

Abbey College Community Round-up March 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

This term has been a fast-paced journey of academic growth and personal development. From the very first week, Year 11 students had more work to do as they took their Trial 2 exams. These tests needed them to focus more and manage their time better. Navigating more complex topics in subjects like Maths and English initially felt daunting, but by staying organised and finding a good routine, they turned those challenges into successes.

Beyond the classroom, the term was about working together as a community. Participating in after-school clubs and team projects allowed for stronger connections with peers, making the school environment feel more collaborative and supportive. Whether it was understanding a tough lesson or a successful sports game, there was a strong feeling of moving progress. As the weeks flew by, the balance between study and social life became easier to manage. Looking back, the term has been demanding but rewarding, leaving me with a great sense of accomplishment as the holidays approach.

Abbey College Joins Meridian Trust



Abbey College has entered an exciting new chapter.

On 1 March 2026, we officially joined Meridian Trust, building on more than a decade of shared values, close collaboration, and a mutual ambition for our young people.

This marks the formal beginning of a partnership from which Abbey College has already benefitted greatly, drawing on the Trust's expertise and support

across key areas of school improvement.

We are proud to now be part of a family of 36 primary, secondary, and special schools. Here's to the future together!

News articles: <https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/education/abbey-college-officially-joins-meridian-trust-5617496><https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/25906538.ramseys-abbey-college-joins-meridian-multi-academy-trust/>

World Book Day Celebrations

On World Book Day, Abbey College celebrated the joy and power of reading throughout the school community. Students and staff embraced the opportunity to explore a wide range of books, from fiction and poetry to non-fiction and graphic novels, that connected to their interests and aspirations.

Throughout the day, students participated in engaging activities designed to foster a love of reading and to help deepen their understanding and enjoyment of literature. Teachers shared their favourite books and encouraged pupils to discover new authors and genres, creating a vibrant reading culture that supports lifelong learning. The event was a wonderful reminder of how reading opens doors to new worlds and enriches every pupil's educational journey.



Science

The Science Department ran three great trips this week for students in Years 7–10, giving them the chance to explore some amazing places.

At Whipsnade Zoo, Year 7 students swapped textbooks for the great outdoors. Engaging with the "Conservation in Action" programme, they saw endangered species across the vast site. Seeing creatures like white rhinos and tigers in large, open spaces helped students talk about why biodiversity matters and how modern zoos help protect species from dying out.

A second group of students stepped back in time at the Natural History Museum. The giant blue whale skeleton in Hintze Hall was an exciting start to their visit. They explored the Evolution gallery and the dinosaur displays, gaining a clearer understanding of how animals adapt and how Earth has changed over millions of years, something that is hard to picture in the classroom.

Finally, the third trip was to the Science Museum which filled students with curiosity through hands-on activities. In the *Wonderlab*, they joined in with live experiments that helped them

understand scientific ideas in a fun and memorable way. They also discovered more about space travel, technology, and robots, seeing how science and invention affect our everyday lives.

All three trips helped students connect what they learn in lessons to the real world, leaving them inspired and excited to keep learning.



Year 8 options

What a fantastic atmosphere at our Year 8 Options Evening! It was incredible to see our students (and so many parents!) diving into the world of GCSEs and starting to shape their own academic journeys. The hall and gym were alive with big questions and even bigger ambitions. Highlights of the night:

- Students got stuck in with subject teachers to explore different pathways.
- Our Year 9 students were on hand to share the "real" experience of their favourite subjects.
- A chance to look beyond the core curriculum at exciting options like Photography, Business, and Media Studies.

This is the first step in taking real ownership of your learning—choose the subjects that spark your curiosity and play to your strengths! ⌚ Don't forget: Final choices need to be submitted by Friday 22nd May 2026.



Performance Learning



Congratulations to Victoria in Year 10 for her outstanding commitment to Performance Learning!

Performance Learning supports students in developing strong self-regulation, effective memory strategies, and the confidence to perform well under pressure. Following a recent masterclass, Victoria truly excelled—completing the highest amount of independent work of all participants.

In recognition of her exceptional effort, Mr Christoforou has awarded her an Amazon gift voucher on behalf of Performance Learning.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 10 students who took part. Well done, everyone!

PE Highlights

Physical Education End of Term Overview

This term has been a fantastic and active one for our students in Physical Education, with a wide range of sporting achievements and opportunities to celebrate.

Netball

Our Year 8 netballers enjoyed two weeks of undefeated friendly fixtures and then performed brilliantly in the district competition. They won all of their matches bar one; however, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to attend the first two fixtures, which were recorded as losses. Despite this, Abbey College finished an impressive 4th out of 8 teams.

Year 9 netballers also had a strong run of friendly fixtures, with the A team losing just one game across two weeks. Their district competition is scheduled for Wednesday, and we hope to be able to attend—updates to follow.

Girls' Football

Year 7 girls have had an excellent six weeks of fixtures. Both A and B teams remained undefeated during their first two weeks of friendlies. At the district tournament, both teams performed superbly, with the A team finishing 4th overall and the B team close behind in 5th place.

Boys' Football

Year 7 boys have enjoyed a successful half term, securing impressive wins against St Ivo and Ernulf, alongside a well-fought draw against Hinchbrook. Year 8 boys delivered a standout performance with a 12–1 victory over Ernulf and have shown great effort and determination across their other fixtures this term.

Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders have been outstanding this term, working hard to prepare for upcoming primary school events. A highlight was 12 of our Year 8 leaders spending a full day supporting and officiating at the YDP Primary Football Festival, held on Abbey College's 3G pitch. Their leadership, organisation, and enthusiasm were commendable.

Laser Tag Event

Eleven of our Year 7 students took part in a Key Stage 3 enrichment event featuring archery and laser tag. The students had a fantastic time, represented Abbey College brilliantly, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

District Golf Competition

Three of our students represented the school at the Cambridgeshire Schools U18 Boys Golf Tournament, competing against 52 other players. Sam finished 17th with a score of 77, Jack placed 28th with a score of 79, and Ewan finished 31st with a score of 80. It was a challenging competition, and all three students did the school proud.

Rugby 7s We took a team of Year 8 rugby players to the Northampton Saints Community Sevens tournament, where they competed against strong opposition from schools across Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas. The team showed great teamwork, resilience, and determination throughout the day, adapting well to the fast-paced nature of the game. It was a valuable experience, allowing the players to develop their skills and represent the school with pride.

NFL Flag Football

The Year 7/8 mixed team delivered an impressive performance in the district competition, winning 3 out of their 5 games and placing 4th. They showcased the key skills developed during the NFL Flag Football OOP, including precise passing, effective movement, and strong defensive awareness. Their teamwork and agility were evident throughout, allowing them to create and convert multiple touchdown opportunities.

The Year 9/10 girls' team also performed strongly, finishing in 3rd place in what proved to be a highly competitive field. They demonstrated excellent resilience and perseverance, particularly

in closely contested matches, and showed great determination to stay competitive throughout the tournament.

Finally, the Year 9/10 boys rounded off the week of fixtures by competing against tough opposition. They displayed a solid understanding of the game, applying their skills effectively in both attack and defence. Their commitment and effort were clear, and they continued to develop their confidence and gameplay with each match.



Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



This half term has been an inspiring one for our Sixth Form students! Our Year 13s have completed their final trial exams ahead of the summer exam season, and we are incredibly proud of the determination, resilience and focus they continue to show. Alongside their studies, many students have been busy attending interviews and receiving fantastic offers from universities and employers as they work towards securing their post-18 destinations.

Excitement is also building for the Year 13 Summer Ball. Our newly formed Summer Ball Committee has been hard at work, kicking off their fundraising efforts with a brilliant bake sale and even a teacher leg-waxing challenge - much to the students' delight!

Our Year 12 Social Action Committees have also been making a difference, raising funds for Little Miracles and Cancer Research UK through creative Easter-themed events.

In Social Studies, students have had a rich and informative programme: learning about the UK Criminal Justice System with Mr. Hedges, receiving a Sexual Health and Contraception talk from Sophie at Everyone Health, and taking part in sessions led by our Welfare Team on safe relationships and consent. Mrs. Wibberley also delivered an important session on safeguarding, giving students the opportunity to apply to become Safeguarding Ambassadors.

It has been a vibrant and productive term, and we are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved - both in and beyond the classroom.



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/>

Parent's Forum

We recently held a lively and engaging meeting with parents joining both online and in the boardroom. The group was pleased to hear that, following questions put to the canteen, a new salad bar has been introduced, which students are really enjoying alongside the popular new granola pots! The canteen is also actively participating in the School Plates project and a public health initiative aimed at incorporating a wide variety of nutritious foods.

Discussion also focused on Year 7 homework and how it differs from primary school. Parents and staff agreed that while the volume of homework understandably increases in Year 7, there is a need for greater consistency to avoid multiple subjects setting homework simultaneously with tight deadlines. The homework club continues to be well-liked by both parents and students, as it provides valuable downtime at home.

For our next meeting, agenda items will include ways to support reading and addressing parking challenges at pick-up time.

If you would like to be involved in a small fundraising group, please email Parentsforum@abbey.college

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/
- Linked in: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/abbey-college-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

Friday 27th March - End of Term

Monday 13th April 2026 - INSET Day - staff only in school

Tuesday 14th April 2026 - Summer Term Starts

W/C 20th April 2026 - Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 22nd April - MathsWorld Trip

Monday 4th May 2026 - May Bank Holiday

Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026 - Half Term

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