



May 2021

ABBOTSHOLME IN TOUCH



Another half-term has passed so quickly. As you will see in the newsletter, the school has been buzzing with activity. It has been incredible to see our pupils being active and back out representing our school and community. One of Abbotsholme's most quintessential qualities is the opportunity for Abbotsholmians to engage in a wide range of enriching opportunities where they can shine and find themselves. This newsletter is full of examples of how, in a short period, our pupils and staff have seized the day and exemplifies the range and quality of life at Abbotsholme.

We want to thank all those parents and guardians who attended our first online parent-teacher meetings. The new format started with Year 9 this week and will continue after half term; we hope you found them informative and helpful in understanding how your child is doing in school and knowing how best to support them at home. We will be sending out a survey that we would invite you to complete to refine the process. I want to take this opportunity to thank teachers and parents for their co-operation in engaging with this opportunity for dialogue in a Covid-19 secure way.

It has also been a pleasure to have Parents' Café on a Friday afternoon and the opportunity to meet with parents and discuss all things Abbotsholme. We are looking forward to the events after 21 June.

Abbotsholme is hosting a show jumping competition on Thursday 3 June. All entrants welcome; please contact sarah.hamilton@abbotsholme.co.uk to enter and join us for lots of equestrian fun. School ponies may be used if you do not have your own, subject to availability.

After the half-term break, we look forward to a very active end to the Academic Year and celebrating the achievements of our pupils, of whom we are so proud.

News

Equestrian Success



The Abbotsholme Equestrian team were absolutely fantastic on Sunday 23 May and incredibly supportive of each other. The team all rode incredible rounds and displayed great sportsmanship. To come home with two team wins and nine placings was phenomenal.

Abbotsholme has qualified for the Regional Championships in the 60cm and the 70cm. Finley who came 1st in the 70cm has qualified for the Regional Championships. Tia also stormed her clear rounds achieving both a 1st and a 2nd place in the 80 and 90cm. Eleanor, Harriet and Mason rode spectacular clear rounds bringing home more amazing placings.

Special thanks to our wonderful grooms, Amelie & Charlotte who were a great help on the day.

The next team outing is on the 13 June, for anyone wanting to join Team Abbotsholme Equestrian.

Nursery

Prep School

Last Thursday Year 5 and 6 took to the River Dove with the OEd team. They improved their paddling skills and had a wonderful time in the sun. What a brilliant way to spend an afternoon at school.



WW1 Trench Experience

Our current history topic is World War 1. On the morning of Wednesday 5 May, Year 5 and 6 discovered the difficulties of living in the trenches by visiting the Dingle which looked very much like a WW1 trench.





While we were there we acted out being on century duty, replaced duck boards, cleaned our weapons, slept in the trench and wrote possibly our final letters home to our families before we went over the top. We even shot Private Mead for giving away our position to the enemy.

We had a Greenpeace talk by Richard Lancaster who talked to the Prep school virtually about plastic waste in the oceans.



Still actively trying to support in a socially responsible and sustainable way. If you have any unwanted games that would be suitable for our Prep School children, please would you kindly drop them into reception. Suitable games include Uno, Snakes & Ladders, Top Trumps, Cluedo, Playing Cards, Draughts, Jenga, Connect 4, Table Top Curling, Chess, Think words, Skipbo, Qwirkle etc. Larger outdoor toys and/or any suggestions such as Balance Bikes, Football Nets, Quick Cricket Sets, Giant Jenga... would also be welcomed with photos in the first instance to please be sent by email to richard.brindley@abbotsholme.co.uk

Many thanks
Richard Brindley

TT Rock Stars

On Friday the whole of Prep school and Nursery took part in a TT Rock star number themed day by

all dressing up as Rock stars. Everyone also took part in lots of number themed activities as well as a TT Rock star battle! We managed to raise a grand total of £99.25 for the NSPCC.



Please find below the link to our Race for Life page for Abbotsholme Prep & Nursery.

Parents can sponsor their child for the event we will be doing during dedicated Games time on Tuesday 8 June with our sports department.

This event will involve either a run or walk with all proceeds going to cancer research. We are happy for the page to be shared via social media to raise as much awareness as possible.

https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/abbotsholme-school?_ga=2.98395542.862506722.1620139529-1581583237.1619001108

Chrome Hill

Year 5 & 6 headed to the Peak District as part of their Carousel OEd lessons this week. The teamwork and physical challenge of the walk combined with the intermittent weather made for an exhilarating and rewarding climb to the summit. A fantastic series of lessons experienced recently in our local area.



Senior School



With the arrival of spring we have been able to

recommence inspections of Abbotsholme's colonies of bees. Both survived winter and they are now rapidly increasing the number of bees in the hive for the summer months. On Monday some of Year 9 took part in a full hive inspection. In the photo below taken by Jack you can see worker bees, capped brood, honey and some pollen stored in the cells. The pollen is a source of protein that is used to feed the young bee larvae.

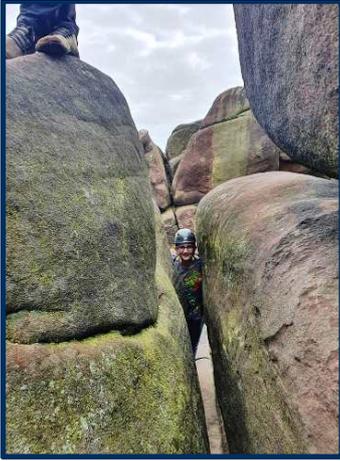


A worker bee starts its life as an egg. After 3 days this hatches into a larvae and is fed by the nurse bees for 6 days as it develops. It is then ready to be capped and will remain inside the cell for a further 12 days as it goes through metamorphosis. The capped brood in the picture will emerge over the coming weeks and the bees will take on different roles within the colony. If all goes well, we should get a small honey crop later in the year. Well done to Ellie who went through one of the boxes handling the frames, she wasn't fazed at all by the many thousands of stinging insects. If it is suitably warm next week we hope to find and mark the queens by putting a coloured spot on their thorax. This makes it easier to find them which is very useful for when the hive gets very

Outdoor Education

Relaxation of Covid restrictions has allowed OEd sessions to take place off site for the first time in a long while. Year 8's first outing was to the Roaches.





Farm



Year 7 Farm carousel group spent the afternoon getting in some of last years 'replacement' ewes and introducing them to being handled and halter training. Some of the ewes were more entertaining than others and the students had lots of fun getting hands on.



Round Square



This month Year 11 History students participated in a Round Square 'postcard', a Zoom conference examining 'Antisemitism in Modern Germany'. Our German hosts were Stiftung Louisenlund who skilfully brought together over 110 students from 14 countries to discuss this troubling topic. After a presentation on Germany's history of antisemitism our students participated in discussion groups focusing on the present situation in Germany. This stimulated further discussion of global division and intolerance. The conference hosts were able to focus upon the positives of international co-operation and respect. Abbotsholme students contributed their own powerful thoughts on how societies around the world can learn to be more respectful, tolerant and inclusive, their comments echoing our school values.

Round Square Competition

Rosslieben School in Germany has launched a 'Design a Piñata' competition which is open to all pupils between 10-18. It's a great opportunity to get creative! Please forward all entries by email to Mrs Joy Holmes by 15 June and I will forward them to the competition organisers.

¡Muy buena suerte!

Joy.holmes@abbotsholme.co.uk



This month four Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a Round Square International and virtual conference, hosted by Gut Warnberg School in Bavaria, Germany. The theme of the conference was the Cultures of Round Square. Over 100 young people and their teachers joined the call from 29 different schools worldwide including Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, South Africa, Oman, Argentina, Colombia, Kenya, India and Romania. Looking at the different world time zones, it was clear that some pupils were participating in the middle of the night! In advance of the conference, participants were asked to produce a poster which reflected images and ideas from their culture and talked about them to their breakout group (called a baraza). It was a bit nerve-wracking at first but our pupils soon became more confident and able to share their ideas with other members of the group.

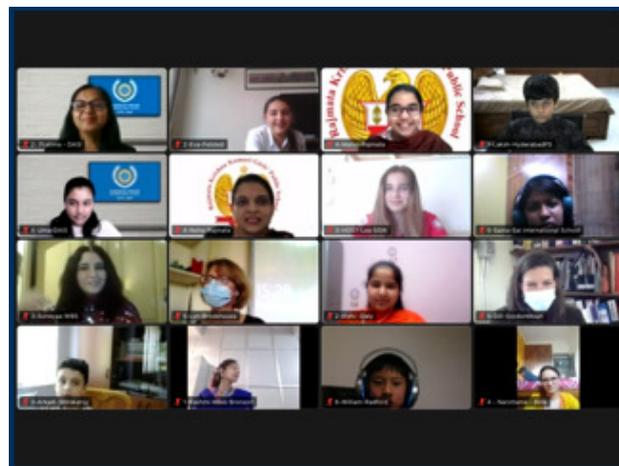
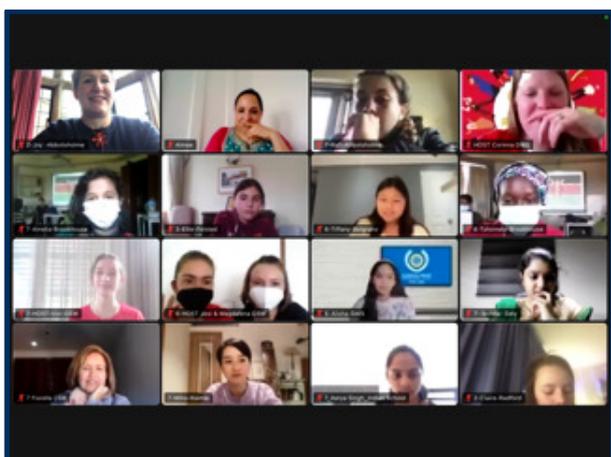
We listened to a keynote speaker who talked to us about Culture and what it meant. There was an opportunity for delegates to reflect and to ask questions. We later broke into our baraza groups and worked on a universal greeting which we could share with the other delegates. This was a lot of fun, when all of the delegates on the call did their multi-faceted greeting all together.

This conference proved to be a great introduction for the Y7s to the Round Square family and we look forward to more virtual conferences and in time, face-to-face conferences.

Charlie in Year 7 says

On Monday 14 May my friends and I were invited to do the Round Square Zoom call. On the first call we told everyone which school we went to and told them a bit about ourselves. We did a Kahoot quiz about Germany, it was good fun.

During the main conference it was a 3-hour call and we talked about culture around the world and had another Kahoot quiz. It was fun and a lady called Jill talked to us about culture. I really enjoyed it and I liked meeting people from different countries.



DofE News

This term we are working hard to catch up with the DofE expeditions which have not been possible over the last year. Before Christmas Y13 were able to complete their Gold expedition and we have a busy term ahead to enable all of our pupils to complete their awards. At Bronze tier it is no longer necessary for participants to undertake a practice expedition before their qualifying expedition. For Silver and Gold awards, participation in the practice is essential for completion of the qualifying expedition.

The key dates are below

Y9 Bronze - Qualifying Expedition

Saturday 12-Sunday 13 June. (N.B. the expedition planned for 29-30 June will no longer be taking place)

Location - Day walks from Abbotsholme

Y10 Silver - Practice/qualifying

Will take place in the autumn term

Y11 Silver - Practice Expedition

Monday 7 - Tuesday 8 June

Location - Day walks from school (no overnight stay)

Y11 Qualifying Expedition

Saturday 26 - Monday 28 June

Location - Day walks from school (no overnight stays)

Y12 Gold - Practice Expedition

Saturday 15 - Sunday 16 May

Location - The Roaches (no overnight stay)

Y12 Qualifying Expedition

Sunday 20 - Thursday 24 June

Location - North Wales (overnight camping)

Many of our Y11 and Y13 pupils have other sections to complete and I would encourage them to come and see me on an individual basis to try to complete their awards.

Last month we were sorry to hear of the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. He was the Patron and Founder of the DofE award, from which many thousands of young people have benefitted. Over the last 65 years several hundred Bronze, Silver and Gold awards have been achieved at Abbotsholme. The DofE will continue the remarkable legacy of His Royal Highness, working to make sure that all young people can have access to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

This month we celebrated the achievements of our young people in the DofE award. Many congratulations to all.

Bronze Certificate of Achievement

Olivia Moreland
Fran Considine
Louby Grainger
Kathryn Lloyd
Maddy Storey
Nicole Croot
Munsukh Atwal
Izzie Klucznik
Sam Herbert

Bronze Award



Rebecca Steel
James Bevan
Alex Griffin

Silver Certificate of Achievement

Marc Ebrey Hardenberg
Hugh Phillips Bland

Silver Award



Savannah Todd
Ben Gummow
Hannah Grindey
Becky Cripwell
Eleanor Smedley
Bella Townsend-Fox

Gold Certificate of Achievement

Lucy Greatrex
Lucy Bednall
Skye Conway

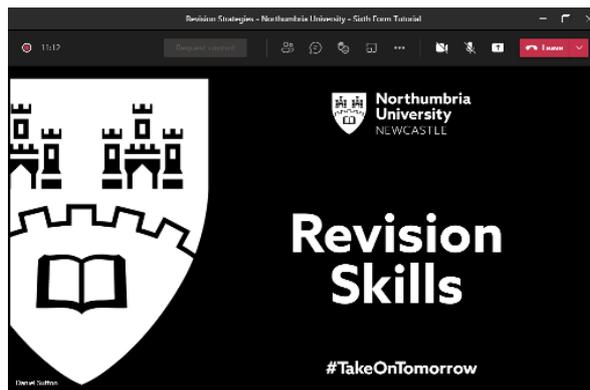
Gold Award



Matthew Griffiths
Charlotte Allen
Nicole Clarke
Ailsa Bartley

Joy Holmes
DofE Co-ordinator

Sixth Form



On 21 April Sixth Form pupils participated in a presentation linked to different revision strategies. The presenter, Mr Sutton from Northumbria University explained how three broad strategies can impact on a person's ability to revise:

1. Note take
2. Memorising
3. Independent exam technique and preparation

Mr Sutton discussed how pupils could save time by documenting their notes with abbreviations so the amount of work you have to read and review seems less and more manageable. He also stated how it is important to be critical in the notes in which you are taking, therefore you are engaging far more with the content of the notes. This allows a student to make effective notes compared to just taking notes and trying to write absolutely everything down.

Mr Sutton then went on to explain it is important to work out what is the best revision method for each individual pupil. Revision cards, question cards, creating videos or presentations, flow charts for essays, posters displayed around the house, past paper, mark scheme and examiner reports were all mentioned and explained how they can help pupils to recall information. It was discussed how pupils should work for around 25 minutes and then take a 2 to 3 minute break in a set work space where and then to leave that space so they can feel refreshed. When completing the examinations Mr Sutton

suggested completing the easiest questions first to build confidence and to get the mind working effectively.

Sport

PE

PE lessons this term will focus on Athletics, track and field events in preparation for Sports Day.

There will also be Tennis and Swimming on offer from June.

We welcome Mr Grimes who has joined the department for the Summer Term before joining the Army as an officer in September. He is a rugby and athletics specialist and has joined the sports department to pass on his wealth of experience in track and field.



Camps

Summer Term has seen the much anticipated return of Camps, albeit without the overnight stays. Camps are a chance for Year groups to enjoy the great outdoors, enjoy new and exciting experiences while exploring team building and communication, essential life tools.

Year 10 – enjoyed three days off site walking, biking and canoeing at the beginning of May.

Year 7 & 8 will be out enjoying canoeing and scrambling this year for camps.

Next year we hope to be back in action for overnight stays and a more diverse itinerary.

Y12 and Y11 will also be taking part in Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards over various weekends this term.



Fixtures

It is so good to see fixtures back up and running. We have entered a number of cups in cricket as well as our usual Wednesday afternoon fixtures. We are also trying to squeeze some various hockey fixtures in against local clubs. All fixtures arranged thus far can be found here. Team kit will be with us very soon.

Under 13 Cricket Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Start Time	Location
Friday 21 May	Foremarke	3.00pm	Home
Wednesday 26 May	Chellaston	2.15pm	Home
Wednesday 9 June	Shrewsbury	2.30pm	Home
Wednesday 16 June	Cheadle Hulme	4.00pm	Away
Wednesday 23 June	QEGS	3.00pm	Home

Under 15 Cricket Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Start Time	Location
Wednesday 19 May	Denstone College	2.00pm	Home
Monday 24 May	Newcastle-Under-Lyme (U14 CUP – 30 overs)	2.00pm	Away
Wednesday 26 May	Painsley Catholic College (U15 CUP – T20)	2.00pm	Home
Wednesday 9 June	Ellesmere	2.30pm	Away
Monday 14 June	Newcastle-Under-Lyme	3.15pm	Home
Wednesday 16 June	Denstone College	2.00pm	Away
Wednesday 23 June	QEGS	3.00pm	Home
Thursday 24 June	Repton	2.30pm	Home

1st XI Cricket Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Start Time	Location
Wednesday 19 May	Newcastle-Under-Lyme	2.30pm	Away
Wednesday 26 May	Derby Grammar	2.00pm	Rolleston CC
Wednesday 9 June	Shrewsbury	2.30pm	Home
Wednesday 16 June	Ellesmere	2.30pm	Home
Sunday 27 June	OA's	11.00am	Home
Tuesday 29 June	Solihull	11.00am	Away
Wednesday 30 June	Headmasters XI	10.30am	Home

Match Reports

U13 Cricket County Cup V Newcastle – Under – Lyme School

The U13's took a trip to NULS in the first leg of the Staffordshire schools county cup. Abbotsholme batted first and put on a total of 93 off 20 overs with Joe hitting 46 not out. Tom also chipped in with a 16 to keep the score board going strong. NULS then took to the crease and started very well, however, the squad soon pulled it back with Niall, Tom B and Tom M bowling tight in the middle overs. Theo took two wickets in his last two overs which brought the game to a super over. NULS batted first and Niall lead with the ball for Abbotsholme, the young seamer took two wickets in his over which led to a score of 7. Tom B and Niall took to the crease and knocked the runs off, sending the squad into the quarter finals.

Match report written by 1st XI player and scorer for this game Tom

1st XI Cricket V Shrewsbury

Wednesday 12 May saw the 1st XI venture off to Shrewsbury for the first away day of the season. As a side we intended on bowling first therefore Shrewsbury winning the toss worked into our favour as they elected to bat first.

Rory gained 1-2 from his 3 overs boosted Abbotsholme to a convincing start, Tom M picked up a wicket in his third over causing Shrewsbury to stumble to a slow start. However, it is safe to say the second period of the first innings was heavily dominated by Shrewsbury's middle order, several drop catches and some poor fielding from a rusty Abbotsholme side, allowed the home side to get away and amount to a finished total of 140, efforts with the ball cannot be faulted from Danuka, Nathan, Becky and Blake. Convincing efforts from Joel in the penultimate over and a tight final over from Tom M meant Abbotsholme had found a way back into the game.

As a batting unit we felt it was well within us to chase down the total we had been set, the opening partnership of Tom M and Callum guided the team to 136 without loss before the 18th over when Callum H fell after making 60 runs. Rory arrived at the crease to finish the chase, Tom M finishing with 57 not out. Returning home Abbotsholme are aware of areas to work on, however, all in all lots of positives to take away from the first win of the season.

Match report written by Captain Callum

Dates for your Diary

Senior Sports Day – Friday 25 June

We invite and encourage Year 11 and Year 13 to come back for the afternoon and join us as a whole school to celebrate our talent and team work ethos on the track and field.

Starting at 2.30pm on the sports field. Parents are welcome to join us, parking is at main school and the filed can be found by following the road at the front of school and going right, past the sports hall and down the lane. Daltons Ice Cream will be serving throughout the event.

The APA will then continue the celebrations with a garden party at the front of school.

Prep Sports Day – Tuesday 22 June - 2.30-4.30pm

Please join us on the sports fields from 2.30pm where Nursery through to Year 6 will be competing in various events throughout the afternoon. Daltons will also be joining us selling Ice Creams and refreshments will be available from the Pavilion.

Prep Swimming Gala – 15 June

This competition, due to the timing, will be completed in bubbles.

R/1/2 - 2-2.30pm

Y3/4 - 2.45 - 3.15pm

Y5 - 3.30 - 4.00pm

Y6 - 4.15 - 4.45pm

We can only allow two guests per pupil. You will be able to take your child home after the competition if you wish to do so, there will be refreshments available straight after on the prep playground under the shelter.

My Music by Olly



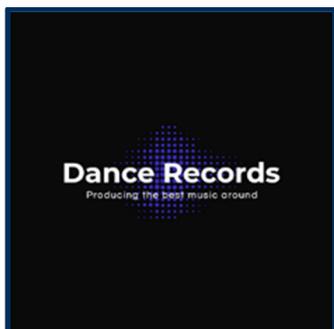
Hi, my names Olly I'm a Year 9 student at Abbotsholme School. I own a record label called 'Dance Records', we have music on all music platforms including iTunes and Spotify.

One of our most popular tracks is called 'Me & You', we made this track during lockdown when times for some were tough and my aim of creating this record label is to bring young artists together by the power of music. We have young artists from all over the UK who come together and produce music from a wide range of genres e.g. Techno, EDM, Dance and so many more.

The reason why I like music so much is the fact that

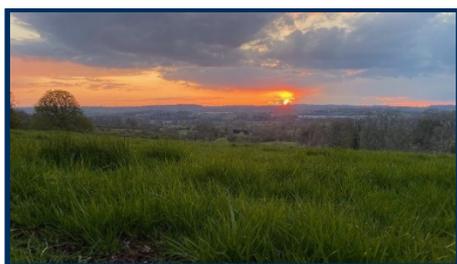
it brings people together and makes people happy.

How to find our music? Just search Dance Records on iTunes or Spotify and all of my/our music is on there.



Boarding

A fantastic weekend in boarding to start the month off with a bang! Sleepovers, movie nights, arts and crafts, trips to Starbucks, dancing in the theatre, fire-making in the woods, toasting marshmallows, slacklining and a climbing trip to Harpur Hill Quarry all contributed to a jam packed weekend for our students.



With lots more planned over the coming weeks we can all look forward to longer days, sunny skies and plenty of activities and adventures to come!

Abbotsholme Parents' Association

We hope you are all safe and well.

It is with great excitement that we invite all families to come along and enjoy the APA 2021 Garden Party on Friday 25 June from 4.30pm! After such a long time in lockdown, this promises to be a safe distance and fun event for everyone.



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 have been delayed by Covid restrictions but this will be sorted and sent on to a school we support in Uganda at the end of the Summer Term.

We also invite any used NEW uniform back into our APA uniform shop for parents to buy back out! For further information, please email Julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk

We are also really pleased to announce that Project Chook has almost reached completion. 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! As soon as the current Avian Flu restrictions are lifted, we look forward to seeing chickens settling into their new home and reporting back to you all.

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. If you would like to meet and be an active member, as Covid restrictions now open up, we invite any parent wishing to join the APA Committee to join a few of us and the Headmaster for tea on Friday 21 May from 3.00pm onwards in the Rose Yard/Library Foyer. Alternatively, please contact us via Julie Noon on the main school telephone number or email: Julie.noon@abbotsholme.co.uk

Glad Day, Love & Duty

Your APA

OA News Leavers

We're excited to announce that Ewan has been awarded the OA Travel Award. He was inspired to travel to Australia via Europe, China and South East Asia by the TV programme Race Across the World. We look forward to hearing all about it in due course, and wish him a happy trip.

Ewan is a local Staffordshire pupil currently in the Upper Sixth Form on a Sports Scholarship and is very interested in Sport. He is anticipating studying Sport and Exercise Science at University on return from his travels which should take him to Australia to play Hockey in Brisbane for some 6 months, on recommendation from Abbotsholme's Head of Sport; a potentially valuable experience of a

different sporting culture!

Having been inspired by the BBC's "Race Across the World" he is hoping to travel, primarily overland and independently using public transport to Australia via Singapore. This should prove challenging and exciting and as he says in his application; "will give me a breadth of experience in aspects of life I have not yet encountered"....so helping him to... "grow my independence and resourcefulness".

He says it is "an honour" to have been given the Travel Award and is hoping (Covid allowing) to start his travels in October this year!



If you have been a studying at Abbotsholme school for two years or longer and are leaving from Year 11, 12 or 13 you can become a lifetime member of the Old Abbotsholmians' Club (The OAs). This association of ex-pupils and ex-teaching staff was set up in the early years of the school to promote friendship and mutual support between those who have experienced the unique education provided by Abbotsholme. We arrange social and sporting events both at school and off-campus and have a membership located all around the world (a reflection on the international nature of our school population throughout the history of the Abbotsholme).

Club news and events are announced through a regular newsletter and via the website. You can also use the website for personal news throughout your life and it will be available to view by all those given access. Access to the website is restricted to members and associate members. If children are leaving school from the younger year groups and have completed two years or more at Abbotsholme School, they still qualify for membership of the OA club but will have to wait to apply until they reach the age of 18. Membership is not automatic for these year groups but is usually granted after review by the club committee. Associate membership of the Abbotsholmians' Club is also available for those who wish to retain their association with school. Some parents have

remarked that once their child has left Abbotsholme school it feels like the end of an era. If you (as a parent) wish to remain in contact with the school through associate membership, please feel free to email your details to Gina at the address given below.

Abbotsholme club members come from all age groups and we have people who are in their ninetieth year as well as recent leavers. We provide bursaries for club members to help with the fees if we wish our children to get the benefit of Abbotsholme schooling, we organise a travel award (this year awarded to Ewan as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter) and provide the Anthony Price Award (a grant of money given annually to a leaver going forward into scientific further education). We also have initiated a business directory which allows OAs to promote their businesses to other OAs, free of charge.

If you are leaving Abbotsholme School and wish to be part of the OA club, please email Gina at memberships@abbotsholmians.co.uk and we can start the process of enrolling you in the Old Abbotsholmians' Club.