This half term has gone by in a blur of activity and endeavour. It has been a highly successful first 1/6 of the year. Unusually, I got rather cross this week when reading the school rating exercise undertaken by a local media source. It is against my principles to engage with online speculation, but this particular piece of reporting needs a context. The rating criteria used by the author for school performance is unlike that used by any educator. One of the good things to come out of government policy over recent years, was the rating of schools according to the Progress 8 score. This measures schools according to the progress they enable every child to make in relation to their starting point on entry to secondary education. It does not measure the school according to the academic aptitude of its students. George Abbot School is very proud to be a community comprehensive school, providing the best education we can for our local area. We do not select students by any characteristic such as faith or academic ability.

In this context, we are equally proud of our rising Progress 8 score – it has gone up every year since 2015. This year, P8 scores have not yet been officially released, but we hope to be in the top 10% of schools in the country and already know we will be significantly above a number of the schools listed as above us in the recent media piece.

I will say no more, except to say, we are not complacent and better certainly never stops at George Abbot. We strive every day, to be the very best place of learning for every child we are privileged to educate.

Whilst I am exercising this rather unusually forthright tone, I wonder if I could seek your assistance with the world of WhatsApp. It has been drawn to our attention that some large student groups on WhatsApp have contained some offensive and inappropriate language. Some of what is being said is unacceptable and is creating disputes and discord at school. The recommended age for WhatsApp is 16. Please can I ask you to actively discourage your child from engaging in online chat that causes offense, alienates others or uses entirely inappropriate language. Our community is damaged immeasurably by thoughtless and at times, deliberately unkind comments in the world of social media. Whilst we have raised this issue in assemblies and have asked students to delete themselves from this and other similar platforms, we do hope that parents will take up the lead role in monitoring their child's use of social media and monitoring the messages that they are sending.

I do so hope that I can count on your support.

Until next week, when I undertake to round off the half term less stridently!

Mrs Kate Carriett
Headteacher
The Week Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21 October</td>
<td>Exams: Yr11 Food &amp; Nutrition NEA1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 October</td>
<td>Exams: GCSE Drama – Devised Performances</td>
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<td>House Assemblies</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23</td>
<td>Exams: Yr11 Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition NEA1</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Exams: GCSE Drama – Devised Performances</td>
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<td>Thursday 24</td>
<td>Yr11 Graphics Trip to London Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Exams: GCSE Drama – Devised Performances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October</td>
<td>INSET Day – School closed to students. Students return Tuesday 5 November.</td>
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Please visit [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events) for full calendar of events.

News Round Up

**Year group notices**
Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12, Y13, whole school

**Focus on**

**Sports round up**

**PTA**
Year Group Notices

Y7  Subject: School Photographs

On behalf of Tempest Photography, please see the following message:

The closing date for FREE postage and delivery for parents is fast approaching for online orders. If you have already placed an order for photographs thank you, if not or if you wish to order more photographs, simply enter your image reference number and website access code (found on your original order form) at www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Many Thanks
Tempest Photography

Y8  No messages this week

Y9  Please see Yr 7 message - Subject: School Photographs

Y10  Subject: Year 10 RE Mock Exam

Students in Year 10 will sit their GCSE RE mock on 21 January 2020 from registration until period 2. Students will be required to go directly to their exam venues and not to their form for registration. Registration will take place in the exam venues.

The mock exam will last 1hr 45mins. Students not entitled to extra time should then go straight to their P2 timetabled lesson following their dismissal from exam venues. Students who are entitled to extra time will finish close to break and will resume their normal timetable from P3.

Students will be examined on the following four units:
- Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings
- Christianity: Practices
- Buddhism: Practices
- Relationships and families (students may be starting this topic after half term)

Revision resources, workbooks and checklists are all available on Show My Homework. Please do encourage students to start revising early – there are plenty of revision activities on Show My Homework.

There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest:
- My Revision Notes AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A Paperback – 25 Aug 2017 by Lesley Parry (Author), Jan Hayes (Author)
- AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming (Author)
- Please note, the CGP RE revision guide does not cover Buddhism

Student mock examination timetables will be issued in due course which will detail the date, time and venue for their exams.
The University of Surrey would like to invite students from Years 11 to 13 with an interest in science and maths (to whom engineering could be rewarding career direction) to an exciting event “Celebrating women in engineering at the University of Surrey” on 13 November 2019 at the University of Surrey. The event is timed to coincide with the centenary of the Women’s Engineering Society (www.wes.org.uk) of which the University is an educational partner.

The first part, probably the most relevant to students, is a post-school afternoon session running from 4pm to 6pm with talks by a total of 12 speakers, ranging from final year undergraduates who have spent a year in industry as part of their engineering course, through young researchers, to alumnae (under 30) from industry. The speakers will also span engineering disciplines from biomedical engineering, through civil, electronic, chemical and mechanical engineering to aerospace. We feel this event offers your students an unprecedented opportunity to be exposed to the great diversity of engineering courses and careers within a short space of time, and to be inspired by many young role models to whom they can easily relate.

This will be followed, from 6pm – 7pm, by a poster session from early careers researchers whose posters will aim to present their research in a way accessible to a diverse audience. There will also be information stands including from the University about courses and widening participation activities, and the University’s Women in Engineering group. You may want to spend a little time at this following the afternoon session.

The final session from 7pm to approximately 8.20pm will consist of four presentations from women with outstanding industrial and academic careers to date, both very senior and earlier in their careers. A panel question and answer session addressing the issues of women in engineering and the role men need to play in addressing those issues will follow.

The event will be held in the Rik Medlik Building at the University of Surrey.

Booking is via the website: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-women-in-engineering-at-the-university-of-surrey-tickets-75134749057

More info: https://www.surrey.ac.uk/events/20191113-celebrating-women-engineering-university-surrey

If you have any queries, please contact: study@surrey.ac.uk

We hope that you will welcome this opportunity and that we will see you on campus for this event. Parents are welcome too.

Please note, this has not been organised by George Abbot.
Subject: A reminder of the following forthcoming dates for INSET days and Half Term

INSET Day: Friday 25 October (school closed for students)
Half Term: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November
INSET Day: Monday 4 November (school closed for students)

Subject: Careers Department

Get into… STEM evening
on
Tuesday 19 November
from
6:30pm – 8:30pm
in
Raynham Hall

George Abbot Careers, supported by Guildford Lions Club, are proud to announce their third careers event in the ‘Get into…’ series, which is open to all George Abbot School students and parents.

This event is aimed at students and their parents who have an interest in Technology, Engineering and Maths. Come along and find out how these subjects are useful for careers in cyber security, gaming, IT network support, space technology, programming, web development and marketing, engineering, air traffic control and so on.

We will have guests from a variety of different companies keen to talk to you about the work they do, the careers they offer and the routes into these careers. The evening will begin with a short talk from a representative from each company. Following this, there is then an opportunity for you to talk to them at your leisure.

To find out more, please book a ticket via Eventbrite [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-into-tem-tickets-77081624213](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-into-tem-tickets-77081624213) and come along to investigate brilliant future career opportunities. Please see the attached poster.

Subject: Consultation on admission arrangements for Surrey’s community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021

Surrey County Council is consulting on proposed changes to admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2021.

Full details of the consultation and the changes being proposed are available at [Surrey Says](http://www.surreysays.co.uk).

Why we are consulting

We have a statutory duty to consult on admission arrangements if we intend to make a change. The changes being proposed are as follows:
1. **All community and voluntary controlled schools** - priority for children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

2. **Worplesdon Primary School** – reduction in published admission number for Reception from 60 to 57

3. **Schools to be included in the assessment of nearest school** – in line with Surrey’s policy, the removal of eight schools from the list of schools that will be excluded when assessing each child’s nearest school (St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Guildford; St Anne’s Catholic Primary School – Reigate & Banstead; St Francis Catholic Primary School – Tandridge; St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School – Waverley; St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School – Waverley; St Polycarp’s Catholic Primary School – Waverley; Charters School – Windsor & Maidenhead; The Wavell School - Hampshire) and which will therefore be included in the nearest school assessment

**How can I respond to the consultation?**

The consultation on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the proposed changes will run from Friday 11 October 2019 to Friday 22 November 2019. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form at [Surrey Says](https://www.surreysays.co.uk). Alternatively if you would prefer to respond on a paper form, please telephone the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004 to request a copy. Please note that only response forms which are fully completed with the respondent’s name and address will be accepted.

**What happens next?**

After the closing date, responses will be collated and presented to the County Council’s decision making Cabinet on 28 January 2020. It will decide whether to proceed with the proposed changes as well as determining the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for which no changes are proposed. Cabinet’s decision will then need to be ratified by the full County Council on 4 February 2020. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 will be placed on Surrey’s website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

**Subject: Guildford Community Lottery**

Did you know, Guildford Community Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Guildford. George Abbot Opportunities Fund is one of these good causes. If you buy tickets and select us as your selected charity we will be awarded 50p out of each £1 ticket price.

Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week with a top prize of £25,000 which is better odds than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery. The draw takes place every Saturday night.

If you would like to participate in the Guildford Lottery, please follow this link. You will need to select us as your chosen beneficiary. Please see the attached flyer. Good luck!

[https://www.guildfordlottery.org/support/george-abbot-school-opportunities-fund](https://www.guildfordlottery.org/support/george-abbot-school-opportunities-fund)
Subject: Parent Power Comparison Tool

The Parent Power comparison tool allows parents to look at getting the best prices from all the UK energy providers for their home supply of gas and electricity, just like any other comparison site. Switching is easy and for every successful switch on parent power, the school will benefit financially.
Focus on: Senior Prizegiving

Shining the spotlight on a different area of the school each week...

Last Tuesday evening, students, parents and staff enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating students achievements at our annual Prizegiving event. A special thank you to Daniel Warrington, who delivered a fantastic key note presentation on climate change, as our guest speaker, which thoroughly inspired our students. Huge congratulations to every student that received a prize at the event and a big thank you to those parents who attended.

Focus on: Biology Week 2019

As part of Biology Week 2019 George Abbot Biology department celebrated Physiology Friday at the University of Surrey. In partnership with The Physiology Society and the School of Biosciences and Medicine, sixteen Y12 and Y13 students attended a day dedicated to exploring the study of Physiology. Students participated in:

- Applied nutrition lecture
- Speed, power and strength testing in the Physiology Laboratory
- Muscle anatomy and physiology lecture

A great day was had by all and students enjoyed the opportunity to get an insight into the study of Physiology and life at University.
Focus on: House Update

The first house assembly takes place during form time on Tuesday 22 October. The respective Head of House will be leading the assembly, giving a recap of last year’s achievements and updating students on upcoming house competitions.

Due to the assembly, **HOUSE SHIRTS ARE PERMITTED TO BE WORN ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER**.

Heads of House
- Mr Rodgers - FALCON
- Miss Evans-Dix - GRYPHON
- Miss Mcmahon - MARTLET
- Mr Clayman - PHOENIX
- Mr Rowland - WYVERN

Sports Round Up

Sharing the sporting success of our students

As we come to the end of the half term, students will be informed of what activities they will be studying next. The weather is likely to worsen, please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit for their next activity. George Abbot hoodies, tracksuit bottoms and waterproof tops are available from the school shop and may be worn in their PE lesson. A reminder that girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 are able to wear blue George Abbot leggings underneath their school skort.

Student Achievements Outside of School

*Megan - Triathlon*
Megan recently competed in the South East England Regional Triathlon. She competed as a member of Phoenix Triathlon Club and performed brilliantly. Megan now has a second place ranking across the whole of South East England. A great achievement. In her 'spare' time, Megan represents Guildfordians Rugby Club and has gone on to play for Surrey. She also has been using her outstanding knowledge and leadership skills to run the Year 7 and 8 girls Rugby Club. Well done!

Fixtures Highlights

Year 10 and 11 Netball - both teams had matches against local rivals, St Peter’s. The girls came out on top with big victories in both matches.

Year 7 girls Football - The Year 7 girls were successful into their first match in the Surrey Cup. A wonderful performance from all ensured a comfortable 3-0 win against Raynes Park. Mr Downs’ girls are looking in good shape to go further in the competition.

Year 7 boys Football - This talented team travelled to Glenthorne, Sutton to compete in the National Cup. The boys were excellent throughout and came back to Guildford with a 5-0 win in the bag!

Year 10 boys Rugby - Unfortunately, the Year 10 boys were defeated in the National Cup by a very strong Gordon’s side. The final score being 26-17. Despite the result, the game was still a success. The boys
were superb throughout and represented Gabbot admirably. So much so, that the referee sent an email to the PE department and Mrs Carriett to praise the boys’ effort, commitment and level of respect. Well done, team!

Mr Rodgers
Head of PE

George Abbot PTA

Thank you very much to everyone who came to the quiz last Friday. It was a fabulous evening. With your participation and involvement, we raised just over £2,600. Thank you very much.

Many congratulations to the winning team Magic Mushrooms
Thank you to The Rajdoot for the delicious meal, to Mr Omar, for providing great entertainment and keeping us all on our toes. Many thanks also to our quiz writers, Mayra Spring, Richard Blundell, Gary Whittaker and Phil Grainger and to Shelley Grainger who not only helped on the night but also coordinated the crisp round which by all accounts was no “Walkers” in the park.

**Next PTA Meeting, Thursday 7 November 7pm in the Elsmie Library**

Everyone is welcome, please do come along, for a glass of wine and a chat, it would be great to see you there. Get involved and make a difference!

**George Abbot Christmas Fair, Saturday 23 November 1 - 5pm**

With just over 5 weeks to go until the Christmas Fair, plans are very much afoot and we would really appreciate your help.

The Raffle is a key part of the fair and we need a volunteer to lead a team to coordinate and collect the donations, man the stall on the day and organise delivery or collection of the prizes after the fair. Please get in touch if you can help – email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

If you are able to donate a raffle prize, please email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Many thanks to those of you who have already come forward to volunteer your time, your names are on the list and you will be contacted again shortly with more details.

If you would like to become more involved in the coordination of the fair or would like to help on the day, please contact pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Please don’t be shy, there are plenty of jobs and it is great to get involved, we only ask for one or two hours of your time. This is a lovely community event and a great chance to meet up with other families, do some Christmas shopping whilst raising money for a very good cause (the best cause – enriching your children’s lives). Helping us to achieve this is also really rewarding and good fun.

The stalls where volunteers are needed are:
Raffle
Two tombolas
Café
Mulled wine
Silent auction
Cakes
Second hand uniform
Second hand books

We will also need help with:
- Collating and storing donations on the mufti day the week prior to the fair (November 15th)
- Ticketing tombola items
- Decorating and setting up the hall the day before
- Clearing up the hall after the fair has finished

As we draw closer to Christmas, please may we remind you of Easyfundraising. It is so easy to use and if you shop online it is most likely that the website you are purchasing from is involved in the Easyfundraising scheme. You can download the Easyfundraising reminder app and every time you go to purchase from a website involved in the scheme, a reminder will pop-up, for you to click on, to ensure you purchase through the Easyfundraising website. Please click here to sign up. It really is an easy way to fundraise.

Kellys Clandon Park Run, Saturday 28 March 2020

This is a hugely popular annual run in Guildford and Lord Onslow has very kindly opened up part of his estate exclusively for our runners. It is a morning event with teachers and pupils taking part alongside hundreds of others from the local community. Bring the whole family along to cheer you on. There will be plenty of fun to be had by all. The event will start and finish at George Abbot School, with a route heading out on the road straight into Clandon Park with its stunning fields and lakes. Please click on the following link for further details and to enter the event: KELLYS CLANDON PARK RUN, SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2020.

All money raised will go to George Abbot School.

If you would like to become involved with the coordination of the run, volunteer on the day, or contribute to the cost of staging the run please contact Gaby Sutton on pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

We are always on the look-out for volunteers for this event as it is our main fundraiser and there is still potential for raising even more than we have in previous years.

Please get involved and help make a difference.

Classlist
This is an online community that connects parents within the school.
We would also like to use Classlist to contact all parents and carers so please can everyone sign up. Click HERE to create an account and don’t forget you can download the App too.

With many thanks for your support,
George Abbot Parents

Follow us on Facebook: http://facebook.com/georgeabbotparents/
Email the PTA: PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
To sign up for the Sainsbury’s scheme and more information on the PTA at: www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/
Sign up for EasyFundraising: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/georgeabbotschool