

19th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 19th November

Thank you to all families for your understanding and support with the Covid vaccinations that have taken place today. Students without consent or who have had Covid within the past three months were not vaccinated. A catch-up day will be scheduled for those consenting students who did not receive their vaccination. Alternatively, families are encouraged to use their local walk-in centre, please see this [link](#) to book in if you wish to use this service.

Please read on for essential updates.

Bringing Forgotten Items to Reception

There are currently a large number of parents coming into reception to drop off items that their children have forgotten to bring to school; for example PE kits, homework and packed lunches. Whilst we will always do our best to get these items to our students, we would really appreciate it if you could remind your children about the importance of preparing their bag for school in plenty of time so that they arrive ready to learn.

Uniform

During one of our recent student voice sessions, students raised the issue that if they are unable to wear school shoes for medical reasons then they are stopped several times a day by staff requesting to check their note. To resolve this, we are introducing a new lanyard system.

Any students with an ongoing medical exemption for footwear is being issued with a yellow lanyard. Wearing this lanyard will mean that they will not be stopped by staff to be asked about their trainers.

From Monday, any other student coming into school wearing trainers, must report to the SSO Hub before form time. The Student Support Team will check their note and issue a 'tell' if there is no valid reason for their incorrect footwear. These students will then be issued with a lanyard which they must return at the end of the day. Any student wearing trainers who has failed to comply with this process will then be issued with an after -school detention.

Tik Tok

We wrote to you last week about some offensive videos that had been posted on Tik Tok. We are continuing to monitor these sites and taking action where necessary. We urge you to speak to your child(ren) about their Tik Tok accounts, making sure that they are aware of the implications of what they post. We recommend the CEOP [#AskTheAwkward](#) resources which help adults to have positive conversations with their children about their online lives.

Covid

Yesterday, we were made aware that TestRegister has not been sending reminders to families. This is a nationwide technical issue that TestRegister are trying to resolve. In the meantime, students should continue to test twice a week and to record their results on [TestRegister](#) as well as the [NHS Results Website](#)

Teaching and Learning update

At Abbey College we are working hard on developing our classroom practice, and aim for our lessons to be engaging, inclusive, aspirational, and challenging, which promotes 'Excellence in Abbey College', our theme and priority for this year. In lessons, teachers are looking at techniques for reviewing learning, and making sure students are confident before moving on to a new topic. One of the ways teachers might do this is by using mini-whiteboards in class. If students can come with a whiteboard pen as part of their school equipment, it would be very helpful (we will, of course, provide these where needed). Please do ask your son and daughter to let you know how this is happening in their lessons.

Assessment

- Year 11 Trial Examinations begin w/c 22.11.21, with Year 13 starting on 06.12.21. In the event that summer exams are cancelled, the data from these Trial Examinations will form part of the evidence used, for both year groups, to help determine the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).
- Year 8 reports will be released next week through the Sims app and Year 7 reports in the following week. The data team recommend that you link your password to one of their suggested sites.
- For help with the Sims app please contact: simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

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
Mary M	<i>Passion: For your sheer determination in overcoming your fears to be the best that you can be!</i>
Rosie E	<i>Intuition: For being such a supportive friend and always putting others first</i>
Tobias S	<i>Consistently demonstrating our Humility, Intuition and Passion spirit</i>
Kenya D	<i>Humility: For her excellent assistance for the Student Support Team this week</i>
Sally F	<i>Humility: For going above and beyond in collecting students for detention</i>
Bethany S	<i>Humility: For going above and beyond in collecting students for detention</i>
Melodie H	<i>Passion: For creating outstanding revision materials</i>
Tara L	<i>Humility: For a superb attitude and approach to her studies</i>

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

Parent Diary Dates 2020-21

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Thursday 25th November</i>	<i>Year 8 virtual parents' evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Monday 29th November</i>	<i>Year 7-11 nasal administration flu vaccinations</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd December</i>	<i>Year 7 virtual parents' evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 16th December</i>	<i>Year 11 results release evening 4:30-6:30pm</i>
<i>Friday 17th December</i>	<i>Last day of term</i>