

# George Abbot Bulletin

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

## Headteacher's Message

27 November 2020



It doesn't quite seem possible, in the strangest of years, that the last 15 days of 2020's schooling lie ahead.

I think we have all come to realise that conventional approaches will not be enough to get us through the global pandemic. At George Abbot there has been much thinking differently. We have reshaped our school in fundamental ways. We have done this by being really alert to the interconnect- edness of all of the moving parts in our community; by caring deeply about our staff, our students and your families; by adapting our planning responsively and precisely. Some parallels with the work we do in our classrooms every day, pandemic or no pandemic? As teachers, it is at the heart of our mission to be aware of every student in our classrooms, to care a lot about how our students are doing and to take precise steps to support them. Being aware of what they do and don't understand; knowing that inevitably, not all of them will understand everything the first time and knowing which students don't; adapting our teaching to meet their needs the next time we see them. Great teaching, in a nutshell.

Great teaching is not possible without great teachers. In our midst, for many years, has been the determined and compassionate work of Karen Bennett, our Inclusion Manager for Year 7. She and Mrs Firth have been the people responsible for making sure that every year group is launched with the attitudes, skills and kindness that have come to define our students. This term, Mrs Bennett is stepping down from her leadership role, but remaining with us in the History classroom. I know that you will want to join me in thanking her for the strong leadership she has offered our school over many years. Our new Inclusion Manager, Mrs Jenkins is joining us in January and is really looking forward to meeting our Year 7s and beginning her journey.

Well done to both Year 11 and Year 10 on the great job done in this week's English Literature and RE mocks. Superb conduct, calm and focused. We would expect no less. Year 11 must continue to work hard in their revision for the full mock series ahead. Everything they need is in their books, on the SLE with bespoke revision materials and in their minds – attitude, hard work and determination are the key attributes and every one of our Year 11s can have those, but not without sacrifice. The last weekend of lockdown is a perfect time to get lots done. Additionally, I am really grateful to English for running two further Saturday 'Walking Talking' Mock Revision Sessions for English Language, information enclosed. For those without mock exams ahead, the PE Department have provided us with Weekend Workout Number 2!

Indeed, our students have been very busy achieving things throughout our school community. This week, we celebrate the brilliant memories of our lower school chemists, the hard work and excellence of our Year 12 and 13 Senior Prizegiving nominees, the mathematical prowess of our Senior Maths Challenge competitors. Special well dones to Danny Saunders who gained the Year 8 Chemistry winning position and to the 6 students who qualified for the next round of the Senior Maths Challenge: for the Kangaroo competition, Brandon Acres, David Hayman-Joyce, Amrit Sahu and Cassia Taylor and for the Olympiad competition, Cameron Leach and Andrew Lewin.

### Some calendar reminders:

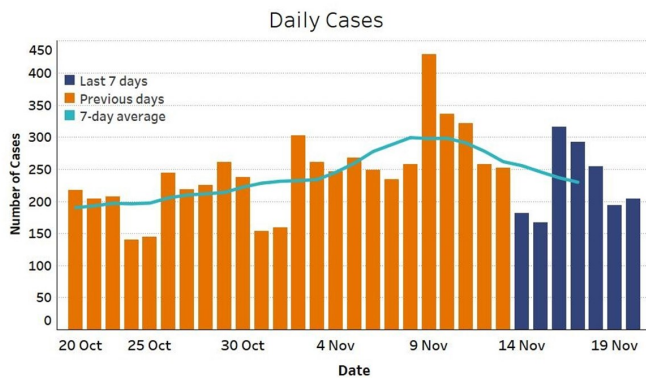
- [Wednesday 2 December](#)—Uniform Shop open from 3.30pm-5.30pm.
- [Wednesday 2 December](#)—extra-curricular clubs recommence after school.
- [Monday 7 December](#) is Year 7 Subject Consultation afternoon, so school will close at [1.30pm](#). Details of the appointment process are attached today.
- [Wednesday 9 December](#) – our Year 11 mocks begin and run to the last day of term.
- [Friday 11 December](#) is [Christmas Jumper Day](#) – more details to follow, but please do unearth something super-naff and festive and encourage your child to join in
- [Thursday 17 December](#) is our virtual and live [Christmas Concert](#) – we will need this as a light on the horizon and more details will follow.
- [Friday 18 December](#) is the end of term, closing at 12pm.

Looking forward to some sparkling lights and a bit of Christmas joy alongside the hard work to come in the 3 weeks ahead.

# COVID-19 Useful Information

## Surrey COVID-19 Cases

Publication Date:  
Wednesday 25 November 2020



All data is publicly available. Data is shown by specimen date - reporting delays mean data can be incomplete for the most recent days. For this reason the data shown is for the seven-day period ending five days prior to the publication date. The rate is calculated daily by Surrey County Council Public Health data intelligence team using the ONS 2019 mid-year population estimates. The 7-day average line on the chart is calculated using the average of cases for three days before, the date itself and the three days after any specific date. The average is not calculated for the most recent three dates as there is not enough data. For more detail please refer to the Surrey COVID Intelligence Summary at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/covidcases](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/covidcases) and [www.coronavirus-data.gov.uk](http://www.coronavirus-data.gov.uk)

New cases in last 7 days

1,610

Rate for the last 7 days\*

134.6

Data shown for time period Saturday 14 November 2020 to Friday 20 November 2020

\*Rate represents number of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days  
Arrows indicate the absolute difference compared to the previous 7 days

	Cases (7 days)	Rate (7 days)
↓ Spelthorne	207	207.3
↓ Runnymede	181	202.4
↓ Epsom and Ewell	136	168.7
↓ Woking	140	138.9
↓ Surrey Heath	123	137.7
↓ Tandridge	112	127.1
↓ Elmbridge	163	119.2
↓ Reigate and Banstead	173	116.3
↓ Guildford	170	114.1
↓ Mole Valley	84	96.3
↓ Waverley	121	95.8
↓ Surrey	1,610	134.6
↓ South East	14,838	161.6
↓ England	122,502	218.6

As of Wednesday 2 December, Surrey will move into Tier 2 of lockdown. Tier 2 is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place. Please see the infographic below for rules and restrictions of Tier 2:

## TIER 2

# HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

<p><b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b> </p> <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	<p><b>-bars, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b> </p> <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	<p><b>RETAIL</b> </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p><b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b> </p> <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<p><b>EDUCATION</b> </p> <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<p><b>INDOOR LEISURE</b> </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p><b>ACCOMMODATION</b> </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p><b>PERSONAL CARE</b> </p> <p>Open.</p>
<p><b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b> </p> <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	<p><b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b> </p> <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	<p><b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p><b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b> </p> <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<p><b>TRAVELLING</b> </p> <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	<p><b>EXERCISE</b> </p> <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<p><b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b> </p> <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<p><b>LARGE EVENTS</b> </p> <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower)</p>

**Find out what support you can get**

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

**If you have any coronavirus symptoms:**

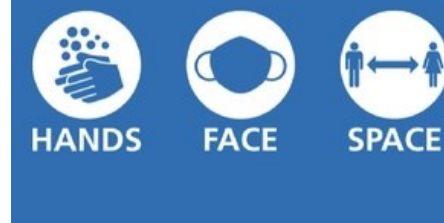
A high temperature + A new, continuous cough  
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

**Get a test and stay at home**

For more information and detailed guidance visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Lesson omission until Christmas

Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
30 November	A	4
7 December	B	5
14 December	A	1



## Notices

### IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 30 November 2020 = WEEK A—there will be no lesson 4  
Friday 4 December—D of E Application Deadline

### Whole School

#### ⇒ Surrey County Council Safer Travel Team Research

Our school is assisting Surrey County Council's Safer Travel Team to undertake research with parents on pupils' types of travel to and from school.

The objective of the research is to develop a better understanding of the different types of travel, how frequently they're used, why that type is used, and if that preferred type has changed or been influenced by COVID-19.

Once the Safer Travel Team have collected and analysed this information provided by parents, their goal is to obtain a better understanding of journeys to school, so they can continue encouraging safer and more active travel to school for all children in Surrey.

Please could review and complete the survey using the link below. The deadline for completion of the survey is 11.59pm on 16 December and the survey should be completed for each child that attends our school. If you have another child who attends a separate secondary school, please complete another survey.

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/surrey-school-travel-survey>

Thank you for continuing to support our school to improve pupils' journeys to school.

#### ⇒ 25 Bus Service – Compass Travel

We have been advised that on Wednesday 2 December 2020, the Peaslake Road will be closed down to the junction with Pitch Hill. Therefore, the stop at Peaslake will not be able to be served in the afternoon. Please make alternative arrangements to pick up your child. The morning service will NOT be affected.

#### ⇒ 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](mailto: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. [Return to home page](#)

### ⇒ Uniform Shop Opening Hours

The uniform shop will open on **Wednesday 02 December** from **3.30-5.30pm**. If you cannot make it to the shop, please continue to email, [spsschoolshops@yahoo.com](mailto:spsschoolshops@yahoo.com) for all your uniform needs. Including a contact number and your requirements (item, quantity and size) and they will contact you regarding payment and collections/delivery.

### ⇒ 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:

- University for the Creative Arts Masterclasses
- UCA Outreach Online Arts Award & HEON Virtual Art Club
- University of Law – How do I become a lawyer? Free FutureLearn course
- Brooklands College “Let’s Go Live: Service Industries” Event – **1 December**
- STEM Careers and Skills Week—**7-11 December**
- Farnborough College Virtual Open Events Information—**9 December**
- Football College Opportunities—**22 December**
- NHS and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership—**February 2021**

### ⇒ Surrey Care Trust Support

The Surrey Care Trust is a local charity providing FREE one to one support to help people in Guildford who are struggling to get back in to work because of problems like poor mental or physical health, addiction, homelessness or domestic abuse, low maths, English or digital skills, a lack of childcare.

You may find job hunting harder because you are older (over 55), because you speak English as a foreign language or because you have a learning disability.

If you are experiencing TWO or more of these problems, then our support workers can help you to move in the right direction.

For more information, please call Emma Hipkin on 07519 111928 or email [emma.hipkin@surreycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:emma.hipkin@surreycaretrust.org.uk)

### ⇒ Design a Christmas Card for Home Counties Carers

## Design a Christmas Card

The elderly people that we care for in the local community are going to have to isolate at a time when they should be joining with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.

Home Counties Carers are asking children between the ages of 5 and 16 to spread some Christmas cheer by sending in their Christmas Card designs.

We will share all the entries in the community and with our clients and our favourite design will be professionally printed and used as this year’s Home Counties Carers Christmas Card.

Get your fun and festive entries in by the closing date of Friday 11th December.

Email scans or photos of your artwork to - [icliff@homecountiescarers.co.uk](mailto:icliff@homecountiescarers.co.uk)



Visit [www.facebook.com/HomeCountiesCarers](https://www.facebook.com/HomeCountiesCarers) for full details



### ⇒ TikTok Parental Controls update by Ineqe

The following new features mean that parents can now:

- Restrict who can view their child’s profile and comment on their posts;
- View what videos their child has liked;
- Control what their child searches for including hashtags, videos, user profiles and sounds.

[Return to home page](#)

<b>Whole School</b>	<p><b>Existing TikTok features already allow parents to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a time limit on their child's screen time;</li> <li>• Limit content that isn't suitable for their child;</li> <li>• Manage their child's privacy and safety settings;</li> <li>• Choose whether their child's account is private or public.</li> </ul>
<b>Sixth Form</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Gate Cards</b>  For safeguarding reasons, we have taken the decision to remove the Sixth Form gate code from January. We will instead be using a touch in and out card for Sixth Form students to gain access to school via Raynham gates.</p> <p>These cards will be issued on payment of a £5.50 fee—£5.00 of which is refundable on return of the card once the student leaves the Sixth Form.</p> <p>Please purchase your card using the WisePay system prior to term restarting in January. For any WisePay queries, please email <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> The gate code will be operational for the <b>first week of the spring term only</b>.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Careers Opportunities</b>  To view the range of virtual careers opportunities on offer for our students, please visit: <a href="https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/">https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/</a></p> <p><b>Events include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University for the Creative Arts Masterclasses</li> <li>- UCA Outreach Online Arts Award &amp; HEON Virtual Art Club</li> <li>- University of Law – How do I become a lawyer? Free FutureLearn course</li> <li>- The National School &amp; College Leaver Show—<b>1 December</b></li> <li>- The National Apprenticeship Show—<b>2 December</b></li> <li>- ACCOUNTANCY AND BUSINESS WEBINAR with Ernest Young, PriceWaterhouse Cooper and CIMA – <b>2 December</b></li> <li>- Finding the Right University for You – <b>3 December</b></li> <li>- STEM Careers and Skills Week—<b>7-11 December</b></li> <li>- NHS and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership—<b>February 2021</b></li> </ul>
<b>Year 11</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Virtual Walking Talking English Language Mock Revision Session</b>  Paper 2: Saturday 5 December at 10.30am.      Zoom link to follow.  Paper 1: Saturday 12 December at 10.30am.      Zoom link to follow.</p>
<b>Year 10</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Missed Science Assessments</b>  Please note, students who missed their science assessments this week (23-27 November) will be taking the assessments next week as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A side of the year group (science class code on the timetable contains an 'a'):</b>  <b>Biology</b> - Monday 30 November lesson Z in E12;  <b>Chemistry</b> - Wednesday 2 December lesson Y in R55;  <b>Physics</b> - Tuesday 8 December period Z in R55.</li> <li>• <b>B side of the year group (science class code on the timetable contains a 'b'):</b>  <b>Biology</b> - Tuesday 1 December lesson Z in R50;  <b>Chemistry</b> - Thursday 3 December lesson W in R56;  <b>Physics</b> - Friday 4 December period W in R56.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 8</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Year 8 GCSE Subject Choices—UPDATED DATES</b>  Please see updated GCSE Subject Choices letter attached. For your information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student presentations will now be taking place in the w/c <b>14 December</b>.</li> <li>• Parent presentations will now be sent out in the Bulletin on <b>Friday 18 December</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 7</b>	<p>⇒ <b>REMINDER: Year 7 Subject Consultations – Monday 7 December</b>  Please see information attached regarding Year 7 Subject Consultations.</p>

# Extra-Curricular

## SPORT

### House Cross Country Event—w/c 7 December 2020

With the ease in restrictions, the PE department are able to offer the next instalment on the House sports schedule. The cross country event will be hosted for Years 7, 8 and 9 on a different day after school from Tuesday 8 December to Thursday 10 December. Every student that takes part will receive house points. The more competitors in each house means more house points! It's a great opportunity to take part in some exercise and have fun!

**Year 7**—Thursday 10 December—3:30 start

**Year 8**—Tuesday 8 December—3:30 start

**Year 9**—Wednesday 9 December—3:30 start

**Years 10/11/12/13** must send in 3,4 or 5km recent times to Mr Rodgers

It is a 3km course on a mixture of grass and pavement. A normal running shoe will suffice for the terrain. Spikes are not advisable for the parts of the course on the pathways. Students are encouraged to wear their house shirts for the event.

Students who perform really well and achieve good 3km times will be nominated to represent George Abbot at the District Cross country meet next term. Any students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who wish to be considered for the cross country team will need to email Mr Rodgers with a recent 3,4 or 5km time from Strava or a similar tracking app. This information must be sent by Monday 7 December.

## PERFORMING ARTS

The following clubs will resume from **Wednesday 2 December**:

Big Band	Chamber Choir	Junior Dance
	Upper Voices	Senior Dance
	GAMC	Jazz Dance

### Weekend Workout 2!

After the success of last week's first workout video, the PE department have produced another sweaty weekend workout for all you to enjoy/endure!

Let the department know if you take part.



# Focus on—Woodland Trust: Trees for Schools

A massive thank you to the George Abbot staff who volunteered their time in planting our donated trees from The Woodland Trust, to help tackle climate change. 350 trees were planted across the school site on Saturday; let the growing commence!



For more information about the trust and what you can do to help tackle climate change, please click the following link; <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

## PTA

### Lockdown quiz tonight

The lockdown quiz has sold out and we sent the details out via Classlist and email last night. If you paid and haven't heard anything then please email on [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk). And huge thanks for all the interest in this event!

### Second-hand Uniform

We're still taking orders for delivery - email [PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk). And thanks for those who donated uniform today – we will organise another donation day later this term.

### Black Friday shopping?

Our [easyfundraising](#) and [AmazonSmile](#) schemes are free and is one of the best ways we can raise funds for the school at the moment. If you're Christmas or Black Friday shopping please remember to use these links.

### Clandon Park Run

We're feeling more confident about the Clandon Park Run on 20 March 2021, what with the vaccine news and cunning plan we have in mind. So please save the date. More information to follow.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA.



Support George Abbot School, Burpham

£14,572.49    432  
Total raised    Supporters

Support this cause

George Abbot School  
Woodruff Avenue  
Guildford  
GU1 1XX  
01483 888000