

Abbey College Community Round Up - May 2023



Welcome to the summer term newsletter. GCSE and A-Level exams are underway and I'm incredibly proud of how hard our Year 11 and 13 students have worked so far.

Year 11s have started their days in the hall with breakfast revision sessions to prepare them for the day ahead, and it has been great to see the rest of their peers supporting them by keeping quiet and respectful around the exam venues.

We had a professional photographer in school last week and I was pleased that he commented on how well behaved, engaged and delightful our students are - well done Abbey College! We look forward to seeing the new photos in our prospectus and on our website.

During the next half term, we look forward to starting to welcome next year's new Year 7s for their transition to Abbey College. In June, I will also be visiting primary schools with Miss Lane to welcome the Year 6s to Abbey College and answer any questions or concerns they may have.

I hope you enjoy this round-up and have a happy and restful half term break!

Achieving our Gold Artsmark Award



We were immensely proud to receive the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award for outstanding commitment to education of the Arts.

[Artsmark](#) is Arts Council England's accreditation granted to schools in the UK that champion cultural education. It celebrates schools that go above and beyond in promoting creativity, developing talent, and fostering an appreciation for the arts among pupils.

To achieve this, we have developed the arts and culture provision at the school and embedded it in a broad and balanced curriculum. A focus on the Arts has promoted positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the college, nurturing emotional wellbeing, self-expression and personal growth, which played a role in us securing the esteemed accolade.

We are proud to have a high uptake of students embarking on their creative studies, with a selection of Arts and Culture subjects on offer, including Acting Masterclasses and 3D Printing. We have also engaged with the Cambridgeshire Music Hub and with Ramsey Rural Museum to provide enriching visits that engross students in cultural experiences and encourage them to explore their artistic talents.

Year 9s enjoy a STEM Day

A huge thank you to [Huntingdon Rotary Club](#) and [McCain UK IE](#) for supporting our Year 9 STEM day last term. Students were challenged with designing, planning and building weight-powered vehicles, as well as most importantly, having fun.

They collaborated with their team and delegated roles to one another to get the job done. We saw lots of teamwork and idea sharing, which resulted in fantastic end results. It was great to see our students hard at work and the final products. Well done to everyone involved in this fantastic day!



Marking The King's Coronation

We were delighted to receive a visit from The Mayor and Mayoress of Ramsey the week before the King's Coronation. Students were chuffed with the badges they received as a memento of the Coronation, as part of an initiative by Ramsey Town Council, who are presenting badges to every school-age child as a keepsake to remember this moment in history.

There was lots of excitement throughout the school, with students commemorating the occasion in their Social Studies lessons and enjoying the additional bank holiday to celebrate!



Training Days for Duke of Edinburgh Award

Duke of Edinburgh's Award students attended two training days in April to support their upcoming DofE expeditions.

Students learned about Orienteering, Emergency Patient Care, Camping, Cooking and Route Planning during a 2-day training programme.

Expeditions will take place in South Cambridgeshire in July, with two further training sessions to be attended prior to the expeditions. For many students, the Expedition is the last step towards the Bronze Award, so we wish them all the best of luck.

A special mention goes out to Hannah and Katie who completed the orienteering course in an impressive 58 minutes. Almost 15 minutes ahead of the next team. Well done!



Sporting Roundup

There has been some amazing football played so far this term, with the Year 9 boys football team finishing runners up in the County Cup. They are due to play in the District Cup final against Hinchingsbrooke after half term. The Under 12s girls football team will be playing in the County Cup final on 8th June and the Under 14 girls were triumphant at their match on Wednesday winning 5-4 and will be joining the Under 12s on the Cup Final day. Good luck everyone!

The rounders team have been busy with plenty of fixtures, winning most of their friendlies. We can't wait to see what the team can achieve at the mixed tournament next half term!

Our students also enjoyed a district athletics competition for Years 7-10. A special mention goes to Ben in Year 10 who won the 400 meter race and to Yasmeenah and April who raced in the Year 10 category. Well done to all who took part!

We look forward to the final rounds of interhouse sport coming up after half term with football, rounders and benchball competitions on the following dates:

- Year 7 – Tuesday 13th June P4 and P5
- Year 8 – Wednesday 24th May P4 and P5
- Year 9 – Monday 5th June P1 and P2

Three Year 10 pupils, Lilia, Charlotte and Amelia, attended the County Bee Netball Finals in Northstowe on 17th May as part of the 10-strong Officiating Team. The event was attended by 19 primary schools from across the county with players in Years 5 and 6 taking part. All three girls umpired their games with confidence, respect and provided clear instruction for the young players, who in some cases were very new to the sport. They all offered superb advice and encouragement whilst on court. Well done girls!



Sixth Form



This half term Year 12s have further explored the theme of next steps, with an assembly from the Inspire Group regarding local opportunities that are available for study at degree level at the University Centre Peterborough.

Following on from our six-week 'Preparing for Working Life Enrichments Programme', Year 12 students met with an Enterprise adviser to find out how to develop their CV, write an application letter and how to prepare for an interview. Our Futures Programme also started with an Architecture, Construction and Surveying Taster Session, hosted by Anglia Ruskin University.

As part of our ongoing Personal Development Programme, students met with Sgt Andy Caruana from Cambridgeshire Constabulary to discuss the risks and consequences of carrying a knife and where to go for help and support.

Our Deputy Head Students, Jacob and Isabelle joined the local community and proudly represented the school at the Ramsey and District Branch Royal British Legion's VE Day Remembrance Service on 8th May.

Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side for our farewell to Year 13 students as they embarked on Study Leave but they still had an enjoyable afternoon in Study 6 sharing memories, eating pizza and constructing their own ice-cream creations.

As our Year 13 students prepare to leave us for pastures new, we wish them the best of luck in all of the upcoming exams and future plans and look forward to hearing of their successes and adventures in the future. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for the support they have provided not only their child but also the Sixth Form during the last two years - it is greatly appreciated!

Governor Update

Governor Visits



This half term, Governors have been in school to support with Subject Deep Dives, which are an in depth look at subject curriculums and the quality of education. They were impressed with what they observed and will monitor the actions discussed to ensure they are implemented.

The Performing Arts Lead Learner gave a very interesting talk to governors about the way the subject has developed recently. It is obvious that the department is a great asset to the Abbey College curriculum and the students enjoy the subject.

Governors were given an overview of the SEND action plan and were pleased to learn about the positive things that are happening in the department, including the coffee evening for parents which was a good opportunity for them to talk to each other about their child's SEND needs and the challenges they face.

We would like to thank Michael for his visits to school this half term and the great feedback he has given. These visits are an essential part of the Governing Body's monitoring role and confirm what a good job the school is doing.

Parent's Forum

The Parent's Forum preloved uniform shop is thriving and has had two very successful open evenings. It is great to see the school supporting families as well as recycling pre loved uniform. Thank you to the volunteers for the time and effort put into running the shop. Look out for further dates when the shop will be open next half term!

Pride Month - June 2023

The Stonewall Riots took place on June 28th 1969 in New York City. In the 1960s America was not open to same-sex relationships and in some places it was even illegal.

Despite this, LGBTQ+ friendly bars and clubs started opening as a safe place for individuals to take refuge. However, the New York State Liquor Authority would shut down any establishments that sold alcohol to known or suspected LGBTQ+ individuals because they deemed it "disorderly".

In June 1989, the Police raided one of the largest LGBTQ+ friendly establishments in New York, the Stonewall Inn, and arrested thirteen people. After constant harassment and discrimination, this raid was the final straw and instead of everyone dispersing, they began throwing rocks, pennies and bottles at the police officers.

This led to many more riots around the country. Stonewall also ended up hosting the first Pride Parade a year later. While this incident may have not started the Gay Rights movement, it definitely boosted its presence and helped raise awareness to it.

Why have Pride Month?

We believe it's important to celebrate Pride Month to support those in the LGBTQ+ community and raise awareness.

In Britain, 42% of LGBTQ+ school pupils have been bullied in school over the past year, half of LGBTQ+ pupils hear homophobia frequently at school and seven in ten football fans have heard or witnessed homophobia in stadiums.

Globally, it is illegal to be in a same sex relationship in 70 countries and in 11 of those countries the punishment is death penalty. A quarter of the world's population believes that being part of the LGBTQ+ community should be a crime.

What's on in School?

To mark Pride Month in school, our students will be organising:

- Bake Sale
- Pride Merchandise sale
- Tombola
- Form Time activities

Earn A Blue Peter Badge



How children can earn a Blue Peter badge to bag free entry to 200+ attractions, including Blackpool Pleasure Beach, the Eden Project, Edinburgh Zoo & The London Bridge Experience

Children with badges and accompanying badge card get free entry at 200+ UK attractions until they're 16. It can take up to ten weeks for the badges to come through, so you'll need to apply soon to have it for summer. See [here](#) for more information.

Social Media

We have a new Instagram page! Find it here: https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/



Please follow us for news stories and to see what your child is getting up to at school.

Tell us anything amazing that students are doing out of school. If you have any out-of-school student success stories, please do let us know by emailing the office (office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk).

Dates for the diary

Thursday 8th June - Year 11 Dress for Success and Leavers Assembly

Friday 9th June - Thorpe Park Attendance Reward Trip

Friday 16th to Saturday 17th June - Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

Monday 26th to Tuesday 27th June - Sixth Form Induction days

Monday 3rd July - Year 11 and Year 13 Prizegiving event (by invitation)

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July - Sports Days and Matilda the Musical Production

Thursday 6th July - Year 11 Prom

Friday 14th to Saturday 15th July - Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

Wednesday 19th July - Student Celebration picnic - Last Day of Term