



George Abbot School Prospectus

Non Sibi Sed Toti



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

Your learning journey starts here ...





A very warm welcome

Welcome to George Abbot School; we are extremely proud of the highly successful, non-selective secondary education that we provide.

Our tradition of academic excellence is longstanding and is an outcome of exceptional teaching alongside high levels of challenge, aspiration and respect throughout our community. Our examination results place us amongst some of the best schools in the south east, at GCSE, BTEC, AS and A Level.

The outstanding progress that young people make on their journey through George Abbot School demonstrates the strength and depth of our teaching expertise as well as the care we take to support every one of our young people. The partnership we develop with our students' parents and carers is key to ensuring that George Abbot students take responsibility, flourish and achieve in many ways.

We are determined to provide a high quality and balanced education for every young person; the breadth of opportunity available, in classrooms and beyond, is a key ingredient in shaping our well informed and reflective students.

The education of young people is a privilege that we do not underestimate. We provide all that you would seek, and more, for your child. Our young people are our finest ambassadors.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



An introduction

George Abbot School is a forward thinking academy providing a comprehensive education, for around 2,000 young people, aged 11-18.



Located in Burpham, Guildford with excellent transport links to the surrounding area, we have a highly skilled and motivated staff team.

We are proud of our excellent resources and have great facilities for sport, visual and performing arts, music, photography and ICT. We remain ambitious and continually seek ways to improve the school environment.

As a school, we are pioneers of educational development, which means that our students benefit from an outstanding learning experience. As a Teaching School we are part of a network of successful schools and are able to provide Initial Teacher Training; leadership expertise; Researchers in Schools and the highest quality continuing professional development for all teaching and support staff.

We are a founding member of the GEP multi academy trust and work closely with a number of partner schools, not only within the trust but nationally and internationally.

Our Ethos

It is a fundamental principle at George Abbot School that each student is of equal value.

This underpins our determination to ensure vibrant and rich opportunities for every young person. Our school motto is 'non sibi sed toti' – 'not for oneself but for all' and this sets the tone for the care, honesty and respect which are striking qualities of our school community.

George Abbot School values:

Aspiration

We aspire to be the best that we can be

Community

We are stronger, together

Respect

we understand and appreciate difference and diversity



“We have always felt greatly supported by the pastoral leaders at school, dedicated and understanding.” Year 11 parent

The next steps on your journey

Building strong academic foundations, ensuring learning is at the heart of all that we do.

This mindset enables our full potential.





We are in a strong position to offer an extensive range of subjects and courses. We strive to create a fully inclusive education where opportunity features significantly.

We have a strong track record of identifying and developing our more able students and work hard to ensure that they are stretched and challenged throughout school life. Extension and enrichment studies are provided at an individual and group level in all academic subjects and through extra-curricular activities. Our exam outcomes indicate, strongly, the success of this strategy, with high numbers of top grades achieved, consistently, across the curriculum. Our track record of success converts to strong numbers of students continuing their education at Oxford, Cambridge and other, well-regarded, universities both in the UK and internationally.

Those students with additional learning needs are supported by a large team and have access to 1:1 interventions, group programmes, a flexible curriculum and differentiated work in every classroom. George Abbot School is also proud to have a specialist centre for visually impaired students. Materials and resources are adapted, with expertise, to support access to the curriculum for this cohort of students. We are careful to ensure that every child has equal opportunities and, where student circumstances require it, we deploy national Pupil Premium education funding to support such students to achieve and excel.





Key Stage 3

A full range of subjects is taught to all students which includes:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History, Geography and RE
- French, German or Spanish
(a choice in Year 7 followed by the opportunity to study a 2nd language)
- Art, Textiles, Graphics and Design Technology
- PSHE
- ICT
- PE
- Dance, Drama and Music

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, students all study our compulsory subjects: Maths, English, Science (Core, Core and Additional or Chemistry, Biology and Physics), RE and PE and then select a further four options. We offer a choice of traditional GCSE subjects in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts and Foreign Languages. We also offer a range of vocational subjects.

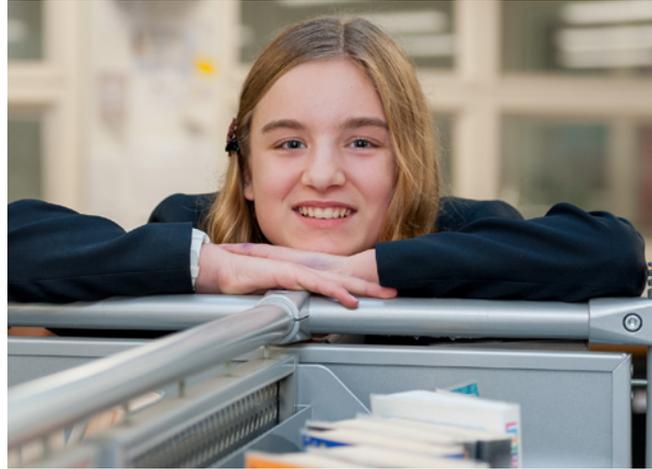
In consultation with students, parents and carers, staff and careers advisers, we aim to ensure that every student makes choices which are right for them and maximise their potential and skills. Our guiding principle is to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum which responds to each student's needs and prepares them fully for a successful and fulfilling future. Additional information can be found on our website. Please also see our separate prospectus for information about our high performing Sixth Form.

“What the school provides for the students to do at home is excellent, the balance is just right.” Parent



Student development

Inspiring young people to think, take responsibility and flourish



Pastoral Care

Student wellbeing sits at the core of George Abbot School. We enable each student to be the very best that they can be, achieving the highest possible academic standards as happy, well rounded young people who learn how to make friends and get on well with others.

We pride ourselves on the strength of our pastoral care in support of this journey. Students join mixed tutor groups, each with a broad range of ability, on arrival in Year 7. The primary role of the Form Tutor is to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging and they are the first point of contact for students' welfare and progress. They promote leadership and enrichment opportunities and focus on developing responsibility, respect and resilience in students. The school's team of pastoral leads oversee the academic and pastoral progress of every student and offer additional leadership and advice to Form Tutors.

Each year group has an Inclusion Manager and a non-teaching Head of Year. To support our youngest students, there is a dedicated Transition Manager who leads the Year 7 pastoral team. Students with more complex needs are additionally supported by our SEN Department, Youth Workers or Home School Link Workers.

There is a separate playground area for each year group which helps new intake students to settle easily into a large school. The Sculpture Garden is set aside as a quiet area, solely for the use of students who prefer to avoid the bustle of the main playgrounds.

Teamwork

We foster a strong partnership between parents and school and welcome the involvement of parents and carers in school life through regular parent information evenings. Close co-operation and communication is essential to the welfare and development of all of our students. We share your expectations that your child will be educated in a civilised and compassionate community and have a Home/School Agreement which we ask parents, carers and students to endorse.

Our values and standards of behaviour are taught consistently across the curriculum to enable all to work in an environment that promotes equality, courtesy and respect.



Student Leadership and Advocacy

Student Voice is a crucial part of how we shape our community. Listening to students and valuing their contributions is an intrinsic part of how we organise our school and feeds into all aspects of school monitoring, evaluation and review. Students are consulted in a variety of ways including surveys, group discussions, formal consultation at School Council meetings, and one to one feedback. Student Voice feeds directly into our School Development Plan; what the students think of our school is of utmost importance. Around our school you will see "You said, we did!" notice boards, promoting the impact Student Voice has had within the school.

In addition to the main School Council, we have established Year Group Ambassadors who attract a range of roles and responsibilities, such as: assisting with leadership and organisation on formal occasions; welcoming and supporting students new to the school; coordinating the group charity weeks and helping with routine tasks. They are expected to be exceptional role models at all times.

In Year 10 a large group of students are trained formally to become School Ambassadors who take significant responsibility in many areas including: tours of the school; helping the Leadership Team with the appointment of new staff; support for school functions and the Junior Prefect scheme.



A small group is also trained as Peer Mentors, who support younger students in school. In the Sixth Form all students are expected to contribute in some way to the George Abbot community, either in class, as Peer Mentors or Peer Tutors, Prefects or involvement in Rag Week. They are led, ably, by a team of Senior Students.

Extra-Curricular

We recognise that great character is not just developed within the classroom and we are incredibly proud of the huge array of extra-curricular opportunities that are available at school. Each year we run well over 1000 events including regular lunch and after school sports clubs, internal and external competitions, House events, trips, performances and shows. There is something for everyone from Bridge to Basketball, Orienteering to Orchestra, Art Club to Athletics Club. Our staff are committed to an extensive programme of educational visits both in this country and abroad. These include ski trips, cultural and sporting trips across Europe and America, visits to Africa and Asia and regular student exchange programmes.

The extensive portfolio of visits and trips is most unusual for the state sector. Such activities also provide opportunities for students to experience significant success in the arts, music, creative and practical fields. Activities include a regular and high standard programme of concerts, drama and musical productions along side theatre trips.



The range of extra-curricular PE activities is extensive and there are strong links with local clubs and a full programme of competitive fixtures. Many of our students represent their county and some, their country. Year 12 students are offered the opportunity to take the one year Community Sports Leadership Award course and a Citizenship Award.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme

We also run an extremely successful scheme for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Over 130 students in Year 9 and 10 participate in the Bronze Award, and a large number continue at Silver and Gold levels.

Rewards

At George Abbot, we know that praise and recognition are essential in developing young people's self-esteem and confidence and House points and commendations are given regularly for excellent progress, high standards and respectful conduct. We are proud to display students' work in our entrance foyers and department areas and acknowledge commitment to, and achievement in, extra-curricular activities by the awarding of school 'Colours', Honours Certificates and Honours Ties.

There are separate prize giving ceremonies for each year group which celebrate the success of students during the previous academic year. Our Year 13 graduation ceremony takes place locally at Holy Trinity Church and is an important conclusion to their educational and personal journey through George Abbot School.



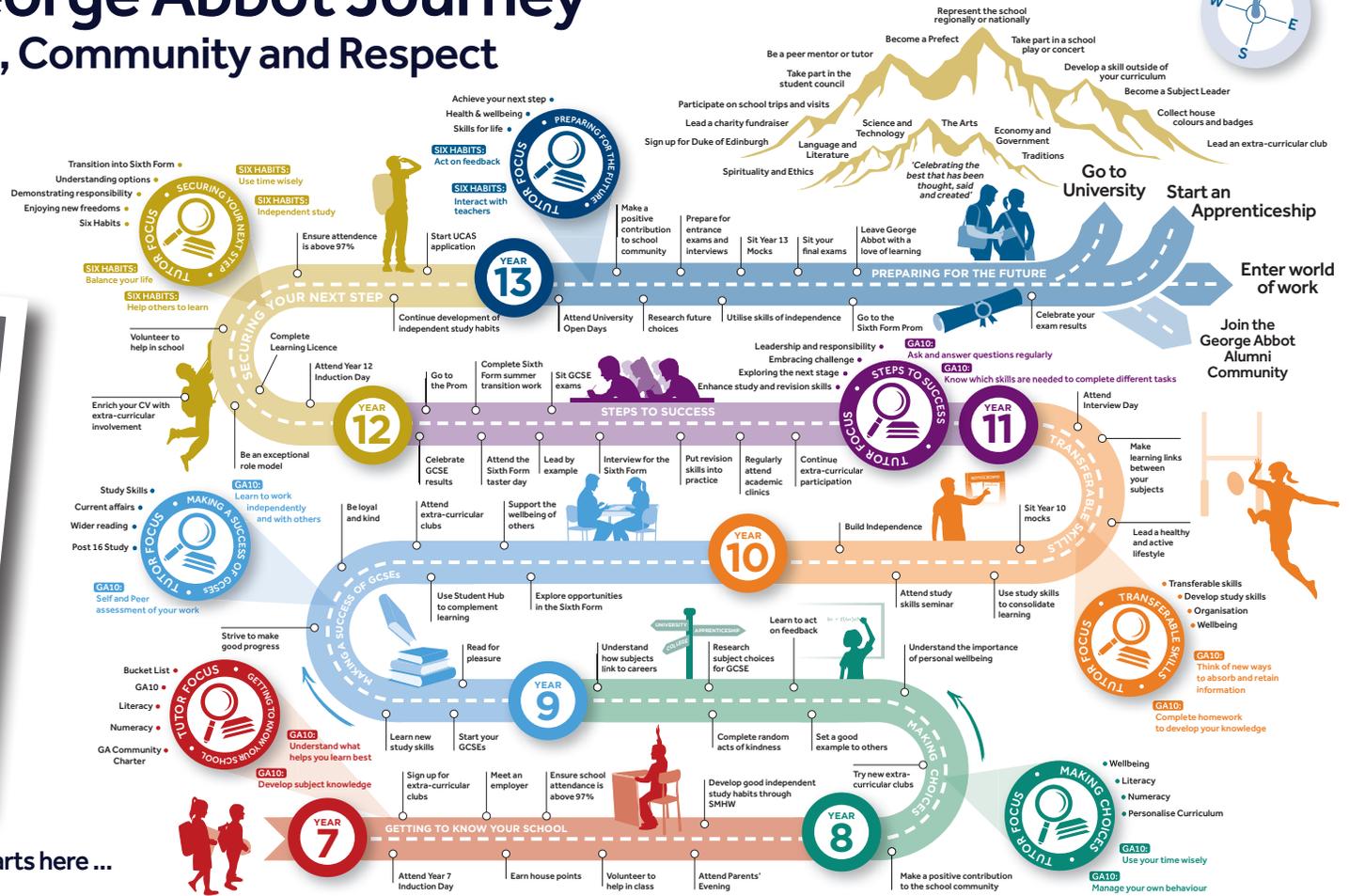
The George Abbot Journey

Aspiration, Community and Respect

Throughout your school journey, always strive to go ... Above and Beyond!



Your George Abbot journey starts here ...



“The choice of extra-curricular activities is a real strength of the school, coming from primary school there is so much for the students to get involved in and was a big reason we applied to George Abbot” Year 7 parent

The next steps ...

Our Careers Education Programme provides considerable support to all students whether they are applying for a place at university, further education or preparing for the world of work. The programme complements our curriculum and is offered across the school from Years 7-13.

The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at George Abbot is the largest school sixth form in Surrey and one of the most successful in the country with a strong track record of achieving places for students to study at Oxford and Cambridge. For more information about joining our vibrant Sixth Form community please see our separate Sixth Form Prospectus.



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