



Weekly Family Update - 12.09.22

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.

Tip: to quickly navigating this online Update, try using the icon on the bottom right of your page that will turn this into a quick-access contents page.

Remembering The Queen



Everyone at Abbey College are deeply saddened by last Thursday's passing of The Queen and offers its condolences to the Royal Family at this time. From this week onwards, leading up to the funeral, there will be a series of appropriate activities to celebrate her life and explain the significance of her passing. In addition, our Welfare Team are on-hand to support any students who are struggling to manage through this time.

The official date of the State Funeral is 19 September 2022. This day will be a bank holiday and schools will also close as a mark of respect.

Foreword

Apologies for not sending out the update last Friday for obvious reasons. I will keep this message short to allow you to focus on the essential updates.

Moving forward, in terms of our usual communications, our aim is to always get this whole school update out every Friday, leaving more individualised letters, emails and posters to be sent during the week as appropriate.

With this in mind, you will be aware that we are launching the extra-curricular - Offer and Opportunity Programme (OOP) - via Edulink. You can also read more about the OOP on our website or clicking [here](#). There is now a late bus every evening to support students in getting home, and it would be great if we could get every student to participate in something that interests them.

Next Thursday, we welcome families from both Year 7 and Year 12 respectively into our school, for the Meet the Tutor Evening and a letter has been sent directly to the relevant year groups.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Road Safety Survey as we have reached the desired amount required to commission the investigation by CCC. Next week, the School will submit the application for the survey which is to be reviewed by CCC at the end of October (CCC timescales not ours). We understand once approved, can take anything up to 12 weeks to occur owing to staffing shortages at the Highways Team. In the meantime, our staff will continue to manage school departure by students at the beginning and end of the school day, wearing their high-viz vests. Thank you for your support and I will keep you posted.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Attendance Update - Week 1



- **Congratulations:** School attendance target is 97%, well done to all the students who have had a positive start to the academic year.

- **Reminder:** Leave of Absence for the purpose of holidays in term time can no longer be granted except in 'exceptional circumstances'. See this [link](#) for more information.

Ethos updates



Reporting behaviour




We have very high standards of behaviour at Abbey College and do not tolerate any unkindness or bullying. If your child experiences any unkindness in school, travelling to school or online then please encourage them to report this either to the Student Support Hub or via our [online form](#) so that we can investigate and resolve the issue swiftly.

Vaping

Nationally, the number of young people vaping is increasing at a significant rate and has become a growing concern in schools. It is illegal to sell or purchase vapes to anyone under the age of 18.

Vapes and associated items are banned at Abbey College in the same way as all age-restricted items. If we suspect that your child has brought a banned item into school then we will conduct a search in accordance with our Search and Confiscation Policy. Any student found with a vape, or any banned item will face a significant sanction. If you are concerned that your child may be involved in vaping then please contact our Welfare Team who can offer support and guidance.

Curriculum update

Abbey College Curriculum Aims	
	The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions.
	To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind.
	All learners will receive a wide and fulfilling educational experience.

Spanish focus

Each week, I intend to highlight what is available on our website to support student learning.

This week, I will focus on Spanish which is a core subject at Abbey College. There are three main resources available on our website for every subject taught. Click each heading below to find out more, or go to our main web page [here](#).

1. [**Spanish Learning Journey**](#) - an overview of what is taught from year 7 through to year 11. If you click on the image once, it will open. Click on it again, it will enlarge.
2. [**Curriculum overviews and plans for each year group**](#) - these show in detail what is taught and assessed by year group in detail.
3. [**Knowledge organisers**](#) - these are useful tools when it comes to learning and recalling information. They are a great resource to see at a glance what facts need to be retained, and are particularly useful prior to an assessment or exam.

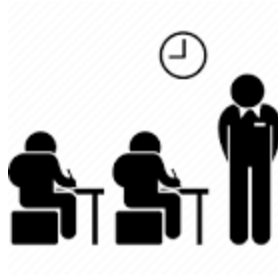
Homework update

Lessons at Abbey College have got off to a great start, and it has been lovely to see the enthusiasm of students as they have returned. We hope that this continues as we go through the year.

*This academic year we are placing a greater emphasis on homework. It is important that students retain the information they learn in class, so we are introducing **Knowledge and Information Tests (KITS)**. KITS are small, low-stakes questions that will let teachers understand where any misconceptions may be, and will enable staff to redirect students in their thinking and learning. These recall skills will be invaluable as they move through the school and complete external examinations. Students will soon be receiving a Homework Timetable, outlining the expectations for homework completion in each subject per fortnight, and we will send this to you for reference. A letter explaining this in more detail will be sent shortly.*

Ms Powell - Deputy Headteacher

Assessment



- **EduLink:** All parents should now have access to EduLink, if your link does not work or has expired then contact help@cmat.support. It is particularly important that once in, you check and if needed, update the account information.
- **Year 7 baseline tests:** full detail of the CAT4, Maths, English and Science tests, including the dates, will be released next week by letter. No revision is required for these tests.
- **Year 11 data capture** information including Techer Set Targets and Spirit Grades will be released in two weeks.
- The **Year 10 assessment** window opens on 19.09.22 with reports issued early October. Details of the assessments and revision lists will start appearing on Teams next week.
- The **Year 12 assessment** window opens on 26.09.22 with reports issued just before half term. Details of the assessments and revision lists will start appearing on Teams shortly.
- **Year 13 data capture information** including Teacher Set Targets and Spirit Grades will be released in early October.
- **Year 9 data capture information** including Teacher Set Targets will be released just before half term.
- **Year 7 and 8** have assessments after half term.

Headteacher Commendations



The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's commendations this week for going above and beyond in an area of school life. They will receive ten spirit points and a special postcard home.

Student	Nominated for
Maddi Shaw	A great first week at Abbey College 6 th form
Mary Kirton	A great first week at Abbey College 6 th form
Paisley Swannell	For displaying our virtues to a high standard in the first week of Abbey College
Alexa Myers	For displaying our virtues to a high standard in the first week of Abbey College
Dabameine Gomis	For displaying our virtues to a high standard in the first week of Abbey College
Koby Noble	being kind and caring, looking after another year 7 that was unwell
Layla Jiggins	looking after other students who were feeling overwhelmed this week
Lauren De Chastelain-Tye	For starting Year 9 with an attitude to be proud of
Gracie Annies	For starting Year 9 with an attitude to be proud of
Maia Bernadac	For starting Year 9 with an attitude to be proud of
Ruben Evans	For starting Year 9 with an attitude to be proud of
Liam Rayment	For starting Year 9 with an attitude to be proud of
Vincent Forkner	For achieving 2 gold medals at the national schools finals

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

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 15 th September	Year 7 & 12 Meet the Tutor 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 29 th September	Year 11 Meet the Raising Standards Lead 4:30-6:30pm
Tuesday 4 th October	Year 7 STEM Day
Thursday 13 th October	Year 6 Open Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 20 th October	School Photographer visit for Year 7 & 10
Thursday 20 th October	Sixth Form Open Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October	Half Term - school closed
Monday 31 st October	Inset Day 2 – staff only in school

Parent Forum



Hi and welcome back!

Over the break, we have been busy setting up the Preloved Shop (see below) and have some exciting plans to make this even easier for families to buy the uniform they need for their children, so watch this space.

Our meetings take place monthly, and next week, we should be in a position to share the exact dates for the year. If in the meantime, you would like to know more about the Parent Forum and the type of work they have undertaken last year, please see click this [link](#).

If you would like to attend, 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

Abbey College Preloved Uniform

Abbey College Parent's Forum runs the Preloved School Uniform scheme as part of its fundraising activities. We ask parents to donate outgrown or unused uniform by leaving clean bagged up donations at School Reception. All donations are inspected carefully, and we repair items where needed. Clothes are categorised according to condition: excellent/as new, good, or discounted with minor marks.

We list all available stock in real-time on a Google spreadsheet on our [Facebook page](#), Abbey College Parent's Forum. Parents can message to reserve, and the item will be secured until they can pick up. For offline sales, we run one pop up shop per half term and there will always be a changing room available. In the summer, we run a special event for new Year 7s to tie in with the induction programme.

Scan the QR code below, to find out more.

Cheryl Greyson

Chair of Parent Forum



Opportunities and vacancies at Abbey College

- **Estates and Facilities Manager:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-49888/Estate-and-facilities-Manager>
- **Cleaner:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-11252/Cleaner>

Wellbeing and Welfare Support



The link below will take you to a copy of our Wellbeing and Welfare leaflet showing what support is available year-round:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/worried-or-anxious>

If you need to speak to our Welfare Team, please email: welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

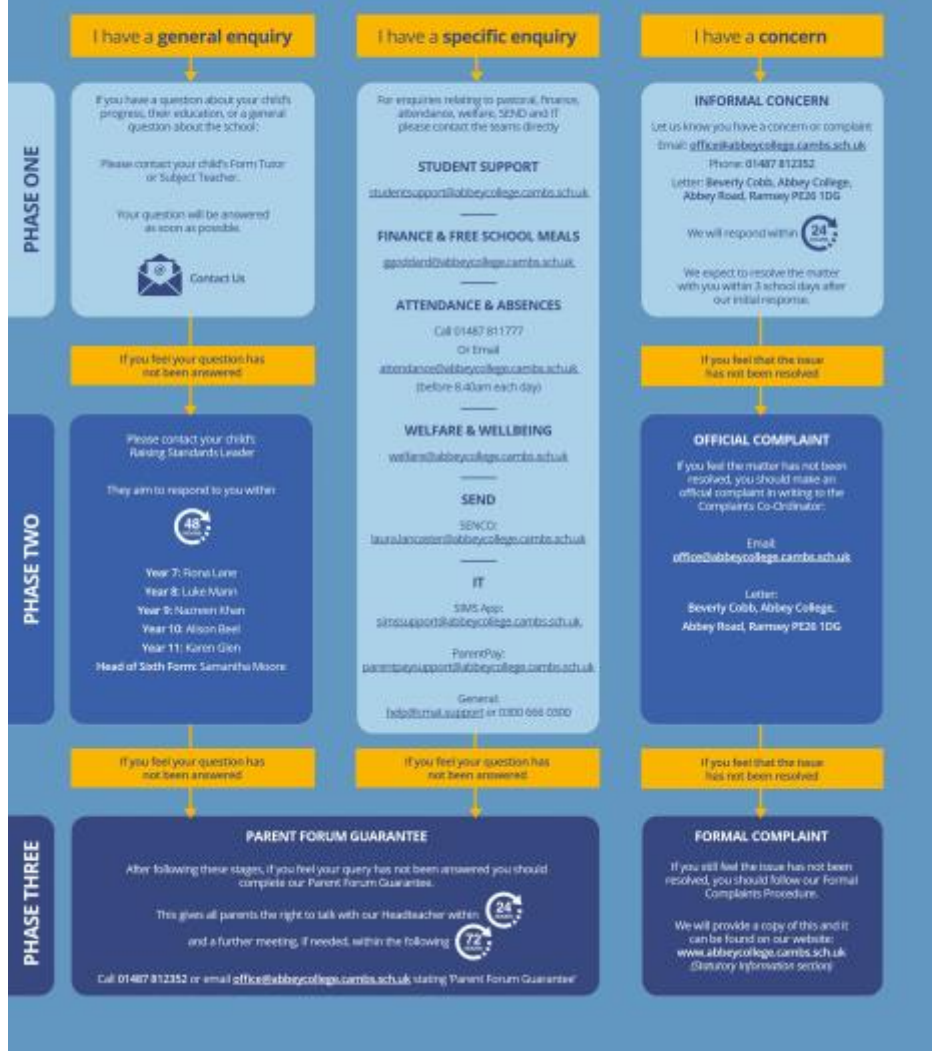
Lisa Gregory and Claire Peattie

Welfare Team

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.

COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART



[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>