



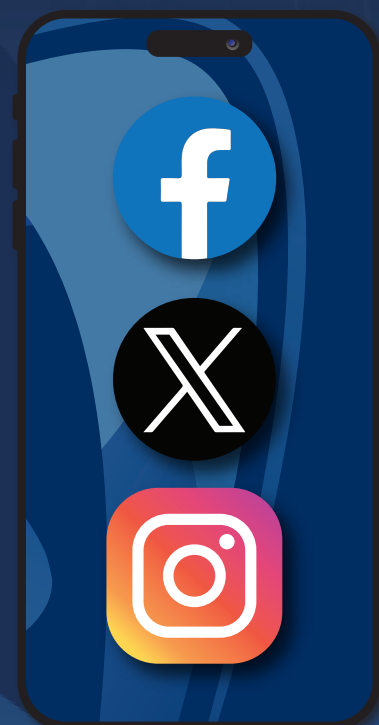
"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2025/26

Issue Number: 1

Date: 04/09/25





**The Abbey
School**

OPEN EVENT

"Be the Best You Can Be"

Open Evening with Principal's Talk:
Wednesday 1 October, 2025

5pm till 8pm

Book your place online



THE HOWARD
Academy Trust

www.theabbey-that.org.uk

Welcome Back to the 2025/26 School Year

I hope you and your families had a restful summer. It has been wonderful to see our students return this week with energy and ambition for the year ahead. A special welcome goes to our new Year 7s and Sixth Form joiners, who are beginning their Abbey journey. For those who collected exam results this summer, congratulations - we are proud of your achievements and grateful to the staff and families who supported you.

This year, our focus is sharper than ever on the things that will make the greatest difference to our students' futures:

Attendance – Being in school every day is the single biggest driver of success. Our aim is 100% attendance for every pupil. Last year's data is clear - those students with attendance above 90% were at least four times more likely to achieve a good set of GCSEs, including English and Maths. Every day matters.

Outcomes for All – We are ambitious for every student, but especially for those who face the greatest barriers. This year we will continue to close gaps for disadvantaged pupils and those with additional needs, ensuring all young people leave us with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need to thrive.

Community Engagement – Education works best as a partnership. We will keep building strong communication with families, sharing information regularly, listening to feedback, and working together to give every child the best chance of success.

Please support us with the basics that make a big difference: excellent attendance, full uniform, the right equipment, and mobile phones switched off and away.

Together (students, families and staff) we can make this a safe, ambitious and successful year for every young person at The Abbey School.



Dr R Speller
Principal



Warm Return to The Abbey School: Growing Together in Kindness

It has been a welcome sight at school this week seeing all of our students return after that long summer holiday. The school simply isn't the same without the energy in our classrooms, the lively buzz of the canteen, and the purposeful footsteps echoing through our corridors.

With the return of our students, we are reminded of who we are and what we stand for. We are proud to be an integral part of the Faversham community - some of our students' families have roots here going back generations. Though our buildings, uniforms, and staff may have changed over time, our core values remain steadfast and we believe they always will.

We are a school that lives by our motto: "Be the Best You Can Be." As a dedicated team, we strive to nurture in our students a strong sense of character and purpose. We promote values such as aspiration, curiosity, integrity, persistence, altruism, creativity, resourcefulness, and reflection - and, perhaps most importantly in today's world, a deep commitment to community and responsibility.

We teach our students to treat others with respect and compassion, regardless of background. Everyone deserves to feel they belong - no matter their race, nationality, religion, sex, gender, age, disability or any other aspect of their identity.

At The Abbey School, we see diversity and inclusion as strengths to be celebrated. Our aim is to prepare students not only for academic achievement but to become kind, empathetic individuals who make a positive difference in the world. Because in the end, isn't it kindness that matters most - that we look out for one another, no matter our differences?



**The Abbey
School**

ATTENDANCE

The Attendance Team would like to welcome all of our students back and hope you have all had a lovely summer break! It has been nice to see so many students in school and seeing them happy to be here.

Importance of first 2 weeks in school

At The Abbey School, our goal is to help your child reach their full potential, and we believe that consistent attendance plays a crucial role in achieving this. Good attendance is considered to be above 95%. Even a few days off can have a significant impact on a child's learning, as it's easy for them to fall behind and harder to catch up.

It has been in the news regarding the importance of the first 2 weeks back in school. Below is a helpful link from the BBC, which emphasizes the importance of strong attendance during the first two weeks of school. Research shows that students who miss school during this critical period are more likely to become persistently absent (defined as having less than 90% attendance) over the course of the academic year.

We encourage you to support your child in attending school regularly to ensure they have the best possible start to the year.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk3rr225o>



Reminder of changes to School Attendance

We want to remind you about some important changes to the rules around school attendance. The government released new guidance titled "Working Together to Improve School Attendance," which is now statutory for all schools. This means schools are required to follow this guidance to promote regular attendance and reduce persistent absence. Good attendance is vital for your child's learning, progress, and overall wellbeing.

Government Guidelines on Authorized School Absences:
Schools are permitted to authorize student absences only for the following reasons:

- 1. Participation in a Regulated Performance or Employment Abroad:** This applies to students involved in work or performances abroad that are formally regulated. Appropriate evidence must be provided to support the request.
- 2. Attending an Interview:** Absences for educational or employment interviews are considered valid, provided the purpose is clearly stated.
- 3. Temporary, Time-Limited Part-Time Timetable:** In some cases, students may be granted a temporary, reduced timetable due to special circumstances, such as health-related concerns or other personal reasons.
- 4. Exceptional Circumstances:** Absences may be authorized in rare cases of exceptional circumstances. However, routine holidays or recreational trips do not qualify as exceptional under Department for Education (DfE) guidelines.

A standardized approach is applied nationwide for processing fines related to school absences. A penalty notice is issued when a student accumulates 10 sessions of unauthorized absence within a rolling 10-week period

The fines for unauthorised absences will be:

First Offence

Parents/carers are required to pay this penalty notice (£80) within 21 days, or the amount will increase (£160) and is expected to be settled with 28 days.

Second Offence

If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within any 3 year period, the charge will be a flat rate of £160; there will be no reduction if paid within 21 days. Penalty notices for absence before 2024-25 school year do not count.

Third Offence

A parent cannot receive more than two penalty notices for the same child within any 3 year period. Once this limit has been reached, prosecution will be considered.

Rewards for Good Attendance

All students who are in school for the first 2 weeks back will be entered into a prize draw to win vouchers. There are a number of different vouchers that can be won. There are already a lot of students who are entered for this week's draw, and we are looking forward to seeing more students in the running for next week!



As many of you may be aware, at The Abbey School we like to reward excellent attendance. Students at The Abbey School receive an Attendance Golden Ticket for every full week they attend school. Each ticket is entered into a prize draw at the end of term, giving all students who show consistent attendance the opportunity to be recognised and rewarded.

Last academic year, we enhanced our rewards to make them even more exciting and meaningful. Our termly Attendance Golden Ticket draws included fantastic prizes such as:

- Amazon gift vouchers
- **2 brand-new Nintendo Switch consoles**
- A trip to the bowling alley
- **4 family cinema vouchers**
- A visit to Wingham Wildlife Park

The students who won these rewards or attended the trips were thrilled and extremely proud of their achievements.

These incentives are just one way we celebrate the effort and commitment our students show by being in school and making the most of their education. We're proud of their dedication and look forward to continuing to celebrate excellent attendance across the school. We are hoping for more of the same prizes to celebrate with students this year!

Last year at The Abbey School, we truly went all out to reward students who achieved 100% attendance at the end of the school year—and it became one of the most talked-about topics among both students and staff!

We wanted to offer prizes that would genuinely motivate and excite students, and we're proud to say the rewards did just that.

The incredible prizes for our End of Year 100% Attendance Awards and the lucky students who won them are below.

- A brand-new PlayStation 5 console and game- Freya B
- **A brand-new Xbox console and game- Oscar C**
- 2 brand-new laptops (exclusively for Year 11 students)- Lydia M and Daniel F
- **2 additional brand-new laptops- Thomas B and Jay T**
- 2 brand-new tablets- Victory M and Matilda B
- **2 brand-new smartwatches- Natalie C and Polly C**
- A £100 restaurant voucher- Leah G
- **A £100 The Light Cinema voucher- James M**
- A £50 restaurant voucher- James H
- **A £50 The Light Cinema voucher- Michael P**



The excitement around these prizes was incredible and the excitement on the prize draw day was infectious. The crowd around the staff who presented these and the community spirit was amazing to see.

Looking ahead, we will offer similarly exciting rewards this year, one of these being a brand new X box and more. So remember: if you aim for 100% attendance, you could be in with a chance to win big in 2026!

Let's make every day count!

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN!

Reminder of the Attend system

As some of you may already be aware, we have launched a new attendance monitoring system called 'Attend'. Initial information about this system was shared in a previous newsletter, and we will continue to provide more details as we begin using it in the new academic year.

At The Abbey School, we all share the same goal: to ensure the very best outcomes for our children. Attending school every day plays a vital role in achieving that. There is strong evidence linking good attendance with academic success, but school is also essential for helping students develop:

- Strong social skills
- A positive sense of well-being and routine

The new 'Attend' system will allow us to monitor attendance and punctuality more closely and communicate with you more regularly. This means you will receive more timely updates on your child's attendance patterns both successes and challenges.

From September, you'll be able to see:

- When your child's attendance is improving or declining
 - The number of lessons missed
- Which specific subjects were affected by absences

We believe this enhanced transparency will be a valuable tool in supporting your child's school journey and ensuring they get the most out of their education.

Parents will receive an email from Attend containing a link to the communication we've shared with you. To view the message, simply click on the provided link. Please be aware that the email may sometimes end up in your Spam or Junk folder, so we recommend checking these folders if you don't see it in your inbox.

Thank you for your ongoing support we're excited about this improvement and the benefits it will bring for students and families alike.

Useful contacts

Attendance office- attendance@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Safeguarding concerns- safeguarding@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Pastoral support pastoralhub@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

[The Worry Box](#)



PASTORAL SPOTLIGHT ON.... HEALTH CONCERNS

As we return to school and start to move into the Autumn and Winter months, there is inevitably a rise in minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, sore throats and skin conditions such as impetigo.

As we know, Attendance to school is crucial, even if children are slightly under the weather.

To support parents in managing minor health concerns, there is a new service operated by the NHS called Pharmacy First.

This is a walk in service which is also offered as a video consultation by some pharmacies. The service is available for children and adults.

Prescriptions can be issued by the practitioner at these consultations.

A private consultation will be offered which removes the wait for a GP appointment, and which will be a great help with attendance to school.

We encourage our families to make use of this service, and hope that it will lessen the impact of winter illnesses on school attendance.

For further information on this service, visit:

nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst

CANTEEN MENU 2025/26

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



GIVE RUGBY A TRY



WITH SOME FUN WORLD CUP BASED ACTIVITIES

MEET THE TEAM & COACHES



Give Rugby a Try

WITH SITTINGBOURNE RUGBY CLUB (AGES 6-14)

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER, 11AM - 3PM

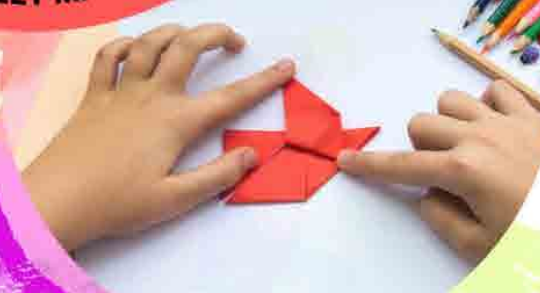
THE GROVE, KEY STREET,
SITTINGBOURNE

ME10 1YT

RUGBY THEMED ART AND CRAFTS ACTIVITIES



BRACELET MAKING



ORIGAMI

Book your space using the QR Code below:



Enquire for more information on our socials:



Sittingbourne Women



@srufc_women



@srufc.women



Abbey School Sixth Form

It's not too late to join our Sixth Form!

If you're still considering your next steps, we'd love to welcome you into our vibrant Sixth Form community. Our dedicated Sixth Form block provides a modern, supportive environment designed to help students thrive with spaces for independent study, collaboration, and socialising.

We offer a wide range of courses to suit different interests and career goals ensuring every student can follow a route that's right for them. Whether you want to continue with subjects you enjoy or explore something new, there's still time to secure your place.

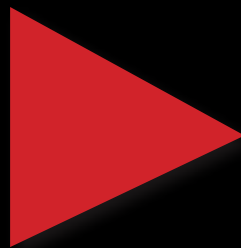
But don't wait too long, you have until 1st October to join us.

Get in touch today to find out more and begin your journey with us.

Email our Director of Sixth Form to get more information!

ncrouch@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

[Click the box below to watch The Sixth Form Promotion Video](#)



SchoolHire 



The Abbey
School

HIRE OUR FACILITIES

CLICK THE QR CODE TO BOOK NOW!



Consideration In The Community

Most of you are wonderful ambassadors of the school through your kind and considerate actions towards others in our local community, especially when travelling to and from school.

Remember its **not fair** for anyone to be allowed to deliberately make life miserable for others. **We will never tolerate nasty behaviour or bullying towards those in our school community.** Always ask an adult for help if you are being treated unkindly or if you feel frustrated about the ways others are treating you.

DO

Move aside on the pavement to allow to use it.

Speak using appropriate tone and at a sensible level to those you are with, using language that is not offensive or swearing.

Cross roads safely, using the bridge to navigate the A2 and by looking up and checking the traffic for all other streets where there are no pedestrian crossing facilities

DO NOT

Monopolise the whole pavement space by walking in a group forcing elderly, those with prams or indeed anyone from the community into the road.

Shriek, shout, threaten or swear to those around you, be they friends, members of the public or students who attend other schools - this is intimidating behaviour brings our school into disrepute and this will be followed up and dealt with.

Run across the A2, this is a busy road with TWO speed cameras on it for a reason - the number of accidents. **DO NOT** become a statistic (injured or worse). Do not walk out directly in front of cars and expect them to stop.

Faversham Municipal charities

We have received a letter of thanks from Faversham Municipal Charities, who run the alms houses in Faversham, and provide affordable housing for those in need and the opportunity to live independent lives. This is due to the fact that we were able to make a donation to their work from our collection on Prize giving evening.

Dear Mr Spiller
On behalf of the Trustees & staff of Faversham Municipal Charities I am writing to thank The Abbey School for their kind gift of £62.50 towards the work of the charity.
If you, or any of the staff or pupils would please don't



STARS OF THE WEEK

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



Ava G
Year 7
27HP



Nelson H
Year 7
28HP



Emily C
Year 7
33HP



Max S
Year 7
35HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

Celebrating Your Achievements



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed - with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

- 1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS**
Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or frequent absences. These may indicate that a young person is struggling. Talking to them about their feelings and offering support can help them feel understood and supported in their struggles.
- 2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING**
Make time for open, informal, 'check-ins' - conversations in passing, over the phone, or at the end of a lesson. Encourage them to talk about their feelings and experiences. Let them know it's okay to ask for help and that you'll be there to support them.
- 3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY**
Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones and improve mood. Encourage movement through activities like walking, cycling, or playing sports. Even simple activities like stretching or taking a walk can help.
- 4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS**
Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that includes reading, listening to music, or taking a warm bath. Encourage them to go to bed at the same time every night to help regulate their sleep patterns.
- 5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS**
Mindfulness doesn't have to mean sitting in silence. It can be as simple as focusing on the breath or the sounds around you. Encourage them to take a few minutes each day to practice mindfulness, which can help reduce stress and improve focus.
- 6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES**
Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can increase stress. Encourage them to limit screen time and avoid using devices in the bedroom. Encourage them to take regular breaks from screens throughout the day.
- 7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
Strong relationships can help to buffer against stress. Encourage them to spend time with friends and family. Encourage them to talk to and spend quality time with those they trust and who can offer support and encouragement.
- 8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION**
Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressure to be perfect, stress increases. Encourage them to focus on progress and improvement rather than perfection. Celebrate small wins and encourage them to learn from setbacks.
- 9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING**
Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage them to identify problems, generate possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Encourage them to take small steps and celebrate their progress.
- 10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED**
Children often learn by example. Encourage them to identify positive role models and discuss how they manage stress. Encourage them to talk to and spend quality time with those they trust and who can offer support and encouragement.

Meet Our Expert
Anna Williams is Director of Student Wellbeing and Director of Learning at The Abbey School. She has worked in education for over 20 years, supporting children and young people to improve their resilience, emotional health, and overall wellbeing. She can be contacted at anna.williams@theabbey-school.co.uk.

The National College logo and social media handles: @wake_up_weds, @wakeupwednesday, #wakeupwednesday.



Email us your child's achievement
info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

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



Staggered Dismissal Times

Each year will then be dismissed one at a time in no particular order. In the event of wet weather, afternoon line up will be cancelled and we will revert to dismissing each year group one at a time from their classrooms.

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.





The Abbey School
Faversham
Kent
ME13 8RZ

www.theabbey-that.org.uk
info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk
01795 532634



Attendance Office

01795 542477

attendance@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk

“BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE”



The Abbey
School