



# Prospectus 2023/24



# Contents





# Welcome from the Headteacher

## Mr Christoforou

Welcome to Abbey College; your local school where every child is known as an individual and all children can achieve their ambitions. We believe a good education is crucial for the wellbeing and fulfilment of our students.

We provide an excellent education and the best opportunities for the students in our care. As society continues to change, it is important that our school provides a safe and stable environment where all young people feel valued and can learn and achieve to the best of their abilities. The overwhelming majority of our parents said that they would recommend the school to other parents on Parent View, which is just one of the many things we are very proud of.

In 2023, we were delighted that almost three quarters of our students achieved a Level 9-4 in both English and Maths. Our collective aim is to ensure that all students experience happiness, while they are challenged to meet goals and achieve their dreams, alongside celebration, reflection and tradition.

A student's education is not a dress rehearsal; they only get one chance. I believe that high quality teaching, learning and engagement is at the heart of every good school. I look forward to continuing to work with the wonderful team at Abbey College, to ensure our students have the best opportunities to be successful.

At Abbey College, we run a wide variety of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities for our students allowing them to show their potential in many ways; from becoming a head student or joining one of our student voice panels, or the Junior Leadership Team (JLT). We are an inclusive school, and feel every student has a right to a good education in an environment that celebrates and appreciates the fact we are all unique and different in our own way.

To find out more or to experience the College for yourself, please watch our video tour or call us to arrange a face-to-face or a virtual meeting.

**“Leaders and governors have established a culture of high expectations and aspirations for pupils”**

### GCSE results 2023

# 69.7%

achieved grade 9-4 in both English and Maths

### A-Level results 2023

# 41.4%

of grades were the highest A\*, A and B grades

### Parent View

Year on year the school consistently receives good reviews



The Abbey College Spirit is the set of virtues that underpin our school community. The Spirit comprises of three key virtues: Humility, Intuition and Passion, which we expect all members of our school community to work towards. Excellence in these virtues will equip our students with the skills and characteristics that they need to thrive in all areas of life, including their relationships and future careers. Our form time programme gives students opportunities to reflect on their progress towards the virtues as well as building their sense of community and belonging in the school.

The school's reward system is based around these virtues; students are recognised with points when they demonstrate excellence in Spirit both in lesson time and across the school. Students work towards their bronze, silver and gold awards as the progress through KS3 and KS4 and their achievements are celebrated with rewards that have been chosen by our student voice groups.

<b>Monday</b>	We accept praise, praise others and apologise immediately	We consider the impact of our actions on those around us	We show focus and use positive language
<b>Tuesday</b>	We use good manners, appropriate humour and don't interrupt others	We actively listen and remember the detail	We volunteer to go above and beyond
<b>Wednesday</b>	We embrace working with a wide range of people and celebrate differences	We maintain good eye contact and pay attention	We are proactive and work hard to overcome obstacles
<b>Thursday</b>	We take responsibility for our actions and our environment	We give constructive feedback	We use reasoning and organisation to solve problems
<b>Friday</b>	We support each other in our learning and well-being	We seek, reflect and act on feedback	We show pride in our work, our school and our community



# Innovative and challenging learning

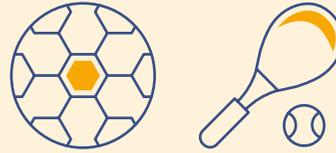
Teaching and learning is at the core of everything we do here at Abbey College. It ensures the development and learning of all students and secures their future pathway and life opportunities.

We believe that a challenging and supportive learning environment is key to helping students achieve. Our students expect to be challenged and engaged each and every lesson. It is our commitment that we utilise a range of strategies to ensure students' progress every lesson.

We believe this is done through ensuring our teachers are self-improving, passionate and know and challenge every child to succeed. We empower teachers to be an expert in their subject knowledge and we trust our staff to apply methods based on their knowledge and understanding of each individual student.



# A site with spectacular facilities



## PE facilities

Tennis courts, AstroTurf multi-sports pitch, MUGA (Multi Use Games Area and vast playing fields)



**Dedicated ICT and media suites**



**Outdoor seating for lunch**



**Sixth form learning hub including independent learning zones**



**Extensive music and recording facilities**



**A fully resourced gymnasium**



**Café 6**  
Sixth form café

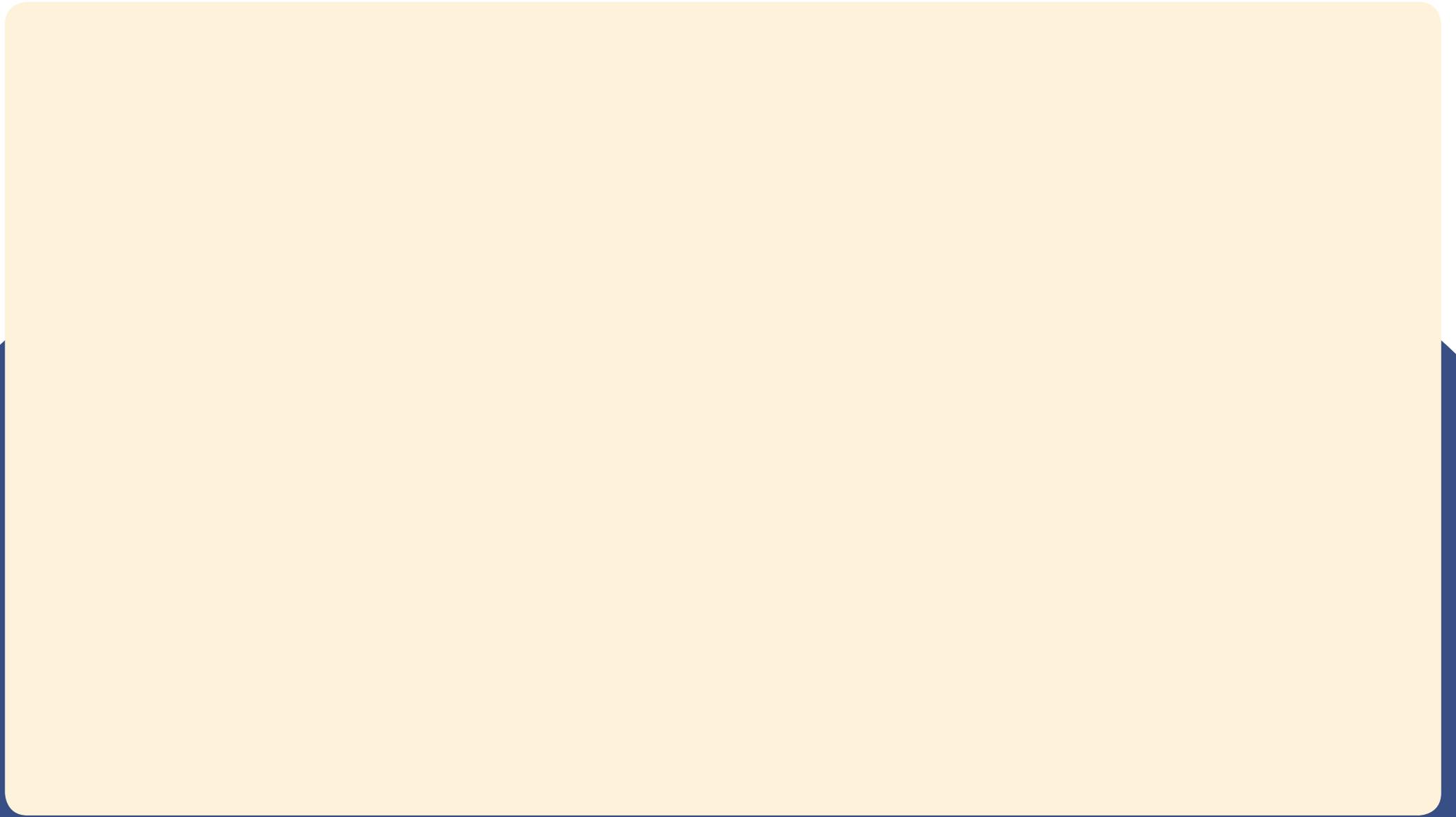


**One sports leisure centre on site**



**Two presentation halls for staged productions**

Abbey College in motion





# Beyond The Classroom

## The Offer and Opportunity Programme **[OOP]**

The Offer and Opportunity Programme (**OOP**) is a bespoke, context sensitive school enrichment plan which creates experiences and scope to discover new passions. The OOP is designed to be inclusive, engaging and is paramount to creating the 'whole' child. The range of offers available are delivered by staff, support staff, OOP ambassadors and members of the community. There is a wide breadth of disciplines, activities and opportunity for qualifications in leadership and Arts.

Below is an example of some of what we have to offer for this academic year to our students.

- 3D Printing
- Apocalypse Dance Crew
- Arts Award - Senior Band
- Castles
- Choir
- Dance
- Democracy Champions
- Drama & Acting Masterclasses
- Family History
- Girl's Football
- Hockey
- KS3 Student Voice

We also offer:

- Arts Award
- Leadership Academy - [Click for more info](#)
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- Private music tuition - [Click for more info](#)
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Trips to theatres, museums and universities
- International trips each year
- Interact – a programme of enrichment activities for all of our students
- Author/artists visits and workshops
- STEM focus days
- Paid external clubs for Arts and Tech
- Enterprise and innovation days contributing to our chosen charity
- Weekly and holiday additional learning sessions



Here at Abbey College we aim to ensure that inclusivity is at the heart of our enrichment offer, supporting every student to have access to a wide range of opportunities across each day.

# Moving beyond expectations

An essential part of our students' learning experience is the extracurricular activities (INTERACT) on offer, a few of these are:



**Fitness training**



**Basketball, rugby and netball clubs**



**Drama master class**



**Business, IT and 'cutting edge' computing**



**Car engine repair**



**Art club**



**Musical/choir performance**



**STEM Crest award**



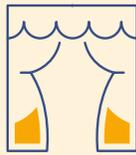
**Cook with me**



**Homework support**



**Design and Technology projects**



**Theatre studies**



**Book club**



**Junior Leadership Team (JLT)**

# One to one support for every student

At Abbey College, we offer our students an innovative and bespoke curriculum for each year group and provide them with stimulating teaching and learning experiences. Together, we have a strong commitment to a high standard of conduct that ensures the classroom focus remains on high-quality teaching and learning.

Our specialist teams of year group tutors led by their Raising Standards Lead will guide and support your child throughout their time at Abbey College. Through regular monitoring and tracking programmes, we ensure every student's progress is closely observed and shared with parents.

This is balanced with extensive and wide ranging extra-curricular and enrichment activities that encourage students to discover and develop their personal talents and a Sixth Form which offers both academic and vocational courses. Our Social Studies lessons, delivered by a team of specialist teachers, cover a wide range of Personal, Social and Health topics including unconscious racial bias, relationships and sex education and mental health issues.

## Pastoral care

At Abbey College 'Every Child Matters', and we pride ourselves on our high standards of pastoral care. Each student is treated as an individual and supported to achieve the highest standards they are capable of.

Form tutors are the first port of call for any concerns a student has. Our Welfare Team are available to provide support during lunch and break time for identified students to manage their emotions, resolve conflicts effectively or simply to provide an opportunity for a quiet chat. There is also a reporting system on the school website.

We have also trained a small group of our students to act as peer mediators whose job it is to support students in overcoming conflict and friendship issues. The aim of this is to model positive problem solving skills, as well as preventing friendship problems from escalating into bullying.



## Attendance

Our students' attendance is outstanding. We aim for 100% attendance for all students, placing the highest priority on excellent attendance and punctuality. These are essential factors that contribute to progress and achievement of high standards.

We have a strong attendance policy that clearly outlines our expectations in relation to achieving and rewarding the highest standards of attainment.

# Combined Cadet Force

Abbey College offers a unique opportunity to take part in a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) contingent. There are only 500 units in UK state schools and our CCF has operated an Army section since 2019. Students are able to take CCF as an option subject in Year 9.

CCF is a Government sponsored initiative enabling schools to work in partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in order to offer a unique and incredible opportunity for young people. It is about learning and developing new skills, offering unique and challenging opportunities and having fun. Taught with a military ethos, cadets follow a training programme and have the opportunity to gain several qualifications.

Students have the opportunity to achieve QAVS qualifications, like BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Skills and the Institute of Leadership and Management's Award in Leadership; as well as St John's Ambulance First Aid qualifications.

The skills/subject that are taught are:

- Drill & Turnout
- Military Knowledge
- Skill At Arms (Rifle Training)
- Shooting
- Map & Compass
- First Aid
- Fieldcraft
- Adventurous Activities & Challenging Pursuits
- Method of Instruction

As Cadets learn and progress through each topic, they achieve badges which they can wear on their uniform to show their achievements and skill levels. Cadets will complete the Basic APC Certificate within the first year, and the advanced APC Certificate within the second. The APC Training Syllabus is progressive and becomes more challenging, with students learning more advanced skills and knowledge throughout the programme.

Cadets are taught to work as a team and respect one another. Cadets have opportunities to take part in weekend exercises where they can practice their field craft and navigation skills.

Every year students also have the opportunity to take part in an Annual Camp during the summer term, including various activities such as military skills as well as Outdoor activities (climbing, kayaking, mountain biking etc.). Camps take place in various locations in the UK and abroad and give students a chance to get together with a wide-range of other students from schools across the UK.



# Partnerships for learning

## Primary school partnership

There is a strong bond between all of our primary schools and Abbey College, and it is something we take great pride in. We have a transition programme in place that allows students to spend a period of time within the Abbey, developing their personal skills, knowledge and experiences whilst also getting a real taste for the outstanding teaching and learning that takes place. Our staff regularly visit our primary schools to build on their own experiences so that they are better equipped when the new intake of students arrives. We take great pride in having primary schools visit us during the academic year for a series of whole school events, from our annual Remembrance Service and Sports Day. All learners have a dedicated team around them, which includes a Raising Standards Lead, Form Tutor and Student Support Officers, who are there to support each and every child on a daily basis.

## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

We support our students in making well-informed decisions through our comprehensive and high quality careers programme, and access to independent information and guidance about the range of options open to them. Being an integral part of students education across all years, our programme aims to raise aspirations, irrespective of age, background, ability or SEND, preparing them for their time at Abbey College and in the future.



## Parent participation

We want our parents to be active participants in the life of the College. In addition to regular information and opportunities to receive progress updates, we actively encourage parents to become involved in events at the College.

**“Pastoral leaders know their pupils well. They provide help so that pupils can grow in confidence and become successful learners.”**

Ofsted 2018



# Leadership by example

## Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

**Mr Christoforou**

Headteacher

**Mrs Wibberley**

Acting Deputy Headteacher

**Mrs Craig**

Assistant Headteacher

**Miss Dowd**

Assistant Headteacher

**Ms Powell**

Deputy Headteacher

**Mrs Noble**

Assistant Headteacher

**Dr Oswell**

Assistant Headteacher

**Miss Davey**

Acting Assistant Headteacher & SENCO

## Extended Leadership Team (ELT)

**Dr Pinnock**

Assistant Headteacher

**Mrs Moore**

Head of Sixth Form

**Mr Thompson**

Associate Assistant Headteacher

## Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of foundation, community, parent and staff governors plus the Headteacher.

## Governance

The Governing Body has the strategic responsibility for the effective management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and with due consideration to the policies of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Our Governing Body supports the Headteacher in both the undertaking and monitoring of statutory duties and policies, but also actively helps to develop the College's direction on:

- Admissions
- Behaviour and discipline
- Building community cohesion
- Budget, staffing and buildings
- Teaching and learning and the delivery of the curriculum



# Academy uniform

- White shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve purchased from any supplier)
- Clip on tie, pin stripes represent year of entry (purchased from the school suppliers)
- Royal blue blazer with logo (purchased from the school suppliers)
- Black trousers (two styles for girls and boys to be purchased from any suppliers)
- Tartan skirt (from the school supplier) to be worn with black opaque tights
- Black smart leather shoes (no trainers, canvas or leisure shoes)
- Optional: Black jumper with royal blue trim to match the blazer (from the school suppliers)



## PE uniform

### Essential

- Abbey College polo shirt
- Abbey College navy fleece (printed initials optional)
- Abbey College rugby shirt
- Abbey College navy shorts

### Desirable

- Football boots
- Gum shield

- White sport (not football) socks
- Abbey College football socks
- Trainers (not pumps or canvas shoes)

- Shin pads

All available from the school supplier



# Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form provides the kind of experience that will allow all students to progress to either University, Apprenticeships or Employment. We offer a wide range of subjects and our teaching and learning is excellent. We are extremely proud of the support we provide for all students to achieve both their academic goals and ensure that they are happy. With a dedicated Sixth Form team, any worries or concerns will be addressed whether academic or pastoral.

Visit [www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/sixth-form/introduction](http://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/sixth-form/introduction) for more information.

## Here are 5 amazing reasons that make our sixth form stand out:



**High quality teaching allows students to achieve their full potential**

If you want to achieve your full potential, our sixth form is the right place to be

**41% A\*-B grades**



**A wide range of subjects to suit your needs**

Go and check out our online prospectus if you don't believe us

**25 to choose from**



**Strong track record in supporting students to take their next steps**

We pride ourselves in providing you with the tools and guidance to access your future, be that a place at university, an apprenticeship or job

**43% go onto university including Russell Group universities**



**Your learning experience is tailored to YOU**

We offer a flexible approach to where you study, offering the opportunity to work in our newly refurbished Study6, our Cafe6 facility or at home.

**Personal development programme**



**Small class sizes with teachers who care**

We'll give you the independence you need to grow and achieve but provide personalised support along the way

**Average of less than 10 students**

# A day in the life of a student

"The school day starts with a short bus ride. We get to the bus turnaround just outside the College and lots of us walk through the school gates together being welcomed by the School Leaders who smile and say good morning - every day!

We line up for form time, where our form tutor helps us to settle into school and encourages us to make the most of every opportunity. We think about things like, the Abbey College Spirit, making friends and taking care of our well-being.

Next it is time for period 1, which is Maths on Mondays and then to period 2 which is PE. Then it's break time. I line up for the canteen to get a snack and then eat in on the field in the sunshine.

Period 3 is science and we performed a fireworks practical. It made so many colours - like magic! I now know what's inside them. Period 4 is drama and we are practicing for a school performance; Madam said we would be performing with the older students because we are all 'in it together'.

After that, it's lunch. I go to the canteen for the first sitting, and there is lots to choose from. Some of us eat together in the hall; it's like a big family dinner. After that we go back out onto the field to enjoy the rest of lunchtime.

Finally, it's off for the last lesson which is IT. We are learning about designing and making apps.

After school I'm in the netball club which finishes in time for us to change and get the later bus home.

It's a busy and fun day!

## Applying to Abbey College

Please call our attendance team on **01487 812352** for information on applying to Abbey College or visit our website for more details: [www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)



# COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART

PHASE ONE

## I have a **general enquiry**

If you have a question about your child's progress, their education, or a general question about the school:  
Please contact your child's Form Tutor or Subject Teacher.  
Your question will be answered as soon as possible.



Contact Us

### If you feel your question has not been answered

Please contact your child's Raising Standards Leader

They aim to respond to you within 

- Year 7: Fiona Lane
- Year 8: Jo Bradley
- Year 9: Alison Beel
- Year 10: Amna Qureshi
- Year 11: Alison Beel
- Head of Sixth Form: Samantha Moore

### If you feel your question has not been answered

## PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

After following these stages, if you feel your query has not been answered you should complete our Parent Forum Guarantee.

This gives all parents the right to talk with our Headteacher within   
and a further meeting, if needed, within the following 

Call 01487 812352 or email [office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk) stating 'Parent Forum Guarantee'

PHASE TWO

## I have a **specific enquiry**

For enquiries relating to pastoral, finance, attendance, welfare, SEND and IT please contact the teams directly

### STUDENT SUPPORT

[studentsupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:studentsupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

[welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

### ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

Call 01487 812352 option 1, or email [attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)  
(before 8.40am each day)

### WELFARE & WELLBEING

[welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

**SEND: SENCO:** [jessica.davey@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:jessica.davey@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

### IT:

**EduLink App:** [IT@meridiantrust.co.uk](mailto:IT@meridiantrust.co.uk)  
**ParentPay:** [parentpaysupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:parentpaysupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)  
**General:** [IT@meridiantrust.co.uk](mailto:IT@meridiantrust.co.uk) or 0300 666 0300

### If you feel your question has not been answered

PHASE THREE

## I have a **concern**

### INFORMAL CONCERN

Let us know you have a concern or complaint:

Email: [office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk) or phone: 01487 812352

Letter: Katie Dodsley, Abbey College, Abbey Road, Ramsey PE26 1DG

We will respond within 

We expect to resolve the matter with you within 3 school days after our initial response.

### If you feel that the issue has not been resolved

### OFFICIAL COMPLAINT

If you feel the matter has not been resolved, you should make an official complaint in writing to the Complaints Co-Ordinator:

Email: [office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

Letter: Katie Dodsley, Abbey College, Abbey Road, Ramsey PE26 1DG

### If you feel that the issue has not been resolved

### FORMAL COMPLAINT

If you still feel the issue has not been resolved, you should follow our Formal Complaints Procedure.

We will provide a copy of this and it can be found on our website:  
[www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)  
(Statutory Information section)

Abbey College Main Office  
Abbey College, Abbey Road,  
Hollow Lane,  
Ramsey  
Cambridgeshire  
PE26 1DG

**Telephone:** 01487 812352

**Email:** [office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

[www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

