



**The Abbey
School**

“Be The Best You Can Be”

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

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Date: 04/06/26



STARS OF THE WEEK

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



Erin C
Year 9
35HP



Frederick B
Year 8
28HP



Charlie B
Year 8
36HP



Jack R
Year 8
34HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

CANTEEN MENU 2025/26

Click the images below to view the canteen menu for Term 6!

All 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. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NEI programmes available to settings in England.

- BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE**
Support children to use language not just hear it. Ask them the time to talk, report, ask questions, and share their ideas. Every conversation, shared activity, and reading together help children practise both speaking and listening. Encourage children to use language in a range of contexts, including everyday, storytelling, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.
- SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS**
Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into steps that are manageable for them. Check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.
- GROW THEIR VOCABULARY**
Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use simple language during everyday activities, such as playing, cooking, and playing. Encourage and support them to use words they know and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.
- SHARE STORIES TOGETHER**
Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and reactions. Ask open-ended questions to children about the story. Encourage them to give children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.
- NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS**
Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. Visuals and role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.
- WORK WITH SETTINGS**
Strong communication between home and the nursery, school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can talk to the setting with their child before they start, helping them to understand what to expect. Parents and educators can share relevant information about children and colleagues, to each child's needs and understand how best to help them continue language learning at home.
- SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS**
Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery, school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as language maps, included in the NEI programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify further support.
- EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT**
Provides language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research. Children's needs are assessed and support is tailored to make a meaningful difference. The Education, Behaviour and Inclusion (EBI) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.
- MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS**
Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills, and identify their individual needs. These tools include SEND returns, and strengthen whole-setting language development, helping to ensure support that reflects their individual communication needs.
- TAKE PART IN RESEARCH**
Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators can deliver research activities in practice. The EBI offers free trials and setting options, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert
OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery partner for the build-it-for language intervention (BEI) programme in reception, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NEI Reception, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.

See full references on thenationalcollege.com

WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full references on thenationalcollege.com

Twitter: @wake_up_weds Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday TikTok: @wake.up.weds

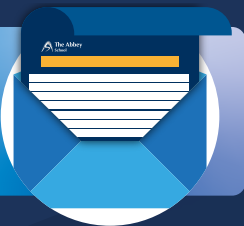
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.06.2025



SENECA CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12 & 13	12min	70%	Sid B	Leah W
11	39h 8min	74%	Katherine P	Sophie S
10	48h 57min	69%	Evie W	Leighton G
9	96h 40min	64%	Isabelle P	Pippa W
8	34h 0min	70%	Martyna E	Phoebe P
7	59h 29min	65%	Emma P	Kayden R

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



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

As we return for our final term of the academic year, there is much to look forward to. For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, this is an important period as examinations continue and students begin to prepare for their next steps. We wish them every success and thank them for the maturity, resilience and determination they have shown throughout the year.

Across the school, students will be taking part in a wide range of enrichment activities, educational visits, sporting fixtures and transition events as we begin to prepare for September. This is always one of the busiest and most rewarding terms of the year.

Thank you to our staff, students, parents and carers for their continued support. We look forward to a successful and positive end to the academic year.



Dr R Speller
Principal



“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!



THE ABBEY SCHOOL DANCE SHOWCASE

AT
THE GULBENKIAN THEATRE



FRIDAY
26 JUNE 2026



SHOW STARTS
6PM



TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED
VIA THE GULBENKIAN WEBSITE -
THE ABBEY SCHOOL
DANCE SHOWCASE

A Celebration
OF STUDENTS WORK

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US!



MIXTURE OF
YEAR 11
EXAM PIECES



WHOLE CLASS
PERFORMANCE



EXTRA
CURRICULAR



AND
MORE



GCSEPOD

PRESS PLAY ON YOUR SUCCESS!



SHORT VIDEOS.
BIG IMPACT.
BETTER GRADES.



GCSEPod is the **award-winning** video learning platform that helps you **understand** more, **remember** more and **achieve** more.

OUR SCHOOL HAS WATCHED

7,106

PODS SO FAR THIS YEAR!

That's 7,106 steps closer to your future success!

WHY USE GCSEPOD?

- EXPERT CONTENT**
Curriculum aligned videos created by subject specialists.
- SHORT & FOCUSED**
3-5 minute videos make learning quick, clear and easy to fit in.
- REVISE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**
Watch on any device, whenever you need it.
- BETTER UNDERSTANDING, BETTER RESULTS**
Build confidence, close gaps and improve your grades.
- INSTANT FEEDBACK**
Learn from your mistakes with built-in quizzes and questions.

★ PERFECT FOR YEARS 7, 8, 9 & 10 ★

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
7 Build strong foundations and confidence.	8 Deepen your understanding and make progress.	9 Prepare for exams and achieve your goals.	10 Excellent revision for end of year exams and beyond.

★ Use GCSEPod regularly to stay ahead and reach your potential!

COVERING ALL YOUR GCSE SUBJECTS

SCIENCE	MATHS	ENGLISH	HUMANITIES
LANGUAGES	COMPUTING	CREATIVE SUBJECTS	& MORE!

Find the pod you need, when you need it!

HOW TO GET STARTED

- 1 VISIT**
www.gcsepod.com
- 2 SEARCH**
for your subject or topic
- 3 PRESS PLAY**
and watch a pod
- 4 REVISE & SUCCEED!**
Use what you learn to do even better

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

- Use after school, at the weekend or during revision time
- Rewatch to strengthen your understanding
- Make it part of your revision routine!

YOU'VE GOT THE POTENTIAL. WE'VE GOT THE TOOLS.

LEARN MORE. KNOW MORE. BE MORE.

LOG IN TODAY AND MAKE THIS YOUR BEST YEAR YET!

gcsepod.com



YEAR 13 FAREWELL!

To all our amazing Year 13 students,

As you prepare to leave us and begin your next chapter, we want to wish each of you the very best of luck for the future.

We are so proud of everything you have achieved and of the young adults you have become. Whether your next step is university, apprenticeships, work, travel, or something completely different, we know you will go on to do great things.

Remember to believe in yourselves, embrace every opportunity, and never be afraid to aim high. You will always be a valued part of our school family, and we hope you leave with friendships, experiences, and lessons that will stay with you for life.

Good luck Year 13, we know you will achieve amazing things!

YEAR 13 ESCAPE ROOM!

On the last day of term, Year 13 held a farewell celebration in the common room. It was a great morning, with breakfast served for students and staff to enjoy together. There were also photos displayed of the students on their very first day of secondary school, giving everyone a chance to look back on how much they had grown over the years.

In the afternoon, the students headed off to take part in an escape room activity. It was brilliant to see them all enjoying themselves and spending time together as they celebrated the end of their school journey.

They now only have their final few exams left before setting off on their new pathways, and we wish them every success and the very best of luck for whatever their futures may hold.





HAPPY ENDINGS RESCUE DONATION!

On the last day of term, Lisa from Happy Endings Rescue visited our school to receive a cheque for £1,000, which we raised during our recent non-uniform day. We hope this donation will support the incredible work they do in caring for abused and neglected animals.

#BeTheBestYouCanBe

DANCE WORKSHOP!

A huge thank you to Charlotte from Rebound Dance who delivered an excellent workshop to some of our talented dancers today!

We can't wait to perform the piece we created in our upcoming dance showcase later this month at The Gulbenkian Theatre!



FETE DONATIONS!

We are planning to hold our Rewards Fete on the final day of the Summer Term. This is one of our main opportunities to reward students for their efforts and achievements throughout the academic year.

One of the stalls we will be running at this year's fete is a tombola, and we are looking for donations of prizes for our students. If you have any spare items that you would be willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Examples of suitable items include:

Toys and games
Clothes and fashion accessories
Toiletries

This is not an exhaustive list, and any items suitable for children aged 11–14 would be gratefully received. We kindly ask that all donations are clean and in good condition.

If you are able to donate, please place the items in a bag clearly marked "Fete" and send them in with your child for the attention of the Main Office. Alternatively, you are very welcome to drop them off at the Main Office yourself.

We would also love to hear from any local businesses that may be willing to support the fete through a prize donation. If so, please contact sdannell@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Big thank you to the following students who have donated:
Jake B, Jayden G, Emily C, Charlotte P, Henry B and Bradley M



FORSTERS DISCOUNT!

Just a reminder that we're offering parents a 10% discount on all orders over £20 until 30th June.

To redeem the offer, simply enter the code FORSTERS10 at the online checkout or visit us in store.



COMMUNITIES DAYS 2026



COMMUNITIES DAYS 2026 ARE LOADING...

Something different is coming this July.

On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th July, students in Years 7–10 will step beyond their normal timetable and take part in two days packed with opportunities, experiences and challenges designed to inspire, surprise and maybe even change the way they see the world.

Expect new faces, new ideas and experiences you won't find in a classroom.

Over the two days, students will have the chance to:

- Meet people with incredible stories to tell
- Discover organisations making a real difference in our communities
- Take on exciting challenges and projects
- Explore future opportunities, careers and interests
- Develop new skills, confidence and connections
- Try something new and step outside their comfort zone
- Have fun with friends and make new memories

We're keeping some of the details under wraps for now, but trust us when we say...

THIS YEAR HITS DIFFERENT.

And the excitement doesn't stop there...

Communities Days will be followed by The Abbey School Fete on Friday 17th July, bringing our school community together for a fantastic celebration and a memorable way to round off the academic year.

Keep an eye out over the coming weeks as we reveal more about what's in store.

Communities Days 2026: Loading...

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON...

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT!

Natalie C in Year 10 continues to make outstanding progress in water polo at Faversham Swimming Club!

Following successful trials last year to join the London Talent Centre, Natalie has continued to strengthen and develop her water polo career through an impressive series of achievements.

In the autumn, Natalie captained a Faversham team at the National Age Group Championships — the first time the club had entered the competition. Her leadership, commitment, and performances were recognised with a special club award celebrating her success in water polo. Since then, Natalie has also gone on to represent Kent at county level.

Natalie has once again been selected to represent the London Talent Centre at the upcoming Talent Centre Games in Manchester at the end of June.

Most recently, after attending trials, Natalie earned selection for the South East of England Under-16s team and will compete at the Regional Games in Liverpool this July.

These achievements come alongside Natalie's continued dedication to her studies and preparation for her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, demonstrating her excellent balance of sporting and academic commitments.

We are incredibly proud of Natalie's hard work, determination, and achievements, and we look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

Send us your child's achievements so we can celebrate and recognise their success! Email info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk.



ATTENDANCE REWARDS TERM 6!

We are excited to share the fantastic attendance rewards available for students in Term 6!
There are three amazing rewards up for grabs!

Wingham Wildlife Park Trip

Students who receive an Attendance Golden Ticket during Term 6 will be entered into a prize draw to attend a trip to Wingham Wildlife Park.

For every full week of attendance, students will receive an additional entry into the draw — so the more they attend, the greater their chance of winning!

VIP Access at the Summer Fete

All students who achieve 100% attendance during Term 6 will receive exclusive VIP access to one of our hired inflatables at the Summer Fete on the last day of term.

These students will enjoy the inflatable exclusively for the first 40 minutes of the fete!

100% Attendance Grand Prize Draw

Students who achieve 100% attendance for the entire school year will be entered into our grand prize draw, with the chance to win one of these

fantastic prizes:

A brand-new PS5

A 32" Smart TV

Two tablets

A laptop

Best of all, entry into all of these rewards is completely free — students simply need to attend to have the chance to win!

CHARLIE'S STORY

A PROMISE TO PROTECT OTHERS

On Monday 18th May, we were incredibly honoured to welcome Martin Cossar from [Charlie's Promise](#) to speak to our Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Across two one-hour assemblies, Martin shared the story of his brilliant son Charlie - a funny, caring, talented and deeply loved young man whose life was tragically taken through knife crime. With extraordinary courage, honesty and compassion, Martin spoke not only about unimaginable loss, but about love, family, friendship and the determination to make sure Charlie's story changes lives.

The atmosphere in both assemblies was deeply emotional and incredibly powerful. Students and staff sat in complete silence, listening carefully, reflecting deeply and visibly moved by the strength and bravery shown by Charlie's family. There were tears, difficult moments and powerful conversations - but above all, there was a shared sense across the room that what happened to Charlie was profoundly wrong and a silent agreement that The Abbey School students and staff all have a part to play in making sure it does not happen again.

Martin helped our young people understand that knife crime is not something distant that only happens elsewhere. It destroys futures, devastates families and leaves spaces that can never truly be filled. Yet through unimaginable heartbreak, Charlie's family have chosen to create something powerful from their grief by educating others and trying to protect young people from making choices that could change lives forever. Such was the impact of the assemblies, we will also be inviting Martin back to speak with our Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 students so that even more young people can hear Charlie's story and the vital message at the heart of Charlie's Promise.

At the end of the assembly, after listening to Charlie's favourite piece of music, which was also played at his funeral, Martin asked every young person in the room to make two promises to Charlie:

- never carry a knife
- always report concerns or information through Fearless, part of CrimeStoppers, which offers non-judgemental advice and a completely anonymous way for young people to share information about crime or criminality

It was an incredibly emotional moment and one that will stay with many of our students and staff for a very long time.

We cannot thank Martin enough for the courage it takes to tell Charlie's story in order to protect others. The work being done through Charlie's Promise is extraordinary and we feel privileged that our students were able to hear such an important message first hand.

For families wishing to learn more about Charlie's story and the work being done through Charlie's Promise, you can watch the documentary here: [Charlie's Story Documentary](#)
(Please note - parental/carer discretion is advised due to the emotional and sensitive nature of the content.)

Charlie's legacy is already changing lives and inspiring young people - including ours here at The Abbey School - to make safer, braver and better choices.





SWALE COMMUNITY DAY

Sunday 7 June 2026

FREE
entry

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

- Bike marking available
- Domestic abuse support
- Housing support
- Hands-on animal encounters
- Fire safety, rail safety and water safety advice
- Health and other advice services
- Sateda Community Share wear clothing scheme
- Community Projects
- Face painting
- Youth engagement
- Come have a go at archery, football, climbing wall and more
- Music by Sheppey FM and Kent Police Band

APPLEYARD SPORTS GROUND

GORE COURT RD,
SITTINGBOURNE,
ME10 1QN

10AM-3PM

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



**Kent
Police**



EXAM READY!

As GCSE examinations in full flow, we would like to remind families about the extensive additional support available for Year 10 & 11 students both before and after school.

Please note, Year 10 support is for the early entry English Literature exam only.

These revision sessions form an extremely important part of students' final preparation, and we strongly encourage all pupils to attend every session relevant to their subjects.

Experience consistently shows that students who take full advantage of these final support opportunities often enter the exam hall feeling more confident, focused and well prepared. The sessions are carefully designed to provide final revision of key topics and concepts, essential guidance on exam technique and timing, clarification of common misconceptions, opportunities for students to ask questions and gain reassurance, and valuable last-minute advice from subject specialists on how to maximise marks.

In particular, the "before exam" breakfast sessions are highly beneficial. During the final hour before an exam, teachers are able to reinforce the most important content, remind students of successful strategies and help them approach the paper calmly and confidently. These sessions can make a real difference to students' performance.

Support sessions for next week are available as outlined below.

[Timetable](#)

YEAR 9 VACCINATION INFORMATION!

Recently, the Immunisation Service visited school to offer the TdIPV and MenACWY vaccinations to our Year 9 students. While many pupils received their vaccinations, overall uptake was 59%, which is below the national target of 90%.

We would like to remind parents and carers that appointments are still available through local community clinics.

Community Clinic Appointments Available

The Immunisation Service runs community clinics during weekends and school holidays to ensure that no child misses their routine immunisations.

If your child missed their TdIPV and MenACWY vaccinations during the recent school visit, you are encouraged to book an appointment at one of the community clinics.

Parents and carers who previously gave consent but whose child was not vaccinated should have received an automated email containing a booking link.

Alternatively, families can contact the Immunisation Service directly on 0300 123 5205 for more information about clinic availability and booking appointments.

Further information can also be found on the [Immunisation Service website](#)

STAYING CALM AND PREPARED: EXAM SEASON TIPS!

With the exam season in full flow, it's completely normal to feel a mix of pressure, nerves, and anticipation. Whether you're sitting your GCSEs or A-levels, these next few weeks are important, but how you approach them can make a big difference to both your performance and your well-being.

One of the most valuable things you can do is stay calm. Stress can build up quickly, especially when exams feel high-stakes, but keeping a clear head helps you think more effectively and avoid burnout. Simple habits like getting enough sleep, taking short breaks, and stepping away from your desk when needed can really improve your focus.

Equally important is having a good revision schedule. Instead of cramming everything at once, try to plan your time across the weeks ahead. Break subjects into smaller topics, set realistic goals for each session, and rotate subjects to keep things fresh. A structured plan not only helps you cover everything you need, but also gives you a sense of control and progress.

Finally, don't forget that exams are just one part of your journey. Do your best, stay organised, and look after yourself along the way. Good luck to everyone, you've got this!

Please see the link below which will take you to the exam timetable.

[Exam Timetable 2025/26](#)

From the 5th May, we will be putting daily reminders about the exams that will be happening taking place the next school day!

STUDENT SHOUTOUT!

Busy over the Half Term 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!

#BeTheBestYouCanBe



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



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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