

Abbey College Community Round-up December 2025



Headteacher's Welcome

As we approach the end of our first term and head towards Christmas, I want to share some exciting updates about our school.

Our pupils have been incredibly active and engaged, participating in numerous events and activities that showcase the spirit of our school community. We've seen Year 11 and Year 13 pupils working diligently through their trial exams, demonstrating resilience and commitment to their academic goals.

The term has been filled with wonderful experiences. From exciting trips that broaden our pupils' horizons to bake sales that bring our community together. Our sporting fixtures have highlighted the talent and teamwork of our pupils, while reward events have recognised their outstanding efforts and achievements.

The Christmas Market was a particular highlight, bringing our entire school community together in a festive and joyful atmosphere. The students looked absolutely fantastic in their Christmas jumpers, and the market itself was a tremendous success. The Winter Showcase was another magical moment that truly captured the creativity and talent of our pupils.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to create these incredible experiences, our pupils who bring energy and enthusiasm to everything they do, and to our supportive families who stand behind us.

As we look forward to the upcoming festive break, I hope everyone takes time to rest, recharge, and enjoy quality time with their loved ones.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year!

Attendance Award



We're thrilled to announce an exciting update about our school's recent achievement in attendance practice. We are proud to have been awarded the Inclusive Attendance Bronze Award, a significant recognition of our commitment to supporting our pupils' educational journey.

This award is a testament to our comprehensive approach to attendance. It highlights our dedication to understanding and addressing the complex reasons why pupils might face challenges in attending school regularly. Rather than focusing solely on statistics, we have developed a holistic strategy that emphasises support, understanding, and whole-school collaboration.

To earn this Bronze Award, our school has undertaken a rigorous process that demonstrates our commitment to inclusive attendance practises. This involved completing a structured Inclusive Attendance Implementation Programme, which included:

- Comprehensive staff training
- Detailed school-wide audits
- Reflective practice sessions
- Strategic action planning
- Embedding evidence-based attendance strategies across all levels of our school



Attendance is key to pupil success and well-being, and this achievement reflects the hard work of our staff, pupils, and families. We're dedicated to ensuring every pupil feels supported and motivated to attend regularly.

Year 9

A Message from Our New Year 9 Raising Standards Lead

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the year! They've settled into their GCSE lessons really well and are enjoying the challenge of their new subjects. Some students are still getting used to the extra demands, but with the great support in place, I'm confident they'll do brilliantly in the New Year.

Outside the classroom, Year 9 have been busy with lots of sports fixtures, proudly representing our school. A big highlight was the Netball Tour to Paris! The girls played some amazing matches and enjoyed exploring the sights of Paris. Huge thanks to our PE staff for organising such a brilliant trip.

On the football pitch, both boys and girls have been in action. The boys had a fantastic win against The Peterborough School and are ready for a full programme of matches next term. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of pupils at training!

Another exciting development this term is Year 9 starting their CCF journey. It's been wonderful to see them marching in uniform on Thursdays and showing such pride, especially during the school's Remembrance ceremony.

On a personal note, it's been great working with Miss Davey and our team of form tutors to support Year 9 as they begin their GCSE studies. Thank you to the year group and tutor team for making me feel so welcome at Abbey College. I'm excited for the new term ahead!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Matthews

Christmas Events

Year 7 Christingle Service

Our Year 7 pupils recently experienced a wonderful festive tradition with the annual Christingle service at the Thomas a Becket church. The event was both educational and full of joy, capturing the spirit of the season in a truly memorable way.



The service was brought to life with a delightful and creative approach that captured everyone's imagination. One of our students took on the special role of representing the Christingle orange, dressing up as a giant orange to symbolise the meaning of the celebration. The entire year group participated in a touching display, with all pupils being wrapped with a giant ribbon. The pupils were also given sweets, adding a sweet moment of celebration to the service.

We are proud of how our pupils represented Abbey College Ramsey with such enthusiasm and spirit during this special occasion.

Annual Christmas Market and Christmas Jumper Day

The festive spirit was alive and well with two exciting Christmas events on Thursday before the end of term. Christmas jumper day and the annual Christmas market were a wonderful opportunity for students to spread some holiday cheer while supporting great causes. Students worked hard to raise over £1000 to support the Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Ball, Save The Children and a local charity, Little Miracles, a charity dedicated to helping disabled children and their families.

These events not only brought joy and excitement to our school community but also provide valuable opportunities for students to engage in charitable giving and experience the true spirit of the holiday season.

We hope everyone enjoyed the festive fun supporting these wonderful initiatives.



Dec the Doors Competition

Another creative and festive school event: Our 'Dec the Doors' competition! This fantastic initiative saw students and staff pouring their imagination and team spirit into decorating their form room doors, and the excitement across the school was absolutely incredible.

The competition brought out the very best in our school community, with every form group demonstrating remarkable creativity and enthusiasm. Pupils worked collaboratively, showcasing their artistic talents and spreading holiday cheer throughout our corridors.

After much deliberation, we're delighted to announce our winning forms who enjoyed well-deserved hampers during their form time party on the last day of term:

- 7RES
- 8 VSC
- 9 LAM
- 10 AQU
- 11 KOI
- 11 SSI
- 6th form SIH

The standard of entries was exceptional, with each form bringing their unique style and festive spirit to their door designs. The selection of photographs capture the incredible effort and imagination that went into this wonderful competition.



Winter Showcase

What a fantastic night at the Performing Arts Department Winter Showcase on 15th December. Our talented students truly brought the 70s back to life with dazzling performances full of energy and creativity. From classic tunes to iconic dance moves, every act had the audience entertained.

The Showcase was a vibrant celebration of our students' remarkable talents, transforming our school hall into a time machine that transported everyone back to the groovy decade. Each performance radiated passion and commitment, demonstrating the incredible artistic skill within our school community.

We're so proud of everyone involved! The dedication of pupils and staff really shone through. These moments remind us of the incredible potential and spirit that defines Abbey College. The Winter Showcase is a powerful demonstration of our commitment to nurturing creativity, encouraging self-expression, and providing platforms for our pupils to shine.



Children in Need



We had a brilliant Children in Need Day on 14th November! Our Year 7s along with Miss Lane raised an amazing £395.04 in their bake sale - our highest total yet! Congratulations to Mrs Wibberley, winner of the Pudsey cake. [Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form](#) then added £107.32 through their cake sale and pyjama day. In total, we raised an amazing £502.36 for [BBC Children in Need](#). Thank you so much to everyone who was involved!

PE Highlights

Our pupils have had an amazing term in sports, with lots of fantastic achievements across different teams and year groups!

Girls' football has been brilliant, especially with great attendance from Year 7. They've had some impressive wins and shown excellent teamwork. Year 8 and 9 teams also played really well in their

friendly matches. They just missed out in the district competition but showed huge potential for the future.

The Year 7 boys' football team had an incredible start, winning their first County Cup game 18–0! Their energy and teamwork were fantastic. Year 9 boys also shone with a strong 7–0 win, showing great defence and sharp attacking. Both teams are through to the next round in the Spring term.

It's not just football! Year 7 boys took two teams to the district basketball tournament and showed off the skills they've learned in PE.

Our U16 boys' football team showed amazing determination, winning 3–2 on penalties against Ely College to reach the next round of the County Cup.

Year 8 pupils were outstanding at the District Sports Pentathlon in St Ives, taking 1st and 3rd place! Their effort and sportsmanship made us all proud.

Our U15 girls' football team also had a big win, beating Bourne Grammar School 4–2 in the ESFA Cup. We wish them luck in the next round!

Year 10 girls played brilliantly in their netball matches, doing really well in friendlies and finishing 4th in their district tournament.

With lots more fixtures coming up, we can't wait to see what's next in our school sports calendar!



In October half term, 20 of our KS4 netball players went on an amazing trip to Disneyland Paris with Miss Mott and Miss Witten!

The students travelled by ferry and stayed in the beautiful Dream Castle Hotel. During the trip, they took part in five netball training sessions led by coaches from the Elite Netball Academy. They even got the chance to meet ex-professional netballer Gabby Marshall, ask her questions, and learn from her experience!

The highlight was a full day of tournaments where our teams played against other UK schools and clubs. Everyone played brilliantly, and our girls won the U16 Underworld Shield! Both teams came

home with trophies, which were presented by professional netballer Nat Panagarry at the awards dinner.

As well as all the netball fun, students enjoyed two evenings in the Disney Village and spent a whole day exploring the Disney Park. It was an unforgettable trip full of sport, teamwork, and magical memories!



OCR BTEC Level 3 Nationals Extended Certificate in Sport coursework

In the first week of December, our Year 13 sports students at Abbey College Ramsey stepped into the boardroom as part of their OCR BTEC Level 3 Nationals Extended Certificate in Sport coursework. For Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry, they were tasked with creating job adverts and application forms, then applying for the roles themselves. To top it off, they participated in mock interviews with Miss Mott, gaining valuable experience in professional communication and job application processes.



We're proud to see our students developing essential skills for their future careers in sports.

Follow their journey on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollegepe>

The Bridge

- **Assessments:** We began the term by assessing over 50 Year 7 students in reading, processing, memory, and maths.
- **Early Booster Groups:** Based on these assessments, we introduced targeted booster sessions for reading, maths, and memory skills to provide early intervention and support.

- New Thrive Programme: We have launched the Thrive programme for Years 7, 8, and 11 to strengthen resilience and readiness for learning.
- Exam Access Arrangements: Year 11 exam access arrangements have now been completed. We are also starting to gather the required evidence for Year 10 students, and we appreciate your continued support in this process

OOPS

We are excited to share some fantastic developments happening within our Offer & Opportunity Programme (OOP) this term. Our OOP has had a remarkable start in 2025, with an impressive range of over 100 opportunities running throughout the year. These span from academic support and revision sessions to creative outlets and a variety of sports.

One of our most recent and exciting initiatives is the introduction of OOP Ambassadors. These are exceptional members of our OOP community who consistently demonstrate our core virtues and show outstanding effort. Their role is multifaceted: they will help recognise outstanding work and events within OOP, and also work closely with our team to organise whole-programme events.

On 11th December, our inaugural OOP Ambassadors met for their first gathering.

More information here <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/oop>



An engaging competition was launched to design a new OOP logo, encouraging creativity and ownership among our pupils. This initiative not only celebrates our pupils' talents but also empowers them to take an active role in representing our programme.

Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



Year 12 have had an incredibly busy and rewarding half term. They worked closely with the University of Sheffield through workshops on building resilience and evaluating information and even took part in psychological research projects. The University of Sheffield also delivered an assembly introducing Russell Group universities, broadening students' understanding of future opportunities. They enjoyed a trip to Parliament, where they participated in a workshop and met local MP, Sam Carling.

In Social Studies, students learned vital life-saving skills with St John Ambulance, including CPR and how to use a defibrillator, and they engaged in a CASUS session focused on drug and alcohol awareness. Year 12 also led a whole-school food bank drive, collecting items for Ramsey Food Bank—a fantastic example of their commitment to the wider community.

Year 13 have completed their trial exams and spent the last day of term reflecting on their performance and planning their next steps. They continue to make applications for their future pathways, attend interviews, and receive offers, we are thrilled to see where these next steps will take them.



As a Sixth Form community, we celebrated those students who go above and beyond with a special Christmas Sixth Form SuperStars breakfast. We also came together to support Children in Need, raising £107 through a fun and memorable Pyjama Day.

Please visit our Facebook and Instagram accounts from regular updates:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552379454095&locale=en_GB

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ramseygatehousesixthform/>

Governors

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to thank students, staff, and families for the way the Abbey College community continues to pull together at a busy time of year. Trustees have been actively involved this term, spending time in school and providing challenge and support to ensure a continued focus on standards, safeguarding, and wellbeing.

As already shared with families, Trustees are also undertaking exploratory work around a potential partnership with Meridian Trust. This is being approached carefully and responsibly, with due diligence and with the long-term interests of students and the community at the centre.

I would also like to recognise Andy and the senior leadership team for their calm, thoughtful leadership and their continued focus on students. On behalf of the Trustees, I thank staff and families for their commitment and wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lisa Williamson

Chair of Trustees

Parent's Forum

On 10th December, we held our first ever in-person meeting, which was a fantastic gathering in the Boardroom at school. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, complete with festive mince pies and chocolates. What made this meeting truly special was the incredible initiative shown by our staff and pupils who prepared compelling presentations to request funding for their various projects. Parents were actively involved in the process, voting to support two projects and committing to help raise additional funds for other initiatives.

A special mention goes to our pre-loved school uniform shop team. Their tireless efforts have been remarkable, supporting our families by providing affordable uniforms and simultaneously raising funds to support our school. This initiative demonstrates the true spirit of our community.

The engagement and enthusiasm from staff, volunteers, pupils, and parents highlight the collaborative nature of our school community. It's heartening to see how we can come together to support each other and drive positive change.

We look forward to continuing this momentum and seeing the impact of these funded projects in the coming months.

Previous minutes are available on the website (<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/parent-forum>) so that you can see the responses to questions asked from the surveys.

- If you can volunteer some time to help run the shop, please email parentsforum@abbey.college
- The Preloved Uniform Shop can be contacted via this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F4133239840069866>

If you would like any further information on the Parent's Forum, please email parentsforum@abbey.college or see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/abbeycollegeparentsforum>

A Few Reminders.....

Essential Equipment

To support learning and help students make the most of every lesson, all students are expected to bring the following items to school each day:

- Black or blue pen
- Green pen
- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pencil and rubber
- Ruler (15cm or longer)
- Scientific calculator
- A copy of their timetable (this will be provided on the first day of term)

Uniform and Appearance Expectations

We expect all students to return in full school uniform in September, ready to start the year positively and confidently. To help avoid any issues at the start of term, we kindly ask families to keep the following in mind:

- **Appearance:** Any temporary changes made over the summer — such as false nails, false eyelashes, or hair dyed in unnatural colours — should be reversed before the first day of term.
- **Piercings:** Students are permitted **one small stud per ear**. If your child is considering additional piercings over the summer, please ensure they are able to remove them before returning to school.
- **PE Safety:** If earrings cannot be removed for PE lessons, students must bring a **plaster or tape** to cover them for safety reasons

Social Media

Please continue to follow us on:

- Our news page: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/news/letters-to-parents>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RamseyAbbeyCollege/posts/>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/

We'd love to hear about any amazing achievements or activities outside of school. If you have any stories of student success beyond the classroom, please share them with us by sending an email to the office (office@abbey.college).

Dates for the diary

Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - First Day of Term

Monday 26th January 2026 - Y8&9 Men/DTP Immunisations

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 - Y9 Virtual Parents Evening

Monday 9th February 2026 - Y8 Careers Week/Options Taster Sessions

Tuesday 10th February 2026 - Y11 Macbeth Performance (in school time)

Tuesday 10th February 2026 - Y12 Virtual Parents Evening

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February - Half Term

Tuesday 10th March 2026 - Y10 Virtual Parents Evening

Tuesday 24th March 2026 - Y8 Options Evening

Friday 27th March 2026 - End of Term

Contact Us - <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/contact-us>