

Weekly Family Update - 25.11.22

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

I want to take the opportunity this week to highlight the positive step one social media platform is taking to improve the safeguarding of young people with regard to social media use.

TikTok is raising its Livestreaming Age Requirement from 16 to 18 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63262102>

TikTok has become one of the top online platforms for teenagers to use, due to the nature of the App there have been many concerns raised about what is being done by the site to protect the young people who access it. TikTok are planning to raise the age requirement for livestreaming from next month, but to help you support the safeguarding of your child on this site, please see the link below with helpful information for parents to be aware of.

Helpful info for parents: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

If you do have any safeguarding concerns with your child on TikTok or any other online platform you can contact welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk to report.

Nationally, the overwhelming majority of bullying and unkindness incidents take place via social media, and I would urge families to look into the information provided so we can work together to better safeguard our young people.

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, and this also includes any act of unkindness.

Finally, it was great to see the Flash Reward last Tuesday afternoon, where 80 students were treated to an afternoon of pizza. These students had been nominated by their form tutors for consistently considering the impact of their actions on others.

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.

Parent Forum



The next Parent Forum meeting – **Tuesday 13th December 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing:

- Toilet concerns
- Lining- up for lessons
- The canteen and lunchtime arrangements
- Hearing from Mrs G Gerrard-Cook to about the Wellbeing space for students in the Quad.

If you would like to attend, please email: 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

Attendance - Week 11

- **Congratulations:** to 7ROG- the form group with the best attendance in the school!
- **Reminder:** Punctuality is also highly important. Pupils who arrive late to school are not only losing learning time, but are also a disruption to others as they arrive late for lessons.

Ethos updates

Golden Tickets

This week has seen the launch of our new 'Golden Tickets'. Teachers have been awarding these tickets, which are worth 5 spirit points each, to students who consistently demonstrate our virtues to a very high standard. Next week's canteen queue order will celebrate student contributions to spirit and will be based on the year group who have had the largest increase in spirit points.

Curriculum updates

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.

Over the last few weeks, we have been highlighting what is available on our website to support students' learning. As you explore the curriculum areas you will find many subjects have added Knowledge Organisers to support our students' memory of the key concepts within each curriculum area. Knowledge maps are a useful resource to support revision and I have added a useful how to guide.

How to use a Knowledge Organiser – A step by step guide

'so that knowledge is stored and retrieved over a long period of time'

	Look, Cover, Write, Check	Definitions to Key Words	Flash Cards	Self Quizzing	Mind Maps	Paired Retrieval
Step 1	Look at and study a specific area of your knowledge organiser. 	Write down the key words and definitions. 	Use your knowledge organiser to condense and write down key facts and/or information on your flash cards. 	Use your knowledge organiser to create a mini quiz. Write down questions using your knowledge organiser. 	Create a mind map with all the information you can remember from your knowledge organiser. 	Ask a partner or family member to have the knowledge organiser or flash cards in their hands. 
Step 2	Cover or flip the knowledge organiser over and write down everything you remember. 	Try not to use your knowledge organiser to help you. 	Add pictures to help support. Then self quiz yourself using the flash cards. You can write questions on one side and answers on the other. 	Answer the questions and remember to use full sentences. 	Check your knowledge organiser to see if there were any mistakes with the information you have made. 	They can test you by asking you questions on different sections of your knowledge organiser. 
Step 3	Check what you have written down. Correct any mistakes in green pen and add anything you missed. Repeat. 	Use your green pen to check your work. 	Use a parent/carer or friend to help quiz you on the knowledge. 	You can also use family to help quiz you. Keep self quizzing until you get all questions correct. 	Try to make connections that links information together. 	Write down your answers. 

Teaching and Learning

We know that learning takes place most effectively when students are challenged, so we are encouraging staff to make lessons challenging, without being too difficult. Most subjects provide support materials such as Learning Mats, Sentence Builders or Knowledge Organisers to support students to develop their knowledge and specific skills for each area. Students have a learning journey for each subject as well, so they know which part of the curriculum they are working on, and to help them to make links between topics and even between subjects. These learning journeys are available, along with the curriculum maps, for each subject on our school website. <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum>

Assessment

- Year 13 assessments begin next week.
- Year 11 Trial papers are now being marked and moderated by staff. Reports will be released on 16th December they will include a current grade for each subject. Please encourage your child to reflect on the preparations they made for the Trials; their revision plan; the resources used; the time spent revising; how they managed their stress levels; etc. so that they can think about changes/improvements to their plans for the next series of Trials in February.
- The new Key Stage 3 assessment system has been explained to Year 8 students in assembly this week. Your child should be able to explain how the new age-related levels work but if you have further questions then contact Ms Beel or janet.oswell@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- Year 8 assessment grids/criteria are available for all KS3 subjects on this [link](#). This means that the levels that students have achieved in individual subjects can be viewed in relation to what knowledge and skills the student has demonstrated in that subject. The learning journeys are also available on the website, these show the topics coming up next term for each subject.

- Year 7: the results for the September baseline tests have now been collated and will be released next week along with reports on the recent assessments.
- Year 7 students will be taking the PASS Survey in school in the weeks up to Christmas. This survey gives the school an indication of their feelings about self and school and allows us to measure how well they have settled into secondary school.
- Year 8 students will be taking the New Group Reading Test in the weeks up to Christmas this allows the school to identify the students who would benefit from reading intervention and tailor the intervention to individual student needs.

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
Kaitlyn C	Being very proactive in her role in organising the Christmas market
George P	Being very pro-active in his role in organising the Christmas market
George R	Being very pro-active in his role in organising the Christmas market
Judi-Rose S	Being very pro-active in her role in organising the Christmas market
Taylor F	For teaching younger students to play chess at the puzzles and games OOP
Payton B	being enthusiastic to learn, listening well and getting involved with lessons
Jack P	For showing lots of enthusiasm in lessons, really contributing well and clearly enjoying his learning
Molly M	Outstanding commitment as JSLT Leaders, in supporting rewards and outcomes for the Year group.
Carson M	Outstanding commitment as JSLT Leaders, in supporting rewards and outcomes for the Year group.
Lily-May K	Outstanding commitment as JSLT Leaders, in supporting rewards and outcomes for the Year group.
Callum B	Outstanding commitment as JSLT Leaders, in supporting rewards and outcomes for the Year group.

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
Friday 25 th November	Year 12 Visit Restorative Justice for All Conference - London
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
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 11 Geography Visit to Cambridge City Centre
Wednesday 14 th December	'The Winter Showcase' - a night at the musicals 6-7.30pm
Tuesday 20 th December	Christmas Market – Last day of term
Wednesday 21 st December	Additional INSET Day 3
Wednesday 21 st December to Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Christmas Holidays – school closed
Wednesday 4 th January	INSET Day 4 – staff only in school
Thursday 5 th January	Students return 8:30am

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.