

Abbey College Community Round-up

October 2025



Headteacher's Welcome

As we reach the halfway point of the Autumn Term, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic start we've made together at Abbey College. It's been a joy to see our students embracing their learning with humility, intuition, and passion, virtues that lie at the heart of our school community.

This half term, we've focused on embedding our learning cycle across all departments, ensuring that every lesson is purposeful, inclusive, and challenging. Our dedicated staff are working tirelessly to support all students, with particular care for those in priority groups, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. We're proud of the progress being made and the commitment shown by everyone.

One of the highlights of the term was our Year 6 and Sixth Form Open Evening. The school was buzzing with energy and excitement, and we received wonderful feedback, especially about the students who volunteered to help. Their enthusiasm and pride in our school truly shone through.

Beyond the classroom, it's been brilliant to see so many students getting involved in clubs (OOPs), enrichment activities, and careers events. These opportunities help our young people discover new interests and begin to shape their aspirations for the future. We encourage all families to celebrate these achievements and stay connected through the stories shared in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're building a school community rooted in pride, positivity, and high expectations. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to seeing students back on Tuesday 4th November.

Year 7: A Brilliant Beginning

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to life at Abbey College, and we're delighted to share that attendance this half term has been an impressive 96.8%, a real testament to their enthusiasm and commitment.

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a big step. Many students have gone from small year groups to joining a cohort of 231, navigating multiple classrooms each day, and getting to know up to 12 different teachers across a two-week timetable. It's a lot to take in, and while some are still adjusting, we're proud of the resilience and positivity they've shown. They're settling in brilliantly.

A real highlight this term was seeing so many Year 7s volunteering at our Year 6 Open Evening. Whether they were guiding families around the school, supporting classroom demonstrations, or speaking confidently in the hall, they represented Abbey College with pride and maturity. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, you were outstanding ambassadors for our school.

It's clear that our Year 7s are embracing the diversity of life at Abbey College. From the wide range of subjects to the exciting OOPs (Opportunities Outside the Classroom), and yes, the canteen food is proving to be a big hit too!

We're excited to see how they continue to grow and thrive in the months ahead. Thank you for your support in helping them make such a strong start.



PE Highlights - Autumn Half Term

Celebrating Netball Success at Abbey College

We're thrilled to share the fantastic netball achievements of our pupils this half term.

- **Year 7 A Team:** Won all 12 matches, conceding just 3 goals – an incredible record!
- **Year 7 B Team:** Secured 8 wins out of 11 games.
- Both teams shone in both of their District Tournaments, coming first.

- **Year 11 Team:** Showed great teamwork in friendlies and the district tournament which we are pleased to say they won, with support from Year 9 and 10 players stepping up brilliantly.
- This means that we are District Champions for 3 out of 3 teams.

Looking ahead, 20 pupils will head to **Disneyland Paris** for an exciting netball trip led by Miss Mott and Miss Witten, featuring elite coaching and UK-wide tournaments.

Follow their journey on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollegepe>



Football & Rugby Highlights

Our football teams have had a brilliant half term:

- **Year 8:** Won 7 out of 10 matches.
- **Year 9:** Won 7 and drew 1, also competing strongly in the District Tournament.

Rugby has been equally impressive:

- **Year 7:** Shown fantastic progress and teamwork, many playing for the first time.
- **Year 8:** Demonstrated resilience with wins over Sawtry and Longsands.
- **Year 10:** Made a powerful start, defeating Longsands 65–0 in their opening match.

These achievements reflect the dedication, teamwork, and sporting spirit that define Abbey College. We're proud of every pupil and look forward to more success ahead.





Geography Fieldwork & Learning Update

Our Year 11 Geographers had a fantastic day in Hunstanton, investigating longshore drift and the impact of tourism as part of their GCSE fieldwork. It was a great opportunity to see geographical theory in action—and enjoy some fish and chips too.

We've also launched **Tassomai** for our GCSE students to support regular retrieval practice at home. This intelligent quiz platform identifies areas for improvement and creates a personalised learning programme for each student. We're excited to see how this boosts progress over the coming months.

Careers & Future Pathways Update

Abbey College Careers Fair – September 2025

We were thrilled with the success of our recent Careers Fair, which welcomed students from Year 7 to Sixth Form. The evening was full of energy and inspiring conversations, helping students explore future pathways and discover new opportunities. Many shared how the event broadened their thinking, exactly what the Careers Fair is all about!

Year 10 Work Experience

Work Experience for Year 10 has now launched, with placements scheduled for April 2026. Students can find all the latest updates and guidance on their Work Experience Teams page. We encourage everyone to stay engaged via the Careers Teams page for further opportunities and announcements.

Further Education Presentations

Students in Years 8–11 have attended presentations from local colleges, covering courses, apprenticeships, and T-Levels. These sessions will continue throughout the year to support informed choices for life after Abbey College.



Parent's Forum

We were delighted to welcome new faces to our recent Parent's Forum and thank everyone who responded to our survey, your feedback is vital in helping us build a supportive and inclusive school community.

At the meeting, we discussed the Year 7 transition and explained how our Ethos system promotes positive behaviour and personal development. Our new Parent's Forum Lead, **Genevieve Wardle**, shared plans to trial in-person meetings to strengthen connections and invited ideas for fundraising beyond the success of our pre-loved uniform shop.

Looking ahead, the Forum will help choose school projects to fund, directly enhancing student experiences. We warmly encourage all parents and carers to get involved and help make a difference at Abbey College Ramsey.

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>

Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form



We've been absolutely thrilled by the energy and enthusiasm our Year 12 students have brought to life at Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form this half term. Their positivity and eagerness to get involved have been matched beautifully by the warmth and leadership shown by our returning Year 13s, who have welcomed the new cohort with open arms.

One of the standout moments was seeing both year groups come together for our very first whole Sixth Form photograph, a powerful symbol of unity and ambition. That same spirit was on full display at our Open Evening, where students worked side by side as ambassadors, showcasing the best of what our Sixth Form has to offer.



As our Year 13s continue to pursue their first-choice futures through university and apprenticeship applications, Year 12 students have already begun exploring their own pathways. A recent assembly from the University of East Anglia inspired them to make the most of every opportunity during their time with us.

Our Social Studies curriculum launched with a thought-provoking session from GamCare on the risks of gambling, followed by a series of impactful workshops: Dr Stiopu encouraged students to aim high and nurture their aspirations, Mrs Coxon shared strategies for effective time management, and Ms Davey led a dynamic session on communication and collaboration.

It's been especially exciting to see last year's Model United Nations (MUN) delegates now stepping into leadership roles, running the MUN Programme alongside Mr Hedges. Meanwhile, our Fundraising Committee has been leading the charge with the whole-school Macmillan Coffee Morning, an inspiring example of student initiative and community spirit.

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 reach the end of this first half term, it's been wonderful to see such a positive start to the year. Students have shown great focus and enthusiasm, and the school has been full of energy and purpose.

We were especially proud of the results achieved by both Year 11 and Year 13 students in the summer. Their hard work, resilience, and determination have paid off, and we're delighted to see so many of them moving on confidently to the next stages of their education, training, and careers.

Trustees have also been active this term, focusing on the school's strategic priorities and spending time in school. A highlight was our recent visit to the Sixth Form, where we were inspired by students' maturity, ambition, and enthusiasm for the future.

Thank you to all staff, parents, and carers for your continued support. I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned and restful half term break.

Lisa Williamson

Chair of Trustees

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@abbeycollege).

Dates for the diary

Monday 3rd November - INSET Day
 Tuesday 4th November - Y13 Virtual Parents Evening
 Tuesday 11th November - Y9/10 Natural History Museum Trip
 Friday 28th November - INSET Day
 Monday 1st December - Y12 Parliament Trip
 Friday 5th December - Year 9/10 Duxford Trip
 Tuesday 9th December - Y11 Virtual Parents Evening
 Monday 15th December - Winter Showcase
 Friday 19th December - Last Day of Term

Contact Us

