

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

28 May 2021

All

For both our Year 11 and Year 13 students, this week has seen the drawing to a close of this stage of their education. Both year groups have immersed themselves in their week of leaving activities. Thursday afternoon offered the opportunity for our Year 13s to celebrate their time together and Friday morning saw our Year 11s assemble together for the very last time. These are poignant moments. Annually, they are bittersweet, but this year, more than ever before. Herein, I have previously mused on the scarily swift yet interminably slow passage of the last 15 months. What I do know for certain, is that these year groups will leave school more resilient, more adaptable and more independent in their ability to learn and succeed than any previous year groups. In this thought, we must and do see a silver lining amongst the dark clouds.

We shall miss our two departing year groups a great deal – they have been populated by characters of great strength and kindness. It is with joy that we will welcome most of our Year 11s back to our sixth form and it is with huge fondness that we say to our departing Year 11s and our onward bound Year 13s.....goodbye, good luck, be bold, be brave.....Mr O'Sullivan, on behalf of us all, can be heard uttering the words 'may the force be with them'.



The Department for Education has issued the following message in relation to COVID-19 testing over May half-term:

As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing. This includes those who have had their vaccine.

We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. Over 40 million tests with staff and students have now been conducted as part of the education testing programme.

Please continue to encourage your staff and secondary school or college students to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to school or college after the holiday.

The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results is easy. [Go to report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.

Additionally, please can we encourage you all to click on the link that follows to let us know that your child remains COVID-19 free and consequently, help us keep fully apprised of our local COVID-19 context.

<https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

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IMPORTANTLY, if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or indeed, tests positive for COVID-19 at any point up to the end of Saturday 29 May 2021, please could I ask you to email me personally on kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk so that I might organise the track and trace procedures required by the government for the 48 hours following the end of this half term. Should you email me during this period, I will reply and ring you to discuss the details of your child's last two days at school including the names of any other students they may have walked to school with or spent time with at breaks alongside any extra-curricular events they may have attended. Year 11 symptoms or positive cases should be reported to me up to the end of Sunday 31 May 2021.

Lastly, as our students get settled for a half term break and battery recharge (though I suspect the AA battery supply may mysteriously deplete if an X Box can be found within your residence), can I take this opportunity to recommend some good home safeguarding for your children. Our multi academy trust IT team recommend Sophos Home Antivirus and Web Filtering Software: <https://home.sophos.com/en-us.aspx>

Sophos Home offers antivirus protection that blocks known viruses, trojans, worms and other threats. Parents can also take advantage of the web filtering feature to block browsing to the categories of websites you choose. Please, be reassured, we do not have any connections to this organisation! I just hoped that at the beginning of this break from school, when our children may have more free time on their hands, this might prompt a discussion at home about the levels of cyber security each of our homes have in place. If this is a useful reminder, then it has served its purpose well.

Wishing you all a very good half term – here's hoping that the Bank Holiday brings each of you a day of rest and maybe even a BBQ.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
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

George Abbot School:

<https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
7 June	B	5
14 June	A	1
21 June	B	2
28 June	A	3

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Uniform

Due to COVID-19, students have worn their PE kit to school on days when they have PE. We have observed several benefits of this, including longer time in PE lessons and also a reduction in crowded changing spaces. With this in mind we are going to continue this approach next year. Please therefore note the following changes to PE Kit Uniform rules for next year, in support of this move:

- Students will attend school in PE kit on days where they have core lessons only. On GCSE PE days, students should still attend school in uniform as normal.
- The only kit that is allowed, is George Abbot kit. This includes:
 - ⇒ PE shirt
 - ⇒ George Abbot Quarter Zip Top or George Abbot Hooded top
 - ⇒ George Abbot shorts
 - ⇒ George Abbot skort, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
 - ⇒ Yellow socks
- Non-George Abbot clothing (such as plain navy tops, bottoms or any non-GA branded items) is NOT allowed.
- To ensure students adhere to the school rules on PE kit, it will be compulsory for students to purchase warm George Abbot kit, for the colder days. We have added a new range to the shop to accommodate these changes and students should buy tracksuit bottoms/leggings and the new quarter-zip top for colder days if they have not done so already.
- Students should then wear a blazer and a navy/black coat for additional warmth through the day.
- If students have a club after school, but do not have core PE, they should come to school in their uniform. They will change at school, at the end of the day, so should bring their PE kit with them.
- Parents/carers who feel they need assistance purchasing any extra items in support of this move, should contact mgoulborn@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk who will be happy to help.

Below is a price list for George Abbot PE clothing and contact details for the uniform shop:

Uniform	Junior	Adult
COMPULSORY		
T-Shirt	£13	£16
Socks	£6.50	£8
Shorts OR Skort	£11.95 £18	£14.25 £23
Quarter Zip Top	£24.95	£29.95
Track Pants OR Leggings	£26 £15	£32 £18
OPTIONAL		
Rugby Top (when required)	£26	

Whole School

⇒ **Mufti Day—A big thank you!**

A big thank you to everyone who donated towards yesterday's Mufti Day. We managed to raise a total of **£2048** for our two upcoming community events in the calendar: GAbbot Fest and Sports Day.

[WisePay](#) will remain open over Half Term if you still wish to donate. Thank you for helping to support us and ensure our community events spring back into action, after the enforced break. Any payment queries, please email:

finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ **ADVANCED WARNING of Early School Closure—Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings, Tuesday 15 June**

Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.30pm on Tuesday 15 June for the Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings.

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.

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 Monday 14 June. 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.

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 if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school.

Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual time.

⇒ **Reading Buddies**

If any parents/carers or grandparents would be interested in becoming a Reading Buddy for our Year 7s and 8s, please email our Reading Lead: Ms Cassidy, NCassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Time commitment can be as big or small as you like and training will be given. DBS will be required.

⇒ **Tennis Balls**

Summer sports are back and students are enjoying playing tennis in lessons and break times.

In the past we have received used tennis balls, which would have otherwise been thrown away, from local clubs. If there is anyone who would be able to kindly donate their unwanted tennis balls to school, we would be very grateful. Please email:

jlawrence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you in anticipation.

⇒ **School eBook and Audio library**

After half term, the Gallery has signed up for one month's trial of an e-platform called **Wheeler's**. Students will be able to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks from the exciting new library.

Whole School

The online library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles and will offer your children a 24/7 access to a digital library in addition to the print library in school. Students can have 2 books out on loan at any one time, and they will automatically return after 2 weeks, or children can return them early in order to loan a new book.

We have age rated the books which means your children can only read books that are age appropriate. There are also settings that can be customised to enable children who suffer with reading difficulties to enjoy reading without specialised equipment or books – we will be working with those children affected to setup their preferences.

The eBooks can be read on a computer, laptop, or through the free App on your tablets or smartphones. For more information, please contact Ms Cassidy, Reading Lead: ncassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 11

⇒ **National Citizen Service (NCS)**

Please view the attached letter for more information about NCS opportunities this summer. There are still places available.

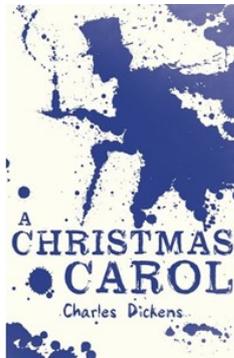
Year 10

⇒ **Parent Subject Meetings—Tuesday 15 June**

Please see important information attached regarding Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.

⇒ **EXTENDED DEADLINE: 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 7 June** 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

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:

- **CIMA Business and Accounting Management**—Business and Accounting workshops with CIMA and other global employers (DHL, Sky & Balfour Beatty).

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PTA



Spending PTA Funds

This week we have been spending the PTA funds on much needed equipment for the school. This includes desk lamps and grow lamps for the biology department, some DVDs and books for English and some CPR mannequins for the PSE department. Thank you to all who have made a contribution and made these purchases possible.

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.

Don't forget 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.

Best wishes and have a great half-term break!

From the PTA