

## Weekly Family Update - 22.09.23



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

### Foreword

*The virtue of the week is Passion, and the theme is, 'we show focus and use positive language'. Assemblies, the daily messages and form time were dedicated to supporting pupils in applying this theme in both lessons and conversations, including how to disagree with someone whilst using positive language. During Welfare Wednesday, students were reminded of how to share something they might be worried about with a member of staff.*

#### **Student voice in action**

*This week, students were involved in the recruitment of two Year Leaders (we call Raising Standards Leaders or RSLs). Candidates had to deliver an assembly to students who were then asked to give their views. In addition, Student Ambassadors conducted a tour and fed back to senior staff. Finally, there was a student interview panel, where each candidate was put through their paces. It has been wonderful to see and hear our students take real ownership (with a little bit of guidance) and pride in assessing the type of pastoral leader they wanted for our School.*

*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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### Celebration of Spirit - Recognition



#### **Spirit**

Congratulations to our students for displaying our virtues to such a high level. This week, the ratio of positive Spirit points to Behaviour points is 34 to 1; this is amazing and really positive.

#### **Headteacher Commendations wc 18/09/23**

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	Nominated for
Alfie Chesman	Excellent shaping of his response to me last week
Mika Robinson	Outstanding effort demonstrated over the summer holidays
Hannah Haslope	Helping out at Girls Rugby club and trying to raise the engagement in the lower year groups
Lucie Skidmore	100+ day streak on Duolingo
Griff Hayden Judd	For supporting a year 7 student who was struggling to engage with school and lessons
Maya Edwards	Maya will always attempt the scorcher question in science, and her answers are always incredibly well written, Maya works very hard every single lesson and I am always impressed with her knowledge and passion for science
Harry Marsh	Amazing enthusiasm for lessons at all times!
Mathilde Crossan	Representing AC by being an excellent buddy to a new Y8
William Hutchcraft	For representing AC by being an excellent buddy to a new y9 student
Rikka Moire Quito	For representing AC by being and excellent buddy to a new Y9 student
Rikka Moire Quito	Morocco Earthquake homework poster
Meg Gamon	5 pages of Geography Homework
Maisie Howell	Excellent Morocco Earthquake homework
Sophie Hayter	Improved effort- homework

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

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Ms Beel - Passion: For taking over an additional Year team (year 9 and 11) but still taking it all in her stride. Everyone really appreciates you!

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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).*

## Student curriculum

### Abbey College Curriculum Aims



The word 'Inclusive' is written above a circular icon containing a globe with a person's silhouette.	The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions.
The word 'Challenging' is written above a circular icon containing a person climbing a mountain.	To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind.
The word 'Cultural Capital' is written above a circular icon containing a globe with a person's silhouette.	All learners will receive a wide and fulfilling educational experience.

## Student wider personal development

### *Student enrichment - OOPs*

**Year 7-10:** Our Autumn Term extra-curricular offer (Offer and Opportunity Programme referred to as OOPs) is now in place, and many students have signed up via Edulink. Over 200 students alone attended clubs on Monday (day 1) this week! All students should be taking part in at least two but preferably more enrichment activities in the course of the week and there are many to choose from.

Step up, step in and take part. You can read more about the OOPs via Edulink or here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/oop>

**Year 11:** We offer *Interacts* which are after-school subject/examination support sessions and these too will be advertised shortly.

### **Forthcoming Careers Events**

- On Friday 29th September, Year 11s will be attending a presentation by an inspirational speaker followed by AIM Apprenticeships. They will then attend a 'mini options' careers fair where they will have the opportunity to engage with various providers about their next steps.
- Year 9 and 6th form will be attending an apprenticeship talk in the afternoon.
- On Thursday 19 October at 5.30-7.30pm, we will be holding our Annual Next Steps Careers Fair (which will run alongside our 6th form open evening). A wide range of employment sectors and further/higher education providers will be represented, providing students with the opportunity to find out about different courses and career pathways. Students in all years and their families are encouraged to attend. A list of delegates and further information will be sent out nearer the time.

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*Read about our extensive Wider Personal Development Programme here:*

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum/wider-personal-development>

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## Student expectations and safety

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### **Student Voice**

*This week we had our first student voice meeting of the year. Year 10 met to discuss their break and lunchtime arrangements. They shared that they love the use of our astro for football, but they felt they needed more seated space. Therefore, from next week, they will have the use of our covered quad for their social times and they are going to form a working party to set up a quiet space for student well-being.*

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### **Student welfare and wellbeing**

**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.

### **Student Support Team (SSOs)**

We also have a Student Support Team where students can report unkindness or other concerns connected to behaviour.

### **Student welfare and support**

Our Welfare Team are available before and after school, and during breaks and lunches for students to drop-in. They offer a personalised support programme for students who are:

- experiencing relationship issues with other pupils
- worried about bullying
- feeling anxious or need a comforting and require a person to talk to

If you want to know more or feel like your child might benefit from this additional support, please email [welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk) and speak to Ms Peattie or Mrs Gregory. Students can also teams chat with them, drop them a note or turn up at the Welfare Office outside lesson times.

### **Student attendance - Week 2**

- **Congratulations:** School attendance for Year 7 is currently 98.43%, well done to all the students who have had a positive start to the academic year.
- **Reminder:** Headaches or 'feeling sick' and menstrual related absences are not generally authorised. Our Welfare Team are happy to support.

## Parent information

### **Parent Forum Update**



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## Date for your diary!

The first Parent Forum Meeting of the year will be on the **18th October 2023 @ 5pm**. The agenda is below:

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1. Year 7 Transition and Settling In
  2. School Library
  3. Window Into the School
  4. Fundraising and Finance Update
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If you would like to attend, please email: [parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

Find our minutes here: [Parent Forum - Abbey College, Secondary School and Sixth Form in Ramsey](#)

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

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## Parent Diary Dates 2023-24

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

## Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

- Year 7 students are receiving support in IT lessons with Teams and Edulink logins. 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) It is particularly important that once in you check, and if needed, update the account information.
- **Year 7 baseline tests:** the CAT4 (aptitude), Maths, English and Science tests are complete and the Reading Test will start during English lessons from next week.
- Reports for Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 will be released before half term.

## ***Employment opportunities at Abbey College***

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

## **Communicating with us and how to raise concerns**

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