



# ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



2 April 2025

Dear Families

## Ref: Key Information – Term 5 (Tuesday, 22 April 2025 – Friday, 23 May 2025)

As we approach the end of this term, I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting activities planned for Term 5.

At Abbot's Lea School, our approach to education follows the ASD Model ©, ensuring that academic progress, specialist therapeutic support, and life skills development are equally prioritised. Every enrichment opportunity is thoughtfully designed to support our students in at least one of these vital areas and I hope you agree that Term 5 will provide a range of experiences for all of our students.

Date	Activity	Notes
Monday 21 April	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>School is closed to staff and students</b>
Tuesday 22 April	School re-opens	Students return to school
Tuesday 22 April	Swimming begins for USA and Spain class	Swimming will take place on: Tue 22, Wed 23, Thu 24, Fri 25, Tue 29, Wed 30 April, Thu 1, Fri 2 May. A letter will be sent to families with further information
Friday 25 April	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department)  Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5  Coffee morning: 9.30 - 10.30am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise school via your child's class teacher.  Please see below for how assemblies will work this year
Monday 28 April	Family survey	We will be sharing a family survey giving families the chance to share their views and suggestions
w/c Monday 28 April	GCSE English Spoken Language exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, to complete their GCSE English Spoken Language exam this week

Friday 2 May	<p>Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department)</p> <p>Assembly times:  9.30 – 10.00 Primary  10.00 – 10.30 KS3  10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5</p> <p>Coffee morning:  9.30 - 10.30am</p>	<p>We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise school via your child's class teacher.</p> <p>Please see below for how assemblies will work this year</p>
Monday 5 May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>School is closed to staff and students</b>
Tuesday 6 May	School re-opens	Students return to school.
w/c 6 May	Outdoor learning week	<p>Students will have the opportunity to explore, discover, and learn beyond the classroom. Throughout the week, classes will take part in a range of exciting outdoor activities, including nature walks, sensory exploration, team-building challenges, and hands-on environmental projects.</p>
Tuesday 6 May	DRUMBA!	<p>Students will have the chance to take part in engaging DRUMBA sessions where they will drum to the beat, develop coordination, and enjoy a fantastic full-body workout. This fun and interactive activity promotes rhythm, teamwork, and well-being, all while having an amazing time!</p> <p><b>All students across the school must wear their school PE kit today</b></p>
Tuesday 6 May	Italy and Brazil begin swimming	Swimming will take place on: Tue 6, Wed 7, Thu 8, Fri 9, Tue 13, Wed 14, Thu 15, Fri 16 May. A letter will be sent to families with further information
Friday 9 May	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department)	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise school via your child's class teacher.

	<p>Assembly times:  9.30 – 10.00 Primary  10.00 – 10.30 KS3  10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5</p> <p>Coffee morning:  9.30 - 10.30am</p>	Please see below for how assemblies will work this year
Monday 12 May	Functional Skills Maths exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their Functional Skills Maths exam
Monday 12 May	AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 1	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 1 exam
Tuesday 13 May	Functional Skills Reading exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their Functional Skills Reading exam
Tuesday 13 May	AQA GCSE Biology Paper 1	Students in KS4, where applicable, will complete their AQA GCSE Biology Paper 1 exam
Wednesday 14 May	Functional Skills Writing exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their Functional Skills Writing exam
Wednesday 14 May	Diversity in: Sport	This day will provide students with a fantastic opportunity to explore and celebrate diversity in sports from around the world! Throughout the day, students will take part in a variety of inclusive and culturally diverse activities, learning new skills and discovering the importance of teamwork, respect, and perseverance. This event will showcase how sport brings people together, regardless of background or ability
Thursday 15 May	Day 1: Functional Skills Speaking, Listening and Communicating exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their Functional Skills Speaking, Listening and Communicating exam on either Day 1 or Day 2
Thursday 15 May	AQA GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator)	Students in KS4 and KS5, where applicable, will complete their AQA GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator) exam
Thursday 15 May	Student council	Our Student Council will meet to see how they can support this year's Summer Fair, and we will welcome Mrs Myers (School Business Manager) as our keynote speaker. During the meeting, students will share ideas, help shape the event and discuss ways

		to make this year's fair the best one yet
Friday 16 May	Day 2: Functional Skills Speaking, Listening and Communicating exam	Students in KS4 and KS5, where appropriate, will complete their Functional Skills Speaking, Listening and Communicating exam on either Day 1 or Day 2
Friday 16 May	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department)  Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5  Coffee morning: 9.30 - 10.30am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise school via your child's class teacher.  Please see below for how assemblies will work this year
Monday 20 May	AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 2	Students in KS4 and KS5, where appropriate, will complete their AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 2 exam
Wednesday 21 May	Reception Children's Screening	Our Reception-aged students will be supported to have their hearing, vision, height and weight checked by the Health team
Friday 23 May	AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1	Students in KS4 and KS5, where appropriate, will complete their AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1 exam
Friday 23 May	<b>No assemblies or coffee morning</b>	<b>School closes at 3pm for the May half term break and re-opens on Monday 2 June for Term 6</b>

### **Curriculum Information**

We want to remind families that all of the curricular information is available to view on our website: under Our Students tab: <https://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/students/>

Specific Schemes of Works can be viewed here: <https://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/curriculum-areas/>

### **Evidence for Learning**

Evidence for Learning is our platform for sharing with a family a student's learning and progress.

Following on from some classes successfully trialling some new features of the Evidence for Learning platform, we have decided that, from Term 5, we will be rolling out additional updates for families across the school:

### ***'My School Day' TAG***

From Term 5, the 'My School Day' TAG will be used at the end of each school day to provide families with a summary of the day's activities for the whole class.

If a specific student had a particularly noteworthy moment that day, there will also be individual updates for specific students shared with the families.

This will replace any other systems of feedback to families, such as emails, communication books, etc.

The reason we wish to make this change is to make sure that we capture all progress in one platform, and that we also simplify communication related to students' learning and progress across the school, making it a class team's, rather than just the class teacher's responsibility.

After all, our support staff are an integral part of our expert team and they play a huge role in the students' day, their learning, progress and experiences. Our support staff are also here to share the workload related to a special school environment, and to assist the class teachers with the administrative load that comes from a highly personalised way of working.

Lastly, as leaders of the school, we want to have a full insight into every child's record of progress and related communication with families, so that we can continue to quality assure that every family is receiving an equitable "deal" with regards to such reporting.

We know that overwhelming majority of families already use Evidence for Learning application. If you have not yet embraced it, or have any difficulties with the app, please reach out to our Reception Team on [reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk) or your child's class teacher and we will assist, as needed.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

At Abbot's Lea School we believe good attendance is vital for a student to reach their full potential. This year, new governmental guidelines have been introduced.

#### **Terminology used by the government:**

- PA = Persistent Absenteeism - less than 90% attendance
- EPN = Education Penalty Notices - issued for unauthorised absences (including term time holidays)

#### **Welfare checks:**

School will always need to speak to families on the first day of a student's absence. For extended absences we have a duty to see your child face-to-face and let them know we care about them.

#### **My child can't attend:**

Report any absences (as early as possible) to the school office via telephone: **0151 4281161** or email: [\*\*reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk\*\*](mailto:reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

The school's phone lines are open from 8am each day.

**Fines:**

EPNs have now been capped nationally at TWO fines within any 3-year period. After this, other actions like a parenting orders or prosecution may be considered.

**Being late:**

If your child arrives at school after the register closes at 9.15am, the morning is considered an unauthorised absence. (*\*please note - this does not include where the situation was beyond the family's control – we appreciate many families rely on the smooth running of SEN transport.*)

**Medical evidence:**

If your child is PA, or at risk of PA, we will ask you to provide medical evidence to ensure the absence is not unauthorised.

**Every child matters; every day matters:**

Both families AND school have a legal duty for school attendance. We understand that students can face barriers and so we have a duty to work together to overcome these barriers. This means open and honest information sharing, without judgement. Please reach out to us if you feel we could help you.

**School uniform and personal presentation**

All students must wear a full school uniform (formal on the days with no PE, and PE uniform on the days when PE lessons take place).

Expectations related to the uniform and personal presentation, including hair, jewellery, etc can be found on our website under policy section:

[School-Uniform-Policy.pdf](#)

Families are asked to adhere to the expectations and support their child with compliance.

Please note that the summer terms ahead are likely to see warmer weather and we ask that children come to school protected from the sun's radiation – sun protection should be applied at home and if you wish for it to be re-applied, a name-labelled product should be sent into school for the school staff to help re-apply during the day.

**Assemblies**

Assemblies are facilitated by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department).

Each week a different class will contribute to the assembly. When your child's class leads the assembly, their teacher will contact you in advance to let you know.

We work with high expectations that by the end of the year, all students will be able to sit through a whole assembly and listen well.

However, we recognise that this skill, like any, needs to be taught.

To do so, we will follow a graduated approach to full attendance in assembly for our youngest students.

We warmly welcome families to attend assemblies (with coffee morning on the same day).

However, if your child leaves assembly before the end, you are invited to leave with your child and enjoy a focussed “stay and play” session with your child.

Please note our gradual approach to full attendance in assembly over the period of a year:

	<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Term 4</i>	<b>Term 5</b>	<i>Term 6</i>
Ireland, Wales, Portugal, France, Italy, Spain and Canada	<i>Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below</i>	<i>Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below</i>	<i>Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below</i> <b>France class will stay for the class assembly and then leave to join stay and play</b>	<i>Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below</i> <b>France class and some other students will stay for the class assembly and then leave to join stay and play</b>	Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below <b>France class will now remain in assembly</b>	<i>TBC</i>

**Stay and play focus:**

Our stay and play sessions will be led by a different class team each week. They will take place in the Conference room, or where weather permits, the grounds of the school.

I wish you and your family a restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Tobin  
Deputy Headteacher