

Weekly Family Update - 11.11.22

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

We teach the First World War as part of our History curriculum, and Key Stage 3 students certainly receive a grounding in the events of the Second World War, but it is difficult to empower our students in the classroom with an understanding of the individual sacrifice made by such large numbers of Service men and women. The best way perhaps of making the narrative of war and sacrifice relevant to our students is to relate it directly to the School they currently attend. And our Remembrance Service today, led by our very own Combined Cadet Force (CCF), helped to remind students of the significant role our armed forces played in The Armistice. The students were impeccable in their conduct and respect, as were the poems and prayers read aloud by our wonderful 6th formers and Student Ambassadors.

A reminder, the Parent Forum Guarantee gives all parents the right to speak directly to me, the Headteacher, within 24 hours, if you feel your question has not been answered by those you have already contacted.

Have a nice weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher



PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

After following these stages, if you feel your query has not been answered you should complete our Parent Forum Guarantee.

This gives all parents the right to talk with our Headteacher within  24 HOURS

and a further meeting, if needed, within the following  72 HOURS

Call 01487 812352 or email office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk stating 'Parent Guarantee Forum'

Please read on for essential updates.

Attendance - Week 9

- **Congratulations:** to Year 7 – almost meeting the school attendance target of 97%.
- **Reminder:** In cases of recurring absences, you will be asked to produce evidence supporting your explanation e.g. GP's note, hospital appointment card etc.

Ethos updates

Anti-bullying Week

Next week is national Anti-bullying week and the theme being 'reach out'. Our assemblies and Social Studies lessons over the course of the week will explore this theme and encourage students to consider how to support each other and celebrate difference. We will also be reminding students how to report any incidents of unkindness and how we respond to any reports of bullying within the school.

If you have any concerns regarding unkindness or bullying then please let us know either by contacting your child's form tutor or using our [online form](#).

Curriculum updates - Computer Science, IT & Creative I-Media

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

This week, I will focus on **Computer Science, IT & Creative I-Media** and the link to all resources is here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/computing>

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. **Learning Journey** - an overview of what is taught from year 7 through to year 13. 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 groups 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.

Assessment

- **Year 7 and 8 assessments** are underway this week and next week. Details of the assessments should be on Teams. If you have questions about the assessments then contact Miss Lane for Year 7 and Miss Beel for Year 8. Reports will be available on Edulink at the end of November.

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.

- **Year 11 Trial Exams** start next week. Students should be revising and reviewing their learning, why not offer to test them on the content of the revision lists? If gaps emerge, it is not too late to close them before the Trials. If you have questions about the Year 11 Trials contact Mrs Glen.
- **Year 13 Trial Exams** start in the week beginning 28.11.21. Revision lists and details of assessments should start to appear on teams shortly. If you have questions about the Year 13 Trials contact Mrs Moore.

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
Zack T	Completing a week long Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre course during the half term with "High Competence" grade. He is now qualified to deliver lessons to younger cadets.
Jack B	or generously donating a selection of books on our A-level course and planning and delivering an excellent poetry lesson to his year 12 class
Jacob C	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Marianne D	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Sam H	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Esther C	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Pirajeena P	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Sally F	Commitment to helping at the Netball club after school
Harriet M	Excellent support at the Next Steps Careers Fair
Teodora R	Excellent support at the Next Steps Careers Fair

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
Monday 14 th November	HPV Vaccinations Year 8
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 29 th November	Year 8 STEM Day
Wednesday 30 th November	HPV Vaccinations Year 9
Thursday 1 st December	Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 8 th December	Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Market – Last day of term
Thursday 22 nd December to Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Christmas Holidays – school closed
Wednesday 4 th January	INSET Day 3 – staff only in school
Thursday 5 th January	Students return 8:30am

Additional bank holiday on 8 June 2023

In light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8 May.

Cambs County Council webpages on support with the cost of living

As winter approaches, more people will feel the impact of inflation and increasing fuel bills. [County Council's webpages on support with the cost of living](#) provide information on accessing grants and debt advice, support on getting all the money you're entitled to and more information about the government's recent support measures. The page also contains a link for the Council's [Household Support Fund](#). This fund, which has wide eligibility criteria, provides direct financial support and a gateway to more personalised offers which are intended to provide longer-term help. It is easy to apply to the fund, details and a link to the application form are on the webpage. There is also a telephone application route for pensioners through our partners Age UK Cambridge & Peterborough on 01223 221929

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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Parent Communication – Student Details

However you communicate with school, [particularly through the website contact form or the office email address], please help us by remembering to include your child's first and last name to enable us to more swiftly identify to whom we should refer your enquiry.