



THE ABBEY SCHOOL

A BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

# Pastoral Care and Support at The Abbey School

November 2024

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

# Pastoral Care and Support at the Abbey School

Our extensive team helps students find balance and structure in their busy lives. We recognise that wellbeing is much more than short-term happiness, it is also about the understanding of how bodies and minds work. Through the pastoral care and personal learning programme that all students receive, students will have the opportunity to develop the tools and strategies required to make the right decisions to look after themselves during the successes and challenges of life. The pastoral system at The Abbey School runs successfully alongside the clear behaviours and expectations we have for all students - since empowering our students to overcome setbacks and achieve academically and personally, whatever their circumstances, is to set them on the path for a successful and rewarding life.

## Teams

The Abbey School recognises that there are many layers of guidance needed to fully support students during times of learning, success and challenge. Therefore we have an extensive team dedicated to that purpose. We know that by having a network of committed and caring staff with up-to-date resources (including knowledge of appropriate learning, wellbeing and healthy living apps) our students will be able to enjoy and engage with their learning and life at school.

Tutors and Heads of Year will be at the forefront, mentoring students as they develop their social skills and ability to work in a team. They will lead the way so students can become more persistent and resilient by learning to overcome obstacles. Through their academic and pastoral journey, our students also realise that as much as we insist on excellence towards learning, being part of our school is not just about exams. As they move up through the school, students become role models, they learn to give back to the school and local community and gain that essential understanding that to be truly successful, learning is a lifelong journey. To do this we have:

Form Tutors

Pastoral Assistants

Heads of Year

Assistant Principals for each Key Stage

Vice Principal Pastoral Lead

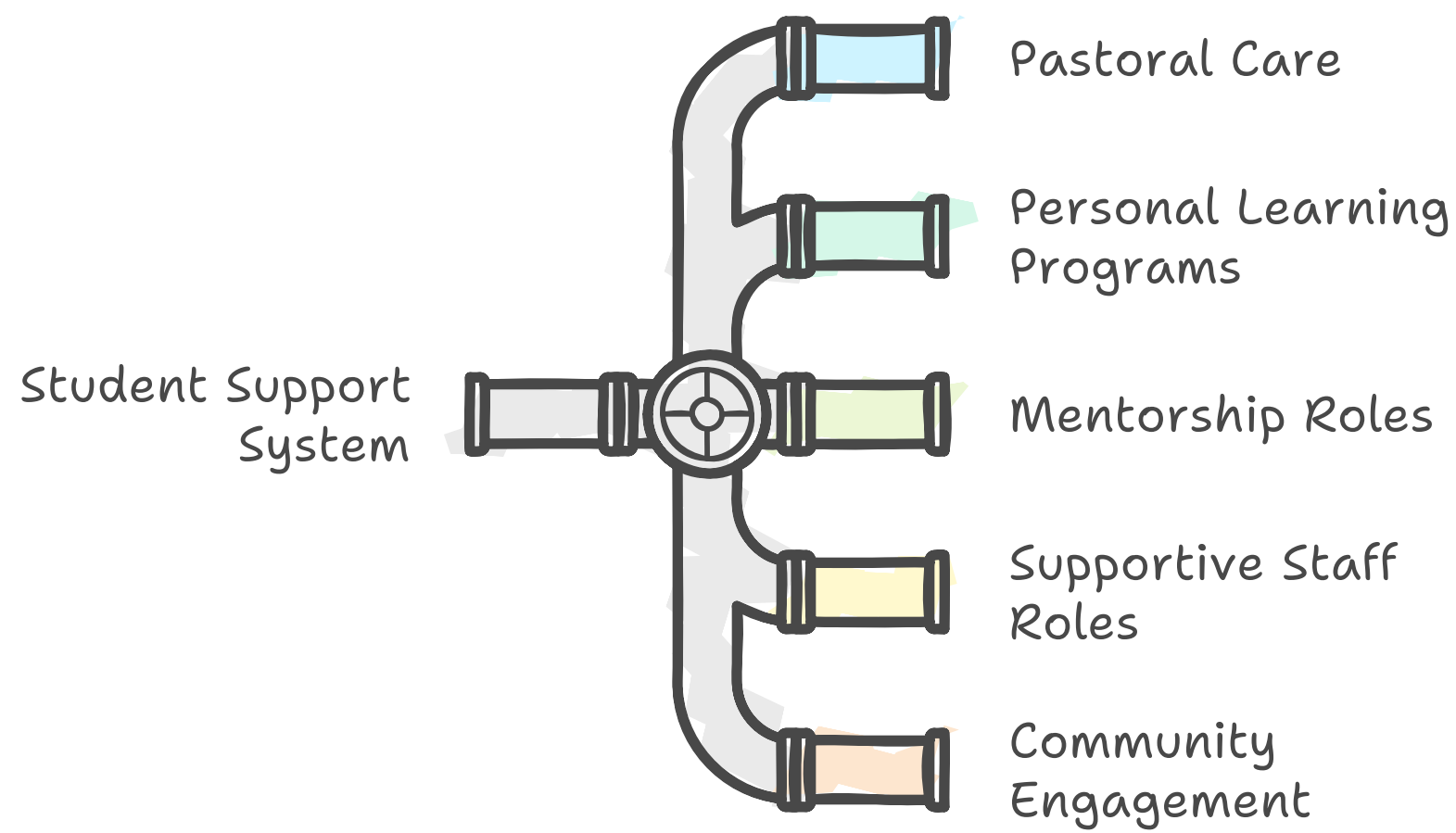
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Attendance Officer

SENCO

Therapist

## Comprehensive Student Support System



We understand that for some students and their families, additional support is required both inside and outside of school to ensure they are able to perform successfully in their studies. The pastoral staff teams at The Abbey School are experienced in working with, and referring young people and their families to, staff and agencies that offer extended services including:

School Therapist

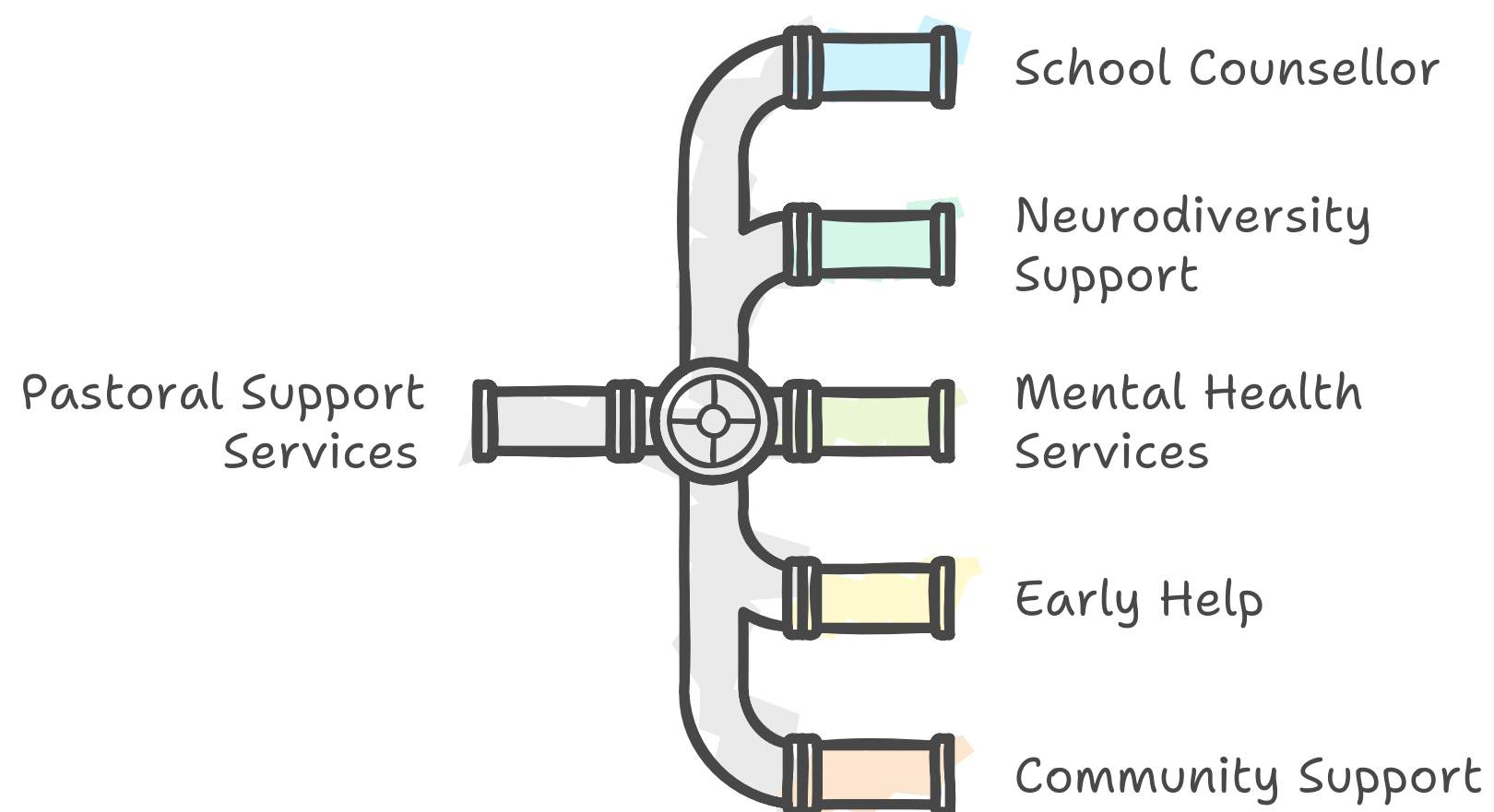
Neurodiversity Support and Advice (ASC, ADHD, Dyslexia, Speech & Language)

Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services (inc EWT and Mind and Body)

Early Help and Kent 'Front Door' Services

Local Police Community Support Officers

## Expanding Support Networks at The Abbey School



In addition to this we have an experienced AEN department led by a qualified SENCO and Deputy SENCO who not only ensure students with additional needs and EHCPs are being successful within the school, but also offer communication screening and family support for Educational Health Care Plan applications.

### **Mentors**

Mentors at The Abbey School come in several guises and ensure every student has access to regular guidance - be it for academic and / or pastoral advice - from a trusted adult.

Form tutors support students through their daily tutor sessions, termly mentoring sessions and with the delivery of PSHE and Wellbeing lessons. In short, wellbeing is part of everyday life at The Abbey School.

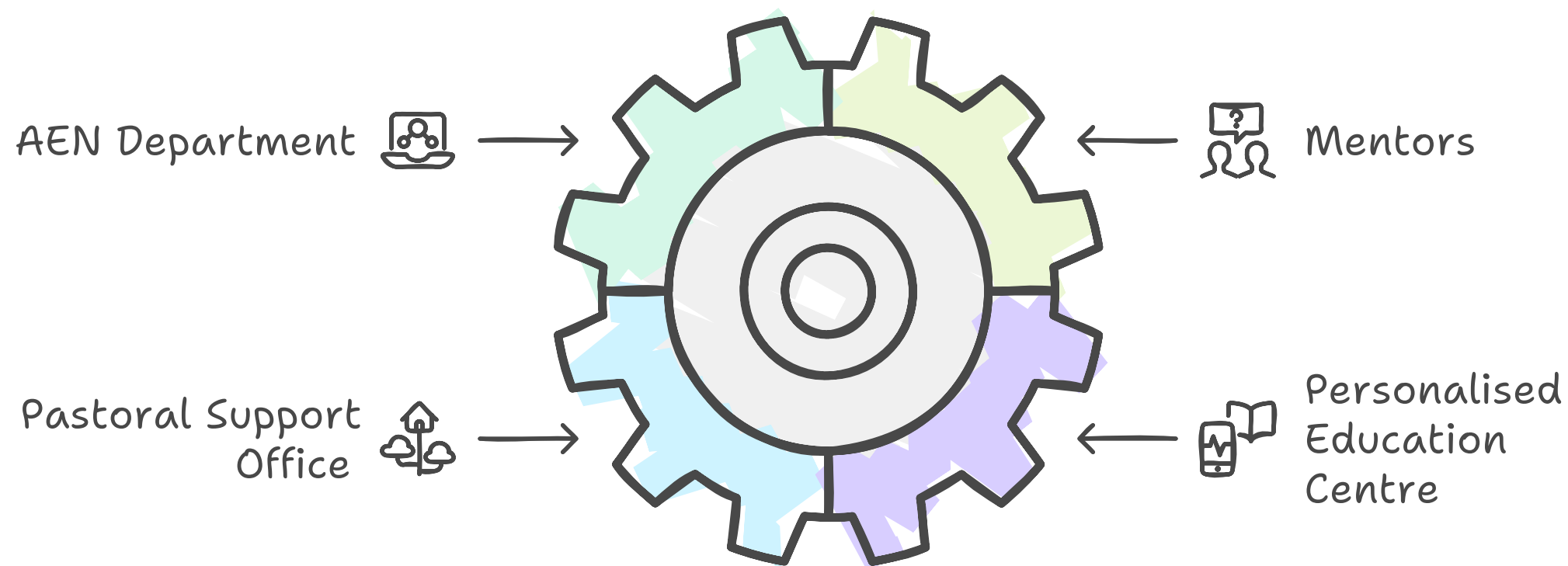
Academic Mentors in KS4 give students a chance to discuss their learning experiences with academic staff who will help them succeed throughout their time at the school. The mentoring relationship supports students by setting specific achievable targets whilst also offering students space to develop reflective skills through coaching, where they pose deliberately challenging questions, develop plan actions and seek specific advice.

The Abbey School has a positive team of KS3 Peer Mentors and a welcoming group of Sixth Form Peer Coaches. Both groups are highly valued and fully trained. The new Sixth Form team focus its work to help students tackle specific subject challenges, to offer examination hints and tips and to share 'Next Steps' guidance. The Pastoral Support Office is located adjacent to the Staff Room in S Block. Here you will find the student workspace, Pastoral Co-ordinators and the Heads of Year. In this 'welfare hub' area of the school is also the SENCO and Safeguarding Lead, PEC also Reflection. This ensures there is regular communication between the teams and a cohesive approach to supporting our students.

### **PEC**

The Personalised Education Centre at The Abbey School is successful in supporting a very small number of students on an individual basis. Typically, these students have specific areas of personal support and development needs prior to them integrating into the school community permanently and full time. For example, one student may spend part of their time in the PEC having been out of education for a significant time due to health or relocation issues. Another may spend a six-week block in the PEC for a specific subject in order to gain a positive mindset and productive personal learning approaches to ensure success in that subject area. The staff are expert in supporting students and giving them access to the tools and techniques that will lead to the best possible outcomes. However, as with any alternative learning area within the school, expectations remain high and adherence to the rules remains compulsory.

# Comprehensive Student Support System



## Student Voice and House System

We invite feedback from our student body on a regular basis and the views expressed are considered during school development discussions. We genuinely like to know what our young people think and value. The student voice opportunities also ensure those taking part can communicate in an articulate, appropriate and reasoned way with their peers and adults alike - a vital part of every student's development for life:

House Council

Heads of House meetings with SLT

Trust Pupil Parliament

Student working parties for Faversham Community Engagement

Student Voice Days

Peer Mentors

6th form Leadership Team

The house system drives the rewards and many of the celebration opportunities in the school as well as creating a sense of competition and belonging to each student.

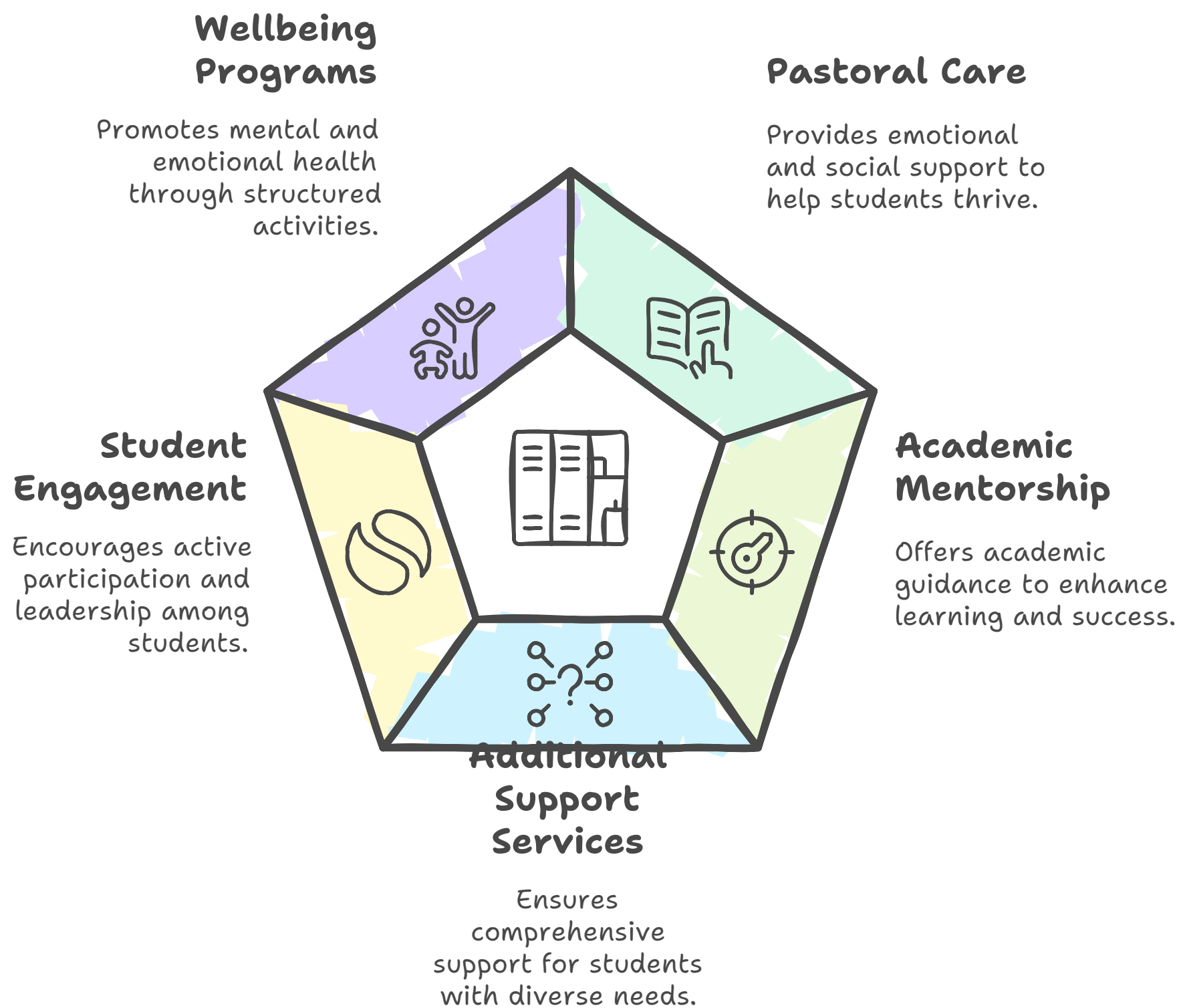
## Attendance Support

We all know that good attendance is central to a student making progress academically, socially and emotionally. The attendance team work very closely with the pastoral support team to track and reward outstanding attendance as well as to support those facing significant and / or unexpected challenges that affects their ability to be in school. The wider teams understand that patterns of poor attendance can be an indicator of more significant problems and will be vigilant. To offer prompt intervention and support, staff will discuss individual cases and action accordingly. Parents can contact the attendance officer directly with queries and concerns, or to seek advice and support.

## PSHE (Personal Development)

PSHE sessions are centrally delivered to students in their tutor groups. During these sessions students learn to make informed decisions, develop a sense of purpose as well as a sense of value of self and of others. It is a time to communicate effectively, respond to challenge positively and become active citizens in the community. Whilst our PSHE provision meets all government statutory requirements, it is so much more than this. We know that by understanding and discussing careers, looking at topics that provoke safe and respectful discussions about spiritual, moral, social and cultural beliefs, and by being open about emotional mental health issues, that our students will be kind and tolerant young people who become well informed 'change makers' of the future.

## The Abbey School Support System



### Rewards

Our strict rules and high expectations mean that our rewards are all the more meaningful. We do not reward mediocrity, so you know when you do receive praise it is genuine and well deserved. We like to celebrate with our students and will publically reward genuine effort and success at every level of academic ability. Examples include:

academic success by achieving, moving towards, exceeding or maintaining target grades. This is the greatest reward as it opens the doors to your future and is a result of your hard work.

personal success through seeing positive attitude to learning scores on your academic report. You can receive praise and acknowledgment for efforts inside and outside of the classroom and achieving personal wellbeing challenge targets.

golden tickets awarded every lesson to the student demonstrating the highest level of work, application and progress.

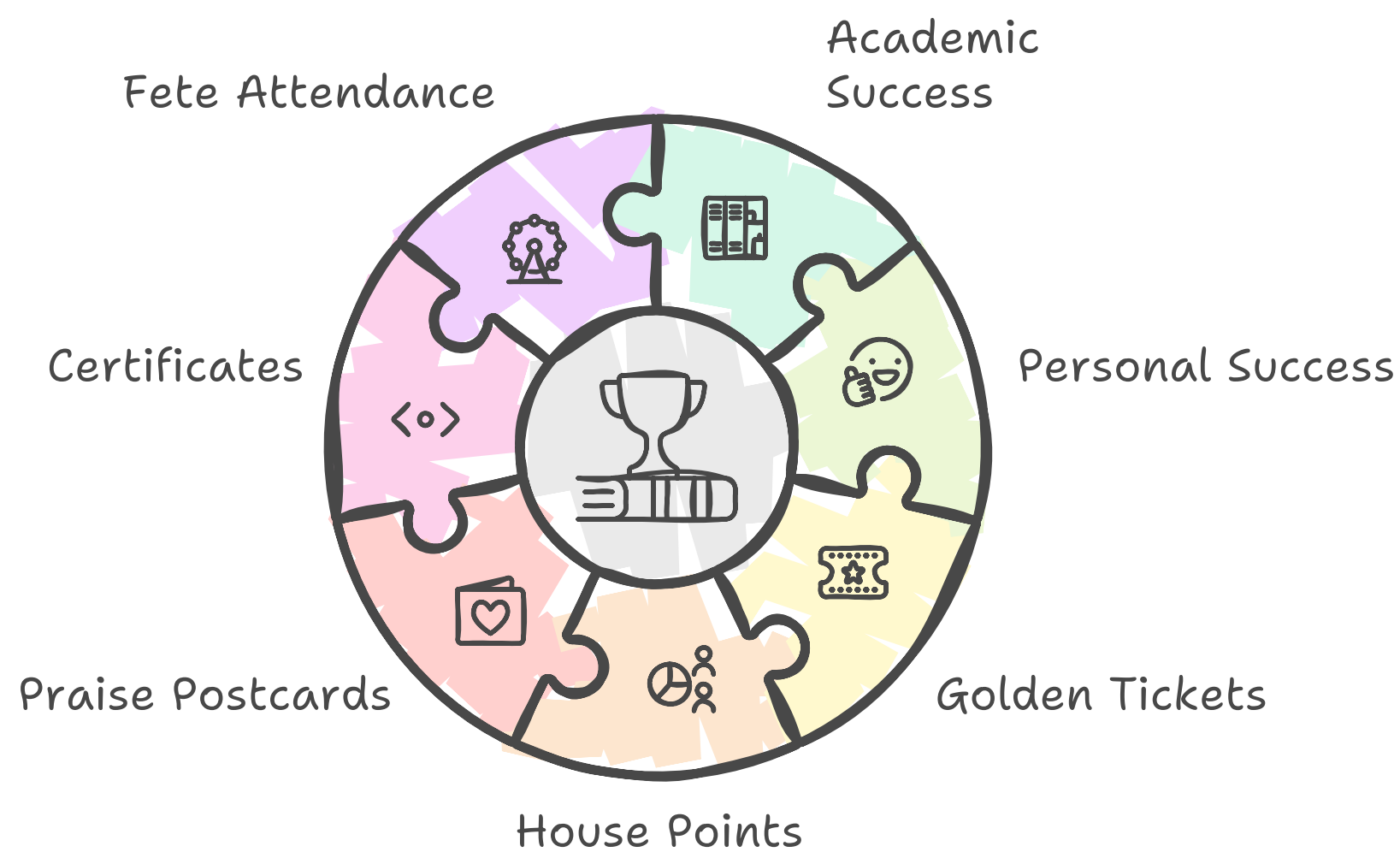
house points gained for excellent work, attitude and conduct.

praise postcards and letters received for exceptional work and / or attitude that goes beyond the achievements of the class or year group.

certificates for reaching milestones in house points and attendance as well as for competitions and development.

attendance at the school's annual fete where house points can be spent.

## Celebrating Student Achievements



### Mindfulness

Within our PSHE, assembly and tutor programmes, we aim for our students to develop the skills and mindset to enable them to flourish and enjoy their school days whilst also preparing them for a productive and successful adult life. We aim for our students to be able to pay attention, listen and comment sensitively and non-judgementally on their learning about academic, global and personal issues. By mastering some simple yet effective techniques (such as meditation, paying attention to the senses, deeper breathing etc) we believe they will be better prepared for facing the challenges that will come now and in the future. Whilst we offer co-ordinated and plentiful support to our students, they are all regularly reminded that they themselves are ultimately responsible for their personal performance. We are kind and supportive but will also always tell them that 'a reason is not an excuse' because we are preparing them for life beyond school and the outside world is a demanding place. Our students will be competing against other equally able young people in later life and whilst we want them to stand far above their peers from other schools, they will need to be resilient, and will need to remember that throughout life they will be 'Climbing the Mountain...' because '...there is no elevator to success'.

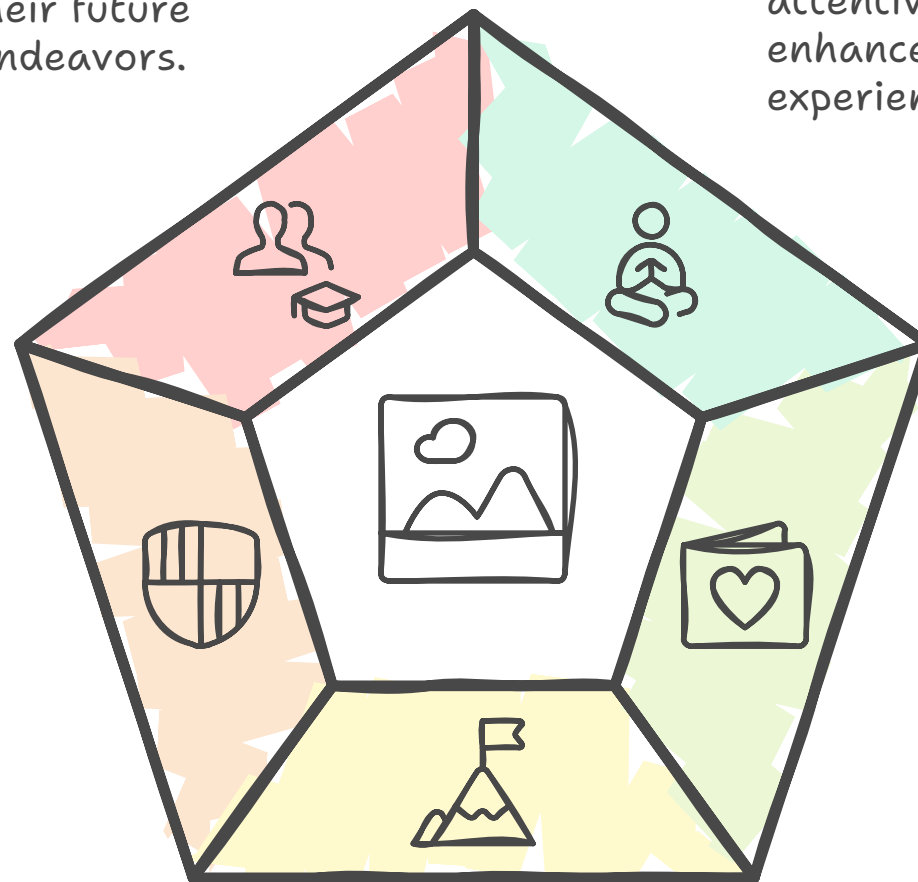
# Mindfulness Program

## Life Preparation

Equipping students for success in their future endeavors.

## Attention Skills

Developing focus and attentiveness to enhance learning experiences.



## Resilience

Building strength to face future challenges confidently.

## Sensitivity and Non-Judgment

Encouraging empathetic and open-minded interactions.

## Personal Responsibility

Emphasizing self-accountability in personal performance.

