

Weekly Family Update - 02.11.22

Please read, share and encourage others to do the same.

Foreword

This week, I want to address a couple of concerns from parents that have been raised around the use of toilets during the school day. As with many things that take place in schools, parents views vary widely. It is important that families and our young people understand what we expect and the reasoning behind our decisions.

Students are not permitted to use the toilets during lesson time unless there is a medical need and they have been issued with a toilet pass, overseen by our Student Support Team. This measure is in place to safeguard students as the toilets cannot be supervised during lesson time and we do not want students leaving lessons and using the toilets to truant, meet with friends, smoke, vape or self-harm. While I recognise that the vast majority of students would not use the bathrooms for these purposes, we have to put procedures in place that work to keep everybody safe. Students are allowed to use the toilets before school, at break times, between lessons and before they catch the bus, so the longest they ever have to wait is one hour. We are, however, aware that some students, especially those in Year 7, are still getting into the routine of using the bathrooms during breaks and lesson changeovers and therefore, we have asked staff to use their discretion to avoid any accidents. Miss Lane will go through this again with our Year 7s so they are clear.

To further support our younger pupils who may feel uncomfortable in using the toilets, every year group has their own set of toilets around the campus. We have a member of staff on duty at around the main sets of toilets during breaks and lunchtime, which makes it much less likely for students to congregate in them.

In January, we will launch a parent survey in order to hear your views on School life.

A reminder, our wonderful Parent Forum are meeting on the 13th December, and the agenda is shown below.

Finally, a second reminder that 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.

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 12

- **Congratulations:** to 11JAA - the form group with the best attendance in the school at 97.6%.
- **Reminder:** Headaches, coughs, colds, sore throat, 'feeling sick' and menstrual related absences are not authorised.

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

Our website holds key information to support students in their learning, last week I highlighted our knowledge organisers and gave details of how to use them to support revision. This week we will focus on two areas that provide additional resources:

- *Spanish - The MFL bookcase is an area that compiles online resources that can be used to support learning <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/mfl>*
 - *Science - Abbey Science YouTube channel details the key practicals within the science curriculum <https://www.youtube.com/@abbeyscience6733/featured>*
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Abbey College Curriculum Aims



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

Teaching and Learning

Visiting lessons is one of the best activities of the week as it gives us an opportunity to see what the experience of the students is in different lessons as well as help us to understand how we can tweak to improve. I have been impressed by students' responses to the KITS activities - these are the recall tasks that are normally set at the start of a lesson, to check knowledge retrieval and understanding. Students seem to be remembering more and more of their curriculum each day, and this will inevitably help them as they complete assessments and homework. Thank you again for your continued support with this.

2023 Teacher of the year is open for nominations

The national prestigious award is now open for nominations. Click the link to add your vote:

https://www.teachingawards.com/parents-page-the-unsung-hero-award/?utm_source=teachingawards&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=TA2023

Assessment

- **Year 13 assessments** continue into next week, the results are due in the New Year.
- **Year 11 reports** will be released on 16th December they will include an up to date current grade for each subject. Students have been asked to focus on achieving the **Basics at the appropriate Band**. Flash rewards are planned post results release for all i.e. High Band students achieving Basics grade 7 or above in both English and Maths. Middle Band students achieving Basics grade 5 or above in both English and Maths. Low Band students achieving Basics grade 4 or above in both English and Maths.
- The **new KS3 assessment system** has been explained to Year 7 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 7 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 baseline test results** are in school however, there has been an issue with the email system and the release will now be delayed until next week.
- **Year 7 students** will be taking the PASS survey in school from next week. 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 from next week this allows the school to identify the students who need reading intervention and tailor any 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
Leon K	Always completing every task set without delay
Axel T	Making huge progress in Maths
Lacey T	really focused revision for her trials
Vincent H	passing his grade 6 piano exam
Ben C	helping a student who was poorly and needed support
Riley T	helping a student who was poorly and needed support
Verity C	Making an excellent contribution to student voice
Amy D	Making an excellent contribution to student voice
Lily-Mae A	Making an excellent contribution to student voice
Grace C	Making an excellent contribution to student voice
Phoebe K	Making an excellent contribution to student voice
Gregory T	Making an excellent contribution to student voice

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
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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