



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

### Term 2 Week 1

This week we welcomed students back to school for Term 2 following a well-deserved two-week half-term break! We held our final Open Morning on Monday which was incredibly well attended, in fact, this year has seen an unprecedented number of visitors to the school over both the open evening and the three mornings. The remainder of this week has been rather quiet and uneventful with everyone getting back into the swing of things.

You may be aware that we have listened again to our student voice and have made a few minor tweaks in terms of day to day processes and protocols. For instance, during family lunch, we are trialling slightly different table arrangements and are allowing students to choose where they sit, i.e. they can sit in friendship groups rather than tutor groups. This is slowly being embedded and most year groups are appreciating this opportunity and have responded well. We also no longer ask for ‘folded arms’ as part of our STAR instructions, although some students have asked if they can continue with this as they much prefer it! Obviously, we are happy for them to do so.

We hope everyone managed to keep safe during the recent ‘Storm Ciarán’ which descended on Faversham and the South East with a vengeance on Thursday! Apart from an abundance of leaves, The Abbey came out relatively unscathed and luckily experienced no loss of power or damage. As we enter the winter term we will share with parents and students our arrangements for dealing with severe weather conditions. We will, of course, always notify the community immediately – usually via our website and social media – if the school should be closed or needs to open later than usual – so no need to call!



### Black History Month

This week Miss Parmar has been delivering assemblies for Black History Month, focusing on the reason why we have this celebration. As a school community, we pride ourselves on inclusivity and tolerance, as well as being open to learning about other cultures and traditions. Black History Month (celebrated in October each year) is about sharing, celebrating, and understanding the impact of Black British heritage. It has been lovely to hear from Form Tutors that students have gone away and researched more about Black History Month. To engage students further, Miss Parmar and Miss Dove-Bowles are starting an African-Caribbean Society (ACS) for all students to discuss, celebrate, and engage in black culture. We are hoping to have some fundraisers throughout the year as well as more opportunities to learn about international cultures and traditions!

*Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom.*

We would like to thank Miss Parmar and Miss Dove-Bowles for leading on this and taking the time to produce some great resources and deliver assemblies to all year groups.



### International cultures and traditions - The Feast of Tabernacles

Y7 student, Neryah, has written this article which has given us a really interesting insight into what this Feast means to her and her family.



We are told to live in Tabernacles or Booths for 7 days to remind ourselves that Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, made the children of Israel live in booths in the wilderness after He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

The word Tabernacle or booth comes from the Hebrew word Succah, which means to protect, defend and join together. The Succah represents The House of Yahweh where Yahweh’s people are commanded to join together to worship Him and learn of His Laws. This also speaks of the protection Father Yahweh will give His people in times of trouble.



We make Succahs with willows of the Brook or palm branches or any leafy branch then we hang fruits like pomegranates and grapes and such from it. This is to show that The House of Yahweh feeds us with the food of the spirit, the 613 Laws of Yahweh.



The 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles is called the Last Great Day and is the Closing Gathering of Our Heavenly Father Yahweh’s Sacred Year. Thank you to Neryah



and her family for sharing this with us.

If any members of our student community would like to share with us how they celebrate festivals or important dates in their own culture or religion, we would be delighted to hear from you.

### Remembrance Parade 2023

At The Abbey School, we have a strong tradition of commemorating Remembrance Day and showing respect for everyone who has fallen in war and conflict. As the 11<sup>th</sup> of November falls this year on a Saturday, our plan is to do this on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> November. As such, all students who are part of a cadet or scouting organisation are invited to wear their uniforms to school on this day. They can either wear them for the whole day or bring their school uniform to change into after 11am. Should the weather allow, we plan to hold a parade by cadets followed by observing the two minutes silence as a whole school body on the playground. This will be followed by a reading of a WW1 poem and a few words by local Reverend, Dan Corcoran. We have always found this to be a meaningful experience for the students and we hope that this year will be no different.



In addition to this, assemblies during that week will focus on Remembrance and the History Department will be creating a display that explores what Remembrance is and why we acknowledge it every year.

### Safeguarding Update

The safeguarding Team is planning to hold **Safeguarding Solution Focus** group meetings for parents. The aim is to look at topical Safeguarding issues, any concerns or questions that parents/students may have and to involve parents as part of the school’s safeguarding community. More information will be sent out in a letter to all parents.

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week for w/c 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Kiril Burdeniuk  
Y8  
92 House Points



Grace Stone  
Y11  
100 House Points



Michael Peckham  
Y8  
95 House Points



Charlotte Smith  
Y9  
145 House Points

## STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES for w/c 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

### Spotlight on...Year 11 GCSE Support

During the course of this academic year students will undertake two sets of mock examinations. The first of these are taking place over the weeks beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The mock examination timetables were sent out to parents and students earlier this week so do please check your emails.

As well as after-school revision sessions, we will also be offering plenty of intervention and providing several resources to support our students. In our last newsletter we shared details of some of these sessions – here's a reminder below of what is on offer. Don't forget, students can also take advantage of the many online resources, such as GCSE Pod and Sparx Maths.

- Maths revision sessions on Wednesdays, from 15:30 to 16
- English after-school revision is on Tuesdays, from 3:30-4:30
- Science sessions are on Mondays in B1 & B9

Please note that a normal curriculum will be operating over the course of these 2 weeks. Students not involved in exams should attend usual timetabled lessons. We wish all of our students the best of luck in their exams and are sure that you'll be supporting them at home with their preparation.

### Year 11 GCSE History Parents' Surgery and Q&A

Mr Kenning would like to invite Y11 parents to the 'History GCSE Surgery and Q&A' to take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, from 16:00-16:30.

This event is intended as a way to provide parents with some insight into what has been studied so far in GCSE history, how students are examined, the support we offer to students and any ways that they can be supported in their revision at home.

If you would like to attend, please could you complete the forms link below or email Mr Kenning at [wkenning@abbeysschoolfavershams.co.uk](mailto:wkenning@abbeysschoolfavershams.co.uk) There is also a section for you to write any questions you may have so that information can be prepared in advance.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tDeeYizCZS>

### Upcoming Key Dates

Y7 Kent Fire & Rescue Assembly  
History GCSE Surgery and Q&A  
Y12 Sport Science CCCU Trip  
Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exams  
6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening  
Y12 Sport Science CCCU Trip  
Year 11 & 13 Mocks – Week #2  
Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Apprenticeship Workshop  
Year 11 BIG INTERVIEWS  
Year 11 BIG INTERVIEWS  
Year 11 BIG INTERVIEWS  
Year 7 Pantomime Trip to the Marlowe  
Year 11 Practical Mock  
Christmas Holiday  
Return to school for Term 3

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
w/c Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
w/c 20<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
16<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

### Online Safety Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure e-safety throughout our school community, please see this useful information to help keep children safe when online. Around 35 million X users are under 18 so it's essential that parents and carers stay up to date with the changes made to Twitter since its reinvention as X – and the online safety hazards these alterations might pose, including exposure to explicit content and unpleasant behaviour. That's not to say, however, that X is a ruined platform; a more cautious approach can still enable young people to navigate it comparatively safely. This guide suggests some steps that can help children avoid common pitfalls – both new *and* old – on X.



#WakeUpWednesday <https://t.co/tGb3fXWsf>

### PE Reminder

For Terms 2-4 (Nov-April) students will need to arrive at school in their full school uniform every day. On days when they have PE, they should pack their PE kit in their bags and get changed as usual.

### Christmas is coming...!

Finally, on behalf of the Faversham Benefice, we'd like to share with you details of this year's festive event which students of any age can join!

Rev Dan invites you to be part of this year's cast and choir!

# Singalong CHRISTMAS 2023

It's the spectacular, feel-good, big-screen, live-action, animated Christmas musical featuring recent hits and parodies, silhouetted mime, dance, puppets, lights and lots and lots of audience participation.

## Rehearsals

Saturdays: 6.00pm – 8.30pm  
Davington Church, Priory Rd, Faversham, ME13 7EJ  
All ages most welcome! (Most suitable for KS2 upwards)

Sign up at [www.youarecrucial.org](http://www.youarecrucial.org)  
More information from:  
Facebook: [singalongken](https://www.facebook.com/singalongken)  
Email: [singalongken@gmail.com](mailto:singalongken@gmail.com)