



Battle Abbey School

Newsletter: 12th December 2017

Welcome

Dear Parents

Christmas events have filled the Prep School over the last week and it has been lovely to welcome so many family, friends and Governors to join with us in these occasions.

The Key Stage 1 production of Christmas with the Aliens charmed the audiences. All the children performed with great enthusiasm and were well rehearsed. It was lovely for Nursery children to join in the performances as Aliens too. They sang, danced and really enjoyed their moments on the stage. We definitely have some amazing talent at the Prep School.

The Key Stage 2 pantomime of "Christmas is Forever" was a great success! Every child from Years 3-6 was involved and gave of their very best; their friends and families were certainly not disappointed. The Year 5 and 6 children got into character and performed with great talent and energy. The singing was strong and the jokes were suitably humorous. The audiences commented on how much the children truly enjoyed themselves on stage. It was a great triumph!

Our Christmas Raffle Event on Wednesday and Thursday were also a great success – thank you so much to all the parents who helped set up, bake, make hampers and clear up – we couldn't do it without you.

At the end of this term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas from everyone at the Prep School.

Best regards

Maria Maslin



Dear Parents

Since I last wrote to you, it seems as though we have put in something of a 'sprint finish' to get us across the line at the end of this busy, energetic and highly successful term. Needless to say, we have also finished in some style and no other school celebrates Christmas quite like we do. The festive celebrations started with a very atmospheric Evensong in the Ruins, swiftly followed by another memorable evening of Carols Round the Fire and have ended with the notorious Abbey Christmas lunch of wonderful food, engaging entertainment and the infamous 'paper fight' which culminates in a furious staff vs students free for all. The decorations in the Abbot's Hall have been more spectacular than ever, the festive displays in the Martlet House window have captured the attention and the senior students hosted a particularly enjoyable 6th form Christmas dinner and disco. Not to be outdone, Mr Mercer organised a fun-filled get together with all Year 11 students to take their minds off their impending exams and Mrs Ingall and her team staged a brilliant Year 9 social which proved another good opportunity to bond the year group more closely together.

Amid the frivolities, I am proud to say that our community has been particularly proactive in supporting those less fortunate. The collections for both the Shoebox Appeal and for the local Foodbank were very well supported and I am grateful to the students, staff and parents who contributed so generously to these very worthy causes.

Academic pursuits have continued unabated and we have ensured 'business as usual' until these final two days. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are readying themselves for mocks and the 'Oxbridge 5' had fascinating experiences in Oxford last week and we will know the outcome of their interviews early in the new year. The last few EPQ presentations were made a few days ago and, because the standard was so high, we have decided to hold a finalists evening in January to hear from the leading candidates.

Other than those students preparing for public examinations, I very much hope that everyone enjoys a restful Christmas break so that they can return with batteries re-charged and raring to go. In the meantime, I would like to wish all the best to the French exchange students heading to Arras and also to the singers who are returning to the Abbey next week for the BAY choir course.

Finally, I was so pleased that many of you joined us for our Carol Service at St. Mary's yesterday and, on behalf of the staff and governors at Battle Abbey School, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes

David Clark

Nursery News

We have very quickly approached the end of term which has been full of festivities, fun and plenty of glitter! The Oaks were the best little aliens in Bexhill during their KS1 performances singing '5 little men in a flying saucer' on stage to a hall full of people.

It was lovely to see so many families attend our Nursery Christmas Concert followed by our stay and play session at Nursery today. We had an array of festive activities including cinnamon sparkly play dough and Christmas crown making with refreshments, mince pies and cookies. The staff and children have worked hard to put together a little Christmas show and we thank you all for coming and showing your support. We even had a surprise visit from a very special guest....Santa!!!

This year, as a whole school we decided to take part in a 'reverse advent calendar' which involved giving rather than taking each day. We have been discussing with the children those less fortunate than ourselves and the ways in which we can help. We had an AMAZING response and the donations came flooding in. The food parcels were delivered to Dom's Food Mission, a very worthy charity based in Hastings that helps the homeless. Dominic Warren (The charity's founder) was extremely grateful and also sends his personal appreciation....So well done!!!!

The Acorns would like to say a huge thank you to Savannah's parents who very kindly made a beautiful gingerbread house for everyone to share at Nursery.

As you are now aware, Mrs Richardson will not be returning in January and today will be her last day at Battle Abbey Nursery after 12 years. We would like to say a very fond farewell, but not goodbye as she has very kindly agreed to stay on as bank staff so we will be seeing her around from time to time.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Holiday Club (50 weeks) is running Wednesday 13th December - Wednesday 20th December
Nursery resumes Thursday 4th January.
Little Squirrels resumes Monday 8th January.



Prep School News

Christmas Dinner

On Tuesday 5th December our Prep School had a fabulous Christmas lunch and staff were treated to some lovely singing by the children.



Santa Canter!

Congratulations to Anna and George who ran 2Km in the Bexhill Lions Santa Dash on Sunday.



The Prep arrive for the Carol Service

Carols from the Choir

On Friday 1st December we were thrilled that our Prep choir had been invited to join in the festivities at the Shining Lights switch on in Bexhill. We proudly watched as they performed beautifully for the crowds.

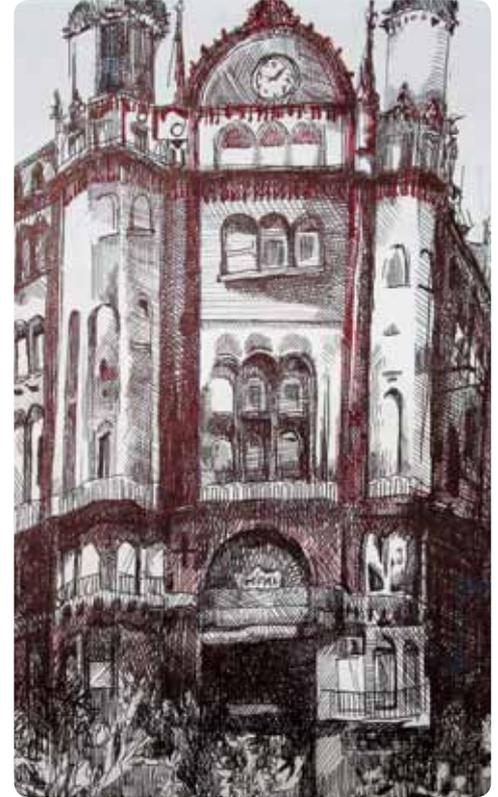


KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY



KEY STAGE 2 CHRISTMAS





Artwork of the week

April Yang (Year 12). Acrylic paint. A-Level coursework. Theme of 'Environment'.



Sussex Swim Medalists!



Blitz Chess! Mr Mal takes on our HALO pupils.



Musical Magic!

'Saturday evening was the night of my business event: The Sound of Musicals. The night was very successful being delivered by nine local performers all performing numbers from the musicals at Battle Memorial Hall.

All proceeds are being donated to St Michael's Hospice and so far we have raised £511.58. Thanks to all those who helped me stage this!

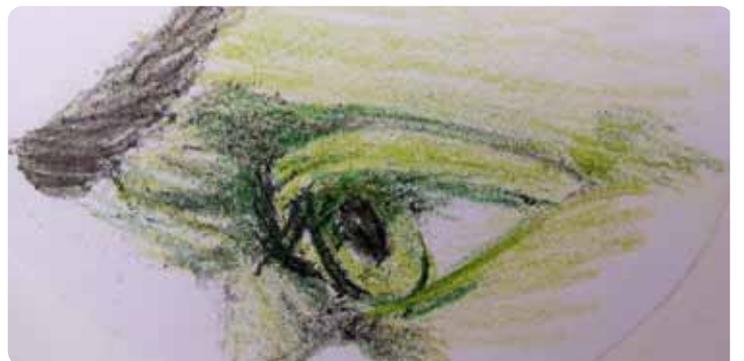
Vicky Izzard (Year 12)

Photo credit: Oliver Whitehead (@ow_photo)



KS3 Art Works of the Week

Colour eye drawings by Year 9 students: Sam Noble-Grant, Ruby Chisholm-Beyer and Hermione White. Sam, in particular, has made major improvements in his effort and achievement in Art over the last year.



BARNDANCE



Save the Date!!

The popular FOBAS Barn Dance at the Abbey is back:

**Saturday 27th
January 2017**

Fun for all the family!!



Careers Network Lunch: David Caffrey

The last Careers Network Lunch of the calendar year saw leading Irish Film and TV Director David Caffrey (Peaky Blinders, Monarch of the Glen, Lucky Man, Prime Suspect) attend the Abbey to talk to pupils about his life and career.

David took pupils on his career trajectory from his Lloyds Bank Channel 4 Film Challenge win in 1996 to his recent TV drama work for Sky and the BBC. He encouraged the pupils to start making short films and make use of the fantastic stage set they attend school in everyday!



EPQ Evening

Six Year 13 Students will Present their Projects

Weds 24th January 2018: History Room: 1700-1830

- **Harry Gasson:** Architecture: Submitting a retrospective planning application
- **Isabelle Skeet:** Should a football club be run to make a profit like any other business?
- **Rebecca Campbell:** Literature: Does Desdemona bruise?
- **Ella Dunham:** Why did Britain leave the EU?
- **Sophia Rispoli:** Was 9/11 the most significant economic event in the US economy?
- **Katie Melville:** How reflective of true events was the Literature written on the Vietnam War?

Guest Judge: Dr. Béatrice Harding: EPQ Coordinator at Benenden School



Advertise in our Business Directory!

Jemma Joyce our Development Officer has recently set up a Business Directory on the Battle Abbey School Community website: <https://battleabbey.alumni-online.com/>

The Battle Abbey Business Directory is an opportunity for our alumni, parents (current & past), staff and friends of the School to advertise their business to the Community. We also hope the Battle Abbey School Community will use this as a starting point when requiring a service or looking for a particular provider.

If you would like to advertise your business in the online Directory (free of charge) please contact Jemma by email: joycej@battleabbey.school.com or telephone: 01424 772385



Christmas Shoebox Appeal



For many people Christmas is a time of great joy and happiness. A time filled with family, friends, food and presents. However many people are not as fortunate.

Year 11 students decided to give a little bit of time and effort to this worthy cause and for the past month, the Year 11 students have been organising and running the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This began with two groups of students running whole school assemblies for both the Senior and Prep schools. Then over the next three weeks, they expertly coordinated the collection of shoeboxes/ gifts, the wrapping/packing and the shipping of the boxes.

In total a whopping 106 Christmas shoeboxes were collected from the joint efforts of both the Senior and Prep school students. These boxes will be shipped around the world and distributed to disadvantaged children who otherwise on Christmas day, would have absolutely nothing.

The leadership shown by the Year 11 students was incredible. On top of this the kindness and compassion they showed was truly admirable and they proved themselves excellent role models to the younger students in the school.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. From people who brought in a shoebox, gifts, sweets, toys, wrapping paper, helping to coordinate and everything else. Because of your efforts, 106 children this year will have their Christmas transformed. Thank you - Year 11 Students.

Latin: Health Care in Ancient Rome – Part I

Choose Your Doctor Carefully!



Many Roman doctors, such as Galen, were Greeks who had been captured as slaves and later freed. The best doctors had trained in Alexandria in Egypt which was the top medical school of the time. Galen understood human anatomy, was scientific in his approach and he established Medical Laws similar to those doctors abide by today.

Most doctors however were woefully under-qualified, with as little as 6 months of training. Martial complained that "some doctors attempt to deal with and treat diseases they obviously do not understand." Their treatments were at best ineffective and sometimes harmful. Martial joked "I didn't have a fever, Symmachus, when I called you, but I do now!" Pliny suggested that doctors experimented irresponsibly at the cost of their patients' lives and complained about "quarrelsome consultations at the bedside" between doctors with different opinions. Some burial stones bore the inscription "a gang of doctors killed me."

Doctors could get rich, earning up to 250,000 sesterces per annum, an enormous amount compared to the annual salary of around 100,000 sesterces a year paid to a legionary in the Roman army. But according to Martial many doctors charged "excessive prices for the most worthless medicines." Worse still, bad doctors were not struck off; and Martial joked that they simply changed careers and became undertakers, "doing much the same work as before!"

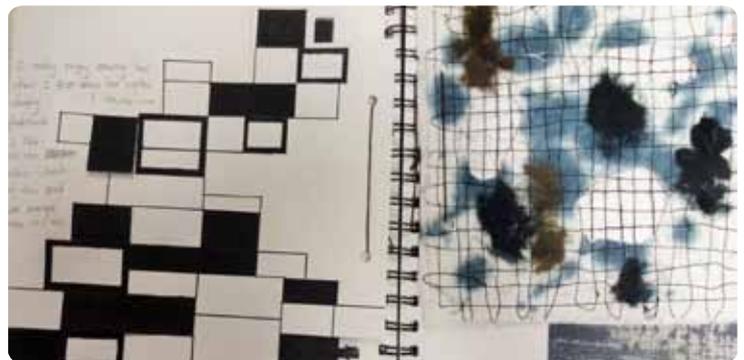
The effectiveness of a doctor could be judged by the size of crowd he attracted. Patients would return to, and recommend a doctor, who had helped them and Pliny reports that doctors such as Thessalus were almost celebrities, mobbed by "as big a crowd as an actor or a charioteer." So it seems that in Ancient Rome a long queue for a doctor was considered a good thing, whereas the NHS nowadays has targets to reduce long waiting lists.



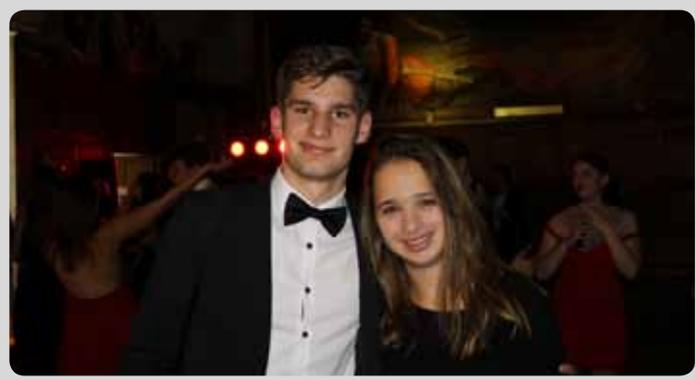
Textile of the week

Textile of the week shows images from the sketchbook of Orlanthe Tu in Year 12.

She is a new student to Textiles and has learned so much in recent weeks. She has developed an exemplary approach to her sketchbook work which shows a real sense of experimentation.



SIXTH FORM DINNER





Martlet House Christmas Window

Picture here and front cover by Natalie Jiang (Year 12). The Year 8 Art group designed, coloured and produced the snowflakes that appear around the paintings.



Battle Abbey School's Year 13 EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) Team.

Investors Making it Big

Student Investor Challenge 2017/18: Battle Abbey School's team 'Basket of Deplorables' are currently 11th out of 4,689 schools in the country (currently beating teams from Eton and Harrow!)

Combined League Table: Teams 1 to 25 of 46

These are the league tables for Student Investor as a whole, based on a combined performance in both the and the Strategic Investor game.

Switch to: **Active Investor League Table** Strategic Investor League Table

Rank	Team	School
1	Ryan's Mandemfund	Springfield School
2	Stalton Cakharwit	Hempton School
3	PTSE 1718	St Bude's School
4	Terry2	Ingal Oylan Cenn Bilgisi
5	DREAM010	St James Senior Prep School
6	Warning Mode_ON	Wilson's School
7	A Place in The Sun	Home Park Academy
8	Team Tom	Barnet and Redden Hall Grammar School
9	 Seashio	Wynter Abbey International School of Chengde
10	 Amartya Zen	St Mary's School
11	Basket of Deplorables	Battle Abbey School

Science News

Our science department have had access to Pearson's on-line homework resources for the past few years and are planning to launch it again over Christmas.

In addition, Dr Demoncheaux has been working with Stephen Wilks (CEO of Seneca Learning, an old student of mine who graduated from Oxford a few years ago) and his team and created some great resources our students will be given full access to. The key is to strike the right balance between anxiety and comprehension to keep the 'learning flow channel' open until the exams.

<https://senecalearning.com/>

Using cognitive psychology and gamification boost retention and learning. The Science Department is promoting active learning by giving free access to all KS4 students to Pearson's active learn www.pearsonactivelearn.com.

All students can logon using their username and password. Assignments will help Year 11 prepare for their mock exams in January.

De-stress!!

With the pressure of exams and mocks...comes stress. There will be a Year 13 de-stress opportunity featuring Play-doh and colouring pencils. Time to relax and make some fun shapes. All Year 13 welcome, pop in! Wednesday 10th January from 11-11.30am in Geozone!

Sport News

Hockey

An absolutely amazing last game of the season - which BAS dominated throughout. However, horror struck when we went one down with a goal very much against the run of play from Bethany.

Fantastic play from the whole team earned them an equalizer through Erzi Jacobs soon after. Then, continued pressure from the entire team kept Bethany in their own half. Hannah McAlister hit the target with the winning goal in the last minute of the game. We are very proud of this team who have played better and better each week and they are evolving into a lovely team to watch and coach! **Mrs Wilson**

GOTM: Harriet Wheatley



William wins Kent Under 16 Fencing County Title

On Sunday 19th November William went to Tonbridge School to compete in the Kent County Under 16 Championships.

It was a tough competition as the early rounds (poules) were fought against both the Under 16 and Under 18 competitors. William lost his first fight but quickly rallied and won the rest of his fights, ending up in second place at the end of the poules. He managed to maintain his second place in the Direct Elimination round (DEs) by winning all of his fights in this stage and eventually faced the number one player in the final. This was a tense match and William got off to a good start, leading by 8 points to 5 at the halfway point. He managed to maintain this lead, eventually winning the final by 15 points to 13 to claim the title of Kent Under 16 County Champion.

Although William lives and goes to school in East Sussex, he qualified to enter the competition as he fences for a Kent club, MX Fencing near Maidstone.

Well done William!



SKI TRIP 2018



Les Menuires

6th - 14th April

There are still a few places left if anyone is interested

E-mail Mr Chapman for more information on chapmane@battleabbeysschool.com

Street Surfing

Year 7 and 8 enjoying a street surfing lesson given by Brighton University student Miss Venn.



District Schools' Cross Country

Over 220 athletes participated in the District Schools' Cross Country which was hosted by Battle Abbey School.

Year 13 student Josiah Pawson helped with the organisation as part of his Business Studies Coursework and ran miles setting up the well marked course. Sixth Formers and our Year 10 District Schools Sports Ambassadors helped as Marshalls. The BAS runners had the home advantage having trained on the course and this was put to good use by District Champions Charlie Levett and Carlos Nieto-Parr and Bronze Medallist Amalie Primdal.

Harriet Wheatley, Duncan McPherson Stewart and Mack Gottlier also ran well. The overall results ranked the BAS boys Cross Country team 4th.



Netball PGL

The BAS Netball girls travelled to PGL for an action packed weekend of activities, coupled in with an England Netball tournament. The ten girls pulled together as a team having not played together before, but all enthusiastic netballers. With an even mix of U15 & U16 players the Girls had to play in the U16 category making competition tough. However the girls went on to win 2 out of 3 games on day one, but the competition against the eventual finalists on day two was much tougher!

Lots of Netball combined with some PGL fun on the zip lines, tunnels & giant swing equated to a very worn out tour team on Sunday afternoon.

A great weekend had by all and the team really pulled together in their matches. They were exemplary and I was very proud of their efforts.

Mrs Brampton

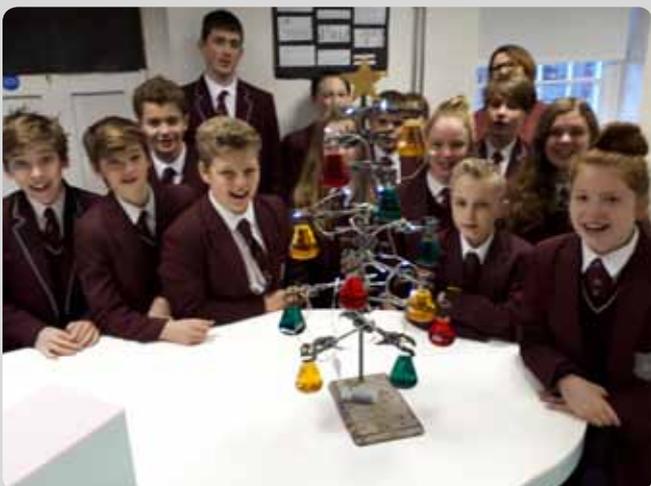


The Molecular Shape of You

Memorising shapes of molecules : Planar, trigonal planar, tetrahedral, trigonal pyramidal, octahedral ... while dancing.



8MSA's Chemist Tree ... Ho ho ho !



Action on Stage!

Congratulations to Ché (Year 8) and Corbyn (Year 9) who performed in the Pulse Pantomime Group charity fundraising production of Alice in Wonderland. They were the Cheshire Cat and the Queen of Hearts.



Textile Pieces - Batik

Some wonderful Batik pieces by some of the Year 10 textile group, whose work here includes Sacha Highland, Jack Rumsey, Sophie Elion, Hannah Gardiner, Sophie Fowler, Lillie Rigby-Faux, Emily Carey and Imogen Birkett.





Medi-Redi Training courses. Medi-Redi supports Sixth Form pupils in applying to Medical School and is running courses designed for pupils in Year 12 who are thinking of being medical doctors. Held at Brighton College (17-18 of March) and at Tonbridge School (24-25 of March), 8.30am – 6.00pm, the courses will be two days packed with information and interactive sessions on admissions tests, interviews, life as a doctor and a basic life support and resuscitation first aid training course. Cost £285. For details and booking see: www.medi-redi.org

SCAD Summer Courses. The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) runs a number of summer programmes at its campuses in Atlanta, Savannah and Hong Kong. These are design workshops from a host of disciplines including animation, architecture, fashion, jewellery, photography and others. They are taught by SCAD professors and the classes are deliberately small. For more information see: www.scad.edu/sss.



The Debate Chamber Summer Schools 2018. These offer students aged 11-18 the opportunity to find out more about subjects including Physics, Economics and History of Art, prepare for university applications, meet like-minded peers and get to grips with some tough intellectual challenges. Held at University of London venues, these non-residential courses take place in July and August 2018. Details of schedules, dates, costs, student reviews and tutors can be found at www.debatechamber.com/summerschools/.

Interested in STEM or Engineering? Headstart courses are 4 or 5-day residential courses at a leading UK university for Year 12 students. There is a wide range of courses including; Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Oceanography and Marine Biology, Nuclear Physics, Life Science and Broad-Based Engineering. The courses will give you an insight into university life and the chance to develop essential skills like problem-solving and team work, all whilst developing your knowledge of a subject. More information about the different courses that are running next summer can be found here: www.etrust.org.uk/headstart/courses



Battle Abbey School Photography Competition

Theme of 'The School and School Life'
Judged by Mrs Stewart, Dr Green and Mr Dennett.

The overall winner will receive a brand new Sony Cybershot 20 mega pixel Digital Camera with the top three selected pictures featured in the School Magazine and beyond.

All digital photograph submissions (highest dpi settings please) to info@battleabbey.school or hard copies by hand to Bursary office by Monday 19th February.

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS
KS3 - KS5

Good luck!



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