

# George Abbot Bulletin

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



## Headteacher's Message

05 March 2021

All

Thank you so much for your attention to the various messages that have been flying home this week and we are sorry that they have been rather more frequent than usual. I do hope that they have left you with a reasonable understanding of how the return to school will work for our students. Our testing facilities are ready and, thanks to the fantastic community response, we have a team of testing staff scheduled and trained. We are trying not to think about the scale of the task – student by student, it will be achieved!

It is important that I remind parents of some of the key messages in our joint efforts to keep our community coronavirus-free. Firstly, a reminder that the 3 main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A new continuous cough.
- A high temperature.
- A loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell.

Anybody who displays one or more of these symptoms must self-isolate immediately and book a test for symptomatic illness through the NHS Test and Trace website. Home or school lateral flow testing can only be used if there are no symptoms – essentially, as a checking system for asymptomatic cases. Therefore, if your child is unwell with any of the above symptoms, please do NOT send them into school. It is also important to know that if someone has tested **positive** for COVID-19 in the last **90 days** they are **not** required to take a lateral flow test. **Please let us know if your child is in this category before they return to school.** We will let parents/carers know their child's lateral flow test results by email on all 3 occasions – if the test is positive, students will be isolated immediately and we will contact you by phone to arrange their safe return home.

The most important procedures in place to keep students safe, until Easter in the first instance, are:

- Lateral flow testing 3 times on return to school.
- Twice weekly lateral flow testing at home thereafter.
- Masks in lessons (except PE and Dance).
- Hand sanitising on entry and exit from every lesson.
- Maintaining a 2m distance from others when not in classrooms.
- Leaving the buildings in an orderly manner with a teacher after every lesson.
- Being dismissed from playgrounds gradually at the end of break.
- Year group lessons being zoned in areas of the school.
- Year 7 and 8 remaining in base classrooms for most lessons.
- Accessing canteen facilities in year group bubbles only.
- Additional daily cleaning across the school with an enhanced focus on touch points – eg door handles, handrails.
- Frequent cleaning of toilets and sinks throughout the school day.
- Year group designated toilet facilities.
- Wiping down of work areas between lessons.
- Not sharing stationery.
- Cleaning equipment thoroughly.
- Avoiding physical contact at all times.
- Not being in corridors unless travelling outside or inside at the beginning or end of break.
- Remaining on year group specific playgrounds.
- Keeping classroom windows and doors open and ensuring good ventilation.

Health advice indicates that masks should not be worn if they become damp, therefore, please do send your child back to school with TWO FACE MASKS and a sealable bag for hygienic storage. A reminder too, that food allowances may need topping up and pencil cases and wardrobes might have mysteriously emptied themselves over recent months, so a quick stationery and uniform check could prove essential this weekend.

[Return to home page](#)

As we prepare to welcome our students back to school, we know how important it is to ensure that every one of our children feels connected and a strong sense of belonging at George Abbot. Resilience is underpinned by both of these things and positive relationships are key to our ability to cope and thrive. This will be at the forefront of our approach over the coming weeks.

Up until Easter, we will not be setting homework unless it is essential. Year 11 and Year 13 will however, be well occupied with revision – we will also be offering revision classes throughout the Easter holiday – details to follow next week. Students studying practical GCSEs should expect to be working on their portfolio and project work in the weeks ahead. We are taking this approach to homework because we are confident that George Abbot students are not in the position of having ‘lost’ learning during this academic year. It is our task to transition our students back to learning at school instead of learning at home. We will be working on ways to improve student recall and activate their memories. We will be checking in on their understanding through low stress activities to make sure that we ensure every child has secure foundations for the next step in their learning this year. Indeed, we will be actively avoiding words such as catch-up and lost.

We want our students to renew their personal goals, feel hopeful and positive about the future and to find time to smile and laugh with their friends. We want them to get back into extra-curricular activities and find enjoyment, exercise and enrichment through the opportunities that a life out of lockdown presents.

We hope that you too will support us in promoting this approach as we unfold our collective wings.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher

## Return to School: Testing Times Email

On Wednesday afternoon, we sent out details of your child’s testing slots for next week, to the prime contact email address. If you have not received this email, please check your junk folder. We understand there have been some issues viewing this email from mobile devices, especially Apple products. If this is the case, please see the email text below:

“From this Friday 5 March, we will begin to test students prior to their return to school next week.

This testing programme will consist of 3 staggered tests, each 3-5 days apart, taken on site in Gym 1, before switching to testing at home twice weekly after that. This email explains the process for the 3 staggered tests taken at school. Further detail about home testing will be shared next week.

The tests are Lateral Flow Rapid Tests, which involve self-swabbing of the throat and nose. Please click the following link for instructions: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/coronavirus/>. The test will be processed on site and results will be known within half an hour.

FIRST TEST Testing Schedule:

Date	Year Group
Friday 5 March	13
Monday 8 March	11 & 12
Tuesday 9 March	10
Wednesday 10 March	9
Thursday 11 March	7 & 8

Your child’s allocated testing times:

Test 1	FROM EMAIL
Test 2	FROM EMAIL
Test 3	FROM EMAIL

On the day of your child’s first test:

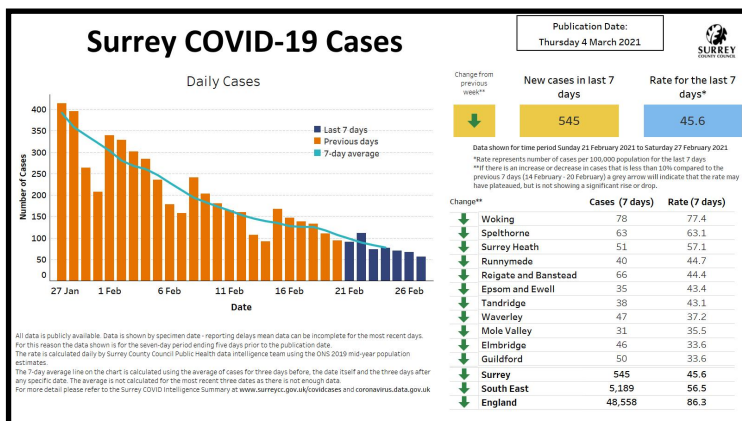
- Students must bring books, pens and equipment etc. for lessons that day.
- Students must ONLY arrive at the time indicated above.
- Students must enter via Elmslie gate. From here they will be directed to Gym 2.
- In Gym 2, students will be handed a registration card. They must keep this card with them until after their test.

[Return to home page](#)

- From Gym 2 students will be directed to Gym 1 where the test will take place.
- After the test, students will exit via the back of Gym 1.
- Students will wait on the Year 7 playground for half an hour for the test result to be recorded. In the event of bad weather, they will wait in Elmslie Hall.
- If their test comes back negative, students are to go to the usual classroom indicated on their timetable for that lesson.
- If the test comes back positive, students will be sent to EM1 where they will wait to be sent home.
- You will be notified of your child's test on this email.

For their second and third test, student's will be sent to the gym at their allotted time by their classroom teacher. It is really important students attend all 3 testing appointments.

Thank you for supporting the school's COVID-19 testing programme. We very much look forward to seeing your child back at school next week.



Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
8 March	B	5
15 March	A	1
22 March	B	2
29 March	A	3
<b>HALF TERM</b>		

**REMINDER:**

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a school student, college student or of a staff member, you can get twice-weekly symptom-free tests.

The symptom-free tests for households are **not available from schools or colleges**. Households can use any testing offered by their employer, or **book** an appointment online at a symptom-free testing site, or **collect** a home-testing kit from a designated collection point, or if unable to travel to a site, **order** a kit online. You can find out more at [surreycc.gov.uk/symptomfreecovidtesting](https://surreycc.gov.uk/symptomfreecovidtesting).

If your child or a household or bubble member develop COVID-19 symptoms, do not use symptom-free testing. Book a free test at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119.

Notices	<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	
	w/c 08 March 2021 = WEEK B—there will be no lesson 5	
Whole School	⇒	<b>GEP proposal to merge with Athena Schools Trust</b> Please see attached letter from Fergal Roche, Chair of Trustees and Jack Mayhew, CEO.
	⇒	<b>Parent/Carer Guide to supporting young people with anxiety: testing</b> Please see useful information <a href="#">attached here</a> .
	⇒	<b>School Uniform Shop Update</b> Whilst students start back at school on 8 March, restrictions still apply to retail. Until such restrictions ease, we will be offering an order and collection service from the school shop <b>strictly by appointment</b> . From 8 March, for three weeks, we will offer appointments at the GA School Shop from 3.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. To order and book a collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please email us at: <a href="mailto:spsschoolshops@yahoo.com">spsschoolshops@yahoo.com</a></li> <li>• In the email header line please write 'GA Appointment'.</li> <li>• In the email please include the student name, a contact number and the items that you need. If you know the size please indicate this.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Return to home page</a></p>

- Please indicate your preferred day and date to collect.
- We will reply with a time slot for you which we will ask you to confirm.
- Payment will be taken in the shop.

Appointments will be for one student and one adult only. Please follow all social distancing guidance when you come to the shop. Please wear face coverings and sanitize your hands at the entrance to the shop. Some items of clothing may be tried on at the appointment.

If these arrangements don't work for you, please email us and we will do our best to work with you.

### HOODIES and 1/4 ZIP SPORTS TOPS

We have had a partial delivery of these items and are calling parents to arrange collection times at the shop.

We politely ask that you don't visit the shop unless you have an appointment booked and confirmed. Thank you – we greatly appreciate your patience whilst we continue to work through these difficult times and look forward to an easing of restrictions soon.

#### ⇒ Vacancies at George Abbot

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

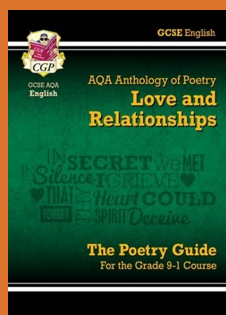
#### ⇒ Year 10 RE and 11-13 Academic Clinic – Thursday 11 March 2021 – 5.00-7.00pm – online video appointments via the Parents Evening System.

Please be reminded that the Academic Clinic will be taking place on Thursday 11 March. Parents and Carers who have been invited to attend have been sent an email from the Parents Evening System notifying them of this, with details of their appointments. Please note that students are also expected to attend the clinic. If you haven't received an email from the Parents Evening System inviting you to attend please can you check your email junk or clutter folders or alternatively log in to the system to check you don't have any appointments.

The appointments are six minutes long allowing for a five-minute appointment plus one minute for connection and disconnection and at the end of the six-minute appointment the video call will automatically end. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the teacher to extend the appointment.

Appointments have been made using the priority one contact we have listed for each student in our parents evening system. If you have appointments for more than one of your children, as long as they have been made for the same parent then the appointments should run consecutively after you have selected the 'Start New Appointment' button.

## Year 10



#### ⇒ English Literature

This term Year 10 students are studying the Love & Relationships Poetry Anthology which is part of their GCSE English Literature course. The anthologies have been all been posted out to students during January and an in class assessment will be carried out before the Easter break. To supplement their learning and understanding of the poetry anthology the CGP Study Guide shown below is available to purchase through school. The guide is very beneficial and will be useful for revision again during Year 11.

If you wish to purchase, please do so via the school's WisePay system by Friday 12 March 2021 at the very latest. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their guide free of charge. All guides will be issued by class teachers soon after the 12 March. Any questions please email [cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

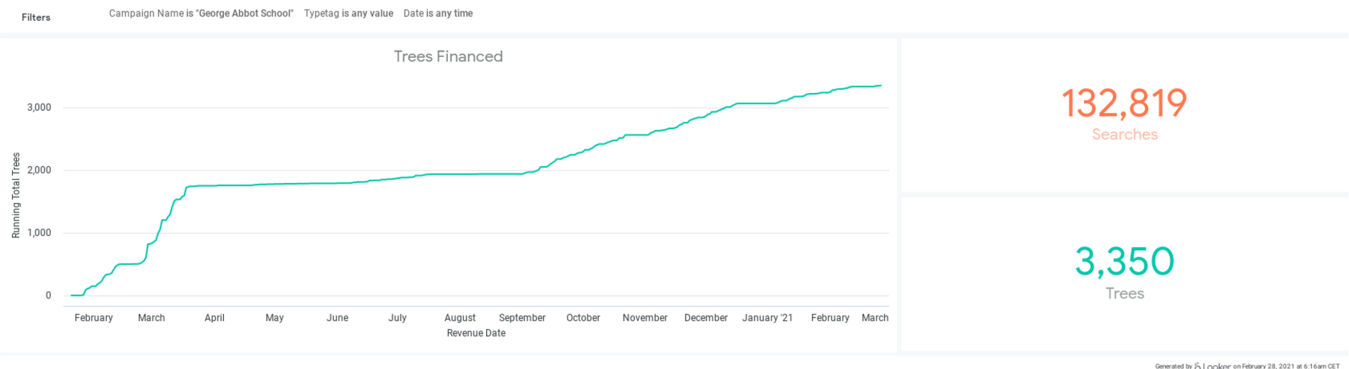
[Return to home page](#)

Year 9 Reports are due to be issued next Friday 12 March. Please ensure you can log into the SimsApp in advance. If you are having trouble logging in, please email: [SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:SimsApp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

## Focus on: Ecosia

By searching with Ecosia at school we are helping to plant trees in parts of the world where they are needed most. Below is our school's monthly tree report which shows the impact that our searches are having. For more information about Ecosia's tree planting projects visit [blog.ecosia.org](http://blog.ecosia.org)

### School impact report



## 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:

We have been informed of some fantastic work experience opportunities over the Easter holidays in a number of different industries including Politics, Technology, Fashion, Media, Law, Teaching and Business .

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/>

**SPACE SCIENCE WEEK**  
5th - 9th July Hosted by **Mullard Space Science Laboratory**

Interested in Astrophysics or Space Science?  
Are you a GCSE or A-level student?\*

Interested?  
Send an email to [p.ahwell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.ahwell@ucl.ac.uk) with:

- 1) CV
- 2) Cover Letter

Application Deadline: 18th April 2021 at 5pm  
\*Applicants must be age 16 or over

Apply for Space Science Week!

- 1-week virtual work experience programme from a world-leading space lab.
- Meet scientists and engineers working on space missions with ESA and NASA.
- Design and plan a space mission concept.
- Use real spacecraft data to explore cutting-edge science.

**careerMAG**  
FOR PARENTS

Featuring:  
Helping your child to make the next big decision  
NCW2021 resources  
Viable alternatives to University  
The cost of an apprenticeship

Featuring: **Helping you to help your teenager**

Engineering Adult Social Care Pharmaceuticals

Pearson NCW PiXL CareerMag for Parents

# Extra Curricular Timetable (from 15 March until Easter)

## SPORT

Club (Venue)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Open to all students	Year 8	Year 7	Year 9
Rugby (Field)	BR/JNF	BR/JNF	BRI/LJM
Hockey (Astro)	JN/CEF	BRI	SGB
Badminton (Sports Hall)	JLL	SGB	CEF
Basketball (Gym)	MS/PLJ	JLL	JN/PLJ

## PERFORMING ARTS

- Students must book into clubs and register for each session upon arrival.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided at the beginning and end of each session.

From 15 March	DANCE DEPARTMENT SPRING TERM EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS	
DAY	LUNCH TIME	AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	Rehearsal: Studio Space for Year 13 A Level pupils	3:15 -4pm Tap Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Musical Theatre Technique and Performance
Tuesday	Rehearsal: Studio Space for Year 11 GCSE pupils	3:15 – 4pm Jazz Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Junior Dance Company
Wednesday	Rehearsal: Studio space for Year 10 GCSE pupils	3:15- 4:45 A Level and GCSE Dance Exam Rehearsals. *Priority for studio space given to Y11 and yr13 pupils in Spring Term*
Thursday	Rehearsal: Studio space for Year 12 A Level dance	3:15- 4pm Contemporary Technique and Performance 4pm – 4:45 Senior Dance Company
Friday	Rehearsal: Studio Space open to all.	

From 15 March	MUSIC DEPARTMENT SPRING TERM EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS
DAY	AFTER SCHOOL
Tuesday	Upper Voices GAMC Year 11 Composition
Wednesday	Year 9 Theory Year 10 Composition
Thursday	Big Band Orchestra
Friday	Concert Band

### Requirements:

- Dance Kit can be worn on Extra curricular club days, even if students do not have Dance or PE during timetabled lessons that day.
- Socks must be worn in the studios.
- Socks with grips, such as trampoline socks, are recommended to avoid slipping.

# PTA



A quick thank you to everyone who attended the virtual quiz night last week, and well done to the winners! In total we raised just under £500.

## 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, using Strava, when you sign up. 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.

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](#) and if you are looking for [sponsors give out this link](#).

## Second-hand Uniform Collection

Please drop off any unwanted uniform to Elmslie Reception any day this week or next. The PTA will be distributing to those who need it.

Best wishes and stay safe,

from the PTA



George Abbot School  
Woodruff Avenue  
Guildford  
GU1 1XX  
01483 888000

[Return to home page](#)