



**ABBEY HILL**  
Academy Sixth Form



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

# Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter, in which we hope you will be able to read about the interesting events that have happened in the Sixth Form over the last term.

We were all very much pleased to see our Sixth Form timetable return back to 'normal' and for our students to re-engage back with both vocational options and outings. We have run a number of events throughout this term which have included, the National Citizen Service programme, horse riding, the Christmas drama production and bush craft. Our vocational options such as the hair salon, DIY, Relaxation, gardening, volunteering in the local community have also seen a return. Links with our school partners such as Youth Direction, Brook, NCS and the police have been re-established. Students have also represented the Sixth Form at the Stockton Sparkles event in Stockton Town Centre — promoting and selling a range of Christmas products to the local community. Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents for their support with these events.

On Tuesday 14th December it was great to see the students having their Christmas Lunch together in their class teams. The students and staff have also so participated in our final rewards assembly this year where we had a selection of students win high street vouchers as a reward for good work and attendance during this term.

Everyone continues to work extremely hard to ensure the students complete all of their coursework for their qualifications, which will continue with renewed vigour in 2022.

I look forward to the new term but before then can I thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to the students returning back to Sixth Form on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Seasonal Greetings,  
Kathryn Thompson  
Principal  
Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form

# Making sense of the sensory garden



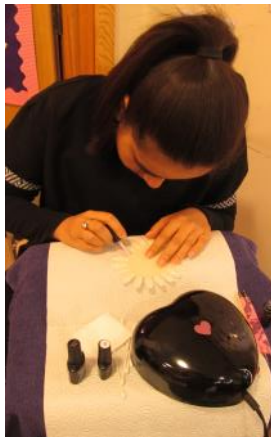
After 18 months of disruption to the normal curriculum caused by the Covid19 health situation, the Abbey Hill Sensory Garden was looking a little sorry for itself. It was the job of the DIY/John Muir option group to make sense out of this disorder. The group got to work weeding, pruning back shrubs, trimming back the wild flower border, re-pointing the stone walkways and wood preserving the raised borders and furniture.

Thanks to the hard work shown by the group, It didn't take us long to get the Sensory Garden back to its initial glory. Such back breaking work generated a real thirst and some in the group thought they would quench this over a few bottles – thankfully these bottles were empty!



# Nail Art

**Students in the salon have been practising their nail art techniques. They have used a mixture of both nail varnish and gel varnish to work on their skills and build up their portfolio. Students have looked at the structure of the nail and different nail shapes.**



# Greggs Trip

**Group 4 walked up to Greggs during their Maths lesson whilst working on their money management unit.**

**All had a good time doing Maths, handling money, crossing roads and most importantly eating GREGGS!!!!**

**“They all used good manners, and were very well behaved.” Kelly, November 2021.**

**Jordan saw and said hello to his Mum!!**





# Locke Park

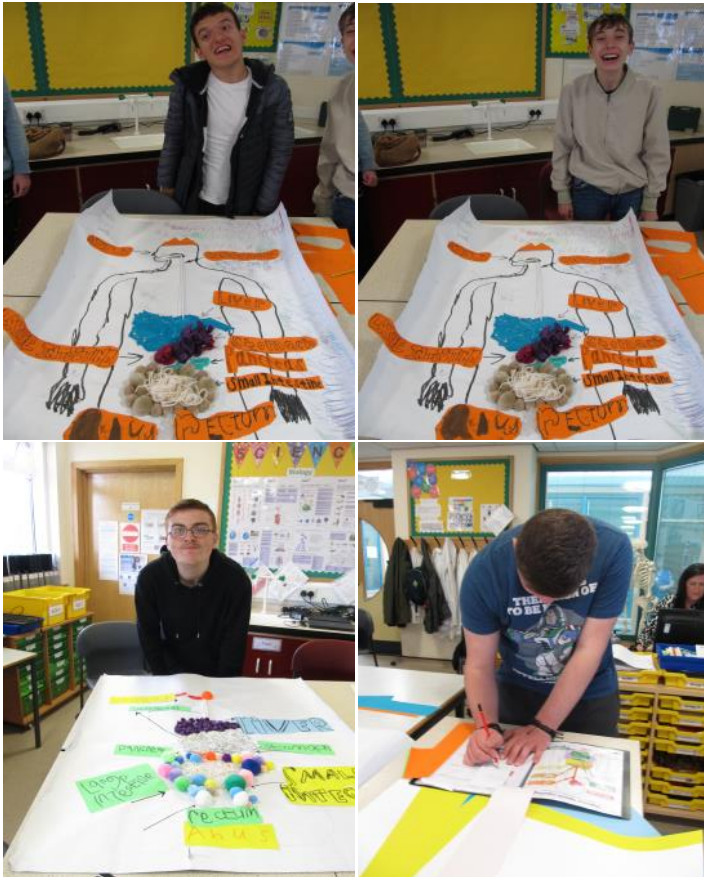
**This half term, Group 1 have enjoyed accessing the community. While the weather has been nice, they have visited lots of parks and outdoor spaces.**

**One of their favourite visits was to Locke Park in Redcar, the sun was shining! The group had a long walk around the park, past the duck pond and over the small bridges, before sitting for a drink of juice in the rose garden. There had to be a visit to the play area too, where there were lots of spinning equipment, swings and even a bouncing see-saw to practice balancing skills. Group 1 definitely hope to visit Locke Park again soon!**



# The Digestive System

In WJEC science we have been modelling the route of food through the digestive system and the formation of faeces. We have also been modelling the organs of the digestive system using craft materials.



# Pet Therapy

**Our brand new option of pet therapy gives the young people chance to interact with the therapy dog Bella. They have learnt how to look after, groom and walk the dog. The group thoroughly enjoy this weekly session**





# National Citizen Service

**Some of our Y12 students embarked on our partnership NCS programme and completed phase 1 'adventure days'. Day 1 was canoeing and bell boats!**



# NCS 2

**Day 2 on our NCS programme was 'Bush craft and Archery!'**



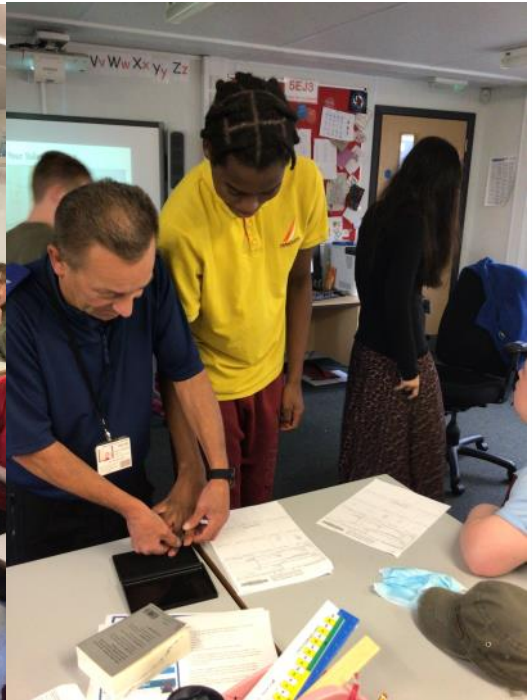
# Careers Fayre

**Abbey Hill Academy Sixth form students engaged in a face to face careers session with local providers. Thanks to Stockton Riverside College , Skills Academy, Job Centre Plus DWP, Shaw Trust, Youth Direction and apprenticeships for supporting the event!**



# Emergency English

**As part of their 'Emergency' module for the English Functional skills qualification, some of the groups had a visit from Geoff Illingworth – School Liaison and Youth Engagement Officer for Cleveland Police. The students were given a presentation on the role of a Police Officer, and were given the opportunity to try on some of the uniform, use the handcuffs, and get their fingerprints taken. They thoroughly enjoyed the session!**





# Remembrance Art

One of the art groups have been busy looking at Remembrance Day. We painted stones with poppies, some of us used paper shapes to create the poppies and some painted. There were lots of fabulous ideas painted onto the stones, including a soldier! We hope to put them in the woodland area for others to find.



# Work Experience

**Some of our students have been on a supported work placement in a local cafeteria. The students have cleared and cleaned tables, worked in the pot wash and re-stocked fridges.**



# Cherry Hill Garden Centre

**Group 2 visited Cherry Hill Garden Centre to go on a Christmas walk. It was described as ‘a wonderfully festive world, with attractions, singing Yetis and not least of all, the chance to see the real reindeer!’**

**We had a great time and Sue attempted to feed Cookie the reindeer, but he was having none of it!!!**



# Ronald Companoca

**Group 3 have been looking at the work of artist Ronald Companoca and created their own bubble masterpiece in chalks and oil pastels.**





# Home Cooking Skills

**BTEC Home Cooking Skills Option group hard at work baking and icing chocolate cupcakes for Halloween.**



# Horse Riding

**Students the opportunity to go horse riding on Tuesday mornings at the Unicorn Centre.**



# Bush craft, songs and stories

Group 1 had a great afternoon of bush craft, songs and stories in The Woodland. Chris and the gents took charge of the fire, whilst Gill and the ladies provided the musical entertainment. To finish the session the group all joined in a fabulous musical storytelling session before safely extinguishing the fire. Good fun was had by all.





# Sporty Fridays

Over the past half term the Friday Afternoon Sport Option students have been developing their cricket skills. We have been working on bowling, catching and batting, focusing on good technique and having fun. To be honest looking at the scores in the Ashes down in Australia, the England Team could do with Reece's bowling skills and Niamh's batting !





# Heart Dissection

**Students studying Science Today dissected lambs' hearts to learn more about their anatomy.**

**We located the right and left atrium and ventricles and took a closer look at the valves, arteries and veins. This lesson was not for the faint hearted but was thoroughly enjoyed by all!**



# Ink printing

Photography students had fun printing images of leaves using the photos they had taken in the woodland.



# Stockton Sparkles

**Students selling their Christmas products at Stockton Sparkles!**



# Enterprise

**Friday afternoon Enterprise students hard at work making products to sell at Stockton Sparkles Christmas market.**





# Creative Arts

**Creative Arts students are using mixed media to create collages, printing and surface pattern design.**



# Gardening/Woodwork

**Students hard at work making garden stepping stones from pallet wood.**



# Relaxing with Bella the Labrador

**Students in the pet therapy/relaxation option enjoyed spending the afternoon with Bella the Labrador.**



# Drama

**The drama group celebrated all their hard work with a Christmas Stripped Back Strictly performance. They were all amazing. What an absolute bunch of superstars. Well done gang!!**





# Bowling and Pizza Hut

Some groups enjoyed a Christmas tutor day out to Hollywood Bowl and Pizza Hut.





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



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

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