

Weekly Family Update - 21.04.23



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

Foreword

It's been great to have the students back for what will be a short and fragmented half term with only two full weeks, owing to the bank holidays, the King's Coronation and unfortunately, the planned strike action scheduled for the 27th and 2nd May.

Miss Lane has been busy working with primary feeder schools on the transition process. Dates to note are: Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June for the two-day visit to Abbey College, and Saturday 8th July for the teambuilding morning to support students and parents getting to know each other and the staff here. Information will be forthcoming around May half term once we get the LA release parent contact details to us. Positively again, we are oversubscribed and are accepting one additional form of entry to accommodate the demand.

It goes without saying, this is a challenging time for our examination groups who enter the final stretch, and many of whom attended intervention sessions during the Easter break. I would like to thank the staff who gave up their time to provide this additional support.

We have been incredibly proud of the hard work and effort of our Year 11 students over the course of this year preparing for their summer exams, ensuring they can successfully access the next stage of their education or training.

We are aware of the additional work that our staff and students have committed this year to minimising the disruption of the last few years and thought it right to share the information below which has been produced by OfQUAL about this summer's exams. It hopefully provides some reassurances for students around the process and outcomes this summer. We are confident that the preparation of our students, supported by their teachers and families, will put them in a strong position in the summer and you will be aware of our plans for the final run in to exams and how we will be supporting students in school throughout the exam period.

As always should you have any concerns or questions please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. Thank you for your ongoing support.

School Uniform in Hot Weather Consultation Outcome

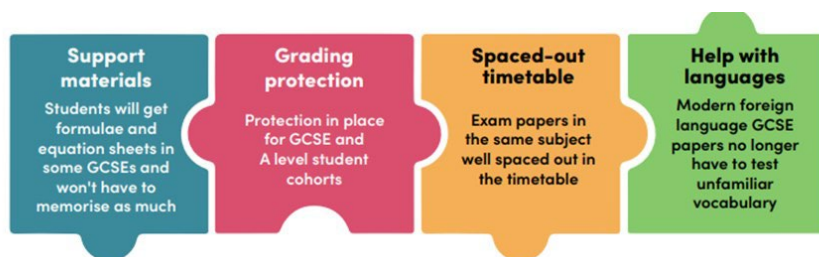
Thank you to the large number of parents who responded to our survey about uniform when the weather reaches exceptional temperatures. We have reviewed our arrangements and will be put in place as follows.

- 1. After May half term, students will not be required to wear a blazer to school. All other requirements of our Uniform Policy will remain in place.*
- 2. If the weather is forecast to be in excess of 28 degrees, then we will contact parents to offer students the option of wearing their PE kit instead of their full school uniform.*

In addition, during the summer period, both outdoor shaded areas and indoor air-conditioned spaces are also available.

Wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher



Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Rewards



Spirit Points

Congratulations to students in Year 7 and 8 for reaching the ambitious spirit target set for them last half term. These year groups have enjoyed a non-uniform day as a reward for showing the Abbey College Spirit. Each year group will be set a new target this half term.

Tell us about something brilliant

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award for any out of school success stories, then please follow this [link](#) or email the Office office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

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
Nelly S	Top of the Memrise leaderboard for Spanish
Grace G	Top of the Memrise leaderboard for Spanish
Sam C	Top of the Memrise leaderboard for Spanish
Verity C	A fantastic essay on the Peasants' Revolt and Black Death
Kiran H	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Owen T	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Jasmine J	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Evie M	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Georgia P	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Libby A	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Oliver B	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Frances G	For showing great passion and commitment to MO, by attending the Easter Revision Session
Taylor F	Taylor works incredibly hard and this commitment and hard work resulted in a fantastic set of trial 2 exam results across all subjects

Parent Forum Update



The Parent Forum met on the 30th March where we heard from various staff about: School Trip Funding, Year 11 Purple Ties and the Prom, Sports Fixtures and the Student Feedback Form.

Below is a short summary, or you can see the full minutes here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/parent-forum>

- School Trip Funding - there are different types support available, so please contact the Welfare Team if you need more information. Some trips may vary in cost dependent on how they are funded by the School or from external organisations.
- Year 11 Purple Ties and the Prom - questions were asked about what is available to motivate students who receive the tie early or for those pupils who do lots of voluntary work outside of school. The Passport to the Prom was explained, as it's common practice across many schools in Cambs and the Meridian Trust. It's in place to motivate and reward students in the final run-up to the exams.
- Sports Fixtures - the PE Team are trialling the use of Teams to send information on fixtures and this seems to be going well.
- Student Feedback Form - this was trialled with Year 11s to accompany their progress reports as families in the latest survey asked for more information. Lots of positives from families about how useful it has been. The plan is to roll this out to other year groups.

*The next Parent Forum meeting – **Thursday 27th June at 5:00pm**, where they will be discussing:*

- Punctuality and lateness
- Bus supervision

- OOP clubs
- Canteen prices
- One drive for coursework-based subjects

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

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

High Expectations and Safety

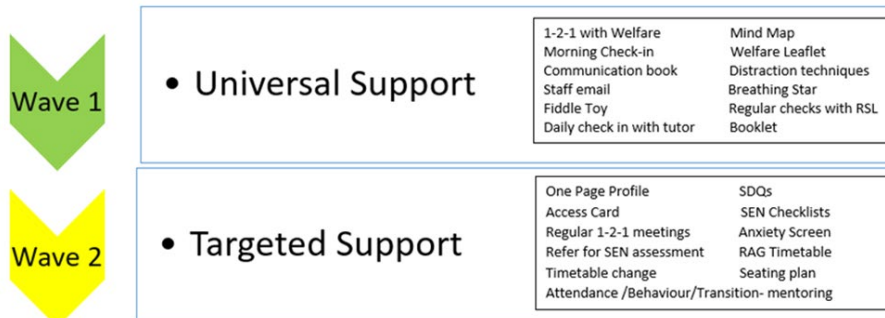
Attendance - Week 26

- **Congratulations:** Most improved Year Group- Year 9 with an 0.42% increase in their attendance last week. If you want to know your son's/daughter's attendance target for Thorpe Park, please email attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- **Reminder:** Please be mindful that occasional days off school due to minor illnesses, such as a cough or sore throat, soon accumulate.

Safety

Pastoral Support Process

We offer a range of pastoral support in school for all students to access; this support could be via your child's form tutor, Raising Standards Leader (RSL) or another member of staff. We also support students who have accessed the Welfare Team using our Waves process; examples of the support offered at Wave 1 and Wave 2 are shown below:



If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing please get in touch with the Welfare Department welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for support or advice.

Wider personal development

Read about our extensive Wider Personal Development Programme here:
<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum/wider-personal-development>

Careers Programme

To find out more about the curriculum we have in place for Careers, see this link
<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/careers-guidance>

Information about subjects and lessons

Lessons at Abbey College have begun again after the Easter break with enthusiasm and energy. This half term we are reviewing how we give feedback to students, and how different subjects might do this to suit their own needs, but within a set of Guiding Principles that help us be consistent in our approach. I will share these with you in a future message, once we have ensured that they reflect our current practice, based on research.

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.

Towards the end of the year, we are planning further opportunities for Parents/ Carers to visit school to see how different subjects are taught, and to support you in how you might help your child with their learning. I know last year's Criminology CSI day was a great success. I will let you know when we have a schedule of dates, times and subjects, and details of how you can sign up for these events in a future communication.

As ever, many thanks for your continued support. Ms Powell, Deputy Headteacher

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.

Assessment: How your child is doing?

- **Year 13:** Reports will be published next week on 28th April.
- **Year 7 and 8 students:** the summer assessment tests start in the week beginning 01/05/23. The reports will be published before the summer half term. Revision lists will start appearing

on Teams shortly and the [assessment criteria which link to the grades](#) are available on the website.

- **Year 10 and 11** students with exam entries this summer. Edulink has an exams button. This is useful to see the countdown to the next exam, the order in which the exams will be sat, the seat numbers on the day of the exam. There is also a tab giving results for any external exams sat in Year 10.
- If you are not yet using Edulink yet then contact Linda.Bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for support.

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Monday 1st May</i>	<i>Early May Bank Holiday – school closed</i>
<i>Monday 8th May</i>	<i>Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III – school closed</i>
<i>Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June</i>	<i>Half Term - school closed</i>
<i>Monday 5th June</i>	<i>Staff and students return 8:30am</i>

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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