



Aspire & Challenge

Community Round Up

SPRING TERM

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE ABBEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY ROUND UP

I am prouder than ever of our Abbey College community this term. Our staff have risen to the challenges of continued Covid-related absences and our students have continued to show their maturity in dealing with the situation by following guidelines and displaying mature and considerate behaviour. Our new extra-curricular Offer and Opportunity Programme (OOP) has helped students learn an array of broader skills, from completing puzzles through to learning about 3-D printing.

A Level and GCSE exams will go ahead this year and our Year 11 and Year 13 students are proudly committed to working hard, with their next set of Trial Exams after half term. There is a great deal of support in place to help address gaps in their knowledge, and over the coming weeks, staff will be identifying areas to work on before exams. .

We are pleased to introduce to you our new Scholars Programme and hope you enjoy reading about this, and other opportunities and events, in this bulletin.



Scholars Programme

Our Year 8 students have been exploring GCSE and BTEC taster sessions and hearing all about the options process in assemblies. This week, students have been introduced to the Abbey College Scholars Programme along with a new GCSE in Citizenship, both of which will launch in September.

The Scholars Programme is a student led, project based opportunity that will enable Year 9 students to capitalise on the skills developed throughout Key Stage 3, whilst exploring skills in leadership, research, independent thinking and critical analysis. Students who gain a place on the Scholars Programme will work towards the Level 2 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ), by completing a project in an area that they are passionate about. In addition, they will complete the Student Leadership Accreditation award, which is designed to cement valuable life skills for their next steps, whether that is higher education or the world of work.

Alongside the Scholars Programme, we are also launching a GCSE Course in Citizenship, in which students will have an opportunity to develop knowledge about how a society operates and functions and its underlying values. Students who take GCSE Citizenship, will also have an opportunity to earn the Student Leadership Accreditation award.

We look forward to seeing our Year 8 parents on the 24th February for the Options Information Evening.



Governors Update

Governors have been busy visiting the school this half term. They spent an afternoon in January meeting with subject Lead Learners to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their curriculum areas. This will be followed up with further visits to ensure progress continues. They have also visited the newly relocated New Horizons provision and undertook training with staff.

At their meetings, governors have been provided with a comprehensive update of Pupil Premium spend, plans and impacts. They were very impressed with everything that the school is doing to support all students.

Some of our members will be attending the Year 8 Options Evening on 24th February. Please come and see us for a chat to find out more about what we do.

We are recruiting for a new parent governor and we are especially keen to hear from anyone with experience in chairing committees. If you would like any further information or to talk to a current governor, please contact katie.dodsley@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

The Welfare Team

Our Welfare Team is led by Mrs Peattie (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Mrs Gregory (Years 10, 11 and 12) who, between them, have many years experience in supporting young people with their social and emotional needs whilst navigating through the challenges that they may face whilst at secondary school. The team offer a supportive approach in which students are offered a warm and friendly environment. Welfare also offer support to the families of our students and even organise the odd fun competition!

Welfare pride themselves on being committed to safeguarding each and every one of our young people and have built strong links within the school to offer a personalised approach, ensuring that all students' needs are met.

The Welfare Team specialise in Mental Health, Safeguarding, Family Support and Online Safety and work with all external agencies, Children in Care, Young Carers and LGBTQA+ groups.



The Offer and Opportunity Programme (OOP)

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been enjoying OOP, which is an out of hours enrichment programme of activities that aims to inspire students to engage in new activities, develop their interpersonal skills, meet new people and learn more about a newfound interest.

Last term, students enjoyed multiple sports clubs such as hockey, football and netball, as well as a variety of other sessions such as acting master class, design and make, and an anti-crime team.

This term, students can take advantage of a range of new clubs including dance and fitness, clay and crafts, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). We hope that students find something they can enjoy and gain invaluable experience!

OOP even made it into the [Hunts Post](#) and [Peterborough Telegraph](#)!



Sixth Form Update



A huge well done to our Year 13 students that worked right up until the UCAS deadline to submit their applications for university. 40 applications were submitted ensuring students have more options for their post-18 plans. We also had numerous students make applications for apprenticeships, Further Education opportunities and employment. We are proud of them all.

Subject Prefects have been launched, which will give Year 12 students the opportunity to take on roles as ambassadors in a subject of their choice. This could include helping in KS3 lessons, assisting Year 11 with study support sessions or running after-school activities.

We have had a busy schedule of speakers and educators come in to inform students on a variety of issues. GamCare delivered a presentation on gambling awareness; the police came in to raise awareness of coercive relationships; Life Behind Bars visited to give students experiences of the penal system; Aim Apprenticeships came in to speak to students about post 18 opportunities and how to navigate the process of applying. One of our former students, Jordan, came in to share an honest account of her own experiences through university and into employment.

Useful Contacts

Sims Support : simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Parent Pay Support : parentpaysupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Student Support : studentsupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Attendance : attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Raising Standards Leads:

Ms Lane, Year 7 : flane@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Mr Mann, Year 8 : luke.mann@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Ms Khan, Year 9 : nazreen.khan@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Ms Beel, Year 10 : alison.beel@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Mrs Glen, Year 11 : karen.glen@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
 Mrs Moore, Head of Sixth Form : samantha.moore@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Key Dates

End of half term	Friday 11th February
Inset day	Monday 21st February
School opens	Tuesday 22nd February
Year 8 Options Evening	Thursday 24th February
End of Term	Friday 1st April

