



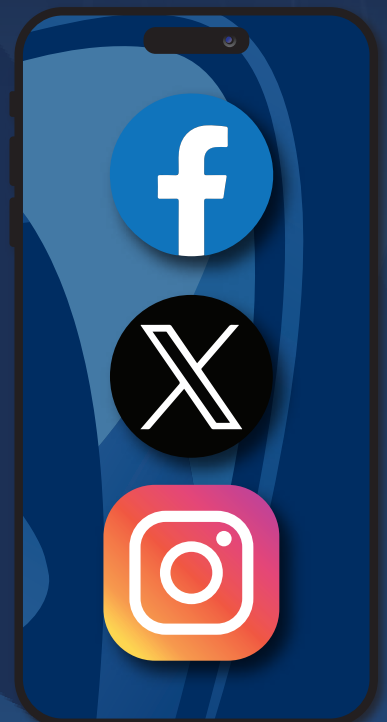
"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 5

Date: 3/10/25



MASSIVE THANK YOU!

WOW! On Wednesday evening, we welcomed over 600 visitors to our Open Event, and what a success it was!

Our fantastic school choir welcomed guests to our main hall for our Principal's talks, after which our pupils took our visitors through our school.

From our Roald Dahl trail to the buzz of activity in classrooms, families had the chance to explore our curriculum, meet our dedicated staff, and see first-hand the exciting opportunities and facilities we offer.

Highlights included interactive lessons, live performances, delicious food, and even some very popular animals that stole the show. The atmosphere across the school was vibrant, busy, and full of energy – a true celebration of our Abbey community.

Thank you to all the families who joined us and made the evening so special. A big thank you to all the staff and pupils, whose hard work, energy, and team-work truly shone through.

Couldn't make our event? You can still experience The Abbey School during one of our Open Morning Tours. Book your visit here:





**The Abbey
School**

OPEN MORNINGS

**Wednesday 8th & 15th
October
From 9.00am**

If you would rather book a tour of The Abbey School and experience what everyday life is like instead of coming to our Open Evening event, please sign up!

You will still get to meet our dedicated teaching staff, see our pupils thriving and get to view our amazing facilities!

Tours start at 9.00am.

We look forward to welcoming you.

☎ 01795 532633

✉ info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

London Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8RZ



WELCOME TO THE ABBEY SCHOOL

Click the image below to view our brand new promotion video!



Warm Return to The Abbey School: Growing Together in Kindness

It has been a welcome sight at school this week seeing all of our students return after that long summer holiday. The school simply isn't the same without the energy in our classrooms, the lively buzz of the canteen, and the purposeful footsteps echoing through our corridors.

With the return of our students, we are reminded of who we are and what we stand for. We are proud to be an integral part of the Faversham community - some of our students' families have roots here going back generations. Though our buildings, uniforms, and staff may have changed over time, our core values remain steadfast and we believe they always will.

We are a school that lives by our motto: "Be the Best You Can Be." As a dedicated team, we strive to nurture in our students a strong sense of character and purpose. We promote values such as aspiration, curiosity, integrity, persistence, altruism, creativity, resourcefulness, and reflection - and, perhaps most importantly in today's world, a deep commitment to community and responsibility.

We teach our students to treat others with respect and compassion, regardless of background. Everyone deserves to feel they belong - no matter their race, nationality, religion, sex, gender, age, disability or any other aspect of their identity.

At The Abbey School, we see diversity and inclusion as strengths to be celebrated. Our aim is to prepare students not only for academic achievement but to become kind, empathetic individuals who make a positive difference in the world. Because in the end, isn't it kindness that matters most - that we look



The Abbey
School



SEND US YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENTS!

We want to highlight and showcase all the amazing achievements of our students, not only in the classroom, but outside of it as well!

We are asking parents to send us details of the fantastic things your child has achieved. This can be anything from sports, arts, community service, or any other extracurricular activity.

These achievements not only reflect your child's talents and growth, but also provide inspiration to others in our school community.

We will be sharing the achievements on our social media channels and in our weekly newsletter.

Please email info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk and include your child's name, year group, and a good description of the achievement. You can also send us photos if you have any!

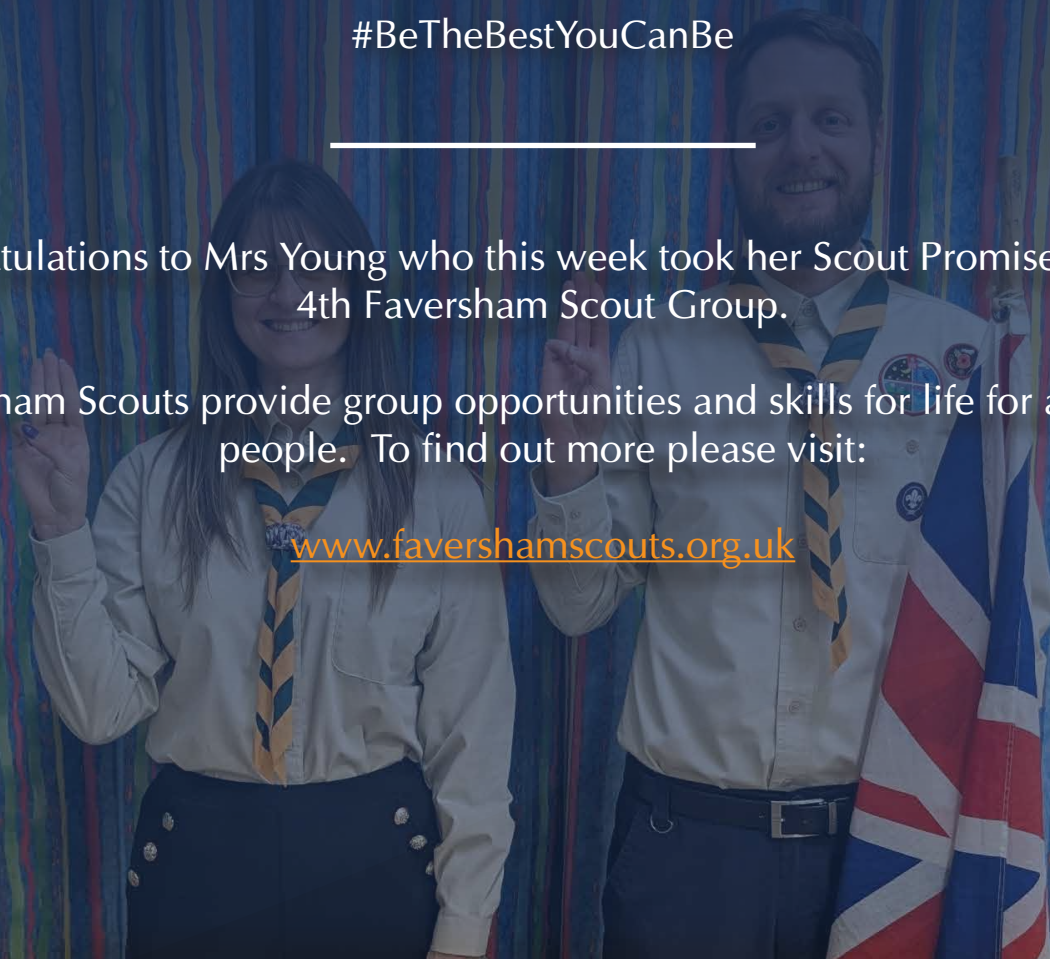
Thanks for helping us showcase all the brilliant achievements happening in our school community!

#BeTheBestYouCanBe

Congratulations to Mrs Young who this week took her Scout Promise with the 4th Faversham Scout Group.

Faversham Scouts provide group opportunities and skills for life for all young people. To find out more please visit:

www.favershamscouts.org.uk



You can make a difference!

Are you passionate about making a difference in education and shaping the future of young learners? The Abbey School is seeking a dedicated **Parent Governor** to join our board and help support our school community.

Interested in joining us?

Email: sphillipson@thatrust.org.uk



Become a Parent Governor

- Help shape meaningful decisions that truly impact young lives.
- Grow and develop new skills in a rewarding role.
- Be part of a supportive organisation that truly makes a difference.
- Help us remove barriers to education.

Email: sphillipson@thatrust.org.uk

What we offer:

- Enjoy a flexible commitment that fits around your schedule.
- Access comprehensive support and training to help you thrive in your role.
- Take advantage of valuable professional development opportunities.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



TIME LOST DUE TO LATENESS

AMOUNT	MINS LATE	HOURS MISSED END OF SCHOOL YEAR	SCHOOL DAYS LOST
1 LATE PER WEEK	10	6.5 HOURS	1.3 DAYS
2 LATES PER WEEK	10	13 HOURS	2.6 DAYS
3 LATES PER WEEK	10	19.5 HOURS	3.9 DAYS
4 LATES PER WEEK	10	26 HOURS	5.2 DAYS
5 LATES PER WEEK	10	32.5 HOURS	6.5 DAYS



**“Out of all of the Open Evenings
we have done, this one was by far
the best one we’ve attended!”**

Parent Survey
Open Evening 2025



**The Abbey
School**



**THE HOWARD
Academy Trust**





SPOTLIGHT ON.... READING AT THE ABBEY SCHOOL

At The Abbey, we believe reading is the foundation of success. It opens doors to learning across every subject, develops empathy and imagination, and builds confidence in and out of the classroom. That's why reading is at the heart of our curriculum.

Form Reading – Shared Stories, Shared Success

Every week, students take part in 30 minutes of dedicated form reading. Across the year, each year group explores two carefully selected texts, chosen to challenge, inspire, and spark discussion. To support understanding, students use reading mats, a rich canvas of visual cues that help them connect with characters, themes, and vocabulary. Carefully crafted questions enable students to explore the text in summary and also start to creatively predict the evolving storyline.

This programme is overseen by Mr Roberts, our Reading for Pleasure Lead, who ensures that every student is introduced to a broad and exciting range of books. Parents can look out for weekly updates on our social media, where we will share progress, highlights, and suggested questions you can ask at home to spark conversations about the books your children are enjoying.

Targeted Support – No Student Left Behind

We also know that some students need extra help to unlock the world of reading. Miss Garrett, our English Intervention Tutor, leads our ReadingWise intervention programme. This provides intensive, personalised online reading support for students who are not yet confident readers. Miss Garrett carefully monitors students' reading ages, ensuring that anyone reading below their chronological age is identified quickly and given the right support to catch up.

English Curriculum – Embedding a Reading Culture

In addition, our English department ensures that reading is deeply embedded into learning. Students in Years 7 and 8 have a dedicated reading lesson once a fortnight, where they explore texts in more depth and strengthen comprehension skills. This programme is overseen by Mr Prior, who coordinates how reading is woven into the English curriculum.

Why Reading Matters

Strong reading skills don't just build enjoyment, they directly impact learning across the curriculum. Confident readers:

- Access exam papers more effectively by understanding complex questions and instructions.
- Grow their vocabulary and expression, improving the quality of their writing.
- Develop resilience and focus, which benefit every subject.
-

In short, reading well equips our students for success both in school and in life.

SPOTLIGHT ON.... READING AT THE ABBEY SCHOOL

How Families Can Help at Home

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting this culture of reading. A few simple steps make a big difference:

- Ask open questions about the texts your child is reading, such as:

“What’s the most interesting thing that’s happened so far?”

“Which character do you like best and why?”

“What do you think will happen next?”

- Encourage regular daily reading at home, even 15 minutes a day has a huge impact.
- Let your child see you reading too, modelling builds habits.

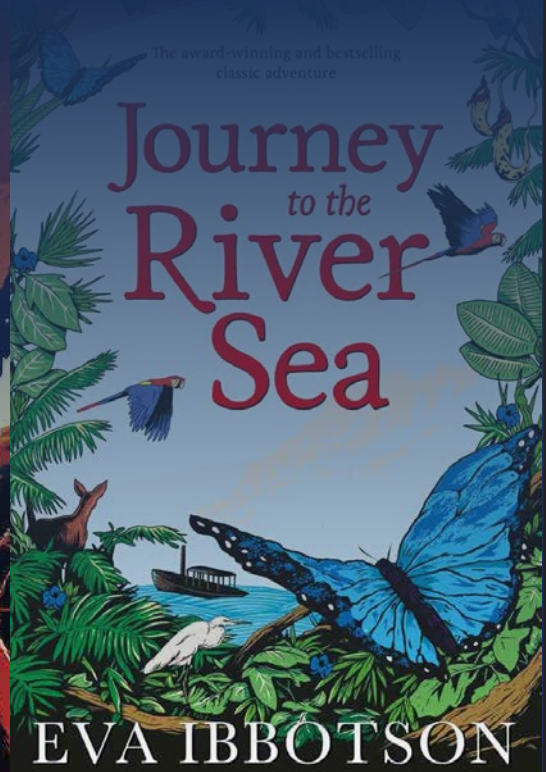
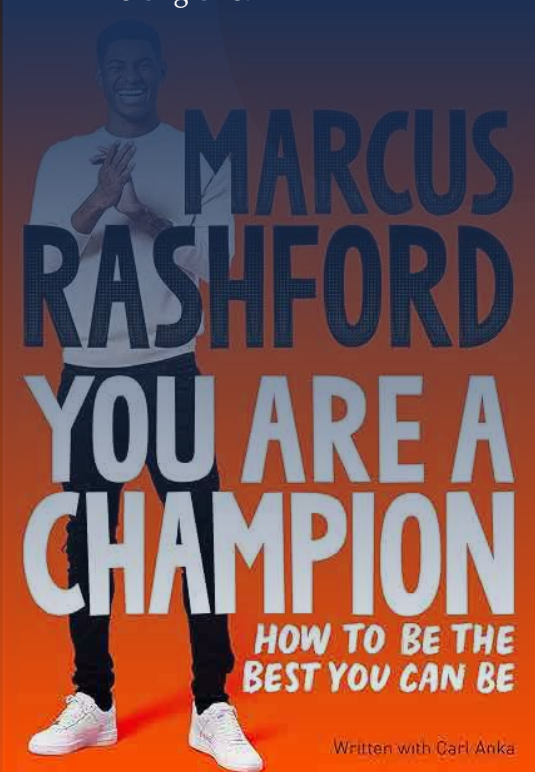
A New Chapter for Our Library

We are also delighted to welcome Mr Mitchell, our new Library Manager. Not only is he a published author, but he is also actively involved in developing the school’s relationship with the Faversham Literary Festival. Under his leadership, we have lots of exciting events planned, and we look forward to the re-launch of our school library as a vibrant hub for reading, discovery, and creativity.

Working Together

Through these combined approaches, whole-school form reading, targeted interventions, curriculum lessons, and an inspiring library, we are building a culture where reading is enjoyed, valued, and accessible to every student.

Together with families, we can ensure every student at The Abbey becomes not only a skilled reader but also a lifelong one.



In Year 7, students are reading two books throughout the year:

One book is *You Are a Champion: How to be the best you can be* by Marcus Rashford, an inspiring and practical guide that encourages young people to believe in themselves and achieve their goals. Drawing on his own life experiences, Rashford offers advice on confidence, resilience, kindness, and staying true to yourself. The book was selected as it helps students build positive mind-sets and develop strategies to overcome challenges, making it an empowering and uplifting text to support their personal growth throughout this year and onward in their journey at the Abbey School.

The other book is *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle, a moving story set in London during the Second World War. It follows Joseph, a boy sent to live with a gruff stranger, Mrs. F, who looks after a rundown zoo. As Joseph struggles to find his place, he forms an unlikely bond with a huge silverback gorilla named Adonis. The novel explores themes of friendship, courage, and hope in the darkest of times, offering young readers a powerful perspective on history and resilience.

Year 8, students are reading two books throughout the year:

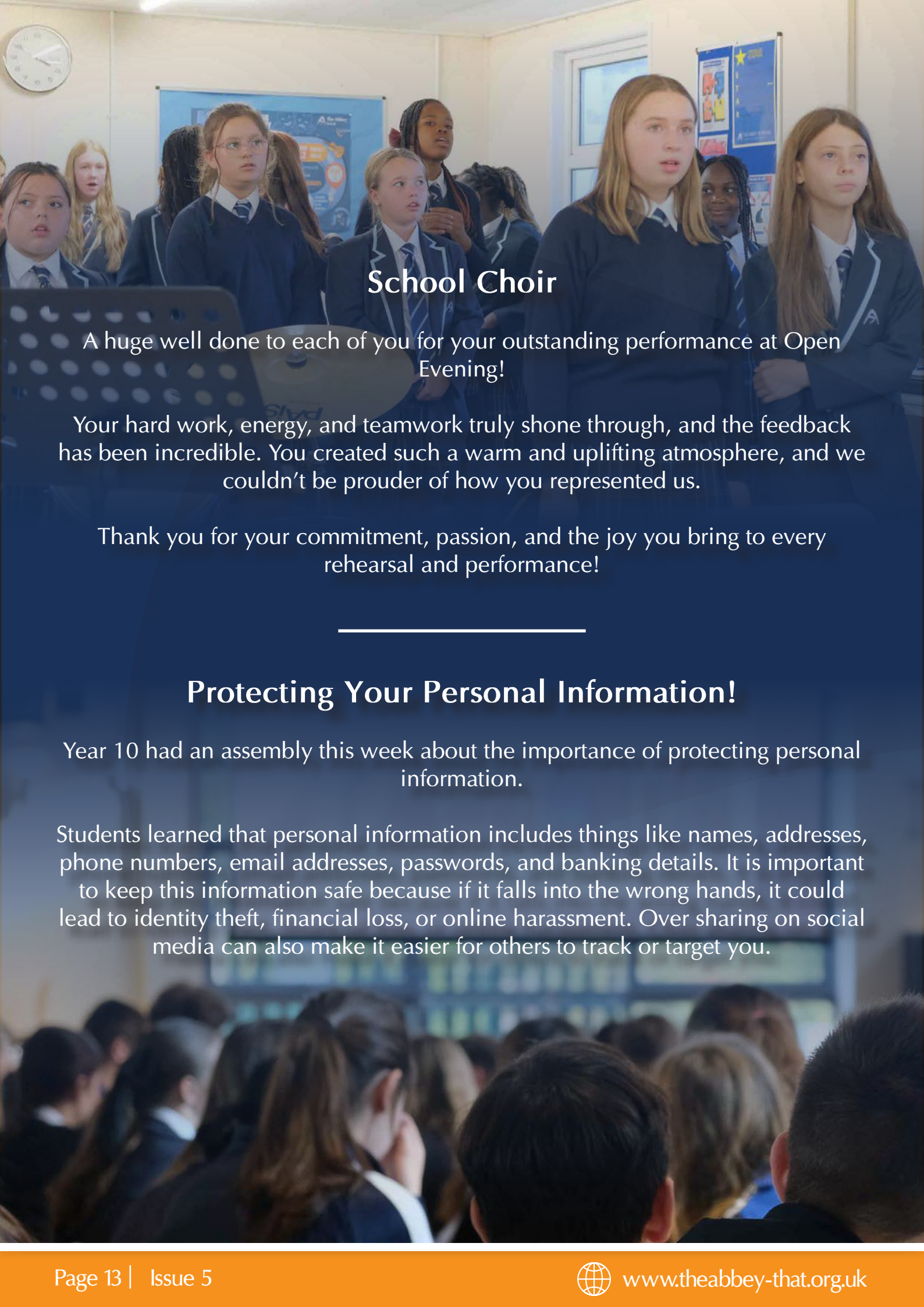
One book is *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson, an enchanting adventure set in the Amazon rainforest. The story follows Maia, an orphan sent to live with distant relatives in Brazil, where she discovers friendship, courage, and the wonders of a new world. Full of vivid descriptions, humour, and exciting twists, the novel explores themes of resilience, kindness, and the importance of staying true to oneself, making it a captivating read for young readers.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai, the inspiring true story of a young girl who stood up for education in Pakistan despite facing extreme danger. The book follows Malala's journey from her childhood in the Swat Valley to becoming a global advocate for girls' education. It explores themes of courage, resilience, and the power of speaking out, encouraging students to reflect on the importance of equality and standing up for what is right.

Year 10, students are reading two books throughout the year:

Due to the expanded focus of reading, we had the ability to give the students the choice of what book they would like to read in form time. The first book students selected was *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman, a thought-provoking novel set in a world divided by race and power. Through the story of Sephy, a privileged Cross, and Callum, an oppressed Nought, the book explores themes of prejudice, friendship, and justice. It encourages young people to reflect on issues of equality and empathy.

The second book chosen was *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, a bestselling dystopian novel that has captured the imagination of young readers worldwide. Set in a future society where teenagers are forced to fight for survival in a televised competition, the story follows Katniss Everdeen as she shows courage, resilience, and compassion in the face of injustice. The novel raises important questions about power, inequality, and the value of human life.

A group of school children in blue and white uniforms are standing in a classroom, looking towards the camera. They are part of a school choir. In the background, there is a clock on the wall and some educational posters.

School Choir

A huge well done to each of you for your outstanding performance at Open Evening!

Your hard work, energy, and teamwork truly shone through, and the feedback has been incredible. You created such a warm and uplifting atmosphere, and we couldn't be prouder of how you represented us.

Thank you for your commitment, passion, and the joy you bring to every rehearsal and performance!

Protecting Your Personal Information!

Year 10 had an assembly this week about the importance of protecting personal information.

Students learned that personal information includes things like names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, passwords, and banking details. It is important to keep this information safe because if it falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, financial loss, or online harassment. Over sharing on social media can also make it easier for others to track or target you.

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform jacket, is looking down at a small yellow gecko he is holding in his hands. The background is a blurred indoor setting, likely a school hallway.

STEM CLUB MEETS PASCAL

On Friday, our Year 8 STEM Club students had the exciting opportunity to meet the newest member of the science family, Pascal the gecko!

Pascal was very happy to greet every student, and the club were thrilled to welcome their scaly new friend.

#BeTheBestYouCanBe

2025 /26 CHARITIES

We are pleased to announce that our main charity for 2025-26 will be **Happy Endings Rescue**. We hope to be able to support them in a number of ways, and find out more about their work through a number of visits there.

The charity has asked that in order to initially support them, we could collect certain items that they require:

- Cat Wet Food - Felix only
- Dog Wet Food - Any brand
- Newspaper
- Canned peas
- Canned sweetcorn

If you are able to donate them, every donation will receive house points/golden tickets, and will obviously benefit the animals directly. We will then take the donations to them. Please could donations be given to the office.

Thank you so much for your support with our charity.



PASTORAL SPOTLIGHT ON.... HOMEWORK TIPS

As the new year gets under way, it can be tricky to manage the expectations of homework.

In the older years, the amount of homework can increase, and we know that there can be a challenging transition from primary school expectations to the year 7 homework timetable for our new students.

Homework is an essential part of our school curriculum, and serves the purpose of reinforcing the learning from the classroom. Homework teaches young people skills of resilience, organisation and independence, which are essential as we move through life.

Here are our top tips for staying on top of your homework –

Get it done!

If you do homework as soon as it is set, you stay on top of it and it does not build up to an unmanageable level.

Be organised!

Have your equipment and a space ready at home to make it easier for yourself. It only needs to be a small corner.

Remember to check your planner and Arbor!

Everything you need to do will be there.

Try our fantastic Homework Club

we have staff ready to help and support you here after school every day except Fridays.

Remember – we are here to help and if you get stuck, or have any problems, please speak to us. You can speak to a Form Tutor, a Head of year, a teacher or the pastoral team.

You can email the pastoral team on pastoralhub@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Craft, Textiles and Gardening Club – Tuesday 3:30-4:30 in C11

We warmly invite you to come to craft, textiles and gardening club. We meet in C11, and, depending on the weather, we decide what we want to do in the session. As you can see from the pictures, we have had great rewards from our planting of tomatoes and potatoes – and hopefully students had a tasty meal from them!

This term we are getting crafty, and we are making different types of poppies, in the hope of making a craft wreath for Armistice day. We would really love to see you at the club!



EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME TERM 1

This term, our extracurricular programme is full of exciting opportunities, with something to suit everyone's interests. There are sports, creative clubs and new activities to try out. Joining in is not just about fun, it's also a chance to discover new talents, meet different people, and grow in confidence.

Trying new things is especially valuable because it helps you step outside your comfort zone. You may uncover hidden skills you didn't know you had, or find a passion that could shape your future. It also teaches resilience, problem-solving, and teamwork skills that are useful both in and out of school.

Most importantly, extracurricular activities bring balance to your life. They give you a break from classroom learning while still helping you develop in meaningful ways. Whether you continue with something familiar or try something completely new, you'll gain experiences and memories that will last well beyond this term.

Click the image below to see what is happening this term!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS ABSENT IN A SCHOOL YEAR	ATTENDANCE RATE %	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE	LESSONS LOST
0	100%	190 DAYS	0
10	95%	180 DAYS	50
20	90%	170 DAYS	100
30	85%	160 DAYS	150
40	80%	150 DAYS	200



ABOVE 95% ATTENDANCE =
VERY GOOD CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs

ABOVE 94% ATTENDANCE =
GOOD CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs

ABOVE 92% ATTENDANCE =
FAIR CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs

ABOVE 90% ATTENDANCE =
LESS THAN 50% CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs

88% ATTENDANCE =
LESS THAN 35% CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs
LESS THAN 85% ATTENDANCE =
LESS THAN 30% CHANCE OF 5 GCSEs

Abbey School Sixth Form

It's not too late to join our Sixth Form!

If you're still considering your next steps, we'd love to welcome you into our vibrant Sixth Form community. Our dedicated Sixth Form block provides a modern, supportive environment designed to help students thrive with spaces for independent study, collaboration, and socialising.

We offer a wide range of courses to suit different interests and career goals ensuring every student can follow a route that's right for them. Whether you want to continue with subjects you enjoy or explore something new, there's still time to secure your place.

But don't wait too long, you have until 3rd October to join us.

Get in touch today to find out more and begin your journey with us.

Email our Director of Sixth Form to get more information!

ncrouch@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

[Click the box below to watch The Sixth Form Promotion Video](#)



Non-Uniform Day!

On Thursday 16th October (the last day of term 1), we will be having our first Non Uniform day to raise funds for Happy Endings Rescue.

Thank you to everyone who has already paid. Should your child wish to take part in non uniform days then payment of £5.00 (covering the 5 non uniform days for the year) will need to be made by Wednesday 16th, this money is going to help support Happy Endings Rescue this year.

If you have not already done this, please could you make payment as soon as possible, this can be done via school shop on your Arbor app. If payment is not made we will assume your child will be attending in full school uniform, please note we are unable to take cash on the day.

Thank you very much for your support of our charity.



Big thanks to EKC and the University of Kent for supporting us at our Open Evening on Wednesday!



Work Experience Programme for Year 10 Students 2026

We are pleased to announce that our Work Experience Programme for Year 10 students, taking place from Monday 29th June to Friday 4th July 2026. This compulsory, week-long placement gives students the opportunity to step away from their usual school timetable and gain invaluable first-hand experience in the world of work.

To introduce the programme, we will be holding an assembly for all Year 10 students, where they will receive clear guidance on how to source, apply for, and follow up on work placements. This session will also offer practical advice on approaching employers and making the most of this experience.

Why Work Experience Matters

At this important stage of their education, work experience plays a vital role in helping students:

- Explore potential career paths and industries of interest
- Build independence and confidence through real-world experience
- Enhance CVs and future applications for sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or university
- Develop transferable skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving

Students are expected to arrange their own placement, ideally in a field that interests them. This process not only gives students a sense of ownership over their future, but also helps them develop essential skills for future job searches and applications.

Supporting Your Child

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to actively pursue a placement that aligns with their interests or future aspirations. Whether it's in healthcare, business, the arts, engineering, education, or another field, every experience will help broaden their understanding of the working world.

Students will be guided through the process in school, and I will be available to offer support and advice as needed.


This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain meaningful insight into the world beyond school, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on their confidence, motivation, and future goals.

Mrs Priestley
Careers Support Co-ordinator



SPOTLIGHT ON GEOGRAPHY

Our Year 11 Geography students recently enjoyed a two-day field event to Whitstable, Kent, as part of their GCSE AQA studies. During their time in the field, they explored both human and physical geography, investigating whether the high street economy was more independent or dominated by chain stores, and examining the main economic sector of the harbour. On Whitstable beach, they carried out hands-on studies, systematically sampling sediment to look at erosion and deposition patterns, while also assessing the effectiveness of coastal management through groynes.



The Geography Department were immensely proud of how well the students represented The Abbey School. Their enthusiasm, focus, and teamwork shone throughout, and they approached every task with real maturity and commitment. Members of the public even praised their behaviour and work ethic, which was wonderful to hear. The department thoroughly enjoyed teaching them in the field and felt that both days were a fantastic success — well done, Year 11!

Departmental congratulations to Harlen F in Year 7 who achieved 100% on his first Geography assessment.

Amazing achievement!



SENECA CHAMPIONS

Well done to our Seneca Champions from last week!

Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12&13	1h 36m	87%	Oliver R	Madison G
11	38h 7m	67%	Ryker D	Lilly W
10	26h 5m	67%	Megan P	Devany D
9	40h 51m	65%	May G	Maiya W H
8	8h 16m	63%	Axl B	Jessica M
7	18h 0min	64%	Ava C	Abiola O

Thank you to our GCSE Dance students who performed tirelessly at open evening on Wednesday 1 October.

Pupils had a short time to learn and rehearse their routines yet performed excellently with enthusiasm and energy on the night. Your dedication and hard work does not go unnoticed! Thank you and a huge well done from Miss Nunn. We are very proud of you all.



E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's Illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's Illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent
Police**

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety





HIRE OUR FACILITIES

CLICK THE QR CODE TO BOOK NOW!



Consideration In The Community

Most of you are wonderful ambassadors of the school through your kind and considerate actions towards others in our local community, especially when travelling to and from school.

Remember it is **not** fair for anyone to be allowed to deliberately make life miserable for others. **We will never tolerate nasty behaviour, thoughtless actions or bullying towards those in our school or in the local community.** In school always ask an adult for help if you are being treated unkindly or if you feel frustrated about the way others are treating you. **In the community** we need to show we are caring and considerate towards those who live and work near the school, so everyone feels safe and happy when they meet Abbey students.

DO

Move aside on the pavement to allow to use it.

Speak using appropriate tone and at a sensible level to those you are with, using language that is not offensive or swearing.

Cross roads safely, using the bridge to navigate the A3 and by looking up and checking the traffic for all other streets where there are no pedestrian crossing facilities

Respect residents' property by walking on the pavements, keeping away from cars, bin, doors and driveways. Be polite to those who live near our school.

DO NOT

Monopolise the whole pavement space by walking in a group forcing elderly, those with prams or indeed anyone from the community into the road.

Shriek, shout, threaten or swear to those around you, be they friends, members of the public or students who attend other schools - this is intimidating behaviour brings our school into disrepute and this will be followed up and dealt with.

Run across the A3, this is a busy road with TWO speed cameras on it for a reason - the number of accidents. **DO NOT** become a statistic (injured or worse). Do not walk out directly in front of cars and expect them to stop.

Trespass onto people's property or cause damage to their property, if this happens residents should report this to the police, and we will always help the police identify who has caused the problem so they can take the action they need to (this could include prosecution for criminal damage or harassment etc).

CANTEEN MENU 2025/26

Click the images below to view the canteen menu for Term 1!



POETRY LIVE

Apollo Victoria Theatre, London, on Thursday 13th February 2026.

This inspiring event brings GCSE poets to life – students will hear live readings, gain insight into exam texts, and take part in a Q&A with some of the UK's most celebrated contemporary poets.

Tickets: £38.33 (available from Monday 15th September via Arbor)
Spaces are limited – book early to secure your place!

Don't miss this unforgettable opportunity to boost GCSE Literature skills and enjoy poetry in a whole new way!

#PoetryLive #AbbeyEnglish #GCSEReady #LoveLiterature

The Poets appearing on the day



Simon Armitage



John Agard



Carol Ann Duffy



Imtiaz Dharker



STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following students for collecting the most house points this week!
KEEP UP THE AMAZING WORK!



Kacie F
Year 9
60HP



Sophie M
Year 8
75HP



Arthur M
Year 8
51HP



Polly C-S
Year 9
86HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

Celebrating Your Achievements



Email us your child's achievement
info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT,
CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR PREVIOUS
NEWSLETTER!



Staggered Dismissal Times

Each year will then be dismissed one at a time in no particular order. In the event of wet weather, afternoon line up will be cancelled and we will revert to dismissing each year group one at a time from their classrooms.

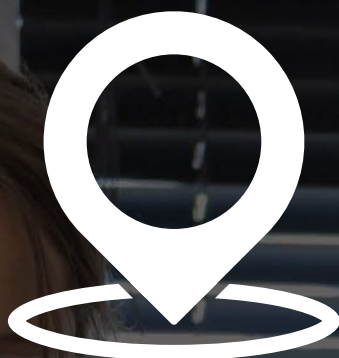


NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

At The Abbey School, we strive to create a **safe and secure** environment for the school community. Our school is a **welcoming and inclusive place** where we all show one another respect and look out for each other.

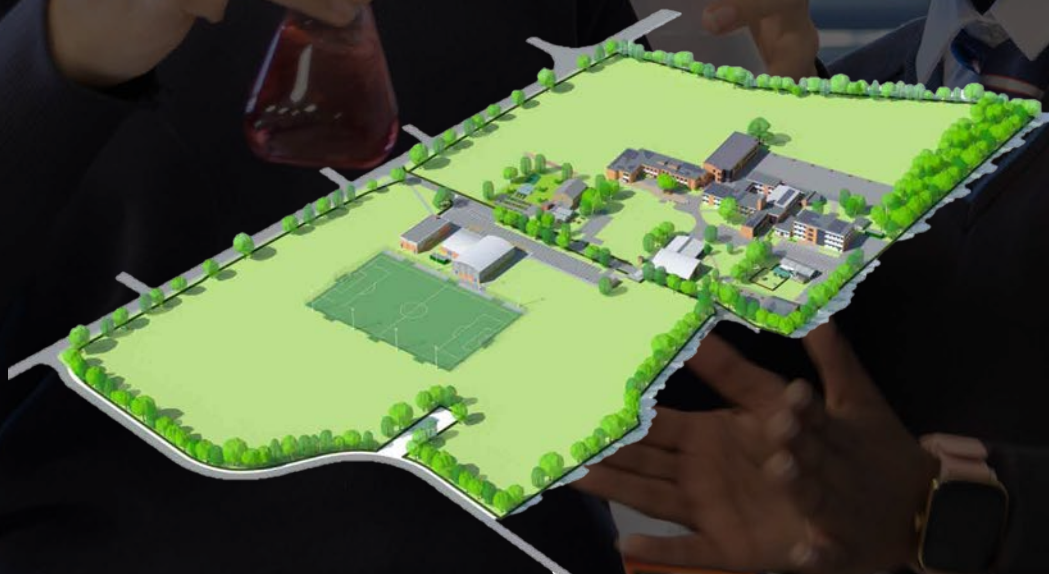
We will not tolerate any **threatening, abusive or violent** behaviour and action will be taken when necessary.





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Attendance Office

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“BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE”



The Abbey
School