

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

3 February 2023

All,

This week has been a long one. Leadership is an action, not a position or title. As Albert Einstein said:

"strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value"

Providing the conditions for the success of others is at the heart of my role.

This week has brought the leadership challenge of an Ofsted visit - a research one, but still....! A big thank you to Team Geography and to the 120 students who interacted so positively with HMI Mark Enser. We received very good feedback about the strength of the Geography curriculum, and the challenge and consistency found across our Geography classrooms. A special mention to Mr Mudie - he is an outstanding leader of both his subject and people.

I have spent lots of leadership time immersed in data this week - our Year 11 and Year 13 mock results tell us much. We need to respond. Teachers have been busy analysing our lesson priorities as we deliver the curriculum across the school - which elements of knowledge or skill require revisiting? What are the intervals between that revisiting and how do we successfully support students to move what they need to know into their long-term memories, ready to retrieve at the vital moment? Therein lies the magic.

As a leader, being of value, having integrity and authenticity are really important to me. Students hear me say this often - with them, I talk about having the confidence to stand in their own shoes, not trying to stand in someone else's. You have heard some of my thoughts about the damage that social media can cause (particularly around issues of self-confidence and resilience) often on these pages, but I do also recognise that being able to harness technology positively and safely can be hugely positive.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week with Safer Internet Day on 7 February. This year's theme is Let's Connect. Students will have an assembly looking at the positive ways we can connect with others, including using the internet for good. Within our assembly we will be talking to young people about Kooth. Kooth is an online, mental health and wellbeing service for young people, and is the UK's largest provider of digital mental health support. It is funded by the NHS and is made up of qualified professionals with clinical experience. [Attached is a guide](#) for parents with more information about this service.

Year 9 have now completed their exam week and next week, Year 8 will sit their assessments in English and Maths. There is an important balance to be struck between experiencing formal exams and undergoing a thorough process of preparation and our stress levels. Thank you to all of our families who have helped their children to walk this path with common sense and proportion. Well done to Year 9 on their focus and determination.

The weekend lies ahead - I am off to visit my mum in the Welsh borders and despite the long drive, a sense of calm always reaches me when I see Hay Bluff standing so prominently at the head of the Black Mountains. I am looking forward to standing down from being prominent for 48 hours but will be ready for leadership action on Monday.

Enjoy your weekend, too.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



[Return to home page](#)

Notices

Week commencing 6 February = Week B
Week commencing 13 February = Half Term
Week commencing 20 February = Week A

Whole School

⇒ **READ for GOOD!**

Please encourage your child to take part in our Readathon, raising money to get books and storytellers into children's hospitals. They can read or listen to anything they choose and be sponsored per book or per minute spent reading - all for a great cause. Sponsor forms can be collected from the Gallery or English Department from 6 February and the deadline is 2 March (World Book Day). More info: [Read for Good: motivating kids to love reading and helping disadvantaged children](#). Happy reading!

⇒ **Free School Meals—Half Term**

We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £15 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover the half term holiday. This voucher will be issued next week and sent via Wonde. If you would prefer a printed copy to be posted to you, or have any queries regarding your vouchers please email LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. If your request is for a printed copy of your voucher, please specify the supermarket you would prefer the voucher to be for.

For those families who have yet to access their vouchers for previous school holidays, please note that these are still valid, and can be accessed via the emails sent out by Wonde. Please contact LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you would like any historic vouchers resent, confirming the email address these should be sent to - we are especially keen in the current economic climate to ensure all vouchers reach their intended recipients, so please do get in touch.

⇒ **Drug Sense Parent Support Session - Thursday 9 February 2023**

Last term there were a series of assemblies, in Years 7-11, to raise student awareness of County Lines. This is being followed up by a drug awareness seminar delivered by Drug Sense; a training provider with extensive links to the education sector. The seminar will take place for Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 on Thursday 9 February.

We have also organised a parental support session on Thursday 9 February. Within this time, Drug Sense will address: updates on the current drugs scene, including concerns around vaping; information on County Lines, discussion on the links between drugs and alcohol, tips and advice on vigilance in respect of 'suspected substance misuse', and information on confidential help and support lines. This session will run from 6.00pm to 7.30 in Raynham Hall.

⇒ **The return of the George Abbot Vintage/Second Hand Clothes Sale**

It's happening again! We raised an incredible amount of money for our new water fountains through the second hand clothes sale organised by the Sixth Form last year and we were able to provide clothes following the sale to two local charities too.

We would welcome any donations of new/used clothes from February onwards (exact date of the sale to be confirmed) in the Elmslie Reception.

⇒ **Thank You!**

Donations from our Christmas Concert last year went to FareShare. The total of £1,066.51 will help them to provide enough food to make 4,265 meals. Thank you for your donations!

⇒ **Family Learning Flyer—Surrey County Council**

Please see [attached](#) a list of workshops available to parents/carers around wellbeing.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher of MFL • Community Governor <p>⇒ School Uniform Shop Upcoming opening times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 7 February 3pm to 4.45pm • Tuesday 21 February 3pm to 4.45pm • Wednesday 1 March 3pm to 4.45pm
<p>Year 13</p>	<p>⇒ Reminders Timetables for the Summer 2023 exam series can be found on the following page of the website: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Exam Reminders Timetables for the Summer 2023 exam series can be found on the following page of the website: https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/.</p> <p>⇒ Year 11 Leavers 2022-23 Reminder of payment deadlines: Year 11 Yearbook - 10 February 2023 Year 11 Hoodies - 1 March 2023 Year 11 Prom - 2 May 2023</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ Preparation for the Year 10 RE Assessment – w/c 27 February The RE assessment paper will be 50 minutes – this is an excellent opportunity to revise two topics which will also come up in student’s GCSE exam in May. The following units will be examined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships and Families (Theme A) • Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice (Theme F) <p>Students can use the attached revision calendar to make sure they have revised all topics for the assessment. They will find revision resources on the SLE and can use these and their class notes to revise. Relationships and families Social justice Exam questions can be found here: Themes (read document in folder)</p> <p>In addition, the following videos on YouTube are an excellent revision resource: Relationships and Families: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph07qxdS6zQ&list=PL4dFxRzoWJRkEVHdi_NkOxrgHQ4THPtZb&index=29 Human Rights and Social Justice: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDXBe9FiOH4&list=PL4dFxRzoWJRkEVHdi_NkOxrgHQ4THPtZb&index=31</p> <p>There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming, Nagapriya and Peter Smith <p>If you have any questions or concerns, please email Mrs King: vking@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Subject Choices Next week, Year 9 students will have meetings with senior leaders in school to discuss the subject choices for GCSE. They will watch the following video in form time next week to support them through this process: https://youtu.be/fVKSUkaF8Nw.</p>

Year 8

⇒ Examination Week—w/c 6 February

During the Year 8 examination week, students will be sitting the English and Maths assessments in large venues and some separate rooms. All other assessments will take place in their normal lessons. The English and Maths examinations will take place during English and Maths lessons so no other lessons will be effected. Students will meet on the playground prior to the examination and then be directed to their examination venue. The timings of the examinations is shown below.

English		Mathematics	
Wednesday 8 February		Thursday 9 February	
P2	P4	P1	P2
George Forms	Abbot Forms	George Forms	Abbot Forms

Students will have received a personalised timetable with the subject, date, period, venue and seat number. All students will receive their access arrangements provision as appropriate.

Year 7

⇒ Assessment Week

Year 7 Assessment Week will take place w/c 20 February.

Focus on: Drama Trip and new fruit trees!

Last week the Drama department took students from Year 9-13 to see Neil Gaiman's "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" at the New Victoria theatre in Woking. The students were a credit to the school. Here's what a few of the student's had to say about the performance:

Beatrice - *"The trip was really amazing. Ocean at the end of the lane was a very interesting show but at the same time it was really cool. I loved every part of it."*

Grace - *"The play was very inspiring and worth the trip!"*

Daniel - *"I really enjoyed the trip, especially the way they displayed the monsters. it made it scary, but not so scary you are scared. I thought the actors were immaculate, and all the props looked high quality. I also loved the way they displayed some of the scenes, such as the ocean scene."*

Thank you to all the staff and students who made the trip such a success. We look forward to running more theatre trips soon.

30 Year 9 students and 8 Year 12 students have been busy this week planting the 20 apple and pear trees around the school site, kindly donated by Surrey County Council. Well done all, we can't wait to see them grow!



Tormead SCHOOL

Use the Discount code: **LEGALLY10** at the checkout to get half-price tickets (£10 instead of £20 each)!


George Abbot School

Tormead School girls and George Abbot School boys are joining for a production of

LEGALLY BLONDE

Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 March at 7.30pm
on the mainstage at
THE YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE

All tickets are £20 and are available from the Yvonne Arnaud Box Office: 01483 440000 or from their website: www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk



Careers

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

- ASPIRE programme in Banking
- Activate Learning Open Days:
Farnham College—Wednesday 8 February, 4.30pm-7.30pm
Merrist Wood—Wednesday 22 February, 4.30pm-7.30pm

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

- Jaguar Land Rover
- National Audit Office's (NAO) Apprentice Accountancy Scheme

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

- Babcock International Engineering Insight Evening
- Law Insight Evening
- Business and Finance Insight Evening
- NHS Allied Healthcare

—The—
Wellbeing Hub
—from Teen Tips—



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week Feb 6th.....

- Podcast available on our Resources Page from 8th Feb: Peer-on-peer abuse and coercion with Adele Eastman, Senior Counsel in Farrer & Co's Safeguarding Unit & Board Member for the Centre for Social Justice.
- Webinar 15th Feb 6.30pm: Personal Safety: Navigating The Teenage Years with Andy Privett, Founder of Be.Streetwise - visit the Webinar Page to book.



Tuesday February 7th at 6:00pm. Alicia will answer any of your questions about supporting young people. Visit the Homepage of The Wellbeing Hub to book

Community Governor Vacancy

Our Local Governing Body is made up of Governors from all walks of life with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and are the link between the School and the community it serves.

We want you

We are currently looking for a new Community Governor and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare

For this Community Governor position, however, you cannot have a child at the school. We will advertise for Parent Governors when a position becomes available.

Applications from people with the following skills would be welcome:

- Commercialisation of services & revenue generation
- Contract management and procurement
- Understanding of accounting and finance

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our School
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

What is the Governing Body's Role?

The Governing Body of our school plays a key role in:

- setting targets for raising standards of educational achievement.
- monitoring progress towards meeting these targets
- supporting and challenging the performance of the headteacher
- deciding policy and future development plans

As well as attending some daytime and evening meetings, governors are asked to look at specific areas of the school's work in more detail. They are expected to attend training and commit time to the role, more details of which can be found [here](#) on the website.

If you are interested please apply with a brief description about yourself and why you would like to join the governing body to Lauren Huse, Clerk to Governors (ClerkGA@gepacademies.com). CV's welcome as supplementary information.

Application Deadline: Friday 17 February 2023, 12 noon.

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