

# George Abbot Bulletin

...the weekly round-up and preview for GAS parents and carers

## Headteacher's Message

02 October 2020

All

Thank you so much for your positive feedback through our series of Parent Information Evenings. I thought it would be helpful to include answers to some of the frequently asked questions herein:

### Q. Why are we moving back to blazers after half term?

Government advice suggested full uniform should be possible from September. We decided to extend our summer uniform until October half term. After half term, students will still attend school in their PE/Dance kit several days a week, hopefully giving time for washing of blazer in between. The blazer washes well and dries quickly.

### Q. What happens with catch up if my child misses school due to illness or waiting for a COVID test?

Lessons are put on the [Student Learning Environment \(SLE\)](#) daily so that students can catch up independently. This will also be helpful to support homework completion.

### Q. Will there be live teaching by Zoom if a year group goes into lockdown?

Yes, teachers will teach live lessons by Zoom from their classrooms at the usual lesson time.

### Q. Is there currently time for students to eat during the shorter breaks?

Yes, queues have moved through really quickly and students have still had time for fresh air and eating.

### Q. Have any children or staff tested positive for COVID-19?

No, should we get a case, letters will be sent to all parents to inform you.

Next week, we will be practising our lockdown drill. This will be happening on Tuesday morning. Below are the principles of how we respond which you may want to talk through with your child, particularly if you know this might make them anxious, or they are new to the school—either in Year 7 or an older year group.

You will know that equality and appreciation of difference are fundamental values at George Abbot and we are proud that our students know and often articulate how much we value every one of them for the individual that they are. Linked to this school value, I wanted to draw your attention to the national October, Black History Month. A number of subject areas will be delivering whole or part lessons to support Black History Month. The theme for this year is 'Dig Deeper, Look Closer, Think Bigger'.

# B:IM2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Lessons will explore the lives and works of artists, scientists, writers, singers and playwrights, amongst others, to develop our community's awareness and knowledge of black history in Britain. There will also be an assembly from the History Department on the Bristol Bus Boycotts; a poignant reminder of the civil rights battles that were fought in this country. Hopefully, this will be something that might elicit a conversation in the car or over a meal at home.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher

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# Lockdown Drill Information

## On sounding of lockdown alarm when breaktime

**Alarm Sound: intermittent ringing of school bell**

1. Duty staff supervise students as they enter building and move to allocated classroom/safety zone (see below).
2. Staff move to nearest classroom & help manage classroom.
3. Classrooms should be filled to a sensible limit and not include mixed year groups.
4. A member of staff will be present in each space with students.
5. If students are in the toilet, they must go straight to their lockdown area – the only exception is Year 8 – they must go to the Year 8 Pastoral Staff Offices.
  - Year 7 canteen queue will be moved to Wilson.
  - Year 8 canteen queue will be moved to classrooms on the 1st and 2nd floor up the main humanities staircase.
  - Year 9 canteen queue will be moved to Science classrooms.
  - Year 10 canteen queue will be moved to the Maths classrooms.
  - Year 11 canteen queue will be moved to MFL classrooms.

### Safety Zones: Break/Wet Weather

Year Group	Dry Break Location	Dry Break Lockdown Location	Wet Break Location	Wet Break Lockdown Location
Year 7	Year 7 playground	Gyms	Wilson	Wilson
Year 8	PA playground	PA Rooms and Dance Block	Gym 1/2	Gym 1/2
Year 9	Year 9 playground	Science corridor	Sports Hall	Sports Hall
Year 10	Year 10 playground	Humanities corridor	Elmslie Hall	Move to E0-5 rooms/ Elmslie canteen
Year 11	Year 11 playground	MFL corridor	Raynham Hall	Move to MFL classrooms
Year 12	In front of Moloney	Common Room	Common Room	Common Room
Year 13	Behind PJ building	Atrium/USIC	Atrium	Atrium/USIC

## When in classroom/moved to safe zone at breaktime

**Alarm Sound: intermittent ringing of school bell**

1. Mobile phones on silent – including students' phones.
2. Lock door (leave key in lock).
3. Draw blinds and close windows (during the COVID-19 period drill only, we will leave windows open).
4. Cover glass panels on doors if possible.
5. Teacher records names/ forms of students.
6. Sit on floor, out of sight, silently.
7. Teacher awaits further comms via text or email.
8. Only leave classroom/safe zone upon receipt of all clear message via teacher.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>THIS WEEK</b>	WEEK B—no lesson 2 <b>AUTUMN SERIES: A LEVEL RETAKES</b>
<b>Monday 5 October</b>	Year 10 Maths Test (in lesson time) Year 11 Parent Information Evening
<b>Tuesday 6 October</b>	Year 12 Parent Information Evening
<b>Wednesday 7 October</b>	Year 13 Parent Information Evening

Please visit [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events) for full calendar of events.

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Parent Information Evenings (virtual)	
Year Group	Date and Zoom link:
Year 11	05 October 2020—6.00pm ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9207751882">https://zoom.us/j/9207751882</a> )
Year 12	06 October 2020—6.00pm ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/5397909630">https://zoom.us/j/5397909630</a> )
Year 13	07 October 2020—6.00pm ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/5397909630">https://zoom.us/j/5397909630</a> )

Pre-recorded videos and pre-reading for these evenings is available on our website. Please visit: [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/parent-information-evenings/](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/parent-information-evenings/)

Notices	<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>
<b>Whole School</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Face masks</b> Please ensure you send your child to school with a face mask. It is compulsory to wear one in corridors at all times.</p> <p>Limited budgets mean we cannot provide any more free face masks for students. 50p per mask will be charged on WisePay.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Contact Details</b> You can now update your contact details via the SIMs Parent App. These will then be approved by the admin team.</p> <p>If you still need to get access to the SIMs Parent App, please email <a href="mailto:office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> and we will assist you.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Uniform</b> We will be returning to full school uniform after October half term—shirts, ties, blazers.</p> <p>School uniform is to be worn unless the student has PE/Dance or an after school sports club. PE kit will be required to be worn all day, as the changing rooms will still be closed. School hoodies can still be worn on PE/Dance days.</p> <p><b>Opening hours:</b>  <b>Saturday 3 October:</b> 10.30am-12.30pm  <b>Monday 5 October:</b> 3-5.30pm  <b>Wednesday 7 October:</b> 3-6pm</p> <p>⇒ <b>Canteen/WisePay</b> Please keep an eye on your child's WisePay account if they regularly use the canteen. A number of students recently (especially in Year 7) often have little or no money on their account. Some Year 7s in particular are spending large amounts of money. Parents can limit the amount of money they can spend each day. If you would like to set a limit to your child's account, please email: Student name, Form Group and the daily amount to <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a></p>
<b>Sixth Form</b>	<p>⇒ <b>British Army Band Sandhurst</b> The British Army Band is currently running an online solo competition across Surrey, where the winner will win the chance to feature with Band Sandhurst as a guest soloist in a future concert. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.army.mod.co.uk/music">www.army.mod.co.uk/music</a></p> <p>⇒ <b>University of Law—updated web links</b> Apologies for the links that did not work last week. Please see updated links below. If you have any further issues, please email <a href="mailto:enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a></p>

## Sixth Form

**True Crime: 7 October 4pm – 5pm**

<https://www.law.ac.uk/events/event-booking/?id=9FB8C534-2FF7-EA11-A815-000D3A86D581>

**Personal Statements and CVs: 14 October 4pm – 5pm**

<https://www.law.ac.uk/events/event-booking/?id=D4366AE8-2FF7-EA11-A815-000D3A86D581>

**Case Study: Corporate Social Responsibility: 5 November 4pm – 5pm**

<https://www.law.ac.uk/events/event-booking/?id=45848391-2FF7-EA11-A815-000D3A86D581>

## Year 11

⇒ **Sixth Form Applications**

For more information about the Sixth Form application process for Year 11 students. Please click the following link: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/sixth-form-admissions/>

⇒ **GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Please see letter attached regarding ingredients and revision guides for lessons.

⇒ **University of Law—updated web links**

Apologies for the links that did not work last week. Please see updated links below. If you have any further issues, please email [enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

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⇒ **Virtual Open Days Colleges October and November**

**The Sixth Form at George Abbot – Thursday 5 November 2020 – 6.00pm**

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/sixth-form-admissions/>

**Guildford College – Wednesday 7 October 2020 – 4-8pm & Saturday 14 November 2020 – 9.30am-1.30pm**

<https://www.guildford.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

**Merrist Wood College – Saturday 10 October 2020 – 9.30am-1.30pm & Wednesday 18 November 2020 – 4-8pm**

<https://www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

**Farnham College – Wednesday 14 October 2020 – 4-8pm & Saturday 21 November 2020 9.30am-1.30pm**

<https://www.farnham.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

**Farnborough College – Monday 2 November 2020**

**Details to log in:**

Search for your school session at <https://www.farn-ct.ac.uk/school-leavers/virtual-open-event/>. Once registered you will be issued with a meeting ID and password.

**Brooklands College**

<https://www.brooklands.ac.uk/openevent/>

Copies of prospectuses can be collected from USIC, alternatively follow the college links for more information. [Return to home page](#)

Year 11	<p>⇒ <b>British Army Band Sandhurst</b> The British Army Band is currently running an online solo competition across Surrey, where the winner will win the chance to feature with Band Sandhurst as a guest soloist in a future concert. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.army.mod.co.uk/music">www.army.mod.co.uk/music</a></p>
Year 10	<p>⇒ <b>GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition</b> Please see letter attached regarding ingredients and revision guides for lessons.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Virtual Open Days Colleges October and November</b> <b>The Sixth Form at George Abbot – Thursday 5 November 2020 – 6.00pm</b> <a href="https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/sixth-form-admissions/">https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/sixth-form-admissions/</a></p> <p><b>Guildford College – Wednesday 7 October 2020 – 4-8pm &amp; Saturday 14 November 2020 – 9.30am-1.30pm</b> <a href="https://www.guildford.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx">https://www.guildford.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Merrist Wood College – Saturday 10 October 2020 – 9.30am-1.30pm &amp; Wednesday 18 November 2020 – 4-8pm</b> <a href="https://www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx">https://www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Farnham College – Wednesday 14 October 2020 – 4-8pm &amp; Saturday 21 November 2020 9.30am-1.30pm</b> <a href="https://www.farnham.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx">https://www.farnham.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Farnborough College – Monday 2 November 2020</b> <b>Details to log in:</b> Search for your school session at <a href="https://www.farn-ct.ac.uk/school-leavers/virtual-open-event/">https://www.farn-ct.ac.uk/school-leavers/virtual-open-event/</a> Once registered you will be issued with a meeting ID and password.</p> <p><b>Brooklands College</b> <a href="https://www.brooklands.ac.uk/openevent/">https://www.brooklands.ac.uk/openevent/</a></p> <p>Copies of prospectuses can be collected from USIC, alternatively follow the college links for more information.</p>
Year 9	<p>⇒ <b>GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition</b> Please see letter attached regarding ingredients and revision guides for lessons.</p>

## Sports Round Up

As we reach the end of our fourth week back at school, despite the significant restrictions in place, Extra Curricular sport has been thriving. Each week hundreds of students within their year group 'bubbles' have been turning out in force across Football, Netball and Basketball.

As we have been unable to compete against other schools, we have organised weekly House competitions. Each week students get a chance to represent their House in their chosen sport. The fixtures have been fiercely competitive, with some fantastic performances and displays of sportsmanship throughout.

The PE department are keeping track of the results across all the year groups and sports. There will be several trophies awarded each half term and eventually an overall winner. All students will be awarded House points every time they attend an extra-curricular club, this adds to their House total, which helps determine the House Cup winner.

We encourage all students to attend a sports club. Our aim is to slowly introduce more sports and year groups to the extra-curricular timetable when restrictions allow.

# Focus on - Free My Meal

Haley Steere, a parent from the George Abbot community, has created 'Free My Meal' during the global pandemic in August 2020. The community focused organisation aims to connect those who need a meal with those who are willing to cook one.



Using social media, people sign up to private Free My Meal groups as a 'recipient' or a 'cook', or in some cases, both. Free My Meal does not provide meals, it simply forms connections enabling people to find one.

The service is suitable for anyone who finds themselves in need of a meal and not having the means to buy the food to make one. Anyone can join with no fear of judgement or discrimination.

The Free My Meal service has proved invaluable for its users and within 6 weeks there are now 23 groups with almost 3.4k members. The organisation has reached as far as Australia and the Philippines.

Free My Meal has been supported by many celebrities over the last few months including; Nigella Lawson, Anne Milton, Louis Tomlinson, Lorraine Kelly, Jay McGuinness and Anthony Cotton.

Please use the following links to find out more:

Website: [www.freemy meal.co.uk](http://www.freemy meal.co.uk)

Email: [freemy meal@yahoo.com](mailto:freemy meal@yahoo.com)

Instagram: [@freemy meal](https://www.instagram.com/freemy meal)

Twitter: [@FreeMyMeal](https://twitter.com/FreeMyMeal)

Donations: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/freemy meal>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FreeMyMealUK>

Private Facebook group where meals are offered:

[www.facebook.com/groups/freemy meal/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/freemy meal/)

# National Poetry Day 2020

This week we have been celebrating National Poetry Day at school. The English Department have been looking at poetry in lessons.

Students were shown a series of poems and asked to highlight any parts that stood out to them, picking things that give them a clear picture in their mind. They were also encouraged to think about the way the poem has been presented on the page. Additionally, students were asked to sketch a quick symbol or drawing to represent one of the words they picked out.

For more Poetry Resources, please visit:

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

## On Brighton Beach

by Dean Atta

I let my breathing  
catch the timing  
of the waves;  
meditate.

I don't swim,  
surf or paddle.  
I don't set foot  
in the water at all.

When  
I need to breathe  
I sit  
on Brighton Beach.

I love to know  
I live on an island.  
I know my people  
are island people. ....

## Uniform Donations

We will be accepting uniform donations on Friday 9 October; please could students bring in any clean branded uniform donations on that day only in a sealed bag. They will be asked to drop them off on the Elmslie Hall stage for the required 72 hours.

The PTA have had requests for hoodies: as per Mrs Carriett's message in the parent bulletin (25/9 and 2/10), after half term students will be returning to full school uniform and wear GA hoodies only on PE/Dance Days. To keep warm, students could additionally wear a school jumper, blazer and coat to school. We have a number of jumpers and cardigans for sale for £3.

The PE department will accept navy blue unbranded hoodies on days students have PE only, if they do not have a GA Hoodie. The shop will soon be stocking a new technical PE top for warmth on the colder days.

## Second-hand Uniform

Our remote uniform shop is working well and open for business. We are only stocking branded goods and have a pretty good range of polos, jumpers, cardigans and rugby tops. Hoodies are in very short supply and currently we only have very small sizes. We accept PayPal as payment and will deliver locally for a flat rate of £2 – leaving the package on your doorstep to remain COVID safe.

Prices are as follows:

£3 PE and house polos

£3 Rugby tops and any other PE jumpers

£5 Blazers, hoodies and PE trousers

£2 PE shorts

£1 ties

Please email: [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) and see if we have what you need.

## AmazonSmile

If you wish to support the PTA with no extra cost to you, [then shop via AmazonSmile](#). Amazon then donates to George Abbot Parent Teacher Association a percentage of what you spend.

## EasyFundraising

So far, we have raised over £14,000 for the PTA for free! [Please sign up to easyfundraising](#). Over 4,000 sites will give us a free donation every time you shop online. This will help us continue to support people that rely on us.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 November 2020, details to follow.

## Keeping in Touch

You can keep up to date with what the PTA are doing by checking out [Twitter](#) (which we are going to start using again!), [Facebook](#) and [webpage](#).

Take care, from the PTA.



Support George Abbot School, Burpham

£14,206.91

Total raised

428

Supporters

Support this cause