

## Weekly Family Update – 30.01.26



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



## Headteacher's Update: Keeping You Informed About What Matters Most

### **Half-Term Milestone**

*It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the half term, time is certainly flying by, especially for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they look ahead to an important few months.*

### **Year 11 Revision and Post-16 Preparation**

*This week, Ms Beel has been supporting Year 11 pupils with creating structured revision plans in preparation for their next set of Trial Exams after the February break.*

*We're also delighted that almost all Year 11 students have now completed their MyChoice post-16 applications. Helping pupils feel confident and well-informed about their next steps is an important part of our work, and we are proud of the thoughtful guidance they receive.*

### **National Focus on Mobile Phone Use in Schools**

*You may have seen recent news about the Government's renewed focus on limiting mobile phone use in schools as part of a national effort to promote wellbeing and readiness to learn.*

*We are pleased that our existing approach, including the use of phone pouches, already reflects this. Keeping phones safely away during the school day helps pupils focus on their learning and enjoy more meaningful interactions with their peers.*

### **Year 9 Celebrate National Storytelling Week**

*This week, Mrs Morris delivered a fantastic assembly to Year 9 as part of National Storytelling Week. Students worked collaboratively to craft the openings of short stories using five ambitious vocabulary choices, and the creativity they displayed was wonderful. A few examples include:*

*"It was a dark, gloomy night as I meandered down a narrow alley. The moon glowed immensely in the night sky, painting my silhouette onto the wall in deep shadows..."*

*"The mysterious man meandered through the twisted cave system, vigilant in his quest to find the final fragments of the legendary Crystal of the Saint..."*

*“The light illuminated my silhouette as the corridor stretched endlessly before me. Regret filled my mind as murmured instructions echoed faintly in my memory...”*

*Thank you for your continued support, and have a wonderful weekend.*

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### **Important Safeguarding Reminder:**

Please take a moment to ensure your contact details on MCAS are up to date. Keeping this information current helps us reach you quickly if needed. If anything has changed, such as addresses, phone numbers or medical information, please let us know as soon as possible.

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#### **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](#) for all vacancies

## **Celebration of Spirit - Recognition**



## Headteacher Commendations w/c 26/01/26

Student	Subject	Nominated for
Oscar French	Form	Thank you for championing the spirit point challenge
Frankie Chester	Form	Thank you for championing the spirit point challenge
Emerald Samuels	Drama	For showing such kindness and helping other students
Harry Thompson	Form	Thank you for championing the spirit point challenge
Rose Marshall-Evans	Science	Fantastic Science revision homework, she went over and above what was required!
Olly Banks	English	Fantastic achievement in the recent English assessment and outstanding attitude to learning.
Amy Wilson	Spanish	300+ day streak on Duolingo! Keep going!
Harley Allen-Lavallin	Science	Being very patient with his partner and supporting them through the practical.
Alayna Stolworthy	All	Always working hard in lessons.
Madison Houweling	Chemistry	Mastery of aqueous electrolysis
Olivia Hooker	Chemistry	Mastery of aqueous electrolysis
Tsopela, Nefeli	Biology	Excellent work, dedication and interest overall.
Thomas Burrows	Maths	Always working so hard in maths every lesson
Annabelle Richardson	English	Your commitment to your English work - both inside and outside of the classroom - is evident in your recent assessment. Congratulations on your Grade 9!
Becca Rooney	English	Your journalistic writing was a real pleasure to read. Well done!
Amelia Rue	English	for your fantastic journalistic writing in English. Well done!
Logan Mills	English	Your enthusiasm when reading your part in 'Macbeth' is infectious and helps the whole class picture the scene. Thank you!
Zara Svensson	Various	Well done, Zara for always trying your best in all of your subjects! Keep doing so, and you'll continue to make great progress!
Joseph Gibbs	Geography	For continued high standard of organisation, class work, homework and assessment marks.
Lily Fielding	Geography	Well done for achieving 88% on GCSE living world assessment.
Seren Williams	Geography	Fantastic water cycle poem!
Jaydon Brown	Geography	Fantastic water cycle poem
Martins Traskovskis	Geography	Brilliant story board of the water cycle
Penny George	Geography	Great presentation on the water cycle
Darcey Hiron	PE	For her amazing performance at the District Swimming Gala, not just swimming up a year group but swimming up two groups in multiple strokes.
Lily Turpin	Year 8	Receipt of the Year Group Legend Award for proactive use of organisation tips given in assembly to create a revision plan - Excellent Work!
Lucy Cullen	DofE	Having a great start to the Bronze Award and putting the effort in
Dylan Walker	PE	For helping the PE department and supporting two different OOPs last week
Amber Jackson	PE	Great effort and commitment to girl's rugby club every week
Austin Hibbins	PE	Demonstrating good leadership qualities and supporting other students in the Year 7 Sports Leader Taster sessions
Isla Tyte	PE	Demonstrating good leadership qualities in the Year 7 Sports Leader taster session helping tidy and collect equipment and supporting others
Bradley Taylor	Geography	Amazing volcano model, fantastic effort!

## Staff member of the week

**Mrs Glen** – Intuition: Coming up with brilliant ideas to encourage students to improve their effort in lessons and sharing these ideas across the year groups, thank you.

### **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).

## Strong Partnerships

### Parent's Forum



### Parent Forum Survey

Ahead of our next meeting (11/2/26), please complete the Parent's Forum questionnaire:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentsForum25-26>

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11th February 2025 at 5:00pm.**

**New:** This meeting will be **hybrid** so you can attend **online or attend in person at Abbey College.**

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- Please email [ParentsForum@abbey.college](mailto:ParentsForum@abbey.college) any questions.
  - 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)
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Genevieve Wardle - Chair of Parent's Forum

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### **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Y9 Virtual Parents Evening
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Y8 Careers Week/Options Taster Sessions
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Y11 Macbeth Performance (in school time)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Y12 Virtual Parents Evening
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Y10 Virtual Parents Evening
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Y8 Options Evening
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	End of Term

# Everything You Need to Know About Assessments

## Spring 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>No formal subject assessments this half term</li> </ul>		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal subject assessments this half term</li> <li>Reading assessments in English lessons during Jan</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading proficiency report (published in Feb)</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class subject tests (6<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Jan)</li> </ul>	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan <b>Parents Evening: 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit Grades</li> <li>Current working at grades</li> <li>End of course target grades</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class subject tests (19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Jan)</li> <li>Reading assessments in English lessons during Jan</li> </ul>	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit Grades</li> <li>Current working at grades</li> <li>End of course predicted grades</li> <li>End of course target grades</li> <li>Reading proficiency report (published in Feb)</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal subject assessments this half term</li> </ul>		
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class subject tests (12<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Jan)</li> </ul>	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb <b>Parents Evening: 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit Grades</li> <li>Current working at grades</li> <li>End of course predicted grades</li> <li>End of course target grades</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal subject assessments this half term</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.

## Ensuring Pupils Feel Safe and Behave Well

### Safety First

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#### Lockdown Practice - Important Information

*All schools must have safety plans in place. This includes practising fire drills and lockdowns with staff and students.*

*Next week, during form time, we will remind all students what to do if the school ever needs to go into a lockdown. On **Friday 6th February**, we will have a **whole-school lockdown practice**. This practice helps everyone understand what to do and what it looks like in real life.*

*A “critical incident” means there is an emergency on the school site. It is very unlikely that this will ever happen, but we want everyone in our school to know how to stay safe if it did.*

*All staff and students have already been told about the practice. It will be calm and well-organised, and our Senior Leadership Team will be watching to see if we can make our safety plans even better.*

*If you have any questions or worries, please contact us. We are here to help.*

### ***Promoting Positive Behaviour Every Day***

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***Next Week's Equipment Check*** - all pupils will need to ensure they have a **Calculator**. This is an essential piece of equipment for Maths and Science and all students should have one with them.

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### ***Student attendance - Week 18***

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- **Congratulations: Year 9**, almost 3% above the national average for attendance. That means Year 9 attend school a week more than their peers nationally. Keep it up!
  - **Reminder:** To help your child make the most of their learning time, please try to arrange routine medical appointments (such as dentist, orthodontist, or pre-booked GP visits) outside of the school day whenever possible. Full-day absences for these appointments cannot be authorised.
  - **How you can help:** Thank you for supporting strong attendance, every lesson really does count. If you can, please avoid your child missing a full day for medical appointments. Even attending before or after a short appointment makes a big difference.
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Ms Davis – Attendance Officer

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## **SPRING INTO SCHOOL** **Attendance Challenge!**

- 🌟 Daily Entries:
  - ✅ **Every day counts!** Earn 2 entries for AM/PM attendance
- 🌟 Weekly Bonus:
  - 🎁 **Bonus entry** for perfect weekly attendance
- 🌟 Dates:
  - 📅 **Tracking starts from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**
- 🏆 **3 winners per year group** 😊

# Supporting Your Child's Wider Development

## Offer & Opportunity Programme (OOPs) - Spring Term

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**NEW:** Spring term timetable is available here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/oop>

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## Student curriculum

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

#### Chemistry Focus

In Chemistry lessons, pupils learn what things are made of, how they change, and why they behave the way they do. Students learn about everyday things like air, water, food, metals, and plastics.

#### Why It Matters?

- Your child learns to solve problems, ask good questions, and think carefully.
- These skills help them in all subjects, not just science.
- Chemistry links to real life: medicine, the environment, materials, and energy.

#### What Students Do

- Explore the periodic table
- Try out simple reactions
- Learn how materials behave
- Use real science tools in safe, guided lessons
- Apply ideas to real-world problems

#### What Parents Can Do

1. **Ask your child about what they learned this week** - This helps them remember key ideas and boosts confidence.
2. **Look at the Knowledge Organisers** - These give simple explanations of key topics.
3. **Encourage curiosity at home** - Easy activities:
  - Talk about changes when cooking
  - Notice colours, smells, or textures

- Ask, “Why do you think that happened?”

#### **4. Support homework routines**

Short, regular practice helps them build strong science habits.

For more information and resources, click here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/chemistry>

To find out about your child's curriculums, click here:

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum>

### Communicating with us and raising 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/](https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/)