

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

9 December 2022

All,

School has been jingle-belling with activity - so much that a list is required:

- Our Year 12 student leadership team has been appointed - really well done to them all for taking on this role. Special congratulations to Sera and Joe who are Head Students and Ethan and Sophie who are Deputy Head Students.
- Our two nights of Christmas Celebration were a triumph. House songs, instrumental skill, singing that lifted our hearts and dancing of great elegance were all wonderfully executed. It was a joy to behold and well done to every student who represented our school so proudly
- Last Saturday saw a fabulous Christmas Fair organised by our PTA - they did a superb job, offering us really interesting stalls, a great raffle and a good seasonal burst of present buying. I am SO grateful to every parent that contributed, whether through support in person at the event or in sending in great raffle contributions.
- St Martha's Church were really pleased to welcome our Chamber Choir to sing on Sunday 4 December. You will perhaps know that its location is on the Pilgrims Way and that this place of worship holds an important place in the history of our county. The views and sense of calm that the spot evokes are very special, this was enhanced by beautiful singing - thank you Chamber Choir.
- Our Year 11s have begun their mock GCSEs with focus and determination - the maturity of this year group is notable and a hugely positive asset to our community. We urge them to continue to work hard, knowing that a Christmas break is not far away
- It was a pleasure for our teachers to meet so many of our Year 7 families at this week's Progress Meetings - thank you for your active partnership with the school. When I spoke to our Year 7s at our assembly last week, I strongly commended them for the really successful start they have made at our school and in their secondary journey. They are becoming a really strong team, working together, alongside their teachers to secure happiness and great learning in their lessons
- Our Year 13s are busy completing their UCAS statements and meeting with Mrs Rose to submit their applications; such a key moment in their journey to independence and adult life. Please remind them to get this job done to the best possible standard
- Today, we join together for our Cathedral Carols - a 2pm start with lots of students involved and a chance to celebrate this special time of year together, in voice, words, dance and prayer. Every parent, carer, grandparent, friend of our school is warmly welcome to join us.
- Remembering the most vulnerable at Christmas is especially important and I am really grateful to Mrs Lawrence and 11PA for their annual fundraising for Crisis at Christmas - please do donate if you possibly can - via WisePay.

The last week of term now awaits. We finish school next Friday, 16 December, at 12pm. Before I close, I want to say a very important goodbye. Mrs Clifford is leaving George Abbot to take up a new post on the Isle of Wight. We can't quite imagine school without her but know that her new school are going to appreciate her as much as we have. Thank you, Mrs Clifford for your service to our students, your passion for the arts, your bringing of creativity in all that you have done. Good luck!

We recommence school for the Spring Term on Thursday 5 January 2023 - until then, may I wish you all a joyful Christmastide.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

[Return to home page](#)

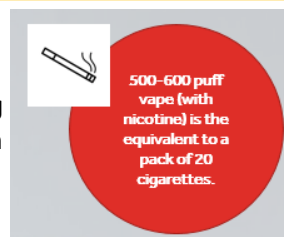
Strep A/Scarlet Fever Reminders

As you may be aware, there has been a national increase in Scarlet fever cases, which is also a common, and usually a mild illness caused by bacteria called Group A Strep (GAS). GAS is a common bacteria and lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness. However, GAS can cause a number of infections, some mild and some more serious, such as strep throat, impetigo and scarlet fever.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others. Please see Schoolcomms of 8 December 2022 for more information.

Warning: Disposable Vapes

Disposable vapes are small, low-cost flavoured e-cigarettes that are child appealing with a variety of sweet flavours and colours. These devices are widely available in shops, online and via social media. They are VERY dangerous.



Underage sales	Non compliant or counterfeit	How to spot counterfeit vapes
<p>Alarmingly, disposable vapes are becoming increasingly popular amongst secondary school children, despite the law restricting their sales to over 18's only. These devices should NOT be sold to anyone under 18, or bought for anyone under 18.</p> <p>Its a criminal offence for the sale of these devices to under 18's and to purchase these on behalf of under 18's.</p>	<p>Some of the devices on sale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exceed legal nicotine levels (over 2% or 20 mg)• Contain too much liquid (over 2 ml)• Are incorrectly labelled and have no traceability• May contain banned substances• Are associated with organised criminal gangs and fund other criminality• Are easily accessible to under 18's• May lead to undesirable contact between buyer and seller• Poor quality metal coils may explode and cause facial injury	<p>Packaging being a duller colour than the genuine product.</p> <p>Incorrect spelling on the packaging.</p> <p>The barcode starting with a 1.</p> <p>If the cost of the vape is considerably cheaper it is usually counterfeit.</p>

Key messages:

- Talk to your children about vaping. Treat vaping situations (such as vape shops or advertisements) as learning opportunities to ask them what they know, what they think, and how they feel.
- Explain that vaping is potentially less harmful than smoking, but only for smokers who want to quit.
- Vaping is not for non-smokers, especially children and young people.
- Explain that some vapes contain nicotine and that nicotine is a highly addictive substance which is very hard to stop once you've started.
- Explain that the vapour made from e-cigarettes is not made of water. The vapour contains harmful chemicals and very fine particles of oil that are inhaled into the lungs. These particles can block the lungs leading to breathing problems, lung cancer and sometimes death.
- Vaping can also have an adverse effect on their physical activity and sports, and their overall health and wellness. Explain that putting weird unknown chemicals into your body at this stage is even worse than it is for adults, because they're still developing

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

Whole School

⇒ Free School Meals

We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £30 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover the Christmas holidays. This voucher has been issued and sent via Wonde. If you would prefer a printed copy to be posted to you, please email lwilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk specifying the supermarket you would prefer the voucher to be for.



⇒ School Uniform Shop

The School Uniform Shop will have it's last opening this term on Wednesday 14 December from 3.00pm to 4.45pm. Appointments are not needed, please just drop in. If you need us to stay later, please email and we are happy to do so by arrangement.

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.

The shop will re-open before the start of next term on:

Wednesday 4 January, 1.00pm to 5.00pm. On this day only we will be offering 10% discount on school cardigans as well as a selection of stationery and rugby accessories at less than half price. Appointments are not needed - please just drop in!

Thursday 5 January - 3.00pm to 4.45pm

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

⇒ 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
- Behaviour Support Assistant
- Teacher of Maths

Within Learning Partners Academy Trust:

- [Finance Assistant](#)

⇒ **Early School Closure for Year 10 Parent Subject Consultations—Tuesday 10 January 2023**

School will be closing at 1.30pm on Tuesday 10 January 2023 for the Year 8 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 **Monday 9 January**. 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.

⇒ **Reporting your child's absence**

Please ensure you report your child's absence from school **by 9.00am** by either calling 01483 888000 and selecting option 1, or email absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Please include form group and reason for absence. Failure to do this will result in a text message being sent by our texting system which alerts parents/carers that their child has not registered. We need to be advised each day of your child's absence.

The texts and emails are sent between 10.00am to 11.00am, once all the messages and emails have been inputted onto SIMS. Parents/carers are then required to respond to these messages providing a reason for the absence. Unexplained absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

⇒ **Advance Warning: London Road, Burpham roadworks starting January 2023**

SCC is commencing an Active Travel scheme along the London Road between January and August 2023.

Road works and changes will happen in between the Woodruff avenue roundabout and Boxgrove Road roundabout (Phase 1) and Woodruff Avenue roundabout and New Inn Lane Roundabout (Phase 2). This includes making London Road a one way system during the works.

Please be aware of the works as they will cause significant travel disruption for many for a prolonged period including the May/June GCSEs and A Levels. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/london-road,-burpham-active-travel-scheme2>

Additional details can be found on the information leaflet [here](#).

⇒ **KS3 Reading Booklet**

[Please click here to view](#) a guide to supporting reading for parents/carers of KS3 students.

Year 11

⇒ Internal Assessments

Thank you for your ongoing support for these important formal assessments. These are vital in forming the basis for student's predicted grades for Sixth Form and college applications, providing evidence for tier changes, and also in preparing our students for the GCSE process in the summer. Therefore, please can we ask you to ensure your child:

- Arrives at school in good time - on site by 8.15am every day from Monday 12 December to Friday 16 December.
- Is 'road safe' when waiting outside Elmslie Hall as staff traffic comes on to site through Elmslie Gate - students should NOT wait on the service road.
- Has the correct equipment needed for each paper e.g. scientific calculators for science exams
- Understands that they are under formal exam conditions and there must be no communication, including non-verbal, in the exam venue.

If your child is absent from school or for an exam, please inform the absence line as soon as possible: Please do inform school/exam absence as soon as possible by either calling 01483 888000 and selecting option 1, or by emailing absence@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ REMINDER: Next Steps Form

On Monday 14 November, Year 11 students were 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.** If they have any questions about completing the form they should contact Mrs Notley, Sixth Form Admissions, in the first instance, by emailing:

admissions-sixthform@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Crisis at Christmas—A message from 11PA

2022 will be our form's fifth year of collecting for the homeless charity, Crisis. Our aim is to raise enough money to keep five people off the streets this Christmas. £29.06 can help to provide a safe space, hot meals, a Christmas dinner, companionship and year-round training and support.

If Year 11 parents/carers would like to make a donation, please do so via WisePay TODAY, so we can make our donation to Crisis before Christmas. If you have any WisePay queries, please contact the Finance Team, finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Thank you for your support.



Year 10

⇒ Year 10 Parent Subject Consultations—Tuesday 10 January 2022

Please see important information [attached](#) regarding Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments.

⇒ English - An Inspector Calls Text and Study Guide

After the Christmas break, Year 10 students will be studying 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestley which is part of their GCSE English Literature course. It is advisable that students own a copy of the text so that they can highlight and make annotations whilst it is being studied in class. This will be very beneficial when they come to revise the text again in Year 11. In addition, there is a CGP Text Guide also available for purchase and is highly recommended by English teachers. Both the text and guide are available for purchase via WisePay and we strongly recommend these are purchased by the 16 December 2022 at the latest so that they can be issued to students straight after the Christmas break. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their text and guide free of charge. If a student already has their own copy, then this too will be acceptable. Any queries, please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Year 8	<p>⇒ Year 8 Science Information</p> <p>The academic year is now well under way and we hope that students have settled into their science groups and got to know their individual subject teachers. The letter attached gives details of the science courses and also explains how you can support your child with their studies.</p>
Year 7	<p>⇒ Year 7 Science Information</p> <p>The academic year is now well under way and we hope that students have settled into their science groups and got to know their individual subject teachers. The letter attached gives details of the science courses and also explains how you can support your child with their studies.</p> <p>⇒ Football Extra-curricular</p> <p>The Year 7 Girls and Boys Football Club will be cancelled on Wednesday 14 December, as there is an event taking place on the Astroturf. Unfortunately, due to the lack of daylight, we in PE do not feel that it is safe enough to run this club. Please keep an eye out for the updated PE Timetable for Spring Term 1. Thank you for your understanding.</p>

PTA

Mufti Day Thank You!

Last Friday's Mufti Day allowed us to raise £1037.50, thank you so much to everyone who donated!

PTA Christmas Fair

A big thank you to everyone that supported the PTA Christmas Fair last Saturday! We had a fantastic day and raised an amazing £1619.00!!



Our raffle continues online, we have some fabulous prizes to win, Sutton Green Skincare Facial worth £100, Decade Skateboard worth £100, Penguin Book Bundle, Silent Pool Gin tour and Tasting, Guildford Jazz Tickets, Seafare Fish and Chips voucher and many more so follow the link and buy your tickets for a chance to win! www.Raffall.com/georgeabbotschoolpta

We are always looking to expand our small PTA team and would welcome all new members. Do contact us on pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



[facebook.com/georgeabbotparents](https://www.facebook.com/georgeabbotparents)
[PTA@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)
georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pta/

Careers

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

- Amnesty International: Write for Rights
- Mi5 School Leaver Opportunities

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

- IBM Apprenticeship Opportunities
- UBS Degree Apprenticeships
- Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust: Theatres Open Day
- Economist Degree Apprenticeship

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

- Online Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2023 with King's College London
- Get Into Medicine Conference with Medic Mentor
- Insight to Bloomberg Webinar

Focus on: Good News Stories!



A massive well done to all the students involved in the Christmas Concerts showcased last week. Two amazing performances at the end of a busy term. A big thank you to all the parents/carers who came to support and to the Performing Arts Faculty for organising.

On Wednesday 23 November and Thursday 24 November the English Department took 180 students from Years 11 and 10 to see J B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre 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 excellent and captivating performance with a talented cast and imaginative set. Below is a review from a group of year 11 students:



"Wow! What a night. After a hiatus from the theatre, we were pleasantly surprised by the sheer quality of the production. First of all, the actors were fantastic. The acting was full of charisma and passion, with all them embracing their roles; it really brought J.B. Priestley's ideals and story to life. When the curtain opened, the set was intricate: rain that set the mood, a house that reflected the ideas of the class divide and a glimpse of their society unknown to us in the book. The acting felt like it was being directed towards us, as if we were a 1940s audience. We found the casting of the Inspector very apt – it seemed just as Priestley had intended. He was a dominating and intimidating figure on stage, standing up for Eva Smith's working class roots. At the climax of the play, the set mirrored the feelings of the family, with an extravagant display of catastrophe, with the house literally crashing and burning, as the family did. It definitely came as a fitting shock to all in the audience. Strong emotions were felt by all at key moments in the play, accompanied by the audiences' cheers and applause. The engagement by all goes to show just how well this play was executed. This was a night to remember and helped with studies of the play as well! We strongly recommend this production to anyone studying 'An Inspector Calls' for their GCSE, or anyone who enjoys a wonderful theatre production." By Ollie N, Anna M, Harry L, and Leah D.

On Tuesday 15 November, Year 12 and 13 Drama students visited the Gielgud theatre in London to see To Kill a Mockingbird. It was a fantastic production and an important part of the student's preparation for their exam where they are required to review live theatre. Thank you to Mr Omar, Mr Manson and Mrs Melville for running this trip.



A big congratulations to Amelia, in Year 7, who has won the Learning Partners Christmas card competition in the KS3 category. Well done on a creative (and witty!) design. In MFL, Year 7 and 8 students were invited to enter the Languages Department's festive house competition. Students were asked to design, by hand, a Christmas card depicting Christmas traditions from any country and written in any foreign language. The winner will be announced next week and will be rewarded with a £20 Amazon voucher, plus prizes for the runners up.



Earlier in the autumn term, the Guildford Twinning Association launched their annual short film competition in Guildford and Freiburg, Germany. UK entrants had to create a short film, in German, about their perfect weekend. Pupils from numerous Guildford and Freiburg secondary schools took part, including Year 8 student Mabel, who's short film, which was a perfect weekend according to her dog, was a runner up in the competition. She received prizes from the Guildford Twinning Association and the mayor of Guildford at a mini German Christmas Market in the Guildhall and George Abbot was gifted a book on international film for her success. Great work, Mabel!

Gracie, in Year 7, recently took part in the UK street dance national finals, claiming third place in the under 12s duo section. She and her team also participated in the under 16s team competition taking first place and emerging as national champions. Well done, Gracie!



Sustainable GA

The Sustainable GA process continues despite the cold weather!

As part of our vision to make George Abbot School a more sustainable place and community, we have become a 'Wilder School' working with Surrey Wildlife Trust on improving biodiversity in our school grounds and fostering outdoor learning. Year 9 students welcomed Surrey Wildlife Trust to their assembly in September, which gave them insight into what they can do in and out of school to help wildlife flourish in our County.

Every Year 9 student took part in either planting trees, hedgerow plants or clearing and developing our outdoor learning area over the last two weeks. This experience helped to support topics being studied in Geography and Biology as well as giving our students an opportunity to work outdoors and feel like a valued part of our sustainability journey.

In addition, our sustainability leaders from Years 7, 8 and 9, supported by Surrey Wildlife Trust, have been involved in a grounds review this week identifying habitat features which could be added to the school, developing visions for nature.

The Year 9s organised a plant based bake sale this week which raised over £150 the Year 8s are planning an outdoor recycling project to be launched in the New Year. We are grateful for their time and energy, and love their ideas.

Thank you to all the students, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Ms Wallace-Jones and the Geography Department for supporting these initiatives.



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