

## Weekly Family Update - 24.11.23

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



*The virtue of the week is Intuition, and the theme was, 'We actively listen and remember the detail.' Students were spoken to about the need to listen first before responding as this can help to resolve conflicts through to securing that first job. This came into play with year 10 who had a series of workshops this week on Employability, which involved an interactive presentation by the Department of Work and Pensions to help them prepare for what lies ahead.*

*In addition, Welfare Wednesday looked at the need for people to not bottle-up their feelings and how to manage stress through talking and exercise.*

*Given our recent inspection report, I want to thank those families who have sent in so many lovely messages that have been relayed to staff here at Abbey College. With this in mind, I want to highlight a few opportunities for families to recognise key staff within Abbey College for some national awards.*

- **2024 Teaching Awards now open for nominations**

*Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a special teacher or staff member for the 2024 Teaching Awards. The nominations are free and there are 16 categories to choose from, including individual, team and support staff awards. This is a great way to show someone you appreciate their outstanding work and commitment.*

[Nominate someone for a National Teaching Award](#)

- **Royal Society of Biology's (RSB's) School Biology Teacher of the Year Award**

*Do you know an amazing school biology teacher who deserves an award? Students and students' parents or guardians can now [suggest a teacher](#) for the RSB's School Biology Teacher of the Year Award. Visit the Royal Society of Biology's [website](#) for further information.*

### **Lost property**

*We have collected quite a bit of lost property this past half term and storage is short. Many of the items are unlabelled and remain unclaimed as a result. Please ensure your child's clothing is labelled. All lost property will be displayed in our Aspiration Zone for the next few days for students to collect.*

### **Catering Tender - have your say!**

*Taylor Shaw are our current providers and along with all other Meridian Trust Schools, we are reviewing the provision as part of the tendering process. Please complete this questionnaire to have your say:*

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KbjZ4RaYVEydnK3i2OOqbpNY323Z04hPkDJ0IduQhF9UOVNFVDQ4SFFOWkRCQU9aUVBMUVFDQkIFUC4u>

*Have a lovely weekend.*

*Andy Christoforou, Headteacher*

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Please read on for essential updates.

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## Celebration of Spirit - Recognition



### Headteacher Commendations wc 20/11/23

The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's Commendations this week. They will receive 10 Spirit points and a special postcard home.

Student	Nominated for
Michael B	Successful completion of The Bridge programme and positive attitude towards school
Tia R	Outstanding quality of work in your GCSE coursework folder!
Vivien K	Outstanding quality of work in your GCSE coursework folder!
Bethany T	Improvements in the quality of your GCSE coursework! Well done!
Penny B	Volunteered to help out at Basketball afterschool and supported the Year 7s as a Sports Leader
Henry P	His worth ethic and consistency
Darcy S	Improved effort and behaviour moved from a 3 to a 6+ in recent test, incredible improvement.
Sonny G	Man of the match performance for Year 7 football team saving 3 penalties to send us through to the quarter finals of the County Cup.
Islay Y	For wonderful mentoring of a younger student

### Staff member of the week

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Mrs Taylor: Humility - For being genuinely wonderful, always helping out, keen to moderate and maintain high expectations in the English Department.

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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 expectations and safety

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### *Travel to and from school*

*Our high expectations of students remain in place while students are travelling to and from school. We have recently had a small number of behavioural incidents reported on the buses and in Ramsey. We will be reminding students of our expectations for travel conduct in assemblies next week and would appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home. In particular:*

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- *Students walking home from school must not cross the golf course, they should ensure that they stick to the footpath*
  - *When travelling on the bus, students must remain seated and be respectful to one another and the driver*
  - *When walking to school, students must use the paths considerately and be respectful of local residents*
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*Where behaviour falls below our expected standard, we will sanction students in line with our Behaviour Policy. Please note that in addition to this, Educational Transport issue bus bans to students who display poor behaviour on the buses.*

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## ***Student welfare and wellbeing***

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### ***Setting boundaries for teenagers***

*Please see the link below that has some useful tips and advice for supporting with setting boundaries for your child at home.*

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[https://www.relate.org.uk/get-help/setting-boundaries-teenagers?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyKGLwK7aggMVCcbtCh0EwQjiEAAYASAAEgIhG\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.relate.org.uk/get-help/setting-boundaries-teenagers?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyKGLwK7aggMVCcbtCh0EwQjiEAAYASAAEgIhG_D_BwE)

### ***Student attendance - Week 10***

- **Congratulations:** to Year 11 – making an effort to increase their attendance as a year group.
- **Reminder:** Emergency dental / medical appointments (*routine appointments*) should be made out of school hours.

## **Student wider personal development**

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### ***Ramsey Gatehouse Applications - Parents of Year 11s***

*Please remind students that if they have misplaced their **MyChoice16** logins and/or password, Mrs Moore can be contacted by Teams to reissue these. The deadline for applications to reach us at Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form is Monday 12th January 2024 but students should be encouraged to submit these before Christmas, in order to allow for their Tutors to add their references. If you missed our Open Evening and would like a tour of the Sixth Form please contact [office@ramseygatehouse.co.uk](mailto:office@ramseygatehouse.co.uk) to arrange.*




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## 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
(Week A)	Health and Social Care	Coursework Support	After School	IT04
	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
Friday	MO	GCSE Support	After School	GH2
	Psychology	GCSE Support	Lunchtime	GH11

## Student curriculum

### Abbey College Curriculum Aims

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

### How can I find out what my child is learning in each subject?

Please visit our Curriculum pages and select the subject you would like to know more about. You can see what your child is learning in lessons for all subjects. the link is here:

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

### Exam Cohorts 2024

*Yesterday, [Ofqual's Student Guide for 2023/24](#) was published and we intend to share this in due course with pupils. It contains important information about the 2024 grading process, access arrangements, malpractice and reviews of marking. Malpractice penalties have increased significantly since the pandemic, specifically students taking mobile phones or watches into the exam hall (but not necessarily looking at them).*

## Parent information



### Parent Forum

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The date of the next Parent Forum is the **30th November @ 5pm**, where we will be hearing from the School on:

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- Wellbeing garden update- Ms Gerrard-Cook
  - Plans for student enrichment - Ms Davey
  - The Anti-Bullying Quality Mark - Ms Noble
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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

### **Leading Parent Partnership Award**

*We are currently working to achieve a school improvement award.*

*In order to evaluate our current provision, we need your input. Your views are important in helping us understand what we are doing well and how we can do even better.*

*Please follow the link below to complete the survey.*

<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/655cab638fb9a>

*It should only take a couple of minutes. Please respond before 08/12/2023*

*All responses and suggestions will be carefully considered and used to plan a range of school improvements.*

*If you have any queries about this survey, please contact Mrs Craig, [GCraig@Abbey.College](mailto:GCraig@Abbey.College)*

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## Parent Diary Dates 2023-24

Date	Activity/Event
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 10 Next Steps Event in school
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12/13 Parliament trip
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7 Guess the Professional event in school
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening, 4.30-6pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	INSET Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Students back in school (week A)

## Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

- **Year 8** reports will be issued this week with Year 7 the following week.
- **Year 11** Trial 1 results will be released to students in an event that simulates the results release in June 2024. It will take place in the last week of term.
- **Year 13** Trials start on Monday. All details should be on Teams.
- The **Performance Learning** survey is currently being completed by Year 9 students. Preliminary results indicate that the Year 11 and 10 students often feel they are not getting enough sleep, and that this does sometimes affect their behaviour and performance. We are currently analysing the results and looking at how the school can support our students. When the plans are finalised, we will share these and the reports with both students and parents. In the meantime, please discuss bedtime and sleep duration with your child.

## Employment opportunities at Abbey College

### Staff Vacancies

- Mathematics Teacher
- Teacher Mathematics with TLR 2b for Second in Department – Easter/September 2024
- Lead Learner Geography

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies>

## 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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Other news updates can be found here:

- Our news page: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/news/letters-to-parents>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RamseyAbbeyCollege/posts/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AbbeyCollegeAC>
- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege\\_ramsey/](https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/)