



July 2021

# ABBOTSHOLME IN TOUCH

I am delighted to share the Summer 2021 newsletter, which shows the sheer volume of exciting activities during the last four weeks of term.

We were able to enjoy the majority of our traditional end of term events. Many of which have been recorded and will be uploaded for you to enjoy virtually.

On the last day of term, Mr Pieter Morpurgo spoke eloquently, recalling how his experience as a pupil sixty years ago at Abbotsholme influenced his illustrious career fuelled by creativity, adventure, and a passion and love for the world in which we live. Mr Morpurgo, along with so many Old Abbotsholmians, shares the integrity, quirkiness, impactful creativity, sense of humour, and love of adventure and human kindness interwoven in the school's fabric.

The school's values, facilities and committed teaching and support staff do all we can to make a child's journey a positive and happy experience. We live by the words on our school emblem Glad Day, Love and Duty.

Staff have unremittingly adapted to new ways of teaching, assessing, and supporting the needs of our learners across the world. Our Facilities Estates and Ground Staff ensure that our 140-acre Estate and buildings provide an attractive, safe and purposeful environment. Our administration, marketing and admissions teams maintain the support to keep us moving forwards efficiently; our catering, domestic and Health Centre teams keep us fed, clean and healthy. All for which I am genuinely grateful and convey my heartiest thanks and appreciation.

As is customary every year at a school, we have our summer term send-offs.

To our Year 11 and Upper Sixth: You have been a fantastic year group, and it has been an absolute pleasure to share the journey with you. You have done us proud. You indeed are the best advertisement for Abbotsholme. On behalf of the whole school community, we wish you all every success for the future.

We look forward to seeing some of you on the results days, which are a little earlier than usual this year:

10 August A level results day

12 August GCSE results day

This year, our Upper Sixth leavers are going on to study subjects as diverse as medicine, product design, veterinary science, Criminology with Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Aerospace systems, fashion communication and promotion, Art and Outdoor, and Adventure Education. We wish them all the very best for the future and look forward to welcoming them as Old Abbotsholmians.

We sadly say farewell to some staff this term, who have given excellent service to the school and your children: Ms Shepherd, Mr Doherty, Miss Chesman, Mr Ellis, Mr Herbert, Mr Salmon and Mr Lisk; we thank them all for their tremendous service to our community and wish them every success for the future.

The Academic Year 2021-22 for pupils starts on Monday 6 September. We will continue to monitor Government guidelines on the COVID safe procedures in place from August 2021. In the meantime, I wish you all a fabulous and well-deserved summer break.

*Glad day, love and duty*

Mr Simon Ruscoe-Price  
Headmaster





# News

## Prep School

### Race for Life

#### Head Boy, Head Girl, Prefect Team & Upper Sixth with whole school responsibilities Academic Year 2021-2022

**Head Girl** ~ Isabella Townsend-Fox  
**Head Boy** ~ Thomas Owen

#### Prefects

Callum Hawkins  
Hannah Grindey  
Penelope Allen  
Spencer Watson  
Heather Twemlow

#### Sports Captain

Georgia Bills & Ellie Chamberlain

#### OEd Captains

Benjamin G & Julia Loosen

#### School Photographer & Marketing Director

Lexy Davison

#### Farm Managers

Ben Roberts & William Thomas

#### Round Square Captain

Savannah Todd

#### Prep School Director

Eleanor Smedley

#### International Pupil Liaison

Paul Kazantsev

Prep school competed in their Race for Life, in support of the charity, Cancer Research. Children ran and walked laps of the school track for between thirty to sixty minutes. Each child who competed were awarded a Cancer Research medal for their efforts.

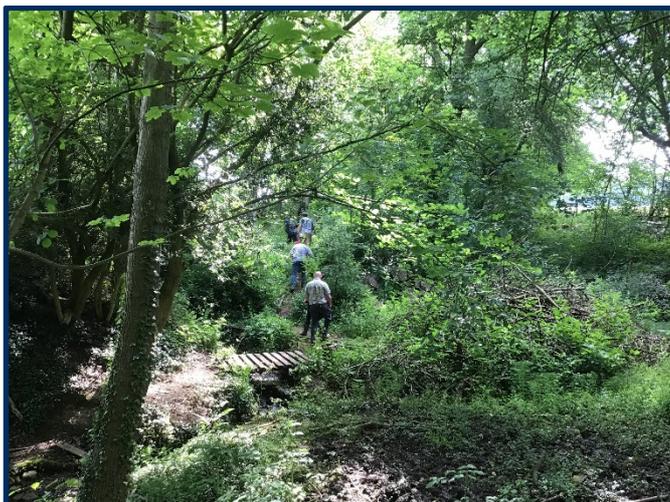


Reception, Year 1 & 2 managed 71 laps in total, Year 3 & 4 managed 152 laps which is 60,800 metres and Year 5 & 6 managed 269 laps which is 107,600 metres! Well done to all the children for all your achievements and for our amazing Abbotsholme community of friends and family who have sponsored children for this great cause.



Year 5 parents were invited into school to work with their children in our forest area, known as the Dingle. Our amazing Forest school leader, Mr

Moon organised two activities. Parents played 'Hunted' with their child in teams, with others and then after refreshments they were then challenged to make a den using materials in the Dingle, a tarpaulin and some string. Family members then toured each den to see the end results. A fun filled morning for all participants.



Passports and boarding passes at the ready! Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a special treat. They boarded a plane that they built themselves, had their passports checked, had refreshments off

the trolley and safely arrived in Italy! The famous pizzeria 'Flaxfield' had laid on pizzas and ice-cream, followed by pasta crafts, before our return flight to Prep School.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a fantastic morning learning all about how and why we should look after our environment by recycling our rubbish. The children enjoyed trying on some safety clothing, sorting recyclable rubbish and making paper out of old newspaper. A huge thank you to Mrs Morrison and Mr Barker for such a great presentation and for teaching us all how we can help our planet.



## OA ~ Liz Kessler

On Monday 7 June OA and best-selling author Liz Kessler returned to Abbotsholme to talk to students about her work.

In the morning Liz spoke to Prep school. 'Liz is an Old Abbotsholmian who studied at Abbotsholme for four years. Her book series have appeared on the New York Times bestsellers list and have currently sold five million copies worldwide.

Liz spoke to Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 about her writing inspirations and her travels around the world. She also spoke about her range of books and how she edits them. Liz answered lots of the children's questions about her career and the Emily Windsnap series of books as well as signing copies of the text. It was a fascinating and inspirational talk for all the children.'



In the afternoon, Year 9 heard Liz talk about the inspiration for her new novel 'When the World Was Ours'. When her father was a young boy in Austria, a chance meeting with an English couple on a steamer on the Danube was to end up saving the lives of the family when they needed a contact to enable them to travel out of Nazi occupied territory several years later. This was the incident which led to Liz researching her own family history and the historical facts of the era. She told us why she ended up with the structure of the novel as it is, telling events from the different perspectives of three young people. At the beginning of the novel they are very close friends; events then took them in different directions, geographically and morally. One of the big questions we have in our minds is how so many people in Germany 'allowed' the events of the 1930s in Germany to happen: this novel offers some insight into how that could happen, primarily through the experience of Max. As a young boy, he naturally looks up to his father, but seeking his approval involves him becoming heavily involved in the Hitler Youth. His two childhood friends, who happen to be Jewish, have very different experience.



Liz also talked to us about the process of writing, from meticulous planning, disciplined writing then collaboration with an editor. She is famous for her Emily Windsnap series for younger children, so this book has been quite a departure. We were given a clue as to the theme of her next novel, so we await that eagerly.

It was especially interesting to hear Liz talk about her time at Abbotsholme. She values the holistic education she received, and the care of individual teachers which set her on the path to the success she enjoys today. We were very pleased that she was able to tour the site over lunch, revisiting old haunts and reliving precious memories. We even managed to find her old school photos in the Green Room!

## Equestrian

Great News from our Equestrian Team again.



Abbotsholme's Equestrian Team competed at Beaver Hall in the NSEA Showjumping Competition. It was great to see some of our younger riders out. Huge well done to Amelie who came 1st place in the 30cm and 4th place in the 40cms. Also well done to Mason who placed 1st in the 60cms, 1st in the 70cms and 4th in the 75cms. Isla also did very well for giving the 30cm and 40cms a go and is going to work on her steering and sat nav issues ready for next time. Amazing results!

## One Day Event

Thank you to everyone who entered our one-day event on Saturday. It was a competition of 3 phases, Dressage, showjumping and cross country/handy pony. All classes came down to a combined score taken from all 3 phases. Our riders, spectators and staff had a wonderful day. The results were as follows

### Class 1

- 1st - Dulcie & Benny
- 2nd - Ione & Frankie
- 3rd - Holly & Crimson

## Class 2

1st - Amelie & Tommy

2nd - Millie & Kevin

3rd - Holly & Katie

4th - Charlotte & William

Joint 5th - Isla & Barbie, Chloe & Diesel

## Class 3

1st - India & Foggy

Joint 2nd - Finley & Will, Mason & Mandy

3rd - Eleanor & Clover

Well done to all that entered!



## Abbotsholme School Equestrian Centre Summer Holiday Dates 2021

**Own a Pony Days** - 9.00am-4.00pm. Bring a packed lunch, £45 per child - Lots of horsey fun including daily pony care, riding and games.

Tuesday 27 July

Tuesday 3 August

Tuesday 10 August

Tuesday 17 August

**Pony Club Days** - 9.00am-4.00pm. Bring a packed lunch, £45 per child - Pony Club badge work, riding, fun and games

Thursday 5 August

Thursday 19 August

**One Day Event Training Day** - 9.00am-4.00pm. Bring a Packed Lunch, £45 per rider. The Day will involve Prelim Dressage test practise, 50-60cm Show Jump Course Training, 50cm XC schooling. New Clients must have an assessment lesson prior to booking this day.

Thursday 29 July 2021

**Abbotsholme Equestrian Team Training Day** - 9.00am-4.00pm. **Abbotsholme** Students only, bring your ponies or use ours and bring a packed lunch.

Thursday 12 August 2021

**Pro@ctive Horse Riding** - Available every Wednesday and Friday starting Wednesday 21 July until Friday 27 August 2021. To book email [sally.marren@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:sally.marren@abbotsholme.co.uk)

**Lesson Availability** - Saturday lessons will continue as normal with some scope to book lessons during the week upon request.

### How to Book

Call - 01889 594277

Email - [Equestrian@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:Equestrian@abbotsholme.co.uk)

Proof of Bank Transfer must be sent 48 hours before the activity day.

## Beekeeping



After a prolonged winter the Abbotsholme bees were very grateful for a good period of sunshine through May and June. They made the most of this weather to collect pollen and nectar. It is the nectar that they then process into honey. So far this year they have filled 3 super boxes with honey, which is a decent crop for 2 small hives. Once extracted this should amount to about 80 12oz jars. One hive grew in size rapidly and needed splitting. As a result we have 2 new queen bees this year that have both been mated and are laying lots of eggs to maintain the colony for the rest of this season and over the

winter into next year. You may have recently heard a lot of information about how to support bees on Radio Two. If you want to do your bit for the bees, a great way to start is by planting wild flowers or trees that flower and give the bees a food source. The success of the beekeeping activity has been made possible by the support of the APA over the years, thank you for this, it has given many students the fantastic experience of seeing these fascinating insects fulfilling their different roles within the hive.

## DofE News



Congratulations to all DofE participants who have completed their volunteering section over the last year. You have all made a phenomenal difference and as a school given over 1000 hours of volunteering to others.

## Sixth Form

A massive thanks must be given to Mrs Brown and her team of wonderful Young Farmers and Agriculture pupils for creating the Pizza in a Cow Shed event to celebrate the Year 12s first year within the Sixth Form. A huge variety of pizza was consumed in the wonderfully decorated cow shed as well as an excellent game of welly wanging. I hope this is going to become an annual event in the Sixth Form social calendar and I thank the pupils for their excellent can do attitudes.



On the 17 June Year 12 Agriculture students travelled to Canal Side Farm in Great Haywood. We were met by their owner and head farmer Chris. He talked about the cultivation techniques used and we were shocked that the farms strawberry plants are delivered frozen ready for planting.

The class learnt about the biological control measures used in the farm to prevent pest damage and about their irrigation system. We were shown the pumpkin plants which got us excited for a future pumpkin carving competition, and look forward to a return trip to pick our own pumpkin. We learnt about the farms history and how they have diversified to meet market demands. We discussed the impact of Covid on their business plan, and how they were able to respond quickly. Finally, we got to pick our own punnet of the freshest most delicious strawberries.

Canalside farm started with just strawberries in 1983, today they produce an abundance of soft fruit, and Halloween pumpkins, have local suppliers stocking their shop and produce the best brownies.



June has been Pride Month and has been celebrated throughout the school. Senior School celebrated their Rainbow Day on Monday 28 June with Prep School having Rainbow Day on Wednesday 30 June. As well as flying the Pride Flag for the whole month, the Sixth Form students organised a Covid secure bake sale. The cakes raised money for their Duke of Edinburgh Do it for Youth Challenge.

Savannah and Georgia read an LGBT+ approved book to Years 1&2. The book told the story of Ben who was adopted by his two dads at 4 years old. The book encourages an understanding and appreciation of same sex parents as well as showing that families come in all shapes and sizes.

Our Sixth Formers loved the positive feedback they gained from Year 1&2, when asked what they had learnt one class member said "that people can have 2 mummies or 2 daddies and that's OK"



On Monday the 28 June we had Rainbow day as well as a bake sale. Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their effort in wearing rainbow colours and also to everyone who provided cakes for the bake sale they looked fabulous. In total we managed to raise over £320 and finished the day with no cake left. This in its self is an achievement that we are all very proud of. The money will all be donated to the DofE foundation through the Do it 4 Youth challenge that some of us are taking part in. We did this bake sale as part of the technical challenge because we made some of the cakes ourselves.

If you were unable to come to our bake sale but would still like to be a part of our Do It 4 Youth challenge then the link below will take you to the

Abbotsholme donation page where you can either donate or join our team. We appreciate all donations you can give and would like to thank those who have already donated to our page it is greatly appreciated.

<https://events.dofe.org/fundraisers/abbotsholme>



## Boarding

Last weekend the whole of boarding enjoyed a fun packed, long awaited boarder's day out to Alton Towers. The day was filled with laughter, high pitched screaming and of course the reformed Abbotsholme band. On return we all enjoyed a BBQ on the front lawn, with some boarders still finding the energy to go climbing and a competitive game of pool!





Good to see some old faces at  
**The Ritchie Invitational XI**



Congratulations to the OA's who won the **Neil Sanderson Cup**. A fantastic game of cricket and thank you to all those who played and supported.



## A Festival of Cricket

Huge congratulations to our U13 Cricket, 8-a-side team who travelled all the way to Clifton in Bristol. They competed in The Society of Heads South National Tournament, and enjoyed the long journey home to Abbotsholme crowned champions.



## Headmasters XI



## U13 County Cup Champions

What a way to finish the Cricket season here at Abbotsholme. Congratulations to our U13 County Cup Champions Abbotsholme batted first - 202/4 with an impressive 110 from Niall.



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schoolwear specialists

## In School Sell Event

For information on the Monkhouse  
In School Sell Event

Please click here to view details

[https://www.abbotsholme.co.uk/uploaded/  
Monkhouse.pdf](https://www.abbotsholme.co.uk/uploaded/Monkhouse.pdf)

## Abbotsholme Parents' Association

Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope you are all safe and well.

It is with great excitement that we invite all families to save the date for the re-scheduled APA 2021 Garden Party on Friday 17 September from 4.30pm. We hope that following the long summer break this will mark a really positive start to the new academic year, providing the perfect safe and fun social event for everyone.

**STOP PRESS—SAVE THE DATE!**

**FRI 17th SEP 2021**

**APA GARDEN PARTY**

**4.30PM ONWARDS**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW..**



For those families with any remaining OLD uniform & OEd clothing, we invite you to bring the laundered uniform/clothing in bags to reception clearly marked APA Charity Clothing. We will be sorting this over the school holidays so that it can finally be sent to the school we support in Uganda soon.

We also invite any used NEW uniform to be dropped off into reception for our APA uniform shop. For further information, please email [julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk)

# OA News

## Old Abbotsholmians' Club AL Price Science Award 2021 Winner ~ Jacky Lo

We are really pleased to announce that Project Chook has now been completed. We would like to thank the Griffin family and all those fellow parents who have given their time and resources so generously to this APA initiative in breathing life back into the school chicken pens. Hopefully, we will see this facility well supported by the staff and children next term.



Finally, we remind you that on joining the school, your family automatically joins the Abbotsholme Parents' Association (APA). We aim to bring parents, staff and children together with various social and fundraising events through the year. Next term, we welcome Jo Fox as Chair, David Coote as Vice Chair and Rosie Ball as Treasurer. We also welcome new committee members Maxine Conway and Suzanne Horwell. If you would like to meet and be an active APA member, please contact us via Julie Noon on the main school telephone number or email: [julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk). If you would like to receive a copy of the AGM minutes, financial and chair reports or would just like to meet and be an active APA member, please contact us via Julie Noon on the main school telephone number or email: [julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk).

We wish you all a really safe, enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September!

*Glad Day, Love & Duty*

*Your APA*

Each year, the OA Club offers an award, the AL Price Science Award, in memory of one of the most remarkable teachers to have taught at Abbotsholme. It is given to a member of the Upper Sixth who is bound for a science-based course at university and who will, it is hoped, further the reputation of Science at Abbotsholme School in the wider world. The award helps the recipient to purchase materials relevant to his or her course in the first term of university.

Anthony Lloyd Price, Tony Price, better known to pupils as "Charlie" was an inspirational man who taught at Abbotsholme for thirty-six years, and who was for most of that time, the Head of Chemistry. For the academic year 1983-84, he held and excelled at a number of other key roles, he was not only the Chemistry teacher, but also Head of Science, Housemaster of Clownholme boarding house, and Headmaster, too, which shows the true caliber of the man.



Charlie Price was firm but fair with a great sense of humor and always gave his time selflessly to help pupils in any way they needed. I remember him willingly giving up his lunchtimes every Tuesday, to patiently re-explain our chemistry assignments to my friend Tanya and I as our grasp of the science was a tad lacking! He did this with humor and without judgement, resulting in maintaining our enthusiasm and building our confidence, which, remarkably, led to us both achieving good grades in our final exams, a surprise to both Charlie and us I think. He was the embodiment of the true spirit of Abbotsholme School.

Like any great Abbotsholmian teacher, Tony Price's contributions went far beyond the classroom. He coached the Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV for twenty-one years, and he led many fossil-hunting hikes to the North

# New Staff for Autumn 2020

The Abbotsholme community would like to welcome the following new staff from Autumn 2021.

## Mark Heighton – Lead OEd Teacher

Mr Heighton is a climbing and mountaineering practitioner, who has led and participated in expeditions all over the world. He is passionate to share his experiences by educating students in outdoor adventurous activities and helping them develop personal and professional skills in this sector.

## Gregory Hulme – Teacher of Science

Mr Hulme is a passionate scientist with a penchant for new technology. A pursuit of knowledge led him to achieve a Masters in Physics from Durham University, and subsequently completing his teacher training. He has taught at several schools with varying ethe, gaining invaluable experience and inspiring his pupils to think deeply about their scientific surroundings. Outside the classroom he can be found behind a drum kit, playing a guitar or practicing coding and learning new software. He is looking forward to meeting everyone at Abbotsholme and becoming a member of the school community.

## Darren Edge – Teacher of Business Studies/Citizenship

Mr Edge started his career working in banking and the communications industry before he trained as a teacher of Business Studies, graduating in 1999. Since then he has worked manly in one school in the Staffs Moorlands holding several posts both academic and pastoral including in the later years a post on the Senior Leadership Team. He is convinced that the opportunity to be a lifelong learner is one that should be grasped and so he has gone on to complete Post Graduate studies at various times at Staffordshire University, the University of Chester and completed an MA in Theology through The Queens Foundation in Birmingham. He was ordained into the C of E in 2013 and most recently served as Vicar for two years in a parish in Stoke on Trent. He is thrilled to come onto the staff at Abbotsholme and is really looking forward to getting back into the classroom.

Yorkshire coast. Fossils were a subject he was both passionate and hugely knowledgeable about, which is why, following his death in 2011, a plaque and mounted ammonite fossil were unveiled by his widow Joan, and can be admired on the wall in the Roseyard.

The ALP Award celebrates his ability to encourage pupils into a life dedicated to areas of science. The Award this year goes to Head Boy, Jacky Lo. Unfortunately, he has been unable to return to school this year due to the pandemic. As we all know, this last year has clearly been an incredibly challenging time for the all students.

Jacky started at Abbotsholme School in Year 10 and after completing the year, it was clear that it would be more appropriate for him to move straight into Year 12, instead of progressing into Year 11. Jacky has had to spend a large amount of this time learning online, difficult enough when you are in the same country as your school but even more challenging when coupled with different time zones. However, he has not allowed this to adversely affect him. His attitude and work ethic have been excellent throughout his time at school, whether in the classroom or online. He has completed all that has been asked of him and has often gone beyond what has been required in his desire to further his understanding. His grasp and application of Physics has been exemplary.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we celebrate the efforts, the determination, and the achievements of Jacky by presenting him with this award. As a Senior Nurse, I was particularly delighted to hear that Jacky plans to study Medicine at university, his work ethic, attitude and ability to adapt to the unexpected will benefit him in his chosen career. I am sure he will be a huge asset to the profession and we wish him every success. We hope that he will accomplish great things, and the Old Abbotsholmians' Club looks forward to hearing about his progress and his achievements in the future.

Our congratulations - and a well-deserved cheque for £500 - go to Jacky Lo.

Leavers from Year 11, 12 and 13 will be offered lifetime membership of the OA Club. To apply for membership from other year groups or if Gina Sonnevile does not get you signed up at results day in August, please email [memberships@abbotsholmians.co.uk](mailto:memberships@abbotsholmians.co.uk). Thank you.

### **Edward Swindell – Head of Music**

Mr Swindell joins us from Ockbrook School where he has been Director of Music for several years. As a musician he has a background as a trombonist, singer, and conductor. He studied music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, as well as the Royal Northern College of Music. He has also recently completed an MA in Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Nottingham. In his spare time, Ed works as a British Army Reservist.

### **Tim Sands – Teacher of D&T and OEd**

Mr Sands grew up around a dairy farm in the North West where he learned to make and fix at an early age. Lego gave way to machinery and vehicles and he hasn't stopped to this day. Weekends were spent around Lake Windermere where a love of all things afloat was born. He is a qualified powerboat instructor and enjoys canoeing, gardening and restoring classic cars.

### **Juliette Gayler – School Registrar**

Mrs Gayler was born in Buckinghamshire and went to University in Aberdeen. She moved to Derbyshire in 2003 from London. She worked as registrar at Ockbrook School since 2015. She likes skiing, classic cars, James Bond, her dog, chickens and geese and once featured on BBC Good Food.