

29th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 29th April


This week, students have had assemblies explaining our approach towards teaching and learning. Staff gave an overview of the research and methodologies currently being used in classrooms. Students were also asked if they would like to be part of a new group, who will become our Learning Ambassadors. This may be of particular interest to those pupils who may be thinking of a career in teaching or simply want to improve their presentation skills.


Equally important, is the need for staff to make use of student feedback on the quality of teaching and the curriculum. The Learning Ambassadors will be used to provide constructive feedback that will inform our staff training and the curriculum development.

Keeping with the theme of feedback, last week I provided a link to our simplified communication processes. Please do take a moment to take a look at the flowchart should you need to get in touch. You can access the flowchart on our website [here](#).

I want to remind families that we have also introduced a new way of communicating with the school, called the **Parent Forum Guarantee**, and the following image from our flow chart explains how this works.

PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

 The Parent Forum Guarantee gives all parents the right to speak directly to the Headteacher. You can use your Parent Forum Guarantee by calling 01487 812352 or emailing the school 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 the Headteacher will personally ring 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, if requested.

Please read on for essential updates.

Assessment

- End of year assessments will take place in the summer term. Year 9 assessments will begin next week from 03.05.22 and Year 7 assessments in the following week. Details of all of the assessments should now be on Teams.

Disruption to learning

As you are aware, our focus for behaviour this half term is in removing any low-level disruption from our lessons. Thank you for your support in speaking to your child about this. We have already seen the number of *tells* given for disruption drop significantly. If your child is given a tell for disruption then please continue to discuss with them the reason for this which they will have been asked to write in their book.

Cannabis edibles

The LA are actively raising awareness to parents and young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to the harms of 'cannabis edibles'. Cannabis edibles are foods/sweets/cakes/chewing gum that contain THC, a derivative of cannabis.

Cannabis edibles are illegal and can be really strong, they are not regulated, meaning anyone taking them could face an unknown consequence. The products are cleverly packaged to a professional standard, designed to look like authentic confectionary products and therefore particularly appealing to young people. Although cannabis edibles may contain cannabis, they do not always have the smell or appearance of cannabis. Instead, they look and smell like a normal branded shop bought item but can be much stronger than other cannabis products. We are also aware of vapes that may contain cannabis products that could also be harmful.

There have been local incidents whereby young people have become unwell after eating sweets, chocolates, lollies, chewing gum, gummies or other products. Sadly, a recent death in London is being linked to cannabis edibles, the product potentially containing a cannabis related product.

We urge parents and young people to be vigilant and to have conversations about the risks of taking products that they do not know as being trustworthy, and therefore, are deemed as unregulated. These products are easily accessible for sale both on the internet and locally. These products (including vapes) have a high risk of unpredictability of health consequences; some edible products take time to take effect, other products may take immediate effect. Regardless, the consequence could have a life-threatening impact to your child.

The police continue to work with schools and local communities to inform parents of this ongoing concern. For further information on cannabis please visit this national website www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis

Week 28 Attendance News

- Congratulations to Form Groups 9W1 and 9W2 who both had 100% attendance last week.
- Reminder: Good attendance is vital for the success of students and their wellbeing.

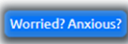
Headteacher Commendations

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

Students		Recognised for
Carson G	Lucy L	This week's Headteacher's Commendations go to our newly appointed team of Year 10 prefects. They have really impressed Miss Dowd and Miss Beel with the strength of their applications and their interview performance. The prefect role will evolve over time, but will begin with Year 7 with reading interventions, supporting with social times around the school and links with key areas of the school.
Chloe D	Annabel M	
Kenya D	Amy O	
Izzy H	Josh O	
Mylo G	Isabella S	
Kiran H	Lucy S	
Ellie H	Rosie L	
Katie H	Wiki G	

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

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>

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

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