

# George Abbot Bulletin

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



## Headteacher's Message

14 May 2021

All

I very much hope that your week has been a good one. At George Abbot, we would reflect that this has been a successful week. Our Year 11 and 13 students have completed their first week of assessments with focus and determination, organising themselves to be in the right place at the right time and committing themselves to a thorough approach to their preparation. Week two lies ahead – 50% there.

As we reach Step 3 of the government's roadmap, we now know that from 17 May, **face coverings are no longer required by students or staff in classrooms**. However, in line with the guidance, **we will be retaining the expectation that students and staff wear their masks in corridors and communal spaces** (e.g. lunch queue, wet break hall locations) – this measure remains in place as social distancing is not possible in these areas of schools. It may be the case that some students and staff will choose to wear their face masks in lessons – this is absolutely fine. Please do discuss this latest change with your child and decide on the approach they will take in classrooms with them. Masks will **not** be required for our Year 11 and 13 week two assessments. We continue to appreciate your important support in ensuring students have a mask with them daily.

Updated government guidance for schools retains a system of controls to reduce risks. These include the following **PREVENTION** measures:

- Ensuring individuals who are required to self-isolate do not attend school.
- Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances, as above.
- Continue to clean our hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- Promote the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Maintain enhanced cleaning – particularly of frequently touched surfaces.
- Continue to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distance wherever possible.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing.

Additionally, there are 3 **RESPONSE TO INFECTION** measures:

- Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Manage and report any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community.
- Follow local health protection team advice where required.

This therefore means that all of our COVID-19 safety measures will remain in place with the exception of mask wearing in classrooms. Year group bubbles will remain in place with the exception of fixed additional cross year group bubbles for extra-curricular activities.

I am aware of local schools where there have continued to be COVID-19 cases despite our local progress in reducing the R rate, so we must remain **CAUTIOUS** and **SAFE**. As a reminder, if a student or staff member develops COVID-19 or has a positive test they must **NOT** come into school for at least 10 days **AFTER** the start of their symptoms or after any positive test date.

Current government advice regarding lateral flow test positive results is that if an LFT is taken first and is positive, we must self-isolate; for confirmation, it should be followed by a PCR test within 2 days – if this test is negative and we have no COVID-19 symptoms, the result overrides the LFT and we may return to school.

I am confident that we will continue to work together to ensure that George Abbot remains a safe place to study, learn and work – thank you again for your hugely valued support.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher

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| IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Monday 17 May                  | Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Assessments continue   |
| Friday 21 May                  | Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Assessments finish<br>Year 10 RE Assessment                  |
| Monday 24-Friday 28 May        | Year 11 Next Steps week<br>Year 13 Leavers' week  |
| Wednesday 26 May               | Year 12 Parent Subject Meetings   |
| Thursday 27 May                | Mufti Day<br>Year 13 Leavers' Assembly  |
| Friday 28 May                  | INSET Day—School closed for students <b>except Year 11</b><br>Year 11 Leavers' Assembly |
| Monday 31 May                  | HALF TERM   |
| Friday 18 June                 | Year 10 and Year 12 Assessments begin   |
| Friday 25 June                 | INSET Day—School closed for students  |
| Friday 1 July                  | Year 10 and Year 12 Assessments finish  |

### Reporting LFT Test Results

Please continue to report your child's test results to the two following links:

The Government: [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

George Abbot School: <https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

## House Sports

The first official House Sports event was held during last week. The girls competing in Football and the boys participated in a Rugby tournament. The event was a huge success across Years 7, 8 and 9, with over 150 students competing. Students showed great competitive spirit and were clearly delighted to be out participating in sport again! Well done to all of those involved.

| House                  | Falcon | Gryphon | Martlet | Phoenix | Wyvern |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Boys Rugby-YEAR 7      | 2nd    | 5th     | 1st     | 4th     | 3rd    |
| Girls Football-YEAR 7  | 5th    | 4th     | 2nd     | 3rd     | 1st    |
| Boys Rugby-YEAR 8      | 4th    | 1st     | 2nd     | 3rd     | 5th    |
| Girls Football-YEAR 8  | 3rd    | 1st     | 2nd     | 5th     | 4th    |
| Boys Rugby-YEAR 9      | 2nd    | 1st     | 3rd     | 5th     | 4th    |
| Girls Football -YEAR 9 | 3rd    | 2nd     | 5th     | 1st     | 4th    |



## Whole School

### ⇒ Mufti Day—Thursday 27 May

On Thursday 27 May we will be having a Mufti Day to raise funds for Gabbot Fest, our charity day which takes place on the 8 July. Two years ago, Gabbot Fest raised over £4000 for various charities, both locally and nationally. Students may come to school in appropriate clothes of their choice, with a recommended donation of £2.

### ⇒ Period Awareness

According to a Plan International 2017 report, 48% of girls aged 14-21 in the UK were embarrassed by their periods and 26% reported that they did not know what to do when they started their period. A reminder for parents/carers to let your child know sanitary products are available from Head of Year offices, Raynham Medical Room and the HSLW Room (U84).

### ⇒ June Holiday Clubs (Year 7-9)

We have been advised of a fantastic opportunity for George Abbot students to apply to take part in a virtual half term project from Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3 June. The project has been organised and will be delivered by experts from Goldsmith's University. There is a wonderful Writing and Talking Project aimed at Year 7 and 8 students and an Art and Design Project aimed at Year 9 students. As part of the project students will be provided with large boxes of free art materials by post, and they will be invited to participate in online workshops with creative practitioners throughout the week. The application deadline is 16 May, so please apply today to avoid disappointment as places are very popular.

In order to book your child's place on the course please follow the link below:

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/holiday-clubs/>

### ⇒ Calling all sewing bees! Request from the PE Department...

Some of our netball bibs are in need of new elastic/Velcro fasteners, if you think you can help please email [jlawrence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jlawrence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

### ⇒ REMINDER: Vacancies at George Abbot

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. Current opportunities:

- Medical Officer
- Teacher of Computer Science

## Year 13

### ⇒ TAGs information—EAL

For parents/carers who speak another language other than English, you might like to listen to these videos in your home language, to understand what is happening with exam grades this summer.

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/eal-programme/guidance/guidance-on-the-allocation-of-exam-grades/>

### ⇒ WisePay lunch account balances

A reminder for students not returning to George Abbot in September 2021:

There are several options:

- Transfer balance to a sibling returning in September 2021.
- Offer the balance as a donation to the school.
- Request a refund: we will either refund back to the card used to pay on WisePay, or if the card has expired a cheque will be issued.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <p><b>Year 13</b></p> | <p>Please email your preferred option to: <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with student details.</p> <p>If we have not received a response by 30 September 2021, we will donate any balances to the school opportunities fund.</p>  |
| <p><b>Year 12</b></p> | <p>⇒ <b>Parent Subject Meetings—Wednesday 26 May</b></p> <p>Please see important information attached regarding Year 12 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.</p>  |
| <p><b>Year 11</b></p> | <p>⇒ <b>TAGs information—EAL</b></p> <p>For parents/carers who speak another language other than English, you might like to listen to these videos in your home language, to understand what is happening with exam grades this summer.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/eal-programme/guidance/guidance-on-the-allocation-of-exam-grades/">https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/eal-programme/guidance/guidance-on-the-allocation-of-exam-grades/</a></p> <p>⇒ <b>WisePay lunch account balances</b></p> <p>A reminder for students not returning to George Abbot in September 2021:</p> <p>There are several options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer balance to a sibling returning in September 2021.</li> <li>• Offer the balance as a donation to the school.</li> <li>• Request a refund: we will either refund back to the card used to pay on WisePay, or if the card has expired a cheque will be issued.</li> </ul> <p>Please email your preferred option to: <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with student details.</p> <p>If we have not received a response by 30 September 2021, we will donate any balances to the school opportunities fund.</p> |
| <p><b>Year 9</b></p>  | <p>⇒ <b>Summer Mathematics Assessment</b></p> <p>The Year 9 Summer Mathematics assessment will take place during the week commencing 28 June. All students will sit this assessment during their maths lesson. The assessment will cover all topics learnt this academic year. Standard maths equipment is required including pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, and a <b>calculator (middle bands only)</b>. For more information about the content, please see SMHW.</p>   |
| <p><b>Year 8</b></p>  | <p>⇒ <b>Summer Mathematics Assessment</b></p> <p>The Year 8 Summer Mathematics assessment will take place during the week commencing 14 June. All students will sit this assessment during their maths lesson. The assessment will cover all topics learnt this academic year. Standard maths equipment is required including pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, and a <b>calculator</b>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Year 7</b></p>  | <p>⇒ <b>Summer Mathematics Assessment</b></p> <p>The Year 7 Summer Mathematics assessment will take place during the week commencing 14 June. All students will sit this assessment during their maths lesson. The assessment will cover all topics learnt this academic year. Standard maths equipment is required including pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, and a <b>calculator</b>.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Science Assessment</b></p> <p>During each academic year, students undertake an exam in science in addition to the regular end of topic assessments taken throughout the year. Both end of topic assessments and the science exam are using in determining student setting in Year 8.</p> <p>This year, the Year 7 science exam will take place on either <b>Tuesday 8 June</b> or <b>Thursday 10 June</b> during your son/daughter's Science lesson.</p>   |

## Year 7

The topics to be examined are as follows:

Biology topics: Cells (A), Reproduction (B) and Inheritance and Variation (C)\*

Chemistry topics: Solutions (H), Acids and Alkalis (E)

Physics topics: Heat (7.1), Energy (7.2)

\* **Content from lessons 1-3 only for 7C.**

Please remind your son/daughter to bring a black biro, pencil, rubber, calculator and ruler to this exam. Students should use their Science exercise books as their main revision resource. Listed below are some additional resources which some students might find useful.

**Suggested additional revision resources:**

- BBC Bitesize for KS3
- [Seneca Learning](#) - (Summaries, notes and videos to revise content)
- [www.doddlelearn.co.uk](http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk)  
Institution: George Abbot School GU1 1XX  
Username: same as school login  
Password: georgeabbot (unless reset by student)
- [www.physics4u.co.uk](http://www.physics4u.co.uk) has a series of revision PowerPoints on "How Science Works". The first of these PowerPoints also advises students on how they should revise (even though these indicate they are for KS4 they are suitable for KS3).
- Revision materials for Biology topics are located **on the SLE in the Year 7 Biology folder.**

If you require any additional information, please email:

[dwarrington@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dwarrington@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

## Careers

**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/>



**Amazing Apprenticeships**—Amazing Apprenticeships ([www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)) is a leading organisation in the education sector, founded to tackle misconceptions about apprenticeships and promote the benefits. Here is a link to their latest downloadable parents and carers pack: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/05/Parent-Pack-May-2021-1.pdf>

New opportunities this week include:

- **Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme**—current vacancies for both Cadets and Adult Leaders (who help run the sessions).
- **Business and Finance Webinar with CIMA, Adidas, McDonalds, Plaids**—a webinar to discuss what it's like to work in Business & Accounting at some of the world's most recognisable brands.
- **Federated Hermes Trainee Programme**—trainees will gain a solid understanding of investment management and the opportunity to complete the Level 3 Certificate in Investment Operations.
- **Department for Transport Business Administration Apprenticeship**—providing students with the opportunity to 'earn whilst you learn' and begin their career journey as an apprentice in the Civil Service.
- **Girls Into Tech – Queen Mary University of London**—virtual event targeting young females to motivate them to go to the Electronic Engineering.
- **Government and Politics Careers**—Insights from 6 leaders from across the UK political spectrum with experiences at Houses of Parliament, Brussels, Lobbyist Groups, GCHQ and International Relations.
- **Managed Service Centre Line 1 Engineer Vacancy**—Mobliciti's Managed Services Centre (MSC) are looking for a Tier 1 professional to be trained in IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL), Customer Service and Mobile & Cloud technical skills to join their support team.

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# Focus on—Mental Health Awareness Week

This week George Abbot has been supporting Mental Health Awareness Week 2021. This year's theme is Nature.

Nature is an important need for many and vital in keeping us emotionally, psychologically and physically healthy. In the last 12 months, nature has become a significant part of people's positive mental wellbeing.

During lockdown, our wonderful Premises Team gave our Peace Garden a refresh. They planted new perennials, climbers and shrubs, turfed areas, and brought new outside furniture. A big thank you goes out to Ripley Nursery who kindly donated many of the plants. The pond (pictured) was emptied and made bigger, and now has nine fish in residence! The plan is to install power to the shed so we can have a working water feature over the pond.



The pond area of the garden has been designed as a place where staff can take students during the school day who would benefit from some quiet and private time. Access is via the Year 7 playground.

If any members of our community would be willing to spend some time helping with the upkeep of the garden, please contact Mrs Cave, our Premises Manager ([scave@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:scave@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)).



For more information and helpful resources regarding mental health, please visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>



# PTA



## **Our plea**

A reminder of our plea for a new group of parents to head up the PTA. Please email [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) for more information or to arrange a discussion with one of the team members.

## **Next Meeting**

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 May. More details to follow.

## **PTA Second-hand Uniform**

Thank you to all who have donated second-hand school uniform of late. The uniform cupboard is now at full capacity! We would politely ask that you hold on to your uniform, until we set a new donation date. Please remember, we are still taking orders for purchasing the second-hand uniform via [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

Additionally, 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.

## **Easyfundraising**

So far, we have raised over £15,000 for the PTA, for free! Please sign up to [easyfundraising by using this link](#). Over 4,000 sites will give us a free donation every time you shop online. This will help us continue to support people that rely on us. To get notified automatically when a donation is available you can get the browser extension by using these links: [for Google Chrome](#) and [for Microsoft Edge](#).



Support George Abbot School, Burpham

£15,210.02    432  
Total raised    Supporters

Support this cause

## **AmazonSmile**

If you make an order on Amazon, then shop via AmazonSmile by [using this link](#). Amazon then donates a percentage of what you spend to George Abbot PTA.

Best wishes and stay safe, from the PTA.

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