



**George Abbot School**

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Prospectus



# Welcome

**Welcome to George Abbot School; we are extremely proud of the highly successful, non-selective secondary education that we provide.**

Our tradition of academic excellence is longstanding and is an outcome of exceptional teaching alongside high levels of challenge, expectation and respect throughout our community. Our examination results place us amongst some of the best schools in the south east, at GCSE, BTEC, AS and A Level.

The outstanding progress that young people make on their journey through George Abbot School demonstrates the strength and depth of our teaching expertise as well as the care we take to support every one of our young people. The partnership we develop with our students' parents and carers is key to ensuring that George Abbot students take responsibility, flourish and achieve in many ways. We are determined to provide a high quality and balanced education for every young person; the breadth of opportunity available, in classrooms and beyond, is a key ingredient in shaping our well informed and reflective students.

The education of young people is a privilege that we do not underestimate. We would encourage you to visit us to experience the George Abbot ethos; we provide all that you would seek, and more, for your child. Our young people are our finest ambassadors.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher, George Abbot School

## Our Ethos

**It is a fundamental principle at George Abbot School that each student is of equal value.**

This underpins our determination to ensure vibrant and rich opportunities for every young person. Our school motto is 'non sibi sed toti' - 'not for oneself but for all' and this sets the tone for the care, honesty and respect which are striking qualities of our school community.

**George Abbot school values:**

- Responsibility**
- Excellence**
- Support**
- Personal development**
- Equality**
- Community**
- Tradition**



# Introduction

## A dynamic school providing an outstanding state education in Surrey

George Abbot School is a forward thinking academy providing a comprehensive education, for around 2,000 young people, aged 11-18. We are located in Burpham, Guildford with good transport links to the surrounding area.

We have a highly skilled and motivated staff team and, as a school, are pioneers of educational development which means that our students benefit from an outstanding learning experience. As a Teaching School we are part of a network of successful schools and are able to provide Initial Teacher Training; leadership expertise; Researchers in Schools and the highest quality continuing professional development for all teaching and support staff.

We are proud of our excellent resources and have great facilities for sport, visual and performing arts, music, photography and ICT. We remain ambitious and continually seek ways to improve the school environment.

We are a founding member of the GEP multi academy trust and work closely with a number of partner schools, not only within the trust but nationally and internationally.



# Teaching and Learning

## Building strong academic foundations

George Abbot School is committed to ensuring that learning is at the centre of all that we do. As staff, we embrace the opportunity to read, debate, research and innovate. This mind-set is reflected in our work in classrooms where it is essential that we enable our students to achieve their full potential. We believe that choice and flexibility supports this aim and, as a large school, we are in a strong position to offer an extensive range of subjects and courses. We strive to create a fully inclusive education where opportunity features significantly.

We have a strong track record of identifying and developing our more able students and work hard to ensure that they are stretched and challenged throughout school life. Extension and enrichment studies are provided at an individual and group level in all academic subjects and through extra-curricular activities. Our exam outcomes indicate, strongly, the success of this strategy, with high numbers of top grades achieved, consistently, across the curriculum. Our track record of success converts to strong numbers of students continuing their education at Oxford, Cambridge and other, well-regarded, universities both in the UK and internationally.

Of equal importance are those students with additional learning needs who are supported by a large team and have access to 1:1 interventions, group programmes, a flexible curriculum and differentiated work in every classroom. George Abbot School is also proud to have a specialist centre for visually impaired students. Materials and resources are adapted, with expertise, to support access to the curriculum for this cohort of students. We are careful to ensure that every child has equal opportunities and, where student circumstances require it, we deploy national Pupil Premium education funding to support such students to achieve and excel.



# Learning

## It is our aim that LEARNING permeates all that we do.

We are proactive in ensuring that George Abbot students are enabled to be successful and lifelong learners. We have 10 steps to help support our students with successful learning:

1. Develop your subject knowledge
2. Understand what helps you to learn best
3. Use time wisely
4. Manage your own behaviour
5. Self and peer assess your work
6. Learn to work both independently and with others
7. Think of new and different ways to absorb and retain information
8. Complete homework to develop your knowledge
9. Ask and answer questions, regularly
10. Know which skills are needed to complete different tasks

## Key Stage 3 (years 7-8)

A full range of subjects is taught to all students which includes:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History, Geography and RE
- French, German or Spanish (a choice in Year 7 followed by the opportunity to study a 2nd language in Year 8)
  - Art, Textiles, Graphics and Design Technology
  - PSHE
  - ICT
  - PE
  - Dance, Drama and Music

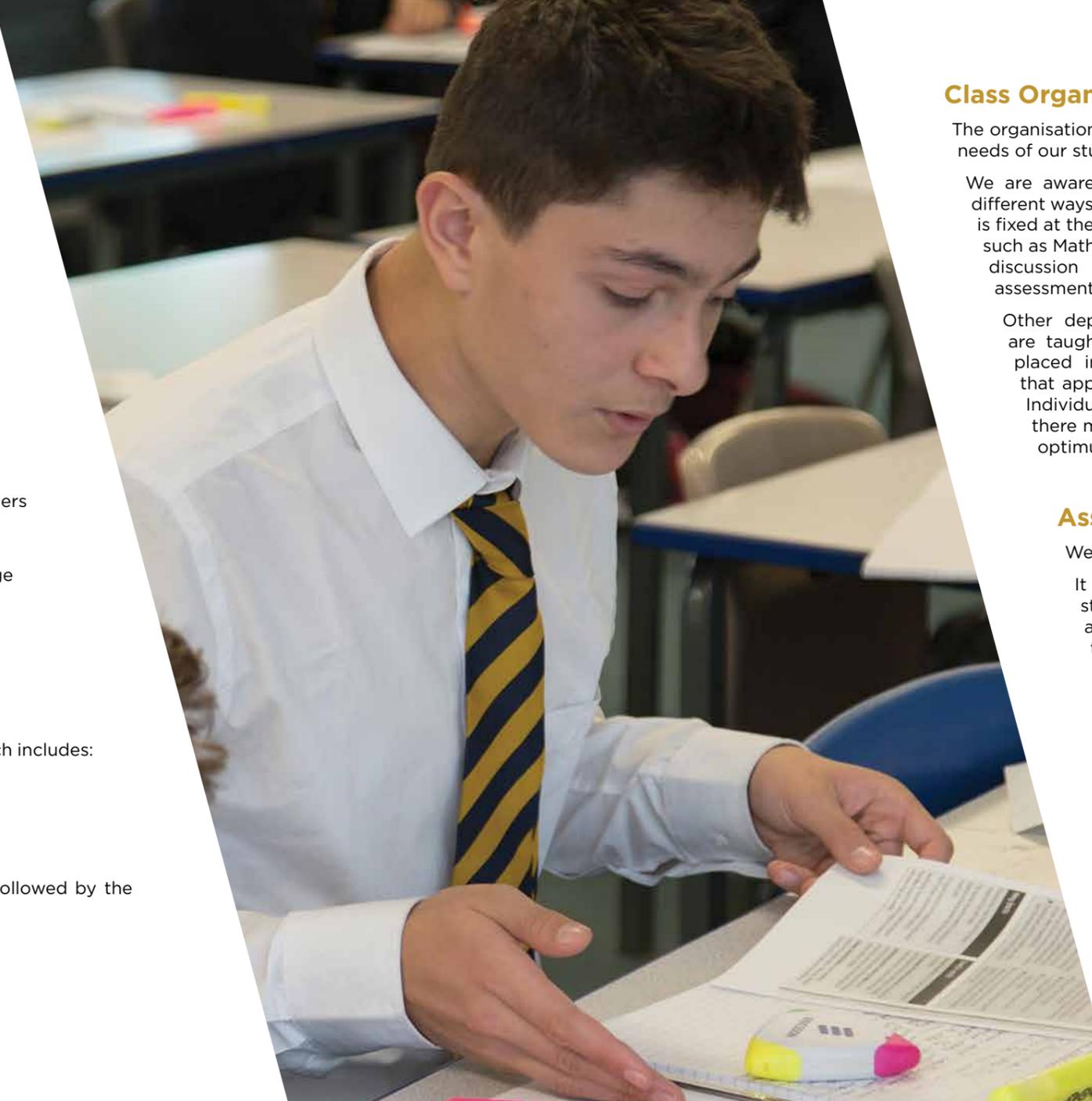
## Key Stage 4 (years 9-11)

At Key Stage 4, students all study our compulsory subjects: Maths, English, Science (Core, Core and Additional or Chemistry, Biology and Physics), RE and PE and then select a further four options. We offer a choice of traditional GCSE subjects in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts and Foreign Languages. We also offer a range of vocational subjects such as Child's Learning, Play and Development, Hair and Beauty and Building Services.

In consultation with students, parents and carers, staff and careers advisers, we aim to ensure that every student makes choices which are right for them and maximises their potential and skills. Our guiding principle is to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum which responds to each student's needs and prepares them fully for a successful and fulfilling future.

Additional information can be found on our website.

Please also see our separate prospectus for information about our high performing Sixth Form.



## Class Organisation

The organisation of class teaching groups is designed to serve the needs of our students.

We are aware that students develop at different rates and in different ways therefore, we do not believe that academic potential is fixed at the age of 11. On entry to the school, some departments, such as Mathematics, place students in sets following considerable discussion with primary school staff and our own baseline assessments.

Other departments teach a common curriculum and students are taught in mixed ability groups. Subsequently, students are placed into sets, according to progress and performance, so that appropriate work can be tailored to ensure student success. Individual performance is monitored continually, meaning that there might be adaptations to groupings, as necessary, to support optimum student progress.

## Assessment

We use the principles and procedures of assessment for learning.

It is important to monitor students' progress carefully and to target strengths and areas for development accurately. To achieve this, we assess student performance regularly and use results to diagnose the needs of the class and individuals within it. The results of these assessments influence the subsequent work which each student receives. We aim to test knowledge, skill and understanding within subjects.

Regular progress updates are issued for every student through our system of online reporting and there are opportunities for parents to attend Progress Monitoring afternoons and evenings to meet individual subject teachers. Students are assessed throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 using a grading system based on GCSE number grades that we have developed in partnership with the other secondary schools in the Guildford Education Partnership.



# Student Development

## Inspiring young people to think, take responsibility and flourish

### Pastoral Care

High quality pastoral care is at the heart of what we do at George Abbot. Our role as educators includes the promotion of wellbeing and personal growth. We enable each student to be the very best that they can be, achieving the highest possible academic standards as happy, well rounded young people who learn how to make friends and get on well with others.

We pride ourselves on the strength of our pastoral care in support of this journey. Students join mixed tutor groups, each with a broad range of ability, on arrival in Year 7. The primary role of the form tutor is to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging and they are the first point of contact for students' welfare and progress. They promote leadership and enrichment opportunities and focus on developing responsibility, respect and resilience in students.

The school's team of Pastoral Leads oversee the academic and pastoral progress of every student and offer additional leadership and advice to Form Tutors. To support our youngest students, there is a dedicated Transition Manager who leads the Year 7 pastoral team. Each year group also has their own non-teaching Head of Year who has responsibility for the pastoral care, welfare and safety of the whole year group. Students with more complex pastoral needs are additionally supported by our Youth Workers, Counsellor or Home School Link Worker.

There is a separate playground area for each year group which helps new intake students to settle easily into a large school. The Sculpture Garden is set aside as a quiet area, solely for the use of students who prefer to avoid the bustle of the main playgrounds.

### Teamwork

We welcome the involvement of parents and carers in school life and want to know about anything that can help us to help your children. Close co-operation and communication is essential to the welfare and development of all of our students. We share your expectations that your child will be educated in a civilised and compassionate community and have a Home/School Agreement which we ask parents, carers and students to endorse. Our values and standards of behaviour are taught consistently across the curriculum to enable all to work in an environment that promotes equality, courtesy and respect.



## Student Leadership and Advocacy

We believe Student Voice to be a crucial part of how we shape our community. Listening to students and valuing their contributions is an intrinsic part of how we organise our school and feeds into all aspects of school monitoring, evaluation and review. Students are consulted in a variety of ways including surveys, group discussions, formal consultation at School Council meetings, and one to one feedback. The School Council has its own section of the school website and is able to communicate with students regarding the issues that have been raised and the action taken.

In addition to the main School Council, we have established Year Group Ambassadors who attract a range of roles and responsibilities, such as: assisting with leadership and organisation on formal occasions; welcoming and supporting students new to the school; coordinating the group charity weeks and helping with routine tasks. They are expected to be exceptional role models at all times.

In Year 10 a large group of students are trained formally to become School Ambassadors who take significant responsibility in many areas including: tours of the school; helping the Leadership Team with the appointment of new staff; support for school functions and the Junior Prefect scheme. A small group is also trained as Peer Mentors, who support younger students in school.

In the Sixth Form all students are expected to contribute in some way to the George Abbot community, either in class, as Peer Mentors, Prefects or involvement in Rag Week. They are led, ably, by a team of Senior Students.

## Extra-Curricular

We recognise that other areas of the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, relatives and friends all make a valuable contribution to the personal and social development of our students. Great importance is attached to extra-curricular activities. A wide range of lunchtime and after school activities is available, as well as educational visits both in this country and abroad. These include ski trips, cultural and sporting trips across Europe and America, visits to Africa and Asia and regular student exchange programmes.

The extensive portfolio of visits and trips is most unusual for the state sector. Such activities also provide opportunities for students to experience success in the arts, music, creative and practical fields. Activities include a regular and high standard programme of concerts, drama and musical productions, and theatre trips. The range of extra-curricular PE activities is extensive and there are strong links with local clubs and a full programme of competitive fixtures. Year 12 students are offered the opportunity to take the one year Community Sports Leadership Award course and a Citizenship Award.

We also run an extremely successful scheme for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Over 100 students in Year 9 participate in the Bronze Award, and a large number continue at silver and gold levels.

## Rewards

At George Abbot, we know that praise and recognition are essential in developing young people's self-esteem and confidence and House points and commendations are given regularly for excellent progress, high standards and respectful conduct. We are proud to display students' work in our entrance foyers and department areas and acknowledge commitment to, and achievement in, extra-curricular activities by the awarding of school 'colours', Honours Certificates and Honours Ties.

There are separate prize giving ceremonies for each year group which celebrate the success of students during the previous academic year. Our Year 13 graduation ceremony takes place locally at Holy Trinity Church and is an important conclusion to their educational and personal journey through George Abbot School.



# Next Steps

## Equipping students for a bright future

Our Careers Education Programme provides considerable support to all students whether they are applying for a place at university, further education or preparing for the world of work. The programme complements our curriculum and is offered across the school from Years 7-13.

## Sixth Form at George Abbot

The Sixth Form at George Abbot is the largest school sixth form in Surrey and one of the most successful in the country with a strong track record of achieving places for students to study at Oxford and Cambridge. The aim of the George Abbot Sixth Form is to prepare students for the next stage of their lives, to be intellectually curious and to be aspirant in all that they do. The graduation programme allows students to develop their wider academic knowledge and acquire transferable skills, essential to both employment and further academic study. Again, we place high value on interpersonal skills and work hard to ensure young people have high levels of communication skills and have empathy with others.

The Sixth Form at George Abbot has an excellent record of achievement at Advanced Level and in the last inspection, Ofsted graded the Sixth Form as 'Outstanding'; we are confident that we remain so. We have students studying the Extended Project Qualification alongside their A Level subjects and are also offering a range of BTEC provision.

With over 450 students we are able to offer a broad and challenging curriculum. This allows us to offer a wide choice of over 40 subjects at A Level, or equivalent, and combined with the excellent pastoral care and numerous enrichment opportunities available, we believe this makes George Abbot a great place to be a Sixth Former.

Sixth Form students at George Abbot receive daily support from a personal tutor. This forms the basis of our system for monitoring progress throughout Sixth Form studies and allows for the provision of advice and guidance on their future.

We enjoy excellent facilities in our purpose built Sixth Form Centre designed to provide students with a learning environment that inspires them to be their best through working in partnership with teachers, tutors, and parents. We believe that George Abbot School can offer you the very best teaching, the optimum environment, and maximum opportunities available to Sixth Form students.





## **George Abbot School**

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