

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

20 October 2023

All,

This half term has come to a stirring finale with our Year 7 Mini-Musicals offering a joyous conclusion to our new cohort's first weeks at George Abbot. I did not stop smiling from start to finish of the performance and this sentiment was shared by the many hundreds of family and friends who came to support their child. Well done to our Year 7s on a great start to their secondary school journey.

Our Year 11 students have completed their first set of internal assessments and they are immersed in thinking about their next step. It is sometimes hard to "future think" past the big task of GCSEs, but it is really important to help ensure students know where they are headed and why all of the inevitable hard work of the GCSE season is needed. A reminder that our Open Evening for GA6 is on Tuesday 31 October from 6.30pm-8.30pm. All Year 11s have received information about this and hopefully have booked onto their chosen subject sessions.

Much else has been going on besides; our Concert Band joined a workshop and performance with the band of The Welsh Guards at St Catherine's in Bramley. Our sports teams have been in major action (see more in the sports round up section that follows), our students have been signing up for leadership roles across the school community. These pictures celebrate the vibrancy of George Abbot School life. On this note, THANK YOU to all of the parents/carers who responded to my call for School Support Fund contributions. We have received a phenomenal £3,715 as a result. This will make a vital difference. If you have not yet had a chance to donate but feel you might be able to contribute, any amount is welcome, however small, every penny makes a difference for our George Abbot children.

We will see our students back at school on Tuesday 31 October for the next two months of educational action.

Very best wishes for the half term break.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



Notices

Week commencing 23 October = Half Term
Monday 30 October = INSET Day - school closed to students
Week commencing 30 October = Week B
Week commencing 6 November = Week A

Whole School

⇒ School shoes

As per our school uniform policy, students are required to wear school shoes to school, not trainers. Please note that Nike Air Force trainers (see below), or similarly sports branded trainers, are **not appropriate for school even if black**. If you are at all unsure what constitutes a school shoe, please do email the Head of Year prior to purchase.



⇒ Free School Meal Vouchers: October Half Term

We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £15 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover the October half term. This voucher was issued earlier this week and sent via Wonde. If you have any queries regarding your vouchers please email LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. If your request is for a printed copy of your voucher, please specify the supermarket you would prefer the voucher to be for.

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 sent out by Wonde. Please contact LWilde@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk 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.

⇒ Breakfast Club at George Abbot

A reminder, we have a breakfast club here at school. Porridge, or an alternative is available and free to all students in the Raynham Canteen from 8.00am every morning. Everyone is welcome.

⇒ Bereavement Group

We are pleased to announce that we will be running a pilot bereavement group in school as part of a new partnership with Jigsaw SE. This will run in the New Year, dates to be finalised. Please find [attached](#) information about Jigsaw SE. If you feel that your child has been affected by a bereavement of a family member or friend, or think that the pilot group may be something that your child would benefit from, please contact a member of the Home School Link Worker Team: HSLW@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ Surplus Uniform

We have surplus uniform stock from our previous supplier for sale. If you would like to reserve an item, please email office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. If the item is still available, we will let you know and ask your child to come to reception, with the correct change, to collect it during a break time. Please note items will be sold on a first come first served basis.

GA Cardigans x 7, price £9 each (Sizes: x1 28 & x6 42)

GA Gym Bags x18, price £4 each RRP £5.99

Reversible Yellow Rugby Shirts & Game Jerseys in various sizes from M-XXL £9.85 each (RRP £29)

Year 12

⇒ Work Experience

We have today sent a message on Satchel to all Year 12 Students reminding them that October half term is an ideal opportunity to source a work experience placement. We have reminded them of the following sources of support:

- **Work experience table** set up in USIC with copies of consent/placement forms and lots of resources for inspiration including leaflets from local companies.

Year 12

- The guidance booklet issued again today via Satchel, **Work experience: A Guide to Getting Started**.
- Advice from the careers team in USIC - Miss McLean and Mrs Nash - drop in or book an appointment.
- Resources are available on the Work Experience tab on the George Abbot School web site (under Sixth Form) - the consent and placement forms are also available here for printing/downloading. Please be reminded that consent forms must be returned to the careers team by **Friday 3 November**.

For any students who may be interested in The British Army, placements are available but these must be obtained via school - please ask Miss McLean for details.

Please do not hesitate to contact the careers team at workexp@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with questions or for any help and support.

Year 10

⇒ Year 10 Assessments

Please find [attached information](#) regarding your child's assessment week and RE mock exam. Within the attached document, I have listed all of the topics that will appear within the relevant subject exams; please ensure your child is revising all of the topics within these lists. To support with this, I have also outlined the recommended revision techniques they should be using, all of which have been discussed with students during form time. I hope you find this document informative, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Ratcliffe.

⇒ 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

Please do encourage students to start revising early – there are plenty of revision activities linked on Satchel One, as well as:

- A revision calendar is available here: [Revision calendar.docx](#)
- Revision resources including revision guides, workbooks and mind-maps are all available here: [2023 - Year 10 mock revision resources](#)

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).

A reminder that this assessment will be conducted according to the formal exam board regulations. Students will **not be allowed** metal water flasks. We strongly encourage you to ensure students are supplied with either water bottles with the label removed, or a transparent/clear water beaker with no writing and non-spill. We are not able to provide water to students who forget to bring their own. This will be also be a requirement for their formal GCSE next summer and could carry a consequence if not adhered to. Additionally, a reminder that watches, of any type, are not prohibited in exam venues. These should be removed and left in bags along with mobile phones.

Year 9

⇒ Year 9 Choices Introduction

As you are aware, Year 9 will commence their GCSE and BTEC courses from September 2024. Our aim is that the curriculum provides students with the best opportunity to succeed academically, whilst supporting breadth and personalisation. A series of events, in the coming months, will explain the school's process and approach. For more information, please see the [letter attached](#).



Sustainable GA

November is Cut Your Carbon month

George Abbot School has signed up to the Eco-Schools Cut Your Carbon challenge. This is asking all young people in England to take action on their carbon footprint. Completing these 9 simple actions with families and friends will raise awareness, change behaviours, and Cut Your Carbon - a greenhouse gas responsible for driving climate change.



We are specifically asking our Years 7 through 9 to rise to the challenge. Look out for information on how to complete each of the 9 actions on Satchel and on completing them all, pupils will get a Satchel Sustainability Badge and a chance to win prizes in the Cut Your Carbon School Raffle.



Next year's wildflowers are on their way! In support of biodiversity and a bit of fun outdoors, some Gardening club and Sustainability club members got together in the rain to plant some wildflower seeds along the edge of the Year 7 playground.

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1. Make at least one journey more sustainable <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Go meat-free for a day <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Have a no food-waste weekend <input type="checkbox"/>
		
4. Turn down the heating by 1° for a week <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Design a flight-free holiday <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Say 'no' to a new item <input type="checkbox"/>
		
7. Donate something you no longer need <input type="checkbox"/>	8. Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them <input type="checkbox"/>	9. Share carbon-cutting advice <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Careers to Save the Planet!

Tuesday 21 November 2023
6.00pm – 8.30pm

The latest exhibitors to be added!!!!.....

[\(click on the logo to be taken to the website\)](#)

Parents/Carers – please do come along with you're young person – this could also be a good networking opportunity for you!

This event is supported by the GAS Sustainability Club as part of their 'Cut the Carbon' Campaign during November.

[Return to home page](#)

Sports Round-Up

It has been a big couple of weeks for after-school fixtures with multiple teams playing across Netball, Rugby, Basketball, and Football. Although we have mixed results across the teams, we are very impressed with how students are developing across their sports and hope we will be seeing more wins in the weeks ahead.

Rugby

Y9 rugby vs Howard lost 19-24
1st XV rugby vs Howard won 15-14
Y7 Festival drew 3 and lost 2
Y8 boys lost 35-30 to Weydon in a great game

Netball

On Tuesday last week, George Abbot hosted another 'All years' Netball against St Peters. This time it was the B team's turn. We saw Y8, 9, 11 & 12s all winning their matches.

In the 'All years' netball against Guildford County, our Y8, Y9 and Y10 teams all won. Y10s also took on a very strong Howard of Effingham team and were victorious 24-9.

Football

The U14 and U16 Girls both had matches this week. We know their next matches will see a win!
Boys U14s won 11-0 against Gordons in the County Cup!

Basketball

The Y11 Girls' basketball team went to Three Rivers. They were an inexperienced team with lots of newcomers but had a huge win 25-15.

Swimming

We are delighted that some of our squads have qualified for the National Swimming Relay Finals in November. Well done to the students who make up the following teams:

Junior girls Medley relay qualified 5th fastest in England

Junior boys Freestyle relay qualified 15th fastest

Junior boys medley relay (3rd reserve) 27th fastest

Inter girls medley relay qualified 3rd fastest

Inter girls freestyle relay qualified 5th fastest



Focus on: Teen Tech Festival

On Wednesday 11 October, 15 Year 9 students went to Basingstoke, to take part in the Teen Tech Festival 2023. The event was focused on promoting and encouraging students to consider a career in STEM, through showing them how exciting and innovative they can be. The day was highly interactive, with sessions ranging from Innovation, Insight and Challenge.

The Challenge session saw students take part in activities designed by companies such as BT, Fujitsu, J.P. Morgan and Network Rail, where students took part in Battleships, Agile Project design and Code Breaking.

The Insight session enabled students to take part in quick interactive activities from businesses such as Amazon AWS, Microsoft, Ocado Engineering, NHS Ambulance, Stannah and Haleon. The activities included re-suscitation training, AI art discovery, Augmented Reality, using VR headsets, and lift design.

The final Innovation session gave students the opportunity to come up with innovative ideas that would use data in some way to improve our lives. The students came up with ideas such as an Orthodontist app that will scan your teeth, to provide data for the Orthodontist to use to decide on potential treatment. This won the Standout Circuit Award.

The second idea from the students, was a Deforestation app, which encouraged users to not use their mobile phone for a period of time, the more they were off their phone, the more trees would be planted around the world. This won the Super Sustainability Award.

The students came away from the event totally inspired by the prospect of a career in STEM, with some being sceptical at the start, but by the end of the day, they were seriously considering it. Thank you to Mr Hunter for accompanying our students.



PTA

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. Seymours will then select the best placed 25 addresses to advertise the Fair from. Please note that Seymour's are donating £15 per board to the PTA so it's a great way for the PTA to raise funds!

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.

Christmas Fair Volunteers urgently needed! Can you spare some time to set up or help with the Tombola? If so please contact us on the email address below.

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



Careers

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

- NCS Community Experience
- Careers to Save the Planet
- St Hilda's Workshops
- Medicine UCASE conferences

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

- October Listings
- Top 100 employers

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

- City Century Legal work experience



This week (23rd October) on The Wellbeing Hub

This month's theme is: Self-harm, suicide and bereavement

This week's content:

Blog: How to talk to someone who is grieving donated by Barnardo's

You may also like to listen to this podcast:

Looking after yourself when you lose someone you care about by Tracey Boseley from Child Bereavement UK

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

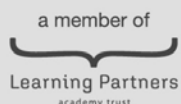


Sport Extra-Curricular Half Term 2

Updated Extra-Curricular timetables for all year groups will be available on the website after half term.

	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday		
	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher
2 nd Break	Year 7 Badminton	SH	AJR	Year 8 Badminton	SH	BRI	Year 9 Badminton	SH	CRM	Year 10 Badminton	SH	SGB
A f t e r S c h o o l	Year 7 Girls Basketball	Gym	External Coach	Year 7-10 Girls Rugby	Field	VJB	Gymnastics (All years)	Gym	CEF / JZH	Year 7 Boys Basketball	SH	External Coach
				Year 7 Boys Football	Field	External Coach / SGB	Year 9/10 Volleyball	Gym	CRM / VJB	Year 7 Netball	Courts	External Coach / JN / MA
				Year 8-9 Boys Basketball	Gym	TLR	Year 7/8 Girls Football	Field	AJR / External Coaches	Year 7-11 Boys Rugby	Field	External Coach (2) / BRI / MT
				Year 11 GCSE PEP Catch Up	SHL	JNF / CRM				Year 11 Sports Studies Catch Up	SHL	AJR
				Year 8-11 Girls Basketball	SH	MA / CEF / JN / MT				Year 10-11 Boys Basketball	SH	SGB
				KS3 Hockey	Astro	BRI				Year 7-9 Cheerleading	Gym	External Coach
			Y10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite	FS	JZH				Y10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite	FS	CXC	

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