

1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 1st October

As we move into October, we have certainly noticed an autumnal feel to the weather. However, the rain did not dampen spirits for our wonderful Year 6 Open Evening that took place on Thursday. I would like to thank our Student Ambassadors for their professionalism and pride; the comments we received about them were nothing short of fantastic and they are all a credit to our community.

Please read on for essential updates.

Covid-19 update

Again, we have seen Covid rates increase within both Cambs and P'Boro schools. As with all schools, we report daily rates to the LA, who then monitor and guide schools as whether to action their [Contingency Plans](#). Although rates are high within Huntingdon, we have not met the thresholds to implement our Contingency Plans, but it's important to note how quickly the situation may change should there be a localised outbreak. Therefore, I would like to remind families of the guidance we issued early September, which stated students can wear face coverings around the school or in class if they wish to.

In addition, as per our school [risk assessment](#), keeping classrooms well ventilated is one of our main controls. As the weather has changed, we advise that students consider wearing their school jumpers under their blazers to help maintain a good level of thermal comfort.

As you will be aware, the vaccinations which were scheduled for this week were postponed by the NHS owing to the demand. We were notified very last minute of the postponement and have been informed that the vaccinations will be rescheduled. Of course, I will keep you posted as soon as we are informed of a new date. Should you have any questions regarding the vaccination and the process, please only contact the NHS-commissioned [School Age Immunisation Service](#) (SAIS) using this [link](#) or Telephone: 0300 555 5055.

Please encourage your child to test twice weekly, testing at home on a Monday and Thursday and report the results to both the school, via **Test Register** and to the [NHS](#).

Year 11 Meet the Tutor Event and Abbey College Sixth Form Open Evening

Abbey College Sixth Form will be holding its annual Open Evening on Thursday 7th October 2021 and this year it will be paired with the Year 11 Meet the Tutor Event. We would like to invite you and your child to come and explore the wide range of subjects we offer and gain an insight into Sixth Form life. There will be two presentations, one at 4:30pm and a second at 5:15pm please follow the link below to book your seats for the timeslot of your choice by 3pm Monday 4th October 2021. Please ensure that you book a ticket for every member of your party by clicking this [link](#).

Visiting school during the school day to collect your child?

A polite reminder, as per our safeguarding protocols, parents/carers must show photo ID to staff at Reception. Students will not be released to parents/carers without a valid photo ID.

Assessment

- The Year 11 Autumn progress check can be accessed through the Sims app. Connection problems with the Sims app can be sent straight to the data team using the mailbox simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- Parent pay now has its own designated mailbox at parentpaysupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Exams and Assessments 2022

Yesterday, the DfE and Ofqual published their plans for GCSEs, AS levels, A levels, and vocational and technical qualifications next year, which you can read [here](#). The detail are quite complex and there is a helpful 'family friendly' blog that summarises the changes which you can read [here](#).

Key points from these documents are below:

There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history and geography.

- If necessary, schools will be allowed to deliver practical work in some GCSE and A-Level subjects through demonstration.
- Students taking GCSE, AS and A level art and design will be assessed on their portfolio only.
- Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects except GCSE English literature, history and geography.
- Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics and a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science.

Governor Activity Statement and Parent Governor Vacancy

Our excellent governors detail their school improvement work in an Activity Statement, which is updated periodically throughout the year and published on our website which you can view via this [link](#).

By way of a reminder, we have a Parent Governor vacancy, with nominations closing on the 8th October. If you are interested in joining our Governing Body, please contact katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk or alternatively, please visit this link for more information <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/governing-body>.

Mobile Phones

Next week we will be reminding students about our Mobile Phone Policy through assemblies and our form time programme. Phones must not be seen or heard during the school day. If a phone is seen then it will be confiscated until the end of the day and the student will be issued with an after-school detention. This policy is in place to prevent online bullying, to safeguard students and to remove potential distraction from learning.

Spirit

Next week is Intuition Week and we will be rewarding students for putting in more effort than they need to in lessons, form time, extra-curricular activities and around the school.

Headteacher Commendations

The following students have received a Headteacher Commendation this week. They will receive 10 spirit points and special postcard home.

Student	Recognised for
Kieran Kinninmonth	<i>All of these students have been nominated by their RSL for making a great start to this academic year.</i>
Ethan Brown	
Alyshia Metz	
Millie Sparks	
Ben O'Carroll	
Charlotte Smith	
Lauren Gore	
Henri Cole	
Charlie Raddon	
Ewan Hamilton	


Secret Spirit Award

These students have received our 'Secret Spirit Award' for being caught exhibiting our virtues to a very high standard. They have been given a £5 voucher in recognition of their wonderful attitudes.

- Tegan Elliott
- Natalia Mazur
- Willow Willoughby
- Sam Robinson
- Riley Taylor

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award then please follow this [link](#).

Feeling worried or anxious?

Please use the dedicated button  on our website to confidentially raise concerns or to request support, including:

- Peer Mediation, to help students resolve any friendship issues they may have;
- Reporting a concern about the bus;
- Reporting unkindness or bullying;
- Ask for support with anxiety.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully



Andy Christoforou
Headteacher

Vacancies

Invigilator

Abbey College is looking to expand our team of Examinations Invigilators for the 2021/2022 academic year. Exams are taken at various times during the school year including a variety of public and trial exams. The role is a casual contract, so hours and days will vary dependent on operational need, however, availability will generally be required from 8.30am for morning exams and 1pm for afternoon sessions.

We are looking for people who are flexible, reliable, punctual and able to work as part of a team, ensuring exam regulations are followed. Previous experience is not necessary as training will be provided, however experience of working with young people would be an advantage. For more information and an application form, please see the [Vacancies](#) section on our website, or contact Lara Fowler via the [Contact Us](#) form also on our website.

Parent Diary Dates 2020-21

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Thursday 7th October</i>	<i>Year 11 Meet the Tutor Event and Abbey College Sixth Form Open Evening (4.30-6.30pm)</i>
<i>Thursday 14th October</i>	<i>Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening (4.30-7.30pm)</i>
<i>Thursday 21st October</i>	<i>School Photographer visit for Years 7, 10 and 12</i>
<i>Friday 22nd October</i>	<i>School closed – additional holiday for Queen's Jubilee</i>
<i>Monday 25th to Friday 29th October</i>	<i>School closed – half term</i>
<i>Monday 1st November</i>	<i>School closed – INSET day</i>
<i>Tuesday 2nd November</i>	<i>Students return - Autumn Term 2</i>