



# The Abbey School Newsletter

Newsletter No 13/2020-21  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

## **Headteacher's Review of the Term**

As we reach the end of this extremely unusual term, I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration in how brilliantly everyone in our school community has worked together to overcome the challenges we have been presented with. Thank you.

It has been lovely to finish the term with a few hot, sunny days alongside the lifting of some of the restrictions that have been in place. I am sure that this week many of you, like me, have been able to meet friends and family members who you haven't seen for some time and perhaps even had them round to your garden!

Once again, our students have surpassed our expectations of how they would manage a lockdown - particularly a second one. This term they have also mastered the implementation of a comprehensive home learning package and are now proficient in the use of Microsoft TEAMS! If someone had said to me two years ago that this was going to happen I would never have thought it possible. As parents and carers you should feel enormously proud of what they have achieved. Let us hope this is the last lockdown we have to endure and that we will not have to go back to that situation again. We are desperate to begin doing some more fun and interactive activities with the students in school and all being well this should start to happen next term.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mr Perry our caretaker today who has been at the school for 25 years. Many of you will have got to know him on your various trips and visits to the school, particularly when you have been looking for a space in the car park! He has been a wonderful member of staff and will be sorely missed. He is renowned for his care and empathy towards students with many of them benefiting from his help and advice. Over the years he has been a lot more than just a caretaker and has been utilised in a number of different ways. There is a section about Mr Perry later on in this newsletter so I won't say anything else at this point other than we wish him a long and happy retirement and hope that he keeps in touch.

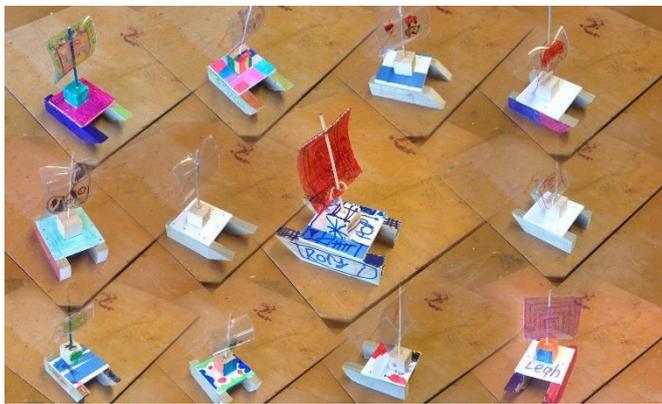
We are also saying goodbye to Miss Parker, our art teacher, who has been with us for three years. I would like to thank her for all that she has done to develop art within the school and wish her the best of luck for the future. There is a short piece about her later on in this newsletter too.

Please continue to keep testing your child twice a week for COVID-19 over the Easter holidays using the test kits provided. If your child does test positive at any point during the Easter break please let me know by emailing [djackson@abbey.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:djackson@abbey.surrey.sch.uk) . Information was sent out about this earlier in the week which you should have all received and your child should have come home with more testing kits.

Fingers crossed for a warm, sunny and overall less stressful summer term where students can begin to experience school life in the way that we want them to once again.

My warmest wishes for a restful Easter holiday.  
David Jackson





Some of the flotilla of boats the Year 7 students made in DT.



Key Stage 3 students in the kitchen

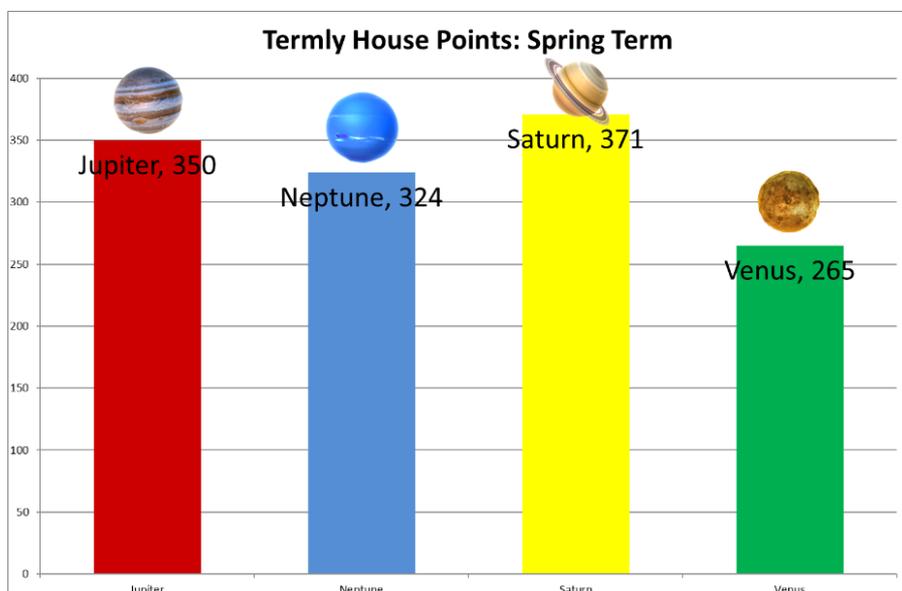
Some Key Stage 4 students just pleased to be back at school!



COVID testing at school



**Back-to-school - 9:05a.m. on Monday 19th April at which point students may wear a white polo shirt with the school logo instead of their white shirt/blouse and tie for the duration of the summer term, if they wish.**



**Students with the most House Points this term**

- Ellen
- Jack T
- Piers
- Ryan R
- Shantelle
- Franco
- Madison
- Caitlyn
- Jody
- Josh B

## Andy Perry is leaving The Abbey after 25 years!



Mr Perry was recruited by then Headteacher, Anita Scott, to whom he has always been openly grateful for recognising his potential, in January 1996. Nowadays he is well known to all as the school caretaker but he has performed many roles over the years, both on stage and off!

An enthusiastic early-adopter of new technologies he was IT support for a long time. In collaboration with talented undergraduate Barney Blackburn, he built the original school network. The Abbey was a trailblazer for the use of ICT in a special school and in theory the majority of what they built has only just been replaced.



He was the 'go-to' for pastoral support for students needing time out of class and is among the first that ex-students ask after when they get back in touch with the school. Wearing his Teaching Assistant 'hat' and exploiting his passion for photography, Andy also supported media lessons and creative art club for several years and, as seasoned chauffeur, has clocked up many, many, miles driving the school minibuses.



Andy was the Chair of the Friends of The Abbey in the early days - the family bingo night won't be quite the same again without him calling the numbers. He also served as staff governor and has been a loyal and supportive colleague to so many, stalwart member of the staff cycling club and staffroom 'friend'.



Although clearly camera shy (!), he is never one to miss an opportunity to dress up and will be most fondly remembered for his performances as pantomime dame and sense of fun.



Andy will be missed by all in The Abbey community, remembered with affection and respect. We wish him a long and happy retirement with more time for fishing and enjoying his many and varied hobbies.



## Miss Parker is moving on



Miss Parker was at primary school herself when Mr Perry started at The Abbey, nevertheless she has been with us for nearly 3 years as Head of Art and Tutor for Form 3F. Caitlin trained as a teacher after a career in the commercial sector - our students have really benefited from her creative flair and technical knowledge.

Caitlin is leaving us at Easter to take up an exciting opportunity to extend her SEN expertise into the higher education sector and we all wish her well although she will be missed by the rest of the staff team.



## Non-uniform day today

**£ 86.15 raised for the NHS**

*Thank you for your donations*

## COVID testing

**Please continue to test your child twice a week including through the Easter holidays**

(we are recommending Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings).

Following every test, please report your child's results (positive, negative, or void) to:

- the **NHS** by telephone on 119 or at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- **AND** to us at **the school** by completing the form on our website <https://www.abbey.surrey.sch.uk/1734/covid-home-testing>

You can order similar asymptomatic testing kits for yourself and other members of your household if you wish <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

These LFT tests are designed to detect coronavirus in people who are not displaying any of the symptoms. If anyone tests positive using the LFT test **OR** has any of the symptoms they must self-isolate and book a PCR test to confirm the result via <https://www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

## Symptoms of Coronavirus

**If anyone tests positive for coronavirus within 2 days of last being in school (i.e. on Friday or Saturday, if their last day in school was today) they should inform the Headteacher [djackson@abbey.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:djackson@abbey.surrey.sch.uk) . Please also contact him if a positive result is received after this, but coronavirus symptoms started over the Bank Holiday weekend. This is because we need to adhere to contact tracing procedures.**

*Thank you*

## Year 11 leavers

Year 11 students have been given letters to bring home recently:

Exam arrangements update (this was also sent to Year 10 students)  
Record of Achievement Presentation and Prom (RSVP by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May)

Contact the school office if you did not receive your copies.

## Clear face masks for teachers so students can lip read



Thanks to the charity Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ears Fund we have been able to get some clear face masks for some of our teachers. This will benefit not only those students who have a hearing impairment, but others who find that now teachers have to wear face masks in class, it is more difficult for them to understand what their teachers are saying.

