

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

6 January 2023

All,

A very Happy New Year - 2023 is underway! It has been a joy to see rested students return to school, marginally moody about early morning get ups, but actually pleased to see their friends and possibly the odd member of staff, too, getting back into the routine of the school year. This half term is infamously brief - just five weeks. Yet, it is a really key one in the educational cycle. As teachers, we have spent our INSET days revisiting the principles of great teaching, with a clear focus on the most important concepts, knowledge and skills for each of our subjects. We have considered the necessity of the elimination of distraction in our lessons and discussed the specific issue of transitioning between phases of the lesson with clear instruction and logical flow. We know that happy schools are based on positive relationships and it is essential that every one of our students feels valued in and connected to their school. Teaching is a complex thing and we never stop learning how to do it better.

For students across the school, learning is everything - that is why they are here. Year 13 are immersed in their mock exams and, I hope, have given them the preparation they are due. Year 13 mock results will be published to parents/carers on Tuesday 31 January. Year 11 are anticipating their mock exam results, perhaps with some apprehension in some cases; reports are published to parents/carers on Friday 20 January. As Year 11 parents/carers, do encourage your child to make a list of all of the topics they found more challenging in this set of mocks and focus the next phase of their revision right there. Year 10 RE mock results were published at the end of last term - Year 10 parents/carers can very usefully check that your child has access to all of the relevant study material and help your child to plan a revision schedule that starts now - it is invaluable experience in preparing for Year 11. Year 9 have formal examinations in the week of 30 January - these will take place in Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, RE and MFL. They will be taken in the hall as important practice for the years ahead. Likewise, Year 8 have their formal examination week for Maths, English and Science beginning the following week, on 6 February. Year 7 formal exams are scheduled for the first week after half term - the week of 20 February and will also be in Maths, English and Science. If you are a Year 7 parent/carer, now is a good time to have a look at your child's books from the Autumn term. How organised are they? Do they need a major burst of worksheet sticking-in? They too, should start revising now - a gentle build up will prevent a panicked half term.

Amidst this activity, we also have three Parent Subject Meetings:

- Tuesday 10 January - Year 10 - with school closure at 1.35pm.
- Wednesday 25 January - Year 11 - with school closure at 1.35pm.
- Thursday 2 February - Year 13 - these do not begin until after school and so no early closure on this day.

Lastly, for Year 11 and Year 9, we have Next Steps interviews taking place for every student. The senior staff at school including my SLT, our Heads of Faculty and some of our pastoral team will be conducting 1:1 interviews with every student in Year 9 and 11 to discuss their options for the two years ahead - GCSEs for Year 9 and A Levels or BTECs for our Year 11s. Do keep this on your radar and try to extricate information about when this is happening for your child from them! In advance they should:

- Think about the subjects they flourish in.
- Think about areas they might want to zone in on for the future.
- Be able to talk about themselves, their interests and their dreams.
- Remember when their appointment is, where it is and be on time.

Dreams matter - we all need a sense of the road ahead, something to aspire to, a secret ambition - our students can do whatever they decide to work for. This half term is about serious hard work, focus and ambition.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

[Return to home page](#)

Whole School

⇒ Chain Letters

We have been made aware that there might be a chain letter in circulation, via social media received by a number of local children. A chain letter is a message that encourages the reader to send it on to a number of new recipients. The content is often upsetting, deceptive or threatening and sometimes uses superstition, hoax or coercion to encourage participation. If your child receives a chain letter please ask them to show it, immediately, to a trusted adult. Reassure them that neither they nor their family/friends will come to any harm as a result of their non-engagement. If you feel that the content is such that it warrants a referral to the police or Children's Services then please do so using the following numbers:

- 999 in an emergency
- 101 for non-emergency enquiries
- Surrey Children's Services: 0300 470 9100 or 01483 517898 (out of hours)

⇒ Exam Volunteers - We Need You!

In preparation for supporting the examinations and assessments that our students will be taking this year, we are now recruiting Exam Staff Volunteers. We would like to invite you as a member of our school community to consider taking on this role.

Volunteer positions are unpaid but do receive full training and our greatest thanks for generously donating your time to help.

The role requires being in the exam rooms to help students who may need 'Readers' to read for them, or 'Scribes' to help with writing down answers. A clear but quiet speaking voice is necessary for the 'Reader' role. Legible handwriting is necessary for the less common 'Scribing' role.

For those who might be nervous about taking on these vital roles, it is important to say that Volunteers are always accompanied in exam rooms by Lead Invigilators, who are there to answer any queries and provide support at all times.

To complete an Exam Volunteer application form, click this link to access the document from the school website – <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/>

We are asking that **completed applications forms are emailed back to exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by Friday 20 January.**

After this date, applicants will be contacted in order to complete a DBS check, and will then be invited into school for training in February.

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

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

School will be closing at 1.35pm on Tuesday 10 January 2023 for the Year 10 Parent Subject consultation meetings. **Please be reminded school buses will run at the usual time.**

⇒ REMINDER: Early School Closure for Year 11 Parent Subject Consultations— **Wednesday 25 January 2023**

School will be closing at 1.35pm on Wednesday 25 January 2023 for the Year 11 Parent Subject consultation meetings.

Whole School

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 **Tuesday 24 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.

⇒ **School Uniform Shop**

Upcoming opening times:

- Wednesday 11 January 3pm to 4.45pm
- Tuesday 17 January 3pm to 4.45pm
- Monday 23 January 3pm to 4.45pm
- Thursday 26 January 3pm to 4.45pm

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.

We are also happy to take orders by email for your son or daughter to collect. Please message us at spsschoolshops@yahoo.co.uk. Please use 'GA ORDER' as your header and include your child's name and class, item(s) required including size and a contact number. We will then contact you to set up an order and give you a reference to make payment by bank transfer. Please note that payment needs to be received the day before collection. If your child takes the bus home from school, please let us know and we can make alternative collection arrangements.

⇒ **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
- Home School Link Worker
- Teacher of English
- Pastoral Year Leader

Year 13

⇒ **Exams and Assessments in 2023**

Please see an [open letter](#) to students from Dr Jo Saxton, Chief Regulator at Ofqual regarding Exams and Assessments in 2023.

Year 11

⇒ **Exams and Assessments in 2023**

Please see an [open letter](#) to students from Dr Jo Saxton, Chief Regulator at Ofqual regarding Exams and Assessments in 2023.

⇒ **Year 11 Parent Subject Consultations—Wednesday 25 January 2023**

Please see important information [attached](#) regarding Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings and instructions for booking appointments..

Year 11

⇒ Important Dates

The schedule for the GCSE exams has now been finalised and can be found on the school website under the 'Examinations' section:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/GAS-GCSE-Timetable-Summer-2023-Final.pdf>

16-27 January	Post-16 interviews
25 January 2023	Year 11 Parent Subject Consultations
w/c 6 March	Year 11 Assessment Week
w/c 1 May	Seated timetables issued
15 May-21 June 2023	GCSE Exams
22-25 June 2023	Silver Dof E
27 June 2023	Year 11 into Year 12 Induction Day
28 June 2023	JCQ Exam Contingency Day (all students must be available to attend)
28 June 2023	Year 11 Prom
24 August 2023	GCSE Results Day

⇒ Science Revision Guides

GCSE Science Revision Guides ordered through WisePay are now available for collection from Mrs Wolstencroft in the Chemistry prep room (at the end of the Science Corridor between R54 and R56) at break time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Year 10

⇒ Year 10 Parent Subject Consultations—**Tuesday 10 January 2023**

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

⇒ English - An Inspector Calls Text and Study Guide

This term, Year 10 students will be studying 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestley, which is part of their GCSE English Literature course. It is really useful if 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 13 January 2023 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

⇒ Science Revision Guides

GCSE Science Revision Guides ordered through WisePay are now available for collection from Mrs Wolstencroft in the Chemistry prep room (at the end of the Science Corridor between R54 and R56) at break time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Year 9

⇒ Science Revision Guides

GCSE Science Revision Guides ordered through WisePay are now available for collection from Mrs Wolstencroft in the Chemistry prep room (at the end of the Science Corridor between R54 and R56) at break time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Year 8

⇒ Science Revision Guides

CGP KS3 Science Revision Guides ordered through WisePay are now available for collection from Mrs Wolstencroft in the Chemistry prep room at break time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Year 7

Extra Curricular Sport (Half-term 3)



	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			
	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	
2 nd Break	Year 7 Badminton	SH	SB	Year 8 Badminton	SH	CRM	Year 9 Badminton	SH	JLL	Year 10 Badminton	SH	AJR	
				6 th Form Girls Basketball	SH	JLL				Year 9 - 11 Hockey	Astro	BRI	
After School	Year 7 Boys Basketball	Gym	External Coach	Year 7 - 8 Hockey	Astro	BRI	KS3 Handball Club	Astro	SGB / PLJ	Year 10/11 Boys Basketball	SH	External Coach / SGB	
	Surrey Cricket (Invite only)	SH	External Coach	Year 8/9 Boys Basketball	SH	AJR / SJ	KS3 Volleyball	SH	JN				
					Year 8 Girls Netball	Courts	CRM	Gymnastics (All years)	Gym	JZH / CEF	Year 7 Netball	Courts	CRM / JN
					Trampoline (All Years)	SH	CEF						
					KS3 Girls Basketball	Gym	JLL / External Coach	Y11 GCSE PE PEP	SHL	JNF / CRM / AJR	Year 7 - 9 Rugby	Astro	External Coach (2) / BRI / SJ
					Y11 GCSE PE PEP	SHL	JNF / PLJ						
				Y10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite	FS	JZH	Year 10/11/6th Girls Basketball	Gym	JLL	Y10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite	FS	CXC	

Extra Curricular Music (Half-term 3)



	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	Club	Teacher	Club	Teacher	Club	Teacher	Club	Teacher	Club	Teacher
Tutor					Senior Choir	MRH	Upper Acapella	KLP		
2 nd Break	Year 7 Drama	CTM	Year 7 Dance	VBN	KS3 Choir	MWP	Year 8 Dance	VBN		
After School	Guitar Club	AWH	Musical	All Staff	Concert Orchestra	MWP	Senior Strings	MWP	Concert Band	LED
					Contemporary Dance	VBN/SZC	Big Band	LED	Brass Band	MRH
					Year 9 Drama	SZM	Dance Live	VBN/SZC/ELS	Funk	LED
							Year 8 Drama	CTM	Chamber Choir	MRH
									Jazz Company	VBN/SZC
									Junior and Senior Company	VBN/SZC

Top Tips for supporting your child with Reading

One of the best things you can do in KS3 is to encourage your child to read for pleasure. Reading habits that were established in primary school should not be stopped once they start Year 7. Research shows that children who enjoy reading do significantly better at school; parents/carers play an important role in helping to develop a love of reading. Some top tips:

- Let them choose what they want to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, blogs and websites as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books you have read that you haven't enjoyed, as well as ones you've loved.
- Make time to read together if you can – 10 minutes a few times a week will make a big difference.
- Talk about what they are watching on TV/film and see if there are any book tie-ins.
- Join the local library and let them choose some audio books; listen to the audio books in the car.
- Buy books, book vouchers or a magazine as presents/rewards.
- Find out what they are studying in their different subjects and look through websites, magazines or non-fiction books relating to their topics.
- Read yourself – set time aside at the weekend for everyone to down tools and read for 20 minutes.

More information for parents/carers can be found [here](#).

AUDITIONS COMING SOON!

**Open Auditions: Tuesday 17 January
3.15pm in PA1**

**Callbacks: Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January
3.15pm in PA1**

**Find the playlist for the Audition songs on Spotify.
Scan the QR code for songs and backing tracks.**



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