

# Abbey College Community Round-up July 2025

## Headteacher's Welcome

As we wrap up another fantastic academic year, we're excited to share highlights from what has been a busy and rewarding final half term. From celebrations to transitions, our students have been involved in a wide range of enriching experiences, including:

- Year 6 Transition Days
- Sixth Form Induction
- Awards Ceremony
- Sports Day
- Sixth Form Ball
- Year 11 Prom
- Alton Towers Trip
- Spirit Points Reward Day
- ...and many more exciting trips and activities!

We've been fortunate to enjoy some beautiful weather recently, and it's been wonderful to see students making the most of our outdoor spaces—especially with the addition of new picnic blankets, which have made relaxing in the shade even more enjoyable.

We're also pleased with the positive response to our phone pouch trial with Years 7, 8, and 9. Students adapted well, and we've now collected the pouches ahead of the summer break. Research shows promising outcomes from this initiative, and we look forward to seeing its continued impact in the new academic year.

As we approach results days, we're excited to welcome back our GCSE and A Level students. We're incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, and we'll be here to support them every step of the way.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year—it truly makes a difference. We'd also like to extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated teachers and support staff, whose commitment to our students and school community is unwavering.

Finally, a special thank you and warm farewell to Dr Oswell, who is retiring after 22 years of outstanding service. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the very best for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break.

## Year 11 PROM

### Ending on a High!

The 2025 Prom was a spectacular celebration, with over 160 students in attendance. The evening began in style as students gathered on the Abbey field, arriving in an array of creative and memorable ways—including tractors, classic cars, and even one student on horseback!

From there, the festivities continued at The Camp, where students enjoyed a fantastic evening filled with fun, friendship, music, and plenty of pizza. It was a truly special night and a wonderful way to mark the end of the school year.

Thanks to Harlequin balloons for the amazing balloon arch and photo back drop

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Harlequin-Balloons-and-Party-Store/100063455506035/>

And Scotts All Day Pizzas for the delicious pizzas

<https://www.instagram.com/scottsallday/?hl=en>

Awards were given out including:

- Prom Royalty - Dan and Orla
- Best dressed (voted by staff) – Dexter and Tia
- Always has a reason/best excuses/gift of the gab - Ben
- Most likely to be on a tv reality show - Erin
- Most changed since Year 7 - Alex
- Most likely to be an Olympian - Dan
- Most likely to be Prime Minister and most likely to be a millionaire/entrepreneur - Robert
- Best double act - Lauren and Sophia



## Police Commissioner visit

This term, we were honoured to welcome our local Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston, to Abbey College. Our Year 12 students took the lead in hosting the visit, thoughtfully gathering questions from younger year groups to ensure the discussion was meaningful and inclusive.

The students impressed with their insightful questions and respectful engagement, listening attentively to Commissioner Preston's responses and messages. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore important topics around safety, community, and leadership—and we couldn't be prouder of our students' maturity and commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

Read more in the local press releases:

- <https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/education/abbey-college-and-ramsey-gatehouse-sixth-form-welcome-cambridgeshire-police-and-crime-commissioner-5206864>
- <https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/25289495.pcc-darryl-preston-visits-abbey-college-ramsey-gatehouse/>



## Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have had a busy and rewarding term! A few weekends ago, they completed their expedition challenge—setting off from Sawtry, trekking to Stilton, and spending the night at Little Gidding. In preparation, students developed detailed route cards and maps during their OOPS sessions, showing great teamwork and planning skills.

We're also incredibly proud of our Bronze Award students, who have collectively volunteered over 300 hours in the local community! Their efforts have included litter picking, helping on

local farms, supporting Whittlesey's parkrun, and assisting in PE lessons. Others have contributed their time to organisations such as Ramsey Colts FC Girls U14s, Girlguiding, and Ramsey Library.

Their dedication, resilience, and community spirit are truly inspiring—well done to all involved.



## Catering

We are absolutely delighted to share how proud Mrs. Glen and Mrs. Neal are of our amazing Year 9 Catering students! In June, these talented young chefs took on an exciting new challenge—catering for the Year 11 and Year 13 Prizegiving ceremony for the very first time.

Preparing food for over 100 guests is no small feat, but our students rose to the occasion with enthusiasm, creativity, and professionalism. They crafted a beautiful and delicious selection of finger foods that were thoroughly enjoyed by students, families, and staff alike.

What made the event even more special was the dedication of a small group of students who volunteered to stay behind and serve during the ceremony. Their teamwork and commitment truly shone through.

A huge congratulations to all the students involved—you did yourselves and the school proud.



## Drama

This term some of our incredible drama students performed in the East Secondary Showcase, part of the Meridian Arts Festival. We were so impressed by the commitment and talent of our students - with some definite stars in the making.

*Catch our students from the 20-minute mark:*



## Parent's Forum

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### *A message for our Year 11 families*

*Please remember to bring in donations of unwanted uniform and revision guides on the GCSE results day on Thursday 21st August, so that we can continue to offer affordable supplies to students and families.*

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The last meeting was on Tuesday 17th June, where the new mobile phone policy was discussed and Miss Lane gave a very informative overview of the transition process. It was great to see so many parents of next year's Year 7 attend and we look forward to them returning next year.

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](mailto: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](mailto:parentsforum@abbey.college) or see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/abbeycollegeparentsforum>

## Year 6 Transition Events

Transition got off to a great start this term with Miss Lane and Mrs Dowd visiting our local feeder primary schools to meet the Year 6 students in their own environments. These visits were a fantastic opportunity to begin building relationships, answer questions, and ease any nerves ahead of September. Miss Lane and Mrs Dowd thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students and seeing them in action.

At the end of June, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 7s for a successful two-day transition event. Students took part in a wide range of activities, including an assembly with Mrs Noble, form time, and engaging lessons in STEM, Science, ICT, Maths, History, Spanish, and English. They also began learning our school routines, supported brilliantly by student helpers from other year groups.

One of the highlights was seeing students begin to form friendships with their future classmates—an important step in helping them feel confident and prepared for the start of their Abbey College journey.

We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from parents, including:

*“To all the staff, student helpers, and to you personally—thank you so much for making this such a positive experience for her.”*

*“I just wanted to reach out and thank you all for a fantastic transition week. XX has come home after each session feeling positive, happy and reassured about starting her journey at Abbey College.”*

*“I imagine arranging the transition events is logistically very challenging, but I can honestly say this has been brilliant. The communication has been fantastic and from what XX has told me, the content of the days has been perfect.”*

We hope our new Year 7s enjoy a restful summer, and we look forward to welcoming them back in September with open arms!



## Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form

With A Level exams in full swing and our Year 13 students on Study Leave, the spotlight this half term has turned to our ambitious Year 12s as they begin shaping their futures beyond Sixth Form.

Our assemblies and Social Studies sessions have been buzzing with energy and inspiration, exploring the wide range of Post-18 pathways available. We were delighted to welcome Harry from the University of East Anglia, who delivered insightful sessions on next steps and crafting standout Personal Statements. Our alumni also returned to share their journeys: PC Farrant spoke about the Police Degree Apprenticeship, while Farmer Luke gave a fascinating talk on careers in Agriculture. We also hosted an engaging session from the Ministry of Defence, offering students a glimpse into careers available.

Meanwhile, we were thrilled to welcome our Year 11 applicants for their Induction Days! Over two exciting days, they:

- Took part in taster sessions across a range of subjects
- Heard from current Year 12s about the EPQ and Model United Nations
- Attended a UCAS Exhibition
- Enjoyed a fun-filled trip to Cadbury World
- Rounded off their visit with a BBQ and inflatable games on the field!

To celebrate the end of a fantastic year, both Year 12 and 13 students joined us for a magical evening of dancing and pizza at the 1940s Camp—a perfect way to mark the friendships and memories made.



Please visit our Facebook and Instagram accounts from regular updates:

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552379454095&locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552379454095&locale=en_GB)

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

### **Model United Nations of Cambridge 2025**

Earlier this term, a group of Year 12 students proudly took part in the Model United Nations of Cambridge 2025, hosted by Impington Village College. The event brought together students from across the East of England to discuss important global issues and practise international diplomacy.

Our students represented the countries of Ukraine and Denmark, taking part in debates on topics like climate change, online safety, world peace, and helping people in need. They worked hard to understand the views of the countries they represented and spoke confidently in front of others.

The Ukraine team showed strong knowledge of world politics and spoke passionately about peace and working together. The Denmark team gave thoughtful ideas on protecting the environment and supporting human rights, always encouraging respectful discussion.

Taking part in the event helped students build important skills like public speaking, teamwork, and problem-solving. It also gave them a better understanding of how countries work together to solve global problems.

We are very proud of our students for their effort, confidence, and enthusiasm. They showed great commitment and represented Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth-Form brilliantly.



### Day in the Life of a Sixth Former

This term, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Former. The aim was to help them make informed decisions about their post-16 pathways—and they certainly made the most of it.

On their chosen day, students joined a Year 12 Tutor Time session and attended four lessons of their choice, giving them a real insight into the subjects and style of learning at Sixth Form. They also had the chance to explore the Sixth Form environment, including using Café 6 and dressing in line with the Sixth Form dress code.

As part of the experience, Mr Hedges led an informative session on the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), where students heard directly from current Year 12s about the value and impact of this unique qualification.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive—our Year 10s embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and left feeling inspired and excited about the possibilities ahead.



## Governors

*As we bring this academic year to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, hardworking students, supportive parents, and committed trustees. Your continued support and collaboration have been instrumental in strengthening our school community.*

*This term, our Trustees have played an active role in monitoring key areas such as finance, academic progress, and student behaviour. Their engagement with students has provided valuable feedback to school leadership, particularly around safeguarding and wellbeing—ensuring our school remains a safe and nurturing environment for all.*

*We are also proud to have earned reaccreditation for the Rainbow Flag Award, a testament to our ongoing commitment to inclusion and diversity. Special thanks go to Clare Peattie, Siobhan Dowd, and our governors for their dedication in achieving this recognition.*

*It has been a joy to see our students' enthusiasm and achievements showcased through our Facebook posts, which have captured the vibrant learning and wide range of activities taking place across the school.*

*As we await the upcoming GCSE and A-Level results, we remain confident that our students' hard work and perseverance will be rewarded. The dedication shown by both staff and students is a true reflection of our shared commitment to excellence.*

*As we head into the summer break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, enjoy time with loved ones, and return refreshed for the new term ahead.*

*Finally, on behalf of the Trustees, I would like to wish Dr. Oswell a very happy and well-deserved retirement, and to thank Mr. Huggins, our staff governor, as he moves on to new opportunities. Both have made lasting contributions to the life of our school and will be greatly missed.*

*Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer.*

*Lisa Williamson*

*Chair of Governors*

## 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

### Hush Phone Pouch – Positive Update

We're delighted with how well students have adapted to the Hush Pouch system. The process of locking phones before entering school has gone smoothly, and concerns about end-of-day queues have not materialised.

Pouches have been collected in will be reissued to all students in Years 7–10 when they return in September. Our behaviour policy has also been updated to reflect this system.

## The #GetActivated campaign



#GetActivated is launching again for the third year in a row!

Watch out for the #GetActivated campaign this summer, sharing details of hundreds of free or low-cost activities for children, young people, and families. From sports, arts and crafts, and

outdoor adventures, to wellbeing sessions and community events - there's something for everyone.

The campaign is about helping Cambridgeshire stay active, connected, and supported during the summer holidays.

Find out more at [Get Activated campaign 2025 | Cambridgeshire County Council](#). Follow our hashtag #GetActivated on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for regular updates.

## 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/](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](mailto:office@abbey.college)).

## Dates for the diary

Friday 18th July - Last day of term – 1pm finish

Wednesday 3rd September - School open to Years 7, 11 & 12

Thursday 4th September 2025 - School open to Years 7, 8, 11, 12, 13

Friday 5th September 2025 - School open to all year groups

Tuesday 9th September - KS3 Meet the Tutor Evening and Y13 Futures Information Evening  
4.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 16th September - All Year Group Photos and individual photos for Y7, 10, 11, 12

Tuesday 23rd September - Y11 Planning for Success Evening/Careers Fair

Tuesday 30th September - Y6 and Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 27th – Friday 31st October - Half Term

## Term dates 2025/26

Key dates and times can be found here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/parents-carers/key-dates>