



School Newsletter: Spring 2018

Academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised.



Dear parents/carers,

The Spring Term is always incredibly busy and this year has been no exception. The snow has been an additional challenge! As ever, the George Abbot staff have shown their commitment and skill, both in classrooms and in a vast array of extra-curricular activity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for all that they do for our students; the strength of our community is a very striking feature of our school.

We have been reviewing our George Abbot mission statement this term; there is a tendency for such statements to be rather long winded, so we have attempted to succinctly capture the essence of what makes our school exceptional:

Academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised.

We hope you feel this is apt.

I am pleased that we have been able to offer some internal promotion opportunities to some of our superb George Abbot staff:

- Mr Clayman joins the Leadership Team on a two term secondment:
- Miss Tighe will step into the Head of PE role during this period.
- Mrs Daniels joins the team of staff engaged in promoting academic excellence across our Sixth Form – again, on a two term secondment alongside her current Head of History role.
- Mr Synge has been appointed as our Attendance Champion and will be working hard to promote the message that being at school matters – a lot!

It is essential to us that we engage all of our students in finding the spark that lights up school life and brings fulfilment and friendships. To that end, and in support of the rich extra-curricular life of the school, your consideration of whether you might be willing to contribute regularly to our school opportunities fund is much appreciated. We will remind you how to do this in SchoolComms.

The achievements of our students continue to leave the staff in awe; their focus, application and potential are extraordinary. This newsletter showcases just some of the highlights this term... The Clandon Park Run, Alice in Wonderland, the Rotary School Concert, RAG Week (raising an astonishing £4,600).

It remains a pride and privilege to work with such wonderful young people.

In partnership,

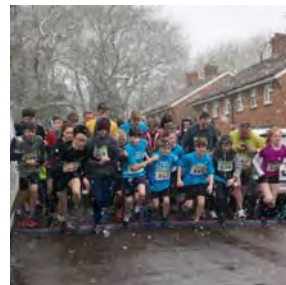
Kate Carriett
Headteacher



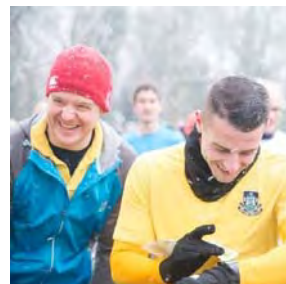
Clandon Park Run

Raising funds for a new Fitness Suite at school...

Special mention must be made of the hardy runners who battled to complete the 10k and 4k runs through Clandon Park in March. Despite the snow, wind, cold and all the mud, an incredible 380 runners attended. The atmosphere at HQ was incredible and the whole event brilliantly organised by our PTA in partnership with sponsors, Kelly's Storage.



The support from parent volunteers, staff and sponsors was much appreciated and together we have raised almost £12,000 which will help fund a new School Fitness Suite. If you would like to join the team which organises this event and play a part - big or small - in 2019 then register your interest now by emailing pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



We will be talking of the Clandon Park Run of 2018 for years to come!

Alice in Wonderland

A magical journey down a rabbit hole - curiouser and curiouser...



Over ninety students took place in this year's whole school production, Alice in Wonderland. Work started back in September with auditions, followed by rehearsals taking place during lunchtimes and after school. From Y7 to Y13, the students worked incredibly hard whether on their performances or their backstage roles. The participants had a wonderful time and those of you who saw the show will agree that the hard work paid off and that they delivered a top class performance over all four nights. Congratulations to all the students, staff and volunteers involved!

Sporting Success

A canter through some of the students' achievements this term...



- Our Y8 and Y10 girls won the Surrey County Cup in basketball.
- The U19 netball team is through to the County Cup semi final.
- The U13 girls indoor cricket team came 3rd in the Surrey Championships.
- Our Y8 boys rugby team won the shield competition at the Trinty 7s.
- The Y8 girls basketball team remain unbeaten this season and are Surrey champions.
- The Y9 boys football team have reached the semi final of the county cup.
- A special mention to our Y7 and Y8 girls who have shown remarkable commitment and attitude in their rugby lessons this term.

Coming up...

Click here to see the full school calendar on our website...



PTA Quiz Night

20 April 2018 - Raynham Hall - £15

The Quiz Night, which had to be rescheduled due to the snow, will now take place on Friday 20 April. If you have booked a table but are now unable to attend (or vice versa) please email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



Japanese Evening

4 May 2018 - 7.30pm - Rikkyo School - FREE

Hold the date for this annual event which lasts for around two hours and includes a Kendo demonstration and tea ceremony as well as the chance to try origami and calligraphy. More information will be circulated nearer the time.



Heritage Open Day

15 September 2018 - 2pm - George Abbot School - FREE

Join us for the chance to browse old photos, press cuttings and year books; to discover the history of the area and the school with local expert Moira MacQuaide and to enjoy refreshments in our pop up café. The event is free but we will be accepting donations towards extra curricular activities for the 80 young carers at school. Book your place by visiting https://hod_georgeabbot.eventbrite.co.uk.



Call for Volunteers - Communications

Summer Term

We are looking for parents/ carers with communications expertise to work with us. If you have some free time and would like to help us communicate with parents/carers and external audiences then please get in touch with Jane Friend (01483 888000 or jfriend@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

Spring Term Highlights



Onslow Lecture

Hundreds of students, staff, parents and members of the local community packed the hall at George Abbot School on 20 February for a reading by Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. Pictured here with Lara, one of our Y13 students.



George Abbot Big Band

Our very own Big Band performed as part of the Guildford Spring Music Festival on 17 March at Holy Trinity Church. Playing a set of classic big band music, the talented young musicians put on a fantastic show!



New Faces at the PTA

Welcome to new Chair (Sean); Vice Chair (Giles) and Secretary (Rahim) who join a range of new and familiar faces! We are also seeking a new Treasurer from October so get in touch if you would like to get involved.



Cyber Discovery

This government-led programme aims to identify the next generation of security experts. Many congratulations to Sam Page; Peter Denton; Perry Lewis; Mini Hasan and Ben Kinchin who are through to the next round.



Problem Solving

We were delighted to host the second heat of the Surrey SATRO problem solving competition at the school - particularly as both our KS3 and KS4 teams reached the final, with KS3 coming second overall! A fantastic job.



Game Changers

A group of Food Technology students rustled up a range of tasty pheasant dishes thanks to a donation from local company, Taste of Game, who partner with schools to introduce them to new specialist skills.



Olympic Assembly

We were inspired by a whole school assembly delivered by ex-Olympian, Jo Mersh. She talked about how set backs may be inevitable but that our success is determined by how we react to and learn from these obstacles.



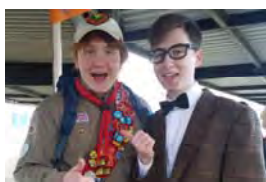
Interview Day

The Y10 Interview Day this month was a resounding success. Staff, volunteers and local business representatives felt an enormous sense of pride in the students, who performed admirably in their mock interviews.



Senior Maths Challenge

Well done to the senior maths challenge team who reached the national final, coming 25th out of over 85 teams. Excellent work by John Denton; Suzie Lewin; George Mears and Jessica Winterourne.



RAG Week

Y12 ran our annual RAG (Raising And Giving) Week in



Young carers

We were delighted to receive a Young Carers in Schools



Rotary Schools Concert

An impressive turnout from the Music Department for this

February to raise money for St John Ambulance, Unicef and Cancer Research UK. Lots of exciting events and delicious treats led to a fantastic total of £4,547.09.

Bronze Award acknowledging the work we do to ensure that young people do not miss out on an education as a result of their carer role. Do contact the school to find out more.

annual concert at GLive. Well done to all involved whose talent has helped secure additional funding for the music department through ticket sales.

With best wishes to you all for a relaxing Easter break from the team at George Abbot School.



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