



**Abbotsholme**  
every moment matters

Headmaster: S. J. Fairclough

24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian





I am writing on another glorious spring morning, a taste of things to come.

I read one of my favourite poems at Easter by Charles Kingsley. It captures the "Spring of Easter" and the promise of warm summer growth – a truly beautiful poem.

*See the land, her Easter keeping,  
Rises as her Maker rose.  
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,  
Burst at last from winter snows.  
Earth with heaven above rejoices;  
Fields and gardens hail the spring;  
Shaughs and woodlands ring with voices,  
While the wild birds build and sing.*

*You, to whom your Maker granted  
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,  
Use the craft by God implanted;  
Use the reason not your own.  
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,  
Each his Easter tribute bring-  
Work of fingers, chant of voices,  
Like the birds who build and sing.*

It has been another exciting term with many key achievements including:

-  Abbotsholme was on top rated TV show and Sunday night favourite Countryfile on 21<sup>st</sup> February which had seven million viewers
-  Tara Witcomb became the youngest ever recipient of the Gold D of E award at Abbotsholme
-  Pupils got involved with BBC School Report with stories including the new synthetic pitch
-  Isobel Brown joined the GB Winter Youth Olympic Ski Team in Lillehammer

Other notable achievements include: Rhiannon Holland who gained her junior black belt aged just 15, Oliver Lees Jones won both the solo reading and drama classes at the Bowden Youth Festival, Parents and Year 11 pupils were given a fantastic drug awareness talk from Bob Tait, we shared World Book Day with renowned author Olivia Tuffin, Lucy Bednall published an excellent report on our iPads and their use in the School six months on, Abbotsholme pupils scored Gold in a national maths competition, and Amris Li fenced her way into the British Youth Championships in May.

In the final week of term we were visited by two inspectors who completed a mock inspection. They were impressed with what they saw.

Easter time for Year 11 and the Sixth Form is also a time for revision. Staff are running revision sessions for Year 11 pupils especially over the Easter holidays, so I do hope pupils make use of these. Exam candidates can make a huge difference to their grades by working consistently over the Easter break from School. I do realise that this does place an onus on parents and perhaps a change in holiday plans and daily routines. It will be worth it. Every moment matters for the exam candidates and hard work now will enable them to look forward to a long summer with no revision and a good set of results in August.

I wish you a very happy Easter break.

Glad Day, Love and Duty.

With best wishes

**S J Fairclough**  
Headmaster

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