

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

23 September 2022

All,

I hope that every reader feels that a sense of routine and rhythm is returning to households as our young people become reacquainted with classrooms, teachers and the school week.

We know that young people need solid and contained boundaries. They thrive when they have a safe space to learn, talk, think and become a young adult. Having space just to be is increasingly rare in the modern world. For good mental health, we need to replace excessive high dopamine activities with low dopamine activities. Screens, gaming and social media in particular, provide us with high dopamine surges on which we can become dependent. It is our role to teach children that there is another way and why giving our brains time and space away from over-stimulation is important for our mental health.

At school, students are not allowed to use their mobile phones. This strategy is deliberate: it reduces dependency. It also means that students can be themselves without a stream of commentary from others. Dignity is important to us all. It is not ok for students to be photographed at school and to find that photograph posted, ridiculed or used to demean. Indeed, photographs taken in toilets or changing areas are an immediate safeguarding risk. Should such photographs be taken, they will be always be reported to the police for police investigation.

As we return to the new school year, please can I ask you to work with us to protect our children. Phones stay off and out of sight at school. Shutting out the noise is important for our wellbeing and sense of self in a challenging world. Thinking, immersing ourselves in a sea of words, ideas and high quality texts leads to achievement. Social media is so starkly not this. We truly appreciate your partnership in this approach.

A concluding thought to ponder: reading expands our thinking and knowledge webs more profoundly than anything else.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

Safeguarding Reminder

Whilst in school we work hard to educate our students about appropriate and safe online usage; we know the best outcomes are achieved when we collaborate with parents and carers. The topics that we cover in PSHE lessons, tutor time and through our assembly programme include: reporting and blocking upsetting or age-inappropriate content; safe social media usage; digital criticality and taking and sharing indecent images (nudes or semi nudes) of children (including themselves) under the age of 18.

We would encourage you to discuss these topics with your children and remind them that mobile phones are prohibited at George Abbot. A reminder that we expect students to exhibit empathy, kindness and integrity, including when speaking to others online or on messaging services. The majority of social media and messaging applications have an age restriction of 13 to set up an account, which is for the protection and safety of young people. Parents and carers should ensure that their child is only registered for age appropriate applications.

It is our duty to report incidents to the police where there are safeguarding concerns and online safety laws have been breached. Our actions may also include school based sanctions. This is for the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. We hope that all students know how to report and block content online which they are worried about, but should you or your child need any support, or should you have any further questions, please email smurphy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

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Whole School

⇒ Parent/Carer Information Evenings Dates September/October 2022

Parents/carers in each year group are invited to attend a Parent Information Evening in the first few weeks of the new term. All events run from 6-7pm, in Raynham Hall. Details will be confirmed nearer the time.

- Wednesday 5 October - Year 7 Parent Information Evening
- Wednesday 28 September - Year 8 Parent Information Evening

If you are unable to attend our Parent Information Evening, presentations shared can be found on the following page of the website, alongside tutor contact details:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

⇒ TootToot

TootToot is our online reporting tool. Students can access TootToot online, and through the [Student Hub](#), to report any concerns they may have. Students in year 7 have been issued with login-in details for TootToot, the details of which were sent in an email to their school email account. Any students in years 8 – 13 who haven't activated their accounts have been emailed details reminding them how to register with TootToot. All students will be reminded of this service in tutor time.

⇒ Ordering your child's School Photograph

Parents/Carers wishing to order copies of the photographs taken on 7 September by the school photographers, can do so in the following manner once their child has brought home the 'proof' photograph sample from school:

- Click this [link](#) to directly get to the online ordering page of the Tempest Photography's website.
- (If this fails, go to Tempest Photography [website](#). Click 'How to Order' from the top bar. Click 'Order Online' on the icon for 'School Photographs').
- Enter the 10-digit number from your child's proof photograph that was given to them at school.
- Follow the remaining order procedure and payment.

Orders placed within 14 days of school receiving the proof photographs, will be delivered back to school and issued to your child. Orders made at a later time will be subject to delivery charges to your home. Full details are available on the Tempest website.

⇒ Free Porridge

Free porridge is available for students every morning from our canteens. Extra toppings can be purchased for 35p.

⇒ Parent/Carer Prayer Group

Christian parents/carers of students at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for termly staff meetings, and contribute to supporting young carers in the school twice a year. If you are interested in being added to the email distribution list for this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com

⇒ Nepal Trip 2024

We would like to present an exciting proposal for an educational overseas adventure expedition to Nepal in July 2024 departing at the end of term into the summer break. This trip is aimed at students who will be in Years 11, 12 and 13 in 2024, so current Years 10, 11 and 12. The two week long trip will consist of project work within the community, trekking and sightseeing. For more information, please see the [attached letter](#) or attend the Information Evening on Thursday 13 October.

⇒ FAO: Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Textiles students—V&A Trip

Please find [letter attached here](#) regarding a trip for Textiles students to the V&A Museum on Thursday 20 October.

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⇒ Spanish Foreign Language Assistant—Accommodation needed

We are thrilled to have a Spanish Language Assistant starting with us in November until the end of April 2023 and he is really looking forward to working with our students. He is currently looking for accommodation in Guildford for his stay. This could be the ideal opportunity to improve your or your children's Spanish language skills. If you would be willing to host him as a paying guest and would like more details, then please contact Mrs Martinez-Wallas: nmartinezwallas@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Vacancies

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

- Teacher of English
- Head of Faculty: English
- Head of Faculty: Art and Design
- Residential Caretaker
- Exam Volunteers

Exam Volunteers

In preparation for supporting the examinations and assessments that our students will be taking this year, **we are now recruiting Exam Volunteers**. We would like to invite you as a member of our school community to consider taking on this role.

Volunteer positions are unpaid but do receive full training from our Exams Access Team and our heartfelt thanks for generously donating your time to help. The role requires being in the exam rooms to help students who may need 'Readers' to read for them, or 'Scribes' to help with writing down answers. A clear but quiet speaking voice is necessary for the 'Reader' role. Legible handwriting is necessary for the less common 'Scribing' role. For those who might be nervous about taking on these vital roles, it is important to say that Volunteers area always accompanied in exam rooms by Lead Invigilators, who are there to answer any queries and provide support at all times.

To complete an Exam Volunteer application form, please visit:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/>

We are asking that completed applications forms are emailed back to exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Friday 30 September. After this date, applicants will be contacted in order to complete a DBS check, and will then be invited into school for training at the start of October.

If you feel the role is not one you are able to commit to at this time, please do mention our recruitment drive to your family and friends who might be in a position to join our team of George Abbot Exam Volunteers

⇒ Helping your child with Maths homework—Sparx

We are pleased that as of this month, students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework.

For more information, please see the [attached letter](#) from Mrs McAuliffe or view the informational video [here](#). There are also some top tips on how to support your child with homework, which you can access by clicking [here](#).

⇒ Request from the PE Department...netball posts

Unfortunately, over the summer holidays, we have had 3 netball posts and bases condemned which was very unexpected and therefore not accounted for in this year's budget. To buy one set (post and base) would be a cost of £295.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>We would very much welcome any donations towards the cost of replacing these 3 sets which are vital to both our lessons, matches and all of the tournaments we host.</p> <p>In addition to this, if there are any parents/carers who have a link with a Sports equipment company who could procure a discount, please email: jlawrence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>⇒ Get Into Teaching in Surrey - Information Session with George Abbot SCITT Considering a career in teaching? Join us online to learn how George Abbot SCITT can support you with your journey into teacher training: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/72663888647</p> <p>⇒ Clear out your cupboards, help our school community and save the planet! Calculators, textbooks, revision guides and ring binders wanted! We'll be collecting donations from Elmslie Reception until Friday 30 September. Don't forget that the PTA are always keen to receive clean, good quality second hand uniform.</p> <p>Students will find out how to get hold of second-hand equipment shortly - tell them to listen out for details! Next collection: OCTOBER: unwanted musical instruments and outdoors equipment for D of E expeditions. Get rummaging in readiness!</p> <p>⇒ Car Free Day, 10.00am-4.30pm, Sunday 25 September in Guildford Town Centre Experience a traffic-free Guildford town centre on Sunday 25 September with Guildford Borough Council's second annual Car Free Day. This FREE event will highlight environmental issues such as air pollution, food waste and active travel, whilst giving you the opportunity for a fun-filled day on closed roads. As well as eco information and advice from leading experts, there will be market stalls and food vans. There will be free activities including circus skills workshops, a huge 9m climbing wall, fun arts & play sessions. www.guildford.gov.uk/carfreeday2022</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Jekyll and Hyde Performance The English Department is organising a visit to see the Guildford Shakespeare Company's production of Jekyll & Hyde at St Nicholas Church in Guildford. Students will have the opportunity to see a live performance of a studied text which is part of their GCSE Literature course. For more information, please see the letter attached here.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ RE Internal Assessment—Friday 11 November at 8.30am Year 10 students will be sitting their RE internal assessment on Friday 11 November at 8.30am. The exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long and students will be examined on the following units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity: beliefs and teachings • Buddhism: beliefs and teachings • Buddhism: practices • Religion, Crime and Punishment <p>There are a wealth of revision resources on the SLE including revision guides and workbooks for the different topics. They can be found here: Revision resources (SLE Lessons and Resources – Religious Education – RE GCSE course info and revision – Revision resources). There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming, Nagapriya and Peter Smith <p>If you have any questions or concerns please email Mrs King: vking@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Drama Club Year 9 Drama Club will run on Tuesdays from 3.15pm-4.15pm in the Drama Studio with Mrs Melville.</p>
<p>Year 7</p>	<p>⇒ Cooking Courses for Parents/Carers with Surrey Adult Learning Please click the following link to find out more.</p>

Sustainable GA

Surrey Wildlife Trust are hosting a FREE event for young people aged 15 – 25 at Nower Wood Education Centre on Thursday 6 October. George Abbot has up to 10 spaces. The event is designed to be a chance for young people to network with other like-minded young people and SWT staff. There will be a careers talk on green jobs, with young people talking about their careers in the sector so far. SWT director of education and engagement will also be doing a talk. The attendees will also get the chance to attend two hands on workshops – one on practical conservation management in which they will be shown how to use tools to carry out a woodland management task, and one on nature connection and wellbeing in which they will have the opportunity to understand how spending time outside can help them to manage stress through a range of activities which can help boost their general health and wellbeing.



SWT welcome anyone over the age of 15, but under 18's must have a consent form signed by a parent/carer and must be accompanied by a responsible adult or parent/carer over the age of 18. Any proposed absence should be accompanied by a school application for leave of absence which would be authorized by Mrs Carriett.

Find out more and sign up here : <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/events/2022-10-06-youth-action-nature-2022>

Focus on: Well done Adeeba!

We are pleased to announce that Adeeba, one of our Year 12 students, has been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This is a Prestigious award to help encourage and support students through sixth form who intend to study an engineering discipline at university. Adeeba had to undertake an exam and an interview with engineering academics during Year 11 to be considered for the scholarship. The scholarship will provide Adeeba with access to a mentor from university or industry, invitations to special engineering seminars and events as well as a financial bursary to spend on engineering projects. Congratulations on such a wonderful achievement, Adeeba!

Dear Evan Hansen trip

Mr Manson would like to thank all those who attended the 'Dear Evan Hansen' Trip on Tuesday. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. Their behaviour was impeccable, making it a very successful Drama trip. Our first big musical since COVID-19, hopefully, the first of many!

Careers

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

- CareerMag for Parents/Carers
- Insight Into BA - Engineering and Business—6 October, 5-8pm

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

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

IMAG: Family Science for Year 7 and 8 students—Tuesday 27 September, 4 October and 11 October, 7.00-7.30pm

Family Science aims to offer some stretch and challenge to students in Years 7&8 and, importantly, to encourage conversations about Science between children and their parents. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend together with their child. The series will be hosted Dr Becky Waldram, a materials engineer from Swansea University. Each week will feature intriguing problems that encourage scientific thinking and discussion of different approaches with input from scientific guests and the audience at home. Participants will also be able to submit their own scientific questions to be answered by our expert guests and attempt takeaway questions between events. For more information, please [click here](#).

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