

# AB Highlights

As the Michaelmas term began we welcomed back our existing girls plus over 40 new ones to our AB family, from locations far and wide.

Find out more about a Gap Experience in South Africa for two AB girls!

See how AB has supported several charities over the last term

Read our Sports Highlight section about successes on the field!

Don't forget to look at the Christmas section with plenty of festive stories!

As we draw to the end of another very busy term at Abbots Bromley School, may I, on behalf of the School Council (Governors), the staff and all the students of the school in both the Prep and Senior School send you our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. My full school newsletter may be found under separate cover in the end of term envelope which I trust will prove of interest to you.

Yours sincerely



Victoria Musgrave, Executive Head



## Abbots Bromley... The Future Vision

Mrs Musgrave, our Executive Head was joined on stage by pupils of all ages at our Future of AB event.

The evening started with a fantastic dance performance and then pupils of all ages each gave a brief personal speech about what they loved most about AB. This was followed by Mrs Musgrave's inspiring presentation and finished with tours of the school and refreshments.

Over 200 parents and prospective parents attended the evening. Thank you to all those who have given your feedback on the event, this is vitally important for us, so that we can organise future events that are of interest.

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Abbots Bromley School

## A message from the Acting Head of the Prep School

We have been extremely busy at AB Prep School and the second half of the Michaelmas Term always provides many exciting opportunities for parties, song and dance!

The Christmas programme of events started off with Art Morning in November, and our theme of 'Christmas Around the World' was an excellent showcase of the art and craft skills of parents and pupils alike. It was interesting to focus on diverse Christmas traditions in different countries.

Our four Houses worked hard to make their stalls at School Bazaar a success and £471.55 was raised in total. Many thanks for your support and generosity.

There have been trips to the Skills Show at the NEC for Y5 and Y6, where new skills such as weather reporting and bricklaying were learnt, and Years 1,2,4 and 5 visited Jodrell Bank and took part in a 'Mars Rover Challenge' to carry raw eggs safely – and successfully!

'Sleep for Shelter' was a very popular fundraiser, with nearly all pupils in KS2 attending. The atmosphere as we all stood around the campfire singing was magical, and the lovely aroma of toasted marshmallows wafted through the air.

The Prep School Christmas party was a lovely mix of traditional party games and dancing, and Father Christmas made his welcome visit laden with gifts for all. Christmas Lunch was a celebration of tinsel, sparkles and Christmas jumpers and the famous Staff song went down a treat! If only the staff were as talented at singing as our pupils!

The Pre-Prep 'Wriggly Nativity' was a delight, with pupils aged between 3 and 7 proving themselves to be accomplished actresses and singers. As ever, they brought the house down with their capers and cute costumes. Many thanks go to Mrs Swinnerton and the Pre-Prep team for their hard work.

We sadly bid farewell to our Gap students - Rosie, Sarah W, Miranda and Sarah G who are now heading home. We will always remember their laughter and youthful contribution to our school. We wish them well in their studies and we look forward to welcoming new Gap students in January.

We wish Mrs O'Brien well, as she takes her maternity leave, and we look forward to meeting a new addition to her family in January. We welcome Miss Ruth Slater, a very experienced Nursery Practitioner who will be joining our Prep School team in January to cover Mrs O'Brien's maternity leave.

There are many exciting events planned for the Lent Term and we look forward to sharing news of these with you in January. It just remains for me to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of all the AB Prep staff.

*W. Gordon*

Wendy Gordon, Acting Head of the Prep School

## KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM

6th January - Whole School Term begins

18th January - Multi Skilled Activity Morning for the Preparatory School

5th March - Dance Open Evening

## Junior Boarders' Camp

At the request of the Junior Boarders, Mrs Slater together with Miss Murray organised an overnight camping experience which took place in the Executive Head's front garden. The campers were blessed with great weather and on Friday evening they had a delicious burger and chips supper

followed by an outdoor film. An early morning wake-up call by the local crows ensured that everyone was ready for their hearty English breakfast, followed by "It's a Knock Out" competition on The Lowers – the girls were split up into mixed age-group teams and had to complete quite a challenging course against the clock. Judging by the screams of excitement, a good time was had by all.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to all those who have taken Modern and Tap Exams and Instrumental and Singing Exams throughout the term.

## Abbots Bromley merges with India



We have once again welcomed pupils from Unison World School Dehradun, India into school for three weeks as part of an educational and cultural exchange. Swapping a stunning location in the Doon Valley at the foothills of the Himalayas for quintessential English countryside, the pupils immersed themselves in the curriculum and traditions of the school, as well as taking part in numerous excursions around the country.

Mrs Slater, Commercial Manager who organized the visit said "We were extremely pleased to welcome our Indian friends to the school, the pupils learnt about the cultural differences between the two countries whilst forging new and lasting friendships. It is an incredibly enriching opportunity for our girls to spend time with pupils from a culture that is very different from the one they are used to."

## Equestrian

**Congratulations to** Phoebe Bourne, Sophia Roe, Isabel Stevenson, Olivia Stone, May-Lee Holt and Georgia Beagley from our Prep School pony club who have all achieved their grooming badge as well as their points of tack mini achievement badge.



Excellent riding has also been done this term as Andrea Meyer, Maria Nieto, Harriet Lukeman, Moneida Remane, Misaki Fukano, Rocio Albinana and Beth Dillon all passed their progressive riding test level 1.



Progressive riding test level 4 has also been passed by Rachel Longman, Aisha Bashir Gwandu, Jos Startin Taylor, Salix White, Ariana Croke and Millie Greening.

## Pony Club Success

**Congratulations to our pony club girls** Harriet Lukeman, Isabel Stevenson, Sophia Roe, Thea Swinnerton, Olivia Stone, Phoebe Bourne, May-Lee Holt, Isabella Fullard and Isobel Swinnerton who each received certificates for gaining a range of mini achievement badges.



## Prep School Equestrian Christmas Show

A lot of festive fun was had at the Christmas show with the girls and ponies completing a course including; jumping poles, bending poles, followed by a mad dash on foot to find the chocolate buried in the snow shavings, before jumping back on to cross the finish line!

## Panda Conservationists

Year 7 girls have been digging deep in support of animal conservation and the work of the North West Zoological Society at Chester Zoo. The girls raised enough money to sponsor a Red Panda and an Elephant. In return, the Zoo provided the girls with detailed information about each animal and a cuddly version



of their chosen species, which they have adopted as their form mascots. Form teachers, Mrs Towell and Mrs Coulthard took the girls to the Zoo to see at first hand their sponsored animals and learn about the conservation work carried out. They were delighted to see the school's name displayed on plaques beside the enclosures of each animal. Boo, the cuddly panda, named by the students, was also pleased to be taken to see his relations.

## Mini Gap Experience to South Africa...

In October Georgina Lax and Emily Bridgwater, until recently pupils at AB, found themselves in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. It was a trip they had planned for many months, during which time they raised thousands of pounds.



Under the auspices of the South African Schools' Project, and accompanied by Ann and Geoff Johnson, the girls spent two weeks in South Africa. The first part of their stay required them to spend their days working alongside teaching staff at a remote farm school. They planned and delivered many activities including art and music. Their time there culminated in a sports day, accompanied by a traditional braai (barbeque). They also spent time at Seventh Heaven Children's Refuge. Of course they could not go all the way to South Africa without seeing something of this wonderful country. So they hunted down game at Pumba Game Reserve, spent a night on an ostrich farm, took a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain..... and did lots of shopping! They saw some of the highs and lows of South Africa during their trip, but were most deeply affected by their contact with the children. As Emily wrote: "These children walked into our lives for two weeks but left footprints in our hearts which will remain for a lifetime."

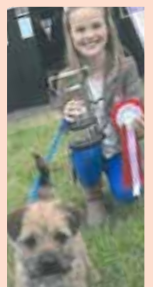
## Songfest Junior Artists

In October over 400 children from Prep Schools in and around the area raised the roof of the Thompson Hall and filled the school with song when they took part in SongFest. Our own year 6's joined in and enjoyed a day of singing workshops with the other preparatory schools. All the music was learned on the day from scratch and culminated in a concert at the end of the day which also included pieces that the visiting schools had prepared at their own schools beforehand.

Parents of our Prep School children were invited to attend our annual Art Morning and see all the hard work our young artists had achieved. What a talented Prep School we have!

## Terrierific!

Congratulations to Jessica Mousley, Y7 on winning The Meynell Terrier Show 2013 with her cute Border Terrier dog called Lulu.



## Speech & Drama

Ana Cabrera, Maria Corcelles, Laura Fuentes and Marina Gonzalez after one term of lessons have achieved a LAMDA Grade 5 with a Merit in Devised Performance to take back to Spain with them. Well done.

Year 9 students have been working so hard across the 7 LAMDA disciplines that permission needed to be granted for them to take certain grade 6 examinations, giving them UCAS points and making them the youngest in the school to wear their LAMDA Bronze medals.

Congratulations go to Francesca Hardwick, Elizabeth Lindsay, Lana Moore, Maddison Seed and Phoebe Townsend-Fox. Isobel Hughes in year 10 has also achieved this accolade.

100% pass rate for all students once again, with a high proportion of results at Merit and Distinction. Further congratulations to all.

## Doctors call at the School

Daniel Klarfeld and Nathan Wright from the popular TV programme **Doctors** were welcomed into school as guest judges in our very competitive **House performing arts competition**. All six houses from the senior school took part in an excellent afternoon's entertainment. The standard of the competition was extremely high indeed as each house presented its own interpretation of the theme "140 years of Abbots Bromley School".



It was an exciting chance for the pupils to showcase their enormous talent in front of experts from the theatre business. After an extremely tense wait the winner was announced and a delighted Coleridge House took the trophy.



## Irish Dancing!

We are extremely proud of **Lana Moore** who has qualified for the **World Irish Dance Championships** (to be held in London 2014) at the Midland Regional Qualifiers in Coventry.

Lana gained 3rd place with one judge giving her the full mark of 100!

## AB Remember



**The Remembrance Day Service** in the school chapel was very special this year as there was a dedicated service of remembrance for three members of Abbots Bromley School who were killed in active service during the war.



Members of the girl's families attended, along with The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and his wife (who is an old girl of the school) as well as other members of the school community.



## Global Languages Day...



Pupils from the Prep School upwards were involved in a variety of exciting language workshops and activities throughout the day as part of the International Day of language on 25th September. Activities including learning songs, dances and tongue twisters from countries such as, Ukraine, Spain, France, Romania and China.

Mrs Coulthard, Head of Modern Languages organized the event in order to showcase the different talents and culture of our pupils and raise the profile of language learning in schools.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

**Duke of Edinburgh Awards** have been in full swing this term Emma Carter, Ellie-May Hannant, Olivia Townsend, Anna Tomlinson (as a Gold Practice) and Frankie Froggatt all took their Silver Qualifying Expedition:

Francesca Brotherton-Cottrell, Daisy Carroll, Tiffany Cheung, Erin Connelly, Kitty Froggatt, Annabel Hardwick, Rebecca Hocknell, Hanna Lam, Alikia Lancaster, Katrina Lei, Christy Lee and Emily Ng all took part in the Silver Practice Expedition.



## Harvest Festival & the Trussell Trust



Harvest Festival this year was celebrated in traditional AB style with a beautiful Service led by the School Chaplain, and music from the school's elite choir, Cantoria. Thank you all for the beautifully decorated boxes which were kindly donated by pupils. This year we have focused on supporting our local community, The Trussell Trust's food bank in Rugeley. Members of the Trussell Trust attended the service to accept the gifts from the pupils and later on Sixth Formers and staff from the school personally delivered all the donated gifts via the school mini bus.

## Cup Cake Cafe!

Our Preparatory School brought out the coffee and cakes for parents and friends for a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care and raised £180 in return. Well done to all those involved.

## Philippines Support

Our Sixth Form have been raising money for the Philippines Typhoon Appeal. Everyone was encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper or other festive attire to school in exchange for a £2 donation to the worthy cause.



## Waxing Lyrical



Our very own Geography teacher Mr Udy bared his legs and went through the pain of having them waxed all to raise money for Marie Curie. The event organised by Frankie Hannant, Claudia Congrave and Adelaide Gresty in year 10 raised nearly £300. The event was witnessed by a crowd of pupils and staff, who all had to donate to the worthwhile charity to watch. Thank you Mr Udy for giving your legs up for this worthwhile cause.

## Jeans for Genes Day

Around £350 was raised by pupils and staff who donned jeans in aid of the national Jeans for Genes Day. This is a simple and fun way to help raise money and explain to our pupils the need for research and understanding about genetic diseases and their impact. The pupils all embraced the day wholeheartedly and raised a fantastic amount of money. Well Done.



## Children in Need

Heroes, Heroines and Villains together with lots of spots filled the school on 15th November in aid of Children In Need.

Pupils and staff all got into the spirit of things in return for a donation. There were a few scary characters in school including our very own Abbots Bromley Child catcher and the Wicked Queen! The girls raised over £320 what a fantastic effort.

Check out the *Highlight on* AB Sport on the back cover!

## HOOD – Key Stage 3 Play



**Robin Hood unexpectedly swapped his usual home of Sherwood for Needwood Forest this week.** Pupils in years 7-10 converted their theatre into a forest featuring full sized trees and Loxley Manor for their end of term production of “Hood” this alternative version of the traditional story was a little light hearted fun with music, drama and plenty of hissing, booing and cheering from the audience.

Director and History teacher, Mrs Towell said “I was amazed at the talent shown by so many of the students, especially those who had only joined the school in September. Many of the cast had not taken part in a play before and yet they interacted with the audience with huge confidence and maturity.”

## Carols in the Round



**Carols in the Round was a well-attended event at its new early evening slot with the girls proudly showcasing their stunning vocal talents, with the Senior Choir’s rendition of the Holly and the Ivy being particularly moving.** Our talented musicians contributed to the evening with a festive blend of Christmas classics.



## Christmas Lunch Prep School Lunch

**This year was by far the loudest Christmas lunch ever** in the senior school with ‘The 12 Days of Christmas’ raising the roof on the dining room!

A traditional Turkey Christmas lunch was served by staff to the girls and a festive time was had by all.

**Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Rockin’ around the Christmas Tree and Let it Snow** were all sung and performed amusingly by our four houses in the Prep School. The festivities continued throughout the lunch which was attended by staff and pupils all wearing Christmas jumpers!



## The Boarder’s Christingle Service

**AB’s beautifully refurbished Chapel** was the host for our Boarders’ Christingle Service on the last Sunday of term.

It was a wonderful candle lit service which brought the girls together to celebrate the Christmas message.



# Formal Christmas Dinner



Our year 10, 11, 12 & 13 girls pulled out all the stops and looked stunning for their Christmas Formal Dinner where they enjoyed a very sophisticated three course meal made by our new catering team. A lot of festive fun was had by both the girls and the staff, making it the perfect way to end the Michaelmas Term!



## The Bazaar

The Bazaar yet again proved to be very popular with our pupils and their family and friends. There were fantastic products on sale and the girls and staff vibrant selling techniques meant the School managed to raise an amazing £2,713.54! Thank you to all who came and supported the event.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you once again to all our generous pupils for donating shoe boxes to the charity appeal 'The Samaritan's Purse'. The organisation has been working for the past 22 years to donate shoeboxes filled with small gifts to children of all faiths across the globe who are victims of disaster, war and poverty.

## Dance at Christmas

Michaelmas is often a quieter term for the Dance Department however this year students have had a number of exciting events. Before half term eight of our vocational dancers gave a polished performance in Thompson Hall of the opening of 'Paquita' to start the Sixth Form Information Evening.

This was followed a few weeks later by Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance Modern and Tap Examinations in the dance studio, at the end of the session the examiner commented on the high standard of work and beautiful, musical presentation.

A week later girls travelled to Liverpool for Royal Academy of Dance Vocational Examinations. Scarlet Sampson and Heidi Thomas took Advanced One - the second highest examination level. Francesca Hardwick Advanced Foundation and Lana Moore, Rachel Barrett, Elizabeth Lindsay, Tabitha Hulse and Maddison Seed took Intermediate Foundation. Congratulations to all the dancers for their hard work and excellent achievements.



## Prep School Nativity

The Wiggly Nativity was a joy for parents, friends, staff and pupils to watch.

AB little angels, sheep, shepherds, kings, donkeys and of course Mary and Joseph all took to the stage to perform a very Wiggly Nativity to a delighted audience.



## Carol Service

The Carol Service on the last day of term was held in its usual venue of St Nicholas' church in the village. The church was full with pupils, their parents and families, staff and villagers all singing traditional Christmas Carols. Our Preparatory School and Cantoria Choirs filled the Church with beautiful song and readings were given by pupils from year 7 upwards. It was a fantastic event to signal the end of another busy term.

# Highlight on... Sport



## A great netball weekend at Conover Hall

The PE Department (Mrs Menneer and Miss Sheldrick) had the great pleasure of taking pupils from Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 to Conover Hall in Shropshire to take part in a fantastic weekend of netball. The weekend was packed full of exciting activities in addition to two days of playing netball to a very high standard against Girls Schools from all parts of the UK. The girls also took part in Archery, the Leap of Faith, they went to a Disco and they watched X Factor in the Cinema on Saturday evening.

This was an exclusive tournament offered to Girls School Association [GSA] members to come together and compete against each other on court and bond off court in a secure and beautiful environment. All the girls involved were presented with a certificate for their participation, Katie Barrett, Sophie Buckland-Povey, Charlotte Cairns-Smith, Isobel Carroll, Belle Dawson, Niamh Durkin, Amy Gasser, Francesca Hardwick, Imogen Hardwick, Grace Harrison, Emily Hobbs, Elena Hooker, Jasmine Lovell, Rachel Moon, Lana Moore, Jessica Mousley, Beth Newton, Maddie Nicholson, Jessica Sheppard, Isobel Wheetman. Congratulations to all of you.



## County Success!

Madeleine Nicholson took part in the recent trials for Staffordshire County Under 13 Hockey and Amy Gasser and Elena Hooker had trials for Staffordshire County Under 13 Netball. We are very proud to announce that all girls now represent Staffordshire in their respective sports. They have all worked hard and deserve this fantastic recognition for their efforts. Madeleine has done exceptionally well playing at a higher level than her age group. Well done to you all!

## Orienteering

Charlotte Cairns-Smith recently represented Abbots Bromley School at two National Orienteering Championships, the British Schools' Score event held in Northumberland and the main event of the schools orienteering calendar, the British Schools Orienteering Championship held at Shipley Country Park Heanor Derbyshire.



Charlotte performed well at both events achieving a creditable 7th position in the score event and an even stronger performance in the National Championships where over a 1,000 school children took part representing 110 schools. Charlotte achieved a top 10 position in the girls year 7 category coming 10th out of 49.

## Abbots Bromley Prep School PE & Games

The Prep School have had an incredible term and all pupils have discovered new talents, taking part in a number of different sports such as Tag-rugby and Lacrosse. As well as some new developments at school the Prep School pupils have been busy outside of school and from the achievement board we would like to celebrate with Florence Ryan for getting her Yellow belt in Martial Arts, Caoimhe Acton for achieving her Yellow tag in Martial Arts, Phoebe Bourne for Most Improved in her Athletics, Harriet Pool for her 5m swim, Beatrice Browning for completing her Award 5 in swimming and Yvie Woods for her performance in gymnastics. Well done to you all, we hope to see more achievements up on the board next term.

