

Weekly Family Update - 17.03.23



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

Foreword

It has been a short, wet and windy week and we have been very impressed with the sensible way in which students have conducted themselves.

This week, our Year 10s were on Work Experience and those without placements were in school participating in a series of workshops on Careers as part of their Wider Personal Development Programme. In addition, our Year 13s are in the midst of taking their Trial Exams.

As promised, I want to address another area raised in the parent survey. That area is the information we share with parents on how their children are doing in school, and in particular the progress reports we send home.

	2021	2023
My child does well at this school.	76%	82%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	72%	78%

There were several comments around the Progress Check Reports and the requirement of more detailed information about what it is exactly the student can do and needs to improve upon. As a result, several parents stated they were unsure if their child was doing well at school or not because the reports sent home we sometimes hard to make sense of.

To that end, we are piloting a form with the Year 11s (as they have just completed a series of Trial Exams), where they will note down within each of their lessons, specific strengths and areas for improvement. The sheets will be checked by the class teacher and tutor prior to students taking them home to show parents. Once we have completed this pilot, Dr Oswell will meet with our Parent Forum to obtain feedback on how useful the forms were as a supplement to the Progress Checks.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Summer Uniform Consultation

We are considering allowing students to wear their PE kit when the weather is forecast to be above a certain temperature. We would 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

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 G	Helping teacher with Masters research.
Sophie H	Helping teacher with Masters research.
Ruby S	Helping teacher with Masters research.
Kaylie Cadman	Helping teacher with Masters research.
Yasmeenah T	Excellent aptitude for the subject and a diligent and hardworking attitude in lessons.
Corley W	Corley volunteered to help me with my Y7 catering practical lesson. He was absolutely brilliant with the students, kind caring and supportive. Thank you so much!
Lauren H	Excellent effort & progress in French.
Hannah C	For passing her Grade 6 Flute exam with Merit.
Oliver B	For always being so focused and hardworking. He applies the learning so well in his written work and is determined to achieve his best in this subject. Well done!
Sophie C	Excellent work in English.
Belle G	Excellent work in Maths and for Mrs Neal.
Taylor F	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Izzy H	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Callum F	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Nelly S	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Logan L	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Pirayugen P	Dr Frost Champion of the Week!
Amethyst K	Great work.
Hugo R	Great work.
Chloe D	Excellent work.

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
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Please take our survey to share any questions or themes you would like the Parent Forum to put to the school in the next meeting. The survey closes on the March 23rd .

- Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentsForum22-23>
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If you would like to attend, please email: parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Cheryl Greyson - Chair of Parent Forum

High Expectations and Safety

Sixth Form Learning Ambassadors

We are very proud that almost half of our current Year 12 students have signed up to be Learning Ambassadors. The aim of this leadership role is to support the learning of students in classes across the school, with a particular focus on cover lessons. The role will provide invaluable evidence in support applications for apprenticeships, university of employment.

They started their training process this week and have been warmly welcomed into lessons by both staff and students. Each Ambassador will issue a Golden Ticket in every lesson that they support so that they can help us to recognise and celebrate students for their excellent efforts.

Attendance - Week 25

- **Congratulations:** Most improved Year Group- Year 11 with an 0.11% increase in their attendance last week. If you want to know your son's/daughter's attendance target for Thorpe Park, please email attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
- **Reminder:** Please be mindful therefore that occasional days off school due to minor illnesses, such as a cough or sore throat, soon accumulate.

Safety

Wizz App - safety check

Please check your child's phone for Wizz app. You must be 16 years or older to have a profile on this app. Wizz is a free social networking app that enables users to chat live online with strangers from around the world and exchange gifs, pictures, and videos. It is intended to be a place to make online friends however it works similarly to a dating app, where you are presented with other people's profiles and can choose to either swipe them away or swipe to start a conversation. The link below gives some additional information for parents about this app which you may find useful: <https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/wizz-app-review/>



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

Wider personal development

Staff professional development to support wider personal development

As we look to further improve the support of students' wider personal development at Abbey College, I would like to share the professional development of our team, so you are aware of the bank of expertise we are building within the area of mental health support.

- Mrs Gerrard-Cook has qualified as the Senior Mental Health Lead having completed her 18-month course with Leeds Beckett University;
- A number of staff including Mrs Wibberley have completed the 'Recovery through Relationships Trauma and Attachment' training on 25th January 2023;
- Mrs Glen is working towards a course entitled: 'Under the Iceberg' (Supporting Young People's Mental Health & Resilience);
- Mrs Hunter, Ms Holden and Ms Gibbs are all qualified Mental Health First Aiders;
- Mrs Gregory and Mrs Peattie have all taken courses in mental health including CBT.

Information about subjects

Options Update

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.

All Year 8 students have now submitted their option preferences and will be informed of their option allocations in the week commencing the 27/03/23. All subjects are looking forward to welcoming their new students in September. To find out more about your child's curriculum and the learning journey their new subjects will take them on please visit our [websites curriculum pages](#).

What you 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?

- All students in **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10** will be completing the PASS Survey in the two weeks after Easter. The survey measures student feelings about self and school and is used by Raising Standard Leaders and the Welfare Team to monitor wellbeing.
- **Year 11** students were asked in last week's assembly to complete a Feedback Summary Form which lists their strengths and areas for improvement in all subjects. This is in response to the Parent Survey as many families asked for more detailed information to supplement the progress check reports. The completion date for the form is 24.03.23 and students should have written down feedback for all their subjects and asked a parent to sign the form 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 this term. Ask to see the form as it is completed, discuss the feedback and tasks they need to do in preparation for the summer exams. Spare forms have been given out at break and lunch times this week, they are available on student request from Dr Oswell and Mrs Glen.
- **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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