

George Abbot Bulletin

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

All

29 April 2022



The summer term is now in full swing. Bright days have been matched by cold temperatures, but mercifully, a dry field. Students have relished the freedom of green spaces and it is a joy to see them running, enjoying the football goals and rugby posts as well as sitting and chatting with friends in a favourite sunny spot.

You may be aware that for many years, we have had a unit for students with visual impairment at George Abbot. However, unit student numbers have declined over recent years and from September, our unit is not anticipated to have any students. We have therefore launched a consultation to close the VI Unit at George Abbot School, from 1 September 2022.

Surrey data regarding student numbers over the coming years indicates that there is insufficient demand for VI places in this area and the unit is, therefore, unsustainable. Please be assured that this consultation does not signal any change in our inclusive ethos or result in any redundancies. I hope you know and see that the diversity of our school is extremely important to our ethos.

The full rationale for this change of provision is documented in the attached proposal, with supporting evidence from Surrey County Council. We would like to know what you think about the proposal to remove the Visual Impairment Unit (owing to a lack of demand) at George Abbot School, from 1 September 2022. If you would like to provide feedback, please do so via the following methods:

- Response to our online consultation questionnaire – <https://forms.office.com/r/ShZ8hNvZex>
- Letter posted to Kate Carriett, Headteacher at George Abbot School, Woodruff Avenue, Guildford. GU1 1XX
- Public Meeting hosted at George Abbot School at 5.30pm on Thursday 12 May 2022

All feedback must be received by 12 noon on Thursday 26 May 2022. The outcome of this consultation will be communicated to you all through the George Abbot bulletin, posted on our school website, as well as the trust website.

Next, some updated guidance in relation to COVID-19. UKHSA guidance sets out that children and adults with symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and who have a high temperature or do not feel well, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others until they no longer have a temperature and feel well. This is therefore the guidance we are working to at George Abbot. Examination season now approaches with certainty: during the exam season any illness is of course a concern. This year, external exams have all been planned so that there is at least a 10 day gap between papers of the same subject. If a student is unwell and has to miss a paper there is a self-certification process that has to then be signed off by George Abbot staff as part of tight controls in this area. If your child is taking external exams this summer, please follow this link: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/> to view the full guidance and the JCQ Form 14 that must be completed in any such circumstance. All students sitting external exams this summer will receive details of their seating arrangements from our Examinations Officer next week.

Next week also sees District Sports for 120 of our athletes across year groups - very well done to all those students who have been selected to represent George Abbot and Good Luck! Today, we say two goodbyes and two adieus to four staff: Mrs Howard who works in our SEN staff team and Mrs Corcoran who is our Attendance Officer are off to challenges new - we wish them both well and thank them sincerely, for all of their work with our students. They have both been staff of star quality. We also say adieu to Mrs Wrazen who begins her maternity leave and to Mrs Evans-Dix who begins her adoption leave - such exciting times for them both. We shall think of them warmly until their return.

Sending best wishes for a good Bank Holiday weekend to you all.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Notices

Whole School

⇒ **Into the Wild**

We are delighted to announce that the Visual Arts Faculty and Dance have collaborated this year to create an amazing show called "Into the Wild". All of our students and staff have been working hard during their lessons or in after school clubs to create exciting fashion garments and dance performances.

There will be two performances of "Into the Wild" held in Raynham Hall on Wednesday 11 May 2022, at 6.00pm and 8.00pm. We are selling tickets for the performances, via WisePay, at the following prices: £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for concessions. Proceeds will be divided between the George Abbot Arts and Dance departments, and the British Red Cross for their work in Ukraine.



We hope you are able to come and support our departments, as we celebrate our wonderfully talented students in the Creative Arts.

The rehearsal schedule for all those participating in the shows can be found [here](#). We look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 11 May 2022.

⇒ **PE Extra Curricular clubs w/c 2 May**

Please be advised, PE extra curricular clubs are CANCELLED on 2, 4 and 5 May due to GCSE PE Moderation, District Sports and Surrey Cricket finals. Clubs will recommence e/c 9 May. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

⇒ **25 Compass Bus Service**

We have been informed that due to an emergency road closure of Burrows Lane, buses are diverting via Little London and Albury Park Gates. Buses are not serving Gomshall and Shere. This alternative route will be in place until **Thursday 5 May 2022**.

⇒ **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

⇒ **Calling all Young Writers!**

Reader's Digest are running a 100 word story competition with a £1,000 prize! Deadline is 20 May and entries must be exactly 100 words. All information can be found here: <https://www.readersdigest.co.uk/inspire/100-word-story-competition/100-word-story-competition-2022>

Please email Nicky Cassidy, ncassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, if you have any questions.

Whole School

⇒ 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 include:

- Head of Media
- Head of Business and Economics
- Receptionist (see below)
- Science Technician

Receptionist—temporary cover

We are seeking an enthusiastic, welcoming and professional Receptionist to be the first point of contact for our students, parents and the wider school community. The successful candidate will manage the smooth running of the George Abbot School Reception and effectively support clerical duties in the wider school office.

- 32.5 hours per week (8.30am to 3.30pm with 30 minutes for lunch)
- Temporary until July 2022
- Surrey Pay 4: actual salary range £14,698.78-£16,696.18
- If you would be interested in this role, please contact Polly Jacobs: pjacobs@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ IMAG Event—Summer Science, May 2022

'Summer Science' aims to offer some stretch and challenge to capable pupils in Years 7&8 and, importantly, to encourage conversations about Science between children and their parents. Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to attend together with their child. For more information, please click [here](#).

⇒ FREE Art Workshop for Young People - Saturday 30 April

G-Live are kicking off their month long Arts and Wellbeing festival, Rooted in Guildford, this Saturday with a fantastic FREE community art workshop between 10am – 3pm. Open to all young people aged 12 – 25, local artists Laura Hensser and Sophie Kathleen will help participants create a fantastic large scale mural that will then be displayed at G Live throughout the month of May. The themes of the workshop are all around inclusion, acceptance and positivity, using art as a medium for self-expression and self care. No booking required. You can also check out the rest of the month long festival programme [here](#).

Year 13

⇒ Key upcoming dates

Please see important key dates for Year 13 below:

- Leavers Assembly—Friday 20 May, 12.15pm-1.30pm
- Graduation Assembly—Monday 27 June, 10.35am-11.00am
- Year 13 Prom—Monday 27 June, 7.30pm-11.30pm

More details will follow in a separate Schoolcomms early next week.

Year 11

⇒ Study Leave and Examination Dates

Please see important key dates for Year 11 below:

| Key Year 11 Dates | |
|----------------------|---|
| Start of GCSE Exams | 16 May 2022 |
| May Half Term | 28 May – 5 June 2022 |
| Last GCSE Exam | 23 June 2022 |
| Leavers Assembly | 23 June 2022 (after the Physics exam) |
| Exam Contingency Day | 29 June 2022 (students must be available) |
| Prom | 5 September 2022 |

Year 11

During the Exams and Study Leave:

Students will follow their regular timetable up until May Half Term. Where students are not in exams, they will either be completing independent, supervised revision or teacher led revision depending on priority. Teachers will be aware of the revision priorities for students and will ensure students are able to focus on their most immediate exams. During this time additional subject revision sessions will take place as required.

After May Half Term, students will only come in for their exams, revision spaces will be available during this time.

Full school uniform is to be worn throughout the whole GCSE exam period.

Year 10

⇒ RE GCSE external exam

A reminder the Year 10 GCSE RE external exams take place on the following dates:

- Paper 1—Monday 16 May 2022 AM
- Paper 2—Thursday 26 May 2022 PM

Each paper will last 1 hour and 45 minutes. Further seating information will follow from the Examinations Officer next week. Students will be examined on the following units:

| Paper 1 | Paper 2 |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity: Beliefs & Teachings• Christianity: Practices• Buddhism: Beliefs & Teachings• Buddhism: Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships & Families• Peace & Conflict• Crime & Punishment• Social Justice |

There are plenty of revision resources on Satchel One under the title 'RE GCSE Revision Resources' or please follow this link for the [SLE:Y10 GCSE Revision Resources HL](#). Please do encourage students to revise.

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)

⇒ Understanding and Supporting your Year 10 Child with Anxiety

We are pleased to announce we will be running a talk for parents/carers of Year 10 students from NHS Primary Mental Health Worker, Sandra Hooper, about anxiety and tips for supporting your child cope with anxiety.

To be held on 4 May 2022 at 5.30pm, please book tickets via the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-and-supporting-your-year-10-child-with-anxiety-tickets-308494795237>

If you have any questions about the event, please email the Home School Link Worker Team: hslw@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Please remember to visit the wellbeing page of our website for useful resources:

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

Careers

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

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

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

- Get into Veterinary Medicine Conference, Sunday 15 May
- Insight into Jaguar Land Rover, Monday 16 May

Explore University of Surrey—Saturday 7 May 2022

Taking place from 10:30am until 3:00pm, the day enables members from across the community to come together and explore higher education. Learners and their supporters are invited to visit campus for a day filled with interactive activities, introducing subjects, societies and support available at university. From inspirational talks, to sporting activities and even science experiments, there will be something for everyone! For more information, please [click here](#).

Sustainable George Abbot News

George Abbot is now a Wilder school with the Surrey Wildlife Trust

We are proud to say that George Abbot School has become part of the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Wilder Schools. The Trust is working with us to develop and support the implementation of our biodiversity plan to establish how our school grounds can become a better space for nature. We will also be working on integrating nature and outdoor spaces into the school ethos and everyday life. <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/outdoor-learning/wilder-schools/team-wilder-schools>



Can you donate a pollinator friendly plant for our Nectar Cafes?

The Year 7 sustainability team are working hard to develop Nectar Cafes around the school and have approached local garden centres for donations. If you are able, please donate via WisePay (General Payments option 'Pollinator friendly plants for our Nectar Cafe May 2022') so we can purchase some additional plants.

Celebrating Creativity, Nature, Fashion and Sustainability, 9 - 14 May

The upcoming **Fashion and Dance Show 'Into the Wild'** on 11 May has catalysed other events in what is fast becoming our own version of a 'Fashion Week'. The Media Club will share their investigative journalism exploring staff and student perspectives on Fast Fashion and Sustainability in assemblies and there are **two other important dates for the diary**:

'Wear it Wild' Mufti Day, Tuesday 10 May

As part of a week of activities across the school celebrating creativity, nature, fashion and sustainability we are holding a Wear it Wild mufti day. Students can wear either clothes which are second hand/vintage, or that celebrate nature - such as animal print, or with a pictures/prints of animals. Please pay £2 via WisePay (under General Payments and the option is entitled 'Wear it Wild Mufti Day Tuesday 10 May 2022'). Any payment queries please contact the Finance Team: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. **All proceeds will go towards the outdoor water fountains we hope to install in all playgrounds this summer.**

Second Hand/Vintage Clothes Sale, 13-14 May

The Year 12 leadership team are holding a second hand clothing/vintage sale in Raynham Hall **after school on Friday 13 May** and from **11.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday 14 May**, in order to encourage more sustainable and creative clothes shopping habits. Please come along to browse and purchase new items for their wardrobe which don't cost the earth! All purchases to be made by card in line with our cashless school policy. **All proceeds will go towards the outdoor water fountains we hope to install in all playgrounds this summer.**

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED: Donations for our second hand/vintage sale are still very welcome—could you please leave bags of any unwanted clothes in the Elmslie reception, after school hours.

George Abbot School, Woodruff Avenue, Guildford, GU1 1XX
01483 888000 - www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk