

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

26 February 2021

All

I am pleased to be writing today with definite information about the return of our students to education within the physical environment of George Abbot School. A really important week for our families across the country.

As ever, I will attempt to condense the guidance into something clear and to the point.

Return to School Principles

- Students will all return to school in the week beginning 8 March, but on staggered days (see below).
- Students will continue to receive remote education whilst they await their start day.
- **Students will all be tested for coronavirus at school, 3 times in the first 2 weeks from their start day.**
- This will be rapid testing using lateral flow devices.
- Thereafter students will be provided with home testing kits if they have participated in school testing.
- **Consent is needed from a parent/carer for student testing – see link below.**
- **Face coverings to be worn in classrooms and communal areas for students and staff.**
- There is no need for class sizes to be altered.
- Extra-curricular activities may continue.
- Work will still be provided for students for periods of self-isolation or quarantine owing to coronavirus.
- School will operate exactly as it did for the Autumn Term – 4 lessons a day, returning to 25 minute breaks, wearing PE kit on PE/Dance days, lining up on playgrounds between lessons, single year group use of canteens at any one time, tutor time every other week to stagger arrival times.
- Full uniform including blazers and ties will be worn on non PE/Dance days.

Consent for testing at school

A parent/carer must provide consent for your child to be tested at school – a reminder that the link to do this is here: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

If you have not completed this consent form yet, you must do so before the deadline of Monday 1 March.

Return to School Days for Year Groups

Year 13 and Year 11 – Monday 8 March
Year 12 and Year 10 – Tuesday 9 March
Year 9 – Wednesday 10 March
Year 7 and Year 8 – Thursday 11 March

Testing and Return to School Timings Schedule

- Students will be returning to school at a **specific start time** and day between 8 March and 11 March.
- Years 9-11 will be subdivided into 4 different arrival times (8-10 March), Year 7-8 into 2 different arrival times per year group (11 March)– see below **Phasing of Return to School, Tutor Time and 1st Testing table.**
- It is really important students **do not arrive** before their allotted time as students cannot go anywhere on site, except the testing centre, before they have received a negative 1st test result.
- We ask for parents'/carers' support in ensuring your child arrives at school at the correct time – if they travel by bus, we would ask for your support in arranging alternative travel on the day they start **ONLY**.
- On Wednesday 3 March, you will receive a message telling you of your child's specific start time.
- The message will explain where students must go and exact procedures.
- The message will also include the time and date of your child's subsequent 2 tests.

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Phasing of Return to School, Tutor Time and 1st Testing

	Tutor Time: 08.30	09.00	10.30	12.00	14.00	15.15–17.15
Friday 5 March					13*	13*
Monday 8 March		11	11	11	11	12**
Tuesday 9 March	13, 11	10	10	10	10	
Wednesday 10 March	13, 11, 10	9	9	9	9	
Thursday 11 March	12, 11, 10	8	8	7	7	

*Year 13 attend for their test on Friday 5 March at times as above. Specific times will be advised in the message sent on 3 March. Schools have permission to enable students to do this, but our Year 13s must travel directly to school and directly home after receiving their test result. They then start school on Monday 8 March at 08.50.

**Year 12 attend for their test between 15.15-17.15 on Monday 8 March, prior to their return to school on 9 March at 08.50.

Remote Learning Arrangements for students awaiting their start day from Monday 8 March 2021

- All staff will continue to teach live and remotely until the end of Friday 5 March.
- For the week of 8 March, for students who are not yet at school as a full year group, we will provide work via Teams with brief explanatory videos for each lesson.

Student Start and Tutor Times for Remainder of Spring Term

Year 12 and 13 will revert to their usual twice weekly Tutor Sessions from Monday 15 March.

		Tutor Time		No Tutor Time
Friday 12 March	Year 12, 11, 10, 7	08.30 start	Year 8, 9	08.50 start
Monday 15 – Friday 19 March	Year 7, 8, 9	08.30 start	Year 10, 11	08.50 start
Monday 22 – Friday 26 March	Year 7, 10, 11	08.30 start	Year 8, 9	08.50 start
Monday 29 – Thursday 1 March	Year 7, 8, 9	08.30 start	Year 10, 11	08.50 start

Year 11 and Year 13 Final Grades – Summer 2021

I am also pleased to be able to give parents of Year 11 and 13 students definite information about the time-scale and outline method of determining Year 11 and Year 13 final grades this summer. Yesterday, Ofqual published the results of their consultation. Key points include:

- Teachers must assess their students' performance only on the content delivered.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course including mock exam results, homework, extended pieces of work or in-class tests.
- Schools should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content.
- Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessments and portfolios.
- NEAs will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not completed.
- Exam boards will provide questions based on past papers and previously unpublished questions.
- Use of these exam board materials is not compulsory; they will be part of the range of evidence teachers could use to determine the grade.

Below is an overview of the updated school plans for our Year 11s and 13s

8 March	Year 11 and 13 return to lessons at school
15 – 23 March	Year 13 mocks
29 March – 1 April	Year 11 mocks – English Lit and Maths (lessons W and Z)
	EASTER HOLIDAY
19 April	Return to school
3 May	LAST TEACHING WEEK for YEAR 11 & YEAR 13
10 – 21 May	Year 11 and Year 13 final assessment window
24 May	Year 11 and Year 13's last week at school <i>(provisional – tbc pending any further government advice)</i>
	HALF TERM

You will see that there is a defined final assessment window in the list above. More details of the dates and times of subjects to be assessed within this final assessment window will be provided before the Easter holidays to support student revision.

We will also write to Year 11 and Year 13 parents separately to provide further information on which assessed work is contributing to the determination of final grades in each subject studied at GCSE, BTEC and A Level. Please could we ask for your patience in this matter – we received our instructions yesterday and it will take some weeks to publish this final information. For now, Year 11 students should be working hard in preparation for their Maths and English Literature assessments at the end of March. For Year 13s, their focus is their mock exams, beginning on 15 March.

Lastly on this topic, final grades will be published to students on:

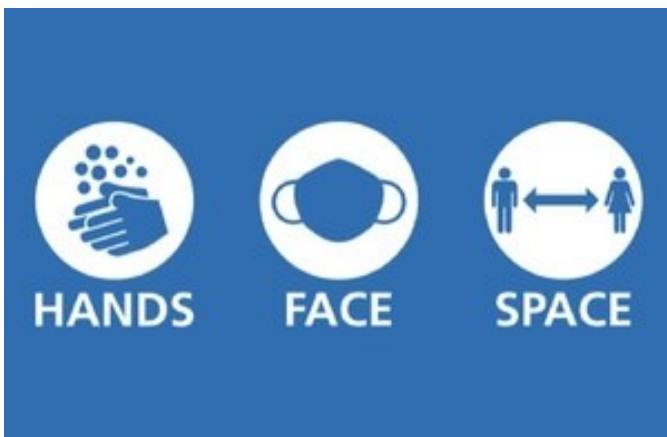
Year Group	Date
Year 13	Tuesday 10 August 2021
Year 11	Thursday 12 August 2021

COVID-19 Safety

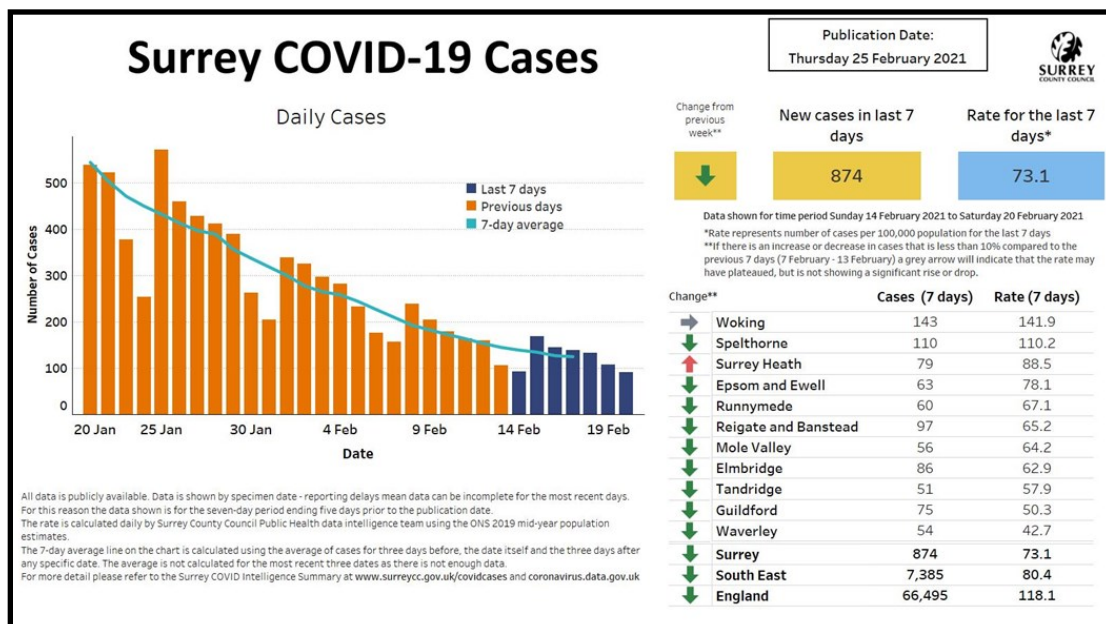
Reminders of procedures for COVID-19 safety will be included in next week's Bulletin. Before then, please can I urge you all to check that your child has [2 face masks ready for use at school](#), including in lessons and remind you to [complete the coronavirus testing consent process](#) for your child/ren.

I hope that this update is helpful and want to express just how much all of our staff are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. The job of a teacher is just not the same in the virtual world!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
1 March	A	4
8 March	B	5
15 March	A	1
22 March	B	2
29 March	A	3
HALF TERM		



Whole School

⇒ **Year 10 RE and Year 11 - 13 Academic Clinic – Thursday 11 March 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via the Parents Evening System.**

We will be holding the above event on Thursday 11 March. The aim of the clinic is to provide an opportunity for staff and parents to work together to support students whose progress is of concern in their exam subjects as we approach a key point in both GCSE and A-Level courses. Please note that students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.

Appointments are by staff invitation only. We will contact parents with appointments if subject teachers have concern about how:

- Year 12 students have started their new exam courses .
- Year 10 RE students are working in their final year of the course.
- Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses.

We will notify you via email no later than Friday 5 March. You may also log in to the Parents Evening system from the 5 March to view your appointments.

If you do not receive notification requesting your attendance but you have concerns about your son/daughter's progress at this stage, please remember that you are able to contact the subject teacher or Head of Department via email. Details of how to contact individual members of staff can be found on the school website at <http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/contact-us>.

⇒ **Captain Tom Challenge**

During the week before half term, the PE department challenged the students of George Abbot to run, cycle, walk or row as many metres as possible in honour of Sir Tom Moore. Sir Tom sadly passed away on the 2 February, at the age of 100. Before he turned 100, he went on to raise over 30 million pounds for the NHS!

Students were tasked with sending in the metres they completed to their PE teachers. The grand total from all of the students that took part was **1027 kilometres!**

Thank you to all of those that took part, a great effort. Keep active and see you soon!

⇒ **Stem4 Parent Conference 2021—Monday 1 March, 7.30-9pm via Zoom**

Moving Forward – Maximising your Child and Young Person's Mental Health: in general and during COVID-19.

An evening of online talks from a series of acclaimed speakers including Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Nihara Krause, aimed at helping you to understand mental health challenges in young people in general, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. There will also be a discussion on steps parents and carers can take to boost resilience, in their families and themselves.

To register for the conference at no charge please click on the link below:

<https://bit.ly/stem4conf>

Enquiries – Education@stem4.org.uk

⇒ **Parent and Family Support**

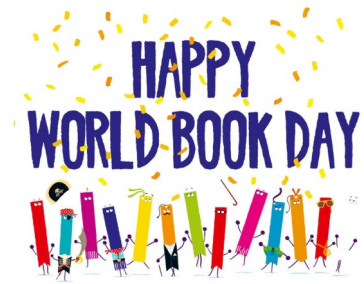
Please visit the Family Lives website for useful support for parents/carers and families:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

World Book Day

Next week George Abbot School will be celebrating World Book Day (Thursday 4 March) with fun book-based activities and competitions.

The theme of this year's Book Day is **Power**. There are some great suggestions for some empowering reads that will change the way you think here: <http://www.worldbookdaysocial.com/power-reads/>



The World Book Day organisers have also released the top 25 books for young adults and teens. These are the books that everyone's talking about! You can find them via this link: <http://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/100-stories-to-share/young-adults/>

There are also some great podcasts that you can access via <http://www.worldbookdaysocial.com/podcasts/>

If you fancy a FREE audiobook head to <https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>

And finally, for our Sixth Formers, we really recommend you have a look at these 37 brilliant books to help you navigate university life; from essential skills and fantastic fiction to the books that will help you change the world: <http://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/How-to-Crack-University-and-Beyond.pdf>

Year 10

⇒ Religious Education Mini Mock

All Year 10 RE students will be sitting a mini mock exam on **Friday 26 March** at 8.30am.

The assessment will take 52 minutes and students will be assessed on the following GCSE units:

- Relationships and Families (Theme A).
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice (Theme F).

Most students were expecting to sit a Relationships and Families end of unit assessment in their RE lesson in January and they would be due to complete their end of unit assessment for Social Justice before the end of this term. These are therefore not additional assessments. Revision resources for these topics are available on the SLE and students have digital access to the RE GCSE textbooks.

Year 8

⇒ Year 8 Curriculum Choices - deadline Monday 8 March 2021

A reminder that the deadline for your child to submit their curriculum choices via the SimsApp is at 9am on **Monday 8 March 2021**. Thank you to all the students who have already submitted their choices.

⇒ Year 8 Curriculum Questionnaire - deadline 4pm, Friday 19 March 2021

If you have a moment, please could we ask you to complete the parental questionnaire in the link below to allow us to understand how parents/carers have found the process so far.

The questionnaire will close on Friday 19 March at 4pm.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=e9pf-JcRHUWtnM5YspbX4h2IAx3xA9FMp6hf1BKcGbVUMzYyUT-NJU1ZGU1RDR0tCWFBZVINaTkxHMC4u>



Focus on: National Careers Week

National Careers Week is a useful time for students to think about their future career. What do they think they want to do for a job, how can they get into the role and so on. It is never too early for students to start researching their future.

- To help students we have devised a poster/fact file competition that all students can take part in. (Please [click here](#)).
- To enable students to find out about their chosen career they may want to look at the following websites: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> <https://www.fasttomato.com/> <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- There is also a wealth of careers related information on the George Abbot School website. Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers/>. Here you will find numerous useful websites and apps covering careers, apprenticeships and university. Also, virtual work experience opportunities, access to various talks, live apprenticeship vacancies and current labour market information.
- Finally, also on the school's website under the Sixth Form tab and Next Steps, from the drop down menu, there is further information on the various stages of applying to university, apprenticeships and gap years.

Please help us to make National Careers Week an insightful opportunity for all our students to start, or continue, their careers journey.

National Careers Week

NCW

1ST – 6TH MARCH 2021

National Careers Week are offering this user friendly guide for careers written for parents and carers. It is full of information regarding work experience, apprenticeships, gap years, business, internships and more. Please download the guide here: <https://ncw2020.co.uk/booklets-guides/>

Career Opportunities and Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

We are continuing to update the careers page on our website with lots of opportunities for students.

Careers opportunities:

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers-opportunities/>

Apprenticeship opportunities:

Please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/apprenticeship-opportunities/>

Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

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

New opportunities this week:

- RAF Apprenticeship—Year 11, 12 & 13.
- Spotlight on Engineering, Careers at Sea—all years.
- GT Scholars ONLINE CAREERS DAY—all years.
- National Careers Week: Explore Law, Business, Policing, Politics and Criminology—Year 12 and 13.
- Fidelity International Apprenticeship Event—Year 12 and 13.
- Young Professionals – Insight to GlaxoSmithKline – Engineering & STEM Event—Year 11, 12 and 13.
- University of Law International Women's Day—all years.
- Free Virtual Pathways into STEM career chats activity—Year 12 and 13.
- Ernst and Young Apprenticeship Podcast Series.
- AON Insurance Apprenticeship Opportunities.
- Amazing Apprenticeships: RAF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION WEBINAR—Year 11, 12 and 13.
- LEVEL 3 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE APPRENTICESHIP BRITISH AIRWAYS—Year 11.
- Green Skills Virtual Work Experience and Insight Day from Speakers for Schools—Year 9-13.
- Fantastic Easter Virtual Work Experience Opportunities—Year 10-13.
- Young Professionals – Law Firm Virtual Work Experience at Browne Jacobson LLP—Year 11, 12 and 13.
- The Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) Higher and Degree Vacancy Listing—Year 13.
- Introduction to Psychometric Testing—All years.

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⇒ External Hirer-Level Up Fitness



PTA



Kelly's March Marathon

No need to feel disappointed that Kelly's Clandon Park Run can't happen this year! You can still support the school, get out into the spring air and either walk or run a marathon in the virtual **Kelly's March Marathon**. You don't have to do it in one go – you have four weeks to complete the challenge. We will send you simple instructions as to how you can accumulate your distances when you sign up.

Every entrant will receive a snood to sport whilst completing the challenge and there will be fun mini challenges to take part in throughout the month allowing a chance to win spot prizes. There will be two main prizes – one for the top fundraiser and one for the individual/team completing the furthest distance in one session.

To enter, use the link: <https://charity.kellystorage.co.uk/Events/2021/March-Marathon>. If you are looking for sponsors, give out the link: <https://charity.kellystorage.co.uk/Events/2021/March-Marathon/Sponsor> to your friends and family! When completing the entry form, please add your child's school house, so that they receive house points e.g. John Smith (Martlet). Students will raise house points for their house whereby the top fundraiser will get a certain amount of points and the student who completes the longest distance!!

Kelly's Storage Charity Events organise and pay for exceptional sporting events that provide huge fundraising opportunities for local charities. All money raised will go to **George Abbot Hardship Fund** to provide resources to members of the school's community in need of extra support at this time.

Next meeting

And our next PTA meeting will now take place on Tuesday 2 March at 7.30pm. The zoom link for the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88407105223>.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA.

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