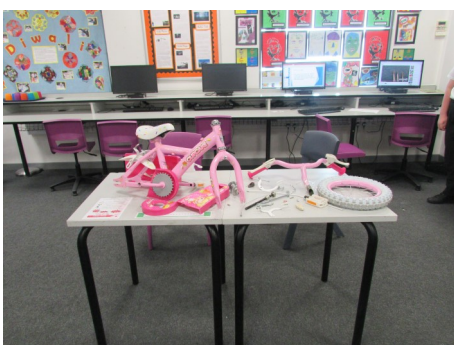




## Abbey Hill at North Shore

### Visit to The Farm

As part of the careers week students explored jobs on the farm and visited Tweddle farm. Students gained first hand experience of feeding and taking care of the small animals. Staff shared information about their job roles and responsibilities working in animal



### Careers Week

Our North Shore students made it to the final of this years SEND enterprise event and won the award for 'Most recycled materials'.

Students worked together to make a wind turbine from recycled materials.

The team were represented on stage by Cody who spoke confidently about the groups project.

Well done team Windy Winners.

## Abbey Hill at North Shore

### 7LT Visit Suez

As part of PSHE students worked towards being a global citizens and visited waste management centre SUEZ to learn what happens to our waste



### Oceans Week Teesside Princess River Cruise

Students from 7LT and 9RB had a wonderful time aboard the Teesside Princess. We walked down to the riverside and had a fantastic cruise along the river Tees to Preston Park and back. Some of our students had never been on a boat before and it was a glorious day to experience the natural environment which consolidated our studies about rivers and oceans.







## Abbey Hill at North Shore

### Dance Exam Success!

We are celebrating more dance success this year following our Year 7's achieving their Level 1 BATD in Dance and our Year 9's achieving their Level 3. The exams went really well and all students passed with the highest grade possible 'Highly Commended'. Well done dancers and a special thank you to Gemma Thompson, Aimee Williams from Thornton's Dance Academy and We Can Dance Charity in Darlington for funding our dance lessons each week in school.



### Sports Festival Middlesbrough

On the 1st May, the students from 7LT and 9RB attended the Sports Festival at Middlesbrough Sports Village. The day consisted of various events including golf, athletics and team building. The students represented our school brilliantly, well done!



## Abbey Hill at North Shore

### Year 7 Transition

We are delighted to report that we hosted our eight new year 7 students on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July. They had a great time getting to know their new staff and friends and spending time in their new classroom. We are excited and looking forward to the group starting full time in September when we will also welcome our new staff Rachel Beddow and Gemma Robson.







## 5AB

### Water Wonderful Term!!

5AB immersed themselves in all things 'water' during our World Ocean Week.



We enjoyed sensory adventures under the sea, music, stories, a car wash experience and of course we all got wet!

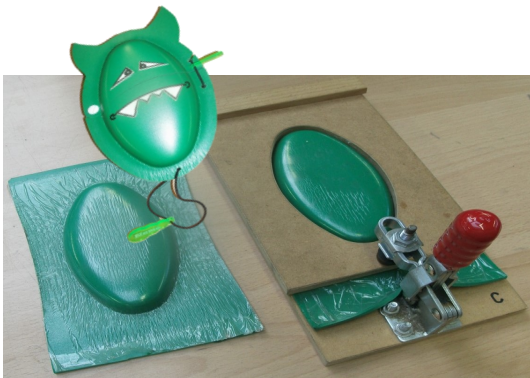


5AB have had an amazing year . .  
Amanda and the Team are so proud of them all.  
Have a wonderful Summer.



## Key Stage 3 Design Technology

In Year 7 pupils have been learning about different types of movement and mechanisms. They have modelled a range of different mechanisms and have designed products with levers and linkages.

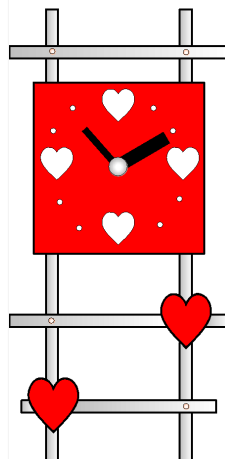


Year 8 pupils have been learning about different types of plastics and have made monster Pod shapes.

They are presently working on designing and making light nights.

In Year 9 pupils have been learning about casting pewter and producing pendants of their own design.

They are presently working on designing and making clocks using aluminium, riveting techniques and acrylic.



## Key Stage 4 Design Technology



In KS4, pupils worked so well on their entry level qualifications in Product Design. They designed and modelled a product of their choice using CAD (computer aided design) to produce virtual models and then used a range of tools and equipment to make their product in the workshop.

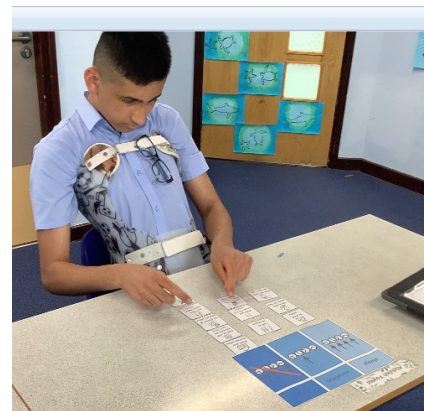






## Safety Online

This term in the semi-formal curriculum we have looked at ways that people make good decisions to keep safe online. Students used visuals to identify dangerous behaviours online that they would avoid. Makaton has been used to reinforce understanding of key words.



### Supporting online safety at home

When school is out for the summer, young people often use mobile devices to stay connected with their friends and for entertainment purposes.

Internet Matters provide smartphone safety advice [here](#). Six tips to help you trim your children's screen time when not at school are explained [here](#).

In an ever changing digital world it can be valuable to be informed about emerging developments. Please refer to the parent e-safety advice on the [school website](#).

National College provides a wealth of user guides, online courses and support to deepen understanding around ways in which young people can engage in the online world safely. To create an account click [here](#).

Alternatively, point the camera on your smartphone at this QR code.



## Speech and Language Therapy

As a staff team we have been focussing on Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations in recent training sessions. Both these approaches were developed by Dr Carol Gray, and help our young people understand social rules, upcoming changes and others' points of view.

Some more information about Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations is available on the National Autistic Society website [here](#). If you would like a chat about how these strategies might support your young person, please contact [Kate Reader \(Speech and Language Therapist\)](#) on (01642) 677113.



A number of our young people have had success using communication books recently.

Communication books are books of pictures and words, which we can point at while we are talking, to help others understand us better.

If you think your young person might benefit from a communication book, please contact Kate.

Some of our staff have been learning more about Echolalia (repetition of words and phrases) and how to support our echolalic learners. If your young person is echolalic, or often uses 'set' 'scripted' phrases that might sound a bit 'quirky' or unique to them to make their needs known (like always saying 'night night' when they want you to go away; or 'to infinity and beyond' when you set off somewhere), you might like to learn more about approaches to support and develop echolalia too.

The following free masterclass is a good place to start: [Meaningful Speech](#)



## Abbey Hill Starz

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June saw our annual talent show, Abbey Hill Starz. This showcase of our talented students just gets bigger each year with 20 acts eager to perform to a lively audience.



The show is based on the hugely popular “Stars in their eyes” which Ed, our music teacher, was lucky to appear in.

Everyone was nervous before the start of the show but those nerves disappeared when they hit the stage. The standard was very high with some excellent performances, which made it very difficult to decide on a winner. However, after a short break, the winners were announced. In third place was Lucy Cook with her rendition of “Girl on fire”. In second place was “The Swiftys”, a group from 5ER. They sang and danced a brilliant Taylor Swift song “Shake it off”, which really got the audience going.

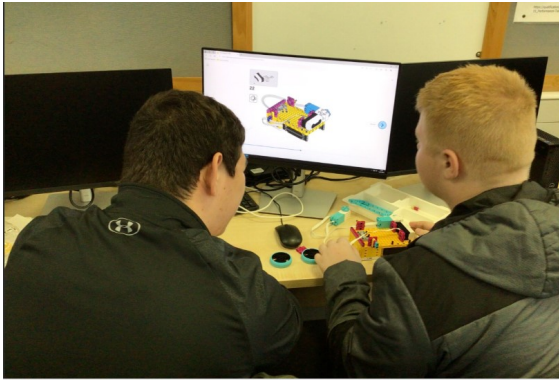
We couldn't decide on an outright winner and so we had joint winners. Georgina Courtney who sang a beautiful and emotional version of “10,000 reasons by Matt Readman and Kadie Smith Paul who showed us how well she can sing with her rendition of “Speechless” by Naomi Scott.

Our excellent host and compare Jo presented the winners with the Starz trophy. Winners and runners up received a gift voucher.





## Snapshots of summer term.





# Snapshots of summer term

