

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

07 September 2020



Today, we have welcomed back a full complement of students – Years 7-13. It is extremely good to see them all in classrooms and learning. An especially warm welcome to those families who have joined the George Abbot community for the first time. We are very appreciative of every family's support in preparing your son/daughter for the return to school. Many of you attended our Zoom parents' information sessions and we have done our best to respond to any queries sent directly to staff members.

In relation to communications with school, could I ask you to bear the following in mind:

- Please remember that this particular beginning of term is exceptionally busy. If you do need to ask anything in relation to your child, a reminder that the Form Tutor is the best starting point. Additionally, Heads of Year and your child's Inclusion Manager will be able to ensure any specific questions are directed towards the appropriate staff member. We have included each year group's list of Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Inclusion Managers in this bulletin to support this approach.
- Timescales and tone - could I please ask, that when communicating with staff you endeavour to be reasonable in terms of timescales. Our protocol is to respond in some way within 48 hours. However, if the matter involves a number of people, it may not necessarily be resolved in that timescale. We will ensure that we stay in touch and keep you updated. Occasionally, we do receive very rude and aggressive emails demanding instant calls and meetings. If it is an emergency, please do try and explain clearly what you are asking and we will do our very best to prioritise and respond appropriately. It can be very distressing for staff to receive such emails in the middle of a full teaching day - inevitably, students will be impacted by distressed staff. We ask for your partnership and consideration in this matter.

As the new term gets underway, the following is a reminder about protocols to follow relating to COVID-19:

- We are not able to give medical advice - please ring 111.
- If you need to book a COVID-19 test you should do so online via the gov.uk website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-COVID-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>
- If your child develops symptoms you should inform school **immediately** via an email to absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and your child's Head of Year.
- If someone in your family develops symptoms, every member of the household should self-isolate for 14 day – please inform absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if this applies to your child.
- If your child attends for a COVID-19 test and it is negative, a parent must inform the school in writing of this outcome - emails should be sent to absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk before your child returns to school.
- If your child attends for a COVID-19 test and it is positive, please email kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk **URGENTLY**.

Four final organisational reminders:

- Please remember to preload your child's WisePay account online as it is not currently possible for students to load cash onto the account at school.
- The only year group with access to lockers at the moment is Year 7.
- Non-school hoodies or sweatshirts should not be worn - students should utilise layers under polo shirts or wear a school jumper, school hoodie or the school blazer - blazers will be placed in bags during lesson times to support less washing of this expensive item.
- Leggings for Dance - these should ideally be George Abbot uniform leggings; however, the PE/Dance Department will accept sports leggings in addition - the fabric must be substantial and appropriate for wear all day long.

Best wishes for a good week,

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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The Week Ahead—Week B

Monday 7 September	Year 12/13 lessons begin
Tuesday 8 September	School Photographs (Year 7 and other new students ONLY)
Wednesday 9 September	
Thursday 10 September	
Friday 11 September	
Please visit www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events for full calendar of events.	

Click the links below to view news by			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Whole

Tutor Groups 2020-21

Year 7 IM—Mrs Bennett HOY—Mrs Firth		Year 8 IM—Miss Northcote HOY—Mrs Tilley		Year 9 IM—Miss Nightingale HOY—Mrs Morgan	
FG	Mr Taylor and Mrs Mahmood	FG	Miss Masson	FG	Mr Makris
GG	Mr Faulkner	GG	Mr Mudie	GG	Mr Monem
PG	Mrs Blandford	PG	Mrs Furse	PG	Mr Downs/Mr Thomas
MG	Miss Lenehan	MG	Mr Isherwood	MG	Mr Houlgate
WG	Mr Radford	WG	Miss Lamb/Mr Downs	WG	Mrs Gerrard
FA	Mrs Petch	FA	Mrs Hunt	FA	Mr Chorley
GA	Mr Enticknap	GA	Mr Hunter	GA	Miss Henderson
PA	Mrs Staniforth	PA	Miss Stevens	PA	Mrs Lawrence/ Miss Martinez-Wallas
MA	Mr Easton	MA	Mrs Kemp	MA	Miss Gerber
WA	Miss Tank	WA	Mr Hennessey	WA	Miss Parry

Tutor Groups 2020-21

Year 10 IM—Mr Huelin HOY—Mrs Finnis		Year 11 IM—Mr Marker HOY—Mrs Edmeads	
FG	Miss Haste	FF	Miss Gan
GG	Miss Broadbent	GG	Miss Jacobs
PG	Mrs King/Mrs May	OP	Miss McMahon
MG	Miss Tarry	AM	Miss Wills
WG	Mr Harding	YW	Mr Olmo-Romero
FA	Mrs Peake	CF	Mr Rodgers
GA	Ms Sibree	PG	Mr Gollon
PA	Miss Johnson	MP	Ms Bleby
MA	Mr Filmer	WM	Miss Coles
WA	Mrs Gill/Mr Barry	EW	Miss Chandler

Year 12 HOY—Mrs Keegan		Year 13 HOY—Mr Synge	
ARC	Mrs Cook	SZ	Mr Zannettou
EMC	Mrs Cave	JHZ	Mr Haq
LMV/EJL	Mrs Martin St Vakery/Mrs Langridge	HRB	Dr Brierley
JXP/BGS	Mrs Pike/Mr Griffin-Smith	LED	Miss Evans-Dix
RFR	Mr Rowe	JCW	Miss Wallace-Jones
VXN	Mr Nikas	LH	Ms Howarth
CEW	Mrs Wilson	EH	Mrs Ho
KN/GLA	Mrs Newman/Mrs Avenell	KF	Ms Ferguson
MXT	Dr Taylor	HLW	Mrs Wrazen
KLO/EMS	Mrs O'Connor/Mrs Short	MC/AAG	Mrs Campbell/Mrs Grandvuiet
HLR	Mrs Rose	JTM	Mrs Menash
VRK/ADM	Mrs King	AXS	Dr Syed
JM	Mrs McAuliffe		

Notices

IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 07 September 2020 = WEEK B

08 September 2020 = School Photographs YEAR 7 and students new to other years

AUTUMN 2020 EXAM SERIES ENTRY DEADLINE DATES

16 September 2020 3:15pm = GCSE (excluding English & Maths)

1 October 2020 3:15pm = GCSE – English & Maths only

Whole School

⇒ Picking up children, dropping off items, visitors

Please note that if your child has an appointment within school hours we will not be able to collect them from class. They must make their own way to reception to sign out. Please buzz at the gate and we will send them out to you.

We are restricting the number of visitors to the site and there will be limited access via our pedestrian and vehicle gates. **Consequently, we will NOT be accepting any forgotten items at reception.** All visitors to the school MUST have an appointment.

All visitors to the site will be asked to wear a mask. We will be supplying Track & Trace forms at reception.

⇒ School Photographs—08 September 2020

School Photographs will only be taken of Year 7 and new students to other years on Tuesday 8 September. No other year groups will have photos this year.

⇒ Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and is sent home, then required to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19, they will still be entitled to receive their Free School Meals.

The Government Voucher scheme has now ended so we will deliver the entitlement via Sainsbury's Gift Card. If you had one of these cards at the start of lockdown, value to the equivalent of days missed will be added to the card at the end of each week of absence. If you did not receive one of these cards in lockdown or have lost your card, please notify the finance department: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and we will ensure that one is sent to you if your child is absent due to COVID-19.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please complete the attached form and return to the school office for verification.

⇒ Bus passes

Bus passes will be issued at the end of this week. Surrey County Council are aware of this and have asked students to show last year's bus pass until they receive their new one.

⇒ SIMS Parent App—For Year 7 and new students

You will have received instructions on how to register for the SIMS parent app. This will allow you to access important information regarding your son/daughter's attendance, assessment and achievements.

If you are having any issues with registering or logging on to the SIMS app please email simsapp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Food and Nutrition Ingredients

We do not have the capacity to collect ingredients. Students have been asked to provide cool packs and insulated bags to keep them in. The only students allowed to deliver to the food rooms are Y9, 10 11 when asked to do so and provided with a corridor pass; otherwise they should keep ingredients with them.

⇒ Secondhand Uniform donation

Due to the current climate, we cannot accept any secondhand uniform. Thank you for your understanding.

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<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Headphones for Students Due to the current situation regarding COVID-19, the ICT and Computer Science department are not able to provide any headphones for students this year. During both ICT and Computer Science lessons in all key stages, there will be both audio and video tutorials, so it is imperative that students have earphones or headphones in order to access these materials to support their learning.</p> <p>Therefore it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they have a pair of standard earphones or headphones with a standard 3.5mm jack plug connection, with them for every ICT and Computer Science lesson as part of their lesson equipment.</p> <p>Please be aware that we do not have Bluetooth capability on our computers nor do we have Apple's lightning cable connection capability. In addition, due to the age of some of the computers, the Apple iPhone earphones occasionally fail, so a cheap standard alternative is strongly advised.</p> <p>⇒ Learning Support Assistant within The Well Project vacancy We are currently recruiting a Learning Support Assistant, should you be interested in the role, or know of someone who may be, please take a look at the advert on our website: https://www.eteach.com/job/learning-support-assistant-1111795</p> <p>⇒ Prayer Group Christian parents of children at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for termly staff meetings and contribute to support Young Carers in the school twice a year. If you are interested in being on the email list for this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com</p> <p>⇒ DigiSonix DigiSonix recently launched an after school band workshop program that gives young music students the opportunity to be part of a band and learn the craft of composing digitally using the latest digital music technologies. See attached flyer for more information. Register your interest by emailing: digisonixteam@gmail.com</p>
<p>Year 13</p>	<p>⇒ Year 13 Parent Tutor Meetings—15 September 2020 Year 13 parents please see full details and instructions about booking for this event attached.</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>⇒ Year 12 Parent Tutor Meetings—15 September 2020 Year 12 parents please see full details and instructions about booking for this event attached.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ English Literature Texts Apologies for the problem with Wisepay. If you tried to purchase any of the GCSE English Literature texts since Friday, this has now been rectified.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ English Literature Texts Apologies for the problem with Wisepay. If you tried to purchase any of the GCSE English Literature texts since Friday, this has now been rectified.</p>
<p>Year 7</p>	<p>⇒ School Photographs—08 September 2020 Please be aware that all Year 7s will be having their photographs taken on Tuesday.</p> <p>⇒ WisePay You should have received an email with your child's WisePay Username & Password on Wednesday 2 September, if no primary email contact was supplied your child will have received a paper copy. If you didn't receive it please contact: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>Please see further information attached. If you require any assistance please email finance as above.</p> <p>⇒ Show My Homework (SMHW) passwords for Year 7 Passwords will be issued over the course of this week.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Return to home page</p>

PROGRESS MONITORING - KEY DATES 2020-2021

NOTE: TIMINGS FOR THE EVENTS IN THE FIRST TERM AND JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO FACILITATE VIDEO MEETINGS USING THE PARENTS EVENING SYSTEM. IN RESPONSE TO HEALTH ADVICE, EVENTS LATER IN THE YEAR MAY ALSO EXPERIENCE CHANGES IN TIMINGS AND WILL BE REPORTED IN GOOD TIME VIA THE WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN.

Date	Meeting	Time	Booking system opens
Tuesday 15 September 2020	Y12-13 Video Tutor Meeting	4.00pm – 8.00pm	08/09/2020 6pm
Wednesday 11 November 2020	Y11-13 Video Academic Clinic	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Invitation only
Monday 7 December 2020	Y7 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	30/11/2020 6pm
Thursday 7 January 2021	Y8 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	18/12/2020 6pm
Thursday 21 January 2021	Y11 Video Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm – 7.15pm	14/01/2021 6pm
Tuesday 2 February 2021	Y13 Parents' Subject Meeting	3.45pm – 7.00pm	26/01/2021 6pm
Thursday 11 March 2021	Y10 RE and Y11-13 Academic Clinic	5.00pm -7.00pm	Invitation Only
Thursday 25 March 2021	Y9 Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm-6.15pm	18/03/2021 6pm
Tuesday 15 June 2021	Y10 Parents' Subject Meeting	2.15pm-6.15pm	08/06/2021 6pm
Wednesday 23 June 2021	Y12 Parents' Subject Meeting	3.45pm-6.00pm	16/06/2021 6pm

PLEASE NOTE: For the Year 7 -11 Parents' Subject Meetings the school closes at 1.30pm.

DATA REPORT RELEASE DATES

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Yr7	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Yr8	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Yr9	18/12/2020	24/03/2021	09/07/2021
Yr10	18/12/2020	19/03/2021	19/07/2021
Yr11	06/11/2020	19/03/2021	
Yr12	18/12/2020	19/03/2021	
Y13	06/11/2020	19/03/2021	

Please note these dates are also recorded on the school calendar <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events/>

Extra-curricular Clubs

As the new academic year gets underway, please read the information below on the parameters within which extracurricular clubs will take place, and which clubs are going to be offered.

Performing Arts

When clubs are formed of students from multiple year groups, the maximum number of students permitted is 15, to enable appropriate social distancing. The current guidelines allow any number of students within the same year group to attend a club.

For Dance clubs, pupils will be required to sign up to clubs weekly, with a maximum of 15 places per session. Junior and Senior Dance Company sessions will be by audition only, with a maximum of 15 places. Pupils will be required to wear face coverings during sessions due to working in the studio space with students in other year groups. Studios used will remain well ventilated with open doors and windows.

Physical Education

The afternoons have been selected carefully to try to fit the days students have core PE lessons, where possible. All equipment will only be used by one particular year 'bubble' and we have tried to keep clubs outside where possible. There will be a maximum of 7 students per team, with rules adapted to fit NGB guidelines. All clubs are open to both boys and girls.

Students will be selected to represent their house at an extra-curricular club in order to safely control the number of students we have attending each week. In order to manage the amount of students attending each club we will ask students to sign up for a club and represent their house (more details to follow). Teachers will then create 'house fixtures' each week to ensure all students represent their house over the first half term. It is highly likely students will be asked to play in a house fixture multiple times over the term.

More information regarding how to sign up will follow shortly. Students will be expected to hand sanitise following school guidelines for all clubs.

If you have any queries regarding any of these clubs, please email the appropriate member of staff (details below). We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter to a club soon, and will expand our extracurricular offer as soon as the guidelines allow.

With best wishes for this academic year,

Mr Hartley

Head of Performing Arts & MFL

mhartley@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Mr Filmer

Head of PE

jfilmer@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

September 2020

Extra-curricular offer

All clubs start w/c 14 September, and will run from 3.30 – 4.30, unless otherwise stated.

Performing Arts

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MUSIC	GAMC Mrs Evans-Dix PA4	Theory Y9 Mrs Evans-Dix Y10 Miss Parry	Big Band Mrs Evans-Dix PA1	Concert Band (sectionals) Mrs Evans-Dix PA1
	Upper Voices Miss Parry PA3	Chamber Choir Mr Hartley PA2	Orchestra (wind & strings) Mr Hartley PA2	
DRAMA	Year 12 Rehearsals Mrs Hunt ES	Year 11 Rehearsals Mrs Hunt, Vault Mrs Melville, DS1 Miss Lamb, V/ DS1		
DANCE 3.15 – 4.00	Tap Technique and Performance	Jazz Technique and Performance	Contemporary Technique and Performance	Musical Theatre Technique and Performance
DANCE 4.00 – 5.00	Junior Dance Company	Yr11 Exam prep	Senior Dance Company	Yr 11 Exam Prep

Physical Education

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 8	Year 9	Year 7
Netball	Netball	Netball
Football	Football	Football
Basketball	Basketball	Basketball
Year 10	Year 11	
Fitness Suite	Fitness Suite	



George Abbot School Opportunities Fund

*Enabling our young people to reach
their full potential...*

Registered
Charity No.
1043545

We set up the Opportunities Fund to enable parents and carers to make voluntary contributions to the school to benefit our students. With school budgets under huge and unprecedented pressure, the Fund helps us to ensure that these constraints do not affect our ability to continue to provide the extra opportunities which help make our school exceptional. Thanks to your generosity, we have launched a number of initiatives to help our students reach their potential and exceed expectations whilst maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.

Our school budget barely covers our essential running costs. Without your support our amazing programme of extra-curricular events and activities cannot happen. Please support our students by donating to the George Abbot Opportunities Fund. The suggested level of voluntary contribution is £10 per month but we will be pleased to accept any levels of support from those of you in a position to donate.

Please [click here](#) to fill in the standing order form. If you wish to find out more then please contact finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk for more information. Thank you.

Aspiration | Community | Respect

A snapshot of projects and initiatives recently supported by the Opportunities Fund...

giftaid it

If you are a UK tax payer and meet the Gift Aid Criteria any contribution to the fund will be boosted by 25p for every £1 donated.



Laptops

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have been able to supply priority students with laptops so they can continue their education at home. The Fund has also allowed us to pay for counselling and mental health support for students in need.



Minibuses and Trips

Our fleet of minibuses takes our young people all over the region to cultural, career, sporting and community programmes and events. This year the Fund allowed students to access trips they may not have otherwise been able to go on.



Basketball Equipment

The Fund allowed us to install new basketball equipment which has been placed in playgrounds for all students to access and enjoy.



Priorities for 2020/21

With your support we can continue to ensure the health and well-being of our students by providing opportunities for them to reach their potential and exceed expectations.



PTA

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. With social distancing and restrictions on visitors to the school, business as usual for the PTA is not really an option. There are still ways we can help, and you get involved to support the school.



Second-hand Uniform

We would usually run a second-hand uniform shop at the start of term this is difficult with the current restrictions. We now have access to our stock and are looking at selling online. In the meantime, please contact the PTA by the email: pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or [message us by Facebook](#).



PTA Meeting

Our next meeting will be on the 22 September 2020 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Details to follow. It would be great to see some new Year 7 parents.

AmazonSmile

If you wish to support the PTA with no extra cost to you, [then shop via AmazonSmile](#). Amazon then donates to George Abbot Parent Teacher Association a percentage of what you spend.

EasyFundraising

As we can't fundraise in person we would like to ask if you are doing your shopping online, [please sign up to easyfundraising](#). Over 4,000 sites will give us a free donation every time you shop online. This will help us continue to support people that rely on us.

Keeping in Touch

You can keep up to date with what the PTA are doing by checking out [Twitter](#) (which we are going to start using again!), [Facebook](#) and [webpage](#).

Take care, from the PTA.

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