

Abbey College Community Round Up - February 2024

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our Community Round-Up for 2024.

After a busy Christmas period, our students have settled back into their school routines. We've battled Storm Henk, Isha, and Jocelyn so far this year and thankfully came out unscathed! We're keeping our fingers crossed that the winds die down as we move into the second half of Spring Term.

We were pleased to see the dedication of our Year 11 students during their Mock exams. Their results have been analysed by all departments as we prepare to support them towards their next set of exams, which we wish them the best of luck with. It was fantastic to see our Year 11 students enjoy the production of Macbeth, offering a fun way of visually learning in preparation for those exams!

I am thrilled to share that I've recently awarded over 100 Headteacher's Commendations this half term, reflecting the exceptional efforts of our students. Overall, behaviour has been commendable, leading to a positive outcome this week where three year groups are being treated to non-Uniform days as a reward for their exemplary Spirit Points to Behaviour Points ratio.

Enjoy reading this update and I hope you all have a relaxing half-term.

Gold Award



Our school has received the prestigious Gold Award for outstanding commitment to mental health support! Recognized by [Leeds Beckett University](#) through the Carnegie Centre of Excellence, this achievement is a testament to our values of Humility, Intuition, and Passion, which form the basis for supporting each other's well-being.

A huge thanks to our incredible staff and community for their invaluable contributions!

Read the full article here: <https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/24042224.abbey-college-ramsey-awarded-mental-health-support/>

STEM



We're thrilled to share that one of our incredible parents, Mrs. Kamau, has been recognised with a prestigious award in the [#STEM](#) category at her workplace. As a result, we've been fortunate enough to receive a generous donation of STEM kits from [Thermo Fisher Scientific](#). Congratulations to our parent for her fantastic achievement and a massive thanks to [#THERMOFISHER](#) for empowering our students with these incredible STEM resources!

Since the generous donation of [#STEM](#) kits, Mrs. Kamau has returned to lead captivating sessions for our Offer and Opportunity Programme ([#OOP](#)). Students have gotten to grips with extracting DNA from strawberries and experimenting with starch. Each attendee was glad to receive their very own science-goody bag, complete with a lab coat, goggles, and a notebook! Science exploration has truly never been this much fun...



Science Fun



Over to our Year 11 Biologists...

The class had an *eye-opening* experience as Mr. Huggin decided to celebrate his birthday in a *unique* way this year with his fascinating science lesson...

Our Year 11 students had lots of fun dissecting eyeballs, although we've refrained from adding too many photos as some may not suit the squeamish... If you're curious and want to see more, then head over to our social media pages.

Our Year 12 Chemists have been thoroughly engaged in experimenting to calculate the enthalpy of combustion of methanol, ethanol and propane-1-ol during their lessons with Mrs. Batchford. Meanwhile, our Year 13 Chemists have been diving deep in analysis mode, tackling iron. Hats off to our Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form students for their fantastic work and enthusiasm!

Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



This term, we were fortunate enough to welcome some fantastic speakers who offered valuable insights and inspiration to our Sixth Formers.

Richard Morris MBE, an Alumni, delivered an inspiring talk about his career journey after he left Abbey College 40 years ago. He emphasised the importance of being the "best version of yourself", leaving a lasting impact on our students who were talking about his words all day!

We also hosted Rod Smith from GamCare, who conducted an energetic and engaging workshop on gambling, the risks that come with it, and avenues for seeking help and support.

Our Year 12 students were engaged in a talk with Jacqui and Veronica from CASUS, as part of their Year 12 Social Studies programme. They provided essential information about drug misuse, its dangers, and where young people can access support, help, and treatment if they are facing challenges related to drug and alcohol abuse. For more information, visit here:

<https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/search/service/cambridgeshire-child-and-adolescent-substance-use-service-casus-180/>

Andy Caruana from the Police delivered an informative session on safe driving to our students on Friday 16th, which was important for everyone to know.

Lastly, Josh from Plan Your Gap Year shared his insights virtually with our Year 13 students, discussing the opportunities they offer and providing guidance on how to get involved.

Fundraising Committee - A heart warming well done to the Ramsey Gatehouse Fundraising Committee who raised £183.44 at their Valentines sale of cakes, chocolates, balloons and roses. The amount raised will be split between the British Heart Foundation and Sixth Form Summer Ball.

We are delighted to announce the unveiling of The Gatehouse Sixth Form's brand new website. Check it out at <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 'follow' to stay updated with all the exciting happenings at [Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth form](#) and <https://www.instagram.com/ramseygatehousesixthform/>

PE Department

Football



Our Under 13's girls' football team had an outstanding day out back in January, representing Peterborough United at Milton Keynes! They only lost one game out of seven, which is incredible. Well done, girls!

Cricket



A huge well done to our Year 7 and 8 boys who dominated at the recent Indoor Cricket Tournament held at St Ivo.

They crushed every game and proudly brought home the trophy.

Interhouse

We have also held Interhouse sports recently, and the results were:

Year 7

Rugby – 1st Hawking, 2nd. Da Vinci, 3rd. Woolf, 4th Churchill

Netball – 1st Churchill, 2nd Woolf, 3rd Da Vinci, 4th Hawking

Year 8

Rugby – 1st Hawking, 2nd Woolf, 3rd Da Vinci, 4th Churchill

Netball – 1st Churchill, 2nd Hawking, 3rd Woolf, 4th Churchill

Year 9

Rugby – 1st Churchill, 2nd Da Vinci, 3rd Woolf, 4th Hawking

Netball – 1st Woolf, 2nd Da Vinci, 3rd Churchill, 4th Hawking

Current totals – 1st Woolf – 825pts, 2nd – Churchill – 700 pts, 3rd – Da Vinci – 625 pts, 4th Hawking – 600 pts

Swimming

We would like to congratulate all our swimmers who took part in the district swimming gala on Thursday 1st February. Their performance was excellent, especially those who swam up an age group to ensure we had full teams, as well as those who swam multiple legs in relays! A huge well done to all.

Charity Rugby Match

As part of the Quiet Room Student Team, one of our Year 10 students, Carson, decided to hold a rugby match where Year 7 and Year 8 students would be invited to watch for £1. The aim was to raise money for the equipment needed to set the room up.

Working closely with the PE department, Carson enlisted two teams of Year 8 players and two Year 10 coaches, Calum and Henri.

Carson said: "I have worked with the Year 8 Rugby Team all season, so I know their strengths. After meeting them for a team briefing, I placed them in teams based on this. Being District Tournament Champions two years in a row, I knew this was going to be a closely fought match, and it did not disappoint. Assisted by Mr. Pugh, I refereed a fast-paced match, in which it seemed that the Black-coloured shirt team would dominate, taking an early lead, but the Blues pulled it back to make it 35 all. However, our Black-coloured shirt team dug in again in the second half making the final score 50-35."

Whilst all the action was happening on the pitch, Theo and Dexter were also hard at work in the crowd, collecting donations from spectators, which totalled a grand sum of £241.55. Well done to all involved!



Governor Update



It has been a busy half-term for the Governing Body as the group continues to be very proactive in its strategic role. They have maintained collaboration with the Town Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Fenland Road Safety Campaign to improve road safety for our students during their travels to and from school.

Governors visited the school in January to support senior and middle leaders. They reviewed the Year 11 data following their first set of mocks in November, aiming to identify areas for improvement before their next set of mocks scheduled for March. Other visits to school have included visiting

our outstanding Sixth Form, the Careers Department, and New Horizons, as well as conducting a review of safeguarding practices. With the help of the Site Team, they have reviewed Health and Safety standards to ensure they are maintained.

A big thank you to Adam Watkins, our newest governor, who has taken the time to visit to get to know the school better. We appreciate his commitment to learning his role of a governor by undertaking training courses. Welcome aboard, Adam!

This term, governors have been briefed on the SEND provision in school and are highly impressed with how the department is developing for the benefit of our students. Governors showed a keen interest in the LPPA (Learning Parent Partnership Award) that the school is working towards and look forward to hearing about the outcomes and opportunities it will present for parents and carers.

We are looking to recruit new community and parent representatives. If you would like to support our school or are aware of a local member of the community who could, please do get in touch by emailing kdodsley@abbey.college.

Parent's Forum



Charlotte excellently chaired her first Parent's Forum meeting on 14th February, where teachers spoke to a well attended parent body about the homework policy, Higher Prior Attaining students, the Parent Partnership Award and antibullying. The Parent's Forum is a great way to keep parents informed and to receive feedback and questions.

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop was open during the Year 8 Options Evening and was very well attended. The shop will next be open on 19th March. Please bear in mind the following:

- Cash only, please!
- Donations are welcome throughout the year. Please wash, bag and hand into reception.
- If you are able to volunteer some time to help run the shop. Please email parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- The Preloved Uniform Shop can be contacted via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F4133239840069866>

If you would like any further information on the Parent's Forum, please email parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk or see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/abbeycollegeparentsforum>

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.

Plus, here's your reminder of our 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).

Dates for the diary

- Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February 2024 - Half Term
- Thursday 29th February 2024 - Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening
- Thursday 29th February 2024 - Year 8 Options Taster Sessions
- Friday 1st March 2024 - Year 10 & 11 Advanced Cadets (Fri - Sun)
- Monday 4th March 2024 - Othello Performance
- Wednesday 6th March 2024 - Careers Year 7 BAE Systems Roadshow
- Monday 11th March 2024 - Year 10 Music Dropdown Day
- Tuesday 12th March 2024 - Sixth Form Poetry Trip
- Thursday 14th March 2024 - Year 11 Music Dropdown Day
- Thursday 14th March 2024 - Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening
- Tuesday 26th March 2024 - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- Friday 7th June 2024 - Alton Towers attendance reward trip

Contact Us



COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART

