

## Weekly Family Update - 15.09.23



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

### Foreword

*Dear Abbey College community,*

*Hello and welcome to the new school year! It has been brilliant to see students back at school last week, hearing their joy and excitement about seeing each other and their anticipation and aspirations for the year ahead.*

*There is and will be lots of information coming to students and parents / carers at this time of year, so that we are all set up for success, good communication and a sense of direction for the year.*

#### **Parents and carers should look out for:**

*The school calendar on the website here <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/key-dates>, and within this update, there is usually a bit more information about some of the key events. In addition, there are messages about setting up Edulink, our online platform we use to share information with you about your child.*

#### **Communication with School:**

*At the bottom of this update is a copy of our communication flowchart. Tutors are the first port of call for most things as they will know your children best.*

*Please be reminded that best way to contact staff is via email. Please try to avoid calling the front office wherever possible. Please only call the main Reception number in an emergency or if a situation cannot wait, for example, if you need to inform your child of a change to travel arrangements for getting home. Teachers are unable to receive phone calls during the school day. If you do call the school, Reception staff will take a message and pass it to the person best suited to help you.*

*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 use the Parent Forum Guarantee and I will follow this up.*

*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](mailto: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.*

*Lastly, thank you for reading this Family Update! This is the weekly way in which we share information, promote opportunities and celebrate achievements. Please keep reading it weekly, and feel to share it and encourage others to do the same.*

*Andy Christoforou, Headteacher*

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*Please read on for essential updates.*

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## Parent Diary Dates 2023-24

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### ***School Photographs: Year 7 and 10***

*All students in Years 7 and 10 will have their school photographs taken on Wednesday 20th September. Students will bring home a barcode which will enable you to view and purchase photographs.*

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event, 4.30-6pm</i>
<i>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening, 4.20-7.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Year 6 Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Half Term</i>
<i>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>INSET Day, students not in school</i>
<i>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</i>	<i>Students back in school</i>
<i>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</i>	<i>Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening, 4.30-6pm</i>

## Celebration of Spirit - Rewards



### ***Headteacher Commendations wc 11/09/23***

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	Reason for nomination
Amelia	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Meagan M	For being proactive and introducing a new Revision app to the school!
Elizabeth T	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Hannah C	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Freya H	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Nelly S	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Tilly P	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Aurora E	For achieving Merit in her Grade 2 Piano Exam
Lewis K	He has displayed a very mature attitude towards learning and has been a fantastic team player.
Molly M	Achieving Merit in her Grade 1 Piano exam
Isaac W	He has displayed a very mature attitude towards learning and has been a fantastic team player.
Daniel B	Achieving Merit in his Grade 6 Guitar exam
Oliver J	Achieving Distinction in his Grade 4 Guitar exam
Joe H	Proactive with Sports Studies coursework
Harvey Neil D	Best work in short time frame for storyboard
Daniel G	Taboo on coasts- cleared it
Jess B	Hazards work- quickest, accurate
Lauren D	Excellent start to GCSE English.
Hannah C	Passing Grade 6 Flute
David A	for his commitment to his revision for the upcoming 'An Inspector Calls' exam.
Ben F	for his commitment to his revision for the upcoming 'An Inspector Calls' exam.
Maya E	The great independent work completed over the summer
Leon K	Superb standard of work and great work ethic within lessons.

### ***Staff member of the week***

A suggestion was made during a Parent Forum meeting asking if we could share some of the great work our staff do at Abbey College. For the past few years, we internally recognise the great work of everyone who works in our School and these are celebrated weekly and staff choose their favourite example as the 'Staff member of the week', which I am happy to share with you going forward.

Below is our first colleague for 23-24 to be celebrated. If you would like to recognise a colleague at Abbey College, please use the link below to ***Tell us about something brilliant!***

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Ms K McGowan - Passion: For sourcing, creating and organising the distribution of the equipment packs for every student in all classrooms!

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### ***Tell us about something brilliant!***

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award for any out of school success stories, then please follow this [link](#) or email the Office [office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk).

## **Parent information**



### ***Parent Forum Update***

We are currently in the process of planning the meeting dates for this academic year and will provide more information once this has been agreed.

### ***Is your child eligible for Free school meals?***

If you apply and qualify for Free School Meals, your child's school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium. Schools spend the pupil premium money on anything that can help your children do well at school, including trips, activities and extra support. Applying online only takes a few minutes and, if eligible, your child will continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of Year 11 even if your income rises above the threshold at any point during that time.

To get free school meals you need to be receiving one of the following:

- Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop working altogether or start to work less than 16 hours per week)
- Child Tax Credit but no element of Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- Apply at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
- If you need support with your application please contact [welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

### ***Opportunities at Abbey College***

We are looking for the following to join our team:

- Learning Support Assistant <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2023-ACR-87474/Learning-Support-Assistant/api-feed-referral>
- SEND Administrator <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2023-ACR-56828/SEN-Administrator/api-feed-referral>

- Cleaner <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2023-ACR-97929/Cleaner/api-feed-referral>

Please see details of School vacancies [here](#).

We have an exciting vacancy for a Parent Governor. For more information click here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/governing-body>

If you would like to put your name forward, you should submit a short personal statement about yourself of no more than 200 words. This will be circulated to all parents in the event of an election. Please return to the school reception in a sealed envelope, marked for the attention of the Clerk to the Governing Body, by 3.00pm on the Friday 22nd September or email this to [katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk). On the 29th September we will inform parents of the outcomes from the nomination process.

## Information about subjects and lessons

### 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 <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.

### Abbey College Curriculum Aims



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

## Wider personal development

Read about our extensive Wider Personal Development Programme here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum/wider-personal-development>

**Abbey College Annual Careers Fair - Save the date!**

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- *Thursday 19th October 2023 5:30pm-7:30pm (and will run alongside the 6th Form open evening)*
  - *All Students (Year 7-13) plus Parents and Carers welcome*
  - *We hope to see you there!*
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## High Expectations and Safety

### Uniform Reminders

Please support us in our high expectations for students by ensuring that your child does not come to school wearing items that are not permitted.

Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No visible bangles, bracelets or necklaces.</li> <li>• One small plain ring per hand</li> <li>• No facial piercings (eyebrows, tongue, lip or chin) except a small discreet nose stud.</li> <li>• One small stud or hoop in each ear under ½ cm in size</li> <li>• Ear stretchers are not permitted</li> </ul>
Make up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make-up must be discreet.</li> <li>• No nail varnish – coloured or clear</li> <li>• No acrylic nails</li> <li>• False eyelashes must not be worn</li> </ul>

### Attendance - 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 is not deemed and 'exceptional circumstances' and will not be authorised by the school.

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### Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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### Safety

**This week...** we have been talking to students about who they can speak to at school if they have any worries or concerns. We have reminded students that every member of staff at school has been trained to help and support.

Your child's form tutors are a great first contact point as they meet them every morning and would be a good place to start if they were feeling worried.

We also have a Student Support Team where students can report unkindness or other concerns connected to behaviour. Our Welfare department are great at supporting students with anxiety or welfare concerns, parents or students can contact them via email on [welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk). Students can also teams chat with them, drop them a note or turn up at the Welfare office before school, at break or lunch or afterschool.

### **Electrical Safety – E Bikes and E Scooters**

You may be aware of a house fire that occurred in Cambridge at the end of June 2023 which sadly took the lives of two children and their mother. It is believed that the house fire was caused by an e-scooter charger/battery. The below resources have been shared by our colleagues in Fire and Rescue, please could you share these amongst your organisations as appropriate. <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/home-safety/specific-safety-advice/electrical-safety/e-bikes-and-e-scooters/>

They also offer a free online home fire safety check, it can be completed individually, as a family or possibly with a neighbour/friend that may be vulnerable. <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/home-safety/home-fire-safety/>. The online home fire safety check is a useful tool, not only does it give advice using a risk matrix, it also can be used as a referral tool for us to send face to face specialist officers to a property if members of the public would like a visit.

## **Assessment: How your child is doing?**

- **EduLink:** All parents should now have access to EduLink, if your link does not work or has expired then contact [wsloan@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:wsloan@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk) or [linda.bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:linda.bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk). It is particularly important that once in you check, and if needed, update the account information.
- **Year 7 baseline tests:** full details of the CAT4 (aptitude), Maths, English and science tests, including the dates, were released earlier this week by letter. No revision is needed for these tests and class teachers will accompany the students to the examination hall.
- **Year 7 and 8** will be sitting the New Group Reading Tests, NGRT during English lessons from 02.10.02. The data from these tests is used to determine those students in need of reading intervention and the progress of the whole school Literacy programme.
- The **Year 9 data drop** window opens on 02.10.23 with reports issued on 13.10.23. Reports will include a Spirit score and information about barriers to learning. A current grade and an end of Year 11 target grade will be released in January 2024 after formal assessments have taken place.
- The **Year 10 data drop** window opens on 02.10.23 with reports issued on 13.10.23. Reports will include a current grade, Spirit score and an end of Year 11 target grade. The current grade will be based on work completed in the autumn term and students will not be setting formal assessments until February 2024.
- **Year 11 data capture** information including end of year Teacher Set Targets, Professional Predictions for use in college applications and Spirit will be released on Friday and available on Saturday morning.

- The **Year 12 assessment** window opens on 02.10.23 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 Barriers to Learning, the Teacher set Target grade and a Professional prediction for use on UCAS applications will be released on 06.10.23.

## 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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