

Weekly Family Update - 03.02.23

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

This week, I met Rev'd. Iain Osborne and Curate Maggie Tate-Druiff from St Thomas a Becket Church in Ramsey. Our plan is to work more closely together over the year, which will include having both colleagues visit our school during the day to meet students through to offering pupils workshops on mediation and spirituality. I will keep you posted as our plans firm up.

I would like to thank all parents for being kind and respectful regarding the decision of many teachers to take industrial strike action on Wednesday. Whatever our individual positions on this matter we remain a strong community committed to treating each other with courtesy even when we disagree.

Unfortunately, owing to staff absences, we were forced to postpone the Parent Forum on Tuesday. For that reason, we have scheduled two such meetings to make up for time lost: Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 30th March, so that we maintain our channels of communication.

With that in mind, thank you for those families who have completed our year group surveys, and we have only year 10 and 11 to complete the series. Once the results have been collated, I will respond to the common themes.

We really value the good communication we have with parents and carers and this includes addressing your concerns. It is very important to us that lines of communication with the parent body are working effectively.

We have a clear communications policy (please see the end of this Update). As you will see, there is an expectation that staff will respond to you in a timely manner. May I request that, if you email a member of staff and don't receive a response within the timeframe stated within the policy, please contact me via the Contact Us form and I will follow this up. Alternatively, use the Parent Forum Guarantee.

The Parent Forum Guarantee gives all parents the right to speak directly to me, the Headteacher, within 24 hours, if you feel your question has not been answered by those you have already contacted.

You can use your Parent Forum Guarantee by calling 01487 812352 or emailing office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk with 'Parent Forum Guarantee' in the subject header. You will be contacted initially to arrange a convenient time for your call and then I will personally call you by the end of the next working/school day. If you would like a follow up meeting, this can occur within 72 hours after the initial phone call.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing you in person at the Year 8 Options Evening next Thursday. This is a really valuable opportunity to hear from staff about the process of choosing options, gain detail in selecting the most appropriate subjects and methods for supporting your child. See below for more information.

I wish you all a very enjoyable 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  24 HOURS
and a further meeting, if needed, within the following  72 HOURS

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

Please read on for essential updates.

High Expectations, Behaviour and Safety

Attendance - Week 20

- **Congratulations:** To all the students who are eligible to come to Thorpe Park-attendance targets have been set for all other students.
- **Reminder:** Young people who are working/or considering a job **must** apply for a work permit- email tina.davis@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for more details.

Safety

[Talking about drugs and alcohol | NSPCC](#)

If you are worried that your child is drinking or taking drugs, this guide has some advice on how to talk to your child about the risks and where you can go for further help or support <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/talking-drugs-alcohol/>

If you do have any concerns about your child's use of drugs or alcohol or need any help or advise you can also contact the Welfare Dept who are happy to support, email via welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Wider personal development

Our Year 7 assembly this week was led by a group of Year 10 students who have been trained as 'Kick Ash' Mentors.

The students delivered an excellent and thought-provoking assembly on the risks and dangers of vaping as well as giving them guidance on how to resist peer pressure.

Vaping is an increasing trend among young people across the UK and therefore it is important for us to give our students the tools that they need to be able to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Clubs (OOP) and Activities



The Abbey College OOP

The Offer and Opportunity Programme

What is it?

The OOP is the whole school enrichment programme for students that run throughout the year for all year groups 7-10 during lunchtime and afterschool.

It has a huge variety between 'open' offers which anyone can sign up to and then some 'application' based offers which are all included in the information on each offer on EduLink.

Why should I do an OOP?

Being a part of the Abbey College community gives you lots of new experiences and hopefully ignite new passions and interests.

Try something new!

How do I sign up?

You access EduLink and find the 'clubs' tab and sign up to your offer.

Who to contact

If you know who the leader is, contact them on Teams or Email.



Access to EduLink
<https://www.edulinkone.com>
 School ID is 'acr'

Information about subjects

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



What your child is learning?

Here at Abbey College we offer a wide range of subjects. Our website holds key information to support students in their learning. Please see

 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.

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

How we are teaching?

In lessons at the moment teachers are working on helping students to master the subject before moving on to new topics. We use a variety of ways to do this; many subjects start lessons with a retrieval task that invites students to recall knowledge from the previous lesson, month or earlier in their school journey. We know that this helps them embed the knowledge and also helps teachers to know what aspects of our curriculum need to be revisited before we move on in the learning. Please do ask your son or daughter about what they have learnt recently, but also what they remember from previous parts of their learning; it will help them to remember long term.

[Year 8 Options Information Evening - eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

We are looking forward to seeing our Yr8 students and parents at our Yr8 Options information evening on the **9th of February**. To find out more about the subjects we offer please visit the school website.

On the [school website](#) you will find:

- Videos about each subject
- The option booklet
- Preference form

If you would like to book tickets to our Yr8 Options information evening, please click [here](#).

Assessment: How your child is doing?

- **Year 11 Trials** start after half term on 27.02.23. Year 11 students have information about exam regulations and the dates of the Trial 2 exams. Students should be revising over half term and their revision will be more effective if they are regularly tested on what they have learnt. Information about individual assessments and revision lists will be going on Teams shortly.
- **Summer 2023** exams are starting to appear on **Edulink** for Year 11, 12 and 13 students. You can view individual student exam entries there.
- **Year 12 reports** including current and predicted grades will be published next week.
- **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.

Headteacher Commendations



The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's commendations this week for going above and beyond, either within a subject, outside the classroom or beyond School.

Student Name	Subject	Reason for nomination	Nominated by
Annabel M	Spanish	For continued performance at the highest level, not only due to natural flair but also consistent hard work.	Ms Powell
Emma F	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Hannah H	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Eve C	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Georgia C	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Jessica L	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Connie S	PE	Always being willing to join in any sports team last minute.	A Witten
Laura N	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Olivia M	PE	Being committed to the cricket extra-curricular and winning the match.	A Witten
Laura K	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Harry B	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Elissa T	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Freya H	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Amelia C	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Lola S	Biology	An excellent trial result.	J Bradley
Alessandro P	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Harry K	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Ruby S	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Owen G	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Millie R	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Yasmeenah T	Science	Excellent mark in the recent Science trial exam.	T Batchford
Carson G	OOP	Carson has consistently demonstrated the HIP virtues with his support for students learning/playing chess during the afterschool boardgames club.	Mr Huggins
Taylor F	OOP	Taylor has consistently demonstrated the HIP virtues with her support for students learning/playing chess during the afterschool boardgames club.	Mr Huggins
Zack T	CCF	Zack delivers lesson to younger cadets in year 9 showing his exceptional leadership skills.	R Tichanow
Islay Y	Student Leadership	Successful Prefect interview.	Miss Dowd
Rylee T	Student Leadership	Successful Prefect Interview.	Miss Dowd
Lilly-Mae K	Student Leadership	Successful Prefect Interview.	Miss Dowd
Megan H	Student Leadership	Successful Prefect Interview.	Miss Dowd
Eoin M	PE	Outstanding PE coursework on all topics so far.	Mr Mann
Frankie Joe M	PE	Outstanding transition into PE.	Mr Mann
Joe H	PE	Great to see you being proactive in all theory lessons.	Mr Mann
Alysia H	BTEC Sport	Over the weekend Alysia has been titled British National Champion in Taekwondo for the 17 plus age group!	M Ruggins
Ram Mathew Q	Maths	Gaining the most DrFrost points in the school last week.	Dr Pinnock

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

Vacancies at Abbey College

- **Student Support Officer:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2023-ACR-59686/Student-Support-Officer>

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Thursday 9th February</i>	<i>Year 8 Options Evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 23rd February</i>	<i>Year 12 and 13 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 28th February</i>	<i>Year 9 STEM Day</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd March</i>	<i>Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Monday 13th – Friday 17th March</i>	<i>Year 10 Work Experience Week</i>
<i>Tuesday 28th March</i>	<i>Year 10 STEM Day</i>
<i>Friday 31st March</i>	<i>Last day of the Spring Term</i>

Communicating with us and how to raise concerns

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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