



Association of Business
Leaders in Education

ABLE NEWS

AUTUMN 2024



Conference
19 NOV
Booking Now
Open



Message from the Chair

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Chair of ABLE! It's an exciting time for us, and I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. I would also like to express a huge thank you to Frances Rowland, who has taken on the role of Director to provide strategic support and guidance. With her experience and the wonderful committee we have, ABLE is poised to continue delivering fantastic support to our members.

For those who don't know me, I have been involved with ABLE for nearly ten years, and I am passionate about what we do. We are here to help you navigate the ever-changing landscape of school business management, and I am committed to ensuring we provide the best possible resources and events to support you.

Make sure you get the most out of your membership by attending the conferences and business masterclasses, networking with peers, and making the most of the ABLE rewards app.

We have an exciting year planned, and I am thrilled to be leading such a dedicated organisation. Our goal is to provide you with high-quality support, professional development, and networking opportunities to help you succeed. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any ideas or feedback – we're here to support you.

Thank you for being part of the ABLE community. I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming events and working together to make this year a successful one for everyone.

Best wishes,

Emma Cripwell
Chair, Association of Business Leaders in Education (ABLE)



In partnership with

Atom IT



Affiliated With



Agenda

Tuesday 19 November 2024

Eastwood Hall, Mansfield Road, Eastwood, Notts NG16 3SS

08:30 - 09:00

Registration, Exhibition and Coffee

09:00-09:20

Welcome update, app awards to members and launching new forum- Chair, Emma Cripwell

09:20-09:35

Partner Updates- SAS, Breedon, Atom IT

09:35-09:50

Sponsor Presentation- TBC

09:50- 10:30

Keynote –What SBMs need to know before Ofsted come knocking – Ben Waldram, Ofsted Inspector and local Head Teacher

10:30- 11:15

Refreshments, Exhibition and Coffee

11:15-12:15

Choice of workshops

1. Schools Culture – Why it Matters, especially for business Leaders! – David Cameron
2. School Business Professional development – Lee Herridge, ISBL
3. Cybercrime Escape Room – Sgt Nick Stenner, Regional Cyber Crime

12:15-13:15

Lunch, Exhibition and Networking

13:15-14:15

Keynote: Pam Burrows - Confidence – Being Persuasive and Saying No

14:15-14:35

Tea/coffee, complete evaluation, app questions

14:35-15:35

Choice of workshops

1. Pam Burrows – Sleep Techniques
2. Professional Standards - Making them work for you – David Cameron
3. How to do a mini SCR audit in your school - Hazel McDonald

15:35

Raffle Results

Chosen Charity

**WINSTON'S
WISH WW**

Giving hope to grieving children

Winston's Wish provides free digital bereavement information and support for children and young people across the UK who are grieving the death of someone important to them.

Book Now!

In partnership with

Atom IT



Champion Supplier



Affiliated With



Agenda

Tuesday 04 March 2024

Eastwood Hall, Mansfield Road, Eastwood, Notts NG16 3SS

08:30 - 09:00

Registration, Exhibition and Coffee

09:00-09:15

Welcome update, app awards to members-
Chair, Emma Cripwell

09:15-09:30

Partner Updates- SAS, Breedon, Atom IT

09:30-09:45

Sponsor Presentation- TBC

09:45- 10:40

Keynote – Moving Feeds Your Positive Mental
Health - Charm Daley

10:40- 11:30

Refreshments, Exhibition and Coffee

11:30-12:30

Choice of workshops

1. Managing upwards, getting a seat at the table - Laura Williams, SAS
2. Staff Absence Management- Wisdom and Wellbeing for all – Chris Whitmore, The Schools People
3. Setting Boundaries-How to thrive as a School Business Manager – Gemma Drinkall, HeadSphere

Book Now!

12:30-13:30

Lunch, Exhibition and Networking

13:30-14:10

Keynote: Tie up your shoeLACES – Don't let life trip you up! – Frederika Roberts

14:10-14:30

Tea/coffee, complete evaluation, app questions

14:30-15:30

Choice of workshops

1. Summer planning - Laura Williams, SAS
2. Recipe for Happiness – Frederika Roberts
3. Supporting your whole school in riding the Ofsted wave – Andy Mellor, SAS

15:30

Raffle Results

Chosen Charity

Robin Hood Disabled Riders meet weekly to give children and adults with both physical and learning disabilities the therapy, sense of achievement and fun of horse riding.



In partnership with

Atom IT



Champion Supplier



Affiliated With



Maximising Funding for Schools: Strategies and Opportunities

Funding for schools is a critical concern for educators, administrators, and communities alike. With the ever-increasing costs of running educational institutions and providing quality education, it's vital to explore diverse funding avenues. This article aims to guide schools on how to maximise their funding and discover new opportunities for additional financial support.

Understanding School Funding

School funding is generally derived from a mix of government allocations, local authority budgets, grants, and donations. However, many schools encounter budgetary constraints that hinder their ability to provide quality education and resources. By actively seeking out additional funding, schools can improve their programmes, support their staff, and enhance student outcomes.

Strategies to Maximise Funding

Develop a Comprehensive Funding Strategy: Schools should devise a detailed funding plan that identifies potential income sources. This plan should specify clear goals, timelines, and designated individuals responsible for pursuing each funding opportunity.

Engage the Community: Building robust relationships with local businesses, community organisations, and parents can lead to sponsorships and donations. Schools can host events or create campaigns highlighting their needs and showcasing their community contributions.

Utilise Social Media and Crowdfunding: Leverage platforms such as [GoFundMe](#), [JustGiving](#), or local crowdfunding sites to raise awareness and funds for specific projects or needs. Social media can amplify these efforts, reaching a wider audience and increasing the potential for contributions.

Apply for Grants: Research and apply for educational grants from various sources, including government bodies, charitable foundations, and local authorities. Websites such as the [UK Government's Funding Finder](#) and the [Grants Online](#) database often list available grants.

Join Collaborative Initiatives: Collaborating with other schools or organisations can create opportunities for shared funding. Schools can partner on joint projects that meet grant criteria, increasing their chances of securing funding.

Enhance Your Funding Proposal Skills: Invest time in training staff to write compelling funding proposals. Clear, well-structured proposals that outline specific needs, potential impacts, and budget requirements can significantly improve the likelihood of securing funds.

Maximising Funding for Schools: Strategies and Opportunities Cont'd

Where to Find New Funding Opportunities

Government and Local Authorities: Stay informed about funding announcements from Local Authorities, the [DfE](#) and [ESFA](#). Many provide competitive grants for specific programmes, such as STEM education, arts integration, and special education.

Charitable Organisations: Numerous charities are dedicated to supporting education. Research organisations that align with your school's mission or specific programmes and consider applying for their grants.

Educational Foundations: Various foundations focus on education and may provide funding for innovative projects, teacher grants, and scholarships. Examples include the [Education Endowment Foundation](#) and the [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#).

Corporate Sponsorships: Reach out to local businesses for potential sponsorships. Many companies are eager to invest in their communities and may support educational initiatives through direct funding or in-kind contributions.

Professional Associations: Associations related to your school's focus (e.g., technology, arts, special education) often provide funding resources and grant opportunities for their members.

Online Funding Platforms: Explore online resources that aggregate funding opportunities for schools. Websites like [DonorsChoose.org](#) allow teachers to post specific project needs, making it easy for donors to support individual classrooms.

Networking with Other Educators: Join educational networks or attend conferences to connect with other educators who may share funding leads or successful strategies. Collaboration can uncover new funding sources and initiatives.

Conclusion

Maximising funding for schools requires a proactive and strategic approach. By understanding the funding landscape, developing a comprehensive strategy, and exploring diverse funding sources, schools can improve their financial health and, ultimately, the educational experiences they offer. Collaboration, community engagement, and skillful grant writing are essential components of this endeavour. With the right resources and support, schools can secure the funding they need to thrive.

Emma Cripwell

Chair, Association of Business Leaders in Education (ABLE)

Atom IT



ATOM IT
SUPPORTING
OUR
SCHOOLS
WHEN THEY
NEED IT
MOST

STOP

Paying extra every time you have an emergency
Managing multiple contracts for support, broadband, anti-virus, device procurement/leasing and Microsoft licensing
Worrying that your current provider has no-one to back them up
Waiting....

START

Relying on an Engineer who'll always turn up when you need them
Feeling safe in the knowledge that you have a whole Team looking after you
Getting the best advice about your IT now, and plan a way forward with Atom

Calling Atom... **0800 907 8609**

Improving School Operations: Strategies for Enhanced Efficiency

In today's fast-paced educational landscape, schools are constantly seeking ways to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness. Improving school operations not only fosters a better learning environment for students but also eases the burden on staff and administrators. Here are five essential tips for optimising school operations, ensuring that resources are used effectively and that educational goals are met.

Tip 1: Streamline Administrative Processes Using Technology

The integration of technology into administrative processes is paramount for improving school operations. By leveraging digital tools, schools can automate routine tasks such as attendance tracking, grade reporting, and communication with parents. For instance, implementing a robust school management system can reduce paperwork, minimise human error, and provide real-time access to essential information.

Additionally, using cloud-based solutions facilitates collaboration among staff, allowing for seamless sharing of documents and resources. By adopting tools like learning management systems (LMS), educators can streamline lesson planning and enhance communication with students, ultimately leading to more effective teaching practices. This technological shift not only saves time but also allows staff to focus more on instruction and student engagement.

Tip 2: Train Staff on Efficient Practices and Tools

Investing in professional development is crucial for ensuring that staff members are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to operate efficiently. Regular training sessions on the latest tools and practices can empower teachers and administrators to utilise technology effectively, adopt new methodologies, and improve classroom management.

Moreover, fostering an environment of peer learning where staff can share best practices and strategies can lead to innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by the school. Training programmes should also emphasise time management and prioritisation skills, enabling educators to maximise their productivity and create a more organised work environment.



Improving School Operations: Strategies for Enhanced Efficiency Cont'd...

Tip 3: Conduct Regular Audits to Identify Areas for Improvement

Regular audits of school operations are essential for identifying inefficiencies and areas for improvement. By systematically reviewing processes, resources, and outcomes, schools can pinpoint bottlenecks and assess the effectiveness of current practices. This may involve analysing financial expenditures, evaluating the use of facilities, or reviewing academic performance metrics.

Engaging stakeholders, including staff, students, and parents, in the audit process, can provide diverse perspectives and foster a sense of ownership in the improvement efforts. Based on the findings, schools can develop targeted action plans that prioritise the most critical areas for enhancement, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are needed most.



Tip 4: Foster a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Creating a culture of continuous improvement is vital for sustaining operational efficiency in schools. This involves encouraging staff to regularly reflect on their practices, seek feedback, and be open to change. By promoting a mindset that values innovation and growth, schools can adapt to evolving educational demands and challenges.

Leadership plays a crucial role in cultivating this culture. Administrators should model continuous improvement behaviours by sharing their own learning experiences, recognising achievements, and supporting initiatives that drive positive change. Establishing a safe space for experimentation allows staff to try new approaches without fear of failure, fostering creativity and collaboration.



Improving School Operations: Strategies for Enhanced Efficiency Cont'd...

Tip 5: Utilise Data to Drive Decision-Making

Data-driven decision-making is key to improving school operations. By collecting and analysing data on student performance, attendance, and resource utilisation, schools can make informed choices that align with their strategic goals. This data can also help identify trends, assess the effectiveness of programmes, and inform curriculum development.

Additionally, leveraging analytics tools can provide deeper insights into areas such as student engagement and teacher performance, allowing for targeted interventions and support. By grounding decisions in data, schools can enhance accountability and ensure that every action taken is in the best interest of student outcomes



Conclusion

Improving school operations is a multifaceted endeavour that requires a strategic approach and the commitment of all stakeholders. By streamlining administrative processes with technology, training staff on efficient practices, conducting regular audits, fostering a culture of continuous improvement, and utilising data for decision-making, schools can create a more effective and conducive learning environment. Embracing these strategies not only enhances operational efficiency but ultimately leads to improved student achievement and satisfaction.

Emma Cripwell

Chair, Association of Business Leaders in Education (ABLE)





BREEDON
Electrical Services



BREEDON
Fire & Security

BREEDON



LED Lighting
Emergency Lighting
Fixed Wire Testing
Data Cabling
General Electrical

Fire Alarms
Intruder Alarms
Access Control
CCTV
Automated Gates

12a Bridge Court, Hucknall Lane, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8AJ

T: 0115 701 2078

E: Info@breedonelectricalservices.co.uk W: breedonelectricalservices.co.uk

EDUCATION • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL



The Kindness Challenge is a chance for pupils to spread kindness in their school communities by completing kind acts. Whether playing a game with a new friend or helping someone with homework, it all helps create a better world. By taking part, schools are helping to power Childline.

Childline is there for all young people online, on the phone, anytime.



It's not too early to sign up to Number Day 2025 [Number Day 2025 | NSPCC](#)

Adults who have a concern about a child can contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or through the [NSPCC website](#).

If you're worried a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 straight away.

Any young person can contact Childline on 0800 1111 or at childline.org.uk.



Parking Stress – The Concept of Flow. Andy Mellor, SAS

Flow

The word flow is used in lots of ways. ‘Going with the flow’ is often meant to describe doing what the majority have decided to do. Flow is also used to describe the various rates at which a river progresses along its course. You’ve probably also less commonly heard some people talk about being in “the flow”. It’s this last definition which I’m going to focus on in this blog.

Psychology Today describes flow as “a cognitive state where one is completely immersed in an activity—from painting and writing to prayer and surfboarding. It involves intense focus, creative engagement, and the loss of awareness of time and self”.

The phrase itself was first coined by the Hungarian-American psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi in the 1960’s.

It’s essentially this state that I achieve when I’m gardening. I can be weeding (less enjoyable but not stressful), planting, pruning, cutting and designing. I will be out in the garden for hours with little or no comprehension of time. The process has the effect of seeing time speed up and yet, as we know, that’s impossible.

Positive and Negative Flow

To go into a little more detail, you’ll be aware that if you’ve been in considerable pain, it drags. Every second you are aware of the pain and time seems to go slowly. You are aware of every second in a negative way. However, when you’re doing something that you really enjoy and are absorbed in, you are literally dealing in the present, in a positive way. I can be out in the garden for hours and it feels like minutes. Even if I’m stressed when I go out there, it doesn’t take long for me to park the stress. Just doing something mechanical and something that allows me to focus on what is right in front of me.

In a similar but more stressful way, I would arrive at school at 8am. Often, the next time I looked at the clock it would be 6pm. That is me being so absorbed in the job and the need to work quickly and urgently to get through the tasks ahead of me that time literally flies. Whilst this is still a form of flow, it is a level of flow made necessary by the pressure of the job.

Psychology Today describes flow as being “the delicate balance between the tension of anxiety and the tedium of boredom.”

Parking Stress – The Concept of Flow

Realistically, if I don't prune the roses they'll just have to wait. The pressure of time on tasks that are concerned with people is all the greater. So, whilst flow is what I was experiencing in school it wasn't a mentally healthy form of flow. Often despite being in flow all day, I'd leave school with the feeling that I hadn't got through everything and a lot of the things I hadn't got through were pressing and really needed completing.

So having flow activities at home that help you to park stress and just focus on something rewarding that you can become absorbed in is a good way to alleviate stress from work.

Tom Daley

Probably the most public expression of flow which has been picked up by the media was illustrated by Tom Daley the British diver. Tom taught himself to knit during the Covid lockdowns which helped him with his mental health but has since taken his knitting to the poolside between dives. The mechanical movement of the needles and the working towards something that he was creating put him into a state of flow. This in turn took the pressure off him between dives as he no longer focused on the quality of other divers and dives. When he came to do his dive his head was clear, and he could just focus on executing what he had practiced.

In terms of elite sport these small changes can make the 1 or 2% difference between achieving gold or taking silver. For us in schools, flow activity at home is about helping us to be the best version of ourselves when we're at work and yet feeling that sense of accomplishment outside of work.

Activities for Flow

So, on the assumption that school creates stress, what are the activities that you do to create a state of flow and give you a break from the pressure? Some have suggested painting. Others prefer to read and as mentioned my garden is my "flow place" but what do you do to create that space called flow?

In my next blog, we'll be looking at how we can manage the all-consuming job that is working in schools by looking at the concept of wonder.

Keep an eye on the [Our News](#) section to read more upcoming blogs, visit [Podcasts](#) to hear more, and to stay up to date why not follow us on social media: [X \(Twitter\)](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#). You can also download our 'School Wellbeing' app [here](#) to access all of this in one handy place.



The UK's Leading Provider of Whole School Wellbeing and Staff Absence Insurance

Schools Advisory Service have been working with schools for over 25 years. DfE Recommended through the CPC Framework, our role is to make a difference to the schools of today by preventing and reducing absence, making the greatest impact for tomorrow.

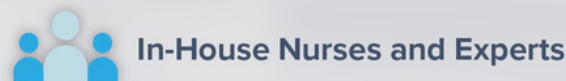
Prevent and Reduce Absence

With our comprehensive wellbeing package, your school will benefit from a wide range of services and the expertise of our wellbeing experts dedicated to supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of your whole school community.

Complimentary Wellbeing

- ♥ Unlimited Counselling
- ♥ Cancer & Chronic Conditions Support
- ♥ GP Phone & Video Consultations
- ♥ Menopause Support
- ♥ 24 Hour Support Through Our App
- ♥ Leadership Supervision
- ♥ Occupational Health Support
- ♥ Nurse Support
- ♥ Physiotherapy
- ♥ Private Medical Operations
- ♥ Pupil Counselling
- ♥ Annual Health Screens
- ♥ Weight Management
- ♥ Crisis Support
- ♥ Flu Jabs
- + **Plus More!**

The Only Provider Offering:



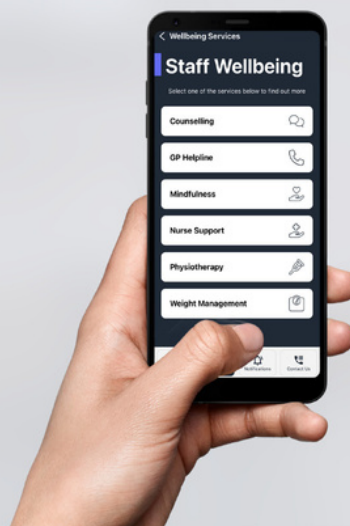
On-Site Health Screening



Complete Leadership



Unlimited Counselling



Wellbeing App

Staff can download our app or call our team to access wellbeing. No referral required.

Supporting Real People, in Real Time.



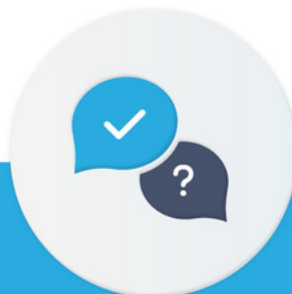
Leadership Supervision

Schools Advisory Service is now offering a dedicated supervision support service specifically for schools. This initiative helps school leaders manage job stress, foster emotional resilience and promote professional growth through reflective sessions.

Proactive



Supportive



Reactive



Enhancing Staff Wellbeing and Professional Growth

Contact our Sales Team to learn more:

01773 814 400 sales@uk-sas.co.uk

Schools Advisory Service

Customer Feedback

“

As somebody who has used the service, it was second to none from the get-go. We all work, we all deal with life. Resilience is a massive thing. I burnt myself out twice and got to the point where: how do you cope, where do you go, what are the mechanisms. There wasn't anywhere I could see that was easily accessible. Having SAS was a massive driver.

The ease of getting access to the system, the ease in which somebody came back to me and straight away set up the provision. That for me **was life changing**.

Having this facility to be able to come and access it in any kind of job. Just having somebody that you can talk to, that can understand and unpack and really make you think about where you were, where you want to be and the journey you'll go on.

You can't pay for that. That's priceless.

Zoe Heath
Director of Operations
St Chad's Academy Trust

”

New Champion Supplier



We would like to introduce MAC Construction, our new champion supplier recognised for their exceptional support of ABLE. I encourage all members to connect with MAC to explore how their expertise can benefit your initiatives. Thank you, MAC Construction, for your commitment to supporting ABLE and our members!



**Kathleen McRae,
Senior Building Surveyor**

MAC is a leading consultancy providing strategic estate management services and advice on all aspects of construction projects to schools and academies nationally.

With seven regional offices and multi-disciplinary expert teams, we support clients to manage their estate in line with the DfE's 'Good Estate Management' principles. We believe that excellence within estates leads to excellent educational outcomes and our services include:

- Condition Improvement Fund
- School Condition Allocation
- Condition and Compliance Surveys
- Capital Projects Design and Delivery
- Decarbonisation

Jon Jones is a Director at MAC Construction Consultants and leads their education sector business nationally. With a background in strategic consultancy and a former Head of Estates for a Multi Academy Trust, Jon leads our multi-disciplinary teams providing estates and construction management services to schools, academies, and the FE and HE sectors. This knowledge and expertise enables MAC's clients to manage their estate effectively and Jon advises on Condition and Compliance Surveys; Capital Funding Support; Design and Project Management; and Decarbonisation Advice to support this.

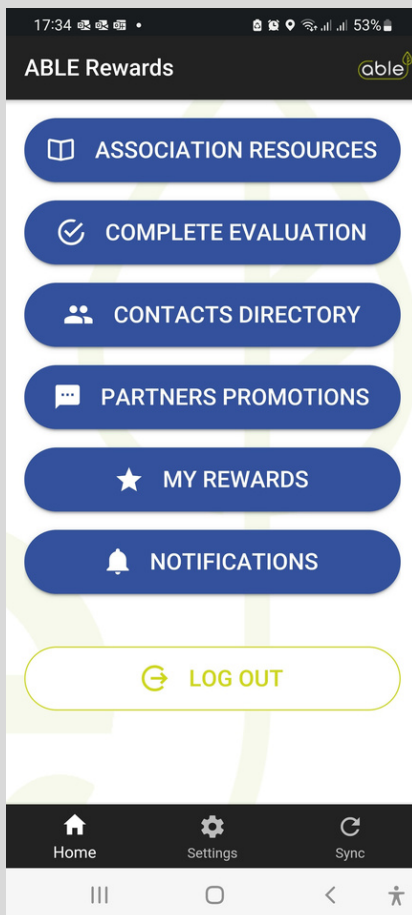


**Jon Jones
Director**

If you need further information or a free initial consultation, please get in touch!

Jonathan Jones, Director, National Education Services
E: jonathanjones@macconsultingltd.com

ABLE Rewards App



The **ABLE Rewards app** is our very own **contacts directory and rewards scheme**.

The rewards scheme also acknowledges the commitment you show as members by attending conferences and sharing your professional knowledge and expertise.

Our aim with the rewards scheme is for you to be rewarded for the things you already do as ABLE members. You can spend your rewards on treats and gifts.

**Don't forget points
mean prizes!**

If you haven't downloaded the app
yet please go to:

<https://ablepro.info/rewards/>

for details.

**Are you
sociABLE?**

Follow us for the
latest news and
updates



[@ABLEPro.info](https://www.facebook.com/ABLEPro.info)



[@ABLE_Pro1](https://twitter.com/ABLE_Pro1)



[@ablepro](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ablepro)



Association of Business
Leaders in Education

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABLE is organised by a committee of volunteer educational professionals and supported by select partner companies as a non-profit organisation, to offer support, training and up to date educational guidance.



Director
Frances Rowland

E: director@able-pro.co.uk



Exhibitions & Partnerships
Clare Stokes

E: exhibitions@able-pro.co.uk



Chair
Emma Cripwell

E: chairchair@able-pro.co.uk



Business & Marketing
Jo Robinson

E: admin@able-pro.co.uk



Finance Support
Neil Beeson

E: finance@able-pro.co.uk



Business Network Training
Varinka Strong

E: training@able-pro.co.uk



Association of Business
Leaders in Education

CORPORATE PARTNERS

ABLE memberships are subsidised by the fees paid by our corporate partners and exhibitors. Without them all costs would be passed onto our members.



**Ruth
Humphries**



E: ruth@uk-sas.co.uk



**Gary
Hardy**
Atom IT

E: gary@atomit.co.uk



**Andrew
Springhall**



E: andrew@breedonelectricalservices.co.uk

**Are you
sociABLE?**

Follow us for the
latest news and
updates



[@ABLEPro.info](https://www.facebook.com/ABLEPro.info)



[@ABLE_Pro1](https://twitter.com/ABLE_Pro1)



[@ablepro](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ablepro)