

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

I know I have said it many times already but I cannot say enough how grateful I have been for the support of our community during this difficult time.

Many of our students have been learning from home now for over 16 weeks and I am so proud of all they have achieved despite the changes to their way of working. I know it has been a particularly difficult time for our Year 11 and 13 students with lots of end of year events being cancelled or rearranged. I want you all to know that we are incredibly proud of your hard work and look forward to celebrating your successes with you online on the upcoming results days.

Current government guidance states that we should have all students back in school from September. We have started planning exactly how this will work and will update you with full details about this as soon as we can. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and look forward to seeing many of you again in September.



Re-opening for Year 10s and 12s

This term brought the very exciting news that we were able to welcome some of our Year 10 and 12 students back into school for some face-to-face time with their teachers. Alongside other social distancing measures, only a quarter of Year 10 and Year 12 students were allowed in school each day in groups of no more than 12.

Our school environment has been very different but our students and staff have adapted to these changes incredibly quickly and we have had some great feedback from the students who have been in school.

We wanted to share some of these comments with you:

“The week helped me to become more motivated and confident.”

“I liked being with teachers again.”

“The most useful thing has been face to face learning.”

“It was good to meet up with people and see friends.”



Volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants have donated an incredible **117 hours** of voluntary service to the local community this year!

Their efforts have made a huge difference to the community and the social value of these hours is over £500.

What an amazing achievement, well done to everyone involved!



Early Career Development Quality Mark

This term, we achieved the Early Career Development Quality Mark (ECDQM). The award, which is valid for three years, was given to the college to recognise its effective support and development of teachers in the early stages of their career.

In a letter addressed to the college, Assessor, Dr. Simone Whitehouse said: "Your provision for teachers in the early stages of their career shows excellent practice and is broader than the duties outlined in the national guidance for NQT induction. It is organised, rigorous and enables new teachers to have a voice in their induction programme and to feel valued."

We are extremely proud of this achievement, which made it to the local press and will help raise the profile of Abbey College as an employer and promote the outstanding mentoring taking place in our college. We look forward to continuing to build on this provision even further in the future



Abbey College Spirit Values

Earlier this term, ten sixth form students were appointed as Spirit Leaders!

This has been a fantastic opportunity for our students to contribute something significant and lasting to the life of the college. We are delighted to have appointed such hard-working and caring students to become our Spirit Leaders.

Their role has been to promote the Abbey College Spirit across their own chosen year group by leading student voice groups, running inter-form competitions, keeping students updated in assemblies and more.

Congratulations to the ten students who have been chosen!



Brand new 3G pitches

Work begun this term on the archaeology dig for the brand new £750,000 state of the art 3G pitches on our school site. This project is being funded by Huntingdonshire District Council Capital Investment Scheme and the Football Foundation.

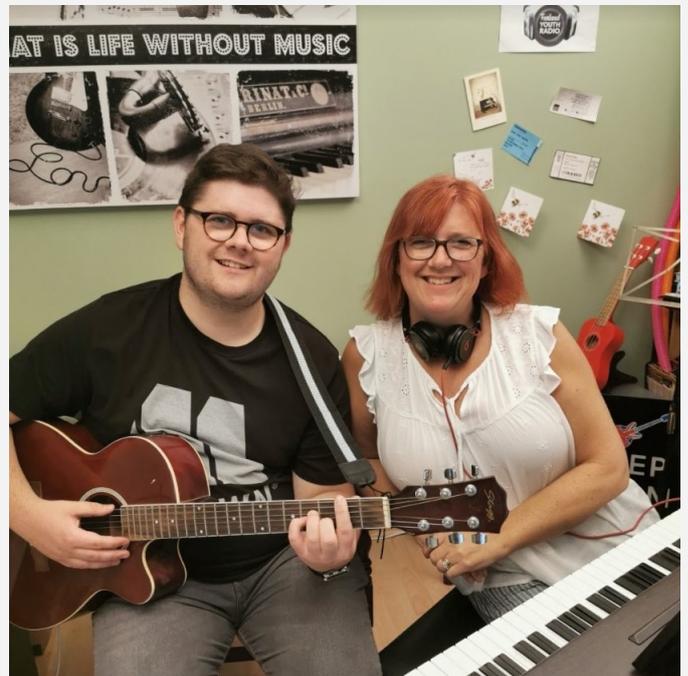
We cannot wait to see this amazing facility in action. We hope it will raise the profile of sports at the College, inspiring more students to get involved in sport and giving Ramsey children the opportunities they deserve to enjoy sport in their community!



Distant Voices Virtual Choir

Distant Voices 2020 community choir was started in May by Mrs Carr to allow people from across the Ramsey community to come together and sing. They currently have around 80 people doing the sessions, including lots of Abbey College students.

The sessions are streamed live each week but can also be found on YouTube and Facebook so you can do it in your own time. They even attracted those further afield with people from across the UK, America, Germany and Australia taking part!



Sporting success

Despite the school closures and social distancing regulations, Abbey College have still managed to have a very successful year for sport. We were district champions in Year 7 boys basketball, Year 8 boys badminton, Year 8 boys basketball and Year 10 7-a-side football. We also had our most successful girls cricket team as our under 15s made it through to the regional round of the Lady Tavernier's Cup. Well done to everyone who represented Abbey College in any fixtures this year.

We have also had a good year for trips as we launched our Football Tour to Man City for the first time in February. 40 students from Years 7 and 8 were lucky enough to train at the Man City training ground, wear the famous City kit and tour the Etihad Stadium. We also continued our annual trip to Twickenham for the Varsity Rugby Match. We had more trips planned for the end of the year that were unfortunately postponed but watch this space for plenty more fantastic trip opportunities next year!

Since we left school, an incredible amount of you have still been involved in physical activity, attempting a range of different challenges set by the PE staff on the PE Instagram page (@abbeycollegepe). We've loved seeing you attempt skills such as kicking teabags into teacups and toilet roll keepy-uppies! Undoubtedly the best of these challenges was the NHS 5k challenge, which saw many of you heading out to run/cycle/walk 5km and then donating £5 to the NHS.

A staple part of the end of the school year is our annual Sports Day, which is the culmination of all of your efforts in interhouse competitions throughout the year. We were gutted that it had to be postponed this year and so instead set about running a virtual sports day in conjunction with National School Sports Week. Once again, lots of you were up to the challenge and after a week involving 15 different challenges, Churchill were our overall winners and Interhouse Champions for 2020.

We cannot wait to have you all back in September raring to go for more sporting action.



What a year for Performing Arts

At the start of the year, we welcomed Miss Davey as our Lead Learner of Performing Arts. Here's an update from her first year!

"I started in September to the hustle and bustle of a new school, full of enthusiastic, charismatic and talented students. I joined Mr Saul, Mrs Carr and Miss Brown and we were ready to make lots of noise and get you all acting, dancing, playing and singing straight away!

"As you all know, it's been a strange year but it's been full of exciting times from holding our Elf Jnr production to adding weekly dance lessons into the curriculum for Year 8, where they have learnt lindy hop to hip hop and created their own choreography. Year 11 have been whizzing their way through lots of compositions and pieces for Music and creating beautifully thought-provoking pieces for their Devising.

"More recently we have moved online. Mr Saul has been keeping our students' practical work going through loom lessons and Mrs Carr has been taking everyone on a musical journey with the singing project. We have enjoyed seeing Tik Tok dance challenges, costume designs, monologues, lockdown time capsules and stunning set designs made by our Sixth Form Drama students!

"We have missed not being able to do our usual lessons and not being in the Frank Burton block creating together as we would usually be. We cannot wait to see everyone back in together in September, in a new way. Now is the time to be as creative as ever – challenge accepted!"



Welcoming new staff

We are really excited to welcome new members staff to the College from September. Here is a fun fact about each of them to help you get to know them.

Natasha Pearson – English Teacher

Fun fact: Miss Pearson enjoys crafting—cross-stitching, crocheting and baking are her favourites.

Carol Holland – Art Teacher

Fun fact: Miss Holland enjoys studying art, travelling and spending as much time as possible on the water in a kayak or a canoe.

Matthew Gunter – Site Manager

Fun fact: Mr Gunther is a keen martial artist and has spent ten years training in taekwondo.

Callum Hatch – History Teacher

Fun fact: Mr Hatch has just finished his training year with CTSN and had to deal with the challenges of lockdown during his training year. He is a keen reader and especially enjoys reading history books.

Caitriona Powell – Deputy Headteacher

Fun fact: Miss Powell enjoys singing and am a member of 2 local choirs in London.

Zara Kolatowicz – English Teacher

Fun fact: Miss Kolatowicz has recently moved to England from a small town called Esperance in Western Australia.

Tracey Brown – Student Support Officer in the Sixth Form

Fun fact: Mrs Brown started her career as a Dental Nurse and is often seen on the Norfolk Broads sailing with her husband on their small sailing boat.



Student success stories

Clap (or saxophone) for Carers

As communities across the UK gathered together on a Thursday evening to clap for front line workers, one street in particular was treated to an extra special musical tribute.

We are so proud of Year 9 student, Hollie, who played her saxophone to her neighbours after the NHS and Carers clapping.

What a fantastic demonstration of our Abbey College spirit!



Tour de Ramsey

Benjamin in Year 11, rode over 300 miles in May to raise money for the NHS. He completed the impressive challenge on the 27th of March and managed to raise over £300!

This was an amazing way to support our healthcare and shows great commitment. Well done Benjamin!



#PortraitsForNHS

Katherine Bayley attended Abbey College from Year 7 right through to sitting her A Levels. She is now in her third year at Worcester University studying Paramedic Science. However, with the current strain on the NHS, Katherine was asked to make herself available to be out on the ambulance and fast tracked. She was recently approached by an artist that has been drawing key workers and they created this fabulous gift for her to remember her time out on the front line with our other NHS Heroes! Well done Katherine, we are very proud!

