

Weekly Family Update - 03.03.23

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

Thank you very much to all who completed the parent survey. We are delighted to report that the responses show a marked improvement from the same survey in 2021 year in all key areas.

	2021	2023
My child is happy at school	69%	85%
My child feels safe at school	81%	93%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	73%	91%
The school has high expectations for my child.	55%	91%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	66%	94%

Of course, we want the positive responses to still be higher and many of your comments highlight things we continue to address. The key areas that parents raised differing opinions or questions about in the comments section were as follows: pastoral support for those who struggle with the behaviour system, what their child is learning at any point during the year, communication (response rates and daily queries), lack of detail within the student reports and wider personal development and what this means. Over the next few weeks, I will address each of these in turn and let you know where we are and where we are going.

You might like to see the section below entitled Wider Personal Development which lists the events and activities that take place weekly across the year groups.

I would like to thank all parents who responded to my notices about driving on the school site. Things have improved but speed around the campus is still a concern. Parents are requested to drive at no more than 5 mph around the site as this poses a risk to students' safety.

We are coming up to recruitment season in schools and while we are very lucky to have a specialised and experienced body of teachers at Abbey College, we would welcome conversations with any parent who may be considering, or knows someone who may be considering, training to teach in the future.


A reminder, below is our Parent Guarantee, please do use this if you have an unanswered concern.


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.

Celebration of Spirit - Rewards



Congratulations to each of our year groups for meeting their Spirit target last half term. It has been wonderful seeing students enjoy their non-uniform days as a reward for demonstrating our virtues to such a high standard. In addition to the non-uniform day, the highest scoring form group in each year group will celebrate with a form group party.

Headteacher Commendations

The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's commendations this week for going above and beyond, either within a subject, outside the classroom or beyond School.

Student	Nominated for
Emily K	Excellent natural aptitude for the subject and diligent work both in and outside of lessons
Tom W	Tom is the U17 mens National Indoor 800m champion! We are hugely proud of his achievements
Vincent F	Vincent has been invited to go to South Africa to represent Great Britain for the trials of the Commonwealth Youth Games. We are hugely proud of Vincent's achievements!
Carson M	Carson works so hard in Engineering and always helps out on every STEM activity and open evening.
Alice M	DrFrost champion of the week
Ben F	DrFrost champion of the week
Lacey L	DrFrost champion of the week
Chloe D	DrFrost champion of the week
Sam A	DrFrost champion of the week
Joshua S	DrFrost champion of the week
Belle G	Excellent Spanish work
Saphire C	Excellent Spanish work
Lilly H	Excellent effort in STEM
Payton B	Excellent work in Form Time
Henry H	Excellent ambassador for Abbey College
Izzy E	Excellent ambassador for Abbey College
Darcy G	Excellent ambassador for Abbey College

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

Parent Forum - Rescheduled Meeting



Thank you to everyone to attended the meeting on Tuesday. We discussed Lining up for lessons and year group zones and saw a video of the procedure taking place during the school day. We heard back from a parent who spent time in-school, observing the line-up routines and visiting the student bathrooms, confirming they were all very positive.

Mrs Wibberley shared the draft Attendance Policy and there were lots of challenge around home-visits and rewards for attendance.

To find out more, see our minutes here <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/parent-forum>

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

The next Parent Forum meeting – **Thursday 30th March 5:00pm**, where they will be discussing:

- *Sport Fixture Arrangements*
- *Passport to the Prom*
- *Student Feedback Form*
- *Fundraising and Finance*

If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

High Expectations, Behaviour and Safety

Reporting Incidents to the School

We have sent a leaflet along with this update about what you can expect if you or your child report a behaviour incident to us. If, as a parent you have something to report then please use either our [online form](#) or the student support e-mail studentsupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Attendance - Week 23

- **Congratulations:** Most improved year group last week- Year 9. If you want to know your son/daughter's attendance target for Thorpe Park please email attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- **Reminder:** A single day's absence will not be authorised for a medical appointment such as dentist, orthodontist or pre-booked GP appointments. Missing a full day is not acceptable.

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 the apps our children using, this is a great resource for parents/carers to use to check the social media age ratings for the most popular online apps <https://www.openvieweducation.co.uk/social-media-age-ratings/>

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

Wider personal development

We are delighted with the way that representatives from each form group in Year 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to take part in student voice groups this week. We very much value our students' perspectives on school life and enjoy working with them to continue to make improvements to our community. All students who participated shared their views in a mature and constructive way about a range of issues; from the use of toilets to how we celebrate Golden tickets. As a result of their suggestions, there will be a new half-termly prize for the form group in each year with the most Golden tickets in that half term. We will share the feedback from these sessions with students next week. Students in Years 9 and 10 will have the opportunity to participate next week.

Year 7 - BAE Systems Education Programme, in partnership with the RAF & the Royal Navy

On Wednesday 8 March, P5, the above will be delivering a workshop to all our Year 7 students in the North Hall. This exciting event is to give our students an insight into the world of STEM, with the theme being 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space.'

NEXT STEPS ON-LINE CAREERS FAIR FOR STUDENTS - Wednesday 8 March @ 4.30pm

To celebrate National Careers Week, Unifrog are offering this free, unique opportunity for **Year 10-13 students** to compare all your post-school options in one place. It'll help you make an informed decision about your best next steps.

Students will **join live sessions** and **chat one-on-one** with top UK universities like the University of Manchester and University of Warwick, plus big-name employers and apprenticeship providers like the BBC and EY.

You will get the chance to ask your burning questions on entry requirements, what a normal day in different industries looks like, and what skills top employers really look for in applicants!

Sign up to this free webinar at the link below:

https://www.unifrog.org/teacher/webinars/upcoming/628-unifrog-next-steps-student-fair?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Next%20Steps%20Fair%202023&utm_content=Next%20Steps%20Fair%202023+CID_d025506fde801a9ea9f121a9fff50bb0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software

Virtual Careers Fair

To celebrate National Careers Week, a virtual careers fair is available for Year 7-13 to access at home. The event will go live on Monday 6 March– click on the following link: <https://ncw2023.co.uk/>

- **6-11 March 2023**




Further information to support your next steps can be found at:

- <https://nationalcareersweek.com/>
- <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-advice-help/national-careers-week/>

Parents/Carers guide:

- <https://cb-charters.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/The-Parents-Guide-to-National-Careers-Week-2023.pdf?t=1677667454?ts=1677667454>

Information about subjects

Abbey College Curriculum Aims	
 Inclusive	The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions.
 Challenge	To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind.
 Curriculum 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.

Teaching and learning update?

In Abbey College lessons we are focusing on developing challenge through insisting on full sentence answers, as this supports students' language skills as well as developing knowledge. We know that not all young people like to express themselves fully but do encourage them to practise this skill at home; it will support any future interviews and work placements, in addition to their lessons in school.

Assessment: How your child is doing?

- **Year 7 and 8** students will be completing reading tests in English lessons in the week beginning 13.03.23. Students cannot prepare for these tests other than by reading at home and school.
- **Year 11** Trials are ongoing. Please support students by encouraging them to revise and testing them on work they have learnt. Check that they have all of the revision guides that they need. It is not too late to order revision guides from Mrs Glen.
- **Year 10** reports were published as planned on Friday despite ongoing technical issues. Thank you for your patience.
- **Year 13** Trials begin on 13.03.23. These assessments are important to establish accurate current grades. Edulink has a countdown in the exams section to the A level exams and they are very close now. Year 13 students often have part-time jobs and are sometimes put under pressure to work longer hours. Please support students in their revision, discuss their priorities with them and ensure that they get plenty of rest.
- **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.

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
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 9 STEM Day
Friday 31 st March	Last day of the Spring Term
Monday 3 rd April to Friday 14 th April	Easter Holiday – school closed
Monday 17 th April	INSET Day – staff only in school
Tuesday 18 th April	Students return 8:30am - Summer Term

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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