

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

18 September 2020

All

Thank you so much to every George Abbot student for the superb start they have made this year. Incidents of poor behaviour are at their lowest since records began. Students have been thoughtful, polite and calm. As students begin to get tired and winter illnesses start to emerge, this will be more difficult to maintain. Please do encourage your son or daughter and let them know how pleased the collective George Abbot staff community is with their excellent efforts thus far.

The challenges of operating at school in COVID-19 times, of course continue apace. We have included a reminder of what to do if your child is unwell in this bulletin. Our staff of 200, like you, are finding the long wait for tests to be available, the inaccessibility of some of the test centres and the interminable wait for test results to be deeply frustrating. We are doing our utmost to plan the very best classroom experience for our students if their teacher is absent. This will include live Zoom teaching into classrooms wherever possible. If a teacher is unwell, this will not be possible. We have a team of cover teachers permanently employed at school. They are led by Mr Rowland and include, Mr Downs, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Rozelle. Additionally, some teachers add to this capacity. If we are forced to run our main hall cover system, we will limit the capacity to two classes of the same year group, with desks well spaced throughout the hall.

Our first set of virtual Parents Information Evenings are taking place in the week beginning 28 September 2020. The year group programme is as follows:

Year Group	Date
Year 7	28 September 2020
Year 8	29 September 2020
Year 9	30 September 2020
Year 10	01 October 2020
Year 11	05 October 2020
Year 12	06 October 2020
Year 13	07 October 2020

Please do attend, virtually, if you are able to find the time. Zoom links will follow in next Friday's Bulletin.

Lastly, an update on lessons omissions. We are now in a position to add lesson 1 to the lesson omission rota. This means that the rota up until half term is:

W/C 21 September = no lesson 4
W/C 28 September = no lesson 1
W/C 5 October = no lesson 2

W/C 12 October = no lesson 3
W/C 19 October = no lesson 4
W/C 26 October = HALF TERM

Kate Carriett

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What to do if your child is unwell

If someone in your family develops symptoms, every member of the household should self-isolate for 14 days – please inform absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if this applies to your child.

Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you or your child has symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if you or your child has coronavirus as soon as possible. Book a test 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/>
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please note we are not able to give medical advice - please ring 111.

Informing the school

If you or your child develops any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- You should inform school immediately via email to absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and your child's Head of Year. Please do not telephone the absence line.
- If you or your child has a COVID-19 test and the results are 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. Please ensure you adhere to medical and government advice in relation to isolation, where applicable. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
- If your child has a COVID-19 test and it is positive, please urgently email kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
THIS WEEK	WEEK B
Tuesday 22 September	School Photographs—YEAR 12 ONLY PTA Meeting—7.30pm (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89194081498)
Please visit www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events for full calendar of events.	

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

Notices	IMPORTANT DATES
	w/c 21 September 2020 = WEEK B—there will be no lesson 4 AUTUMN 2020 EXAM SERIES ENTRY DEADLINE DATES 1 October 2020 3:15pm = GCSE – English & Maths only
Whole School	<p>⇒ What to do if you miss school—Student Learning Environment (SLE) If your child misses school, it is important they stay on top of their studies. Please read the guide on "Using the SLE" attached.</p> <p>⇒ Face coverings on buses Please remind your child that they MUST wear a face covering if they are travelling on a bus to school. Additionally, please encourage them to maintain a social distance where possible. For more information on the government guidance for dedicated transport to school please click here.</p> <p>⇒ School Shop opening hours—UPDATED Monday 21 September—3.30pm to 5.30pm Wednesday 23 September— 3.30pm to 6.00pm Thursday 24 September—3.30pm to 5.30pm</p>
Year 13	<p>⇒ Saturday School We have started to send out invitations for Saturday School sessions. Please note we are sending these out on a weekly basis for the Saturday of the same week ONLY. Please email the contact mentioned on your invite to confirm or decline the offer.</p> <p>⇒ 16-19 Bursary If you have any financial concerns about providing educational resources for your child in the Sixth Form, then we do offer 16-19 Bursary support. The guidance and application form is on the website on the link below, or your child can pick up the forms from the Sixth Form Reception.</p> <p>For any student in Year 13 who received the 16-19 Bursary last year will need to reapply for this academic year.</p> <p>Any questions please email Mr Brinsden at cbrinsden@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/information-for-6th-form/</p> <p>⇒ English Literature A Level Texts Please see letter attached.</p>
Year 12	<p>⇒ School Photographs—Tuesday 22 September 2020 Please be aware that all Year 12s will be having their photos taken on Tuesday.</p> <p>⇒ Saturday School We have started to send out invitations for Saturday School sessions. Please note we are sending these out on a weekly basis for the Saturday of the same week ONLY. Please email the contact mentioned on your invite to confirm or decline the offer.</p>

Year 12

⇒ Exam Access Arrangements

Please note, if your son/daughter had exam access arrangements (extra time, reader, scribe etc.) in Year 11, these arrangements will carry on in Year 12.

It is very important they continue to use them in each individual subject. In a few weeks, Ms Barratt will need students to collect information from their teachers to show they need and use their access arrangements in each subject. It is essential students have some information to show their teachers.

Please encourage your son/daughter to get into the habit of ruling off their work after the normal time/changing colour pen so their teachers can see they need and use extra time in that subject.

They should pass Ms Barratt copies of their work where they have done this please.

Any questions email BBarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or ask your son/daughter to visit me inUSIC.

⇒ 16-19 Bursary

If you have any financial concerns about providing educational resources for your child in the Sixth Form, then we do offer 16-19 Bursary support. The guidance and application form is on the website on the link below, or your child can pick up the forms from the Sixth Form Reception.

Any questions please email Mr Brinsden at cbrinsden@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/information-for-6th-form/>

⇒ English Literature A Level Texts

Please see letter attached.

Year 7

⇒ Reading and Comprehension Test

It might seem obvious, but how well a student can read is closely linked to how well they do at school. We're working really hard to show students in our lessons how each one can improve as a reader. Whether they are in Y7 or Y13, becoming a better reader is going to help them, in school and beyond. We're also really hoping that we can nurture them into a love of reading for pleasure that will last a lifetime—how cosy it can be to curl up with a good book!

Over the next couple of weeks, students in Year 7 will be sitting an online reading test. It takes between 30 and 45 minutes to complete and is designed to help us know how their reading skills are developing. We are going to use the results to design tailored ways to support reading progress at every level and across all subjects. They will find the test quite challenging because it adapts in response to their answers, getting harder as they answer trickier questions. In fact, the stronger students are at reading, the more likely they are to tell you how hard it was! They may not be used to having a test that stretches them in quite the same way so we'll reassure them all it is supposed to be a challenge. The tests will take place during one of their IT lessons during the next couple of weeks. **Please ensure they bring a pair of headphones/earphones with them to these lessons**, we will have a few spares if necessary. These will be wiped down between uses in line with current guidelines.

If you're wondering how you can help support your child's progress at school, have a think about what you can do to encourage them to develop their reading skills at home. Every new word they learn will help unlock ideas and skills. Perhaps it's a case of watching documentaries on TV, to build vocabulary. Perhaps you could make sure they have a good bedtime reading book. Some children love audiobooks, from Audible or other suppliers.

If you have any questions please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Sports Round Up

This week has seen the return of our extra-curricular programme with some really positive numbers throughout the clubs currently available. Over the coming weeks students will participate in house fixtures having signed up to take part this week. Any students who could not attend the first week and were unable to sign up are invited to attend any club as soon as they are able to. There is no need for students to sign up on SOCS due to our reduced extra-curricular programme and in-house fixtures. It is hoped that our full extra-curricular programme will be up and running as soon as restrictions allow. See below photos from Year 8 Football on Tuesday!



Extra-Curricular Club Reminders

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

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

PTA

Hello everyone,

Hope you are enjoying this late summer weather. There are two things worth mentioning this week.

PTA Meeting

The first meeting of the school year will be on the **Tuesday 22 September at 7:30pm** on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89194081498>. It would be great to see some new faces, especially Year 7 parents, and we need new ideas for fundraising under the current restrictions. And as we can't fundraise in person, it would be great if you could use the other ways of fundraising we have at:

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

Second-hand Uniform

If you need any second hand uniform please contact the PTA by the email: pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or message us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/georgeabbotparents>.

Many thanks from the PTA



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