

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

18 June 2021



All

As I write, it is Thursday evening and we have spent the week wrestling with exam board data entry systems which are being accessed by schools the length and breadth of the country, all trying to enter and authorise their Teacher Assessed Grades. I do want to particularly thank the data and exams team who have worked so hard to meet deadlines and ensure that our quality assurance systems have been thorough and robust. To mention them by name is, on this occasion, very important. Thank you to: Mr O'Sullivan, Mr Robinson, Mr Sugden – our Data Manager, Mrs Collett – our Assessment Manager, Mrs Gibbons – our Exams Manager. Our Heads of Department have been particularly busy standardising, moderating, collating, challenging and making sure that our students receive just and fair outcomes. Thank you to ALL of them. Next, we begin the two weeks of exams for both Year 10 and Year 12. We wish them good luck and remind them that hard work is necessary.

Thursday saw the visit of our Year 11s for their Sixth Form Induction Day. As anticipated, we had very strong numbers in attendance and much enjoyment of the Sixth Form Common Room, getting to know Maurizio (ic Sixth Form Café) and a free lesson. We really urged them to pay attention to the detail as they begin their Sixth Form journey – an apt quote was shared from Gareth Southgate on this very theme. A little luxuriant lazing this summer needs to be followed by focus, precision and a real determination to immerse themselves in the most fruitful years of their seven year journey. It is in the Sixth Form that we often see a finding of feet, a real and humble confidence in self and a delight in doing only the subjects that they have chosen. Definitely golden years in life's journey.

Sports Clubs and fixtures are continuing to take place with some big news of the week being the success of our Year 10 Cricket team, who won the Quarter Final of the County Cup and are progressing to the Semi-Final stage. Mr Rodgers was absolutely delighted with the strength of the team performance which ensured they won by 7 wickets. Our Year 12s have organised a hotly contested football tournament over recent weeks – the Euros have thus far been much less entertaining! The final match is scheduled to take place as part of Gabbot Fest. The current top two teams are: Pique Blinders and J5 FC! A fine example of community action was much enjoyed by all.

On that same theme of community action, I am so grateful to all of the students who have been involved in the Focus Groups we have run with every year group on the theme of sexual harassment. Their feedback has really helped us to be proactive on this issue. Our student voice has told us that they would like us to find different ways for our young people to easily report their concerns and that they would like us to ensure that no excuses are made for sexualised language and that it is never ignored. Just as racism is not tolerated in our school, sexual harassment is not either. They would like to learn more about how to keep themselves really safe online as soon as they start secondary school. They all reflected that lockdown has meant that they have spent more time at home with their devices. The Internet Watch Foundation's annual report for 2020 noted a 77% increase in cases of self-generated sexual imagery compared to the previous year. That statistic is deeply alarming. Our PSE curriculum has now been adapted accordingly. We will continue to ensure we actively shape our school culture so that this is a space of equality and safety for every George Abbot student.

Boris' announcement of 14 June will have an impact on some of our hoped for end of term activities. These are some of the key details:

- Sports Day will go ahead—students will need to sit in year groups on the field rather than their House groups so that bubbles are maintained.
- There will be no end of year House assembly—instead, we will announce the House competition results at the end of Sports Day.
- GabbotFest cannot happen in its usual format, with the whole school attending simultaneously—instead, year groups will attend in different lessons across the day.
- Year 11 and Year 13 Proms will not be able to take place. We will be in touch regarding any necessary refunds.
- Year 6 Induction Days will take place across 4 days with children attending in smaller primary school based groups and located in a separate area of the school.
- House Music—this will now need to revert to a virtual event.

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Lastly, I attach a letter which we have been asked to circulate to all parents/carers by Surrey County Council. Coronavirus infection rates in Surrey have risen significantly in recent weeks. They particularly urge parents/carers to make sure that your children stay safe outside of school. Here follows an extract from the letter attached:

Staying Safe Outside Class

Your child must follow the government guidance in force when outside of school or college. The changes around the gradual easing of lockdown apply equally to young people, so please encourage your children to follow the guidelines: Hands – Face – Space – Fresh Air.

Coronavirus restrictions remain in place across the country, including for people who have been vaccinated:

- You can meet indoors in a group of up to 6 people or a group of any size from 2 households.
- You can meet outside in a group of up to 30 people.
- Work from home if you can and travel safely.
- If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home.

There are three things that we can all do, to keep COVID at bay and see the ending of all restrictions safely:

1. Test regularly.
2. If you are an adult, take the Vaccine.
3. Hands – Face – Space – Fresh Air.

Please continue to complete regular lateral flow testing and ensure you upload your child's results to the national and school data base via the links below:

The Government: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

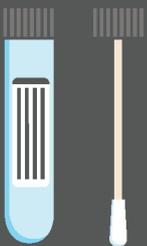
George Abbot School: <https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

COVID RATES ARE RISING IN YOUR AREA

ALL ADULTS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE PUPILS SHOULD GET TESTED REGULARLY

WITH SYMPTOMS - 'PCR' test



WHEN TO TAKE THE TEST

- If you have Covid-19 symptoms
- To confirm your positive lateral flow test results

HOW LONG IT TAKES

- These tests are processed in labs
- Up to 3 days, most results the next day

GET A TEST

- At home • At a test site

WITHOUT SYMPTOMS 'rapid lateral flow' test

WHEN TO TAKE THE TEST

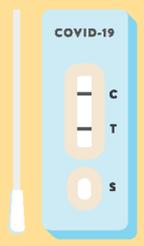
- If you do not have symptoms of Covid-19
- As part of routine testing twice a week

HOW LONG IT TAKES

- Result processed by test device
- Around 30 minutes

GET A TEST

- At home • At a test site • At work
- At your nursery • At your secondary school
- At your university • Order on line
- Collect from a pharmacy



If you test positive you and your household must isolate. If you test positive with a lateral flow test, you must also book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible and **report your result to NHS test and trace**. To find out more visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/coronavirustesting

THE VACCINES ARE WORKING

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES



Every Covid-19 vaccine dose is giving us hope of getting life moving again. Getting the lifesaving jab is the most important thing you can do. Don't delay in getting your vaccine when it is offered to you.

- You're much less likely to be seriously ill with Covid-19, hospitalised or die if you've been vaccinated
- You need two doses for maximum protection for you and those around you
- It's important to keep your vaccination appointments for both doses when they are offered to you
- The vaccine reduces chances of hospitalisation by 85%
- As summer has arrived you may be mixing more with friends and family so make sure you take time to get vaccinated

Find out how to get your vaccine at nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by phoning 119. If you are eligible but not able to book through the national booking service, you can speak to your GP.

Follow in the footsteps of over 1 million Surrey residents and book your jab today.

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**REMINDER:
FRIDAY 25 JUNE = INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED
TO STUDENTS**

| Lesson omission | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Week Commencing | A or B | Lesson omission |
| 21 June | B | 2 |
| 28 June | A | 3 |

Whole School

REMINDER: Years 7-10 will have Tutor Time EVERY DAY until the end of term, starting Monday 21 June. Students should be at school for 8.25am.

⇒ Surrey Police—Cannabis Edibles

Cannabis Edibles are becoming a huge issue across the county, Surrey Police are becoming increasingly alarmed by the amount of children, young people and indeed adults who are ending up in hospital due to consuming these. Please see the contact details below for help and support.

FEARLESS – www.fearless.org
(anonymous help and advice)

FRANK – www.talktofrank.com

SDAC (Surrey Drug & Alcohol Care) –
www.surreydrugandalcoholcare.org.uk
Freephone 0808 802 5000
SMS 07537 432411

Catch22 (Young persons) –
www.catch-22.org.uk
01372 832905
Out of hours helpline 0800 622 6662

In an emergency, always dial 999.



⇒ I Wish I'd Known—Fiona Spargo-Mabbs—a useful book for parents/carers

I Wish I'd Known interweaves the story of one family's terrible loss of their son to drugs, with practical advice for parents/carers, drawing on the most recent research and evidence. It explores the risks posed by drugs and alcohol, including legal risks and consequences. It provides practical advice for staying safe and information on reducing harm. It also explains the way the adolescent brain makes decisions, and provides strategies to help your children manage risk – and the influence of friends – at a time of life when this is most tricky. It considers what makes conversations work best at home, how to approach these if you have concerns, and where to go for more information and support. For more information, please visit: <https://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/more-information-for-parents/i-wish-id-known-fionas-book/>

⇒ FAO Year 11 and 13: 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.

Please email your preferred option to: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with student details. If we have not received a response by 30 September 2021, we will donate any balances to the school opportunities fund.

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|-----------------------|---|
| <p>Year 12</p> | <p>⇒ Work Experience A few students have requested information on Work Experience, especially as their placement week in May never went ahead.</p> <p>If a Work Experience placement is sourced during term time your child must see Mrs Nash or Mrs Rose, in USIC to collect the George Abbot Work Experience paperwork. This then needs to be completed and returned prior to the start of the placement.</p> <p>However, if your child undertakes a Work Experience placement during a school holiday, George Abbot School does not require any paperwork to be completed, nor will any checks be undertaken by us and there will not be a member of staff on-call. Work Experience during a school holiday is a relationship between parents/carers and your child and the employer, with parents/carers taking the responsibility for their child while on the placement.</p> <p>⇒ Year 12 Exams: Friday 18 June to Friday 2 July Year 12 students are now on study leave. Where there are Creative and BTEC subjects that are not scheduled to have exams, staff will inform students they are still expected to attend their lessons.</p> <p>⇒ Year 12 Next Steps Week: Monday 5 July to Friday 9 July Students will be off timetable for the week to receive informative talks from universities, apprenticeships, and employers. They will also begin their UCAS application, receive guidance from George Abbot Alumni on their experiences, learn interview skills and have the opportunity to receive 1:1 guidance on their post 18 options.</p> |
| <p>Year 10</p> | <p>⇒ Merrist Wood College Merrist Wood College is hosting an Open Event just for Year 10 students on the morning of Saturday 3 July. They are offering small group tours and taster sessions from 9.30am which will last approximately 1 hour and will take you all around the campus. Various start times are available.</p> <p>Courses at Merrist Wood College fill up very quickly once applications open and so they wanted to give any Year 10 students and parents/carers the opportunity to visit the campus and get a feel for what it's like to study there.</p> <p>To book a place, please visit the following page: https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MerristWoodCollegeCampusTours@ActivateLearning.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/</p> |
| <p>Year 9</p> | <p>⇒ REMINDER: Year 9 Science Exam A reminder that Year 9 students begin their Science Assessments next week. The topics to be covered will be:</p> <p>Biology—Unit 1: Cells, Unit 2 Part 1: Principles of Organisation, Digestive System & Enzymes Chemistry—Unit 1: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Unit 2: Bonding, Unit 9: Atmosphere Physics—Unit 1: Energy, Unit 2: Electricity</p> <p>Please encourage your child to revise using the content and resources published in last week's bulletin. Any queries, please email dwarrington@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> |
| <p>Year 7</p> | <p>⇒ Playrangers Playrangers is an exciting project which encourages children to play freely outdoors. All children are welcome to join the free sessions that are held after school in five locations around Guildford (under-8s must be accompanied by an adult). They are a great way for children and young people to get outside, be active and make new friends. Sessions are aimed at 8 to 12 year olds, however under-8s are welcome if accompanied by an adult. For more information, please visit: https://www.guildford.gov.uk/playrangers</p> |

Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge results are in and congratulations to the following students from Year 7 and 8 on their achievements. The follow-on Kangaroo round took place this week and congratulations to Kabelan, Edward and Katie in Year 8 for qualifying and competing!

| Year 7 | | | | Year 8 | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------|
| Hasan | Babar | Kogul | Rahulan | Susana | Aldous | Lili | Hales |
| Carrie | Coomer | Thagshana | Rajah | Ben | Brett | Gemma | Haslehurst |
| Morgan | Cooper | Sophie | Rana Gard | Chris | Brown | William | Johnson |
| Tegan | Gale | Nathy | Rowland | Nicholas | Burns | Nithisun | Kalaranjan |
| Samiya | Grover | Amelia | Stroscio | Joe | Claydon | Mohammed | Khalil |
| Tim | Jennings | Lily | Sunkin | Ben | Colbert | Edward | Loveday |
| Jess | Martindale | Eva | Tartagonidis | Finn | Cowley | Olivia | Maiden |
| Yousif | Mirza | George | Taylor | Sasha | Dow | Tim | May |
| Alex | Morris | Charlotte | Weeden | Richard | Dvorsky | Poppy | Negus |
| Benjy | Mumford | Amos | Weeks | Hana | Elazab | Ben | Robinson |
| Stefania | Papakostas | Eleanor | Whitcombe | Charlie | Fisher | Kabelan | Sarvananthasivam |
| Ulas | Puskulcu | | | Callum | Frederiksen | Lottie | Stubbings |
| | | | | William | Garson | Matthew | Webb |
| | | | | Jocelyn | Gee | Katie | Williams |
| | | | | Ege | Gungoren | | |

Focus on: Exhibition of artwork at Guildford Station

The artwork below, by our very talented GCSE Art students, is currently on display in the Guildford Station Waiting Room. The artwork was part of an art project entitled Zentangle portraits which was inspired by the artist 'Iain MacArthur'.

Students researched MacArthur's artwork and then studied the artform of Zentangles. Using these elements to inform their own work students created their own portraits using pencil and fine-liner on A2 cartridge paper.

Well done to the following students whose work is on display:

Heather Learoyd, Jessica Thomson, Greta Roeser, Mina Mirza, Sabika Bhatti, Siena Sherry, Madeleine Alfert -Lownie, Stella Darcey, Sophie Van De Wiel, Tara Cox, Ama Bogdan and Rosa Giddy.



Careers

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

New opportunities this week include:

- **Speakers for Schools – Library Talks, suitable for ALL year groups**—find out about the range of roles on offer in the music industry! Listen in to a panel event with Julie Weir, Label Head at Music for Nations, Sony Music, Silvia Montello, Head of Operations, Audio Network; Co-Founder & Director of #remarQabl and Karen Emanuel, CEO of Key Production Group.
- **Mobiciti**—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.
- **PwC's Accounting Flying Start Degree**—the programme offers students the opportunity to combine the university experience while working towards their career at the same time. They can enjoy everything university life has to offer whilst working towards becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant on multiple paid placements at PwC throughout their degree.
- **Rawlinson & Hunter Chartered Accountants**—AAT Student Apprenticeship and 5-year training contract leading to a professional qualification starting September 2021.

PTA

Second-hand Uniform donations

We will now be accepting uniform donations on **Thursday 24 June**; please could students bring in any clean, branded uniform, **on that day only**, in a sealed bag. Please only send in uniform that is of good condition. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept hoodies.

We ask that they be dropped off in **Elmslie Reception** as the hall is being used for exams.

Any queries, please email PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Thank you in advance for your donations,

From the PTA



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