

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

15 October 2021

All

As we approach half term, I write to seek your support. I have taken the decision to bookend half term with **two weeks of mask wearing for all students and staff in corridors, lunch queue and internal venues where large numbers of people gather**—such as wet break venues, the Sixth Form Common Room at break times and the Atrium at break times. This is to support all our families as we approach half term by reducing the chances of COVID-19 cases rising over this period.

This George Abbot circuit break measure will apply from **Monday 18 October to Friday 5 November inclusive**. As ever, the measures are not compulsory but are strongly recommended. We ask for your support to ensure a good healthy break for all over half term and a healthy return to the Autumn Term part ii.

Therefore, all students and staff are asked to ensure that they have a mask with them at school daily, that they put their mask on as they leave every lesson and whenever they re-enter the corridors after break-time outside. Staff and students should have a sealable bag to contain their mask and ensure they have sufficient supplies of hand sanitiser and tissues should they be needed. Mask wearing will not be necessary in classrooms at this stage.

Additionally, next week, we will send home another box of lateral flow tests for students. Please ensure students complete a test before they return to school on Monday 1 November. Please note, these are new tests and are slightly different in that they involve a NASAL SWAB ONLY (there is no requirement to swab the throat). The tests also need a different developing time. Please read the instructions carefully before carrying out the test to ensure you receive an accurate result. For instructions, please see the link below:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999105/COVID-19-self-test-nose-only-instructions-orient-gene.pdf

I appreciate your support very much indeed.

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>

Current Number of Students	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Isolating following a positive PCR test	14	14	27	13	13	2	1

REMINDER

Thursday 21 October and Friday 22 October are INSET days.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 1 November.

Have a super half term!

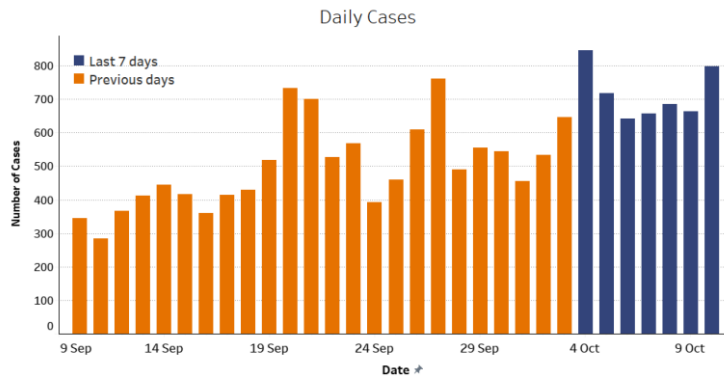
Kate Carriett
 Headteacher

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*
↑	5,012	417.7

Data shown for time period Monday 4 October 2021 to Sunday 10 October 2021
*Rate represents number of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days
**Changes are relative to the previous 7 days (27 September - 3 October). 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	757	551.7	27%
↑	Woking	505	505.0	80%
↑	Surrey Heath	418	468.6	63%
↑	Spelthorne	465	465.6	22%
↑	Reigate and Banstead	631	422.8	16%
↑	Waverley	504	398.2	26%
↑	Guildford	580	385.8	20%
↑	Tandridge	324	365.9	11%
→	Epsom and Ewell	285	351.8	-1%
↑	Runnymede	290	321.1	33%
→	Mole Valley	253	289.0	2%
↑	Surrey	5,012	417.7	26%
↑	South East	33,542	363.9	18%
↑	England	213,414	377.4	13%

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Free School Meals

We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £15 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover the half term holiday. This voucher will be issued next week and sent via Wonde. If you would prefer a printed copy to be posted to you, please email SJones@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk specifying the supermarket you would prefer the voucher to be for.

⇒ Extra-curricular

Our full extra-curricular calendar is now up on SOCS! Log in to socscms.com to see what is available for your child. You can 'Activate' your account by using the email registered with school or reset your password in the same way. Just search George Abbot, click parent log in and follow instructions. Over 1000 events planned across all year groups!

⇒ Burpham Neighbourhood Plan—FAO local Burpham residents

Please consider filling out the following survey from the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum, to have your say on topics that matter greatly to Burpham residents, including roads, housing, green belt and community facilities. The survey can be completed by anyone over the age of 14 who currently lives or works in the ward of Burpham. The results of the survey will help inform the next version of the Burpham Neighbourhood Plan, which is used to help determine decisions on important planning matters in Burpham. This is your chance to help influence future development in Burpham.

<http://burphamneighbourhoodforum.org/page71.html>

⇒ Student Travel with Arriva

Arriva Student Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education. You will get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, across all of our routes in your chosen area. The Saver tickets will not only cover travel to and from University, School or College, but can also be used to travel in the evenings, at weekends and throughout the holidays too. Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront. It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit: www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets. For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

<p>Whole School</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. Current opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Assistant
<p>Sixth Form</p>	<p>⇒ Year 11 - 13 Progress Support Meetings – Thursday 11 November 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via the Parents Evening System</p> <p>We will be holding the above event on Thursday 11 November. The aim of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for staff and parents/carers 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, students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.</p> <p>Appointments are by staff invitation only. We will contact parents/carers with appointments if subject teachers have concern about how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 students have started their new exam courses . • Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses. <p>We will notify you via email no later than Thursday 4 November. You may also log in to the Parents Evening system after this date to view your appointments.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Early Internal Examinations</p> <p>Year 11s will be sitting early formal internal examinations in Maths F/H Paper 1 and English Literature Paper 1, ahead of the formal internal examinations that will take place in December.</p> <p>Maths: Students will sit Maths Paper 1 F/H Non Calculator on Friday 19 November at 1:55pm. Students must have a ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil and eraser. Students should liaise with their teachers who can advise where they can find questions to help with revision. Students will need to revise everything they have been taught from the start of Year 9.</p> <p>English: On Monday 22 November at 8:30am students will sit a formal internal examination for English Literature. In light of the recent changes to exams guidance from AQA, this will enable students to familiarise themselves with the new format of the literature papers. Students will sit Paper 1N - The 19th Century Novel: A Christmas Carol, and Paper 1M - Modern Texts: An Inspector Calls. Teachers will make revision resources available on the Student Learning Environment and Satchel One.</p> <p>Additionally, AQA has made the decision to reduce the required subject content from the GCSE English Literature specification, in light of the disruption to schooling over the past academic year. As a result, students will no longer be examined on the Love and Relationships Anthology Poetry, so there is no requirement for students to revise these poems for their internal examinations. Instead, the December English Literature internal exam paper will cover Shakespeare: Macbeth, and Unseen Poetry. The GCSE English Language papers are unaffected and will go ahead in their current format. More details on the December internal examinations will be made available over the coming weeks.</p>

Year 11

⇒ **Year 11 - 13 Progress Support Meetings – Thursday 11 November 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via the Parents Evening System**

We will be holding the above event on Thursday 11 November. The aim of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for staff and parents/carers 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, students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.

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

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

We will notify you via email no later than Thursday 4 November. You may also log in to the Parents Evening system after this date 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>.

⇒ **REMINDER: Sixth Form Open Evening, Wednesday 3 November 2021**

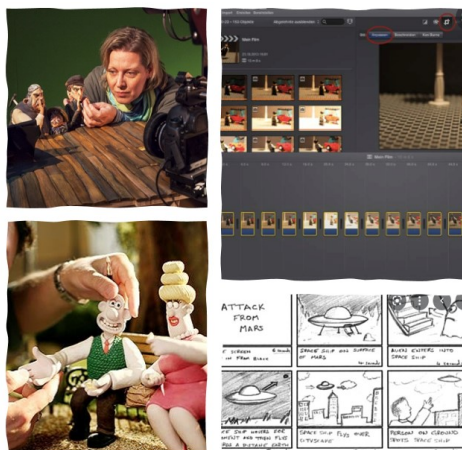
Please see separate communication sent Friday 8 October, from Mr Robinson, regarding the Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students on Wednesday 3 November. Booking closes Monday 18 October at 8.00am.

Year 8

⇒ **Animation Club: Photography**

Is your child interested in learning Stop Motion Animation techniques or how to design, create and light studios? Would they enjoy learning about how to edit animations on Mac computers?

The Photography department will be running an Animation Club after half term on Thursdays every week between 3.30pm-4.30pm in PJ99. Please encourage your child to sign up before half term in the PJ Building or see Miss Masson for more information.



Careers

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

- Introduction to BP, online webinar, Tuesday 19 October.

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

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

- Allied Healthcare Mentor Virtual Work Experience, Sunday 7 November.
- Mazars Accounting, Audit and Consulting Firm, Virtual Event, Monday 18 October.



EAL competition



Does your child use English as an additional language? Are they bilingual or even trilingual? If so, they can take part in a new competition organised by the library and English department. They just need to write about their experiences of speaking another language and they could be in with a chance of winning a £20 token! There is no age limit. Please see below for more details.

Write 300 words on one of the suggested topics:

- What are the benefits of a bilingual brain?
- Have you had a funny incident when someone didn't know you spoke the same language?
- When do you speak your first language and when do you speak English?
- Is your first language linked to your pride and identity of your home culture?
- Do you love going on holiday and speaking your first language with other family members?
- Have you had any embarrassing moments due to being bilingual that you want to share?
- Has being bilingual rescued you in a situation at all?
- Or choose your own content.

Please encourage your son or daughter to take part. The closing date is Friday 12 November. Entries can be emailed to bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or handed in to either library or your child's English teacher. Good luck!

Focus on—Black History Month

Having learnt about the reasons for the outbreak of the First World War, how it turned into stalemate and why the British government introduced conscription in 1916, our Year 9 students are learning about the contribution of non-white soldiers to the conflict. We will explore how and why troops from British colonies were asked to fight for the Empire, and how far their experiences differed from white Europeans on the Western Front. We will be uncovering the rarely-told stories of Black soldiers during the East Africa campaign and what happened to the British West Indies Regiment. This enquiry will finish with reflection on why this aspect of the First World War is so rarely focused upon, and consider the recent controversy over the lack of memorialisation of African troops. Additionally, a great display of books supporting Black History Month can be found in the Gallery and USIC for students to enjoy.



A SHOUT-OUT to our ex-students!



Here at George Abbot School, we would like to put together a display to promote our past students' successes for all our students, and visitors, to see and hopefully inspire them with their future choices.

If your child is interested in participating, please email the following information to Mrs Rose, Careers Lead, on the email below:

- Name
- Job Title
- A recent photograph of yourself (preferably a head and shoulders image or one where you are at work)
- Company you work for
- An overview of your education
- An inspirational quote that helped you, or your best piece of advice for students.

Please feel free to pass this email onto other ex-GAS students that you may still be in contact with. We look forward to hearing from you!

Helen Rose—Careers Lead (hrose@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

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£1 Second Hand Uniform SALE

Saturday 6 November, 9.00am-12.00pm

The PTA is holding a uniform sale on Saturday 6 November between 9.00am-12.00pm. We have varying sizes and garments available, so please come down and stock up on uniform.

EVERY ITEM WILL BE £1, DON'T MISS OUT!

Should you have any second hand uniform enquiries, please email: taniagerber3@gmail.com



REMINDER: the next PTA AGM which will be taking place on
Tuesday 19 October from 7.00pm, in Elmslie Library.





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PLAYERS GROUPED BY AGE AND
EXPERIENCE

SPECIAL GK TRAINING
AVAILABLE

EARLY DROP OFF AND LATE
PICKUP AVAILABLE

Lesson omission		
Week Commencing	A or B	Lesson omission
18 October	A	2
HALF TERM		
1 November	B	3
8 November	A	4

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