



Weekly Newsletter

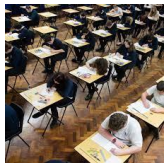
HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Industrial Action

As you may have seen reported in the news recently, teachers that are members of the NEU have balloted to strike and successfully surpassed the restrictive thresholds set by the government for strike action. This strike action is to defend pay, working conditions and employment.

The dates that are likely to impact on The Abbey School are 1st February, 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March.

The Abbey School respects the rights of individuals to voice their opinion through strike action. As a school, we are currently asking staff whether they will be on strike for any or all of the dates. However, staff do not have to declare their intentions to strike to the school in advance. Once we have more information about what possible impact this may have on the school we will of course share this with our parents/carers. Thank you for your understanding. Please check your emails for communication from the school with further details.



Year 11, 12, 13 Mock Exams

With the mocks starting next week, we will be swapping the year 11 lunch time with the year 7s until the end of term. Students will be informed but in case of any confusion we are informing our parents & carers too. All students have been sent their timetables.

Camps International – an update

We held a funding information meeting earlier this week for all the students who have so far expressed an interest in signing up for this wonderful opportunity..... Cambodia is a true gem of South East Asia, with its welcoming culture, lush green jungle and mystical temples – it really is a fascinating country to explore and the trek through the vibrant Cambodian jungle will be an adventure our students will never forget.



House Competition

HOUSE COMPETITION:

Design a poster to promote your House and to encourage students to a) work towards achieving more house points and b) get involved with house activities, events and competitions. The best one for each house will be printed and put up on display around school and there will be a small prize and house points for the winners.

Entries can be created on paper and left in my pigeonhole in the staff room/submitted in personal or digitally created and emailed to me. Every entry will receive a house point with the winners receiving H3 house points (20) plus points towards the house cup!

Deadline will be Thursday 2nd February with judging to take place on Friday 3rd. Winners will be announced in house assemblies in the last week of term.



Voyager



Pioneer



Endeavour



Discovery

Artist of the Month

Miss Jones, our Head of Art, regularly recognises our talented and budding artists with her 'Artist of the Month' display. We think this should be celebrated so from next week, we will be including a piece of art, or sculpture, in our newsletters.



Miss Jones has also just launched a Sculpture Club – this club is in its infancy at the moment but we hope to share more details with you shortly.

Student Success

In our regular communication to parents, we always like to celebrate the achievements of our students, including outside of school. Our latest success story comes from our Y10 student, Hayden, who recently competed in the Kent Cross Country Championships and came 14th out of over 100 competitors in the intermediate boys' category. This means he will be representing the county, in a Kent vest, at an inter-counties race on the 4th Feb This is a huge achievement, especially as football is Hayden's main sport! Many congratulations Hayden from all of us!

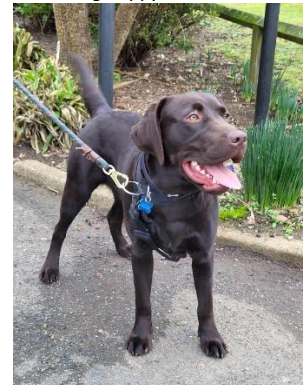


Tommy - our visiting Therapy Dog

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome a therapy dog onto the school site, every couple of weeks, to support some of our students. A recent report highlighted children working with therapy dogs experienced increased motivation for learning, resulting in improved outcomes.

Therapy dogs can be used to support children with social and emotional learning needs, literacy development, school attendance, resilience, confidence building and many more areas of children's development. Research into the effects of therapy dogs in schools is showing a range of benefits such as decreases in learner anxiety, improved learning outcomes, and positive changes towards learning and improved motivation. Tommy can even assist by enhancing relationships with peers and teachers due to experiencing trust and unconditional love from a therapy dog. This in turn helps students learn how to express their feelings and enter into more trusting relationships.

This was Tommy earlier this week looking happy to be here!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week for w/c 23rd January 2023



Maksim Draganov
Y8
37 House Points



Chloe Kinsella
Y10
30 House Points



John Goodman
Y7
30 House Points



Isabelle Clark
Shannon Gridley
Y7
30 House Points

STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES for w/c 30th January 2023

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	3.20pm	3.15pm	3.10m	3.30pm	3.25pm	3.30pm	3.30pm
Thursday only	2.20pm	2.15pm	2.10pm	2.30pm	2.25pm	2.30pm	2.30pm

Spotlight on...Internet Safety

Next Tuesday, 6th February, is national 'Safer Internet Day'. We have always observed this important day in the calendar and will be addressing the importance of how to be safe online during assemblies and form time.

It's very sensible and easy to take physical security seriously. But digital security doesn't always get the same level of attention. Cyber crime is an ever-growing online safety issue – you'll find great tips for protecting your family in the National Online Safety guide.



For more information on online safety for you, your children and your family, you can register for free with the NOS app – resources are also available at CEOP, NSPCC, Keeping Children Safe Online, and Childnet.com.

Upcoming Key Dates

- Year 11, 12, 13 Mock Exam Week
- Year 11 Health & Social BTEC exam
- Year 7 Humanities Trip to Canterbury Swale Youth Forum Day
- Year 11 ICT BTEC exam
- Eco Champion School Council visit to Oare
- Year 11, 12, 13 Mock Exam Week
- Attendance Reward Non-Uniform Day
- K55 Sport CCCU Trip
- Safer Internet Day
- Health & Social Care Careers Event
- Y7 Humanities Trip to Canterbury
- Food Prep & Nutrition GCSE mock
- KCC Partnership Tree Planting
- KCC Partnership Tree Planting
- Year 11 GCSE Drama Rehearsal
- Year 10 Consultation Evening
- EKST Dance Workshop
- Year 10 Mock Exams
- Student Big Leadership Day
- Swale Youth Forum Day
- Year 8 Consultation Evening
- Year 7 Consultation Evening

- w/c Monday 30th January
- Monday 30th January
- Tuesday 31st January
- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd February
- Monday 6th February
- Tuesday 7th February
- Tuesday 7th February
- Tuesday 7th February
- Wednesday 8th February
- Wednesday 8th February
- Wednesday 22nd February
- Thursday 23rd February
- Friday 24th February
- Friday 24th February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Thursday 9th March
- Monday 20th March
- Tuesday 21st March
- Wednesday 22nd March
- Wednesday 26th April
- Wednesday 17th May

12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack, gaining access to your accounts, devices or data, reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident, and making it necessary for a cyber criminal to invest a lot of time and money to be successful.

- PASSWORDS LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE**
- AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS**
- USE A PASSWORD MANAGER**
- BACK UP YOUR DATA**
- ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)**
- CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY**
- SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS**
- KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH**
- CHECK FOR BREACHES**
- KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED**
- CHANGE DEFAULT (NOT) PASSWORDS**
- STAY SCEPTICAL**

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Attendance update – per house



Discovery
87.1%



Endeavour
85.8%



Pioneer
86.6%



Voyager
87.3%

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch


The RSPB's annual 'Big Garden Birdwatch' long weekend will take place over this weekend. Anyone interested can sign-up and take part. Just spend one hour between Friday 27 and Sunday 29 January counting the birds in your garden, on your balcony etc. and help monitor how birds are faring. It's free, fun and a great way to keep an eye on your local wildlife. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts! Why not try and take a photograph and send it into school – we will award an additional 10 House Points for every photo we receive.

[Big Garden Birdwatch | The RSPB](#)



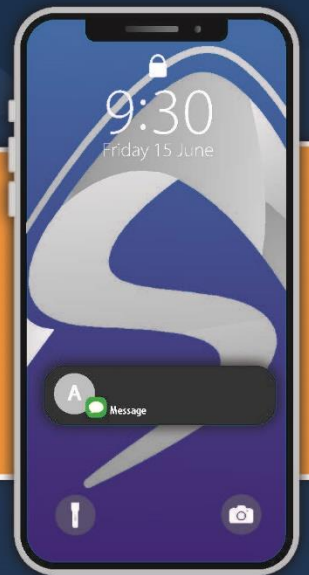
ATTENDANCE Text Message System

Our new text message system allows parents to be able to inform us of their child's absence quicker and more efficiently by using only 3 steps:

1. Text **07860054225** using your mobile number registered with the school.
2. State the name of your child and the reason for their absence.
3. Send it. 

WHY IS ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

We do believe it is vitally important to attend school regularly and on time. Poor attendance decreases life chances and student outcomes. A child is twice as likely to get 5 GCSE's at Grade 5+ with an attendance above 95%.



We are aware some of you will prefer to continue to alert us regarding absences in alternative ways and we are happy for you to continue to do so.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their contact details are up to date with the school office.

Any further questions please email:
attendance@abbeychoolfaversham.co.uk

Information from the NHS for parents and carers.

Since the first NHS Covid-19 vaccine was given, it has saved thousands of lives, helped people stay out of hospital, protected the NHS, and made it safer for us to live with Covid-19 without fear or restrictions.

Covid-19 is still with us – and people can become very ill. That's why we're still encouraging young people aged 12 to 17, who haven't yet had the vaccine, to do so now.

Please speak to your young person about the Covid-19 vaccine and encourage them to have it. The vaccine offers protection from serious illness.

The vaccines available are:

- Autumn booster dose for those who are 50+, immunosuppressed and everyone **(including 12- to 17-year-olds)** who live in a household or are in regular contact with someone who is immunosuppressed. This offer will end on 12 February 2023.
- Primary booster dose for those who are 16+. This offer will end on 12 February 2023. We encourage you to take up the opportunity for vaccination before it closes.
- First or second primary dose, if you have not yet had the opportunity to protect yourself. This offer is still available. It is important everyone who is eligible receives the first two primary doses of the Covid vaccinations.

Book a vaccine appointment on the [national booking system](#).

Alternatively, there are walk-in clinics across Kent and Medway where you can turn up at a time and location convenient to you. [Find a walk in Covid-19 vaccine clinic](#).

Please take this opportunity to protect yourself.

If you have any queries, please email the vaccination team: kmicb.covidvaccine@nhs.net or visit our [myth busting page](#) for more information.

Yours sincerely,

NHS Kent and Medway Covid and Flu Vaccination Team