

## Weekly Family Update – 26.09.25

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



### A Brilliant Start to the New School Year

*We've enjoyed a wonderfully crisp and breezy week here at Abbey, and we're pleased that the weather has been kind to us during social times. As the autumn air settles in, we encourage all students to bring a coat to school to stay warm and comfortable, especially as indoor space is limited.*

*Tuesday's Year 11 Preparing for Success & Careers Evening was a fantastic celebration of ambition and future planning. The event brought together a vibrant mix of families, students, and industry professionals, all united in supporting our young people as they explore their next steps, whether that's Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships, or employment. The energy and engagement on the night truly reflected the strength of our community. If you missed it or would like to revisit the presentations, they are available [[here](#)].*

*In classrooms, the momentum has been equally inspiring. Students have returned with focus and enthusiasm, showing great dedication in their learning. Our extra-curricular programme is now in full swing, and it's been brilliant to see the school buzzing with activity and positivity across all year groups.*

*We're excited for the term ahead and deeply appreciative of the continued support from our families. Together, we're building a year full of opportunity, growth, and success.*

*Andy Christofrou, 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](mailto: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>

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*Please read on for essential updates.*

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## Vacancies at Abbey College

Click here: <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies>



### **Celebration of Spirit - Recognition**

***Headteacher Commendations w/c 22/09/24***

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

Rhys	Year 9	Chemistry	Great start to the year, willing to challenge himself with new content as well as offering answers during discussion time.
Jenson	Year 8	English	For excellent contributions to discussion and a dedicated attempt at the poetry assessment.
Lola	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0 and scoring
Honey	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0 and scoring 3 goals
Isabella	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0 and being a great leader
Lilly-Rose	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Anna	Year 8	English	For an excellent poetry assessment- well done!
Daisy	Year 7	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Hannah	Year 7	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Esinam	Year 7	Pe	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Elsie	Year 7	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Elsa	Year 7	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football OOP winning 4-0
Josie	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football fixture winning 4-0
Ania	Year 8	PE	Taking part in the Girls Football fixture winning 4-0
Isla	Year 9	PE	Thank you for your help on the Girls football fixture
Verity	Year 9	English	For an excellent piece of imaginative writing
Julia	Year 11	Chemistry	6/6 in baseline method writing exam question, only student in her class to achieve this!
Ollie	Year 8	English	Fantastic effort in English lessons- well done!!
Zach	Year 7	Moral and Spiritual	Zach has shown a thirst for knowledge and has demonstrated a profound empathy and understanding for people of different faiths and none. Zach provides outstanding verbal and written responses in class and is a role model to his peers. Well done.
Poppy	Year 11	Geography	Well done for attempting the highest number of questions on your year group on Tassomai last week.
Maksims	Year 11	Geography	Well done for spending the most amount of time in your year group on Tassomai last week
Emma	Year 11	Geography	Well done for achieving 98% accuracy on Tassomai last week!
Euan	Year 11	Geography	Well done for achieving 98% accuracy on Tassomai last week!
Poppy	Year 10	Geography	Well done for attempting the highest number of questions in your year group on Tassomai last week!
Charlie	Year 10	Geography	Well done for spending the most amount of time in your year group on Tassomai last week!
Jonas	Year 10	Geography	Well done for 95% accuracy on Tassomai last week!
Brian	Year 9	Geography	Well done for attempting the most questions in your year group on Tassomai last week
Jasper	Year 9	Geography	Well done for spending the most time in your year group on Tassomai last week
Charlotte	Year 9	Geography	Well done for 91% accuracy on Tassomai last week!
Georgina	Year 9	Geography	Well done for 91% accuracy on Tassomai last week!
Axel	Year 11	Reading	For his continued commitment to improving his reading skills – a fantastic example of perseverance and a positive attitude towards learning
Amy	Year 8	Careers	Being a great careers ambassador at the careers fair- Thank you
Hannah	Year 8	Careers	Being a great careers ambassador at the careers fair- Thank you
Harley	Year 8	N/A	Fantastic work last week earning 5 golden tickets! Keep up the good work
Kelsey	Year 8	N/A	Fantastic work last week earning 6 golden tickets! Keep up the good work
Georgia	Year 11	Careers	For being a great careers ambassador
Isabelle	Year 11	Careers	For being a great careers ambassador
Charlie	Year 10	Outside of School	From the maverick award 3 years ago to the presidents young volunteering award this year a fantastic contribution to the local cricketing community that should be recognised.
Jack	Year 10	English	Well done to Jack who has been working hard during English, and following advice and help from the teaching assistants.
Jack	Year 7	N/A	For over coming his concerns about the assessments and giving his best attempt
Lucy	Year 7	Spanish	For her great Duolingo streak, 548 days!!
Ava	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Kwezi	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Isaac	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Catherine	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Mori	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Rosanna	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Sophie	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Echo	Year 11	English Language	Wow! What an amazing story you have written during our 'English Language Drill'. I am so impressed with your quality of writing. You have worked so hard to ensure that you are impressing your examiner and getting as many marks as possible. Keep up the hard work!
Max	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Jack	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Alexa	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Lewis	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award
Alexa	Year 10	DofE	Completed the Bronze Award

## Staff member of the week

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**Ms Bennett (Exams Team) - Humility:** For managing a mammoth workload with patience and grace. Thank you for bearing with us as we sent back countless exam papers for remarks!.

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**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](mailto:office@abbey.college).

## Parent information

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### **Foodbank Donations**

St Thomas à Becket's Church is collecting donations for the Foodbank as part of their Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October. At Abbey College, we are supporting this community initiative by asking students to bring in non-perishable food items. Students should bring any items to their form group.

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### **Parent's Forum**



The next Parent's Forum meeting is on **2nd October**, 5-6pm on Teams. Items on the agenda are:

1. *Year 7 transition – Fiona Lane*
  2. *Behaviour: Rewards and Ethos - Sarah Noble*
  3. *Parent's Forum Role - Genevieve Wardle*
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Please email [ParentsForum@abbey.college](mailto: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](mailto: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: *Meridian Trust-wide Subject Input Day*. Our teachers will be working collaboratively across the Trust 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.

### **Important Notice: Booths Hill Works Starting 7th October**

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) have asked us to communicate that construction work will be undertaken at Booths Hill (entrance to Abbey Road) clearing the site and restoring the moat to enhance the natural beauty of the area.

Please be aware that there may be some impact on the pathway during this time. Staff will be on duty at the end of the school day to support and ensure safety.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 and Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Y10/11 Sports Studies Trip
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parent's Forum Meeting 5-6pm online
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Y11 Apprenticeship/T Level Webinar
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	CRC Apprenticeship Presentations
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half Term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Y13 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET Day
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Y12 Parliament Trip
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Y11 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>Reading tests in English lessons (10<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept)</li> <li>English, Maths, Science and Reasoning baseline tests (22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Sept)</li> </ul>	Half term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading proficiency report</li> <li>English baseline report</li> <li>Maths baseline report</li> <li>Science baseline report</li> <li>CAT4 report (reasoning abilities)</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal assessments this half term</li> </ul>		
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal subject assessments this half term</li> <li>Reading tests in English lessons (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept)</li> </ul>	KS4 entry report: 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct Reading: Half Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit grade</li> <li>Any early barriers to learning that have been identified by class teachers.</li> <li>Reading proficiency report</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct</li> <li>Not all subjects will assess during this window, details will be shared in advance via Teams for each class</li> </ul>	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit</li> <li>Current grade (based on end of y9 and early y10 testing)</li> <li>GCSE target grade</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal assessments this half term</li> </ul>	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit</li> <li>GCSE predicted grade</li> <li>GCSE target grades</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-month tests: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct</li> </ul>	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit</li> <li>Current grade</li> <li>Target grades</li> <li>Any early barriers to learning that have been identified by class teachers</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal assessments this half term</li> </ul>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit</li> <li>Current grade (based on end of y12 and early y13 testing)</li> <li>Target grade</li> </ul>

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

### Student welfare and wellbeing

#### E-Safety: Think Before You Post

This week, students have been reminded that online messages aren't always private. Talk to your child about the risks of sharing personal information or posting impulsively. Encourage them to think before they post and to be kind and respectful online.

Helpful Resources:

#### 1. UK Safer Internet Centre, link: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

- **Conversation starters** to help parents talk to children about online behaviour.
- **Guides to technology** including phones, tablets, smart TVs, and gaming consoles.
- **Social media safety tips** and privacy settings walkthroughs.
- Advice on **what is and isn't okay to share online**, and how to report harmful content.
- Support on topics like **sexting, cyberflashing, and screen time**.


#### 2. NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online, link: [NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

- **Age-appropriate advice** for talking to children about online risks.
- Tips on **impulsive posting, sharing personal information, and online kindness**.
- Information on **apps, games, livestreaming, and social media platforms**.
- Guidance on **parental controls, cyberbullying, and online grooming**.

Together, we can help our young people build positive digital habits and stay safe online. If you have any questions or would like further support, please don't hesitate to contact our [Welfare Team](#).

### **Student attendance - Week 3**

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-  **Shoutout to Year 7!** You're leading the way with the least number of days absent. Keep setting the example.
  - **Reminder:** School doors open at 8:35am. Be there early and ready to shine.
  - **How can you help?** Set an evening alarm to help your child prepare for a punctual start.
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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 15<sup>TH</sup> 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?***

### **Curriculums**

All taught curriculums are available to view on our website. You'll find a variety of resources, including learning journeys and knowledge organisers—particularly useful for revision.

- Click here <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum> to read about the curriculums we offer.

### ***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/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AbbeyCollegeAC>