



ISSUE 3 · JULY 2024

BATTLE ABBEY SCHOOL



Battle Abbey School Summer Term (second half) Newsletter

After the completion of our annual voting process we are delighted to announce our School Guardians for 2024/2025 (from left to right) Sergey G, Elizabeth D, Ciaran D and Charlie M. We are suitably excited about what these dynamic and outstanding young people will contribute to life at Battle Abbey School next academic year.





Belonging: To Be Part of a Community

The second half of the summer term has seen a multitude of events that foster a sense of belonging – such as our Sports Days, the Senior School Shakespeare production, our Prep School Shrek production, the Summer Concert, our Leavers celebrations along with numerous trips and activities including the Year 9 visit to Ypres and the Year 8 visit to France.

We also have had other opportunities for community to come together with our alumni through the Battle Abbey Friends and Parents Association Golf Day, the opening of Maria's Garden at the Prep and Speech Day. Special moments for our past and present students and staff to reminisce together whilst also inspiring further opportunities for our current cohorts to benefit.

Aspiration: To Dream Big and Aim High

At Battle Abbey School we inspire our students to dream big and set ambitious goals for themselves. We encourage them to explore their passions, discover their strengths, and unlock their full potential. This half-term's focus on achievement has continued with the rest of our year groups joining year 11 and 13 to take end of year examinations – an opportunity to demonstrate all their learning and efforts this year.

We have also had the opportunity to acknowledge the successful realisation of the ambitions of many of our students including our Sustainability focused Prep and Senior school students – with the Eco Schools Green Flag Award and the Woodland Trust Award – and our IAPS girls swim squad who brought home Silver.

I encourage you also to read this year's compilation of our student articles in the Gateway. This publication allows students to research and write beyond the curriculum, exploring new ideas to share with our community.

Service: To Put Others Before Self

Through various service-learning initiatives and community partnerships, we teach our students the importance of giving back, valuing others, and becoming active contributors to society.

The end of the academic year is traditionally the time when we thank our staff for their service this year and we show our appreciation to those staff who are moving onto pastures new. This year we thank:
-Amey Hartnett, who joined us last September to teach Business and Economics at the Senior School, and we wish her all the best with completing her teaching training qualifications. Amey hopes to resume her teaching career in her home, Ireland.



-Oliver Rose, who has taught English and Drama at the Senior School for the last two years, and we wish him all the best with his English teaching role at The Judd School in Tonbridge.

-Mark Tunningley, who has been our Maintenance Manager and worked with us for the last 8 years, and we wish him all the best with his full-time role at Battle Fire Station.

-Paul Bishop, who has worked as a Biology teacher here for the last 10 years, and we wish him well with his retirement and look forward to him still supporting the Senior School with some cover teaching.

I have been so impressed with the loyalty and length of service of so many staff and it is right to share that we have officially recognised and thanked Sarah Broad for her 25 years of service to the School. Sarah works as a Prep teacher teaching many subjects and for the last two years has been a Year 6 form tutor, which enabled us to present her with a token of our appreciation at the leavers assembly this year.

I hope you enjoy this half-term's newsletter and that you have a wonderful Summer break.

[Prep School News Quick Link](#)



Six metre straws!

Student Ed Wescott said “Today in the practical, we were making artificial xylem which are found within plants using straws. We had a water source (a jug of water) and a selection of straws which we had to place together forming a long xylem structure. We had to make sure that there were no possible air pockets at the joining sections of the straws, otherwise this would prevent water from travelling up the straw due to a lack of pressure. Water has a property known as cohesion where the water molecules are attracted to each other by Hydrogen bonds allowing a continuous flow of water up the xylem vessel, which is demonstrated through transpiration (the evaporation of water from a plant). To simulate the effect of transpiration, we sucked on the straws to draw water up our model xylem.

We learnt from the experience that the system of the xylem is more complex than originally thought, especially as the water is going against the force of gravity up to over 100 meters in giant red wood trees!”





Blue skies for weather station visit

Year 10 Geographers visited the Hastings Weather station, where local volunteer meteorologists showed and explained the weather instruments inside the Stevenson screen, the rain gauge and the Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder. This was the final trip for Year 10 Geographers with this particular cohort having visited Iceland and investigated the velocity and discharge of a local river among other trips this year.



Classical Civilisation pupils visit Mummy

On Friday 21st June Miss Bishop took her GCSE and A Level Classical Civilisation classes to the British Museum which brought to life what they have been learning in lessons. The GCSE group went to the Roman Legion exhibition, tried on legionary helmets, chuckled at socks with sandals, checked



whether they were tall enough to join the legion (Henry and Grace are!) and marvelled at skeletons. The A level group were astonished by the highly decorated vases, the delicate jewellery, and by the quality of Persian treasures (yet the Greeks dismissed the Persians as barbarians!). Everybody was blown away by the intricate marble carvings of Amazons fighting Greeks on the Bassae Frieze and - highlight of the day for some - Cleopatra's mummy.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Some beautiful Year 8 interpretations of John Piper's work based on Dungeness Lighthouse. Students were given a selection of media and asked to interpret the original mixed media work by Piper as part of their architecture Fine Art and Textiles project.





Knole visit

On Thursday 6th June, Mr Neve, Mr Trimby, Mrs Ingall and Miss Wood took the year 8 students to Knole Park in Sevenoaks. The trip was to support the students in their learning about life in Tudor and Stuart times.

The students handled a range of objects from the Tudor and Stuart times, having to guess what the purpose of the objects were and who would have used them in their everyday lives. They were then given a special guided tour around the main house at Knole, viewing artwork, spotting witch marks and learning about the history of the building and its owners. After a lovely sunny lunch in the main quadrangle of the house, they then learnt about Tudor clothing and had the opportunity to dress up as a person from Tudor times!

The day ended with a guided tour around the parkland where they experienced the flora and fauna of the park. They also got to see dozens of the parks famous fallow deer population, up close! A great day. The National Trust staff were full of praise for the students conduct and enthusiasm during the day and are looking forward to the trip taking place again next year.





Eco Award winners!

Congratulations Eco Club who have secured the school a Distinction from the National Eco-schools team.

The Eco Schools Team said; 'We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at Battle Abbey School have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. We reviewed your application and it is evident that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and are passionate about protecting our planet. They recognise the positive changes that your school has already made and gain an appreciation of the future impact that they can create. The projects in your Action Plan were based on children's ideas and the areas they are most passionate about. This approach places them at the heart of your Eco-Schools work. (The School) clearly demonstrated that staff members are willing to go above and beyond to include these important issues in pupil's learning. It's clearly something that pupils will be proud of and leaves a great legacy to build upon! We have no hesitation in awarding you an Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction, congratulations!' Watch this space for more news on our eco projects!



History in the Making

Thirty Year 5 pupils attended the Abbey earlier this month to take part in three masterclasses; Science, Sport and History. Great fun all round! Here are some pictures from the Historical section of the day where BAS History teacher, Mr Trimby, brought some of his friends on site to showcase some handicrafts '1066 style'. The pupils also had the opportunity to try some Norman and Saxon armaments on and saw some of the reenactors demonstrate some medieval/middle ages fighting techniques.





Sports Day 2024

Some pictures from our Sports Day where the weather held and our eventual winners were St. Patrick's! Go St Pat's! Pictures courtesy of our talented Sixth Formers Ed W and Erin MO (More on our website!)





Wellness Walks

Exercising outdoors in nature has been shown to improve physical, mental and emotional wellness. Exposure to sunlight boosts vitamin D levels and, when combined with being active, there are proven benefits for your cardiovascular function, immune system and bone health. Exercise also promotes the release of feel-good endorphins and walking and talking in natural green spaces reduces stress and improves mood.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such beautiful surroundings around us to walk in and I feel very privileged to be able to take some of our students out walking during PE.

Walking on the beach down in Bexhill has provided us with the combination of fresh air, sunshine (sometimes), and the calming sound of the waves that have a positive impact on both our physical and mental health. From improving cardiovascular health to reducing stress levels, walking on the beach is an easy and enjoyable way to promote a healthier lifestyle.

Spending time amongst the trees and really noticing nature is scientifically proven to boost our mental and physical health.

Pupils have really enjoyed the freedom to take the option to walk & talk during PE and at Bedgebury Pinetum the pupils took a moment from their busy tech immersed lives to take some time out and look after their wellbeing.

By Miss Zofia Malewicz

Half-Termly Time Hop



The Abbot's Hall in 1925 in the days when Battle Abbey was an all girls school. We believe this is a department class but can't be 100% sure. The hall is in its pre-fire days with a grand wooden fireplace surround and tapestries, antlers and paintings all lost in the fire of 1933.





BAS Eco Club welcome Sustainability Governor to club

The Eco Club were very pleased to welcome Tara de Linde, School Governor for Sustainability, to their meeting in June. Tara had already received a copy of the students' annual Eco- Club Report (which they had presented to KS3 in an Assembly).

Tara was very impressed to hear of the students work towards the Eco Schools Award. The meeting started as usual with the Eco Club checking and maintaining the Biodiversity garden. Pondweed needed removing and the water was topped up in the pond from the rainwater barrel. Back in the classroom, Mrs Carey informed the students that she had nominated the Eco Club for a 'Litter Hero' award, a combination of their work promoting litter picking in assembly and the school and beach litter picks they had conducted. The students then discussed their designs for a "Healthy City" competition with Tara and their hopes for continued progress in sustainability at Battle Abbey.



Year 7 Paper Puppets

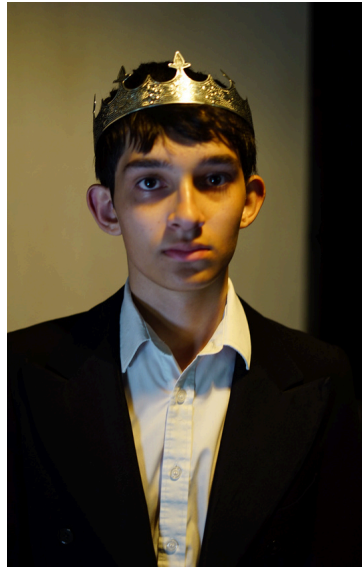
Year 7 students produced these wonderful pieces after looking at the work of children's illustrator Ashley Percival.





To be or not to be.....

Shakespeare, the Comedies the Tragedies and the Wardrobes, took place around the historic grounds of Battle Abbey School. We explored five of Shakespeare's most famous plays, and years 7-10 took on all the roles with energy and enthusiasm. Audiences enjoyed the production and there were stand out performances from Oliver Lay as Macbeth and Eva Thornley-Adjei as Lady Macbeth. The production contained visually stunning video created by Bailey Tankus Jubb.





Year 9 at Ypres

On Tuesday 18th June, Mr Neve, Mr Trimby, Mrs Ingall and Mr Wilmar took 40 Year 9 students to Ypres as part of their learning about WW1 and the way it has been memorialised.

The students visited Sanctuary Wood and surviving sections of the trenches on Hill 62. Whilst in the trenches, Mr Trimby, our expert guide, dressed as a soldier, taught them a WW1 song which they sang whilst walking through the muddy trench system. After this, they explored the museum which contained a range of artifacts including uniforms, helmets, guns, shells and even an engine from an early fighter aircraft.

The students then visited Tyne Cot Cemetery. The students were able to reflect on the scale of the loss experienced as a result of the war and see how the fallen have been memorialised by the commonwealth countries in the years since 1918. Row after row of gravestones, many without names, but all adorned with flowers and immaculately kept by the War Grave Commission demonstrated how important it is to keep the memory of the fallen of WW1 alive.

This was in stark contrast to what they saw at the German cemetery in Langemark where over 20,000 of the dead were simply dumped in a large pit or mentioned on recumbent stones. All beneath a canopy of forbidding oak trees. The students realised that the way the war was remembered differed according to the combatant. This sense of darkness was exacerbated by the fact that the rain had started to fall, giving an even more authentic feeling to the trip!

They then visited Vancouver Corner, the memorial to the Canadians who fell in the war and then visited Essex Farm, famous for its association with the War Poet, John McRae and his poem "In Flanders Fields". At this point, Ryan S set a challenge for the other students, to locate the grave of a soldier who had been shot at dawn. This was found by Emmie S and Annie L, who were rewarded with a chocolate prize.

A visit to the Menin Gate was then followed by a trip to Leonidis Chocolate Shop, where they were able to purchase chocolate treats and gifts. They returned to the school at 10:20 pm, exhausted but happy to have experienced, and reflected upon, the impact of WW1.





Yo Sushi!

Sushi Making at Martlet House! Battle Abbey legend Annie assisted ably by the Sixth Form, created some marvellous culinary delights! Lots of laughter, invention and of course delicious Sushi!



Battlefield Bimble!

The School thoroughly enjoyed the Battlefield Bimble and Charity House Day earlier this term. Everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to either dress up, walk the site or get involved with the tuck shop raising £545.91 for charity in the process. The proceeds were split between Ocean Cleanup, Crookstone Adventure Trust and Post Pals.



Hockey Highlights

Even though the sunshine wasn't always out, Battle Abbey brought the enthusiasm and excitement to Lee Valley. The students got lots of opportunities to get autographs from many of the players and got the chance to play some fun hockey games. They watched both Great Britain Men's and Women's play and watched 2 entertaining games between Australia and Germany men and women. Another great year at Lee Valley for the FIH Pro League!





Dover bound!

On a wonderfully sunny Monday 24th June, the History Department took the Year 7 students to Dover Castle. This trip was arranged to compliment and consolidate the students learning about Roman and Medieval England.

The students (and school bus drivers) were shown around the site by Battle Abbey School's very own expert guide, Mr Trimby. The students explored the topography of the site and saw how the castle has been used over the last 1000 years to defend England. They were also shown how the castle developed from an Iron Age fort into a fortress that was used to protect Britain from Nazi Tyranny in WW2. Mr Trimby then set the students the challenge of planning how they would have attacked the castle, using medieval weapons and technology!

After a packed lunch, under the shade of a tree and in the shadow of the Roman lighthouse, they visited the Avranches tower and then ascended the stairs into the mighty keep that was constructed by Henry II in the 12th Century. A tour inside showed what life was like in a medieval castle; it also revealed to the students how kings and guests were treated when they visited this mighty military installation.

This was a great day out and a wonderful opportunity for our learners to understand why Dover Castle has rightly been called "The key to England".

Thank you to Mr Trimby for organising the trip and Mrs Carey, Mr Neve and Miss Orrock for supporting.





Beyond the Abbey walls

Coles on Course

After strong performances at the Sussex Athletics Championships last month, both Lenny and Katie C have been selected to compete at the invite only Sussex Schools Track & Field meeting. This is a very competitive event used to choose athletes for the National finals - Lenny will be running in the 100m and Katie contesting the Long Jump. Well done both!



SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

What better location for our young Geographers to learn to draw labelled field sketches?



SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

Cricket Trip!





Confirmation at St. Mary's

June saw the Confirmation of several of our students at St Mary's Church. The ceremony was incredibly special, with the Archbishop of Lewes leading the Confirmation alongside the Very Reverend Lee Duckett. Our Chamber Choir sang and we celebrated with families as some students made this important commitment to their faith.

BAFPA party in Golf competition



On 10 June 2024 our alumnae Battle Abbey golf team competed again in the Silver Tassie at the magnificent Berkshire Golf Club. The competition has been held annually since 1961. Despite cold and windy conditions, Janet A, Pauline P, Diana C-S and Pauline S had a great day playing both the Red and Blue courses with the Cheltenham Ladies College team. The team from Loretto were the worthy winners, with Millfield second. The BA golfers will be competing again at Cooden Beach in the Angela Bonallack Memorial Trophy on Monday 1 July and the BA Golfing Society are planning a days' golf at Chobham in October. We would love to hear from any golfers who would like to play in the Silver Tassie or any future BA golfing day or event. Please contact: bafpa@battleabbeysschool.com or joycej@battleabbeysschool.com

Ashburnham visit for Year 9

During activities week year 9 visited Ashburnham Place for the day with the aim of connecting with the land and one another. The day included foraging, cooking and sharing flatbread after reflecting on what the land gives us and also they developed some photos of plants using just sunlight. A tech free day which was greatly enjoyed by all!





Gateway Academic Journal Launch

On June 25th we launched this year's Academic journal, allowing our students to explore subjects beyond the curriculum. This year's journal was exceptional, with articles ranging from the atomic structure of carbon to domestic violence, the use of language and the developments in the history of medicine to name a few. We were very fortunate to have our guest writer, BAFTA winning Oilly Lambert, speak to our students about a crucial 'super power' - resilience. It was a joyful celebration of the talent of our students.



SCHOOL SNAPSHOT



Boarder's indoor climbing wall trip to Brighton.





Prep School News



As we reach the end of the Summer term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on another successful academic period at Battle Abbey Prep. This term has been a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff. I feel that I often celebrate with you the enrichment at the school and take the excellent academic standards as a given. We should celebrate the excellent teaching and learning at the Prep.

Let me start in Early Years and with Reception. To ensure the highest academic standards we make sure that work is benchmarked against other schools to back up our judgements. At this year's Early Learning Goals moderation in Sussex, the moderator was incredibly impressed with the work of our pupils. Our teachers here have high expectations but more importantly that they support the pupils to meet this high standard. Every pupil met their Early Learning Goals!

The children have made excellent progress in phonics, particularly in Year 1 where they excelled in the phonics screening. In Year 2 every child is working at or above expected levels (based on their end of year test which is nationally benchmarked) with a whopping 77% of pupils working above in Maths. Evidence of our commitment to making our newly implemented Maths scheme work for the pupils.

As we enter Key Stage 2, let us turn our attention to Science. Our results are always outstanding in this area. Indeed, 94% of pupils were working above in Year 4 Science this year. Excellent teaching of the fundamentals combined with the practical application of skills facilitated by STEAM underpins this academic success.

I am particularly pleased with the progress in Year 5 and 6 this year. The average progress in Year 5 for English and Maths was +5 and +2 respectively. In Year 6, it was +3 and +2. Progress is never a perfect upward curve. Children will do slightly better and slightly less well on tests. That is the nature of testing. The average progress is really good indicator that whatever 'ability' (I happen to believe academic ability is not necessarily fixed) a child has, they are making progress toward their own personal version of excellence. As a mixed ability school, nothing pleases me more than seeing all our children flourish.

However we make sure that children do not judge themselves or base their self-worth on an academic grade. We will always ensure children get individual attention and quality teaching, combined with enrichment and creating an environment in which children feel cared for and like they belong is our secret to success.

The students continue to impress us with their commitment to achieving their full potential. We have seen fantastic results across all year groups, with many students exceeding expectations in their studies. This is a reflection of their diligence, curiosity, and a true thirst for knowledge.

Have a wonderful summer. The children have really worked hard. They deserve a good rest and time to revel in the glories of being young with a long summer holiday ahead!



Drusilla's visit

Despite a little rain, the Year 1 children had a wonderful day at Drusilla's zoo. They enjoyed seeing the large variety of animals in the morning and after lunch enjoyed a train ride, the flying cheetah ride and a Masai workshop. Some children were even brave enough to touch a giant millipede and a giant cockroach!



Beach Life

The Key Stage 1 children have loved their Beach School sessions this half term. So far, they have enjoyed identifying different types of shells, making necklaces, rock pooling and a pebble tower building competition.





Sustainability is not a buzzword but a way of life!

In an era where environmental consciousness is of paramount importance BAS are embracing sustainability as a cornerstone of our ethos. BAS Prep appointed its very first Sustainability Lead in 2023, and since then (as anyone who regularly visits the school site will see) a huge array of Green projects have been initiated with the hope that the school will become an exemplar of environmental stewardship and a beacon for sustainable practices for schools in the area. We are trying to foster a culture in the pupils where sustainability is not a buzzword but a way of life!



Maria's Garden Opens

Mid June saw the Prep School cut the ribbon on 'Maria's Garden' a brand new space at the school for reflection and for the pupils to be out in nature. The Garden, including a living willow yurt, a Wetland wildlife environment and the planting of 300 trees, hopes not only to be a tranquil location to remember our much missed Prep Head Maria Maslin, but also to act as a key component in the Prep School's continuing ecological development programme. Chris Brown, Maria's Husband and father to Freya Maslin-Brown (who graduated from Battle Abbey School in 2020) said; 'On behalf of Freya and I, and all our friends and family that attended the garden opening, I wanted to email in our thanks. Firstly, the gardens themselves look incredible and really are a fitting tribute to Maria - Richard Malewicz (Sustainability lead) has done an amazing job. It was a lovely occasion for us all.' Freya and Richard cut the ribbon to formally open the garden and we are certain the space will be well loved by pupils as was Maria.





Prep Careers Fair

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed attending a mini-careers fair at the Prep School last week. A variety of different careers and industries were represented by current parents, who kindly came in to speak with pupils about what they do. It will be interesting to see how many from these year groups go on to become doctors, filmmakers, police officers, designers, software developers, scientists, teachers, TV/film directors, lawyers and theatre producers!



Prep Sports Day





Year 3 Go Ape!

At Battle Abbey we pride ourselves in embracing the outdoor learning ethos, the students have visited different beaches and woods which keeps their learning extra exciting. In recent weeks we linked visiting Eastbourne beach with a trip to Favaloso for an ice cream before venturing to Madagascar with the new musical at the theatre, Bedgebury and Go Ape!



Year 6 Independent Projects

Year 6 have worked hard all term on an independent project. This has involved many different aspects of learning, including referencing their work. This is a fun way of keeping the children focused and productive as we enter our final few weeks of term with them. Well done year 6!





IAPS Silver for Girls Swim Squad

Girls from the Prep school Swim squad competed in the IAPS national finals earlier this term. The 8 x 25m freestyle relay was the first event of the day and the girls certainly started the day as they meant to go on! After a very competitive race which saw the lead change hands several times the girls finished in second, for the second year in a row! Quite an achievement as this is a very competitive event. Up Next was Elodie, who had qualified in the 50m freestyle individual event (it should be mentioned that Elodie is the first girl Battle Abbey to qualify for the finals in this category). Elodie put in a very determined and impressive swim to gain a new PB and came in 9th in the final. Well done to our fantastic swim squad and well done to Battle Abbey School Swim teacher Miss Govan for once again helping our pupils bring home the silver!

Shrek!





5th fastest small school in the country!

The BAS swim team arrived at the prestigious Pond Forge International Sports Centre Sheffield having qualified for the national final earlier this year. Lead by team captain Frederica year 7, the team also included Elodie, Phoebe, Felix all in Year 5 and 'swimming up' as most of the competition were Year 6 or above. The heats went very well and the team secured themselves a spot in the final. After a short break to compose themselves the final began, with lots of excitement and just a few nerves. The team were determined to rise to the occasion and in what was a very fast, competitive heat (that saw the ESSA Freestyle record being broken) the team fought hard all the way resulting in an impressive 5th place finish. Swim teacher Miss Govan said; 'The school and parents alike are extremely proud of these four swimmers, most of whom were competing in a national final for the second weekend in a row. The parents and families need a special mention as they have supported this team right from the start of their journey back in March, through to the final in June. They were also the loudest, cheering the team on through every round of this competition.'

English Schools Swimming Association Open meet

15 Swimmers from both the Prep and Senior school took part in the ESSA open meet. This event took place over the course of two weekends at the K2 in Crawley. The meet saw many Personal Best times achieved, with the swimmers securing an amazing 30 top ten placings! This was the first time that the school has entered this event and for many of the swimmers this was also the first time they had competed in a 50-metre pool. All the swimmers gave every race their all, and were a credit to the school with their behaviour and sportsmanship on poolside. Special mention must go to siblings Zac (Year 8) and Elodie (Year 5) for putting Battle Abbey on the medal table.





Nursery News



Story time in the tent!

Nursery pupils ventured onto the field, very eager to explore the new bell tent that has appeared.

They sat down in a big circle, listening to *The Gruffalo* story read by Mrs Brown, complete with props to bring the characters of the story to life.

The students really liked sitting in the tent and recalled some of their personal experiences of their camping adventures.