



Issue No 6

Friday 15 October 2021

We welcomed our students to school for their first non-uniform day of the academic year, collecting contributions towards St Nicholas Hospice Care. This event was co-ordinated by our excellent Junior Leadership Team who wanted to raise awareness of this cause.

This Tuesday sees our first performance opportunity for students with our Open Mic event. Here, students will perform music in front of their peers which will prepare them excellently for the Autumn Concert on Tuesday 9 November. Information on booking for the Autumn Concert will be circulated to parents and carers next week.

Last weekend, 72 students took to the Suffolk wilderness for their second qualifying expedition under the supervision of Mr Charachon. We are pleased to announce that all 72 students qualified for this section of their award. I am sure that parents and carers are as proud of this as we are – what a fantastic achievement!



Staff Training Day

As a reminder to parents, we have a scheduled staff training day on Friday 22 October 2021 so please do not send children into school on this day.

Mask Wearing in School

The school has been carefully monitoring COVID rates and we have so far not seen the spikes that other local schools have. That said the impact of

student absence for testing and isolating has not been insignificant, and we are aware of rates rising locally. For this reason, we will continue to exercise caution (as we have with low thresholds for testing) and adjust our operations in school.

From Monday 18 October, we will move to wearing face coverings in corridors and communal spaces, unless medically exempt.

This will be for all members of the school community: staff, students, and visitors. Mask wearing in outdoor spaces will **not** be required at this stage. Mask wearing in classrooms remains at the discretion of the teacher. We will continue with in-person year group assemblies but students will need to wear masks.

We would very much appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that their children have **plain** face coverings to wear in school. These should not be patterned and not 'snoods'. Students may continue to wear masks in lessons and outdoor spaces if they wish to.

We continue to advise members of our school community to:

- Wash hands more often
- Wash hands on arrival to school
- Regularly use the hand sanitising stations around school

Lateral Flow Device Home Test Kits

We strongly urge that all of our students continue to test at least twice per week using lateral flow devices. We cannot emphasise the importance of this in keeping our school community safe. If any students require more lateral flow home test kits, they should come to Reception at break or lunchtime anytime during next week (commencing Monday 18 October) to collect them. Should your child test positive with a lateral flow or PCR test, please notify the school [by completing this form](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations for students (Aged 12-15)

A further reminder that if you have not already done so, please complete and submit the consent form as soon as possible. This is for parents who wish for their child(ren) to receive a vaccination in school. The deadline is 4 November 2021.

Please click this link [COVID-19 consent](#) and complete the form. You will need the unique code **EE124856** which identifies our school.

The vaccinations are due to take place in school on Friday 12 November and Monday 22 November 2021. We will prioritise Y11 for the first session because of the Y11 Trial exams. However, if your child is in Y11 and will be 16 before 12 November 2021 you should be able to book an appointment at a local vaccination centre to have the vaccine administered independently of the school. This option may be more suitable or convenient for you. If you do this, please let the school know so that we can remove your child's name from our vaccination list.

School photos

The deadline for the return of your school photograph orders to school has been extended to Thursday 21 October 2021. After this date postage charges will apply.

Digital Parenting Week

This week is Digital Parenting Week, a chance for us to recognise and celebrate the vital role that Parents play in supporting children growing up in a connected world. Digital wellbeing is the emotional experience we have when we use technology. It is an awareness of how being online makes you feel. It is also about how we look after ourselves and others online. This depends on what we do and look at – the choices we make, including how long we are online for, the platforms we use and the interactions we have.

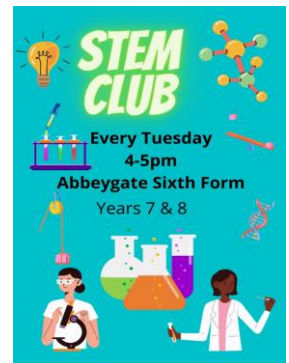
Digital Parenting Week 2021 is all about promoting family digital wellbeing. Please take a moment to [watch the 2 minute video here](#) to support your child online.

Year 11 News

- **Y11 Information Evening for Parents**
Thank you to those parents who came to our information evening. A recording of the evening and the presentation is now available on our website's [KS4 Success page](#). for those of you who were unable to make it.
- **Trial Exams Year 11**
The Trial Exam Timetable is now available to view on our website on the ['Examinations' page](#).
- **Summer 2022 Exams Results day**
The results day for summer 2022 exams has been confirmed as Thursday 25 August 2022. We are still waiting for a final confirmed timetable for the summer 2022 exams, and the designated contingency day (this is a day to be kept free in case an exam needs to be rescheduled owing to unforeseen circumstances) we will communicate this information to you as soon as it is released.

Science Club in partnership with Abbeygate Sixth Form College

A new after school Science Club for Year 7 and 8 students will be starting on Tuesdays after half term at Abbeygate Sixth Form College. If your child would like to join please complete [the online form here](#). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Beverley Tucker
Co-Headteacher

Tom Grey
Co-Headteacher

Thought for the Week

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” *Albert Einstein*