

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

10 September 2021

All

The end of the first full week of term always sees a collective deep breath as we all remember the energy and focus that school requires alongside the general on our toes-ness. This week has seen Round Two of LFTs – brilliant job, team LFT; photographs – more lining up and immaculate organisation; first assemblies and working out where to sit and indeed, remembering the alphabet; Year Group Information Evenings for Years 7, 8 & 9 – thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to join us; school musical auditions which saw over 140 students audition to be involved in our show – Little Shop of Horrors; locating of lessons for our intrepid Year 7s and the location assistance provided by staff and older students alike as we have attempted to describe how to locate mysterious staircases in Elmslie or seemingly non-existent DT classrooms in Raynham. Very importantly, it has also seen our 2021 Year 13 Prom – finally taking place in truly glamorous and joyful style and a special event to treasure as our young people celebrated 7 successful years at George Abbot. It has been a busy and happy school.

I spoke to our students about the importance of paying attention to detail in this week's assemblies. I asked them to apply this key skill to their lessons, their uniform, their homework, their choice of words and to their attitude. In response, student conduct across the school has been exceptional and lessons have been full of interested and active learners. We have been supported by some beautiful sunny days and the opportunity to get involved in lots of extra-curricular activities and spend time with friends. School is feeling good. That said, we have had a number of positive cases across year groups, though we do not yet have 5 within a group of close contacts (e.g. a Form Group) – a recommended trigger for further measures within the government's Contingency Guidance, alongside a benchmark of cases in 10% of the school population. These two triggers are significantly different numbers when applied in a school as large as ours. However, I am monitoring case numbers across all years very carefully and in particular, in Year 7. Our local Public Health England team continue to support Headteachers in deciding if additional measures need to be reintroduced – I will keep you fully apprised. Current COVID-19 case numbers are:

Year 7 = 8 (across tutor groups)

Year 8 = 0

Year 9 = 2

Year 10 = 0

Year 11 = 1

Year 12 = 0

Year 13 = 3

Next week sees another beginning of term essential – we will hold a **Fire Drill on Friday 17 September at 10.40am**. Students will be informed that this is a drill and staff will prepare students so that unnecessary panic is avoided and calm building evacuation is accomplished. Students in Years 7-11 have been offered the **Nasal Flu immunisations** which are taking place on **Monday 12 September and Tuesday 13 September**. We also continue with our sequence of Parents' Information Evenings:

Year 10 – Wednesday 15 September, 6.00-7.00pm Raynham Hall

Year 11 – Thursday 16 September, 6.00-7.00pm Raynham Hall

Lastly, thank you for your support in continuing with twice weekly lateral flow testing at home – this is such an important part of keeping each other safe and keeping school open for all of our children. A reminder to log your results in both of these places:

The Government:

www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

George Abbot School:

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

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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REMINDER: Parent/Carer Information Evenings

Year Group	Date and Time	Inclusion Manager
Year 7	We hope you found this week's Parent Information Evenings useful. If you were unable to attend, please find the presentations here: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/	If you have any questions, please email your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. Contact details are provided in the above presentations.
Year 8		
Year 9		
Year 10	Wednesday 15 September, 6.00pm-7.00pm	Ms Nightingale: wningtingale@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
Year 11	Thursday 16 September, 6.00pm-7.00pm	Mr Huelin: jhuelin@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
Year 12	Monday 20 September, 6.00pm-7.00pm	Mr Synge: psynge@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
Year 13	Wednesday 22 September, 6.00pm-7.00pm	Mrs Keegan: skeegan@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

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
13 September	B	2
20 September	A	3
27 September	B	4
4 October	A	5
11 October	B	1
18 October	A	2
HALF TERM		

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Detention Day Change

Please note, this year, detentions for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be centralised on a Thursday after school in Elmslie Hall. You will be notified of the detention on Monday via email and students will be reminded in form time on Tuesday. We will be enforcing the expectation for students to bring work to complete, or a book to read, during the Thursday detentions. We believe that this will ensure they are using their time in detention productively. Refusal to work will only compound the situation students already find themselves in.

⇒ School Uniform Update Opening Times and Ordering

The school shop will continue to open this term by appointment. This is partly to avoid overcrowding as it's small and has no ventilation, and partly because we have had positive feedback from parents/carers that with an appointment there aren't queues and very little waiting time. It also gives us the flexibility to open on different days each week.

To book an appointment please call our office on 020 8687 1502 or email us at spsschoolshops@yahoo.com using header line 'GA APPOINTMENT' and stating your availability. All appointments will be afterschool, generally starting from 3.20pm.

If you know what you need we can arrange to take payment over the phone and you, or your son/daughter can collect without an appointment. To do this, please email as at the same email address and use the header line 'GA SHOP ORDER'. Please include your son or daughter's name, the item you need and the size you need. Add in your phone number and we'll call you back to take card payment by phone. We will then tell you our next opening times and you may collect without an appointment.

If you leave a message on the school shop number we will call you back, but the process is likely to be slower than if you email us or call our office on the above number.

Stock Availability

Like many retailers we continue to experience delays to some deliveries owing to bottlenecks in the supply chain. For anyone with orders placed with us and paid for, we will text you as soon as your item arrives with details of when we are open for collections.

We now have a stock of leggings in most sizes. We expect to take delivery of track trousers imminently. The 1/4 zip tops are expected to arrive in the next 2-3 weeks although this is subject to confirmation. There are a small number of other items outstanding (blazers, knitwear, skirts, skorts etc) and we are working with our suppliers to get them to you as quickly as we can and will text when they arrive.

We appreciate your patience in these unusual times. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/>

⇒ **Language Helpers**

Please contact our Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Mrs Martinez-Wallas, nmartinezwallas@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, if you are willing and able to help the languages department with supporting students with their French, German or Spanish language skills. We would be hugely grateful for any support you can offer, as our students thrive on interactions with native speakers.

⇒ **Parent/Carer Prayer Group**

Christian parents/carers of students at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for termly staff meetings, and contribute to supporting young carers in the school twice a year. If you are interested in being added to the email distribution list for this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com

⇒ **Bus Passes**

Please encourage your child to pick up their bus pass from Elmslie Reception at break times. Any unclaimed cards will be returned to Surrey Passenger Transport next Friday 17 September.

Any students boarding the bus without a pass may be refused travel.

⇒ **Surrey Family Learning FREE Courses**

Please visit the link below to view the amazing range of courses on offer to families in Surrey. All Autumn term courses are now available to enrol through the following link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

⇒ **Reading Bingo Challenge**

Please ensure your child hands their challenge form into the Gallery by Wednesday 15 September to be entered into the prize draw for a £100 Amazon voucher.

Whole School	<p>⇒ Free Audio and ebooks! We now have a whole school subscription to the Wheelers app, giving your child access to hundreds of audio and ebooks in their online library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search for Wheelers eplatform app • login: firstname.lastname password: Gabbit <p>Any questions please email NCassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Happy reading!</p>
Sixth Form	<p>⇒ IMAG Events 2021-22 The Guildford 11-19 Partnership IMAG programme aims to provide more opportunities for Interested, Motivated & Able pupils in the Guildford area to capture students' imagination and interest outside of the classroom and encourage them to take the initiative and engage with programmes and events to enhance their education. Please click the links below for more information. Current events include:</p> <p>URGENT – COUSE 1 STARTING NEXT WEEK</p> <p>1. IMAG GHS Life Drawing Courses Course 1 Dates: Thurs 16 Sept, 30 Sept, 7 Oct & 14 Oct 2021 Course 2 Dates: Thurs 4 Nov, 18 Nov, 2 Dec & 9 Dec 2021 Year Groups: Y12 & 13 Time: 4.30 – 6.00pm Venue: Guildford High School Hepworth Studio Cost: £20 per course (4 sessions)</p> <p>2. IMAG GAS Medical School Applications Event Year Groups: Y12 & 13 (&Y11) Dates: Thurs 23 September Time: 3.34 – 4.34pm Venue: George Abbot School ECR Cost: Free</p>
Year 12	<p>⇒ Final reminder for Year 11 (Class of 2021) Prom tickets - 23 September 2021 Ticket sales for the Class of 2021 Prom close today—Friday 10 September. Please remember to purchase a ticket for your child if they wish to attend the event. Venue: Pine Ridge Golf Club, Frimley. Time: 7.00-10.00pm. Invitation only.</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ Year 11 Parent/Carer and Senior Leaders Meeting Beginning week commencing 20 September, all Year 11 students and their parents/carers will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, over School Cloud, to discuss student progress and support for the final year of school. Students will be assigned a Senior Leader within the school and be invited to make an appointment across a series of dates starting week beginning 20 September 2021. The allocated leadership member and available appointment times will be available on the School Cloud booking system on Tuesday 14 September. Parents/carers will need to sign up for one 8 minute appointment. We will send a further email with more information next week.</p>

Great Big Green Week

Great Big Green Week (18-26 September) is fast approaching. There are many external events happening all across Guildford from various organisations. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn more about the climate crisis and the solutions to it. Click on the link to find out more and to see all the events happening in Guildford. <https://www.zerocarbondguildford.org/great-big-green-week>

As well as these external events, George Abbot is in the process of launching its sustainability vision. During GBGW, a survey will be put on Satchel One and emailed to students about what they think a sustainable George Abbot will look like. The Climate Crisis is the biggest challenge any of us will ever face so we urge you to encourage your children to take part in this survey.

Guildford Schools Climate Conference

Two of our sixth form students, Petra and Hattie are organising the Guildford Schools Climate Conference taking place on 17 September. This conference involves all the Guildford secondary schools. At the inaugural Guildford Schools Climate Conference the schools will compare the progress we've all made so far, and come up with a uniform set of pledges to pursue going forward. [Return to home page](#)

Extra Curricular Timetables

For the Sport Extra Curricular timetable, please visit:
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/extra-curricular/>

Performing Arts

Dance

Musical Theatre Monday 3.45-4.30pm VH/SC PA1	Jazz Technique Tuesday 3.30-4.00pm VH/SC PA1	Junior Dance Company Tuesday 4.00-4.45pm VH PA1	Senior Dance Company Tuesday 4.00-4.45pm SC R71	GCSE/A Level Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm R71	Contemporary Technique Thursday 3.15-4.00pm VH/SC PA1
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Dance

Drama

School Production

Tap Technique Tuesday 4.00-4.45pm VH PA1	Y11 Devising Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm AFH/SZM D.S	Y13 Devising Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm AFH/SZM E.S	LSOH Music Tuesday 3.30-5.00pm Raynham Hall	LSOH Dance Wednesday 3.30pm-5.00pm Raynham Hall	LSOH Acting Thursday 3.30-5.00pm Raynham Hall
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Choirs

Year 7 Choir Monday Break 2 KLP PA3	Senior Choir Wednesday Form Time MRH PA2	Show Choir Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm LED/MWP PA4	GAMC Friday Form Time LED PA4	
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Small Ensemble

Large Ensemble

Wind Quintet Monday Form Time LED PA4	Flute Choir Thursday Break 2 VKC/LED PA4	Big Band Thursday 3.30-4.35pm LED/VKC PA4	KS3 Stomp! Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm MWP PA4	Orchestra Thursday 3.30-4.30pm MRH PA2	Concert Band Friday 3.30 - 4.30pm LED/VKC PA1
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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/>

Opportunities include:

Engineering Taster Programme—Year 12 and 13, September to October.

RAF Humanitarian Engineering Online Course—Year 9, October Half Term.

Careers in Technology—all years, Wednesday 15 September.

Grant Thornton Professional Services Industry—all years, Monday 13 September.

Working in Medicine—see flyer (right).

PwC Degree Apprenticeships

Year 12 and Year 13 students

Interested in studying Medicine?

Angela Kubacki

Associate Dean for Admissions

at

St George's, University of London

will be hosting a talk on applying to medical school which includes the application process, UCAT, Multiple Mini Interviews and more.

Venue: ECR, George Abbot School

Date: Thursday 23 September

Time: 3:45pm

Please book your place by emailing

Mrs Helen Rose at hrose@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



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PTA

Welcome back to school and a big welcome to all new parents/carers. We hope your children are settling in to the new school year.

The next AGM which will be taking place on Tuesday 18 October from 7.00pm, in Elmslie Library.




The current PTA committee will be standing down at the AGM and as such there are no events planned for the autumn term. We very much hope that a new group of people will come forward to take over and continue to raise crucial funds for this amazing school. Unfortunately, if this doesn't happen the charity will have to be dissolved.

Please email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you are interested in taking over the reigns or come along to the AGM.

Second Hand Uniform

We have had several requests for second hand school uniform and at present there are no volunteers available to oversee the stock cupboard or complete sales. Would anyone like to volunteer to take this on? It is great for the school community and the environment. Please email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



 [facebook.com/georgeabbotparents](https://www.facebook.com/georgeabbotparents)
 [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)
 georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/

Committed to promoting the welfare and safety of children

SAMARITANS

Call us free 24/7 on

116 123

Mental Health Crisis Helpline

Call: 0800 915 4644

Mental health support for people in Surrey and North East Hampshire.



Please also see our wellbeing resources on the school website:
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/wellbeing/>



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