

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

26 November 2021

COVID-19 rates are rising fast in Surrey and it is important that we do everything we can to get the rates down and protect ourselves and others from the virus. Therefore, **with immediate effect, the Surrey County Council Director of Public Health strongly recommends that face coverings should be worn in communal areas (excluding classrooms) for primary school staff and visitors, and secondary school students, staff and visitors, unless they are exempt.** This is applicable to all Surrey schools, education settings and further education settings for the remainder of the Autumn term.

All

Today's Bulletin is in celebration of our superb Sixth Form. Over the last few years, we have been delighted by the ever increasing role that our sixth formers play in the life of our whole school – in particular, they have an increasing presence as leaders and role models for our younger students. This is one of the joys of working and learning in an 11-18 school – the young adults at the top of the school can have a profound impact on those around them. Teachers anticipate the heated debate, the complex problem solved and the emphatic viewpoint argued with some relish – it has ever been thus. Now though, our younger students also anticipate the time shared and experiences formed with our sixth form students. This year we have 50 sixth form peer mentors, working to support, encourage, motivate and challenge our younger students. We have 30 sixth form reading buddies – it is a privilege to see them in action, reading together, smiling together, discovering the delight of new words and images. We have 44 sixth form English, Maths and Languages peer tutors – teaching our younger students, reinforcing tricky concepts and supporting practise and retrieval. We have 15 GAMLS – George Abbot Music Leaders, inspiring, organising, bringing music to life in support of our Performing Arts staff team and wider student body. All volunteers, all in service, willingly.



I am also delighted to announce the outcome of the Year 12 Student Leadership voting and interview process. Student candidates write an application and are then shortlisted. Staff and students vote. Mr Robinson and I interview. Every year, we are immensely proud of the applicants' courage, quiet confidence, aspiration and purpose. This year, our Student Leadership Team are:

Charlie A, Juan C-M, Alexandra C, Amnah D, Hannah M, Jessica M, Emily O and Kyle T. Our two Head Students are Mobina H and Alex P – both were exceptional at interview and have been exceptional members of our community for the last five years. Thank you to them all for stepping into these leadership positions and for all that they will do in support of our school.

In closing, I would like to remind you all of our Cathedral Carols, taking place at 2.00pm on Friday 10 December. We finish school at 1.00pm and all students and parents/carers are invited to attend the festive celebration with us at Guildford Cathedral. After such a challenging period, it would be a great joy to spend time together with you all at this event. Do put it in your diary and perhaps take the opportunity for some peace and reflection as we anticipate what we hope will be a much needed Christmas season, full of family and friends.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Parent Governor Vacancy

We are currently seeking a new Parent Governor – you will be one of four parents who work in partnership with school leaders and community governors to ensure the very best outcomes, both personal and academic, for every George Abbot student. [More details are included here](#), but if you have an open and enquiring mind and have a desire to contribute and represent our parent community, we would be delighted to hear from you! **Deadline: Friday 3 December, 12pm.**

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
29 November	B	2
6 December	A	3
13 December	B	4

Testing

It is also important that facemask wearing is accompanied by increased testing. It is essential that if you or your child develop coronavirus symptoms that a PCR test is taken as soon as possible. We are continuing to ask your child to carry out a twice weekly lateral flow test and report the results to us and the NHS (links above). We will be distributing more testing kits in the week commencing 26 November.

Vaccinations

Please remember that anyone over the age of 12 is eligible for a coronavirus vaccination. You can either visit a walk in centre or book an appointment. You can book your child a COVID-19 vaccination appointment at several pop-up clinics in our local area – this information is being frequently updated on the Surrey Heartlands website, please visit: <https://surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-centres>

Please note, children are only eligible for a vaccination 12 weeks after a positive COVID-19 test.

Little Shop of Horrors

A reminder that next week sees the commencement of show week. Please do come along and support us. There are limited tickets remaining, so please visit WisePay as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We are very excited for these performances but recognise that due to increasing infection rates of COVID-19, we are going to have to introduce risk mitigation measures to try to keep everyone as safe as possible.

1. To ensure as much ventilation as possible in the hall, we will have all windows open. This may make the hall a little chilly—please dress appropriately.
2. If you develop any symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, you must not attend the production.
3. If you are attending the production, please take a lateral flow test within 48 hours before the event. Please only attend if this test is negative.
4. Please wear face coverings when seated. We will have face coverings available at the door should you forget yours.
5. Please ensure you apply hand sanitiser before entering the hall.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our community safe. We hope you enjoy the show!

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PTA

We are looking forward to next week, which brings us the long awaited school production from 30 November to 3 December: **Little Shop of Horrors!**



We will be selling raffle tickets for the Exclusive Show Raffle (drawn 3 December), drinks and snacks, and can't wait to meet you! Come and support us, introduce yourself, make a few pre-orders for the interval, and sit back and enjoy!



We still need some volunteers, there are 2 slots every night (5:30pm – 7pm and 7pm-8.30pm). **Please do let us know if you can help on any of these slots for the 4 days by emailing pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk**

New Parents and Carers Coffee Morning

On **Monday 6 December** we are hosting a **Coffee Morning** in Elmslie Hall for all new parents/carers since September 2020, especially with children in Year 7 and Year 8. This will be from **8.30am to 10am** (just after drop-off) and we will be there to meet you. **To ensure a safe arrival for students at this time, please can we ask that you do not park or drop off students onsite, instead please park considerably along Woodruff Avenue and the other neighboring streets surrounding George Abbot.**

To give us an indication of numbers, please do let us know your first name and child's class only using the link below. This information will only be available to the PTA and not used for any contact purposes:

https://doodle.com/poll/kkx85uvsn56sbf87?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Christmas Fayre Week

For the last week of school in December, we are planning an exciting **Christmas Fayre Week** – more details to follow. **In the meantime we would appreciate it if parents/carers can help us by donating any raffle prizes for our awesome Christmas Raffle.** Please do email us with details, and they can be dropped off on the 6th of December (location TBC). Any parents with businesses also do contact us, so we can see whether we can help each other in any way.

Second-hand Uniform Donations

And lastly – please do donate any second-hand or unused uniform at Elmslie Reception (preferably after school), we are in urgent need of PE uniform and blazers especially! Please

Kind *frozen* regards, The PTA

Notices

Whole School

⇒ **ADVANCED WARNING: Early School Closure for Christmas Carol Concert—Friday 10 December**

Please be aware that school will be closing at 1.00pm on Friday 10 December for students and staff to attend the Guildford Cathedral Carol Service. **There will be no provision for students to stay in school after this time.** Parents/carers should collect their child at 1.00pm or make alternative arrangements for them to get home. **Please be reminded school buses will run at the usual time.**

⇒ **Christmas Jumper Day 2021 for Save the Children—Friday 10 December**

Please encourage your child to find something festive to wear on Friday 10 December for Christmas Jumper Day.

If you wish to donate, please do so via WisePay by Sunday 12 December, so we can make the donation to Save the Children before Christmas. If you have any WisePay queries, please contact the Finance Team, finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.



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<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Vacancies at George Abbot We are looking for a part time Maths Teacher to join us from January. This role would suit newly qualified teachers, experienced teachers, or those who are looking to re-sume teaching after a career break. Please do forward our advert onto anyone you think may be interested! Equally, if this is a role that interests you as a parent/carer, please do express an interest to Mrs Newman via the following email: gmnewman@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p> <p>Please see the following page of the school website for further details on our current vacancies: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/.</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Early School Closure for Year 7 Parent Subject Consultations— Monday 6 December</p> <p>Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.30pm on Monday 6 December for the Year 7 Parent Subject consultation meetings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Friday 3 December.</p> <p>If you notify us your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential 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 they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school. Please be reminded school buses will run at the usual time.</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>⇒ FAO of Year 12s with exam access arrangements, such as 25% extra time Please note the deadline for handing in forms with teacher evidence of exam arrangements is today, Friday 26 November. Please make contact with Ms Barratt if you are aware that your son/daughter has not done this. Also please encourage them to make an appointment with her in the upper school library, USIC, or by email: Bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p> <p>Priority will be given to students who have conformed to the deadlines when making applications. Do get in touch if you have concerns about your son/daughter's exam arrangements.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Year 11 Internal Exams Yesterday, Thursday 25 November, students will have received their individual seated examination timetables via Schoolcomms, to their school email address. A copy has also been sent to parent/carers. If they have not received it, please email: exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>⇒ FINAL REMINDER: Sixth Form Applications Year 11 students have been sent a registration link, to their school email address, to apply for the Sixth Form. ALL students MUST complete this application form, even if they do not wish to attend the Sixth Form next year. Deadline for applications: 12pm on Friday 3 December 2021.</p> <p>If your child has not received their registration link, please contact: thesixthform@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>

Year 10

⇒ Crisis at Christmas—A message from 10PA

2021 will be our form's fourth year of collecting for the homeless charity, Crisis. Our aim is to raise enough money to keep five people off the streets this Christmas. £29.06 can help to provide a safe space, hot meals, a Christmas dinner, companionship and year-round training and support.

If Year 10 parents/carers would like to make a donation, please do so via WisePay by Friday 10 December, so we have enough time to make the donation to Crisis before Christmas. If you have any WisePay queries, please contact the Finance Team, finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.



Year 8

⇒ Textiles Contribution

Please see [letter attached here](#) regarding your child's Textiles lessons.

Year 7

⇒ Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 6 December

Please see important [information attached](#) regarding Year 7 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.

Please note: Miss Tank will not be available on Monday 6 December. However, she will be available on Thursday 2 December between 1.45pm to 5.45pm for those students she teaches. Booking for these appointments will open at the same time.

⇒ Textiles Contribution

Please see [letter attached here](#) regarding your child's Textiles lessons.

Focus on: Swimming Stars!

On Saturday 20 November, PE's Mr Isherwood took two teams to the English School Swimming Association National Championship relay finals, held at the London Aquatic Centre in the Olympic Park.

The Junior (Year 8) girls squad had qualified in both the Freestyle relay and Medley relay; and the Intermediate (Year 9/10) girls in the Medley relay. To do this they have to be one of the top 20 teams in the country for their respective age groups.

The intermediate girls finished 5th in their medley heat with a time of 2:16.09, narrowly missing out on a spot in the final. This gave them 11th place overall, but 2nd best state school competing in the event.

The junior girls won their Freestyle heat and qualified for the final with the third fastest time of 1:59.51. They finished 4th in the final behind Millfield, Leeds Grammar and Guildford High. The juniors went on to win their Medley heat and finished in 3rd place in the final with a time of 2:16.16, winning a Bronze medal behind Millfield and Guilford High.

For both events we were the top performing state school in the country. A fantastic achievement for both squads and great experience to compete with some of the best swimmers/schools in England. Well done to: Tegan G, Emily M, Daniela V, Sofia V, Cicely M-B, Scarlett W, Daisy M and Evie S, we are so proud of you!



Community Notices and Reminders

GERMAN MINI CHRISTMAS MARKET

THE GUILDHALL,
HIGH STREET,
GUILDFORD GU1 3AA

SUNDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2021
11 AM - 2.30 PM

FREE ADMISSION

GERMAN WOODEN TOYS,
BAKERY, GIFTS,
STOCKINGFILLERS,
GLÜHWEIN & MORE



GUILDFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION 

PLAYERS WANTED

Want a Fresh Challenge?

Fancy a change of CLUB?

Returning to RUGBY?

New to the Guildford Area?

LEARN HOW TO PLAY OR DEVELOP YOUR GAME

AGE 11 - 18 ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

The youth section provides a transition from Mins rugby and a pathway to into Seniors rugby

New players always welcome to join, whether new to the game or experienced. Every player is important to us!

Guildfordians RFC provides a safe and enjoyable environment to help develop players.

We can offer you a place in our boys U12, U13, U14, U15 & U17 age groups

GET IN CONTACT
Paul - youth.chairman@grfc.co.uk

Training Sunday mornings 10:00 to 12:00 + midweek training

Guildfordians RFC - The Pavilion, London Road, Guildford GU1 1TU
www.grfc.co.uk/youth.aspx

UCAS DISCOVERY APPRENTICESHIPS VIRTUAL EVENT

APPRENTICESHIPS FAIR

30 NOVEMBER



**Be inspired. Get advice.
Find your perfect apprenticeship.**

Join UCAS Discovery Apprenticeships Fair live 10:00 – 18:00 on 30 November 2021.

Book your place now for a day of inspiration, information, and live employers. Featuring everything you need to discover if an apprenticeship might be right for you – all packed into one day, and online. Plus, your chance to explore what apprenticeship opportunities are out there right now.

www.ucas.com/events/ucasdiscovery-apprenticeships-fair-404796

amazon  

If you would like, and are able, to support the school, we would be grateful if you could buy any of the books on our Amazon wishlist. This will arrive at the school a few days later, and will be added to the library, for students to enjoy. Please click the following link to view our wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/blJmJiD>

 **ePlatform**
by wheelers books

A reminder that students are now able to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks from our new online library: <https://georgeabbot.eplatform.co>

For more information, please [click here](#).

George Abbot or Ralph Lauren?

Whilst she was recently shopping in a Ralph Lauren store in London, GA Alumni Katie (class of 1997) saw this tie being sold and was fondly reminded of how much it resembled the George Abbot School tie! Who knew George Abbot could influence such a big fashion brand?!

A big thank you to Katie for sending in this image.



Careers

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

- Kingston College Open Day—Saturday 27 November 2021
- Brooklands College Open Day—Saturday 27 November 2021
- Farnborough College of Technology Application Deadline—Sunday 28 November 2021

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

- AON Apprenticeship Programme 2022—Applications Open
- HSBC Apprenticeship Roles—Deadline: Sunday 28 November 2021

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