

The Abbey School Newsletter

Newsletter No 16/2020-21

Friday 28th May 2021

Headteacher's Review of the Half-Term

Rain, rain, rain...

This has to be the wettest start to a summer term in years! Nevertheless, our students haven't let it dampen their enthusiasm and continue to attend school in high spirits, ready to learn.

Before leaving work on Thursday evening I had the pleasure of speaking with our year 11 Duke of Edinburgh students who were camping out on the back field for the night. They had walked 6 miles along the North Downs Way and were replenishing their energy levels with a meal of sausage and eggs. They completed the expedition today by walking a further 5 miles and I am delighted to say that no one got lost! Students had to navigate the route themselves whilst staff followed at a distance behind. Mr Kennedy, Mr Baldwin and Miss Burke were very impressed by the determination and cohesiveness of this group of students, especially as they had missed a lot of preparation sessions due to the recent lockdown. All had a good night's sleep and were up bright and early this morning when I arrived at school. That said, I think there were one or two members of staff who could have done with a few more hours sleep!



One of the best things about this half term has been seeing some offsite and extra-curricular activities begin again. Students have attended swimming lessons, Alton College, Farnborough College, cricket lessons at a local cricket club and cycling lessons at Alice Holt forest. All being well this will continue next half term and measures will be relaxed further, allowing us to do even more. We have the year 11 prom on Thursday 24th June so fingers crossed this one gets the green light this year!

Thank you to those of you who attended our recent online parents evening. It was our first time using SchoolCloud software and I am pleased to say all went according to plan. From conversations with several of you over the past few days it seems the whole evening worked exceptionally well for you as parents too. Hosting parents' evenings virtually is something else we have added to our list of 'Covid keeps' and it is likely we will continue to hold some evenings like this in the future. As always please let us know if you have any feedback.

On a similar note please can I ask you to complete our parent survey if you have not done so already. We are extremely keen to hear how you think we are doing so that we can continue to improve. The survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete and can be accessed by clicking here

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk (then click the 'Give your views now' button)

We have only had 22 responses so far and I normally like to get at least 80! **Your feedback is so important.**

By the end of this term we anticipate that 30% of our students will have accessed English and maths interventions which we have put in place to help students catch up on lost learning from the two lockdowns. These will continue next academic year and beyond for other students as we are determined to ensure that no one is left unfairly disadvantaged. I have been so impressed with how positively our students have engaged with these sessions and the staff leading them deserve huge credit for the way in which they have been delivered.

The weather is looking great for half term so I do hope you are able to take a break and enjoy yourselves in the sunshine. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see as many of you as possible over the coming months.

*Best wishes,
David Jackson*

Students of the Half Term

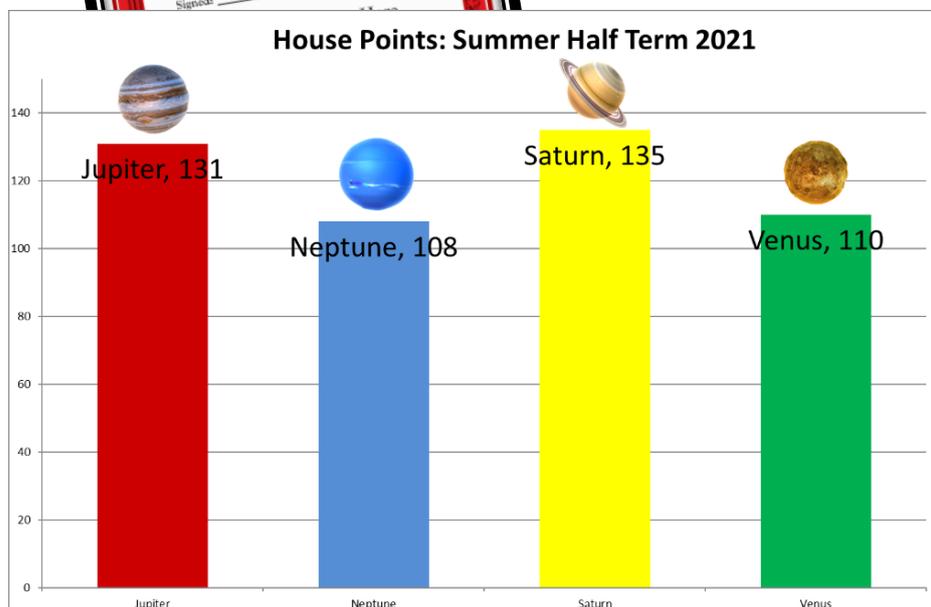
Form	Student	Citation
Key Stage 3A	Ella	<i>For excellent effort all through the half term.</i>
Key Stage 3B	Joey	<i>For achieving the most TWCs in 3B this term. Focussing on his learning and making the right choices</i>
Key Stage 3C	Zoe	<i>For always trying her best in every lesson and making some brilliant progress. Also, for making people laugh, being kind to others and helping out whenever she can.</i>
Key Stage 3D	Liam	<i>For a fantastic attitude to learning and for amazing independent reading.</i>
Key Stage 3E	Christopher L	<i>For a continual great work ethic as well as working and socialising with his peers more.</i>
Key Stage 3F	Numan	<i>For being a cheerful member of the tutor group and working hard to increase his independence across all aspects of school life.</i>
Key Stage 4W	James	<i>For consistently displaying a positive and mature approach to his studies and towards others.</i>
Key Stage 4X	Thea	<i>For being a lovely and kind member of the form. She is starting to become more independent in her work and she is trying her hardest.</i>
Key Stage 4Y	Charles	<i>For being consistently cheerful, polite, helpful and kind to everyone.</i>
Key Stage 4Z	Arron K	<i>For being a good friend, looking out for people in the form group and for having a great growth mindset.</i>

House Points



All Students of the Half Term get 3 house points each, and every Together We Can (TWC) award earns a house point.

Among other things, Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher certificates which are awarded throughout the term attract points. This week, for example, Mrs Gardiner gave **Zoe** an **Assistant Headteacher award** for telling the story of Rama and Sita in front of the whole class in RE and Mr Jackson handed out a **Headteacher award** to **Layton** for reading his whole reading book out loud to him with no mistakes!



All the house points for each week are added together and the winning house is celebrated in the assemblies on Friday.

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Altogether for the whole of this half term **Saturn** have accumulated the most points but it was very, very, close!

Attendance Awards

Attendance Superstars:



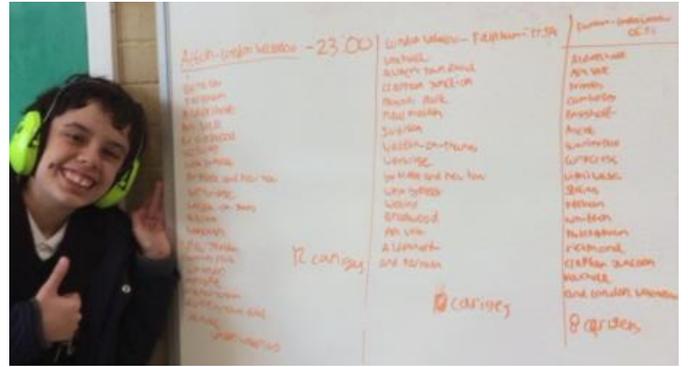
Emily	(3A)
Kitti-jo	(3E)
Connor	(4W)
Josh	(4W)
Raven	(4Y)



Train Fan

Rory in Year 7 is train mad! He even has his own YouTube channel – TrainFanUK.

Mr Jackson was so impressed when Rory used some of his time at Early Bird Club this week to reproduce a SW Railways destination board **entirely from memory** that he gave him a Headteacher's Award!



Rory also demonstrated his impressive writing skills by providing this explanation.



On this white board are my very own Train Departures From Alton - London, London - Farnham and Farnham - London I hope you like it 😊 and also there is a early London Train from Farnham witch leaves at 06.19 and theres a 16.54 service From London Waterloo - Farnham only available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Rory told us he learnt the information partly from looking at timetables and partly by listening to the announcements on the platform tannoy at the station.

Most trains now have an on-board display, too, that shows what stations the train will be stopping at and an announcement to say which is next so you know when to get off.

We have every faith in Rory's information but please always check the latest travel information before setting off on your journey! [SW Trains](#)

We would love to hear about your hobbies and interests so we can share them in the [school newsletter](#). Please send a photo, too, if you can.

News from the Art Room



In KS3 Art, classes have been doing a mini project based on the 'Day of the Dead' and have created clay skulls. Purple group designed, made, painted and decorated their skulls and then we photographed them as a celebration in the sensory garden.



Also, Year 7 are studying Aboriginal art and have designed and painted their own boomerangs (a huge thanks to Mr Moore who provided wooden boomerangs for each student).



Mrs Hyland

Where are they now? ... another in the occasional series about our alumni



Nick, who left The Abbey in 2013 to go on to Merrist Wood College for a 2-year course in animal care and land-based studies, last featured in the newsletter in 2016 when he was appearing in Surrey Musical Theatre's production of Les Miserables.

Whilst at The Abbey he was a mainstay in school productions and performances including Farnham's Got Talent and the Rock Challenge for which The Abbey won several awards.

He'd been attending street dance classes in Aldershot as an extra-curricular activity for about five years and drama on a Saturday morning with the Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre throughout his teens. Having decided that outdoor working wasn't for him, Nick enrolled at Guildford College for one year and completed Level 1 certificate BTEC in performing arts before going on to Performance Preparation Academy (PPA) in Guildford where he trained for four years in Musical Theatre, graduating in 2020 with a Distinction. During his time at PPA he had professional Christmas pantomime contracts, in his second year in Bridlington, followed by Lowestoft in the third year.

Nick is now 24 years old and thriving, with some limited family support, passed his driving test (first time!) and is currently living independently near Southampton because he is contracted to Paulton's Park for the summer playing One-Eyed Patch, the main villain in their pirate theatre show. He had previously secured a job as a Lead Male Vocalist with TUI cruises but the pandemic put that on hold. Hopefully, once the situation allows, Nick will be able to squeeze in a visit to the school to speak to the students about his post-Abbey journey to date. He has asked to be remembered to all the staff who were there during his happy time at the school, according to Mum, Julie, who went on to say:



"We will always be grateful for the support he received from all the staff at The Abbey, particularly Christian Lewis, who Nicholas was very fond of and looked up to. He said all that Nicholas needed was time ... how right he proved to be! ... Nick has exceeded all expectations"

FREE Half Term Activities

Waverley Borough Council are again running a number of local Xplorer events - family friendly navigation challenges that give children a sense of adventure as they explore a public park to find the markers. It involves a healthy mix of physical activity and decision making that the whole family can enjoy together.

Using a simple map, the aim is to find a number of markers that are located around the park. At each marker children need to identify what is pictured and enjoy learning a fun fact to tell their friends. Your upcoming events are:

Location	Meeting Point	Date/Time
Snoxhall Fields, Cranleigh, GU6 8BL	Playground	1 June 2021 10am to 12pm
Farnham Park, Farnham, GU9 0AU	Adventure Playground (Map of Farnham Park)	2 June 2021 10am to 12pm
Broadwater Park, Godalming, GU7 3BB	Playground	3 June 2021 10am to 12pm

You can now register online to get going more quickly! [Xplorer](#)



CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION PREVENTION ADVICE & WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE OR DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS

Face masks: In line with the latest guidance, students are no longer required to wear face masks whilst in school (unless they prefer to do so) although they do need them if they travel on school transport (unless they are already exempt from wearing a mask).

Please be aware that this relaxation will be kept under constant review and requirements may need to change in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

Twice weekly testing: All students (and staff) should carry out a COVID (LFT) test at home on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday evenings.

Please report your child's result both to the NHS: by telephone on 119 or at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

AND to the school: <https://www.abbey.surrey.sch.uk/1734/covid-home-testing>

[If your child tests positive to the LFT test - follow the advice overleaf](#)

Please keep testing over half term and logging the results

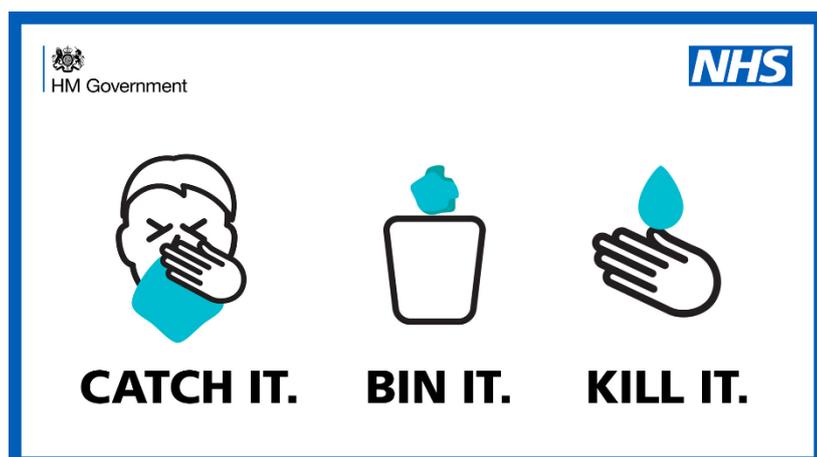
If your child is unwell and has any of one of the Covid symptoms (including high temperature, loss of taste or smell, new continuous cough) they must stay at home and self-isolate – [follow the advice overleaf](#)

Please organise a PCR test and contact the school to discuss the result before sending your child back to school.

If your child tests positive having developed symptoms within 2 days of being in school (i.e. over the weekend) ... contact:

djackson@abbey.surrey.sch.uk

This is so that appropriate contact tracing measures can be taken.



LATERAL FLOW TESTS (LFTs) v PCR TESTS FOR COVID19

LATERAL FLOW TESTS (LFT)

Lateral flow tests are used for regular testing when people do not have symptoms. Anyone can get regular rapid lateral flow tests without having symptoms. These are the tests that students and staff are doing regularly using the kits we send home.

About 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. You should do a rapid test twice a week (every 3 to 4 days) to check if you have the virus.

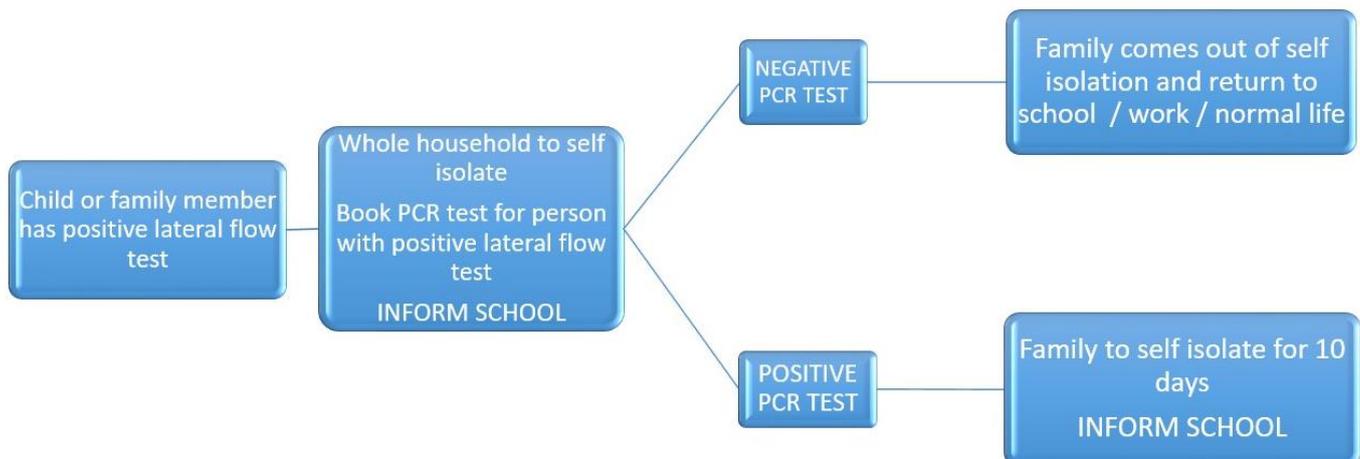
If you have a positive lateral flow test OR if you display symptoms of COVID-19 you should book a PCR test at a test site

PCR TESTS

If your child (or anyone in your family) displays symptoms of COVID-19 please ensure that they are booked in for a PCR test at a local testing centre and the family remain in isolation until a negative result from that test is received. Home lateral flow tests should NOT be used to confirm the presence or absence of COVID-19 when someone displays symptoms.

When a child or family member have displayed symptoms we cannot accept a negative home lateral flow test result, a negative PCR result is needed before a child is able to come back into school.

What to do if someone tests positive using an LFT test:



What to do if someone displays any of the symptoms of Coronavirus (including high temperature, loss of taste or smell, new continuous cough):

