

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 3rd December

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

In terms of our safety processes within school, the [new guidance](#) has little impact on our current controls.

By way of a summary, the key measures are:

- Face coverings for year 7 and above in circulation spaces, unless exempt. Classrooms remain mask free unless a student wishes to wear one.
- Students (year 7 and above) should continue to test twice weekly, and should record their results on [TestRegister](#) as well as the [NHS Results Website](#)
- Any close contact with an Omicron variant will require a 10 day isolation period. NHS test and trace will notify those following the outcome of a PCR test.
- Students are expected to wear a face mask on the buses at all times, unless exempt. Cambs County Council Transport Team have been asked to monitoring this closely-and we will of course do our bit-but it would be helpful if families can also remind their child(ren) of this important safety measure.

Currently, as with all schools locally, we have a number of staff self-isolating, and Cover Staff are in short-supply. It is important for the School to continue to operate and I ask that we all do our bit to keep each other safe by following the key measures outlined above.

Furthermore, the Government has recommended that 12 to 15 year-olds receive their second vaccination doses, 12 weeks after their first. We await further information on how this will be rolled out along with the catch up programme.

Finally, we have had to make some changes to our break and lunchtime arrangements in response to the new covid variant. This means that more students will spend their break and lunchtimes outside. We are encouraging students to make sure they have a warm coat in school so that they are comfortable during their break times. Please remember that we do not allow hoodies as an extra layer in school. If families require support in acquiring a school jumper or a coat, please contact our Welfare Team on welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

Please read on for essential updates.

Last Day of Term

We are very excited to be holding a Christmas Market on the last day of term. The Year 9 Student Leadership Team are coordinating the event with the help of Miss Dowd, and students from each year group are organising stalls to raise money for charity. Students will also be rewarded with a non-uniform day on this day if they have worked together to reduce the number of *tells* received over the next two weeks. We will be finishing at the earlier time of 1pm on Friday 17th December.

Communication with Abbey College

It has been great to see so many parents and carers coming to school over the last term for the Meet the Tutor and Parents Evenings, virtual and face-to-face. Tutors and Raising Standards Leaders have said how good it was to meet with you. Seeing you in person is such a reminder of how important the trusting relationships between home and school are. On that note, it really helps us to work with you if you bring concerns to us directly. We know that parents' WhatsApp groups can be really helpful for parents to answer others' questions and share ideas. I hope you agree that social media is not a good place to discuss individuals' issues or incidents as this is so open to misinterpretation and can make things worse for the young person.

Equally, it is unacceptable to send in abusive, aggressive or accusatory emails into school. There are always two sides to every story; and children often say things to parents that minimises their impact. Trusting the professionals is important, and face-to-face discussions or phone calls provide a more suitable and balanced way of raising a concern and for asking questions about a situation.

If you have a concern specific to your child, please bring it to us. We say the same to the students: *talk to us about what's wrong, don't let it become everyone's business online.*

To find out who to contact, please use the [Contact Us](#) section of our website.

- For general concerns/enquiries: please approach your child's Tutor in the first instance.
- For behaviour related concerns: please use this [link](#) on the website. Our SSO Team will then investigate the issue in line with our Behaviour Policy.
- If you require an independent liaison between home and school: please do make use of our new Student and Family Support Adviser Mrs Goddard, email: GGoddard@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- For independent SEND support: I would like to signpost the LA's [SEND Information, Advice and Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#). They offer impartial and confidential information, advice and support to young people with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or who have concerns they *may* have special educational needs.

Teaching and Learning update

In classrooms this week, we are still focusing on how we gauge learning during the lesson, so we can know when students are confident with the material. We are particularly emphasising how teachers ask students questions and asking them to make this a key feature of lessons. In order for learning to be embedded, a simple yes/ no answer is not helpful; we want students to develop their answers and justify their opinions. This is also a very useful skill for life. At home, please do encourage your children to explain their views and give reasons for their opinions as this will not only support them to move forwards in their learning but also their skills for the future.

Assessment

- Year 11 Trial results will be released at the Year 11 Result Release Evening on 16.12.21 and published on the Sims app on 17.12.21. The results release evening provides an opportunity to meet Year 11 teachers and discuss progress.
- Year 13 Trial Examinations begin w/c 06.12.21.

- Year 7 progress reports are available on the Sims app.
- For help with the Sims app please contact: simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

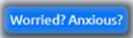
Headteacher Commendations

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

Student	Recognised for
Axel T	Humility: Always being helpful without being asked
Joe W	Humility: zero tells, 100% attendance and always has a smile on his face
Noah R	Passion: Being proactive across the board, and always looking to develop as a young Abbey College Student
Thomas L	Passion: His improvement over the past 2 weeks has been faultless, with behaviour and spirit improved across the board
Elizabeth T	Passion: Highest spirit points over the two weeks
Timothy S	Passion: Highest spirit points over the two weeks
Alfie O	Intuition: for his vigilance in helping a member of the public on the way into school
Verity R	Intuition: for quietly going about her business, 100% attendance and doing her best in all subjects.
Libby M	Humility: For battling on with her exams despite having a terrible cold and no voice!! Well Done Libby
Olivia H	Humility: For overcoming any difficulties and quietly getting on with her exams! Well done!

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 Forum next meeting – 9th December 4:30pm

Please take [our survey to share](#) any questions or themes you would like the Parent Forum to put to the school in their next meeting, where they will be discussing our approach towards supporting students without an official diagnosis, the draft parental guarantees and how behaviour on the buses is addressed. The survey closes on the 6th December.

To join the forum, volunteer for fundraising, or suggest a theme for a future meeting, send us a line at: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

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

Cheryl Greyson – Chair of Parent’s Forum

Parent Diary Dates 2020-21

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 16th December	Year 11 results release evening 4:30-6:30pm
Friday 17th December	Last day of term – Christmas Market – school closes 1pm
2022	
Tuesday 4th January	Inset Day – staff only in school
Wednesday 5th January	Students return 8:30am
Tuesday 25th January	Year 9 STEM day
Wednesday 26th January	Year 13 UCAS deadline
Thursday 27th January	Year 9 virtual parents’ evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 14th-Friday 18th February	Half term – school closed
Monday 21st February	Inset Day – staff only in school
Tuesday 22nd February	Students return 8:30am