

Weekly Family Update - 12.01.24

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



Happy New Year and welcome back.

The virtue of the week is Humility, and the theme was, 'We take responsibility for our actions and environment.' Students were asked to explain what it means to take responsibility and how this might improve who we are as people. As you will be aware, students are encouraged to keep our site tidy and use the bins around our campus effectively.

Assemblies this week were all themed around resetting expectations. Both the positives and areas for improvement from last term were shared with each year group as were the next steps regarding 'shaping' communication with each other. Simply responding with 'I don't know' when asked to reshape responses is not acceptable, and students were given models of what they could say as an alternative.

Some suggestions they are being given as alternatives are:

- 'I'm not certain, but I think the answer might be...'*
- 'The most likely answer is....'*
- 'I'm not confident about this, could you help me to work it through please?'*

Parking along Hollow Lane

In the interest of health and safety, we ask that cars do not stop along Hollow Lane and Abbey Road around our start and finish times as it causes traffic congestion, blind spots for children crossing, and the buses are unable to safely drive along this road.

When entering Hollow Lane, it is preferable to drop-off your child beyond the Abbey Road junction on the left, as very few students walk this route and buses do not travel in this direction. Alternatively, we are aware that the Abbey Green public parking spaces are available, but we cannot guarantee this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Recognition



Headteacher Commendations wc 08/01/24

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 by
Millie R	She completed all of the GCHQ Christmas Challenge puzzles which were the hardest yet.
Erin I	For excellent work in the first term, and a determined attitude.
Liam L	For continued enthusiasm and hard work in Spanish- excellent responses in class.
Ollie C	Delivering an interesting and engaging presentation about the Tudors to the rest of the class
Florence M	For outstanding behaviour, attitude to learning and class participation.
Emma H	For always working very hard and producing work of a high standard.
Ollie C	For planning and teaching a part of his History lesson on the topic of The Tudors.

Staff member of the week

Mrs Miles-Butler: Passion - for being a wonderful receptionist!

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 expectations and safety

Uniform

At Abbey College, we pride ourselves on our high standards. An important part of our culture of high expectations is our uniform code. We value the support that we receive from parents in ensuring that their children arrive in correct uniform, ready for the day. We appreciate that there are exceptional circumstances where a student might not have the correct uniform and we have protocols in school to support students in this position. For example, we have spare shoes for

students to borrow. Students are not permitted into lessons or social times without the correct uniform.

The table below is a reminder of our expectations regarding uniform.

If you would like to access our hardship fund or require support with purchasing uniform, please contact our Welfare Team at welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Item	Guidelines
Blue blazer with the school logo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be worn at all times • When the weather is particularly hot, the Headteacher will let parents and students know that they do not have to wear their blazer outside of the classroom
White shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a high collar suitable for wearing a tie • Must be tucked in at all times • No other visible tops should be seen under shirts
School tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In year group colours
Full length plain black trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leggings, skinny cut trousers and denim of any type are not permitted • Buttons and zips only for fastening, not for decoration • Belts must be discreet. • Must be worn with black socks
Tartan knee length skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be worn with opaque tights • Must not be rolled at the waist
Smart, black, leather shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers, boots, canvas shoes and 'dolly style' slip on shoes are not acceptable • High heels must not be worn
School jumper (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be worn under the blazer, not instead of it
jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visible bangles, bracelets or necklaces. • One small plain ring per hand • No facial piercings (eyebrows, tongue, lip or chin) except a small discreet nose stud. • One small stud or hoop in each ear under ½ cm in size • Ear stretchers are not permitted
Make up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make-up must be discreet. • No nail varnish – coloured or clear • No acrylic nails • False eyelashes must not be worn
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be one natural colour
Coats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hooded tops, fleeces, tracksuit tops, brightly coloured jackets or heavily branded coats/jackets are to be worn as coats in the College. • A plain coat, hat and scarf can be worn outside but must not be worn in any building or during lesson time

Student welfare and wellbeing

Great advice for managing teenage behaviour

This is a really useful for resource for parents/ carers when you are worried about your teenager's behaviour:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/worried-about-your-teenager/>

Please do get in contact with the Welfare Department if you need any additional advice or support.

Student attendance - Week 16

- **Congratulations:** to all the students were awarded in the attendance draw for their 100% since September! Fantastic achievement.
- **Reminder:** Even if an absence is authorised, the student's attendance percentage is still affected.

Student wider personal development

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

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?

Check out our Chemistry Curriculum to see what is being taught and the resources being used to support student learning. <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum/chemistry>

There are knowledge organisers available that summarise what students are required to learn and know at each key stage. These are a useful resource for students to use prior to an examination.

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

Parent information

Parent Forum



The date of the next Parent Forum is **Wednesday 14th February @ 5pm**, where we will be hearing from the school on:

- Homework Policy, expectations and different methods to complete homework – Ms Powell
 - Higher Prior Attaining Students – Ms Dowd
 - Antbullying Update – Ms Noble
 - Parent Partnership Award – Mrs Craig
 - Fundraising and Finance Update
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If you cannot attend but would like to give your view on any of the agenda items listed above (or any other matter), please complete our survey. If you leave a name and contact details, we will get back to you directly.

- Click here: <https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentsForum23-24>
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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](#)

Charlotte Downing - Chair of Parent Forum

Parent and Community Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body at Abbey College currently has a parent governor vacancy and is seeking self-nominations for an enthusiastic and committed parent or carer to join the board. Please see further

information and vacancy letter here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/governing-body>

There is also a vacancy for a community governor, if you know of anybody who may be interested, please do ask them to get in touch.

Parent Diary Dates 2023-24

Friday 19 th January 2024	Year 8 Bletchley Park Trip
Wednesday 31 st January	UCAS Deadline
Wednesday 7 th February 2024	Lion King Theatre Trip
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Year 11 Music Dropdown day
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 9 th February 2024	Year 11 Macbeth Production
Thursday 15 th February 2024	Year 8 Options Evening 4.30-7.30pm
Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February 2024	Half Term

Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

Students Reports: These are filed under 'Documents' in Edulink.

- The Year 11 invitation-only parent evening was well attended with over 80% of invited parents booking appointments. Parents can contact JOswell@abbey.college to request information from subjects/teachers.
- Years 9, 10 and 12 all have parent evenings on Edulink in the Spring term. If you are not using Edulink regularly then please check that you can log in. If you are having issues accessing information, please contact lbennett@abbey.college

Communicating with us and how to raise concerns

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

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/