

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

26 March 2021

All

As I write, school has just emptied in readiness for the Year 9 Parents' Consultation appointments; Mrs Firth and Mr O'Sullivan did sterling work on Woodruff Avenue to manage the traffic chaos created by road resurfacing. A reminder to parents/carers that if you can avoid picking up children on Woodruff Avenue next week, whilst these works remain in place, it would be a great deal less stressful for the school-run drivers amongst you. As staff prepare themselves for this afternoon's parent appointments in the world of virtual consultations, the building feels oddly silent. It is reminiscent of lockdown again – the un-nerving absence of teenage presence.

This week saw a national reflection on the anniversary of the beginning of lockdown in March 2020. I am sure that many of you, like my family, found a moment of stillness at 8pm to pause and hold a light to the sky in reflection. Our collective experience is significant and our collective thoughts are with all those who have lost so much – whether that be family members or friends, income, time with loved ones or the simple joy of life fully lived. As the vaccination programme continues, I am so pleased that many of us have now received our first vaccination – this is an early milestone in our progress towards a more familiar way of living.

Thank you to all of the families who have got underway with lateral flow testing at home. I can speak from experience that it definitely adds an extra complication into family life - getting my two organised to get to school on time is enough of a mission without throwing in a LFT! That said, it is VITALLY important that we keep the testing up for as long as we have test kits provided. Letting our guard down now is not a good thing. Everything that we can do, we must do, to keep our students and community safe. More test kit supplies will come home with students over the coming days. Please do persevere and continue to inform both George Abbot and the NHS of your LFT results via:

1. **The Government:** www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.
2. **George Abbot School:** <https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

This week, there are two important teaching and learning points to mention:

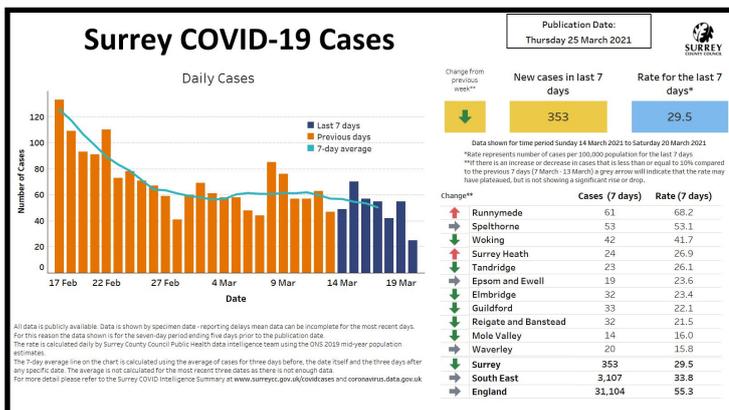
1. We have two Parents' Information Events on Tuesday next week – 5pm for Year 13 parents and 5.45pm for Year 11 parents. Please do join us for some clarity regarding grades this summer.
 - Year 13: Tuesday 30 March 17.00 <https://zoom.us/j/94810169897>
 - Year 11: Tuesday 30 March 17.45 <https://zoom.us/j/96574202918>
2. Teachers have been asked to set some homework for students over the Easter break – it is time to get students gently acclimatised to some work at home in readiness for the summer term. Our usual homework provision will recommence in April.

This will be the last Bulletin for this strangest of Spring Terms. Thank you for all that you have done to help settle your children back into the routine of school life. It is so good to look ahead to a Summer Term where enrichment and clubs return in full, the days get brighter and the prospect of a summer getaway is not yet completely out of the question.

Happy Easter!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher





Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
29 March	A	3
HALF TERM		
19 April	B	4
26 April	A	5
3 May	B	1
10 May	A	2

Easter Holidays: Thursday 1 April, 12pm
Return to School: Monday 19 April

COVID-19 REMINDER:

A reminder that the 3 main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A new continuous cough.
- A high temperature.
- A loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell.

If your child has any of the above symptoms, they MUST take a PCR test, instead of one of the at home lateral flow test your child will have received from school. Additionally, please do not send your child to school if they have any of the above symptoms.

If your child receives a positive result from a lateral flow test, they must take a confirmatory PCR test. To register for a PCR test, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> Please keep us informed by contacting: absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

WWF's Earth Hour

George Abbot is proud to be supporting WWF's Earth Hour. Millions of homes across the world will switch off their non-essential lights for one hour on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm. Will you join them?

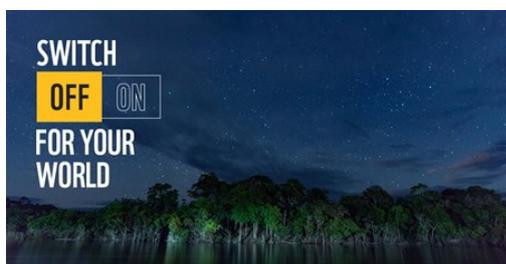
What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is one of the world's largest movements for our planet. Millions of people around the world switch off their lights to show they care about the future of our planet – our shared home.

Joining Earth Hour's switch off reminds us that even small actions can make a big difference.

When we make changes in our own lives, and when we share that with others, we also inspire the people around us to change – and we help grow a movement that businesses and governments can't ignore.

If you'd like to know more about Earth Hour and ways you can make a difference from home, please click [here](#).



SATURDAY 27TH MARCH // 8:30PM - 9:30PM

Notices

IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 29 March 2021= Week A, no lesson 3
Thursday 1 April = End of Term—Easter Holidays

Whole School

⇒ **Community Alert**

We have recently received a report of a man following some of our students around the local roads leading to George Abbot. Students were not harmed during this incident, but were understandably left shaken.

Please reiterate to your child the importance of being alert and vigilant when walking to and from school.

Reports of these types of incidents are taken very seriously and Surrey Police would encourage anyone who has experienced something similar in the area to report information by calling 101 or via their website - <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>. Always call 999 in an emergency.

⇒ **No After School Homework Club—Thursday 1 April**

Please note that Homework Club will not be running on the last day of term, Thursday 1 April, as school will be closing at midday for the Easter holidays. If your child would normally attend the club, please make arrangements for their homeward travel.

⇒ **Sports Equipment**

Thought it is fine for your child to bring in their own footballs, tennis balls, basket balls and rugby balls to use on the playgrounds, we have received 5 separate requests this week alone to retrieve balls from the roofs. Due to Health and Safety restrictions, all roof work should be kept to an absolute minimum and carried out under strict safety conditions. As a consequence we will only be checking the roofs during school holidays.

⇒ **Foodbank: Easter Holidays**

If any families are struggling financially and need help with groceries before or over the Easter Break, please email jtutty@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Wednesday 31 March and she will contact you with a referral to relevant agencies.

⇒ **Family Learning: Free Resources**

Family Learning provides free online courses and workshops supporting parents and carers with: parenting, wellbeing, understanding children's behaviour, getting to grips with maths and phonics, English as an additional language (EAL) and understanding the English education system. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

⇒ **REMINDER: Free School Meal—Easter Vouchers**

For students entitled to Free School Meals, we will once again be issuing supermarket vouchers for the Easter period using the Wonde system. Following guidance from Surrey County Council, we will be issuing £30 per week per student.

Year 13

⇒ **FAO Art and Design Students: Course Assessment**

As you will know, there will be no examination for your child's A Level this year. They will be assessed wholly on coursework from either Year 12 and 13. From now and until the deadline students should focus on collecting evidence for their teachers.

As all of the visual arts have slightly different approaches, students will be given guidance from their teachers on the best way to showcase their work. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete as much work as they can, to ensure they meet all the assessment objectives. Extra sessions after school and during the Easter holidays are available and I would strongly advise all students to take advantage of these opportunities to ensure they get the help and guidance they need to complete their work by the deadline.

[Return to home page](#)

<p>Year 13</p>	<p>The deadline for submitting work to their teacher is <u>4pm Monday 26 April 2021</u> at the latest.</p> <p>If you or your child have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email kclifford@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>⇒ Year 12 Parents' Subject Meetings Please note that the Year 12 Parents' Subject Video Meeting has been brought forward to Wednesday 26 May 2021. The booking system will open on Wednesday 19 May at 6pm. More information on how to book appointments will be sent out nearer the time.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Prom—Save the Date The Year 11 Prom is booked for the evening of Wednesday 14 July and it will take place at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Frimley. More details to follow, but please keep this date free.</p> <p>The Government's proposed road map indicates that we can hold the Year 11 prom after 21 June. We have allowed some additional time in case that date is pushed back, but we cannot delay the event indefinitely. It is therefore vital that students and parents check that there is an appropriate refund policy when purchasing clothing, transport and other prom accessories, as the school will only be able to reimburse the cost of the prom ticket if the event is cancelled.</p> <p>⇒ Leavers Hoodies and Yearbook—Deadline Reminder A reminder that the final deadline for hoodies and yearbooks is Tuesday 30 March. Orders should be completed via WisePay. The school will not be ordering any spare hoodies, so if your child later wishes they'd ordered one once they see everyone's hoodies, unfortunately it will be too late!</p> <p>⇒ FAO Art and Design Students: Course Assessment As you will know, there will be no examination for your child's GCSE this year. They will be assessed wholly on coursework from either Year 9, 10 and 11. From now and until the deadline students should focus on collecting evidence for their teachers.</p> <p>As all of the visual arts have slightly different approaches, students will be given guidance from their teachers on the best way to showcase their work. Please encourage your child to complete as much work as they can, to ensure they meet all the assessment objectives. Extra sessions after school and during the Easter holidays are available and I would strongly advise all students to take advantage of these opportunities to ensure they get the help and guidance they need to complete their work by the deadline.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting work to their teacher is <u>4pm Monday 26 April 2021</u> at the latest.</p> <p>If you or your child have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email kclifford@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Stopping Study of one Subject Choice Please complete the following form (using the link or QR code below) to enable us to finalise your son/daughter's curriculum for Year 10.</p> <p>https://forms.office.com/r/ai77jzYLc0</p> 

Year 9	<p>The form will tell us which of the subjects that your child had the option of choosing to study in Year 9 they would like to stop studying in Year 10. We ask that you and your son/daughter complete this form by 9am on Wednesday 31 March please.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
Year 8	<p>⇒ Headlice We have been made aware of a child having headlice in Year 8. Please check your child's hair carefully and treat if necessary. For more information on how to treat headlice, please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/</p> <p>⇒ IMAG Event—Forensic Science: Facial Recognition The next Interested, Motivated & Able Guildford (IMAG) virtual event will be held on Wednesday 28 April for Year 7 and 8 students. Please see letter attached for more information.</p>
Year 7	<p>⇒ IMAG Event—Forensic Science: Facial Recognition The next Interested, Motivated & Able Guildford (IMAG) virtual event will be held on Wednesday 28 April for Year 7 and 8 students. Please see letter attached for more information.</p>

PE Extra-Curricular Timetable: Summer Term

The return of extra-curricular sport over the last two weeks has been fantastic. It has been great to see so many students attending the clubs. Over 300 students attended Badminton, Basketball, Rugby or Hockey.

The summer term is almost here and this brings the new PE extra-curricular timetable. As per government guidelines, we are now able to offer more clubs to more students! Please see below for the new extra-curricular offer.

- Students DO NOT need to sign up for clubs, they must meet in the sports hall prior to their activity.
- All clubs are open to all students unless it is stated.
- Clubs will begin on Tuesday 20 April.

Any questions, please contact Mr Rodgers, brodgers@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Day/Time	Club	Venue	Staff
TUESDAY 3:25pm- 4:30pm	Y9/10 Athletics Y7/8 Rounders Y7/8 Cricket Y9/10 Tennis	Track/Jumps/Throw Field Sports Hall Courts	JNF, LJM, JN, JLL PLJ, CEF BR, BRI SGB
WEDNESDAY 3:25pm- 4:30pm	Y7 Tennis Girls Cricket American Football	Courts Sports Hall Astro	SGB, CXG BRI Sixth Form
THURSDAY 3:25pm- 4:30pm	Y7/8 Athletics Y9/10 Rounders Y9/10 Cricket Y8 Tennis	Track/Jumps/Throw Field Sports Hall Courts	PLJ, CEF, BR, LJM JN, JLL BRI JNF

JOIN THE NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

IT'S FREE AND OPEN TO 13-16 YEAR OLDS OF ALL ABILITIES

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE CLUB

ART&DESIGN

- The Art&Design Saturday Club is the perfect space for you to explore your creativity and learn an array of practical skills
- Take part in an inspiring range of activities and workshops, such as animation, architecture, photography, illustration, graphics and fine art
- Experiment freely and think imaginatively whilst broadening your understanding of career opportunities in the creative industries and beyond



Image credit: Daniel Spencer, Steve Tanner, James Turnbull

Applications for 2020-21 are now closed. Please register your interest for 2021-22 by clicking the link above.



JUNIOR HOCKEY SKILLS CAMPS @GuildfordHC

EASTER CAMPS

APRIL 2021

12TH - 16TH APRIL



Each school holiday we offer fun-filled junior camps with challenging skills, drills and games designed and run by double-Olympian **Dan Fox** in collaboration with other international and premier league players and top coaches.

Come along - learn a lot, be inspired, and have fun! Find out more on our website:

www.guildfordhc.com

GKs and non-GHC players welcome to all sessions!

HOCKEY CAMPS FOR YEARS 1-11 EVERY DAY FROM 10-3PM

PLAYERS GROUPED BY AGE AND EXPERIENCE

EARLY DROP OFF AND LATE PICK UP AVAILABLE (9AM - 4PM)

Careers

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:

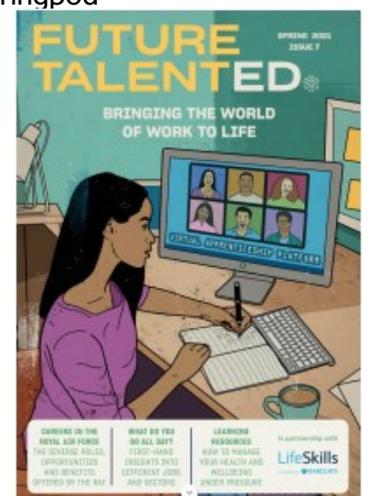
Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

New opportunities this week include:

- Insight into Financial Services – St James's Place Wealth Management
- Nursing/Health/NHS Support Services – Virtual Work Experience from Springpod
- Early Years Educator Apprenticeship (Level 3) – School Nursery
- Solicitor and Non Legal Apprenticeships
- Speakers for School—Virtual Talks, including:
- Green Skills – In Partnership with Sky, Steve Backshall MBE, Conservationist, Explorer, Author and Television Presenter
- IntoFilm with Kingsley Ben-Adir
- Green Skills – World Water Day with Thames Water
- Solicitor and Non Legal Apprenticeships

Future TalentEd is an excellent e-magazine that you can subscribe too. Each edition has a wealth of careers related information relevant to teachers, parents and students alike; this month there is a video interview with astronaut Tim Peake. To register to receive the termly magazine and fortnightly newsletter go to:

<https://www.futuretalentgroup.com/education/register>



[Return to home page](#)

Focus on

Every year the Rotary Club of Guildford District organises a concert, held at G Live, with students from George Abbot, Duke of Kent, Christ's College and Prior's Field. Due to COVID-19, this year the school choirs recorded a version of Coldplay's 'Fix You' to raise money for Challengers. Enjoy!



PTA

Kelly's March Marathon

A last call to parents, carers, students, friends of students and extended family members - there is still time to [sign up](#) or complete the challenge.

For those already signed up, why not get your friends to [sponsor you](#)? So far the team Red Hot Chilli Steppers are in the lead having raised £210 - well done! Can you beat that amount? Remember you can win a £50 Fitstuff gift voucher if you collect the most sponsorships!

If you join the Climb the Ladder group via [Kelly's March Marathon Strava account](#), you can track your distance. Remember, another £50 Fitstuff gift voucher is going to the individual/team who complete the longest distance in one session. You need to beat 21.9km to be in with a chance!

Join our [Kelly's March Marathon facebook page](#) and upload your photos. Keep the photos coming - we would love to see pictures of your dogs! Next week we want you to get a selfie next to the George Abbot statue - do you know where it is? The best photos in each of these categories will win a £20 Fitstuff voucher.

We have set ourselves a target of raising £3000 for this event, [please help us reach that amount](#). So far we have raised just over £1300.

All the money raised is going directly to the George Abbot Hardship Fund, please take part and help those who really need that extra support at this very difficult time. Your participation will not only benefit others but it will benefit you too. Win win!

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA.



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[Return to home page](#)