

Weekly Family Update – 17.10.25

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



As we enter the penultimate week of what has been a long half term, it's fantastic to see the energy and enthusiasm across the school. Staff and students continue to show great commitment, and our after-school OOPs and Interacts sessions are thriving. The uptake has been brilliant.

Our extracurricular programme offers students a chance to connect with others who share similar interests, make new friends, and enjoy learning something new in a fun and relaxed environment. If your child hasn't tried one yet, please do encourage them to get involved.

Oswald Building Refurbishment – Update for Parents

We're pleased to share that the Department for Education has now approved funding through the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for the refurbishment of the Oswald Building, which has been closed since 2022.

Due to the nature of CIF funding, schools are given very little notice once approval is granted. As a result, work will begin immediately after the half term break. During the break, scaffolding will be installed, and the site will be safely enclosed with Harris Fencing to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Once the site compound is fully set up and student movement resumes, we will closely monitor how the site is operating. If we observe congestion or bottlenecks, we may need to make adjustments to how students move around the site to ensure safety and efficiency. This could include changes to timings or routes, similar to previous measures we've used. We will communicate any changes clearly and in advance.

We're working closely with contractors to minimise disruption and ensure the project runs efficiently. Thank you for your continued support as we invest in the future of Abbey College.

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

- Click [here](#)

Celebration of Spirit - Recognition

Flash Reward

Last week, two students from each form were nominated by their tutors to join us at our Flash Reward where they enjoyed a pizza treat. They were recognised for the excellent passion that they have shown this term.



Non-Uniform Days

Congratulations to the following year groups have met their spirit target for the half term and will be recognised with a non-uniform day next week. Please ensure that they wear clothing that is appropriate for school. All students in year 11 who have met the ratio will have a reward.

Year Group	Ratio	Non-Uniform Day
7	18:1	Thursday
8	14:1	Wednesday
9	9:1	Tuesday
10	10:1	Monday
11	8:1	x

Headteacher Commendations w/c 13/10/24

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

Owen	Year 12	Maths	Fantastic one month test result for Further Maths
James	Year 12	Maths	Excellent one month test result for Further Maths
Vincent	Year 12	Maths	Great start to the year in Further Maths
Zak	Year 7	Music	For consistently displaying all school virtues in class and being a role model. Always respectful, following instructions and actively participating.
Dylan	Year 8	Music	For supporting his peers with work during class when they were struggling. A fine example of humility.
Violet	Year 7	Music	Fantastic effort in music homework showing passion and dedication. Well done.
George	Year 9	Vaccinations	Helping with the vaccinations and supporting the nurses
Maia	Year 7	N/a	For challenging herself during a double <u>lesson</u> . She showed great determination and resilience, pushing through with a positive attitude. Well done!
Elena	Year 9	Form Time	Elena demonstrated passion by researching and creating a fantastic presentation focusing on her passion for K-Pop Demon Hunters. Well done!
Lexi	Year 11	History	Historian of the week for Year 11 - great work ethic and participation in lessons
Poppy	Year 9	History	Historian of the week for Year 9 - great work ethic and participation in lessons
Austin	Year 7	History	Historian of the week for Year 7- great work ethic and participation in lessons
Edward	Year 10	History	Historian of the week for Year 10 - great work ethic and participation in lessons
Charlie	Year 8	History	Historian of the week for Year 8 - great work ethic and participation in lessons
Eva	Year 9	Vaccinations	helping the <u>spo</u> with managing the vaccinations
Robbie	Year 11	History	Well done for making good progress in History. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.
Luke	Year 11	History	Well done for making good progress in History. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.
Emily	Year 11		Well done for making good progress in History. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.
Sophie	Year 11	History	Well done for making good progress in History. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.
Grace	Year 11	History	Well done for making good progress in History. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.
Jaydon	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Ezio	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Alex	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Tino	Year 9	NA	Excellent Attendance
Maia	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Sonny	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Michael	Year 9	NA	Excellent Attendance
Logon	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
James	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Nico	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Daisy	Year 11	NA	Excellent Attendance
Elsie	Year 7	NA	Excellent Attendance
Scarlett	Year 8	NA	Excellent Attendance
Alfie	Year 8	NA	Excellent Attendance
Leah	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Zane	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Elze	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Jessica	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Max	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Jessica	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Devon	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!

Tiana	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Erin	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Ida	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Eliza	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Natalie	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Isla	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Reuben	Year 7	MO	Fantastic entry to the MO Religion Poster Competition – you showed great pride & effort in your work. Well done!
Suri	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Grace	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Nefeli	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Matilda	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Jade	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Matilda	Year 10	History	Achieved a very high score on the Superpowers assessment
Pippa	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Lexii	Year 11	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Maisy	Year 11	Sports Studies	For working hard to revise on all topics so far and making revision guides to support her
Henry	Year 10	All subjects	Well done for your conscientious and determined approach to your school work ! You are always polite and a star pupil!
Thomas	Year 10		Tries hard to excel in every lesson.
Rhys	Year 9		Excellent focused start to the first half term of year 9
Erin	Year 7	Maths	For producing a truly outstanding piece of work at home without prompting on metric and imperial conversions

Staff member of the week

Mrs Andrew-Martin – Humility: Thank you for juggling all that you are (two subjects and your training year) with such grace and humility. You are so dedicated to the students that you teach, and they are so lucky to have your care and passion.

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



Preloved Uniform Shop Opening Dates

-
- *Thursday 23rd October - 4:15 - 5:15pm*
 - *Tuesday 11th November - 5 - 6:30pm*
 - *Tuesday 2nd December - 5 - 6:30pm*
 - *Thursday 18th December - 4:315- 5:15pm*
-

Cash only please. Entrance via the Student Entrance.

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.

Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	Half Term
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th November	Y13 Virtual Parents Evening
Tuesday 11 th November	Y9/10 Natural History Museum Trip
Friday 28 th November	INSET Day
Monday 1 st December	Y12 Parliament Trip
Friday 5 th December	Year 9/10 Duxford Trip
Tuesday 9 th December	Y11 Virtual Parents Evening
Monday 15 th December	Winter Showcase
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of Term



On Friday 24th October we are holding a Macmillan Coffee morning for staff and students. Students from the Sixth Form will run a stall for students to buy cakes from at break times - students, please bring cash on the day!

Any cake donations will be greatly appreciated, if you bring in bought cakes or any you made, please ensure you have ingredient and allergen information to comply with the Natasha law regulations [Natasha's Law – Allergy Awareness & Food Safety | Natasha's Foundation — The Natasha Allergy Research Foundation](#)

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

Next week's Equipment Check

Timetable: all students must have a copy of their timetable with them.

Student welfare and wellbeing

Theme: Supporting Friends

This week, students have been learning how to support friends who may be going through a difficult time. We encourage you to talk with your child about the importance of:

- *Listening without trying to fix the problem*
 - *Encouraging friends to speak to a trusted adult*
 - *Being present and showing empathy, which can make a real difference*
-

These conversations help build emotional resilience and strengthen peer support networks.

Helpful Resources for Parents and Students:

◇ [YoungMinds](#)

One of the UK's leading charities for children and young people's mental health.

- *Offers guides for parents on supporting their child's mental wellbeing*
 - *Provides advice for young people on helping friends who are struggling*
 - *Includes a Parents Helpline and practical tips for navigating emotional challenges*
-

👉 *Visit [YoungMinds](#)*

◇ **The Mix**

A youth-led support service for under-25s, offering real-life stories and expert advice.

- *Features a dedicated "Supporting Others" section for teens*
 - *Offers confidential support via phone, webchat, and forums*
-

👉 *Visit [The Mix](#)*

Let's continue working together to empower our young people with the tools to care for themselves and each other.

Student attendance - Week 6

- **Fantastic work**, Year 9! You're well above the national average, proof that consistent attendance leads to achievement.

- **Reminder:** Try to schedule medical appointments outside school hours. Every lesson counts!
- **How can parents/carers help?** Book routine medical appointments after school or during holidays whenever possible.

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 CHOSE 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 TERMLY SO MAKE SURE YOU CHECK FOR ALL OUR EXCITING OOPS!

Student curriculum

Abbey College Curriculum Aims



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

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

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/