

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

04 December 2020

At the end of 6 months of uncertainty about next summer's GCSE and A Level exams, some definitive information from the DfE:

- Grading will be more generous than usual.
- Advance notice of some topic areas to be covered in exams will be provided for schools.
- Exam aids (e.g. formula sheets) will be provided for some exams.
- Contingency exams will be scheduled just after the main exam series (in July) for students who may have had to miss an exam owing to isolation or illness.

This is important news for the students in our Year 11 and Year 13 cohort who have been awaiting some form of certainty, however that may look. Educators may have argued that exams covering less material but maintaining the same grade boundaries could have been a different path, but as Head at George Abbot, I am grateful that the building anxiety for our exam cohorts can at least be partially addressed by these DfE position statements. It is important that the government has addressed the huge disparity in access to education that young people across the country have experienced since March 2020. Just in the autumn term alone, the experience in different schools has been significantly varied, with many young people finding themselves in a whole year group sent home to isolate for repeated sets of 14 days. DfE action was needed to address these growing and damaging inequalities across England.

In relation to our imminent Year 11 mocks, please see the Year 11 section immediately following this introduction for some operational details about the arrangements for students in the exam period. Additionally, there are two further walking talking mock revision sessions for English. The first is this Saturday, 5 December at 10.30 and the next on Saturday 12 December at 10.30am. These will both form important revision preparation for the upcoming English Language mock exams. Recordings will be placed on the SLE in case your child is torn by the choice of a much awaited restart of a sports club this Saturday morning...or an English revision session. Please do encourage your son/daughter to log on live on Saturday at 10.30am.

A reminder to our Year 8 parents, that Year 8 students will have tutor time both next week and in the last week of term. This means that they need to arrive at school, ideally for 8.20am for the remainder of term. All other year groups remain on the established rota of tutor time weeks. Next week is Cross Country week - after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - do please encourage your child to give it a go.

Next term, we hope to be moving, along with our whole community, into a new COVID-19 phase, with a vaccine available and the R rate reducing. However, we cannot take this for granted and know that Christmas may well bring its own risks in terms of the spread of coronavirus. With that in mind, all of our current COVID-19 measures will remain in place into the Spring Term, including the lesson omission rotation system across all 5 lessons. Perhaps here, an assurance is important - though the rotation does impact on the regularity of some lessons, the overall time spent in each subject area is exactly the same as in our usual school timetable. Though this can feel like a compromise to our normal operations, it has been a significant factor in our ability to reduce contact between year groups and to keep our school open and safe. On that basis, we will review the policy again at February half term.

Thursday was the first wet weather day for some time, and as I type on Thursday evening, we wonder if snow will fall on Friday. Some Christmas trees have appeared in various parts of the school, bedecked with tinsel and baubles. My drive to work has been accompanied by a welcome burst of Christmas classics - Bubl  will shortly become a point of significant contention in houses populated by teenagers. As school closes today, with two weeks ahead until we break for Christmas, we feel that we have done well to be where we are - going strong though, if we are honest, with marginally less pzazz!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Year 11 Mocks
Lesson/Exam overview to support revision planning for Year 11 students

	W	X	Y	Z
9 December no cohort mocks: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min Biology, Maths, Geography or BTEC revision.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min Biology, Maths, Geography or BTEC revision.	Geography (if not doing Geography students will be expected to go their normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min Biology revision.	BTEC Tech Award; Computer Science; Dance and Media (students do not doing these subjects will be expected go to their normal timetabled lessons). 30 min lesson/30 min Maths revision.
10 December: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/ 30 min Biology revision.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min Maths revision.	ALL – Biology.	ALL - Maths.
11 December: REVISION:	Music & Sociology (if not doing these subjects student will be in their normal lessons for Lesson W). 30 min lesson/30 min English revision.	ALL – English Language.	ALL- Treble Physics & Double Chemistry.	German only (if not doing German students will be expected to go to their normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min English revision.
14 December: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min English revision.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min PE or English revision.	PE only (if not doing PE students will be expected to go to their normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min English revision.	ALL - English Language.
15 December: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min Maths revision.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min Business, Food or Maths revision.	Business and Food Nutrition only (if not doing these subjects students will be expected to go to normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min Maths revision.	ALL - Maths.
16 December - no cohort mocks: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson.	Normal timetabled lesson.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min D&T or English revision.	Design & Technology and Drama (if not doing these subjects students will be expected to go to normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min English, Spanish or Chemistry & Physics revision.
17 December: REVISION:	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min English, History or Spanish revision.	Normal timetabled lesson. 30 min lesson/30 min English, Spanish or History revision.	ALL – English Language.	Spanish only (if not doing Spanish students will be expected to go to their normal timetabled lesson). 30 min lesson/30 min Chemistry & Physics revision.
18 December:	ALL - Treble Chemistry and Double Physics.	History only (normal lessons otherwise).		

Operational Tips for Year 11 students during the mock exam period:

- Mock exams will take place in lessons Y and Z every day and are also scheduled in lessons W and X on both Friday 11 and Friday 18 December.
- Exams in lesson Y are largely taking place in classroom—see below.
- Exams in lesson Z are largely taking place in large venues—see below.
- Above is a timetable compiled to support our Year 11 students with revision planning in this period – the principle is that half of all lessons with Year 11 will be taught and half will be offered for independent revision for that day’s exams. The exception will be practical subjects, where time may be needed for coursework rather than revision.
- Students should go to their normal timetabled lesson if they do not have an exam on their timetable for that day – there is no study leave during this period.
- Exams in lesson Z commence at 2.15pm. Therefore, Year 11 will be dismissed from the playground at the end of the 3rd break and sent to their normal lessons. Teachers will then dismiss those going to exams at 2.05pm.
- Exams are being held in official exam conditions – students cannot be late. They must have all equipment required. They must turn off their phones and leave them in their bags at the back of the exam hall.
- The exam period is busy. Students should bring extra snacks and water. Sleeping is essential as is a sensible balance between revision and rest.
- Current indications are that summer exams will go ahead – do not let your teenager panic about this being the only chance they will get – that is too much pressure and is unnecessary. We cannot predict the future but do remain optimistic. We know full well that this is not the end of our Year 11s’ progress journey and we do not expect them to perform as they might in 6 months quite yet.
- Remember that some exams finish well after the end of the normal school day – check the schedule to make sure travel arrangements are in place.

Where to be tips for Year 11 students:

Date	Details
Thursday 10 December Monday 14 December Tuesday 15 December	All students dismissed at 2.05pm from lesson Z classes.
Wednesday 9 December Friday 11 December Wednesday 16 December Thursday 17 December	Relevant option subject students dismissed from lesson Z classes at 2.05pm.
Thursday 10 December Friday 11 December Friday 18 December	All students dismissed from Year 11 playground straight to exam venues at start of lesson Y – 12.15pm.
Friday 11 December	All students dismissed from Year 11 playground straight to exam venues at start of lesson W – 10.35am.

Other Year 11 Notices

⇒ **Virtual Walking Talking English Language Mock Revision Session**

Paper 2: Saturday 5 December at 10.30am with Mrs Glanville. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/4906401663>

Paper 1: Saturday 12 December at 10.30am.

Zoom link to follow.

⇒ **Temporary change of canteen breaks**

From Wednesday 9 December to Thursday 17 December, Year 11 canteen break will be break 1 and Year 9 will be break 2.

For the last day of term, Friday 18 December, Year 9 canteen break will return to break 1 again. Students will be informed of these changes in their tutor periods.

Useful COVID-19 Information

Tier 2—Rules and Restrictions



You can exercise in a gym alone or outside with up to 6 people.

Spectators are allowed at sporting and live events with limited numbers.

All shops can open. Entertainment venues are open.

Places of worship are open with the rule of six in place.

Restaurants are open for table service, you can only go with your household.

You can attend medical appointments unless you have COVID-19 symptoms.

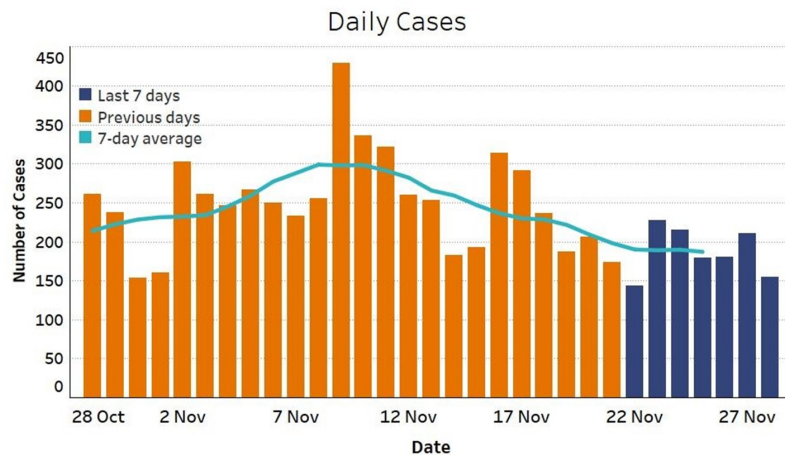
If your parents don't live together, you can move between the houses.



Households cannot mix indoors. The rule of six applies outside.

Surrey COVID-19 Cases

Publication Date:
Thursday 3 December 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 and coronavirus.data.gov.uk

New cases in last 7 days



1,310

Rate for the last 7 days*

109.5

Data shown for time period Sunday 22 November 2020 to Saturday 28 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)
↑ Woking	194	192.5
↓ Runnymede	143	159.9
↓ Surrey Heath	110	123.2
↑ Mole Valley	100	114.6
↓ Spelthorne	114	114.2
↓ Epsom and Ewell	87	107.9
↓ Guildford	156	104.7
↓ Tandridge	81	91.9
↓ Elmbridge	117	85.5
↓ Reigate and Banstead	123	82.7
↓ Waverley	85	67.3
↓ Surrey	1,310	109.5
↓ South East	12,827	139.7
↓ England	87,124	155.5

Senior Students

Congratulations to our Year 12 Leadership Team of 12 - we look forward to working with them in their new roles.

Head Students
Charlotte Thompson
Jack Van De Wiel
Senior Students
Muhannad Ahmed
Anya Burns
Amber Clayton
Luca Elliott
Oli Maltby
Hamish Morton
Adelaide Oakey
Elena Regel
Raphael Rivero-Stevenet
Ella Simpson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
THIS WEEK	WEEK A—no lesson 5
Monday 07 December	Year 7 Subject Consultations— 1.30pm closure Uniform Shop open 3.30pm-5.00pm
Wednesday 09 December	Year 11 Mock Exams begin Uniform Shop open 3.30pm-5.30pm
Friday 11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday 12 December	Year 11: Virtual Walking Talking English Language Paper 1 Mock Exam revision. Zoom link in Year 11 section below.
Please visit www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events for full calendar of events.	

Lesson omission until Christmas		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
7 December	B	5
14 December	A	1

Lesson omission from January 2021		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
4 January	B	2
11 January	A	3
18 January	B	4
25 January	A	5
1 February	B	1
8 February	A	2
15 February	HALF TERM	



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.

Please note there will be canteen provision for break 1 (Years 13 and 9) and break 2 (Years 11 and 7). School closure at 1.30pm will mean no break 3 provision (Years 10 and 8) on this day.

⇒ **ADVANCED REMINDER—Early school closure for Year 8 Subject Consultations—Thursday 7 January**

School will be closing at **1.30pm** on **Thursday 7 January** for the Year 8 Subject 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 **Wednesday 6 January**. It is important to note that 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 that 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 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 they register in USIC at 2.15pm.**

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

⇒ **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY—Friday 11 December**

Please encourage your child to partake in Christmas Jumper Day next Friday.

⇒ **Free School Meals**

Please see the letter attached regarding Free School Meals.



We will be issuing all eligible students a supermarket voucher for the Christmas holidays. **If your email has changed since the summer, please email sjones@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Monday 7 December.**

⇒ **Keeping your household, family and community safe—Surrey County Council**

Please see the letter attached from Surrey County Council.

⇒ **Stationery**

Please can you ensure your child continues to come to school with the correct equipment, replenishing any items that may have run out. Several students are missing pens, glue sticks and whiteboard pens. COVID-19 restrictions mean we cannot lend equipment to students.

⇒ **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 overleaf.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>Events include: University for the Creative Arts Masterclasses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA Outreach Online Arts Award & HEON Virtual Art Club • University of Law – How do I become a lawyer? Free FutureLearn course • Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship Opportunities • STEM Careers and Skills Week—7-11 December • Farnborough College Virtual Open Events Information—9 December • Females in Tech – Young Professionals with PWC, CapGemini and BP – 15 December, 5-7pm • Football College Opportunities—22 December • Springpod working with the Nestlé Academy, Employability Skills Programme – 15-19 February 2021 • Springpod working with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Free Marketing Virtual Work Experience—15-19 February 2021 • NHS and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership—February 2021 <p>⇒ Family Online Learning Courses in Surrey Surrey County Council offers free online learning courses to help support the development of your child including; English and Maths courses and information about family wellbeing. A wide variety include support for parents who speak English as an additional language. Predominately, these courses are targeted at primary aged children, however a range of them apply to secondary aged children too. For more information, please visit: www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning</p>
<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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University for the Creative Arts Masterclasses • UCA Outreach Online Arts Award & HEON Virtual Art Club • Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship Opportunities—Year 12 • STEM Careers and Skills Week—7-11 December • The Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship Programme – Applications open 14 December • Young Professionals Application Support Drop-In sessions – 15 December • NHS and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership—February 2021 • Springpod working with the Nestlé Academy, Employability Skills Programme – 15-19 February 2021 • Springpod working with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Free Marketing Virtual Work Experience—15-19 February 2021 <p>⇒ REMINDER: Gate Cards 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 finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk The gate code will be operational for the first week of the spring term only.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Temporary change of canteen breaks From Wednesday 9 December to Thursday 17 December, Year 11 canteen break will be break 1 and Year 9 will be break 2. For the last day of term, Friday 18 December, Year 9 canteen break will return to break 1 again. Students will be informed of these changes in their tutor periods.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Return to home page</p>

Year 8

⇒ **Year 8 Subject Consultations—Thursday 7 January 2021**
Please see information attached regarding Year 8 Subject Consultations.

⇒ **Tutor Time**

Year 8 will now have tutor time **both weeks until the end of term**. This will be hugely beneficial for pupils to have a structured start to the day while allowing tutors to build relationships and provide support through consistent contact time. Therefore, pupils need to arrive in school and make their way to the Year 8 playground for 8:20am. Tutors will meet and collect the form at 8:25 so form time can start at 8:30 prompt. If pupils are not present on the playground or arrive after 8:30am they will be deemed late to tutor time.

⇒ **Residential Trip**

We are pleased to announce the Year 8 Residential trip is planned for PGL Osmington Bay, Dorset in July 2021. Please see attached letter which has details of the trip, including the PGL COVID refund promise and payment details.

Year 7

⇒ **Autumn Progress Reports**

This is to notify you, we have now released the Year 7 progress reports and they are available for you to view via the SIMS Parent App <https://www.sims-parent.co.uk> as a PDF file.

Here is a report template, including the key, to give you an idea of what the report contains.

<<Forename>> <<Surname>>
<<reg>>

Attendance: <<PercentageAttendance>> Achievement: <<Achievement Points>> Behaviour: <<Behaviour Points>>
No. of Lates: <<NoOfSessionsLate>>

Subject	SAM %	CPI	Engagement
Art			
Core PE			
Dance			
Drama			
DT			
English			
Food			
French			
Geography			
German			
Graphics			
History			
ICT			
Mathematics			
Music			
PSE			
Religious Education			
Science			
Spanish			
Textiles			

SAM %	Significant Assessment Mark as a percentage.
CPI	Current Progress Indicator.
Aspiring	Working towards making expected progress.
Achieving	Working towards exceeding expected progress.
Excelling	Exceeding expected progress.

The attendance percentage and the number of lates are based on the morning and afternoon registration session. The morning registration mark is recorded by the form tutor and the afternoon registration mark is recorded by the teacher of the period Z lesson.

The behaviour points are the number of sanctions logged this term so far, the achievement points is the number of house points the student has achieved.

The Significant Assessment Mark (SAM) is the mark which the student has achieved in their assessment. If more than one assessment has been completed it will be the average or the most significant of the assessments. The science SAM is an average of all the assessments that have been taken in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The set leader will liaise with the other class teachers and submit the engagement score.

The current progress indicator shows how well the student is making progress based on prior attainment data. For academic subjects this will be based on each student's ability, for other subjects this will be based on a baseline assessment taken at the start of Year 7.

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Year 7

It is individualised for each student and for each subject they study; it can be thought of as the secondary school version of the age related expectation which you were used to at primary school. As each assessment is unique, it may be that the same score for two different assessments, results in a different Current Progress Indicator (CPI). This is entirely possible and is similar to different subjects or papers at GCSE level having different grade boundaries.

PSE and core PE do not have entries for SAM or CPI. They will be reported on at the next reporting cycle.

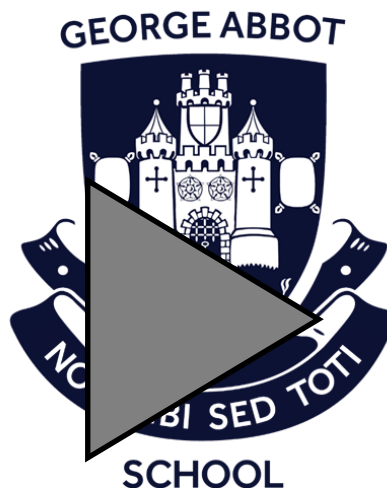
Where a student's engagement is a cause for concern, the teacher of that subject will have identified a target for improvement.

If you have any questions relating to these reports, or need help registering for the SIMS Parent App, please contact simsapp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ **REMINDER: Year 7 Subject Consultations – Monday 7 December**
Please see information attached regarding Year 7 Subject Consultations.

Weekend Workout 3!

The last weekend workout of the term...enjoy!



Weekend Workout 3

Extra-Curricular: Sport

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs will return in full from Tuesday 12 December. The timetable will be published before Christmas.

House Cross Country Event—w/c 7 December 2020

A final reminder of next week's House Cross Country event. Please see below for further information:

- Students should meet in the Sports Hall on the afternoon of their event.
- A register will be taken.
- Students should wear full PE kit with their house shirt. Trainers should be worn. Football boots and running spikes are not advised.
- If they do not have PE on the day, please come to school in PE kit.
- The event will finish around 4:15pm.

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

Rugby in PE lessons

With the new 'return to play' guidance from the RFU, we will begin to incorporate contact drills within our PE lessons. To prepare for this, could all students who are in a group currently studying rugby please purchase and bring in a moulded gum shield. This also applies to all students who wish to attend a rugby extra-curricular club.

PE teachers will always provide appropriate differentiated contact and non-contact practices for the group and the students they are teaching.

Focus on—Be safe, be seen: cycling at night

During the pandemic, we have been wearing masks to protect others. But when we're out on the roads, we need to think about how we can keep ourselves and others in our community safe. With the darker nights creeping in, please encourage your child to be BE BRIGHT and BE SEEN when travelling to and from school.



The Highway Code states:

- Your child **MUST** wear or carry something **light-coloured, bright or fluorescent** in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use **reflective materials** (e.g. armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear), which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.
- At night your child's bicycle **MUST** have **white front and red rear lights lit**. It **MUST** also be fitted with a **red rear reflector** (and **amber pedal reflectors**). White front reflectors and spoke reflectors will also help you to be seen. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp.

Please also **INSIST** your child wears a helmet when riding their bicycle.

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PTA



Christmas presents for school staff

Due to the exceptional circumstances that the staff at George Abbot have found themselves in this term, the governing body and PTA committee felt it would be a great gesture to give each member of staff a small Christmas gift to thank them for their care and to acknowledge their hard work. We are sure parents will feel the same way and if you would like to donate to this great cause to show your appreciation, then [please click here to donate via PayPal](#). WisePay link to follow next week. Any money that is remaining once the gifts have been purchased will go to the George Abbot Opportunities Fund.



Big thanks for a fun quiz!

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped us **raise £553 towards the Drama Department's staging area**. And huge **congratulations to the Richardson family** who won against some pretty tough opposition. If restrictions continue, we will look to run this again next term in lieu of a face-to-face quiz

Second-hand Uniform

Following another donation day we have some **new stock including smaller-sized blazers**. We're still taking orders for delivery - email PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Christmas 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 shopping **please remember to use these links**.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA.

George Abbot School
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Guildford
GU1 1XX
01483 888000

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