

# George Abbot Bulletin

## Headteacher's Message

23 June 2023

All,

Firstly, Oliver!

Here are some headshots of our lead characters - the show has been absolutely superb. I have worked in six secondary schools and Oliver has featured as a school show at each one - needless to say, George Abbot's is in a class of its own. A brilliant production of the highest quality - a testament to our talented young people and the combined efforts of our performing arts staff team. Well done to all involved and thank you to everybody who came to support it.



**Oliver** - Bill Rampe



**Nancy** - Zara Britain



**Fagin** - Jack Clements



**Dodger** - Flora Bayley



Secondly, uniform. Thank you for your patience in awaiting the outcome of our consultation and re-tendering process. The updated policy has been ratified by our governors this week and is now available on our website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/uniform/>. To summarise as clearly as I can:

- We have phased out a number of our branded items over the last 12 months and will continue to do so over the next 18 months.
- We have opted for a phased model rather than a fixed change date so that parents can replace items at the point that uniform needs to be replaced owing to size or condition - this helps to manage affordability for our families.
- Our uniform supplier changes at the end of the current contract - that happens to fall within the Autumn Term and so uniform can continue to be purchased from SPS based at school until the end of September 2023.
- From October 2023, the uniform will be available online and at a shop premises - your consultation feedback indicated that an online platform was convenient and a preference.
- The company which has been awarded the contract are Valentino Schoolwear, 23-29 Broadway, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2DR.

Valentino's was selected because:

- The combination of uniform quality and price represented better value than any Guildford based companies
- The online platform combined with the ability to order by phone with free weekly deliveries to school offered real convenience
- The ability to visit the shop premises remains an option if this is preferred by some families
- Sustainability and ethical procurement credentials were better than other suppliers that were part of our tender process

We are aware that there will be a mix of uniform over the next few years and this is as we have planned to support a sensible change period for such a large number of young people.

The table below summarises the changes that we are introducing over the next 18 months:

Uniform List	Phased changes at point of need for item replacement
Navy blazer	Branded – no change
School tie	Branded – no change
White shirt*	Can be purchased at any supplier
Black trousers* (plain black belt with plain buckle, optional), navy box pleated skirt	Black trousers and <b>navy box pleated skirt</b> – can be purchased at any supplier
House t-shirt specific colour	Branded – no change
Navy V-neck pullover (optional), navy cardigan (optional)	Navy V-neck pullover – can be purchased at any supplier
Black shoes* (not trainers)	Can be purchased at any supplier
<b>PE Kit</b>	
PE t-shirt	Branded – no change
Navy shorts or navy skort	Can be purchased at any supplier (shorts must be loose fitting, no lycra)
Yellow PE socks	Only needed if playing for school team or for shin pads
Quarter zip top	Branded – no change
Navy track pants or navy leggings	Track pants branded – no change Navy leggings - can be purchased at any supplier
Trainers*	Can be purchased at any supplier
Rugby top (when required, optional)	Removed
Football boots* (when required, optional)	Can be purchased at any supplier

Items marked with an asterisk (\*) can be bought from any suitable clothing shop.

In support of this phased transition and to further address the issue of equity, the school and current supplier have decided to subsidise the cost of the branded school skirt for any children who decide to wear a skirt. The usual retail cost will be reduced from £23.50 to £16.00 (in line with the price of a comparable skirt currently reduced at a major retailer) to ensure we continue on our journey of affordability for all parents and carers.

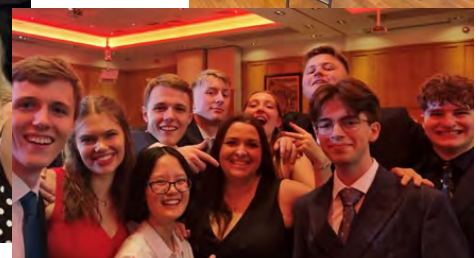
The key message is that our uniform changes are being phased - at the point at which a child needs to replace a uniform item owing to size or condition, it can be replaced according to the criteria from the list on the right. As we move forward, we appreciate your support with ensuring that the criteria given on the right is adhered to when purchasing non branded items from a supplier of your choice.

NEXT WEEK is House Week and there is lots going on:

- MONDAY—Year 8 George side Wellbeing Walk, Year 9 Bowling
- TUESDAY—Year 8 Abbot side Wellbeing Walk, Year 10 Bowling
- WEDNESDAY—Sports Day
- THURSDAY—GabbotFest
- FRIDAY—and breathe!

I might see some of you at Oliver this evening, but to all, have a lovely weekend.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher



# Notices

Week commencing 10 July = Week B  
Week commencing 17 July = Week A  
Thursday 20 July, 12.00pm = End of Term

## Whole School

### ⇒ **GabbotFest**

Our yearly school festival, where we come together to celebrate our community and raise money for local and national charities as well as the school's Sustainability programme. The festival is made up of 'village fete' style stalls, live music, food and drink and games. We are running a cashless festival where WisePay contributions are exchanged for tokens (50p a token) which will be issued to students on the morning of the Festival. Deadline for buying tokens is Monday 10 July. If you have any WisePay queries, please email [finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk). Please note, any unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is being donated to charity.

### ⇒ **PE Extra-Curricular Clubs—cancelled w/c 10 July**

PE extra curricular clubs will be cancelled next week due to additional fixtures, and house week activities. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

### ⇒ **Bus Passes**

Bus passes for September 2023 can now be collected from Elmslie Reception. Please ask your child to collect in either break 2 or break 3.

### ⇒ **Progress Monitoring Dates 2023/24**

Please [click here to view](#) the Progress Monitoring Meeting dates for the 2023-24 academic year.

### ⇒ **Vacancies**

We continue to seek Learning Support Teaching Assistants to join the George Abbot team for September. Please see the following page of our website for more information: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/recruitment/>

### ⇒ **Mental Health/Wellbeing crisis and support information**

Please [click here to view](#) an information leaflet listing all helplines/websites for students, parents and carers to access.

### ⇒ **School Uniform Shop**

Upcoming opening times:

- Monday 10 July 3.15pm to 3.40pm
- Tuesday 11 July 3pm to 3.45pm
- Wednesday 12 July 3.15pm to 3.40pm
- Thursday 13 July 3pm to 4pm
- Monday 17 July 3pm to 4pm
- Tuesday 18 July 3.15pm to 3.40pm
- Wednesday 19 July 3pm to 3.45pm

### ⇒ **Recruiting Exam Invigilators**

We are currently recruiting exam invigilators for the coming year and would like to invite you as a member of our school community, to consider taking on this most important of roles. Invigilators receive full training from our Exams Team and are paid on an hourly rate. For an application form please visit our website:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/examinations/>

We are asking that completed applications forms are emailed to [exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:exams@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) by Friday 8 September. After this date, shortlisted applicants will be called in for a short interview. Successful applicants will then receive our mandatory training. If you feel the role is not one you are able to commit to at this time, please do mention our recruitment drive to local family and friends who might be in a position to join our team of George Abbot Invigilators.

<b>Notices</b>	<p style="text-align: right;">Week commencing 10 July = Week B  Week commencing 17 July = Week A  Thursday 20 July, 12.00pm = End of Term</p>
<b>Year 11</b>	<p>⇒ <b>WisePay balance</b></p> <p>A reminder for students not returning to George Abbot in September 2023, if there is money on your child's canteen account there are several options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer balance to a sibling returning in September 2023 by emailing <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with the names of the students you want the balance transferring from and to.</li> <li>• Donate the balance to the school.</li> <li>• Request a refund: we will either refund back to the card used to pay on WisePay, or if the card has expired bank details will be requested. Just email <a href="mailto:finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with the student's name and request a refund. Please be aware the refund may not be able to be processed until September.</li> </ul> <p>If we have not received a response by 30 September 2023, we will donate any balances to the School Support Fund.</p>
<b>Year 8</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Wellbeing Walk</b></p> <p>A reminder that the Wellbeing Walk will take place on Monday 10 July (George side) and Tuesday 11 July (Abbot side) for Year 8 students.</p> <p>To ensure that students get the maximum enjoyment, please could we ask that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear sensible walking shoes (plus plasters if they are prone to getting blisters).</li> <li>• Students should wear their PE or House polo shirt and GA tracksuit bottoms or shorts depending on the weather.</li> <li>• Plenty of water (no fizzy drinks).</li> <li>• Sun cream and sun hat, should the forecast suggest sun.</li> <li>• Waterproof, should the forecast suggest rain.</li> <li>• Packed lunch and snacks.</li> <li>• Money if wanting to buy food or ice cream at Newlands Corner (no more than £5).</li> </ul> <p>If your child has any prescribed medication, for example, an inhaler, Epipen, insulin etc., please make sure they have this in their possession, with clearly labelled instructions.</p> <p>Please contact Mr Harding if you have any medical concerns that staff need to be aware of.</p> <p>The school policy regarding use of mobile phones will be the same on these days. Phones are expected to be turned off and out of sight and brought at the students' own risk.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Hamilton Trip</b></p> <p>The Music Department is organising a trip to the Victoria Palace Theatre in Central London to see a matinee performance of the award-winning hit musical Hamilton on Thursday 14 September 2023. For more information, please see the <a href="#">letter attached</a>. Tickets can be purchased on WisePay.</p>
<b>Year 7</b>	<p>⇒ <b>Hamilton Trip</b></p> <p>The Music Department is organising a trip to the Victoria Palace Theatre in Central London to see a matinee performance of the award-winning hit musical Hamilton on Thursday 14 September 2023. For more information, please see the <a href="#">letter attached</a>. Tickets can be purchased on WisePay.</p>



# PTA

## PTA Quiz Night - Saturday 15 July

A reminder that the deadline to purchase tickets for the PTA Quiz Night is Sunday 9 July at 10.00pm! This year we are providing a fish and chips/veggie burger and chips to be served during the quiz night, prepared by Seafare in Burpham.

Additionally, we have some great prizes to be won in our raffle, including:

- Family theme park tickets (2 adults 2 children) sponsored by Seymours
- £50 voucher from The William Bray Pub in Shere
- Silent Pool gin tasting
- Mandiras Biriyani platter meal for 2
- Art set from Arty Crafty
- Love Light photography voucher
- Coffee selection from Redber Coffee

Tickets are priced at £17.50 each (including the supper). Please see [attached letter](#), with full details of this event.



PTA Presents:  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
15th July 2023

£17.50 a ticket, which includes a meal.  
Doors open at 7pm with quiz starting at 7:30pm  
Teams of up to 10 players.  
Fish or veggie burger and chips dinner and a bar onsite selling wines, beers and soft drinks.

Enjoy a chat, lots of fun and bring your thinking hats!!  
If you need any info please contact  
gabbotptaevents@gmail.com

# Careers

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

- Activate Chef, Merrist Wood Holiday Club, Administrator (DIGIT Lab) University of Exeter, Trainee CAD Technician

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

- Metropolitan Police, Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers, PwC

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

- CIMA

# Focus on

Congratulations to Gracie M who brought home no less than two silver medals from the Dance World Cup in Braga, Portugal this summer. Competing against people from thirteen other countries, Gracie was runner-up in both the Hip Hop and Commercial Dance categories. What a fantastic achievement. Well done, Gracie!



Last Thursday, a group of 20 Year 7s and 8s visited the Guildford Spectrum to take part in some bowling with Miss Lewis and Mrs Daniels. Exemplary behaviour was shown by all, and there were a few strikes on the bowling alleys! Well done to you all for representing George Abbot in such an outstanding fashion! Miss Lewis and Mrs Daniels were very impressed with your behaviour, competitive spirit, and bowling skills!

This week, our Sustainability Leaders were invited to celebrate their achievements in participating in the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Wilder School Project at Nower Woods. Well done all involved and thank you to Ms Wallace-Jones for leading these students.



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# Community Notices

**THE FREE BURPHAM WELLFEST**  
Sutherland Memorial Park GU4 7LZ (Near Sainsbury's)

Activities for ALL  
Book your **FREE** tickets today!

SAVE THE DATE  
FREE Talks  
FREE workshops  
FREE Entertainment

10am - 6pm  
Sun 9 July

aerial hoop - cacao ceremonies - men's health  
food - foraging - mindfulness - yoga - art - nutrition  
spirituality - crystals - healing therapies - recycling  
meditation - fitness - aromatherapy

[burphamwellfest.com](http://burphamwellfest.com)

## ALTIUDE CHEERLEADING

BRAND NEW CHEERLEADING CLASSES IN GUILDFORD!

Altitude Cheer are really excited to be opening up classes in a second location at George Abbot School from September!

Monday and Thursday Classes available for ages 4-18

SIGN UP NOW FOR SUMMER CAMPS

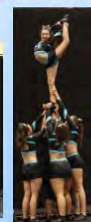
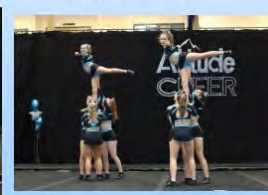
Dates: 7th August and 21st August

Time: 10am-2pm

1 day- £20 OR 2 days-£30 (SECOND DAY HALF PRICE)

Age groups: 4-7, 8-12, 13-15 and 16+

Cheerleading is a combination of gymnastics skills, acrobatics and dance. It is a great team sport which helps to improve confidence as well as general fitness and is also a great way to make new friends!



For more information and to sign up please email:

[altitudeguildford@gmail.com](mailto:altitudeguildford@gmail.com)

Follow us on Social Media-

Instagram: Altitude Cheer

Facebook: Altitude Cheer

## Lacrosse and Netball Summer Camps



We've got an exciting series of lacrosse and netball camps coming up this summer! With expert coaches playing for home nations national squads and in the netball Superleague you're learning from the best!

**Develop:** players in Years 5 & 6  
**Excel:** players in Years 9 & 10

**Perform:** players in Years 7 & 8  
**Yr11+:** players in Years 11, 12 & 13

For summer holiday courses please book for the year group you will be starting in September.

### LACROSSE

Barnes: 18, 19 & 20 July  
Oxford: 24 & 25 July  
Guildford: 27, 28, 31 July & 01 Aug.  
Harpenden: 02, 03 & 04 Aug.

3 hour sessions, £42.50 per session.  
Join us for as many days as you like!

### NETBALL

Guildford: 27, 28, 31 July & 01 Aug.  
Harpenden: 02, 03 & 04 Aug.  
Canterbury: 29, 30 & 31 Aug.

3 hour sessions, £42.50 per session.  
Join us for as many days as you like!

### NEW FOR 2023!

The Downe House  
Lacrosse Camp.

A 2 day non-residential lacrosse camp for girls going into Years 5-9.  
£120 per person



Book your place | [www.OodlesSport.com](http://www.OodlesSport.com)



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this Week, July 10th ...  
July's Theme: **Family Dynamics**

Podcast: How to have a good divorce with Annabel Andreou, Lawyer at Debenhams Ottaway LLP.

Don't forget to sign up for this month's webinar: Common challenges in blended families with Professor Lisa Doodson, a Chartered Psychologist specialising in stepfamily dynamics.

Wednesday 19th July at 6:30pm, Register on our Events page

## The Truth Has Arms And Legs

A glittering debut short story collection by Alice Fowler, published by Fly On The Wall Press, 14 July 2023



Delve into a world of change and reinvention. Where relationships are as delicate as turtle eggs, and just as easily smashed.

This poignant short story collection explores pivotal moments that transform our lives. Jenny, whose life is defined by small disasters, discovers a more generous version of herself. A traveller girl might just win her race and alter her life's course. A widow, cut off in a riverside backwater, opens her heart to a stranger.

In this captivating collection, readers will be moved by the raw vulnerability of human connection, and the resilience that enables us to thrive and grow. In change, Alice Fowler's characters find the ability to be truly free.

Available at [www.flyonthewallpress.co.uk](http://www.flyonthewallpress.co.uk), Waterstones and Amazon



**ALICE FOWLER** is an award-winning writer of short stories and longer fiction. She won the Historical Writers' Association short story competition in 2020 and the Wells Festival of Literature short story competition in 2021. Other stories have been short- and long-listed in prizes and printed in anthologies. Her historical novel was longlisted for the 2021 Stylist Feminist Fiction Prize.

Alice has a degree in Human Sciences from Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and worked as a national print journalist until 2006.

She lives in Surrey with her husband and teenage sons, and loves theatre, tennis and walking in the Surrey Hills.

Author website: [www.alicefowlerauthor.com](http://www.alicefowlerauthor.com)

Twitter: @alicefwrites

"These are precious things: stories written with delicacy and heart" – Wendy Erskine

"Alice Fowler's stories capture precise and intimate moments of being" – Sally Bayley

"Fowler has weaved a collection of stories out of fine, tender threads" – Vanessa Onwuemezi

"Fowler writes beautifully" – Imogen Robertson

To interview Alice, please email [alice.fowler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alice.fowler@hotmail.co.uk). For Fly On The Wall Press, x3 finalist British Book Awards for Small Press of the Year 2020-22, email Isabelle Kenyon, [flyonthewallpress@hotmail.com](mailto:flyonthewallpress@hotmail.com)

The Truth Has Arms And Legs | Alice Fowler | 14 July 2023 | Publisher: Fly On The Wall Press ISBN: 978-1-915789-08-2 | 198 x 129 mm paperback edition with French flaps | 100 pages | £9.99/ \$13.99/€11.99

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