

George Abbot Bulletin

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



Headteacher's Message

07 May 2021

All

I hope that this four day week has been a good one for all – a sooner than usual arrival at Friday! This week, I have three important themes for this introduction – the first is an overview of the leaver's events for our Year 11 and 13 cohorts and the second is a really important update for ALL parents/carers on the dangerous and rising number of 'edibles' being consumed across Surrey. The last is a plea.

A reminder that our **Year 11 and Year 13 students** will be on study leave throughout the **assessment period from 10 – 21 May**. They will be registered in exam venues when they are on the school site. All exam year students are particularly asked to wear a warm jumper for their exams—for our Year 11s, the jumper should be worn under their blazers and all other uniform should be worn. Individual student timetables have all been sent home—please can we ask parents/carers to ensure that students have a printed copy and take particular note of the exam venue and seat row and number.

For the last week of this half term, **24 – 28 May, Year 11 students** will participate in a '**Next Steps**' week, to prepare them for the summer and the next phase of their educational journey. This will incorporate the **Leavers' Assembly on Friday**, which will be the **official last day of school** for Year 11 students. **Year 11 will attend school for this event despite the fact that it is an INSET day for the remainder of students**. Shirt signing will take place after the Leavers' Assembly. Sessions for the Next Steps Week have been organised from 9am – 11.30am, students will then be free to go home. Students can wear their own clothes and attendance is compulsory.

Year 13 also have a week of leavers' activities beginning on **Monday 24 May**. In between their activities, a reminder that teachers will organise a last lesson with their Year 13 groups to round off their learning together. Our Year 13 leavers' activities run in the afternoons and include a range of sporting activities, seminars, and doughnut eating sessions! Their **Leavers' Assembly is on Thursday 27 May at 2pm** in Raynham Hall and is followed by a farewell social on the school field. Mr Robinson provides more information in the Year 13 section that follows.

My second theme is an important one to update you on a worrying and developing Surrey wide situation regarding 'edibles'. Edibles are food products that may contain cannabis. There are many forms of edibles, including sweets, gummies and lollipops. They usually contain – or are marketed as containing - a number of chemicals, many of which are harmful and controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is illegal in the UK. The sweet versions are widely available on the internet and via social media and may be easily accessed by young people. The packaging is often deliberately targeted to attract young people.

The amount of cannabis in these products can vary greatly and sometimes other harmful drugs are added too. The effects of consuming edibles are unpredictable and it can be very easy to accidentally take a larger dose. Edibles take between 1-3 hours to have an effect because food is absorbed into the bloodstream through the liver. Because it takes longer, the person taking them may end up consuming larger amounts of the drug while thinking the drug isn't working. As edibles may look like other products, there is also the risk someone may ingest them without realising they contain drugs—this could include other children in the home. Displayed side effects may include: paranoia, panic attacks, nausea, impaired mobility, hyperactivity, elevated heart rate, hallucinations.

Our children are in danger if they consume these products. If a child presents with any of the above symptoms then you should call 999. If you are made aware of any social media accounts advertising these items, we ask that you report this information to the police or Crime Stoppers. Alternatively, please let the school know and we can support with the reporting process.

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For more support or information in talking to your children about this issue, we recommend 'Talk to FRANK' – the government's drug advice website/helpline and their specific page on cannabis - <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis> Alternatively for advice, talk to FRANK on 0300 1236600. Additionally, Surrey offer 'Catch22'; this is a Surrey Young People's Substance Misuse Service for young people aged up to 25. They offer free and confidential advice and support via telephone on 01372 832905; an out of hours helpline: 0800 622 6662 or support by text: ypsm@catch-22.org.uk

So that you can be on the lookout, below is an image of the sorts of packaging used for 'edibles'. My strong hope is that together we can support our young people with information and education and in developing sound judgement to ensure they stay safe.

Lastly, this Bulletin sees me offering up a heartfelt plea. Our current PTA members have done the most extraordinary job of raising funds for our school over a very significant number of years. Their contribution to our children's education has made a very direct and tangible difference to our young people's time at George Abbot. Our current PTA committee feel that the time is right for them to hand over this work to a new set of parents to take the organisation into the next phase of its work in support of our students and our school community. This means that we are looking for a core of parents to be the holders of the PTA torch for the next chapter. All administrative processes are in place and there is a school staff member who works in support of the committee, the accounts are in very good order and the foundations are in place for a new set of ideas and initiatives. This has been a difficult decision for the committee and I know how much it will mean to them to be able to leave their work in safe hands. So, if you feel you would like to be involved or would like to offer your services as a group, we would be extremely pleased to hear from you. Initial enquiries can be made via email to PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Please do get involved - your child's school needs YOU!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

Edibles Packaging Examples



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 10 May	Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Assessments begin
Friday 21 May	Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Assessments finish Year 10 RE Assessment
Monday 24-Friday 28 May	Year 11 Next Steps week Year 13 Leavers' week
Thursday 27 May	Year 13 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 28 May	INSET Day—School closed for students except Year 11 Year 11 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 31 May	HALF TERM
Friday 18 June	Year 10 and Year 12 Assessments begin
Friday 25 June	INSET Day—School closed for students
Friday 1 July	Year 10 and Year 12 Assessments finish

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Reporting LFT Test Results

Please continue to report your child's test results to the two following links:

The Government: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

George Abbot School: <https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
10 May	A	2
17 May	B	3
24 May	A	4
31 May	HALF TERM	

Notices

IMPORTANT DATES

w/c 10 May 2021= Week A, no lesson 2

Whole School

⇒ Extra time evidence in exams (Year 10, 11, 12 & 13)

If your son/daughter has extra time as an exam access arrangement, it is important they provide Ms Barratt (Exams Access Arrangements Lead) with copies of their work where they have used their extra time. They must provide one copy per subject. Ideally exam situation evidence is best, but it can also be class based assessments, school work finished off at home or even homework that takes longer than the prescribed time to complete—if it is correctly evidenced. If your son/daughter brings the work to Ms Barratt in USIC, she can copy and file it in their student record.

Year 12 students should take the opportunity of the upcoming mock exams to provide this evidence. Without this—we are not able to apply for extra time for them in the Sixth Form.

⇒ Calling all sewing bees! Request from the PE Department...

Some of our netball bibs are in need of new elastic/Velcro fasteners, if you think you can help please email jlawrence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ 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. Current opportunities:

- Medical Officer
- Teacher of Computer Science

⇒ The Hideaway Youth Café from Matrix

The Matrix Trust has opened a new youth café at their premises in Allen House Grounds in the heart of Guildford.

What is the Hideaway?

The Hideaway is a social enterprise café. During the day it will serve the general public and after school it will open as The Hideaway Youth Café, exclusively for young people.

Due to current restrictions they are running some pilot sessions initially on Tuesdays to Thursdays and they would love to invite your child to come along.

These pilot sessions will be running on the terrace at the café and will include various outside activities including some sports as well offering a take-away service and a space for young people to chill out and connect with friends and youth workers.

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Whole School	<p>Dates, Times and How to Book Sessions are open to young people in years 10 – 13 and will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3.30 – 5.30pm.</p> <p>Spaces will be limited to 25 people per day but as restrictions ease in line with the government’s roadmap this will be reviewed to hopefully allow for more places.</p> <p>To book a slot your child, please click here.</p> <p>If you have any further questions please feel free to email dansetterfield@matrixtrust.com</p>
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Year 13	⇒ Leavers’ Week Timetable
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	Monday 24 May	Tuesday 25 May	Wednesday 26 May	Thursday 27 May	Friday 28 May
Break 3 13:30- 14:00	Seminar - Planning your Summer/Gap Year? (Mr Syngé - Common Room)	Doughnuts and Drinks Social (Common Room)	Seminar - Living away from home for the first time (Mr Brinsden - Common Room)	FIFA Xbox & Foosball Tournament (Common Room)	INSET DAY
Period Z 14:00- 15:15				Leavers Assembly (Raynham Hall)	
After-school 15:15 - 16:45	World Cup Football & Netball Tournaments (Astro & Courts)	Alternative Sports Day Event (Field)*	Staff vs. Students (Dodgeball & Rounders) (Sports Hall & Field)	Farewell Social (Field)	

Year 13	<p>Student Assessment Information</p> <p>As indicated in our previous comms regarding the final grade process for Year 13, we are releasing a report for every student which clearly lays out their marks in the assessments that will be contributing to the final grade process. You can access your child’s report via the SIMs App. They will be uploaded today, however they may take up to 24 hours to show on the app.</p> <p>To make the report clear and simple, each subject has an assessment summary which states specifically which assessments will contribute to the final grade. Due to the range of evidence being used across all of the subjects, the table has been simplified to group together similar sources of evidence. For subjects such as Art the final grade will be based solely on the NEA; as the marking process is not complete there are no marks shown at this stage. Where subjects do have an NEA as part of the evidence the mark will only be shown if the moderation and marking process is complete. The report will be updated, the weightings confirmed and then re-issued to you by 21 June 2021, once the May Assessments have been completed and the final marks submitted.</p> <p>It is important that if you think there is an error in this report, you please email: simsapp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with the details of the error or other query.</p>
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Year 11	<p>⇒ Leavers’ Week</p> <p>Please look out for a separate stand alone email for parents/carers regarding the last few weeks of term for Year 11 students.</p>
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Careers

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 include:

InvestIN Education STEM and Medicine Summer Internships—InvestIn are offering Summer Internships in London for students aged 12-18. They will give students a dynamic, 360-degree experience of 8 STEM and Medicine-related industries.

Imperial College Earth Science Taster Day—An opportunity for prospective applicants in Year 12 and Year 13 to see what it's like to be an undergraduate in this department.

Speakers for Schools – Virtual Talks—Additional talks added:

- Industrial Light and Magic & IntoFilm – May the 4th Talk.
- Property Chronicle broadcast Stephen Yorke, Founder, Camilla Powell Tuck, Asset Manager, Clearbell.
- Green Skills – Steve Backshall MBE, Conservationist, Explorer, Author and Television Presenter.

Lloyd's Virtual Insight Week—The Lloyd's Insight Week programme will offer student's one week of workshops and networking opportunities and an insight into career opportunities within Lloyd's, Aon and the insurance industry.

Step in, Step up – Insight into Technology—The Step In, Step Up: An Insight to Technology programme is an introductory one-day programme designed for Year 12/13 female students, giving an insight into what Morgan Stanley offers, and partake in interactive challenges, panel sessions and career workshops.

Scitech – Apprenticeship—Scitech are looking for a confident and dynamic individual who wants to start their career in Construction Site Management and Health and Safety. Suitable for any year 13 student.

Ernst and Young Apprenticeships—Perfect for school leavers who are looking for an alternative to university. EY have opportunities available in Assurance, Strategy and Transactions, Tax and Digital Technology.

Focus on—Duke of Edinburgh Award

A big well done to the 102 Year 10 students who recently completed their expedition for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award last weekend. It was fantastic to finally get out on expedition and we were very lucky with the weather!

This is the first time that we have done a three-day expedition for Bronze and organising it was not easy. Lots of members of our school community played important roles in making it happen. Thank yous must go to:

- The staff members, parents/carers and volunteers who gave up their time to walk with teams, offering guidance and support as they got to grips with navigating.
- The staff members who kindly covered lessons in school.
- The sixth form students working on their Gold Award, who gave up their time to walk with teams and manage checkpoints; we were so impressed with all of our student volunteers.
- Year 10 parents who made this trip possible by ferrying students around, collecting and dropping off each day!

While the Year 10 students continue to work on the other sections of their award, we will now start to prepare for our second Bronze Award expedition of the year: Year 9 and Year 11 in June! We look forward to working with the Year 9 students this weekend, who will be in school completing their expedition training and route planning.



PTA

PTA Second-hand Uniform

Thank you to all who have donated second-hand school uniform of late. The uniform cupboard is now at full capacity! We would politely ask that you hold on to your uniform, until we set a new donation date. Please remember, we are still taking orders for purchasing the second-hand uniform via PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Additionally, please note that the school is phasing out hoodies and have replaced them with a new quarter zip warm top for PE which is now in stock in the school shop, not via the PTA. School hoodies are not available either from the school shop or via the PTA second-hand.

Easyfundraising

So far, we have raised over £15,000 for the PTA, for free! Please sign up to [easyfundraising by using this link](#). Over 4,000 sites will give us a free donation every time you shop online. This will help us continue to support people that rely on us. To get notified automatically when a donation is available you can get the browser extension by using these links: [for Google Chrome](#) and [for Microsoft Edge](#).

AmazonSmile

If you make an order on Amazon, then shop via AmazonSmile by [using this link](#). Amazon then donates a percentage of what you spend to George Abbot PTA.

Best wishes and stay safe, from the PTA.



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