

Weekly Family Update – 10.10.25

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



This Week's Passion Focus: Celebrating Focus and Positive Language

This week, we've been celebrating the importance of focus and positive communication in our learning environment. Our Year 7 and 8 students have truly embraced this by actively using the SLANT strategy, **S**it up, **L**isten, **A**nswer questions, **N**othing in your hands, **T**rack the speaker, to show they are engaged and ready to learn.

Their commitment to these values has been outstanding, with both year groups collectively earning over 4,000 spirit points for their efforts in class. It's wonderful to see our students demonstrating such enthusiasm and positivity in their learning—well done, Year 7 and 8.



Arrival Times

We are delighted that our students are so keen to get to school in the morning. However, some students are arriving very early and are therefore unsupervised. If your child walks to school, please ask them to aim to arrive in school between 8:25 and 8:30.

Thank you Event

Last Friday we invited over 200 students who had helped at our Open Evening to the South Hall to enjoy a treat. We were so grateful for how they showcased our school to prospective students.

Andy Christoforou, Headteacher

Parent Forum Guarantee:

The Parent Forum Guarantee gives all parents the right to speak directly to the **Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher**, within 24 hours, if you feel your question has not been answered by those you have already contacted.

- Call: 01487 812352 and quote the Parent Forum Guarantee.
- Email: office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk using the subject header 'Parent Forum Guarantee.'

Parent Friendly Policy Guide:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/statutory-information>

Please read on for essential updates.

Vacancies at Abbey College

- [Cover Coordinator and HR/Finance Admin Assistant \(p/t\)](#)
- [Teacher of Religious Education - Potential December Start \(Maternity Cover\) 2 or 3 Terms](#)
- [Teacher of Science](#)
- [Teacher of Mathematics](#)
- [Teacher of DT with Product Design](#)



Celebration of Spirit - Recognition

Headteacher Commendations w/c 06/10/24

The following students have been awarded with Headteacher's Commendations this week. They will receive 10 Spirit points and a special postcard home.

Poppy	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Xander	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Ethan	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Ben	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Jack	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Nefeli	Year 10	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
James	Year 11	DofE	Completing Bronze Award
Axel	Year 11	ASDAN	Renewed passion for reading and consistent effort.
Sami	Year 10	ASDAN	Great improvement in participation! Let's keep that momentum going consistently.
Shay	Year 10		For displaying a commendable level of resilience.
Charlie	Year 10		Well done Charlie for always being polite! You are responsive to help form staff with your work and thank you for asking me for help when you need it!
Harry	Year 7	N/A	For his positive efforts and hard work in lessons.
Sean	Year 8	Office duty	For outstanding Office duty on an exceptionally busy day - they were fantastic!
Theo	Year 8	Reception	For outstanding Office duty on an exceptionally busy day - they were fantastic!
Aria	Year 8	Ambassador	For being an excellent AC ambassador by buddying a new student
Harley	Year 8	Ambassador	For being an excellent AC ambassador by buddying a new student
Dexter	Year 9	Ambassador	For being an excellent AC ambassador by buddying a new student
Jonah	Year 8	Ambassador	For being an excellent AC ambassador by buddying a new student
George	Year 9	Ambassador	For being an excellent AC ambassador by buddying a new student
Trinity	Year 7	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Lottie	Year 7	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Ethan	Year 10	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Melissa	Year 10	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Seren	Year 7	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Ava	Year 7	Dance Club	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Lily	Year 8	English	Brilliant effort in her recent poetry assessment!
Rayyan	Year 8	English	Brilliant effort in his recent poetry assessment!
Corbyn	Year 10	English	For crafting a highly emotive, well written piece of imaginative writing for his assessment!
Noah	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Kyle	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Lanielle	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Lizzie	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Declan	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Sam	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Ewan	Year 9	English	For a fantastic start to the school year in English!
Grace	Year 11	English	For effort and dedication in English
Amy	Year 11	English	For effort and dedication in English
Annabell	Year 11	English	For effort and dedication in English
Daisy	Year 11	English	For effort and dedication in English
Henry	Year 8	English	For effort and dedication in English
Fabian	Year 8	English	For effort and dedication in English
Lily	Year 8	English	For effort and dedication in English

Scarlett	Year 8	Supportive	Helping another student to regulate and providing a calm presence.
Rusty	Year 8	Learning	Taking support and help with appreciation and gratitude.
Nadia	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Sky	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Neneh	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Hope	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Eva	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Leila	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Laura	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Ella	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Izzy	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Layla	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Maisy	Year 9	Dance Leaders	For fantastic dancing at the open evening event
Jakub	Year 10	History	Making great progress in History and did fantastically well in the Cold War assessment.
Henry	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment.
Shay	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment.
Zoe	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment.
Max	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Gregory	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Edward	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Maisie	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Beau	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Dabameine	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Deimante	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Chloe	Year 10	History	For making great progress in History and for doing fantastically well in the Cold War assessment
Emily	Year 11	English Language	Well done for completing an outstanding piece of homework for Language Paper 2.
Liam	Year 11	PE	Showing excellent attitude and leadership while learning to canoe and rescue others at Grafham Water.
Lucas	Year 11	PE	Showing excellent attitude and leadership while learning to canoe and rescue others at Grafham Water.
Lucas	Year 11		Determination to complete all work missed whilst being off school unwell.
Betsy	Year 10	PE	For assisting with the Yr 7 Fixtures for the last three weeks! You are amazing, thank you for being so helpful and such a great leader for our Year 7 Netballers!

Staff member of the week

Mrs Smithson-Ingrey – Intuition: Thank you for planning, resourcing, and delivering such wonderful KS3 lessons. It is great to see our students so enthusiastic about their topics.

Tell us about something brilliant!

If you would like to nominate someone for an Abbey College Spirit Award for any out of school success stories, then please follow this [link](#) or email the Office office@abbey.college.

Parent information



Parent's Forum

We welcomed new faces at our Parent's Forum and had many responses to our survey, thank you if you took the time to contribute. We discussed the transition of our new Year 7s and how the Ethos system works. Our new lead, Genevieve Wardle, then talked about trialling some in person meetings and asked for suggestions for further fundraising beyond the pre-loved uniform shop. As part of this the Parent's Forum will be choosing school projects to fund. Do join us if you would like to be involved.

Please email ParentsForum@abbey.college if you would like a link to the meeting.

Please find our minutes here: [Parent Forum - Abbey College, Secondary School and Sixth Form in Ramsey](#)

If you would like further information on the Parent's Forum, please email:

ParentsForum@abbey.college

Genevieve Wardle - Chair of Parent's Forum

Parent Diary Dates

Upcoming INSET Days – A Focus on Growth and Excellence

We'd like to give families advance notice of two upcoming INSET days this term. These are valuable opportunities for our staff to engage in high-quality professional development that directly benefits our students.

Monday 3rd November 2025

- Focus: *Subject Input Day*. Our teachers will be working collaboratively to deepen subject expertise and share best practices, ensuring a rich and consistent learning experience for all pupils.

Friday 28th November 2025

- Focus: *Staff Professional Learning on Special Educational Needs*. This day is dedicated to enhancing our understanding and support for students with additional needs, helping us to create an even more inclusive and supportive school environment.

We appreciate your support as we invest in the ongoing development of our staff - because great teaching makes a great difference.

Wednesday 15 th and Friday 17 th October	CRC Apprenticeship Presentations
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	Half Term
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th November	Y13 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 28 th November	INSET Day
Monday 1 st December	Y12 Parliament Trip
Tuesday 9 th December	Y11 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of Term

Assessment calendar: How your child is doing?

Autumn 1 Assessment Information for Parents

Year group	When will my child be assessed?	When will reports be published on MCAS?	What information will I receive?
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading tests in English lessons (10th- 19th Sept) English, Maths, Science and Reasoning baseline tests (22nd-26th Sept) 	Half term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading proficiency report English baseline report Maths baseline report Science baseline report CAT4 report (reasoning abilities)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal assessments this half term 		
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal subject assessments this half term Reading tests in English lessons (w/c 22nd Sept) 	KS4 entry report: 10 th Oct Reading: Half Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit grade Any early barriers to learning that have been identified by class teachers. Reading proficiency report
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In class: 22nd Sept – 4th Oct Not all subjects will assess during this window, details will be shared in advance via Teams for each class 	10 th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Current grade (based on end of y9 and early y10 testing) GCSE target grade
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal assessments this half term 	19 th Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit GCSE predicted grade GCSE target grades
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-month tests: 22nd Sept – 4th Oct 	17 th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Current grade Target grades Any early barriers to learning that have been identified by class teachers
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal assessments this half term 	3 rd Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Current grade (based on end of y12 and early y13 testing) Target grade

Please note that this table details the formal assessments that will be taking place this half term. Your child will complete topic tests across their range of subjects as they reach the end of a unit of work. Where students are required to prepare for these, details will be shared via Teams.

Student expectations and safety

Equipment Check Next Week

Next week, we will be checking that all students have their calculator with them.

Student welfare and wellbeing

Respecting Boundaries

This week, students have been reminded of the importance of respecting personal boundaries, both physical and verbal. We encourage you to talk with your child about what boundaries mean, how to express their own, and what to do if someone makes them feel uncomfortable.

Please reassure your child that they have the right to feel safe, heard, and respected in all environments.

To support these conversations at home, you may find the following resources helpful:

- *[Mental Health Foundation – Resources for Families and Young People](#) Practical guides on topics such as healthy relationships, kindness, and emotional wellbeing. Visit the website.*
 - *[GOV.UK – Mental Health and Wellbeing Support in Schools](#) Information on how schools promote mental health and how parents can get involved. Explore the resources.*
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Student attendance - Week 5

- *Year 7, you're doing brilliantly! The fewest unauthorised absences show your dedication. Keep it up!*
 - *Tip: Stay on top of routines—homework, bedtime, and a healthy rhythm make all the difference.*
 - *How can parents/carers help?: Create a daily schedule to help your child build strong habits that support attendance.*
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Student wider personal development

Offer & Opportunity Programme (OOPs) - Autumn Term

The Abbey College Offer & Opportunity Programme is being launched again for 2025-2026. We had a fantastic previous year with over 100 offers running throughout the year across academic support and revision sessions, to creative outlets and variety of sports.



THE ABBEY COLLEGE OOP

STEP IN. STAND OUT. BELONG HERE.



WHAT IS AN OOP?

THE OOP IS OUR OFFER AND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME. IT IS A WHOLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS THAT RUNS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS. OOPS RUN DURING BOTH LUNCHTIME AND AFTERSCHOOL.



IT HAS A HUGE VARIETY TO CHOOSE FROM, WITH 'OPEN' OFFERS WHICH ANYONE CAN SIGN UP TO OR 'APPLICATION' BASED OFFERS. ALL OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OOPS ARE AVAILABLE ON BROMCOM UNDER THE 'CLUBS' TAB.

WHY SHOULD I DO AN OOP?

BEING A PART OF THE ABBEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY GIVES YOU LOTS OF NEW EXPERIENCES AND CAN HELP IGNITE NEW PASSIONS AND INTERESTS
TRY SOMETHING NEW!



HOW DO I SIGN UP?

YOU ACCESS MCAS AND FIND THE 'CLUBS' TAB. THERE YOU WILL SEE WHAT OOPS ARE AVAILABLE AND SIGN UP TO YOUR OFFER.




WHEN CAN I SIGN UP?

THE OOPS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MCAS FROM MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER. THESE WILL BE UPDATED REGULARLY SO MAKE SURE YOU CHECK FOR ALL OUR EXCITING OOPS!

Student curriculum

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



 <p>Inclusive</p>	<p>The curriculum provides a clear programme of understanding to a range of diverse cultures and religions.</p>
 <p>Challenging</p>	<p>To have a challenging and aspirational curriculum that provides opportunities to ensure no learner is left behind.</p>
 <p>Cultural Capital</p>	<p>All learners will receive a wide and fulfilling educational experience.</p>

How can I find out what my child is learning in each subject?

Wider Personal Development Focus

We offer a rich programme to support students' growth beyond the classroom, including:

- **Character & Values:** Promoting humility, intuition, and passion.
- **RSHE & Social Studies:** Covering wellbeing, relationships, and life skills.
- **Careers Education:** Helping students explore future pathways.
- **Clubs & Activities:** Encouraging participation and confidence.
- **Leadership & Voice:** Opportunities to lead and be heard.
- **Wellbeing & Resilience:** Supporting mental and physical health.

Parents can support by discussing these themes at home and encouraging involvement.

👉 Learn more: [abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/wider-personal-development](https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/wider-personal-development)

All taught curriculums are available to view on our website.

- Click here <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum> to read about all the curriculums we offer. You'll find a variety of resources, including learning journeys and knowledge organisers—particularly useful for revision.

Abbey College Reading Challenge 📖

Students are being introduced to the new Abbey College Reading Challenge.

There are three exciting reading challenges—one for each year group:

- *Year 7: 15 in 15*
- *Year 8: Beyond 15*
- *Year 9: 15 Plus*

*Each challenge is built around the number 15, which represents the minimum reading age we want all pupils to achieve. **The average reading age required to access a GCSE exam paper is 15.7**, so reaching this level gives students the best possible chance of success.*

15 IN 15

15 books in a year, 15 minutes at a time

15 in 15 is your chance to read 15 books across the school year by reading for a minimum of 15 minutes at a time. It's all about building great reading habits, discovering new stories, and finding books that surprise, challenge, or excite you. All the books are available in the school library, so you can get started anytime!



Please ensure you share the description of the book with a parent or carer. They will need to decide whether it is appropriate for you to read.

Communicating with us and how to raise concerns.

[Click here](#) to access this Communication Flowchart on our website.

Other news updates can be found here:

- 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/