

Abbey Hill School & Technology College Newsletter

Spring 2006

Triple success for Abbey Hill School

Abbey Hill School & Technology College in Stockton has been the recipient of three outstanding accolades in the course of the last term. Renewed accreditation from the National Autistic Society, recognition of their professional



development programme by Investors on People, and a highly complimentary Ofsted report.

The school was visited by Ofsted on the 10th & 11th October under the new school inspection framework. After two days of intense scrutiny, involving frequent discussions between the inspectors and staff and students, Abbey Hill was judged to be a good school with many outstanding features.

In their report the inspection team noted that *"this is a good school and parents and students rightly value the dedication and support of all the staff.....the outstanding curriculum is taught well and as a result students are highly motivated to attend school and strive to do their best"*

In his letter to the students lead inspector John Atkinson agreed with their own views about the value of the school and added; *"The staff are very interested in you and always want you to do your best. They expect you to behave well and work hard – and you do because you enjoy school"*

Acting Head Teacher, Clare Devine, paid tribute to the unstinting and tireless commitment of her colleagues and commented; *"These awards are a fitting recognition of all the work done by staff, students, parents and governors in making Abbey Hill a centre of excellence in the education of young people with special needs. I am proud to be part of it"*

The Sheraton Building is now open!

The finishing touches have been done and the brand new building for post 16 Abbey Hill students is now open. The staff have spent a



couple of exhausting days moving all the resources and teaching materials from the old buildings in Norton to the new "State of the Art" "Sheraton" building which is a fantastic resource for our students in the 21st century. The new resources will enable more vocational and

academic courses to take place such as horticulture and health and beauty. Pictures of the new building can be seen on the school Internet site <http://www.abbeyhill.stockton.sch.uk>

Abbey Hill Artwork goes on display

Some of the GCSE artwork produced during 2005 is on display at the University of Durham's Queens Campus "Rotunda" building (by the riverside). This is the second year we have showcased the hard work of our students in the University building.

International School Award



As reported last term Abbey Hill has once again reached for excellence and achieved the prestigious award of "International School" This

award is for the development of International themes throughout the school and to make the students aware of other countries and their way of life. The school had to produce a portfolio of work produced by students and staff to highlight the quality and extent of work covered. Mary Baxter (International School Co-ordinator) and David Barlow went down to the British Council offices in London to be presented with the award by Anna Ford on 12th October.

European visit

Three staff and two students went to Denmark in September to take part in a planning meeting for the next stage of the European Comenius school development project. Abbey Hill acts as the co-ordinator with schools from Germany, Denmark, France and Romania. The aim of the programme is to compare schools in Europe and in particular how special schools work. The programme involves both staff and students in visiting the partner schools and their countries. We are currently looking at teaching methods, how we prepare students for adult life and inclusion. This is mostly funded by the Comenius programme. It is planned that during the next two years there will be more opportunity for travelling to some of the other partner schools.

Abbey Hill caring students

During the last term the enterprise students have been very busy and have raised the following monies

Made 28 Christmas boxes
£410 to Children in Need
£45 Butterwick Hospice
£200 Asian Earthquake appeal
£48 Air ambulance

This is what we have done for charities since September
Anita

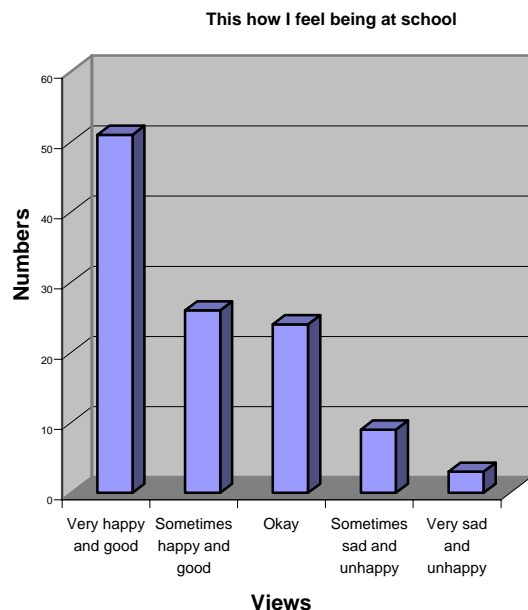
Abbey Hill wins a Communication Award

Abbey Hill School has been awarded a £1,000 treasure chest from BT this is to develop communication skills throughout the school. The school was one of 200 winners chosen from 750 entries in the BT schools award. The school demonstrated a commitment to putting speaking and listening at the heart of the education, and promoting excellent communication skills within the classroom and its community. Abbey Hill was selected because it integrates communication skills in all of its lessons. This

also takes place in group work, drama activities, reading aloud and class discussions; children are taught crucial speaking and listening skills. Dave Hancock, head of BT education and volunteering, said: "I would like to congratulate all the schools taking part in these awards. "It is great to see that schools across the country are demonstrating a commitment to improving the communication skills of their pupils and are actively seeking opportunities to promote best practice in speaking and listening".

Anti-Bullying survey

We recently did some surveys with some of our students as part of our anti bullying programme. You can see a graph of one of the results below. The rest of the results can be seen on the school web site under resources.



We will be looking at the survey to see where we can help our students further to feel happy and safe at school. If your child has any suggestions then please let us know.

Dates for your Diary

Half Term Monday 20th - Friday 24th February

Professional Development Day March 17th

Thank you for your continued support if you wish to contribute anything for the next Newsletter then email

<mailto:davebarlow@abbeyhill.stockton.sch.uk>