

ABBHEY COLLEGE

Abbey Road, Ramsey

Headteacher—Mr Christoforou



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Headteacher's Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the publication of our Ofsted report, we have been working on our nine-month improvement plan. I want share one of the priorities with you in a little more detail over the next two weeks: **Quality First Teaching**.

The term 'quality first teaching' is summarised as teaching that involves:

- ◆ Highly focussed lesson design with sharp objectives.
- ◆ High levels of pupil involvement and engagement with their learning.
- ◆ High levels of interaction for all students.
- ◆ Appropriate use of teacher questioning, modelling and explaining.
- ◆ An emphasis on learning through discussions, with regular opportunities for students to talk – both individually and in groups.
- ◆ An expectation that students will accept responsibility for their own learning and work independently.
- ◆ Regular use of encouragement and authentic praise to engage and motivate students.

At its essence, quality first teaching seeks to engage and support the learning of all young people, builds on their prior learning, and responds appropriately to the 'pupil voice'. The challenge for teachers lies in planning for everyone's needs in a single class.

The teacher has to use assessment very carefully to work out each student's strengths and weaknesses in every topic. Ms Farrag, over the next half term, will be organising a comprehensive training programme for staff on how to deliver this approach consistently in lessons. Next week, I will explain in a little more detail what this might look like in lessons so you can discuss this with your son or daughter.

Well done!

Well done to all those students who qualified through their attendance at school for the Thorpe Park trip!

Please remember that this day (27th May) is still a school day and we expect all other students to attend. Each year group will have a fun day of enrichment activities to look forward to.

Give us your thoughts!

What do you think of our weekly update? Moreover, do you have any thoughts on any of the letters sent out? Do you have any questions you want to ask? Do you like the blog?

Please write any comments/thoughts on our communication blog: <http://abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/2015-06-01-09-58-16/communication-blog>

Furthermore, please follow us on Twitter: @abbeycollegeAC. Everyday we are updating it with good news stories and pictures!



Glider Pilot



On Thursday 12 May, Jordan Keilty and other pilots (as part of the scholarship programme) at Nene Valley Gliding Club (NVGC) were interviewed by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire’s correspondent Hannah Gelbart, about the opportunities provided to them by NVGC and the experience and skills that gained from this. It was then aired live on Tuesday 17 May at 07:47.

You can listen to the broadcast via this link on iPlayer Radio: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03t150b>

Changes to the school day

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

Over the last few weeks we have consulted with all students, parents and staff regarding a proposal to change the times of the school day. 591 students contributed their views, 163 parents and 94 staff members. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Overall there were very mixed views; a large number of people supported the proposal, yet there were many questions raised about the suggested split lunchtime. Many people offered alternative ideas regarding this, but ultimately they would lead to

Exams

Many of our Year 13 students with exams starting next week are now in their official Exam Preparation Period and are structuring their own study about the school day attending revision sessions in school or private study at home. Extra revision sessions run afterschool most days of the week; please check with the Sixth Form teachers for the times. We have set aside a silent study room in the Hub with resources for students who are in school to access.

For some of our Sixth Form students exams have already started. If you have any concerns about the well-being of your son or daughter at this time please contact the Sixth Form Team on sarah.clark@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

This week’s Top Vivos! Well done!

- Eliana Howell
- Alexandra Nelson
- Leva Bankauskaite

further significant changes, particularly in our House system.

As a result we will not be making any changes to the school day for the coming academic year. 40% of students put forward an alternative model for the school day, mainly wanting to improve the lunchtime experience.

It is clear from these student views that there are future discussions to be had regarding the times of the day, and we will endeavour to give our students the opportunity to develop these ideas next year.

Key Dates

Monday 16th May	External Exams start (please check the exam timetable sent out to you)
Tuesday 19th July	Enterprise Day
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June	Summer Half Term



FREE

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Road Safety Partnership
present

THE YOUNG DRIVER EVENT 2016!



Date: Wednesday 29th June 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm
Thursday 30th June 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm

Location: Huntingdon Racecourse

The event is for Year 12 students and is similar to a Fresher's Fayre, where students can wonder around the venue taking part in activities and demonstrations! The aim of the event is to give students the opportunity to make good informed choices about driving, cycling and walking.

This year we have more exhibitors than before, including...

- ⚠ 4 Crash Cars
- ⚠ Stopping Distance Scenarios
- ⚠ Hazard Perception
- ⚠ In Car Distraction
- ⚠ Reaction Timers
- ⚠ Cool Car Wall
- ⚠ Fire Engine Equipment
- ⚠ Mocktails
- ⚠ Driving Instructors
- ⚠ Car Insurance Companies

**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

To book your schools space please contact Cheryl Morgan on
01223 699691 or cheryl.morgan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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