

Weekly Family Update - 20.01.23

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

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

Never mind the cold, wind or rain, Abbey College students are out there in PE clubs, local sports tournaments and attending our after-school clubs (OOPs). Well done to all the clubs and teams for their training and practice. You can see these and the many other extra-curricular activities on the timetable [here](#).

This perseverance and resilience have led to Abbey College being recognised from the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) for being in the top 25% of similar schools nationally for pupil attendance for the Autumn Term. This is a real community effort and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes at an individual level to increase attendance back up to the levels we saw before the days of Covid.

We are continuing to hold our parents' evenings online for the time being as this was the option preferred by most parents when we consulted. I hope that this is running smoothly but if anyone is experiencing difficulties with this system, please let us know via the Contact Us form on the website and we will provide technical support or arrange a callback from your child's Raising Standards Leader if you need further information on how your child is doing.

Please remember that in the mornings, students must only be dropped off at in the designated spaces at the bus turnaround so that pupils can safely cross the road on either of the crossing. Our Site Team are in high-viz jackets are on-hand to direct cars safely around the turnaround.

I wish you all a very enjoyable 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 31st January 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing:

- Lining up for lessons and year group zones
- Homework tracking
- Attendance Policy
- Fundraising and Finance

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 24th January.

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- Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentsForum22-23>
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If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

High Expectations, Behaviour and Safety

School Uniform Support

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your children have returned to school wearing correct uniform. In order to support families in these difficult financial circumstances, we have purchased spare school shoes in a range of sizes for students to borrow if their shoes break until parents/carers are able to purchase a new pair. If your child is wearing the incorrect footwear, for any reason, they should report to the Student Support Hub, before Form Time, where they will be asked to hand in their phone in exchange for a pair of shoes to borrow.

Attendance - Week 18

- **Congratulations:** Abbey College students- you are in the top 25% of all 'similar schools' nationally for the 2022 Autumn term for attendance
- **Reminder:** children who do not attend regularly miss out on opportunities in further education and world of work.

Safety

Our use of the internet via computers, tablets and phones has never been greater but as parents and carers we need to be aware of what our children are viewing and the apps they are using, this is a great resource for parents/carers to use <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>

If you do have any concerns about your child's online use or need any help or advice you can also contact the Welfare Department who are happy to support, email via welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Wider personal development

In our assemblies next week we will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for this year is 'ordinary people' and we will be asking students to reflect on the role that ordinary people play in genocide as perpetrators, bystander, witnesses and victims. We will also challenge students to reflect on how ordinary people, such as ourselves can perhaps play a bigger part that we might imagine in challenging prejudice today.

Clubs (OOP) and Activities



The Abbey College OOP
The Offer and Opportunity Programme

What is it?
The OOP is the whole school enrichment programme for students that run throughout the year for all year groups 7-10 during lunchtime and afterschool.
It has a huge variety between 'open' offers which anyone can sign up to and then some 'application' based offers which are all included in the information on each offer on EduLink.

Why should I do an OOP?
Being a part of the Abbey College community gives you lots of new experiences and hopefully ignite new passions and interests.
Try something new!

How do I sign up?
You access EduLink and find the 'clubs' tab and sign up to your offer

Who to contact
If you know who the leader is, contact them on Teams or Email.




Access to EduLink
<https://www.edulinkone.com>
School ID is 'acr'



Information about subjects

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.

What your child is learning?

Here at Abbey College we offer a wide range of subjects. Our website holds key information to support students in their learning. Please see

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum> and select the curriculum you would like to know more about.

Year 8 Options Information Evening

At this point in the year our Yr8 students start to think about their next steps in their learning journey by selecting their option subjects. Our students are starting to learn about new subjects and how they may link to their future careers. This is an exciting time for our Yr8 students and over the next few weeks they will have assemblies and taster sessions to ensure they make well informed choices for their next steps. We have a wide range of subjects on offer and to learn more about these subjects please visit the [school website](#) to find out more.

To book a ticket for our Yr8 Options Information Evening please click [here](#).

Assessment: How your child is doing?

- The **Year 9** reports will be available on Edulink on the 27th January. They contain a current GCSE grade and a professional prediction for the end of Year 9. The Teacher Set Targets have been updated.
- The **Year 10** Trial Exams start in the week of 23.01.23. The details of the assessments should start appearing on Teams next week.
- **Year 12 Trials** are being sat this week and reports are due out after half term.
- Edulink is our main communication platform. If you are having connection issues with Edulink please contact help@CMAT.support. For other issues please contact the office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk. We are currently looking at parental usage and will be contacting all parents who are yet to log onto Edulink to offer support.

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.

Student	Nominated for
Phoebe B	Consistently taking a mature and methodical approach to Biology revision
Lily W	Kindness, helping another student on crutches around school from 0840 until 3.10 and making sure she is safe
Thomas H	Always being ready, respectful and responsible
Isaac B	Successfully completing GCSE science papers to a high standard
Isabelle C	Consistently showing a positive attitude across the school
Callie M	Consistently showing a positive attitude across the school
Ruby Q	Always showing such an impressive attitude to learning
Lucy S	Always showing such an impressive attitude to learning
Mikey S	Excellent demonstration of spirit
Owen G	Consistently displaying our three virtues

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 2 nd February	Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 9 th February	Year 8 Options Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 23 rd February	Year 12 and 13 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Tuesday 28 th February	Year 9 STEM Day – moved to 28th March
Thursday 2 nd March	Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 28 th March	Year 10 STEM Day cancelled now Year 9 STEM Day
Friday 31 st March	Last day of the Spring Term

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III bank holiday

The Government has announced a one-off bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Communicating with us and how to raise concerns

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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