

8th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 8th October

Based on the most recent data from the LA - Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough - have seen high and rapidly increasing rates of Covid-19. Some of our neighbouring authorities, such as North Northants, are also seeing significant case rises and the rates in other areas of Cambridgeshire remain concerning. As seen nationally, Public Health England (PHE) expect cases to continue at these levels and potentially rise in the next couple of weeks.

Therefore, as we have just two weeks left of school this half term, and it would be a real shame for students to miss out on face-to-face taught lessons, we are implementing the following preventative measures as of Monday 11th October until Friday 22nd October:

- We expect that face masks are worn in all corridors and communal areas but not in classrooms, unless students are exempt. No student will be penalised for not wearing a face covering.
- Please encourage your child to test twice weekly testing at home, on a Monday and Thursday and report the results to both the school, via [Test Register](#) and to the [NHS](#).
- Please do not send your child into school if they test positive.

If your child has to self-isolate, blended learning work will be available on MS Teams, which will be loaded up within the first 20 minutes of a lesson.

Keeping classrooms well ventilated is one of our main controls. As the weather is changing, we advise that students consider wearing their school jumpers under their blazers to help maintain a good level of thermal comfort.

Please read on for essential updates.

Covid-19 vaccination update

We are still awaiting details of when the Covid vaccines for 12 - 15-year-olds will be rescheduled. Be assured that we will write to families as soon as we are informed by the NHS-commissioned [School Age Immunisation Service](#) (SAIS). If you have any queries, please only contact the SAIS Team using this [link](#) or Telephone: 0300 555 5055. Please note that the Covid vaccine programme is led by the NHS, not the School.

Anyone 16 or over can book a Covid vaccine via the NHS online [here](#).

Reminder of Covid Related Absence Recording

Below is a reminder of the [statutory attendance rules](#) schools have to follow.

- Students who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. This is recorded in school as code X (authorised absence), until it has been confirmed by a PCR Test showing a student has Covid-19. Thereafter, the attendance recorded as an I Code (illness, authorised absence), until they are able to return to school.
- If a student tests negative and feels well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

- If the student remains unwell and stays home, following a negative test (for other reasons), then they will also be recorded as code I (illness, authorised absence).
- Students who are a close contact of someone (particularly siblings), should get a PCR test, and must only self-isolate if they test positive.

While Covid related absence will effect student absence, this is closely monitored in school to ensure students are not penalised for this period of absence.

Assessment

- The Year 13 Autumn progress check can be accessed through the Sims app. Connection problems with the Sims app can be sent straight through to the Data Team using the mailbox: simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- Year 10 progress information and end of year targets will be published to the Sims app next week followed by Year 12 information immediately before half term.
- Year 9 end of year targets will be published before half term with progress information in January after assessments have been taken.
- Year 7 and 8 assessments are happening immediately after half term. Revision lists will start to appear for students within MS Teams over the forthcoming week.
- Parent pay now has its own designated mailbox at parentpaysupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

6th Form Prospectus

Thank you to all those families who attended our 6th Form Open evening last Thursday. Our new prospectus is available for viewing [here](#), along with details on the application process.

Ethos

In assemblies this week, students have been reflecting on World Mental Health Day, which falls on Saturday 10th October. In addition to these assemblies, we are planning a 'wear something bright' day on Thursday 21st October to raise money for young people's mental health services. Students will be asked to pay £1 to wear a brightly coloured t-shirt instead of their usual school shirt.

Headteacher Commendations

The following students have received a Headteacher Commendation this week. They will receive 10 spirit points and special postcard home.

Student	Recognised for
Isabella Scott-Rawlins	<i>Passion: Excellent work in the broad bean growing competition.</i>
Jamie Binding	<i>Passion: Outstanding effort shown in his English assessment</i>
Maya Edwards	<i>Passion: For a superb effort with 'Languagenut' Spanish learning</i>
Owen George	<i>Intuition: For making such a positive start to this academic year</i>
Elizabeth Todd	<i>Intuition: For making a very strong start to KS4</i>
Roni Lamprell	<i>Humility: For making a wonderful speech at the Year 6 open evening</i>
William Womersley-Carter	<i>Humility: For making a wonderful speech at the Year 6 open evening</i>
Charlie Bradshaw	<i>Intuition: For a very focused start to Year 11</i>
Finnley Sanderson	<i>Intuition: For a very focused start to Year 11</i>

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award then please follow this [link](#).

Feeling worried or anxious?

Please use the dedicated button  on our website to confidentially raise concerns or to request support, including:

- Peer Mediation, to help students resolve any friendship issues they may have;
- Reporting a concern about the bus;
- Reporting unkindness or bullying;
- Ask for support with anxiety.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully



Andy Christoforou
Headteacher

Vacancies

The School has the following vacancies. For an application or more information, please click on the links below:

1. Site Manager: <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2021-ACR-99228/Site-Manager>
2. Teacher of Spanish (P/T or F/T): <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2021-ACR-44243/Teacher-Of-Modern-Foreign-Language>
3. Casual Exam Invigilator: <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2021-ACR-50269/Casual-Exam-Invigilator>

Parent Diary Dates 2021-22

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 14th October	Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening (4.30-7.30pm)
Thursday 21st October	School Photographer visit for Years 7, 10 and 12 'Wear something bright' day
Friday 22nd October	School closed – additional holiday for Queen's Jubilee
Monday 25th to Friday 29th October	School closed – half term
Monday 1st November	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 2nd November	Students return - Autumn Term 2