



Weekly Family Update - 09.06.23

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.

Newsflash - Hot weather

We wrote to you last term, following a parent consultation, about uniform arrangements for hot weather. The protocols are:

- Students are not required to wear a blazer to school after May half term. All other requirements of our uniform policy remain in place.*
 - 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.*
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Next week

*The forecast for next week reaches beyond 28 degrees and therefore, students have the option of wearing their PE kit to school for **the duration of the week**. Adaptations to the PE kit, including hoodies and tracksuit bottoms are not permitted. If your child chooses to come to school in full school uniform, then they must adhere to all elements of the uniform policy, with the exception of their blazer.*

In addition, we would also like to remind you of the NHS guidelines for hot weather and what we would like your support with during breaks and lunchtimes:

- *Encourage students to make use of covered and shaded areas outside and avoid the midday sun;*
 - *Keep hydrated (please encourage your child to bring a water bottle – it can be refilled at water stations outside of lesson times);*
 - *Avoid strenuous activities during break times (we will encourage that pupils take things easy on the hard courts during lunch time);*
 - *Ensure you apply sun protection before school.*
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Foreword

This week has been all about saying farewell to our Year 11s as a community. Wednesday was the last official day for the Year 11s, as they will now only come back into school for examinations or planned revision sessions. Thursday saw the annual Dress for Success event followed by the Walk of Success, where the whole school lined the pathways to applaud our Year 11s as a means of wishing them well for the future. We are likely to see many of the students at the Prom and the exam results day, but it is unlikely that we will see them altogether as a year group. On behalf of everyone at Abbey College, we would like to wish them all the best in the future.

At the other end of the school, Year 6 transition arrangements are underway. Key dates to note are 29th and 30th June as the transition days for Year 6, and Saturday 8th July is our annual Yr6 teambuilding morning. Click here for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/year-6-transition-team-building-and-coffee-morning-tickets-652214068837> or contact our Year 7 Raising Standards Leader Mrs Lane via email at: flane@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Our final Parent Forum takes place on the 27th June (more details below), and I would like to draw your attention to the Pre-loved uniform sales (also see below) or click here for more information. <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/uniform>

During this final half term, students across the rest of the school will be completing end of year assessments. You can read more about this within the Assessment Section below. As requested, we will now supplement progress check reports with a student feedback form that details strengths and areas for development within each subject your child studies. If you have a child in Year 7 or 8, please ask them for their completed form.

Bus passes update

As you are aware, the buses are overseen by the LA. If students travel on the bus, they are expected to carry their bus pass with them. Cambridgeshire Educational Transport carry out regular checks on bus passes and have recently found a large number of students attempting to travel without their required pass. Please ensure that your child has their pass on them as students are not entitled to use the bus without this.

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.*

Wishing 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 05/06/23

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
Charlie G	Winning a spelling competition
Meagan M	Top of Memrise leader board.
Mika R	Top of Memrise leader board.
Fleur M	Top of Memrise leader board.
Jasmine A	Having an excellent positive last week of term and gaining a fantastic number of spirit points. Well done.
Alfie C	Meeting form teacher target in the last week of half term.

Parent Forum Update



*The final Parent's Forum meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 27th June 5-6pm**, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk if you'd like to join the meeting where punctuality and lateness, bus supervision, OOP clubs will be discussed.*

Pre-loved Uniform

The pre loved uniform shop will be open **Tuesday 13th June 5-6.30pm** and **Tuesday 4th July 5-6.30pm**, entry via the student entrance and the shop is cash only. The shop will also be open at the transition event on **Saturday 8 July 9.15 to 11.30am**. Please drop any donations of pre loved uniform or revision guides off at reception.

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

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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Family Learning Courses



Cambridgeshire Skills is thrilled to offer fully funded Family Learning courses designed to support parents, carers, and families in enhancing their child's learning and development at home. These engaging courses provide practical activities aligned with the curriculum, and promote a supportive environment for parents to refresh their skills and boost their confidence.

Family Learning courses offer parents the opportunity to assist with homework, gain insight into current teaching methods, and build strong connections between home and school. Qualified tutors ensure a friendly and enjoyable learning experience.

To find out more about the service and the courses on offer, please see [Cambridgeshire Skills on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Families in receipt of benefits could be eligible for cheaper broadband and mobile tariffs

[Connecting Cambridgeshire](#) is trying to raise awareness with families on lower incomes who could be eligible for discounted broadband and mobile phone services called social tariffs. Social tariffs are low-cost broadband and mobile phone deals offered to customers on benefits and cost between £10 and £20 a month.

Many providers offer these reduced social tariffs for both new households and existing customers claiming government benefits such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support.

The [Connecting Cambridgeshire website](#) has links to useful information about how to get reduced broadband and mobile tariffs, and more information can also be found on the Ofcom website: www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband.

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>

Wider personal development



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



Blue Peter Badge

We're excited to share with you a fantastic opportunity for your children to earn a Blue Peter badge and enjoy free entry to over 200 attractions across the UK! From the thrilling Blackpool Pleasure Beach to the awe-inspiring Eden Project, Edinburgh Zoo, and even The London Bridge Experience, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Obtaining a Blue Peter badge is easier than you might think. Children aged five to 15 can apply by showcasing something they've created, such as a model or a cake. They can include drawings or photos of their creation with their application, along with their full name, address, birthdate, and the badge they're applying for. Alternatively, they can write an interesting letter of at least 50 words to Blue Peter, showcasing their creativity and hard work.

All children who write in will receive a reply from Blue Peter, and most will also receive a badge. It's worth noting that the application process can take up to ten weeks, so we encourage you to apply soon to have the badge in time for the summer.

Once your child receives their badge, they will also receive a Blue Peter badge card, which is essential for accessing the free entry to attractions. Children need to wear their Blue Peter badge and present the badge card at the attractions. The badge cards are sent separately and may arrive after the badges, so please keep an eye out for them.

The Blue Peter badge scheme is available for children aged five to 15, providing them with up to 10 years of free access to the attractions until their 16th birthday. To enjoy free entry, children must be accompanied by a paying adult, regardless of the ticket price or purchase location.

There is a vast array of attractions participating in the scheme, including popular theme parks, zoos, and museums such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach, London Zoo, Edinburgh Zoo, the Eden Project, Kew Gardens, and Stonehenge. Please check our Theme Parks guide for any additional discounts or specific terms and conditions.

There are eight different Blue Peter badges that children can earn, each with its own requirements and criteria. The iconic Blue Badge can be obtained by sending an interesting letter, email, story, picture, poem, or by appearing on the TV show. The Music Badge, designed by Ed Sheeran, celebrates children's passion for music and their involvement in musical performances. The Silver Badge recognizes individual acts of kindness and community involvement. The Green Badge is awarded to children who demonstrate care for nature, the environment, and sustainability. Orange badges are reserved for winners and runners-up of Blue Peter competitions. The Purple Fan Club Badge is obtained by joining the Blue Peter fan club and answering a few questions about the show and website. The Gold Badge is the rarest and most challenging to earn, requiring extraordinary acts of bravery, citizenship, or life-saving actions. Finally, the Sports Badge is periodically released, encouraging children to try new physical activities.

We hope you take advantage of this fantastic opportunity for your children to earn a Blue Peter badge and enjoy free entry to over 200 attractions. It's a great way to reward their creativity, kindness, and passion while creating unforgettable memories.

For more information and to apply, please visit the Blue Peter [website](#) or send your child's letter to:

Blue Peter, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2BH

Thank you for supporting your child's endeavours, and we wish them the best of luck in earning their Blue Peter badge!

High Expectations and Safety



Safety



Cold water safety

This week we have been speaking to students about water safety. As the weather warms up there is a temptation to cool off in rivers and lakes, we have shared the information below with students explaining the dangers of this, please reiterate this message to your child/ren too.

The dangers of cold water:

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- Risk of cold-water shock which stops the body from being able to swim, this affects your breathing and ability to move.*
 - Other risks involve hidden dangers in the water: branches & rubbish that you could jump on without knowing they were there, and hidden currents.*
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There is more information available on the link: <https://www.coldwatersafety.org/the-danger>

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



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'.

Information about subjects and lessons

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.

Assessment: How your child is doing?



- Year 7 and 8 reports will appear on Edulink this week.
- Year 7 and 8 are now completing feedback forms. These summarise what has gone well in the end of year assessments. They also give Close the Gap information on any skill that needs improving or knowledge gap that needs closing. Students complete the forms so please ask to see them and encourage students to complete them in full.
- Year 7 students will have Progress Tests in Maths and English in exam rooms at the end of June. They also have NGRT reading assessments in June.
- Year 9 end-of-year assessments are underway with reports due in early July.
- Year 10 end-of-year Trials will take place in exam rooms from the week beginning 12.05.23. Revision lists are available on Teams.
- Year 12 students are underway with reports due in July.
- If you are not yet using Edulink yet then contact Linda.Bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for support.

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

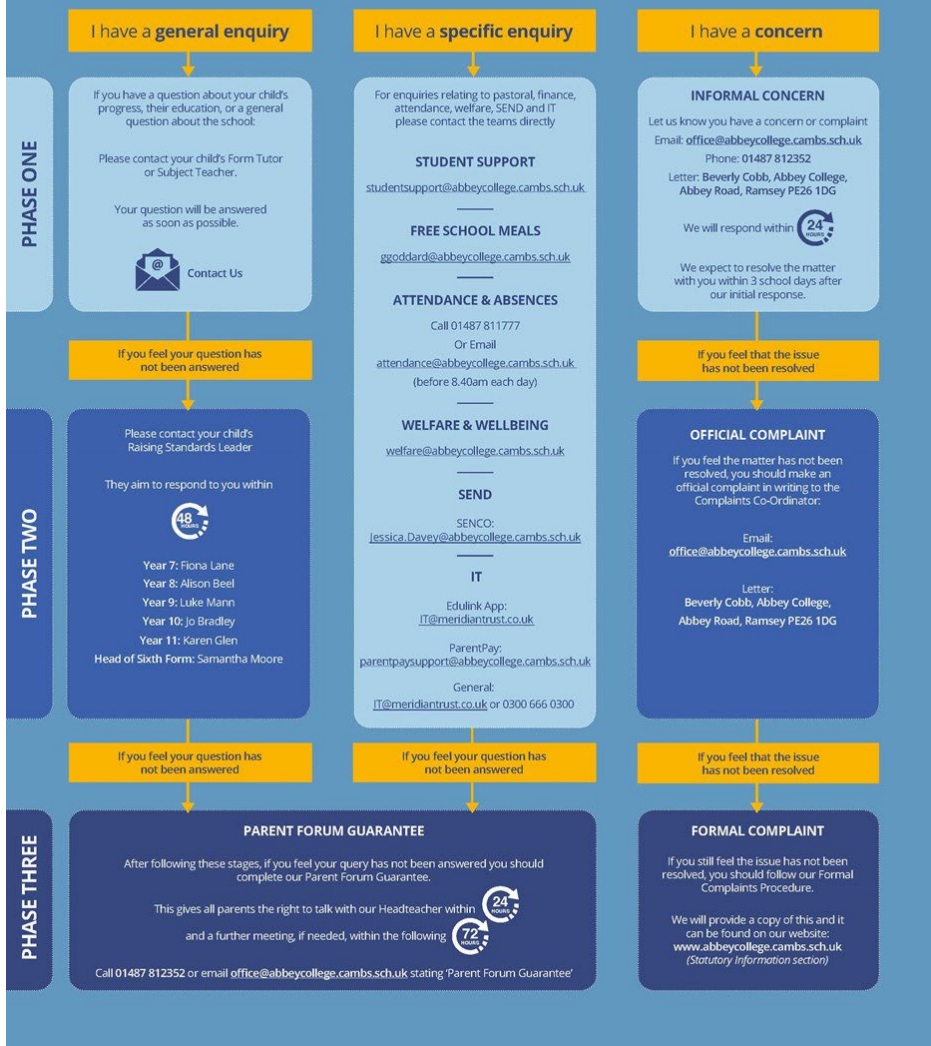
<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Friday 16th – Saturday 17th June</i>	<i>Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition - Year 9</i>
<i>Monday 3rd July</i>	<i>Year 11 and 13 Prizegiving Event – by invitation only</i>
<i>Tuesday 4th July</i>	<i>Sports Day 1 / Matilda the Musical production</i>
<i>Wednesday 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.



COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART



[Click here](#) to access this Communication Flowchart on our website.

Other news updates can be found here:

- Our news page: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/news/letters-to-parents>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RamseyAbbeyCollege/posts/>

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AbbeyCollegeAC>