

# George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

6 October 2023

All,

We have had a busy couple of weeks at George Abbot. We have welcomed a thousand visitors to our five open mornings. Over 50 students were involved in helping staff take our visitors on a tour of the school – as ever, our students were our finest ambassadors. It is on days such as those, that I am able to reflect on the huge distance that we have travelled together over the last seven years. We have invested in making sure that our school premises are bright, well cared for and provide a civilised backdrop for learning. Our classrooms are always places of focus and ideas; your children bring the most treasured vibrancy.

This week, I do need to ask for your particular support for the first time since September 2016. I am really concerned that school finances are going to be spread perilously thinly across this academic year. The increasing cost of maintenance supplies, educational supplies, and utilities is hitting schools across the country. Today, I need to ask you, our parent community, whether you might be able to contribute to our School Support Fund. We use this for a multitude of things that government funding will simply not stretch to, including equipping your children's classrooms and learning environment to the standard they deserve.

Please do think carefully about making a one-off Autumn Term contribution. You can do this via [WisePay](#) and the School Support Fund button. Anything that you feel able to spare WILL make a REAL difference to your children. Thank you so much for considering it.

[Please click here to donate.](#)

Next week sees World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10 October. This is an important day, in our school calendar, and the event will be marked by a series of assemblies and activities during form time. This year, ITV have got behind this important issue with the Britain Get Talking Campaign, your children will all be set the national homework focused on getting talking – [www.itv.com/britaingettalking](http://www.itv.com/britaingettalking). Do mention this to them and find out more about the campaign.



Lastly, I am asking for your feedback about your child's experience at school in this our October Feedback Snapshot. This is the first of three touchstone surveys to make sure that I have an up-to-date picture of your views on where George Abbot is at. Please click on the link below. It will take you a maximum of 30 seconds to complete. Your input is truly valued.

<https://forms.office.com/e/mG5E2GhQCU>

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher

Committed to promoting the welfare and safety of children

**SAMARITANS**

Call us free 24/7 on

**116 123**

**Mental Health Crisis Helpline**

Call: 0800 915 4644

Mental health support for people in Surrey and North East Hampshire.



Please also see our wellbeing resources on the school website:  
<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/wellbeing/>



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## Whole School

⇒ **Year 11 - 13 Online Progress Support Meetings – Tuesday 7 November 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via SchoolCloud**

We will be holding the above event on Tuesday 7 November. 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 12 students have started their new exam courses
- Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses.

We will notify you via email no later than Wednesday 1 November. You may also log in to SchoolCloud system **after** this date to view your appointments. If you have not been contacted by this date, please assume that your child's teachers have not requested an appointment.

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>.

⇒ **Ordering your child's school photograph**

Parents/carers wishing to order copies of the photographs taken on 13 or 20 September by the school photographers, can do so in the following manner once their child has brought home the 'proof' photograph sample from school:

- Click [this link](#) to directly get to the online ordering page of the Tempest Photograph's website
- (If this fails, go to Tempest Photography website - Tempest Photography. Click 'How to Order' from the top bar. Click 'Order Online' on the icon for 'School Photographs')
- Enter the 10-digit number from your child's proof photograph that was given to them at school.
- Follow the remaining order procedure and payment.
- Orders placed within 14 days of school receiving the proof photographs, will be delivered back to school and issued to your child. Orders made at a later time will be subject to delivery charges to your home.
- Full details are available on the Tempest website.

⇒ **Governor Recruitment Event**

Are you searching for a meaningful way to contribute to your local community? If so, Learning Partners Academy Trust are holding a public event for anyone who would like to learn more about being a governor within an educational setting. The event will be taking place on Wednesday 11 October, 6.30pm - 7.30pm at Kings College Guildford. Please read the [attached document](#) for further information or click on the following link to register attendance: <https://forms.office.com/e/RjQjanTk7M>

⇒ **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:

- Head of Premises

## Whole School

### ⇒ **Bus Passes for 2023/24 Academic Year**

Bus passes for the next academic year can be collected from Elmslie Reception. Students must carry their photocards with them as well as their bus passes. Replacements can be organised by visiting this [webpage](#).

### ⇒ **Dates for your diary—Performing Arts**

- Year 7 Mini Musicals—17 and 18 October, 6.00pm, Raynham Hall
- Year 12 The Play That Goes Wrong—10 November, 4.00pm, Elmslie Studio
- Guildford Cathedral Coffee Concert—16 November, 11.00am, Guildford Cathedral
- Autumn Showcase—22 November, 7.00pm, Raynham Hall
- GA Junior Acting Company presents: 'Home For Christmas' - 29 November, 4.00pm & 6.00pm, Elmslie Studio
- GA Senior Acting Company presents: 'Scenes from A Christmas Carol', an immersive experience—5 December, 6.00pm, Elmslie Hall
- Carol Service/Christmas Celebration—14 December, 7.30pm, Guildford Cathedral

### ⇒ **Medical Room Procedures**

Students should not contact parents/carers directly using their mobile phones, if they feel unwell. If this happens, please let the school know immediately. Please can you remind your child they must report to the Medical Room so they can be assessed and if they do not have a temperature or sickness/diarrhoea we will always try and encourage them back to class, in the first instance. As you can appreciate, the staff in the Medical Room get an extremely high rate of students attending on a daily basis and they must make a decision based on existing medical conditions and how the child presents at the time, which is never an easy job.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

If your child has developed a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, or management of their existing condition or medication has changed in any way, it is your responsibility to keep the school informed so that the appropriate staff are aware of any issues that may arise. Please contact the Head of Year or the Medical Room with any updates or changes. You will need to complete and return an Individual Health Care Plan so that we can attach it to your child's individual record.

### ⇒ **Whole School Flu Immunisation (Years 7 to 11)**

As in previous years, the School Immunisation Team will be visiting on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 November 2023 to deliver the Influenza (flu) vaccinations via nasal spray to all students in Years 7 to 11. You should have received, via Schoolcomms, a letter with further details. **Please complete the e-consent form by 4pm on Thursday 16 November 2023** by visiting: [www.surreyimmunisations.co.uk](http://www.surreyimmunisations.co.uk) and entering the school's unique code **SR136906**.

### ⇒ **Plea for wool!**

Do you have any spare knitting needles or wool? Due to the popularity of 'Knitting Club' this year, we are asking our community for donations of these items. Please leave donations in Reception for the attention of Mrs Rhodes. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Year 10

### ⇒ **RE GCSE mock exam**

Students in Year 10 will sit their RE GCSE mock on 17 November at 8.30am. It will last 1 hour 45 minutes. Students will be examined on the following four units:

- Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings
- Buddhism: Beliefs and Teachings
- Buddhism: Practices
- Crime & Punishment

	<p>Please do encourage students to start revising early – there are plenty of revision activities linked on Satchel One, as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A revision calendar is available here: <a href="#">Revision calendar.docx</a></li> <li>• Revision resources including revision guides, workbooks and mind-maps are all available here: <a href="#">2023 - Year 10 mock revision resources</a></li> </ul> <p>Miss Lenehan will be available in E17 every Wednesday during break 3, to answer any queries that students may have, and feedback on any practice exam questions. All students welcome. There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest: AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming (Author).</p>
Year 9	<p>⇒ <b>Bronze DofE Applications 2023</b></p> <p>A reminder that the deadline for applications is Friday 13 October. Please see email dated 21 September 2023 for more details.</p>
Year 7	<p>⇒ <b>The Gallery</b></p> <p>Year 7 students are in the process of attending library lessons in which they will choose a book from the library to take home and read. In The Gallery, we have a selection of 'crossover fiction' which is for Year 9 students and older (or those in Years 7 and 8 with parental permission). This is fiction which has a more mature content or is for more advanced readers. If you are happy for your Year 7 son/daughter to read crossover fiction, please email the library team at <a href="mailto:ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with your consent and we will update their library permissions.</p>

## Be safe, be seen: cycling and visibility

With the darker and gloomy days upon us, please encourage your child to be **BE BRIGHT** and **BE SEEN** when travelling to and from school. When we're out on the roads, we need to think about how we can keep ourselves and others in our community safe. Please ensure your child is cycling on the roads and not the pavements surrounding George Abbot School and respect all members of the community.



### The Highway Code states:

- Your child **MUST** wear or carry something **light-coloured, bright or fluorescent** in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use **reflective materials** (e.g. armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear), which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.
- At night your child's bicycle **MUST** have **white front and red rear lights lit**. It **MUST** also be fitted with a **red rear reflector** (and **amber pedal reflectors**). White front reflectors and spoke reflectors will also help you to be seen. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp.

Please also **INSIST** your child wears a helmet when riding their bicycle.

# Support for families

- **Learning Space** – offers support around anger, anxiety and also family issues too. It offers Parent Support Groups [HOME | Learning Space](#)
- **The Matrix Trust** – the Matrix support young people's mental health both in school and out in the community 1:1. [Nurture – MATRIX \(matrixtrust.com\)](#).
- **Solihull Parenting Courses** – online parenting courses which are free for Surrey residents. There are courses such as; 'understanding my teenager', 'understanding my child's feelings' and there is a couple for teenagers to do themselves like 'understanding my feelings' and 'understanding my teenage brain'. The free access code for all the courses is: **ACORN**. [Online Learning \(heiapply.com\)](#)
- **Talking Teens (being run by the Matrix trust)** – having good communication, how to be open and how the teenager brain works and is developing. This is in person, for parents/carers to attend. If you are interested, sign up: [HERE](#) is their very short sign-up form to confirm their place. They are suggesting a donation of £20 to help cover costs, but if finance is an issue in any way, when you get to the ticket information question, simply select 'other options'. If you are able to give a donation, select 'send me ticket information' and they will send the link over to them.
- **Step By Step Counselling** – Step by Step offer some free counselling: [Step by Step: Young People Charity | Youth Homeless Prevention](#)
- **Surrey Care Trust** – a free mentoring service [Surrey Care Trust - breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage in Surrey](#).
- **Relate** – This is paid for service. It offers Family Therapy [Family Counselling | Relate](#)
- **Jigsaw** – free courses on [understanding and supporting young people through anticipatory grief and bereavement](#) and [continuing bonds and memory making](#).
- Are you concerned that your child might be anxious or worried and you don't know how to talk with them about it? **YMCA East Surrey** are offering free online courses for parents to help them talk to their child, providing you with information and key strategies to support them. <https://www.ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk/children/emotional-wellbeing-mental-health/parent-workshops/>
- **Eikon** are offering free webinars for parents and carers to explore ways in which they can support the mental health and wellbeing of their children and young people at home. The webinars are free to attend and are open to all parents living in Surrey or with children attending school within Surrey. See link below to sign up for when dates are released. <https://eikon.org.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-support-webinars/#sessions>
- **Surrey County Council** also offer a number of free online parenting courses on a variety of topics, mainly for primary aged children, but also include courses for parents of secondary age, such as supporting your LGBTQ child and understanding self harm. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/search?keyword=parenting&page=1>



This week (9th October) on The Wellbeing Hub  
This month's theme is: Self-harm, suicide and bereavement

This week's content:  
[Blog: How do I know if someone is suicidal?](#)  
[donated by Papyrus UK](#)

Watch now:  
[Webinar recording on Self-harm awareness for parents and carers](#)  
with Satveer Nijjar, Independent Self-Harm Awareness Trainer  
at Attention Seekers

George Abbot has a subscription to The Wellbeing Hub, an interactive hub for the school community. For parents, it offers weekly podcasts, live Q & As with subject specialists, support for parents managing adolescent issues, parenting courses and a self-care area, amongst other content. Access to the Wellbeing Hub is strictly limited to the families of George Abbot students. Scan below to sign up to the free subscription.



Scan Me  
to Register



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**CAREERS TO SAVE THE PLANET**  
**Tuesday 21st November**  
**6:00-8:30pm**  
**ELMSLIE HALL/ECR**  
**CAREERS FAIR AND TALKS**

**PASSIONATE  
ABOUT...**

Science,  
Technology  
Engineering,  
Maths,  
And  
Geography...

**PASSIONATE  
ABOUT...**

Music, Textiles,  
Arts, Sport,  
English  
Media and  
all other  
subjects...!!



**WHATEVER YOUR SKILL SET YOU**  
**CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**ALL STUDENTS/PARENTS/CARERS**  
**ARE WELCOME**

**By Kiera E**

# Sports Round-Up

A quick round up follows below of all things Sport at George Abbot. We have had fixtures in football, rugby, netball, swimming and badminton so far this term.

- Our Badminton team won 21 - 6 in their recent matches vs Guildford County.
- Our Swimming team took home 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals in freestyle and medley relays across all age groups in the qualification round of the secondary school team championships. The junior boys coming 1st overall in the freestyle relay and the intermediate girls coming 1st overall in freestyle and medley relays. George Abbot is ranked as one of the top State swimming schools in the County!
- In Football, our u12s girls (Y7) team won 3-1 vs Howard in the national cup. Additionally, the Y9 & Y11 boys are also through to the 2nd round of the national cup.
- In the Y8 Rugby festival, our team won 2, drew 1, and lost 2 games.
- For Netball, all year groups have played vs. St Peters. George Abbot won 4 of the 6 games played.

Our Sixth Form Cricket Scholars have now completed their first month of S&C and cricket training. All students are working hard in all areas of their training and schoolwork. Our staff are very impressed with their attitudes towards their training at this early stage and we are now looking to push them hard as we move into more individualized training to work on improving their batting and bowling techniques.

After-school clubs have also been well attended, with nearly 3000 uses of the QR code since the start of the school term. It has been amazing to see so many students attending and enjoying the clubs that have been on offer over this half-term.



# Careers

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

- Surrey Police
- Careers to Save the Planet
- Gresham Lectures
- What Careers? What University?
- Medical UCAS Conferences
- London Institute of Banking & Finance Open Day
- Success at School University Guide

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

- Activate Apprenticeships
- MITSkills Apprenticeship Open Day
- PWC Apprenticeships
- IBM Apprenticeships
- Careers in Racing

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

- Young Professionals - October Work Experience Opportunities

## Focus on

Our Year 11 Construction students have been making wooden planters during their carpentry module. Combined with problem solving, quote making and communicating with clients, the photos below show two groups successfully negotiating a price with their respective clients. Well done boys!



## PTA

Now we are all back into the swing of school life, the PTA are busy planning things and supporting the school to enrich our children's learning experience.

Our **Christmas Fair date is Saturday 2 December from 12-3pm** which will be sponsored by **Seymours Estate Agents**. They will be putting up advertising boards locally to advertise the Christmas Fair. They would like parents/carers who are happy to have a board in their garden to let the PTA know by emailing [georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com](mailto:georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com). Seymours will then select the best placed 25 addresses to advertise the Fair from. If you would like a stall at the Christmas Fair, please email [georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com](mailto:georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com). The cost will remain the same as last year, £30.

In 2024, we are hoping to get the **10K Clandon Park Run** back in the calendar. In order to do this, we are looking for local businesses to sponsor the event. If you or your workplace might be interested in this opportunity to support the school and benefit from the local advertising, please get in touch on [gabbotptaevents@gmail.com](mailto:gabbotptaevents@gmail.com).

Volunteers are always welcome and we have some dates coming up where we will need parents/carers help:

Mini Musicals: 17 & 18 October

Christmas Fair: 2 December, 11.00am-3.30pm

Please email our main address [pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).



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01483 888000 - [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)