



# ABBENEY UPDOTE

Abbey Grange C of E Academy - Edition 4 - November 2016 - Abbey Grange C of E Academy - Edition 4 - November

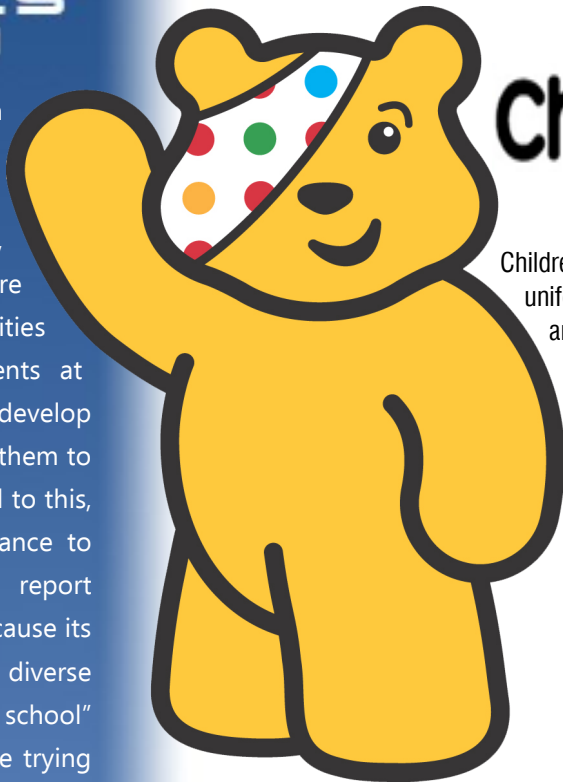
## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

The news items included in this addition of the Abbey Update - trips abroad, raising money for charity, remembrance activities - are all examples of opportunities that we put on for students at Abbey Grange in order to develop them as individuals and link them to the wider community. Linked to this, I hope you have had a chance to read the SIAMS inspection report that we sent out recently because its description of us as a "rich, diverse and highly effective church school" for me sums up what we are trying to do in terms of ensuring good academic outcomes for students, whilst at the same time developing them as rounded people.

I hope, as Advent begins, that you are able to take the time to reflect on the message of hope that Christmas brings to us all.



Mr J Norden  
Principal



## Children in Need

November 2016

Children in Need Day was celebrated in great style with a non-uniform day adding to the fun atmosphere. Students baked and raffled prizes whilst others donned hats and disguises for the photo booth or encouraged donations of loose change to cover Pudsey! Our lovely office staff joined in the fun offering cakes for staff, raising over £150 themselves. In total Abbey Grange raised £1510.80, our biggest total to date. Well done to everyone who got involved and particularly our great Children in Need team!



## Sicily Trip

October 2016

40 year 10 and 11 students and 4 staff experienced an amazing trip to Sicily over October half term.



Students enjoyed visiting Mount Etna having first climbed the mountain via a coach, cable car and 4x4 vehicle. There, they walked around the rim of a crater on the southern flank of this active volcano before descending back down to the foothills of Mt Etna and into a lava tube cave. Yet more excitement followed on day 3 with a river tubing excursion to the Alcantara Gorge, where staff and students followed the course of the river on big rubber tyres. Negotiating the rapids whilst trying to remain on the tyre was challenging but great fun. A more relaxing afternoon was spent in the beautiful town of Taormina. We admired the impressive views of Mt Etna and the coastal town of Giardini Naxos from the ancient Amphitheatre before enjoying a bit of shopping and the obligatory ice cream.

Day 4 involved a ferry ride to the island of Vulcano. Here we trekked up the Gran Cratere volcano in temperatures of 28°C to be greeted by a deep crater and numerous fumeroles around the crater rim. The volcano has not erupted since 1888 but the fumeroles were emitting steam and sulphur gases at incredibly high temperatures. The



afternoon was spent relaxing in the mud pools at the base of the volcano. Students and staff emerged from the

pools looking more youthful but stinking of rotten eggs from the sulphur gases.

Students enjoyed the trip so much they have asked to go back. It has definitely enhanced the Geographical understanding of all students (and staff) of plate tectonics.

## Sixth Form - America Trip

October 2016

Over the course of eight days in October, sixty-nine students from



Abbey Grange Sixth Form clocked up a grand total of 7854 miles in an unforgettable trans-Atlantic trip to the U.S.A. At 4:00am on a bitterly cold morning two coaches set off, starting the excitable group on a journey across the ocean and to Dulles International Airport where they were greeted by the 28 degree heat of Washington DC.

From here the students would push on through Philadelphia and New York, sinking their teeth into American culture and (predictably) deep fried food. Along the way they visited many famous sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, Capitol Hill and the Smithsonian in Washington; Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia; and the Top of the Rock, the 9/11 Memorial Museum and the Statue of Liberty (and many more) in New York. However, for some, the greatest wonder of North America was the Woodbury Common Outlet where dollar after dollar was spent on designer clothing. Outside these memorable locations the students were further immersed in American culture with nights at "The Hard Rock Café Washington DC" and "Bubba

Gump's" on Times Square, whilst also spending an evening bowling and another on Broadway watching a performance of "The School of Rock". Throughout the entire trip the students were accompanied by a great group of staff, all known for their fantastic links and relationships with the Sixth Form. They did a fantastic job of organising a group of loud teenagers and preventing them getting lost in stupidly large cities. Everyone was returned safe and sound to sunny Leeds, having been on a trip they could talk about for years to come. The trip will be happening again in October 2018, so watch out for information from school in the new school year.

## Remembrance Services -

November 2016

Remembrance was observed in a solemn but interactive way through assemblies all week. In form time leading up to Remembrance, students had written their own messages of remembrance and thanks which were then placed on the altar during assembly. Musicians from different abbeys played the Last Post in the assemblies whilst Jess from Year 10 sang a moving rendition of the Poppy Girls' song 'No need to say goodbye' as we heard stories of 'Leeds Pals' in this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme. On Armistice Day students were greeted as they came into school by a giant poppy assembled from their collective ideas. The silence was observed across school whilst a small group of students represented Abbey Grange at the service at Horsforth cemetery, after the service taking time to place crosses on the graves of those killed in war.



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