

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

All

08 October 2021



This week, we have introduced masks in the lunch queue and wet break venues for Year 9 in addition to Year 7. It is really important that we do all we can to keep our children at school. The DfE has provided schools with our own student data regarding the reporting of lateral flow testing via the government link. When we returned from lockdown in March 2021, there were 3,000 student test results being recorded per week at George Abbot School. This term, there have been an average of 800 test results recorded per week. Cases amongst the school community are considerably higher this term than at any previous point and yet, our recording data indicates that our testing has declined. I suspect that many more tests are being completed than are being recorded – however, I think it would help us all to have the reassurance that increased testing data could provide.

Statistics tell us that up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents/carers to encourage their children to test twice a week and help us to keep George Abbot open by reducing the transmission of Coronavirus. A reminder that testing only takes a few minutes to do—you get the results in 30 minutes. We continue to provide free test kits via school, so do please request more if you need them and we will continue to distribute regularly.

Don't forget to report the result to:

1. NHS Test and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
2. George Abbot School: <https://forms.office.com/r/aa5GPS6gQM>

Thank you for your support.

You may be interested to know that Surrey County Council has worked with young people, the Advertising Network and a number of London boroughs to create the new microsite [Everything COVID](#) for young people, which gives information about COVID-19 vaccination and testing. Please do share with your children.

On a different note, a celebration of the written word has been bringing our school joy. This week saw National Poetry Day and a hunt for poems commenced around the buildings. This poem is one of my favourites, bringing together a miracle of the seas and thoughts of music:

Dolphins—Jonathan Griffin

They've brains the size of a man's and they like music –
surely make it..... May be exchanging speech?

We (it seems) catch their low
notes only –
and they, of human music,
may read more than we know -
firm shapes, shot with elusive depths, of dapples
subtly disturbed by thrusts of arabesque,
the way a floor mosaic
mixes its own clear message
in with the high riches, the dappled panels.

Do dolphins stop just short of words? talk music?
Having preferred purity, think in music?

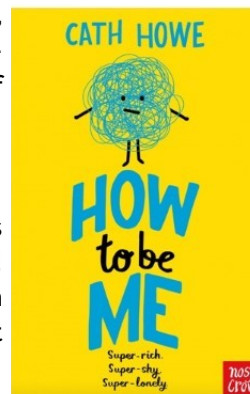
I hope that has evoked an image, sparked a thought or brought a moment of tranquillity for every reader.
Have a most excellent weekend.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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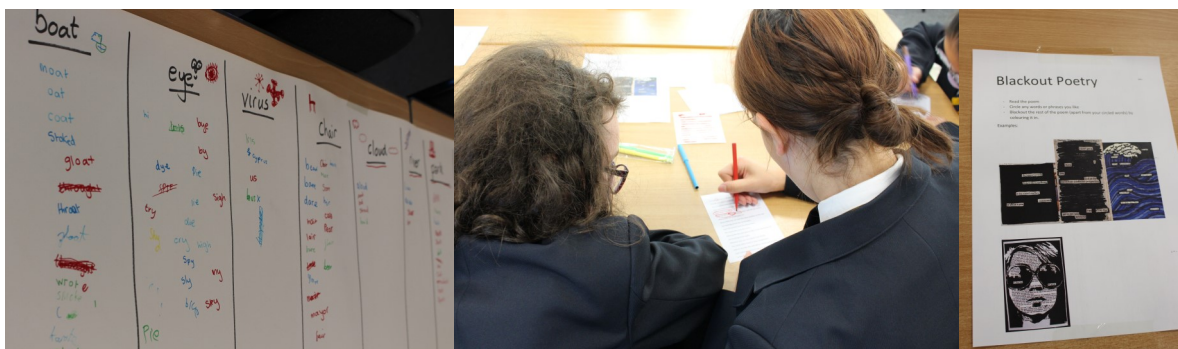
Focus On—Author Visit and National Poetry Day

Year 7 enjoyed a visit from author, Cath Howe last week. She read from her new book, 'How to be Me' and amused them with stories from her childhood. She was very impressed with their engagement and wonderful questions. Students who ordered one of Cath's books can collect their copy from the Gallery at break times.



National Poetry Day

The Gallery was buzzing this week with Poetry Fever. Students took part in numerous activities, including a rhyming wall on which one student paired 'virus' with 'inspire us'! There was also tremendous excitement surrounding the poem treasure hunt with seven poems to find around the school. 10 HPs were awarded to everyone who completed it and the winner will be announced next week.



Notices

Whole School

⇒ Uniform

We would like to commend students on their standard of uniform this term. A reminder that as the weather gets cold, any jumper worn must only be a George Abbot jumper – we have a number of second hand v-necks available for £2, please email mgoulborn@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk to order. Coats can of course be worn around school if cold, preferably dark blue or black. On PE days, a blazer should be worn, with a coat for extra-warmth during the day if required.

⇒ Parent/Carer Parking at drop-off and pick-up

A reminder to please be considerate when dropping off and picking up students from school. We have seen an increase in dangerous parking on Woodruff Avenue and other roads surrounding George Abbot. **Additionally, parents/carers are NOT permitted to drive on site to drop off their child.**

On the rare occasion you may need to drive on site, to visit reception, please respect the 5mph speed limit and wait for the vehicle gates to open fully before proceeding through them.

Additionally, PLEASE can you remind your child not to walk around the busy school area whilst deeply engrossed in their mobile phones. They MUST be alert to traffic and keep themselves safe by being vigilant.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

⇒ Uniform Shop Update

The School Shop will close after business on Wednesday 13 October for a company stock-take and systems upgrade. The Shop will re-open after half term when we will continue to open by appointment.

To book an appointment, please email spssschoolshops@yahoo.com using the header 'GA APPOINTMENT'.

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Whole School	<p>You are also welcome to order by emailing us using the header 'GA ORDER' - please include the items you need (including the size), a telephone number and your child's name and we will get back to you. Please note that email orders placed after 12 October will be ready for collection after half term.</p> <p>⇒ 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.</p> <p>Current opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Supervisor
Year 13	<p>⇒ Students with Exams Access Arrangements Quite a number of students did not submit the necessary paperwork to Ms Barratt last year in order to apply, officially, for extra time in exams. Please ask your child to make an appointment to see her in USIC as soon as possible to get this sorted for their external exams this year. JCQ have made it harder to qualify for extra time this academic year and we may need to do further testing. It is possible that not everyone will still qualify. Please email bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, if you have any questions.</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ Sixth Form Open Evening, Wednesday 3 November 2021 Please see separate communication sent today, from Mr Robinson, regarding the Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students on Wednesday 3 November. Booking opens Monday 11 October at 8.00am.</p> <p>⇒ GCSE History We will update you when we have more information from Edexcel about the History course content for 2022 GCSE exams.</p>
Year 7	<p>⇒ House Assemblies To introduce the house system to Year 7 tutor groups, there will be a series of assemblies held in Gym 2 during tutor time in the next 2 weeks. If students own a house shirt, they will be allowed to wear it on the day of their assembly.</p> <p>The allocated days for each house are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 13 October: Wyvern (7WG+7WA) • Thursday 14 October: Phoenix (7PG+7PA) • Friday 15 October: Martlet (7MG+7MA) • Monday 18 October: Falcon (7FG+7FA) • Tuesday 19 October: Gryphon (7GG+7GA) <p>⇒ Year 7 House Competition: Make a Model Cell—Biology Week! As part of Biology Week 2021, the Biology Department are launching our first house competition of the year! This term, students have been learning about the structure of cells. Now, using what they have learned, we would like them to have a go at making a model cell.</p> <p>Students can choose any type of cell and can make the model out of a variety of materials. Previous models have been made from materials including: cardboard, jelly, plasticine, lego and even cake! The cell needs to have all parts labelled using the keywords we have covered this term (e.g. nucleus, cell membrane, cytoplasm, etc.).</p> <p>For ideas, google "model of a cell". There are also lots of photographs and a display of models from previous years in E5 which students can come and look at. We've included a few examples below too.</p>

Year 7

Students will need to bring their model cells to their first biology lesson after half term. Biology teachers will post a reminder on Satchel One. Please ensure that the model has the students name and tutor group clearly displayed.

Every student that enters will receive house points and the 'Top 10' models (one selected from each tutor group) will get bonus house points. The top model will receive an additional prize! If you have any questions, please contact your child's biology teacher. We can't wait to see what students make!



Sports Round Up

Sports clubs and fixtures have been back with a BANG this term! We have seen 57 fixtures across 18 days. A round up of the different sports below:

Sport	Number of Teams	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	Win Ratio
Football	7	11	7	0	4	63.6%
Netball	10	23	11	4	8	47.8%
Rugby Union	5	21	13	1	7	61.9%
Swimming	2	2	2	0	0	100.0%
Totals:	24	57	33	5	19	57.9%

And some stand out performances...

- Our under 13 girls and under 18 boys were named Surrey champions in the swimming relays.
- The Year 7 and Year 9 boy's football have been unbeaten so far this season.
- Our Year 10 boys rugby team is into the last 64 of the National Vase competition.
- The Year 9 boys rugby came second in the District tournament.
- And the under 18 netball team beat the Howard 18-17 at Priors Field.

Cross Country House Event

The house cross country events are being held on the following dates:

Year 9 – Thursday 14 October

Year 8 – Monday 18 October

Year 7 – Wednesday 20 October

These will be held straight after school on the school field. The course will be approx. 3km. Winners will go through to the District Finals on Thursday 11 November at Charter House School.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no other clubs running afterschool on these days, but please encourage your child to come and run instead.

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The George Abbot Journey

The George Abbot Journey, as told by our students and staff. Watch the video below to find out what students have to say about life at George Abbot School! For information on Admissions for the Academic Year 2022-23, please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/admissions/>



Careers

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

- Virtual Information Evening with IBM.
- Army Opportunities.
- UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair, 20 October 2021.

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

- IBM Apprenticeships and Internships.

Virtual Work Experience opportunities: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

- St James Place Wealth Management, Financial Services Virtual Information Evening
- Browne Jacobson Law Virtual Work Experience

PTA

The next AGM which will be taking place on Tuesday 19 October from 7.00pm, in Elmslie Library.

The current PTA committee will be standing down at the AGM and as such there are no events planned for the autumn term. We very much hope that a new group of people will come forward to take over and continue to raise crucial funds for this amazing school. Unfortunately, if this doesn't happen the charity will have to be dissolved. The agenda and minutes from previous AGM will be available to view here:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/> from Tuesday 12 October.

Please email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you are interested in taking over the reigns or come along to the AGM, we would love to see you there. Refreshments will be available.


Second Hand Uniform

Should you have any second hand uniform enquiries, please email:

taniagerber3@gmail.com



 facebook.com/georgeabbotparents

 pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

 [georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/](https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/)

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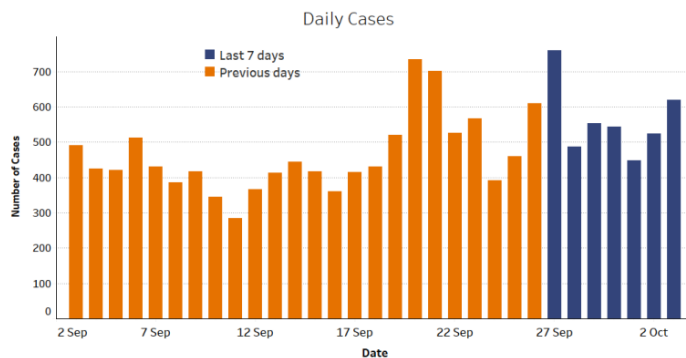
Publication Date:
Wednesday 6 October
2021

Surrey COVID-19 Summary



Cases and Rates

For more detail please see full report at www.surreycc.gov.uk/covidcases



All data is publicly available. Data is shown by specimen date - reporting delays mean data can be incomplete for the most recent days. For this reason the data shown is for the seven-day period ending four days prior to the publication date. The rate is calculated daily by Surrey County Council Public Health data intelligence team using the ONS 2019 mid-year population estimates. The 7-day average line on the chart is calculated using the average of cases for three days before, the date itself and the three days after any specific date. The average is not calculated for the most recent three dates as there is not enough data. For more detail please refer to the Surrey COVID Intelligence Summary at www.surreycc.gov.uk/covidcases and coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Change**	New cases in last 7 days	Rate for the last 7 days*
→	3,938	328.2

Data shown for time period Monday 27 September 2021 to Sunday 3 October 2021

*Rate represents number of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days
 **Changes are relative to the previous 7 days (20 September - 26 September). If there is an increase of less than 10%, a grey arrow will indicate that the rate may have plateaued, but is not showing a significant rise or drop

Change**	Cases (7 days)	Rate (7 days)	% Change**	
→	Elmbridge	590	430.0	-4%
↑	Spelthorne	381	381.5	19%
↓	Reigate and Banstead	538	360.5	-12%
↓	Epsom and Ewell	284	350.6	-21%
↓	Tandridge	288	325.3	-10%
→	Guildford	479	318.6	0%
↑	Waverley	395	312.1	12%
→	Surrey Heath	253	283.6	-7%
↑	Woking	277	277.0	11%
→	Mole Valley	238	271.9	10%
↑	Runnymede	215	238.0	11%
→	Surrey	3,938	328.2	-1%
→	South East	27,814	301.8	1%
→	England	185,031	327.2	-3%

Current Number of Students Isolating following a positive PCR test	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
	27	8	42	16	14	2	0

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
11 October	B	1
18 October	A	2
HALF TERM		

Committed to promoting the welfare and safety of children

SAMARITANS

Call us free 24/7 on
116 123

Mental Health Crisis Helpline

Call: 0800 915 4644

Mental health support for people in Surrey and North East Hampshire.



Please also see our wellbeing resources on the school website:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/wellbeing/>



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