

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

**Update letter for families – 14<sup>th</sup> January**

It has been great to have a full week with our students, who seem settled and pleased to see their friends. We are very fortunate in that our students are so responsible and only a few need a prompt to wear their masks and comply with the hand sanitising we have in school. Despite windows open and cold classrooms, there is an understanding that this is for all of our benefit and safety. The negative press in the news is in total contradiction to what is actually happening 'on the ground' and in corridors and classrooms.

I want to use the opportunity to praise our wonderful Parent Forum who have been helping to shape the 'Parent Forum Guarantee' which we will share with families just before February half term. The guarantee focuses on further simplifying communication with the school and will be available in more than one language. Below are the details of the next meeting.

*The next Parent Forum Meeting **Parent Forum next meeting – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing:*

- *The catering provision;*
- *Our approach towards supporting students without an official diagnosis;*
- *Fundraising.*

*Please take [our survey to share](#) any questions or themes you would like the Parent Forum to put to the school in the next meeting. The survey closes on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.*

*To join the forum, volunteer for fundraising, or suggest a theme for a future meeting, please email: [parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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*

Please read on for essential updates.

**Covid reminders**

Please encourage your child(ren) to test twice a week and to record their results on [TestRegister](#) as well as the [NHS Results Website](#).

The second in-school vaccinations will take place on 11th February 2022. Letters will be sent from SAISS Team to parents next week. If you have any queries, please only contact the NHS-commissioned [School Age Immunisation Service \(SAIS\) Team](#) using this [link](#) or Telephone: 0300 555 5055. Alternatively, parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

**Remote Learning:** Providing your child is well when self-isolating, they should follow their usual timetable. Your child should be able to access each of their class Teams, as this is where homework is set, and lessons are placed for absent students. If your child can not access MS Teams, please request a password reset by



emailing [help@cmat.support](mailto:help@cmat.support), stating your child's name, year group and that they are a student at Abbey College.

#### **Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19**

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

#### **E-Safety Update**

Two important guides have been added to our website under this [link](#), and I urge families to read the helpful guidance:

- [5 steps to help your child use WhatsApp safely](#)
- [Vodafone Digital Parenting](#)

#### **Assessment**

- Year 13 reports will be released next week on the Sim app.
- Year 9 reports are due to be published at the end of January on the Sims app.
- Year 12 revision lists are on Teams with exams starting in the week beginning 17.01.21.
- Year 10 revision lists and assessment details should be starting to appear on Teams with Trial Exams starting in the week beginning 24.01.11.
- For help with the Sims app please contact: [simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk)

#### **Teaching and Learning**

This half term Abbey College teachers are looking at questioning. In lessons, we ask questions to find out factual answers, but also to check for any misconceptions, as well as reinforcing the learning process and develop thinking. We are continuing developing ways in which we check for learning during the lesson, so that teachers can be sure that all students are ready to move on, using a type of question, called a *hinge* question. This involves a quick check for all students that they understand the concepts being taught, and any of their misconceptions have been addressed. As we move through this half term, we will be looking at the different ways in which we ask questions in lessons, and our aim is that students get fully involved in their learning as a result.

Our Lead Learners are also looking at the curriculum, or content, of what we are teaching. We want the sequencing of learning to be logical, and build on prior learning, so that students are able to recall information effectively. This will help them as they move through the school, and onto their exams.

### Behaviour

We have been very pleased with the mature way that students have returned from the Christmas break, with only a very small number of removals from lessons and social times. Currently, the majority of the 'tells' being given are for homework. All homework is set on Teams and we have a Homework Club for students who need support with this. If your child is receiving tells for homework then you could support them by:

- Regularly asking them to show you the assignments that have been set on Teams
- Encouraging your child to complete homework at a regular time each day
- Checking that they have packed everything they need for the day ahead, including any homework due in.

### Headteacher Commendations

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

<b>Student</b>	<b>Recognised for</b>
Joseph S	<i>100% attendance and zero tells, always tries his best.</i>
Emma B	<i>Zero tells and an amazing work ethic. Well done</i>
Riley T	<i>Coming back after the holidays with a smashing attitude to learning and getting no tells</i>
Olivia P	<i>Continued hard work and support to other students when they needed it most.</i>
Callie M	<i>Continued hard work, pushing for outstanding coursework.</i>
Frankie M	<i>Continued hard work, pushing for outstanding coursework. As always spirit points galore!</i>
Jamie B	<i>Excellent return to school after the Christmas break with super effort in lessons</i>
Holly C	<i>Excellent return to school after the Christmas break with super effort in lessons</i>
Jacob C	<i>For being so supportive of new starters in our year group.</i>
Oliver J	<i>For being so supportive of new starters in our year group.</i>

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

### Vacancies at Abbey College

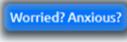
Please click on the following links for more details.

- *Lunchtime Supervisor -* <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-49082/Break-and-Lunchtime-Supervisor>
- *Site Officer -* <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2021-ACR-47945/Site-Officer>

### Parent Governor Recruitment

We will be recruiting for a new parent governor this term and we are especially keen to hear from anyone with experience in chairing committees. If you would like any further information or to talk to a current governor, please contact [katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk).

**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 2021-22**

Date	Activity/Event
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
Tuesday 1st March	Year 9 STEM Day [rescheduled from 25th January]