

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

16 July 2021



All,

As this school year draws to a close, the usual sense of the cycle of the academic year is not quite with us. That said, there is much that is familiar - tired students, tired staff, uniform that suddenly looks a size too small, an anticipation of less frantic mornings in all our households.

In this message, I want to say how grateful I am for the significant support you have offered your children and our school throughout this year. It has provided all of us with daily challenge and just a few moments of needing to sit quietly and take a sequence of deep breaths. Being a Headteacher remains the greatest privilege and is always and rightly a responsibility of some magnitude. This year has revealed just how deeply the partnership between our staff and your families runs. Without that partnership, without your feedback and willingness to adapt to the change that has just kept coming, our year would have taken a very different shape. Together, we have found solutions and flourished in our new circumstances.

As we look forward to the new school year, we hope that many things will return to more familiar climes. We equally know, that nothing is guaranteed. Here follows a reminder of some of the most important school operational points for next year:

General Day to Day Points:

- Homework will be set via SatchelOne.
- Uniform will be full and formal from September – blazer, white shirt, tie, shoes.....etc.
- School logo PE kit can be worn all day when students have core PE.
- If PE is taken as an option subject in Years 10 and 11, then students should wear their school uniform and bring their kit to change into at the start of the lesson.
- If students have a PE extra curricular club on a day that they do not have core PE lessons, then they should wear their uniform and bring their kit to change into after school.
- We will retain 4 lessons per day and 3 equal breaks.
- Lessons will last for 75 minutes.
- We will continue to omit one lesson of the 5 lesson timetable per week. Next year we have mapped an equal rotation of lesson omission so that no subject loses any hours across the academic year.
- The first 7 days of term will all be Week A and omitting lesson 1. We move to Week B and lesson 2 omission from Monday 13 September and then rotate weekly thereafter.
- Students will continue to use canteens at set breaks –this is to ensure a regulated and safe number of students queuing for canteens at any one time.
- Students will continue to be dismissed from their playground by the pastoral year team at the end of every break.
- Students will continue to travel to lessons via external routes to avoid unnecessarily busy corridors.

4 Key Covid 19 Safety Measures:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone – hand sanitiser every lesson will remain and the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is maintained.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – cleaning desks after lessons and extra cleaning of communal spaces and toilets throughout the day will continue.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated – doors and windows open.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

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COVID-19 Measures in 21/22

- Bubbles are no longer required.
- NHS Test and Trace will work directly with positive cases to identify close contacts – schools are no longer responsible for this process.
- All children (up to the age of 18 and 4 months) will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Instead they will be advised to take a PCR test
- Face coverings are no longer required in schools or on public transport except in the case of a local outbreak.
- If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, they should be sent home.
- Students will home test twice weekly with lateral flow tests.

Start of Term Arrangements – Years 7-11:

- All students will take two on-site lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return to school.
- All tests will take place in the Gym – students will be met at Elmslie Gate on arrival and will be directed straight to the playground next to the gyms on arrival.
- The start of term will be staggered to accommodate this.
- The time indicated for Test 1 in the table below will be each year group's arrival to school time on their first day of term.
- Students will be held in the hall or playground until confirmation that test results are negative.
- They will then receive their timetables and plans for the remainder of the day.
- The second test is taken as part of the school day and so, students in Years 7-11 attend school daily from Test 1 onwards.
- NOTE: The below year groups correspond to the year group your child will be entering in September 2021. NOT their current year group.

Year Group	Test 1 AND Day 1 Arrival Time	Test 2
7	2/9/21 – 08.45am	6/9/21 – 08.45am
8	2/9/21 – 10.45am	6/9/21 – 10.45am
11	2/9/21 – 12.45pm	6/9/21 – 12.45pm
12	2/9/21 – 14.45pm	6/9/21 – 14.45pm
9	3/9/21 – 8.45am	7/9/21 – 08.45am
13	3/9/21 – 10.45am	7/9/21 – 10.45am
10	3/9/21 – 12.45pm	7/9/21 – 12.45pm

Arrangements for Sixth Form Induction

- Year 12 attend for their Test 1 on Thursday 2 September at 14.45pm and then go home immediately.
- Year 12 return on Friday 3 September for their Induction Session.
- This year, Year 12 tutor groups will be invited into school at set times on Friday 3 September.
- Mr Robinson will write with details of Year 12 Tutor Group membership and induction times after the final GCSE grades are published this August.
- Year 13 attend for their Test 1 on Friday 3 September at 10.45am.
- They then proceed to Elmslie Hall to complete their Year 13 enrolment admin.
- Year 13 then go home.
- Lessons for Year 12 and 13 start on Monday 6 September.

With best wishes for a sunny, happy, healthy and smile infused summer holiday.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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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

George Abbot School:

<https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
19 July	B	1
30 August	A	1
6 September	A	1

Whole School

⇒ Parent/Carer Information Evenings Dates September 2021

Parents/carers in each year group are invited to attend a Parent Information Evening in the first few weeks of the new term. All events run from 6-7pm. Details will be confirmed nearer the time.

- Tuesday 7 September - [Year 7 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Wednesday 8 September - [Year 8 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Thursday 9 September - [Year 9 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Wednesday 15 September - [Year 10 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Thursday 16 September - [Year 11 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Monday 20 September - [Year 12 Parent Information Evening](#)
- Wednesday 22 September - [Year 13 Parent Information Evening](#)

⇒ Tuesday 20 July - Early Closure of School

On Tuesday 20 July, the school will close at midday to signal the end of the academic year and beginning of the summer break. Please note the Raynham library **will not** be open for homework club on this day, and provision should be made for all students to make their way home at midday.

DEDICATED SCHOOL BUSES WILL COLLECT STUDENTS AT 12PM ON TUESDAY 20 JULY. NORMAL SERVICE WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, AS PER NORMAL TIMETABLES.

⇒ Bus Passes for September 2021

Bus passes for the new academic year can now be picked up from Reception, at break times.

⇒ Uniform Update

The GA School Shop will be open during the summer holidays **by appointment only**. This is primarily to facilitate the kitting out of new joiners. For current parents/carers wishing to purchase 'top up' kit we will be offering a schedule of short appointments before the start of term on the following days:

- Tuesday 24 August (am and pm).
- Thursday 26 August (am, pm and early evening).
- Wednesday 1 September (am, pm and early evening).

To book an appointment to purchase top up uniform please either call us on 020 8687 1502 or email us at spsschoolshops@yahoo.com using the header 'GA TOP UP APPOINTMENT'.

Please indicate the date you'd like your appointment and your preference for morning, afternoon or early evening and we will get back to you with an appointment time. Please include a contact number and child's name and let us know if there is more than one child needing uniform so that we can allocate a suitable amount of time.

If you are unable to make these dates we will be happy to try to accommodate you within our regular schedule for new joiners, please just let us know when you'd like to visit the shop and we will do our best to find a suitable slot.

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Whole School

Whilst Government guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing are likely to be eased, the shop is very small and there is no ventilation and we would request that customers please continue to wear face coverings in the shop and for the time being please only visit the shop by appointment.

Thank you and we wish you a lovely summer break!

⇒ **Driving onsite at drop off and pick up times**

When approaching the school gates in the mornings/afternoons when students are arriving/leaving school, please considerably reduce your speed. Please indicate which way you are turning and wait for gate duty staff to direct you after they have controlled student movements.

⇒ **DIY Ink Tattoos**

A rise in the trend of DIY Ink Tattoos among our young people and social media has begun to cause some concern. Kits can be bought easily on the internet, and several students have adorned themselves and others. Tattoos created at home are just as permanent as those you would get in a professional shop. They're also created using the same technique, with a needle and ink, so the risks are identical. Potential risks include: allergic reactions to the ink, open wounds and risk of infection from equipment (cross-contamination), scarring etc. **Please reiterate the risks of these DIY tattoos to your child.**

⇒ **Equipment List September 2021**

Please see equipment list for September attached.

⇒ **Catering Information**

Please see the following page of our website to view the new canteen menus for September 2021. <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/catering/>

Year 12

⇒ **CURRENT YEAR 12 STUDENTS STUDYING ENGLISH LITERATURE IN YEAR 13 A LEVEL LITERATURE TEXTS**

During the next academic year your son/daughter will be continuing their A Level English Literature course. Over the course of the year they will be studying two texts: 'Othello' by William Shakespeare and 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald. Students are strongly advised to buy their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision for their future mock exams and their official exams in the summer of 2022.

All of the above texts are available for purchase via the school's WisePay system. WisePay will open from Friday 23 July and remain open till the end of September 2021. Ideally texts should be purchased by 1 September at the latest. We will then arrange for the texts to be ordered and be ready for distribution at the beginning of next term. Students can buy their own texts from other booksellers if they wish but please use the same ISBN numbers as shown. If you have any questions please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



ISBN: 9780198328735

£5.25



ISBN: 9781853260414

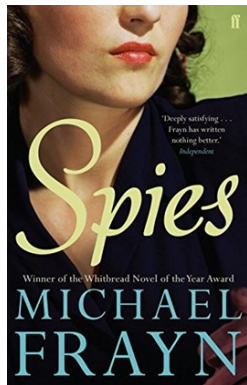
£2.50

Year 11

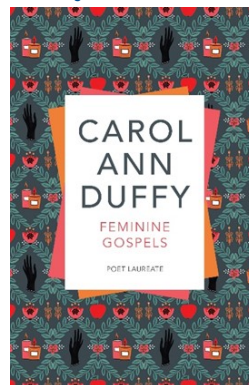
⇒ CURRENT YEAR 11 STUDENTS STUDYING ENGLISH LITERATURE IN YEAR 12

The next academic year brings the start of your son/daughter's A Level English Literature course. Over the course of the year they will be studying three texts: 'Spies' by Michael Frayn, 'The Feminine Gospels' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller. Students are strongly advised to buy their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision for their future mock exams and their official exams in the summer of 2023.

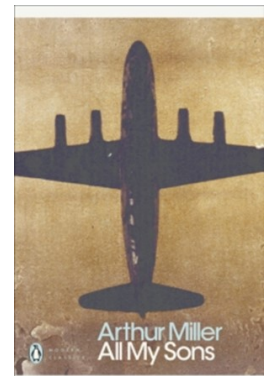
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ISBN: 9780571268856
£6.29



ISBN: 9781879181557
£5.99



ISBN 9780141189970
£6.74

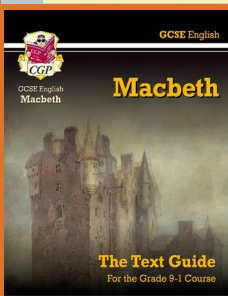
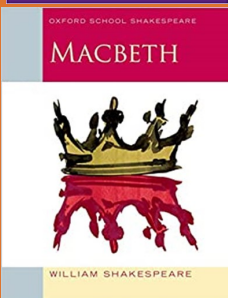
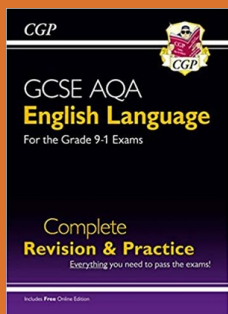
Year 10

⇒ ENGLISH GCSE TEXTS TO BE STUDIED IN AUTUMN TERM - YEAR 11

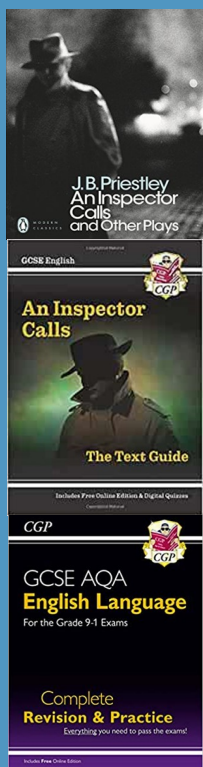
During the next academic year your son/daughter will continue their studies for their GCSE English Language and Literature courses. In the Autumn term they will be studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. The teaching of this text begins immediately in September - students are strongly advised to buy their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision for their future mock exams and their official exams in the summer of 2022.

In addition to the 'Macbeth' text there is a CGP Text Guide available as an optional extra as shown. This is offered through school at a substantial discount compared to other booksellers. We are also selling the English Language Complete Revision & Practice Guide as shown which will supplement their studies for the English Language GCSE course - this was made available to students at the start of Year 10 so your son/daughter may already have a copy.

All of the above texts are available for purchase via the school's WisePay system. WisePay will open from Friday 23 July and remain open till the end of September 2021. Ideally texts should be purchased by 1 September at the latest. We will then arrange for the texts to be ordered and be ready for distribution at the beginning of next term. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their texts free of charge. Also students may use a copy previously owned by an older sibling if they wish. If you have any questions please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



Year 9



⇒ ENGLISH GCSE TEXTS TO BE STUDIED IN AUTUMN TERM - YEAR 10

The next academic year brings the start of your son/daughter's GCSE English Language and Literature courses. In the Autumn term they will be studying the first of their GCSE Literature texts - 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestley. The teaching of this text begins immediately in September - students are strongly advised to buy their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision for their future mock exams and their official exams in the summer of 2023.

In addition to the 'An Inspector Calls' text there is a CGP Text Guide available as an optional extra as shown. This is offered through school at a substantial discount compared to other booksellers. We are also selling the English Language Complete Revision & Practice Guide as shown which will supplement their studies for the English Language GCSE course.

All of the above texts are available for purchase via the school's WisePay system. WisePay will open from Friday 23 July and remain open till the end of September 2021. Ideally texts should be purchased by 1 September at the latest. We will then arrange for the texts to be ordered and be ready for distribution at the beginning of next term. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their texts free of charge. Also students may use a copy previously owned by an older sibling if they wish. If you have any questions please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 7

⇒ Use it, don't lose it!

Please see letter attached including a variety of language-based activities that your child could engage with this summer to ensure they use, and not lose, their language skills.

Careers

Careers Opportunities:

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

Work Experience:

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

Apprenticeships:

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

New opportunities this week include:

- Parents Perspective Podcast – A careers procast – Amazing Apprenticeships
- LEVEL 4 APPRENTICE PROPERTY MANAGER
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE – Stevens & Bolton
- Trainee Laboratory Technician
- ACM – Free Online Sessions over Summer
- SUMMER VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE LOGISTICS – Kuehne + Nagel
- UK University Search
- Bright Network – Summer Intern/Work Experience Opportunities for Year 12
- Results Day Webinars for parents/carers



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Focus on: Summer Challenges

Summer House Bingo

Open to all students!

Every square counts...
Every line means points...
Points mean prizes!

FIRST PRIZE: £100 Amazon voucher
SECOND PRIZE: £50 Amazon voucher
RUNNERS UP: 5 x £10 Amazon vouchers

A mystery	An audio book	Read outside	Some poetry
Comic or graphic novel	Short story	A book that makes you laugh	A newspaper article
The book of a film	A book from a series	An old favourite book	A book with a number in the title
Your choice	A play script	A book set in another world	A recent book

HOW DO I PLAY?

First, print your [Bingo Card](#) or pick one up from the Gallery. Then fill in each square with the title of the book you read and/or the activity you completed over the summer—each book title can only be used once. Get your parent/carer to sign. Bring your bingo card into the Gallery in September to enter once you complete a square, row, diagonal, or column. Complete one square and get 2 house points; complete one line and you enter the grand prize draw. The more lines you complete, the more house points and entries into the prize draw you get. For more information, [click here](#). Visit <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/reading-hub/> for inspiration of what to read.

Writing Challenge

Comic Creators Activity Pack—this pack includes lots of free paper and ideas of what to do with it, as well as activities to help you create a comic of your own. REY Paper, The National Literacy Trust and Beano have teamed up to teach everything you need to know! For more information, please visit https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Comics_Rule_activity_pack.pdf



Online library of ebooks and audio books

We have subscribed the whole school the Wheelers ePlatform (<https://georgeabbot.eplatform.co/>) for the next year, so borrowing can start this summer. To access: download the app: ePlatform by Wheelers or visit the website: <https://georgeabbot.eplatform.co/>. Student logins will be their name with no spaces but a full stop in between first and last, eg Joe.Bloggs and their password is Gabbot.

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