



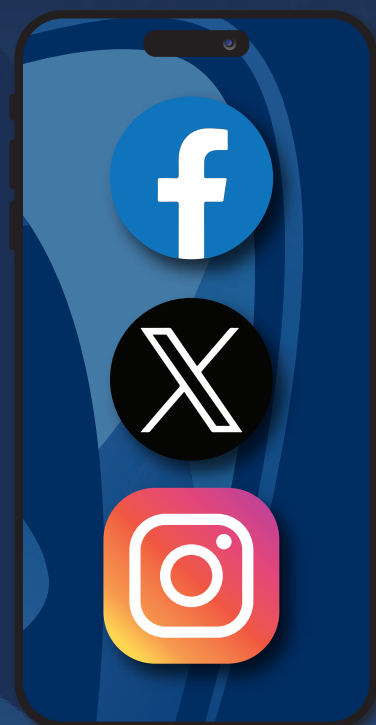
"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 4

Date: 26/09/25





OPEN EVENT

"Be the Best You Can Be"

Open Evening with Principal's Talk:
Wednesday 1 October, 2025

5pm till 8pm

Book your place online



www.theabbey-that.org.uk

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY SCHOOL

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



OPEN EVENING SNEAK PEAK

At The Abbey School, we know that the journey from Year 6 to Year 7 is an important one, and we want it to feel exciting, supportive, and full of opportunity.

This year, as part of our drive to inspire a love of reading, our Senior Leadership Team will be stepping into the world of Roald Dahl!

On the evening, you'll be able to spot them around the school on a special Roald Dahl trail, the perfect way for families to meet the team, say hello, and experience first-hand how we make learning engaging.

Come along, explore our school, and see how we help every child settle in, thrive, and grow.

We can't wait to welcome you!

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@abbeyschoolfaversham.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

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



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.

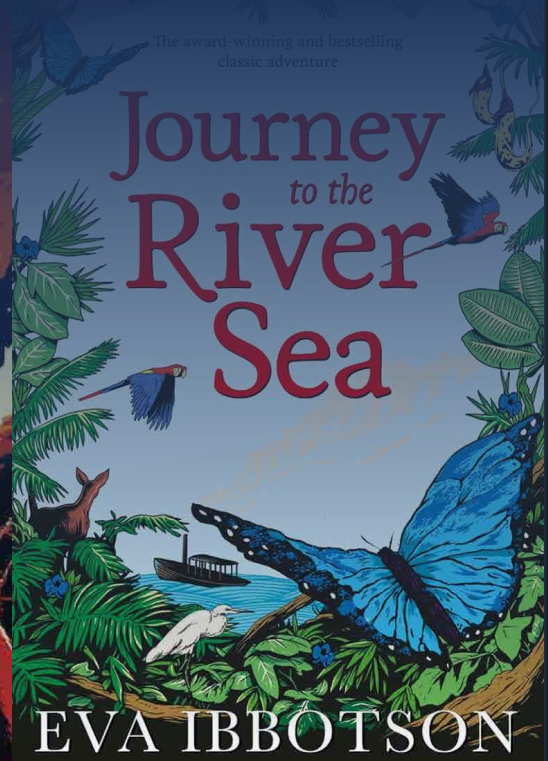
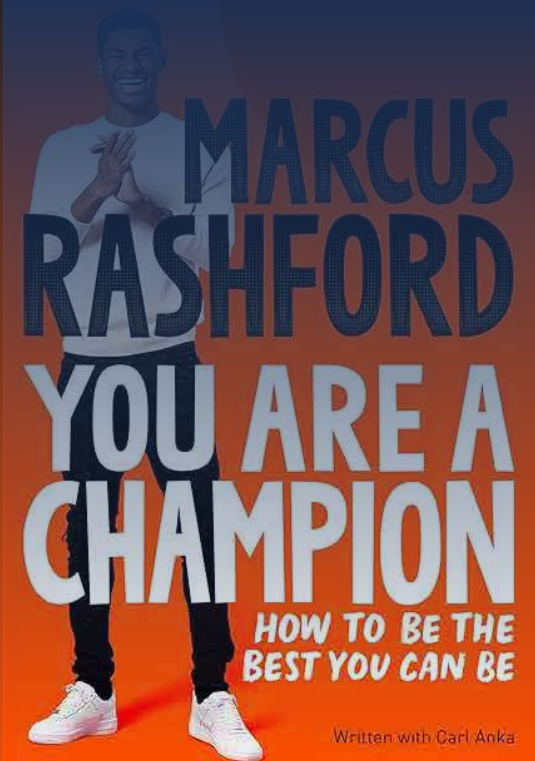
A New Chapter for Our Library

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:

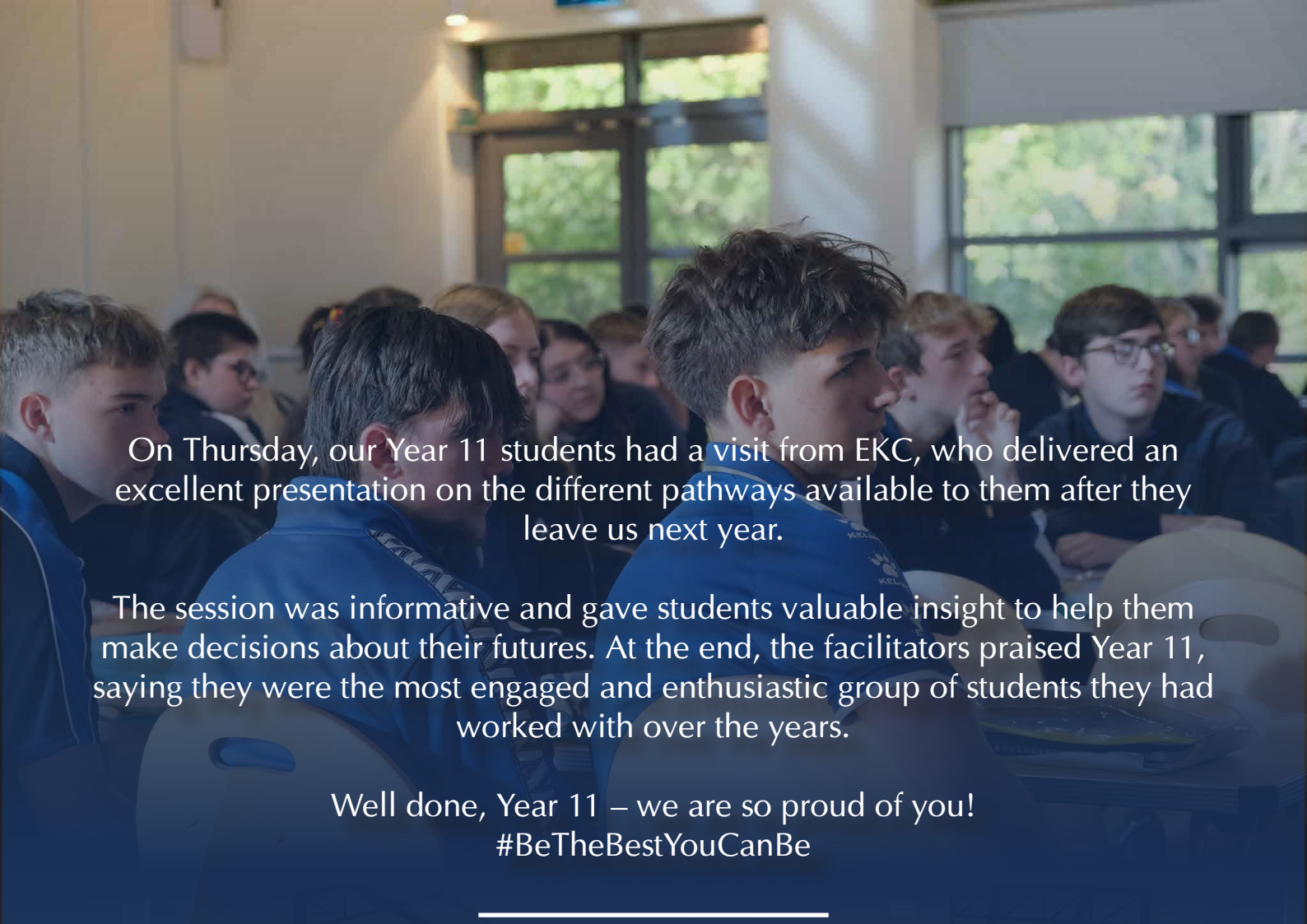
One book is *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson, an enchanting adventure set in the Amazon rainforest. The story follows Maia, an orphan sent to live with distant relatives in Brazil, where she discovers friendship, courage, and the wonders of a new world. Full of vivid descriptions, humour, and 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 Year 11 students in blue school uniforms are seated in a large hall, listening attentively to a presentation. Large windows in the background show greenery outside.

On Thursday, our Year 11 students had a visit from EKC, who delivered an excellent presentation on the different pathways available to them after they leave us next year.

The session was informative and gave students valuable insight to help them make decisions about their futures. At the end, the facilitators praised Year 11, saying they were the most engaged and enthusiastic group of students they had worked with over the years.

Well done, Year 11 – we are so proud of you!
#BeTheBestYouCanBe

Dance Workshop Fun

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome pupils from Herne Hill and Bysing Wood Primary Schools to take part in a fantastic dance workshop!

The session was led by Miss Nunn and her GCSE Dance group, who did an incredible job guiding everyone through the moves. The hall was full of energy, smiles, and amazing teamwork.

Well done everyone!



STEM CLUB

We are incredibly grateful that our Year 8 STEM Club at The Abbey School had the opportunity and exposure to explore the exciting world of Science beyond the classroom!

On Tuesday, Dr Lis Curling, a lecturer in Biosciences at the University of Kent, visited our STEM Club to inspire the next generation of scientists. She shared insights into the wide range of biology degrees and career paths available, opening our students' eyes to the endless possibilities their futures could hold.

Ms Humphreys said,

“Dr Curling’s presentation was insightful and truly inspiring — it gave our students a real sense of what they can achieve with passion and curiosity in science. I was so impressed with how our students applied their prior knowledge to university level concepts surrounding immunology. After all, students can’t be what they can’t see so a huge thank you to Dr Curling for giving her time and



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.

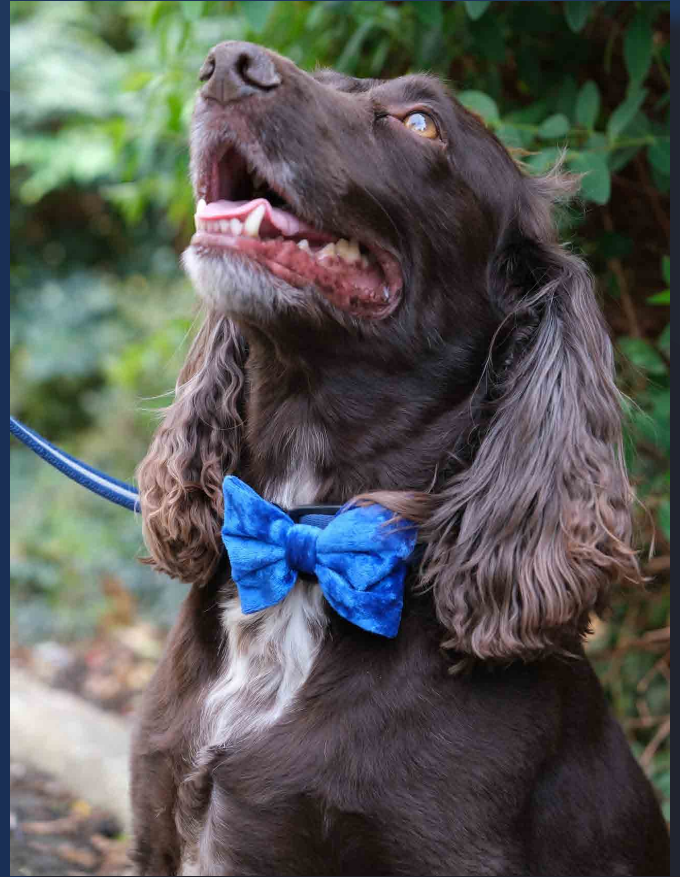
Email our Director of Sixth Form to get more information!

ncrouch@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

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



HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND FROM FREDDIE



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



CAREER SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK: COPYWRITER FOR MEDIA

Welcome to our brand-new Careers Spotlight series! Each week, we'll be uncovering exciting jobs that connect directly to the subjects your child loves.

Do you love words, creativity, and grabbing people's attention in just a few lines? Then a career as a Copywriter might be perfect!

Copywriters are the creative minds behind catchy slogans, clever ads, and the headlines you see on TV, websites, social media, and even TikTok. They know how to tell a story quickly and make ideas exciting — helping brands connect with people in fun and interesting ways.

Skills you'll need:

- A strong imagination
- Great writing, spelling, and grammar
- The ability to think fast and write even faster
- An interest in pop culture, trends, and storytelling

Fun fact: The famous "Got Milk?" campaign was created by a copywriter — and it became a global hit!

If your child enjoys writing and being creative, copywriting could turn that passion into an exciting career.

So, why not take Media if this sounds like you?

If you enjoy analysing films, exploring how social media influences the world, or want to create your own digital content, Media Studies could be the perfect subject for you. It's a great choice if you're curious about how media shapes our society—and if you're thinking about a future in journalism, film, marketing, or creative industries, it's a brilliant place to start.

For any questions relating to Careers

Please contact spriestley@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk



MEET THE NEWEST EDITIONS TO THE SCIENCE FAMILY



YEAR 7 MEET YOUR TUTOR EVENING FEEDBACK

Thank you for attending our Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' evening!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Year 7 parents and carers who joined us last night. This event is a key opportunity to begin building the important partnership between home and The Abbey School, ensuring that every student feels supported as they settle into secondary life. Research consistently shows that when parents are actively engaged in their child's education, it not only boosts academic progress but also helps to build confidence, motivation and a positive attitude towards learning.

If you haven't already, please complete our short feedback form using the link below. This survey is only applicable to Year 7 parents and carers. Once it has been submitted, your son or daughter will automatically receive a Golden Ticket!

Thank you once again for your support - we look forward to working with you and your child throughout their first year at The Abbey School.



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





The Abbey
School

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

Mrs Head-Rapson had the pleasure of speaking to year 10 in assembly this week about the special opportunity to go on the Poetry Live! Trip. She explained the value of this trip for exam preparation and how engaging and inspiring performance poetry really is. This is a trip to remember. Tickets are selling fast.

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!



Rosie H
Year 8
42HP



Connor B
Year 7
81HP



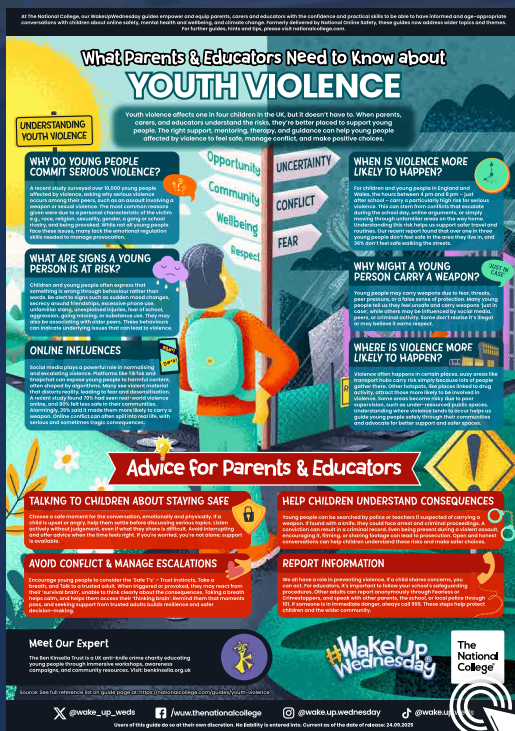
George T
Year 7
65HP



Liam M
Year 10
65HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

Celebrating Your Achievements



Email us your child's achievement
info@abbeyschoolfaversham.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.

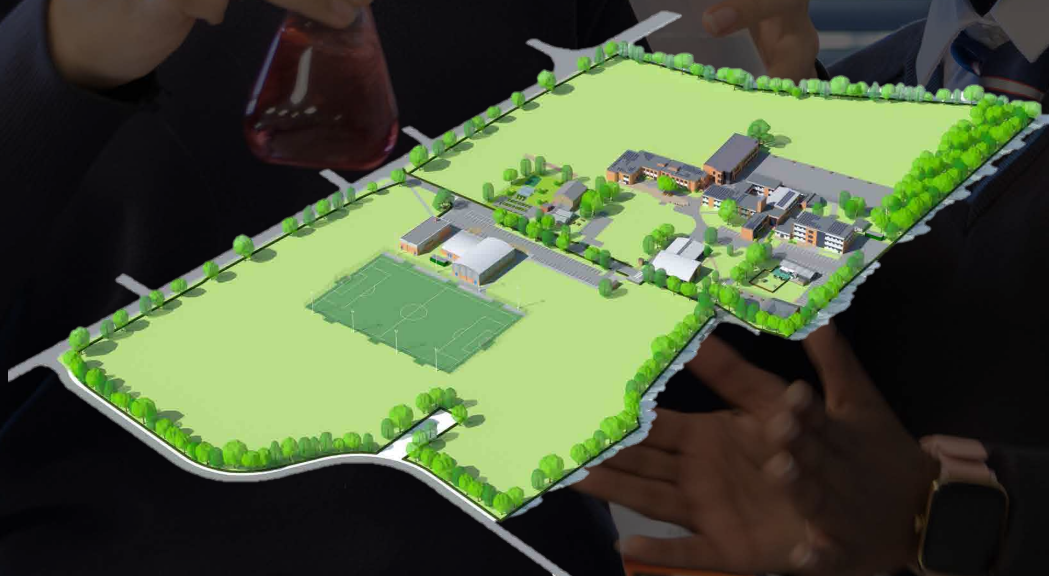
We will not tolerate any **threatening, abusive or violent** behaviour and action will be taken when necessary.





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“BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE”



The Abbey
School