



**The Abbey
School**

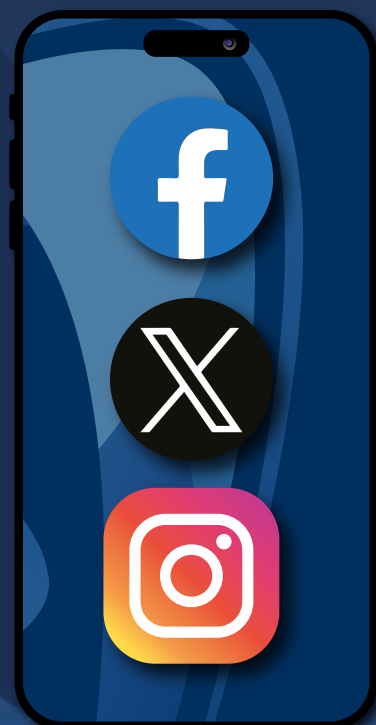
“Be The Best You Can Be”

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 25

Date: 27/03/26



STARS OF THE WEEK

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



Poppy W
Year 9
92HP



Annabelle B
Year 8
40HP



Alice B
Year 8
75HP



Ronnie S
Year 8
40HP

#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 address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes busier, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

- 1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING**
Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is struggling. Are they missing key concepts, or are they overwhelmed by a lack of confidence? Teaching every topic can be ineffective, reinforcing rote learning. A quick check, ahead of their lesson, will tell you if they understand the subject or they're under pressure, and what to do if they struggle. Their revision needs to be tailored to their specific needs.
- 2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY**
Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what has been easiest. Focus on revision methods into curriculum time. Demonstrate revision techniques explicitly, and have them practice it. Use, do it together. Then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependence. Some pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it counts.
- 3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE**
Make your revision sessions more effective with retrieval practice. Retrieval practice is the most powerful tool for long-term learning. It involves testing yourself on information you've learned. Retrieval practice is more effective than re-reading or highlighting. It helps you identify what you don't know, so you can focus on that. Retrieval practice is also more engaging than re-reading. It's more like a game. For parents, the best question is: "Have you revised?" not "What did you remember today, without notes?"
- 4 SPACE IT OUT**
Cramming is bad. Spacing revision out is better. It's a well-known fact that spaced revision is more effective than cramming. Spacing revision out means you're revising the same material over a longer period of time. This helps you to remember the material for longer. Spacing revision out also means you're not overwhelmed by a large amount of material. It's more manageable. Spacing revision out also means you're more likely to use the material when it counts.
- 5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK**
Practising one topic for a long time is better than practising many topics for a short time. It's better to practise one topic for a long time than to practise many topics for a short time. This helps you to remember the material for longer. Mixing topics also means you're not overwhelmed by a large amount of material. It's more manageable. Mixing topics also means you're more likely to use the material when it counts.
- 6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY**
Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging practice. Encourage pupils to attempt answers before looking at the correct answer. Encourage pupils to tackle unfamiliar or question formats. The key is to be hard, but doable. If a pupil always gets it right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.
- 7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY**
Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Before cognitive resources are used, ensure that they have a single, high-quality source of primary knowledge, and a small set of standard test-type questions. Teach students to use questions, or corrections, less often. Clutter means more working memory for learning.
- 8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE**
Bring revision to self-organised. Pupils plan what they're doing, monitor if it's working, and adjust when to progress or time. Use a weekly revision review routine that asks: "What did you do?" "What worked?" "What didn't?" "What's my next move?" "What's my next goal?" Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force pupils to report on specific strategy used, and impact achieved.
- 9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY**
Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an open, non-judgmental approach to mock analysis. Set clear goals, otherwise, analysis errors such as knowledge gaps, missed questions, time management, and timing issues, then create a targeted retrieval plan for the next mock. Review can be supported by asking: "What type of mistakes did you make?" "What's your fix?" "What's your goal?" "What grade did you get?"
- 10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE**
Revision becomes real when time is protected and prioritised. Help pupils learn to translate their intent, motivation, and practice. Set clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not "revision time". Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

Meet Our Expert
Amjad Ali is the creator of **Try This Teaching** and the CEO and inclusion lead for the **Children Learning Trust**. With over 20 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in primary and high schools, Amjad is a passionate advocate for evidence-based practice. His work focuses on pedagogy, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help teachers improve and retain knowledge over time.

The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.wednesday

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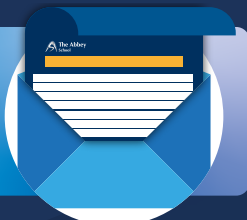
Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12 & 13	11h 31min	84%	Leah W	Oliver S
11	84h 14min	66%	Katherine P	Will H
10	81h 14min	71%	Maisie C-H	Leighton G
9	42h 14min	64%	Milo K	Sidney O
8	12h 35min	64%	Lottie B	Lily-Mae B
7	15h 17min	68%	Grace B	Janet Z

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!



“supported”

*“motivated to
succeed”*

“safe”

“calm”

*“inclusive
culture”*



*“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!





DOVER ATHLETIC ACADEMY SUCCESS!

A big win on Wednesday for the Academy boys, winning 1-0 against Folkestone and securing their place in the National league cup semi-finals!

Good luck in the semi finals everyone!

YEAR 8 PARENTS EVENING

Thank you to all of you who attended the Year 8 Parents' Evening last night. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you and to have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements.

Evenings like this play a vital role in supporting your child's education. They provide an important space for open communication between home and school, allowing us to work together to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

DANCE STUDIO UPGRADES

We're excited to share that the final work in the dance studio has now been completed!

Last week, we successfully installed a brand-new projector and sound system, bringing the space to life with enhanced visuals and audio.

We hope these upgrades bring lots of joy and inspiration to our Performing Arts department, and we can't wait to see the amazing work that will be created here!

STEM WORKSHOP!

Well done to all the students who took part in this workshop!

The STEM workshop by East Kent College focused on teamwork and communication through a hands-on challenge. Participants worked together to build a free-standing tower using only paper, encouraging creative thinking and problem-solving. The activity showed how clear communication and collaboration are key to successfully completing a task.

EASTER EGG DONATIONS!



We are in the final few days of our donation drive! We're now only a few Easter eggs away from reaching our new goal, not just to support Canterbury Care Home, but to donate to two additional charities as well. If you're able to contribute, it would be an amazing achievement for our school community to come together and make this happen. Every donation makes a difference!

If you would like to help again this year, students are welcome to donate an Easter egg by bringing it to the main reception.

All students who donate will receive a Charity Golden Ticket and 30 house points in recognition of their kindness and support for the community.

Closing date for donations: Wednesday 1st April

Delivery to care homes: Thursday 2nd April (depending on the number of donations received)

Please bring any donated eggs to main reception.

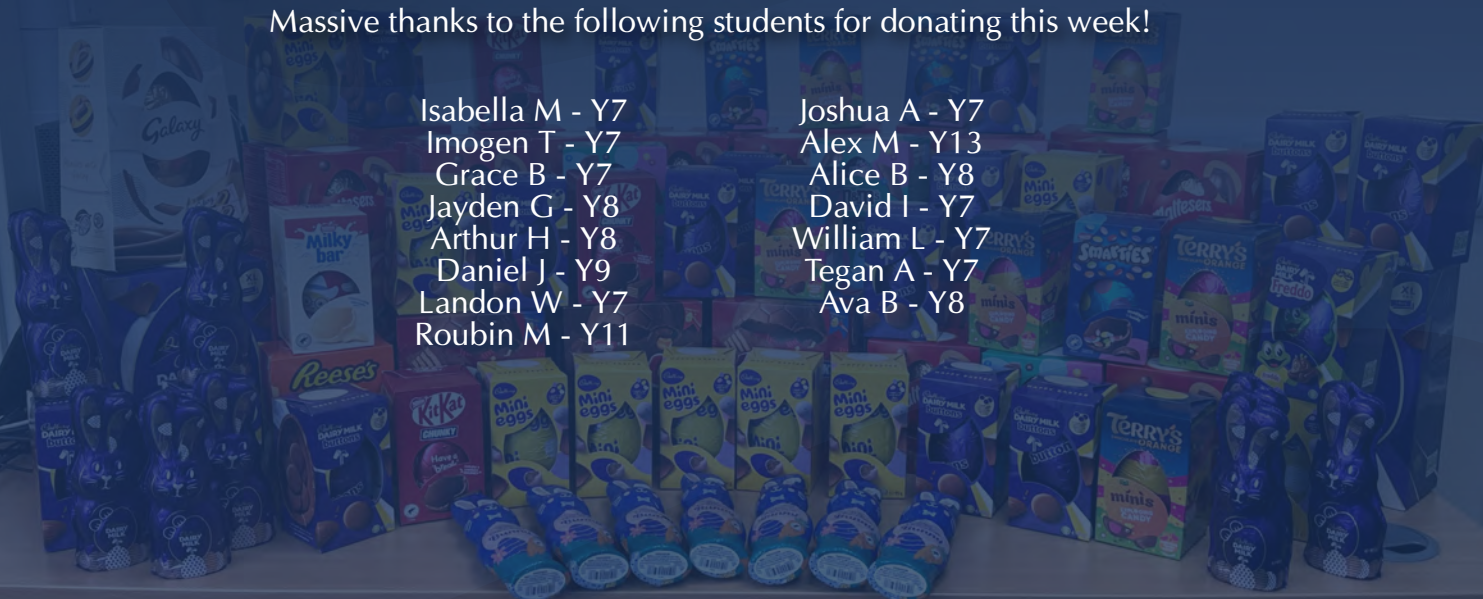
Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

#BeTheBestYouCanBe

Massive thanks to the following students for donating this week!

Isabella M - Y7
Imogen T - Y7
Grace B - Y7
Jayden G - Y8
Arthur H - Y8
Daniel J - Y9
Landon W - Y7
Roubin M - Y11

Joshua A - Y7
Alex M - Y13
Alice B - Y8
David I - Y7
William L - Y7
Tegan A - Y7
Ava B - Y8



SIXTH FORM ATTENDANCE REWARD!

Big congratulations to James T in Year 13 for winning the Attendance Reward for Sixth Form for Term 3!

NON UNIFORM DAY FINAL DAY OF TERM!

On the final day of term next Thursday (2nd April), staff and students will be able to take part in a non-uniform day.

As usual, the normal rules apply. Anyone who arrives in inappropriate clothing will be placed in reflection and we definitely don't want that on the last day!

You must have Abbey School bag and equipment (no other bags acceptable)

- No short/low-cut or strappy/vest tops
- No hot pants/short skirts
- No offensive logos
- No tummies on show!
- No open-toed shoes/crocs
- You can wear football shirts
- Nothing that would be dangerous for walking around the school
- Same rules for jewellery and make up

Let's have a great last day!

Save The Date!

DANCE SHOWCASE

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

Friday 26th June 2026



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS!

From Thursday 2nd April, The Abbey School will be closed for the Easter break.

Thursday will be a normal school day however, it will be a non-uniform day for all staff and students.

Phone lines will be switched off at the end of the school day on Thursday at 3:30pm and will not be switched back on until Tuesday 21st April.

If you need to contact us during this time, please email: info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk.

Please note that Monday 20th April is an INSET day for staff only.

We hope you all have a fun and relaxing Easter break.

SPOTLIGHT ON MFL!

It has been a busy and productive time in the MFL department. Year 10 students have recently completed their assessments, demonstrating their growing confidence in writing and grammar skills. We are very proud of the effort many students have put into their preparation and the progress they continue to make.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have been preparing for their upcoming speaking exams, which will take place during the week beginning 27th April. As part of their preparation, students have created detailed mind maps to organise their ideas and key vocabulary to help them select their topic for the exam.

A special congratulations to our Homework Stars, who have shown excellent commitment and effort in their language learning:

Year 7 French:
Harlen F
Grace B
Abiola O

Year 8 French:
Arabela S
April H
Gvidas A

Year 9 French:
Mustaqeemah A
Sophie A

Year 10 French:
Leighton G
Esther O

Year 11 French:
Celeste L
Owen B

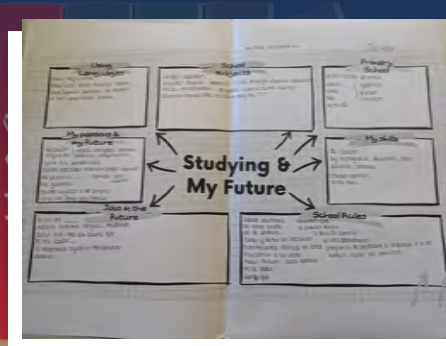
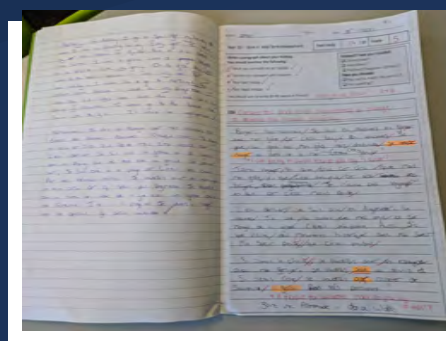
Year 7 Spanish:
Bella M
Anastasiia H

Year 8 Spanish:
Arthur H
Millie A
Maisie J

Year 9 Spanish:
Megan T
Aiden B

Year 10 Spanish:
Liam C
Jorja J-C

Year 11 Spanish:
Joshua B
Raluka B



EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

TERM 4

This term, our extracurricular programme is full of exciting opportunities, with something to suit everyone's interests. There are sports, creative clubs and new activities to try out. Joining in is not just about fun, it's also a chance to discover new talents, meet different people, and grow in confidence.

Trying new things is especially valuable because it helps you step outside your comfort zone. You may uncover hidden skills you didn't know you had, or find a passion that could shape your future. It also teaches resilience, problem-solving, and teamwork skills that are useful both in and out of school.

Most importantly, extracurricular activities bring balance to your life. They give you a break from classroom learning while still helping you develop in meaningful ways. Whether you continue with something familiar or try something completely new, you'll gain experiences and memories that will last well beyond this term.

Click the image below to see what is happening this term!



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@abbeychoolfaversham.co.uk

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

#BeTheBestYouCanBe



STAFF NOMINATE A MEMBER OF OUR STAFF AWARDS!

Don't forget to nominate a member of The Abbey School Staff for a THAT Staff Award!

It's quick, easy, and only takes a few minutes - a great way to recognise the staff who make a real difference to school life.

Submit by 24th April 2026

Remember:

- Parents, carers, guardians and pupils are all encouraged to submit nominations
 - Nominations must be at least 250 characters
- There's no limit to how many nominations you can make

Submit your nominations online: bit.ly/StaffAwards2026
or via a postcard at our school office.

Please make sure you submit your nominations by April 24th.

Let's come together to celebrate the amazing people who support, inspire, and care for our school community every day.

Thank you!

GCSE POD IS BACK!

GCSEPod is particularly valuable for Year 11 students because time is now extremely limited, making revision needs to be focused, efficient and easily accessible. The short, targeted "pods" enable students to quickly revisit key knowledge, address gaps in understanding and maximise the remaining weeks before their exams.

For Year 10 students preparing for early entry Literature, GCSEPod supports structured, early revision, helping them secure core knowledge, build confidence and reduce pressure ahead of their assessments.

The link can be found below or on our school website. Year 10 and Year 11 students can access GCSE Pod by logging in with their school email and password.

<https://www.gcsepod.com/>

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.



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



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'.

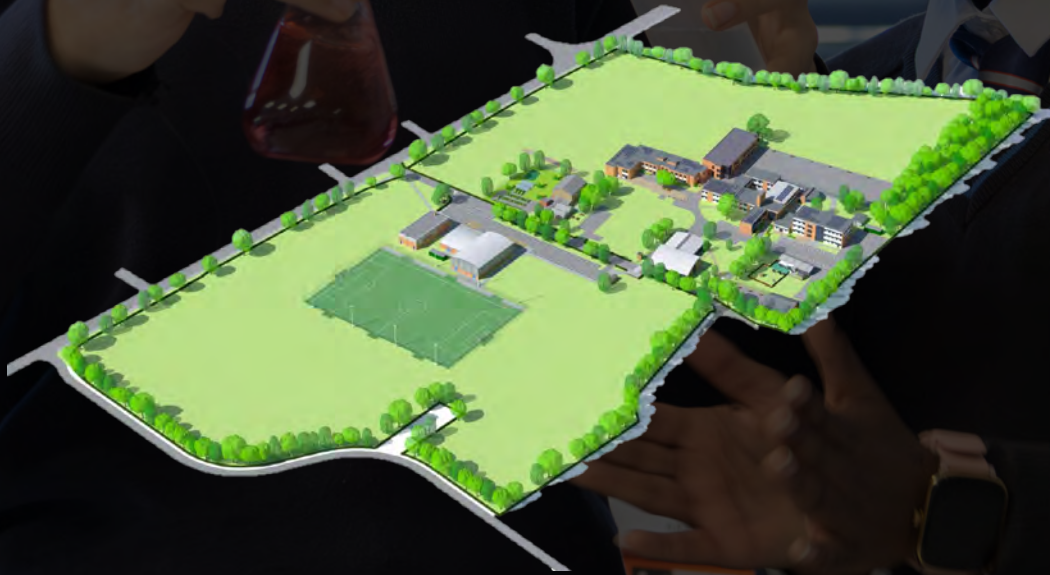
Jo Walker
STEER Founder





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