



Battle Abbey School

Newsletter: 27th April 2018

Artwork of the week by April Yang (Year 12)

Welcome

Dear Parents,

The students returned rejuvenated after the Easter break though I was pleased that so many of them made the most of the revision sessions that took place over the holiday. As always, I am indebted to the large number of teachers who gave of their time so willingly to support their students and I was grateful to Mrs Colman too for organising her excellent BAY Choir course and to the Duke of Edinburgh team for leading the Easter expedition. I also loved hearing stories from the slopes – and the ski trip proved another fantastic enrichment opportunity for those lucky enough to go.

We have enjoyed an excellent start to the summer term, helped in no small measure by the wonderful weather. In no time, we were back in the swing of things and it was lovely to see how quickly our new students from France and Spain settled into the rhythms of school life. Friday evening of last week saw the continuation of an important Battle Abbey tradition, which is the Performing Arts Dinner – this year organised by Bertie Young of the Lower Sixth. All who attended enjoyed a very convivial occasion, with excellent catering and equally impressive performances and I was so pleased to join others in celebrating the amazing work done in the music and drama departments at Battle Abbey.

All members of our community are entitled to join our former pupils association, BAFPA, after their final year at the Abbey. It is a very special organisation, overseen by Jemma Joyce, and does great work of keeping former pupils connected with the School. Jemma hosts regular reunions and last week I was privileged to join her at the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank as part of the latest London reunion. I loved catching up with those former pupils and, without exception, they retain a phenomenal affection for the Abbey and for the people who shared their time there.

As far as the Year 13s are concerned, the highlight of this past week was undoubtedly the much anticipated football match against the staff. They fielded an exceptionally talented team and, sure enough, defeated the teachers with relative ease – emerging as 5-1 winners on the day. The staff will need to respond if they are to perform better in the croquet and rounders matches that are planned for later in the term!

It leaves me to wish all the best to those students who have started or who are about to start their public examinations. We understand that this is a tense time for them, but we are confident that they have prepared well and have been supported as much as possible along the way.

Best wishes

David Clark

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school last week after the Easter break. The weather felt like mid-summer and the children have been making the most of our school grounds. The school field has been prepared for our programme of summer sports and the children have enjoyed playing cricket and other games during their break times. The tennis courts have been busy with children practising their tennis skills and playing matches both in lessons and during their playtimes. The cricket nets are up and this week saw the first Home cricket fixture of the season.

There was great excitement in the Year 2 classroom last week with the hatching of some Bantams. The children had been carefully watching the eggs in the incubator over the last few weeks and the waiting was finally over. Using the wonders of modern technology, the Chick Cam went live and the whole school eagerly watched for signs of life. The chicks emerged from their shells to the great delight of the children and have been placed in a special brooder in the classroom this week. The rest of the school including the Nursery children, joined in the enjoyment; taking turns to see and hold the very newest members of our school community.

The benefits of teamwork have been evident in our classes this week with pupils working collaboratively within their classes.

Year 4 went off to the woods on Tuesday for a Mud Dragon Adventure. Each group of children were given instructions on how to sculpt part of a dragon out of mud. The groups had to actively listen to one another, articulate ideas and cooperate with each other. Finally it was only when every piece of the dragon came together that the groups realised they had made a complete Mud Dragon.

Working like this as a group or team within school can be very powerful for individuals; it can be the time for each child to shine and show others their skills and talents.

This was evident in the Year 5 assembly this week, which they wrote and produced collectively as a class. Every child had a distinct role and together they confidently presented an assembly on the theme of Skills and Talents; taking the form of "Battle Abbey's got Talent." After a varied programme of whale noises, guitar playing, singing and even a magic trick we soon discovered their hidden talents!

Year 2 have worked together collectively this year with their reading. The number of words read in their books has been totaled with every child contributing to the final number. Year 2 can officially say that they have now read over one million words collectively since the start of September, which is quite an achievement!

The Summer term at the Prep School promises to be wonderful with many events, activities and sporting fixtures planned over the next few weeks. Indeed the Prep pages of this week's newsletter show just what a very busy school we are. The children have been excited with the wide range of after school activities on offer this term and the School is lively until late every day.

The School today was a sea of yellow as we supported Yellow Day for St Michael's Hospice at the Prep School with the pupils and staff swapping into yellow clothes to support this local charity.

With good wishes for a sunny weekend.

Maria Maslin



Nursery News

We have had two very busy weeks down at the Nursery. We have all enjoyed visiting Mrs Golding's Year 2 classroom to visit the new baby chicks that hatched only last week. The children were incredibly gentle, discussing how "soft and fluffy" "cute and cheepy" they were. We were lucky enough to watch the videos of the chicks hatching which were captured on camera. Thank you Mrs Golding for sharing this wonderful experience with us.

In the Oaks' room, we have been following the children's current interest of 'minibeasts' where we have seen some amazing homes created for the bugs, observational paintings, sharing the well known and loved story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and songs and activities based around this. The children's work is now displayed in the messy area of the classroom, please do pop in and have a look.

The transition visits are well underway for the Acorns who are moving down to the older classroom downstairs and are already settling in and coping well with this change. Your child should now have been allocated a new key person, please see the list outside the Oaks' room or speak to a member of staff if you are unsure.

The Acorns have been working hard to practice their fine motor skills through activities such as tweezer work, threading, cutting and mark making alongside their current topic of spring. They have produced some lovely work which is up on the wall in the classroom.

The Nursery pupils and staff have been invited to participate in the whole school photograph which will be taken in front of the beautiful Battle Abbey which includes pupils aged 2 to 18 years old. This will take place on Friday 4th May.

The children who are already booked in to attend Nursery that day are invited to join us on the school minibuses which will leave Nursery soon after 8am and will return by 10.45 am. If your child is not due in that day, you are very welcome to meet us at the senior school in Battle from 8.30am in the English room. Please note there will be no parking available within the school. Please inform Mrs Rapley or Miss Lee if you will be joining us to assist with this events planning.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Lee



Prep School News

100 and growing: We are pleased to announce that Battle Abbey Prep School Bexhill has over 100 pupil on role for the first time in its history!



Cream Tea Concert

Prep School families and friends enjoyed our Cream Tea Concert. Our fantastic, talented children sang, played instruments and recited poems and prose for their enjoyment. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their amazing achievements from Hastings Musical Festival.



Prep Fish



Family Spring Social

Much fun was had by parents and children alike as we made the most of the early evening sunshine at our family Spring Social last Friday. Very many thanks to all who helped in the organising of this highly enjoyable event.



Cricket/Rounders Report

Battle Abbey Under 11 Boys travelled to Horntye to play in the Sussex Cricket Foundation's Under 11 Indoor Cricket Tournament.

They played four matches winning all four and gaining 12 points which means they represented Hastings and District schools in the County Finals played just before Easter.

Congratulations on a fantastic effort by all the boys who played.

Results:

Battle Abbey vs Chantry A

Won 249- 196

Top bowler Ethan A (Wicket Maiden)
Top batting pair Seb Y and Edward W (24 runs)

Battle Abbey vs Sacred Heart B

Won 249 - 220

Top bowler William R
Top batting pair William R and Jude C (18 runs)

Battle Abbey vs Chantry B

Won 237 - 229

Top bowler Charlie S
Top batting pair Ethan A and Zak L (16 runs)

Battle Abbey vs Sacred Heart A

Won 234 - 224

Top bowler Seb Y
Top batting pair Seb Y and Jude C (24 runs)

Well done to everyone who took part.

Cricket Report

On Wednesday 25th April Year 5 Boys took part in Cricket matches vs Skippers Hill.

The team showed a good level of fielding and bowling reducing Skippers to 62 runs for 2 wickets.

When batting however quite a lot of batsmen lost their wickets cheaply and so they were unable to overhaul the Skippers total score scoring 42 for 7 wickets.

Bob C was the most economic bowler and captained the team well with some tactical field placements and good encouragement of his players. Finley H was top batsman.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Miss J Hill



Football

On Monday 5th March the Prep school's Under 11 Football team took part in a Cup match against Sandown Primary. In the first half Sandown scored 3 goals even though the match was evenly contested. Ethan A hit the post twice and Seb Y shot wide so at half time the score was 0-3.

In the second half the Prep School began to dominate from Midfield and finally scored 2 goals by Ethan A and Seb Y. With time running out we scored the crucial third goal to draw the match level and the match went into extra time.

At the end of extra time it was still 3-3 so the match went to penalties. William R went in goal for the penalties and played brilliantly saving 3 of the Sandown shots.

The final score was a 4 - 3 win on penalties to Battle Abbey Prep. They will play King Offa in the quarter finals of the Hopkins Cup and will play either Catsfield or King Offa School. Well done to everyone who played.

Man of the Match - William R

Miss J Hill



Golf

On Wednesday 25th April, Year 3 pupils took part in a special Golf activity morning organised by the Hastings and St Leonards Schools Sports Association.

130 Year 4 and Year 3 children from 13 local Primary Schools participated in the event at Cooden Beach Golf Club. The children were able to take part in a circuit of 8 different Tri Golf challenges, some involving chipping over short and longer distances and others involving the accuracy of their putting skills.

Each activity was scored over a 5 minute period to get accuracy points and then at the end the total of the 8 activities points were added together to get the final score.

Milo D, Kitty T, and Luke S excelled at the chipping whilst all the Year 3 showed good improvement of their putting skills as the morning progressed.

At the end of the 8 activities the Battle Abbey Prep Team scored 658 points, only 6 points less than the winning team. They were placed 5th out of the 13 teams many of whom were in the Year 4 age group. This was an excellent effort by all the children involved who received certificates to acknowledge their achievement.

Teresa Bennett, HRS GP School Games Organiser and School Sports Coordinator, said 'They were super sessions yesterday, thank you for bringing your students, there was a great atmosphere.'

1st place St Leonards CE 2nd place St Peter and St Paul and 3rd place Ninfield CE. I will drop the medals off tomorrow for those schools. (For your info close behind 4th place Netherfield, 5th Battle Abbey 6th Little Ridge)

So good luck to St Leonards CE who will now go on to the Sussex school games finals on Wednesday 27th June to represent our area.

Miss J Hill



Ethan's Football Training

Over the Easter break Ethan attended a residential football training camp at Tonbridge School. The camp is for preparation for the Gothia Cup in Sweden this July, where he will be representing Battle Abbey and the South East Prep School District U11s.

He attended the sports therapy/mental fitness sessions and trained with his Prep School Pumas teammates; it was a busy 3 days. At the award presentation on the last day, Ethan won the top Coaches Award.

Well done Ethan!



Blue Monday

On Monday at Forest School, Year 1 were greeted by a sea of bluebells!

What a lovely surprise!

They looked really closely to produce some outstanding observational drawings!



Prep Bicycle Repair Club

In this club pupils will learn the basics of bike repair and maintenance, from proper cleaning to changing a chain and indexing the gears. By the end of term everyone will know the difference between a rear derailleur and a down tube.



Hidden Treasures

For their last Beach School of the term, Year 1 combed the beach for 'treasures' and presented their findings to the rest of the class. The highlight of the afternoon was the sand castle building competition!





Yellow Day at the Prep School raised £188 for St. Michael's Hospice!

Year 3 Science

The children are currently studying rocks and soils as their Science topic. Today Milo D showed how igneous rocks were created by erupting a volcano. The group then went on to show their understanding of how sedimentary rocks are formed and how they can contain fossils. This was concluded by making their own fossils.



Battle Abbey School Silent Auction 2018

FOBAS will once again be holding a Silent Auction at this year's Summer Ball on 30th June. In addition to the opportunity of winning some stunning artworks created by former pupils, we would like to offer a variety of other auction items, and would be very grateful for any donations from our parents or associated businesses.

The Summer Ball is FOBAS's biggest fundraising event of the year, with all profits being used to fund 'wish list' projects put forward by Battle Abbey staff. Over the last academic year, FOBAS has helped the Engineering Club become a reality, and funded items for the Drama Department, the PE Department, the MFL Department, and the Boarding Houses, to name but a few!

Please help us make this year's Silent Auction the best yet, and email us on: fobas@battleabbeyschool.com with details of any donations or to discuss ideas.

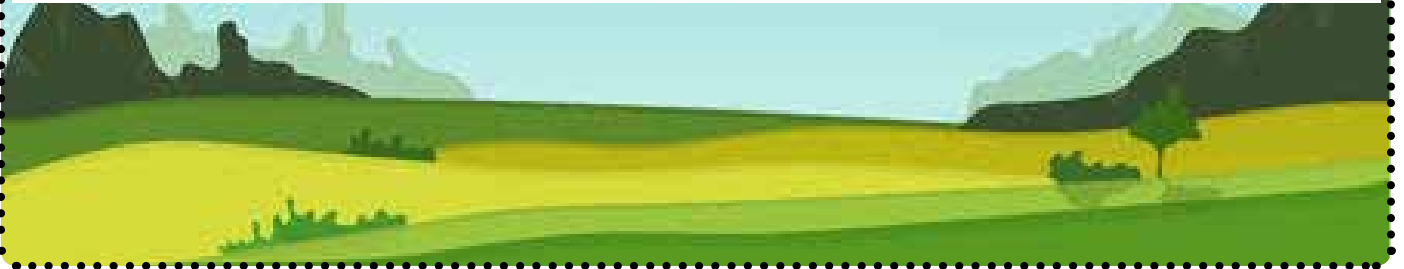
Thank you for your ongoing support!

The FOBAS Team

Summer Half Term holiday club at the Prep School, including Forest Folk led activities!

Tuesday 29th May - Friday 1st June Years 1 - 6, all welcome!

Contact the Prep School office for more details! prep@battleabbeyschool.com 01424 219674



Nursery Build Update



Walls Go Up!

With Foundations down and wall layout now visible it is possible to walk through the 'rooms' of our new home of Early Years - as long as you have your Hard Hat on of course!

With the Foundations fixed and in place and the rooms mapped out it's amazing to see the much analysed architectural drawings coming to life in 3-D in our 'back yard'!

This last week the walls have started to go up which has given a real indication of the eventual height of the building and also highlights the attention to detail and care our builders are exhibiting in making the design a reality.

Our fixed build camera has been documenting the build hour by hour for the last month and a flick through the pictures shows just how far our construction team have come in a relatively short space of time. At some point soon we will have to move the build camera inside to document the development of the internal space.

Watch this space for regular updates on this exciting new project.



Featured Artist of the week: Ruby Freeman

Congratulations to Ruby Freeman in Year 13 who has gained a place to study on the Fine Art Foundation course at Central St. Martins for September. Ruby is currently taking A levels in Fine Art, Photography and Psychology at the Abbey and her work in Psychology influences her art heavily.

Mrs Stewart, Head of Art at Battle Abbey, said, "Ruby uses her art to express her viewpoints on a range of topics in a very thought provoking way. Her current Fine Art exam piece is based on the theme of 'Mother'. Ruby has challenged the traditional perceptions of the role of a Mother with a very modern take on the role of mother and what motherhood means in the 21st Century.

It is increasingly hard to get into Central St. Martins which has a global reputation in the arts. It is effectively the Oxford or Cambridge of Art education and places on its Fine Art course are highly coveted. Competition for places is fierce and makes Ruby's deserved achievement all the more notable."



An invitation to a dinner party in ancient Rome by William Ashenden and Nicky Bishop

'The first strange thing a time-traveller from today would notice about a Roman convivium (dinner party) is that everyone is lying down! Roman diners recline on couches around the table. In fact, the Roman name for a dining room is triclinium, which simply means "three couches". The fourth side of the table doesn't have a couch, so that slaves can bring and serve food from that side. Each of the couches holds up to three reclining diners, leaning on their left elbows with their head pointing at the table. The couch is made of criss-crossed leather straps supported on a wooden frame, with a wooden arm rest at one end. It looks so uncomfortable, but I suppose the Romans are used to it! The walls of the triclinium are decorated with murals, usually with food motifs.

A Triclinium



Mural from the House of Julia in Pompeii



An astonishing variety of food is served. Popular gustatii (starters) include salads, eggs, oysters, sardines, lentils and goats cheese. The prima mensa (main course) might be fish or meat. The Romans eat lot of game and an exotic variety of birds, including crane, ostrich and – for the very rich – peacock. They also enjoy larks tongues, dolphin, pig's udders, and dormice stuffed with pork and spices – yeuch! A lot of dishes use an intense fish sauce called liquamen, which is very similar to nam pla sauce used in Thai cooking. Dessert is usually fruit, nuts and cakes sweetened with honey (the Romans don't yet know about sugar). Diners drink wine mixed with water, which allows them to drink a lot without getting drunk. Their table manners are appalling: the diners just toss the bones and shells onto the floor! Another strange thing is that the host does not provide any napkins: guests have to bring their own! It is quite normal for guests to use their napkins to take away left-overs from the meal.

After the food, the drinking continues, while the diners play gambling games or there might be singer, actors or musicians to entertain them. If the main purpose of the dinner party is to gain influence in either business or politics, then this is the time for serious discussion with perhaps just some quiet background music.

Some dinner parties go on for many hours, and some of the richest Romans host a dinner party every night. This is because upper-class Romans (known as patricians) love going to dinner parties, and not just for a free meal. They like socialising and meeting new people, and hearing the news brought by travelling strangers (yes, Romans often invite complete strangers to dinner!). And they love the opportunity to bend the ear of an influential politician or schmooze with someone who could help their business. But going to dinner parties is something only upper-class Romans can do. Ordinary Romans – who may not have any means of cooking for themselves in their cramped apartments – used to eat dinner in a thermopolum, which sold warm wine and a 'dish of the day' – the Roman equivalent of fast-food. Which would you choose?

Cena Trimalchionis

The most famous Roman dinner party party – described in splendid detail by Petronius in his book Satyricon –was hosted by Trimalchio, a former slave who had become very wealthy. But although he had lots of money he had no class, and he entertained his guests with grotesque extravagance.

Trimalchio served 180-year old wine, which was wildly expensive but undrinkable. The first starter was served off the back of a camel, and a later course was served from a life-size solid-silver skeleton. Two slaves carrying jugs came in having a violent quarrel; the jugs got broken in the fight and out poured oysters and scallops for the next course. A course of "eggs" arrived under a live hen, then the "eggs" – which turned out to be made of pastry – "hatched" and were found to contain whole baby chickens. Another course contained twelve different foods sculpted to look like the signs of the zodiac.

The main course of wild boar was brought in by a "hunter" with a pack of hunting dogs; the boar was surrounded by "piglets" which turn out to be made of cake. The hunter carved the meat in time with the music of the orchestra which had been playing throughout the meal, and a flock of real thrushes flew out from its belly! There were quinces that looked like sea urchins and a goose which turned out to be made from lard, while one of the "desserts" was made out of pork. Trimalchio's guests finally escaped at dawn!

Hijacked Maths lesson

On the last day of the Easter term Miss Harris' Year 7 maths lesson was hijacked by three Year 8 students- David Jempson, Emily Day and Michael Kouvarakis. As part of their personal development programme they led an activity for the Year 7 class that involved solving clues to figure out a crime committed by one of the maths teachers!

The Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and practiced loads of maths whilst having fun!



Some Sixth Formers enjoy the sun at Martlet House.



School Counsellor

The services of a qualified counsellor are available for students to use, which will further complement the level of support and range of people students can turn to for help if and when required.

Although we have a team of welfare staff available, we also appreciate that students sometimes need to speak to someone who is detached from the school or with relevant expertise to help them through the complexities of what they are facing.

Therefore, Sandra Kempson has gladly made her services available to the school and will be available at least once a week if any student would like to book an appointment. The cost is £35 per 50 minute session, which will be disbursed to parents.

If you feel this would be beneficial to your child during the year, then please email me at bucklandc@battleabbeyschool.com and I will arrange an appointment and inform students of the time/place.

Mrs Buckland
Head of Welfare

Who is Sandra Kempson?

I am a BACP Registered Counsellor and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) Practitioner working with both Adults and Young People.

Currently my work includes short term counselling within the NHS IAPT service and long term counselling within charitable agencies. I also worked for the Charity Victim Support, providing emotional support for both adults and young people. More recently I trained as an EFP Practitioner. Horses can be powerful teachers and offer a more experiential engagement with the process of counselling. My range of experience includes working with depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, bullying, self harm, exclusion, bereavement, mental and physical abuse, communication and relationship difficulties.

Qualifications and Training.
WPF Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling
Certificate in CBT Skills
LEAP Certified Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy Practitioner (BACP Endorsed).

HALO Apple Tree in Flower!





Performing Arts Dinner 2018



Textile of the week

Picture of Jiaqi Bian's (Year 13) work in progress for her Textiles A Level final exam. Beautiful detailed free motion embroidery on different materials using a sewing machine. Jiaqi's theme is 'Freedom and/or limitation'. She is planning to complete an Alexander McQueen/Jean Paul Gaultier inspired wearable piece.

Summer uniform shop opening times

Contact: Nicola Pharoah/Vicky

Mobile: 07982 714705

E-Mail: bas@simmonds-ltd.com

July

Thursday 19th July 12.00 - 3.00
appointments only

August

Wednesday 1st Aug 11.00 - 3.00
appointments only

Friday 3rd August 11.00 - 3.00 BA General

Wednesday 8th Aug 11.00 - 2.00 BA General

Friday 10th August 11.00 - 2.00 BA General

Tuesday 21st August 1.00 - 5.00 BA General

Thursday 23rd August 1.00 - 4.00 BA General

Tuesday 28 August 1.00 - 4.00 BA General

Thursday 30th August 9.00 - 1.00 BA General

September

Monday 3rd September 9.00 - 1.00 BA New
boarders

Monday 3rd September 1.00 - 4.00 BA Existing
boarders

Wednesday 5th September 8.00 - 10.00 BA (DAY
PUPILS RETURN)



The Cuddle Bunnies are coming!
12th of June

Staff vs Pupils Football | Final Score: 5-1 Pupils

'Thank you all very much for taking part in our staff vs pupils football, Thanks again'. Daniel



Student Achievement

George's Riding Success

Battle Abbey School Rider George Sternberg Allen is following in his parents' footsteps in the Equestrian Discipline of Reining.

Competing over the Easter break at one of this year's premier events, The European Reining Futurity Show in Cremona, Italy, George won not only the Youth 14yrs to 18yr class but also both Rookie classes (against many riders in the adult division). George now has his sights set on the NRHA European Championships in Krueth, Germany in July and a team GBR place to compete at the FEI Junior European Championships in Lyon, France in October.



Successful results at the NSEA

Congratulations to Jemimah for her results at the Regional League NSEA at Duckhurst this week. Jemimah and her horse The Summit jumped clear all day taking 1st 1m, 1st 90cm and 3rd 80cm. They represent Sussex and Battle Abbey at the NSEA County Championships at Bury Farm Bucks on 22nd April in the 90cm class.



Psychology Rorschach Tests



Battle Abbey School Big Picnic

Saturday June 9th
14:00 - 18:30 @ the Abbey



ARABIAN NIGHTS

SATURDAY
30TH JUNE
7.00 PM

CARRIAGES AT MIDNIGHT



BLACK TIE & EVENING DRESS
ENTERTAINMENT

SUMMER BALL

TICKETS £55 ADULT • £35 STUDENTS & STAFF, bookable at joycej@battleabbeyschool.com