

Weekly Family Update - 10.03.23

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

As promised, I want to address another area raised in the parent survey. That area is Wider Personal Development.

	2021	2023
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	66%	94%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	69%	72%

Thank you to those families who also added a written comment as it has been helpful to see exactly why this category did not score as highly as other aspects of the survey.

Firstly, you would have noticed that I have included the percentages for the category of 'clubs and activities' and the reason for this is that *wider personal development* includes the curriculum your child learns beyond their timetabled lessons; and clubs and activities are a tangible part of that.

Many of the comments written by families suggest that there are differing views over what is exactly meant by this phrase 'wider personal development'. For avoidance of doubt, in schools this is *any activity, support or learning that helps pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepared for life and work with an impact on academic and non-academic outcomes.*

Included within this definition are:

- Careers education - we hold the national Quality in Careers Standard, and are proud as one of the very few in Cambs to do so. This is a major taught and experiential programme and follows the Gatsby Benchmarks. For more information, see the information on our website: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/careers-guidance>
- Clubs and activities - much has been publicised on our programme and families state this is a good offer. For more information, see this link <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/ooop>
- Our taught curriculum on Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) which is reviewed annually by our student voice groups to make sure that emerging issues are addressed in addition to the statutory content.
- Assemblies, Form Time and the morning message - Our assemblies are diverse and seek to underpin the Personal Development Programme and promote and reinforce our values of Humility, Intuition and Passion. Regular assemblies are delivered on topical issues. These messages are further explored in Form Time and the morning messages are used to reinforce our virtues.

- Social Studies - Rights and Responsibilities and British Values, Celebrating Diversity and Equality, Staying Safe Online and Offline, Health and Wellbeing and Life Beyond School are some of the topics covered. Our Social Studies curriculum is also responsive to local and national issues such as vaping and social media trends. We also offer a unique Resilience Programme (iNEAR) which has led to our own academic publication owing to its impact. The Social Studies Programme is enhanced by one of our Offer and Opportunity Programmes (OOPs) called the Debating and Democracy Club, along with our Junior Leadership Teams who weekly discuss challenging current affairs or matters of school improvement. This process of democracy in action supports our promotion of fundamental British values.
- Religious Education, Faith and Ethics curriculum - Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is promoted in this curriculum and exactly why this is a core subject at Abbey College, and our students gain a greater understanding of religious diversity and practices for those religions represented in the UK. Planning for RE is directed by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- The Daily Mile - used to promote a healthy mindset and physical wellbeing. Students either walk and talk, or run and every year group from 7-10 participates in this along with their respective tutors.
- Physical Education - Our PE curriculum is a 'Concept' curriculum which promotes the acquisition of life skills through participation. In addition, the promotion of the concept of "fair play", following and developing rules, celebrating and rewarding success, accepting defeat and participating in activities that promote cooperation with others and inclusion for all, form an integral part of our PE curriculum.
- Involvement in key local and national events (eg. Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, British Science Week, Children in Need, Comic Relief, E:Safety Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, National Careers Week, Remembrance Day, etc).
- Student Voice groups - Volunteers from each year group act as agents for change, by sharing their perceptions of school life with us and collaborating to find solutions to any issues raised.
- Our comprehensive rewards programme - students can see the progress they are making in their wider personal development through our Bronze, Silver, Gold and Purple awards as well as our regular Flash Reward celebrations for those students who have been noticed as going above and beyond in a particular area of school life.

As you can see, there's quite a bit to absorb which I supposed is missed by asking such a broad question. It has been helpful to read that families were not aware of what we offer as a school within the area of 'wider personal development'. There is a handy overview of this on one sheet on our website: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum#gallerye5af73cb76> and attached as a pdf.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Summer Uniform Consultation

Our student voice groups have asked us to consider amending our school uniform rules if we have another very hot summer. We wouldn't want to introduce any new items of uniform as that would put financial pressure on families at what is already a difficult time for many. However, we are considering allowing students to wear their PE kit when the weather is forecast to be above a certain temperature. We would also like to capture parental views about this, so please take a moment to complete this [poll](#).

Please read on for essential updates.

Celebration of Spirit - Rewards



Headteacher Commendations

Special mention to Isaac Webb

I would like to recognise the wonderful work of Isaac Webb who wrote these beautiful poems about the theme of Conflict.

We need you

We need you!

Stop feeling so blue.

Get out on the home front.

Sorry to be so blunt.

But you're not doing much.

So join your brothers and march!

Just another day in the trenches...

Just another day in the trenches.

Bullets fly past the barbed wire overhead.

Dirt rains down on us from the dreadful tools of war.

Just another day in the trenches.

The Government talks of glamour.

But it is a miserable life simply surviving to see your rations.

Just another day in the trenches.

My friends are returning injured.

More die in the infirmary from their dreadful wounds.

I am sent out to my demise in no man's land.

Another death in the trenches.

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
Isobel A	For her amazing work and a competition win where she gets to perform in London.
Toby W	For his amazing work and for winning a Drama competition where he will perform in London.
Lillibet R	For her amazing work and for winning a Drama competition where she will perform in London.
Emily J	For her amazing work and for winning a Drama competition where she will perform in London.
Millie R	For her amazing work and for winning a Drama competition where she will perform in London
Izzie H	Excellent effort & progress in French.
Alissia S	Excellent ambassador for the school and led the lunch queue for Year 7.
Layla J	Excellent work
Ben M	For always stretching himself and producing the best possible work.
Emma H	Year 10 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Ella K	Year 10 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Elizabeth T	Year 10 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Jack L	Year 11 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Luke S	Year 11 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Chloe Y	Year 11 Dr Frost Champion of the Week.
Isaac W	Taking time to write some exceptional poetry

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

Parent Forum Update



The next Parent Forum meeting – **Thursday 30th March 5:00pm**, where they will be discussing:

- *Sport Fixture Arrangements*
- *Passport to the Prom*
- *Student Feedback Form*
- *Fundraising and Finance*

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

High Expectations and Safety

Attendance - Week 24

- **Congratulations:** Most improved group last week are Year 10s. If you want to know your son's/daughter's attendance target for Thorpe Park please email attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

- **Reminder:** The Law - Children must attend school under the Education Act 1989 (revised). Poor attendance at school can result in a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice').

Safety

TikTok Guide for Parents

There are a number of influencers on Tiktok whose videos are causing concern. Many of the videos on Tiktok are directed at children but are not appropriate for children to be viewing. This guide gives tips and advice about the use of Tiktok which parents may find useful:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Road Safety Poll

As you will be aware, we have been working in partnership with various stakeholder including the CCC on improving road safety around Ramsey. Please do take a moment to complete the following survey to support the move for a 20mph speed limit within Ramsey. Scan the QR code or click the following link to access the survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Yivy6jkpg0-XQEXICboAqJ--1zD7eVMi0Wikk0vf4FUQ0dTTzIWRzA2TTkwTDhHNEtYWEcwMU0wWi4u&origin=QRCode>



Wider personal development

Student Voice

We have met with our Year 9 and 10 student voice groups this week. Our wonderful form group representatives raised a range of topics for discussion from Interact sessions for Year 10 to extra Social Studies time to raise awareness of the protected characteristics for Year 9. We will share a summary of key points and actions with students through form time next week.

Comic Relief

Our 6th form fundraising team are organising a non-uniform day and cake sale on Friday 17th March to raise money for Comic Relief. Students are encouraged to come to school in non-uniform and donate £1 to this excellent cause. Please remember that students must be dressed in an appropriate manner for school.

Information about subjects

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



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.

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 <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?

- From Monday **Year 11** students will be completing a Feedback Summary Form which lists their strengths and areas for improvement in all subjects. The completion date for the form is 24.03.23 and by then students should have written down feedback for all their subjects and asked a parent to sign to show that they have shared it with you. Tutors will sign all completed forms and issue Golden Tickets in time for the Celebrating Success Assembly on the last day of term. Ask to see the form as it is completed, discuss the CTGs and help them manage what they need to do by helping them plan for the June exams. The form was trialled with **Year 10** students, and as a result of their student voice, we have issued it much earlier to the Year 11s and added a completion date. Year 10 students who have completed the form should show it to Dr Oswell before school or their tutor to receive their Golden Ticket.
- **Year 11 Trial papers** are currently being marked and moderated. Departments carry out moderation with schools across the Meridian Trust to ensure that the Current Grades issued in the reports are as accurate as possible. Reports are due to be published on 31.03.23.
- **Year 13 Trials** begin next week with reports due after the Easter holiday.
- **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.

Parent Diary Dates 2022-23

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity/Event</i>
<i>Monday 13th – Friday 17th March</i>	<i>Year 10 Work Experience Week</i>
<i>Tuesday 28th March</i>	<i>Year 9 STEM Day</i>
<i>Friday 31st March</i>	<i>Last day of the Spring Term</i>
<i>Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April</i>	<i>Easter Holiday – school closed</i>
<i>Monday 17th April</i>	<i>INSET Day – staff only in school</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th April</i>	<i>Students return 8:30am - Summer Term</i>

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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