

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

All

14 December 2021



As the Autumn Term draws to a close, a few important messages. Firstly, LFTs at the beginning of the new term:

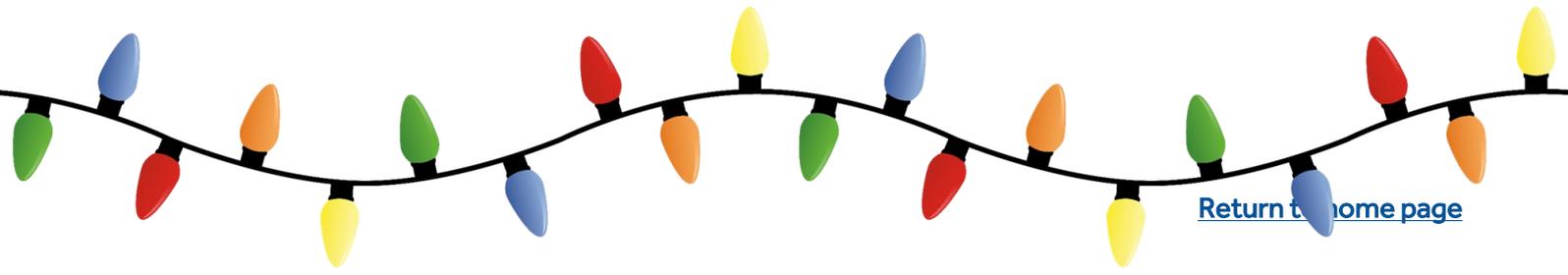
1. Lateral Flow Testing will take place for every student at the start of the Spring Term – Year 13 testing will take place on Wednesday 5 January and all other year groups on Thursday 6 January 2022. Additionally, please ensure your child has taken a LFT 48 hours before they return to school.
2. As at the start of the academic year, students should arrive at school at the time of their year group's Lateral Flow Testing.
3. All tests will be taking place in the gym. Students should arrive to Elmslie Gate where they will be directed by staff to the playground next to the gym.
4. Students will be held in Elmslie Hall or the playground until confirmation that test results are negative. They will then be sent to their next lesson as per their timetable.
5. Please ensure your child has consent for testing – especially if your child has joined the school after the usual September start period. Please email consent@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.
6. If your child does not have consent for testing/or has tested positive for COVID-19 on or after Friday 8 October 2021, they should arrive at the times below and report to the playground next to the Gyms.
7. Please note, from Thursday 6 January, buses will run at normal times.

Wednesday 5 January 2022		
Year Group	Test time	
Year 13	12.00pm—Surnames A-M 1.00pm—Surnames N-Z	
Thursday 6 January 2022		
Year Group	Test time	Lunch (Canteen)
Year 7	8.30am	Break 1 (Elmslie)
Year 8	9.25am	Break 2 (Raynham)
Year 9	10.20am	Break 2 (Elmslie)
Year 10	11.40am	Break 3 (Elmslie)
Year 11	12.30pm	Break 3 (Raynham and Pod)
Year 12	1.30pm	

Secondly, we very much hope that school will proceed in live format as has been the case this term. Should there be any variation to this plan (e.g. government schools' guidance directing a reversion to remote education) we will inform parents and carers by Schoolcomms by 10.00am on Tuesday 4 January 2022. Our intention would be to proceed with virtual lessons, hosted on Teams, according to the timings of our now established four lesson model.

Thirdly, the school term has ended in significant George Abbot style:

- A restorative and uplifting Cathedral Carols – thank you to the many hundreds of our community who joined us. Our students performed and read exceptionally well, offering superb representation for George Abbot School.



- 10PA led the fundraising for Crisis resulting in the fine sum of £585.12 being donated to ensure 20 homeless people are not on the streets this Christmas night – thank you to everyone who donated.
- We raised £1365.50 for Save the Children via our Christmas Jumper Day—a brilliant total—thank you!
- The NHS pop up 12-15 Covid vaccination clinic held at George Abbot on Sunday 12 December vaccinated 215 young people from our local area
- Our Year 11s have put in a superb effort as their internal examinations have proceeded right up to the finishing line – well done to each of them – a rest does lay ahead this Christmas.

Lastly, a reminder that the PTA raffle is still ongoing and closes on Thursday 16 December. Do please purchase a ticket to boost school funds. This Friday we will begin dismissing students from 11.50am, with term finishing by 12.00pm. Remember, it is a Mufti Day!

In closing, a truly Happy and Healthy Christmas to every reader – I continue to be honoured to work with you – parents, carers, students, governors. Thank you for all that you do to support George Abbot School.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

End of Term Reminders

Last day of Term: Friday 17 December

MUFTI DAY: please donate via WisePay towards PTA funds.

The school day will end at **12.00pm** on the last day of term, following this schedule:

- 8.25am: Student arrival
- 8.30am: Form
- 8.55am: Period W
- 10.10am: Break 1
- 10.35am: Period X
- 11.50am: Dismissal from class

Please note, canteens will not be open and there is no homework club in USIC. Students are expected to travel home at this time. Buses will run at the earlier time of 12.00pm, apart from the public buses, which will run at their normal times.

COVID-19 Reminders

Testing Volunteers

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

Positive COVID-19 cases (90 days)

Please be reminded, if your child tested positive for COVID-19 on or after **Friday 8 October 2021**, Government guidance states they **do not** have to be tested in January. Please let us know if your child has tested positive in this time frame by emailing consent@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, especially over the Christmas holidays.

Close contacts of COVID-19

Updated Government guidance states that from Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow test (LFT) every day for 7 days. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

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>

Notices	
Whole School	<p>⇒ Early School Closure for Year 8 Parent Subject Consultations—Thursday 13 January 2022</p> <p>School will be closing at 1.30pm on Thursday 13 January 2022 for the Year 8 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 Wednesday 12 January. It is important to note that supervised student places are more limited than in previous times due to COVID-19 restrictions, so it is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.</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>⇒ 12 Days of Christmas Challenge</p> <p>As the weather gets colder, it is time to curl up with a book and now there is the added chance to win some vouchers! The Gallery have launched their 12 Days of Christmas Challenge to get the whole family reading this winter.</p> <p>Please click here to download the challenges. Parents/carers should sign each square once a task is completed. Students should return their sheet to the gallery by Monday 10 January for a chance of winning a prize.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email ncassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Uniform Shop—Christmas Closure and Pre-term Opening Hours</p> <p>The 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. For more information, please visit: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ FAO of parents/carers of Year 11 MFL students</p> <p>Please see attached letter regarding your child's MFL speaking mocks in February 2022.</p>
Year 8	<p>⇒ Year 8 Parent Subject Consultations—Thursday 13 January 2022</p> <p>Please see important information attached regarding Year 8 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.</p>

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
3 January	A	5
10 January	B	1

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Celebrating all things Gabbot!

Suddenly, we wanted to *See More*

The Little Shop of Horrors showcased everything that's great about George Abbot School.

Written by Emma D, Amy W, Darcy G, Lucy R and Abigail P (Year 7 Journalism Club).



Over the past few months, students and teachers alike have been working hard to make the Little Shop of Horrors production. A lot of time, effort and thought has gone into the production and we were lucky enough to go behind the scenes and find out how this family favourite came to life in Raynham Hall.

In the rehearsals you could instantly see everyone, on and off the stage, supporting each other and trying their hardest. We got to interview with one of the main parts, Joel W who plays Seymour, who told us: "Everyone is trying to make it the best it can be." Everyone's enthusiasm and teamwork was clear to see and we were inspired to help out with the set.

We were holding up the set and we saw main character Joel juggling his schoolwork and lines at the same time in one of the scenes. We also noticed that everyone remembered their lines off by heart and the acting was outstanding. We got to stay and watch some of the dancing and it was all perfect and on point. The music sounded very professional, just like in the film.

Having now seen the finished production, the Little Shop of Horrors was a great success, and it was extremely exciting to watch it all put together on stage.

A big thank you to all the students and teachers who have been working non-stop to pull off this spectacular, show-stopping production.



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Christmas Box Charity Donations

Every Christmas in PSE, Year 8s get involved with helping the community by donating gifts to people who need it most. This year we have supported three different charities: Transform Housing (Farnham), Royal Surrey Hospital and North Guildford Foodbank. Students have spent time and effort working as a team to prepare presents and wrap them beautifully to give to these charities. Each charity was overwhelmed by the amount of gifts given by our students and so Mr Barry would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the students who have made such an impact on people less fortunate than us this Christmas. Additionally, a big thank you to Mr Barry for delivering the gifts.



Year 10 Crisis Donations

We are overwhelmed by the amount of donations from students, parents and carers to the Crisis at Christmas campaign. The year group have managed to raise £585.12, which provides 20 people (4 times more than we were aiming for!) with a safe space, hot meals, a Christmas dinner, companionship this Christmas. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause and to 10PA and Mrs Lawrence for organising the fundraising.



Replying to @gabbot_news

What a great effort from the staff, parents and pupils, and your fabulous donation will make such a huge difference to those 20 people. Thank you so much 🙌

Christmas Jumper Day

A massive £1365.50 was raised for Save the Children from our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10 December. Thank you to everyone who donated.



George Abbot School @gabbot_news · Dec 10
£1262 raised so far for @savechildrenuk 🙌 Thank you to everyone who has donated! Some great jumpers on show... #ChristmasJumperDay

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Replying to @gabbot_news

Woah this is amazing! Thank you to everyone that has taken part in our Christmas Jumper Day! We are sure you all look super festive! Hope you all are having a magical day! 🎄🎄 Lauren

1:29 PM · Dec 10, 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.

2 Retweets 3 Likes

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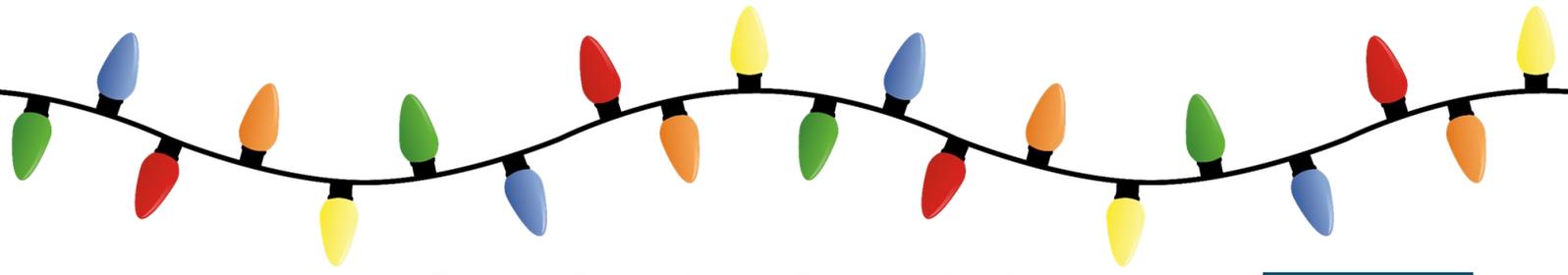
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Sporting Success

What an amazing term of Gabbot sporting success! There has been great numbers of students attending our clubs regularly which has led to increased success in fixtures and house sports across the year groups. We have played over 150 inter school competitive fixtures across the term, with a 56% win rate! Football, Netball, Rugby, Basketball, Hockey, Swimming, Handball and Cross Country have all been represented. We are extremely proud of everyone who has taken part this term. Look out for new clubs next term as we mix it up a little. Well done everyone! Mr Isherwood.





Bilingual Brain Winning Entry—Well done Lamar!

Hi, my name is Lamar and I am in Year 7. I'm Bilingual and my second language is Arabic. Arabic is the language that runs through my family. Arabic is linked to my religion and culture. The only reason English is my first language is because I was born here.



The benefits of a bilingual brain are endless. While taking language lessons at school it is easier for me to learn because some words sound similar to Arabic. Having a bilingual brain makes me think wider and harder. One of my favourite things about being bilingual is being able to communicate with my loved ones. My family mean the world to me and it's so nice to be able to contact my family members in Africa even though I can't see them in person {Thank you technology}.

Speaking such a beautiful language is such a lucky thing; most people don't get the chance of being bilingual so I'm very grateful for it. Being bilingual has rescued me in so many different situations, there are too many to count. One of my main problems is getting told off in front of my friends/others. Being able to speak another language makes it easy for my parents to tell me to stop or if they are getting mad.

Being bilingual is great but there have been some funny moments where I didn't know someone spoke the same language as me. One time I was at the park waiting for my turn on the swings. When the girl got off I accidentally said thank you in Arabic. I immediately realised and started apologising but it turns out she spoke the same language!

Another awkward time was at a restaurant I accidentally said something in Arabic, but the waitress spoke Arabic too: she understood me; it was very embarrassing! Other than that I can't really think of any more embarrassing moments. Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoyed hearing about my bilingual story!

Sustainable George Abbot

GA Water Bottle Campaign

We will officially be launching the GA Water Bottle Campaign in January 2022, aiming to reduce the amount of single use plastic bottles used in and outside of school. We want to encourage students and staff to use (and remember!) reusable water bottles. We will be monitoring the amount of water bottles in our bins and those sold in the canteen to see our progress on this campaign as a community.

From mid-January, students will be rewarded during tutor time for having a reusable water bottle with them at school, **so please support us by putting a water bottle on the Christmas list, if your child does not already have one.**

Second hand/Vintage Clothes sale—please help!

Are you clearing out your wardrobe to make room for Christmas? Or do you like starting the New Year with a clear out?

If so, please bag any clean items of clothing or accessories in an acceptable condition and donate them to school. Please encourage your child to drop donations within the school day, or drop them yourself AFTER school hours, just inside the doors at Elmslie reception throughout January.

The Sixth Form plan to hold a second hand/vintage clothes sale on the morning of Saturday 29 January, as part of the GA 'fashion week', which focuses on the relationship between fashion and sustainability. Buying and selling 'preloved' clothes can significantly reduce our fast fashion 'footprint' whilst still satisfying our love of wearing something new! Thank you for supporting the Sixth Form with this fantastic initiative.



These are reusable!



Not these!



PTA



Congratulations to the winners of our LSOH Show Raffle: Martin, Lisa and Helen, we hope you love your prizes! We raised a fabulous £1000 at the event which will be spent on our next project (to be announced in the first January communications). Thank you for everyone's support, it was lovely meeting so many of you!

Christmas Fayre Week

A big thank you to everyone who has donated amazing prizes to our Christmas Raffle! We have more than 40 fantastic hampers, including:

Skateboard donated by Decade Guildford Skate Shop
HKore Pilatus Studio vouchers
BMW Baby Racer III
Melita – Fitness for Mums hamper
Craggy Island Taster Session
Muscle Works hampers
McLaren Signed Gift Set
Local Gym Sessions
Gin Hamper
Acrylic Art Hampers
5 x Spa Hampers
Vegan Hamper
6 x Wine Tri Crates

FINAL CALL: Christmas Raffle Tickets are on sale on WisePay for £1 each. Deadline 16 December 2021. Only 5000 tickets will be issued and the draw is to take place on Friday 17 December.

Make sure you are IN IT TO WIN IT!!

Enjoy the Christmas Holidays, 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



Careers

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

- Craft Engineering Apprenticeship at BAE Systems

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

- Medicine Application support

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

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