

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

13 November 2020

As I write, I am sending best wishes to all in the hope that you are all getting through this second lockdown in reasonable spirits. Certainly, it has made a big difference to our country's young people to be able to come to school and retain that important routine of learning, social interaction and mental stimulation. It is frustrating that our after school clubs are on temporary hold and the many grass-roots sports clubs in our area are also suspended during lockdown - certainly the boys in my house are missing their weekend football and rugby; in a bid to keep our teenagers active I have asked the PE department to put together a recorded fitness session - this will be with you via next week's Friday Bulletin to help get us all through another lockdown weekend.

We have finally taken the decision that we will have to cancel this December's Carol Service at the cathedral. Hopes of being able to meet together at the end of a tough year of lockdown have had to be put on hold. We will do our best to provide some festive music from our talented George Abbot students in recorded form to accompany your tree decorating and Christmas present wrapping!

This week we have hosted an amazing coronavirus-busting UVD robot. NESA Robotics have arrived at the end of every school day and worked their way around the school site, zapping all bugs and viruses in their path. We are so grateful to Heath Williams and his team for the loan of the robot to help keep our school buildings in the best possible state of cleanliness. Heathrow airport has a fleet of these robots as part of its Flysafe campaign - they certainly seem to have found a very useful niche in a time of pandemic. Some pictures and a video are included in this bulletin.

I have provided an exam update for our Year 11 and Year 13 parents by separate email earlier this week - we remain somewhat in the dark about actual plans for the exam series of 2021. I have written to Angela Richardson, our local MP, to urge her to support Surrey's headteachers in pressing the government to have robust contingency plans in place well in advance so the uncertainty and stress of last summer can be avoided. Certainly, momentum is building for action and the recent Welsh and Scottish decisions add weight to the necessity of a different approach.

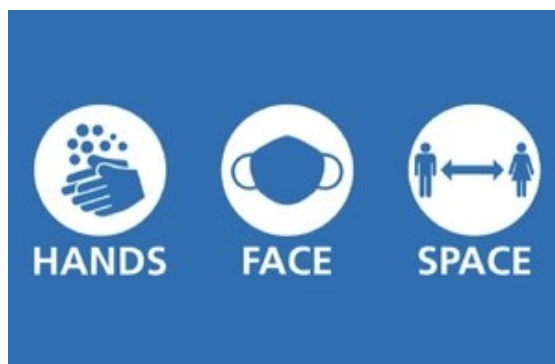
Our Year 11s are busy preparing for their mock exams. The first of these is English Literature on Tuesday 24 November 2020; there then follows a gap before the main series of mocks which begin on 9 December. We have put in place weekly revision sessions for all subjects, recorded by staff and available via the SLE as well as period 6 classes for identified students across subjects. Additionally, to assist with the English Literature exam prep process, all Year 11 students will be invited to a Zoom, virtual 'walking talking mock' practice session. These will be held on Saturday 21 November at either 10am or 11.30am and will last for one hour. Your son/daughter's English teacher will let them know which session they should attend. The Zoom links will follow via Satchel One. Attendance will be IMPORTANT for all students, so please do make a note of this date if you have a son or daughter in Year 11.

Our RE team are also running a series of revision sessions for our Year 10s on Saturday 21 November, also via Zoom. Details follow in the Year 10 section; again these are KEY for our Year 10s in preparation for their RE mocks on 25 November.

Lastly, an early alert reminder that school will close at 1.30pm on Tuesday 7 December in order to carry out the virtual Parents' Consultation Afternoon for our Year 7. Appointments will run between 2.15 and 7.15; details of the booking system are attached.

9 days of lockdown complete.....and counting.

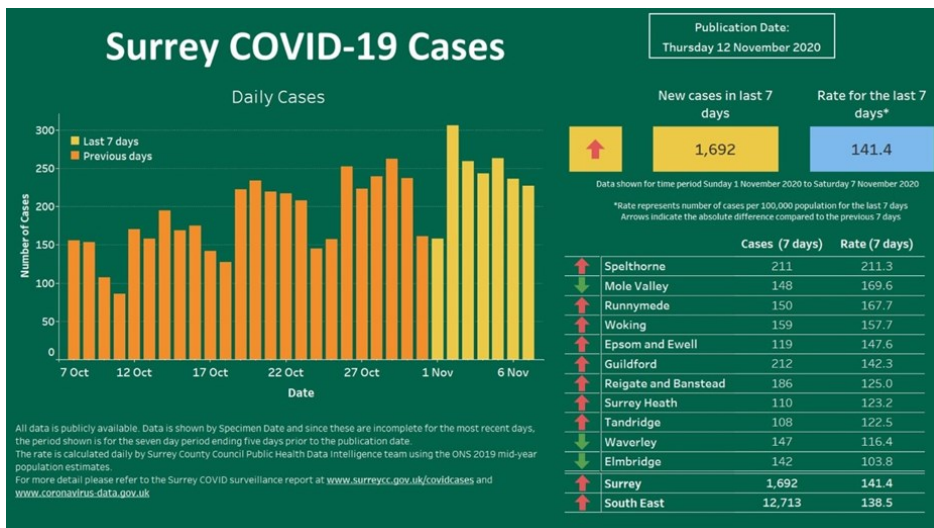
Kate Carriett
Headteacher



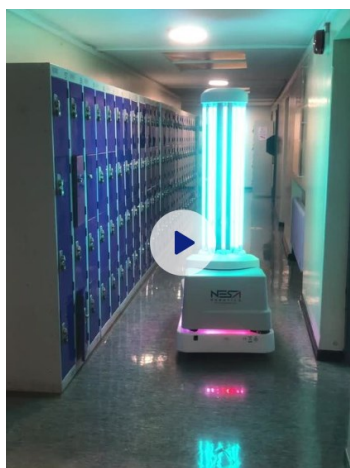
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Surrey COVID Cases Update

It is important to be aware that in our Guildford region, cases have risen significantly. In the last set of Surrey Public Health data there have been 212 new cases. I attach the graphic for your information. We must continue to stay alert.



Kevin the Kleaning K9 works his magic!



We were thrilled to have 'Kevin' the NESA Robotics UVD Robot to school this week. Please see the photos below and video (left) of Kevin working his magic around school.

The robot (and NESA team) came everyday after school to use the ultraviolet disinfectant (UV-C) light to disinfect surfaces, as well as the air, creating a "safe environment" for our students and staff. The UV-C light can kill coronavirus within six seconds of exposure!

Due to the current government guidelines, NESA Robotics are now supporting more schools and colleges with a COVID-19 rapid response service should there be an outbreak.

To find out more, please visit NESA Robotics UVD Robots website at: <https://nesarobotics.com/> or email uvdrobots@nordiceyesales.com.

With a big thank you to NESA Robotics UVD Robots for supplying 'Kevin' to George Abbot this week.

To read more, please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/nesa-robotics-uvd-robots/>



George Abbot School @gabbot_news · Nov 6

Next week, George Abbot welcomes a UV disinfectant robot to school! For more info see this week's bulletin.

- Help us choose a name!
1. Sunshine the Sanitising Robot 🌞
 2. Kevin the Kleaning K9 🐶
 3. Camilla the COVID Busting Cleaner 🧹

Vote below...

Sunshine	19.8%
Kevin	62.8%
Camilla	17.4%

Notices

IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 16 November 2020 = WEEK A—there will be no lesson 2

This week: Anti-Bullying Week

Whole School

⇒ **REMINDER: Early school closure for Year 7 Subject Consultations – Monday 7 December**

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

When the Progress Monitoring Subject Consultations are for a year group other than their own, 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 **Friday 4 December**. It is important to note supervised student places are more limited than in previous times due to COVID-19 restrictions, so it is vital we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.

If you notify us your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential you let us know of the change before 12.00pm on the day. **Where we have been notified a student will be remaining in school, if they fail to arrive and register at USIC at 2.15pm, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system.** School buses will run at the usual times.

⇒ **Letter from Surrey County Council**

Please see important letter attached from Surrey County Council regarding COVID-19 and the second lockdown.

⇒ **Careers Opportunities**

To view the range of virtual careers opportunities on offer for our students, please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>

Events include:

Guildford Games Festival—**13 & 14 November**

"How to get into the games industry" - **17 November**

University of Law Live Q&A with professionals—**19 November**

SATRO Surrey Next Steps—**24 November**

STEM Careers and Skills Week—**7-11 December**

⇒ **The EverLearner—PE**

The PE department have been using The EverLearner for all PE courses including GCSE PE, Cambridge National Sport studies, A level PE and BTEC Sport. Please see the student guide attached and the online [parent guide](#) for more information.

⇒ **The Big Matrix Christmas Quiz—5 December, 7:30pm**

Matrix is dedicated to working with at-risk and disadvantaged young people, helping them to improve their lives by nurturing, inspiring, connecting and empowering them to reach their full potential.

Matrix are hosting a quiz, a few games, a raffle, and you could be in with a chance to win some great prizes! It's a chance to test your knowledge, whilst raising money for projects run by Matrix, supporting at-risk young people across Guildford.

To sign up, click the following link: <https://thematrixtrust.churchsuite.co.uk/events/ptaetqlx>

<p>Sixth Form</p>	<p>⇒ Careers Opportunities To view the range of virtual careers opportunities on offer for our students, please visit: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/</p> <p>Events include: Escape Studios—Undergraduate Taster Day for Creative Industries—14 November Access VFX—Webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 17 November – The Computer-Generated Imagery Department. • Thursday 19 November – The Interactive Department, A different Career in VFX with Foundry, Creative Technology. • Tuesday 24 November – Compositing with Viridian FX, The Computer-Generated Imagery Department, Routes into the industry: Apprenticeships. • Thursday 26 November – Routes into the industry: Education, Panel Discussions. <p>“How to get into the games industry” - 17 November Uni Week Live—Wednesday 18—Friday 20 November University of Law Live Q&A with professionals—19 November The National School & College Leaver Show—1 December The National Apprenticeship Show—2 December STEM Careers and Skills Week—7-11 December</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>⇒ Year 12 Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) If your son/daughter is in Year 12 and they had exam access arrangements for their GCSEs (extra time, reader, scribe or use of a computer) these will continue into Sixth Form but students must collect evidence from their teachers to prove they need and use these arrangements for each subject.</p> <p>The form can be found at - https://georgeabbotschool-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/trobinson_georgeabbot_surrey_sch_uk/EcrHLWztIddLv3bGodRglcQBRPTSLsSI_6ucRZUhaJl1kA?e=2u0FvR</p> <p>The students need to print off one form per subject (or they can collect them from Ms Barratt inUSIC) and ideally have a discussion with their teacher about whether they need exam arrangements in their subject and ask their teacher to fill in the forms.</p> <p>The forms need to be returned by 27 November to Ms Barratt. Please ask your son/daughter to make contact if they are unable to return the forms by this date.</p> <p>Evidence does not have to be a formal test or assessment but can be classwork that was not completed in time and had to be finished at home or homework that takes considerably longer than most to complete.</p> <p>Please include photocopies of work where extra time has been used - clearly marked - one per subject.</p> <p>Any queries please contact bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Next Steps/Sixth Form Application Form This week, Year 11 students have received a personalised copy of the Next Steps Form (see example attached). If students wish to apply to the Sixth Form this form must be completed by the deadline below.</p> <p>It is also essential this form is completed by all students, even if they are not planning on attending the Sixth Form. This is to enable us to support all students with their next steps and so we are able to fulfil our statutory duties and report to the local authority the destinations (at Sixth Form, college, or apprenticeship) of students, after they leave Year 11.</p>

Year 11

Please spend some time looking at this with your child, the deadline for completion is 27 November 2020.

If you have any questions, please email Ms Edmeads - redmeads@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

All Year 11 students have been shown the following [presentation](#) regarding joining the Sixth Form in form time sessions.

⇒ **English Literature 'Walking Talking Mock' session—21 November 2020**

All Year 11 students will be invited to a Zoom, virtual 'walking talking mock' session in preparation for their English Literature mock exam on Tuesday 24 November. The virtual prep sessions will be held on Saturday 21 November at either 10am or 11.30am and will last for one hour. Your son/daughter's English teacher will let them know which session they should attend. The zoom links will follow via Satchel One/SMHW. Attendance will be IMPORTANT for all students.

⇒ **REMINDER—Virtual Open Day College Events**

Guildford College – Saturday 14 November 9.30am - 1.30pm

<https://www.guildford.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

Merrist Wood College – Wednesday 18 November 4-8pm

<https://www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

Farnham College – Saturday 21 November 9.30am - 1.30pm

<https://www.farnham.ac.uk/NewsEvents/OpenDayRegistration.aspx>

⇒ **Current Apprenticeship vacancy page from Activate Learning**

For any students considering an Apprenticeship, there is a comprehensive list of vacancies across a range of employers for them to start looking at: <https://activateapprenticeships.co.uk/become-an-apprentice/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

Year 10

⇒ **Homework**

Year 10 students will have assessments in November which should now be the focus of their home learning. The RE mock will take place on Wednesday 25 November. Additionally, there are Science and Modern Foreign Languages assessments which should also be focused on. From Tuesday 10 November until Wednesday 25 November, no Year 10 homework will be expected to be completed, except for RE, Science and Modern Foreign Languages revision.

⇒ **RE - Virtual Saturday School Mock Preparation**

The RE department are running some virtual Saturday school sessions on **Saturday 21 November via Zoom**. These sessions are open to **all students** although students do not need to attend all sessions!

The sessions will help prepare students for their RE mock exam on Wednesday 25 November.

Saturday 21 November

Time	Topic	Teacher	Zoom ID
9.30am – 10.15am	Buddhist Practices	Mrs King	2576913814
10.30am – 11.15am	Walking talking 'mock' mock – exam technique and skills	Mrs King	2576913814
12pm - 12.45pm	Christian Beliefs	Miss Lenehan	9033695099
1pm - 1.45pm	Christian Practices	Miss Lenehan	9033695099
2pm – 2.45pm	Peace and Conflict	Miss Lenehan	9033695099

If you have any questions, please email Mrs King at vking@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

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Year 10	⇒ The Duke of Edinburgh Award at George Abbot School 2020/21 Please see the application letter attached for The Duke of Edinburgh Award 2020/21. To apply, please click the following link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=e9pf-JcRHUWtnM5YspbX4gOGQyyo-CtOnyHMMOBfPOJUNIBTN0JDSTFTUkg5UjM3VzRYRjdCVFE3Ty4u
Year 9	⇒ The Duke of Edinburgh Award at George Abbot School 2020/21 Please see the application letter attached for The Duke of Edinburgh Award 2020/21. To apply, please click the following link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=e9pf-JcRHUWtnM5YspbX4gOGQyyo-CtOnyHMMOBfPOJUNIBTN0JDSTFTUkg5UjM3VzRYRjdCVFE3Ty4u
Year 7	⇒ Year 7 Subject Consultations – Monday 7 December Please see information attached regarding Year 7 Subject Consultations.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award at George Abbot School 2020/21

Never before has The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme, given our students a better opportunity to stand out, and demonstrate their resilience and talents. This last year has been a tough one for many. Our present DofE Award participants have still been able to make progress with their Award, even though activities may have been interrupted by us being in and out of lockdown. They have shown a real adaptability and have risen to the challenge. Many are now in the position of having completed the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections of their Award. Their dedication has been recognised and they are in line to receive the DofE Certificate of Achievement. While this may not be the full Award certificate, it is something to be very proud of. They now have a clear opportunity to complete their Award in full by taking part in an expedition in the coming year.

With the restrictions last year, we were not in a position to provide the expedition section. We have now put plans in place, not only to replace missed opportunity, but also to provide the new cohort with an opportunity to go out on expedition too.

We might not know exactly how the coming year may unfold, but it is clear any of our students who undertake to start, and finish their DofE Award during these times of uncertainty, will truly stand out amongst their peers who do not.

The applications to apply for a place on either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards this year are being sent out to the relevant year groups at the end of this week. Updates on expedition dates and next steps have already been sent out to our existing DofE Award participants. We will continue to update our participants with our plans as they develop further.

We have an exciting year ahead. Full of optimism for the future, we want to provide our students with every opportunity to demonstrate their resilience, youthful optimism, and allow them to gain the reward they deserve.

We look forward to working with all of our DofE participants in the coming year.

The George Abbot Duke of Edinburgh Award team.



Focus on - Inter Faith Week

Students in Years 7-9 have been taking part in a virtual Inter Faith Week during their RE lessons this week.

Inter Faith Week
8-15 November
www.interfaithweek.org



Students had the opportunity to hear from local speakers about their beliefs and values and to hear speakers representing different faith communities and beliefs. They discussed some big questions such as, how do you know what you believe is true? What impact has COVID-19 had on your community? Is war ever right? What does your religion/belief teach about gender? We also spoke about diversity within traditions and how others might answer the same question differently.



In addition, we ran a live virtual Q&A session with these speakers for a group of students in Year 9. These students had the opportunity to ask the speakers some of their own brilliant and thoughtful questions.



We have been so impressed at the way the students have engaged with the discussions in RE lessons this week and the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive.



We are incredibly grateful to the Surrey Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACRE) and all the speakers for their time in making the videos and for taking part in the live session too!

Anti-Bullying Week 2020

Next week, George Abbot will be supporting Anti-Bullying week. This year's theme is 'United Against Bullying'.

Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience it; it is wrong and should not be tolerated. We can collectively make a difference by committing to the principle that all children and young people have intrinsic value and worth. We should celebrate and recognise diversity and embrace each child's uniqueness.

George Abbot is an inclusive school where all children and young people have the right to feel safe, secure and valued. We are committed to tackling all forms of bullying and we appreciate the support of our parents and community to aim to achieve the eradication of bullying.

All children at school can report bullying and other concerns anonymously using TootToot. Log in details were re-emailed to all students at the start of the year.



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PTA

Lockdown quiz night – 27 November – 7.30-9.15pm

In place of our regular autumn quiz night this term, we're running a lockdown event so you can compete from home. Tickets are one per household so everyone can join in **for just £10**. All proceeds will continue fundraising towards the stage area for the drama department.

The quiz will be hosted remotely on Kahoot! - a fast and fun online quiz platform - and Zoom. Scores appear live as the quiz progresses and there will be a **prize for the winning team** including a Raj Doot voucher, two bottles of wine and a box of chocolates. Just add Netflix for yet another perfect lockdown evening!



And quiz night wouldn't be right without draught beer from the **Tillingbourne Brewery**, so we will be taking orders and delivering on the night. You can flag this when you buy a ticket. And don't forget our friends at Raj Doot are still doing deliveries during lockdown if you want to complete the full quiz night experience.

To participate you will need a mobile device or computer with Kahoot, it's free on either app store or any browser, and another device for the Zoom call. Some of the questions are picture related so a reasonably sized screen is an advantage.

[Tickets are £10 per household and available on Classlist.](#) If you're not on Classlist then either register (it's easy) or email PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Second-hand Uniform

We're still taking orders for delivery - email PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. The next uniform donation day will be on the **27 November**.

Clandon Park Run

Lord Onslow has very kindly offered to open his estate to host the Clandon Park Run which may be going ahead on **20 March 2021** if restrictions allow. To make this happen we really need **one extra volunteer to help** with coordination of the run. Could you help? If so, then please let us know using the email address above.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA.

P.S. – don't forget Easyfundraising, AmazonSmile and Sainsbury's scheme while you shop online!



George Abbot School
Woodruff Avenue
Guildford
GU1 1XX
01483 888000