



**George Abbot School**

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Sixth Form Prospectus

# Welcome

**George Abbot is a large, highly successful, state secondary school, with a flourishing and vibrant sixth form provision.**

George Abbot Sixth Form is an exceptional place to learn and study. The environment is vibrant and aspirational and our students are a privilege to work with. The breadth of subjects on offer is extensive and enables significant opportunity for academic and personal success. Our teachers offer challenge balanced with expert support as you develop your ability to be a truly successful independent learner.

We have a strong culture of trust and respect and personal relationships at the school are purposeful and productive. This is a great community; I encourage you to embrace the opportunity and realise your potential at George Abbot School - #thinkbig



**Kate Carriett**  
Headteacher

At George Abbot School we are proud to have a Sixth Form which excels in academic performance and provision, while providing high quality pastoral care and a wide range of opportunities for enrichment. We are the largest school based Sixth Form in Guildford and pride ourselves on delivering a broad and challenging curriculum. We offer a wide choice of over 40 subjects at A level & BTEC, GCSE re-take options and additional enrichment courses to enable the creation of a learning pathway that is suited to each individual student's needs and aspirations. In addition to studying your chosen A level subjects, you will follow our graduation programme. This programme allows students to develop their wider academic knowledge and acquire transferable skills essential to both employment and further academic study. You will leave the Sixth Form at George Abbot fully equipped to commence with your chosen future career pathway.

We have a long tradition of providing excellent guidance and support that enable students to take the next step to highly competitive and well-regarded universities, as well as top level companies providing apprenticeships. We encourage students to 'think big' and believe that anything is possible with hard work and determination. We encourage them to follow in the footsteps of our extensive and successful alumni community, who play a significant role in providing key role models for our students.

We have excellent facilities, including our purpose built Sixth Form Centre, designed to provide you with the learning environment that will allow you to strive to achieve your best. We expect you to be motivated and driven to succeed in your studies, but we also want you to enjoy yourself during the two years you spend with us. We look forward to working with you to help you achieve your potential and realise your aspirations. We believe that George Abbot Sixth Form is the place to make this happen!



**Mr T. Robinson**  
Director of Sixth Form

# Why choose George Abbot?

**An outstanding Sixth Form with an excellent record of achievement.**

**13% A\* grades** at A level

**35% A\* - A grades** at A level

**99% pass rate** in all subjects

**Average grade of Distinction** in Vocational **BTEC** subjects.

Average of **14 students** per **teaching group**

**46 students** have secured places at **Oxford** and **Cambridge** since 2012.

**83%** of our students will proceed to **higher education.**

**90%** of students attend their **first choice** of university

**Over half** of our students going onto higher education will study at a university that is part of the **Complete University Guide Top 30** or **Russell Group.**

One of the **Top 20 Academy Sixth Forms** (Oxford Analytics 2013 Report.)

**Purpose built** specialist 6th Form accommodation with **common room** and **café.**

2 large **private study spaces** and 8 **designated sixth form classrooms**

**Ofsted** grading for 6th Form of '**Outstanding**'

Unique **opportunity to study 4 subjects** to give flexibility and breadth to a student's curriculum

Unique **Graduation Programme** which encourages students to develop employability skills and contribution to the whole school community

**Work experience opportunity** for all students

**Sports Facilities** including flood lit astro-turf, brand new fitness suite and use of Surrey Cricket Centre

State of the art **Recording Studio** and **Mac Suite** for Music

Two **Drama Studios, Dance Studio** and **Staging area.**



# Ethos

## Academic excellence within a strong community.

The Sixth Form at George Abbot sets the standard for the rest of the school and reflects our whole school mission of academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised. Irrespective of whether our students join us in Year 12 or whether the Sixth Form represents the end of a seven-year journey through the school, we believe that enabling them to reach their full potential is at the heart of what we do.

# Think Big

We firmly believe in encouraging students to 'think big' and believe that anything is possible with hard work and determination. This message relates to their academic achievement and future career pathway, but also to developing themselves to be a valuable citizen within the school community and beyond.

The 'think big' concept was brought to life by our sixth formers who took the creative lead on the campaign. They were mentored by an industry professional who spent a day working alongside them as they set up and photographed a range of scenes around the school, capturing their unique insight into the story of George Abbot.

# Our Courses

Delivering breadth of opportunity to an exceptional standard.

## Advanced Level Courses (Level 3)

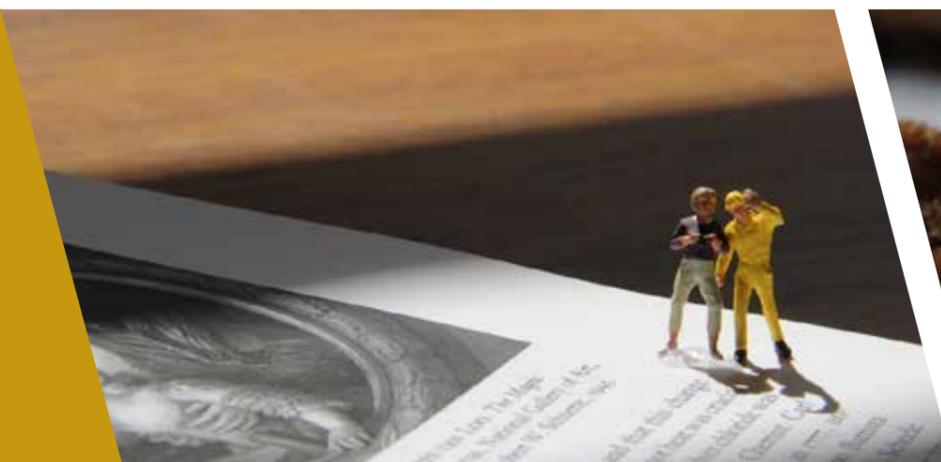
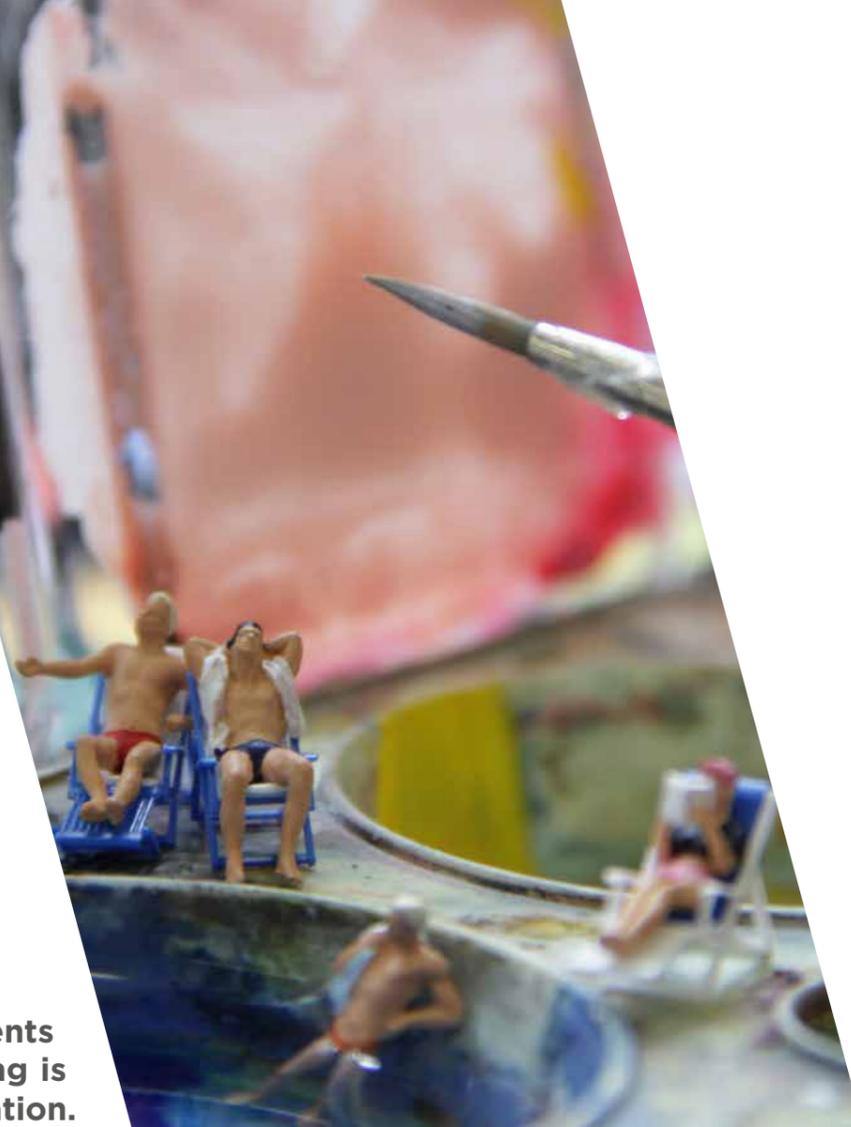
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|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Art                | Biology             | Business              |
| Chemistry          | Computer Science    | Dance                 |
| Economics          | Engineering         | English Language      |
| English Literature | French              | Further Maths         |
| Geography          | German              | Government & Politics |
| Graphics           | History             | Law                   |
| Mathematics        | Media Studies       | Music                 |
| PE                 | Philosophy & Ethics | Photography           |
| Physics            | Product Design      | Psychology            |
| Sociology          | Spanish             | Textiles              |
| Theatre Arts       |                     |                       |

## Vocational Courses (Level 3)

- |               |                        |                         |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| BTEC Business | BTEC Child Development | BTEC Food and Nutrition |
| BTEC IT       | BTEC Performing Arts   | BTEC Science            |
| BTEC Sport    |                        |                         |

## GCSE Retake Options

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| GCSE Maths | GCSE English |
|------------|--------------|



# Your Curriculum

## A programme of study tailored to each student.

Your GCSE results provide us with a good indication of an appropriate level of study for Sixth Form. We require a minimum of 4 GCSE's at A\*-C or 9-4 for you to enter George Abbot Sixth Form. Below is a table that provides guidance on the type of study programme that would be best suited to you.

Pathway	Level of Attainment	Suggested Number of Subjects studied	Further information
Pathway 4	<i>Students with a very high level of attainment at GCSE. (Nearly all GCSE grades at 6-9 or B or above)</i>	Year 12 4 A level subjects	This table is for guidance only to direct students towards a recommended combination of subjects. Each subject will have a specific GCSE entry requirement that will also help students choose the courses that they are going to study.  For further details on subject specific entry requirements, please see the 'Subject Guide' which can be found on the school website.  Students should examine this document carefully to ensure they are fully aware of the demands of the course, the mode of assessment, course content and future career pathways.  If you require further advice and guidance regarding course selection then we have an experienced Sixth Form team that can help to guide you. Please feel free to contact us at the school to set up an appointment.
		Year 13 3 or 4 A level subjects	
Pathway 3	<i>Students with a high level of attainment at GCSE. (7 to 8 GCSE passes at 5 or B and above)</i>	Year 12 4 A level subjects	
		Year 13 3 A level subjects	
Pathway 2	<i>Students with a standard level of attainment at GCSE. (5 to 6 GCSE passes at 4-6 or C and above)</i>	Year 12 3 or 4 subjects (BTEC's and A levels)	
		Year 13 3 or 4 subjects (BTEC's and A levels)	
Pathway 1	Students with a foundation level of attainment at GCSE. (4 to 5 GCSE passes at Grade 4-5 or C and above)	Year 12 3 subjects (2 BTEC's and 1 A level)	
		Year 13 3 subjects (2 BTEC's and 1 A level)	

# Enrichment

## Preparing our young people for life.

George Abbot Sixth Form is passionate about providing students with a wide range of experiences and skills to complement their academic journey. We know that this is also valued highly in further education and improves our students' employability. As well as being offered a range of enrichment opportunities within academic curriculum time, we have also developed a programme which is offered across the Sixth Form.

Enrichment Option	Information
Compulsory Enrichment	<b>Feature Lecture Programme</b> A range of lectures and seminars designed to broaden students' knowledge in a number of areas including study skills, time management, revision techniques and various topical, social and cultural issues.
	<b>Work Experience Week</b> Students engage in a week of work experience in the Summer Term of Year 12.
	<b>Higher Education Conference</b> Students attend an event designed to give them the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives from over 160 higher education institutions and gap year providers from all over the UK. In addition to this there will be generic presentations on key areas, such as applying to university and student finance.
	<b>Next Steps Week</b> Students engage in a week of planning and preparation for post school options.
Academic Skills	<b>Advanced Study Skills</b> A school designed course that teaches skills rather than content. It develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas. It is excellent preparation for students wishing to progress onto Higher Education.
	<b>Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)</b> The extended project is a single piece of work focused on an area of academic interest requiring a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working. It is recognised by Universities as excellent preparation for writing a dissertation and therefore some Universities will reduce the grades required for entry if students have completed this qualification. <b>Students must also complete the Advanced Study Skills &amp; Critical Analysis course if wishing to complete the EPQ.</b>
Academic Support	<b>Study Skills</b> A school designed course that teaches the key skills required to be a successful sixth form student in subjects which has high literacy demands or significant elements of extended writing.
	<b>Core Maths</b> A course designed to support students who want to study Maths related subjects but are not able to meet the requirements of A level Maths. This course is the equivalent of an AS qualification.
Practical Options	<b>Sports Leaders Award</b> Provides additional skills and experience for those wanting to deliver sport. The course also includes a detailed understanding and delivery of sports leadership, leading sessions to improve fitness and experience of planning and delivering a sporting event. Please note this option does involve an application process.
	<b>Duke of Edinburgh Award</b> Duke of Edinburgh awards are the leading youth achievement award in the country. The awards allow students to push personal boundaries, gain new skills and enhance their CVs and university applications. We offer the opportunity to work towards the achievement of the Silver and Gold awards in the Sixth Form. Please note this option does involve an application process.
Additional Options	<b>Peer Mentoring</b> Supporting students in younger year groups with emotional, social or behavioural issues. Please note this option requires an application process and training.
	<b>Peer Tutoring</b> Where students are paid to support younger students in English or Maths skills. Please note this option requires an application process and training.
	<b>Supporting extra-curricular clubs, events or in lessons</b> Students can support and engage in a range of after-school clubs / events in a subject of their choice or gain valuable employability skills working with younger students in the classroom in a range of different subjects.

This programme is kept constantly under review to ensure that it remains fresh and relevant and provides the best possible experience for students. The table above illustrates the types of enrichment opportunities currently available to students. They are expected to complete the compulsory element of the programme plus a minimum of one other option.



# Support & Development

Promoting well-being and personal growth.

## Pastoral Care

High quality pastoral care is at the heart of what we do at George Abbot. The Sixth Form's Pastoral Team oversee the academic and pastoral progress of every student and offer additional leadership to the team of Personal Tutors. Each year group has its own dedicated Head of Year who has responsibility for the welfare and safety of each student. Students with more complex pastoral needs are additionally supported by our Youth Workers and Counselling team, and SEND team.

## Personal Tutors

Each student will be assigned a Personal Tutor. The primary role of the tutor is to build positive relationships and they are the students' first point of contact for their welfare and progress. They also play an important role in guiding students towards their next steps beyond the Sixth Form and playing a crucial role in providing insightful references through their close relationship with the students. Students will have morning whole group tutorial sessions with their tutor as well as regular one to one meetings to set targets and monitor progress and well-being.

## Student Leadership

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 and monitor our school. We have a variety of opportunities within the Sixth Form through which students can play a leading role in gathering Student Voice and shaping our community. We have a Student Leadership Team in both Year 12 and 13 that includes Head Students, Student Representatives, House Representatives for the different houses in our house system and also Subject Representatives. Students in these roles actively engage in organising and supporting a huge number of key events and initiatives in the Sixth Form to continue to improve the experience we offer.

## Financial Support

George Abbot students have the opportunity to be guided by us through the application for the 16-19 bursary scheme. Students can gain support, through this scheme, for travel, food costs and also to assist with one off costs for educational activities and expenses. A designated member of the Sixth Form team is responsible for monitoring students who meet the criteria throughout their time here to offer support and guidance.



# Next steps

Equipping our students for a bright future.

## Careers Education Information & Guidance ('CEIG')

CEIG is a partnership between students, their parents or carers and the school. CEIG supports students on their journey whether they are preparing for further or higher education, apprenticeships, training or employment.

## Specialist Team of Staff

We are fortunate to have 4 additional members of staff within the Sixth Form team whose role is focussed on providing outstanding support and guidance for students. This includes a higher education advisor, an alternative pathways and work related learning coordinator, lead for academic excellence and a student development manager.

## Specialist Support for Oxbridge students

We have an excellent track record in preparing students to study at Oxford or Cambridge. We offer a programme of support that includes a visit to Oxbridge Conference at Epsom Racecourse, STEP qualification preparation for Maths, mock interviews, alumni visits, specialist admissions tests and supported applications to Summer Schools. This is in addition to the challenge and enrichment from within each academic subject.

## Higher Education and Alternative Pathways Guidance

Students receive a variety of talks and seminars throughout the year giving guidance on higher education routes and other pathways such as GAP years, apprenticeships and employment. They also have the opportunity to book appointments throughout the year with our higher education advisor or external careers advisor to help support their decisions. They attend the UCAS Higher Education conference and Apprenticeship Roadshow in March and also have the opportunity to engage in a week-long Next Steps event. The week includes a visit to a choice of Universities, workshops on UCAS applications and personal statements, student finance and apprenticeships. This event also includes the opportunity to select and attend a variety of seminars led by over 30 different George Abbot Alumni who have gone on to achieve great success in a wide variety of areas. In these seminars, they will share that valuable hands-on experience directly with our students.

## Work Related Learning

All students are encouraged to engage in a week-long work experience in the Summer Term of Year 12. Students will be guided by our own work experience coordinator to get the best possible work related learning. We believe this is a crucial part of preparing students for next steps alongside providing extremely valuable evidence for a university or employment application.



### The George Abbot Graduation Programme

Every year we hold a Year 13 graduation ceremony that takes place locally at Holy Trinity Church and is an important conclusion to our sixth formers' educational and personal journey through George Abbot School. Here we recognise not only their academic achievement but also the transferable skills they have acquired and evidenced during their time with us plus their contributions to the school and wider community. Students receive a graduation certificate and portfolio which is an important output of their time with us and which can also be presented to potential employers or university admission tutors.





## George Abbot School

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