

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

15 January 2021

All

This week we have three important and very different issues to cover in this Bulletin message. Firstly, our move to Teams for virtual lessons instead of Zoom; secondly, the George Abbot curriculum model and thirdly, a break in screen time in the learning day.

Move from Zoom to Teams – timeline and training:

Tuesday 19 January 2021:

- **Lesson W** – student training in use of Teams for each year group – **no live lesson**. Links for the meeting being led by Inclusion Managers or a member of SLT will be attached to Satchel One by the Inclusion Manager or Head of Year/Head of Sixth Form.
- **Lesson X** – time for students to watch some 5 minute training videos and to practise. Additionally, **lesson X will be set some work** via Satchel One for students to complete independently – no live lesson as teachers in training.
- **Lesson Y and Z taught live by Zoom** as usual – links sent in the usual way.

Wednesday 20 January 2021:

- Teams lessons commence. Teachers will do their best to move over every class as soon as they can from this date and certainly by Monday 25 January at the very latest.

In support of this move, it is essential that students know their log on to their school email – here is a reminder of how to action this if they do not:

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

George Abbot Curriculum Model – September 2021

Readers will remember our recent Ofsted visit in December 2019. Ofsted left a very clear instruction that George Abbot must move away from a 3 year GCSE programme. The main curriculum argument driving this in current Ofsted and government policy, is that all students must have access to the full national curriculum content before they cease studying any of the national curriculum subjects. George Abbot argued strongly, based on a full and thorough audit, that all national curriculum content was covered for all students by the end of Year 8. However, the Ofsted inspectors still felt that, particularly in the non core EBacc subjects – i.e. Geography, History and Languages – extended written work at the end of Year 8 did not demonstrate the depth of thinking and explanation that they would usually see at the end of Year 9. As parents will know, this was the key reason that George Abbot was graded as Good.

So, we must make changes. Our plan is therefore to begin a transition in stages, carefully evaluating impact and effect on learning before agreeing any further adjustments. From 2021, our current Year 8 into 9 cohort will therefore follow the curriculum model below:

- All students continue Geography, History and a Language up to the end of Year 9.
- Students select two option subjects to study in Year 9 from the full range of arts and technology subjects.
- At the end of Year 9, students may drop Geography, History or one of their arts or technology subjects. Some students will cease studying a language.
- There will be a further set of subjects offered for study at GCSE across Year 10 and 11 only – this will include subjects not previously studied, such as construction, media, sociology etc.

[Return to home page](#)



- Students will also have the choice to swap one of their Year 9 options for one from this list to study in Year 10 and 11.
- Year 10 option time will increase to 150 minutes.

We will thus be offering a bespoke curriculum that we believe retains some of the choice that is important to our students, but also addresses the action points in our Ofsted report.

Full details, diagrams and a presentation will be issued for Year 8 parents early next week to add further information and illuminate anything that remains unclear from this brief overview.

Break Times and Wellbeing for Lockdown Learning

Parents will know that we surveyed our students over the last 24 hours in relation to the structure of our lockdown school day. A number of parents and staff have requested a longer break from the screen at some point in the learning day. Feedback from students is equally divided between in favour and against. However, in the staff survey, a clear majority felt that a longer middle break would be really beneficial.

Therefore, the school day from Monday 18 January will include breaks at the following times:

Break 1 = 10.10 – 10.25 – 15 mins

Break 2 = 11.40 – 12.25 – 45 mins

Break 3 = 13.40 – 13.55 – 15 mins

Lessons will still commence at 08.55 and finish at 15.10. Please do discuss this change with your son/daughter and reiterate that the middle break must NOT include looking at a computer screen! Fresh air, a change of scene and a slightly more leisurely, if early lunch is all key for wellbeing.

In closing, a reminder to check that your son/daughter can access their school email account ready for the launch of Teams training on Tuesday 19 January. As ever, please do email your child's Head of Year if there are any issues in relation to accessing IT equipment. Mr Goulborn remains the key contact as we transition across to Teams – there will inevitably be some blips!

Have a good weekend – trying to mark that time as distinct from weekdays remains really important for us all as lockdown proceeds. Take care and stay well,

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

Home Learning: Whole School Week 3 (18/1/21)

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Wednesday 20 January 2021:

- Teams lessons commence. Teachers will do their best to move over every class as soon as they can from this date and certainly by Monday 25 January at the very latest.

Student training resources and the links for Inclusion Manager presentation meetings will be posted on Satchel One on Tuesday 19 January at 8am.

Please see the link to the Student Information Booklet below:

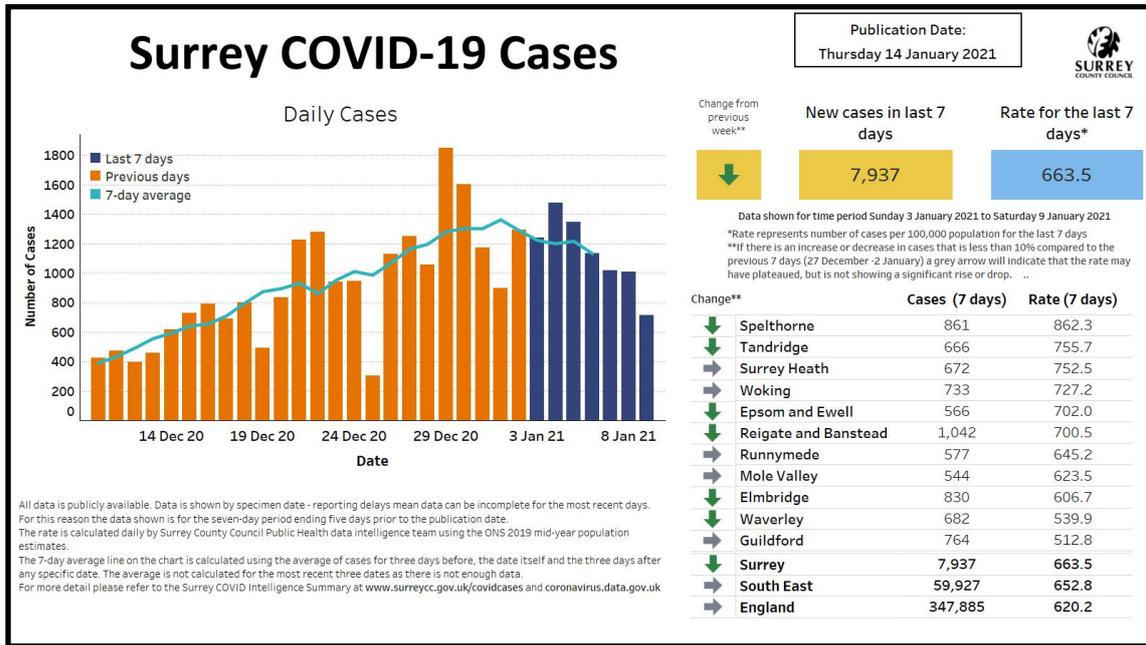
<https://ax5.6f9.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Teams-Student-Guide.pdf>

[Return to home page](#)



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

Useful COVID-19 Information



Since the beginning of term, the gym has become our very own 'COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing Centre'! A huge thank you goes out to our premises team, staff, and volunteers who have enabled us to successfully test over 300 students/staff for COVID since the beginning of term. We really appreciate the hard work and time that has been put in to make the testing happen. Additionally, the students have been sensible, calm and mature throughout the whole process. Well done to all involved.



COVID-19 TESTING CONSENT FORMS

Please continue to fill in a testing consent form for your children, if you have not done so already. There are different forms for each year group so please ensure you are completing the correct one.

Forms can be found on the following page: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

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 RESOURCES FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Please use the resources below to keep your child safe online:

- [Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online](#), which outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to find support and advice.
- Guidance on [staying safe online](#) which includes information on security and privacy settings.
- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online.
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online.
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games.
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

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

[Return to home page](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

<p>Bereavement Cruse Bereavement Care Tel: 0808 808 1677 cruse.org.uk</p>	<p>Mental health and wellbeing—adults Local services Healthysurrey.org.uk/mentalwellbeing</p> <p>Crisis Support Surrey Mental Health Crisis Helpline Tel: 0800 915 4644 Sabp.uk/crisis Shout UK crisis text line—test 'SHOUT' to 85258</p>	<p>Mental Health and wellbeing—children and young people Children and Family Health Surrey Advice Line Tel: 01833 340 922 (Monday—Friday, 8am—5pm) Test a school nurse, text 'Chat Health' to 07507 329951 Kooth.com Qwell.io</p>
<p>ChildLine Tel: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk</p>	<p>Safeguarding adults Tel: 0300 470 9100 Email: ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk Surreycc.gov.uk/safeguardingadults</p> <p>Out of hours Monday-Friday, 5-9pm and 24 hours at weekends 01483 517898</p>	<p>Safeguarding children Tel: 0300 470 9100 cspa@surreycc.gov.uk</p> <p>Out of hours Monday-Friday, 5-9pm and 24 hours at weekends 01483 517898</p>
<p>Domestic Abuse Surrey Against Domestic Abuse 01483 776822 www.surreyagainstda.info</p>	<p>NHS 111 Tel: 111 If you're deaf, phone 18001 111 on a textphone British Sign Language— interpreternow.co.uk/nhs111111.nhs.uk</p>	<p>Surrey Information Point surreyinformationpoint.org.uk</p>
<p>Financial support National Debt Helpline Tel: 0808 808 4000 nationaldebtline.org</p>	<p>Preparing for emergencies Surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared</p>	<p>Trading Standards Tel: 0808 223 113 surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards</p>
<p>Healthy Surrey healthysurrey.org.uk</p>	<p>Surrey Community Helpline Tel: 0300 200 1008 SMS: 07860 053465 for deaf and hearing-impaired residents only. Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.</p>	<p>Mental Health Crisis Helpline Tel: 0800 915 4644 We have increased out of hours crisis support for children, young people and their families in response to Coronavirus.</p>
<p>Heating Support Action Surrey Tel: 0800 783 2503 Actionsurrey.org</p> <p>HEATSurrey (Runnymede residents) Tel: 01784 653635</p>	<p>Coronavirus advice Gov.uk/coronavirus Covid19.nhs.uk Nhs.uk/coronavirus</p>	<p>Our Mental Health Crisis Helpline is now providing telephone support to children, young people and their families between 11pm and 9am, seven days a week, to ensure they always have access to out of hours crisis support.</p>

Whole School

⇒ Equipment collection

We are trying to minimise collection of school equipment as much as possible. Please contact office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk to arrange an appropriate time and state exactly what you are going to be picking up. **Visitors must wear a facemask.** Please do not come to school without an arranging a time. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

⇒ **REMINDER: Early school closure for Year 11 Parent 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 Subject consultation meetings.

⇒ **REMINDER: 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

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

In our current situation, with real-life experiences halted we would really encourage students 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.

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/>

New opportunities this week include:

- **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair**—for Year 11, 12 and 13. 27 January, 12pm-6pm.
- **Flying Start degree programmes – PWC**—for Year 12 and 13.
- **Gresham College – Free lectures**—for Year 11, 12 and 13.

Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

We have added a number of new virtual work experience opportunities this week, including Marketing, Journalism, Law and Teaching.

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

⇒ **External Hirer—Level Up Fitness School Holidays**

Please see flyers below for holiday fitness camps being run by an external company.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p><i>'MAXIMISING YOUR SPORTING POTENTIAL'</i></p>  <p>EASTER MULTI-SPORT COACHING CAMP</p> <p><i>'PROFESSIONAL SPORT AND FITNESS COACHING'</i></p> <p>6TH-9TH APRIL (SAT-THU)</p> <p>GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL, GUILDFORD</p> <p>BOOK A PLACE NOW @ WWW.LEVELUPFITNESS.NET</p> <p>levelupfitnessuk@outlook.com</p>	<p><i>'MAXIMISING YOUR SPORTING POTENTIAL'</i></p>  <p>OPEN FITNESS SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN</p> <p><i>'FUN PERSONAL TRAINING FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-14'</i></p> <p>15-18TH FEBRUARY</p> <p>9.30-11.30AM</p> <p>STOKE PARK, GUILDFORD</p> <p>BOOK A PLACE NOW @ WWW.LEVELUPFITNESS.NET</p> <p>levelupfitnessuk@outlook.com</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ REMINDER: Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 21 January 2021</p> <p>Please see important information attached about Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings and how to book appointments.</p>	
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ TeenTech</p> <p>On 26 January our Year 9 Computer Science students will be taking part in a very special experience. Schools across Surrey will work on global challenges and understand more about exciting and unexpected areas of science, technology and engineering. Parents will be contacted shortly with more details, but more information can be found here: https://www.teentech.com/teentech-events/regions/surrey/</p>	

A success for Year 12 Mathematicians!

A group of our Year 12 Maths students recently took part in the MEI's 2020 Ritangle competition and successfully reached Stage 2, the furthest we have ever reached in this extremely challenging competition!

Congratulations to the following students for taking part:

David Hayman-Joyce
 Oli Maltby
 James Bolus
 James Freed
 Amrit Sahu
 Oliver Newman
 Christian Viney
 Gabriello Lombardi
 George Negus
 Connor Acres
 Ryan Bowdler
 Luca Elliott
 John Kafkas



Congratulations!

A team from
George Abbot School
 successfully reached Stage 2 of Ritangle 2020.

Ritangle is a maths competition aimed at teams of 16-18 year old students.
 Solving Ritangle requires teams to answer a series of challenging maths problems set daily over a two-month period.

Developed by **MEI**
 Mathematics Education Innovation

Focus on—GA Alumni: Samuel White, published author!

Congratulations goes to George Abbot alumni Samuel White on the publication of his first novel: Morium: A Land Beyond.

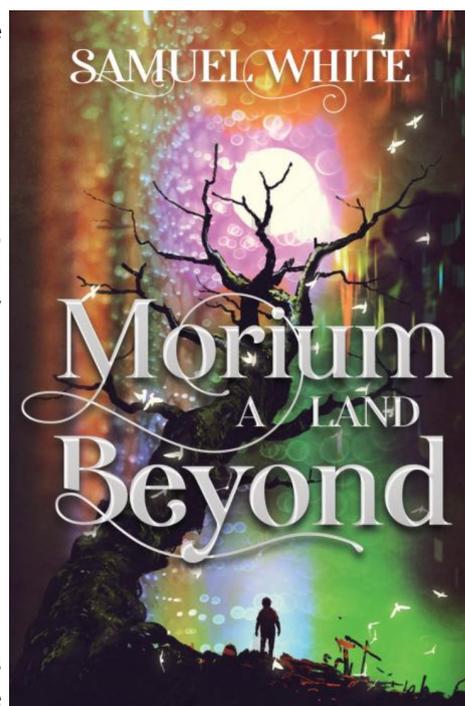
"A realm steeped in adventure, chaos, and a conflict as old as time.

When a young village boy is confronted by a bloodthirsty gang of vicious bandits, he must venture out into an unfamiliar world to enlist the support of an unlikely group of heroes. The boy, known as Tenth Maddox, must battle forces beyond his control as he is plunged into a world he does not truly understand.

Morium is the story of a serendipitous hero who is forced to learn and adapt as his quiet life falls around him, leaving him lost in a realm of violence and darkness. As allies rally at his side, Tenth will discover more about the world, and the deep tapestry that is its past, than he could possibly realise."

<https://pegasuspublishers.com/authors/samuel-white>

Samuel started writing 'Morium: A Land Beyond' whilst studying for his A-Levels at George Abbot Sixth Form and one of the dedications at the start of the book is to his English teacher, Mrs Short, who was the book's first reader and advocate. We wish Samuel the very best with the rest of this series of novels. Book number two is already in progress!



PTA

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.



Guildford Refugee Aid

This local charity has contacted us and have requested donations of snowsuits, ski jackets and salopettes for children aged 2 - 15 who are living outside in France and Greece this winter.

If you have any good condition kids skiwear that you no longer need and would like to donate, and are able to drop whilst out taking exercise or picking up food shopping from the **Boxgrove shops**, please send a PM to [@guildfordrefugeeaid](#) to arrange contactless, outdoor drop off - they are just outside the boxgrove shops.

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

George Abbot School
Woodruff Avenue
Guildford
GU1 1XX
01483 888000