

# George Abbot Bulletin

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



## Headteacher's Message

21 May 2021

All

This rather wet and windy May continues apace. We have had some blustery break times, but largely avoided total downpours. As I stood in the gentle but persistent rain on the Year 8 section of the field this week, I was delighted to see our daily visitor – a red kite, soaring on the air currents and doing sterling work in dispersing our rather less welcome seagulls. However, that said, we were pleased to be able to assist a seagull over recent days – Mr Omar and Mr Radford staged a perfect rescue mission in assisting this particular bird in escaping from his plastic encasement. This was a very real reminder of the urgency of our work to ensure that our young people will be active stewards in addressing the plastic avalanche that seems to be engulfing our world. June and July will see our Geography staff and our Head Students, under the leadership of Zoe Skipper-Reed working together to plan our eco agenda for the upcoming academic year. I am delighted that our Year 13 student leaders are determined to leave this work in strong hands and ensure that this issue remains at the forefront of our school development.



Thank you to every parent/carer who has supported us in continuing with our position of encouraging students to wear face masks in corridors and busy communal indoor spaces. Although the school's position goes slightly further than the DfE guidance, we feel that as George Abbot has such a large student and staff community and because our buildings (and hence our corridors) were designed for less than half the current number of inhabitants, it is wise for staff and students to continue to wear their masks in corridors, lunch queues and 'wet break' indoors venues. This is because we cannot enable social distancing within this context and ventilation is less guaranteed in some parts of the corridors. As we are in the top c. 5% of school student populations in the country, we believe this approach is reasonable. Our risk assessment includes this rationale. This request is not being enforced with any sanctions and we continue to accommodate the wishes of parents/carers who would like their child to be exempt from this precautionary measure. Many students are wearing face coverings as we have suggested and a number of students and staff still do so in classrooms – we are supportive of their preference to continue taking these measures.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have almost finished their final assessments – just Further Maths for Year 11 on Monday. I think it will be with a strong sense of relief that students complete these internal examinations. Staff now begin the urgent work of marking, moderating and standardising the assessments. These will form the final part of the evidence that is being used to generate this summer's final grades for our Year 11 and 13 students in most of our curriculum subjects. A reminder that **Friday 28 May will be an INSET day** to facilitate the most robust process possible for this important work. Next week also sees our **Year 12 Parents' Consultation Evening on Wednesday 26 May** from 3.45-7.00pm along with an equally important (in the view of our students) **MUFTI day on Thursday 27 May**. One logistical tip is that if your child has PE that day, please do ensure their choice of MUFTI is suitable for exercise. A reminder to check last week's bulletin for the programme of activities for the week of 24 May for our Year 11 and 13 students.

Lastly, I would like to urge you to talk to your child/ren about the issue of edibles that I highlighted in my bulletin a few weeks ago. A reminder that these are anything but 'sweets', are unregulated and contain cannabis and other chemical substances. They are here in Guildford and have caused the emergency and serious hospitalisation of our Guildford children over recent weeks. Here is a reminder of the picture of how they are sold – scarily, they can be readily procured via social media. We continue to find frequent opportunities to talk to students about this issue at school and ask you to do so at home, too.

Edibles Packaging Examples



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 24-Friday 28 May	Year 11 Next Steps week Year 13 Leavers' week
Wednesday 26 May	Year 12 Parent Subject Meetings
Thursday 27 May	Mufti Day Year 13 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 28 May	INSET Day—School closed for students <b>except Year 11</b> 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>

Notices	IMPORTANT DATES w/c 24 May = WEEK A no lesson 4
<b>Whole School</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Mufti Day—Thursday 27 May</b> The upcoming Mufti Day has been arranged to raise money for two key upcoming community events in the calendar. First up is GAbbot Fest, our annual school celebration and fundraiser for our House Charities. After a year off, GAbbot Fest will be more ambitious and exciting than ever and we are raising money to invest in the day. Our second major community event of the summer is the school Sports Day where Houses will compete for the House Cup. Students will compete for points, to add to the House Points that they have been collecting all year.</p> <p>We hope you are able to support us and ensure our community events spring back into action, after the enforced break. Please donate via WisePay, as we are not currently accepting cash. Any payment queries, please email <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a></p>
<b>Year 13</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Gate cards</b> Please remind students to return their gate cards to be able to obtain a refund on WisePay.</p>
<b>Year 12</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Parent Subject Meetings—Wednesday 26 May</b> Please see important information attached regarding Year 12 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.</p>
<b>Year 11</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Pink Library Forms</b> All books issued by the school library <b>must</b> be returned by students at the end of Year 11. Students have been issued a pink form in tutor time, which lists the books outstanding. If a student is unable to find a book on the form, then the monetary value listed should be paid in lieu. If students have not collected a pink form, please let Ms Edmeads know by emailing: <a href="mailto:redmeads@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">redmeads@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a>.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Prom</b> Please be reminded, the Year 11 Prom can ONLY go ahead if the current government restrictions on large indoor events are lifted by 14 July. Prom tickets will not go on sale until this announcement has been made by the government. It is essential that students and parents/carers are aware that the event may be cancelled at short notice.</p>

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## Year 10

### ⇒ English GCSE Text to be studied in Summer Term

This summer term Year 10, as part of the GCSE English Literature Course, will be studying the 19th century text, 'A Christmas Carol'. The teaching of this text begins immediately after half term. This text is an integral part of the GCSE examination and students are strongly encouraged to buy their own copy so they can annotate and use again for revision in the summer of 2022. In addition to the 'A Christmas Carol' text, there is a CGP Text Guide available as an optional extra as shown above. This is offered through school at a substantial discount compared to other booksellers.



ISBN 9781407143644



ISBN 9781782943099

You can buy both texts either through the school's WisePay system or from any bookseller – just use the same ISBN number as above. Texts should be purchased by **Monday 24 May** at the latest so we can arrange for the texts to be ordered and be ready for distribution straight after the half term break. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their texts free of charge. Also students may use a copy previously owned by an older sibling if they wish. If you have any questions please email [cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

## Year 9

### ⇒ Final School Boosters and Meningococcal ACWY Immunisations

Year 9 students will be having their Final School Boosters and Meningococcal ACWY immunisations on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 May 2021 in Elmslie Hall (for all those who have opted in).

If you have not yet completed a consent form and still wish for your child to attend this session, please contact the School Immunisations Team direct on 01483 728201, extension 377, as the e-consent for this has now closed. Please note, the school are unable to accept telephone or email consent from you.

Please remind your child to wear their house shirt, a short sleeve school shirt or a t-shirt under a long sleeve shirt and ensure they bring a water bottle and their face mask with them.

## Year 8

### ⇒ Progress Reports

Progress reports for Year 8 have been published today and are available through the SIMS App. Please see the attached document for more information.

### ⇒ Science Assessment

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 used in determining student setting in Year 9.

This year, the Year 8 science exam will take place on Friday 18 June during your son/daughter's science lesson.

The topics to be examined are as follows:

- Biology topics: Nutrition and Digestion (A), Respiration and Gas Exchange (B) and Inheritance (C)\*
- Chemistry topics: Periodic Table, Elements, Metals and Chemical Energy
- Physics topics: Light (8.1), Sound (8.2)

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## Year 8

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 8 Biology folder.**

If you require any additional information, please email:

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

## Year 7

### ⇒ Progress Reports

Progress reports for Year 7 have been published today and are available through the SIMS App. Please see the attached document for more information.

### ⇒ Merrist Wood Holiday Arts Club

Every day throughout the half term, Merrist Wood are offering a different creative lesson, developing and building confidence in your child's artistic skills in a structure, fun and safe environment. For more information and to book a course, please visit <https://adult.activatelearning.ac.uk/find-a-course/>.

## Careers

### Careers opportunities:

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

### Apprenticeship opportunities:

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

### Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

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

New opportunities this week include:

- **An Introduction to NMITE (New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering) – Degree in Integrated Engineering**—introduction to NMITE and learn about their £4000 bursary to help towards studies.
- **Apprenticeship Opportunities at BDO**—become a professional accountant or tax professional through a combination of work experience, achievement of a qualification and the development of relevant skills and behaviours.
- **May Half Term Work Experience With Sky TV**—go behind the scenes at Sky and see what it's like to work at Europe's biggest entertainment brand.

## ? UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO NEXT?

### Explore your options for starting college in September.

▶▶▶ Here are all the key dates you need to make your decision and Apply Now.

#### Discover College Events 1 – 30 June.

A range of subject-specific events and tours - scan below to book



▶ On-site New Student Welcome Days for current applicants: 5 – 9 July

▶ Applications close: Fri 30 July

▶ GCSE Results Day: Thu 12 August

▶ College Clearing – a second chance at getting a place at college by matching 16-18 yr old students with available places. From Wed 18 August

It's not too late to Activate your future, visit our websites today to explore our range of courses and apply online today.

[farnham.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://farnham.activatelearning.ac.uk)  
[guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)  
[merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)



Look out for our Student Website Takeover throughout June

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## Focus on—Spotlight on Alumni:

### Liam Heath MBE

Congratulations goes to former George Abbot student and canoeist Liam Heath MBE, for winning the K1M 200m Gold Medal last weekend.

Liam is a sprint canoeist and was a gold medalist in the individual 200m kayak sprint event, and a silver medalist in the men's double with Jon Schofield at the 2016 Summer Olympics. He was the most successful British canoeist at the Olympics, also achieving bronze at the 2012 London Olympics in the K-2 200 with Schofield. He was first introduced to kayaking when he was 10 at an activity week at the Wey Kayak Club based in Guildford, of which he is still a member.



We send him the best of luck in the Tokyo Olympics this summer!

*'MAXIMISING YOUR SPORTING POTENTIAL'*



### SUMMER MULTI-SPORT COACHING CAMPS

*'PROFESSIONAL SPORT AND FITNESS COACHING FOR KIDS'*

**26TH-29TH July**

**2nd-5th August**

(9AM-3PM)

**GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL, GUILDFORD  
BOOK A PLACE NOW @**

**WWW.LEVELUPFITNESS.NET**

**levelupfitnessuk@outlook.com**

## PTA

### PTA committee news

As I am sure you have read in previous bulletins, the current committee have decided to stand down as a group at the end of this academic year to allow a fresh start and a new group of parents/carers to take over. The administrative processes are in place and the accounts in good order so we're able to handover a good concern!

It's an exciting opportunity for a group of friends or individuals wanting to meet other parents/carers – we have had great fun but we feel now that fresh faces and ideas are what is needed. If you want to find out more then please let us know on [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

### Next meeting

Will take place on Tuesday 25 May. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6333635977>. Please find the agenda here: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/>

Our final meeting will take place in the pub on 22 June, provided that progress on COVID-19 continues. Details to follow – something we're all very excited about!

### Second-hand Uniform

Thank you to all who have donated second-hand school uniform. The uniform cupboard is now at full capacity! Please hold on to your uniform until we set a new donation date. 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](#).



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