

The Abbey School

"Be The Best You Can Be"

Weekly Newsletter

2026/27

Issue Number: 8
Date: 06/11/2026

THE HOWARD Academy Trust



"supported"

"the curriculum is ambitious"

"inclusive culture"

"significant positive change"

"meaningful opportunities"

"broad range of enrichment"

"calm"

"motivated to succeed"

"safe"

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, Former Chief Executive of THAT

Read the full report by clicking the image below!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following students for collecting the most house points this week!

AMAZING WORK EVERYONE!

Lilly H
Year 8
46HP

Katie R
Year 8
38 HP

Elliot B
Year 7
61HP

James S
Year 7
44HP

#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY



SENECA CHAMPIONS

Year Group	Learning Time	Average Score	Time Champion	Score Champion
12 & 13	4h 40m	72%	Freddie C	Katie-J M
11	130h 50m	66%	Kuna M	Ellesse R-G, Lily-M S
10	110h 17m	62%	Milo Y	Millie-R J, Bethany I, James A
9	77h 12m	63%	Ava B	Maisie J, Mason M, Trsitan B-J, Izzy P, Alice B
8	23h 58m	71%	Nancy C-W	Elsie H, Zoe G-S Mariia B, Imogen T-C
7	18h 54m	52%	David M	Savannah M A Benjamin S, Dami E

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

NEWSLETTER





CANTEEN MENU TERM 2

CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR LUNCH MENU!

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been lovely to welcome our students back to The Abbey School as we begin the second half of the autumn term.

Before looking ahead, I would like to reflect on one particularly positive event from the end of last term. It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 11 parents and carers attending our Year 11 Step Up event. The level of engagement and support was hugely encouraging, and I am absolutely confident that this strong partnership between school and home will help our students achieve the very best outcomes possible in their GCSE examinations next summer. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff who helped make the event such a success.

This half-term also marks the arrival of Olive Dining, our new school catering provider. Olive Dining specialises in providing freshly prepared, healthy and varied meals for schools, and we are looking forward to working with them to develop our catering provision further.

Importantly, I would like to reassure parents and students that Paul Brown, who has led our catering provision at The Abbey for many years, will continue to oversee the day-to-day service. Paul is a familiar and valued member of our school community, and I am delighted that he will remain in this role. All of our existing catering staff have also transferred to Olive Dining, meaning that the team who know our students and the way our school operates will continue to provide their meals.

As with any change of provider, there may be some initial challenges as the new arrangements become established, particularly around the organisation and operation of the canteen service. However, our existing arrangements for break and lunchtime remain unchanged, including the times at which students visit the canteen and their access to food throughout the school day. We will be working closely with Olive Dining, Paul and the catering team to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Parents and carers who would like to find out more about our new provider can visit their website at [www.olivedining.co.uk](https://olivedining.co.uk/).

The weeks leading up to Christmas are always a busy and exciting time at The Abbey, with plenty of opportunities for students to develop their learning, participate in wider school activities and celebrate their achievements.

As we settle back into our routines, I would also like to emphasise the importance of good attendance, punctuality and maintaining high standards in everything we do. Every school day matters, and being in school, ready to learn and making the most of every lesson, makes a real difference to students' progress and success.

Finally, I would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support. The partnership between home and school is so important, and I look forward to another positive and productive half-term for our whole school community.



Dr R Speller
Principal



AUTUMN WALKS!

Before the half-term break, our students spent some lovely time out and about with Freddie, our much-loved therapy dog, enjoying the autumn weather and collecting conkers!

These little moments are a wonderful opportunity for students to enjoy some fresh air, connect with Freddie and take a break from the busy school day.

Freddie brings so much joy to our school, and it's fantastic to see the special bond he shares with the students who spend time with him.

CANTEEN UPGRADES!

Exciting Upgrades to The Abbey School Canteen!

We're delighted to share the fantastic upgrades made to our school canteen!

The Abbey School has partnered with Olive Dining to bring exciting improvements to our dining experience!

But that's not all, Olive Dining has also generously provided every student with their very own water bottle!

A huge thank you to Olive Dining and everyone involved in making these changes possible!

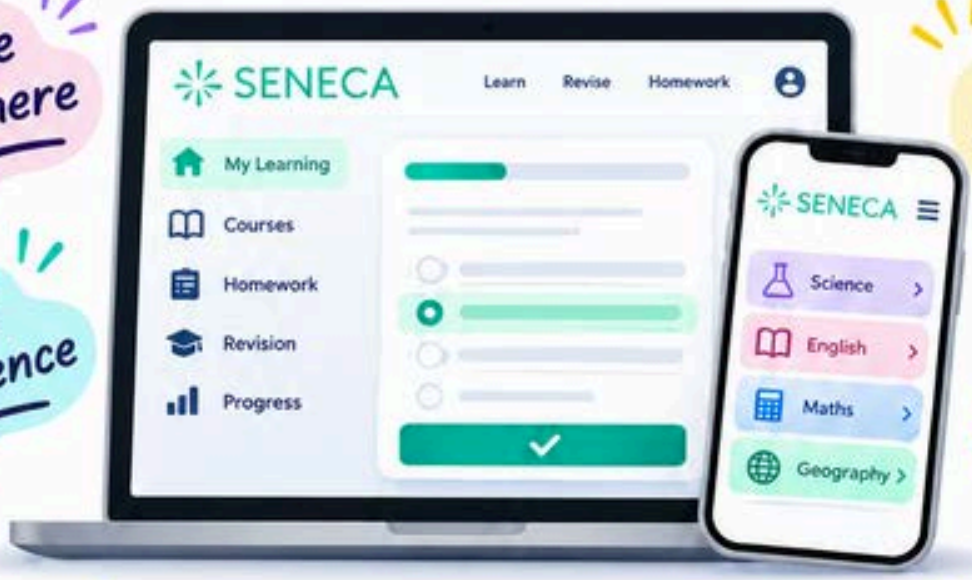
SENECA

Smart Homework & Revision

Seneca helps students revise, practise and complete homework using interactive, exam-focused courses.

Revise anywhere

Build confidence



Little and often works

Why use Seneca?

- Free online revision
- GCSE, A Level and KS3 courses
- Adaptive questions
- Instant feedback
- Teacher-set homework
- Works on phone, tablet and laptop

Log in and get started today.

POETRY LIVE!

The English Department is delighted to offer Year 10 students the opportunity to attend Poetry Live! at the Emmanuel Centre, London, on Friday 26th February 2027.

As you are aware, students will sit their GCSE English Literature examination in May 2027. This exciting event is specifically designed to support students with their preparation for Literature Paper 2, helping to deepen their understanding of the poetry they will study as part of the GCSE course.

Poetry Live! is a unique and inspiring educational experience that brings together some of the UK's leading contemporary poets whose work features on the GCSE English Literature syllabus. Students will have the invaluable opportunity to hear the poets read and discuss their own work, gaining first-hand insight into the themes, ideas and inspirations behind the poems. The event also includes sessions led by experienced examiners, offering expert guidance on how to approach poetry analysis and examination questions successfully.

Tickets are now available to purchase via Arbor at a cost of £35.93. We have secured 69 places, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

Further information, including details of travel arrangements and the itinerary for the day, will be shared next term.

We are confident that this will be a memorable and highly beneficial experience, enhancing students' appreciation of poetry while providing valuable support for their GCSE studies.

Any questions regarding the trip, please contact the trip lead Mr Crewe!

FLU JABS!

A huge thank you to the wonderful team of nurses who visited The Abbey School on Thursday to administer flu vaccinations to our students.

We really appreciate their time, care and professionalism in helping to keep our school community healthy and protected over the winter months.

Thank you for all that you do!



ABBEY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING

WHERE AMBITION MEETS OPPORTUNITY

BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

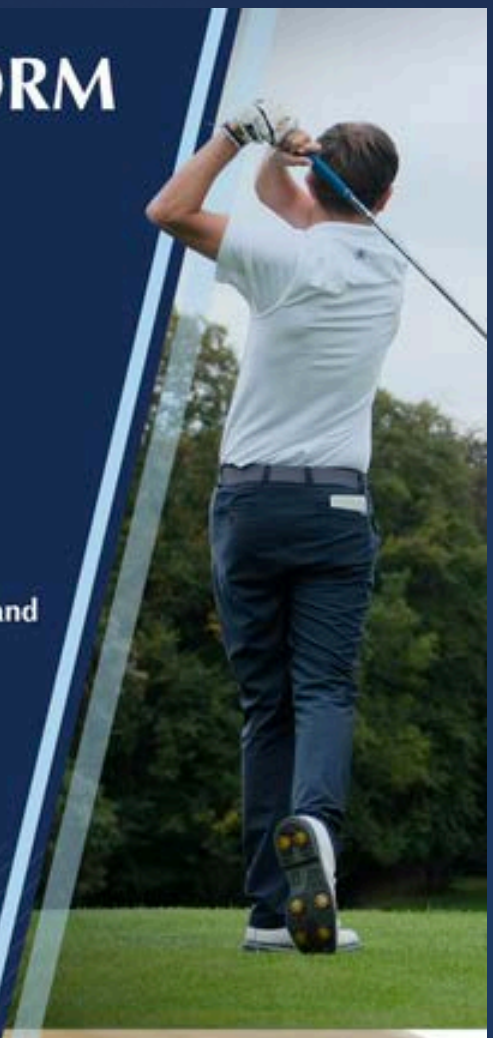
The Abbey School Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 26 November
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Discover our subjects, meet expert teachers, explore our facilities and find out where Sixth Form can take you.

Subjects on Offer:

- Physics
- History
- Geography
- Media Studies
- Criminology
- English Language & Literature
- Business Studies
- Sport Science
- Medical Science
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Psychology
- Mathematics
- Level 2 Fitness Instruction
- Digital Systems (Pending Approval)
- Accounting & Finance (Pending Approval)





Scan the QR Code to Book your place!



YEAR 10
STEP UP EVENING

Year 10 families — join us for our Step Up Evening!

📅 Wednesday 9 December 2026

🕔 5:00–7:30pm | Start in the Hall

Help your child prepare for their English Literature GCSE exams in summer 2027, with practical workshops in English, Maths, Science, wellbeing and revision.

📚 Take home the four revision guides pictured! Students attending will receive a goodie bag containing guides for An Inspector Calls, Macbeth, A Christmas Carol and Unseen Poetry, plus revision essentials.
🎁 Parents/carers who complete the workshops and submit their ticked postcard can enter our prize draw to win one of four £50 Love2shop vouchers.

Come along, practise revision techniques together and find out how to support your child at home.

👉 Book your place: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/2X0UuTEJzv

Please submit one response per Year 10 student and arrive for a prompt 5:00pm start.

FIRST TEAM DEBUTS!

We are incredibly proud of nine of our Football Academy students who reached an exciting milestone during the half-term break, making their first-team debuts for Dover Athletic!

The boys were given the fantastic opportunity to represent the club's senior team in their fixture against Folkestone, marking a huge achievement in their footballing journeys.

Making the step up to senior football is a brilliant accomplishment and reflects the hard work, commitment and dedication the students have shown both on and off the pitch.

Everyone at The Abbey School is extremely proud of their achievement and we look forward to following their progress and seeing what the future holds for them.

Congratulations to all nine players on this fantastic achievement!

ELSIE'S 21K WALK!

A massive congratulations to Elsie H-G and some of our TA - Miss Freelove, Miss Taylor and Mr Keating who used the half term to engage in active citizenship by a sponsored 21K walk for our charity, Charlie's Promise. We look forward to documenting more events that students and staff have organised and will go towards our total for the charity.
This is Elsie's account:

"I recently took on the challenge of walking 21km alongside my mum Mrs Hanagan and other TA's Miss Freelove, Miss Taylor and Mr Keating to raise money for Charlie's Promise.

We started our walk at The Abbey School in Faversham, walking around the outskirts of Faversham, heading to Eastling , painters forstal before making our way back to school to complete the 21km challenge.

It was a fantastic achievement, and although it was a long walk, it was all worthwhile knowing we were raising money for such a special cause.

I am really proud to have raised £300 for Charlie's Promise and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported me and donated, as well as to everyone who took part in the walk. It was a great experience, and I am delighted that we could help raise money for such an important charity!"

FAVERSHAM STRIKE FORCE PUMAS!

A huge well done to four of our fantastic students, Grace B, Amelia R, Brielle N and Evelyn-Mai J, who have been featured in this week's Faversham News for their achievements with Faversham Strike Force Pumas!

We are incredibly proud to see their hard work, dedication and passion for football being recognised in the local community.

Well done, girls! Keep up the fantastic work!




The Abbey School
THE HOWARD Academy Trust
Winter Festival
Save The Date!
THE ABBEY SCHOOL ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL
Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for The Abbey School's Annual Winter Festival!
Year 7
Friday 4th December,
1:30–2:30pm
The Abbey School Hall
Years 8 & 9
Thursday 10th December,
1:30–2:30pm
St Mary's Church,
Faversham
More details to follow.
We look forward to celebrating the festive season with you!





THANK YOU MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE!

A big thank you to Mountain Warehouse in Canterbury for their generous support of our students preparing for next year's ski trip!

The store has kindly offered our students an exclusive 20% discount on their purchases, helping families get ready for this exciting adventure.

We really appreciate Mountain Warehouse's generosity and support in helping make the preparations for the trip that little bit easier.

Thank you for supporting The Abbey School!

MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE



West Faversham Community Newsletter

Invicta Community & Leisure

November 2026

01795 537321

westfavershamca.org

November is here, and as the festive season begins to gather pace, there's already plenty happening at West Faversham Community Centre. We're looking forward to another exciting month, from the return of our ever-popular Big Bingo nights to preparations for a fantastic New Year's Eve celebration. Christmas is arriving in style too, with our Comedy Night proving so popular that tickets are selling fast. Alongside all of this, you'll find the usual mix of community activities, events, and opportunities to get involved. We hope you'll join us for what promises to be a busy, festive, and fun-filled season ahead!



GOOD LUCK!

We will be running our Christmas community raffle, to purchase tickets scan the QR Code. We will pulling the winners at our Christmas Funday on the 19th December

Dates for the diary

November

- 5th Fireworks Night
- 7th - Comedy night staring Stephen K. Amos
- 13th - BIG Bingo
- 28th - Christmas Craft Fair









SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

We want to remind you about how to seek help if you have a safeguarding concern about a child, particularly outside of school hours.

Our Safeguarding and Pastoral Team are available from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday & Friday until 3.30pm, during term time. We are always happy to listen, support families and respond to concerns raised with us during these hours.

Please be aware that school email inboxes are not monitored outside of these hours, particularly during evenings and weekends. If you email the school with a safeguarding concern after 4.30pm or over the weekend, your message may not be seen until the next working day. This means that emailing the school should not be relied upon where a child may need immediate help or protection. If you are worried about a child's immediate safety or welfare, please contact the appropriate service directly:

If a child is in immediate danger or there is an immediate risk of serious harm: please call 999 and ask for the Police. For a non-emergency concern requiring Police assistance: please call Kent Police on 101.

For concerns about a child's safety or welfare: contact Kent Children's Services (The Front Door) on 03000 41 11 11.

Outside normal hours, including evenings and weekends: Kent Children's Services can be contacted on 03000 41 91 91.

We appreciate that knowing who to contact can sometimes feel difficult, particularly when you are worried about a child. Our priority is to make sure that concerns reach the right professionals as quickly as possible, so please use the appropriate service rather than waiting for the school to respond to an email.

Of course, if your concern is not urgent and you would like to speak to a member of our Safeguarding or Pastoral Team, please contact us during our normal school hours. We are here to listen and support you.

Thank you for working with us to help keep our children and young people safe.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Team 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday & Friday until 3.30pm, during term time only


DOVER
ATHLETIC
FOOTBALL ACADEMY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ABBEY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM
FOOTBALL ACADEMY TRIALS
Tuesday 16th February 2027
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 route
If you have any questions, please contact Academy Manager Mike Sandmann
msandmann@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk
The Abbey School

SPORTS CRAFTS POOL TABLE MUSIC

TUCK SHOP CHILL SPACE COMPUTER GAMES

YOUTH @ THE HUB

Stay in the Loop with Youth @ The Hub!
Scan the QR code for the latest updates
& see how you can support us.

The Hub, 51 Faversham Road,
Seasalter, Whitstable, CT5 4AX
T: 07477 493874
E: hannah.rogers@stalphegeseasalter.org

Youth at The Hub

St Alphege, Seasalter

Good People Brighter Futures

Weekly Extracurricular Clubs

MAKE TODAY COUNT

LEARN GROW BELONG

MONDAY

History
The Historical Society
Years 7 - 10
3:30pm – 4:30pm
Canteen
OSR
Bring film snacks



Raising Standards
Homework Club
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B13
Miss Marsh and Mrs Earls



PE
Mixed Football Club Yrs 7-9
PE Staff
3:30pm – 4:30pm
Sports Hall



TUESDAY

Science
Animal Club
Year 7 and 8
3:30pm – 4:15pm
B6
AOH
WEEK A ONLY



Performing Arts
Dance Club
Year 7, 8 and 9
3:30pm – 4:15pm
Dance Studio
SRN



Raising Standards
Homework Club
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B13
Miss Marsh and Mrs Earls



Creative Arts
Gardening and Craft
All years welcome
SBA
C11
3:30pm – 4:30pm



WEDNESDAY

Performing Arts
School Production Rehearsals
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
PA1
SRN / CWA / GLB



Business
Future CEO
Year 8 and 9
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B3
EJU



Recreational
D&D Club
(invite only)
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B18
DEA



Raising Standards
Homework Club
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B13
Miss Marsh and Mrs Earls



THURSDAY

PE
Mixed Badminton
Yrs 7-9
3:30pm – 4:30pm
Sports Hall
PE Staff





Reading
Book Club
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:15pm
Library
Mr Mitchell



Raising Standards
Homework Club
All Year Groups
3:30pm – 4:30pm
B13
Miss Marsh and Mrs Earls



Respect
Kindness
Opportunity

♥ Keep going – you've got this! ♥

A stronger brighter future together

LUNCHTIME CLUBS!

MONDAY

Sparx Drop-in
Mr McCormack
Week B only
B15 / P3A

David Attenborough / Geography
Miss Hutchins
S11 / P3A

Dance Rehearsals
Miss Nunn
Dance Studio
P3A

Coding/Gaming
Mrs Kusi
C16 / P3B

Sparx Drop-in
Mr McCormack
Week A only
B15 / P3B

TUESDAY

Coding/Gaming
Mr Kusi
Week B
C16 / P3A

Games Club
Miss Wilsom
B17 / P3A

Dance Rehearsals
Miss Nunn
Dance Studio / P3B

Creative Writing Workshop
Mr Crewe
A14 / P3B

Y7 Choir
Mrs Ward
ODC / P3B

WEDNESDAY

The Royal Shakespeare Company Y8
Mrs Ward & Mrs Head-Rapson
A15 / P3A

Production Dance Rehearsals
Miss Nunn
Dance Studio / P3A

Games Club
Miss Wilsom
B17 / P3B

Drama Club
Miss Bevan
PA1 / P3B

THURSDAY

Crochet
Miss East
B18 / P3A

Y7 Choir
Mrs Ward
ODC / P3A

Beyond Boundaries
Mrs Slack
C5 / P3A

Coding/Gaming
Mr Kusi
Week A
C16 / P3A

STEM Club
Mr Hollands
B6 / P3B

David Attenborough / Geography
Miss Hutchins
S11 / P3B

FRIDAY

Sparx Drop-in
Mr McCormack
Week B only
B15 / P3A

Creative Writing Workshop
Mr Crewe
A14 / P3A

STEM Club
Mr Hollands
Week A Only
B6 / P3B

GCSE Rehearsal
Mrs Ward
ODC / P3B

Beyond Boundaries
Mrs Slack
C5 / P3B

Crochet
Miss East
Week A Only
B18 / P3B

EVERYDAY

Library - Reading/ Homework
Mr Mitchell

Football (Weather Dependent)
Playground Staff
Pitch next to C Block

Table Tennis
Playground Staff
Starting Term 2

THE ABBEY SCHOOL'S

£21,000 CHALLENGE

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR JUST GIVING PAGE

Charlie's Promise

THIS YEAR, WE'RE STANDING BEHIND CHARLIE'S PROMISE

Chosen by our students and staff

A safer tomorrow for young people.



TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

RAISE MONEY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HONOUR CHARLIE

MAKE YOUR £21 PLEDGE

TO RAISE AT LEAST £21 EACH

Everyone will play a part.

All for you Cheeks

Have an idea about how you'd like to get involved?
Email: alebrunn-healey@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

Be The Best You Can Be by being an Active Citizen

Charlie's Promise Charity Number: 1207246

FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHECKER!

Check if Your Child Could Receive Free School Meals!

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to see if their child is eligible for Free School Meals.

You can complete the quick online eligibility check here:
https://fsm.lgfl.net/app

The process only takes a couple of minutes, and you'll just need your National Insurance number. Recent changes to the eligibility criteria mean that some families who were not previously entitled to Free School Meals may now qualify. Even if you've applied before, it's worth checking again.

Registering for Free School Meals could provide valuable support for your family and also helps The Abbey School receive additional funding, allowing us to continue providing extra resources and opportunities for our students.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the check and for your continued support

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@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

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



SUPPORT INFORMATION

It is okay not to be okay

Everyone responds differently to difficult situations and emotions.
Whatever you are feeling, support is available,
and you do not have to cope on your own.

Please reach out and access the support that feels right for you.

ONLINE SUPPORT

Kooth
www.kooth.com
Free online mental health and wellbeing support for young people.

YoungMinds
www.youngminds.org.uk
Information, advice and support for young people.

Child Bereavement UK
www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/teenagers
Specialist support and guidance for teenagers affected by bereavement and loss.

TELEPHONE HELPLINES

Cruse Bereavement Support
0808 808 1677
Support for anyone experiencing bereavement.

TEXT SUPPORT

SHOUT
Text 85258
Free, confidential support available 24 hours a day via text message.

SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

Support is available through:

- Form Tutors
- Heads of Year
- Pastoral Support Team
- Safeguarding Team
- any Trusted Adult

There will also be drop-in opportunities available if you would like to talk to someone informally.

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you feel unable to keep yourself safe, or are in immediate danger:

- **Call 999**
- Attend your nearest Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department
- **Tell a trusted adult**

You do not need to manage a crisis on your own.

REMEMBER

- You are not alone.
- Support is available.
- There are people who care and want to help.
- Please reach out if you need support.

The Abbey School


The Abbey
School
HIRE OUR FACILITIES!
Scan the QR Code to book!
SchoolHire
SH

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

The Abbey School



We have worked with you

listened to your ideas and made lots of changes

over the last few years.

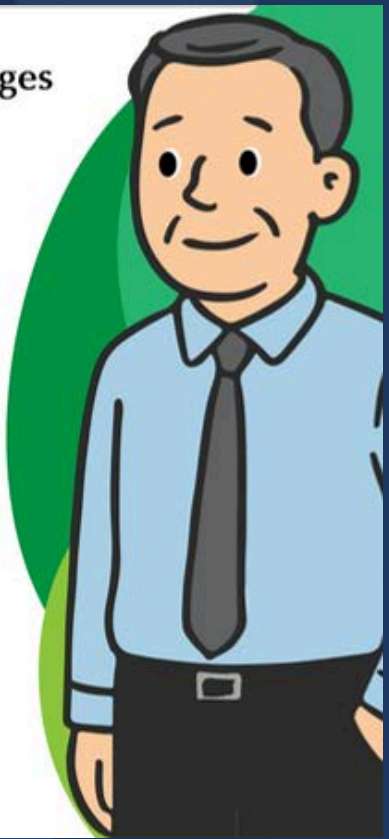
You asked.....

"We don't like folding our arms in STAR, do we really need to do this?"

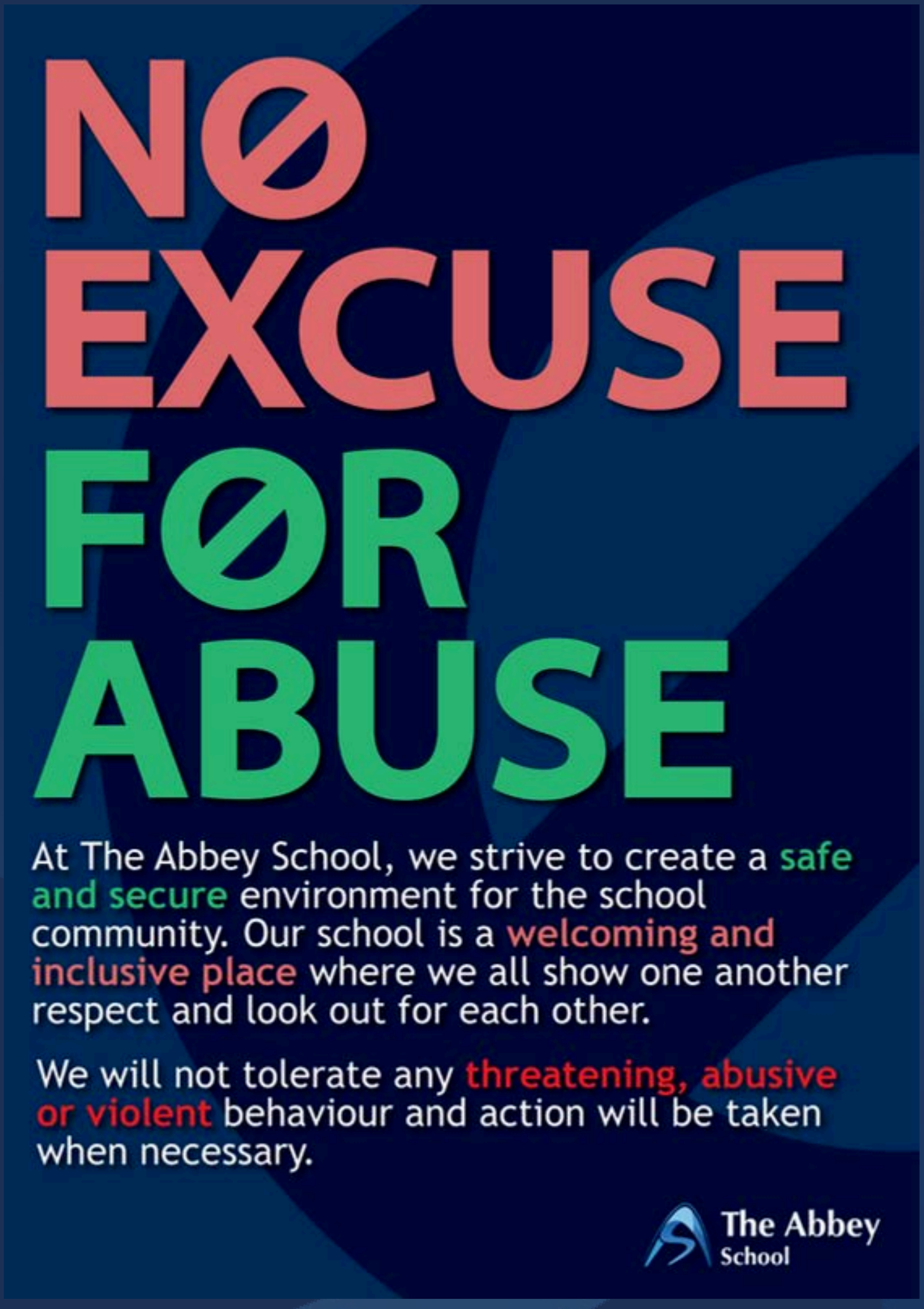
We did.....

"We want you to feel comfortable when listening to your teachers, so we took away folded arms in STAR. Some of you asked if you could still fold your arms as it helps you to concentrate – of course you may if you prefer to do this."





The Abbey School


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

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Faversham
ME13 8RZ

www.theabbey-that.org.uk
info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk
01795 532633



Attendance Office
01795 542477
attendance@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk

"BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE"

The Abbey School