

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

11 November 2022

All,

This second half term of the year has begun with much activity. Last week saw a really successful Sixth Form Open Evening - attending in parent capacity, I was struck by the positivity and energy effervescing from our Heads of Department in their subject talks. They clearly love what they do. It was a good point in time for our Year 11s to focus and remember why they are working hard - or should be. The Year 11 Internal Assessment timetable has now been published and students will already be aware that the sequence of assessments begin on Friday 25 November with Maths. The Open Evening was followed by Michele Miller's impactful talk about revision strategies for both our Year 11s and Year 13s. Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 progress reports have now been published - these include Predicted University Grades for our Year 13s and for our Year 11s, a helpful update on teacher's views on their task and independent learning engagement, as well as the grade range of their estimated GCSE outcomes.

Year 13 attended the Safe Drive, Stay Alive event on Monday - as ever, it was impactful and well-timed. My dim recollection of being a new driver, nipping around the Welsh lanes in an ancient Renault 5 remind me that we can never be too cautious in our message to 17 year old, P and L plate drivers. Modern roads are busier than ever, people are busier than ever, accidents continue to be frequent and cause devastation to young lives and families. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 13 student, do make sure you talk to them about the event and the people they heard speak.

Thursday saw the brilliantly executed Careers Fair organised by The Careers Team. Our students relished the opportunity. We welcomed over 40 companies to the school, representing organisations as diverse as Savills, the National Crime Agency and British Airways. Students milled between the two venues with purpose and appropriately managed enthusiasm. They gathered free pens and came away inspired and interested to know more.

On Wednesday, 11 of our school governors visited to experience our students learning in our Maths classrooms. We are privileged to have a great set of governors at George Abbot - they are supportive and interested in all that we do for our children. I know that they felt privileged to be part of our children's Maths experience for the morning. Our Year 9s were open and engaging when they spoke to governors. Governors visited Year 11, 12, 13 and Year 7 in their Maths lessons. They then met with Mrs McAuliffe, our Head of Maths Faculty to talk about the curriculum and the way we implement it across year groups. This is an opportunity to recognise the work of our school governors and to thank them. Their challenge and partnership is an important part of George Abbot being a great school. Our current Governing Body members are:

- Nicola Mead - Chair - Community Governor
- Trevor Skerritt - Vice-Chair and Pupil Premium/Disadvantaged Link Governor - Parent Governor
- Andy Unitt - Chair of Finance and Resources - Community Governor
- Liz Bentley-Pattison - Chair of Curriculum and Outcomes - Parent Governor
- Jackie Thompson - Vice Chair of Curriculum and Outcomes and Student Wellbeing Link Governor - Parent Governor
- Amy Roussos - Sixth Form and Careers Link Governor - Community Governor
- Hannah Clements - SEN and Safeguarding Link Governor - Parent Governor
- Sue Kenne - Pupil Premium/Disadvantaged Link Governor - Community Governor
- Julie Dickson - Community Governor
- Douglas Spinks - Community Governor
- Mick Rolton - Estates, Health & Safety Governor - Parent Governor
- Matthew Bryan - Leadership Link Governor - Community Governor
- Rachel Murphy - Sustainability Link Governor - Staff Governor
- Catherine Fowler - Staff Governor

Next week, one of our parent governors will be involved as we hear presentations from 4 shortlisted uniform suppliers as we re-tender in the hope of gaining the most cost-effective deal we can for our families at this time of economic challenge. I will keep you updated on this issue.

Despite the financial climate, we will continue to prioritise employing the best quality teachers and improving our school environment for all of our students....in support of that aim, our small but productive PTA have organised a Christmas Fair, on Saturday 3 December, 1pm-4pm. Their mission is to make sure that our school is really well resourced - if we can purchase a small Christmas gift for a friend or relative whilst also raising funds for the school, it is at least cost neutral (!) and will bring resources to your children's classrooms. Please pop along for half an hour and show your support. Additionally, we are seeking raffle donations to be brought to school on Friday 2 December in exchange for a Mufti Day - a note for the shopping list: any donations, however small, make a difference for your child. 5 House Points per donation!

Finally, thank you to all of our cadets for your involvement in our Act of Remembrance at 11am today. As is our custom, the entire school fell silent to show our respect and honour to those who have given their lives in the service of our country.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Notices	<p style="text-align: right;">Week commencing 14 November = Week B Week commencing 21 November = Week A</p>
Whole School	<p>⇒ Uniform Shop The School Uniform Shop continues to open throughout term time. We are also happy to take orders by email for your son or daughter to collect. Please email spsschoolshops@yahoo.co.uk. Please use 'GA ORDER' as your header and please include: child's name and class, item(s) required including size, and a contact number. We will then contact you to take payment and advise when it will be ready for collection.</p> <p>Upcoming opening times: Monday 14 November - 3.00pm to 4.45pm</p> <p>Appointments are not needed during these times unless your child is starting new - please just drop in. On any of the above dates, we are happy to stay after 4.45pm to see you by appointment - please email us to arrange this.</p> <p>⇒ PE Department - Contribution towards new football kit Unfortunately, our football kits have become a little worn out. We would very much welcome any donations towards the cost of a new team football kit. To do this, please access WisePay where there will be an option to donate any amount you wish. If there is a parent who would like to advertise their company on our kit, please get into contact with aranger@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk where we can discuss this further.</p> <p>⇒ Interfaith Week 2022: 13 – 20 November As part of Interfaith week, students in some RE lessons in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to 'live zoom' local members of SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education), who represent a range of faiths and beliefs. They will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss ethical issues with the speaker. There will be no camera facing the students.</p> <p>Please note, unfortunately, not all classes will have the opportunity to engage in live discussions with the speakers, as this depends on the speakers' availability. All classes will, however, have the opportunity to watch pre-recorded videos of the speakers introducing themselves and giving their opinion on some ethical issues. If you would not like your child to take part in this, please email Mrs King: vking@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>

Whole School

⇒ Thinking of a career in teaching?

Whether you are a recent graduate, career changer or looking to re-start your career, teaching could be the job for you! With George Abbot SCITT you can train to teach in a wide range of subjects whilst placed in one of our partner schools.

Gain on-the-job experience alongside academic study. Successful completion of the course leads to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). In addition, you can choose to study for a PGCE (60 Masters credits) in conjunction with Kingston University.

Our experienced SCITT Team is hosting regular interactive webinars. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/72663888647> Alternatively, call our recruitment hotline on 01483 888048 or visit our website at <https://georgeabbottraining.co.uk/>.

Year 12

⇒ The Nativity Journey

The RE department have organised a trip to see The Nativity Journey, Wintershall on 14 December. The trip is open to any students in Year 12 studying Philosophy & Ethics. Please see the [letter](#) with further details of the trip. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Year 11

⇒ Year 11 Internal Assessments

Maths: Please be aware the Maths Year 11 Internal Assessment will take place on 25 November at 8.30am (1hr 30 mins). This will be a non calculator paper. The remaining two papers will be taken during the allocated Year 11 internal assessment period in December. Revision ideas are being posted on SatchelOne and resources are on the SLE. The assessment will cover the whole syllabus so there will be no specific topic lists for these papers.

English: Please be aware that the first English Literature Year 11 internal assessment will take place on 28 November at 8.30am. This will be English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel. All other English papers will take place during the allocated Year 11 internal assessment period in December.

A full schedule of the Year 11 Internal Assessments taking place in December can be found of the following page of the school website:

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

⇒ Next Steps Form

On Monday 14 November, Year 11 students will be sent a registration link, to their school email, for the Next Steps Form (Sixth Form Application). Please note, **ALL** students **MUST** complete this application form, even if they do not wish to attend the Sixth Form next year. **Deadline for applications: Monday 19 December 2022.**

All communications regarding this form will be sent to your child's school email, so it is important that they have access to it. If they are unable to access their account they should contact the IT Helpdesk, networkhelpdesk@georgeabbot.sch.uk, to ask for their account to be reset. If they have any questions about completing form they should contact Mrs Notley, Sixth Form Admissions, in the first instance, by emailing: admissions-sixthform@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ English Literature—A Christmas Carol

Odeon Cinemas are showing a previously recorded live performance of A Christmas Carol on Sunday 27 November at 3.00pm and on Thursday 1 December at 7.00pm.

This stage production of one of Dickens' most famous novels was filmed lived for cinemas during the 2021 stage run at Alexander Palace. A ghostly tale of love, loss and redemption and a perfect opportunity for our Year 11 students who have previously studied this text as part of their GCSE English Literature course to revisit the story, the characters and the themes. Please click on the link for further information and booking. [A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story \(odeoncinemas.ie\)](http://AChristmasCarol:AGhostStory(odeoncinemas.ie))

⇒ **The Nativity Journey**

The RE department have organised a trip to see The Nativity Journey, Wintershall on 14 December. The trip is open to any students in Year 7. Please see the [letter](#) with further details of the trip. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Exhibition for the Visual Arts



You are cordially invited to a Preview Exhibition of A-Level and GCSE Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography work at George Abbot School in Elmslie Hall on Tuesday 15 November, 6.00pm – 8.30pm.

Exhibition also open on: Wednesday 16 November, 6.00pm – 8.00pm



PTA

PTA Christmas Fair - Saturday 3 December, 1-4pm, Raynham Hall

In the run-up to the PTA Christmas Fair, this week sees the **PTA Christmas Raffle go live on RAF-FALL.COM**. We have some fabulous prizes to win, so follow the link and buy your tickets for a chance to win!
www.Raffall.com/georgeabbotschoolpta

Do make a date to come along to the **Christmas Fair, on the 3 December, 1-4pm**. We have some wonderful stalls selling crafts and gifts; perfect for early Christmas shopping! Stall places are still available if you would like to attend as a seller; email pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk to apply.

Xmas Fair Gift Donations for Friday 2 December Mufti Day

In preparation for the PTA Christmas Fair on 3 December, we are inviting your children to bring in gift donations for raffle prizes that can be won:

- Chocolates / boxes of sweets
- non-alcoholic drinks (not energy drinks, please)
- **NOTE: Alcoholic drinks may be donated, but these should be brought into school and left at the Elmslie Reception, where details of their child's name and form can be recorded, so that they may receive House Points.**

In return for their kind gift donation, your child will be allowed to wear Mufti on Friday 2 December and will be awarded 5 House Points for supporting our school community fundraising.

Gift donations must be brought into school on Friday 2 December ONLY, into form rooms, please. Form tutors will award 5 House Points to each student able to provide a gift donation. Any student unable to bring in a gift but who wishes to be in Mufti on Friday 2 December, can make a donation on WisePay, which can be accessed via the school website. Look for the item entitled, 'Mufti Day Donation'.



Focus on: Trips and Visits

On Thursday 20 October we hosted a team from the BBC who came to visit George Abbot as part of the 'BBC100 Share Your Story'. The event was part of the BBC's centenary celebrations, where they have been visiting around 400 secondary schools across the UK in 2022. Our visit consisted of two BBC Ambassadors who shared their inspirational journeys with students, in a bid to inspire them through the power of storytelling.



The Ambassadors were David Harper - a Senior Journalist and Reporter with BBC World Service. He talked about leaving school with few qualifications yet has still achieved a successful and varied career and Hetal Baporda - an Early Careers Trainee with Women's Hour. She talked about being told, as a blind person, that she couldn't do things and how she set out to defy those expectations. Students from Year 8 and year 9 listened and participated in the presentations. Behaviour was excellent and the students really engaged with the Q&A opportunities.

On Wednesday 19 October the English Department took 90 students from Years 10 and 11 to see the Guildford Shakespeare Company's adaptation and performance of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde at St Nicholas Church in Guildford. This was an excellent enrichment opportunity for students who have already studied the GCSE text as part of their GCSE Literature course and for Year 10 students who will be studying the text next year. It was an outstanding and spellbinding performance by actor Samuel Collings. Students commented that it was a "breath taking and wonderful" experience.

On Wednesday 2 November the English Department took 18 students from Years 12 and 13 to see Shakespeare's Othello performed at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. Another fantastic enrichment opportunity for students to see a live performance of a studied A Level Literature text.

Careers

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

- BA Insight Evening
- Surrey and Sussex Police
- Escape Studios
- Channel Talent: Aeronautical Engineering

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

- Why choose an Apprenticeship?
- Apprenticeships with the UK Intelligence Agencies

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

- Get into Dentistry

IMAG 'Midweek Maths' aims to offer some stretch and challenge to capable pupils in Years 7&8 and, importantly, to encourage conversations about Mathematics between children and their parents. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend together with their child. Each week will feature intriguing problems that encourage mathematical thinking and discussion of different approaches to solving them with input from mathematical guests and the audience at home. Participants will also be able to submit their own mathematical questions to be answered by our expert guests and attempt takeaway questions between events.

IMAG 'So, you want to be a linguist?' is hosted by one of the UK foremost language educators, Colin Baxter. Ever wanted to be able to speak other languages? Explore the wonderful world of language in this series for Year 7-9 students and their parents. Learn where our own language comes from through historical events, foreign influence and local custom and how to recognise the different parts of words that will unlock a whole world of linguistic opportunity. For more information, please [click here](#).

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