

Weekly Family Update - 23.09.22

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.

Foreword

Last week's Meet the Mentor Evening for Year 7 and 12 was very well received. We heard really positive feedback about how our students welcomed and spoke with the visitors. I'd like to thank in particular all the staff and students who represented the School as tour guides who were such great ambassadors.

Key information to note:

- **Youth Mental Health Day - w/b 26th September**

On Thursday 22nd September it was Youth Mental Health Day, therefore we will be holding a non-uniform day for each year group every day the week beginning the 26th September to raise awareness of mental health in young people and to also raise money to support the charity Stem4: supporting teenage mental health. The week aims to encourage understanding and discussion of mental health in young people, enabling them to live happy and healthy lives all year round. We ask students who wish to wear non-uniform on their designated day, to bring in a £1 donation. We will also be holding a bake sale on the Friday 30th during the two morning breaks; if you would like to bake something for this, please bring to T06/Welfare on the Friday morning.

The non-uniform split will be as follows;

- Monday – Year 7
- Tuesday – Year 8
- Wednesday – Year 9
- Thursday – Year 10
- Friday – Year 11

- **Year 6 Open Evening - 13th October and 6th Form Open Evening - 20th October**

These events will take place from 4:30-7:30pm, and a letter will be sent out in due course.

- **Offer and Opportunity Programme (OOP)**

It's been an exciting week of learning, clubs and enrichment getting underway here at school, with over 400 students attending one or more offers! The [Offer and Opportunities Programme \(OOPs\)](#) are well underway, and the full list of what's on offer can be seen and booked via Edulink. You will see an array of sports clubs, subject specific enrichment through to the weird and wacky; there is something for everyone.

So – what lies ahead? No apologies whatsoever for repeating one of my core beliefs. Education has much in common with exploration: trying something for the first time, pushing the boundaries

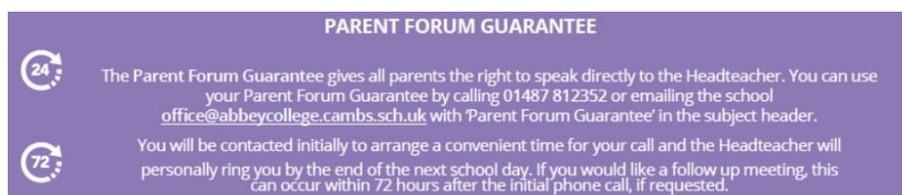
beyond the comfortable and taking a leap into the unknown. Neale Walsch's words "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone" sit behind the desk in my office and I strongly advise all students to use the start of the year to explore what is on offer. Use the next few weeks to identify the boundaries of your own comfort zone....and then push them. Try something different whether it is an in school or an out of school activity. You never know: it might be the most significant decision you make all year.

Finally, we really value the good communication we have with parents and carers and this includes addressing your concerns. To help you reach the right person if you have a query or concern, we have updated our "contact us" webpage: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/contact-us/htcu> and have included a simplified flowchart (also at the end of this update) to show the most efficient way to communicate with us.

*I want to remind families that last year, our Parent Forum worked with the School to introduce a new way of communicating with me, called the **Parent Forum Guarantee**, and the following image from our flowchart explains how this works.*

Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher



PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

24 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.

72 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.

Attendance - Week 3

- **Congratulations:** to Year 8 who currently have the highest attendance; 97.23%.
- **Reminder:** School starts at 8.40am, students are expected to be in the school gates by 8.35am for a prompt start.

Homework update

It has been a very positive start to the year in terms of lessons and what students are learning. Teachers are preparing learning journeys for students so that every child knows what they are learning, and how it fits into the scheme of the subject. We believe this will help students have a big picture of their learning.

As a school we are putting the spotlight on homework, and are using research that tells us that it can add 5 months of progress onto students' progress. We are setting assignments on Teams, and will be clear about what the tasks are that students need to complete. When students are asked to learn, we expect this to be a dynamic process, where notes are made and active learning is visible. Reading

through is not enough. We don't expect everyone to have perfect memories, but we do expect students to make efforts, and this is what we want to see. As teachers, we know what good effort looks like, so I ask for your support in helping us to get students into excellent learning habits.

Ethos updates

Student Behaviour

We have been very impressed with the calm and focused way that our students have started the term. So far over 6500 spirit points have been awarded to students for demonstrating our virtues of humility, intuition and passion. The number of *tells* we have issued is significantly lower than this point in the last academic year. Well done to all our students for returning to school with such positive attitudes to their learning and to our community.

Travel to and from school

We will be revisiting our travel code of conduct with students in form time next week to ensure all students understand our expectations and know how to keep themselves and others safe when travelling to and from school. We are also introducing Bus Prefects who will monitor the behaviour on the buses and report to the Student Support Team where student conduct does not meet these expectations.

Abbey College Code of Conduct for Travel		Abbey College Code of Conduct for Travel	
I will follow our three rules of Ready, Respectful and Responsible when travelling to and from school.		I will follow our three rules of Ready, Respectful and Responsible when travelling to and from school.	
<p>On the bus I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have my bus pass ready to show. • Follow the driver's instructions at all times • Treat all other passengers with care and respect • Remain seated while the vehicle is in motion • Take my litter with me when I leave • Report any poor behaviour to the SSO team. 	<p>When I am walking I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Green Cross Code • Walk on the pavement, away from the kerb • Only use safe crossing points • Pay attention to what is going on around me • Treat all other pedestrians and road users with care and respect • Make sure there is space on the pavement for others to safely pass • Make sure I put my litter in the bin 	<p>On the bus I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have my bus pass ready to show. • Follow the driver's instructions at all times • Treat all other passengers with care and respect • Remain seated while the vehicle is in motion • Take my litter with me when I leave • Report any poor behaviour to the SSO team. 	<p>When I am walking I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Green Cross Code • Walk on the pavement, away from the kerb • Only use safe crossing points • Pay attention to what is going on around me • Treat all other pedestrians and road users with care and respect • Make sure there is space on the pavement for others to safely pass • Make sure I put my litter in the bin
<p>On my bike I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle along designated cycle routes or the road if it is safe to do so • Use safe crossing points and dismount my bike to cross the road • Wear a cycle helmet • Be courteous to other road users • Ensure that I can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high visibility clothing, as appropriate 	 <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>	<p>On my bike I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle along designated cycle routes or the road if it is safe to do so • Use safe crossing points and dismount my bike to cross the road • Wear a cycle helmet • Be courteous to other road users • Ensure that I can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high visibility clothing, as appropriate 	 <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>

Curriculum updates - Art & Design focus

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.

Art & Design 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 Art & Design, which is made up of several subjects: Art, 3-D Design, Engineering, STEM, Catering and Textiles.

There are two 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. [Art & Design 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.

Assessment

- The **Edulink clubs** button has been renamed as **OOPs, Interact and committees**.
- The **Parent Evening** button is now showing and Virtual Parent Evenings will run through Edulink after half term. Currently, the system is being tested and information about this new system will be released in the run up to the individual events. Any parent not yet logged on to Edulink should contact help@cmat.support.
- **Year 7:** GL assessments continue into this week. The dates have been sent out previously.
- **Year 7 and 8** have assessments after half term.
- **Year 9 data capture information** including Teacher Set Targets (TSTs) will be released just before half term.
- The **Year 10 assessment** window is open with reports issued early October. Details of the assessments and revision are on Teams.
- **Year 11** reports are due this week. They include an end of year Teacher Set Target, Spirit and grades that can be used in college applications.
- 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.

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
Alice m	For being so pro- active with Year 10 JLT
Ben A	For being so friendly and welcoming
Liam R	Outstanding commitment to KS4, and high achieving spirit for the Year so far with 35.
Ruben E	Outstanding commitment to KS4, and high achieving spirit for the Year so far with 35.
Rhys F	Outstanding start to life in Year 9, focusing and working hard
Rosie E	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Libby M	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Marianne D	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Esther C	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Hannah C	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Melody H	For visiting Year 11 forms to share their GCSE experiences
Serife A,	For showing an excellent sense of responsibility and maturity

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>
- **Cover Supervisor:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-94798>
- **Attendance and Welfare Administration Support:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-88838>

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.

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