

# Abbey College Community Round Up - December 2023

## Headteacher's Welcome



Welcome to our end of term newsletter.

The school is still buzzing from our Ofsted achievement and we are all over the moon at the news. Being praised for our “calm environment that ensures pupils feel safe” and “rich and diverse personal development curriculum”, as well as our “expert teaching” for post-16 students at Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form is an incredible accomplishment. Our school values of humility, intuition and passion were highlighted in the report for underpinning our dedication to not only academic excellence but our commitment to shaping our students into well-rounded individuals. Well done Abbey College!

Our new Year 7s have settled amazingly into Abbey College life, whilst our Year 11s and 13s have worked tremendously hard for their Trial Exams. There have also been many fundraising events, including cake sales, football matches, donations to the Ramsey foodbank and the Christmas Market and we are looking forward to the spectacular Winter Showcase to close the term. What a truly amazing school we have.

I would like to wish our students, parents, carers and staff a happy and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Thursday 4th January.



*1 - Ofsted - Good with Outstanding Features!*

## Remembering their sacrifice

On Thursday 9th November, our students, staff, governors, and some parents gathered at our annual Remembrance Service to mark the sacrifice made by those who served the country.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) opened and closed the ceremony which included poems and readings delivered by Abbey College staff, sixth formers and Student Ambassadors, alongside a touching rendition of the Last Post played by Year 11 student, Timothy. All students contributed to the special tribute honourably with impeccable conduct and respect.

If you haven't seen it please watch the short video we shared on Facebook of highlights from the service - <https://www.facebook.com/RamseyAbbeyCollege/videos/1374589256471094>



## Raising over £300 for Children In Need

Miss Lane organised an amazing day for Children In Need with a tasty cake sale and a 'Guess who Pudsey is' game. An outstanding £323 was raised on the day. A big shoutout to the amazing Miss Lane for organising the fun and to Mr Valentine for sweating inside the Pudsey suit! Well done to everyone who helped and contributed on the day.

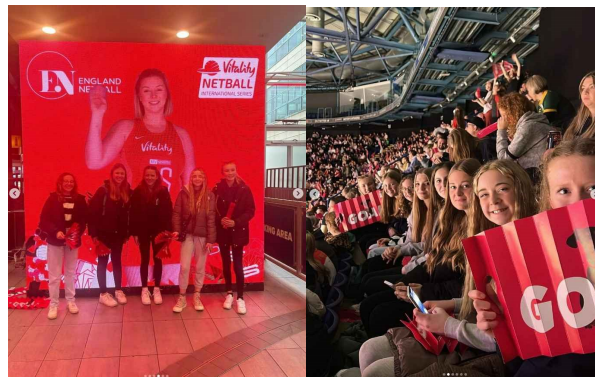


## Supporting our local Food Bank

We are really proud of our school community for donating an abundance of items for us to share with Ramsey Foodbank. These items will be delivered next week and placed into special Christmas donation bags. Thank you to everyone for their donations and support of this excellent cause.



## England Roses



It has been a brilliant term for our netballers. Miss Mott and Miss Witten spent the day on 10th December with 8 of our netballers travelling to Nottingham Motorpoint Arena to watch the England Roses play against South Africa in the Vitality Netball International Series.

It was such an amazing opportunity for our students to watch the The England Roses win 53-50 and to be rewarded for regular attendance to our Netball club throughout their years at Abbey College.

Continuing the netball celebrations, our Under 15s netball team came third in the county tournament, only losing one game and won seven out of ten games over the last few weeks. Well done girls!

## Christmas Market

There was such an amazing atmosphere in school last Friday with nearly £900 made by various student groups. This will go to The Teenage Cancer Trust, Pride Kite Trust and towards the Year 11 Prom and Sixth Form Ball fundraising pots.



## Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



This half term, we have appointed four Deputy Head Students to support Head Students, Jacob and Mary. Matilde and Islay support Jacob with lower school engagement, Annabel supports Mary with The Academic Society and Tobias leads the Fundraising and Events team.

Jacob and Matilde have already met with the new prefects to give them some advice on their job role and the fundraising team has been busy whipping up a storm with a cake sale to raise money towards the new library in the English block.



Mr Hedges took a group of Politics, History and Law students on a Parliament Trip to London. They had a tour of the Palace of Westminster, a law and debating workshop at the Parliament Education Centre and a Q&A session with an MP.

Students enjoyed a talk this term about how to make the most out of LinkedIn and all students have been encouraged to start their LinkedIn profile. During Parliament day, students were told about how voting works and how to register to vote and Pierre Bocquillon from UEA visited to talk about "Why are Politicians Incapable of Fixing our Climate?"

During Year 12 Social Studies, students had talks from our very own Mrs Gregory about Welfare and from Mr Tichanow on basic First Aid Skills.



A group of our brilliant Sixth Form students took part in the Cambridgeshire Rotary Quiz and were victorious.

We are also pleased to announce The Gatehouse Sixth Form new look website:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/gatehouse/>

And don't forget we have our very own Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please visit and give us a 'like' to stay updated with all the exciting happenings at [Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth form](#) and

<https://www.instagram.com/ramseygatehousesixthform/>

## Careers



Our students have enjoyed a host of opportunities to work with the Careers Team this term.

Following an inspirational talk by a successful ex-Abbey College student, Year 11s attended a mini options event, where they had the opportunity to speak with various Post-16 providers to support their plans for the future.

AIM delivered a presentation to our Year 9 - 13 students to inform them about the apprenticeship process and how to research for vacancies.

Year 10 enjoyed mock interviews with real employers, which boosted their confidence in speaking with new people. They also received a presentation from a member of the Department of Work & Pensions, where they found out about payslips, P45s and P60s.

Year 7s were treated to a 'Guess the Professional' event where, in small groups, they asked questions of various employers to try and work out what job they do. They have also signed up to Unifrog to explore their interests and related careers.

Thank you to students, parents and carers who made the Careers Fair a success! There were representatives from a diverse range of career sectors, colleges, universities, and volunteering organisations who were on hand to support and provide advice to students on their career journeys.

The Careers Team are always looking for volunteers – if you are interested in supporting their careers provision, please get in touch.

## Our amazing Welfare Team

As well as excelling in looking after our students, our Welfare Team look after animals! They have the welfare dog, a hamster and goldfish and have recently been spotted looking after an adorable hedgehog which was found wandering aimlessly near the drama block. They looked after the hedgehog and made it a home in some leaves in a quieter place in the grounds.

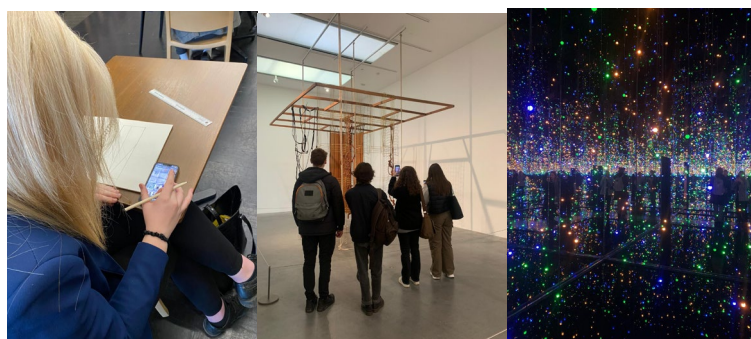
Always out for fun and amusing our students, the team dressed up as ogres, Shrek and Fiona, for Halloween! In the run up to Christmas they have hidden elves for students to find and provided sweet treats for those who want them.

Our Welfare team is here to help and support students and their families, if you need any help, please contact them at [welare@abbey.college](mailto:welare@abbey.college)



## Tate Visit

Some of our Year 9, 10 and [Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form](#) Art students enjoyed the artistic wonders at [Tate](#) Art Gallery in November. Arranged by our brilliant Creative Arts Department, it was an enriching educational visit that provided students with a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of the subject. Students had the opportunity to appreciate and understand the work of artists within a professional environment.



## Governor Update



Governors were absolutely delighted with the Ofsted outcome earlier this term. It was a very well deserved achievement for all the extremely hard work that staff do to educate Abbey College students.

Governors are continuing to work on their road safety campaign in a bid to make the roads safer for our students' journeys to and from school. Following the consultation with local residents, we hope to be working with the Town Council to submit a bid to Cambridgeshire County Council for funding towards traffic calming measures.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to Alan Dods who has been a Governor for 25 years. He became a parent governor at the Ailwyn School and then went on to be their Chair of Governors. Following the amalgamation of the schools he agreed to be Vice Chair of Governors and continued to do this until last year. His very valuable contribution will be greatly missed by us all and we would like to thank him for all that he has done for the schools.

The term of office for another governor, Cheryl Greyson, has come to an end this month which means we will have a vacancy for a parent governor in January. If you think you would be interested in taking on this role and would like to have an informal chat about what is involved please get in touch by contacting [kdodsley@abbey.college](mailto:kdodsley@abbey.college) and she will arrange for you to speak to a Governor currently undertaking the role. We would like to thank Cheryl for her contribution over the last 4 years.

Governors would like to thank staff, students, parents and carers for their continued support and wish everyone a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

## Parent's Forum



Our last meeting was on 30th November, where Cheryl Greyson handed over the reigns of chair to Charlotte Downing. Parents were given an update on the wellbeing garden which looks set to be an amazing place for the students to sit and relax and were impressed with the work the gardening OOP have put into the area. Miss Davey shared her plans for the OOPs which will increase in variety and include more engagement with community groups. Mrs Noble spoke about the Antibullying policy and award that she is working towards, which parents were pleased to hear about.

We would like to thank Cheryl Greyson for everything she has done for the Parent's Forum since it was set up in December 2020.

If you would like any further information on the Parent's Forum, please email [parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

## Farewell and Greetings

As the term ends we say goodbye to Mrs Bradley, Mrs Grainge and Mr Ward, we wish them good luck in their next adventures. In January we welcome Mrs Mills as Refocus teacher and Year 8 RSL, Mr Tuffin as a science teacher, Mr Hanslip as cover teacher and Mrs Duncan-Finegan as a MO teacher.

## Social Media

We have a new Instagram page! Find it here: [https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege\\_ramsey/](https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/)

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

A reminder of the new [Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form Facebook](#) page:

We'd love to hear about any amazing achievements or activities outside of school. If you have any stories of student success beyond the classroom, please share them with us by sending an email to the office ([office@abbey.college](mailto:office@abbey.college)).

## Dates for the diary

- Wednesday 20th December 2023 - Last Day of Term
- Wednesday 3rd January 2024 - INSET Day
- Thursday 4th January 2024 - Students back in school (week A)
- Thursday 11th January 2024 - Year 11 Targeted Virtual Parents Evening
- Friday 19th January 2024 - Year 8 Bletchley Park Trip
- Wednesday 31st January 2024 - UCAS Deadline
- Wednesday 7th February 2024 - Lion King Theatre Trip
- Thursday 8th February 2024 - Year 11 Music Dropdown day
- Thursday 8th February 2024 - Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening
- Friday 9th February 2024 - Year 11 Macbeth Production
- Thursday 15th February 2024 - Year 8 Options Evening 4.30-7.30pm
- Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February 2024 - Half Term