

22nd April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 22nd April

At Abbey College, we know that strong relationships with our families are a really important part of the success of our students. Over the last few months, we have been working closely with our Parent Forum to further simplify the communication process between the college and its families. As part of this work, I am pleased to introduce our new communication flowchart, which we hope will make it easier for parents to understand who to contact in each instance and how best to reach them.

The flowchart is accessible through our website and can be found [here](#). The flowchart is likely to be updated throughout the year to reflect any staffing changes. If you have any accessibility issues with this flowchart, please contact reception for support and guidance. There is version in Polish which can also be accessed by the same link.

To further support the communication process, we have also introduced a new way of communicating with the school, called the **Parent Forum Guarantee**. The Parent Forum Guarantee gives all parents the right to speak directly to me, the Headteacher, within 24 hours (ie. next school day), if you feel your question has not been answered by those you have already contacted.

You can use your Parent Forum Guarantee by calling 01487 812352 or emailing office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk with 'Parent Forum Guarantee' in the subject header. You will be contacted initially to arrange a convenient time for your call and then I will personally call you by the end of the next school day. If you would like a follow up meeting, this can occur within 72 hours after the initial phone call.

Finally, we have also reduced the number of options when you call our Main Reception number, from 8 to 4 choices. In the future, when you call Main Reception **on** 01487 812352, you will be given the following choices:

Choice	Outcomes
1	To report a student absence
2	For the Student Support Office
3	For our Finance Team
4	For all other enquiries

I hope this will go some way to making the communication process even simpler and more convenient for you all and would like to say a huge thank you again to our Parent Forum for their support and challenge.

Please read on for essential updates.

Year 9 Raising Standards Lead (RSL)

Ms Khan left Abbey College at Easter to move on to a new challenge. We are looking forward to welcoming our new RSL for this Year group in September. If you have any queries and concerns about your child in Year

9 over the next few weeks then please either contact your child's form tutor or e-mail office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk and we will forward your concern on to the most relevant person.

Disruption

We have very high expectations of behaviour at Abbey College so that students can enjoy learning in a calm and purposeful environment without distractions. This half term, we are focusing in particular on the low-level disruptions that interrupt the flow of learning for students. For the next half term, if students are given a 'tell' for disruption, we are asking them to outline the reason for this 'tell' in their book. We would really value your support in reinforcing our high expectations with your child, by discussing any tells received with your child and helping them to recognise the impact that this has on their learning.

Parent Governor Vacancy

The primary role of a governor is to challenge and support the school leadership. However, they offer so much more, such as: providing professional knowledge (based on their own work experiences), coaching and mentoring, monitoring how the school is improving, collecting first-hand information and engaging with the community. We have an exciting vacancy for a Parent Governor. For more information click here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/governing-body>

Week 27 Attendance News

- Congratulations to over 400 students in years 7 to 11 who had 100% attendance in the last half term.
- Reminder: Children must attend school under the Education Act 1989 (revised). Poor attendance can result in a fine, sometimes known as 'penalty notice'.

Assessment

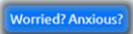
- Year 13 reports will be published at the end of this week.
- End of year assessments will take place in the summer term. Year 9 assessments will begin in the week beginning 03.05.22 and Year 7 assessments in the following week.
- For help with the Sims app please contact: simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Teaching and Learning update

This term the teachers at Abbey College are focusing on developing challenge in the classroom; we know that for students to learn effectively, they need to come out of their comfort zone, and be challenged to think in a different way. In addition, we are developing how students think about learning, and giving them the tools to ensure they know *how* to learn, and what other ways of doing things that they can use. We believe that by doing both of these, we will be supporting all students to make excellent progress.

Next week, students will be given the opportunity to examine what we have been developing in lessons this year, and we are sharing our teaching and learning framework with them. We are recruiting ambassadors, who will work with us to help us make this the best it can be for all students, so please do encourage your son or daughter to consider being part of this team.

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

Parent Forum Meeting

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 5th May 2022 at 4.30pm** and we will be discussing Homework with Ms Waldron and the next steps with regard to the Sports Academy with Mr Pugh.

To join the forum, volunteer for fundraising, or suggest a theme for a future meeting, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk Find our minutes here: [Parent Forum - Abbey College, Secondary School and Sixth Form in Ramsey](#)

Cheryl Greyson – Chair of Parent’s Forum

Parent Diary Dates 2021-22

Date	Activity/Event
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 6th May	Yr 11 final assembly
Monday 9th May	Yr 9 HPV vaccinations
Monday 16th May	Yr 13 exams commence
Tuesday 24th May	Yr 11 dress for success day & football match
Thursday 26th May	Yr 8 HPV vaccinations
Monday 30th May-Friday 3rd June	Half Term incorporating Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
Monday 6th June	Students and staff return 8.30am
Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th June	Yr 12 Work Shadowing
Thursday 30th June	Yr 12 UCAS fair visit
Thursday 30th June	Yr 11 prom event
Friday 1st July	Yr 12 futures day
Monday 4th July	Yr 11 & 13 prizegiving event 6-7:30pm [by invitation]
Thursday 7th & Friday 8th July	Sports Days
Friday 22nd July	End of term picnic & early close at 1pm