



Issue No 7

Friday 22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the first half term of the year, we are immensely proud of our students and the sense of community returning to the school. Clubs are receiving good uptake. Does your child attend a club yet? [The updated list of Clubs and link to the booking system is available on the website here.](#) We are delighted to be providing extra-curricular links with Abbeygate Sixth Form College. There is still time to book a place for your child to attend what will be an amazing club, using their advanced Sixth Form Science facilities and run by Sixth Formers (see details below).

We had a delightful afternoon on Tuesday with Years 7, 8 and 9 students involved in our live Open Mic event. It was wonderful to see the raw talent in these year groups and how supportive their friends and peers were of each other's performances.



Positive Behaviour Award

We proudly announce that George Cannon Year 10 won the award this week for being focussed and working well without getting distracted by others. Congratulations!

Uniform and Equipment

Please remember that after half term, jumpers must be worn at all times. Ensure your child has a jumper (we have a large selection of spare jumpers available in College Base A. As the weather gets colder, encourage your child to

wear base layers to avoid the need to wear coats in class.

It may be a good idea to check and top up on equipment. If you are uncertain what is needed, please check the planner or [the school website here](#). Basic necessities including a new planner, can be ordered online here [King Edward VI School Shop \(parentpayshop.co.uk\)](#) and paid for online. Items purchased can be collected from Student Services.

Covid Update

- **Masks**

We will continue with mask wearing in communal spaces after half term, in line with Suffolk County Council guidance for schools. This will be reviewed after Monday 15 November 2021.

Mask wearing 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 again, students will need to wear masks.

We ask that parents purchase several plain face coverings to wear in school (with spares in their school bag). These should not be patterned and not 'snoods', in order to eliminate inappropriate face masks. Students may continue to wear masks in lessons and outdoor spaces if they wish to.

- **Visitors**

We have been asked to reduce external visitors to essential meetings only, so please be prepared for meetings with staff to take place online wherever possible.

- **Hygiene**

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 all students to continue to test twice per week using lateral flow device tests. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of this in keeping our school community safe. Should your child test positive with a lateral flow test or PCR, please notify the school by [completing this online form](#).

Please test on Sunday night before returning to school on Monday 1 November.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination centres for 12 to 15-year-olds in half term**

12 to 15-year-olds can now book a Covid-19 vaccination through the NHS booking service during half-term. The service has previously only been open to over-16s. This will supplement the school-based vaccination programme and increase the speed at which this age group can get vaccinated. **Please see the attached letter from the Immunisation Service for further details.**

If you are planning to take up the offer of the vaccine for your child, in particular Year 11, it might be useful to take the opportunity to be vaccinated sooner, in advance of the Trial Exams. However, please let us know if your child **has** been vaccinated, so that we can remove them from the list for the in-school vaccination programme (if you had already given consent).

- **In-school COVID-19 Vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds**

If you cannot make it to a vaccination centre in half term please remember if you have not already done so, 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 number **EE124856** which identifies our school.

Vaccinations are due to take place in school on **Friday 12 November and Monday 22 November 2021**.

Remote Access to Office 365 (including MS Teams)

Recently Microsoft have started to roll our additional security using 2 factor authentication for student school Microsoft accounts. Previously this was only required for staff colleagues. This will mean that students will need to enter a unique access code when the log in to Office 365 from home. This can be done in two ways:

1. Downloading Microsoft Authenticator App to a smart device
2. Entering a mobile number and using an SMS code

If you are experiencing any difficulties with this, please do contact ICTHelpdesk@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk

We are also aware that Microsoft is still yet to release a Parent/Carer login facility so you are able to monitor homework activities for your child(ren). We are continuing to keep an eye on this area of development and will inform parents and carers should this feature become available.

Finally, if you are concerned about the level of homework (assignments) that your child is receiving, please first contact their subject teachers. Information, including staff codes for email addresses, are available on our website *Staff > Staff List*. <https://www.king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Staff-List.pdf>

Safeguarding

Whilst school is closed over half term (and during term time out of hours) please remember you can still report a child at risk of harm, abuse or neglect (safeguarding).

- Call Customer First on 0808 800 4005 if you're worried that a child or young person is at risk.
- If it's an emergency call the police on 999.

Years 7 & 8

LAST CHANCE! Science Club in partnership with Abbeygate Sixth Form College

A new, free, after-school Science Club/Masterclass for Year 7 and 8 students starts on Tuesday after half term at Abbeygate Sixth Form College. We particularly would like to encourage students who might think science is not for them! It is being run by Sixth Form Scientists, who are busy preparing the experiments.

If you have a child who would like to give it a try, please complete [the online form here](#). Places

are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

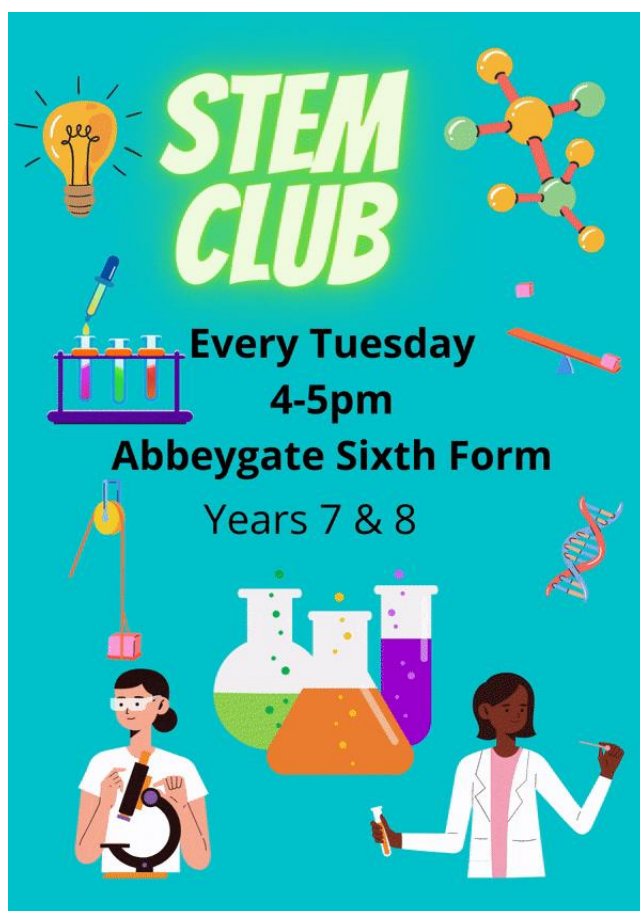
Enjoy your half term!



Beverley Tucker
Co-Headteacher



Tom Grey
Co-Headteacher



Thought for the Week

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yeats