

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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

11 June 2021



Dear Families

Re: Leavers' arrangements

As you know, your child's time at Abbot's Lea is coming to an end...

Whilst we are sad to see them leave, we are absolutely filled with pride in their achievement and their readiness to embrace the next chapter in their lives. They will always be a part of our school – its learning, its heritage, its history and its legacy and so I want to thank you for entrusting us with their lives for all the time they had spent here.

The transitional arrangements for leaving are as important to us for your child as they are for someone joining our school for the very first time. With that in mind, I want to clarify that:

- Any student leaving us at the end of Year 11, 12, 13 and 14 finishes their education on the last Friday in June, which this year means **Friday, 25 June 2021**.
- That last Friday will be a day of celebration and this letter sets out our plans for the day and our invitation to you to join us for a part of it.
- Students have decided to commemorate their "Class of 2021" identity by having Leavers' Hoodies and I am pleased to advise you that we will be funding those fully from our school budget, with no cost passed onto the students/families.
- Any external accreditation, if applicable, will be either handed to your child on their last day of school (if received by then from the awarding bodies), or posted to your home address once received (usually late August/early September).

To reflect upon, and rejoice in, your child's time at Abbot's Lea School, you are warmly invited to attend on Friday 25 June 2021, the Leavers' Celebration and Awards Ceremony.

Sadly, as last year, due to Covid-19, the event will be held remotely via Zoom, with a 9:30am start and a planned 10:30am finish.

This event will be for all 2021 Leavers and their families as well as friends from other Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 classes who will join remotely from their respective classrooms.

This (no doubt highly emotional event!) will be followed by an informal Leavers' BBQ lunch at 11:30-12:30. We are very sorry that we are not in a position to extend an invitation to you to join us, but, as I always say – safety must come first. This is particularly important at this stage when there does appear to be an increase in parts of the region of the Delta variant.

Our Leavers will then have the opportunity to spend the remainder of their afternoon until the normal departure time, to meet with the key people, have fun and engage in any “keep in touch” conversations with their peers.

The students will leave school at the usual time (whether they walk home, use public transport, are collected by you or the dedicated transport provider).

Please note, however, that our care and support for your loved one does not end there.

We are very keen to ensure, as much as possible, that we keep in touch during the first 12 months of our students leaving us. We might make an occasional phone call to you and also to the colleges or workplaces our students progress onto to check that all is as it should be.

If any difficulties arise, we will gladly support our ex-students to get them back on track and help advocate on their behalf to help them remain in education, employment or further training.

Similarly, we love hearing from our Alumni – the good news stories give us great professional satisfaction and personal joy. Any difficulties experienced after leaving us help us tailor what we do next to improve our own practice and our collaboration with other institutions.

We therefore ask that you remain in touch with us – as parents of our soon-to-be ex-students and keep us updated with your loved one’s story.

Please email: feedback@abbotsleaschool.co.uk any success stories or, in equal measures, any support you child may need.

Lastly, any support you yourself feel you need (transitions out of school are tough for us, parents, too...), we are here to help and assist in any way we can, so please just let us know and we will be there.

You are also always welcome to remain in contact and continue to support our school through our Friends of Abbot’s Lea (FAB!). Whilst our activity slowed down during the pandemic, we look to resurrect it again from September and it would be lovely to have you onboard.

Thank you once again for your trust in us, for the time spent together and, as we always say to our students – let’s take only the best bits with us and leave any past troubles behind.

I wish your child and you as their family all the very best for the future.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher