Abbeywood Community School

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24th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of the academic year, I felt it was important to note how well all students have done this year. We have been really impressed with the maturity and effort shown and the progress made. We hope all students are looking towards their well-earned summer holidays.

I am pleased to inform you that we will continue to be the Raising Standards Leads (Teaching Head of Year) for Year 10 as they move into Year 11 in September. Miss Barclay will remain as Head of Year and all tutors will see their groups into year 11 except for Hera 2 as Miss Likou will be leaving the school. She has had a significant positive impact not just on Year 10 students this year but also with students from across the school. I know you will join me in giving her a fond farewell and wishing her the best of luck for her next steps. I am pleased to share that the tutor group will be led by the very experienced, Miss Bullock.

Key Dates Term 1 and 2:

Events with a (*) show the event is for yourself and your child

3rd September 2026	*First Day of Yr 11 – see plans below.*
15th October 2026	*Meet The Tutor Evening **
23rd October 2026	*INSET – no students in school*
26th - 30th October 2026	*Half Term*
2nd November 2026	*INSET – no students in school*
3rd November 2026	*First Day back and ACS Post 16 Open Evening**
9th - 20th Nov 2026	*Mock Exams*
W/C 7th December	*Reports Sent Home*

RS Exam Results:

These are released on Thursday 20th August. Students will have this emailed to their school email in the morning.

Work Experience & Unifrog:

We have been really impressed with the feedback from placements with regards to the engagement of year 10 students during their work experience. The next step for your child is to sign into Unifrog where students can reflect on their placement. It is useful to do this now (whilst it is fresh and they remember what they did, and skills they gained) so that during next year when we are looking at writing CV's and interview tips they have these written down already as a starting point. We would also encourage them to send a quick thank-you message to their placement.

Year 11 After School Support & Interventions:

In year 11, students will continue to be allocated at least one compulsory period 6 academic support session. These sessions have proven to be valuable for students for both subject support, homework support and allocated revision time.

Your child could be allocated a subject specific intervention, supported work with our inclusion team, or be in a golden hour for dedicated homework and revision time supported by a class teacher. If your child is also studying Triple Science or Further Maths, they will have an additional lesson 2:50-3:50 added onto their timetable. We will also be running Maths, English and Science morning intervention sessions that will take place during tutor time. These will also be timetabled on arbor.

Your child may have more than one session depending on their academic progress.

If you have any queries about the sessions your child has been allocated please do contact me.

Your child has been allocated:

Personal letters have been emailed home with your child's allocation

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Uniform & Equipment

Bronze - non-negotiable
Pen
Pencil
Ruler (15cm)
Calculator (Casio fx-83GT X classwiz)
Eraser Protractor Pair of compasses Pencil sharpener Highlighter Glue Stick

As you may be aware from the communication around the mock exam period it is important that students have the equipment listed on the right for them to be able to complete lessons and examinations.

As a school, we implement a uniform as we believe that dressing smartly communicates a business like attitude to work, students are protected from discrimination in terms of expensive fashion clothing and students can be readily identified in public places as being from Abbeywood Community School. Students are expected to wear the uniform whilst travelling to and from school and at all times on site. I would greatly appreciate your support in maintaining the appropriate uniform and refer you to the school website for further information. The uniform consists of:-

- Blue polo shirt with Abbeywood Community School logo
- Black cardigan or black sweatshirt with Abbeywood Community School logo
- Black trousers - Trousers should be tailored, no jeans, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Black shorts or skirt - must be tailored and knee length; no jeans, leggings, tracksuit type shorts lycra or micro skirts
- Plain black or white socks/black opaque tights
- Plain black sensible footwear – not boots or sandals. No trainers with coloured laces or coloured logos. **For Health & Safety reasons, Crocs are not permitted in any circumstances.**
- Full PE kit: ACS branded short sleeve sports top, black sports shorts or sports leggings (option of ACS branded or plain black with no visible brand logos). Students must not arrive to school in PE kit.
- Jewellery: The only jewellery allowed is a watch and a single pair of small plain stud earrings. Tiny, plastic nose studs are allowed for students with nose piercings. All other face, body or multiple ear piercings must be removed for Health and Safety reasons.
- Make-up: Discreet make-up only, long/false or brightly painted nails are not acceptable.
- Hair: No extreme styles or colours.

Attendance

Research shows that attendance below 95% will affect future attainment and progress; subsequently we try to ensure that all individuals achieve an average of at least 96%. Registration is compulsory for all Abbeywood students. This will take place during tutor time 8:30am – 8:55am, and at the start of every lesson. It is the expectation that all students are in school by 8:25am. Please be aware that students are not allowed in the school building before 8:00 a.m.

Behaviour for learning

Every student is valued and encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility for their learning in line with Abbeywood expectations. Positive attitudes to learning are expected from all students with clear expectations being set high. In lessons students are expected to put in good levels of effort, they should avoid being passive. The school will report on the effort of all students in their Progress Checks. We would like to remind you of our attitude to learning expectations that are available on our website, please click here.

Phone Free Abbeywood

As you know, Abbeywood is a phone free school. Students who choose to bring a phone to school, so they have it with them for the journey to and from school, must keep their phone secured in lockable Yondr Pouch throughout the school day. Details of our Phone Free Policy are available on our website. **Pouches can now be purchased via the Arbor Shop.**

Year 11 Day 1: *3rd September 2025*

The first day of year 11 will be Thursday 3rd September (this is different to years 8-10). The day will be different to the normal school day and will have a different start time. Students will need to arrive from 9:20 am for line up at 9.30am and the school day will finish at 14:50. The day will have a focus on aspirations, growth mindset and motivation to support students in approaching year 11 see this as a springboard for their futures.

There will be:

- Motivational talks & workshops on mindset from external speakers
- Sessions on careers and next steps after 11 with our careers team
- A session where students reflect on year 10 and review their current strengths and focus areas academically, what changes they need to make and what support they may need to allow them to achieve their next steps.

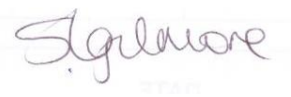
On Friday 4th September students will start their usual timetabled lessons with the normal school day of an 8:20 start and 2:50 finish (unless they have a P6 session scheduled on this day).

Finally, I want to wish you and your child a restful summer. I look forward to seeing you, and working with you, throughout the next year as we work together to support your child to navigate a challenging, but exciting period of their life.

Please do contact your child's tutor in the first instance or myself if you need any further information, or concerns on the back of this letter.

Thank you very much for your support

Yours sincerely



Ms S Gilmore and Miss K Woodward
Raising Standards Leads (*Teaching Heads of Year*): Year 11
sophie.gilmore@olympustrust.co.uk & kerri.woodward@olympustrust.co.uk

This email has been sent by Debra Pring on behalf of Sophie Gilmore. Any queries please contact your child's tutor or for queries regarding the scheduled interventions please email me at sophie.gilmore@olympustrust.co.uk