

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

01 October 2021

All

This week has seen over 1,000 visitors to our Year 6 Open Evenings. In best support of everyone's safety, these events took place outside of the school day. To try and capture the essence of our school, we commissioned a short film featuring our students and staff talking about George Abbot, how they feel about learning together and lots of information about the study of different subjects. It was unscripted and so captures the things that our students and staff wanted to say – the sense of community, warmth, enjoyment and pride that emerges is a joy to behold. We will upload the film next week so that all of us may share it.

Some of our Sixth Form students assisted our Inclusion Managers and Heads of Faculty in leading groups of parents/carers and children on a walk up through our school – getting a sense of the scale and scope of the facilities tucked behind Woodruff Avenue is important in understanding the opportunity on offer to our students. The visiting parents were unanimous in their praise for our eloquent, informative and engaging Sixth Form guides – I expected no less! To conclude the evening, some of our musicians and dancers provided a live performance, offering just a taste of the great talent and skill that we are proud to nurture and develop. I am so grateful to all of the students who gave up their time to help illuminate our school to such impressive effect.

We have now concluded our new initiative of individual SLT led Year 11 SchoolCloud appointments. We hope that our Year 11 students and parents/carers found these reassuring and helpful; our aim has been to offer an additional point of contact and support for every student to help sustain motivation and positivity as the year progresses.

The weekly COVID-19 update includes a rise in cases in Year 7 – in particular, we have seen one Tutor Group with more positive cases. I have, again, consulted with Public Health England and they remain in support of the measures we already have in place. In such instances, where cases rise within one Tutor Group, we ask students to undertake daily lateral flow tests and the year group cease main hall assemblies for a defined period. Additionally, I have, today, written to parents and carers of Year 7 to ask for their support in encouraging their Year 7 children to wear a mask in the canteen queue and also when inside school in one of our large wet break year group venues. We will keep this voluntary additional strategy in place until we see new case numbers reducing within the year group. We do not yet have a proposed date for the commencement of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds – I will ensure you receive notification as soon as we know more, but it will be over the coming weeks. However, the process of giving your consent is now beginning.

ACTION for parents/carers by FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER:

Follow the school immunisations link on the attached letter from the Children and Family Health Surrey NHS team to complete the e-consent process for your child if they are between the age of 12 and 15.

The current COVID-19 update for cases in the last 10 days is below:

Current Numbers of Students	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Isolating following a positive PCR test	19	9	6	8	3	0	0

With best wishes,

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



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
4 October	A	5
11 October	B	1
18 October	A	2
HALF TERM		

IMPORTANT Summer 2022 EXAMS UPDATE for Year 11 and 13 Parents/Carers

Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) have [confirmed the one-off arrangements](#) for next summer's GCSE, AS and A-level exams. They have also confirmed the grading standards for next summer and when the results days will be. Here are all the confirmed arrangements, from AQA:

Advance information

To help students revise, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of exams **for all subjects at GCSE, AS and A-level** – with the exception of:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE and A-level Art and Design

Ofqual and the DfE have decided that exam boards will publish advance information by 7 February 2022 – or earlier if the impact of the pandemic worsens.

Optionality

Schools and colleges will be given some choice about the topics or content that students will be assessed on in the following qualifications only:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography

We can already confirm the options for [GCSE English Literature](#) and [GCSE History](#).

Formulae sheets

Students will be given a formulae sheet in **GCSE Maths** and a revised equations sheet in **GCSE Physics** and **GCSE Combined Science** covering all the equations required in the subject content.

As well as being provided to students in exams, exam boards will make these sheets available to schools beforehand for use in teaching and so students can familiarise themselves with them.

Practical work

There will be changes to the practical work requirements for some subjects:

- **GCSE and A-level Art and Design** students will only be assessed on their portfolio.
- **GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science, AS Biology, Chemistry, Physics and A-level Environmental Science** – teachers will have the opportunity to deliver practical science work by demonstration.
- For the Practical Endorsement for **A-level Biology, Chemistry, and Physics**, teachers are allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required for students to be able to demonstrate their competence. CPAC applications can be monitored remotely by exam boards.

[Return to home page](#)

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Ofqual published its decisions on arrangements for NEA in June, and we've already [confirmed the NEA changes](#) for most of our relevant qualifications.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

- Exam boards will not have to include vocabulary that's not on the vocabulary lists for assessments in GCSE MFL.
- Exam boards will include an extra optional question in the writing assessment to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
- Teachers and students should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests. There will be a contingency of using the published criteria to award an endorsed grade if it's not possible for the formal tests to go ahead as planned.

Arrangements still to be confirmed

These are the only general qualifications where there's still some information to come about the arrangements for 2022:

Optionality in GCSE Geography

All exam boards are working together to finalise how the optionality will work. We know teachers need this information quickly so they can plan – so we'll be back in touch as soon as possible, hopefully next week.

Non-exam assessment in GCSE and A-level PE

We're planning for live moderation visits to go ahead as normal for summer 2022, and we'll be back in touch with more guidance in the next few weeks.

Vocational Technical and other qualifications (VTQs)

Ofqual and the DfE published their decisions on the arrangements for [VTQs in summer 2022](#) back in August. We always do our best to align our VTQs where we can with our GCSEs, AS and A-levels, so we've been waiting for the decisions on these qualifications to be able confirm our plans. Now we have them, we'll be in touch very soon to confirm our arrangements for summer 2022.

Contingency arrangements

We hope exams will be able to go ahead as planned next summer, but Ofqual and the DfE have [launched a short consultation on contingency arrangements](#) in case they can't. These proposals include using grades provided by schools and colleges for GCSEs, AS and A-levels. We'll be responding to this and you can share your thoughts too. The consultation runs until 13 October. The DfE has [published separate guidance on the contingency plans for VTQs](#).

Grading in Autumn 2021 and Summer 2022

Ofqual has also [confirmed its plans for grading standards for both autumn 2021 and summer 2022](#). In their blog they've explained that they'd like to get back quickly to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness this will be a gradual process.

For the autumn series, exam boards will look to align with summer 2021. Summer 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we're in a pandemic recovery period – then, in 2023, Ofqual will aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years.

Results Days in Summer 2022

The DfE and Ofqual have confirmed that the summer 2022 results days will be one week apart as usual. This means AS, A-level and similar VTQ results will be published on **Thursday 18 August**, and GCSEs and similar VTQ results will be on **Thursday 25 August**.

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Free School Meal Entitlement

A reminder that if your child was previously (or is currently) classified as adopted, **under special guardianship** or looked after, **or** if your child has been entitled to free school meals currently or in the past 6 years (if you have been in receipt of certain benefits such as income support) **or** either parent/carer is in the military then we may be able to claim additional funding for them in school. This funding is known as pupil premium and allows us to provide additional support in school. If you believe your child may qualify for this funding, please let us know by emailing office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Monday 4 October.

⇒ Compass Travel 32 Bus—Lost Wallet

A black zipped wallet, with a 'Star Wars' logo on the front has been left on Compass Travel 32 bus on Tuesday 28 September. There is a child weekly bus ticket inside, as well as a small amount of cash, and the owner boarded the 32 bus at Village Hall, Shalford Station, going to George Abbot. If you think this could be your child's, please contact office@compass-travel.co.uk or call 01903 690025.

⇒ Update from our School Catering Company, Innovate

Please see important [letter attached](#) regarding disruption to food products causing changes to lunch menus. In addition, in order to adapt to Natasha's Law, Innovate have reviewed their labelling systems so that all can be confident that the information on food labels is accurate.

⇒ 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:

- Head of Faculty: English
- Teacher of English

⇒ CONSULTATION: Removal of SEN Physical Disability Unit at Kings College, Guildford

As part of a formal consultation, Athena-GEP would like your opinion on our proposal to remove the Special Educational Needs Physical Disability Unit at Kings College, Guildford, from December 2021 and redirect space for educational and/or community use.

Rationale: The rationale for this change of provision is documented in the [attached proposal](#), with supporting evidence from [Surrey County Council](#).

Feedback: Your feedback is sought by 4pm on Tuesday 26 October by any of the following means:

- Response to our online consultation questionnaire <https://forms.office.com/r/Mq07HKy7M5>
- Letter received, addressed to Alastair McKenzie, Principal, Kings College, Guildford Southway, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 8DU
- Public Meeting hosted online at 5:30pm, Monday 11 October by Alastair McKenzie, Principal, Kings College, Guildford [Follow link to enter meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/3095566387>]

The outcome of this consultation will be posted on our trust website, as well as Kings College's website.

Whole School

⇒ Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

In the 2021 Christmas Lectures, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Jonathan Van-Tam will be joined by a host of top UK scientists to take a deep dive into the science of viruses.

The Christmas Lectures will be filmed in the Royal Institution theatre in December and broadcast on BBC Four and iPlayer between Christmas and New Year.

Tickets to the live filming are reserved for an 11-17 year-old audience and are allocated via a Wimbledon-style ballot open to Royal Institution Members and Patrons as a thank you for their support for the Royal Institution.

Free tickets will also be made available to schools in disadvantaged areas, which the Royal Institution has been supporting throughout the year.

For free and heavily discounted tickets to Royal Institution talks, exclusive access to the Christmas Lectures ballot, and host of other benefits, please [click here](#).

⇒ A free maths learning league to boost maths confidence and win prizes!

Eedi has offered all Year 7 to Year 9 (ages 11 to 14) families free access to Eedi School League, a 100% free maths learning league designed to motivate children to build maths confidence.

With the Eedi tutoring platform, students will get unlimited access to practice questions, review videos and the chance of winning prizes for their commitment and consistency. You'll also get weekly reports from Eedi on how they're doing.

Eedi is designed to feel more like a fun game rather than extra work. Your child will earn Streak points by setting a Routine and sticking to their weekly learning.

Eedi will hold weekly competitions and prize draws to boost motivation and engagement, giving away real prizes (from iPads to Amazon vouchers) for students and schools as they build their streak scores.

Families new to Eedi will also have a 7-day trial to their unlimited on-demand tutor plan, Eedi Plus, which usually costs £4.99 / month (note that this is optional and complimentary, you don't need to pay or add payment details to participate in the League).

To learn more, visit <https://eedi.com/school-league>. Signing up is easy and takes less than 5 minutes.

If you have questions on the invitation, please contact Eedi directly on: family@eedi.com.

Sixth Form

⇒ COVID-19 Vaccines for 16 and 17 year olds

The Department of Health and Social Care announced on Friday 24 September that all 16 and 17 year olds can now book their first COVID-19 vaccination appointment [online](#).

Young people aged 16 and 17 can:

- [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#) for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) to get vaccinated without needing an appointment

Year 11

If students cannot book appointments online, they can call 119 free of charge. They can speak to a translator if they need to. Further information can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Year 10	<p>⇒ RE GCSE Internal Examination—Friday 19 November, 8.30am</p> <p>Students in Year 10 will sit their RE GCSE internal examination on Friday 19 November at 8.30am. It will last 1 hour 45 minutes.</p> <p>Students will be examined on the following four units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings • Christianity: Practices • Buddhism: Beliefs and Teachings • Crime & Punishment <p>A revision calendar as well as revision guides, activities, workbooks and mind-maps are all available on SatchelOne. Please encourage students to start revising early.</p> <p>There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming (Author) .
Year 7	<p>⇒ Maths Streams</p> <p>This week, Year 7 students have now been moved into three streamed bands, higher (Ua, Ub and Uc), middle (Ma and Mb) and lower (N), for their maths classes only. New teachers and classrooms are clearly shown on their new timetable in SIMS. Maths bands have been based on both students recent maths assessment and Midyis data from the beginning of Year 7. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Haq, Year 7 and 8 Maths coordinator, jhaq@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>

English Faculty Clubs 2021-22			
Club	Year Group	When and Where	Staff
GCSE Workshop	Year 10 & 11	Thursday 3.15pm – 4.30pm W118	Miss Witt
KS4 Book Club	Year 10 & 11	Thursday Break 2 W113	Mrs Staniforth
Debating Club	Year 9	Thursday Break 3 W117	Mr Taylor
Creative Writing Club	Year 7	Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm The Gallery	Mr Easton Miss O'Mara
Competition Club	Year 7 & 8	Starting Monday 11 October Break 2 E19 Running monthly thereafter	Ms Wilson
Journalism Club	All Year Groups	Thursday Break 2 W112	Mrs Dee Mr Radford Miss Vandenstein
KS5 Book Club	Year 12 & 13	Starting Thursday 14 October 3.15pm – 4.15pm W115 Running monthly thereafter	Mrs Short
KS3 Book Club	Year 7, 8 & 9	Starting Wednesday 13 October Break 3 W116 Running monthly thereafter	Miss Tank

Into the Wild—Fashion Show January 2022

This January the Visual Arts Faculty will be putting on a Fashion Show!

What does it involve?

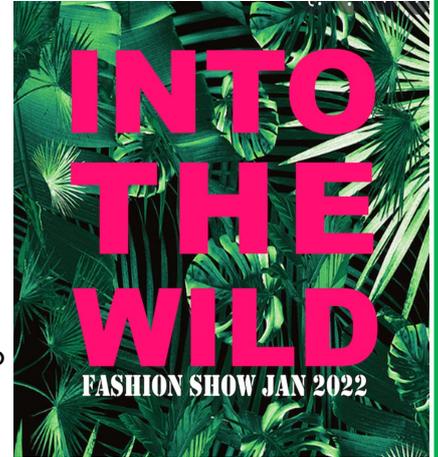
Fashion/Textiles, outfits – designed & made, models, hats/headresses, catwalk, music, dance, stage design/scenery, photography/digital editing, advertising, promotional imagery, creativity, community, new experiences & FUN!

We want students to GET INVOLVED!

The following clubs are starting soon:

- Painted Dresses: Year 7/8—Mrs Cook
- Hats & Headdress: Year 7/8—Mrs Levitt and Miss Sibree
- Studio Photography: Year 7/8—Miss Masson
- Recycled Fashion : Year 9/10—Mrs Levitt
- Dances – see Mrs Haste.

Please encourage students to sign up in PJ Building now or speak directly to the staff above.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was lovely to have so many students and staff come to support the Sixth Form Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support last Friday. A total of £477.15 was raised, for a very worthy cause. A big thank you to all those who baked, bought and sold.



Year 11 Prom: Class of 2021



Careers

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

- Virtual Information Evening with PwC—Flying Start Degree Programmes (Apprenticeships).
- 'Best Next Steps Surrey' from Enterprise M3/Careers Enterprise Company—information and advice for Year 11.

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

- Virtual Information Evening with PwC—Flying Start Degree Programmes (Apprenticeships).

Virtual Work Experience opportunities: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

- Springpod—Nursing/Medicine Online Work Related Learning with Surrey Heartlands.
- Springpod—Allied Health Professional On-Demand Work Experience with Surrey Heartlands.
- Speakers for Schools—Virtual Work Experience with the National Portrait Gallery.
- HSBC Commercial Banking—Investing in your future: Online Events, Commercial Banking, Personal Branding and Financial Services.
- Ward Round Live—Virtual hospital work experience course for students aged 15+

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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