

Weekly Family Update - 19.01.24

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



The virtue of the week is Intuition. Intuition means having good common sense around people. It involves listening to people, trying to understand their perspective and being sensitive in the way we give and receive feedback.

No doubt you would have read much in the press regarding the evolution of vapes called 'Cali-pens' and the dangers they pose especially to young people. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing information with families on what to look out for and signposting support (in the 'Safety' section below). In addition, we will deliver a series of workshops and follow-up lessons with students about the increased dangers. If you would like any information, advice, or support, please contact our Welfare Team at welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Thank you to those parents who are now parking away from the congested areas of Hollow Lane and Abbey Road. For those of you who missed the message last week, I am going to repeat the request 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.

A reminder that 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 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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Recognition

Headteacher Commendations wc 15/01/24

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 for
Hannah H	Dr Frost CTG Champion!
Luke B	Dr Frost CTG Champion!
Emily K	Dr Frost CTG Champion!
Zachary R	Dr Frost Champion!
Leo C	Dr Frost Champion!
Finlay S	Dr Frost Champion!
Maya E	Dr Frost Champion!
Emily T	Dr Frost Champion!
Jessica L	Dr Frost Champion!
Paige O	For the excellent start made on her Unit 2 folder
Mia O	For the excellent start made on her Unit 2 project
Nathaniel O	Played for the Year 8 Basketball Team which won the District tournament
Jayden M	Played for the Year 8 Basketball team; which won the District Tournament
Kameron B	Played for the Year 8 Basketball team; which won the District Tournament
Marlon P	Played for the Year 8 Basketball team; which won the District Tournament
Max P	Played for the Year 8 Basketball team; which won the District Tournament
Railey B	Played for the Year 8 Basketball team; which won the District Tournament
Henry B	Outstanding effort and hard work in his English classes the past term.
Jakob C	Outstanding effort and hard work in his English classes the past term.
Harry B	Outstanding effort and hard work in his English classes the past term.
Alfie S	Superb effort and work portfolio.

Staff member of the week

Miss Baker: Passion - Fantastic support to both students and staff in our New Horizons curriculum area.

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@abbey.college.

Student expectations and safety

After School Detention Process

When a student is issued with a detention, parents will receive a text communication by 2pm to inform them that their child will be kept in school until the detention finishes at 4:10pm. This communication is for information, not for consent and the expectation is that the student will stay for detention. Any student who fails to attend their detention will spend the following day, until 4:10pm, in our Refocus room.

If you would like further information about a lesson removal so that you can support your child in improving their behaviour, then please contact the class teacher.

If your child is issued a detention and they have a pre-existing medical appointment for that day, then please contact the school so that they can rebook the detention for the following day.

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

Vapes support

Please note the separate letter that has been sent home this week regarding concerns over vapes. This is a useful link to information to help you talk to your child if you think or know they are vaping:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

If you need support from school, please contact our welfare department:
welfare@abbey.college.cambs.sch.uk

Student attendance - Week 17

- **Congratulations:** to Year 11 – the year group with the fewest number of students absent last week.
- **Reminder:** It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure the school have the most up-to-date contact details. These can be viewed on Edulink.

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



 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.

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

Check out our e-safety guides, policy, and curriculum.

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/e-safety> delivered through Social Studies and within Form Time.

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*
- *Antibullying Update – Ms Noble*
- *Parent Partnership Award – Mrs Craig*
- *Fundraising and Finance Update*

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>

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

Preloved Uniform Shop - Opening

*The preloved uniform shop will next be open on **Tuesday 23rd January, 5pm - 6:30pm**. Please bring cash and enter via the student entrance.*

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.

- **Year 9 reports** will appear on Edulink at the end of this week. The **Year 9 Parent's Evening** is in three weeks, so if you are not using Edulink regularly then please check that you can log in. If you are having technical issues, then contact LBennett@abbey.college.
- **Year 12 reports** will be issued in early February and will contain end of year predicted grades. These are particularly relevant to subjects such as Maths, where all students sit the AS at the end of Year 12.
- The Performance Learning Survey has provided us with comprehensive information on the feelings and attitudes of the Year 9, 10 and 11 students. Assemblies and tutor times are addressing the areas for development which include attitude to attendance, organisation, lack of sleep, stress and strain, effort and retaining information.

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/