

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

25 February 2022



All

Mercifully, the weather has quietened and as I write, the sky is blue and the light is bright. This half term began with a Headteacher who was, if she is honest, somewhat ruffled by a lack of power, internet, mobile phone signal, landline and water at home in the 72 hours preceding the return to school. I know many of our families experienced much the same as well as the expense of destroyed fences, garden annihilation and trees uprooted. I do hope domestic routines are returning to normal for all readers. We have all watched and listened to the news from Russia and Ukraine with real concern since Thursday morning. We know that this issue will personally touch a number of our families and our thoughts are with you all. Please let us know if your children need any additional support at this time - our Home School Link Worker team are here to help and can be contacted on: hslw@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Staff are mindful of the impact this news is having on many of our students - indeed, the older our children the more the consequences of these events are questioned and cause real concern. A starting point for any families who might want to discuss the issue with your children might be the following two useful resources, which Form Tutors will also highlight:

Overview of Crisis

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60417806>

What to do if you are worried

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

Please forgive the following repetition, but in closing I include the update on the government's latest COVID-19 guidance which we also sent home yesterday - I appreciate that, as parents/carers and indeed teachers too, keeping up with the latest position is an ongoing challenge!

- Students and staff should attend school if they are well.
- Students and staff should stay at home if they are unwell – schools are advised to continue to send home any students who are symptomatic or unwell.
- The guidance for staff and students to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing has been removed.
- Everybody should have a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms (tests will remain available until the end of March 2022).
- From today, 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- There is no longer a requirement for fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days.
- There is a removal of the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

Government recommended key measures for everybody continue to be:

- Get vaccinated.
- Let fresh air in and continue to be in the fresh air whenever possible.
- Wash your hands and follow advice to "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it".

School control measures are defined as:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone—we continue to use hand sanitiser every lesson.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes—we continue with increased cleaning rotas.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated—we continue with increased cleaning rotas.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19—see above.

With best wishes for a calm weather weekend,

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Notices

Whole School

⇒ RAG Week

Between Monday 7 and Friday 11 March our Sixth Form students will be running RAG week at George Abbot. The central theme will be Oceans, with the proceeds going to WaterAid, helping to increase access to water in less fortunate areas.

During the week there will be Sixth Form dress up days, activities and, as always, stalls selling cakes, popcorn and sweets.

To be able to partake in the fun, students will need to purchase GAB Tokens via WisePay (under General Payments and the option is entitled 'Sixth Form RAG Week March 2022'). One GAB token will cost 50p and tokens need to be bought by Wednesday 2 March in order to give the Sixth Formers time to get the tokens ready to be distributed on the Monday morning of RAG week. Unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is going to charity. Any payment queries please contact Finance, email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

A reminder that during the week, Sixth Formers would love if students could bring in sweet treats to help raise money for charity. This could be chocolates, cupcakes, biscuits, cookies, doughnuts, sweets or even cake! Those that do will be rewarded with House Points and we encourage as many students as possible to bring something in.

Each Year Group has been given a day to bring in food throughout the week. If students could please drop their food off in the sixth form building in the morning of the day this would be great and we look forward to seeing what people bring in!

Year Group	Date of drop off
Year 12 and 13	Monday 7 March
Year 7	Tuesday 8 March
Year 8	Wednesday 9 March
Year 9	Thursday 10 March
Year 10/11	Friday 11 March

⇒ Seeking Exam Volunteers

An important message for All George Abbot School Parents, Carers and Grandparents...

We are currently recruiting our New Season's volunteers to help support our students in their Summer exams. This is an especially heartfelt plea, as cancellation of exams for the last two years has meant that our list of exam volunteers has diminished and is in need of a real boost.

If you can spare some time during the May/June period, you might be able to support our exam students as 'Readers' and 'Scribes'.

Some of our students are permitted additional assistance in exams with the reading of exam papers and the writing of their responses.

- A 'Reader' is an adult who reads the instructions and questions of an exam paper to the exam candidate.
- A 'Scribe' is an adult who in an examination writes or types a candidate's dictated answers.

No previous experience is required; just the willingness to give some of your time to make a huge difference to our young people facing the challenge of exams in a time that feels more challenging than before.

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<p>Whole School</p>	<p>Training will be provided by the school, so if you are interested in volunteering your time to this very important role and much appreciated role, please contact the school Exams Office via email by Friday 11 March or sooner – exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p> <p>All volunteers will be required to undertake a DBS check and references, and the school will process all necessary paperwork on behalf of any volunteers. Thank you in advance, and we look forward to hearing from you.</p>														
<p>Year 13</p>	<p>⇒ English Literature Students</p> <p>On Thursday 3 March we would like to invite students to come to see Cyrano at the Guildford Odeon at 4.50pm.</p> <p>The plan is to meet outside the cinema at 4.45pm. This is not an official school trip or visit - more an opportunity to gather English Literature A Level students together, alongside some of their teachers, to enjoy an adaptation of this virtuoso romantic tragedy. Responsibility for travel, to and from the cinema, lies fully with students/families as does the purchase of tickets on arrival. Tickets are £10 each - and we would encourage all students to sit together.</p> <p>Please confirm to cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Wednesday 2 March if your child wishes to attend. We hope it will be a relaxed and fun evening.</p>														
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Study Leave and Examination Dates</p> <p>We are now in a position to confirm the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="461 913 1399 1312"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Key Year 11 Dates</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Start of GCSE Exams</td> <td>16 May 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May Half Term</td> <td>28 May – 5 June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last GCSE Exam</td> <td>23 June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leavers Assembly</td> <td>23 June 2022 (after the Physics exam)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exam Contingency Day</td> <td>29 June 2022 (students must be available)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prom</td> <td>5 September 2022</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Payments for Yearbook, Leavers Hoody and Prom Tickets will be finalised after Easter. More to follow.</p> <p>During the Exams and Study Leave:</p> <p>Students will follow their regular timetable up until May Half Term. Where students are not in exams, they will either be completing independent, supervised revision or teacher led revision depending on priority. Teachers will be aware of the revision priorities for students and will ensure students are able to focus on their most immediate exams. During this time additional subject revision sessions will take place as required.</p> <p>After May Half Term, students will only come in for their exams, revision spaces will be available during this time.</p> <p>Full school uniform is to be worn throughout the whole GCSE exam period.</p>	Key Year 11 Dates		Start of GCSE Exams	16 May 2022	May Half Term	28 May – 5 June 2022	Last GCSE Exam	23 June 2022	Leavers Assembly	23 June 2022 (after the Physics exam)	Exam Contingency Day	29 June 2022 (students must be available)	Prom	5 September 2022
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<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Subject Choices</p> <p>Following on from our previous communication on 21 January: the online options form which is accessed via the SIMSApp will be available from next Friday, 4 March. Further instructions on how to complete the online form will follow next week.</p> <p>Please make sure that you and your child are able to log in to the SIMS App. If you are unable to access the SIMS App, please email simsapp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk for assistance as soon as possible.</p>														

Year 9

⇒ English—Romeo & Juliet Performance and Workshop

We are delighted to be able to offer a performance and workshop in school by the Young Shakespeare Company to year 9 on Monday 14 March. This is an excellent opportunity to see a live performance of the Shakespeare play they have studied in class this term. Please see the attached letter for full details. Any questions please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ FAO students with Exam Access Arrangements

If your child qualifies for extra time, a reader or a scribe in Year 9 as an internal arrangement, Ms Barratt will begin to test them to see if they qualify to have these arrangements for their GCSEs. Ms Barratt will meet with students to discuss their learning and then, if appropriate, test them with assessments that meet JCQ criteria for extra time, reader or scribe in their GCSEs. If they meet the criteria, Ms Barratt will then approach teachers to see how much they use their arrangements in individual subjects. If there is sufficient evidence, an application can be made. This process will be shortly but will run into Year 10, contact will be made in due course. Please contact bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
28 February	B	2
7 March	A	3
14 March	B	4
21 March	A	5
28 March	B	1
EASTER		

Careers

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

Year 10 & 11

- Brooklands Spring Open Event

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

Year 13

- Procter & Gamble: Employability and Apprenticeships

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

Year 12

- Clifford Chance Intertional Law Insight Evening

After school talk on:

Applying to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge

If you are considering applying to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge for your degree education, then this after school talk will be essential listening for you.

We have the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach Officer from St Hilda's College, Oxford coming to speak to you on:

Tuesday 8 March 2022
3:30 – 4 / 4:15pm for Years 10 and 11 students
4 / 4:15 pm – 4:45pm for Year 12 students
Elmslie Hall

Please email or see Mrs Rose in USIC to book your seat: hrose@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Coming up this term...



GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL PRESENTS

Spring Festival:

A celebration of Music and Dance

THURSDAY 31 MARCH • 7 PM
RAYNHAM HALL, GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Tickets:
Adults - £6
Child/Concession - £3
More information to follow



Great British Book Off!

Thursday 3 March is World Book Day. One of the ways the Gallery are planning to mark this celebration this year is with a baking challenge. Young bakers will be challenged to design, bake and decorate a show stopping cake with a book or author theme. Start gathering ideas over the half term week! A few rules:

- Nothing that needs refrigeration.
- Finished bake must be fully contained or covered.
- Allergen/ingredient list must be attached.
- Please deliver to the Gallery on the morning of Thursday 3 March.

Wellbeing Hub—upcoming events

Raising Resilience in Children with Alicia Drummond, Therapist & Parenting Expert—9 March, 6.30pm.

Digital Wellbeing with Dr Elizabeth Milovidov—16 March, 6.30pm.

Expert Led Q&A's—Tuesday Evening's at 6pm

Register here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/the-wellbeing-hub-webinars/>

For more information, please email:

smurphy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Focus on: SATRO Event

On Tuesday 22 February, George Abbot hosted the SATRO problem solving competition, with 8 schools competing for a place in the final. George Abbot had teams entered from KS3, 4 &5. The teams had to try and get a marble to trigger a light to turn on as close to 10 seconds after being released on a structure which they had to build. Our KS5 Team came first in their age group managing to switch the light on in 10.4 seconds gaining a very high score! Our KS4 Team came in third place and the KS3 team had a great time but unfortunately did not manage to get the light to turn on. Well done to all the students involved.

KS5	KS4	KS3
Ryan B	Timmy H	Callum F
Bob LB	Jack C	Lewis R
Molly W	Ewan C	Harry E
Tom C	Jake C	Olivia M
	Will C	Mary W

Congratulations Quentin!

One of our Year 10 students, Quentin, has recently been taking part in lots of indoor athletics events. His performances have resulted in him being chosen to captain the Surrey Athletics Regional Championships Team. Quentin has successfully competed in the Regionals and Surrey Indoor Athletics Championships this month, gaining medals for shotput and triple jump. Congratulations Quentin, an amazing achievement!

Sustainable GA

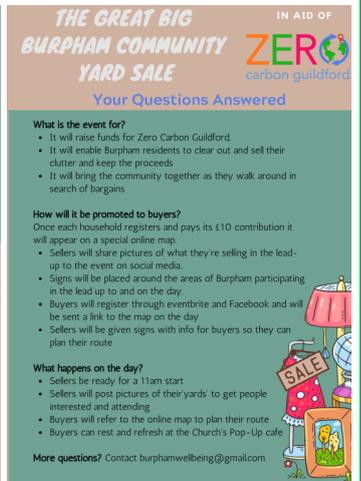
The Great Big Burpham Community Yard Sale - Spring 2022

On Saturday 23rd April, between 11am and 4pm, Zero Carbon Guildford and Burpham Wellbeing are organising a Yard Sale. Prospective sellers can pay a donation fee to have their 'yard' placed onto a virtual Burpham Yard Sale Map, which customers will use on the day to navigate their way from yard to yard. Past participants have praised the event for being a great opportunity to sell on and buy pre-loved items, and also for being a great reason to meet neighbours old and new, and involve themselves in the Burpham Community.

For more information, visit:

www.zerocarbonguildford.org

and/or email burphamwellbeing@gmail.com



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www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk