

George Abbot Bulletin

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

22 October 2020



All,

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that the bulletin of last week was rather lacking its usual introduction. Time evaded me and I say that almost never! This half term has seen educators using some parts of our professional repertoire more than usual – COVID-19 positive instant response teams at the ready, weekly updating of risk assessments, daily COVID-19 risk control monitoring, constant scrutiny of the DfE website for fear of missing something mission critical, phone calls to the DfE Covid Helpline and PHE, maintaining a sense of the expected, controlled and anticipated when each day brings something we have not dealt with before. Amidst it all, a determination that every moment of every lesson is precisely directed to support progress for every George Abbot student. Whilst we're in this building, every minute matters more than ever before.

I am so grateful to our George Abbot staff for their team effort, flexibility and fortitude in times that are worrying for us all. The George Abbot spirit has shone out brightly – we work together, as a community, facing each new day with smiles and the knowledge that our students will always be at the centre of our planning, our thinking and our ambition. Our students - your children, have kept us going.

A few specific points ahead of the next half term:

1. A word about half term holidays – The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office currently advises against a but essential international travel. I know you will have thought about the implications of any quarantine period already when our children have missed such a lot of school over this year.
2. Our COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been reviewed weekly since term began – the latest version is always on the website for your reference.
3. A reminder of the lesson rotation up until Christmas:

Lesson omission until Christmas		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
2 November	A	5
9 November	B	1
16 November	A	2
23 November	B	3
30 November	A	4
7 December	B	5
14 December	A	1

4. As previously, you will receive a copy of your child's timetable with the correct lesson omissions, by separate email – please print and place in a prominent position about the house.
5. Attached are two IMPORTANT documents for your attention. In anticipation of any FULL LOCKDOWN, we would like every student and a parent/carer to read through the attached Remote Learning and IT Acceptable Use Agreements. Please sign and return them to consent@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Wednesday 4 November 2020.

[Return to home page](#)

6. Please see below for the DEFINITIVE uniform guide for after half term – feedback has been that I have not been 100% crystal clear, for which I sincerely apologise. Hopefully this will erase any lingering uncertainty.
7. This half term finishes today, Thursday 22 October and students return to school on Tuesday 3 November. This is not quite 14 days, but I am pleased that the usual week long holiday is slightly extended to give time for rest, fresh air and lots of social distancing.
8. This term ends on Friday 18 December at 12pm – local R rates permitting.

In closing, I am certain that many challenges await us in the run up to Christmas and remain truly grateful for your support, empathy and encouragement. Meanwhile, a lie-in is on our collective to-do list!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
THIS WEEK	WEEK A—no lesson 5
Friday 23 October	INSET Day—School closed for Half Term
Monday 02 November	INSET Day—School closed for students
Tuesday 03 November	Students return to school
Please visit www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events for full calendar of events.	

Life at George Abbot School



Uniform Expectations

For after Half Term

After half term we are looking forward to welcoming back students into full school uniform. Below is full clarification of our expectations, and procedure for incorrect uniform. Any problems should be communicated to the Head of Year prior to the start of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Uniform Essentials	School Procedure...
School shoes, no trainers.	Students will be given plimsolls to wear if they arrive to school in trainers.
School trousers and black socks or skirt and tights. School shirt and tie, worn long. Skirts always unrolled.	Students will not be allowed to attend lessons or break times if they wear non-school uniform trousers or skirts. This includes the old style school skirt.
School V-Neck Jumper or layers under shirts if required, no hoodies (GAbbot hoodie only on PE days).	Hoodies will be confiscated for 72 hours if they are worn in school. Please do not bring non-school uniform items to school, coats will be allowed in lessons if needed.
School Blazer for every lesson.	Students will be loaned a spare blazer to wear for the day if they do not have one.
Coat (blue or black ideally).	Again, hoodies will be confiscated for 72 hours if worn instead of a coat.
Jewellery and discrete makeup kept to a minimum. One stud in each ear permitted, nose studs and fake nails not allowed.	Excessive make up will be required to be removed at the Head of Year's office. Excessive jewellery will be confiscated.
Mobile phones are not to be seen or used on school site.	Phones will be confiscated until the end of the day. Students can always use school phones to contact home. Parents can contact students via the school office.

House points awarded for tutor groups with excellent uniform, behaviour logs and detentions will be given to individuals for persistent poor uniform.

On PE and Dance Days only...	
School PE Kit to be worn to school. GAbbot hoodie or plain navy jumper/hoodie for warmth.	PE department will issue logs/detentions for incorrect kit.

Whole School

⇒ **A message from WisePay**

We would like to offer our most sincere apologies for any inconvenience and temporary lack of service caused as a direct result of the recent cyberattack on WisePay. Thank you very much for your patience and understanding. We know how important our service is for you and please be assured we are working hard to ensure it's always there for you.

As you are aware, criminal hackers conducted a cyberattack on your school's WisePay platform starting late on 2 October 2020. We identified it on Monday 5 October 2020, and the WisePay security team promptly found and resolved the root cause within hours. We immediately took remedial measures to protect you and then also implemented additional checks and procedures common to the affected areas to ensure platform security. These resolutions have been validated and approved by a third-party, CREST-approved penetration testing company. This vulnerability was unforeseen by us and exploited by these criminal hackers.

We deeply regret the inconvenience caused to those affected by this incident. We reported the matter to the UK supervisory authority, as well as to law enforcement. We have provided your school with more details about the incident and our technical processes, in confidence and pursuant to our commercial agreements with them. For your convenience and in order to better support your needs, we have enhanced the parent support area on our website specifically regarding this incident. Please [click here](#) to view additional information and to submit any queries you might have. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Richard Grazier
WisePay Director

⇒ **REMINDER: Picking up children, dropping off items, visitors**

A reminder, if your child has an appointment within school hours we will not be able to collect them from class. They must make their own way to reception to sign out. Please buzz at the gate and we will send them out to you.

We are still restricting the number of visitors to the site and there will be limited access via our pedestrian and vehicle gates. **Consequently, we will NOT be accepting any forgotten items at reception**, including Food and Nutrition ingredients. All visitors to the school **MUST** have an appointment.

All visitors to the site will be asked to wear a mask. We will be supplying Track & Trace forms at reception.

⇒ **Face masks and payment**

Please ensure you continue to send your child to school with a face mask. A lot of students continue to come into school without one. It is compulsory to wear one in corridors at all times.

There is currently £54.50 outstanding for face masks given to students. We are sure you understand that limited budgets mean we cannot afford to provide free face masks for students. If your child has been given a face mask if they forget theirs, we kindly ask you cover the cost by paying 50p via WisePay.

Reminders will be sent to parents if payment remains outstanding.

If you have any WisePay queries, please email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Whole School

⇒ Contact Details

You can now update your contact details via the SIMs Parent App. These will then be approved by the admin team.

If you still need to gain access to the SIMs Parent App, please email office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and we will assist you.

⇒ Uniform Shop—Updated opening hours

Saturday 31 October: 3.00-6.00pm

Monday 02 November: 3.00-5.30pm

Wednesday 04 November: 3.00-6.00pm

⇒ Reader and Scribe volunteers

We are currently recruiting volunteers to play a central role in the support of our students in their exams this year.

A number of our students are permitted additional assistance in exams with the reading of exam papers and the writing of their responses: it is as 'Readers' and 'Scribes' that we want to enlist your help.

- A 'Reader' is an adult who reads the instructions and questions of an exam paper to the exam candidate.
- A 'Scribe' is an adult who in an examination writes or types a candidate's dictated answers.

No previous experience is required; just the willingness to give your time to make a huge difference to the students facing the challenge of examinations.

Training necessary to become a 'Reader' or 'Scribe' is provided by the school.

If you are able to generously volunteer your time to this important role, please contact the school Exams Office via email and include all your relevant contact details to - exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Friday 30 October. We are looking to potentially deliver the training on Thursday 5 November starting at 1:30pm as a reference point for your diaries.

All volunteers will be required to be DBS checked, and the school will process all necessary paperwork on behalf of any volunteers.

Thank you in advance for the valuable support you will be giving our young people.

Joe Omar

Assistant Headteacher

⇒ Innovate Food Canteen Feedback

Please take a minute to feedback your views on the food served at school. This will help us to develop our menus and offers in the future. To fill out the form, please [click here](#).

⇒ External hirer—Yoga Flow

A mindful flowing Yoga class. Slow and flow, stretch and strengthen, release and restore in a slow flowing Yoga class set to special selected music. No experience necessary.

- 6.30-7.30pm Fridays.
- Email wendygtaylor@gmail.com for details/booking.
- (This is an externally organised class which takes place at school.)

Sixth Form

⇒ 16-19 Bursary—My Tutor

We are offering specific tutoring to our 16-19 Bursary students through the online service www.mytutor.com so they can make as much progress with their A Level or BTEC

Sixth Form

subjects. The tutoring is delivered by university students and is guided by George Abbot staff. This service proved extremely successful through lockdown and received positive feedback from the students. If your child receives the 16-19 Bursary then you will have received a letter from Mr Brinsden this week with further details.

We have also decided to extend the weekly 16-19 Bursary payments through the half term break to help ease the financial pressure on your family. If you need any further assistance please contact cbrinsden@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 13

⇒ Apprenticeship Opportunities—CGI

Client Global Insights (CGI) is amongst the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. They deliver end-to-end services and solutions, including strategic IT and business consulting, systems integration, intellectual property, and managed IT and business process services.

CGI is offering some apprenticeship opportunities for Year 13s after Sixth Form:

Business Degree Apprenticeship:

- UK wide opportunities.
- Business and Project Management focused.
- £20,000 starting salary.

<https://www.cgi-group.co.uk/en-gb/careers/business-degree-apprenticeship>

Technology Degree Apprenticeship:

- UK wide opportunities.
- Tech, Cyber and Software focused.
- £20,000 starting salary.

<https://www.cgi-group.co.uk/en-gb/careers/technical-degree-apprenticeships>

All students who apply need to select the Young Professionals tab under the 'where did you hear about us' section to get access to our extra application support, possible fast tracks and follow up comms/feedback.

Please note that George Abbot has not organised these opportunities and all applications must be submitted directly via the booking link above. PLEASE ONLY USE YOUR STUDENT SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS AND NOT A PERSONAL ADDRESS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO ADD A PHONE NUMBER.

Any queries, please email enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 11

⇒ SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING – **THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2020**

Due to current restrictions, students and parents, who are interested in joining the Sixth Form, will be able to **access pre-recorded videos from Tuesday 3 November including** the following content:

- A talk from the Director of Sixth Form including details of the application process, the curriculum offered and general information on how the Sixth Form works.
- Presentations from staff in the subjects you are interested in studying. This will include details on what the subject involves and how it is assessed. You will also be able to hear advice from students who are currently studying the subject to help guide your decisions.

You will also be able to **access a live Q&A session**, run by the Sixth Form team, on **Thursday 5 November at 18:00**. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions and hear more information from the Sixth Form! The Zoom link to this event will be distributed after the half term break via Schoolcomms.

Year 11

⇒ Apprenticeship Opportunities—Plumbing

TA Pearson Plumbing & Heating, set up, owned and operated by Tom Pearson a former George Abbot student, is looking to employ an Apprentice Plumber.

The successful candidate will be required to undertake training, provided at college, and alongside this, receive on-site training in the workplace.

Key Requirements:

- Will need to possess a sensible attitude and be willing to take on and understand instructions as required.
- Demonstrate commitment to the working environment.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Ability to work in varied conditions e.g. internally and externally.
- Willingness to learn.
- Have a place at a college and attend one day a week.
- Excellent time keeping.
- Live in Guildford or surrounding areas.

To apply email your CV to info@tpearsonplumbing.co.uk

Please note that George Abbot has not organised this role and all applications must be sent directly to the company on the email above. If you would like any advice on how to apply/CV writing or interview skills, please do come and see the Careers Team based in USIC or email enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ English - Purchase of GCSE English Literature Text - Macbeth

In Year 11, as part of the GCSE English Literature Course, students have been studying the Shakespeare play, 'Macbeth' this term. Copies of the text were supplied to all students at the start of term (except those who already had their own copy) and reminders were sent out requesting payment for the text via WisePay early in the term. As a school we can only ask for voluntary payments for essential items. Having to buy these books out of school funds at a time when school budgets are under huge pressure is challenging so we would appreciate your support. There are still a number of students who according to our records have not yet paid for their copy. Please could you arrange to make the payment via WisePay as a matter of urgency. The cost of the text is £5.

If you are in doubt about whether you have paid you can check your WisePay account or email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 10

⇒ English - Purchase of GCSE English Literature Text - An Inspector Calls

All Year 10 students, as part of their GCSE English Literature Course, have been studying the modern drama text, 'An Inspector Calls' this half term. Copies of the text were supplied to all students at the start of term (except those who already had their own copy) and reminders were sent out requesting payment for the text via WisePay earlier in the term. As a school we can only ask for voluntary payments for essential equipment/books. Having to buy these books out of school funds at a time when school budgets are under huge pressure is challenging so we would appreciate your support. There are still a number of students, who according to our records, have not yet paid for their copy. If possible please could you arrange to make the payment via WisePay as a matter of urgency. The cost of the text is £6.50.

If you are in doubt about whether you have paid you can check your WisePay account or email: cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Extra Curricular Round Up

The first half term saw football, netball and basketball as the sports for extra-curricular for year 7, 8 and 9. The next half term sees netball continue, alongside Touch Rugby (Field), Hockey (Astro) and Badminton (Sports hall). We are under tight restrictions but we endeavour to add more year groups to the programme as soon as possible. Remember, each club is available to everyone within that year group. Please keep attending in great numbers!

Physical Education			
Sport	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Year 8	Year 9	Year 7
Touch Rugby	Mr Rodgers	Mr Isherwood	Mr Filmer
Netball	Miss Northcote	Mrs Lawrence	Miss Fearn
Hockey	Mrs Lawrence	Mr Barry	Mr Isherwood
Badminton	Mr Filmer	Mr Rodgers	Mr Barry
Fitness Suite	Year 11	Year 10	

HOUSE SPORTS- Half term one results

This week saw the outcomes of the Year 8 and 9 house sports events for the first half term. Year 7 are still to play this afternoon, their results could decide it. Please see below the current standings. These will be added to the House cup total, and will get presented at the end of the year. Gryphon are the current champions!

Year Group	Falcon	Gryphon	Martlet	Phoenix	Wyvern
Year 7	37	31	39	51	20
Year 8	19	31	23	23	43
Year 9	51	77	37	61	31
Total	107	139	99	135	94
Position	3rd	1st	4th	2nd	5th

FOOTBALL- National Cup Draw

Last week brought the news of the National cup draws for all of our football teams. Restrictions depending, each year group will start their journey in the biggest school's cup competition, 'The FA PlayStation Cup'.

Last year, Years 7,8 and 11 had significant forays into the latter stages of the cup, we hope for more this year. These are the teams George Abbot have been drawn against:

Boys	Girls
Year 7 Christ's (H)	Year 7 St Clement Danes (h)
Year8 Oaklands (Tower Hamlets) (h)	Year8 Merstham Park (h)
Year9 bye—second round: Winston Churchill/ Piggot School (a)	Year 9 Merstham Park (h)
Year10 Forrest School (a)	Year 10 Bohunt (a)
Year11 Piggot School (h) 1st XI RGS (h)	Year 11 Bohunt (a)

A number of COVID-19 guidelines will be in place to allow the fixtures to happen. Our Year 8-13 sides will play their home fixtures at New Inn Lane and Year 7 will play at George Abbot. We are currently in discussions to decide whether spectators are permitted.

Focus on—Pupil Safety and Dark Nights

On Saturday evening, we will be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Unfortunately, in the fortnight after this time change, we see a significant increase in road traffic collisions. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

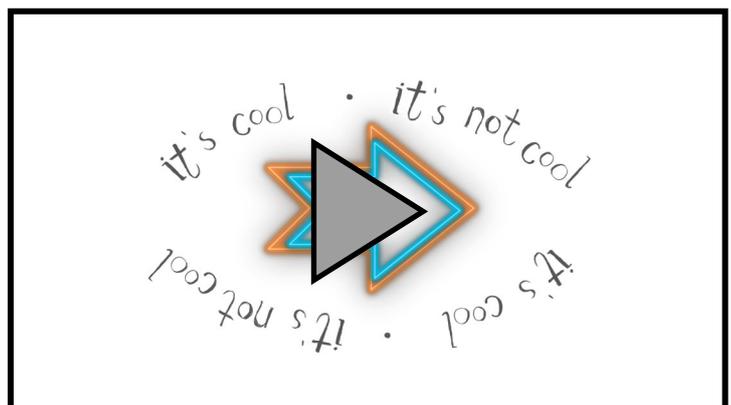
Please see the resources below to help remind your child, about road safety and safe cycling:

Cycling at night:

- When cycling at night, you need to make sure your bike has a set of good lights. By having white front lights and red backlights, other drivers are reminded that you are traffic too.
- It's also a good idea to have reflective items to highlight your presence too. Most bikes already come equipped with pedal reflectors and reflectors on the frame and wheels. You can also use ankle reflectors that help drivers recognise you as a cyclist due to your up and down movements.
- It is critical to be seen and to be visible when you commute by bike in the dark. Not only that, but cycling in the dark might also require you to make adjustments to your route or to your speed.
- Always have your lights with you, keep them on your bike or in your school bag.



Information Videos



5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

Be Bright,
Be Seen

THINK

PTA

Local Photo Competition

Going out over half term? Seymours are running a photography competition where if you upload your favourite photo of the area (taken in 2020), you have the chance of winning either £750, £500 or £250 John Lewis vouchers plus they will match this with a donation to the PTA! [For more info please click here.](#)



Second-hand Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has donated uniform to the second-hand uniform shop today!

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 at 7.30pm. To access the meeting [join using this link.](#)

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 the [webpage](#).

A very big thank you to Phil Grainger and Tanya Gerber for organising the uniform shop and to all the amazing volunteers who have helped with sorting, stocklisting and delivering.

Take care and have a relaxing half-term, from the PTA.



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