

17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update letter for families – 17th December

We wrote to you [yesterday](#) regarding the latest Covid situation within schools and how the new self-isolation processes will work. It is probably a fair assumption, that with all the mixing that will take place over the holidays, Covid infection rates are likely to increase, and the first half term of 2022 will be a challenge for us all. With this in mind, it is vital that students test at home before they return to school on the 5th January 2022.

The Government have stressed the best defence against the new strain is to obtain a vaccination, and they plan to roll out the second dosage for 12-15 year olds from Monday 20th December. We have been informed that in-school vaccinations will be before the end of next half term. Families are reminded that they can have their child vaccinated at a local vaccination site, by booking an appointment using the National Booking Service here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/

Our [Covid Contingency Plans](#) have been updated ready for the January return and reflect the latest guidance. We are not expecting any scheduled announcements from the Government during the Christmas break, but of course, we have been here before, and I will keep you posted should anything change. However, in any case, this week students have been reminded of the process to access blended learning should they need to self-isolate in the future. If you need additional information or support, please visit the [Coronavirus](#) section of our website.

It's been a long half term, and it's clear everyone needs a break to relax and recharge. The Christmas Market was wonderful, and it was great to see so many students getting excited about the next two weeks. It is certainly very easy to forget how resilient our young people are, as they continue to endure whatever restrictions are introduced, and still stay positive. Please do take a moment to read our Community Round-up, and let's not allow the national headlines quell the good that has been achieved this half term.

Please read on for essential updates.

Outdoor clothing

When we return to school in January, our Covid measures will remain in place which means that there is limited inside space for students at break and lunchtime. Therefore, we ask you to ensure that your child wears a coat to school so that they are comfortable during the peak of our cold weather. Students must not wear hoodies in school.

Make up and nails

Our [Uniform Policy](#) states that any make up should be natural and that students are not permitted to wear nail varnish. Therefore, if your child has acrylic nails or eyelash extensions applied over the holiday period, they must remove it prior to our return to school on the 5th January 2022.

Teaching and Learning update

Teachers have been busy again this week, engaging pupils with a variety of activities, still focused in lessons on developing student answers, in the run-up to the holidays. It is clear to see that some of our pupils are ready for a restful break and are looking forward to some quality family time. Thank you for supporting them this term with their studies, and we look forward to letting you know more about our teaching and learning approaches, with ways you can be involved, in the New Year.

Assessment

- The Year 11 Trial 1 Progress Reports were published yesterday. Progress made since the end of Year 10 trials is measured. They contain:
 - the Current Grade, which is a measure of attainment and could be used to generate TAGs;
 - the Professional Predictions, for use in college applications and the Teacher Set Target Grades generated in September.
- Exam board are releasing Advanced Information about the summer exam papers. The JCQ has produced a series of frequently asked questions with accompanying answers for Year 11 and 13 [students](#).
- 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.

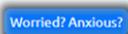
Student	Recognised for
Amy D	For always being enthusiastic, helpful, kind & 100% attendance
Flynn F	For always trying to do his best
Isabell J	For outstanding improvement in attitude and behaviour around the school and in lessons.
Georgia C	Outstanding effort across the board, and putting a smile on her face with everything she does.
Lilia M	For raising £43.51 for Children in need through her sponsored silence.
Emma F	For consistently being a calm, mature and thoughtful student.
Taylor F	For outstanding application to his work
Jake R	For organising the year 10 charity football team.
Ben C	Engagement with PE coursework and spirit being achieved.
Will M	Engagement with PE coursework and spirit being achieved.

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

Parent Governor Recruitment

We will be recruiting for a new parent governor next term 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.

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.

Wishing all families, a peaceful Christmas. Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully



Andy Christoforou
Headteacher

Parent Diary Dates 2021-22

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Tuesday 4th January</i>	<i>Inset Day – staff only in school</i>
<i>Wednesday 5th January</i>	<i>Students return 8:30am</i>
<i>Tuesday 25th January</i>	<i>Year 9 STEM day</i>
<i>Wednesday 26th January</i>	<i>Year 13 UCAS deadline</i>
<i>Thursday 27th January</i>	<i>Year 9 virtual parents' evening 4:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Monday 14th-Friday 18th February</i>	<i>Half term – school closed</i>
<i>Monday 21st February</i>	<i>Inset Day – staff only in school</i>
<i>Tuesday 22nd February</i>	<i>Students return 8:30am</i>