

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

08 January 2021



All,

This has certainly been a week of both practical and emotional turmoil. January is a month which annually brings its challenges; the Christmas aftermath, the cold days of January ahead. This year, lockdown has been thrown into the already potent mix.

One definite positive has been that there has been no time for much in the way of musing – we have been straight into action either delivering or getting to grips with learning in virtual lessons. We have also thrown in a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Afternoon to keep us on our toes.

We have been making necessarily quick and very important decisions about how we shape our original plan for 2 weeks of virtual lessons into a sustainable plan for at least the coming 6 weeks ahead. I know how much work and really critical thinking this has involved from our teaching team. I want to say a public thank you to our teachers for all that they have done and will continue to do for our students. This is a different kind of teaching.

One of the most important things we do in our classrooms is to get students thinking and paying close attention to the fundamental components of knowledge. Getting things into our long term memory if we have not really thought about them is nigh on impossible for most of us mere mortals. Assessing if that thinking is resulting in learning is a definite challenge for all teachers engaged in remote teaching. Usually, a walk around a classroom noting student's faces, reactions, answers to questions, observing our students' ability to capture their thinking in words there and then, seeing if a question asked a different way reveals any gaps in understanding would only be the tip of the iceberg that is the business of assessing learning lesson by lesson. So, this is the area that we are going to focus on first as we support our staff in teaching your children as well as possible in the virtual world. We have begun training staff in the use of Microsoft Teams – more will follow on this next week.

It is clear that the government have now officially cancelled this summer's GCSE and A Level exams. We know from last year, that the process of generating Centre Assessed Grades and ensuring a fair result to every child across the country was a minefield. That said, much learning also took place through that process.

Our Year 11s and Year 13s should be absolutely reassured that hard work, focus, attention and real thinking in their lessons will result in achievement. We will ensure that that achievement IS fairly rewarded. Our Year 11s have a set of mocks completed – however, these will only be a part of how a Centre Assessed Grade is generated. There is still much to work for. Our plan is as follows:

- Year 13 will complete an assessed task in their virtual lessons in most subjects over the coming weeks in place of the scheduled mock exams.
- Year 13 will then complete their mock exams as soon as we are back at school – we very much hope this will be in March.
- We aim for a further set of Year 13 assessments completed formally at school in early May - these may well include questions set by the exam boards.
- Year 11 will complete a second set of mock exams early in the summer term – these may well include questions set by the exam boards.
- It is possible that the exam boards will also set coursework tasks to be completed in the summer term for some subjects.
- Year 11 Next Step 1:1 interviews will take place in March, either virtually or at school.

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Some key requests to our parent community:

- It is really important that our students give their learning in their live teaching time with their teachers their full attention - a simultaneous Skype group may be a thing of beauty, but it is also a significant distraction.
- Arriving at a lesson under a false identity may seem to be an act of brilliance – it is in fact an act of deep disrespect.

Please could you reinforce these 2 key messages for us? We will also do so ourselves, of course.

Lastly, 3 things for the week ahead:

- **Every Form Tutor will run one Tutor Time next week between Tuesday and Friday**– this will take place at either 8.35am or at 3.15pm. Tutors will decide the time and day based on their own timetables. The times will be communicated via Tutors directly to Tutees and Inclusion Managers will provide an overview list of times for each year group.
- Please do your best to ensure your child is in attendance at every lesson – registers are being taken and we need every child present if we are to ensure all of our students have the opportunity to progress.
- If you have any issues with technology or accessing the lessons, please email your child’s Head of Year and we will do everything in our power to assist.

Thank you for your many positive emails and your collective support. Please do try and keep alert for whole school comms next week – as we adjust our planning for the weeks ahead, we will keep you updated as often as we can.

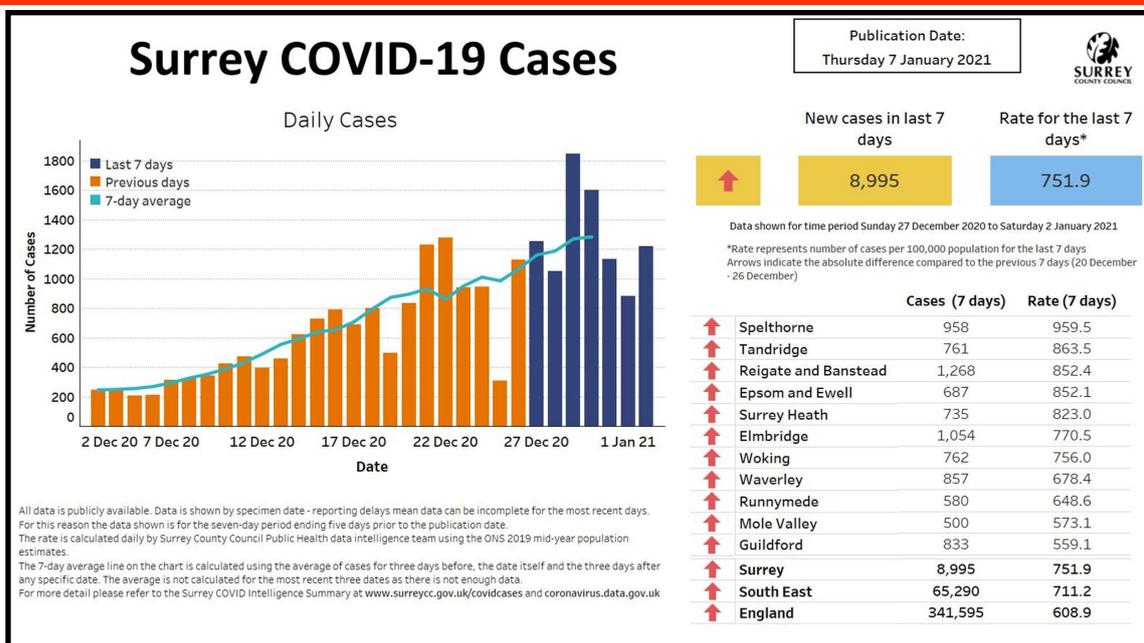
Happy New Year!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Lesson omission from January 2021		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
11 January	A	3
18 January	B	4
25 January	A	5
1 February	B	1
8 February	A	2
15 February	HALF TERM	

Useful COVID-19 Information



FORGOTTEN PASSWORDS

It is important that all students have access to their school email account. If a student has forgotten their password then they should follow the instructions below:

1. Email passwordreset@gepacademies.com
2. Please outline the system(s) you require the password reset for (e.g. email, satchelone etc)
3. State you attend George Abbot School
4. Full name (including middle name)
5. Username e.g. smitjohn.14
6. Date of birth
7. A parent's email address

Please see below webpages with useful information and guides for the home learning programs and apps we use at George Abbot:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/home-learning/>

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/parents/>

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/student-hub/>

SAFEGUARDING AND ZOOM

Below is some guidance to ensure that your child is using Zoom safely and securely.

When your child is engaged in Zoom lessons, please make sure the computer is in a suitable place, perhaps showing just the wall, beds must NOT be visible. We would like to advise that there is at least one adult in the home during the teaching day. The teacher will be virtually present at all times during the session; students will not be in a meeting without a member of staff present.

Recording

In the rare situation whereby the school would need to check Zoom sessions in order to investigate a serious incident, members of the Senior Leadership Team have access to all recordings for every lesson. In order to do this, we require that all sessions are recorded centrally. These recordings will be stored for 6 months and then deleted. They will only be accessed by members of the Senior Leadership Team to investigate serious incidents as directed by the Headteacher.

Safeguarding

To protect you and your child further:

- Zoom sessions will only take place using the teacher's school Zoom account. Teachers will not use a personal Zoom account for video lessons. They will not contact students using any other forum, other than school email, or invite students to join any other forum.
- Video contact will only take place during the lesson time that has been shared on Satchel One.
- Zoom lessons must have more than one student in at any given time. Should a lesson only have one student in then the student must wait in the 'waiting room' before another student arrives. If only one student is in the lesson with no other student appearing to join then the student will be contacted via email. Any exceptions to this might include small intervention groups which will have been risk assessed by our safeguarding team on an individual basis.

If you would like any further information, please get in touch by contacting the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Giles, by emailing rgiles@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Home Learning: Whole School Week 2 (11/1/21)

Well done for a superb first week! Attendance has been phenomenal, and you are all working so hard. Some key reminders from this week.

1. Remember to use your real name as your display name
2. Unless instructed (for example, during the register) cameras should be off
3. Ask lots of questions! Using the chat function
4. Dress appropriately – no pyjamas!
5. Keep writing! Your teacher will tell you how they would like you to complete your work but it is important that most of your work is done by hand.
6. If the chat is open for conversation, all conversations must only be about the work.

1. Your Timetable and Lessons

- All of your lessons will be taught via Zoom as per your usual timetable. You are expected to attend all four lessons; teachers will be taking registers on SIMS and non-attendance will be communicated with parents. Please let your Head of Year know if you are having trouble accessing the required technology.
- You were sent your timetable for this week on the last day of term. (*Tip: This week there will be no lesson 3, from the original timetable*).
- Links to your lessons will be set on Satchel 1 over the next few days. Simply click on the links to access the lesson. You will be placed in a waiting room whilst the teacher admits you.

2. Be Ready

Find a quiet a space in your house and make sure you know the Zoom links well in advance of the lesson. There is 25 minutes in between each lesson, so you have plenty of time! You should have your books, subject specific equipment and something to write with ready, too.



Welcome to your virtual lesson! As your teacher gets ready and takes the register, please read the following instructions



You are on mute!

Please use the chat function to communicate with your teacher, including answering the register.



Camera off

Your camera should be ON for the register, but turned off for the lesson.



Ask Questions!

Ask questions via the chat. Only your teacher can see the questions so don't be shy!



Stay 'Present'

Make sure your volume is on and you always remain 'in' the lesson. This will enable you to hear instructions from your teacher.



Need more help?

Email your teacher if you struggled with anything in the lesson.



Whole School

⇒ **Important amendments for the information of parents/carers of on site students only:**

- Owing to lockdown, teachers are not required to be at school teaching their normal classes from their classrooms.
- Therefore, students on site are in year group bubbles being supervised by members of SLT or the pastoral team. Students are accessing their online lessons on school computers.
- From Monday 11 January, students on site can wear their home clothes for school including warm layers as we are keeping windows open and using outside spaces at break.

Do not forget to ensure your child has their lunch and refreshments every day. If they are unwell or not coming into school on a day we are expecting them, please email the absence email address as usual: absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ **Reminder of early school closure for Year 11 Subject Consultations on Thursday 21 January**

Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.30pm on Thursday 21 January for the Year 11 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings.

When the Progress Monitoring Subject Consultations are for a year group other than their own, students are expected to complete work set independently at home during the afternoon. This work will be set via Satchel One and/or the SLE.

Provision has been made for key worker/vulnerable students who are unable to go home at this time. If you wish for your son/daughter to remain supervised in school, please let us know by emailing curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by close of school on Wednesday 20 January. It is important to note that supervised student places are more limited than in previous times due to Covid restrictions, so it is vital that 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 that 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, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system. Therefore, it is important that they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school.

Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual time.

⇒ **Free School Meal vouchers**

For those eligible for Free School Meals, vouchers will be emailed or posted, as per your request, on Monday of every week.

⇒ **Exercise books**

If students require extra exercise books during lockdown, please email office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with the number needed, and they will arrange a time for you to come and collect them.

⇒ **School Uniform Shop**

Following on from the PM's announcement on Monday 4 January the School Shop is now closed. As government restrictions are lifted, shop opening times will be posted on the following page: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/>. In the meantime we can still be contacted by email at spschoolshops@yahoo.com. If you require anything urgently please contact us and we will do all we can to help.

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⇒ **Parent and Community Governor vacancies**

George Abbot School is currently recruiting a Parent and Community Governor. For more information and application details, please visit:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/governance/>

Deadline: Friday 22 January 2021

⇒ **Foodbank referral**

If you need a foodbank referral, please contact our Home School Link Worker, Joanna Tutty by email jtutty@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk who will be able to assist you.

⇒ **Cross Country Guildford representation**

After our incredibly successful house cross country event, the top 10 were nominated to represent Guildford at the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships. After hearing back from the organisers, a brilliant 26 students have been selected to run for Guildford. Those students will have received an email and a letter with all of the information included. Well done and good luck!

⇒ **Online learning via X Box and PS5**

Instructions for how online learning can be accessed via X Box and PlayStation are available via this link: <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/c235e622-45c0-41c3-a589-889e5735e934/using-x-box-or-playstation-to-access-hwb.pdf>

This allows students without unique laptop access but who do have consoles to participate in online learning. If this is of interest and you need a keyboard and mouse to make this happen, then please contact the Network Team: networkhelpdesk@surrey.sch.uk

⇒ **Career Opportunities and Virtual Work Experience Opportunities**

We are continuing to update the careers page on our website with lots of opportunities for students. Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>

Opportunities include:

Future Talented with Barclays Life Skills – live Q&A session for young people with Tim Peake – Thursday 21 January 5-6pm

Brooklands College STEM Event – Tuesday 12 January 2021, 6pm

Speakers For Schools – Careers within Construction – 15-19 February 2021

Marks & Spencer Webinar – Thursday 28 January 5PM – 6PM

Online Healthcare Work Experience from Pre-med Projects – January 2021

Speakers for Schools have a huge number of virtual work experience programmes and insight days most of which are running over half-term. They range from 1-4 days in length and are open to a variety of school years.

There are many exciting opportunities in various industries including:

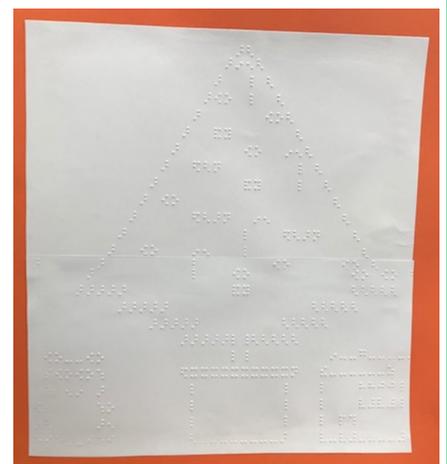
FASHION AND MARKETING, POLITICS, RAIL SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLISHING, THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSTRUCTION, BUSINESS AND INSURANCE, THE ARMY, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, TOURISM, PROPERTY SERVICES, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

In our current situation, with real-life experiences halted we would really encourage you to have a look at the links and read more about each opportunity. Whichever school year you are, any additional work experience/insight days you participate in are a fantastic way for you to enrich your studies, add to your CV and personal statement and gain some important knowledge, facts and information about how companies and industry work.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>Please note some opportunities are limited to certain school years. Half-term is 15 -19 February 2021. If you would like any further information or assistance with an application, please contact enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 21 January 2021 Please see important information attached about Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings and how to book appointments.</p> <p>⇒ Careers Advisor George Abbot employs the services of careers advisor Gaynor Eke from Careers Management Consultants to help and advise all Year 11 students in their next steps. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown beginning last March, we have not been able to offer all students 1-1 appointments. However, throughout the first lockdown all Year 11 students were sent an email from Gaynor to discuss their next steps.</p> <p>We were due to continue 1-1 appointments this term however this is now not possible and therefore Gaynor will be emailing again those who either did not respond to the first email, or those that have not had the chance to meet with her.</p> <p>Please could we therefore ask you to encourage your son/daughter to check for this correspondence and to reply accordingly. To confirm, the students will only receive an email if they have not yet had any interaction with Gaynor either via email or in person.</p> <p>If however, you feel that your son/daughter would benefit from a further email discussion with Gaynor you may contact her directly on geke@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p>
<p>Year 8</p>	<p>⇒ Maths classes From the beginning of the Spring term Year 8 students will be streamed into bands for their maths classes only. The bands, higher, middle and lower, are based on their Autumn term assessment and classroom teacher feedback. New teachers will be clearly printed on their new timetable.</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Residential Trip We are pleased to announce the Year 8 Residential trip is planned for PGL Osmington Bay, Dorset in July 2021. Please see attached letter which has details of the trip, including the PGL COVID refund promise and payment details.</p>

Focus on—Christmas Cards

Before Christmas, some of our Year 10 students created tactile Christmas cards (pictured below) for students in the VI Specialist Centre at Sythwood Primary School in Woking. One of our students created a Christmas tree with braille. We hope the students enjoyed receiving the cards.



UPDATED PROGRESS MONITORING KEY DATES 2020-2021

PLEASE NOTE: For the Year 7 - 11 Parents' Subject Meetings the school closes at 1.30pm.

DATA REPORT RELEASE DATES

Date	Meeting	Time	Booking system opens
Tuesday 15 September 2020	Y12-13 Video Tutor Meeting	4.00pm – 8.00pm	08/09/2020 6pm
Wednesday 11 November 2020	Y11-13 Video Academic Clinic	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Invitation only
Monday 7 December 2020	Y7 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	30/11/2020 6pm
Thursday 7 January 2021	Y8 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	18/12/2020 6pm
Thursday 21 January 2021	Y11 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	14/01/2021 6pm
Tuesday 2 February 2021	Y13 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	3.45pm – 7.00pm	26/01/2021 6pm
Thursday 11 March 2021	Y10 RE and Y11-13 Video Academic Clinic	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Invitation Only
Thursday 25 March 2021	Y9 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	18/03/2021 6pm
Tuesday 15 June 2021	Y10 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	08/06/2021 6pm
Wednesday 23 June 2021	Y12 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	3.45pm – 7.00pm	16/06/2021 6pm

Please note these dates are also recorded on the school calendar:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events/>

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 7	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Year 8	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Year 9	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Year 10	18/12/2020	19/03/2021	19/07/2021
Year 11	06/11/2020	19/03/2021	
Year 12	18/12/2020	19/03/2021	
Year 13	06/11/2020	19/03/2021	

PTA

Happy New Year and welcome back to 'school' everyone!

Firstly, we would like to reiterate our gratitude for your generosity at the end of last year in donating money for a gift for the staff. Here's a photo of Mr Rodgers posing with his sweets to say thank you!



AGM

Our AGM takes place on Tuesday 12 January at 7.30pm on Zoom – [here's the agenda and Zoom details](#). You will be able to hear about how we raised money before lockdown, what we spent this on, and our special guest is Kate Carriett.

Lockdown Quiz

We're running our second Lockdown Quiz on Friday 26 February. Again, tickets will be £10 and available on [Classlist](#) or via our email address (PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

Next meeting

And our next PTA meeting will now take place on Tuesday 2 March at 7.30pm. Zoom details to follow.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA

