

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

22 September 2023

All,

Despite the weather's best attempts to whip up excitability amongst the young people of Guildford, we continue to work and learn together, with purpose and calm. The beginning of every academic year is an opportunity to revisit our values, our purpose and our mission. This year, we have three simple areas of focus:

1. developing our staff so that their subject, leadership and pedagogical knowledge is of the highest quality
2. making sure that our school culture is a place where every child is individually valued and thrives
3. breaking even - financially

The last of these presents the biggest challenge: school budgets are tighter than ever before, and I will not compromise on the quality of teaching for your children. Brave leadership is key.

As your children set out on the year of learning ahead, I hope that they have found excitement in the ideas/discussions/facts/problem solving that they have encountered in their working days. This week, I have been lucky enough to hear Professor Jason Arday speak - he is an inspiring sociologist, very recently appointed as a Professor at Cambridge University. He spoke about tennis - the 'hitting for the lines' that typifies the tennis of Djokovic, Alcaraz and Nadal. He contrasted that with the 'hitting inside the courts' that results in the player charging about the court, endeavouring to return the ball with increasing levels of exhaustion.

As we get stuck into the Autumn Term, I am urging all of our students and our staff to hit for the lines. To work with precision and intent, to understand what is important and what is peripheral. To focus on the main thing. The main thing at George Abbot is your child - supporting, challenging and inspiring them as well as the adults who work with them to be their very best. Hitting for the lines and cutting out the peripheral noise.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Notices	<p style="text-align: right;">Week commencing 25 September = Week B Week commencing 2 October = Week A</p>
Whole School	<p>⇒ Highly Dangerous Magnetic Beads</p> <p>There is a trend circulating that involves placing extremely high strength magnetic beads (sometimes referred to as Earth Beads), either side of the tongue, to appear as a tongue piercing. By doing this, students are placing themselves at great risk. If swallowed, the beads cause significant internal injury. Emergency surgery would be needed to remove the beads and repair any internal damage. All information about the magnetic beads and associated risks can be found using the following link, with information provided by the NHS: https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/05/dangers-of-children-swallowing-magnets-prompts-nhs-call-for-ban/</p>

⇒ **School Photographs**

Parents/carers wishing to order copies of the photographs taken on 13 or 20 September by the school photographers, will only be able to do so once their child has brought home the 'proof' photograph sample from school. The 'proof' sheets will be received and distributed to the students by Friday 6 October, when the parent bulletin will include details of how to place online orders.

⇒ **X-Country House Sports**

The first House Sports of the year is upon us. On Monday 25 September, we are hosting x-country on the George Abbot field for students in all years. All students who compete in the x-country will earn themselves 3 House Points! The top finishers in each year group will also be entered into the Guildford District Competition. The PE Department hope to see lots of students there!

⇒ **Parking on Woodruff Avenue**

Please can we remind parents/carers to park considerately on Woodruff Avenue and the surrounding roads at drop off and pick up. In particular, please ensure you are not parking on double yellow lines at any point.

⇒ **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>

⇒ **Language Volunteers**

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is looking for volunteers who are fluent French or German speakers to support our students with their language learning, in particular their speaking skills. In previous years we have had huge success working collaboratively with our local community to enhance language learning at George Abbot. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Mrs Martinez-Wallas for more information at nmartinezwallas@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

⇒ **Do you live or travel through Burpham?**

SCC are encouraging anyone who lives and travels through Burpham in Guildford to give their views on updated proposals for a cycle and walking route between New Inn Lane roundabout, Burpham and York Road crossroads, Guildford, including Boxgrove roundabout.

The new route is being designed to make walking and cycling safer and easier for you to access key destinations such as local schools and the town centre, in a more sustainable way.

You can share your views with us on our [online survey](#), which will be available from 18 September to 13 November 2023. You can also attend information events to find out more about our proposals and ask any questions you may have.

When are the events?

- Wednesday 4 October: Burpham Church, New Inn Lane at 6.30pm to 9pm.
- Saturday 14 October: Guildford High School, London Road at 10am to 2pm.
- Wednesday 8 November: Guildford High School, London Road at 6.30pm to 9pm.

⇒ Sparx

We are excited to inform you that from 18 September, Year 7 students will be joining the rest of the school in using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly Maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed. Your child's homework will be set on Monday and due for completion on Sunday every week. We know you want to support your child's Maths progress, so we are sending this letter to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx provides personalised homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week's homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they'll get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try.
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their work in the back of their exercise books. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached so that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's Maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until **all** of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Check the weekly email you'll get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline if they haven't already done so.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

For more information you can watch a short clip from Sparx on the following link:

[Sparx Maths Homework for parents](#)

What support is available at George Abbot?

- If students have watched the videos and need further help, they should speak to their class teacher to let them know they need some guidance.
- If they would like some help outside lesson times they can come to the Maths work room, this is up the stairs opposite Raynham Hall.
- Homework club runs in USIC every night after school and students can use the computers to complete their Sparx.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success and confidence in Maths. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Car Free Day – Sunday 24 September in Guildford Town Centre Guildford’s third annual Car Free Day will be held on Sunday 24 September 2023 from 10.00am to 4.30pm inviting residents to “Be part of a Greener Guildford”. Guildford Borough Council is coordinating the free, fun and interactive event, bringing in hundreds of local providers, traders and community organisations, all working together. The event will involve a range of environmental education and awareness activities, family entertainment, and many different stalls. Car Free Day encourages motorists to choose alternative travel such as walking, cycling or public transport, instead of using their car for the day. Visit our different Zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how you can do more to tackle climate change. • Food and drink stalls for every taste. • Live music and dance performances. • Have a go on e-bikes and learn about active travel. • Activities include circus skills, a huge 9m climbing tower and street play fun. • Vegan, Antiques, Farmers, Rural Craft and Arts market stalls. <p>We are providing 600 additional bike parking spaces in the town centre and at Allen House Grounds so please cycle if you can. Tunsgate, High Street and Upper High Street will be shut (7.00am-7.30pm) but all car parks will be open as normal. For more information, visit: www.visitsurrey.com/guildfordcarfreeday23</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>⇒ Access Arrangements from Year 11 (scribe, reader, extra time, computer use, rest breaks) Access arrangement from Year 11 will roll over into the Sixth Form. It is important your child continues to use them, keeps evidencing them and makes sure their teachers are aware that they are entitled to them (if they are not already). In a few weeks, students will be asked to provide evidence that they still need and are using the arrangements for their Sixth Form subject. There will be a smaller number of students who require further testing to keep their exam access arrangements, they will be contacted individually. If you have any questions, please email Belinda Barratt: bbarratt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or ask your child to visit USIC between Monday and Wednesday.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Maths GCSE tier of entry Summer 2024 You will be able to see from your child’s timetable which Maths class they are in for Y11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H1 and H2 - This indicates that the tier of entry for the summer 2024 Maths GCSE will be Higher. • I1 and I2 - After the October assessment week, the tier of entry for the Maths Mock in December will be decided. In this week students will sit a non-calculator paper; we will then review the results and give our professional opinion on which paper they should sit for the Mock. This gives a clear indication of what tier of entry for the summer 2024 Maths GCSE should be. The final decision will be made in January. • F1, F2 and F3 - Tier of entry for the summer 2024 Maths GCSE will be Foundation. <p>There are revision books available to purchase on WisePay as well as Sparx, DrFrost and other online resources. If you have any queries, please contact your child’s Maths teacher.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ “How to get excellent GCSE results” Thank you for attending last week’s Year 10 evening. The turnout was excellent and we appreciate those who notified us of their absence. Please find attached the presentation from the evening, and also a guide to the exam boards and topics that we spoke about on the night. Any further questions now or through the year please do not hesitate to get in touch: Mr Ratcliffe: tratcliffe@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk Mrs Finnis: hfinnis@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk Mr Goulborn: mgoulborn@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Bronze DofE Applications 2023 A reminder that the deadline for applications is Friday 13 October. Please see email dated 21 September 2023 for more details.</p>

Careers

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

- Junior Chef Academy—Activate Learning (ages 14-16)
- National Saturday Club—Art & Design
- Gresham Lectures
- The Application Doctor Podcast
- NHS untapped webinars
- What Careers? What University?

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

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

- Springpod—Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Allied Health Professionals

IMAG events

IMAG are seeking to provide more opportunities for the Interested, Motivated and Able in the Guildford area to take the initiative and engage with programmes and events to enhance their education. Please visit the following page of the website to keep up to date with upcoming events: <https://www.imag.education/events>

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.

We have the **Quiz night coming up on 14 October**. Please come and join us for a fun relaxed evening where you can enjoy some great food supplied by **Seafare Burpham** and a drink from the PTA bar! We will have a raffle with prizes donated from local business along with **Seymours** who are supporting us once again with a prize.

Please email gabbotptaevents@gmail.com to request tickets.

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.

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

Quiz Night 14 October

Mini Musicals 17 & 18 October

Please email our main address pta@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



PTA Presents:



14 October 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

George Abbot School, Woodruff Avenue, Guildford, GU1 1XX
01483 888000 - www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk