

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The end of another Spring term is here at Abbey College and I would like to thank all our families, staff and students for returning to school with such enthusiasm, despite the challenging circumstances. I would like to share a special message of thanks to our inspiring staff and volunteer teams who have worked so hard preparing the school for reopening and ensuring the highest standards of safety are being met. You can read more about them in this newsletter, but I am so proud of their unending support and can-do attitude!

We have also been preparing to welcome our new Year 6 students and released a useful video on National Offer Day which helps explain the next steps. We are looking forward to seeing our future students demonstrate the Abbey College Spirit and achieve great things throughout their time here. Also this half term, the first bits of machinery arrived ready to begin work on our brand new £750,000 state of the art multi-use games area (MUGA) — we can't wait to see this amazing facility in action. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter break.



Welcome Back!

In March, we were delighted to welcome our students back to Abbey College after nine long weeks of lockdown learning!

Despite the busy schedule with Covid-19 testing, our students returned in high spirits and seemed keen to resume classroom learning.

We got lots of great feedback too! One student said: "It's good to be back having face to face lessons." Another said: "It's nice to be back with my friends."

Together, we're looking forward to returning to normality and once again providing a great experience of school life and education for our students, staff and wider community.



World Book Day

On the 4th of March, we celebrated World Book Day!

Research has shown that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income!

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students celebrated the day by taking part in a range of different activities and even created their own bookmark for their favourite book.

We also purchased our students a copy of either 'Skystepper' or 'Skulduggery Pleasant' to further support their love for reading.

At Abbey College, we believe reading is fun, accessible, exciting, and has the power to transform lives.



Lateral Flow Testing

As part of the safe return to the classroom, we needed to coordinate a mass testing programme!

Up to a third of individuals who test positive for Covid-19 have no symptoms at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly, which is why the testing of people without symptoms is so important!

On arrival to school, our students were asked to take three Covid-19 tests at our North Hall.

Throughout this time, our inspiring staff and volunteer teams were hard at work preparing the school for reopening and ensuring the highest standards of safety are being met. The successful and safe return to learning would not have been possible without them – they really have shown resilience and a remarkable can-do attitude!



Curriculum Focus: PE

This half term, our curriculum focus is PE! We know how important it is to keep active and engage with exercise, both for our mental and physical health so we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the subject.

First up, a **Guess Who!**

Are you able to correctly name any of the famous athletes pictured below?



A)



B)



C)



D)

Now time for a **FITNESS CHALLENGE!**

We want you to do the below (in order) as quickly as possible so don't forget to record your time and send it in.

Good luck!

1. 50 star jumps
2. 10 press ups
3. 25 squats
4. 15 burpees
5. 10 ab crunches

To find out more about our Curriculum Journey, visit: www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum

National Offer Day

This half term, we celebrated National Offer Day!

On the day, we congratulated our future students for securing a place at our school and released a useful video which helps explain the next steps.

We will also be sending out an acceptance pack in the new half term which outlines what you can expect in the first few weeks at Abbey College, as well as some answers to frequently asked questions.

If any future students are reading our newsletter, we can't wait to have you join us and are looking forward to meeting you!



Perfecting Pancakes

In February, we set our students another #AbbeyBakeOff challenge!

This time, Mrs Neal wanted them to create delicious, fluffy pancakes from scratch for Pancake Day.

We released a recipe on our social media and let the students do the rest!

In response, we received lots of pictures of perfect pancakes with toppings ranging from honey, Nutella, biscoff spread, cream, raspberries, lemon, sugar, ice cream and more!

Well done to our expert bakers, we are so proud of your delicious creations!



Successful PE Challenge

This half term, our PE department challenged our students to do as many minutes of exercise as they could during February!

As a result, an incredible 180,874 minutes of exercise were completed – the equivalent of over 125 days.

For every 300 minutes of exercise completed, we gave students one entry into a year group prize draw and one entry into a whole school prize draw.

Triumphing in the year group prize draws were Tomos in Year 7, Lexi in Year 8, Abigail in Year 9, Ethan in Year 10 and Olly in Year 11, who each won a £20 Amazon voucher.

Evie in Year 7 was picked out from the whole school prize draw and won a pair of Apple AirPods!

Well done to all of our students who took part!



Key Dates

INSET day (Staff only)	26th Mar
Easter Holiday	29th Mar – 9th Apr
Summer Term 1	12th Apr– 28th May
Half Term	31st May - 4th Jun
Summer Term 2	7th June – 20th Jul

Year 10 Employability Week

In March, our Year 10 students embarked on their Employability Week!

They marked the occasion by having live lessons with AstraZeneca and did lots of different activities.

We're so proud to be able to provide our students with opportunities like exploring potential career choices, application and interview practise, and reflecting on lots of different career paths. Well done to our Year 10 students!

