



**Horizons Specialist Academy Trust**  
*Providing infinite opportunities*

# Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form's newsletter.

We have had another very busy term at the Sixth Form. Students in year 13 have been working tremendously hard to complete their coursework in preparation for their final assessments. Our dedicated GCSE group 7 have been working hard with their catch up studies during tutor time and the Wednesday self-study session. We expect all students to keep up their fantastic efforts, ensuring they get the best grades possible.

Students leaving this summer are also currently in the process of visiting colleges, completing application forms and attending taster sessions at their next provision. This term we have had another successful careers event where students were able to speak to colleagues from SRC, Middlesbrough College, Askham Bryan, project choice, the job centre etc. If you require further support for your son or daughter in preparation for their next steps, please contact Deb Wyke (Opportunities -Telephone 01642 677600) or our own CEIAG Coordinators, Steve Cropper and Nicola Bingham.

This term students have participated in numerous exciting and challenging activities. A number of option groups have been 'out and about'. They have been exploring the local area as part of the Adventure option at Summer hill, Cod Beck reservoir and the Barrage. The art option have also been to visit Stockton Town centre looking at creative inspiration and Sports have been over at Billingham using their sporting facilities and learning some new sports. Group1 have also been out at Bishop Auckland college to participate in the regional inclusive skills competitions for life skills, well done to Sam who came runner up in the ironing competition!

Students have also thoroughly enjoyed looking after and engaging with the therapeutic animals at the Sixth Form. The students continue to work with Bella the dog and Louie the school Guinea pig has also spent some time over at the Sixth Form, for students undertaking the pet care topics this term. This term has also seen a new cohort of students embarking on work placements at North Tees hospital, Billingham family hub and the Land of make believe.

Finally, we have had some fantastic whole Sixth Form events running over the past few weeks. World book day being one, where we had some fantastic efforts from both staff and students dressing up in Roald Dahl theme characters and Numeracy day. We have also been supporting raising money for Guide dogs and mental health charities this term.

I hope that you enjoy reading our Spring Newsletter and that you have a very relaxing Easter Break.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kathryn Thompson

Principal, Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form

# Chinese New Year

**Chinese New Year Dragons – Group 1B made their own dragon heads and during a music session, listened to the sound of the Chinese drums, walking to the beat and dancing with the dragon heads!**



# Northern School of Art

The Expressive Arts option group enjoyed an afternoon at the Northern School of Art.

We learnt lots about the different art modules the college have to offer and how different techniques are used.



# Metal Flame Tests

**Group 7 GCSE Science conducted metal flames tests. Some of the amazing results can be seen below!**



Iron



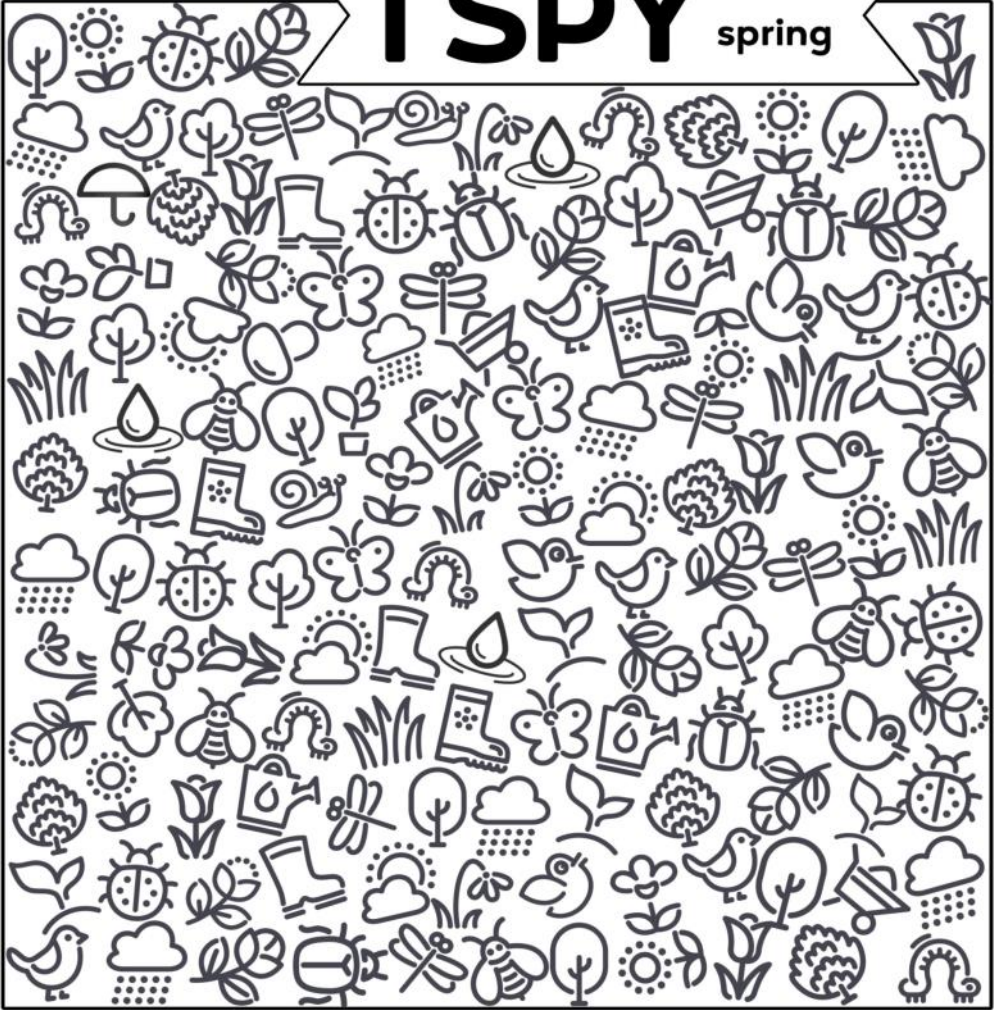
Sodium



Copper

# Spy Spring Activity

# I SPY spring



- |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 5 |  |
| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| 3 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |

# Meet the staff

**Name:** Sam Snowdon

**Job Title:** Teacher of ICT & Expressive Arts

**Favourite thing about working at Abbey Hill?**

No two days are the same! Abbey Hill keeps me busy and on my feet :)

**Who is your hero and why?**

Adele! Despite the fame she has stayed grounded!

**Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?**

Spending money that doesn't exist...

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Dairy Milk chocolate and pickled onion crisps... Don't knock it until you've tried it :)

**What's your favourite movie?**

The Wedding Date! It's the ultimate feel good movie. I love it.

**When were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I always wanted to be a pilot!

**An interesting fact about yourself:**

I have two star signs—Capricorn and Aquarius!



# Mothers Day Crafts

The Friday afternoon Enterprise option Group with Sana made Mother's Day crafts to sell in their raffle.

**£100 was raised for Guide Dogs for the Blind!**

**Well done everyone!**





# Team Building

**The Friday morning Team Building option enjoyed a trip to Tees Barrage in the winter sun!**



# Ironing Competition Prep

Group 2 did a fantastic job practising their ironing ahead of the upcoming skills competition!



# Separating Salts

**Group 6 GCSE Science conducting experiments with Rock Salts!**





# Meet the staff

**Name:**

Kate Reader

**Job Title:**

Speech and Language Therapist

**Favourite thing about working at Abbey Hill?**

No two days are ever the same!

**Who is your hero and why?**

Anne Sullivan—She was Helen Keller's speech therapist!

**Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?**

I am a choral singer!

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Binging comedy series, including ratio comedy. I can still recite sections of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (which I listened to when I was at school!).

**What's your favourite movie?**

The Railway Children

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

A speech therapist!

**An interesting fact about yourself:**

I used to pierce ears for a living!



# Numeracy Day

A fun numeracy day was had by all, with groups doing money based activities, counting and measuring. All focused around numeracy.

Some staff even wore masks to look like Mark the Maths teacher all day – poor things!!



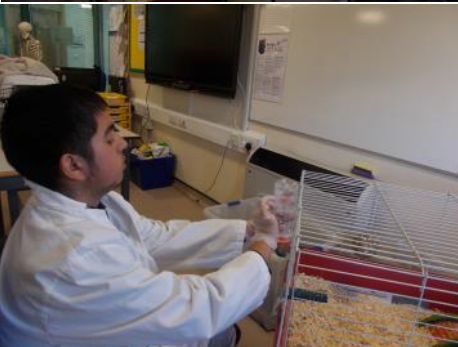
# World Book Day

## Celebrating World Book Day 2023



# Guinea Pigs

Group 3 learning how to care for, feed and handle the school guinea pigs.





# Word Search

## Spring Word Search



B I B I R D S V U Z E P T O G C C F O Q  
E O D Z Z Z E O M Z I A B Q O T H S T Q  
B H W E W F A N L A B C Q L Y E F I I B  
J E K A Y I S S S P R I N G O N B Q C U  
R C E I E U T E F E W C W T P S X A O K  
L W E S T J E E S U N S H I N E S R L B  
T B R M T E R D Y Q T U L I P G Y O B U  
E G G S J Z S S H X N N P G W O O I M T  
U Q Z E E G A R D E N X C I N S J R F T  
S M P E B J K M Z X X V P L K L V U Q E  
P I C N I C Z Q M M C S E A S O N R D R  
F N E S T U M A H U M A F L O W E R S F  
D W A R M R A I N B O W Q U W Z I D T L  
O A C Z S L Y O S K A I K W B U N N Y Y  
G W F E J G R E E N Q V V F D M R J Q E  
G Q Y H F M O A P R I L D W E X G I R Z

NEST  
MAY  
BEES  
MARCH  
CHICK  
FLOWERS

SEASON  
SUNSHINE  
GREEN  
PICNIC  
WARM  
TULIP

BUNNY  
BLOSSOM  
RAINBOW  
SEEDS  
GARDEN  
APRIL

KITES  
BUTTERFLY  
EGGS  
EASTER  
BIRDS  
SPRING

# Cod Beck Reservoir

The Team Building option enjoyed a lovely visit to Cod Beck Reservoir.

Their excellent map reading skills came in handy on this trip!



# World Book Day

Staff all dressed up for a Roald Dahl themed  
World Book Day 2023!



# Meet the staff

**Name:** Hollie Ford

**Job Title:** Teaching Assistant in Group 1

**Favourite thing about working at Abbey Hill?**

Abbey Hill is very welcoming and inclusive for students and staff. Also, Abbey Hill has allowed me to have amazing opportunities I never thought I would ever be able to do.

**Who is your hero and why?**

My Dad is my hero. His family, work and life ethic are admirable and he has always been my number one supporter.

**Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?**

At the present I enjoy yoga and Pilates. However, when I was younger, I used to be in a marching jazz band where we won world champion titles.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

A very strange guilty pleasure is cereal! I always love a bowl of cereal before bed.

**What's your favourite movie?**

The Lion King!

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I always wanted to be a nurse or midwife, and this has always been something of a dream job.

**An interesting fact about yourself:**

I used to play the kazoo and could also play the drums.



# Ironing Competition

The group went along with some of the students who were entered in the Independent Living Skills Competition, as they took part in ironing at different levels. One of the students, Sam was fabulous! He ironed a t-shirt and was given a certificate!



# Guide Dogs

More from the gorgeous Guide Dogs. This time they paid the drama option a visit.



# Maths Fun

Grp 7 making a 10cm x 10cm x 10cm cube  
= 1 litre / 1000cc / 1000ml capacity  
Sky didn't quite manage to make hers  
water tight...



# Happy Birthday Rob

Hip Hip Hooray!!

Rob's 21 Today...





# Work Experience

The students did a fantastic job on their work placements this term! Well done everyone!



# Health and Safety

Group 1B have been looking at the different Health and Safety signs in the workplace. The favourite activity was definitely trying on the PPE, reading the signs and identifying what we needed and what to do. We have practiced what to do in an emergency, such as a fire or if we have been badly hurt and who to call to keep us safe.



# A visit from the Guide Dogs

**A visit from the Guide Dogs to collect the amazing £100 the Enterprise group raised by making and selling their crafts.**



# Welcoming Spring

With Spring's arrival, group 1 have been embracing the warmer weather, donning their overalls, and planting seeds in the polytunnel. They're looking forward to a blooming good time over the next few months, planting a variety of crops.



# Aerobic and Anaerobic Respiration

**Group 6 studying aerobic and anaerobic respiration. Students held their arm in the air for a long period of time. The point was to make the muscles use anaerobic respiration and produce lactic acid which leads to muscle aches and cramps.**



# Plant Care

Group 4 have been studying plant care. They have been busy preparing the beds and weeding, planting bean, radish and beetroot seeds and keeping a bean diary.



# Meet the staff

**Name:** Sue Brown

**Job Title:** Teaching Assistant in Group 2

**Favourite thing about working at Abbey Hill?**

Working with amazing staff and young people. No two days are the same, always guaranteed a laugh, especially with the innuendos in our team. The students come out with some corkers too.

**Who is your hero and why?**

My hero was my Grandad, he was the kindest funniest man I've ever met. He wasn't afraid of anyone or anything. He used to chase naughty boys up trees in the park and catch bees in boxes then let them go. He made the best chips ever. He was amazing. A real gent.

**Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?**

I learned to ride a big motorbike in my 40s and despite coming off on a bend and nearly getting myself killed on my first test, I kept going and passed my test a few months later. Cooking and sewing are some of my hobbies and I love how popular I am on Wednesday afternoon.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Binge watching cleaning programmes like hoarding buried alive, I love to see the transformation from tip to clean, it's very therapeutic.

**What's your favourite movie?**

It's between Top gun and Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, I rarely stay awake for all of a movie but Kevin Costner and Tom Cruise certainly help to keep me interested. Love the sound tracks in both films too.

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

A cleaner or a cook. I was a cleaner at Abbey Hill before I became a TA and kind of got my wish to be a cook, or assistant at least to the lovely and talented Miss Lavelle.



# Word Search



## Spring



N G V S L C T J E D F P Z O R L B  
E T O I P H R A S B I J E D M V G  
L Z R M T A O C N I A R G T Y Q N  
I P E J S N Y K F W H S L A I F I  
A Y B E G M D E P T E Q E W C K R  
D S O K R E N T Y L W H J B U I P  
M U P H T B I L D E N O C Z A F S  
K N T C D A W D G P L D B G P L M  
F S E I R Z U N O S A E S N U B L  
W H Z N A P R S M Y T L F M I W S  
P I F C L E A N I N G E B H K A V  
T N U I B M V R Z O F R C A W H R  
M E D P H C R A M B E K L N S T G  
X L F J Y A S N G L S H O W E R S  
H B R E A K O P L V C Z U F Y D K  
C F T X M U B A S I L W D H G N E  
W I H P E D L J R Y Q B S A O X R

- |           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| • APRIL   | • BASEBALL | • BREAK    |
| • BREEZE  | • CLEANING | • CLOUDS   |
| • JACKET  | • KITE     | • MARCH    |
| • MAY     | • PICNIC   | • PUDDLES  |
| • RAINBOW | • RAINCOAT | • SEASON   |
| • SHOWERS | • SPRING   | • SUNSHINE |
| • THAW    | • UMBRELLA | • WINDY    |





# Reading

One of the reading groups have been working hard to create phonics/alphabet board games that they can play during reading lessons.



# Emergency Services in Group 2

Group 2 have had lots of exciting visitors in English this half term, as part of their 'Emergencies' topic. The group have been learning about the ambulance service, fire service and the police. They have enjoyed trying on the different uniforms, learning about the different roles and have even had a tour of an ambulance!



# Urban Kaos

During TGIW, a group of students have enjoyed participating in a new option. The group have been working with 'Urban Kaos' to put on a street dance performance with a mash up of their favourite songs!



# Mindfulness Colouring



# Youthy

**VIBE**

**Venue: The Youthy**

**Time: Every Tuesday and Friday 5:30pm –  
8:30pm**

**Age range: 7-25 years old**

**Attendance fee: £2 for young person and carer/  
guardian.**

**Five Lamps deliver a youth club for young people with physical and learning difficulties, where they can take part in cooking workshops, arts and crafts, pool, disco and trips out.**



**FIVE  
LAMPS**

*— Making People Matter —*

# SNAPS

Special Needs Activities with Parents Support ( SNAPS ) Tees Valley



# snaps



Contact Ruth Benson 07745969049, e mail info@snapsteesvalley.co.uk or visit [www.snapsteesvalley.co.uk](http://www.snapsteesvalley.co.uk), Registered Charity Number 1148166

## TERM TIME SNAPS Plus Activities 2023

Parents/Carers to attend as well as 18 years plus young adult

**SNAPS Activities MUST BE PAID & BOOKED with Ruth Benson on 07745969049**

**DO NOT ASSUME you have a place until you have RECEIVED CONFIRMATION Please**

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY		TIME	COST EACH
Monthly	Wednesday	<b>Pub Night</b> in the Function Room @ The Centenary Pub	Pub atmosphere ... Meet up with old or make new friends.. with Bingo and Quiz	7pm – 9pm	£3.00 Per young adult
Weekly	Thursday	<b>'Thursday Get together'</b>  @SNAPS in Innovation Hub	Chat with others ALSO... Play Pool, Wii, Air Hockey, table football.. Board Games & more !!	10am – 12noon	£3.00 Per young adult
Weekly	Friday	<b>Ice Skate</b> @ Billingham Ice Arena	Go on ice with wheelchairs, trainers, sledges, penguin, snowmen stabilizers	9.30am – 10.30am	£3.00 Per young adult
To Be Confirmed Look at Facebook	Saturday	ARC Cinema	Variety of Films.. sharing the Cinema screening with the general public	11am	£4.50 per person Plus Goody Bag
To Be Confirmed Look at Facebook	Saturday	ARC Family Show	Variety of Family Shows .... sharing the Theatre with the general public	2.30pm	£6.00 per person Plus Goody Bag
Monthly	Saturday	Exclusive Swim @ SPLASH	Swimming	4pm – 5pm Except April Swim Date time 5pm-6pm	£3.00 Per young adult

**REMINDER ..... PLEASE Pay and Book for activity with Ruth 07745969049**

**ALSO any Questions or Queries Please contact Ruth ...**

# The Gaming Hideaway

**We want to hear from you!**



**Are you living in Stockton, aged 14-18 years old with an EHCP?**

We want to hear your thoughts about post 16 plans, what you enjoy and what sort of areas you might like to work in. Help us to plan for the future of SEND young people in Stockton!

**We want to invite you to an evening of amazing virtual reality gaming, snacks, and drinks! Come along, have fun, and have your views heard!**

**When:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Where:** Unit 20, St Peters House, Pavilion Shopping Centre, Thornaby, TS17 9FF

<https://www.thegaminghideaway.com/>

**What time:** 6.15pm – 8pm.

Parent/carers must remain in the building (there's a café!).

**Places are limited – please request a booking form by emailing**

**Nicola.stott@stockton.gov.uk**





**Have a great Spring break from all at  
Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form!**



**We look forward to welcoming students back on  
Monday 17th April 2023**

**If you would like any further information or would like to contact a member of  
staff the contact details can be found below:**

**Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form  
Sheraton Building  
Ketton Road  
Stockton-On-Tees  
TS19 8BU**

**Tel: 01642 664140**

**Email: [enquiries@horizonstrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@horizonstrust.org.uk)**

**<https://abbeyhillsixth.horizonstrust.org.uk/>**