

14th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been delighted with the positive way that our students have returned to school following the summer break. They have settled quickly back into our routines and staff have been very impressed with the attitude to learning that they have seen in the classroom. We have already awarded over 6000 Spirit points to students who have displayed our virtues.

Over the course of this year, our key focus for behaviour is on building positive relationships and communication across the school. We want to ensure that all students leave Abbey College prepared for life in modern Britain. The ability to communicate positively and effectively is essential for them to thrive as young adults whatever path they choose to follow. To support students in refining their communication skills, we are using the SHAPE acronym.



S – speak in full sentences
H – hands away from your face
A – articulate yourself
P – project with politeness
E – enunciate

If a student communicates with a member of staff in a way that falls short of these expectations, the staff member will help the student to adjust their response using SHAPE. This might require the student to add please or thank you, to modify their tone or to form their sentence correctly. Our SHAPE conversations are intended to be supportive interactions and do not form part of our ask, tell, remove system. Students have responded very positively so far to these prompts and we have been impressed to see students prompting each other to re-SHAPE their answers.

To support students in Years 7-9 further, we are running a series of workshops through assemblies where we will work on areas such as communicating assertively and managing conflict constructively. We hope all students will benefit from this focus on building and maintaining positive relationships.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Noble
Assistant Headteacher