

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

02 July 2021

All

Thank you to all the parents/carers who worked with us this week as we liaised regarding the track and trace implications of our two COVID-19 cases. We do now have 35 students isolating as a consequence, but no entire classes are affected and students are across Years 7-10. We will continue to act immediately and robustly should we receive any further positive COVID-19 cases and I will keep you fully informed. Staff numbers are consequently lower than usual and we ask for your understanding if your child has any cover lessons over the next week.

July's diary sees some important community events which are much anticipated by staff and students alike. Next week, our Year 6 students visit us in small primary school based groups across four days. We felt it was very important to go ahead with these days in best support of a smooth transition for our new year group. They will be visiting specific parts of the site and will not be mixing with any of our current George Abbot students.

GabbotFest takes place on Thursday 8 July and each year group is attending in a year group bubble, thus introducing no further risk to the COVID-19 safety arrangements. Please do remember to upload some GabbotFest credit for your child to enjoy the stalls on offer during the day—this can be done via WisePay (details below). The stalls are being run by students and all proceeds are in support of charity.

The following week, we will be celebrating the success of our students through our annual Prizegiving events. We are sorry that parents/carers will not be able to attend this year, but we will still formally mark achievement in a year group event during the school day and send home an official programme of your child's recognition for excellence during the most challenging of years.

Friday 16 July is our House and Sports Day, with House events all morning and then the whole school Sports Day in the afternoon. Please be reassured that all bubble arrangements will be maintained throughout and year groups will be spaced at considerable distance for watching of the track races. All of the school athletics records will be on display and we very much hope to be able to report that the 20-21 student community succeeds in breaking at least one of these!

Lastly, as you would expect, I will close with my regular reminder to us all to keep being safe through adherence to the national COVID-19 safety precautions.

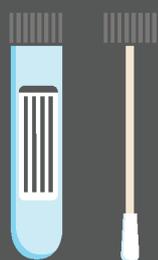
Kate Carriett
Headteacher



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

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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
5 July	B	4
12 July	A	5
19 July	B	1

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Lateral Flow Testing

We are expecting more guidance regarding testing in schools to be issued by the Government as stage 4 of the roadmap is announced. We anticipate that students will not be required to carry out weekly testing during the summer holidays but will be required to test before they return to school. As such, we will be issuing testing kits to students before we break up on 20 July. Please ensure your child carries out a test before returning to school in September. Thank you for your continued support.

⇒ PE Uniform Reminder for September 2021

As per the parent bulletin on 25 May, next year, students will be required to attend school in their PE kit on **core PE days only**.

In a change to the COVID related rules on PE kit this year, next year students **may only wear PE kit that is George Abbot branded**. All kit is available from the school shop. If students choose not to purchase, for example, George Abbot tracksuit bottoms/zip top, they should wear their blazer and a dark coloured coat for warmth during the day. Non-GA items such as hoodies, sweatshirts and other tracksuit bottoms are not allowed.

We have endeavoured to give families plenty of notice regarding these changes, to lessen the financial burden of potential new kit purchases. If costs are an issue please contact Mr Goulborn who will be able to support (mgoulborn@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

May we please also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that on school uniform days, non-GA jumpers must not be worn. Students should wear a dark coloured coat for warmth.

⇒ REMINDER: GAbbot Fest—8 July

After a year's hiatus, GAbbot Fest is BACK—our yearly school festival, where we come together to celebrate our community and raise money for local and national charities. The festival is made up of 'village fete' style stalls, live music, food and drink and games. Due to restrictions this year, we are unable to have the whole school participate at the same time for the afternoon, but instead each year group bubble of 300 will take part in the festival for a 75-minute session. Those running stalls will be involved for longer. If your child is interested in running a stall, they are urged to apply [here](#).

Students can experience GAbbot Fest without spending any money, but we do run a cashless festival where contributions are exchanged for 50p 'tokens'. You can purchase tokens via WisePay and they will be issued to students on the morning of the Festival. **Deadline for buying tokens is Sunday 4 July**. If you have any WisePay queries, please email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. The tokens can be spent at the stalls to buy things like cakes, cookies, brownies, face painting, drinks and to play some of the games we will be running. Please note, any unspent tokens will not be refunded as all money is being donated to charity.

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Whole School

In previous years, we have found that students can have a great experience with £2-£5, some like to spend more, some less but remember, all money goes to charity. We look forward to reporting back on the events of the day.

⇒ 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:

- Science Technician

⇒ Shopping with WH Smith

WH Smith are supporting George Abbot with their "Free Vouchers for School Scheme" and we need your help to make it a success!

We have signed up to a new scheme to earn Free Vouchers for our school and WH Smith has agreed to donate 10% of the value of all our parents/carers spend on Books and Stationery between 1 June – 30 September 2021. WH Smith vouchers which will be used to reward and acknowledge students achievements and to purchase Books and Stationery supplies for the school.

How to support:

- Shopping in store: Please print and take the below barcode in to a WH Smith High Street Store and ask the cashier to scan the barcode along with your items at the checkout or scan at the self-service tills.
- Shopping online: When completing your purchase simply enter the barcode number (60220515) into the "do you have a promo code" box.
- After 30 September we will receive 10% of the value of the spend on Books and Stationery earned by everyone that has participated, back in vouchers for the school.
- Please see the [FAQs here](#).



Thank you for your support!

⇒ REMINDER: Club4—Surrey's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Club4 is an exclusive offer for children and young people who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals in Surrey. For the summer holidays, all eligible children at school in Surrey have the chance to secure a free place at one of 140 day camps running across the County. Some camps are commercially run and open to all, while others are exclusive to Club4 families. Dates and timings vary but all camps offer a mix of entertainment to keep young people safely entertained and active, as well as providing them with one or more quality meals. To find a camp near you and see what else is on offer with the Club4 programme, please visit: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/support-for-parents-and-carers/club4>

Year 9

⇒ Year 9 Reports

Year 9 Reports are due to be issued next week. Please ensure you can log into the SimsApp in advance. If you are having trouble logging in, please email:

SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 8

⇒ Year 8 Reports

Year 8 Reports are due to be issued next week. Please ensure you can log into the SimsApp in advance. If you are having trouble logging in, please email:

SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 7

⇒ Year 7 Reports

Year 7 Reports are due to be issued next week. Please ensure you can log into the SimsApp in advance. If you are having trouble logging in, please email:

SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

The competition is split into 4 categories, Robot Tournament, Innovation Project, Core Values and Technical Design.

The Core Values and the Technical Design sections were assessed during online conversations on the day, with various judges about how the students tackled the challenges, worked as a team, and designed their robot.

The Innovation Project saw the students present to a panel of judges, their idea for an activity, targeted at 4-11 year olds that would involve an adventure trail around Horsell Common, which includes items/landmarks to find as well as questions to answer about the surrounding area, on themes such as History, Geography, Numeracy and Literacy. The activity would also incorporate a mobile app that could potentially be developed to work with other areas nationally. The students worked collaboratively, via Google Classroom during lockdown earlier this year, and created a well devised presentation, which was delivered brilliantly and impressively, leading to excellent comments from the judges.

The students impressed them so much that they were declared overall winners in the Innovation Project category, for the second year in a row, which is an excellent and well-deserved achievement by them all.



The Robot Tournament, saw the students design an autonomous robot from Lego, then programme the robot to complete a variety of challenges based around the RePLAY theme. Teams were awarded points for completing a range of challenges, of varying difficulty, with points also being awarded for suitability, design and independence of the robot. Each team completed 2 main runs, recorded prior to the event, with a final run being completed remotely on the day, with the best score from the runs counting overall. The team scored 110, 120 and 150 points in their runs.

The team worked hard, despite the disruptions this year, and performed incredibly well overall and a particular mention has to go to Joel, who worked extremely hard to build, control and program the robot for the runs.

Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed the event and were extremely proud to have come away as two-time Innovation Project winners.

Special mention to Tom Millard and Laila Hahne-Garside, who were involved throughout the competition, but were unavailable on the day of the event.

Careers

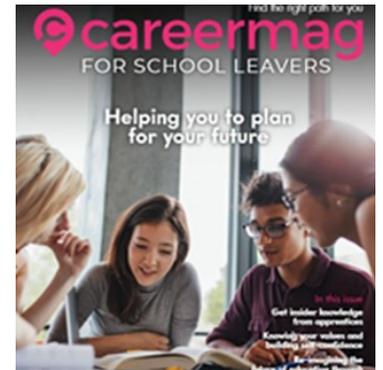
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/apprenticeship-opportunities/>

New opportunities this week include:

- **PwC Degree Apprenticeships for September**
- **T Levels**—new technical qualifications that allow students to combine studying with a substantial industry placement and are open to students who have completed their GCSEs.
- **Escape Studios Virtual Work Experience**
- **ARCADIS Insight and Skills Sessions**
- **Smith & Williamson Degree-Level Apprenticeships**
- **Investment 20/20—Investment Trainees**
- **1 DAY INTERACTIVE CLOUD COMPUTING WORKSHOP**
- **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair**

The latest careermag for school leavers is now available for you to read online:
www.careermap.co.uk/careermag-students-teachers/ This issue covers information on:

- Apprenticeships.
- Knowing your values and building self-confidence.
- Launching a business.
- Degree apprenticeships.



Beat the Heat

Coping with heat & COVID-19

Stay cool at home



Some of us will spend more time at home this summer



Know how to keep your home cool



Look out for others safely, check latest COVID-19 guidance

Stay cool, keep well



Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol



Slow down when it is hot



Stay connected, listen to the forecast

Cooler, safer places



Find somewhere cool to rest, indoors or outdoors



Self-isolate at home if advised to do so



Use cool spaces considerately, keep your distance

Watch out



Be aware of signs of heat-related illness



Cool your skin with water, slow down and drink water



Stay safe when swimming



Get help. Call NHS 111 or in an emergency 999

For more information go to www.nhs.uk/heatwave

PHE publications gateway number: GW-1289

George Abbot School
Woodruff Avenue
Guildford
GU1 1XX
01483 888000