

IDPE Schools' Award for Ambition and Progress

(Development within the school has been established for five years or less)



The Abbey

The Abbey School, Reading – ARCH: An innovative new learning partnership

The ARCH programme offers activities that develop learning, aspiration and self-discovery, built on innovative community collaborations.

Led by The Abbey, piloted within the Engagement & Development Team and working together with schools in the state-maintained sector, what unites our partners and collaborators is a desire to improve the life chances of young people in Reading – whatever school they attend – to help them explore their potential and live with confidence, purpose and joy.

Within 18-months, the initiative has generated 200 volunteer hours from alumnae, businesses and community, built innovative partnerships and secured donations including a substantial legacy.

Achievements in 2022/3:

- 1,000 senior students from 8 schools attended talks and career sessions with leading women in law, engineering and psychology
- 2,500 people viewed national exhibitions celebrating 'Women in Sport' and 'Women at the Bar' on exclusive loan to The Abbey
- 100 primary children from 20 schools and day nurseries tried new sports to help them find 'belonging' through our 'Reading Festival of Sport' celebrations
- 6 schools attended creative writing workshops for our 'Write On Festival'
- A student business partnership is launching the 'bright pink bin' recycling initiative for Reading
- A multi-school memory partnership is exploring memory techniques to enhance student performance

Supporting materials

[Launch Event Programme](#)

[Student Feedback](#)

[ARCH video](#)