

# *AB* Highlights

It's been such a busy term with lots going on both inside and outside the classroom and many, many competitive sporting events, in which Abbots Bromley School have done exceptionally well.



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**Abbots Bromley School**

## Abbots Bromley Pupils Land in Spain

Poppy Talbot and Phoebe Williams, two of our Y9 pupils accompanied by Mrs Coulthard and Mrs Lampard, embarked on the inaugural visit to our partner school in Madrid.

If you fancy joining the trip in 2014 please speak to one of the teachers involved.

The pupils from The Colegio de Santa Ana Y San Rafael who were warmly welcomed here at Abbots Bromley by families from Year 9 and Year 11 earlier this year were keen to show Spanish hospitality to our girls during the reciprocal visit. During the visit the girls attended classes, visited the sites & art galleries, tried new food, visited the Bernabeu Football Stadium (home to Real Madrid) and gained an insight into bull fighting tradition.

"The trip was an absolute success and the pupils have made considerable progress in their understanding of Spanish and have gained a huge insight into Spanish culture and family life" commented Mrs Coulthard and Mrs Lampard.

Reviewing her visit Phoebe said "I would recommend this exchange to other pupils because it is a completely wonderful experience and I think everyone would enjoy it".

## Olympian Jumps into Abbots Bromley



**Triple jumper Laura Samuel visited the school in the summer term and gave a very motivational and insightful talk about women in sport.**

Laura, who is U23 British Champion and is in training for the Rio Olympics of 2016, addressed the girls about the need to have inspirational role models for girls in sport. Laura firmly believes this can not only encourage girls to participate in and excel at sport, but can also impact on other aspects of their lives such as confidence and self assurance.

Miss Sheldrick, who organised the visit, was very impressed with Laura's talk: "A passionate advocate of the power of sport, Laura's message to the girls was loud and clear: you can embrace sport at any level and, as well as keeping you fit and having a good time, it can inspire and motivate you in many areas of your life in ways that can benefit you just as much off the pitch or track."

# Boules on the Lawn



Languages Pupils in Year 7 celebrated the end of term with a Boules match on Coleridge Lawn. A French petit dejeuner of Pain au Chocolat was very much enjoyed!

**"...a lovely way to round off the term..."**

Mrs Coulthard, who, with Mrs Rowlands and Mrs Preston, organised the event, commented: 'It was a lovely way to round off the term; the girls have worked very hard throughout the year and we felt that they deserved a little treat with a French theme.'

# A *Wicked* Time is Had by All!

Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a packed day trip to London at the end of the summer term.

Organised by Miss Murray, the trip saw the girls visit Tower Bridge, the Olympic Park, and tea in the Westfield Shopping Centre and, as if that wasn't enough, the girls had a thoroughly 'Wicked' time seeing the musical of the same name in the evening!

Having left for the capital at a very early hour, the coach home rolled in very late. Fortunately most of the girls had taken advantage of the boarding facilities and were able, therefore, to get a reasonable night's rest!



# Oh I do Like to be Beside the Seaside

As part of our Preparatory schools summer topic on The Seaside all our younger pupils spent a day on the Wirral Peninsula. They visited the fantastic Blue Planet Aquarium at Ellesmere Port and learnt all about sea life.

Despite the busy day there was still time for a fish and chip lunch and sand castle building which all the children thoroughly enjoyed.



# Ferry Across the Mersey...

Our KS2 pupil's summer trip was to Liverpool Museums and Galleries at the Albert Dock.

It was a fun packed day which included catching the "Ferry across the Mersey" and visiting the Maritime Museum, The Tate Gallery and the Museum of Liverpool on the riverfront. They too rounded off the day with fish and chips!



## Sixth Form Dance the Night Away

Alrewas Hayes was the chosen venue to host the annual Sixth Form Leavers Ball in June. The glitz and glamour on the evening was unmistakable with all our poised and confident sixth formers celebrating their time at Abbots Bromley, the majority of whom joined in our Preparatory school. The beautiful weather enabled a champagne reception on the lawn before a three course meal and dancing in the marquee until the early hours.

"The evening was fabulous with all the girls and their families celebrating such a wonderful occasion. They have all worked incredibly hard throughout the year and have been an inspiration to our younger pupils. We wish them all a fond farewell and every success in the future" said organiser Mrs Hawley, Director of Sixth Form.



## Pre Prep Cause a Splash Swimming to Success

Our Pre-Prep Swimming Gala was a fantastic event this year, with our youngest swimmers taking to the water in a fun filled competition.



Supported by our pre-prep department, this event encourages even the most novice swimmer to have a go and join in and of course take advantage of our wonderful swimming pool.

For the past 20 years Abbots Bromley has hosted our annual Prep School Swimming Gala. This year we had more than 18 schools taking part in the competition followed by tea and cake and the all important prize giving in the afternoon.



## Equestrian News

Our equestrian centre has been a hive of activity this term with senior show jumping events and many passing their BHS riding and road safety exams.

Congratulations to all and especially to Alikia Lancaster who also passed her BHS Stage 1 Exam.

The noise from parents and staff cheering their teams along could be heard on the street and was a great motivation for our swimmers. Mrs Menneer who has organised the event for the past 20 years commented "It was fantastic to see so many new faces at our swimming gala this year, which is going from strength the strength. The atmosphere in the swimming pool was electric and our Abbots Bromley pupils did us proud. This has been the best swimming gala to date and the enthusiasm of all involved was wonderful. The level of swimming just keeps getting better and we already know that more schools wish to be involved next year".

# Moving On Up

Our Moving Up Day proved very successful this year in preparing the girls for their new year groups in September.

An exciting day was organised with a variety of fun activities including swimming and a special dance session with Alkins School of Dance, along with lessons in Geography and Spanish completing the day.

Good Luck to all pupils in their new year groups this September.



## Pupils Achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold

Participation in all three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is as popular as ever at Abbots Bromley. Fifteen girls in Y10 completed all sections of the Bronze Award finishing off with their rather wet weather Qualifying Expedition in the Peak District in June.

Our Y11 girls are well on their way towards completing their Silver Award, with their Qualifying expedition due to take place during the Michaelmas term.

The Lake District was the place for our Gold expedition and despite the very hot weather; all five girls completed their four day gruelling challenge in true AB style! Mrs Slater, manager of the award scheme, said...



*"All the girls are to be congratulated for their dedication and perseverance in reaching their own personal goals and I am extremely proud of them all".*



# AB Arts Society – Photography and Music

Former pupil, Emily Addis, brought her beautiful and inspiring photography back to the school in a special Exhibition and Guild Lecture. This proved an inspiration to our photography pupils as well as to others aspiring to enter the photographic world. We also wished Emily 'Good Luck' as she starts her new job in London.

The Arts Society also hosted a thoroughly enjoyable evening with Ffinian Jones, who gave a piano recital of favourites from Chopin, Haydn, Liszt and Debussy. If you are interested in other events the Art Society runs, please contact Mrs Godwin.



# Speech Day & Sports Day

Our guest speaker Carolyn Makinson gave an aspirational talk to all pupils, parents and staff on Speech Day. Congratulations to all who received a prize, we gave out more awards that ever before!

Our sports day followed in the afternoon. Blessed with fabulous weather, many picnics were enjoyed on Dante lawn before the fun of sports day began. There were a multitude of sporting events going on and congratulations to all the winners. This is the first time we have put both events together and this proved to be a winning idea, enabling everyone to take advantage of our beautiful grounds and two great celebrations in one day.

One parent commented: "I very much enjoyed Saturday's combined Speech and Sports Day - the musical & sporting performances and the speeches were extremely polished and the family atmosphere on the sports field was wonderful".



# Year 8 Pupil Wins a Royal Seal of Approval

The Royal Academy of Dance Midlands Ballet Awards took place in June and Francesca Hardwick (Year 8), was the overall winner of the Senior Class. Competing with girls and boys up to the age of 18 Francesca delighted the spectators and judge Mr Iain Mackay, Principal Dancer of Birmingham Royal Ballet. 'Francesca was a clear winner and had everything' said Mr Mackay.

*Francesca's prize is two tickets to the final of the prestigious International Genée Competition in Glasgow in September.*

'Francesca is an excellent and dedicated dance student. She fully deserves this success, which I am sure will be the first of many. I hope one day to be watching her in the Genée Competition' said Mr Alkins Director of The Alkins School of Dance and himself a former dancer and examiner of the Royal Academy of Dance.



# A Technicolour Production

A truly amazing workshop production of Joseph was enjoyed by many in school and was a resounding success. With superb songs and wonderful acting, all the pupils excelled in their roles under the excellent stage direction of our English Department and Miss Randles.

“...The production was superb...”

The costumes were breath taking, especially Joseph's technicoloured dream coat which was created by hand by our Speech and Drama teacher Mrs Morrell. Mrs Musgrave, Executive Head commented "The production was superb, the girls were a credit to the school and the staff worked exceptionally hard to pull it all together. It was a production worthy of the West End".

Well Done to all who took part, you really did excel yourselves!



***All pupils will be given their own drinks bottle when they return after the Summer break. These will enable pupils to have access to water throughout the day***

Good Luck to all our pupils who are expecting exam results over the summer.

Whole School Term Begins - **Tuesday 3rd September**

Scholarship Week - **11th-15th November**

AB Bazaar - **Saturday 30th November**

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## Blithfield

Blithfield. It almost seemed alive. Strange, deep murmurs a cold draft emanating from the place making your skin cold, shivering pale. No one lived here, at least no one alive. The children heard stories about the house. No one dared to find out if the rumours were true. Until one day the little boy did...

Rain is like a tear, like a tear, splashing down almost endlessly on the ground. Rain lashes against the windows at Blithfield in a fast, rhythmic pattern. The structure of the ancient house seems to sway in the gale, the wooden columns on either side of the porch are crooked, deep cracks breaking through their rough and worn surface. A shifting creature not human nor ghost with no substance is gliding down the eerie corridors casting a long, chilling shadow on the walls. The Dying Lord.

I can feel beads of damp sweat on my forehead. My thoughts are frozen, my body paralyzed with total terror. Goose Pimples raced down my spine as I shove my shaking hands into my mouth to prevent me from Screaming. Battling through my mind are thoughts too dark to be healed. Why am I alone, in the dark hole that I have been digging myself ever since these things starting happening? It is not a real hole, something worse. It's an emotional pitfall that could collapse under my weight at any moment.

I couldn't keep it in anymore; I screamed. Such a piecing scream but it didn't prevent the Dying Lord coming-closer. The thoughts im thinking of now aren't my thoughts. No. But how are they are in my brain? What was I doing? I went in this place, this castle for a dare. But now if I ever come out I won't be the same boy that I was. I can't do this anymore. It's working the rain, the house, the shadows.

Everything. This new boy inside of me, whoever he was, wasn't going to give up without a fight, no. He just stood watching the presence, the shadow coming closer. Screwing up my eyes, I believed that I could do it. All the swirling black shadows emanating around me gave me a power I didn't know I possessed. Was it working?

I moaned from the tapping sun-light against my face, wondered how long I'd been sleeping. I blinked, shut my eyes, blinked again. I yawned, managed to fully open both eyes. Not caring where I was or how I got there, I tried to remember what had happened last night – the night.

I can see flashes of last night in my eyes I remember what happened, that's the reason why im lying here. I can't think clearly, see straight and yet I continue to see glimpses of him, his harsh green eyes, greasy black hair and oily face that sheds a sniggering smile every so often. I remember the face clear as anything but I know it wasn't human. I didn't mean for everything to be this way, I did something I'm sure I feel as if it's my fault, that maybe I'm the problem. I feel as if there's a blunt knife digging deeper into the unsafe walls of my soul. As I peer around the room, I notice one streak of sunlight, fighting for survival.

Faintly, I hear footsteps awaken from nowhere. Now my heart is racing, as if it's about to jump out from my skin. As I look towards the door, the footsteps come to a halt. A shadow emerges from the darkness, and the door opens. The ground pounds as the steel cap boots from the black clothed detective hit the floor. He has a cold blooded voice that sends a shiver running down my spine. He begins the meeting with 'Why. Why did you go to Blithfield Hall' He didn't seem to look at me for an answer as he continued " You are lucky you are alive..."

An hour later, the detective left. I just sat there reflecting on his words. His words were so clear, never to be mistaken. Severn children had all gone to Blithfield Hall and never came out, or at least never came out sane. These visions of reality strikes upon everyone who entered the walls of Blithfield. Somehow I've managed to change it. I have beaten the Dying Lord at his own game.

By Sophie Bagot-Jewitt, Y7

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Edited by Joanna Turner.

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