

Weekly Family Update - 29.09.23



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

Foreword

The virtue of the week is Humility, and the theme is, 'we support each other in our learning and well-being'. Students were given daily messages around this theme. Indeed, one of the highlights this week was the Flash Reward, where over 60 students joined us for a pizza on Wednesday afternoon. They had been nominated by their form tutors for supporting others in their learning and well-being.

Other highlights include the presentation by an inspirational speaker on Friday related to the world of apprenticeships and careers. This was a 'mini options' careers fair where Year 9, 11 and Post 16 students engaged with various providers about their next steps.

You might have read recent media coverage of how parents / carers in England do not consider daily school attendance as important ([one example here](#)). We are really pleased that, for the most part, this is not the case at Abbey College. Thank you! Occasionally, however, a few parents / carers are permitting non-attendance when really their child should be at school. Daily attendance at school supports students' personal, social and academic development, their self-esteem, sense of belonging and ability to achieve. At Abbey College, every day is worth it, including enrichment days and "normal" timetable days, ends of term days and Fridays.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Recognition



Headteacher Commendations wc 25/09/23

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.

Elouise W	Superb standard of work and fantastic work ethic
Ava W	An Excellent attitude towards GCSE Spanish.
Jenson W	An excellent attitude towards GCSE Spanish.
Luke B	An excellent attitude towards GCSE Spanish.
Lola S	Dr Frost Champion!
Ben A	Dr Frost Champion!
Zoe H	Dr Frost Champion!
Millie R	Dr Frost Champion!
Robert E	Dr Frost Champion!
Ben F	Dr Frost Champion!
Tegan E	Dr Frost Champion!
Katie L	Dr Frost Champion!
Grace S	Dr Frost Champion!
Tiffany E	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Sophie P	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Sophie H	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Rosanna E	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Megan W	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Amelie W	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Scarlett C	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Leah H	Representing the school in a girls football fixture
Pippa B	Representing the school in a girls football fixture and getting teachers player
Betsy C	Her level of participation in class has been really commendable.
Maya E	For outstanding effort and enthusiasm in the subject and always raising their hand to offer an answer in class
Imogen P	Representing Abbey College in a girls football fixture
Paisley S	Representing Abbey College in a girls football fixture
Phoebe B	Representing Abbey College in a girls football fixture
Ava H	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Chloe S	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Elena C	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Georgia H	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Lanielle A	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture and getting teachers player
Lottie W	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Lyla R	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Nyah R	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture
Rachael O	Representing Abbey College in the first year 7 girls football fixture

Staff member of the week

Ashley Boness - Humility: For always being willing to support any staff team when needed and you always put students first - we really appreciate you!




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.

Student curriculum

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.

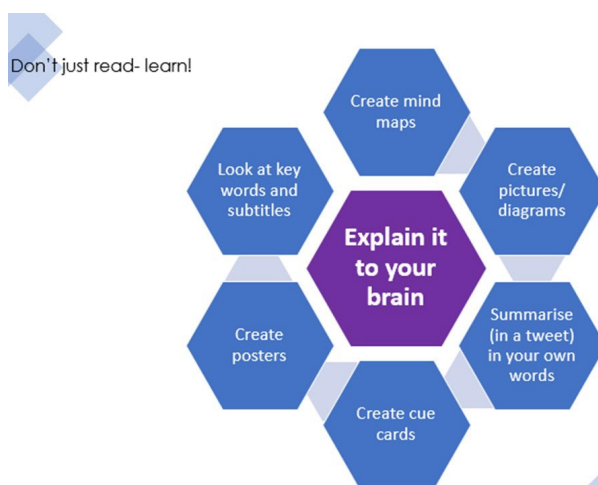
Homework

This week we have been sharing the reasons we set homework with students, which is all about helping them retain information long-term. One of the ideas shared was.

We know that by re-working information after a lesson helps the brain to remember more long term, which supports students to make more rapid progress. We also explained to students where to get support if they are struggling.

Here is what some of our students said after their assembly:

- *"I learnt today that homework is important because it helps us to remember."*
- *"It is important to do homework to expand your learning and so you don't forget it."*
- *"It is important as when you get older you forget things you have learnt, if you do it at home you are more likely to remember them."*
- *"As we get older we need to take our learning home so we can still remember it as our teenage brain is developing."*
- *"It helps with revision."*



Student wider personal development

Student enrichment - OOPs

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>

Forthcoming Careers Events

Interacts - KS4 Subject Support Sessions

Day	Subject	Club	Time	Location
Monday	Drama and Music	GCSE Support/ Rehearsals	Afterschool	Frank Burton Building
	Art and 3D Design	GCSE/Coursework Support	Afterschool	T06
(Week B)	English	GCSE Enhancement	After School	GB06/GB07
Tuesday	Spanish	GCSE Support	Afterschool	S15
	Maths	Grade 7+ (By invitation)	After School	M06
	Maths	GCSE Higher	After School	M08
	Maths	GCSE Foundation	After School	T09/M06
	Health and Social Care	Coursework Support	After School	IT04
(Week A)	English	GCSE Enhancement	After School	GB06/GB07
Wednesday	Art and 3D Design	GCSE/Coursework Support	Afterschool	T06
	Chemistry	GCSE Support	Afterschool	Science
	Physics	GCSE Support	After School	Science
	History - Targeted	GCSE - Topics to improve	After school	Study 6
	ICT	Unit 2 Support	After School	ME01
	Engineering	Coursework/Practical Support	Lunchtime	T12
	MO	GCSE Support	After School	GH2
Friday	Psychology	GCSE Support	Lunchtime	GH11

Annual Next Steps Careers Fair

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.

Read about our extensive Wider Personal Development Programme here:

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

Arts Award

An exciting opportunity has been given to all Year 9 students to complete a Bronze Arts Award!

Student expectations and safety

Student Safety

This week we have been talking to students about what they should consider when talking to other people online.

These were some of the reminders we shared:

- you do not know who you are talking to, anyone can create a fake account.
- Never arrange to meet someone in person after meeting them online.
- If you are concerned about the messages from someone, online use the reporting button on the platform you are using and then speak to someone; parent or carer/ friend/ a member of staff in school



Student welfare and wellbeing

Mental Health and Well-being Half Termly Newsletter - watch out for this. Plenty of tips and signposting of support for students.

Mrs Gerrard-Cook has undertaken the nationally accredited Senior mental health lead training, and is working wonders to raise the profile of our mental health support with students and staff.

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 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 3

- **Congratulations:** to Year 7 who currently have the highest attendance; 99.32%.
- **Reminder:** School starts at 8.40am, students are expected to be in the school gates by 8.35am for a prompt start.

Parent information



Parent Forum Update

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

1. *Year 7 Transition and Settling In*
2. *School Library*
3. *Window Into the School*
4. *Fundraising and Finance Update*

If you would like to attend, please email: 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

Parent Forum Survey

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 12th October.

- Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentsForum23-24>
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Parent Diary Dates 2023-24

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 28 th September	Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening, 4.20-7.30pm
Thursday 5 th October	Year 6 Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 19 th October	Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 19 th October	Careers Fair, 5.30-7.30pm, North Hall
Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th October	Half Term
Monday 30 th October	INSET Day, students not in school
Tuesday 31 st October	Students back in school
Thursday 2 nd November	Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening, 4.30-6pm

Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

- **Year 11 assemblies** are currently all centred on students improving their grades. The Year 11 reports just published on Edulink show current and target grades for all subjects. Current grades represent the starting point for this year. Find out if your child has looked at their report on Edulink, it is much easier for them to know which subjects to prioritise if they know their starting points. In the run up to November Trials we will be revising topics and covering content relevant to the trials, if students are making progress they will be able to discuss the work with you. Ask them about it! and about the revision techniques they are currently using.
- **The Year 7 progress tests** in English, Maths and Science have been sent away to be externally marked. The results should be in school before Christmas and will be emailed home in December.
- **Year 7 and 8 reading tests** will be happening in school next week. The results are used to identify students who need literacy support. Parents will be contacted by letter if interventions are planned for their child, the interventions are scheduled to start immediately after half term.

Employment opportunities at Abbey College

The following posts are available:

- Learning Support Assistant
- SEN Administrator
- Cleaner

Further information available from: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies>

Communicating with us and how to raise concerns

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