

Abbey College Cambridge

Welcome

Welcome to our new College newsletter!

It has been wonderful to start the new academic year with so many people joining us for the first time. I would like to give a special welcome to our new students; I hope you have an enjoyable and productive time with us. Always remember that we are here to help you succeed in your goals.

A warm welcome also to our new members of staff:

Sue Schilperoort and David Farrell: Economics; Deborah Williamson and Joanne Miquel: Chemistry; Louise Edgewood: Biology; Peter Cocks: Physics; Judy Burton and Avi Naim: Mathematics Vijaya Rodger and Stephanie Dallas: English; Sarah Thompson: Psychology; Anona Cram: Nurse

There are many new developments of which we can be very proud of as a college; our new Cambridge Place building is proving to be a big asset to the Physics department; we have updated the Foundation course and we run GCSE for the first time at the college. The garden of Station Road has also been transformed by the hard work of Duncan and Dekla and we now have an all weather sports pitch.

I would like to thank Vikki for initiating and organizing the latest development – this newsletter itself. Thank you.

Let us finally celebrate the fantastic results in last years A-level, Foundation and IELTS exams. We carry on the tradition of outstanding achieving at Abbey College Cambridge. Long may it continue!

All the very best

Julian

Sports—Healthy Living

This term we have tried to put a focus on getting students to adjust to a healthy lifestyle. This aids with time management, stress levels and balancing work and social life. To help with the balance we have also tried very hard as a school to increase the amount of sport available to our students.

This terms we have had huge success with

Tennis. Taken by Charles our professional tennis coach.

Basketball. Saturday morning for two hours

Chess. Run by Andrew and Jamie on Thursdays after school

Hockey. For the GCSE class hockey is compulsory this term and the participation has been fantastic.

Football: H4U run the Saturday mornings sessions

If you are interested in other sports please let Vikki know by email (victoria.low@abbeycambridge.co.uk)

Academic Results 2009/10

- 32% *A** results
- 70% *A*-A* results
- 82% *A*-B* results
- 6 students gained entry to
an Oxbridge University



Inside this issue:

Welcome Back Julian Davies	1
Sport—Health Living Inside Story	1
Trip to Royal Society	2
Guests Visitors Bristol University	2
Anona Cram School Nurse	2
School Council	2
Boarding News	3
Chess	3
Help Sessions	3
Important Dates	4

Trip to Royal Society

The nine Abbey College Cambridge students who were awarded an Outstanding or a Grade 1 pass in the June 2010 Sixth Form Examination Paper (STEP) in Mathematics I attended the annual Mathematical Olympiad Lecture on 20 September.

This event was hosted by the Royal Society at their premises at Carlton Terrace, London. The lecture, which was on collective voting strategies, was delivered by Professor Imre Leader of the University of Cambridge.

The party was led by Dr Ross Barker of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Computing at Abbey College Cambridge



School Council

This year School Council has started. You can see more sports groups and activities happening. If you have any suggestions on what improvements can happen with accommodation, food or school please let your representative know.

Anona Cram – School Nurse

This term, we welcome Anona Cram as our school nurse. She is available to all students Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and can be found in S7 Station Road.

Anona is a great point of call if you are not registered with a doctor, need advice, are not sure if you should see a doctor or if you just want to talk through any issues.

If you are absent from the school for more than three days Anona will phone you and may visit. If you have problems please drop in Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon.

NURSE AVAILABLE
TUESDAY
1-4 PM
WEDNESDAY 12-
4 PM
SITUATED IN
STATION ROAD

Guests Visitors - Bristol University

28 September

Dr Richard Walters of the School of Mathematics, University of Bristol, visited on the 28 September to conduct a seminar for 25 of our Further Mathematics students minded to apply to read Mathematics, Engineering, Physics or Natural Sciences at Russell Group universities.

The seminar was made up of 3 sessions of about 1.5 hours each. The sessions comprised a short teaching element, a student activity main part, and a debrief.

Session 1 introduced the day. It presented a version of Maclaurin, using it to expand binomials, trigonometrical functions and e^x . The debrief

dealt with some of the issues encountered, such as factorials from repeated differentiation, and the need for radian measure.

Session 2 dealt with the required results from session 1 and went on to show how the series could be used to find accurate values of e and roots; it also discussed convergence speed. The activity required students to complete any unfinished tasks, and to find values of roots and reciprocals without a calculator, hence demonstrating what a calculator does. It required students reconcile the series obtained for $\sin x$, $\cos x$ and e^x using complex numbers and to use their results to obtain double angle formulae.

Session 3 dealt with synthesis and inductive thinking. The activity asked students to find roots of unity and to consider the arctan function as a method of deriving a series for π .

As part of each session, Dr Walters explained the way in which the work covered and the skills demonstrated impinged on UCAS applications.

Friday 1 October

Dr John McWilliams of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Bristol, visited to offer consultancy for 12 of our students minded to apply to read Engineering at Russell Group universities. He dealt with all Engineering disciplines and offered advice on the construction of UCAS applications.

Boarding News

This year we have worked hard to improve the boarding facilities on offer.

All bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms in Tripos Court were painted during the summer and new carpets were laid throughout the building at the end of last academic year.

Tripos has seen the addition of new

furniture in the kitchens – and there is more to come!

Phyllis and Mike are still working very hard to keep the bedrooms and communal areas clean; please help by keeping your room tidy.

Purbeck and Tripos has seen the curfews increased to 11pm and permission for weekend absence is now

being given with parental consent.

The school council has been working closely with the school to make changes. If there are any issues with your accommodation please make sure you speak to Laura.

12th Abbey College Cambridge Chess Tournament

The college chess club has enjoyed a good half term with many students from eight different countries coming along to play. Students have a choice of just turning up and playing normal games, or taking part in other chess-related activities, including:

- coaching for beginners
- puzzles with prizes - Sanzhar Baisakalov won a box of chocolates for being the first to solve a puzzle
- team games - the students somehow defeated the teachers in a team chess match



- a tournament, which is played in the last chess club of every half term.

Twelve players entered the 12th Abbey College Cambridge Chess Tournament and many others came along to watch. Dang Quang Huy, Sanzhar Baisakalov, Le Ngoc Ha and Ngo Nguyen Tu Duc all cruised through their groups with perfect records, joined by four other students in the quarter finals. After tense knockout rounds, Duc beat Bui Minh Quan in



the final to enter the hall of fame and have his name engraved on the trophy for eternity. Duc now keeps the trophy until Christmas when he will have to defend it in the next tournament.

Chess club takes place after college every Thursday in the Study in Station Road. Everyone is welcome, both staff and students, even those who have never

**NGO NGUYEN
TU DUC
WINNER OF THE
12TH CHESS
TOURNAMENT**



Help Sessions

Help sessions are being held weekly in many subjects.

Mathematics: Friday lunch time Regent Terrace

Physics: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunch time in C2 Cambridge Place.

Other subjects are helping students on a one to one basis. If you feel that you need some extra support in a specific subject or more generally please speak to your subject teacher or Andrew Roberts

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Important Dates for your Diary

AUTUMN TERMS

1st Nov: Term begins
4th Nov: Senior Maths Challenge (0800—0930)
9th Nov: School Council Meeting
10th Nov: Ecology Club
11th Nov: Paintballing run by the H4U students
(Provisional date)
20th Nov: Museum of Zoology
21st Nov: UCAS application due 4pm
30th Nov: Economics Study Day
1st Dec: Ecology Club meeting
2nd Dec: British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 (0800-1100)
4th Dec: Tour Trinity and Kings College
11th Dec: H4U World Cup finals

15th Dec: Last day of term

SPRING TERM

4th Jan: Beginning of Term Two
5th Jan: External Exams begin for A level courses
11th Feb: School Council Meeting
12th Feb: Ecology Club Meeting
1st Mar: School Council
2nd Mar: Ecology Club Meeting

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM

School Returns: 1st November

End of Autumn Term: 15 December

SPRING TERM

Start of Term: Tuesday 4 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February

End of Term: Friday 8 April

SUMMER TERM

Start of Term: Tuesday 26 April

End of Term: Friday 24 June

Please make sure you also check your external exam dates before you book your return trip home in July.

It is very important that you are in school for the entire academic year.

If you are going to be out during term time for anything other than sickness please remember you must gain permission for Julian **five** days in advance of the absence.