

The Abbey School Newsletter

Newsletter No 15/2020-21

Friday 14th May 2021



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mrs Rotherham organised a range of activities focusing on mental health awareness throughout the school this week. The theme is **Connecting with Nature** which year 7 followed up in Art lessons with Mrs Hyland (making nature collages with scavenged materials).



We are emailing a copy of **12 Top tips to support mental wellbeing through nature** (online and offline) produced by National Online Safety to accompany this newsletter.



All students enjoyed a virtual performance from a theatre group in the main hall in their bubbles called **'How are you?'** which explored issues around mental health and wellbeing for young people. There were separate sessions for Year 7, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.



The students really enjoyed being together in their bubbles in the hall and it was a boost to everyone's mental health to hear the gentle hubbub of them assembling together again.



Parent:Teacher Consultations

The Key Stage 3 parents evening took place on Tuesday this week. Both parents/carers and staff reported that the new School Cloud online booking and meetings system was easier to use.

Bookings for the Key Stage 4 evening for Years 10 & 11 on Thursday 20th May (3:40-7:50p.m.) are now open:

<https://abbeyschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



Abbey School Chair of Governors Abseiling for Challengers

The logo for 'Challengers' is displayed in white text on an orange rectangular background. The word 'Challengers' is written in a stylized, slightly irregular font, with a small star-like symbol positioned below the letter 's'.

Katie Hewett, is still the chair of our board of governors, even though her son has now left the school. Like many of our students Sam has enjoyed lots of activity sessions at Disability Challengers in Farnham over the years. Challengers now have centres and schemes operating in Farnham, Guildford, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Chichester, Kingston and Richmond.

www.disability-challengers.org/

Katie has decided to take up the Guildford Cathedral Abseil Challenge in support of Challengers on 12 June and is looking for sponsorship to support this fantastic charity.

She has set up a JustGiving page for this which can be found at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katie-hewett>



Thank you to the parents & carers who have already completed the Parent View survey this term.

If you haven't yet, we really need your feedback and value your opinions.

Please follow this link www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

It is very easy and will only take a couple of minutes.

Please help the school by doing it online now.

If you have any queries or need a paper version, please contact the school office.



Jacob in Year 11 has passed his CBT (cycle basic training) which means he can now get about on his 50cc moped!

He had to demonstrate that he could ride the bike safely and also had to complete an online theory test which he sailed through with flying colours.

We are all really proud of him - well done Jacob!

Summer term attendance expectations for schools

School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils and the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance.

We expect schools and local authorities to continue to communicate clear expectations around attendance to families, identify pupils at risk of disengagement and develop plans to re-engage them.

As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. **As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday.**

Department for Education, May 2021



Here comes the summer...?

Although it has been distinctly wet and chilly at times lately, we all know how sudden and extreme weather changes can be in this country. Please make sure that your child is prepared for the arrival of the British summer when in school by providing them with a named:



- Water bottle
- Sun hat
- Tube/bottle of sun cream or lotion
- Waterproof coat or jacket
- Change of shoes for break and lunchtimes outside



We will keep a small supply of sun cream/lotion in school for general use and to take off-site for trips and visits. If your child is allergic to any such products, or you would prefer them not to be used for other reasons, please make sure that the school is aware of this.

COVID Local Support Grant and Vouchers for FSM

Surrey County Council will ensure help is available for families struggling as we transition out of lockdown, through the Government's COVID Local Support Grant. It is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, with the majority set aside to ensure children do not go hungry during school holidays.

The council, through schools, will ensure support to all 17,000 children in the county eligible for Free School Meals.

Surrey County Council will continue to fund supermarket vouchers over the May half term holiday for eligible children receiving free school meals as was the case during the Christmas, February half term and Easter holidays. The vouchers will cover the period of one week from Monday 31 May 2021 – Friday 4 June 2021 and will be £15 per child. If your child is eligible for FSM we will assume that your preferences for e-vouchers or printed vouchers remains the same unless you inform us otherwise. In the case of paper vouchers, we will also assume that your last choice of supermarket is your preference unless you contact the school office to request a change.

There will also be a grant for care leavers, and direct support to families of younger children eligible for the pupil premium.

The remainder of the funding will be given to the Surrey Crisis Fund and made available to residents who are struggling. This money will provide support towards food costs and utility bills, but also emergencies such as replacing broken white goods, to guide people away from long lasting debt.

Surrey County Council will administer the funds, which must be spent by 20 June 2021. As the funding is only available for a limited time, we encourage you to make an application a.s.a.p. if you are eligible and have a need eligible. Enquiries should be directed to the Community Helpline: 0300 200 1008. More information can be accessed on the [government website](#) or the [Surrey Crisis Fund webpage](#)

24/7 mental health crisis line for children, young people, and families

The freephone number - **0800 915 4644** – is available for children and young people up to the age of 18, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The new crisis line provides emotional wellbeing support, advice, and signposting to a range of community services for children, young people and their families and carers who are in a mental health crisis.

The number is available to those who are already receiving mental health services, and also for those who are not. **No referral is needed.**

The crisis line is staffed by a team of experienced, trained call handlers and mental health nurses.

A key aim of the crisis line is to help support young people, carers and families within their own homes and in the community and, whenever possible, help avoid the need for children and young people to go to hospital in a crisis.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 20th May 2021	3:40p.m. – 7:50p.m.	KS4 Parent:Teacher Consultation Meetings
Mon 31st May – Fri 4th June 2021		Half-Term (no early closing on Friday 28th)
Tuesday 8th June 2021		Year 11 progress review day
TBC	4:30- 6:30p.m.	Life After The Abbey Preparation for post-16
Thursday 24th June 2021		Last day of school for Year 11 students
	5:30-10P.M.	Year 11 leavers' Record of Achievement presentation/Prom
Friday 25th June 2021		INSET Day (School closed to students)
Thursday 1st July 2021		Year 7/8/9/10 progress review day
Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th July 2021		Induction Days for New Students starting in September
Wednesday 14th July 2021		Sports Day
Wednesday 21st July 2021	1:50p.m.	Last Day of Term for Students School closes early at 1:50p.m.
SUMMER HOLIDAYS		
Wednesday 1st September 2021		INSET Day (School closed to students)
Thursday 2nd September 2021		INSET Day (School closed to students)
Friday 3rd September 2021		Back-to-School

The Abbey School

Address: Menin Way, Farnham, GU9 8DY

Telephone: 01252 725059

Email: enquiries@abbey.surrey.sch.uk

Website: www.abbey.surrey.sch.uk