

Weekly Family Update - 19.05.23

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

Foreword

This week has been the valedictory week for our Year 13s, as their study leave begins. The assembly led by Mrs Moore last Friday signalled how our young people have flourished through their time here over the past two years. Our Year 11s have a little longer with us as staff teach revision masterclasses right up to the examinations, which began for both year groups this week.

As we move towards the annual Thorpe Park Trip, I want to take the opportunity this week to talk about the importance of excellent school attendance. You may be aware from the media, that since the pandemic, school attendance nationally has been a significant concern. At Abbey College, our overall school attendance figure is well above the national average but still well below pre-pandemic levels. This is a significant concern as extensive educational research tells us unequivocally that attendance that falls below 97% has a negative impact on both academic progress and student well-being. It is for this reason that I make no apology for the high expectations we set for our students' attendance.

Of course, we know that most absences are genuine, and students are not expected to come to school if they are seriously unwell. However, if your child wakes up feeling a little under the weather, please send them to school. Children often pick up once the day has started and if not, our Education Welfare Officer, Ms Davis, will contact you.

With this week being Mental Health Week, we have been talking to students about how they can get support and providing tips on keeping positive through stressful periods. An increasingly common reason for keeping children off school nationally and at Abbey College is anxiety. I fully appreciate how difficult it is for parents to see their child unhappy and to insist they go to school when they would prefer not to, but when anxious children avoid school, they often become more anxious about returning and a cycle of school avoidance can begin. For this reason, absences for anxiety are not authorised. The best thing for anxious children is routine and I encourage parents to talk to our Welfare Team to see what support can be provided in school rather than keeping your child at home.

As always, a 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.

*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 an enjoyable weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Rewards



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 wc 15/05/23

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 Name	Reason for nomination
Lily D	Overcame some barriers to learning to perform brilliantly in her Spanish speaking exam.
Chloe P	Working so hard independently to improve your grades in English.
Grace G	Excellent effort in Spanish speaking exam
Abigail J	Excellent effort in Spanish speaking exam
Kameron B	Drew a fantastic Doom painting with lots of detailed evidence!
Mikey S	Enthusiasm, participation, eagerness to learn and unafraid to seek assistance when needed
Emma W	Excellent effort in the French speaking assessment.
Jack G	For excellent effort during the FCSE Spanish course.
John T	For excellent effort during the FCSE Spanish course.
Theo Mc	For excellent effort during the FCSE Spanish course.
Aakashi W	For excellent effort during the FCSE Spanish course.
Henry G	Excellent effort during the GCSE French speaking assessment.
Izzy H	Excellent effort during the French speaking assessment
Rhys D	Exceptional effort on Duolingo
Alfie S	Exceptional effort on Duolingo
Chloe P	Excellent independent revision
Chloe Y	Excellent independent revision
Rylee T	Excellent independent revision
Ryan A	Dr Frost Champion of the Week
Ella K	Dr Frost Champion of the Week
Daniel B	Dr Frost Champion of the Week
April S	Dr Frost Champion of the Week
Zaki D	Dr Frost Champion of the Week
Alice C	Dr Frost Champion of the Week

Wider personal development

Mental Health Awareness week

*This week is mental health awareness week. To mark this important week in the calendar, we have asked students to share with us the ways that they support each other with their learning and well-being. **We have awarded over 50 Golden Tickets to students who have been nominated for showing outstanding support and encouragement to their peers.** We are so proud of the way that our young people go out of their way to care for each other.*

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

High Expectations and Safety

Safety

Knife crime assemblies

This week we have had the Police into school to talk to students about Knife Crime. This is a growing concern for our young people, and it is important that students know how to ask for help and to report any concerns they have. Moreover, young people need to be aware of the consequences of carrying weapons.

One website that could be used to raise concerns is included below:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless/who-we-are>

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

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 22nd June @ 5:30pm

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>

Vacancies

Please check out our teaching and support staff vacancies here

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies>

1. [PA to SLT - Part-Time 20 Hours Per Week](#)
2. [Self Employed Peripatetic Music Teacher for ASCA, Abbey College](#)

Thinking of teaching? There are several routes into the profession to support those with or without a degree. To find out more, contact Siobhan.Dowd@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

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

Thinking about making a change

Have you ever thought about being a Foster Carer to children who can't live with their families? Ever thought to yourself 'I'd love to care for a child' but then wondered how this would fit with your work commitments? Are you held back by thoughts of doubt that you could be a Foster Carer? If so, you could be denying a child or young person the opportunity to have a wonderful home with you.

There are children and young people who need a loving home, and you could be just what they need. If you would like more information about becoming a Foster Carer or know someone who could offer a safe, secure and loving home then please get in touch on: 0800 052 0078 or email fosteringmarketing@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering

Is your child eligible for Free school meals?

If you apply and qualify for Free School Meals, your child's school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium.

Schools spend the pupil premium money on anything that can help your children do well at school, including trips, activities and extra support.

Applying online only takes a few minutes and, if eligible, your child will continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of Year 11 even if your income rises above the threshold at any point during that time.

To get free school meals you need to be receiving one of the following:

- Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop working altogether or start to work less than 16 hours per week)
- Child Tax Credit but no element of Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190

Apply



at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

If you need support with your application please contact Ms Goddard at ggoddard@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

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Information about subjects and lessons

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



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

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 <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 tests are being marked and moderated with reports issued through Edulink in the week after half term.
- Year 9 end-of-year assessments will start immediately after half term in the week beginning 05.06.23. Revision lists will be on Teams before half term.
- Year 10 end-of-year Trials will take place in exam rooms from the week beginning 12.05.23. Revision list will be on Teams before half term.
- Year 12 end-of-year Trials will take place from 12.05.23 and the results used to make UCAS predictions.
- Year 7 students will have Progress Tests in Maths and English in exam rooms at the end of June.
- The Summer term reading tests for Years 7 and 8 will take place in English lessons at the end of June.
- 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 29th May – Friday 2nd June</i>	<i>Half Term</i>
<i>Monday 5th June</i>	<i>HPV 2 Vaccinations – Year 8</i>
<i>Friday 9th June</i>	<i>Thorpe Park Attendance Reward Trip</i>
<i>Friday 16th – Saturday 17th June</i>	<i>Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Expedition - Year 9</i>
<i>Monday 3rd July</i>	<i>Year 11 and 13 Prizegiving Event – by invitation only</i>
<i>Tuesday 4th July</i>	<i>Sports Day 1 / Matilda the Musical production</i>
<i>Wednesday 5th July</i>	<i>Sports Day 2 / Matilda the Musical production</i>
<i>Thursday 6th July</i>	<i>Year 11 Prom</i>
<i>Friday 14th – Saturday 15th July</i>	<i>Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Expedition – Year 10</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th July</i>	<i>Student Celebration Picnic – Last day of term</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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