

Weekly Family Update - 27.01.23

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

Tip: to quickly navigating this online Update, try using the icon on the bottom right of your page that will turn this into a quick-access contents page.

Foreword

This week, I would like to give you a bit of an update on student destinations and the Options process, as we approach that time of the year when students are thinking about their future pathways.

University

Our Year 13 students continue to work hard in preparation for their final exams in the summer whilst also making plans for next year. 57% of our current cohort have made applications to study at University next academic year studying a wide range of subjects from Engineering to Criminology, Zoology to Creative Writing and Robotics to Biomedical Sciences. Students are receiving offers daily, including Elliott Allan who has been made a conditional offer to study Engineering at the University of Cambridge - congratulations Elliott! Once students have received all of their offers, they must they make their firm and insurance choices by 8th June. Please note that Student Finance applications typically open in March and students will be receiving an assembly on this topic to support their application next Monday, so please encourage them to attend.

Apprenticeships

The apprenticeship route for students has grown tremendously in the past few years and offers students a great opportunity to learn on the job. Many students within the year group have made applications to undertake degree apprenticeships in the Police, whilst others seek employment and trade-based apprenticeships or make plans for their gap year. Tutors and our Careers Team within school remain on hand to support students in their next steps right up to and beyond A Level Results Day and should students wish to book an appointment with Ms Pollard to discuss CV and application letter writing or to undertake mock interviews they can do so via Miss Saggese in Study6.

Year 8 Options Evening

A reminder that the Options process has begun for our Year 8s. Below are some key dates and the programme to support their decision making.

Yr8 students will attend:

- *16 - 30th Jan: Options Assemblies - students will hear from staff about what studying each subject will involve.*
- *16 Jan - 13th Feb: Form Time focus on the options - students will work with their tutors to review in depth the options process and find answers to any questions they might have about individual subjects and the various subject combinations .*
- *23 - 27th Jan: Careers lessons - students will hear from our Careers Team where the subjects and combinations can lead to after Year 11 and 13.*

- *7th Feb: Yr8 Option taster day - Yr8 students, with the support of their form tutor, have picked 5 new subjects to try on the 7th of February. They have a wide choice of subjects but the most popular subject to experience is Engineering with over 90 students selecting to experience this area. To find out more about Engineering and our other option subjects please visit the school website [options page](#) and [curriculum area](#).*
- *9th Feb Option evening 4.30 - 7.30PM: To book a ticket for our Yr8 Options Information Evening please click [here](#).*
- *27th Feb: Option selection deadline.*
- *27th March: Confirmation of option allocation.*

There is clearly a lot to absorb. Please do talk to your child about their interests, what they are good at and the potential career choices. If you need any support, email our Careers Team via the Contact Us form on our website.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

PARENT FORUM GUARANTEE

After following these stages, if you feel your query has not been answered you should complete our Parent Forum Guarantee.

This gives all parents the right to talk with our Headteacher within  24 HOURS
and a further meeting, if needed, within the following  72 HOURS

Call 01487 812352 or email office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk stating 'Parent Guarantee Forum'

Please read on for essential updates.

Parent Forum



*The next Parent Forum meeting – **Tuesday 31st January 4:30pm**, where they will be discussing:*

- *Lining up for lessons and year group zones*
- *Homework tracking*
- *Attendance Policy*
- *Fundraising and Finance*

If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

High Expectations, Behaviour and Safety

Attendance - Week 19

- **Congratulations:** year 7- the year group with the best attendance, 7ROG the best Form Group.
- **Reminder:** 95% attendance over a school year = 9 days missed a year, that's 45 lessons of teaching missed!

Safety

Mental Health Support

There are lots of resources online that have been designed to help parents with parenting. For students with mental health concerns this is a good resource for parents to get some advice and support <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

If you do have any concerns about your child's mental health or need any help or advice you can also contact the Welfare Dept who are happy to support, email via welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Wider personal development

This week, the virtue that we have been focusing on in school is 'passion'. In particular, we have been reflecting on how to be proactive and work hard to overcome obstacles. During our morning line ups we have been encouraging students to consider what it means to be proactive and how this may benefit them in school as well as at home and in the community.

Clubs (OOP) and Activities

The Abbey College OOP
The Offer and Opportunity Programme

What is it?
The OOP is the whole school enrichment programme for students that run throughout the year for all year groups 7-10 during lunchtime and afterschool.
It has a huge variety between 'open' offers which anyone can sign up to and then some 'application' based offers which are all included in the information on each offer on EduLink.

Why should I do an OOP?
Being a part of the Abbey College community gives you lots of new experiences and hopefully ignite new passions and interests.
Try something new!

How do I sign up?
You access EduLink and find the 'clubs' tab and sign up to your offer.

Who to contact
If you know who the leader is, contact them on Teams or Email.

Access to EduLink
<https://www.edulinkone.com>
School ID is 'acr'

ACTING MASTER CLASS

Information about subjects

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



What your 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

 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.

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum> and select the curriculum you would like to know more about.

Assessment: How your child is doing?

School Review Week

Last week one member of SLT met with a range of pupils to talk about what learning is like in lessons in Abbey College. I am pleased to say that the groups were overwhelming positive about how lessons are delivered, and how they are asked to remember material that they are being taught. They have asked that we are regularly challenging them in class, so we will be working on developing more challenge in some subjects. In addition, students were clear about how the school uses assessment in school to help them get better, with some being able to list the many ways that teachers do this. Our older students were particularly appreciative of the support staff give in lessons. As always, there are aspects that we can work on, and we will take students' feedback on board so we can become even better in the future. Thank you to all those who took part.

Ms Powell

- **Year 9 reports** are released today. We have published Spirit scores, Current grades, and Teacher Set Targets (TSTs). Spirit scores measure student effort both in and out of lessons. Current grades reflect achievement in the topics covered in the Autumn term. The topics can be found on the [roadmaps](#) published in the curriculum area on the school website. As Year 9 progresses the assessment tests become increasingly aligned with GCSE style assessments. It can take students some time to get used to the new formats for each subject area. The Teacher Set Targets are end of year targets and reflect all work that will be covered in Year 9. Teachers review the TST at every data capture and some are adjusted.
- The **Year 10** Trials are underway with reports released after half term.
- **Year 12** Trials are being moderated and reports are due on the last day of term.
- **EduLink** is our main communication platform. If you are having connection issues with EduLink please contact help@CMAT.support. For other issues please contact the office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk. We are currently looking at parental usage and will be contacting all parents who are yet to log onto EduLink to offer support.

Dr Oswell

Headteacher Commendations



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	Nominated for
Elizabeth T	Playing her own song and singing for the Year group in assembly
Natasha S	Excellent effort in every Maths lesson
Taylor F	For excellent work in French
Lacey T	For overcoming obstacles to complete her English speaking and listening exam
Henri C	Work ethic and proactive attitude towards PE
Finley P	Fantastic effort all round and continued improvement across the school
Vincent F	Being an excellent role model and supporting students at the District Pentathlon
Emily K	Representing the school in a Chemistry competition
Judi-Rose S	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
George R	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Ben M	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Zara S	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Macie S	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Grace C	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Darcy G	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done
Verity C	Fantastic organisation for the Year 7 Christmas Market Stall, well done

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

Vacancies at Abbey College

- **Student Support Officer:** <https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Abbey-College,-Ramsey/137377/EDV-2023-ACR-59686/Student-Support-Officer>

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 2 nd February	Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 9 th February	Year 8 Options Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Thursday 23 rd February	Year 12 and 13 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Tuesday 28 th February	Year 9 STEM Day – moved to 28th March
Thursday 2 nd March	Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 28 th March	Year 10 STEM Day cancelled now Year 9 STEM Day
Friday 31 st March	Last day of the Spring 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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