

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

25 February 2022



All

As we continue to see and hear and read about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, we want to do something. We have partnered with a parent from George Abbot, to organise donations. We are calling on all parents/carers to help us make a difference by donating items from the list below. Thank you so much to our PTA for coordinating this important community effort.

Donation Drop Off

Please see the table below for the relevant drop off days per year group. Students will be asked to bring items to M105 from 8.00am or to tutor time on their drop off day, and then tutors will send them to Moloney building where donations will be stored.

Day	Year Group
Monday 7 March	Year 12 and 13
Tuesday 8 March	Year 7
Wednesday 9 March	Year 8
Thursday 10 March	Year 9
Friday 11 March	Year 10 and 11

Donations urgently needed

- Long lasting food (canned, pasta, rice, etc.)
- Warm clothes in good condition (adults and children)
- Blankets, bed linen, sleeping bags
- Nappies
- Wipes, toiletries, sanitary products
- First aid kits, bandages, dressings

Should you have large donation (e.g. from a business/organisation), please contact us via the email below to discuss collection options. Please refer to the homepage of our website or Twitter for updates on any additional donation requirements each day next week.

Any surplus donations will be used to support other families in need in our George Abbot community.

Secondly, we would like to emphasise the long list of charities who are needing financial donations. If you can would like to make a financial donation, the organisations collecting funds for Ukraine include:

- The British Red Cross, which has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters and, in the last few days, 15,000 litres of drinking water to villages in eastern Ukraine.
- The UNHCR refugee agency, which is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support and warm clothing.
- Unicef, the UN's children's charity, which is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue.
- Save the Children, which is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself.

We thank you for all your help and support. Should you have any questions, please contact Audrey, one of our co-PTA chairs abean@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Notices

Whole School

⇒ **Year 10 RE and Year 11 - 13 Progress Support Meetings – Wednesday 30 March 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via SchoolCloud (Parents Evening System)**

We will be holding the above event on Wednesday 30 March. The aim of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for staff and parents to work together to support students whose progress is of concern in their exam subjects as we approach a key point in both GCSE and A-Level courses. Please note that students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.

Appointments are by **staff invitation only**. We will contact parents with appointments if subject teachers have concern about how:

- Year 10 students are working in their final year of their Religious Education course.
- Year 12 students are progressing in their exam courses
- Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses.

We will notify you via email from SchoolCloud no later than Wednesday 23 March. You may also log in to SchoolCloud after this date to view your appointments.

If you do not receive notification requesting your attendance but you have concerns about your son/daughter's progress at this stage, please remember that you are able to contact the subject teacher or Head of Department via email. Details of how to contact individual members of staff can be found on the school website at <http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/contact-us>.

⇒ **REMINDER: RAG Week**

Between Monday 7 and Friday 11 March our Sixth Form students will be running RAG week at George Abbot. 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. The deadline for buying tokens is Thursday 10 March. Tokens purchased before Wednesday 2 March will be available on Monday 7 March. There will a GAB token 'bank' each break time where students collect the tokens they have bought after this date. 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 it 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. For ease we have made these the same drop off days for the Ukraine donations. 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

**FRIDAY 11 MARCH =
MUFTI DAY**

**Please donate £1 via
WisePay for RAG week**

⇒ **WisePay**

WisePay have changed their payment processing to Global Payments (previously SagePay/Opayo). Please [click here](#) for details.

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Whole School

⇒ Statement of Entries - Summer 2022 Exam Series

George Abbot has now submitted exam entries for students sitting examinations this summer to the exam boards. As a result of this we need to provide students with their Statements of Entry to inform them of the entries we have made on their behalf. These will be distributed as follows:

- Year 13 - Breaks 1 & 2 on Wednesday 9 March and Thursday 10 March - Sixth Form Reception area
- Year 10 - Friday 11 March during form time
- Year 11 - Monday 14 March during form time

⇒ Health related Behaviour Surveys

Our school, along with several others, has agreed to participate in a very important Health Behaviour Survey amongst young people. We have been asked to support the work of the Local Authority Children's Services and Public Health and we stand to benefit substantially through our participation in the survey. The survey will be carried out before the end of the Spring Term by students in years 8 and 10. Students will complete the questionnaire in ICT rooms during PSHE lesson time.

The questions concern a wide range of health behaviours, for example: home and family relationships, emotional health and well-being, tobacco, alcohol, leisure and money, healthy eating, exercise, drugs and sexual health. Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, and no student will be identified when the data is returned to George Abbot, the Local Authority will receive only the summary of all schools data, in which individual schools are not identified.

Our Head of PSHE holds a copy of the questionnaire, and if you would like to examine it or have any concerns about your child taking part in the survey, please contact Mrs Murphy to discuss smurphy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Interested in training to teach?

George Abbot SCITT are hosting a number of information events over the coming weeks.

Monday 14 March - Information Event via Zoom - 6.30 pm- 7.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/teaching-training-virtual-information-event-tickets-180848852787>

Tuesday 29 March - Science Taster Day at George Abbot School (Flyer attached) - 8.30am - 12.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/secondary-science-taster-day-tickets-289457433977>

Year 9

⇒ Subject Choices

Your child will have watched a presentation in form time this week showing them how to complete their subject choices for study in Year 10 and 11. These instructions have also been added to SatchelOne. Please find attached instructions for parents/carers to follow to support your child in completing their choices. **The deadline for completing these choices is 8am on Monday 28 March.**

⇒ Year 9 Assessments

As you are already aware, Year 9 assessments are due to be sat by students next week. Students will be taking 60 minute assessments in as formal a setting as possible in their Ebacc subjects (Maths, English, Science, RE, History, Geography and MFL). [Attached](#) is a copy of the assessment schedule with some other key organisational information, for your use.

⇒ Science Assessments

The Year 9 science exam will take place on Thursday 10 March. This assessment will cover all learning so far this academic year. A list of topics that will be examined has been sent to students on Show My Homework (SatchelOne) by the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Heads of Department. Students should use their Science exercise books to revise from, however, further revision resources including mind maps, key questions and look-cover-write-check sheets can be found on the SLE (in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics folders). Additional online revision resources which some students might find useful are as follows:

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Year 9

- BBC Bitesize for KS4
- [Senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com) - Summaries, notes and videos to revise content
- www.doddlelearn.co.uk Institution: George Abbot School GU1 1XX
Username: same as school login
Password: 'georgeabbot' or 'password' (unless reset by student)
- www.physics4u.co.uk has a series of revision PowerPoints on "How Science Works". The first of these PowerPoints also advises students on how they should revise.

Please could you remind your son/daughter to bring a black biro, pencil, rubber, calculator and ruler to this exam.

⇒ 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. Thank you to everyone who has paid the £4.50 on WisePay, please do this as soon as possible if you have not already.

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
7 March	A	3
14 March	B	4
21 March	A	5

Focus on: SATRO Event

On Saturday 26 February, a group of Year 11 students, Ethan G, James T and Joel V, travelled to Harrogate to take part in the First Lego League England and Wales National Finals, after they qualified for the finals, by winning the Portsmouth regional event.

The students were competing against 64 other teams from all over England and Wales who had won their respective regional heats. During the day, teams were taking part in various activities, the main ones being the Robot Tournament and the Innovation Project presentations, both of these were extensions of the same elements from the regional heats.

In addition to the two main elements, there were fun activities such as a Lego Graffiti Wall, an interactive word search, team photos and a Lego building competition. Furthermore, there were various STEM opportunities to get involved with including an F1 paper car challenge and various other stalls to keep the students entertained throughout the day.

In their robot runs, the team scored 140, 160 and 205, which showed improvement each run, but was not enough this time to make it to the knockout rounds, but the team worked extremely hard and were courteous and sportsmanlike throughout.

During the Innovation Project presentation, the team were professional, and articulate with the judges and gave a fantastic presentation and also gave a confident and technical presentation of their robot design and design process.

Unfortunately, the students were unable to achieve any awards on the day for all their hard work in preparing for the final, but they had a fantastic day and enjoyed all the different activities and in all aspects they performed with maturity, dignity, sportsmanship and were a credit to themselves and the school.

After competing in the competition for the last five years since Year 7, in that time they have collected two regional awards for their innovation projects, one for the robot element and one Regional Winners award, the achievement of reaching the National Finals, was a huge accolade and accomplishment that they can be very proud of and remember for years to come.

A big thank you also goes to Mr Hunter for supporting students at this event.



Careers

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

Year 10–13

- Updated Medic Mentor Virtual Conferences

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

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

Year 10-13

- Berkeley St Edward—Careers in Property, Architecture & Design Virtual Evening
- Females of the Future STEM & Business Multi-Employer Virtual Event
- Updated Medic Mentor Virtual Conferences
- PwC Virtual Insight Week

IMAG Events

The Royal Grammar School are delighted to invite students to the annual Scholarship Conference. The places are limited so please act fast. Organised by the students themselves, the RGS Scholarship Conference celebrates free-thinking by challenging the audience to consider conflicting views and varying perspectives on a of theme 'The Unimaginable' by scholars from diverse fields. Here's what you have to look forward to this year: Professor Melanie Bailey – 'Drugs, Medicines and Disease: the information hidden in your fingertips' Dr Gareth Conduit, University of Cambridge – 'The Modern-Day Blacksmith' Rabbi Alexander Goldberg, University of Surrey – 'Faith in the Future: community cohesion and repairing community conflict' Martin Harris OBE, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) – 'What's in the Diplomatic Bag?' Professor Guy Leschziner, Guy's, St Thomas', London Bridge, Cromwell Hospitals, and One Welbeck – 'Virtual Reality: the science of dreaming and perception'. Please visit the IMAG website to register your attendance: www.imag.education/events

PTA

UKRAINE APPEAL WEEK COMMENCING 7 MARCH

Today you will hear about the Ukraine appeal, please do contact me urgently if you can help the PTA with receiving the donations. The more hands the better!

SPRING CONCERT 31 MARCH

We would love to help with a refreshment stall and perhaps a raffle at the Spring concert for the one night only. Please do contact me if you can provide help for this event, we would appreciate any time to help make this concert a success. This is the first concert in 3 years, so we need you now!

SECRETARY

The PTA still urgently needs a secretary to help with scheduling and communications. This is a relatively quiet role, with only a couple of hours needed every month. We would love to have a few parents volunteer their time, and this role can be shared between 2 to make it even more enjoyable! Contact us for more information.

SOFTWARE

The PTA would love someone to join our team to help solely with some of the software we use for communication to and between the parents/carers – for example Classlist. Please do let us know if you feel you can help us this way!

And then – some final admin. We had a lovely PTA meeting in February in the library, and met some new parents/carers. One had a great idea for quiet months – PTA meetings delivered virtually instead of the normal in person meeting or COVID-19 Zoom meeting. So keep an eye out for the link to be sent to all parents/carers containing a few short trial clips of our Virtual March PTA information, that you can listen to and respond in your own time. We all have busy schedules so we appreciate that its not always easy to make our meetings!

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