

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

11 December 2020

All

This will be the last official bulletin of this term. I am not sure any of us will be 100% coherent by this time next week. Today, I would like to say some official thank yous before I move on to some final reminders for the term.

- Thank you to all of you reading for trusting us and our risk management plans this term – you have supported your children in helping them to feel comfortable at school and encouraged them to embrace every day.
- Thank you to our students for their consideration for others – both fellow students and staff. It has felt as if we have all worked together with real determination to follow our guidelines and actively keep each other safe.
- Thank you to our staff who have been stoic in getting on with working in new ways, teaching in multiple different spaces around a very large site and supporting their colleagues and our students, emotionally, socially, educationally.
- Thank you to our governors who have provided vital challenge and wise counsel as we have entered unknown lands.
- Particular thanks to our premises team. Keeping the site safe, providing PPE resources, organising enhanced site cleaning routines, daily fogging, managing the holy grail combination of heat and fresh air, dealing with boiler replacements. Thank you Nigel, Sam, Ash, Sally and Sarah.

There are two more important thank yous and in these cases, goodbyes. Firstly, Mr Quinn. Mr Quinn has been a DT teacher at George Abbot for 37 years. He has taught many of our parents and many of your children. He has built brilliant props for musicals and plays, inspired a love of ingenious design, provided technical skill to numerous young engineers, rescued mission critical coursework projects at moments of imminent collapse, been a wonderful team player and all round George Abbot hero. Mr Quinn is going to embrace retirement from 2021 – much deserved after a career he should view with immense satisfaction.

The second thank you and goodbye is to Vivienne Johnson. Vivienne has been a governor at George Abbot for 30 years. Throughout much of that time, she was Chair of Governors. Vivienne has offered service to our school that is unmatched; her passion for education, her determination to ensure that every child in our community is able to access a rich and varied school experience, her support for our school, our staff and our families has been extraordinary. To mark this important occasion, I asked Mr Moloney, ex Headteacher of George Abbot to say a few words:

"A rumour has reached me that Vivienne Johnson is about to retire as a governor at the school at the end of this term. If this is true, and I find it hard to imagine such a thing, George Abbot School will lose its most supportive, effective and influential governor of the past 30 years.

In the 15 years that I worked with Vivienne she displayed all the skills required of an outstanding Chair of Governors. Her prime focus was, firstly, on improving, in any way she could, the educational opportunities of the students and, secondly, on improving the working conditions for staff. She knew the school buildings well, she made sure that she knew what the key issues were for students and their parent). Her understanding of educational achievements and standards across the school was second to none and she led the governing body with confidence.

Schools were operating in a very different context some twenty years ago. Tony Blair and his New Labour government were waxing lyrical about "Education, Education, Education." There was considerable investment in schools and a range of exciting opportunities became available. Vivienne was always determined to ensure that George Abbot, as a leading school, remained at the forefront of educational development.

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Every opportunity that presented itself was carefully and critically assessed. If it could be demonstrated that a particular initiative would benefit students, staff or the local community then Vivienne would be content to accept it. Governors were being encouraged to take more responsibility for their buildings, their curriculum and their budgets. There was never a more important time for a school to have a passionate and committed governing body with a skilled and knowledgeable Chair at the helm. Vivienne was that person.

*She was involved in the building of The Sports Centre in partnership with Surrey County Cricket and the Sixth Form Centre and the new outdoor sports pitch. During Vivienne's time at George Abbot the school became a Teaching School and a Centre of Initial Teacher Training.
Major achievements all.*

On top of everything else Vivienne was a pleasure to work with. I appreciated her openness, her sharp mind, her sense of humour and, more than anything, her passion and drive to get the best for the George Abbot community.

If the rumours are true and Vivienne does retire from the governing body at the end of this term she can depart with pride, comfortable in the knowledge that she has made a truly remarkable impact on George Abbot School over time."

Words well said – thank you, Vivienne, on behalf of us all.

Some organisational reminders to conclude:

- School will close for all students EXCEPT Year 11 at 3.10pm on Thursday 17 December.
- School will operate for Year 11 doing mock exams on Friday 18 December.
- Please inform me directly – on kcarriett@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk – if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the first 6 days of the school holiday. For most students this will be up to the 23 December: for Year 11, this will be up to 24 December. I will then complete the track and trace work and contact any families whose children have been in contact with a child who has tested positive.
- If you would like some Christmas cheer, please do join our virtual concert on Thursday 17 December at 5pm. The link is <https://youtu.be/nktFqaAgN7w> there will be carols, some Christmas words and some festive joy.
- The second Year 11 walking talking English mock revision session is this Saturday 12 December at 10.30am. Zoom link below. Recordings will be placed on the SLE if your child is unable to make it. Please do encourage your son/daughter to log on live on Saturday at 10.30am.

REMINDER – JANUARY START OF TERM DATES:
Monday 4 January 2021 – INSET Day
Tuesday 5 January 2021 – ALL YEARS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Specific timings for Year 11 on Friday 18 December are as follows:

- Students arrive at school for 8.15 and go direct to their exam venue.
- Science mock exam for 296 students – 08.30 – 09.45.
- Students not doing History GCSE then leave site immediately.
- Students doing History GCSE wait in Raynham Dining Hall for the next exam.
- History mock exam for 153 students – 10.35 – 11.50.
- Students then leave site immediately.

Despite the compromised circumstances of Christmas 2020, George Abbot would like to wish everyone in our school community a happy and much needed festive season. We shall look forward to a vaccine, continued reductions in the R rate and new hope for 2021. A Very Merry Christmas to one and all!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Virtual Christmas Carol Concert 2020

Thursday 17 December, 5pm: <https://youtu.be/nktFqaAgN7w>

The whole George Abbot community is warmly invited to be part of the virtual audience for the 2020 George Abbot Christmas Concert. Our fabulous staff and students have not been deterred from bringing you sparkling performances of music and dance and ensuring 2020 finishes on a high. Please do join us, live on YouTube (link above), 5pm on Thursday 17 December.

If there are extended family members who also wish to view the concert, they will need the link as it will not be possible to search for this event. Please do also ensure the link is only shared with family and friends within the George Abbot community.



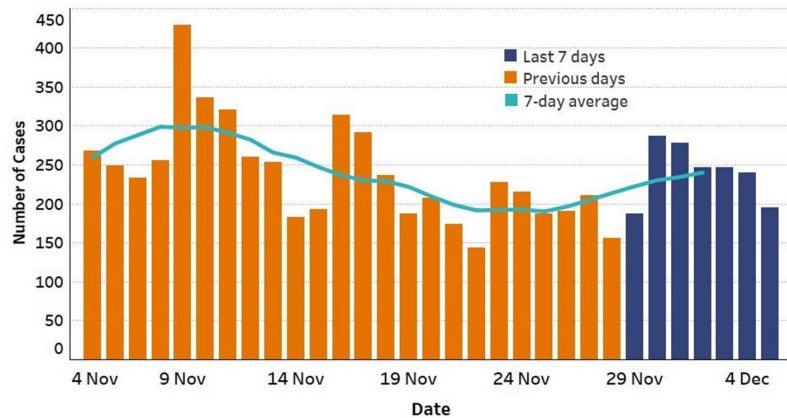
Useful COVID-19 Information

Surrey COVID-19 Cases

Publication Date:
Thursday 10 December 2020



Daily Cases



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



1,680

Rate for the last 7 days*

140.4

Data shown for time period Sunday 29 November 2020 to Saturday 5 December 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 (22 November - 28 November)

	Cases (7 days)	Rate (7 days)
↑ Runnymede	254	284.0
↑ Woking	220	218.3
↑ Spelthorne	169	169.3
↑ Tandridge	139	157.7
↑ Epsom and Ewell	116	143.9
↑ Surrey Heath	128	143.3
↑ Elmbridge	156	114.0
↑ Reigate and Banstead	165	110.9
↓ Guildford	155	104.0
↓ Mole Valley	82	94.0
↑ Waverley	96	76.0
↑ Surrey	1,680	140.4
↑ South East	14,758	160.8
↓ England	85,612	152.7

Sport Extra-Curricular: House Cross Country Event 2020

This week saw the annual House Cross country event at George Abbot. Years 7, 8 and 9 ran the undulating 3.2km in cold and blustery conditions. Over the three afternoons, 200 students chose to represent their houses and run. Every year group showed true resilience and grit to compete the course, with some outstanding performances and times achieved. Every student earned three house points for running and those who came in the top ten will be nominated for Guildford selection. Those who do qualify will receive a letter with all of the information needed. Gryphon house had the most students to represent them with 49 students, closely followed by Falcon with 45. It was a truly outstanding week of cross country. The PE team were so proud of all participants. Well done and thank you.

YEAR 7			
Boys		Girls	
1 st	Ben E- 12:57	1 st	Sophie J- 13:17
2 nd	Will R- 13:17	2 nd	Emily M- 13:43
3 rd	Antonio A-P- 13:53	3 rd	Immy F- 13:48
4 th	Pablo R- G- 14:08	4 th	Flora B- 14:08
5 th	Alex M- 14:10	5 th	Elizabeth V- 14:20
6 th	Charlie T- 14:12	6 th	Megan W- 15:04
7 th	Zak G- 15:01	7 th	Eloise G- 15:29
8 th	Ollie B- 15:28	8 th	Bee W-W- 17:10
9 th	Daniel T- 15:29	9 th	Emily R- 16:40
10 th	Ben W- 15:30	10 th	Ashley V- 16:44

YEAR 8			
Boys		Girls	
1 st	Oscar S- 13:14	1 st	Hana E- 13:36
2 nd	Michael R- 13:14	2 nd	Emelia C- 16:16
3 rd	Will M- 13:26	3 rd	Cicely M-B- 16:48
4 th	Harry R- 14:45	4 th	Olivia G- 17:04
5 th	Daniel S- 15:10	5 th	Charlotte S- 17:04
6 th	Teo A-15:11	6 th	Jenna R- 17:50
7 th	Freddie M-B- 16:05	7 th	Manon D- 17:56
8 th	Sasha D- 16:08	8 th	Gemma H-19:35
9 th	Lewis H-16:19	9 th	Katie W- 19:58
10 th	Tom H-16:45	10 th	Holly C- 20:33

YEAR 9			
Boys		Girls	
1 st	Sean M- 12:25	1 st	Dari V- 15:07
2 nd	Alex D- 13:15	2 nd	Electra M- 15:18
3 rd	Olly F- 13:25	3 rd	Anna M-15:28
4 th	Jake C- 13:44	4 th	Elizabeth T- 15:33
5 th	Eddie H- 13:45	5 th	Charlotte A- 17:25
6 th	Jake C- 13:47	6 th	Esme F- 17:25
7 th	Euan C- 13:47	7 th	Sophie B- 18:14
8 th	Christian M-B- 13:47	8 th	Libby B- 20:10
9 th	Vigo M- 15:00	9 th	Katie B- 20:10
10 th	Ollie N- 15:07	10 th	Hayley S- 23:22



Over House Participation	
Falcon	45
Gryphon	49
Martlet	31
Phoenix	32
Wyvern	37



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THIS WEEK	WEEK A—no lesson 1 Year 11 mocks continue
Thursday 17 December	END OF TERM FOR YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13—3.10pm Virtual Christmas Carol Concert—5.00pm—information above
Friday 18 December	END OF TERM FOR YEAR 11—12.00pm Year 11 mocks end

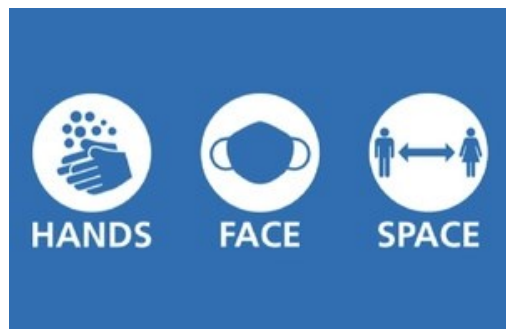
Please visit www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/events for full calendar of events.

Lesson omission until Christmas

Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
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	



Notices

IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 14 December 2020 = WEEK A—there will be no lesson 1

Whole School

⇒ **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.

⇒ **Free School Meals**

Those entitled to receive Free School Meals will receive a voucher for £30 via email on **Monday 14 December**. This amount is to cover Free School Meals over the Christmas Holiday period. If you have sent a request to have the voucher posted to you and have nominated your chosen supermarket, the voucher will be downloaded and posted on this date.

⇒ **Vacancies at George Abbot**

Please see the following page of the school website for further details on the following vacancies: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/> Please do forward to any friends or colleagues you think might be interested.

- Teacher of Economics (maternity cover) - close date: 5 January 2021, 9.00am.
- Teacher of RE (maternity cover) - close date: 5 January 2021, 9.00am.
- IT Technician - close date: 18 December 2020, 9.00am.

⇒ **GCSE PE Polo shirts**

For GCSE students who require another GCSE PE polo shirt, they are now available to order from the school shop. This is primarily for those who missed the initial order or would like to order an extra shirt. Shirts will be £15 and available in sizes 11/12, 13, S, M and L. To order a shirt, please contact the shop directly (<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/>) and before Wednesday 16 December.

⇒ **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.

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<p>Whole School</p>	<p>Events include:</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 • Females in Tech – Young Professionals with PWC, CapGemini and BP—15 December, 5-7pm • Football College Opportunities—22 December 2020 • 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 • Speakers For School Virtual Work Experience: Spotify, Portland Communications, Ofcom, NHS Nursing—15-19 February 2021 • Speakers For Schools Virtual Work Experience – Tesco’s Food Love Story Marketing/Creative Campaign Department (Year 10)—15-19 February 2021 • RAF Humanitarian Engineering Free Online Course (Year 9 girls only)—12-15 April 2021 <p>⇒ Children eat free in Asda cafes throughout December Asda will provide children under the age of 16 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer. For more information, please click here.</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"> • Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship Opportunities—Year 12 • The Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship Programme—Applications open 14 December • Young Professionals Application Support Drop-In sessions—15 December 2020 • NHS and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership—February 2021 • Springpod working with the Nestlé Academy, Employability Skills Programme—15-19 February 2021 • Speakers For School Virtual Work Experience: Spotify, Portland Communications, Ofcom, NHS Nursing—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 13</p>	<p>⇒ REMINDER: Year 13 Mocks Year 13 mocks commence Wednesday 6 January 2021.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Virtual Walking Talking English Language Mock Revision Session Paper 1: Saturday 12 December at 10.30am with Mrs Glanville. Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/4906401663</p>

⇒ **Change to Curriculum Planning Schedule for Year 8 students and parents**
 Due to unforeseen delays, the Curriculum Information Booklet, personalised student letters, student assembly and parent information video presentation due to be issued and presented to Year 8 students and parents by Friday 18 December, are now re-scheduled to be issued and presented by Friday 15 January. Apologies for this delay.

Focus on—Christmas Shoeboxes

Over the last couple of weeks, our students and staff have been busy producing Christmas Shoeboxes for local charities, including Frimley Park Hospital, North Guildford Food Bank and Transform Housing. In total, an incredible 129 boxes were created. A massive thank you to all those in the George Abbot community who contributed.



Just a couple of BIG thank you's to @gabbot_news for 30 shoeboxes for our patients this Christmas 🎄 The pupils did them all themselves.

Thank you to @3BubblegumGirls for 200 balloons that have been given to children's wards including the testing team to give out to brave kids



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](#). Any money that is remaining once the gifts have been purchased will go to the George Abbot Opportunities Fund. Thank you to everyone who has very kindly donated so far!

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.

The PTA would like to thank all parents and carers for their support during this far from perfect year. We wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and look forward to getting together with you in the New Year be it virtually or physically.

Take care and Merry Christmas!

from the PTA.



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