

George Abbot Bulletin

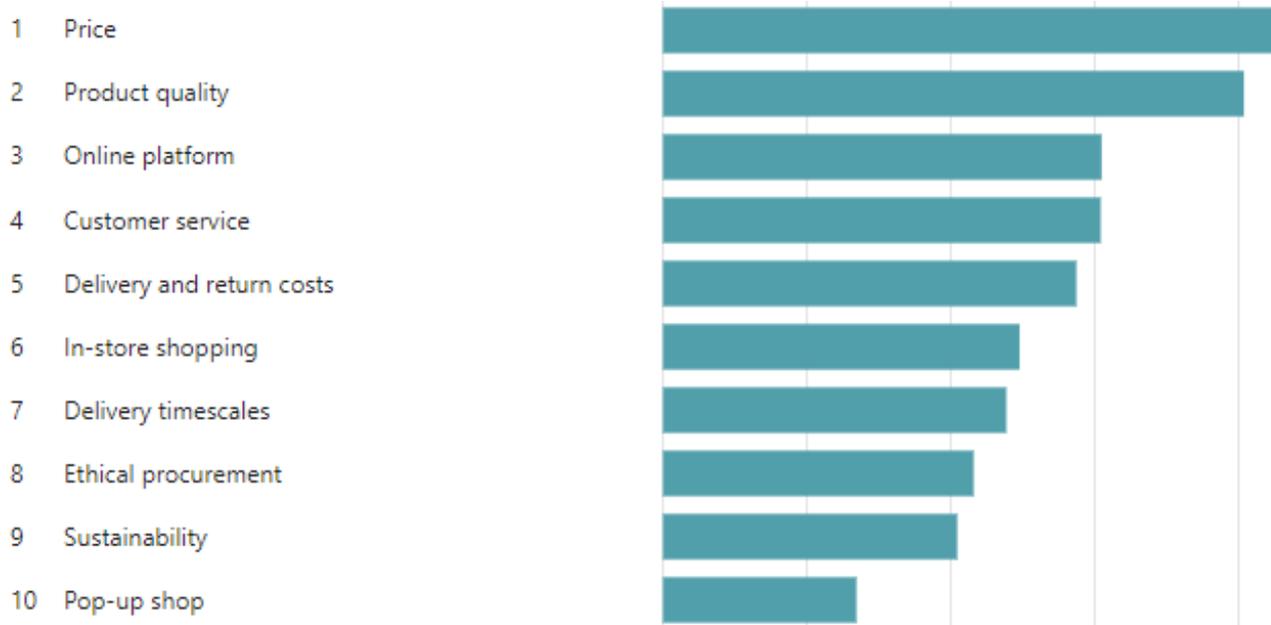


Headteacher's Message

25 November 2022

All,

Thank you very much for your engagement in our uniform questions. Your rank order exercise of priorities resulted in the following feedback:



We then asked you to choose between two questions - these questions reflect an important choice we have to make. If our decision is to be based on reducing the cost of uniform, then an online only supplier is the most competitive. If however, a local store where uniform can be tried on is also important, then we will need to offer a similar price uniform and reduce costs by reducing the number of items that have to be purchased via the uniform supplier or that have a logo. Your feedback so far looks like this:

- Lower price uniform, an online s... 207
- Similar price uniform, a local sto... 278



If you have a moment over the weekend, I would really appreciate you clicking on the link below and adding your voice to the feedback. We will close this final part of the survey on Tuesday morning at 9.00am.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fYQYDYLkjZ>

Today, I also want to highlight one important theme: safeguarding in our community. At George Abbot, we work hard to develop a strong sense of self, an identity for our community marked by our shared values and principles, a sense that this is a place where children belong and can thrive and be themselves. As educators it is vital that we speak deliberately and with intent about what is right and what is wrong. We seek to live these values in the way we speak to each other, in the way we listen to each other and in the way we always consider what other people might feel, developing empathy, respect and tolerance. As we all continue to learn about the impact of lockdown on our society, we do see less social awareness and an increasing reliance on online communities whose networks can spread widely across an area and indeed the country. In such groups, there can be deeply damaging messages inserted by a very small minority that spread hatred and discriminatory views with alarming impact.

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Last week's assemblies reminded students about the law - we spoke about the definitions of hate crime, harassment, malicious communication and harmful sexual behaviour. These themes are particularly important in Guildford, as a town and wider area, at this specific time. We have strong links with the police, social services and other agencies working in support of young people together with schools. It is important that all of us who are parenting young people through the crucial teenage years are aware that child criminal exploitation is deemed high risk at present, in Guildford. Children and young people are identifying with gangs in a bid to feel that they belong and perhaps to gain self-validation. The police have let us know that County Lines is a real concern, here, in Guildford. County Lines is a form of criminal activity in which drug dealers in major cities establish networks for the supply and sale of drugs to users in towns and rural areas, using other people (typically those who are young or otherwise vulnerable) to carry, store, and sell the drugs. They are also concerned about drug dealing in Stoke Park and the castle grounds as well as in the areas I have previously mentioned in relation to anti-social behaviour - Bedford Road and the Odeon area.

You may well have noted large groups of young people congregating - this is increasingly in areas where there is no CCTV, offering opportunities for covert socialisation. Boundary setting is crucial. Our children must not be out late, in unknown locations with people we do not know. Large gatherings at parties have proven to be equally problematic with growing cases of extreme anti-social behaviour, vandalism, drug taking and reckless alcohol intake. The police report that these often involve students from schools across a very wide area of Surrey and outer London.

As parents we should not shy away from being very clear about what is acceptable and what is not. We must set clear parameters and have non-negotiables about our young people's safety. Consistency is everything - we know this as educators and as parents. In the run up to Christmas, I felt these messages were particularly important this week. The school is here to offer all the support we can - if you are anxious about your child or have a lurking doubt about their risk-taking, take action.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

Christmas Concert: Additional Date!

We are delighted that so many parents/carers have already bought tickets for our Christmas concert next week. In the light of the popularity of this event, we have decided to add a performance on **Wednesday 30 November, at 7pm**. We hope that all students can participate on both nights, and that adding a second performance will enable as many people as possible to see our fantastically talented student body kickstart the George Abbot festive celebrations. **Tickets are available from WisePay.**

The groups taking part in the Christmas concerts are:

- Senior Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band, Senior Strings
- Senior Choir, Year 7 choir, Upper Acapella, GAMC, MT Group, Y8/9 choir
- Dance groups: Contemporary Company, Jazz Company, Junior Company
- House Christmas ensembles (singers and instrumentalists)

On both **Wednesday 30 November and Thursday 1 December**, students should return to school by 6pm and assemble in Raynham Hall. The concert is due to finish by 9.15pm.

A reminder of dress code:

- Orchestras/Concert Band/Senior Choir/Big Band/MT Group: All Black
- All students performing in their House Christmas song should wear black trousers/skirt with a suitably festive top/jumper.
- Dancers will receive separate instructions for costume from Mrs Brooks-Nevin.

Please also be reminded that our Christmas celebrations conclude with the **George Abbot Carol Service, Friday 9 December at 2.00pm in Guildford Cathedral**. This service is open to all, and no tickets are required. Several ensembles are performing at the carol service and logistical information for this service will follow separately.

Whole School

⇒ **Early School Closure for Year 7 Parent/Subject Meetings—Wednesday 7 December**

School will be closing at 1.30pm on Wednesday 7 December for the Year 7 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings.

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. 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 Tuesday 6 December. It is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.

If you notify us that your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential that 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 that they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school.

Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual times.

⇒ **Early School Closure for Christmas Carol Concert—Friday 9 December**

Please be aware that school will be closing at 1.00pm on Friday 9 December for students and staff to attend the Guildford Cathedral Carol Service. **There will be no provision for students to stay in school after this time.** Parents/carers should collect their child at 1.00pm or make alternative arrangements for them to get home. **Please be reminded school buses will run at the usual time.**

⇒ **Uniform Shop**

Upcoming opening times:

Monday 28 November 3.00pm to 4.45pm

Wednesday 30 November 3.00pm to 4.45pm

Tuesday 6 December 3.00pm to 4.45pm

⇒ **Reporting your child's absence**

Please ensure you report your child's absence from school **by 9.00am** by either calling 01483 888000 and selecting option 1, or email absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Please include form group and reason for absence. Failure to do this will result in a text message being sent by our texting system which alerts parents/carers that their child has not registered. We need to be advised each day of your child's absence.

The texts and emails are sent between 10.00am to 11.00am, once all the messages and emails have been inputted onto SIMS. Parents/carers are then required to respond to these messages providing a reason for the absence. Unexplained absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

⇒ **Advance Warning: London Road, Burpham roadworks starting January 2023**

SCC is commencing an Active Travel scheme along the London Road between January and August 2023. Road works and changes will happen in between the Woodruff avenue roundabout and Boxgrove Road roundabout (Phase 1) and Woodruff Avenue roundabout and New Inn Lane Roundabout (Phase 2). This includes making London Road a one way system during the works.

Please be aware of the works as they will cause significant travel disruption for many for a prolonged period including the May/June GCSEs and A Levels. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/london-road,-burpham-active-travel-scheme2>

Whole School	<p>⇒ Chess Club Chess club will run in R45 during first break on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays with Dr Syed, and our students Ameenah, Marwa, Mahia and Muhammed.</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ Year 11 Internal Assessments English: Please be aware that the first English Literature Year 11 internal assessment will take place on 28 November at 8.30am. This will be English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel. All other English papers will take place during the allocated Year 11 internal assessment period in December.</p> <p>A full schedule of the Year 11 Internal Assessments taking place in December can be found of the following page of the school website: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Next Steps Form On Monday 14 November, Year 11 students were sent a registration link, to their school email, for the Next Steps Form (Sixth Form Application). Please note, ALL students MUST complete this application form, even if they do not wish to attend the Sixth Form next year. Deadline for applications: Monday 19 December 2022. If they have any questions about completing form they should contact Mrs Notley, Sixth Form Admissions, in the first instance, by emailing: admissions-sixthform@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p> <p>⇒ Crisis at Christmas—A message from 11PA 2021 will be our form's fifth year of collecting for the homeless charity, Crisis. Our aim is to raise enough money to keep five people off the streets this Christmas. £29.06 can help to provide a safe space, hot meals, a Christmas dinner, companionship and year-round training and support.</p> <p>If Year 11 parents/carers would like to make a donation, please do so via WisePay by Friday 9 December, so we have enough time to make the donation to Crisis before Christmas. If you have any WisePay queries, please contact the Finance Team, finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.</p> 
Year 9	<p>⇒ Year 9 Science Information The academic year is now well under way and we hope that students have settled into their science groups and got to know their individual subject teachers. The letter attached gives details of the science courses and also explains how you can support your child with their studies.</p>

Administering Medication to Students and Medical Room Procedures

ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)

Children with ADD or ADHD may require controlled medication during the school day. This is to be taken under the supervision of a designated member of staff and medication **MUST** be kept stored in the controlled medication locked box in the First Aid Room.

Paracetamol

The school do not provide any painkillers and are not authorised to give any to your child. Should your child need painkillers it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide the school with the required medication in its original packaging, with dosage instructions, and complete, sign and return the following form to Mrs Chapman in the Medical Room: [Form 3A: 'Parental agreement for school/setting to administer medicine'](#).

A log is kept in the Medical Room of the student's name, the time and reason for administering the medication.

Focus on: Good News Stories!

Lucy G, in Year 9 attended a Youth Seminar with the UK German Connection in Scotland during half term. The theme of the seminar was 'Future Textiles: Field, Farm and Fashion'. A fantastic opportunity where Lucy met with young people from across the UK and Germany to discuss and explore the topic of sustainable fashion. Here Lucy recounts her experiences from this seminar:

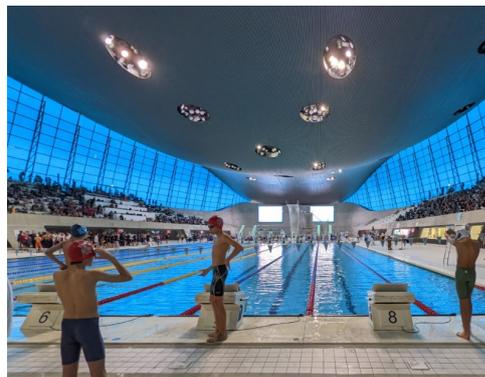
'Hi, I'm Lucy and I went on a youth seminar based upon 'sustainability farm and fashion' In Scotland. I took part in a range of workshops e.g., natural dying and sewing, toured a weaving factory, sustainable farm, took part in a fashion conference and met loads of new people from UK and Germany. From this trip, I learnt about the importance of buying clothes of good quality that do not exploit people and resources, not buying from fast fashion brands and valuing and reusing your clothes by repairing and recycling them. My main aim now is to educate people on what sustainable fashion means, and to encourage people to reuse and repair to give a new life to their clothes.'



On Wednesday 16 November, our Year 11 Construction group were busy working on our sensory garden outside Moloney building. The focus of the garden is to create a quiet space to support sensory needs and grow herbs for us in the school kitchen. John, Bryon, Joe, LJ, Alfie and Matteo, guided by Mr Rowland and Pete from SATRO, prepared a base area, mixed cement, cut sleepers and, with accurate placement, managed to create an area for raised beds. The boys worked really hard throughout the day and gained so much from this project. Thanks to Pete for giving up his afternoon and Mrs Richings for sourcing the cement mixer, we look forward to see this project progress!



On Saturday 19 November we took our two Surrey Championship winning relay squads to compete at the ESSA national finals, held at the Olympic pool in London. The event comprised of the top 30 schools in the country across all age groups competing in Freestyle and Medley races. The junior boys' team (Kobus, Jude, Isaac, Abdullah) finished in 27th and 28th position respectively, and will take the experience into next year, where we hope to improve in a very competitive field. The inter girls' team (Tegan, Scarlett, Emily, Daisy) swam extremely well to finish with a BRONZE medal in the free style final, losing out to Millfield and Mount Kelly. To finish 3rd in England is an outstanding achievement, especially as we were one of only a couple of state schools represented at the championships. The girls squad also qualified for the medley final, where they finished 7th. Well done to all eight swimmers and thank you to Mr Isherwood and Mrs May for accompanying the squad.



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