

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

03 December 2021

All



As the first three Advent calendar windows have been opened, we have been treated to the wonder of George Abbot's Little Shop of Horrors. I have sneaked some glimpses but am due to attend this evening; comments from those who have enjoyed the show this week indicate that those of us anticipating 7pm are going to be impressed – 'so, so, so good' and 'the show was fantastic' are a small sample. We have some seriously talented actors, dancers, singers and musicians; both they, all those students involved in production and the staff who have pulled this off, despite COVID-19 absences doing their best to derail us, are frankly, a dream team. I am so proud of each of them.

Also this week, an important celebration of two girls sports teams. Our Year 10 girls basketball team are now the crowned Guildford District champions and our Year 8 girls football side won this week's local Guildford 5-a-side tournament. Extremely good news – despite appearances, which can be deceptive, I am seriously competitive when it comes to sport and victories matter – well done to all those girls involved – you have represented GAbbot brilliantly.

Next a quick overview of the run up to the end of term:

- Monday 6 December – students are asked to bring in a donation for the PTA raffle – they should bring their donation to their tutor rooms at 8.30am. Triple House Points are our way of thanking them for remembering!
- Monday 6 December – Year 7 and 8 parents' coffee morning – 9.00-10.00am, Elmslie Hall. Do come along to this PTA event and meet some of your fellow year group parents/carers.
- Monday 6 December – early closure for Year 7 Parent Subject Consultations – 1.30pm.
- Tuesday 7 December – Friday 17 December inclusive – Year 11 internal assessments.
- Tuesday 7 December – COVID-19 vaccinations for Year 8 and Year 9 – students to wear house shirts.
- Friday 10 December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – please donate via WisePay for this important charity – especially to make a difference to the most vulnerable this Christmas.
- Friday 10 December – school closure at 1.00pm. Student leaders and musicians/dancers involved have already received a letter regarding the arrangements. All other students, parents/carers, relatives and staff are warmly invited – a time and place to come together as one George Abbot community is rare, so if you are able to join us, it would be VERY good to see you there – 2.00pm start.
- Tuesday 14 December – final bulletin of the term.
- Friday 17 December – mufti day – £2 donation to go towards school PTA funds – there will be a donation button on WisePay.
- Friday 17 December – school closes at 12.00pm.

As per my email of earlier this week, we will be lateral flow testing all students at the beginning of the Spring Term – the date for Year 13 is now finalised as the afternoon of Wednesday 5 January and all other year groups will start school at set times throughout the day on Thursday 6 January. Apologies again that this might mean you need to sort out alternative travel arrangements if your child usually travels by school bus. Please check your home supplies of lateral flow testing kits – we will be handing out more at the gate over the coming days, but your child is also welcome to collect some from their Head of Year or from Elmslie Office. Lastly, a reminder that there have been recent changes in the Government's rules around taking a PCR test upon arrival to the UK on return from travel overseas. This must therefore be factored into arrival dates back to the UK ensuring enough time for the PCR result to be returned to you before your children are due to start the new term.

At this point, we continue to have relatively low COVID-19 case numbers, but I am really grateful for your support in encouraging your children to follow the recommendation regarding mask wearing in communal spaces. We continue to do all we can to keep our George Abbot community safe. This week's COVID-19 numbers are:

Current numbers of students	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
isolating following a positive PCR test	5	7	2	2	3	1	1

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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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
6 December	A	3
13 December	B	4

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Testing Volunteers

We are once again on the hunt for volunteers to assist with the whole school testing process on Thursday 6 January 2022. If you are available to volunteer or know someone who is, even if for part of the day, please email Sarah Jones, School Business Manager: sjones@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, indicating the times of your availability.

⇒ Free School Meals—Christmas Holidays

Surrey County Council have informed us that we will be able to issue a voucher with the value of £30 to cover the cost of school meals over the Christmas holidays. We will be issuing the vouchers via the Wonde online platform during the last week of term. Please contact Sarah Jones: sjones@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you have any problems or issues accessing your voucher.

⇒ Uniform Shop—Christmas Closure and Pre-term Opening Hours

The George Abbot School Uniform Shop will close for the Christmas holidays at the close of business on Tuesday 14 December. The shop will re-open before the start of the new term on Wednesday 5 January 2022 from 1.00pm to 5.30pm. We will then open again on Saturday 8 January from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Appointments are not necessary on these dates, but please wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines.

After this, the school shop will continue to be open by appointment. To book an appointment, please either call our office on 020 8687 1502 or email spsschoolshops@yahoo.com using the header 'GA APPOINTMENT'. You are also welcome to order by emailing us using the header 'GA ORDER' – please include the items you need (including size), your child's name and a contact number so that we can call you to take payment. We will then advise of collection arrangements.

Thank you and Merry Christmas from the School Shop!

⇒ WANTED: PTA Christmas Raffle Gift Donations

The money raised by the George Abbot PTA has contributed over the years to the funding of many educational resources and refurbishments that have directly improved the education of our young people. Fundraising is a vital part of the process by which the PTA continues to provide school with such excellent support, and we wanted to ask for your help.

Students are being invited to bring in prize donations that can be given away as part of the PTA's Christmas Raffle. Students should bring in donations to form time on Monday 6 December. Form tutors will send form reps to Elmslie Hall between 8.30-9.00am to deliver the donated prizes to the PTA. Form Tutors will award students three house points in return for their kind donations. Suggested gifts include chocolate, sweets, bottles of drink, toiletries and small novelty Christmas gifts (like socks!).

Please also see [attached poster](#) and many thanks for your support of the George Abbot PTA.

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Whole School	<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>⇒ REMINDER: Early School Closure for Christmas Carol Concert—Friday 10 December</p> <p>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.</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Christmas Jumper Day 2021 for Save the Children—Friday 10 December</p> <p>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.</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ Face masks in Internal Assessments</p> <p>Next week brings the start of the Year 11 Internal Assessments. Please note, students will be asked to wear face masks whilst in their exam venues.</p>
Year 10	<p>⇒ Crisis at Christmas—A message from 10PA</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> 
Year 9	<p>⇒ COVID-19 Vaccinations: Tuesday 7 December</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccinations will be taking place on Tuesday next week for those who have opted in. Students should wear their HOUSE SHIRT on the day of their vaccination. Additionally, students will need to wear a face mask for their vaccination and whilst waiting to be seen. Please ensure your child has their water bottle with them.</p>
Year 8	<p>If you have any questions about these immunisations, please contact the School Immunisation Team on 01483 728201, extension 377. The portal for e-consents is now closed so please contact the team for further advice. If you have not given consent for your child to have the COVID-19 vaccine, they will not receive it. If your child no longer requires the vaccine, please email thutson@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>

Careers

Is your child considering applying for an Apprenticeship next year? Amazing Apprenticeships have a list of Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships for 2022 available [here](#). Further apprenticeship opportunities at Barclays and VMware can be found here: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/apprenticeship-opportunities/>

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

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

Focus on: Praise for Little Shop of Horrors!

Congratulations to all involved in the Little Shop of Horrors performances this week. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have written in. Photos to follow in the next bulletin.

Replying to @gabbot_news

Absolutely brilliant show! Amazing team effort - congratulations to all. 🎵

It was a wonderful show. Well done to all involved 🙌

Replying to @gabbot_news

Fantastic and mesmerising. Very talented students and teachers.

Replying to @gabbot_news

Fab-u-lous!

Replying to @gabbot_news

Absolutely fantastic! Can't wait to go see it again on Thursday. Band, cast, technicals - just brilliant

Wonderful! Laughed and cried. Incredible dedication, performance and team work from cast, band, tech. Huge credit to the GA production crew!



Replying to @gabbot_news

Absolutely wonderful. Well done to everyone involved.



PTA



We hope you have had a good week, and that everyone attending the **Little Shop of Horrors** performances enjoyed them as much as we did! We are doing amazing so far selling snacks and drinks at the production, and can't thank all our volunteers enough. We will be drawing the Raffle to-night! Let's see who the lucky winners will be ...

- 1st prize of a family meal at Percy Arms for £125
- 2nd prize of a family meal at Percy Arms for £50
- 3rd prize of a Guildford Spectrum Voucher for £25

On Monday (6 December) we have our **New Parents and Carers coffee morning**, for all parents/carers with children who have joined George Abbot since September 2021. This is from 8.30-10.00am in Elmslie Hall.

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 neighbouring streets surrounding George Abbot.

Christmas Fayre Week – a reminder to please send in any raffle prizes to help promote your business/skills! Students have been notified about bringing in raffle prizes (e.g. bottles of wine, chocolates, goods etc.) to help us make up some Raffle Prize hampers. Please do encourage your child to bring these to their tutor rooms or drop these items off yourself on Monday 6 December in Elmslie Hall from 8.30-9.00am, or email us to discuss alternative arrangements.

Christmas Raffle Tickets are on sale via WisePay for £1 each. Deadline: 16 December 2021. Only 5000 tickets will be issued and the draw will take place on Friday 17 December. Some lovely prizes have already been sent, from small business ventures to BMW donations. Make sure you get IN IT TO WIN IT!!

Please also remember to donate any second hand uniform at Elmslie Reception (or bring with you to the coffee morning). We are in urgent need of PE uniform, blazers and winter wear.

With many thanks for your support, The PTA.

Follow us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/georgeabbotparents/>

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/georgeabbotpta

Email the PTA: PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Sign up for the Sainsbury's scheme and more information on the PTA: www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/

Sign up for EasyFundraising: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/georgeabbotschool



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