

Today, I felt it was important to contact all of our families regarding the start of term before we are completely into Christmas mode. Despite the government's somewhat tardy announcements, we have established how we will operate the first week back. Here is an overview to support both peace of mind and family arrangements:

## School will be open as usual from Tuesday 5 January 2021 for:

- Year 11.
- Year 13.
- Vulnerable children—*these families will receive an invitation today.*
- Key worker children—if parents are key workers and feel that it is essential for your child to access school from Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January, please let me know by email to [kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk). Please ensure that you have informed us by **Sunday 3 January 2021, 12pm** if you will need to use this provision.
- Year group bubbles will be maintained despite small numbers.

## **STUDENTS IN YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, LEARNING FROM HOME**

### To facilitate delivery of learning, both in school and for ALL students learning from home, this is our plan:

- All staff will be in school teaching as usual from the 5 January.
- Staff will teach every lesson simultaneously via Zoom to the students at home as well as to the small numbers of children in each classroom.
- We will follow the normal school timetable—omitting lesson 2 week commencing Monday 4 January 2021.
- Students will receive their next set of weekly timetables for January later today.
- All lessons will be taught in the usual classrooms.
- Students who are at school will go to their normal lunch slot and playgrounds at breaktimes.
- TAs will be present to support students in lessons.

### How will the lessons be structured?:

- Zoom meeting invitations/links for every lesson will be placed on Satchel One for every class—they will be issued on 4 January 2021.
- Lessons will begin with some live taught input for 20 minutes on Zoom.
- A task will then be set to be completed there and then, on mute, no cameras, by all students.
- The class will regroup for 15 minutes before the end of the lesson.
- More info on lesson etiquette will follow on the 4 January 2021.

### Testing:

- We will be offering coronavirus testing for every staff member weekly.
- Students will all be tested twice at the start of the January term.
- Year 11 and Year 13 will be tested on Tuesday 5 and Friday 8 January 2021 (pending arrival of testing kits!)
- All other students will be invited in for 2 test appointments during the week of 4 January—these need to be 3 days apart—appointments and details will follow on Monday 4 January 2021.
- Apparently, the army will be helping!!
- Thereafter, if a positive case is identified at school, every person who has been within contact as per our usual tracking system will be offered daily testing at school for 7 days and only isolate if the test is positive.
- Testing will be optional but very strongly encouraged. Consent will be required from the student or parent as appropriate.
- Consent forms will be with you on Monday 4 January—please make a note to complete and return on the same day so we can commence testing and get every child back to school.

Hopefully, that covers most questions you might have. A reminder to let me know, by email to [kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk), if your child tests positive for COVID-19 over the next 6 days.

Sending best wishes for a healthy and very Happy Christmas to you all,

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher



# A few reminders and notices...

Whole School

Monday 4 January 2021 – INSET Day

⇒ **ADVANCED REMINDER—Early school closure for Year 8 Subject Consultations—Thursday 7 January**

Please be reminded school will be closing for those students who are at school at **1.30pm on Thursday 7 January** for us to conduct the Year 8 Parent Subject consultation meetings.

Provision has been made for students who are unable to go home at this time. If you wish for your child to remain supervised in school, please let us know by emailing [curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) by close of school on **Wednesday 6 January 2021**. It is important to note that supervised student places are more limited than in previous times due to COVID-19 restrictions, so it is vital we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.

If you notify us that your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential you let us know of the change before 12.00pm on the day. **Where we have been notified that a student will be remaining in school, if they fail to arrive and register at USIC by 2.15pm, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system.**

Please note, school buses will run at the usual times.

⇒ **A message from the PTA**

Firstly, we would like to say a HUGE thank-you for your generosity in donating towards a Christmas gift for the school's wonderful staff. As of Tuesday this week we had raised £1880 – well above our target – meaning we can also make a substantial donation to the school Opportunities Fund. The staff have received their gifts and are delighted with them. They feel very appreciated. **Thank you to everyone who has very kindly donated.**

We had our last PTA meeting of 2020 this week where we agreed to fund some smaller items for the school. These included:

- Grow lamps for biology.
- Prizes for the Chemistry department to repeat their very successful periodic table competition.
- DVDs and classroom display materials for English.
- Furnishing of a calm zone for the home school link worker.
- New manikins for the teaching of first aid – which is now part of statutory guidance.

We also discussed plans for next year, we will be holding our second 'lockdown' quiz on Friday 26 February 2021 and we hope to hold a 'socially distanced' Clandon Park Run on Saturday 20 March 2021. Sign up details to follow.

Also, we are holding our 2021 AGM on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/86716069537>). The agenda can be found here: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/>. Mrs Carriett is our guest speaker – and we would love to see you there.

And finally, wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a safe new year from the PTA.

## Whole School

### ⇒ Uniform Shop – CHRISTMAS CLOSURE AND PRE-TERM OPENING TIMES

The George Abbot School Uniform Shop is now closed for the Christmas holidays.

It will re-open on **Monday 4 January 2021 from 11am to 4pm**. Appointments are not necessary on this day – please just call in at your convenience. Please wear face masks and follow all signage regarding social distancing.

The shop will then open as follows:

**Tuesday 5 January** – 3.30pm to 5.00pm

**Wednesday 6 January** – 3.30pm to 5.30pm

**Thursday 7 January** – 3.30pm to 5.00pm

Following this our opening hours will be displayed weekly on the school's website at <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/>.

### A NOTE ABOUT SCHOOL HOODIES:

We have received our first consignment of 100 hoodies, and we have now called the first 100 customers who ordered these. Please check your voicemail and texts in case you missed our call. If we have contacted you to advise that your hoodie is now in stock but it was not paid for in advance, we will hold it for you until the end of business on **Monday 4 January 2021** after which we will assume that you no longer require it and offer it to the next customer on the list.

We will shortly receive part of the next consignment. Please note, the George Abbot sports top will no longer have hoods; they will instead have a ¼ zip opening at the neck. We will continue to contact customers in the order in which orders were placed, as stock arrives.

If you placed an order that you no longer require please email as soon as possible so that it can be offered to another customer.

If you need to contact us, please do so at [spsschoolshops@yahoo.com](mailto:spsschoolshops@yahoo.com)

Thank you and Merry Christmas from the School Shop!

### ⇒ Finally...

Well done to all of the performers at our Christmas live broadcast yesterday. It was a joyous occasion. Special thanks to all staff and students involved in the organisation, rehearsal, production and final performance.

Some Christmas music to close...



'I See Stars' 



'Step into Christmas' 

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