

12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 12th November

Yesterday saw the annual Remembrance Ceremony, led by our very own Combined Cadet Force and the Ramsey Cadets. It was a privilege to hear the speeches, poems and prayers read aloud by our 6th Form students, staff and to hear the Last Post played by a wonderfully talented Year 9 student, Timothy, followed by the two-minute silence. Several visitors have remarked how well behaved and respectful our young people are, and we are all very proud of them.

The week commencing 22nd November will see the start of Year 11 Trial Examinations, an important moment for GCSE students to benchmark their progress. We are as hopeful and confident as we can be that GCSE examinations will proceed normally in 2022, but we have learned in the last couple of years to adapt to difficult circumstances and try to prepare for whatever comes at us. I urge all students in Year 11 to work as hard as they can over the next two weeks in order to achieve the best results they can, not only to give them focus and direction for the months ahead but also to bank some robust data as to their current progress. We all hope that Teacher Assessed Grades will not return, but the Government have instructed all schools to prepare for a Teacher Assessed Grade context as a worst case scenario. The results from mock examinations will be an important element in any data trail.

Please read on for essential updates.

Anti-bullying Week

Next week (15th -19th November) is National Anti-bullying week. The theme for the week is 'One kind word' and students will spend time in their Social Studies lessons and assemblies considering the impact of their words on those around them. We have also arranged for a local police officer to come into school to speak to all students about the legal implications of online bullying.

We have an updated the form where you can report any behaviour concerns that you might have, including incidents of bullying or poor conduct on the bus. The link to the form can be found [here](#), or on our website. Our Behaviour Team, as always, will investigate any reports and seek to resolve them in line with our Behaviour Policy.

Tik Tok

There is currently a trend on Tik Tok where young people are being encouraged to set up false accounts under their school's name and post inappropriate videos and memes. We are closely monitoring Tik Tok and will follow our Behaviour Policy where students are found to be posting anything offensive or defamatory. If any posts or comments fall into the category of hate speech or they are abusive and threatening, then we will also inform the police. If your child has a Tik Tok account then we would ask that you discuss with your child(ren) the implications of posting or commenting on malicious content.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Following Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools, we are continuing to review our processes for preventing, identifying and tackling all forms of sexual harassment in school; including everyday sexist

language. Students will be given more information about this in their assemblies next week and we will be asking all students to complete a short questionnaire to help us to get a full picture of the concerns that students have in this area. Once this is complete, we will write to you to share the results and the next steps of our plans to ensure that Abbey College is a school free from any kind of discrimination.

Uniform

During one of our recent student voice sessions, pupils raised the issue that if they are unable to wear school shoes for medical reasons, then they are stopped several times a day by staff requesting to check their note. To resolve this, we are introducing a new lanyard system.

Over the course of next week, our Student Support Team will be meeting any students with an ongoing medical exemption for footwear and will issue them a yellow lanyard. Wearing this lanyard will mean that they will not be stopped by staff to be asked about their trainers.

From the week commencing 22nd November, any other student coming into school wearing trainers, must report to the SSO Hub before Form Time. The Student Support Team will check their note and issue a 'tell' if there is no valid reason for their incorrect footwear. These students will then be issued with a lanyard which they must return at the end of the day. Any student wearing trainers who has failed to comply with this process will then be issued with an after school detention.

Covid

Students should continue to test twice a week and to record their results on [TestRegister](#) as well as the [NHS Results Website](#)

A reminder that Covid vaccinations of 12-15 years olds is Friday 19th November, and a separate letter will be sent to families next week detailing the arrangements.

Assessment

- Year 11 Trial Examination begin w/c 22.11.21, with Year 13 starting on 06.12.21. In the event that summer exams are cancelled, the data from these Trial Examinations will form part of the evidence used, for both year groups, to help determine the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).
- Year 7 and 8 reports will be released through the Sims app at the end of November. It would be helpful if parents could set this up and check that it is working in the weeks before the data is published. For help with the Sims app please contact: simssupport@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher Commendations

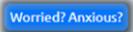
The following students have received a Headteacher Commendation this week. They will receive 10 spirit points and special postcard home.

Student	Recognised for
Jessica Lawrence	100% attendance, 70 spirit points and always having a smile on her face
Finley Benson	100% attendance 52 spirit points, very polite and enthusiastic
Vivien Krich	98% attendance and 50 spirit points so far this year, hard-working and very polite.
Leon Holland	Hard working in all PE lessons, and showing true commitment in the Year 8 Rugby team
Ellie Wilson	For working so hard this term

<i>Akaashi Wade</i>	<i>For working so hard this term</i>
<i>Jasmine Jenner</i>	<i>For her excellent attitude towards extracurricular clubs, taking on a coaching role with younger year groups, being supportive and positive in her approach</i>
<i>Carson Grover</i>	<i>For an impeccable start to the year - 100% attendance, highest male spirit point, exemplary behaviour and a role model for all.</i>
<i>Rosie Edwards</i>	<i>For her excellent commitment in Year 11 and attendance at after school interact sessions</i>
<i>Braden Howlett</i>	<i>For his excellent commitment in Year 11 and attendance at after school interact sessions</i>
<i>Timothy Smith</i>	<i>For an outstanding performance of 'the Last Post' at our Remembrance Service</i>

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award then please follow this [link](#).

Feeling worried or anxious?

Please use the dedicated button  on our website to confidentially raise concerns or to request support, including:

- Peer Mediation, to help students resolve any friendship issues they may have;
- Reporting a concern about the bus;
- Reporting unkindness or bullying;
- Ask for support with anxiety.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully



Andy Christoforou
Headteacher

Parent Diary Dates 2020-21

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th November</i>	<i>Year 8 STEM day</i>
<i>Friday 19th November</i>	<i>COVID student vaccinations – rescheduled date</i>
<i>Thursday 25th November</i>	<i>Year 8 virtual parents' evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Monday 29th November</i>	<i>Year 7-11 nasal administration flu vaccinations</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd December</i>	<i>Year 7 virtual parents' evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 16th December</i>	<i>Year 11 results release evening 4:30-6:30pm</i>
<i>Friday 17th December</i>	<i>Last day of term</i>