Yale
Secondary School

Grad Handbook
2026-2027

Message to Parents
This is an exciting year for both you and your graduate. We encourage you as parents to get involved and help out with this year's Grad activities. There are lots of places to help both upfront and behind the scenes and your insight is always welcome.

Grad Updates
Emails: Please make sure we have your correct email on file. If you have not received an email from the school then we do not have it. Please contact yalerecords@abbyschools.ca to update it.
Website: Under "Student", click the "Grad Tab" on our website:
www.yale.abbyschools.ca
Instagram: @yalelions & @yale.counselling
MS Teams: Yale Grad 2027
Grad Contract must be completed to participate in Grad events: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Y0tYAbcfVe

Grad Parent Meetings (students are welcome)
Throughout the year, we host a couple of Grad Parent meetings to discuss scholarships, expectations, ways parents can get involved and more. We look forward to seeing you on:

September 16th 7:00-8:00PM Learning Commons (Following Meet the Teacher/ Open House)

Post-Secondary Night
Interested in different post-secondary universities, colleges, and training institutes? Post-Secondary Night is your chance to meet all the college and university reps from around the province and nation all in one building, all in one night. Details will be shared on our website when they are confirmed.

Grad Expectations
We expect our grad class to be leaders in the school / community and set good examples with the choices they make. Grade 12 students who choose, in their final year, to attend school or school events having consumed drugs or alcohol may not be allowed to take part in school-based grad activities including the Grad Dinner and Dance (Prom).

Assemblies & Forms
Throughout the year there will be a number of grad assemblies where students will be given information towards graduation including PSI, transcript verification, post-secondary choice and Abbotsford Foundation Awards booklet and more– so listen to announcements, watch the TV screens, check the website, follow our Instagram, join the grad Teams!!

Grad Photos
Grad photos are separate from the regular school photos and will occur **October 26- November 4** in Portable 1. Students can sign-up for a sitting starting in mid September ONLINE. Students who only want a photo to appear in the yearbook and do not want proofs etc. do not have to pay the sitting fee. All grads **must** have their photo taken by the Vibrant Photos for inclusion in the yearbook, grad composite and grad convocation slideshow.
Retakes will be available **(December 10)** for those students who missed the original session, require wheelchair accessibility, or who received photos that they are not satisfied with.

Fees – all fees to be paid online
https://abbotsford.schoolcashonline.com/

The grad fee is $65 and must be paid before you pick up your gown which covers the cost of the ceremonies, cap & gown, two tickets to Convocation, grad BBQ, grad folder (with personal photo & school leaving certificate). All other grad activities are optional and must be paid using our online system. Please sign up to use SchoolCashOnline (link is above).

Grad Financial Aid
We understand that there are several additional costs in your child's graduating year and for some this puts significant pressure on family finances. If you have any concerns, please contact the school principal: yale@abbyschools.ca .

Optional Grad Activities/ Cost (all costs subject to change)

Grad Cruise	$110.00
Dry Grad	TBD
Prom	$150.00

Grad Clothing
Grad clothing that was ordered at the end of last year will be available for pick up in September. If you missed the first order, please see Mr. Primrose and check Grad Teams for the second order.

Grad Cruise
Come on board as we cruise around the Vancouver Harbor taking in the sights of the Fraser Inlet / False Creek, North Shore and more on Spirit Cruises. Ticket price includes bus ride to/from, boat rental, dinner, dessert, unlimited beverages, dancing, and sight-seeing. Enjoy your first Grad activity together as a class. Only 200 tickets are available to be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis.
September 20, 2026. Bus departs Yale at 3:00PM and will return at approximately 10:15PM

Yearbook
Yearbooks are available for pre-order on SchoolCashOnline for $55. Sales end on February 5th.

Baby Photos are due February 1st- No extensions!
Email a copy of your baby photo to yssgrad2027@gmail.com with your first and last name in the email or drop off a hard copy in the office.

Parent Message and Photo are due February 1st- No extensions!
Email a photo of your choice and Parent Message to yssgrad2027@gmail.com with your first and last name in the email or drop off a hard copy in the office. Example:
"Congratulations on all of your successes! We could not be any prouder of you. We are looking forward to supporting you in this next chapter of your life and seeing where your hard work and dedication take you!"

Grad Yearbook Quotes are due February 10th- No extensions!
Email a school appropriate quote that you would like to have next to your graduation photo in the Yearbook. This

is different than your stage crossing quote. All quotes are limited to 150 characters (spaces included!). All quotes are subject to approval, if you have any questions, please contact tasha.devries@abbyschools.ca .

Dry Grad (TBD)

This is a parent-run event. There are plenty of fun things to do including casino games, entertainment, prizes, and more with unlimited food and beverages and a few surprises. Grads should bring comfortable clothes. Students are NOT required to bring any money or pay for anything during the evening. Bags will be searched upon arrival at the school. There are no in/ out privileges. Students who need to leave early must inform an administrator **before** and have their parent contact the administrator. Tickets will be available online.
Date & Time: April 22, 2027 at 6:00pm Cost: TBD

Grad Convocation

Ceremony

If you have completed the requirements necessary to graduate, you will be participating in the Grad Ceremony. Students may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they are taking a course of studies that satisfy the provincial graduation requirements by May 14. Students enrolled in courses outside of Abby Senior that are required for graduation must be 80% complete to be eligible to take part in the ceremony. If you are not sure if you have completed the requirements, please see your counselor. In addition, all students meeting the required number of course credits to graduate students must be in good standing in their current courses. Grad fee of $65-- please pay online.

Date/ Time: June 21-25 (exact date and time TBD) at Rogers Forum

Grad Valedictorian

The Valedictorian and Grad Speaker are members of the graduating class who speaks on behalf of all graduates at the Grad Ceremonies. This honour is usually bestowed on an outstanding student of the graduating class. The Valedictorian is chosen by a staff committee and represents all qualities that we value at Yale: Character, Academic Achievement, Extracurricular Involvement and Community Service. In addition, students may nominate themselves or one of their Grad classmates for Grad Speaker. Nominations will open during the month of May, then nominees will present at lunch, and their grad class will vote for their Valedictorian. The Valedictorian will address their Grad Class at Convocation.

Grad Gowns

Students will receive a gown, stole, cap and Grad 2027 tassel. The Grad Gown / Stole/ Cap/ Tassel is **yours to keep** – enjoy your souvenir. Cap & Gown Distribution will occur the week of June 16th. All fees must be paid to pick up your Cap & Gown.

Convocation Tickets

Two tickets to Convocation are included in the Graduation Fee, however, additional tickets are $10.00 and can be purchased in the office. You can only pick up your tickets if you have paid your $65 Grad Fee and have no outstanding school fees. Your tickets will be handed out when you pick up your Cap & Gown. There will be many tickets available.

Grad Stage Crossing Quotes

Your grad stage crossing quote is read as you cross the stage during grad ceremonies**.** As grad ceremonies are a formal occasion for your parents in celebration of your achievements, you may thank your parents, acknowledge support, include a meaningful quote etc.

A link to submit your stage crossing quote will be on MS Teams the week of April 23rd.

Topics you might include are:

- Plans after you leave Yale
- What you enjoyed most about Yale
- A fond memory, a quote, a favourite saying
- Long term goals

For example: Serge would like to thank all of his coaches, teachers and fellow students who made Yale a fun place to be! Rugby rocked and Drama rolled. Serge plans to attend UFV next year.

Rules:

- Write your introduction in third person and do not use "I"
- No longer than three sentences of approximately 25 words or less
- If you do not submit a quote – only your name will be announced as you cross the stage

Grand March

The Grand March and Car Parade provides a photo opportunity for students to walk to red carpet. This event begins at 3:30pm and a route will be posted the week prior. Following the car parade, we ask parents to assemble in the gym, sit in the bleachers and take pictures of the entire grad class as they enter the main Gym then march to a selection of songs and show off their suits and dresses.

Details: Saturday, June 19th 3:30-5:00PM

Prom Dinner & Dance

Prom is a formal event where students get to dress up and spend a very memorable night together. Grads will share a beautiful buffet dinner and dance the night away. Abby will be going out of district this year to a fabulous setting at Newlands Golf Course. All grads and their dates MUST travel by bus (supplied by the school) to the venue as per district policy. We must confirm numbers as of Friday, May 28. Prom fees must be paid by **this date.** If you would like to bring a guest please see below.

Date: Saturday, June 20th Newlands Golf Course (Langley)

Grad Prom is a special event intended to celebrate our graduating students. Students wishing to bring a guest who is not a member of the graduating class must follow the school's guest application process.

The following criteria apply to all Grad Prom guest requests:

- **All guests must be approved by school administration.** Submission of a guest application does not guarantee approval.
- **Guest applications will be considered in the order in which completed applications are received.** Approval may also be subject to venue capacity and other event considerations.
- **Guests must receive approval before a prom ticket is purchased.** Tickets purchased for an unapproved guest will not result in guest approval.
- **Guest applications will only be accepted for students who are currently in Grade 11 or Grade 12 and who are 18 years of age or younger.**

- Students are responsible for ensuring that their guest understands and follows all school expectations and event guidelines.

These criteria are intended to support a safe, respectful, and appropriately supervised Grad Prom while ensuring that graduating students are able to celebrate this important milestone with their school community