

George Abbot Bulletin

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

9 September 2022



Today, we share a deep sense of loss at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II; a life of extraordinary service, dignity and grace.

All,

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2022. No mass lateral flow testing and a much more sedately paced start to the year. I do so hope that all of our families have enjoyed some time together over the long, hot Summer and that your children have enjoyed some adventures, time with friends and family and many a lie-in. Sleep definitely seems to correlate with them all getting taller.

It has been a delight to welcome our new Year 7s to the George Abbot community and also to welcome back lots of our Year 11s into Year 12, as well as some students joining us from other schools. The beginning of the new academic year is packed with promise.

Your children will have observed some new teachers amongst us - a quick introduction follows:

- Mrs Green and Ms McGerigal in the Maths Department, alongside Ms Lomas-Chandler who is teaching Maths, Music and is one of our Deputy SENCOs.
- Mrs Harris and Miss Simms in both the Maths and Science Department.
- Miss Sellers and Ms Sherrard in the Science Department.
- Mr Dixon in the English Department.
- Miss Mtungwazi in the Media Department.
- Miss O'Brien in the Law Department.
- Miss Collinson in the Business and Dance Departments.
- Mr Manson in the Drama Department.
- Miss Kelly and Mr George-Hamilton in the Psychology Department.
- Mrs May in the PE Department.
- Mr Wearn and Miss Wojcikiewicz in the MfL Department.

We also have a number of staff who have joined us behind the scenes over recent months - our most recent team members include:

- Mrs Doddihal - Science Technician.
- Mr Yilmaz - DT Technician.
- Mrs Frewin - HSLW for Years 7 & 8.
- Mrs Taylor - HSLW.
- Mr Hobbs - Premises Supervisor.
- Miss McLean - Careers Assistant.
- Mrs Donovan - Finance Officer.
- Mrs Evans - Finance Officer.
- Mrs Macrae-Brown - Receptionist.

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It was a busy and very successful recruitment season with staff joining us with superb track records and strong fields. We welcome them all.

You will find the timetable for a number of extra-curricular clubs this term on the following page of our school website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/extra-curricular/> - do encourage your child to get involved and to be part of the many opportunities at George Abbot School. Trips have returned with a vengeance and there is lots to stimulate young minds and keep bodies active.

I look forward to our partnership this year - it continues to be the greatest privilege to work with you and your exceptional children.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

| Notices | Week commencing 12 September = Week B |
|---------------------|---|
| Whole School | <p>⇒ Parent/Carer Information Evenings Dates September/October 2022 Parents/carers in each year group are invited to attend a Parent Information Evening in the first few weeks of the new term. All events run from 6-7pm, in Raynham Hall. Details will be confirmed nearer the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 5 October - Year 7 Parent Information Evening• Wednesday 28 September - Year 8 Parent Information Evening• Monday 12 September - Year 9 Parent Information Evening• Wednesday 21 September - Year 10 Parent Information Evening <p>If you are unable to attend our Parent Information Evening, presentations shared can be found on the following page of the website, alongside tutor contact details: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/</p> <p>⇒ Prayer Room Students who wish to pray at break times may visit R45.</p> <p>⇒ Bus Passes for 2022/23 Academic Year Bus passes for the next academic year need to be collected from Elmslie Reception by Friday 16 September. Students must carry their photocards with them as well as their bus passes. Replacements can be organised by visiting this webpage.</p> <p>⇒ Free School Meal update We're glad to be able to inform parents/carers of children who qualify for Free School Meals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The daily amount has increased to £2.55.• Unspent daily money will remain on the child's account until the end of each Friday.• Porridge is available from the Raynham Canteen, free of charge for FSM students, from Monday from 8-8.25 am.• Unsold food is available to buy from Raynham Canteen, half price after school. FSM students can also use their allowance for this.• Sustainable water bottles are available from the Home School Link Worker office for all FSM students. <p>If you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals, please contact the Finance Team (finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or 01483 888000).</p> <p>⇒ Driving onsite and Parking A reminder that parents/carers are not permitted to drive onsite before 4.00pm. Please park considerately so coaches can pass along Woodruff Avenue, students can cross safely and so are neighbours are not inconvenienced.</p> <p>⇒ Progress Monitoring Dates 2021-22 Please see this academic year's progress monitoring dates attached or on the following page of the website: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/progress-monitoring/</p> |

⇒ Relationships and Sex Education (Year 7,8, 9, 10, and 11)

As a part of your child's education at George Abbot we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

From the start of the Autumn term, students will be taking part in lessons throughout the academic year which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. Students will have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

Year 7: students learn about puberty and caring for changing bodies, they will recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy relationships, including mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex, and friendship.

Year 8: students identify the importance of digital criticality for personal safety, including conduct for themselves and others online. FGM and honour based violence is also taught.

Year 9: lessons are on; relationship values and the law, peer pressure, domestic violence, grooming, sexually explicit content, and sexual harassment. There is also a scheme of work focused on extremism.

Year 10: lessons encompass positive relationships (including sexual relationships), contraception, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy choices and issues, and sexual wellbeing.

Year 11: a program of professional speakers from outside agencies is currently being planned.

PSHE education is taught through years 7 – 10, and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. The school has a written policy on sex and relationship education and if you would like to discuss or view the Schemes of Work with the Head of PSE, a meeting can be arranged on request.

If you would like to know more or talk to your child about relationships and sex, the FPA (Family Planning Association) can help make these conversations easier. FPA is a UK-registered sexual health charity providing straightforward information and support on sexual health, relationships and sex to everyone in the UK. <https://www.fpa.org.uk/>

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Murphy, Head of PSHE, smurphy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ Free Guildford Book Event tickets

We have been offered free tickets to the following events at the Guildford Book Festival. Please contact Ms Cassidy (ncassidy@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) for more information.

Benedict Allen: <https://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/benedict-allen>

Ella Mills: <https://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/ella-mills>

Martin Bayfield: <https://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/martin-bayfield>

Lucy Siegle: <https://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/lucy-siegle>

Mick Conefrey: <https://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk/mick-conefrey>

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55b3a273e4b00b13a952ffcc/t/62fa4e6df524746b454a4660/1660571255180/Guildford_Book_Festival_2022.pdf

⇒ Vacancies

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

Whole School

Football Coach

We are looking to recruit a Football coach for our Year 9 and 10 Boys Football Team, every Wednesday (from 3.30pm-4.30pm) until Easter. We are able to pay £40 per session and the you would need to be a qualified football coach and have a DBS check. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email jfilmer@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Exam Invigilators

As you might be aware, last year there was a national shortage of exam invigilators, whose vital responsibility it is to help run the examinations that our young people take each year. We are currently recruiting exam invigilators for the coming year and would like to invite you as a member of our school community, to consider taking on this most important of roles.

Invigilators receive full training from our Exam Team and are paid on an hourly rate. More details can be gained by emailing for an application form to: exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

We are asking that completed applications forms are emailed back to the email address above **by Friday 16 September**. After this date, applicants will be called in for a short interview, and the application process will be completed, followed by mandatory training.

If you feel the role is not one you are able to commit to at this time, please do mention our recruitment drive to local family and friends who might be in a position to join our team of George Abbot Invigilators.

⇒ **Clear out your cupboards, help our school community and save the planet!**

Calculators, textbooks, revision guides and ring binders wanted! We'll be collecting donations from Elmslie Reception from Monday 12 September until Friday 23 September. Don't forget that the PTA are always keen to receive clean, good quality second hand uniform.

Students will find out how to get hold of second-hand equipment shortly - tell them to listen out for details!

Next collection: OCTOBER: unwanted musical instruments and outdoors equipment for D of E expeditions. Get rummaging in readiness!

Year 12

⇒ **Year 11 Class of 2022—Yearbooks**

The Class of 2022 Year 11 Yearbooks will be at school on the week beginning 19/09/22. Once they are on site we will make arrangements for collection.

⇒ **Exam Access Arrangements**

If your child had exam access arrangements for their GCSEs (extra time, reader, scribe, use of a computer etc.) these will roll over into Sixth Form. However, unlike in Year 11, they have to be more responsible about collecting their own evidence for this. It is important that they make use of these whenever they are offered. Please encourage your child to have a chat with their teacher about their learning difficulties (or medical issues) if you feel this is appropriate. If not, please contact Ms Barratt (bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

Year 7

⇒ **Homework**

Students should not receive homework for the first couple of weeks at school to give them time to settle in. Once your child has attended their first IT lesson, they will be able to log into their school email accounts where they have been sent an email to register for Satchel One.

Careers

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

- The What University? What Career? Live event—Saturday 12 November

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

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

- Get into Medicine Conference
- NHS Virtual Work Experience Programme

As a general rule, the Friday Parent Bulletins will be issued once a fortnight during this academic year.

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