

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

14 January 2022

All

As I have visited lessons and spent time talking to students and staff this week, it is clear that we are settled back into a positive and productive school routine. Thank you to everybody for continuing to take our responsibilities towards each other seriously; students travelling outside whenever they can and pro-activity in mask wearing. COVID-19 rates as of 14 January 2022 are:

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
2	2	1	1	5	5	2

Year 13 have shown great fortitude in their preparation for and completion of their internal assessments. The outcome of these assessment papers will inform teacher planning and lesson content for the remainder of the term. Similarly, we are busy reviewing Year 11 assessment outcomes, ensuring that our teaching directly addresses areas where students' understanding can be enhanced. We continue to feel confident that George Abbot students are in a good place for the final GCSE and A-Level exams; a reminder that we expect a DfE announcement on the shape of the upcoming summer assessment process on Monday 7 February 2022. We will update you immediately thereafter.

Thank you to our Year 8 parents/carers for your engagement in the Parents' Consultation meetings yesterday. We hope the appointments were informative. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a coach full of students attended the West End show "Wicked" this week; they enjoyed it immensely as did the staff. One of our ex students is currently a cast member. Another Gabbotonian shines brightly.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Kate Carriett
 Headteacher

COVID-19 Government Guidance

LFD and PCR Testing Guidance

From 11 January 2022, people who have **no symptoms** and test positive on a lateral flow device will be required to self-isolate immediately and do not need to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a **temporary** measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms (above) should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Notices

Whole School

⇒ **ADVANCED WARNING: Early School Closure for Year 11 Parent Subject Consultations—Monday 31 January 2022**

School will be closing at 1.30pm on Monday 31 January 2022 for the Year 11 Parent Subject consultation meetings.

When the Progress Monitoring Subject Consultations are for a year group other than their own, students are expected to complete work set independently at home during the afternoon. This work will be set via Satchel One and/or the SLE.

Provision has been made for students who are unable to go home at this time. If you wish for your son/daughter to remain supervised in school, please let us know by emailing curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by close of school on **Friday 28 January**. It is important to note that supervised student places are more limited than in previous times due to COVID-19 restrictions, so it is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.

If you notify us your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential you let us know of the change before 12.00pm on the day. Where we have been notified that a student will be remaining in school, if they fail to arrive and register at USIC, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system. Therefore, it is important they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school. **Please be reminded school buses will run at the usual time.**

⇒ **Volunteer Interviewers needed**

One of the highlights of Year 10 is Interview Day, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 24 March. This is an opportunity for students to apply for a job role of their choice and take part in a mock interview. Although this will take place in school, the interviews are conducted by volunteers who kindly give their time to help support this activity.

These volunteers are parents/carers and members of the local business community with some experience in interviewing. We are currently in the process of securing interviewers and are on the lookout for more! If you, or someone you know, are able to offer time to volunteer between 8.00am - 1.30pm on Thursday 24 March, please email Mrs Nash, our Careers Assistant, enash@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, with your availability.

At George Abbot, we are committed to cultivating an environment that promotes equality, diversity and inclusion. Hence, we are particularly keen on interviewers from a diverse background so that our Year 10 Interview Day reflects the community of George Abbot and also the world of work that our students will eventually enter.

All paperwork including the CV's, job descriptions and suggested guidelines for interview questions will be sent to you prior to the event.

For parents/carers of Year 10 students please note that the deadline to have your son/daughter's CV completed, checked and amended if necessary, and then signed by yourselves is Friday 11 February. If you have any questions, please email Mrs Nash, using the email above.

⇒ **Science Revision Guides for GCSE and KS3**

We will be ordering additional CGP Science Revision Guides for KS3 and GCSE as per the letters sent to all parents/carers in December. For those who ordered using WisePay after the deadline in December, and for those who wish to order before Monday 24 January, an order will be placed at the end of January.

[Return to home page](#)

Whole School

We will notify form teachers when the books arrive (usually within a few days of the order being placed). This will be the last order placed this academic year, and any student who requires guides at a later date can buy them directly from CGP or Amazon.

⇒ **Lost Property: Coats**

If your child has misplaced a coat, we have many in our lost property in Raynham Office. Please ask your child to come and check the lost property.

All unnamed and unclaimed lost property will be disposed of by the end of this half term.

⇒ **Parent/Carer Prayer Group**

Christian parents/carers of students at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for termly staff meetings, and contribute to supporting young carers in the school twice a year. If you are interested in being added to the email distribution list for this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com

⇒ **Ex-students uncollected exam certificates**

We will be holding an exam certificate collection opportunity for ex-students who left in the Summers of 2020 & 2021 on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 January 2022. This event will be held in Elmslie Hall on both dates from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Photo ID must be provided by all who will be collecting, without this we cannot release certificates. Doors to the left of Reception will be open for entry and exit will be through the fire exit doors in Elmslie Hall. In order to ensure the safety our staff and those collecting, only a maximum of 5 will be allowed in at a time. Your support in wearing face coverings would be greatly appreciated unless exempt.

Important: This is the last collection opportunity for ex-students to claim their uncollected certificates for 2020. In accordance with JCQ regulations, after this event these will be destroyed securely.

Ex-students who cannot collect in person can nominate another individual, but Exams must be informed in advance by email: exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. The nominated individual MUST bring photo ID, in order for the school to release the certificates.

However, should an ex-student urgently need their certificate(s) the student can request via email to exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk for an on-roll student to collect on their behalf at the end of the school day. Alternatively, an ex-student can request for these to be sent via Recorded Delivery, by completing the form on our website: www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Payment will need to be made via WisePay, either through a sibling account or by requesting the Finance Department to reactivate their WisePay account.

If you have any queries regarding this event, please contact us: exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk - 01483 888024.

⇒ **Youth Café**

Burpham Church & St. Johns Church in Mellow have opened a Youth Café on Wednesdays in term time, 5.00-6.30pm in Burpham Church on New Inn Lane. It's been designed to have something for everyone and includes a calming chill out space alongside a Homework space. Additionally, there is a games room and tuck shop. Entry is £1 and items sold in the tuck shop are 50p. If you would like more information, please contact youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk or nicky@burphamchurch.org.uk.

Year 11

⇒ **Year 11 Parent Subject Consultations—Monday 31 January 2022**

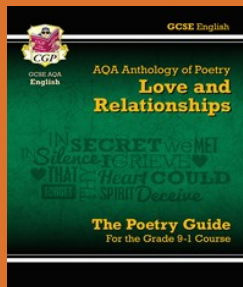
Please see important information attached regarding Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.

Year 11

⇒ Year 11 Next Steps Interviews

Year 11 Next Steps Interviews will take place from w/c 17 January 2022. An invitation for your child's interview, including the time and date, has been sent to their school email address. If they did not receive an invitation, please email thesixthform@georgeabbot.surry.sch.uk

Year 10



⇒ English Literature this term

This term Year 10 students will be studying the Love & Relationships Poetry Anthology which is part of their GCSE English Literature course. The anthologies will be supplied directly by their class teacher, however, they may wish to order a copy of the CGP Poetry Guide as shown (left). The guide is very beneficial and will be useful for revision during Year 11. It is highly recommended by English teachers.

Please purchase the texts via the school's WisePay system as soon as possible, and once purchased the guides will be distributed to students. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their guide free of charge.

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
17 January	A	2
24 January	B	3
31 January	A	4
7 February	B	5
HALF TERM		

Focus on: Rowan, published author!

We are so pleased to announce that one of our Year 11 students, Rowan, has had her first novel published. This is such an amazing achievement, and we are very proud! Below, Rowan explains the process around writing her book:

"Ever since I was six years old, it's been my dream to be a published author. My mind was so full of ideas, but they'd always whizz around my mind too much to make it onto paper. I'd start writing a story, but then get completely bored and lose all inspiration.

However, everything changed last year when something completely inexplicable happened. I had an epiphany moment. One evening my mind suddenly came up with the entire plot of Ocean's Pearl. I immediately started furiously writing the ideas down on my Braille machine. Once I started writing the book, I couldn't stop!

When I finally presented it to my family, it was fifty thousand words long! After many edits, both for spellings and plot points, I sent it off to get published.

So, I hope you enjoy reading my creative piece: Ocean's Pearl!"

Synopsis: Ocean and Pearl are identical twins. They couldn't be closer. Ocean dreams of being a famous artist and Pearl wants to write. But a cruel twist of fate changes everything. Can life be pulled back together or will the dreams they share be lost forever?

Visit the link below to get your copy:

<https://www.whsmith.co.uk/products/oceans-pearl/rowan-todd/paperback/9781685831028.html>



Sustainable GA

Second hand/Vintage Clothes sale—help needed!

Unfortunately, we have had to **postpone** our second hand/vintage clothes sale on Saturday 29 January. **HOWEVER**, we would still appreciate your donations, for when we are able to reschedule!

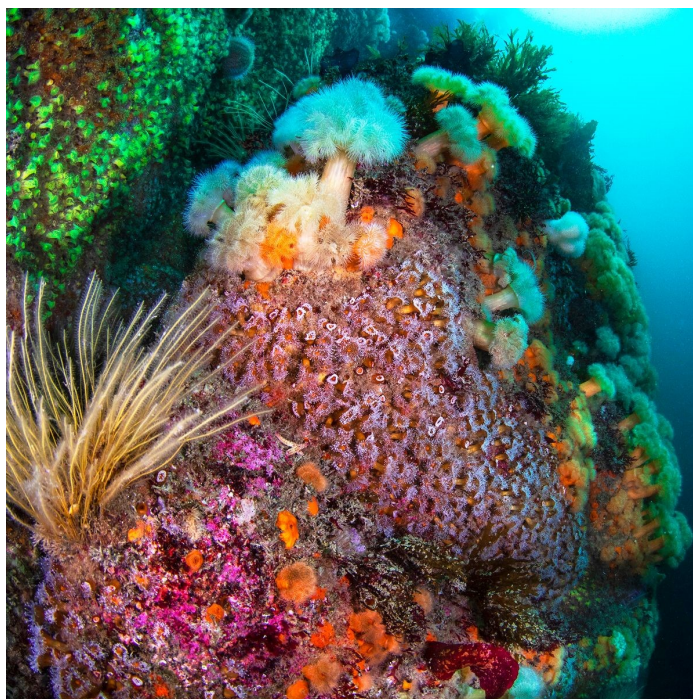
As before, please bag any clean items of clothing or accessories in an acceptable condition and donate them to school. Please encourage your child to drop donations within the school day, or drop them yourself **AFTER** school hours, just inside the doors at Elmslie reception throughout January. More details of the rescheduled clothes sale to follow shortly. Thank you for your support.



Monthly Spotlight

Below is this month's sustainability spotlight from the Marine Conservation Society, the UK's leading marine charity. They work to ensure our seas are healthy, pollution-free and protected. Their vision is that seas are full of life, where nature flourishes and people thrive. Take a look at tips below to see how you can play your part.

Statistic
More than 50% of the oxygen in the air we breathe comes from the ocean—that's the oxygen in at least every other breath we take.
Tip
The ocean is vital to all of us, but global warming is heating it up. Help it by reducing your carbon footprint—make fewer car journeys, avoid flying, eat less red meat and more food that is grown locally.
Task
Start a travel diary—this can show you patterns of how long and far you drive, helping to cut out or combine tips.



Surrey Hills—Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a nationally important landscape, something everyone living in the area should be justly proud of.

A formal boundary review is now underway, led by Natural England, to decide whether areas adjacent to the existing Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundary should also be designated. They are keen for people who live in and around the Surrey Hills to have the opportunity to participate in this review process. Moreover, they are particularly keen to involve as many young people as possible in this activity as the Surrey Hills needs to continue to be a great place for them to live, learn, work and play, long into the future.

The first phase of the boundary review is to gather evidence about the natural beauty of the areas, currently outside of the AONB, that are under consideration. They have designed a website and a smartphone app that will help you gather this evidence

Please use the following link to access the website, where you will find all the information you need to help you participate in this process. www.surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org



Careers

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

- Medicine Application Webinar
- Goldman Sachs Degree Apprenticeship Programmes
- IBM Apprenticeships
- BAE Systems Craft Engineering Apprenticeships
- PWC—upcoming events including career insights and interview tips

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

- PWC—upcoming events including career insights and interview tips
- Brooklands College Careers Events
- NHS Virtual Work Experience

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

- Careers in Science, Skills Gap

Current Opportunities for Students and Parents/Carers

IMAG programme

The Guildford 11-19 Partnership IMAG programme aims to provide more opportunities for Interested, Motivated & Able pupils in the Guildford area to capture students' imagination and interest outside of the classroom and encourage them to take the initiative and engage with programmes and events to enhance their education.

This term, Guildford High School is hosting an [online lecture](#) to support girls' performance in sport: 'Unlocking Female Athlete Potential' is aimed at girls of any age who are already or beginning to need to balance high level training in sport alongside their academic life. This lecture is free of charge. The lecture is given by Georgie Bruinvels who is a Senior Sports Scientist and Research Scientist at Orreco. She will be delivering an insightful talk about unlocking female athlete potential, looking into topics such as sleep, the menstrual cycle and nutrition to enhance athletic performance. Orreco work with elite athletes globally. They help them tolerate the physical demands of their profession, accelerate recovery and extend playing careers. Please visit the IMAG website to register your attendance and receive the link for the lecture: www.imag.education/events

Gresham College

Gresham College's free hybrid public lectures (running since 1597) are delivered by world-leading professors in the arts and sciences, including Professors Chris Whitty (Medicine), Sarah Hart (Maths) Leslie Thomas QC (Law) and Edith Hall (Classics). You can sign up for monthly email updates here: gres.hm/schools.

For students they are a resource for developing subject knowledge and skills, careers advice, EPQ projects and UCAS statements. We have a searchable back catalogue of 2,500+ free digital lectures on our website ordered by school subject at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/schools>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Cave, Most Able Lead, ecave@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

AIM Group Free Accredited Courses

AIM Group are offering Free online Level 2 CACHE/TQUK/NCFE Accredited Courses to parents/carers to help better understand some key issues around young people's mental health and wellbeing. These include, understanding autism, young people's mental health, behaviour that challenges and learning difficulties. The qualifications are completed within an 6-week period, duration is completely dependent on each learner's ability as to how fast they complete and how many hours it takes.

If you are interested in undertaking one of these free online courses, then please complete the following link this week. This will then allow you to complete a quick registration and you will then be contacted to explain how enrolment works.

<https://theaimgroup.co.uk/booking-form/0014J00000gKPf1>

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

We are really glad that George Abbot's new Children's Wellbeing Practitioner has now started in school. Charlotte Howell, from Surrey and Borders NHS Partnership, (SABP), is going to be with us every week, and will be supporting parents/carers and staff as we work together to help our students stay healthy and well. Charlotte joins a team of mental health practitioners who work in school already, including our Counsellor, Charlotte Wears, and our youth workers and counsellors from Matrix Trust, as well as our skillful in-school pastoral specialists. Beyond school, Charlotte Howell works within a wider team from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), which includes our designated Primary Mental Health Worker and representatives from the SABP Crisis Mental Health team.

What to do if you're worried about your child

If you are really anxious about your child, you can call the Mental Health Crisis Helpline, from SABP, on 0800 915 4644 or you can dial 999.

If you are aware that your child is struggling with their emotional wellbeing or mental health, a good first step is to take them to your GP. Students can also make use of the CYP Haven service, www.cyphaven.net/, which is a drop-in service for young people aged 10-18.

Our Heads of Year and Home School Link Workers are also on hand to help. Phone 01483 888000 or email office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk and they will get you through to the right person.

There is lots of information available on the Wellbeing page of the school website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/wellbeing/>

We're working with SABP to provide parent/carer workshops and information sessions – watch this space!

Judith Daniels, AHT and Mental Health Lead

PTA

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Now that we are back on full steam, we wanted to alert you to what the PTA is planning for this term:

Meetings: Our next meeting is 3 February at 6:30pm, location to be announced next week. We hope to see parent/carer helpers new and old! Please make a note in the diary. For the rest of the year we will then meet on 3 March, 12 May, 23 June, and finish with a social event on 15 July.

Events: We are planning to help at the end of January with some school events catering, and will announce more next week! Also please lookout for a parent/carer event, and some more info on the ever popular Clandon Park run! Virtually, we are also hoping to get all our software platforms up and running and active. Anyone who wishes to help with this please do contact us.

Christmas Raffle: We are now getting all the prizes out to the winners, don't worry if you have not been told a place to pickup from, we will be contacting you by the end of the week with all the details you need. Next week we will also announce what we raised and the prizes won. Well done to our 65 winners!

As always, we appreciate any donations of second-hand/unused school clothes and above all, any of your valuable time in coming to meetings and helping out with ideas and events.

Have a lovely January and hope we see a lot of you on the 3 February!

With many thanks for your support, The PTA.



facebook.com/georgeabbotparents
PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/

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