

## Weekly Family Update - 30.09.22

Please read, share and encourage others to do the same. For those of you who prefer the more traditional letter, a pdf version of this Update will also be sent to families.

*Tip: to quickly navigating this online Update, try using the icon on the bottom right of your page that will turn this into a quick-access contents page.*

### Foreword

*This week has been bright and colourful despite the clouds and winds, as students across the school wore non-school uniform in support of the charity Stem4: supporting teenage mental health.*

*On Thursday, to support Post 16 destinations, there was a mini options event for all Year 11 students. In the same evening, families attended an evening information event where Mrs Glen and other colleagues explained how we will support pupils through this vital year and what they can do to help themselves prepare for examinations.*

*Post pandemic, we are determined to ensure that this year is full of opportunities for students to celebrate events and each other as often as possible; school is about so much more than lessons, and happy students are more productive students. As such we have a very busy programme of enrichment through our Opportunities and Offers Programme (OOP) and educational visits to come so do keep up with our weekly communications to see what we are all about.*

*Thank you for the comments and feedback around homework; as we know, it can make such a difference to progress, and our purpose is to enable students to have excellent learning habits for life. As one parent relayed a comment about her daughter, "Until she gets into the flow of the homework set, she doesn't know if she can or cannot do it as it often builds the knowledge from the previous question. I have therefore, asked her to complete this homework promptly so that if she does get stuck she can still ask for support." Great advice, and staff will always be happy to help.*

*Senior and Middle leaders have been visiting lessons and the overwhelming atmosphere around the college is calm and purposeful. Students are getting used to their new timetables, and are presenting themselves ready for lessons. Thank you for your support in helping students make such a positive start.*

*We are pleased to announce that on Thursday 13th October, the internationally acclaimed author, Louis de Bernières (who wrote Captain Corelli's Mandolin) will be running a seminar for a group of students in Year 11. Please follow our social media channels for updates regarding this exciting event.*

*Please continue to take good care of yourselves.*

*Andy Christoforou, Headteacher*

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*Please read on for essential updates.*

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### Parent Forum is back for 22-23

Below are the dates for our future meetings. Next week, we'll send you the agenda items and a survey of what else you may want us to discuss.

Dates for your diary:

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- 1/11/22
  - 13/12/22
  - 31/1/23
  - 16/3/23
  - 4/5/23
  - 27/6/23
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If you would like to attend, 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 Forum

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### **Abbey College Preloved Uniform**

Abbey College Parent's Forum runs the Preloved School Uniform scheme as part of its fundraising activities. We ask parents to donate outgrown or unused uniform by leaving clean bagged up donations at School Reception. All donations are inspected carefully, and we repair items where needed. Clothes are categorised according to condition: excellent/as new, good, or discounted with minor marks.

We list all available stock in real-time on a Google spreadsheet on our [Facebook page](#), Abbey College Parent's Forum. Parents can message to reserve, and the item will be secured until they can pick up.

**Our next Pop-up Shop date is: 13th October 22, 4:30-7:30pm  
Year 6 Open Evening**

Scan the QR code, to find out more.



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## Attendance - Week 4

- **Congratulations:** to Form Group 11ST with the highest attendance; 99.43%.
- **Reminder:** The Law states that 'Children must attend school' (Education Act 1989). Poor attendance at school can result in a fine (referred to as a 'penalty notice').

## Ethos updates

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### Flash Reward

*On Tuesday we had our first 'Flash Reward' of the year. Two students from each form, nominated by their form tutors for showing humility, were invited for a pizza afternoon as a celebration of the positive contribution they make to the school.*

### Homework technical issues for some on Edulink

*We are currently experiencing some technical difficulties with the homework function on Edulink which means that homework is not visible on Edulink for some parents and students. (All homework is still visible to students on Teams.) As a result of this issue we are taking the following steps to support students:*

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- 1. Any outstanding detentions for failure to complete homework have been cancelled.*
  - 2. Moving forward, you will not receive a notification on Edulink about missing homework until you have received a phone call from our Student Support Team to inform you of the date of the detention.*
  - 3. When the issue is resolved we will resume detentions for missed homework and we will introduce these one Year Group at a time to allow students to adjust to the system.*
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*If your child is unable to access Teams then they should contact [help@cmat.support](mailto:help@cmat.support) or their RSL. If your child is struggling to complete their homework at home, we have a supervised room available at break and lunchtime.*

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## Curriculum updates - Music focus

### Music focus

*Each week, I intend to highlight what is available on our website to support student learning.*




*This week, I will focus on what we refer to in school as Music, which forms part of our Performing Arts Department (Dance, Drama and Music).*

*There are three main resources available on our website for every subject taught. Click each heading below to find out more, or go to our main web page [here](#).*

1. [Music Learning Journey](#) - an overview of what is taught from year 7 through to year 11. If you click on the image once, it will open. Click on it again, it will enlarge.
2. [Curriculum overviews and plans for each year group](#) - these show in detail what is taught and assessed by year group in detail.
3. [Knowledge Organisers](#) - these are useful tools when it comes to learning and recalling information. They are a great resource to see at a glance what facts need to be retained, and are particularly useful prior to an assessment or exam.

### Abbey College Curriculum Aims



 Inclusive	The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions.
 Challenging	To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind.
 Cultural Capital	All learners will receive a wide and fulfilling educational experience.

## Assessment

- The **EduLink Noticeboard** is up and running and contains a list of tutors and their email addresses.
- Year 13 reports are due out next week with Year 10 a week later. Year 9 and 12 reports are due before half term.
- **Parent Evenings** will run remotely through EduLink and start after half term with Year 8. Appointment booking will be through EduLink so if you are not currently connected then contact [help@cmat.support](mailto:help@cmat.support) to resolve this.

## Headteacher Commendations



The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's commendations this week for going above and beyond in an area of school life. They will receive ten spirit points and a special postcard home.

Student	Nominated for
Jacy E	Passion: For making a fantastic effort in lessons
Ella B	Humility: For showing such great independence and not letting anything stand in her way
Alfie C	Passion: For an excellent start to Year 7, engaging in lessons with enthusiasm and great team work
Harriet M	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Emily B	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Caitlyn H	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Joshua D	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Anna S	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Teodora R	Intuition: for participating in a university focus group to offer their opinions on how universities can support students in the application process
Toby C	Passion: For an excellent and focused start to Year 8
Hector S	Passion: For an excellent and focused start to Year 8

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

## Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 STEM Day [revised date from 4 <sup>th</sup> October]
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Open Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographer visit for Year 7 & 10
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Sixth Form Open Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term - school closed
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Inset Day 2 – staff only in school

## Opportunities at Abbey College

- **Cover Supervisor:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-94798>
- **Attendance and Welfare Administration Support:**  
<https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/137377/EDV-2022-ACR-88838>

## Communicating with us

- To help you reach the right person if you have a query or concern, we have updated our “contact us” webpage and have included a simplified flowchart to show the most efficient way to communicate with us.

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- [Click here](#) to access this Communication Flowchart on our website.
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