

# George Abbot Bulletin



## Headteacher's Message

24 March 2023

All,

We have the last week before Easter ahead of us - this we can do. There is definitely a notable hint of reduced energy on the playgrounds as we approach the end of term.

Two important safety things from me, today.

Firstly, we are going to have a LOCKDOWN DRILL on Thursday 30 March - next week. This is an important safety drill to complete annually. The drill is signalled by an intermittent ringing bell - this in itself can be quite startling as we are now a bell free school, only using them for emergency purposes. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 7 child or a student who has joined us this academic year, please will you mention this to them and start to prepare them by talking about its importance. In an emergency, it is much easier to cope if you know what to do and have practised it. All Tutors will brief their Tutor Group next week.

Secondly, we have been working with students to consider how we can make school more comfortable for them. It is a big school and we have large numbers of young people. This in itself creates a busy and bustling atmosphere. We are conscious that this needs careful management. To this end, we took the decision to remove the bells - these were frequent and obtrusive and resulted in students emerging into corridors simultaneously - a recipe for jam packed corridors. Our change from five lessons a day to four lessons a day is also significant. There is now fresh air between each lesson and no need for a dash to the other end of school to get to lesson 2 or 4. We have also introduced a one-way movement system in Elmslie and after Easter, a one-way system is being adopted in Raynham, too. Our younger year groups, in particular, will benefit from these measures. We have booked the refurbishment of the girls' toilets in Raynham to take place in the summer holidays - long overdue and funds now aligned.

We will be running a significant number of examination revision activities over the Easter holiday. We will send student invitations on Monday if your Year 11 or Year 13 child is invited to attend these. I strongly encourage them to attend what will be important and quality time with their teachers. Moving forward, we are working on the schedule of revision activities for Year 11 and Year 13 for next term. Exam season begins on 15 May and we want to offer our Year 11 students more flexibility this year - there will be revision sessions provided before key exams which students must attend. Around those and the exam schedule itself, there will be opportunities for students to revise at home. We will send the final schedule out to Year 11 parents/carers next week.

Year 10 Interview Day has been a significant feature this week - it was a triumph and I very much hope that Year 10 found it motivating and developmental. This is an annual event when local businesses volunteer their staff to come and run a trial job interview with every Year 10 student. Students prepare in PSE, writing a CV and rehearsing different approaches to interview questions. An important step to becoming ready for the world of work and in gaining vital confidence in their own abilities.

Lastly, something for Year 7 to look forward to. Some of our students will be selling small Easter treats of chocolate to raise money for Ukraine. They will have a stall in the Sculpture Garden on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the second break. On this rare occasion, students are allowed to bring in either 50p or £1 to purchase a treat. Happy Easter!

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher



<b>Notices</b>	<p style="text-align: right;">Week commencing 27 March = Week B 3 April—14 April = Easter Holidays Week commencing 17 April = Week A</p>
<b>Whole School</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Free School Meals</b> 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 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 <a href="mailto:LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a>. If your request is for a printed copy of your voucher, please specify the supermarket you would prefer the voucher to be for.</p> <p>For those families who have yet to access their vouchers for previous school holidays or strike days, please note that these are still valid, and can be accessed via the emails send out by Wonde. Please contact <a href="mailto:LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> 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.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Textiles Contributions</b> Visual Arts are committed to continuing to offer an exciting and varied curriculum but due to rising costs of materials and resources, we are asking for a voluntary financial contribution from parents/carers. Please see the attached letters below. <a href="#">Year 7</a> <a href="#">Year 8</a> <a href="#">Year 9</a> <a href="#">Year 10</a> <a href="#">Year 11</a> <a href="#">Year 12</a> <a href="#">Year 13</a></p> <p>⇒ <b>The return of the George Abbot Vintage/Second Hand Clothes Sale</b> 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.</p> <p>We would welcome any donations of new/used clothes from February onwards (exact date of the sale to be confirmed) in the Elmslie Reception.</p> <p>⇒ <b>School Uniform Shop</b> Upcoming opening times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 27 March 3pm to 4.45pm</li> </ul> <p>⇒ <b>Supporting your LGBTQ+ child free online workshop</b> Surrey County Council are offering a free online workshop on supporting your LGBTQ+ child via Zoom on 28 March, 8.00pm-9.30pm. The course is for parent/carer of a child who is questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation, or who identifies as LGBTQ+, and live in Surrey, this course will provide a safe space and help you learn new ways to try and support your child. Please see the link for enrolment and further information. <a href="#">Family Learning - Parenting - Supporting Your LGBTQ+ Child workshop - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>⇒ <b>Easter Messy Church</b> Guildford Salvation Army are running a Messy Church on Wednesday 5 April @ 10am. There are limited spaces available, please book by emailing: <a href="mailto:guildford@salvationarmy.org.uk">guildford@salvationarmy.org.uk</a> or telephone: (01483) 506763</p>
<b>Year 13</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Exam Reminders</b> <b>Timetables</b> for the Summer 2023 exam series can be found on the following page of the website: <a href="https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/">https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/</a>.</p>
<b>Year 12</b>	<p>⇒ <b>University of Surrey IMAG Events for Year 12</b> The University of Surrey are running two residential and virtual Summer Schools. Both are available to students in Year 12. These free events are only open for state school students. Please <a href="#">click here</a> for more information.</p>

## Year 11

### ⇒ Reports

Year 11 reports will be available from Wednesday 29 March to allow the results of the recent English mocks to be included.

### ⇒ 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:

- 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.

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.

### Monday 17 April: (WA, PA, GA, MA, FA)

- Start times - 2.00pm (Extra timers to start at 1.30pm)
- Finish times - 3.30pm

### Wednesday 19 April: (WG, PG, GG, MG, FG)

- Start times - 2.00pm (Extra timers to start at 1.30pm)
- Finish times - 3.30pm

### ⇒ 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 11 Leavers 2022-23

Reminder of payment deadline:

Yearbook—31 March 2023

Year 11 Prom—2 May 2023

## Year 10

### ⇒ 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.

## Focus on: Crufts!

A big congratulations to Jessica who won 2nd minor puppy female and 2nd puppy female for the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever in the Gundog category at this year's Crufts. An amazing achievement which qualifies her for Crufts 2024. We can't wait to see how you get on next year!



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# RAG Week: w/c 24 April 2023

RAG week will be held during the week commencing 24 April. All funds raised during RAG week, will be donated to each of the following charities:

- Eikon - A Surrey-based mental health charity for children.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust
- Refuge - A UK charity supporting women and children who are victims of domestic abuse.

The plan for the week is:

Monday	Mufti day for whole school - £1 contribution on WisePay required.
Tuesday	Bake Sale Competition for the lower school (all students are encouraged to bring in contributions for this, with a prize being given for the best cake).
Wednesday	Costume day for whole school - favourite film character - optional, no payment required.
Thursday	Teacher vs Sixth Form dodgeball match. Sixth Formers who wish to play will be asked to pay tokens on entry, first come first served basis.
Friday	Music concert, with spectator tickets soon to be available for purchase on WisePay AND Teacher vs Sixth Form football match.

Alongside these events, there will be stalls selling sweets etc., and various other small games will be operating throughout the whole week. This will be a cashless event, with all transactions going through WisePay, visit General payments. A token system will be used, where students can redeem their tokens (50p per token) during the week. Tokens need to be purchased by Wednesday 19 April in order to allow time to get them ready for form time on Monday 24 April. Unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is going to charity.

For the music concert, there will be a limited number of spaces. Tickets will be sold separately on WisePay and again will operate on a first come, first served basis. Due to time restrictions during breaks, those attending the music concert on Friday 28 April will be permitted to leave lesson 2 in time to watch the concert.

If you have any WisePay issues please contact the Finance Team, [finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

## George Abbot's Got Talent

Does 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](mailto: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!**



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