

Abbey College Community Round-up

March 2024

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome!

As we come to the close of this rather short half-term, I am pleased to share the highlights of an action-packed few weeks.

The past weeks have been rich with experiences, from engaging school trips and inspiring guest speakers to fantastic sporting events, and the much-anticipated reopening of our beloved school library. And of course, the ASCA Easter Concert added a brilliant touch to our term.

I would like to start by congratulating our Year 11 students for their commendable conduct during Trial 2 GCSE exams. Students have now successfully completed them and their impeccable behaviour earned them praise from the exams team. We wish them all luck next term.

In our commitment to supporting students and parents, the Maths department hosted an extremely valuable 'Supporting Success' Workshop, offering guidance on effective revision strategies. There are many revision sessions planned during the Easter Break – Year 11 parents/carers will have received an email regarding these.

This half-term also marked a significant step for our Year 8 students who made their options choices. It was fantastic to see such a strong attendance at our Options Evening, and I'm pleased that students embraced the opportunity to explore their interests through taster lessons to support them in making those all-important decisions.

I am delighted to say I have again been able to award over 100 Headteacher's Commendations this half term, which is a brilliant testament to our students' dedication!

Following our Primary Offer Day, I'm pleased to share that we've reached full capacity again! I'd like to extend my thanks to each of you for your contributions in making our school a wonderful place for learning and growth.

Library Opening

Students, staff, governors and parents gathered on Tuesday 12th March for the opening of Abbey College's new school library. They were invited to eat, drink, take part in a book-themed quiz and mingle to the ambient sounds of three talented young student pianists, Millie, Maya, and Vincent.

Special appreciation was expressed to staff, parents, students, governors, and trustees for their support. Jessica and Corley, Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form students were also thanked for their contributions,

having won a competition to name the library (Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Books) and design a logo to feature on the sign.



Another fantastic contribution came from the high-spec office and school furniture company, New Design Group, with their generous donation of numerous pieces of furniture to be used not just in the library but across the school.

To make the evening one to remember, Abbey College was honoured to welcome the world-renowned and critically acclaimed author Louis de Bernières. Known for his novels *Red Dog* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, which have also been adapted into major motion pictures, we felt very privileged to host him! Louis delivered an inspiring speech before cutting the ribbon and declaring the library 'officially open.'

Staff are now excited for the moment when students can step into their new library, a calm space where they can read for enjoyment as well as find useful, up-to-date revision resources.

English Department



On Tuesday 12th March, a group of sixth-form students travelled to Ely to watch celebrated poet and entertainer Hollie McNish at an event hosted by Toppings and Company of Ely. Students enjoyed her performance so much that they bought copies of her book at the end of the show, and queued for her to sign them!

Science

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Dr Dominic Summers, a Consultant transplant and vascular access surgeon at Addenbrookes Hospital. Dr Summers presented to four different classes spanning various year groups, sharing his insights into his journey into medicine, talking through his profession, and even showing some photos and a video of him completing a kidney transplant surgery.

His presentation offered students a fascinating glimpse into the field of medicine, igniting interest among students looking at choosing medicine as a future profession.



Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



This half term, we had the pleasure of meeting our Year 11 applicants for their guidance interviews and look forward to them joining us for their Induction days scheduled from 24th to 26th June. Meanwhile, our Year 13 students continue to receive offers from a range of universities, with many now making their firm and insurance choices, whilst those seeking apprenticeship and employment are receiving guidance and support from Ms Pollard in Careers.

We were lucky enough to be joined by one of our alumni, Emily Neville, who delivered an engaging talk to our Year 13 students on "life at university". Additionally, Harry from the University of East Anglia shared valuable insights into applying for student finance.

As part of their Social Studies programme, Year 12 students were once again visited by Sgt Andy Caruana from Cambridgeshire Constabulary who delivered a talk on healthy relationships. Over in Physics, our Year 12 students continue to attend after-school lectures at the University of Cambridge with Mr Hodges and were recently accompanied by some Year 11 students interested in pursuing the subject as an A Level.

PE Department

Several congratulations are in order! Well done to...

- ...Students who attended the district swimming gala and swam brilliantly – especially those students who swam up a year group to ensure we had full teams!
- ...The Year 8 rugby team, coming 3rd at the Northampton Saints Rugby 7's competition out of 11 teams when competing with multiple private schools and rugby academies. They were very unlucky not to finish in the top 2 and qualify for the next round and should be very proud of their efforts.
- ...All students who took part in our boys' district football fixtures against Sawtry, St Ivo, Hinchingsbrooke, Longsands, Ernulf and St Peter's. Over 100 students from Years 7-10 have engaged in some fantastic matches.

- ...Girls' football teams. We are thrilled to announce that the Under 12's and Under 14's have successfully advanced to the Plate Quarterfinal, while the Under 16's have secured a place in the Cup quarterfinal!

On the 10th March, we held an extremely successful trip to tour the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, before watching West Ham vs Burnley at the Olympic Stadium. The trip proved to be triumphant and we have had some amazing feedback from the parents of attendees, so much so it has encouraged us to look at future trips of a similar nature.



Governor Update

We were pleased to welcome two new governors to the Governing Body. Claire Sutton has been nominated by the Ramsey Foundation Trust, following the retirement of Alan Dods, and Eve Kamau as a Parent Governor. We look forward to working with them and benefitting from their contributions!

On 12th March, Alan returned to the Boardroom, but this time for an informal gathering between staff and governors, both past and present, to celebrate the remarkable time and dedication he has given to the school over 25+ years as a governor. Heartfelt speeches were delivered, and Alan was presented with thoughtful gifts created by students and staff at the school. We will miss Alan's contributions and wish him well.

Following the celebration, it was a delight to attend the opening of the new Library and meet with Louis de Bernières, the English Team and some dedicated students. The English Team has created an amazing facility, and we hope that students will gain many years of enjoyment from it.

During our meetings, governors have received informative updates about SEND and alternative provisions. Governors are working diligently to support the school in resolving ongoing issues with the complexities surrounding the premises.

We are seeking 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



The next Parent's Forum meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th April at 5pm on Teams.

The agenda includes:

- Support with work experience - L Pollard
- AI linked to homework – T Huggins
- Guidance for staff when communicating to parents– G Craig
- Fundraising and Finance Update
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The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop was open on 19th March and was very well attended. The shop will next be open on **30th April, 5-6.30 pm**. Please bear in mind the following:

- Cash only, please!
- Donations are welcome throughout the year. Please wash, bag, and hand into reception.
- If you can 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 an 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 the [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 15th April - INSET Day - Staff only in school
- Tuesday 16th April - Summer Term Starts
- Wednesday 24th April - CEIAG Year 9 Apprenticeships Presentation and Sixth Form university Presentation
- Friday 10th May - Year 13 Leavers Event
- Monday 27th - Friday 31st May - Half Term
- Friday 7th June 2024 - Alton Towers attendance reward trip
- Monday 10th to Friday 14th June - Year 10 Work Experience Week
- Thursday 20th June - Y7 Online Parents Evening
- Monday 24th -Wednesday 26th June - Sixth Form Induction

Contact Us

Visit: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/contact-us/htcu>