

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

12 March 2021

All

An important week reaches its conclusion. We are so grateful to all those of you who have volunteered to help George Abbot with our coronavirus testing schedule. It has been a logistics exercise of some scale and the assistance of our superb volunteers has enabled us to simultaneously support the successful return to school of all our young people. For our students, the routine of the school day will help to bring stability and a return of social interactions that boost wellbeing and a sense of self worth. For just a few of our senior students, the relative freedoms enabled by learning at home will be, perhaps, a little missed. We will continue to work hard to make the transition back to school as smooth as we can for all of us.

The government have made an important change to their guidance for schools. This week, they amended their position regarding lateral flow testing and the need for confirmatory PCR testing. The new guidance states that when secondary aged pupils receive a positive LFD test at an Asymptomatic Test Site set up by a secondary school, then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. A confirmatory PCR test is not advised.

When secondary-aged pupils begin to test themselves from home, a positive LFD result should then be followed by a confirmatory PCR test. If the pupil then tests negative on the PCR test, this will override the test they took at home, and they will be able to return to school.

The DfE state that this is because LFD tests taken on test sites have extremely low rates of false positives, as these tests are undertaken in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results.

I think it is important to reassure parents that, at this point, we have not had a single positive lateral flow test recorded and have already completed over 3,000 tests. I hope this provides a helpful context to this issue. We will provide information about the distribution of home testing kits for students once we have stocks delivered.

I very much hope that the return to school has brought the beginnings of some normality back to family life - have a good weekend.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

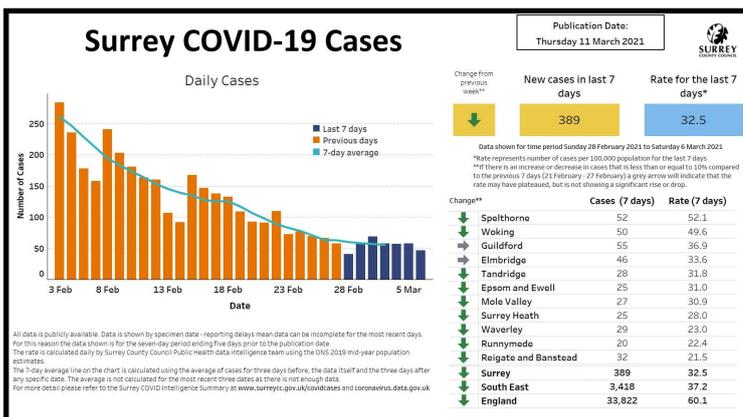
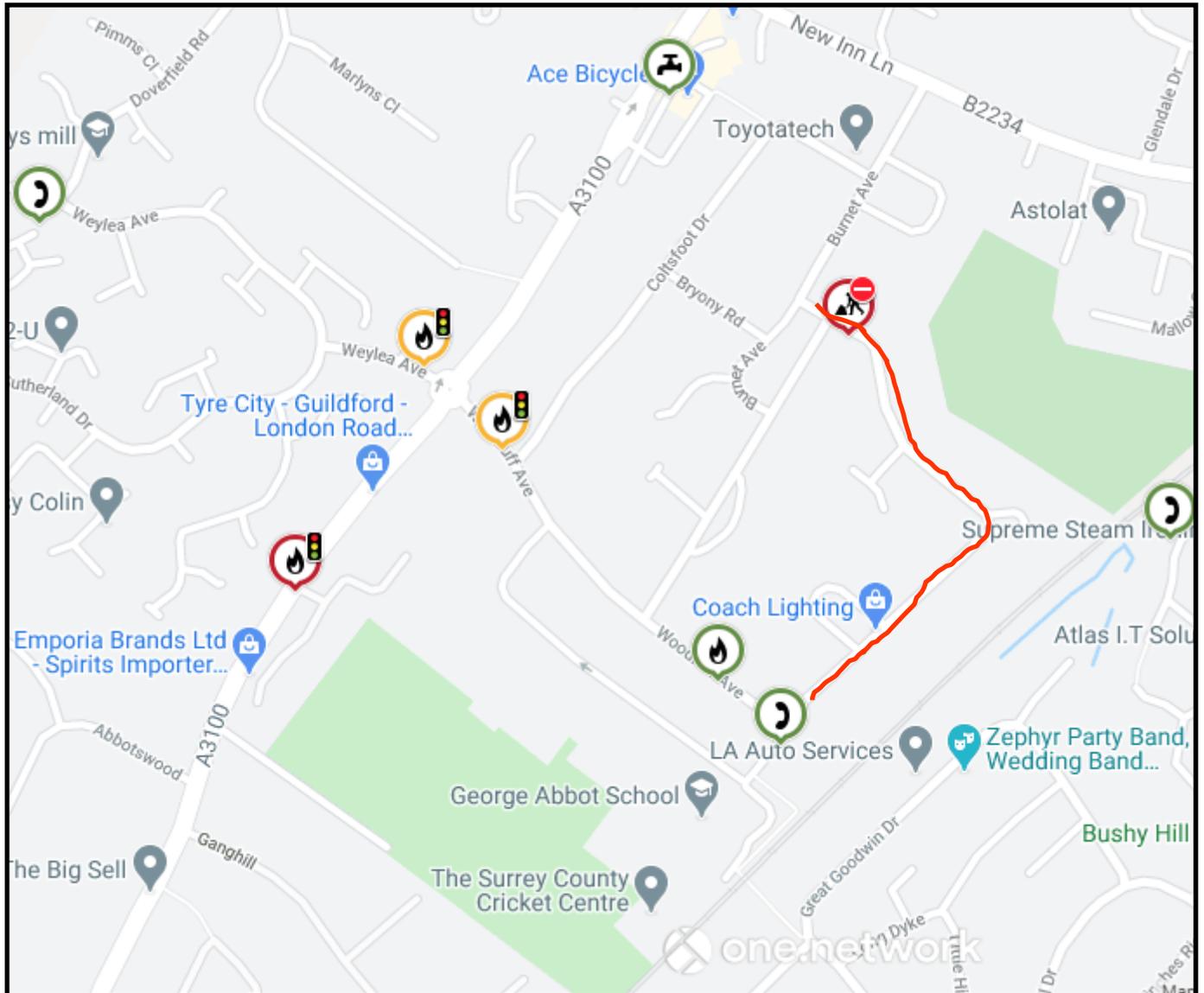


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Traffic and Road Works surrounding George Abbot School

Please be aware of the road works happening on the A3100, London Road which are creating long queues of traffic at school pick up and drop off times. There are four way traffic lights on the roundabout off Woodruff Avenue.

Additionally, an advanced warning of the closure of Charlock Way (road in red on diagram) starting on Saturday 20 March for 4 weeks. No parking is allowed on this road at this time. Please let any Sixth Form students who may drive, know that they will need to find an alternative place to park.



Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
15 March	A	1
22 March	B	2
29 March	A	3
HALF TERM		

Notices	
Whole School	<p>⇒ Early school closure for Year 9 Parent Subject Consultations on Thursday 25 March</p> <p>School will be closing at 1.30pm on Thursday 25 March for us to conduct the Year 9 Parent Subject Consultation meetings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Provision has been made for 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 24 March. 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 that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>School buses will run at the usual time.</p> <p>⇒ Vacancies at George Abbot</p> <p>Please see the following page of the school website for further details on our current vacancies: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/. Please do forward to any friends or colleagues you think might be interested.</p>
Sixth Form	<p>⇒ Gate Cards</p> <p>A reminder that, for safeguarding reasons, the Sixth Form gate code will become obsolete from the end of March. Sixth Form students are being offered their own individual gate card to use instead.</p> <p>If you have not done so already, and wish your child to have a card, please pay £5.00 on their WisePay account. This will be refunded when the card is returned, when your child leaves George Abbot.</p> <p>Cards will be distributed week commencing 29 March.</p>
Year 12	<p>⇒ Year 12 Reports</p> <p>Year 12 Reports are due to be issued next Wednesday 17 March. Please ensure you can log into the SimsApp in advance. If you are having trouble logging in, please email: SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
Year 10	<p>⇒ Careers Advisor</p> <p>George Abbot employs the services of careers advisor Gaynor Eke, from Careers Management Consultants, to help and advise 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.</p> <p>There will be a small number of 1-1 appointments taking place now school has reopened, and we will be looking to resume this fully after the Easter holidays. In the meantime, Gaynor will be contacting some Year 10 students via email.</p>

Year 10	<p>Could we therefore please ask you to encourage your son/daughter to check their school email to see if they have been contacted by Gaynor and ask them to reply accordingly.</p> <p>All Year 10 students will have a chance to discuss their options with the careers advisor either via email or through a 1-1 interview over the coming terms. If you have any queries on this please do not hesitate to contact enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
Year 9	<p>⇒ Year 9 Parent Subject Consultations on Thursday 25 March</p> <p>Please see important information attached regarding Year 9 Parent Subject Consultations and how to book appointments.</p>

Career Opportunities and Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

We are continuing to update the careers page on our website with lots of opportunities for students.

Careers opportunities:

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>

Apprenticeship opportunities:

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/apprenticeship-opportunities/>

Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

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

New opportunities this week include:

- SPACE SCIENCE WEEK – Mullard Space Science Laboratory
- UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair
- Youth Action for Nature
- TEDI-London Virtual Information Evening
- SATRO Research Work Placements
- Virtual Work Experience Opportunities from Springpod
- STEM Challenge VWEX with Johnson Matthey
- Insight Day for Careers in Music – British Army
- British Airways Virtual Insight Day – Sustainability Workshop
- Architecture + Design Work Placement – Carmody Groarke
- VGC Group – Construction & Civil Engineering VWEX
- Design and Construction VWEX with Balfour Beatty
- PwC Virtual Insight/Work Experience Week July 2021

Psychometric Testing with Dan Hughes

Psychometric Testing is a widely used part of the recruitment and selection process not only for Apprenticeships but also increasingly in other interviews and assessments as we move further into a virtual way of working.

One of our George Abbot parents, Dan Hughes, who is a Chartered Occupational Psychologist and the International Director of Research & Development at PSI Services, has very kindly put together a bespoke Introduction to Psychometric Testing for all George Abbot Students. Many thanks to Dan! <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>

Focus on: Intermediate Maths Challenge

Some of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in this year's national Intermediate Maths Challenge. Our competitors achieved excellent results with 33 Bronze, 12 Silver and 6 Gold Awards given. Those who received a Kangaroo award earned places in the next round of the competition. A massive congratulations to all our participants! As ever, Maths at George Abbot continues to thrive!

Year 11			Year 10		
	Certificate	Award		Certificate	Award
Amina Al-Muhammedawi	Bronze		Adeeba Ali-Khan	Bronze	
Charlie Argent	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Ama Bogdan	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Mariam Babar	Bronze		Joshua Butlin	Bronze	
Luke Baldock	Bronze		Heidi Collyer	Bronze	
Ethan Campbell	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Andrew Creese	Bronze	
Philip Couldery	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Jenna Dabill	Bronze	
Cerys Folland	Bronze		Helena Easton	Gold	Pink kangaroo
Sam Hawksworth	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Toby Jennings	Bronze	
Melanie Henin	Bronze		Elysia Larcombe	Bronze	
Grace Knight	Bronze		Filippo Massagrande	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Keiran Lawrey	Gold	Pink kangaroo	Gabriel Nassif	Bronze	
Cameron Leach	GoldBiS	Maclaurin Olympiad	Sebastian Neu	Bronze	
Max Masters	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Freya Newton	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Rosie Priest-Jones	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Mithra Prasanna	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Charlotte Rhodes	Bronze		Emma Schauerman	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Alex Rose	Bronze		Sophia Shaverin	GoldBiY	Pink kangaroo
Sophia Sherry	Bronze		Joe Taylor	Bronze	
Amy Smith	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Phoenix Thomson	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Charlotte Taylor	Bronze		Sophie van de Wiel	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Kyle Trinidad	Bronze		Nathan Vuong	Bronze	
Luke Wardley	Bronze		Joel Whitcombe	Bronze	
Alexander Webb	Silver	Grey kangaroo	Daisy Wiggins	Bronze	
			Amy Woodhouse	Gold	Pink kangaroo
			Aidan Wright	Bronze	
			Jenny Zhang	Silver	Grey kangaroo

Year 9		
	Certificate	Award
Maia Bogdan	GoldBiY	Pink kangaroo
Yundi Chen	Silver	Grey kangaroo
Alexandre Grandvuiet	Bronze	Grey kangaroo
Toby Hart	Bronze	Grey kangaroo
Sam Kan	Bronze	Grey kangaroo
Jack Liu	Bronze	
Oliver Martindale	Silver	
Oliver Nixon	Silver	
Emma Thomson	Bronze	
James Turner	Silver	
Joe Ward	Bronze	
Vincent Whibberley	Bronze	

REMINDER: Extra Curricular Timetable (from 15 March until Easter)

SPORT

As per the government guidelines, the after school sports clubs will resume from Monday 15 March. In sport, we will continue to keep students in their year group 'bubbles' for the remainder of the term.

Clubs are open to all students. A gumshield will be needed for rugby. A gumshield **and** shin pads will be needed for hockey (any issues with equipment, we will try to resolve). The summer term extra-curricular timetable will hopefully resemble a more comprehensive offer after the Easter holidays!

Club (Venue)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Year 8	Year 7	Year 9
Rugby (Field)	BR/JNF	BR/JNF	BRI/LJM
Hockey (Astro)	JN/CEF	BRI	SGB
Badminton (Sports Hall)	JLL	SGB	CEF
Basketball (Gym)	MS/PLJ	JLL	JN/PLJ

PERFORMING ARTS

From 15 March	DANCE DEPARTMENT SPRING TERM EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS	
DAY	LUNCH TIME	AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	Rehearsal: Studio Space for Year 13 A Level pupils	3:15 -4pm Tap Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Musical Theatre Technique and Performance
Tuesday	Rehearsal: Studio Space for Year 11 GCSE pupils	3:15 – 4pm Jazz Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Junior Dance Company
Wednesday	Rehearsal: Studio space for Year 10 GCSE pupils	3:15- 4:45 A Level and GCSE Dance Exam Rehearsals. *Priority for studio space given to Y11 and yr13 pupils in Spring Term*
Thursday	Rehearsal: Studio space for Year 12 A Level dance	3:15- 4pm Contemporary Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Senior Dance Company
Friday	Rehearsal: Studio Space open to all.	

From 15 March	MUSIC DEPARTMENT SPRING TERM EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS
DAY	AFTER SCHOOL
Tuesday	Upper Voices GAMC Year 11 Composition
Wednesday	Year 9 Theory Year 10 Composition
Thursday	Big Band Orchestra
Friday	Concert Band

- Students must book into clubs and register for each session upon arrival.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided at the beginning and end of each session.

Requirements:

- Dance Kit can be worn on Extra curricular club days, even if students do not have Dance or PE during timetabled lessons that day.
- Socks must be worn in the studios.
- Socks with grips, such as trampoline socks, are recommended to avoid slipping.

PTA



Kelly's March Marathon

There is still time to sign up for the virtual **Kelly's March Marathon**. You don't have to do it in one go – you have four weeks to complete the challenge. We will send you simple instructions as to how you can accumulate your distances, using Strava, when you sign up. All money raised will go to George Abbot Hardship Fund to provide resources to members of the school's community in need of extra support at this time.

We are encouraging inter-house competition and currently **Falcon have the most sign ups!**

Every entrant will receive a snood to sport whilst completing the challenge and there will be fun mini challenges to take part in throughout the month allowing a chance to win spot prizes. There will be two main prizes – one for the top fundraiser and one for the individual/team completing the furthest distance in one session.

To enter, [use the link](#) and if you are looking for [sponsors give out this link](#).

Second-hand Uniform Collection

Please drop off any unwanted uniform to Elmslie Reception any day this week or next. The PTA will be distributing to those who need it. We are also taking orders for purchasing the second-hand uniform via PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Please note that the school is phasing out hoodies and have replaced them with a new quarter zip warm top for PE which is now in stock in the school shop, not via the PTA. School hoodies are not available either from the school shop or via the PTA second-hand uniform stock.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA



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