

Weekly Family Update - 13.01.23

Please read, share and encourage others to do the same.

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

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas break.

We are back in the swing of the Spring term and have hit the ground running. The revision programmes for Year 11 are in full swing and parents will be aware that on the back of the results, changes have been made to some teaching groups and intervention sessions. A reminder that after-school Maths Interact sessions take place each and every Tuesday from 3:15-4:10pm and students can book on the late bus if required. The sessions are targeted, and students are invited to attend if we noted the topic was a weakness in the recent Trial exams. This is the same for English and Science which take place on Monday and Wednesday respectively. In addition, these three subjects also run general revision sessions for Year 11 pupils on the same evenings, so everyone is welcome.

Keeping with Year 11s, we hosted an event in-school to share information about the world of apprenticeships, using external speakers. We are very aware that this is a growing market and the demand for places is becoming challenging. Our aim is to ensure that all Year 11s have all the information they need to make the best possible choice for their future destination.

Moreover, this term Year 8 will be making important decisions regarding the subjects they wish to go on and study at Key Stage 4. Parents are invited to an evening on 9th February between 4:30-7:30pm where the process will be explained.

Year 7 are learning about the instruments within an Orchestra using the topic of Harry Potter. They have all had the opportunity to experience playing the Violin where they have learnt how to play a pizzicato as an ensemble.

As requested by our Parent Forum, we intend to reach out to those families who have never used Edulink to support them in accessing the various school communication systems. Families who have not logged onto Edulink will be contacted within the next two weeks to arrange an appointment should it be necessary.

Finally, as stated last term, we have begun the process of surveying families about our school, one year group at a time. Once we have collated the results, I will respond to the most common themes. Within the survey, there is an opportunity for families to ask for a direct response to a query, so please do add your details, and we'll be in touch.

Have a nice weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

After following these stages, if you feel your query has not been answered you should complete our Parent Forum Guarantee.

This gives all parents the right to talk with our Headteacher within



and a further meeting, if needed, within the following

Call 01487 812352 or email office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk stating 'Parent Guarantee Forum'

Please read on for essential updates.

Parent Forum



Minutes from the meeting held on 13th December can be found here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/news/headteacher-updates>

A summary of the meeting is below.

- *Toilet concerns: Toilets are open at form time, break, lunch and at the end of the day. They can also be used quickly during lesson changeover leaving only an hour at a time when students are asked not to use toilets. It is disruptive to lessons if students leave and there have been behavioural issues, so for safeguarding reasons, students are asked not to use the toilets during lesson time. Any students with medical needs have a toilet pass and can go anytime. Students were reminded during assemblies last week and provided with a small card for their pockets with bathroom locations. There will be a site walk with students and the Parent Forum to review the facilities.*
- *The canteen and lunchtime arrangements: Chris Berry the Canteen Manager spoke at the meeting and explained the rationale behind the pricing and the menu. In addition, Mrs Noble detailed the locations students are able to eat indoors and socialise outdoors.*
- *The Wellbeing space for students in the Quad: Mrs Gerrard-Cook showed the design for the Wellbeing space and is in the process of costing out the project for implementation this year.*

The next Parent Forum meeting – **Tuesday 31st January 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing:

- Lining up for lessons and year group zones
- Homework tracking
- Attendance Policy
- Fundraising and Finance

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 24th January.

- Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentsForum22-23>

If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

Attendance - Week 17

- **Congratulations:** to over 400 students who received a letter of congratulations from our Chair of Governors last term.
- **Reminder:** Absence must be reported daily.

Ethos updates

School Uniform Support

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your children have returned to school wearing correct uniform. In order to support families in these difficult financial circumstances, we have purchased spare school shoes in a range of sizes for students to borrow if their shoes break until parents/carers are able to purchase a new pair. If your child is wearing the incorrect footwear, for any reason, they should report to the Student Support Hub, before Form Time, where they will be asked to hand in their phone in exchange for a pair of shoes to borrow.

Curriculum updates

Our website holds key information to support students in their learning, last week I highlighted our knowledge organisers and gave details of how to use them to support revision.

Please see

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum> and select the curriculum you would like to know more about.

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.

Teaching and Learning

School has restarted again with energy after the holidays, and we are focusing in lessons on developing how we know what students have learnt from what they have been taught. In contrast to some of the previous work we have done, this half term is focused on reviewing learning in the lesson, so that we know what aspect we might need to refresh or how quickly we can move on with the content of our lessons. Our Lead Learners are preparing what this will look like in their own subject areas, and I am looking forward to sharing this with you in the coming weeks.

Assessment

- Edulink is our main communication platform. If you are having connection issues with Edulink please contact help@CMAT.support. For other issues please contact the office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk. We are currently looking at parental usage and will be contacting all parents who are yet to log onto Edulink to offer support.
- The **Year 9** assessment window is open and teachers are currently marking and moderating the work. Reports will be available on Edulink at the end of January and will contain a current GCSE grade and a professional prediction for the end of the year.
- The **Year 10** Trial Exams start in the week of 23.01.23. The details of the assessments should start appearing on Teams next week.

e-Safety information from NSPCC

[We've published Christmas VR safety advice in response to public concerns about child safety in the metaverse | NSPCC - nspcc.org.uk](#)

Kate Edwards, Acting Associate Head for Child Safety Online at the NSPCC, said: "Parents who may be thinking about purchasing a VR headset for their child this Christmas need to be aware of the risks young users currently face when given access to what, at this stage, is an unregulated world.

www.nspcc.org.uk

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.

Student	Nominated for
Izzie H.	Passing grade 5 singing with Merit
Isaac S	Passing grade 4 violin with Merit
Maya E	Passing grade 4 clarinet with Merit
Malachi L	Interviewing our prospective prefects
Jacob C	interviewing our prospective prefects
George P	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Hannah C	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Isabelle C	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Alice M.	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Ben F	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Alexa E	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market
Elizabeth T	For fabulous organisation of the Christmas market

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
Monday 16 th January	Year 9 Meningitis vaccination & DTP Booster
Thursday 2 nd February	Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 9 th February	Year 8 Options Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 23 rd February	Year 12 and 13 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Tuesday 28 th February	Year 9 STEM Day
Thursday 2 nd March	Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 28 th March	Year 10 STEM Day
Friday 31 st March	Last day of the Spring Term

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III bank holiday

The Government has announced a one-off bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

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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