

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

10 March 2023

All,

Arrangements for next week's Strike Days dominate in my message this week.

Wednesday 15 March

- **Year 12 and Year 13** at school and in lessons as usual - students should check the board in the Sixth Form Reception to establish which teachers are present from 08.45am.
- **Year 11** at school, attending Tutor Time at 08.30am and in lessons as usual - there will be some classes where teachers are absent. Therefore, students should assemble on the Year 11 playground at the end of every break and an announcement will be made so that students know where to go each lesson.
- **Year 8** at school and in lessons as usual. They should begin the day at 08.30am by congregating in the Sports Hall where registers will be taken. There will be some classes where teachers are absent. Therefore, students should assemble on the playground at the end of every break and an announcement will be made so that students know where to go each lesson.
- **Year 7, 9, 10** will be set work via SatchelOne. A small number of students who need particular support or who are the children of NHS and emergency service key workers will be invited into school to complete the same work.

Thursday 16 March

- **Year 12 and Year 13** at school and in lessons as usual - students should check the board in the Sixth Form Reception to establish which teachers are present at 08.45am.
- **Year 11** - anticipated teacher absence impacts the timetable significantly on this day. Therefore, provision is:
 - * Dance, Graphics, Art, DT (those students with work to complete only), Drama, Music, Media coursework sessions will run from 10.35am - 1.35pm at school as per arrangements on the last strike day - invitations will be sent to all students involved.
 - * Online lesson in Maths 10.35am - 11.45am delivered via Teams.
 - * Online lesson in Science 12.20pm - 1.30pm delivered via Teams.
 - * All Year 11 students to attend school for lesson 4, from 1.35pm, ready for the lesson to start at 2.00pm.
- **Year 10** at school, attending Tutor Time at 08.30am and in lessons as usual - there will be some classes where teachers are absent. Therefore, students should assemble on the playground at the end of every break and an announcement will be made so that students know where to go each lesson.
- **Year 7, 8, 9** will be set work via SatchelOne. A small number of students who need particular support or who are the children of NHS and emergency service key workers will be invited into school to complete the same work.

We will send year group reminders next week and thank you, again, for talking to your child about this plan so that they have a grasp on the arrangements.

Thank goodness the snow was short lived this week!

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Whole School

⇒ Financial Hardship

For those families experiencing financial hardship, please be reminded that the school may be able to provide financial assistance with the purchase of items such as books, uniform, educational visits, travel costs, or other educational activities, through use of either grant funding or from parental contributions to the School Support Fund. Therefore, if you are experiencing financial difficulties and would like to apply for financial support, please contact your child's Head of Year.

⇒ Free School Meals

This week HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) vouchers for the Easter break have been sent out via email to all students eligible for free school meals. Information on the HAF camps (known as Club4 in Surrey) can be found at: <https://www.activesurrey.com/community/club4>. Full details of how and where to book a place for your child are set out within the voucher emails being issued this week.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals but you have not received a HAF voucher, please contact lwilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Ski Trip 2024

The school ski trip has grown into a huge part of the trips on offer at George Abbot, and so we are delighted to be able to offer it again in 2024 after the success of this year's trip to Italy. The February 2024 half term trip will be heading to Westendorf, Austria.

Building on the huge success of previous trips, and a positive relationship that ensures us the best trip at the best price, we will be continuing to travel with the ABTA and AT-OL bonded 321Ski. The trip will be open to all year groups (current 7 to 12) and all abilities. For more information, please see the [letter attached here](#) and view the information presentation [here](#).

If students wish to join us for this fantastic opportunity, a place can be secured with a non-refundable deposit of £200 via WisePay, which will open on Monday 20 March 2023 at approximately 8am. There will be 60 places on the trip and last year the trip sold out on the day deposits opened.

⇒ Pre-loved Prom wear Pop-up

We are looking for pre-loved prom wear/formalwear donations for our upcoming Year 11 Pop-up event. With prom just around the corner and the cost of living proving a challenge for lots of us, we would like to offer our students the chance to find something original, sustainable and pre-loved to wear. We will be setting a minimum spend and donating proceeds to Mind charity. If you have any suitable dresses, shoes, accessories or formal suits that you would be happy to donate to the school, we would be extremely grateful. Please leave at Elmslie reception by Friday 17 March.

⇒ Year 10 RE and Year 11 - 13 Progress Support Meetings – Wednesday 22 March 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via SchoolCloud (Parents Evening System)

We will be holding the above event on Wednesday 22 March. The aim of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for staff and parents to work together to support students whose progress is of concern in their exam subjects, as we approach a key point in both GCSE and A-Level courses. Please note that students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.

Appointments are by **staff invitation only**. We will only contact parents with appointments if subject teachers have concern about how:

- Year 10 students are working in the final year of their Religious Education course
- Year 12 students are progressing in the first year of their exam courses
- Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses.

Whole School

We will notify you via email no later than Wednesday 15 March. You may also log in to SchoolCloud system **after** this date to view your appointments.

If you do not receive notification requesting your attendance but you have concerns about your son/daughter's progress at this stage, please remember that you are able to contact the subject teacher or Head of Department via email. Details of how to contact individual members of staff can be found on the school website at <http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/contact-us>.

⇒ Legally Blonde

Tickets are nearly all sold out for 'Legally Blonde' - make sure you get yours while you still can! Here's the link: <https://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/whats-on/legally-blonde-tormead-george-abbot-school> Use the Discount code: LEGALLY10 at the checkout to get half-price tickets (£10 instead of £20 each).

⇒ 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.

⇒ Gardening and Outdoor Learning - donations appreciated

We would be very grateful for any donations of the following to support our commitment to outdoor learning and gardening in the school grounds.

- tree stumps
- small outdoor shed or box for tools
- gardening gloves
- potting table
- hand-held garden tools
- spades

If you have any of these items which you don't use and you would like to see them given a second lease of life, please leave them in the Elmslie reception for Ms Wallace-Jones.

⇒ School Uniform Shop

Upcoming opening times:

- Tuesday 14 March 3pm to 4.45pm
- Wednesday 22 March 3pm to 4.45pm
- Monday 27 March 3pm to 4.45pm

Year 13

⇒ 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/>.

Year 12

⇒ Work Experience

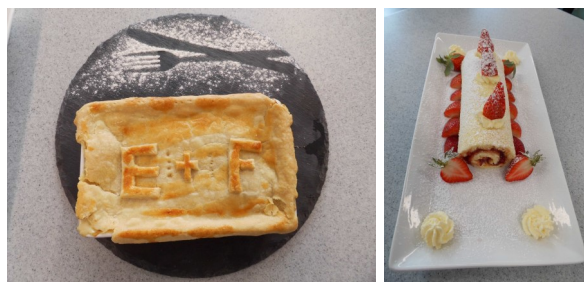
We have most of our Year 12 students out on work experience placements this week. Students are at a wide range of placements including PA Media (news photography), The Army, City of London Corporation, British Antarctic Survey and National Crime Agency to name but a few! There are also students at charities, electricians, property companies and various schools and hospitals. Many are local, some are in London and others have taken it as an opportunity to travel further afield to Brighton, Devon and County Durham!

We have been really impressed by the resilience and determination they have shown in securing their placements. We hope that they will also gain many valuable employability skills and experiences during the course of this week.

<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ English Literature Mock A reminder that students should be revising the following content for the English Literature mocks they will be sitting on 13 and 14 March.</p> <p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel (Macbeth and either A Christmas Carol or Jekyll and Hyde) - Monday 13 March, 8.30am. Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry (An Inspector Calls, the Poetry Anthology and Unseen Poetry) - Tuesday 14 March, 12.20pm.</p> <p>⇒ Maths Mock Year 11 will be sitting a Paper 1 - Non calculator mock after Easter. This is to give students another opportunity to show how well they have been working and the experience of being in an exam venue under exam conditions. To support them with their revision we have made the following available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a drop-in session every TUESDAY in R40 after school (3.15pm-4.15pm) • There are lots of resources on the SLE and there will be links to useful online resources published on show my homework. • There are a variety of revision booklets on WisePay available to purchase • SPARX support is also available to the whole school on a Tuesday and Thursday in R44 in break 1 - a really useful tool for revision. <p>They will start the mock in their Maths lesson and then continue after school until 3:30pm. Any students who need extra time will be allowed to leave their period 3 lesson early. We have organised for the canteen to open early for these students, they will then start their exam early so that they will also finish at 3:30pm.</p> <p>Monday 17 April: (WA, PA, GA, MA, FA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start times - 2.00pm (Extra timers to start at 1.30pm) • Finish times - 3.30pm <p>Wednesday 19 April: (WG, PG, GG, MG, FG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start times - 2.00pm (Extra timers to start at 1.30pm) • Finish times - 3.30pm <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>⇒ Sixth Form Induction Day The Sixth form Induction Day for Year 11 students is Monday 26 June.</p> <p>⇒ Year 11 Leavers 2022-23 Reminder of payment deadline: Year 11 Prom - 2 May 2023</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ RE GCSE revision calendar Please see attached revision calendar to help Year 10 students plan their revision for their RE GCSE exams in May. The exams are on 15 May (paper 1) and 23 May (paper 2). The revision calendar covers all topics students need to revise for both exams and contains links to the revision resources on the SLE.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Subject Choices The online options form which is accessed via the SIMS App is currently open for your child to make their subject choices that they will study in Year 10 and 11. The online form will close at 9am on Monday 20 March. A reminder that if your child is unable to log into the SIMS App they should email simsapp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk for assistance as soon as possible and for all other queries please email curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p>

Focus on: visit from the Royal Navy chefs, Schools Got Talent and Spring Concert

This week, we were delighted to welcome the Royal Navy Chefs to visit our Year 10 Food & Nutrition students. They had a short talk about careers in the navy and then completed a MasterChef challenge to make Chicken and Mushroom Pies and Strawberry Swiss Roll. Thank you for inspiring our young people!



Many congratulations to the 120 students who performed at the Schools Got Talent concert at G Live, on Wednesday 9 March. The students conducted themselves professionally throughout and were an absolute credit to the school. The standard of performance was once again exceptionally high, and many thanks also to all the parents/carers who have taken the time to write to express their congratulations. However - the performances have not finished for team Performing Arts this half term!

Tickets are still available for Dance Live (also at G Live) on Monday 27 March, and tickets will go on sale for the Spring concert (Thursday 30 March 7pm, Raynham Hall) on Monday 20 March, all available through WisePay.

Additionally, four of our students are taking part in Tormead school's production of Legally Blonde, being performed at the Yvonne Arnaud theatre on 28 and 29 March.

A few George Abbot students are also taking part in a performance of Carmina Burana, together with the St Catherine's association and orchestra, this coming Saturday 11 March at 7.30pm - tickets are available here: <https://m.bpt.me/profile/254510>.

To have such a thriving performing arts department is only possible due to the willing support of parents and carers in enabling students to attend rehearsals and concerts - many thanks to all for your continued support.



George Abbot's Got Talent

Do your child have... superb singing? Dazzling dance moves? Tremendous tricks? George Abbot wants to see all their talents. The latest house competition encourages students to share a video of their different and diverse skills. There are 6 different categories (sport, dance, music, entertainment, academic and miscellaneous.) The competition is open to all students. They simply need to create a 1-minute video showing the best of their talent. Save the video to their school OneDrive and then email a LINK to GAGT@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. They must make sure they include which category they are entering and the names and form groups of all performers. All entrants get 3 house points; and the talent that impresses us the most will WIN 4 tickets (at least 1 must be a responsible adult) to the live semi-final show of Britain's Got Talent, at Hammersmith Apollo. **Deadline is Monday 20 March!**



Careers

Open Days for local colleges: [Guildford College](#): 26 April (16:30-19:30) [Merrist Wood College](#): 10 May (16:30-19:30) [Farnham College](#): Wednesday 3 May (16:30-19:30)

Godalming College Application Deadline: 31 March 2023

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

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

- Careers within the UK Government/Civil Service with Defence Nuclear Enterprise

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

- SATRO Research Placements

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 with 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 and 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 and
- 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: Wednesday 22 March 2023, 12 noon.**

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