



**The Abbey
School**

“Be The Best You Can Be”

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 27

Date: 24/04/26



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope all members of our school community had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a positive start to the summer term, with students returning ready to learn and engage. It has been particularly pleasing to see the calm, purposeful way in which students have returned, quickly re-establishing our high expectations for learning.

This is a particularly important term for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, with the main examination period beginning in early May. We wish them every success and encourage them to approach the weeks ahead with focus and confidence. As always, our staff are on hand to provide structured support, guidance and revision opportunities.

Across the school, we remain committed to maintaining high standards of attendance, behaviour and learning. Strong routines and consistent attendance are especially important at this point in the year and make a real difference to outcomes for all students.

Alongside examinations, this term offers a wide range of opportunities for students across all year groups to engage in enrichment, develop their character and continue to grow as learners. We are building strong momentum as a school, and this term is an important opportunity to sustain and strengthen the progress we are making together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Dr R Speller
Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK

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



Lacey C
Year 7
19HP



Frederick B
Year 8
24HP



Olivia L
Year 7
24HP



Ronnie S
Year 8
25HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

CANTEEN MENU 2025/26

Click the images below to view the canteen menu for Term 5!

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.nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Almost everyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are moderated and automated moderation, meeting children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and socially playful. However, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT
YouTube recommends videos based on user viewing and search history. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage higher exposure to sensitive content, particularly when autoplay is enabled. Without the necessary user awareness and filters, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT
The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT
YouTube shorts - short, fast-paced videos - are designed for continuous viewing. The style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside other safeguards.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS
If it's still in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER
Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like the Dashboard in Family Link can also help limit unapproved viewing.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

See full reference list on openstax.org

Follow us on social media: [@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds), www.facebook.com/wakeupwednesday, [@wakeupwednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wakeupwednesday), www.tiktok.com/@wakeupwednesday

Hours of this guide do so on their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.04.2025



SENECA CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12 & 13	13h 46min	90%	Leah W	Oliver S
11	248h 27min	65%	Katherine P	Archie H
10	60h 37min	66%	Alfie L	Lucy M
9	95h 15min	62%	Roxie R	Michael S
8	18h 26min	62%	Ellie B	Elijah P
7	25h 40min	67%	James K	Jemimah N

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



YEAR 11, YOU ARE DOING AMAZING!

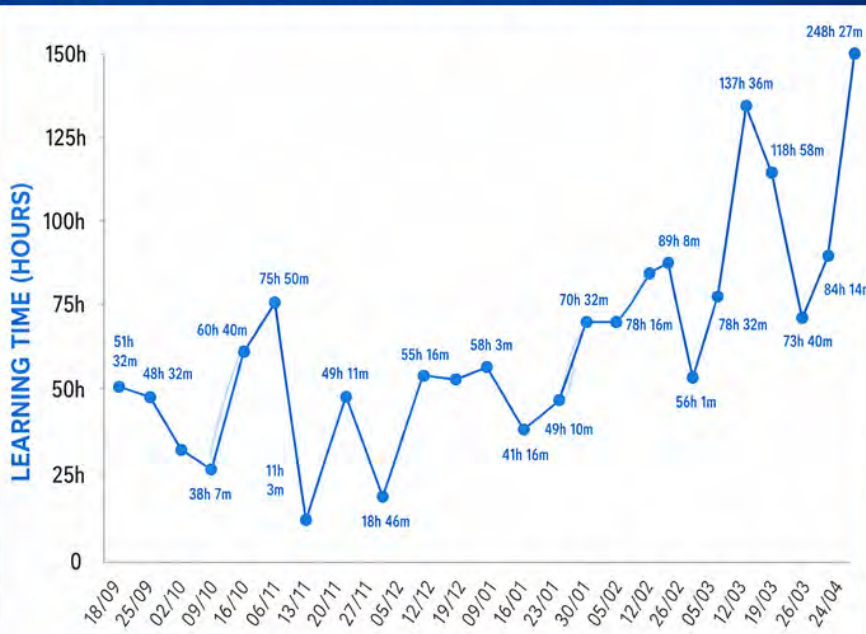


EVERY MINUTE YOU SPEND REVISING IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR FUTURE.

Look at how much time you've already put in on Seneca this year!



YEAR 11 LEARNING TIME OVER TIME



INCREDIBLE PROGRESS!

From 51 hours to an amazing 248 hours – your dedication is paying off!



KEEP IT UP!

Your hard work and consistency are what lead to success.



MORE TIME = BETTER RESULTS

Students who use Seneca regularly revise more effectively and achieve higher grades.



MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT

Even 20–30 minutes a day can make a huge difference over time.



REVISE SMART, ANYWHERE

Seneca is there for you at home – helping you build confidence and master your subjects.



YOU'RE AMONG THE HARDEST WORKING YEAR GROUPS!

Keep challenging yourself, stay consistent and aim even higher!

YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU.

LET'S FINISH STRONG!

Keep using Seneca to build knowledge, boost confidence and improve your grades.



REVISE

Strengthen your knowledge



PRACTISE

Answer questions and track progress



IMPROVE

Learn from mistakes and get better



ACHIEVE

Higher grades and brighter future



BE PROUD

You've got this! We believe in you.



SENECA. REVISE SMARTER. ACHIEVE MORE. **BE YOUR BEST.**



“supported”

*“motivated to
succeed”*

“safe”

“calm”

*“inclusive
culture”*

**Ofsted**

*“meaningful
opportunities”*

*“broad range
of enrichment”*

*“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!





STUDENT SHOUTOUTS!

Well done Isla for being graded her 2nd Dan Black Belt!

To achieve this incredible milestone, Isla completed an intensive 8-week testing period. This included a technical grading alongside a demanding workbook of four challenges: performing a traditional kata with a weapon of her choice, completing 4,000 sit-ups, 4,000 push-ups, and 4,000 squats, raising £250 for charity (in return for completing 1,500 punches and 1,500 kicks), and writing about where she sees martial arts taking her in the future.

She also took part in Graduation Day — four intense 40-minute training sessions, 40 minutes of sparring, and finishing strong with her 1,500 punches and 1,500 kicks.

On Saturday 18th April, she celebrated at a beautiful presentation evening with a 3-course dinner. Everyone dressed up, Isla's Sensei shared a lovely speech about her journey, and she was proudly awarded her plaque and belt.

Well done Michael for being drafted!

We are delighted to share some exciting news about Michael, who has been selected by the England Ice Hockey Federation to take part in the 2026 Draft Showcase in Sheffield. This marks the beginning of his journey on the England Pathway, a fantastic achievement and a testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport.

Michael will be travelling to Sheffield over the upcoming bank holiday weekend to participate in this prestigious event.

Congratulations, Michael, and best of luck on this exciting journey!

YEAR 7 PERFORMERS TAKE TO THE LONDON STAGE!

In early March, Year 7 students Lucia P-R, Irene S and Hope B travelled to London to sing and perform in a brand-new climate opera, Soria Moria. The opera was written by Lucia's mother, Dr Passamonte-Rainey, and brings together music, storytelling and environmental awareness in an imaginative and thought-provoking production.

Soria Moria is inspired by Nordic mythology and real-world climate science and is the first work in a planned tetralogy dedicated to the four elements. For Lucia, Irene and Hope, the opportunity to participate in an event like this was, in Lucia's words, "life-changing"!



Irene was invited to take part by Lucia and spoke enthusiastically about the opportunity: "This was my first opera called Soria Moria, and it was the best experience I've had in theatre." She particularly enjoyed the atmosphere backstage, adding, "Backstage was super fun – there were other children there and they were very nice. We also played games when we weren't on stage."

The three students were impressed by the professionalism of the production. Lucia said, "The people singing in the opera were professionals, and backstage we had a really nice hair and make-up artist and a very kind director." Irene agreed, commenting, "The songs were very nice and beautiful, and the singers were very talented."

We are incredibly proud of Lucia, Irene and Hope for their commitment, enthusiasm and talent in representing the school in such a unique and inspiring project and hope to be involved in future productions.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE!



APC Growers Trip!

At the end of last term, students recently enjoyed an exciting and eye-opening trip to APC Growers, where they discovered the fascinating world behind tomato production.

During the visit, students learned how a wide variety of tomatoes are carefully grown, each with its own unique characteristics. They were particularly intrigued by the innovative techniques used on site, including how the company produces its own carbon dioxide by burning fuel, which is then used to help the plants grow more efficiently.

The tour also highlighted APC Growers' impressive self-sufficient systems. Students saw how water is carefully managed through an on-site system, ensuring sustainability and minimal waste. One of the highlights of the day was visiting a colony of around 15,000 bees, which play a crucial role in pollinating the tomato plants and supporting healthy crop production.

The trip provided a brilliant opportunity for students to see science and sustainability in action, bringing classroom learning to life in a real-world setting.

New Members of Science!

We're excited to introduce a new and fascinating addition to our classroom—Bruce the Asian forest scorpion! With its shiny black body and calm temperament, this nocturnal creature is a brilliant way for students to explore the world of invertebrates up close. During the day, it prefers to stay hidden, but as evening approaches, it becomes more active—perfect for curious young observers.

We're excited to welcome four fascinating new members to our school community—African land snails named Venkman, Egon, Winston, and Ray! These gentle creatures will be living in a carefully prepared habitat where students will have the opportunity to observe them up close.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will learn about the snails' behaviour, diet, and unique features through guided observation sessions. Watching how they move, eat, and interact with their environment will help bring science to life in a fun and memorable way.

We look forward to seeing the curiosity and enthusiasm these new additions inspire across the school!



Did you know?

- Nothing travels faster than light — about 300,000,000 m/s
- Your phone works using electromagnetic waves to send messages and calls
- Our ears detect vibrations in the air and turn them into signals your brain understands

Space News: Humans Return to the Moon (Almost!)

In April 2026, NASA made history with its Artemis II mission, sending astronauts on a 10-day journey around the Moon—the first time humans have travelled that far into space in over 50 years. The crew flew aboard the Orion spacecraft, reaching record-breaking distances from Earth before safely splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

This mission is a major step toward landing humans on the Moon again. Scientists and engineers are now studying how the spacecraft performed, especially its heat shield, which protected astronauts during the intense return to Earth.

What's next? NASA plans to send astronauts to actually walk on the Moon again later this decade. These missions could even lead to building a permanent base on the Moon—something that hasn't been done before!

Why it matters: This is the beginning of a new era of space exploration—and it could eventually help humans travel to Mars.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/8c-GAklzpGE?si=a3g8K9fQ-fKQQZOZ>

Space Tech: The Race to Build Moon Landers

After the success of Artemis II, attention has shifted to an exciting space race between companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin. Their goal? To build spacecraft that can land astronauts safely on the Moon.

These “moon landers” will carry astronauts from orbit down to the Moon's surface and back again. It's a huge challenge—no one has done it since 1972! Scientists are testing new designs to make landings safer and more reliable.

There's also competition from other countries, including China, which is planning its own Moon missions. This global race is pushing technology forward faster than ever.

Did you know? Some scientists believe the Moon could provide resources like helium-3, a rare material that might one day help produce clean energy on Earth!

Think about it: Would you want to live or work on the Moon one day? What challenges do you think astronauts would face?

Research Challenge: Life in Space

Find out how astronauts survive in space:

What do they eat?

How do they sleep?

How do they stay healthy?

You can link your research to missions like Artemis II.

Save The Date!

DANCE SHOWCASE

A celebration of students' class work which will be performed at
The Gulbenkian Theatre!

Friday 26th June 2026



STUDENT SHOUTOUT!

Busy over the Easter Break? We'd love to know what you get up to.

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@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

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



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TERM 5 UPDATE!

A huge thank you to all of the students at The Abbey School, who make the delivery of Personal Development so inspiring. Week in, week out, we are blown away by the questions that are asked, the discussions that take place, the way students support each other, and the thoughtful, ongoing debate we see across the school.

We are incredibly proud of the continued strength of Personal Development, and we were particularly pleased with the positive feedback received in our recent Ofsted inspection.

Inspectors recognised that we provide a “well-planned, coherent personal development programme”, alongside “rich opportunities for all pupils.” It was also noted that “pastoral support is a strength” and that pupils “show great care for each other.”

These comments reflect what we strive for every day: a thoughtful, responsive and inclusive Personal Development curriculum that supports every student to grow into confident, respectful and informed young people.

What Students Will Be Learning:

This term, students across all year groups will explore a wide range of important themes:

Year 7 – Relationships & Sex Education

- Different types of families
 - Positive parenting
- The changing adolescent body
 - Body changes during puberty
 - Sexual consent
- Building healthy relationships

Year 8 – Relationships & Sex Education

- Understanding consent
 - Power dynamics & consent
 - Contraceptive essentials
- Discussing pornography (age-appropriate, safeguarding focus)
 - Assessing the trustworthiness of others
 - Introduction to FGM

Year 9 – Health & Wellbeing

- The positivity mindset
- Healthy food choices
- Evaluating eating habits
- Character strengths in focus
- Understanding eating disorders
 - Organ donation



Year 10 – Health & Wellbeing

- Unrealistic online world
 - Online radicalisation
 - Extremism
- Violence and exploitation by gangs
- Fake news & misinformation
 - R.E.S.P.E.C.T



Year 11 – Exams Focus

- Exam preparation and support

Year 12 – Health & Wellbeing

- Values in action
- Problem-solving framework
- Building agency & finding purpose
- Moving towards your ideal self
 - Impulse control
- Organisation & efficiency

Year 13 – Exams Focus

- Exam preparation and support

Additional Assemblies & Events

As part of our wider Personal Development offer, we are also hosting impactful external speakers and partnerships:

Charlie's Promise (Knife Crime Awareness)

Monday 18th May
All of Year 8 and Year 9

A poignant and impactful assembly, helping students to understand the real-life consequences of knife crime and the importance of making safe, informed choices.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Student Leadership Project

Tuesday 28th April
Student representatives

We are pleased to be welcoming Kent Police – PS Carli Deakin and PC Amy Tyler back into school to lead our second VAWG session. This work continues to empower our students to engage with important societal issues, develop their understanding, and contribute to meaningful change within our community.



Building the “Personal Development Backpack”

At The Abbey School, we talk to students about their “Personal Development Backpack.” Every lesson, assembly and experience adds something to this knowledge, skills and values that students can carry with them throughout their lives.

We remain committed to ensuring that all content is:

- Clear
- Broad
- Balanced
- Relevant to the world our young people are growing up in

Support for Students

We consistently remind students that support is always available.

If anything covered raises questions or concerns, students are encouraged to:

- Speak to a trusted adult in school
 - Access the pastoral team
- Use external services such as Kooth or Childline (0800 1111)
 - Talk to parents or carers at home

Working in Partnership with Parents & Carers

We understand that some topics may prompt important conversations at home.

If you would like further information, guidance, or support regarding any of the content in Term 5, please do get in touch:

alebrunn-healey@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Together, we will continue to ensure that every student develops the knowledge, confidence and character they need—not just for school, but for life.

Be the best you can be.

YEAR 11 TERM 5&6 ARRANGEMENTS

Please see the attached letter, by clicking the arrow below, that has been sent home to all Year 11 Parents/ Carers explaining the arrangements that will be happening this term!

It is a lengthy letter, so please persevere to the end to get all the information.



Save

Save the Date!

SWALE COMMUNITY DAY

Sunday 7 June 2026, 10am-3pm

Come along to learn all about the services and support available in Swale.

Food, drinks, ice cream and activities available on site. Displays to watch throughout the day.

APPLEYARD SPORTS GROUND, GORE COURT ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE, ME10 1QN



CODING CLUB!

Students who have been attending Coding Club this year have been presented with a certificate in appreciation of their effort and attendance by Mr Kusi, Mr Dannell and Miss Pointer. Learning how to code requires a lot of patience and skill and the students who have been coming on a Wednesday afterschool have demonstrated these in abundance.

All students are welcome to attend so if your child is interested, let us know.



What is student finance?

Student Finance England (SFE) provides financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.

The two main costs you'll have while studying are tuition fees and living costs. There's student finance available to help you with both. Depending on your circumstances, you could also get extra financial help while you study.



There are two types of loans you can get from SFE: (You can apply for and receive both loans)



Tuition Fee Loan. This currently is a maximum of £9,790 per academic year (most universities charge this amount per year)

Maintenance Loan. This varies depending on whether you live at home whilst studying, study in London and don't live at home, or don't live at home and study outside London.

Find out if you're eligible

Which student finance you qualify for depends on:

- your university or college
- your course
- your age
- whether you've studied a higher education course before
- your nationality or residency status

You can [visit GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for the [most up-to-date information to understand your eligibility](https://www.gov.uk).



What to expect on your student finance journey?

The typical student finance journey is:

1. You apply for student finance and give us your parents' or partner's details.
2. We ask your parents or partner to support your application by confirming their income.
3. We'll work out how much you can get and let you know in your online account when your application is approved.
4. You register on your course, and your university or college lets us know so we can start paying you.
5. We pay your tuition fees to your university or college, and we pay you any loans or grants at the start of each term.
6. You need to re-apply for student finance for every year of your course.
7. After your course ends, you'll start repayments in the April after you finish or leave. These are handled by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

It's important to keep all your details up to date. If anything changes, you can let us know using your online account.



Tuition Fees

You will need to repay your loans, but not until after you finish your course and are earning over £25,000 a year. Your monthly repayments depend on what you earn, not what you owe. Student Loans Company (SLC) will manage your repayments.

How much could you get?

This depends on where you're living during your course, your household income and other factors. You can check how much student finance you could get using the [GOV.UK Student Finance Calculator](https://www.gov.uk) which will give you an estimate of how much:

- Tuition Fee Loan
- Maintenance Loan
- Extra financial help

This is an estimate based on the information you've provided. You'll be told your exact amount, including any extra funding, after your application is approved.

What is household income?

We assess household income to work out how much Maintenance Loan you can get. If you apply for the higher amount of Maintenance Loan and any grants, we'll need to assess your household income.

This means we'll ask your parents (who you live with or depend on financially) or your partner to support your application by confirming their income.

Applying for student finance

It is straightforward to apply and usually takes around 30 minutes.

When you apply, you'll need to create an account and complete an online application.

What you'll need:

- Your valid passport details (if you're a UK national)
- Email addresses for your parents or partner – if you're applying for the full Maintenance Loan (not just the basic amount), we'll email them to ask about their income. This helps us work out how much you can get. Their income won't affect your Tuition Fee Loan.
- Your National Insurance number (if you have one)
- Details of your course and university – you can apply before you have a confirmed place

If you need any more information about student finance, head over to [Your guide to Student Finance England](https://www.gov.uk) which is linked below!

<https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/understanding-sfe/>

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



Faversham Golf
Academy

 **The Abbey
School**



GOLF *Day*

Fundraising for Faversham Golf Academy

@Faversham Golf Club

Wednesday 6th May - 2pm Shotgun Start

Cost: £30 Members / £70 Non Members

- Prizes for: Top 4, Nearest to the Pins & Longest Drive
- Sponsorship opportunities (£50 per hole)
- Meal provided (burger and chips)

Register today!



Further information, please contact:
golfacademy@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk


Darryl Creed Roofing Services



MAGEE GAMMON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
TAX & BUSINESS ADVISORS

SchoolHire 



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 'S Walker'.

Simon Walker
STEER Founder



**The Abbey
School**

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

Jo Walker
STEER Founder





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