

Weekly Family Update – 01.03.24

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



The virtue of the week is Humility, and the theme is, 'we accept praise, praise others and apologise immediately'. Students were asked to consider why it is difficult to accept praise, and why it is important? We certainly notice as staff that, the older the students the more self-conscious they become in front of their peers. This is exactly why we have several low-key events such as the Flash Rewards where students come together, eat pizza, and celebrate collectively.

As per usual following a half term break, 'reset assemblies' took place with Year 7 to 10 to remind them of our virtues and the behaviour expectations, along with what they positively achieved as a collective last term.

During Welfare Wednesday, students were reminded of the following anti-bullying messages:

- *Stop and think before saying or doing something that could hurt someone.*
- *Talk to an adult you trust if you are struggling with how, you are feeling.*
- *If someone is being unkind - you need to report it.*

Mrs Noble is currently working with students across a range of year groups towards the nationally accredited [Anti-Bullying Quality Mark](#) which provides an excellent curriculum for schools to consider based on the latest research and practice. The full details were shared with the Parent Forum (see below for more details).

This week Year 11 have begun the final series of Trial exams, and we are pleased to see how they've evidently learned from their previous experience. This is the point of Trial exams. Well done to Year 11.

A reminder about Abbey College's mobile phone rules: in Years 7 through 11, students' mobile phones should be switched off and put in their bags. They should not be used at any time during the school day, not in lessons, between lessons, at lunch, break or in the toilets. This has always been the expectation at Abbey College. Staff will confiscate any phone they see being used when they should not be. We urge parents and carers to support us in this by not communicating with their child via their mobile phone in the school day, as this encourages the student to use their phone and break the rules.

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 (see the end of this Update for details).

Finally, below are the details for the grand opening of our library, with a very special guest author. Tickets are limited and are available via ParentPay.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Recognition

Headteacher Commendations w/c 26/02/24

Apologies for the sheer volume of commendations as some were omitted prior to the half term break.



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
Adele	For working so hard outside of lesson and producing a poster for the classroom
Darcey	For working so hard on her assessment piece for her group
Ethan	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Franklin	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Harry	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Harry	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Imogen	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Jayden	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Kameron	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Paisley	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Pippa	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Scarlett	Outstanding work running the year 3/4 football competition and being a fantastic representative of the school
Eve	Has completed her entire History Revision Homework Booklet already, ahead of the homework deadlines.
Leo	Fantastic vocabulary! You are writing GCSE level English answers.
Frankie	>150 Dr Frost points this week
Sam	>150 Dr Frost points this week
Rylee	Dr Frost Champion!
Daisy	Dr Frost Champion!
Joe	Dr Frost Champion!
Summer	Dr Frost Champion!
Alex	Dr Frost Champion!
Isaac	Dr Frost Champion!
Jayden	Jayden has worked exceptionally hard in a number of Geography lessons to a high standard
Filip	Despite having a broken arm Filip continues to persevere, work hard and contribute to the lesson
Roxy	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Ella	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Shay	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
leuan	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Charlie	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Niamh	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Keegan	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Leo	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Charlie	For enthusiastically interacting in the Careers Options session and remaining focused throughout - Well Done
Sophie	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Olivia	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Jack	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Ethan	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Olivia Grace	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Rosie	Very good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed a good understanding of the topic- Well done!
Phoebe	Extremely good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed an excellent understanding of the topic- Well done!
Henry	Outstanding work produced in his recent English lessons, very impressed!
Elxa	Extremely good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed an excellent understanding of the topic- Well done!
Xander	Extremely good result in the recent end of unit assessment, you displayed an excellent understanding of the topic- Well done!
Julia	Great ambassador of CCF and Computer Science during Options Evening
Jacob	Great ambassador of CCF and Computer Science during options evening
Lewis	For a very comprehensive mind map on hamlet.
Liam	Great ambassador of CCF during options evening
Ava	Excellent Duolingo streak
Darcy	Excellent Duolingo streak
Dexter	Great effort as one of the goalkeepers in the Year 7 football game against Ernulf - Made some amazing saves and showed great sportsmanship
Logan	Great effort in the Year 7 football game against Ernulf - Showed great sportsmanship and leadership qualities
Jasper	Completing the first 5 chapters of the Spanish sentence builders booklet to an excellent standard.
Hope	100+ Day streak on Duolingo
Owen	Excellent careers lesson, brilliant engagement, helped peers and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the lesson.
Jessica	Excellent attitude to coursework and handing in quality work straight away
Charlie	Excellent attitude to coursework and handing in quality work straight away
Luke	Excellent attitude to coursework and handing in quality work straight away
Ava	Excellent attitude to coursework and handing in quality work straight away
Amelie	Sports studies
Edwyn	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Jack	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Isabelle	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Henry	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Josh	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Piper	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Danielle	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Ellen	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Nala	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Pepper	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Je dd	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Amelia	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Jasmine	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Isla	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Kitty	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Rikka	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Georgia	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Jessica	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Mori	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Sophie	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Ethan	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school
Verity	Volunteered to help organise the new school library last night after school

Pearson National Teaching Awards 2024 - Nominations now open

Please use this link: <https://www.teachingawards.com/parents-page-the-unsung-hero-award/>



Staff member of the week

Ms Davis: Passion - For working with such diligence to maintain high standards on the courts during breaktimes.

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 .

Parent information

Parent Forum

The last Parent Forum too place on the 14th February, where we heard 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

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

If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

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

Library - Grand Opening

The English department are incredibly excited to announce the opening of the new school library on the 12th March. We are hosting an opening event and selling tickets to help raise money; proceeds will go towards new books and furnishings.

Staff, students and parents/carers are invited, and we would love to welcome you all along. If you would like to purchase a ticket and are not set up on ParentPay, please contact Miss O'Connell or Mrs Smithson-Ingrey.



Grand Opening

'AN EVENING WITH LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES'

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of our new school library. We are honoured to welcome the world-famous author Louis de Bernières to cut the ribbon and converse with guests. Complimentary snacks and drinks will be provided. All proceeds will go towards the library.

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH
5PM - 6PM
6:30 PM - 7:30PM
NORTH SITE
SINGLE TICKETS £3
FAMILY TICKETS £5
AVAILABLE ON
PARENTPAY

Monday 11th March 2024	Year 10 Music Dropdown Day
Tuesday 12 th March 2024	Sixth Form Poetry Day Library Grand Opening 5pm
Thursday 14 th March 2024	Y11 Music Dropdown Day Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening 4.30-7.30pm
Tuesday 26 th March 2024	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Thursday 28 th March 2024	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June	Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 7 th June	Alton Towers Attendance Reward Trip

Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

- **Year 7 and 8** reading tests will take place during English lessons from the week of 11.03.24.
- **Year 9 and 10** raising standards assemblies are planned with students to explain the reports and key measures of progress. This will include “The Basics” and Progress 8.
- **Year 11 and 13 Trials** are ongoing adding to student stress levels. Please support them by ensuring that:
 - they are getting enough sleep by monitoring when electronic devices are switched off
 - their diet is good and includes fruit and vegetables
 - they are being tested on topics that they have revised so that gaps are found and closed before the exams not after.

Students Reports: These are filed under 'Documents' in Edulink. If you need support, contact LBennett@abbey.college

Student expectations and safety

Points on Edulink

All student points on Edulink have been reset to zero this week to give students a fresh start for the new half term. Year groups who achieve a spirit:behaviour ratio of at least 7:1 over the course of the half term will be rewarded with a non-uniform day.

Student welfare and wellbeing

Exam Stress Management

All students will have exams during their time at school. For our year 11s and 13s, their final GCSE & A-level exams are imminent. This can be a stressful time for your child. There are lots of tips to help, see below:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>

If you do have questions or need some support, please get in contact with our Welfare Team welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Self-harm

Self-harm is a concern for many parents & carers of Secondary school children. If you are concerned that your child might be self-harming, please get in contact with the welfare team who can help support your child in school.

There are also lots of useful websites for parents to review, this Young Minds website has lots of information and ways you can support your child: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/self-harm/>

Student attendance - Week 22

- **Congratulations:** To all the students who are eligible to come to Alton Towers; attendance targets have been set for all other students.
- **Reminder:** Young people who are working must apply for a work permit- email tina.davis@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for more details.

Student wider personal development

Careers

The Parents' Guide to
NCW 2024
For National Careers Week

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Options at 16 and 18
- T Levels and Apprenticeships
- Other vocational routes
- Work experience

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO **NCW** National Careers Week

Headline Partner: NatWest Group

It's National Careers Week 4-11 March 2024! Download your free copy of The Parents' Guide to National Careers Week, created in partnership with National Careers Week, outlining all vocational options after GCSE and sixth form/college - [you can download your copy here](#).


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

OOPs

Please check out all out OOP offers for the Spring term on Edulink! These are all signposted within Edulink.

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?

Biology focus: Click [here](#) to see what students study in Biology from Key Stage 3 to 5. There are other useful resources such as Curriculum Plans that provide the detail of lessons along with Knowledge Organisers, which are extremely useful for students to use when preparing for an assessment.

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/