

Weekly Family Update - 27.05.22



Welcome to our new digital version of the Weekly Family Update. In response to feedback, we have made it briefer and more accessible, so that you get the information you need. Please read, share and encourage others to do the same.

For those of you who prefer the more traditional letter, a pdf version of this Update will also be sent to families; but please note that this will look a little different from a letter.

Foreword

Tuesday was bittersweet as the staff and students said their goodbyes to our fabulous Year 11 students, during the annual *Dress for Success* event. There was a real carnival atmosphere around the campus as students enjoyed the traditional end-of-year awards and the *Walk of Success*, where students are applauded by their peers as they wished them well for the future. The students were a real credit to us and to themselves, and their conduct was impeccable. We couldn't be prouder and wish them every happiness going forwards.

Year 11 and 13 exams are going extremely well and again our students are making us so proud. The invigilators comment daily on how excellent they are and the students' smiling faces at the end of each exam is very encouraging.

Finally, all year groups had their half termly Rewards Assemblies led by their Raising Standards Leader; and it's been great to have Mr Mann back celebrating our Year 8 successes.

School attendance is on the up and slowly making its way back to pre-pandemic levels. Please keep encouraging your child to be in school every day, as staff are working hard to make up lost learning.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves, and we look forward to seeing all students bright and early on Monday 6th June.

Please read on for essential updates.

Assessment

- Year 10 Trials are not sat under formal examination conditions so no exam timetable will be produced. Subjects will be scheduling assessments during a two-week window starting on 06.06.22.

EduLink has now been launched, and will allow families to see assessment information among other data, which we plan to make available over time.

We have sent out usernames and passwords. Support with logging in is available via help@cmat.support. Once logged in, I recommend that you explore the app and check/update the information that the school holds on your child(ren) using the purple 'Update Information' button.

During the summer term, we will be requesting feedback from you on this new communication system and introducing more buttons. Students have had logging in information emailed to their school email addresses. They will be introduced to Edulink in lessons after half term.

Week 32 Attendance News

- **Congratulations** to Harry, Logan, Sophie, Euan, Olivia, Lauren, David, Laura, Sarah, Christian, Keeley and Jesse for having recently been awarded a voucher for having 100% attendance.
- **Reminder:** Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life.
- Did you know? 17 missed school days = 1 GCSE grade lower across the board.

Ethos updates

Uniform

Please remember that students should be wearing black socks with trousers. We will be issuing a 'tell' after half term for any students wearing white socks. If your child has their hair coloured, or has acrylic nails applied over half term, please ensure that these are removed before we return on Monday 6th June.

Warm Weather Notice

As the warm weather is likely to arrive when we return after the half term break, from Monday 6th June there will be no requirement for students to wear blazers until the end of the Summer Term, unless they wish to. Thank you for your support.

They must not, however, substitute their blazer for another coat or jacket.

In addition, we would also like to remind you of the NHS guidelines for hot weather and what we would like your support with during breaks and lunchtimes:

- Encourage students to make use of covered/shaded areas outside and avoid the midday sun;
- Keep hydrated (please encourage your child to bring a water bottle – it can be refilled at water stations outside of lesson times);
- Avoid strenuous activities during break times (we will encourage that pupils take things easy on the hard courts during lunch time);

- Ensure you apply sun protection before school.

Supporting Reading at Home

It is important that children continue to read and communicate at home to maintain their levels of literacy and further improve progress across all subjects. The small steps detailed below can be really helpful in developing reading ability, vocabulary and communication skills, all of which are vital for learning; and an area where parental support can be really beneficial.

Here are some simple ways to encourage and support your child to keep reading at home:

- **Daily reading** can be part of your daily routine, offering escapism and a sense of calm. Encourage your child to read for ten minutes a day.
- **Role model** and read yourself, when you can, talking to your child about what you are reading.
- **Read together:** We often think that older children like to read on their own, but there are many benefits to reading together. It can improve communication and strengthen bonds, as well as exposing them to a greater variety of books. Choose a book with a topic you or your child are interested in and take it in turns to read, stopping to discuss and ask questions.
- **Book talk:** use books and digital reading to start conversations with your child. Here are some questions that could help:
 - *What do you think the book will be about?*
 - *Can you tell me what's happened so far?*
 - *What do you think will happen next?*
 - *Why do you think the character did...?*
 - *What do you think the author wants us to think?*
 - *How did you feel when...?*
 - *Can you think of a similar experience that you've had?*
 - *Who do you know who is like...?*
 - *How did the character change in this story?*
 - *What do you think are the most important things in this chapter/section?*

Reading is more than just books! Children can read about their interests online, read online or print magazines and newspapers and even listen to podcasts and audiobooks.

Did you know? Research by Stanovich (1993) found that vocabulary size relates to academic success. *Simply put: knowing more words makes you smarter!* Encourage your child to read non-fiction as there are generally a wider range of new and words.

Headteacher Commendations

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

Parent Forum - Update



In our last meeting, we talked about Homework with Ms Waldron (and were given a sneak preview of the new Edulink app), as well as the next steps with regard to the Sports Academy with Mr Pugh. To see the list of questions asked and the responses, please check out the draft minutes here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/parent-forum>

We then heard from Mrs Noble about how they are supporting students' wellbeing post pandemic, using a tool called the PASS Survey which is carried out nationwide, so the School can get a picture of how our young people are doing compared to other pupils across the country. The School has put in place workshops and interventions and are in the process of repeating the survey to see what impact the work undertaken has had. The plan is that Mrs Noble will attend our next meeting to update the Forum on the impact of the School's work.

Finally, we talked about fundraising and saw the drawings and plans the School has to improve some of the outside seated areas; really exciting stuff!

As always, if you would like to get involved in Parent's Forum or fundraising, please email parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk or follow us on [Facebook, here](#).

Cheryl Greyson – Chair of Parent's Forum

The next Parent Forum Meeting **Parent Forum next meeting – Tuesday 12th July 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing: Homework update, Edulink demo, PASS results. Please take **our survey to share** any questions or themes you would like the Parent Forum to put to the school in the next meeting. The survey closes on the 7th June.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentsForum2022>

Opportunities at Abbey College

Parent Governor Vacancy - 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 Diary Dates 2021-22

Date	Activity/Event
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

Communicating with us

To help you reach the right person if you have a query or concern, we have updated our “contact us” webpage and have included a simplified flowchart to show the most efficient way to communicate with us.

[Click here to access this Communication Flowchart on our website.](#)

Other news updates can be found here:

- Our news page: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/news/letters-to-parents>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RamseyAbbeyCollege/posts/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AbbeyCollegeAC>