

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

12 November 2021

All

Today, I focus on saying a truly sincere thank you to all of the parents and carers amongst our George Abbot community. School is a great deal more than the sum of that which occurs between 08.30 and 15.15. Parents and carers are the vital canvas and paints. You support your children, day in and day out, however reluctantly they may answer your evening questions about the architecture of their school hours. You persist through monosyllabic responses and just occasionally are filled with joy at the unexpected and fulsome explanation of a new theory learnt, an abstract concept grasped, a skill accomplished or a new friend discovered. You sometimes face what seems like an immovable reluctance to be enthusiastic with fortitude and hope – rewarded when we see the truly extraordinary young people that emerge from their schooling, ready for the world. Have faith!

I particularly want to thank the parents and carers who have stepped forward to ensure the continuation of our PTA. I am delighted that Audrey Bean and Dusty Weaver have taken on the co-chair role for our PTA. I also extend my gratitude to all of the parents and carers who attended the PTA Zoom meeting held this week. Over the years, our PTA has given its time, energy, ideas and many talents to ensure that there is always a pot of money that we can turn to in support of the little extras at George Abbot and indeed, on occasion, the very fabric of our school. Science labs have been refurbished; Arts Departments have been rejuvenated; novels, text books, technical machinery has been purchased; extra-curricular activities have been supported; school events have been supplied with refreshments. These are not small contributions. These are gifts of time and energy which are vital to the success of our George Abbot community. Today, I call on you all to look out for upcoming events in this newsletter and commit to supporting at least one this academic year – your children's education is enhanced as a direct result.

My second call to parents and carers is to consider whether you might have the space in your family and work schedules to give your service in the role of a school governor. We are seeking a new Parent Governor – you will be one of four parents who work in partnership with school leaders and community governors to ensure the very best outcomes, both personal and academic, for every George Abbot student. [More details are included here](#) and attached to this bulletin, but if you have an open and enquiring mind and have a desire to contribute and represent our parent community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

In closing this introduction, I reflect on a Remembrance Day marked with honour. At 11am, our whole school community stood in silence to remember those who have Fallen. Our senior musicians and dancers performed a Coffee Concert at the Cathedral, beautifully programmed to offer reflection and peace; some of our students represented the air, sea, Royal Marines and St John's cadet forces in a guard of honour for Remembrance, accompanied by The Last Post. We saw deep respect for all those who have given their lives in the service of our country reflected in every classroom and corner of our school.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



GA Book Wishlist

We are regularly asked by parents/carers how you can support the school so we can continue to provide our rich and broad curriculum. If you would like, and are able, to support the school, we would be grateful if you could buy any of the books on our Amazon wishlist. This will arrive at the school a few days later, and will be added to the library, for students to enjoy.

Please click the following link to view our wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/bLjMJiD>

For full instructions on how to buy from an Amazon wishlist, please click [here](#).



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
15 November	B	5
22 November	A	1
29 November	B	2
6 December	A	3
13 December	B	4

Notices

Whole School

⇒ Anti-bullying week and reporting concerns

Next week, 15-19 November, marks Anti-bullying week. Students will have an assembly around this year's theme 'One Kind Word'. Bullying is behaviour that intentionally causes harm over a period of time. We want students to understand that one act of kindness leads to another, and encourage students to use their voice and actions as a force for good.

Students will also be reminded of the different ways that they can report concerns. From home, students can report concerns using TootToot, our online reporting tool. Log in detail reminders are being emailed out on Monday 15 November. Students can also use our new post boxes and slips, which are located around the school, and finally students can speak with their Form Tutor, Head of Year or Inclusion Manager about any situation causing worry or concern.

⇒ Community Alert—Underpass leading to Bushy Hill

We have received a report that one of our students was approached by an older man at around 4.45pm last night, near the subway, whilst walking home from a school club. The student was unharmed. We have reported this matter to the police who have advised that we ask parents/carers to reiterate awareness of stranger danger - and, in particular, not to engage in dialogue with strangers if asked questions. As the nights are increasingly dark, please ensure you have secure and safe travel arrangements in place for your child.

Reports of these types of incidents are taken very seriously and Surrey Police would encourage anyone who has experienced something similar in the area to report information by calling 101 or via their website—<https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Additionally, please encourage your child NOT to ride their bicycle in the underpass and respect other users who may be using this path.

[Return to home page](#)

⇒ **Ski Trip – Sestriere, Italy – February Half term 2022 – all year groups, and all ski abilities**

After a difficult 18 months, we are delighted to announce information about the Ski Trip in February 2022. With government guidance on foreign travel changing, and advice for educational trips abroad being updated, we are now in a position to relaunch the ski trip. Priority for the trip was offered to those who had places on the ski trip that was cancelled in 2021 first. These places have been claimed, and we are delighted that we are in a position to offer the remaining 30 places to all students in all year groups (and all ski abilities!).

The letter for the trip is attached, and payment for the deposit to secure a place is available on WisePay. **Deposit deadline: Tuesday 16 November at 12 noon.**

Unfortunately, due to the reduced time available to organise the trip, a quick turn around to return deposits is needed, and the remaining places are on a first come first served basis.

For anyone who would like to know more about the trip, Mr Huelin is holding an online information evening on **Monday 15 November at 6.00pm** via Zoom, before the deposit deadline the following day.

Topic: Ski Trip Information Evening <https://zoom.us/j/7608590262>
Meeting ID: 760 859 0262

If you would like to know more, please email Mr Huelin – Trip Organiser – jhuelin@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. If you are unfortunate to not get a place, organisation of the next trip has already begun, and announcements about the 2023 trip will be made in the New Year.

⇒ **THANK YOU: Second-hand Uniform donations**

Thank you for all your uniform donations. We have been inundated and our uniform cupboard is now full to capacity once again! We can no longer accept donations, so please hold on to your uniform until our next donation day in the new year.

⇒ **REMINDER: Picking up children, dropping off items, visitors**

Please note that if your child has an appointment within school hours we will not be able to collect them from class. They must make their own way to reception to sign out. Please buzz at the gate and we will send them out to you.

We are continuing to restrict the number of visitors to the site and there will be limited access via our pedestrian and vehicle gates. **Consequently, we are still unable to accept any forgotten items at reception.**

⇒ **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:

- Teaching Assistant

⇒ **Surrey Community Action**

[The Carers' Fair](#) - Saturday 27 November 2021, 10am-2pm at The Hive (Park Barn Centre), find out about support available to you as an unpaid carer.

[Fuel Poverty Awareness Day](#) - Friday 3 December, 2pm-6pm (drop in anytime), Victoria Hall, get help with your energy and water bills!

⇒ **Queen Eleanor's C of E Junior School 2023/4 Admission Policy Consultation**

Please use the link below to view the Queen Eleanor's CofE Junior School admissions policy consultation.

<https://www.queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=19>

Sixth Form	<p>⇒ Arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022—a letter from Ofqual's Chief Regulator</p> <p>Please find here a letter from Ofqual's Chief Regulator discussing the arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022.</p>
Year 11	<p>⇒ Sixth Form Applications</p> <p>Year 11 students will be sent a registration link, to their school email address, to apply for the Sixth Form during the afternoon of Monday 15 November. ALL students MUST complete this application form, even if they do not wish to attend the Sixth Form next year. Deadline for applications: 12pm on Friday 3 December 2021.</p> <p>If your child has not received their registration link by the end of the day on Monday 15 November, please contact thesixthform@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>⇒ Arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022—a letter from Ofqual's Chief Regulator</p> <p>Please find here a letter from Ofqual's Chief Regulator discussing the arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022.</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: 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.</p> <p>English: Students will sit Paper 1N - The 19th Century Novel: A Christmas Carol, and Paper 1M - Modern Texts: An Inspector Calls on Monday 22 November at 8:30am.</p>
Year 10	<p>⇒ REMINDER: RE GCSE Internal Examination—Friday 19 November, 8.30am</p> <p>Students in Year 10 will sit their RE GCSE internal examination on Friday 19 November at 8.30am. It will last 1 hour 45 minutes. Students will be examined on the following four units: Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings, Christianity: Practices, Buddhism: Beliefs and Teachings, Crime & Punishment.</p> <p>⇒ REMINDER: Maths Paper—w/c 22 November</p> <p>Students will be sitting a Maths paper during their Maths lesson in the w/c 22 November. They must have a ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil and eraser. Some classes will also need a calculator.</p>
Year 8	<p>⇒ REMINDER: Autumn Maths Assessment</p> <p>Year 8 Autumn Maths Assessment will take place during the w/c 15 November. The assessment will contain all learning covered this year, topics included are as follows: Ratio and Scale, Multiplicative Change, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions, Working in the Cartesian plane.</p>
Year 7	<p>⇒ REMINDER: MathTaster Session for Year 7 Parents/Carers</p> <p>The Math faculty will be holding a Taster Session for Year 7 Parents/Carers on 17 November between 5:30pm and 6:30pm, in Elmslie Hall. This session will help you to gain an insight into the nature of work undertaken, methodology, modern use of ICT and how best to help and support your child.</p>

Careers

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

- University of Surrey Subject Taster Days February-June 2022.

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

- The National Skills Academy—Routes into Rail Apprenticeship Programme
- UCAS/Discovery Apprenticeships Fair—30 November 2021

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

- Science, Technology and Finance Workshops—13 November and 11 December.
- University of Surrey Subject Taster Days February-June 2022.

[Return to home page](#)

Sustainable George Abbot

This week we hear from Hattie, one of our Year 13 students, on her experience of last week's MockCOP event:

On Friday 5 November, four Year 13 students, Charlotte, Jack, Petra and Hattie, supported by Ms Wallace-Jones (Geography), took part in the Guildford Schools "MockCOP" event, organised by Zero Carbon Guildford. George Abbot represented Australia and put across their countries' position before engaging in negotiations with representatives from seven other schools to come up with solutions to the climate crisis. The day had some very productive and interesting discussions, ending with thinking about how these global principles might be applied to local solutions. As Australia, the team proposed bold new solutions, such as a transition away from coal to solar, a dramatic reduction in cattle farming to aid methane emissions, and new protections for the Great Barrier Reef.



As part of the build up to the event, the students also attended a workshop on "Doughnut Economics" and researched Australia's current climate policies (which, incidentally, are fairly disappointing!). Overall, it was a great experience, one that we hope helped raise awareness for these important issues, and stimulate engagement with the real climate change conference, COP26, which is currently drawing to a close in Glasgow.



This event runs alongside our "Sustainable GA" programme that we are launching this term. If any students would like to get involved, please email sustainability@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or come along to the new sustainability club which is taking place on Wednesdays after school in E9.

To find out more about Zero Carbon Guildford (an exciting new local charity), please visit their website <https://www.zerocarbonguildford.org/>

To keep up to date with all things Sustainable GA, please visit: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/sustainable-ga/> or follow [@gabbotnews](https://twitter.com/gabbotnews) #sustainableGA on Twitter.

Christmas Card Competition

Produce an A5 Christmas Card design

Students could use: *Pens, Pencils, Collage, paint or a digital media.*

All entries must include (on the back) the Student's Name and Tutor Group.

All entries must be submitted to Mrs Livett in PJ building.

Deadline: 19 November 2021

Focus on: Wheelers eLibrary

Students are now able to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks from our exciting new eBook and audiobook library, found here: <https://georgeabbot.eplatform.co>



The library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles and will offer your children a 24/7 access to a digital library in addition to the print library in school. Students can have 2 books out on loan at any one time, and they will automatically return after 2 weeks, or, children can return them early in order to loan a new book.

We have age rated the books, which means children will only be able to read books that are appropriate for their age. There are also settings that can be customised to enable children who suffer with reading difficulties to enjoy reading without specialised equipment or books – we will be working with those children affected to setup their preferences. The eBooks can be read on a computer, laptop, or through the free App on tablets or smartphones.

Reading through your web browser on a laptop or computer

Children can browse the collection or search for a specific book title, author or publisher and loan the book they choose. It is then assigned to them for the 2-week period.

Reading through the App

To download the App, search "ePlatform" in the App store and download. Click on the app and you will then need to search for the library which will be **George Abbot School**. Once you start typing, it will bring up the school on the list.

Click the 3 little lines in the top left corner and select sign in. Enter the username and password assigned and, as above, search for a book to read. Using the App, the books will be temporarily downloaded to the device so children will not need internet connections once the book has been loaned to read, great for travelling abroad!

Username: firstname.secondname (no gaps)

Password: Gabbot



If you have any questions, please email ncassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

PTA

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the PTA meeting on Zoom this week. It was a very well attended, productive meeting and was so great to see so many enthusiastic parents/carers.

As always, we would love to hear from new parents/carers, please contact us using the links below!

With many thanks for your support, **The PTA**.

Follow us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/georgeabbotparents/>

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/georgeabbotpta

Email the PTA: PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Sign up for the Sainsbury's scheme and more information on the PTA: www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/

Sign up for EasyFundraising: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/georgeabbotschool



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