

Weekly Family Update - 28.04.23



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

Foreword

It was great to have the Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Ramsey visit us this week to present Abbey College students with badges as a memento of the upcoming coronation. Students will spend time within Social Studies lessons to commemorate the upcoming coronation of Charles III.

As next week is much shortened, there will be no update from me. Therefore, this week, I will use the opportunity to avoid sharing anything new, but to simply remind families of what has been recently shared.

I am delighted to let you know that our summer uniform has been decided upon based on your feedback from the recent consultation. Please see below:

- 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.

Please be reminded that best way to contact staff is via email. Please try to avoid calling the front office wherever possible. Please only call the main Reception number in an emergency or if a situation cannot wait, for example, if you need to inform your child of a change to travel arrangements for getting home. Teachers are unable to receive phone calls during the school day. If you do call the school, Reception staff will take a message and pass it to the person best suited to help you.

There is an expectation that staff will respond to you in a timely manner. May I request that, if you email a member of staff and don't receive a response within the timeframe stated within the policy, please use the Parent Forum Guarantee and I will follow this up.

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.

*You can use your Parent Forum Guarantee by calling 01487 812352 or emailing office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk with 'Parent Forum Guarantee' in the subject header. You will be contacted initially to arrange a convenient time for your call and then **I will personally call you by the end of the next working/school day**. If you would like a follow up meeting, this can occur within 72 hours after the initial phone call.*

Wish you all a very enjoyable long 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



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
Katie H	Outstanding micro-navigation skills for D of E - winning the navigation competition on Saturday.
Hannah H	Outstanding micro-navigation skills for D of E - winning the navigation competition on Saturday.
Poppy O	Passing Grade 3 Singing exam with Merit.
Max Lee	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Kaeden F	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Rylee T	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Katie W	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Isabella S	Izzy was praised for her leadership skills by several members staff from other schools during the CCF April weekend
Leah B	For improving her trial exam grades in 7 subjects - a fantastic achievement!
Freya H	Passing grade 2 piano with distinction
Katie C	Outstanding contribution at the CCF fieldcraft weekend.

High Expectations and Safety

Safety

Unkindness, Conflict and Bullying

There is no place for unkindness of any kind at Abbey College. We encourage students to report any unkindness to the Student Support Team, either in person or via our online form. All reports are investigated by the behaviour team so we have a full understanding of the situation. These incidents generally fall into three categories:

1. **Unkindness:** *When someone does something intentionally hurtful*
 2. **Conflict:** *When both parties are involved in unkind or hurtful behaviour*
 3. **Bullying:** *When someone repeatedly does something unkind and hurtful*
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Once our investigation is complete we put sanctions in place in line with our behaviour policy and students are supported to move forward, with measures put in place to support students where necessary. If you have any concerns about unkindness then please do report these via our [online form](#).

Tik-Tok Trends



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. We are hearing a number of concerns about content being shared on Tik-Tok which is not suitable for young people to be viewing.

- *This guide has lots of useful information for parents and carers to review and some additional resources too: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>*
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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

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:

 Wave 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Support 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1-2-1 with Welfare</td> <td>Mind Map</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Morning Check-in</td> <td>Welfare Leaflet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication book</td> <td>Distraction techniques</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff email</td> <td>Breathing Star</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiddle Toy</td> <td>Regular checks with RSL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daily check in with tutor</td> <td>Booklet</td> </tr> </table>	1-2-1 with Welfare	Mind Map	Morning Check-in	Welfare Leaflet	Communication book	Distraction techniques	Staff email	Breathing Star	Fiddle Toy	Regular checks with RSL	Daily check in with tutor	Booklet
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 Wave 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Support 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>One Page Profile</td> <td>SDQs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access Card</td> <td>SEN Checklists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regular 1-2-1 meetings</td> <td>Anxiety Screen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refer for SEN assessment</td> <td>RAG Timetable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Timetable change</td> <td>Seating plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendance /Behaviour/Transition- mentoring</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	One Page Profile	SDQs	Access Card	SEN Checklists	Regular 1-2-1 meetings	Anxiety Screen	Refer for SEN assessment	RAG Timetable	Timetable change	Seating plan	Attendance /Behaviour/Transition- mentoring	
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Attendance - Week 29

- **Congratulations:** Attendance Reward trip to Thorpe Park- please remember this trip has limited places! If you need information regarding your son's/daughter's eligibility to attend please email attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- **Reminder:** Leave of Absence for the purpose of holidays in term time is not granted. Leave of absence is only granted when the circumstances are unavoidable therefore 'exceptional'.

SEND Support Group

*Thank you to those parents who attended the first SEND Support Group on 20th April and can confirm our next meeting for parents with children with SEND will be on **22nd June @ 5:30**. Please see the Eventbrite to book your place. Any questions regarding the event please contact your child's keyworker (if they have been assigned or Jessica Davey (Assistant Head and SENDCo) on jessica.davey@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-support-group-tickets-623203467347>

Parent Forum Update



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

Wider personal development

What do we mean by Wider Personal Development?

The Abbey College Spirit, our character development programme underpins the whole of our school life. Students work towards our three school virtues: Humility, Intuition and Passion. Excellence in these virtues will equip our students with the skills and characteristics that they need to thrive in all areas of life, including their relationships and future careers. Our form time programme gives students opportunities to reflect on their progress towards the virtues as well as building their sense of community and belonging in the school. Social Studies lessons, delivered by a team of specialist teachers covers a wide range of Personal, Social and Health topics including unconscious racial bias, relationships and sex education and mental health issues.

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

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.

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 you 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

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.

<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 7 and 8** assessment dates: the assessment period is being extended owing to the shortened weeks (additional bank holiday, strike days) which means that reports will now be issued in the week following May half term.
- **Year 8 and the PASS survey** (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School): students were extremely positive about their confidence in learning, their self-regard as a learner, their general work ethic, their perceived learning capability and their response to curriculum demands. They also scored themselves highly on their preparedness for learning and their attitudes to attendance and teachers.
- If you are not yet using Edulink yet then contact Linda.Bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for support.

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
Monday 1 st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May	Coronation Bank Holiday
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half Term
Monday 5 th June	HPV 2 Vaccinations – Year 8
Friday 9 th June	Thorpe Park Attendance Reward Trip
Friday 16 th – Saturday 17 th June	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition - Year 9
Monday 3 rd July	Year 11 and 13 Prizegiving Event – by invitation only
Tuesday 4 th July	Sports Day 1 / Matilda the Musical production
Wednesday 5 th July	Sports Day 2 / Matilda the Musical production
Thursday 6 th July	Year 11 Prom
Friday 14 th – Saturday 15 th July	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition – Year 10
Wednesday 19 th July	Student Celebration Picnic – Last day of 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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