

Weekly Family Update - 16.06.23

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

Foreword

I am proud to announce that Abbey College were recognised by the [Fischer Family Trust](#) for securing attendance in both the top 25% of all schools *and* for similar schools nationally. We know this has been an enormous effort by all, and are aware that the Thorpe Park trip plays a big part in this for the summer term. Next year, we will be launching the annual reward trip in September and hope to make this bigger and better (whilst also trying to avoid the M25), so watch this space.

Our Year 11s and 13s are coming towards the end of their exams with just a few smaller qualifications to go. They have been fantastic. We are so proud of the positive, cheerful way they have conducted themselves throughout this stressful season and know they will have done themselves proud.

Mobile phones and smart watches

Students in Years 7 through 11 are not allowed to use mobile phones in school at any time. This includes Smart Watches or Apple Watches or any watch that connects to the internet and on which messages can be sent / received.

Mobile devices of this kind should be switched off and kept in the students' school bags. They should not be used at breaktime or lunchtime on site or in the toilets. If a student's mobile phone or smartwatch is seen, or if the School finds out that a phone or smartwatch has been misused in school, it will be confiscated and a sanction will be applied.

Our students have learned about safe, kind and positive use of mobile technology and the internet. They know how to respect the feelings of everyone and their privacy, and whilst staying safe. We have a culture of respect, vigilance and trust, which extends to use of technology. Students who break this trust are undermining the safety and privacy of others and the ethos of the School. To sustain our culture of respect, vigilance and trust, we urge all students to report any abuse or breach of the rules, and to think and stop rather than break the rules and put themselves or others at risk.

We really appreciate the support and vigilance of families on this, and ask parents and carers not to message their children on their mobile phones during the school day. We also urge all parents and carers to be vigilant about their child's mobile phone and internet use, putting in access restrictions where possible. There is really useful advice for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre [here](#). You can find our guidance on online safety if you click this link on our website: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/e-safety>

Thank you for your support and the positive part you each play in our community.

Raising Standards Leader (RSL) Update

For the remainder of this term, Miss Lane is going to be focusing on supporting our new Year 7 students as they prepare to come to Abbey College in September and therefore, Miss Bradley will take over as RSL for our current year 7 students as they move into Year 8. Mrs Glen will be working with Year 10 until the end of term as they complete their stepping-up programme for Year 11.

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 12/06/23

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
Keeley D	Dr Frost Champion!
Amber Cl	Dr Frost Champion!
Carson M.....	Dr Frost Champion!
Logan M.....	Dr Frost Champion!
Megan W.....	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Amelie W.....	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Pippa Bl	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Leah H	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Annalise H ..	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Freya S	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Scarlett C.....	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Paisley S'	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Imogen P.....	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Phoebe Bl	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Ffion E.....	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Scarlett M	Being an excellent example of team, representing the school in the County Cup Final and supporting each other to be the best they can be.
Paige O'	For her dedication to improve her English Literature grade and her performance on the recent poetry exam. Well done!

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 on **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.

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).

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

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

Year 8 Business Networking – Meet the Professional Interview Event

On Wednesday morning 28 June, small groups of Year 8 students will interview three employers from a wide range of sectors and businesses to gather information about various occupations. Not only will they be finding out about different jobs, this type of activity helps develop essential skills such as communication, interview techniques and confidence, all vital for their next steps.

Read about our extensive Wider Personal Development Programme here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum/wider-personal-development>

High Expectations and Safety

Uniform Reminders

Please support us in our high expectations for students by ensuring that your child does not come to school wearing items that are not permitted.

Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No visible bangles, bracelets or necklaces.• One small plain ring per hand• No facial piercings (eyebrows, tongue, lip or chin) except a small discreet nose stud.• One small stud or hoop in each ear under ½ cm in size• Ear stretchers are not permitted
Make up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make-up must be discreet.• No nail varnish – coloured or clear• No acrylic nails• False eyelashes must not be worn

Attendance - Week 34

- **Congratulations:** Abbey College has again been officially recognised for having excellent attendance by securing a place in the top 25% of all schools for attendance in the Spring term!
- **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'.

Safety

Travelling safely

This week we have been reminding students about travelling safely to and from school. Please speak to your child about how to stay safe depending on the method of transport they take:

- *Bus travel: Students have been reminded that when travelling on the bus, they must remain seated at all times and follow any instructions given by the bus driver.*
 - *Walking: Students should check carefully before crossing roads especially when crossing between parked cars. When walking with headphones in, it is much more difficult to hear vehicles approaching especially electric vehicles and bicycles, please remind your child to be vigilant.*
 - *Bike: Students should wear a helmet and be very careful when travelling along the roads where cars are parked along the sides and buses are overtaking.*
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For help or support, email via: welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Information about subjects and lessons

Teaching update

In lessons at Abbey College, we are focused on developing the students as independent thinkers, able to use their talents in a range of situations. We know that this will help them in future life, and especially in the world of work. Teachers look for ways to make lessons challenging, but without making the content beyond the grasp of any class member. What we do to support students is to give booklets with key information and support, for example in History and Spanish. In other subjects, like English, students' lessons are carefully planned with 'scaffolds', so that all can achieve success. We think that all students can do well in lessons with effort, and we know that they are working hard to develop the skills and knowledge they need for the future, and we are supporting them in these endeavours using a range of strategies such as reducing how much 'working memory' they might use in a lesson.

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.

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.

Assessment: How your child is doing?

- 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 your child to complete them in full.**
- Year 7 students will have Progress Tests in Maths and English in exam rooms at the end of June. The Progress Test in Maths is a calculator paper and students will need to bring a calculator with them to this assessment.
- Year 9 end-of-year assessments are now being marked and moderated with reports due out on Edulink in early July.
- Year 10 end-of-year Trials will take place under JCQ exam regulations in exam rooms from the week beginning 12.05.23. Year 10 students have had the JCQ regulations explained to them in an assembly this week and on their exam timetable. Revision lists are available on Teams.
- Year 12 assessments are ongoing with reports due in July.
- If you are not yet using Edulink yet then contact Linda.Bennett@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk for support.

Vacancies

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

Post include:

1. [Sixth Form Administrator](#)
2. [Cover Supervisor](#)

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
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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