

The Abbey School Newsletter

Newsletter No. 6/2018-19

Monday 3rd December 2018

The countdown to Christmas has begun! For me the FOTAS bingo always signals the start of the festive period in school. This took place Friday 23rd and was attended by over 120 students, their families and staff. I would like to thank the FOTAS team for all of the hard work they put in to making this event the success that it was. In particular, Louise Nash (Chair) and Sarah Woollins (from the School Office) worked tirelessly to ensure there were enough raffle prizes and refreshments and that the event ran smoothly on the night. It raised a grand total of £1,644 which all students in the school will benefit from. In a time of diminishing budgets this is an extremely welcome source of extra revenue for the school.

There are many exciting events coming up between now and the end of term. This Wednesday we are holding a life skills day for all students within the school. This is the first time we have done something like this and key stage 3 students will be undertaking a range of activities such as learning how to use a washing machine, make a bed and use an iron. Our older students will be using public transport to go out into the community and navigate their way around independently (under the watchful eye of staff!). Developing life skills for all of our students is such an important part of what we do at The Abbey and it is something we are keen to do even more of. Please do let me know if you have any suggestions.



There are lots of special activities planned both on and off-site for the students for the school's 1st ever Life Skills day on Wednesday 5th December

There will be the usual Christmas events taking place before too long and I hope to see many of you at the Reindeer Run and Christmas Performance. Students are beginning to get very excited about the Christmas disco with many of them having confirmed they are coming already. It is always a really popular event with the staff who like to show off their moves on the dance floor too! We are also performing our usual staff pantomime and rehearsals have begun with great enthusiasm, led by our very own writer, producer and actress, Mrs Kennedy.

I cannot believe that year seven have nearly completed their first term with us! It seems like only yesterday they arrived at the end of the long summer holidays when the sun was still shining. We are thrilled with the progress they have made and they are now very much part of the school. I have already received a number of applications for next September and it won't be long before our next year 7 are completing induction days with us in July!



Yesterday, I completed the Hog's Back Road race, an 11.7km run over a very hilly route, in an attempt to raise funds for the school ski trip. We are aiming to raise £2,500 and have raised half this amount so far. If you are able to sponsor me I would be very grateful, please visit our webpage at:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/david-jackson-368

If I'd known in advance that this involved running right up to the top of The Mount in Guildford, I might not have been as quick to volunteer for the challenge!

Well done to Mr J for completing the 11.7 K Hog's Back Race to raise funds for the school ski trip in January!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the end of term performance the students are putting on in their Form Groups which is on the morning of Monday 17th December. The Reindeer Run in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice will take place in the afternoon; I know this is a cause many of our families like to support. Do come into school for one or both events if you can – why not bring a packed lunch and stay all day? There will be a room set aside for parents/carers to meet and chat and The Friends of The Abbey will be serving hot drinks.

Best wishes, David Jackson



The annual Friends of The Abbey Bingo & Grand Draw raised a record

£1,644 !!!!

Mr O'Dell (parent of an ex-student and Treasurer of the Friends) persuaded the producers of the X Factor to donate 4 tickets for the live final this weekend, which were offered as the prize in a 100 board draw. The draw was made by the Revd. David Uffindell from St Andrews Church, and his colleague, Revd John Marrow, when they came in to lead assembly last Monday. Jack was the lucky winner with number 87.

We need parents/carers to come forward to work alongside Mrs Nash and Mr O'Dell with a view to taking over as Chair and Treasurer of The Friends next year

Emergency Closure - Thursday 29th

It was regrettable that the school was forced to close at short notice for one day following the discovery of a potential fault during a routine inspection of the fire alarm system on Wednesday evening. It was most inconvenient for students, their families, school transport operators and staff at the school, but the safety of students and staff must be our first priority. The fault has been resolved and the alarm system is back in operation.

Thank you all for your patience and co-operation. We were able to use the school's ParentMail communications system to keep you all updated via email and text. If you did not receive texts and/or emails telling you about the closure and confirming the reopening on Friday, then please contact the school office, or log on to your Parentmail account, to check your details are correct and up-to-date.

Don't forget to check the school website www.abbey.surrey.sch.uk, too, if you are ever in any doubt about arrangements during an emergency school closure. You can try ringing the school, as there maybe someone on site (depending on the circumstances), as there was last Thursday, or email enquiries@abbey.surrey.sch.uk as this inbox is monitored remotely, whenever possible.

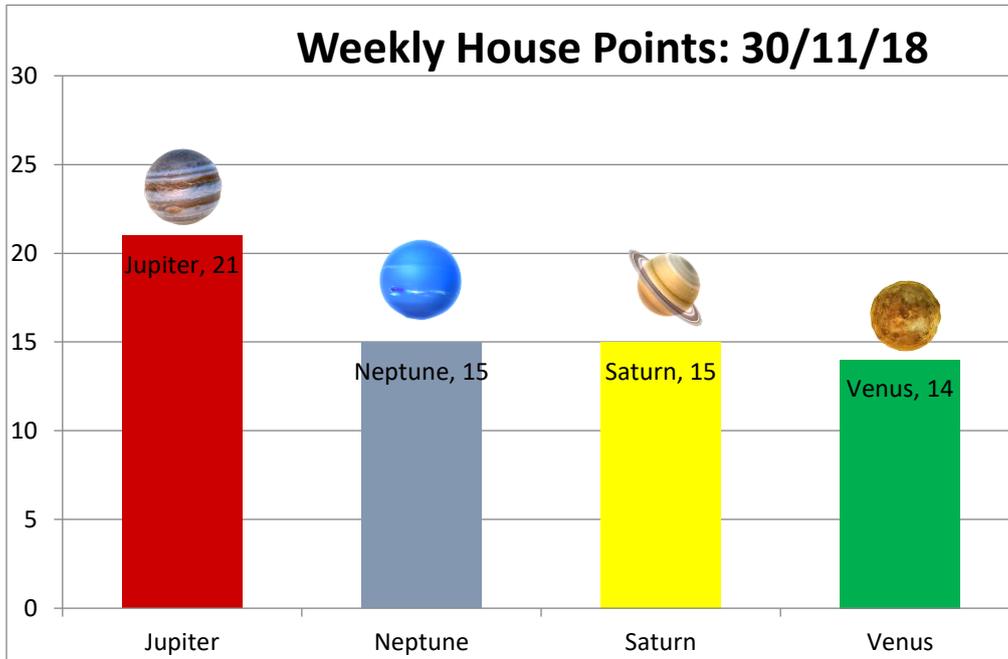
Parents should always assume that the school is open during term time as detailed in the school calendar (which identifies INSET days and other planned closures) and on the website, unless specifically advised otherwise.

Thank you

After School Clubs

Club	Day	Last Club Meeting Date This Term	Spring Term Start Date
Gardening	Monday	3 rd December	Spring Term - date to be confirmed (weather dependent)
Creative Arts	Tuesday	11 th December	15 th January 2019
Fab @ 40 Degreez	Wednesday	5 th December	16 th January 2019
Computing	Thursday	13 th December	17 th January 2019
Tennis @ The Bourne	Friday	7 th December	1 st February 2019

There is a nominal charge of £1 per session for after school clubs/transport



Last week's announcement of the house with the most points (and therefore winners of the cup presented weekly) was delayed until today's assembly.

The winners were JUPITER.

With two and a half weeks to go until the end of term, two houses are tied on 179 points each so far this term, one house has 183 points and the other is slightly ahead on 203 points.

Every Together We Can (TWC) students earn during the week counts towards the total for their House.

Christmas activities at school

Wednesday 12 th	After school disco 3:30 - 6:00pm
Thursday 13 th	Whole school visit to panto in the morning
Friday 14 th	Staff panto in afternoon
Monday 17 th	Christmas production (11:15a.m) Reindeer Run (1:30p.m.)
Tuesday 18 th	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 19 th	Last day of term <i>NON-UNIFORM DAY</i> KS3 and KS4 Xmas parties End of term assembly

LAST DAY OF TERM: WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Non-uniform day – suggested minimum donation £1 for the charity chosen by members of the School Council – The RSPCA
School closes early at 1:50p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL: MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2019 at 9:05a.m.

Date for Your Diary: Launch of New Careers Programme

There will be an information evening for parents/carers about the new careers START programme to be launched in the New Year.

Monday January 14th 2019 @ 5.30pm

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BRING A NAMED WATER BOTTLE TO SCHOOL WHICH CAN BE RE-FILLED DURING THE DAY. TO REDUCE WASTE, WE ARE NO LONGER PROVIDING DISPOSABLE CUPS.

Best of British Talent Show



A performance by students on performing arts courses at Alton College.

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December
7:30 p.m. at Alton College

This would be especially appropriate for potential students wanting to join their Expressions and Pathways (Entry 2/3) courses – an opportunity to see what they do.

The Talent Show with the theme of 'Best of British' is a variety show with a collection of songs, dances and drama extracts predominantly from BTEC Performing Arts students, although Expressions and Pathways students are also performing a number of acts.

Looking for a DJ for your party?

Looking for a perfect DJ for your party? Then look no further! DJ Louis (an ex-Abbey student) is advertising for any private hire party/birthday party you may have. From Disco to Club music, DJ Louis can play any genres in between! If you would like to hire DJ Louis then get in touch!

Email: familyvass@btinternet.com or phone the office on 01428 607948

Please note: Bookings have to be booked 2 weeks in advance! Thank you.

Home: School Transport

May we remind parents and carers whose children travel to and from school by minibus or taxi, that it is their responsibility to keep the transport contractor / driver / escort updated with any important new information or changes, such as new mobile phone numbers or emergency health care procedures.

Also, any variations in collection or drop off arrangements – such as staying for an after school event or being picked up early to attend a medical or dental appointment. Don't forget that if you have told your transport operator your child does not need picking up because they are unwell, you must confirm their return to school date, too. Last week we had another instance of a child not being picked up in the morning, because the parent had forgotten to let the driver know their child was better and ready to return to school.

Thank you.