

Abbey College Community Round Up - July 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our summer term newsletter, showcasing the full and bustling half-term we have had at school. There have been several transition events for new Year 7 and Year 12 students to experience secondary school and Sixth Form respectively, for the first time.

It's been a busy term, packed with exams, sporting fixtures, PRIDE month and of course, Matilda the Musical, which we can all agree, was spectacular!

We are thrilled to announce that our school has once again won an [FFT Education](#) National School Attendance Award for being in the top 25% of schools attendance. This is a testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and the supportive community around us. Well done all.

A reminder that School finishes at 1pm on the 19th July.

Finally, we would like to wish those students leaving us good luck and best wishes in their new adventures and look forward to seeing the rest of our students, including the new Year 7 cohort in September.



2023/24 Start of term dates and key reminders

Staggered intake at the beginning of the year has worked well for the last few years and this will be continued, as follows:

- Monday 4th September 2023 - INSET Day - Staff only
- Tuesday 5th September 2023 - School Open to Years 7 & 12
- Wednesday 6th September 2023 - School Open to Years 7, 9, 11, 12 & 13
- Thursday 7th September 2023 - School Open to All Year Groups

EduLink

From September 2023, Parentmail will no longer be used and all parent communications will be sent via EduLink. If you have any problems accessing EduLink please contact the IT Helpdesk on itservicedesk@meridiantrust.co.uk or Linda.Bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk without delay for support.

Uniform Reminders

When buying uniform for September, please remember to refer to our uniform policy to ensure that your child returns to school in uniform that conforms to our high standards. In particular, please remember:

Full length, plain black trousers

- Leggings, skinny cut trousers and denim of any type are not permitted
- Buttons and zips only for fastening, not for decoration
- Belts must be discreet.
- Must be worn with black socks

Knee length tartan skirt

- Must be worn with opaque tights
- Must not be rolled at the waist

Smart, black, leather shoes

- Trainers, boots, canvas shoes and 'dolly style' slip on shoes are not acceptable
- High heels must not be worn

Jewellery

- No visible bangles, bracelets or necklaces.
- One small plain ring per hand
- No facial piercings (eyebrows, tongue, lip or chin) except a small discreet nose stud.
- One small stud or hoop in each ear under ½ cm in size
- Ear stretchers are not permitted

Make-Up

- Make-up must be discreet.
- No nail varnish – coloured or clear
- No acrylic nails
- False eyelashes must not be worn



Matilda The Musical!



The countless hours of practice and dedication paid off. Students delivered incredible performances in Matilda the Musical, bringing the house down with their talent. The students who performed or supported behind the scenes were truly outstanding, creating a show that Abbey College can be proud of. A special mention goes to Annabell and Corley for their spectacular portrayals of Matilda Wormwood and Ms. Trunchbull and extending our congratulations to everyone involved in the remarkable production.

It is always great to hear positive feedback from parents and we received some fabulous reviews of Matilda:

"We want to say we thoroughly enjoyed it and what an outstanding performance it was! Every student put heart and soul into it -well done everyone involved!!"

"A brilliant show, some amazing talented children, a well put together show. Well done to all. "

"Absolutely loved it! Well done to staff and students for a great performance."

"Such a great show! Thank you to everyone involved."

Thank you to our amazing Performing Arts department for their tremendous hard work attributed to delivering the best show ever!

Pride Month



The PRIDE group has raised over a whopping £250 during PRIDE month from doing cake sales, tombola and merchandise sales. The money raised will be donated to the [KITE Trust](#), supporting young people and families in the local area, whilst its presence around the school has increased awareness of the PRIDE movement and its values. A big thank you to the whole PRIDE group for their hard work in supporting all the activities.

Sporting round up



Well done to Churchill House for winning the sports day trophy this year! The two days were filled with athletics, capture the flag, rounders and other sporting activities that every student took part in. There were even some school records broken! Thank you to the PE Department for organising two successful days.

Well done to our Sports Leaders, who have been exceptionally busy throughout the half-term. A group of Level 1 and 2 Sports Leaders helped out at a local primary school's sports day and received fantastic feedback from the Headteacher. They also organised a fun afternoon of football for Year 7 students, planning a session of team and skills building, followed by a tournament.

In other sporting news, our Year 9 boys, Under 12 girls and Under 15 girls football teams each sailed through to the County Cup finals, an excellent achievement that they should be proud of.

It was strawberries and cream for eight of our students, who ventured to Wimbledon to watch some elite tennis on Court 2 for the day. This was an amazing experience enjoyed by all.

Farewell to our Year 11s



It's been an amazing year for our Year 11 students, and hard to believe that they are already moving on. Behaviour in the exams was exemplary and we look forward to sharing successes with students on results day on Thursday 24th August. Everyone enjoyed Year 11 Success Day, which included our annual *Walk of Success* followed by an awards assembly to end a vibrant and exciting event. The year concluded with our Prom, which saw some spectacular outfits and even an arrival on horseback!

A huge thanks is owed to the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) for their help and support throughout the year enabling these social events to take place.

Good luck to everyone in the future.



A Great Start to Abbey College Life

It feels like yesterday when our Year 7 students walked through the doors of Abbey College fresh out of primary school, and now we are preparing for Year 8. Students' sporting achievements have been outstanding, leading us to secure the title of Girls County Touch Rugby Champions. Sporting teams have shown exceptional determination, teamwork and skill, resulting in numerous victories when battling against opposition teams.

Students have joined a variety of Offer and Opportunity Programmes (OOPs) over the year, reflecting the important sentiment that by trying something new, you might just find a new interest. It would be wonderful to see this interaction with OOPs continuing into Year 8.

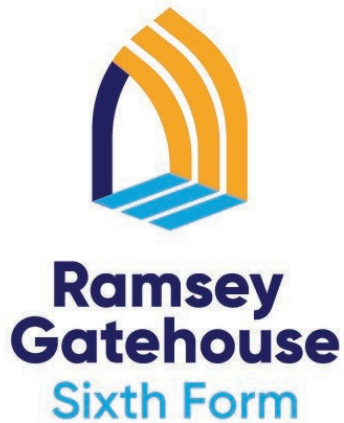
Students worked hard during their recent assessments. Results were impressive, and it is clear that there has been improvement in many areas.

The year ended with some fierce competition on Sports Day and the outstanding performance of Matilda the Musical Jr!

Year 7, you should be proud of your achievements this year. We look forward to watching you grow as you move through the school!



Sixth Form

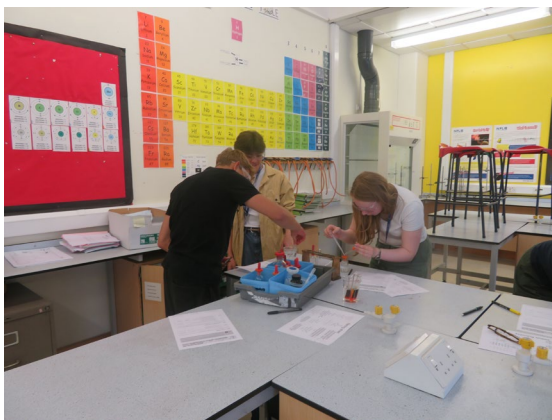


Over the course of the last year, we have been working hard to further develop and refine our successful Sixth Form offer to make it as attractive and engaging as possible for the young people of our community. Our students played a central role in this and have shared their invaluable experiences with us throughout the process. Therefore, last month we were very excited to welcome our Year 12 applicants to the Induction Days of Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form.

Although a new Sixth Form, Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form remains at the heart of Abbey College and builds on our impressive track record of securing a high level of attainment and supporting students in higher education and employment.

Our Study6 area is being refurbished over the summer to provide our students with a vibrant area for learning which, paired with our Café 6 facility, allows students to study in a way that best suits them in their non-contact time. Stay tuned on our school social media platforms to view this transformation as it happens.

If you wish to find out more about the Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form, please join us for our **Open Evening on Thursday 19th October 2023.**



Attendance

There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



The Attendance Reward trip to Thorpe Park was bigger than ever, with over 500 students and 40 members of staff having a fun filled day out! Details for next year's trip will be released in September 2023.

Throughout the Summer Term, as part of our attendance initiative some of our students have been awarded 'flash rewards' and some have had a film afternoon. There has been a drop down afternoon on the school field with the students who have 100% attendance and also those who have made a significant effort to improve their attendance to school.

Thanks and congratulations to the many parents and carers who make sure that their children get the most out of their education by attending school every day and arriving on time.



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This half term, Governors have received presentations from the successful PE and Creative Arts Departments. They were told how the departments intend to further grow their curriculum offer across all three Key Stages and how our students are responding to the popularity of the courses offered by both departments.

Governors visited the school and observed external audits that were carried out to monitor our safeguarding practices and SEND provision. We are delighted to report that both audits found our school has robust practices in place and that the quality of our provision meets all legal requirements.

We were pleased to be invited to attend the Year 11 and Year 13 Prize Giving Ceremony. It was positive to see the remarkable achievements of our students at Abbey College, bringing the academic year to a very pleasurable close.

Governors will continue to work with the school community in the next academic year when they seek to achieve a well-deserved LGBTQ+ award for outstanding work from students.

We express our gratitude to staff members for their unfaltering dedication and efforts over the last year and extend our appreciation to our students, who are a credit to the school and their families for the way they conduct themselves on a day-to-day basis at school.

On behalf of all Governors, we hope that staff, students, and their families enjoy a wonderful summer break and look forward to their return in September.

Parent's Forum

It has been a very tremendously eventful year for Parent's Forum. Our regular meetings changed to a 5pm start time to allow more parents to attend and we are very grateful to them for giving up an hour for each online meeting to help us discuss important issues at the school. We are also grateful to all the Senior Leadership Team, teachers and professional staff who join the meeting in good spirits to answer pressing questions and to take action on issues that concern us.

Every meeting is always constructive, open, and friendly, which is a testament to everyone involved. We have gained valuable insight into the various challenges associated with running a large school, taking care of everyone, delivering a high-quality curriculum and keeping the lights on! This year, we have covered issues and been consulted on toilets; rewards and sanctions; prom passports; notification of sports fixtures; homework; school uniform; canteen prices and food quality; the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and the Sixth Form.

These meetings can't take place without parents who are willing to give up roughly an hour every month to support us. It helps us if we have representation from across the school so please consider joining us. We guarantee meetings that are always lively and entertaining, and never overrun! Plus, we were recently used as a case study for good practice that was entered for a national award!

This year, we set up our own preloved school uniform shop inside the school and have been opening regularly during school events, run entirely by volunteers, but we are always in need of more helpers!

More and more parents want to buy from us so we are very grateful for the generous donations. We can accept washed and bagged uniforms via reception, and also take school coats, football boots and revision guides. All our profits go towards projects that directly benefit the students and we have recently donated £1,000 to the new wellbeing garden which is currently being developed.

We have a Facebook page called Abbey College Parent's Forum and you can contact us to join the Parent's Forum meetings by emailing parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Gold!



We are so proud of our Year 11 student, Tom, who won gold in the boys' 800m final at the English Schools Track and Field Championships held in Birmingham in June. He has also been selected to represent England in the Schools International Athletics Board (SIAB) competition at Grangemouth, Scotland this month. Well done Tom and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for you!

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

- Wednesday 19th July - Student Celebration picnic - Last Day of Term
- Thursday 17th August - A Level Results Day, 8-10am
- Thursday 24th August - GCSE Results Day
- Monday 4th September 2023 - INSET Day - Staff only
- Tuesday 5th September 2023 - School Open to Years 7 & 12
- Wednesday 6th September 2023 - School Open to Years 7, 9, 11, 12 & 13
- Thursday 7th September 2023 - School Open to All Year Groups
- Thursday 14th September 2023 - KS3 Meet the Tutor Event
- Thursday 28th September 2023 - Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening
- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023 - Half Term, School Closed
- Monday 30th October 2023 - INSET Day - Staff only

Contact Us

