

George Abbot Bulletin

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

Headteacher's Message

11 February 2022

All

I am pleased to report that after a swift rise in COVID-19 numbers over the last two weeks, we are now seeing the numbers of students affected decreasing again. I do so hope that all of our families will be able to enjoy a healthy week off school. Current case numbers are:

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
19	33	12	14	17	4	0

Thank you to the 292 parents or carers who completed our recent school satisfaction survey. All but 13 of our respondents felt able to recommend our school to another family. We are pleased that in most cases, we are getting things right and continue to strive to ensure that every parent/carer feels supported in their child's education at our school. Similarly, 280 parents/carers confirmed that their child feels safe at our school - I must ask that should you be one of the parents/carers who does not consider this to be the case, that you ensure you have been in touch with the school safeguarding team (via dsl@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) so that we can take urgent action to rectify this situation. You will recognise this repeated message in my Bulletin thoughts - children MUST be safe and enabled to thrive at George Abbot School.

On the theme of homework, we had some interesting patterns within the feedback. The vast majority of respondents felt that homework levels were about right - however, those who felt there was too little were:

16% for Year 7
19% for Year 8
42% for Year 9
25% for Year 10
16% for Year 11

We see a clear picture here that parents/carers feel that our 13 and 14 year olds have capacity to complete more home learning. This is an agenda item for our first Staff Meeting back after half term - I will ask our Heads of Department to plan for this to be delivered over the second part of the academic year. We will then survey parents/carers again to see if this has been a positive and manageable development in our expectations of our young people at home.

Lastly, 32% of parents/carers who completed the survey said they weren't sure what their child was learning through the academic year. Did you know that you can see a term by term, year by year break down of topics on the curriculum page of the school website? [Click here to find out more.](#)

And if you are interested in HOW the students are learning, please visit our new Teaching and Learning page where you can read about how we teach, and view assemblies on *retrieval* and *feedback*! [Click here to learn, about learning at GA.](#)

In closing, I send my best wishes to you all for a happy half term week; lighter mornings and slightly longer days, spring flowers and perhaps, even some sunshine.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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
21 February	A	1
28 February	B	2
7 March	A	3
14 March	B	4
21 March	A	5
28 March	B	1
EASTER		

Notices

Whole School

⇒ **Community Alert: Underpass**

We received a report, on Thursday 10 February, that a man, in a silver-grey car, slowed down - alongside one of our female students - and tried to engage her in a conversation. He then followed her, for a period of time. He might have been wearing a hat. This happened on the road opposite the underpass. The student was unharmed and we have reported the matter to Surrey Police. Please reiterate awareness of stranger danger, to your child, and ensure you have secure and safe travel arrangements in place to and from school.

Surrey Police has also visited the school to communicate that there has been an increase, in Guildford, in the reporting of strangers, approaching secondary school students. Surrey Police is in the process of ascertaining if the incidents are linked. They involve a male but, also, a female - who has approached female students to engage them in conversation. No attacks have been reported and there is no cause for alarm but vigilance is necessary.

We have requested increased community police patrols, at the beginning and end of the school day.

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. Always call 999 in an emergency.

⇒ **Free School Meals**

This week, we have issued Free School Meal vouchers to cover the half term week. If you have not received your voucher or have issues accessing it, please contact SJones@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. For parents/carers who have previously requested it, we have posted your voucher.

⇒ **Half term advice for families from Surrey County Council**

COVID-19 rates remain high, and the best ways to protect yourself, and others, is by washing your hands, letting the fresh air in, cleaning, wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, testing regularly and getting vaccinated; it is particularly important during the half term holiday to be aware of protecting yourself and others when mixing with people that you do not usually meet with.

⇒ **For the Love of Books**

A whopping 124 books were borrowed from the Gallery on Wednesday 9 February as part of a Valentine's themed promotion aimed at getting students reading this half term. Clearly jammy dodgers are the way to get books in hands - please do encourage your child to read this holiday - 10 minutes a day can make all the difference!

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<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"> • Teacher of Maths • Teacher of Chemistry or Biology • Inclusion Manager • Head of Faculty—English <p>⇒ Drama Classes—G Live G Live in Guildford are offering inclusive drama classes for children with SEN. More information on the weekly classes can be found here: https://glive.co.uk/Online/tickets-encore-drama-spring-term-seniors-guildford-2022</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ REMINDER: Year 11 Student/Parent/Carer Revision Workshops—Monday 21 February</p> <p>We have arranged a Year 11 Revision Workshop to take place on Monday 21 February, during the school day, with a virtual session for parents/carers on the same evening at 6.00pm. Students will take part in one of three 90 minute sessions, run by a team of external specialists, who have vast experience in preparing students for exams. Our teachers do a superb job of preparing students in lessons, but we feel that given recent events this extra level of support will be hugely beneficial for Year 11. A letter has been sent today with more information.</p> <p>⇒ Uncollected Exam Certificates Please can any Year 11 students who have not collected their exam certificates come to the Exams Office (at the end of the Humanities corridor) in Breaks 1, 2 and 3 on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 February.</p> <p>⇒ Vocab Express MFL students in Years 9-11 will now be using a platform called Vocab Express for independent vocabulary learning, thus replacing Memrise. Please see letter attached for more information.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ ADVANCED WARNING: RE Further Assessment Please be aware, Year 10 will sit their RE Further Assessment on Tuesday 8 March. It will last 50 minutes. Students will be examined on the following units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhism: Practices • Social Justice <p>A revision calendar as well as revision guides and workbooks are all available on Show My Homework. Please do encourage students to start revising early. There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest: AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming (Author) .</p> <p>⇒ Vocab Express MFL students in Years 9-11 will now be using a platform called Vocab Express for independent vocabulary learning, thus replacing Memrise. Please see letter attached for more information.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Vocab Express MFL students in Years 9-11 will now be using a platform called Vocab Express for independent vocabulary learning, thus replacing Memrise. Please see letter attached for more information.</p>

Focus on: Lego League Tournament

On Tuesday 8 February, a group of Year 11 students, Ethan G, James T and Joel V, took part in the annual First Lego League competition, Southern Area Region, at the University of Portsmouth, against teams from schools in and around Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. This year's theme was 'Cargo Connect', which was focused on different ways of transporting cargo and the various transport systems used across the globe and in different industries.

The competition is split into 4 categories, Robot Tournament, Innovation Project, Core Values and Technical Robot Design.

The Core Values and the Technical Design sections were assessed during presentations with a judging panel, with a focus on how the students tackled the challenges, worked as a team, and designed and programmed their robot.



The Innovation Project saw the students again, present to a panel of judges, their idea for innovation based on the theme, targeted at improving the delivery of goods and via the disused railway system, which was used previously by Royal Mail. They talked about re-opening the rail system and developing an environmentally friendly and sustainable method of transporting mail and goods across the UK, using these underground tunnels.

The students worked collaboratively over the last few months, via Google Classroom, and created a well devised presentation, which was delivered brilliantly and impressively, leading to excellent comments from the judges.

The Robot Tournament, saw the students design an autonomous robot from Lego, then program the robot to complete a variety of challenges based around the Cargo Connect theme. Teams were awarded points for completing a range of challenges, of varying difficulty, with points also being awarded for suitability, design and independence of the robot. Each team completed 3 runs on the day against the other teams, with the best score from the runs counting overall. The team scored 110, 190 and 85 points in their runs.

The team showed great determination and dedication both in the build up to the event and also during the event itself, making tweaks and changes in between runs. The students performed incredibly well during the robot section, with their attitude and development being highly praised throughout. This led to them being declared as **winners** of the Robot section, which is highly deserved.

Throughout the whole event, the students performed exceptionally well, were highly praised by the judges during their various presentations, as well as remaining calm and mature, when at certain points during the day, things did not go to plan and in discussions with organisers and judges.

Following their fantastic attitude and performance across all categories, the students were declared overall **Area Winners of the Southern region**. This means they will represent the region in the next stage in Harrogate on 26 February. The students were thoroughly excited about the result and are focused on preparations for the next stage.

Updated Sport Extra-Curricular Timetable

	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday		
	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher
2 nd Break	Year 9/10 Hockey	Astro	BRI	Year 7/8 Badminton	SH	JNF						
3 rd Break				Year 11 Girls Basketball	SH	JLL	Year 9 Badminton	SH	SGB	Year 10 Badminton Year 10 Girls Netball	SH	AJR JN
After School	Year 7 Boys Basketball	Gym	External Coach	Year 7/8 Hockey	Astro	External Coach + BRI	Year 7 Girls Basketball	Gym	External Coach + CEF	Year 7/8 Girls Netball	Courts	External Coach + JLL
	Orienteering (All years)	Meet at SH	6 th Form	Y7/8 Volleyball	SH	SGB/JR	Y9/10 Volleyball	SH	JN/JLL	Y9/10 Rugby	Field	BRI
				6 th Form Fitness Suite	FS	JZH	Y7/8 Handball	Astro	AJR/PLJ	Year 7/8 Rugby	Field	External Coach + AJR
			GCSE PE	SHL	JNF	Y10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite	FS	LAM	Y10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite	FS	CXC	

Coming up next term...



GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL PRESENTS

Spring Festival:

A celebration of Music and Dance

THURSDAY 31 MARCH • 7 PM
RAYNHAM HALL, GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Tickets:
Adults - £6
Child/Concession - £3
More information to follow



GEORGE ABBOT
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SCHOOL

G Live Schools Concert

- Wednesday 9 March at 7pm in G Live, Guildford.
- Tickets on sale after half term.
- More information attached.

RAG Week

Between Monday 7 and Friday 11 March our Sixth Form students will be running RAG week at George Abbot. The central theme will be Oceans, with the proceeds going to WaterAid, helping to increase access to water in less fortunate areas.

During the week there will be Sixth Form dress up days, activities and, as always, stalls selling cakes, popcorn and sweets.

To be able to partake in the fun, students will need to purchase GAB Tokens via WisePay (under General Payments and the option is entitled 'Sixth Form RAG Week March 2022'). One GAB token will cost 50p and tokens need to be bought by Wednesday 2 March in order to give the Sixth Formers time to get the tokens ready to be distributed on the Monday morning of RAG week. Unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is going to charity. Any payment queries please contact Finance, email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Careers in Engineering Event

- Royal Grammar School, Guildford
- Wednesday 23 February
- 6:30 – 8:30pm
- Auditorium in the new building

The Royal Grammar School in Guildford has kindly reserved eight seats for George Abbot Sixth Form students to attend their Careers in Engineering evening. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please see Mrs Rose in USIC. This seminar will include several speakers from the engineering sector and also the RGS Director of Studies, Careers and Higher Education.

COVID - Lateral flow tests are recommended prior to the event and face coverings are to be worn unless exempt. Hand sanitiser will be available too.

Please note, this is not a George Abbot organised trip, no member of George Abbot staff will be at the event and transport to and from the event is the responsibility of the parents/carers and/or student.

Great British Book Off!

Thursday 3 March is World Book Day. One of the ways the Gallery are planning to mark this celebration this year is with a baking challenge. Young bakers will be challenged to design, bake and decorate a show stopping cake with a book or author theme. Start gathering ideas over the half term week! A few rules:

- Nothing that needs refrigeration.
- Finished bake must be fully contained or covered.
- Allergen/ingredient list must be attached.

Wellbeing Hub

A reminder that George Abbot has recently subscribed to The Wellbeing Hub. The link below will prompt you to set up your individual login for a free subscription. Please only use this link, otherwise it will ask you to sign up with a monthly subscription fee: https://club.teentips.co.uk/membership-account/membership-checkout/?level=5&discount_code=GeorgeAbbotParent1J8c5

We hope that you find this a useful resource. If you have any questions, please email hub@teentips.co.uk or smurphy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Sustainable GA

Community Fridge: Zero Carbon Guildford has set up a Community Hub in town with the aim of bringing climate-led action into one community space. The primary aim of is waste reduction. This Community Fridge is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 4pm. All members of the public are encouraged to come along and take away surplus food donated by local supermarkets for free.



Energy Club: Zero Carbon Guildford is also hosting an important initiative to support and advise families that might be struggling with the increasing energy prices/energy debt. See more info below.



COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Now in a town centre location!

Come visit your new Community Fridge in ZERO (beside TK Maxx).

The food is FREE to anyone, with the goal of reducing food waste in Guildford!

New food deliveries every Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come by and see what's in the fridge today!

ZERO , 14-16 Friary St, Guildford, GU1 4EH
Open Daily from 10am - 4pm



Warmth Matters
Stay warm. Stay healthy. Save money.

ENERGY CLUB

The 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
Zero Carbon Guildford, 14-16 Friary Street
Guildford GU1 4EH 11am - 1pm

Are you worried about your energy bills?

Do you need help understanding your gas and electricity bills?

Are you finding it difficult to makes ends meet?

Are you in energy debt?

If you are unsure where to turn for information and advice then join our friendly staff and volunteers and receive help in a number of different ways.



For more information contact David on 07521 502 696 or email davidcarter@surreyca.org.uk

Careers

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

All years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experian Data Technology Virtual Work Experience
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Apprenticeship opportunities: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/apprenticeship-opportunities/>

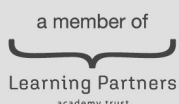
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procter & Gamble: Employability and Apprenticeships
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Virtual Work Experience opportunities: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/virtual-work-experience/>

All years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experian Data Technology Virtual Work Experience
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