

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

19 January 2024



All

As we reach the end of a decidedly crisp week, we approach the last three weeks of this half term. It is a very short one, but serves to pivot us into the exam end of the school year. Your child's time in education goes by remarkably quickly in the context of their lifetime. And every day is vital.

On 8 January, the government launched an attendance campaign. Post-Covid, national attendance to school has plummeted. It was bad enough that our young people were not able to attend school in the usual way during Covid, missing the all important social development that occurs all of the time everyday that they are in school, with their friends, learning to cope with disagreements, forming their moral compass, evolving communication skills and developing emotional resilience. The lack of classroom based teaching where teachers are able to continually assess learning, no sporting competition, musical or dramatic performance, trips and visits. We navigated it all, but it has left its mark.

Some children have really struggled to get back to school. Our attendance across all of the Guildford schools is down just like the rest of the UK. We need to work together to get children back into regular attendance patterns - it is vital to their future life opportunities. If they have a minor cough, runny nose, sore throat, slight tummy ache, they do not need a day off. All work places have staff attendance expectations and we need to prepare our children to get through days when they feel a little under the weather. I remain so grateful for the supportive approach that our George Abbot parent community take in their partnership with us - this is an area where your child needs your consistency and support for endurance when they feel a bit grotty.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

In December, all public authority leaders received a letter from Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP - Minister for Women and Equalities. Here, she highlighted the recent hostility towards the Jewish community and rise of anti-Muslim hatred. She urged that:

"Now more than ever, we need to see public authorities providing leadership in reducing prejudice and increasing understanding between different groups of people."

At George Abbot, this responsibility has always been taken very seriously. Our school development plan has two key themes - continuously improving the teaching and learning in our classrooms and proactively shaping a positive culture where the celebration of diversity and centrality of equality underpin respect for all. This moral purpose is encapsulated in our mission statement:

Academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised.

Families may like to take the opportunity of the upcoming Holocaust Memorial Day to ignite a conversation on these themes at home. Holocaust Memorial Day encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. This international day on 27 January is to remember the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of people murdered under Nazi persecution of other groups and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Here too, in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. I will light a candle in my window at 8pm on 27 January - as the campaign urges us to safely do to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

Iconic buildings and landmarks will light up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity. I hope that you too will light the darkness on this day.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

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Are you a member of the emergency Services? GA6 needs you!

Some of our parents/carers who have had children in the Sixth Form before will be familiar with an event called Safe Drive, Stay Alive (a live theatre-based education production aimed to raise road safety awareness amongst young people) that we have attended for many years. Sadly, we have learnt that Safe Drive Stay Alive will no longer be provided for schools.

Surrey Fire & Rescue are now working in conjunction with DriveFit who have given us a package of resources to deliver through assemblies, but thus far they have not been able to send any members of the emergency services to support us in delivering them. Therefore, we are asking you, our parent body, if you are a member of the emergency services or a healthcare professional who has experience of road traffic collisions and might be able to come in and help us deliver an assembly to give it the impact it deserves.

If this is something you would consider, please contact Miss Smith, Student Support Manager at: jsmith@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk to discuss.

Amazon Wishlist

The George Abbot community is continuously generous, and for that, we are always grateful. Whilst many of you donate to the School via our monetary platforms, we understand that sometimes it can be nice to see an immediate impact with a gesture.

With this in mind, we are sharing a carefully curated Amazon Wishlist with you. If you would like to purchase one of the items selected by our many departments, please choose something from the [link here](#). Items will be shipped directly to the school and distributed to be used in the classrooms with students.

If you have any questions about an item, and which department it will be used in, please contact: finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Notices	Week commencing 22 January = Week B Week commencing 29 January = Week A
Whole School	<p>⇒ Community Alert We have been made aware of an incident that occurred in the Bushy Hill area involving a pupil being approached by an unknown male which was a cause for concern. The Police are aware. With continued dark evenings, we encourage you to speak to your children about keeping safe as well as ensuring they have appropriate travel arrangements after school including fixtures and extra curricular clubs. Please be assured we will be doing the same in school as part of our normal good practice.</p> <p>Please ensure your children are reminded to inform you and/or school immediately if anything untoward or worrying occurs on their way to or from school and let us know as soon as possible. Should you feel it appropriate, please inform the Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.</p> <p>⇒ Extra-curricular feedback As we have now completed a full school term, we would welcome some feedback around our George Abbot extra-curricular provision. If you have a minute please could you complete the questions in the link below with your child. https://forms.office.com/e/Uft40pVP9z</p> <p>⇒ Maths Help Club The Maths department are starting a Maths Help Club for any students who have problems either with homework or any Maths topic that they don't fully understand. Ms Barnard will be available in R30 on Fridays, break 2.</p>

Whole School

⇒ **Early school closure: Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Wednesday 24 January**
Please be reminded that school will be closing at **1.30pm** on **Wednesday 24 January** for us to conduct the Year 11 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings.

⇒ **Early school closure: Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings—Tuesday 9 January**
Please be reminded that school will be closing at **1.30pm** on **Tuesday 9 January** for us to conduct the Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings.

⇒ **Compass Bus—lost property**

If your child has recently lost a blazer or sport PE jacket on a Compass bus, please email Office@compass-travel.co.uk to organize collection.

⇒ **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:

- Science Technician

⇒ **Hot Water Bottles**

Please be aware that students should not be bringing in hot water bottles to use for stomach cramps. We are seeing an increasing number of students bringing them in and then requesting during the day for staff to boil a kettle to refill them. This is not something we are able to accommodate, firstly due to the number of requests we would get daily from students, as well as the potential injury.

⇒ **Parent Empowerment Around Anxiety course**

Sign-up has opened for this course for parents/carers whose children struggle with anxiety, or who simply want to learn more about supporting young people to tackle stress and anxiety in a healthy way. <https://www.learningspace.org.uk/parent-groups>

Our school Primary Mental Health Worker strongly recommends this tried-and-tested course from Learning Space, which is a local charity with strong partnership links to Mindworks Surrey.

Mindworks and partners offer a wide range of courses for parents/carers. More information can be found here: <https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/our-services/building-resilience/parent-support/groups-parentscarers>

Year 13

⇒ **Year 13 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 1 February 2024**
For more information on how to book appointments, please [click here](#).

Year 11

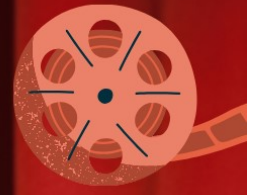
⇒ **Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Wednesday 24 January 2024**
For more information on how to book appointments, please [click here](#).

⇒ **Year 11 Transition Meetings**

Please be aware that all Y11 students have been invited to discuss their next steps, post Y11, with a member of SLT. These **transition meetings** will take place between Monday 22 January and Friday 2 February. The aim is to support students with their decision making around where, and what, to study next. The meetings will last no more than 10 minutes and will take place during the school day.

Your child has been sent their day, time, location and the name of the staff member they are meeting, to their school emails, today. Please ensure they check their school emails before Monday morning as some meetings will be taking place in P1 on Monday 22nd. Students should let their class teacher know that they have a transition meeting, and ask to be excused from the lesson. If your child cannot access their school emails they should speak to the network team, based in USIC, and if they have not received an invitation they should contact Mrs Notley as soon as possible. For more information on joining GA6, please view the clip on our website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/join-ga6/>

<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Prom, Yearbooks, Hoodies, GCSE timetables Class of 2024 Year 11 Yearbooks and Hoodies are still available for purchase via the Fizz company website. To place an order, please visit the following website: https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/: Our School Unique ID is: 25504YR11. You must place an order before 25 February 2024. We cannot stress this deadline enough, as we do not want anyone to be disappointed. The school will not be ordering any spare Yearbooks or Hoodies, so if your child later wishes they'd ordered one once they see other students with theirs, unfortunately it will be too late!</p> <p>Year 11 Prom 2024 is on Wednesday 26 June at Pine Ridge Golf Club, Frimley from 7pm - 10pm. Dress Code: Formal. Snack buffet provided. Students should make their own way to the venue and aim to arrive from 7pm onwards. Parents/carers will have a designated area outside the venue where they are welcome to watch students arrive and take photos until approx. 8pm, after which we request that the area be cleared.</p> <p>Please arrange onward transport for your child promptly at or before 10pm. Only Year 11 students and George Abbot staff will be allowed inside the venue. Year 11 Prom is strictly alcohol free, and students that appear intoxicated will be denied entry. Prom is a ticketed event, on sale only through WisePay. All right of admission are reserved.</p> <p>Please encourage your child to start planning their revision timetable for the summer exams - the full 2024 GCSE timetable is available to view on the school website here: https://ax56f9.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GA-GCSE-Timetable-Summer-2024.pdf</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ RE GCSE assessment Students in Year 10 will sit an RE GCSE assessment on 23 February. The George side of the year will complete it during their period 3 lesson (12.20pm). The Abbot side will complete it during their period 4 lesson (2.00pm). It will last 50 minutes. Students will be examined on the following two units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationships and Families - Social Justice <p>Please do encourage students to start revising early – there are plenty of revision resources linked on Satchel One, as well as here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A revision calendar (with revision advice) is available here: February 2024 revision calendar.docx - Revision resources including past exam questions, exam skills, revision workbooks and mind-maps are all available here: February mini-mock revision resources 2024 <p>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> <p>We appreciate your support.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Visual Arts Subject Information Drop-in On Wednesday 21 February 2024, 3.30-4.30pm, the Visual Arts Departments will be holding an after-school drop in Q&A session for all Year 9 students who are interested in choosing one (or more) of the GCSE Visual Arts options; Fine Art, Textile Design, Photography or Graphic Communication.</p> <p>This is a non-compulsory after-school event for Year 9 students only. If students wish to attend they will need to scan the 'extra-curricular' school app in order to sign in for the event, then come to the PJ building where they will be able to see what is involved in our subjects; students will be able to look at examples of sketchbooks, folders and portfolios and ask specialist questions to the subject staff about the course requirements.</p>



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
PHANTOM
OF THE OPERA

AUDITIONS COMING SOON!

**Open Auditions: Monday 29 January
3.15pm in PA1**

**Callbacks: Wednesday 31 January
3.15pm in PA1**

For more information regarding auditions, please scan the QR code or click here.



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Careers

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

- University of Law Careers Week events
- Get into Dentistry conference

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

- BAE Systems Apprenticeships
- London School of Economics
- Apprenticeship Accelerator
- IBM Apprenticeships

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

- Get into Medicine conference



APPRENTICESHIP WORKSHOP

With Sue Taylor from ALPS/Department of Education

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024
9AM – 10.30AM, E24



Yr 13 first option, Yr 12 if spaces are available. Will consider year 11 if you are seriously considering an apprenticeship – please email below.

Booking essential as places are limited

This session will cover information and guidance on finding, selecting and sourcing relevant apprenticeships and you will be signing on to the government apprenticeship website to get started/continue with your applications. Please see Miss McLean or Mrs Nash inUSIC to register or email ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

If you are scheduled to have a lesson at this time, you will be allowed to attend this session but you will need to inform your teacher and Miss Smith.

A date for your diary!

Are you interested in Current Affairs, Geography, Humanitarian Issues and / or Health Care?

If, YES then come along to hear Dr Rachael Craven, Consultant Anaesthetist, speak about her work as a doctor and as part of:



Monday 22 January 2024
from 3:30 - 4:30pm
ECR

This talk is open to students in Years 11, 12 and 13.

To book a seat please email:
ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or come and see us, in person, inUSIC.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Interested in Careers in gaming? Please see the following free event at GLive in half term:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guildfordgames-festival-2024-tickets-715439317257>

IMAG: Game Theory at Guildford County School: <https://www.imag.education/events>

DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
FIRST SESSION FREE

VENUE
George Abbot School
Woodruff Avenue
Guildford
GU1 1XX

WHAT WE OFFER
FA Qualified Coaches
Fun & Engaging Practices
Age Specific Sessions

WHEN
Starting 9th February
Fridays - 6:00pm - 7:00pm

REGISTER TODAY: WWW.THRIVECOACHINGACADEMY.ORG

JANUARY

YOUTH HIDEAWAY WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

MACRAME FOR BEGINNERS
17th January

AN INTRODUCTION TO BOOKBINDING: MAKE YOUR OWN NOTEBOOK
24th January

MAKING CLAY ANIMALS: LEARN ABOUT ANIMAL TOTEMS AND PLAY WITH CLAY
31st January

WHAT TIME?
3:50-5:30
YOUTH CAFE IS OPEN FROM 3:30 TO GRAB A DRINK BEFOREHAND!

WHERE?
THE HIDEAWAY, ALLEN HOUSE PAVILION, GUILDFORD GU1 4AZ

YR 7

MARBLE CLAY CLUB!
WITH MISS WRIGHT

PJ97
3.15 - 4.30
TUESDAY
SIGN UP IN PJ BUILDING

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