



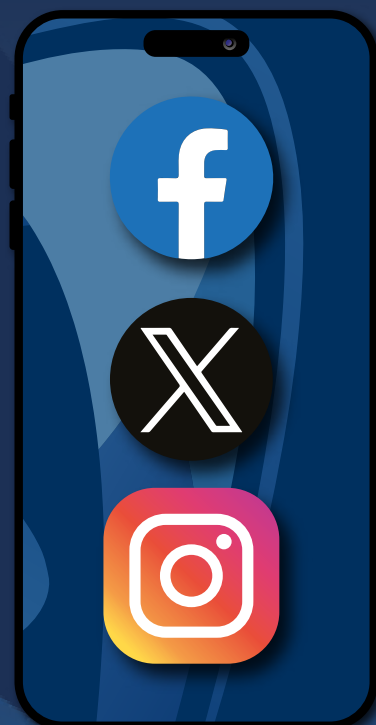
"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 38

Date: 17/07/26



STARS OF THE YEAR

Well done to the following students for collecting the most house points this year!
AMAZING WORK GUYS!



Connor B
Year 7
1277HP



Frederick B
Year 8
1240HP



Charlie B
Year 8
1372HP



Damilola S
Year 10
1298HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

CANTEEN MENU 2026/27

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



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.org.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- UNREGULATED PLATFORMS**
Skin betting typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By trading their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, game items, and virtual currencies as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.
- REAL-WORLD VALUE**
Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even for practical costs in exchange directly.
- INFLUENCER PROMOTION**
Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.
- SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE**
In games such as Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour online.
- LIMITED OVERSIGHT**
Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant issues have occurred, in both terms of money.
- GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS**
Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanisms can normalise betting behaviour before children are ready to even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS**
Familiarise yourself with the games your young people are playing and learn whether they include cosmetic or valuable items. Titles like CS:GO and Fortnite are known for skin monetisation, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.
- DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK**
Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items the skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore highlighting the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.
- LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS**
Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.
- USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS**
Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable in-game features or games and monitor your young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert
Helen David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Experts Consulting at the University College of Experts.
Ruben Davidson is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University College of Experts, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Experts Foundation.

See full reference list on our website

✗ @wake_up_weds f /www.thenationalcollege @wakeupwednesday @wakeupwednesday

Stars of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.07.2025

The National College

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As we come close to the end of another school year, please click on the linked image below, which will take you to Forster's School Outfitters price sheet.



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



"supported"

*"motivated to
succeed"*

"safe"

"calm"

*"inclusive
culture"*

*"broad range
of enrichment"*



*"meaningful
opportunities"*

*"significant
positive change"*

*"the curriculum
is ambitious"*

OFSTED RESULTS!

"Pupils feel part of a community that believes in them, challenges them and helps them to succeed."
The Abbey School is proud to share our latest Ofsted Report, following our January inspection, which took place under the new Ofsted framework.

Inspectors noted that "the school has been through significant positive change", judging Personal Development and Wellbeing and Post-16 Provision to be Strong Standard, and confirming that Curriculum and Teaching, Attendance and Behaviour, Inclusion, and Leadership and Governance are operating at the Expected Standard.

Particular praise was given to our Pastoral Support Team, with inspectors commenting that "Pastoral support is a strength. Pupils trust staff to help them manage worries, and... feel safe and supported".

"We are pleased that Ofsted recognised the strength of our work in personal development, safeguarding and sixth-form provision, which reflects the values and culture we work hard to build every day.

Inspectors recognised that pupils are learning well, feel safe, and are prepared for their next stage, including strong sixth-form retention and positive destinations. Our priority now is to continue strengthening key stage 4 outcomes so they fully reflect the learning and progress we see across the school." - Dr Speller, Principal

"I would like to recognise the commitment of the leadership team and staff who have led this work with determination and care. Together they have focused on ensuring that pupils feel safe, supported and that they truly belong within their school community." - Owen McColgan, Chief Executive of THAT

Read the full report by clicking the image below!



As we reach the end of another busy school year, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of The Abbey School over the past twelve months.

Our students have achieved a great deal, both inside and beyond the classroom. Whether through their academic work, sporting achievements, performances, leadership roles, charity work or contributions to the wider community, they have repeatedly demonstrated the talent, character and potential that exist across our school.

The final weeks of the school year have provided a particularly good example of the breadth of opportunity available to our students. There have been numerous trips and educational visits, our Community Days, the School Fete and a wide range of enrichment activities. Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have also completed work-experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing their confidence, independence and employability skills.

Last week's End-of-Term Awards Evening was another real highlight. It provided a wonderful opportunity to bring together students, families and staff to celebrate the achievements, progress, commitment and contributions of young people from across the school. It was a pleasure to recognise not only academic success, but also the resilience, character, leadership, creativity and service shown by so many of our students.

These opportunities are an important part of school life and enable students to learn, contribute and succeed in ways that extend well beyond the classroom.

I have been particularly proud of the way so many students have responded positively to challenge, supported one another and continued to raise their aspirations. School life is not always straightforward, but the resilience and determination shown by our young people give us every reason to look to the future with confidence.

I would also like to recognise the commitment of our staff. Their work extends far beyond the lessons students see each day. The care, preparation, encouragement and support they provide make an enormous difference. The many events, visits and activities that have taken place this term would not have been possible without the considerable time and effort contributed by colleagues, and I am grateful for their continued professionalism and dedication.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support. A strong partnership between school and home is essential, and we appreciate the many conversations, meetings and messages that help us work together in the best interests of our students. We will continue to listen carefully to your feedback and to strengthen this partnership in the year ahead.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the end of this term marks an important transition. We are extremely proud of all that they have achieved and of the maturity with which they approached their examinations. We wish them every success as they move on to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, employment and the many other opportunities ahead of them. They will always remain part of The Abbey School community.

We also say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues who are leaving us this summer. I would like to thank them for their service to the school and wish them happiness and success in the future.

As we look ahead to September, our focus remains firmly on providing every student with an ambitious education, high-quality teaching, strong pastoral support and the opportunities they need to succeed. We know that there is always more work to do, and we will continue to build on the progress made this year.

Finally, I hope all members of our school community are able to enjoy a safe, restful and happy summer. Thank you once again for your support, and I look forward to welcoming students back for the new academic year.

With best wishes,



Dr R Speller
Principal



SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS!



As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to remind everyone of the arrangements for the summer break.

The Abbey School will close to students and visitors at 12:30pm on Friday 17th July for the summer holidays.

If you need to contact the school during the break, please email info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk. Please note that responses may be delayed until the school reopens on Tuesday 1st September.

The school will be open for students and parents/carers on the following results days:

Thursday 13th August – A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August – GCSE Results Day

We would like to thank all of our students, families and staff for another fantastic year and wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

SEPTEMBER RETURNS!

As we prepare for the start of the new academic year, I would like to confirm the arrangements for students returning to school in September.

Monday 31st August
School is closed due to the Bank Holiday.

Tuesday 1st September
The following year groups should attend school:
Year 7
Year 12
Arrival time: Students should arrive by 8:40am ready for the start of the school day.

Wednesday 2nd September
The following year groups should attend school:
Year 7
Year 11
Year 12
Year 13
Arrival time: Students should arrive by 8:40am.

Thursday 3rd September
All year groups will be in school.
The following year groups will return for their first day:
Year 8
Year 9
Year 10
Students should arrive at the normal time of 8:40am.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back for another successful academic year and hope they return refreshed and ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

If you have any questions regarding the start of term arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



KENYA EXPEDITION BEGINS!

This week, 21 of our amazing students, accompanied by Miss Harris and Mrs Kamara, embarked on an unforgettable four-week expedition to Kenya. Over the next month, they will immerse themselves in camp life, experience a new culture and take part in a range of life-changing opportunities.

The journey to Kenya has been over two years in the making. Throughout that time, our students worked incredibly hard to raise the funds needed for their place on the expedition, with each participant raising close to £4,400. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their dedication, determination and commitment.

After an emotional farewell to family and friends at the airport, the adventure was finally underway. Excitement quickly turned to disappointment, however, when students discovered that Heathrow Airport didn't have the McDonald's or Nando's they had been looking forward to! Leaving on Tuesday evening at 9.40pm, they finally arrived at camp on Wednesday evening after almost 24 hours of travelling, only to realise there was no way to watch the football!

Their first meal at camp was a success, with even some of the fussiest eaters trying everything on offer, although lentils proved to be less popular! During the journey, our students travelled alongside three other schools and, rather than catching up on sleep, they chose to make new friends at 3am!

Their first full day in camp certainly didn't disappoint. The morning began with some unexpected exercise as students helped chase goats so they could receive their de-worming treatment. They then got to work helping to build new elephant fencing before spending time with local people and young children. The day was filled with teamwork, dancing, learning and embracing every opportunity that came their way.

We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved already and can't wait to follow the rest of their incredible Kenyan adventure over the coming weeks.



PRIZE GIVING!



A huge congratulations to all of our Prize Giving award winners!

Last Thursday, we celebrated the incredible achievements of our students, recognising their hard work, resilience and dedication throughout the year. Every award was thoroughly deserved, and we couldn't be prouder of everything you have accomplished.

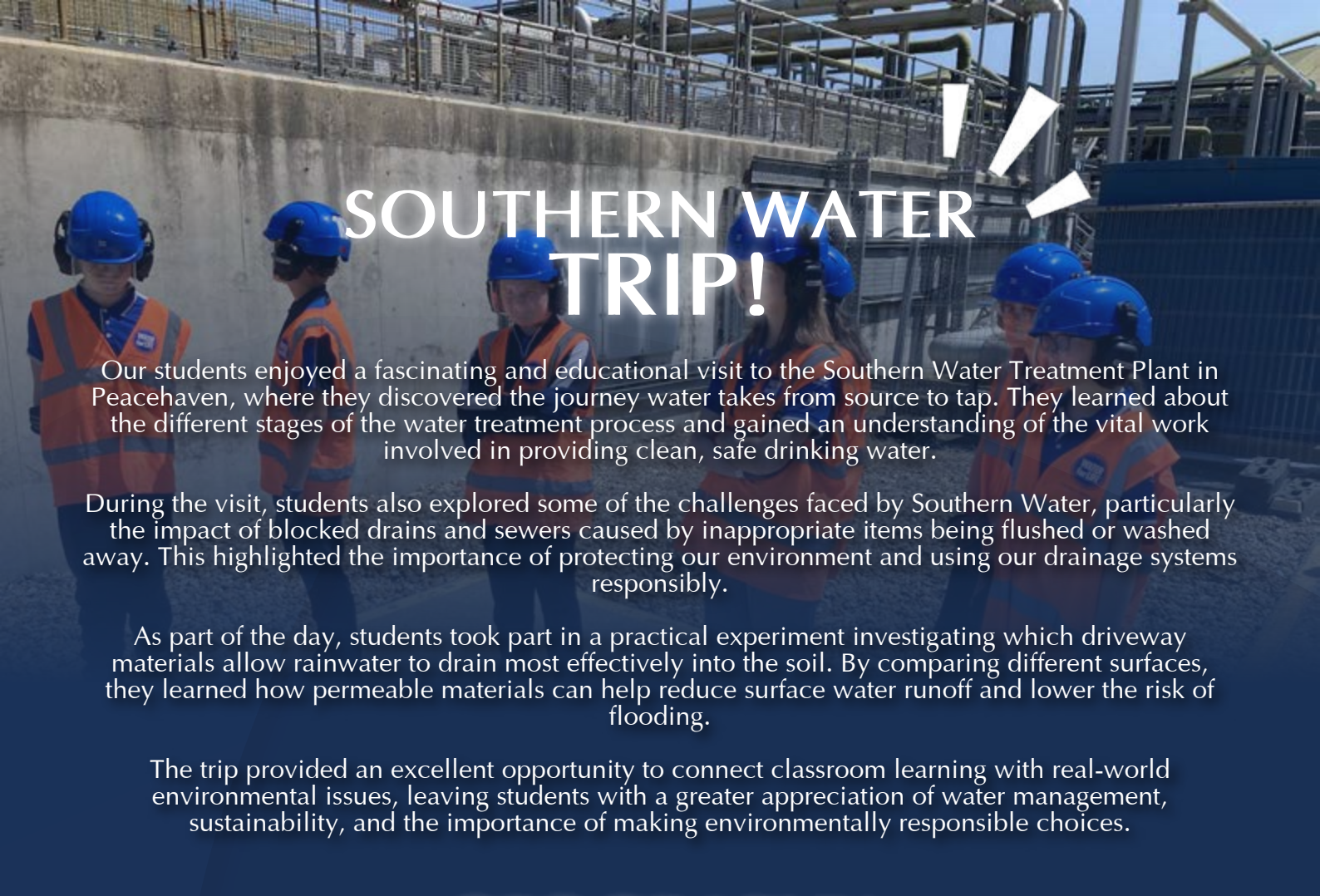
Well done to all of our winners!

WICKED TRIP!

Last week, some Year 8 and Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic rewards trip to see Wicked!

We hope everyone had an amazing day out and enjoyed the spectacular performance. A well-deserved reward for all your hard work throughout the year!





SOUTHERN WATER TRIP!

Our students enjoyed a fascinating and educational visit to the Southern Water Treatment Plant in Peacehaven, where they discovered the journey water takes from source to tap. They learned about the different stages of the water treatment process and gained an understanding of the vital work involved in providing clean, safe drinking water.

During the visit, students also explored some of the challenges faced by Southern Water, particularly the impact of blocked drains and sewers caused by inappropriate items being flushed or washed away. This highlighted the importance of protecting our environment and using our drainage systems responsibly.

As part of the day, students took part in a practical experiment investigating which driveway materials allow rainwater to drain most effectively into the soil. By comparing different surfaces, they learned how permeable materials can help reduce surface water runoff and lower the risk of flooding.

The trip provided an excellent opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world environmental issues, leaving students with a greater appreciation of water management, sustainability, and the importance of making environmentally responsible choices.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP!

Our Year 12 geographers enjoyed a fantastic day in Margate as they prepared for their upcoming NEA fieldwork. The morning focused on human geography, with students investigating the extent of “clone town” characteristics, assessing environmental quality, and exploring how gentrification has transformed parts of the town in recent years. We also had the opportunity to visit the wonderfully quirky Crab Museum, which Mr Jarman can thoroughly recommend to anyone who hasn’t yet experienced it!

After a well-earned lunch break, we headed onto the beach to investigate physical geography. Students explored biodiversity within the local rock pools and collected data on coastal erosion and transportation processes, developing the practical skills they will need for their independent investigations.

To round off an excellent day, there was just enough time to enjoy an ice cream by the sea before heading home. Throughout the trip, students were exceptionally well behaved, enthusiastic, and fully engaged with every activity. They were a credit to the school, and a fun and productive day was had by all.





FREDDIE SUMMER MESSAGE!



Well I don't know about anyone else but I am exhausted after such a busy year at school. I have been on hundreds of walks, had my ball thrown thousands of times for me, and dug lots of holes (sorry site team) in Forest School. Every day I have checked that everyone is in the same place I left them before I went home. I have lost all my tennis balls and buried a few of them in the holes I have dug (sorry again site team). I have eaten cake when I am not supposed to but have still lost weight (or so I the vet said), and got held hostage by the Pastoral team (look at what they did to me in the pictures).

Thank you to everyone who has given me presents this year I love them all.

I have also made lots of new friends with the new Year 7s on their transition week and I am looking forward to seeing them again in September.

I am going to miss all my Abbey friends over the summer but wish you a very happy holiday and be careful with all that you do. Good luck Year 11 and 13 when you come to collect your results!

See you all in September!

SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP!

Last week, our Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to work with practitioners from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Students were introduced to Shakespeare's play Macbeth in preparation for their GCSE Literature studies in Year 10.

Through interactive workshops, students explored the plot and key characters, while also developing their confidence by trying their hand at acting. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and engagement as they brought Shakespeare's world to life!





ATTENDANCE GOLDEN TICKET REWARD TRIP!

On Tuesday, our Golden Ticket Attendance Draw winners enjoyed a fantastic day out at Wingham Wildlife Park!

It was brilliant to see our students and staff having such a great day together, making memories and celebrating excellent attendance.

Every day in school counts. By turning up, working hard and giving your best, you not only give yourself the best chance to succeed but could also be rewarded with exciting opportunities like this!

PE AWARDS!

On Tuesday, we celebrated another fantastic year of sport at our annual PE Awards!

With the sunshine on our side, the awards were held on the school field, where students were recognised for their hard work, commitment and sporting achievements throughout the year.

After the presentations, everyone enjoyed some well-earned pizza and took part in a range of fun games with friends to round off a brilliant afternoon.

A huge congratulations to all of our award winners!



SUPPORT INFORMATION



It is okay not to be okay



Everyone responds differently to difficult situations and emotions.

Whatever you are feeling, support is available,
and you do not have to cope on your own.

Please reach out and access the support that feels right for you.



ONLINE SUPPORT



Kooth

www.kooth.com

Free online mental health and wellbeing support for young people.



YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Information, advice and support for young people.



Child Bereavement UK

www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/teenagers

Specialist support and guidance for teenagers affected by bereavement and loss.



TELEPHONE HELPLINES



Cruse Bereavement Support

0808 808 1677

Support for anyone experiencing bereavement.



TEXT SUPPORT



SHOUT

Text 85258

Free, confidential support available 24 hours a day via text message.



SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

Support is available through:

- Form Tutors
- Heads of Year
- Pastoral Support Team
- Safeguarding Team
- any Trusted Adult



There will also be drop-in opportunities available if you would like to talk to someone informally.



IN AN EMERGENCY

If you feel unable to keep yourself safe, or are in immediate danger:



Call 999



Attend your nearest Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department



Tell a trusted adult

You do not need to manage a crisis on your own.



REMEMBER



You are not alone.



Support is available.



There are people who care and want to help.



Please reach out if you need support.

The Abbey School ♥





Looking for things to do this summer?

Check out these organisations for fun activities, events and support:

Kent Carers Matter

Carers in East Kent

Imago Young Carers

Activities, support and opportunities for young carers



Top Tips for a Happy Summer

Seek Support

Join local groups, outings and activities designed especially for young carers.

Stay Connected

Spend time with friends and family and talk about how you're feeling.

Make a Plan

Know who you can contact and what you can do if you ever feel worried, unsafe or overwhelmed.

Save Money

Look out for local council grants, community support and charities that provide affordable or recycled school uniforms.

Ask for Help

If things feel difficult, remember you can talk to **Childline** or another trusted support service.



Remember...

You deserve time to relax.

You deserve time to have fun.

Looking after yourself is just as important as looking after others.

Have a safe, happy and enjoyable summer!



A large group of students in school uniforms are standing in a large circle on a grassy field. In the background, there is a dense line of trees under a clear blue sky. The text 'COMMUNITIES DAYS!' is overlaid in large white letters, with a white exclamation mark to its right.

COMMUNITIES DAYS!

On Wednesday and Thursday, students enjoyed Communities Days, taking part in a wide range of exciting activities while being off timetable.

Across both days, the school was full of energy as students had the opportunity to learn new skills, and take part in experiences beyond the classroom. From creative workshops and sports activities to team-building challenges and community-focused projects, there was something for everyone to get involved in.

The two days were a great opportunity for students to build confidence, develop new friendships and celebrate the many talents within our school community. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing new experiences, showing excellent teamwork and making the most of every opportunity.

A huge thank you to Mrs Le Brunn-Healey and to all of our staff who helped make the two days such a success. Their hard work and dedication ensured our students had an unforgettable experience.

A white graphic of a curved arrow pointing towards the right, located to the left of the 'MEDIA TEAM!' header.

MEDIA TEAM!

A huge well done to our incredible Media Team, who spent both Communities Days capturing all the fantastic activities taking place across the school!

If you haven't already, be sure to head over to our social media pages to see everything they got up to. Fantastic work, team!

Thanks to Sophie A, Poppy W, Nancy W, Robin U, Violet N, Aiden B, Scarlett-Rose W, Kacie F, Annabelle B, Flynn W, Isla B, Ella B, Aiyone R-M, Miss McDonagh and Miss Russell!



FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHECKER!

Check if Your Child Could Receive Free School Meals

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to see if their child is eligible for Free School Meals.

You can complete the quick online eligibility check here:

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

The process only takes a couple of minutes, and you'll just need your National Insurance number. Recent changes to the eligibility criteria mean that some families who were not previously entitled to Free School Meals may now qualify. Even if you've applied before, it's worth checking again.

Registering for Free School Meals could provide valuable support for your family and also helps The Abbey School receive additional funding, allowing us to continue providing extra resources and opportunities for our students.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the check and for your continued support.

#BeTheBestYouCanBe

STUDENT SHOUTOUT!

We love celebrating our amazing students and their achievements!

Parents and carers, we'd love to hear from you! If your child has achieved something they're proud of (big or small!), send it in and we will share this with our school community.

Achievements could include:

- Academic successes
- Sporting achievements
- Creative talents
- Personal milestones
- Acts of kindness or resilience

To take part, simply email us with:

Your child's achievement

Their name

A photo (optional)

info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Let's work together to celebrate our students and recognise their hard work!

#BeTheBestYouCanBe



We have worked with you
listened to your ideas and made lots of changes
over the last few years.

You asked.....
"Can you make the toilets better?"

We did.....
*"All toilets have been refurbished and now have floor to ceiling doors.
Staff supervise toilets at lunchtime and also in C block between lessons to line students up.
You asked for single sex toilets which we have provided, and more blocks of toilets are available at busy times.
The cleaners check and clean the toilets between every lesson and during the lunch breaks."*



THE WORRY BOX

Checked daily during school hours

www.theabbey-that.org.uk/worrybox

Not checked at the weekends or evenings. For urgent help, contact
NSPCC, Action for Children or Childline





The Abbey
School

HIRE OUR FACILITIES

CLICK THE QR CODE TO BOOK NOW!



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.



Secondary School of the Year

Recognising the exemplary use of STEER to proactively safeguard children and young people, and your role in supporting proactive safeguarding across your sector.

2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Walker'.

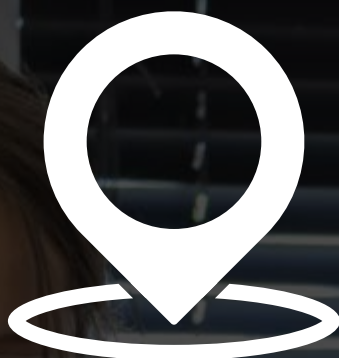
Simon Walker
STEER Founder



**The Abbey
School**

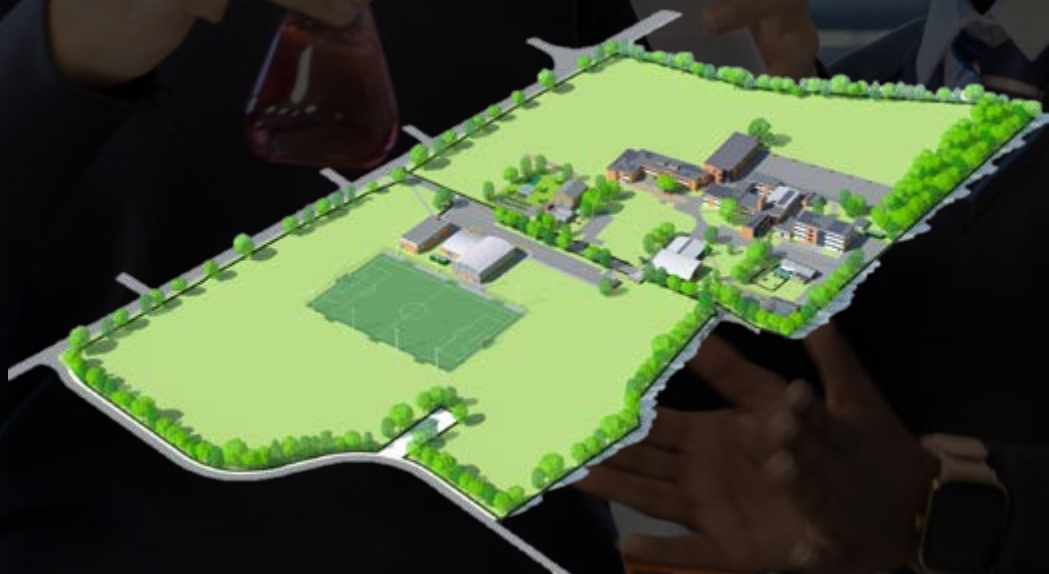
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Walker'.

Jo Walker
STEER Founder



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"BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE"



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