

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

22 January 2021



All

This week began with a day known, annually, as Blue Monday – and that's when we are not all in lockdown. I think we have all felt tired and weighed down by the daily COVID-19 numbers. Not seeing our family and friends is difficult for all of us. We remain uncertain about how long this will go on. A conscious effort to be cheered by very small things has been key to the start to each of my days so far this month. Thank you so much to the parents who continue to write in daily with their thanks. We appreciate your time in writing and words of appreciation enormously.

We have successfully moved across to Teams – our students seemed to take it all in their stride. Teachers are already noticing what an improved platform for learning this will provide. Thank you for your patience as we have ironed out any issues you have let us know about. Any additional official 'homework' set for students will still be posted in Satchel One if it needs completing outside of lesson time.

Year 11 have received their mock results. As I said in my letter to Year 11 parents earlier this week, it is really important that students remember these grades are NOT their final centre assessed grades. Much work and learning is still to come. Their teachers are already planning how they will adapt their teaching to ensure any emerging gaps are addressed and knowledge is secured and embedded. Thank you to all of the Year 11 parents and students who attended the Consultation Appointments yesterday.

The government are now consulting on arrangements for the summer exam series. Parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students may be interested to read the consultation paper and respond if they feel they wish to. The consultation closes on Friday 29 January at 23:45.

The link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

It looks very much as if an exam series in May and June will take place – it will be smaller scale and marked by teachers at school rather than exam boards. I will continue to keep you updated on this issue.

Next week, we have decided to hold a **Wellbeing Day on Friday 29 January 2021**. Despite the enormous benefits of online live lessons, students and staff are looking at screens for a prolonged period every day.

Therefore, on Friday 29 January, students will not be set any formal lesson activities. Instead there will be a menu of activities for them to dip into throughout the day. This will include sessions from Surrey University, some arty projects, some sessions on building resilience. Most importantly, it is intended to be a break from screens. Information about the day's events will be posted on Satchel One. Perhaps it is also a day for everybody to not be operating to a timetable and for a little bit of pressure in the family's daily diary to be released. We do appreciate just how challenging overseeing the progress of teenagers at home and balancing work can be. We hope you will feel that at the end of a long month, this change to routine will be welcome.

I do so hope that the small things will bring a smile to each of you over the coming days.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding young people remains our number one priority, so we would like to outline how remote lessons on Teams will be managed safely.

As usual, when in a virtual lesson, please make sure that the computer is in a suitable place, without a bed in view, showing just the wall perhaps. There are a range of neutral backgrounds students can select to apply to their image within Teams if a suitable space is difficult to locate. We would like to advise that there is at least one adult in the vicinity when the Teams session is on. The teacher will be present at all times during the session, students will not be in a meeting without a member of staff present.

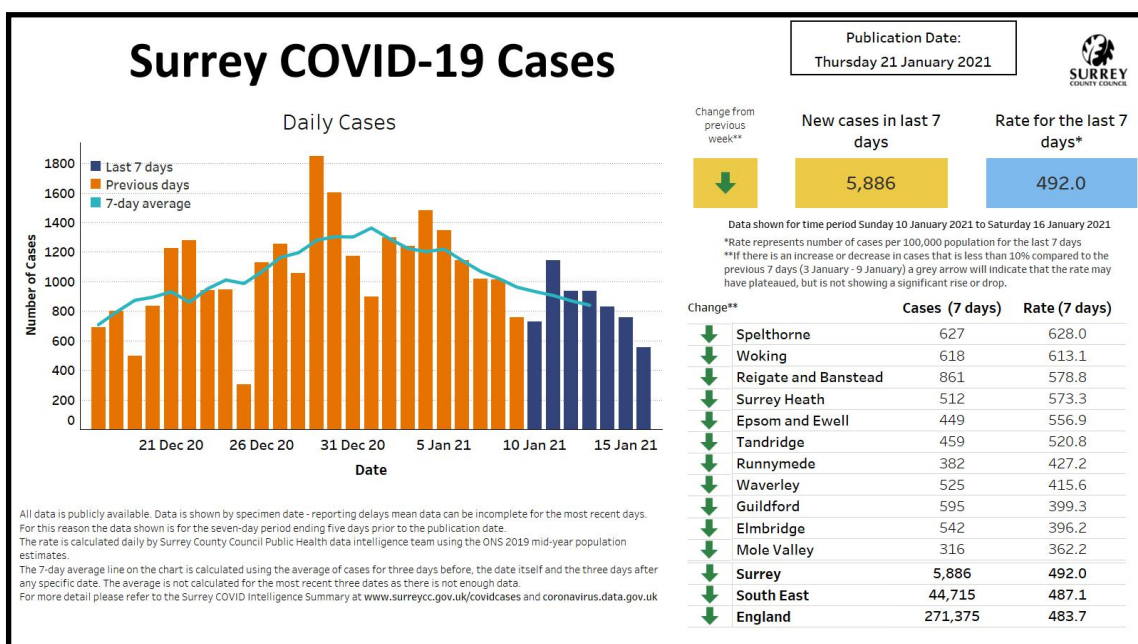
To protect you and your child further:

- Teams sessions will only take place using the teacher's school account. They will not use a personal account for video lessons. They will not contact students using any other forum, other than through the school's Microsoft account, or invite students to join any other forum.
- Any email contact between staff and students will be via school email addresses.
- Video contact will only take place during the lesson time for students.
- Unless parents have been informed beforehand, sessions will have more than one student in at any given time.
- Sessions on Teams will not be recorded, however members of the senior leadership team and departmental colleagues will be able to drop into Teams sessions and will do so
- Students should be aware that all chat within a Team remains available after lessons and is directly attributable to an email address
- We continue to expect our students to treat each other with the respect and appreciation of difference that is key to the success of our school community

If you would like any further information, please get in touch by contacting the Designated Safeguarding Lead at George Abbot, Mr Giles, by emailing him on:

rgiles@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

USEFUL COVID-19 INFORMATION



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ORGANISATIONAL NOTICES

Lesson and break times		
	START	FINISH
Lesson W	8.55	10.10
Break 1	10.10	10.25
Lesson X	10.25	11.40
Break 2	11.40	12.25
Lesson Y	12.25	13.40
Break 3	13.40	13.55
Lesson Z	13.55	15.10

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

FORGOTTEN PASSWORDS

It is important that all students have access to their school email account. If a student has forgotten their password then they should follow the instructions below:

1. Email passwordreset@gepacademies.com
2. Please outline the system(s) you require the password reset for (e.g. email, satchelone etc)
3. State you attend George Abbot School
4. Full name (including middle name)
5. Username e.g. smitjohn.14
6. Date of birth
7. A parent's email address

COVID-19 TESTING CONSENT FORMS

Please continue to fill in a testing consent form for your children, if you have not done so already. **There are different forms for each year group so please ensure you are completing the correct one.**

Forms can be found on the following page: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

Notices	IMPORTANT DATES w/c 25 January 2021 = WEEK A—there will be no lesson 5 Friday 29 January 2021—Wellbeing Day
Whole School	<p>⇒ Exams From Monday 25 January, George Abbot will make available, via its website: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/, the school's position for students on roll wishing to enter privately and for ex-students retaking examination for Summer 2021.</p> <p>⇒ Career Opportunities and Virtual Work Experience Opportunities In our current situation, with real-life experiences halted we would really encourage students to have a look at the links and read more about each opportunity. Whichever school year you are, any additional work experience/insight days you participate in are a fantastic way for you to enrich your studies, add to your CV and personal statement and gain some important knowledge, facts and information about how companies and industry work.</p> <p>We are continuing to update the careers page on our website with lots of opportunities for students.</p> <p>Please visit: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/</p>

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Whole School

New opportunities this week include:

- Insight to CGI Webinar – Opportunities in Technology and Business Apprenticeships & Graduate Programmes—25 January, Year 12 & 13.
- UCAS National Apprenticeship Week—8-12 February, Year 12 & 13.
- Marks & Spencer's Management Apprenticeship Programme (from Young Professionals) - Year 13.
- Speakers for Schools – Virtual Talks, all years.
- Virtual Open Days at the University for the Creative Arts – January 2021, all years.

Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

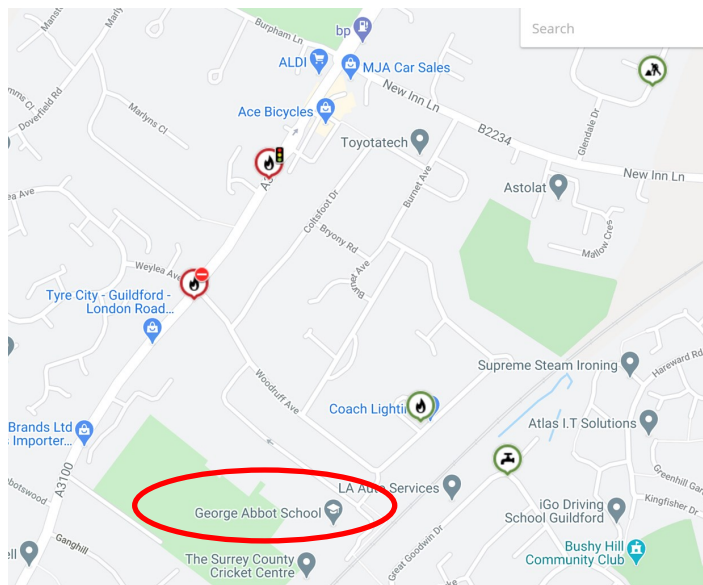
New opportunities include:

- Leading Construction/Engineering/Infrastructure/Design Company – 1-week virtual work experience—15-19 February, Year 9-13.

⇒ Urgent Gas Works on A3100 London Road, Guildford

Please note that SGN engineers are working on the A3100 London Road, either side of the Woodruff Avenue/Weylea Avenue roundabout for the next four weeks. Woodruff Avenue is closed from the junction with Coltsfoot Drive to London Road, and temporary multi-way traffic lights have been installed.

On Monday 15 February, they will be working on the A3100 London Road from the No. 172 and progressing north towards Aldi. During this time, they will install temporary two-way lights.



Year 13

⇒ Year 13 Parent Subject Meetings—Tuesday 2 February 2021

Please see important information attached regarding Year 13 Parent Subject Meetings and how to book appointments.

Year 11

⇒ Activate Learning: Online College Open Events and Applications

A message from Activate Learning:

We want to reassure you we are working behind the scenes so you have all the information you need to make informed decisions about your future.

Some of you may know exactly what you'd like to do after Year 11, some of you may still be deciding. Please remember you can apply to more than one college or 6th form and you don't need to confirm your choice until results day. In fact, we would recommend you have a Plan A, Plan B and even a Plan C in place. The earlier you apply means you are in our system, starting this process sooner and more in control of the options available to you.

Year 11

Here are some useful links for our College websites where you can find information on booking a 1:1 appointment at our next virtual open events and how to apply:

	Guildford College	Farnham College	Merrist Wood College
Open Event Date:	Wednesday 3 February, 4-8pm Click Here - to register	Wednesday 10 February, 5-8pm Click Here - to register	Wednesday 24 February, 4-8pm Click Here - to register
How to Apply link:	Guildford College - How to Apply	Farnham College - How to Apply	Merrist Wood College - How to Apply

We hope you find the above information useful but if you do still have any queries regarding the application process or an existing application, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

Tel: 0800 612 6008

Email: enquiries@activatelearning.ac.uk

⇒ **Careers Advisor**

George Abbot employs the services of careers advisor Gaynor Eke from Careers Management Consultants to help and advise all Year 11 students in their next steps. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown beginning last March, we have not been able to offer all students 1-1 appointments. However, throughout the first lockdown all Year 11 students were sent an email from Gaynor to discuss their next steps.

We were due to continue 1-1 appointments this term however this is now not possible and therefore Gaynor will be emailing again those who either did not respond to the first email, or those that have not had the chance to meet with her.

Please could we therefore ask you to encourage your son/daughter to check for this correspondence and to reply accordingly. To confirm, the students will only receive an email if they have not yet had any interaction with Gaynor either via email or in person.

If however, you feel that your son/daughter would benefit from a further email discussion with Gaynor you may contact her directly on geke@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Year 10

⇒ **Mathematics Spring Test on Units 1-9**

We will be assessing all Year 10's in lesson time either on **Monday 8 February** or **Tuesday 9 February**. The test will be online, via Dr Frost, and will concentrate on Units 6-9, with questions from the first five chapters.

Topics and revision advice has been issued to students on SatchelOne/SMHW. More instructions will follow from teachers nearer to the test.

Year 8

⇒ **Residential Trip Refund**

As the Year 8 residential trip has sadly been cancelled, all payments have been refunded to the card you made the original payment with.

Refunds can be viewed on WisePay by going to My Wise Account then scrolling down to Payment History. From the date shown on WisePay it can take up to four working days to be returned to the card you used to make the original payment with. Any queries, please contact the Finance Team by email: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ **Photography Workshop**

The Photography department have created some photographic tasks for keen Year 8 students to try, in place of the workshop that had to be cancelled. Learn to experiment and think differently as you approach taking photographs, email your best shots to Miss Masson kmasson@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and the department will review them after half term. Good luck and get snapping!

To view the tasks and instructions PowerPoint, visit the SLE:/Lesson & Resources/Photography/Year 8. [Return to home page](#)

Focus on—Virtual School Library

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. Our Virtual School Library will complement existing school libraries and will ensure that children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home.

The Oak National Academy have worked with brilliant publishers and inspiring authors and illustrators to ensure that the books and activities in the Virtual School Library will support children's wellbeing through reading.

This week's read is The Story of Tracey Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson.



PTA

Lockdown quiz #2 - Friday 26 February 7.30-9.30

Following our sell out event in November, we're running another lockdown quiz! [Tickets are just £10 per household and are available on classlist.](#) As before, the quiz will be hosted remotely on Kahoot! and Zoom. If you have any questions or you're struggling to buy a ticket, then please email us at PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. We are able to take payments directly and are keen for everyone to be able to attend.



AGM

Big thanks to those that came - including Mrs Carriett who told us about the work the school has been doing during lockdown and plans going forward. The PTA raised over £22,000 in 2019-20 but spent almost £45,000 - including a large contribution to the 'Renaissance Project' to renovate and refurbish the Visual Arts Department and funding for Learning HUB furniture, transforming an old art room into a drama studio, a quiet area in the library and materials for the English Department.

Fundraising

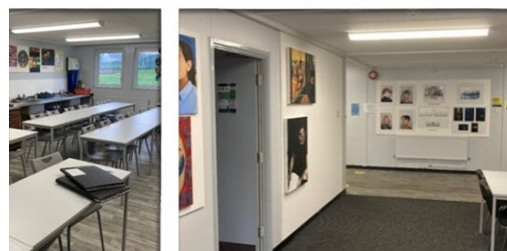
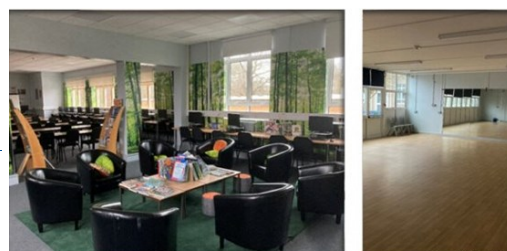
We still have reserves, but fundraising will continue to be challenging for 2020-21 so please support in any way you can, such as: [amazonSmile](#) and [EasyFundraising](#).

Next meeting

And our next PTA meeting will now take place on Tuesday 2 March at 7.30pm. Zoom details to follow.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA



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