

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

18 March 2022

All

This week's message aims to both celebrate our students and offer some support for parents and carers.

Firstly, to celebrate the achievements of over 100 George Abbot students who performed at the annual GLive concert organised by Rotary International. This year, four schools performed: Christ's College, Duke of Kent, Priorsfield and George Abbot. Though I appreciate my view is somewhat biased, it was the case that George Abbot's set of pieces was the most professional and consistently well performed of all of the schools present. Our Music Department have, yet again, supported our musicians in a performance of the highest quality. Thank you so much to all of the parents and carers who attended in support of our students and to all our students involved. They were tremendous and I am super proud of each of them.



Secondly, The British Psychological Society offers the following advice to parents and carers as we continue to hear daily updates regarding the plight of Ukraine. I hope it might be useful, particularly for those of you with younger children.

Talking to Children and Young People about War and Conflict - The British Psychological Society

Professor Hill advises:

1. **Give them the basics and don't avoid the conversation** – Listen to their worries and provide honest answers to their questions about what is going on, don't overcomplicate your responses and try to give details at an age-appropriate level. Don't avoid answering their questions about the situation as this could promote more anxiety, but keep to basic facts.
2. **Ensure they feel supported and safe** – It's important to help children understand the level of threat to them and their friends and family. Explain this is happening in Ukraine, a different country and show this if necessary using a globe or map.
3. **Manage your own feelings** - Try to deal with your own feelings of stress and distress in a way that it is managed as your children will be sensitive to your reactions.
4. **Explain to your children that bad things can happen in the world but there is always some way we can help** - Plan together how you might deal with this situation through fundraising or other actions to support the Ukrainian community.

5. **Avoid exposure to a constant stream of news** – Be mindful of whether you have the radio or TV on all day, as children will be absorbing news without us realising it. Try to build in 'breaks' from the news, for example, if you are picking up your children from school, turn off the radio or make sure it isn't on a news station to provide a break from the constant exposure to worrying rolling news cycles.
6. **Watch where they are getting their news** – We know that fake news is an issue, particularly on social media sites so be mindful of what your children are absorbing and where they are getting it. Ensure they understand that not everything they see on social media sites is true, and they know what reliable sources of news they can access.
7. **Seek advice and support if you are concerned about your child** – School staff can offer specific advice and support if you feel that your child is becoming overly anxious and distressed. Providing support and reassurance and diverting their thoughts through engagement in things they enjoy can help.

When thinking of some of the wider social media issues that our young people face in 2022, points 5 and 6 offer wise advice. Avoiding exposure to a constant stream of social media interactions and being really sure who is influencing our teenagers remain two key priorities for all of us trying to steer our young people through these treacherous waters.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

| Notices | |
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| Whole School | <p>⇒ Vacancies at George Abbot Please see the following page of the school website for further details on our current vacancies: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/. Please do forward to any friends or colleagues you think might be interested. Current opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher of Law (part-time) • Teacher of Psychology (part-time) • SEN Administrator • Attendance Officer • Head of Media <p>⇒ Free School Meals—Easter Holiday Please find attached details about vouchers to cover Free School Meals over the Easter holidays. As has been the case over earlier holidays, the vouchers will be emailed to you unless you have requested they be posted to you.</p> <p>Please also see information about the ability to book places for your child onto holiday clubs over Easter.</p> <p>⇒ WisePay App update After receiving feedback WisePay have updated their mobile app. Recent updates to the app include; In-app password reset, integrations with Digital Wallets and compatibility with Apple Pay and Google Pay. For more detailed instructions please see attached user guide and frequently asked questions.</p> <p>⇒ Mental Health and your child Learning Partners Academy Trust invite parents and carers to the first event in their lecture series. Guest speaker, Dr Tanya Byron, will share her knowledge on issues regarding mental health in young people when navigating the modern world. A Clinical Psychologist and Professor in the Public Understanding of Science, Tanya's career spans 30 years, including a weekly column in The Times, podcast "How did we get here?" and Trustee of the NSPCC.</p> <p>When? Thursday 28 April, 6.30pm-8.00pm Where? George Abbot School Book: click here to book</p> |

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| <p>Whole School</p> | <p>⇒ Home to School Travel assistance consultation Surrey County Council are currently holding a consultation until Thursday 31 March on proposed changes to Surrey County Council's Home to School Travel Assistance Policy. New proposals will mean they can better support those who really need help and, therefore, some travel arrangements may change for people that can utilise other methods of travel assistance.</p> <p>For a detailed overview of the proposed changes, see attached a guide which explains the reasoning behind the policy refresh and Surrey County Council's proposal to move away from being a school transport service to adopting a new travel assistance model.</p> <p>Your feedback is very important to SCC to determine the travel assistance they provide in the future and they welcome views from the education community via the online consultation survey.</p> <p>⇒ Youth Counselling Service Short term, free and confidential counselling service for 12-24 year olds in West Surrey and North East Hampshire. For more information, please click here.</p> <p>⇒ Eating disorder support My Planet Health are facilitating some free drop-in groups for carers of people with eating disorders. The next session is to be held at the Lancaster Village Hall (upper hall) in Send Village from 12.30pm-1.30pm on Friday 29 April. For more info and to book your free place, please email Jayne at info@myplanethealth.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Year 13</p> | <p>⇒ FAO: students studying Art and Design A Level This year there will be no exam in Art and Design for Year 13. They will therefore be marked 100% on their coursework.</p> <p>A level Fine Art, Textiles, Graphics and Photography deadline for completing coursework is Monday 25 April 2022.</p> <p>All students are advised to use their lunchtimes and after school sessions to meet these deadlines. Please encourage your child to follow the advice and guidance of the teachers as to the best ways to meet the Assessment Objectives.</p> |
| <p>Year 11</p> | <p>⇒ FAO: students studying Art and Design GCSE This year there will be no exam in Art and Design for Year 13. They will therefore be marked 100% on their coursework.</p> <p>The following deadlines apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 GCSE Fine Art deadline for completing coursework is Friday 22 April 2022. • All other practical subjects including GCSE Graphics, Textiles and Photography deadline is Monday 25 April 2022. <p>All students are advised to use their lunchtimes and after school sessions to meet these deadlines. Please encourage your child to follow the advice and guidance of the teachers as to the best ways to meet the Assessment Objectives.</p> |
| <p>Year 9</p> | <p>⇒ Year 10 Curriculum Choices - deadline Monday 28 March 2022 A reminder that the deadline for your child to submit their curriculum choices via the SimsApp is at 8am on Monday 28 March 2022. Thank you to all the students who have already submitted their choices.</p> |

Summer Term PE Extra-curricular Timetable

| | Tuesday | | | Wednesday | | | Thursday | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--|--------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| | Club | Area | Teacher | Club | Area | Teacher | Club | Area | Teacher |
| Break 1 | | | | | | | Year 8 Rounders Barring Practice | SH | JLL |
| After School | Year 9/10 Athletics | Field | JN, JLL, AJR, LM | Year 11 GCSE PE Revision Year 11 Sport Studies Revision | SHL | JNF SGB | Year 7/8 Athletics | Field | CEF, AJR, JNF, LM |
| | Year 7/8 Cricket | SH | JNF, BRI | Year 9/10 Cricket | SH | BRI | Girls Cricket | SH | External Coach |
| | Year 7/9 Rounders | Field | PLJ, CEF | Year 8/10 Rounders | Field | JN, JLL | | | |
| | Year 8 Tennis | Courts | SGB | Year 7 Tennis | Courts | LJM | Year 9/10 Tennis | Courts | SGB |
| | 6 th Form Fitness Suite | | JZH | Year 10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite | FS | LAM | Year 10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite | FS | CXC |

Focus on: World Book Day cakes!

Congratulations to our two Great British Book Off winners from World Book Day! A wonderful tribute to Roald Dahl's Matilda was created by our first place winner, Evie B while second place goes to Poppy C who recreated Hagrid's masterpiece for Harry Potter's birthday. Well done girls - a great effort!



Careers

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

- Insight into Financial Services with Maven—Thursday 24 March, 5-6pm
- British Airways Insight Careers Evening—Wednesday 30 March, 5-6pm

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

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

George Abbot School, Woodruff Avenue, Guildford, GU1 1XX
01483 888000 - www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

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
Tickets on sale via WisePay from Monday 21 March

