

Weekly Family Update - 16.09.22

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.

Foreword

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.

Our Queen for so long, she was the embodiment of British values that we cherish so dearly and she devoted her life to serving the United Kingdom. She was unwavering in her commitment to the principles of equality, respect and decency and she was a constant in our lives that many of us felt would never disappear. Despite the inevitable march of time her loss is, therefore, a significant shock. We will find new symbols of hope to take us forward from here, but for now we mourn. Our thoughts are with The Royal Family.



We have taken some time throughout this week in School to discuss this historic moment of sadness with our students during assemblies, focusing on her amazing ability to communicate and relate to the most challenging world leaders throughout her reign, and how she has been all that is the very best in us.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Attendance - Week 2

- **Congratulations:** School attendance is currently 97.07%. Well done to all the students who have had a positive start to the academic year.
- **Reminder:** Headaches, coughs, colds, sore throat, 'feeling sick' and menstrual related absences are not authorised.

Ethos updates

Conduct on the buses

We expect the same high levels of behaviour on the buses as we do in school. If your child has any concerns about travel on the bus then they should report this to the Student Support Hub or via our [online form](#). Any incidents of poor behaviour on the bus are investigated and sanctioned in line with our behaviour policy and may also result in a bus ban.

Road Safety

We will be talking to students in assemblies next week about road safety. We have had reports from drivers of students stepping into the road without looking, often because they are looking at their mobile phones. If your child walks to school, please remind them of the importance of paying attention to cars and being respectful of other pedestrians.

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.

Abbey College Curriculum Aims

| | |
|---|--|
|  Inclusive | The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions. |
|  Challenging | To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind. |
|  Cultural Capital | All learners will receive a wide and fulfilling educational experience. |

Curriculum updates - Faith & Ethics focus

Faith & Ethics (FE) focus

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

This week, I will focus on what we refer to in school as FE, which is one of our core subjects at Abbey College. We took the decision several years ago to

enrich our core curriculum with FE as it supports one of our curricula aims of developing an understanding and appreciation of diversity and equality. In addition, it provides young people with the critical thinking skills that are applicable across the rest of their subjects.

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. [FE 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 has now replace the Sims App as the school communication system. If you are not logged on to Edulink contact help@cmat.support.
- **Virtual Parent Evenings** start after half term and will run through Edulink.
- **Year 7:** GL assessments start next week. The dates have been sent out by letter.
- The **Year 10 assessment** window opens on 12.09.22 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 will be released in early October.
- **Year 9 data capture information** including Teacher Set Targets (TSTs) 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 |
|--------------|--|
| Jonathan W: | Showing an exemplary attitude to his studies |
| Paige O' | A wonderful start to this academic year |
| Hayley O | becoming a role model for other students in the school |
| Ollie H | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Naomi S | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Alfie S | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Thomas L | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Erin I: | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Thomas S | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Molly-Jane H | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Nye B | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Owen F | For consistently showing our virtues to a very high standard |
| Tim S | For playing 'The Last Post' beautifully at our service for the Queen |
| Corley W | For leading part of our service for the Queen |

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 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 |

Opportunities 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.

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.
