



"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

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Date: 13/02/26



STARS OF THE WEEK

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



Alexander P
Year 7
46HP



Connor B
Year 7
30HP



Diamond M
Year 9
31HP



Max S
Year 7
33HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

SENECA CHAMPIONS

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. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now deliver wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.org.uk.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

- USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS**
Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-off, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These moments don't need to be longer to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and welcome build trust and belonging. Try to be present with your child, and make every part of the home or classroom community.
- INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING**
Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility. When they voice their thoughts, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This not only empowers children, it also strengthens their relationships, whether at home or school. Co-created rules and routines are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.
- VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS**
Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I see that you're upset" or "That sounds really exciting" support children's emotional experiences. When children feel emotionally safe, they are more likely to seek help, engage in learning, and build a sense of belonging – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.
- HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS**
Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and look for a child's less visible qualities, such as their resilience, or humour. Highlighting these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This builds self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.
- SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE**
Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or traditions. Encourage children to share their stories and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, celebrating cultural differences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that being diverse, inclusive environments where every voice counts.
- BELONGING BUDDIES**
Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning shared projects, games, or extracurricular activities can help build trust. Over time, these relationships can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community.
- AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS**
Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others. Use the word "challenge" instead of "problem" and foster resilience. Statements like "You can't do this" or "You're underperforming" make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual strengths and encourage them to overcome challenges. Celebrating their achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for who they are.
- MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES**
Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter as an individual. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together, or as structured as a weekly focused conversation. Free from distraction, focus, trust and emotional connection. It is a time when they are important and valued, which is crucial for building a strong sense of belonging.
- REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS**
Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, read books that interest them, or include their hobbies in family activities or lessons. Seeing their interests reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.
- EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'**
Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure this out together" or "We all help each other here" promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children" or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language builds environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CIG library for educators, The National College has developed the key resources, masterclasses, and courses that educators need to stay motivated, inspired and confident. Our three membership plans offer a range of support and resources, so you can reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds)
www.thenationalcollege
[@wakeupwednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday)
[@wakeupwednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday)

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Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12 & 13	4h 16min	86%	Oliver S	Oliver S
11	89h 8min	67%	Reuben M	Logan W
10	31h 8min	65%	Muhammad B	Ethan K
9	72h 42min	62%	Brandon H	Frankie G
8	5h 28min	69%	Maxwell Saint F	Ellie M
7	17h 31min	66%	Emma P	Janet Z

CANTEEN MENU

2025/26

Click the images below to view the canteen menu for Term 4!

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



Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of Term 3 at The Abbey School, I would like to thank all pupils, staff and families for their continued support and partnership.

It has been something of a rollercoaster of a term, but throughout it all, the Abbey community has shown resilience, kindness and determination. This term has been packed with learning, enrichment and memorable moments across the school. I have been particularly proud of the way our pupils have represented the Abbey values each day; through their attitudes to learning, their respect for others, and their commitment to getting the basics right. These things matter, and they are what make a school strong.

A particular well done must go to our Year 11 pupils, who have been involved in mock examinations for much of the latter half of this term. They have approached this period with maturity and determination, and I know the experience will help them feel increasingly confident and prepared as we move towards the summer exam season.

I would also like to thank all the parents and pupils who took part in our recent Duke of Edinburgh Awards event. It was a real pleasure to celebrate so many of our students achieving their Bronze and Silver awards, and I was incredibly proud to see the confidence, maturity and commitment that pupils have shown through the programme.

I would also like to thank our staff team for their dedication and professionalism. The work that happens every day in classrooms, corridors and behind the scenes is what ensures pupils feel safe, supported and able to succeed.

As you will be aware, we were inspected by Ofsted this term. While we are not able to share the outcome until the process is complete, I want to say how proud I am of the way our whole community approached the inspection. Pupils were a real credit to themselves and to their families, and staff demonstrated the strength of our school with clarity, confidence and professionalism.

When we return next term, we also have an important milestone for our Year 11 pupils and families, with our GCSE Results Experience taking place on Friday 27th February. We will share full details in advance, but we are looking forward to celebrating pupils' achievements and supporting them with their next steps.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a safe and restful break. Thank you again for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back next term, ready for another strong and successful period of learning.



Dr R Speller
Principal



D of E AWARDS

On Monday, Miss Harris hosted our DofE Awards evening, celebrating students from across year groups who have successfully completed their Bronze and Silver Awards.

It was fantastic to hear stories from their expeditions, listen to students share their experiences, and recognise the valuable skills, resilience and confidence they've developed along the way. These young people have achieved something they'll carry with them for life.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved in DofE and a big thanks to Miss Harris for hosting the evening!



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week, we're raising awareness of how important it is for children to feel able to speak up when they need support.

Children have big feelings and having someone they trust to talk to can make a huge difference. When they feel listened to, they learn that their emotions matter, they're not alone and it's okay to ask for help.

A simple conversation, a calm response, or just being there to listen can have a lasting impact on a child's confidence and wellbeing.

Head over to <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> to find out more and see the support that's available!



FAVERSHAM GEM AWARDS

We're nominating our students for the Faversham GEMs Awards 2026!

We are proud to be putting forward some of our incredible young people for the Faversham GEMs Awards - celebrating children and young people who truly go the extra mile to make life sparkle for others.

These awards recognise kindness, community spirit, and the small actions that make a big difference. Nominations are open until the end of February, and anyone can nominate - including peers!

Take a look and consider who your GEM might be:

www.favershamgems.org

HALF TERM BREAK

Please note that during the half-term break the school will be closed to visitors and our phone lines will be switched off from 2:00pm on Friday. We will reopen as normal on Monday 23rd February.

If you need to contact us during this time, please email info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk. The mailbox will be checked periodically and we will respond as soon as possible.

We hope you have a safe, restful, and enjoyable break.

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@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

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

#BeTheBestYouCanBe



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE DEADLINE APPROACHING!

Year 10 students are reminded that Work Experience Week will take place from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July 2026. The deadline to submit placement details is Monday, 23rd February 2026.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience in the workplace, develop new skills, and explore potential career paths!

All instructions for how to support your child submitting their placement is on the attached image.

If you or your child experience any difficulties accessing Unifrog or adding placement information, please ask them to come Mrs Priestley during form time (they will need to inform their form tutor first).



The Abbey School | THE HOWARD Academy Trust

Go to www.unifrog.org

Click "Log in"

Select "Sign in with school email"

Enter your child's school email address and the password they have created
If the password has been forgotten, select "Forgot password" and follow the instructions to reset it

Once logged in, scroll down to locate the purple "Placements" icon

Click on the Placements icon

Select "Add Placement"

Complete and submit the employer's details as requested!

unifrog

YEAR 7 SWIMMING LESSONS REMINDER

A quick reminder that swimming lessons will begin at the end of February for Year 7.

Please make sure you complete the permission slip and medical form that were sent home and return them to school as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact get in touch!

Thank you for your support!

#BeTheBestYouCanBe



SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC

Members of our school choir, along with several enthusiastic Year 7 pupils, had an unforgettable experience taking part in the Young Voices “Wicked Worldwide Singalong” on 22 January. Joining 9,000 singers live at The O2 in London, our students became part of a truly global musical moment—singing in unison with young voices from around the world.

The official celebration video has been released and can be found [here](#). It features highlights from international participants and a special appearance by West End star Emma Kingston, who performed live on stage at The O2 during the event.

Well done to all our singers for representing the school with such energy and pride!



Music Instrument Lessons

There are still some spaces available for instrument lessons. If you are interested in learning the drum kit, piano or guitar then please apply through the Andrew Parry Music website www.andrewparrymusic.com where you can also find details about lessons and prices. You can also contact Mrs Ward if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Michael S (Year 9) for recently achieving a Distinction in his Grade 3 examination on the drum kit!

Financial assistance is available through Kent Music for students learning an instrument in any Kent school (this does not have to be through a Kent Music provider). Applications for the financial assistance waiting list are now open, please visit Financial Assistance Scheme - Kent Music for further information.



SPOTLIGHT ON PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Courage, Leadership and Community in Action

It has been an exciting week of House assemblies at The Abbey School. Not only have we shared messages with students about kindness, respect and showing love to one another as we approached Valentine's Day, but we have also been on an important recruitment drive.

With our current Year 11 Community Officers preparing to hang up their badges ahead of their exams, we invited students across the school to apply for the role. What followed was a powerful reminder of the courage and leadership that exists within our student body.

We were inspired to receive applications from across year groups. Shortlisted students were given the opportunity to deliver a two-to-three-minute speech outlining a project they would like to lead if voted in as a Community Officer. Standing in front of their peers takes real bravery. Speaking with conviction about improving your school takes leadership.

Students who took part:

Year 7:

Katie R, Evie B, Harper C-F, Austin C, Abiona O, Elsie H-G, Indi-Blu S, Tegan A, Ikmat M, Amelia G, Emily C

Year 8:

Fliss T, Savanah D, Milo M, Mili S

Year 9:

Delyan N

Year 10:

Makayla O

Each student showed confidence, thoughtfulness and a genuine commitment to our school community.

It was inspiring to watch them speak so passionately about the community they have helped to build here and about their vision for its future. Their ideas reflected creativity and care. Proposals included organised litter-picking initiatives to protect and take pride in our environment, improved student study spaces to support wellbeing and academic success and plans to make the school more colourful through planting flowers and enhancing outdoor areas.

A huge thank you must also go to our current House Officers - Sophie H, Olivia L, Ellie B, Maddie S, Izzy J and Aiden B - who helped to organise the entire process. Their leadership behind the scenes ensured the assemblies ran smoothly, and they will have the final say on who joins the team next. It has been wonderful to see them model responsibility and integrity.

Leadership is not simply about wearing a badge. It is about stepping forward, sharing ideas publicly and being prepared to serve others. The courage shown by every student who stood up to speak was remarkable, and regardless of the final vote, they have already demonstrated the qualities we value most - initiative, integrity, and community spirit.

As our Year 11 officers focus on their examinations, they leave behind a strong legacy. The next generation of student leaders is clearly ready to rise to the challenge.

The Abbey community continues to grow stronger because our students are brave enough to shape it.



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



You asked.....

"Do we have to be spoken to outside and inside the canteen?"

We did.....

"No, once is enough. Your HOY will give you any messages outside when you are in STAR so there is no need for you to stand when you get inside."



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



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
TAX & BUSINESS ADVISORS



DOVER ATHLETIC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ABBEY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM
FOOTBALL ACADEMY TRIALS

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2026

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE TRIAL OR WANT TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW AND FILL OUT THE FORM.



- Excellent coaching from UEFA A Licence Coaches
- Full time training whilst studying a full range of A Level or BTEC Courses
- Full Fixture Schedule played on Wednesday afternoons
- Represent Dover Athletic Football Club
- Play in the FA Youth Cup
- Compete in International Tournaments
- Excellent progression routes

If you have any questions, please contact Academy Manager Mike Sandmann
msandmann@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk



COLD WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather has turned colder and temperatures continue to drop, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat each day. We want all children to stay comfortable and safe during their time at school.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



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

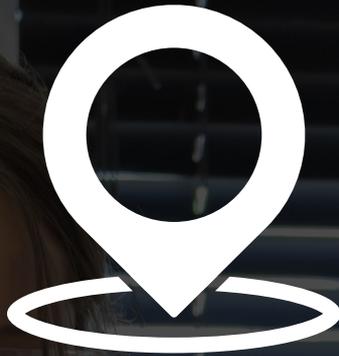


**The Abbey
School**

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

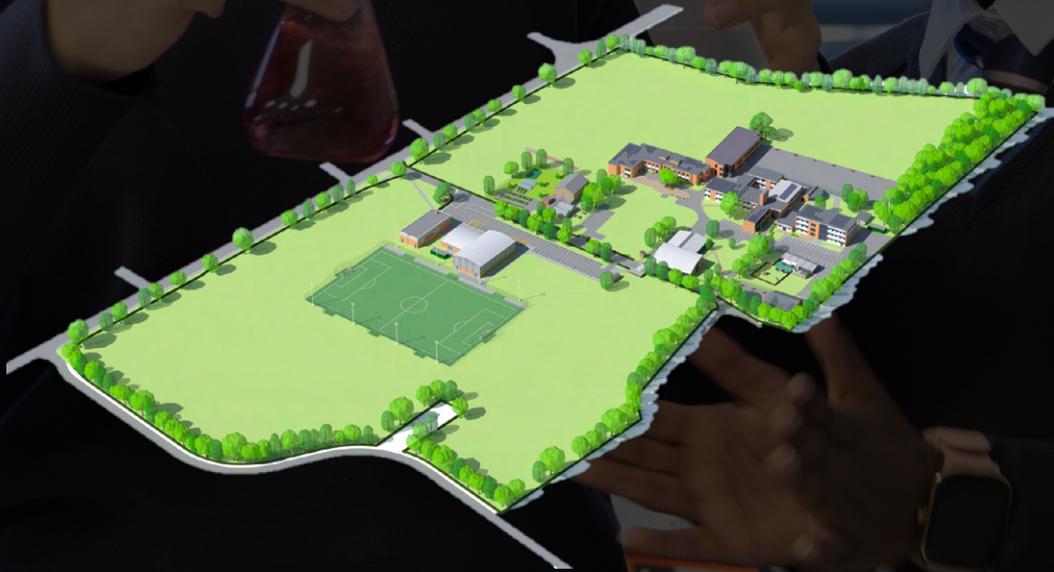
Jo Walker
STEER Founder





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