

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

2 February 2024

All

This week, I have an eclectic set of messages:

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Attendance

Thank you for your continued support for strong student attendance - two things to highlight this week:

1. Please remind your child that they should not use their phones at school - we do have daily incidents of students phoning their parents and arranging to go home with them directly as they feel under the weather, at no point consulting with a staff member in the Medical Room. Please allow school to make sensible decisions about whether your child is well enough to remain at school and in this circumstance, direct them to the Medical Room.
2. A small reminder about holiday leave - I do try to support families with exceptional leave requests, but I cannot support requests for leave to catch a flight for a skiing holiday (for example) that is commencing before the school holiday begins. I hope this is not controversial - your child does need to be at school in term time unless the circumstance is genuinely exceptional.

Year 11

We are pleased with the increasing sense of focussed urgency that has descended on Year 11. There are 10 full school weeks before the exams begin. This is a mission critical period. Please can I ask parents to:

1. Make sure that February half term includes daily revision.
2. That NEAs (coursework) take priority this half term if they remain ongoing.
3. That students attend NEA or revision sessions when they are invited - these will take place over half term, on some Saturdays and during the Easter holiday.
4. Look out for the full study leave calendar which will be published to Year 11 parents next week - this has daily revision sessions scheduled just prior to each GCSE exam.
5. Book 2 places - one for a parent and one for your child at our [Year 11 Revision and Study Preparation session being held on Thursday 29 February from 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Raynham Hall](#). We have an external speaker who is an expert in this field. The booking link is here: <https://forms.office.com/e/bGqgwCEsrg>

Year 12 and Year 13

Please, please, please remind your young person to wear their green sixth form lanyard **every day** - it is very important that, for the safety of all, every individual on our school premises can be identified as NOT an INTERLOPER by all of our staff - including those support or teaching staff who may not know your child personally. If your child drives themselves to school, please ask them NOT to park on Woodruff Avenue itself. This is causing serious obstructions and impacts on neighbours, buses and emergency vehicles.

Uniform

Two areas are letting our standards down at the moment:

1. Skirts which are not worn as they have been designed to be worn - bunches of fabric gathered at the back by elastic bands, numerous folds of fabric at the waist with seams and product labels exposed and looking untidy. We have introduced flexibility in our uniform policy for skirts to be purchased from any supplier as long as they are navy and pleated. If your child cannot be relied upon to wear their skirt as it is manufactured to be worn, could I ask you to talk to them about purchasing a good value alternative that will be worn as it is designed to be worn? We do expect young people to take responsibility for being smart at school - a workplace.
2. Hoop earrings - a major health and safety hazard - NOT permitted at school.

Your support with this eclectic but important set of messages is very much appreciated.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is organised by the Place2Be charity and is taking place next week from 5-11 February. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters' to empower young people to use their voices, share what matters to them, and encourage those around them to hear their voices. 1 in 6 children have a diagnosable mental health issue, so it's important to help each other when we can and to find ways to take care of our minds.

During this week there will be further resources which your children will be able to access through assembly and tutor time to ensure they understand that mental health is just as important as their physical health and that, at George Abbot, all staff are there to support them with any issues they may have.



[Attached to this bulletin](#) is a leaflet on how you can talk to your child about their mental health, including useful conversation starters to use with your child to talk about their mental health and well-being.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Also find [attached a leaflet](#) for free online workshops that YMCA East Surrey's Community Well Being Team are offering parents in coming months on talking to your child about worries as well as understanding and managing emotions.

There is an Equality Diversity and Inclusion Survey that ties in with the 'Your Voice Matters' theme, being sent out to students in Year 8-13. Please can we ask you to encourage your child to complete it.

Safer Internet Day, on 6 February, also runs alongside this week and is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child, whatever their age. This year's theme is all about change and influence online and UK Safer Internet Centre have created a range of pages to help you talk about these issues and ideas with your child, no matter how much time you have, and in an age-appropriate way.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>



For more resources and information on how George Abbot can support your child, including contact details for our Home School Link Worker Team, please go to the wellbeing page on our website.

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

Amazon Wishlist—thank you!

A reminder that our Amazon wishlist is up and running - we have had lots of generously donated items arriving at Reception and many delighted staff on receiving a wish come true. We have received dictionaries, stationary, cricket balls.....do have a browse and see if you might help?

There are items from mini whiteboards to aprons to thermometers to anemometers, to plyometric boxes, to flash cards to guitar strings - something for all budgets and niche interests!

A huge thank you in advance.

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.

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Whole School

⇒ Bouncing emails

We are currently experiencing issues emailing Yahoo/AOL/Sky email addresses from school Outlook accounts. Our Network Team are working with Microsoft to try and fix the problem as soon as possible. Staff will be in contact as soon as they are able, or by phone, if necessary.

⇒ Early school closure for Year 7 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 22 February

Please be reminded that school will be closing at **1.35pm** on **Thursday 22 February** for us to conduct the Year 7 Parent Subject meetings. When the Progress Monitoring Subject Consultations are for a year group other than their own, students are expected to complete work set independently at home during the afternoon. This work will be set via Satchel One and/or the SLE.

Provision has been made for students who are unable to go home at this time. If you wish for your son/daughter to remain supervised in school, please let us know by emailing curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by close of school on **Wednesday 21 February**. It is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.

If you notify us that your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential that you let us know of the change before 12.00pm on the day. **Where we have been notified that a student will be remaining in school, if they fail to arrive and register at USIC, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system. Therefore it is important that they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school.** Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual times.

⇒ Free School Meal Vouchers

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 February Half Term. This voucher will be issued by email via Wonde. If you would prefer a printed copy to be posted to you, or 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 like the voucher to be for.

For those families who have yet to access their vouchers for previous school holidays, 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.

⇒ 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
- Finance and Payroll Assistant

⇒ Parent Workshops

Please see link below for information on Parenting Workshops offered by Surrey CC, free and online. Though the majority are for parents of primary aged children, they have recently added workshops for parents of teenagers which you may find useful. Please can we highlight the 'Building Your Teenagers Resilience', 'Supporting your Teenager' and 'Understanding Masking' workshops.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/search?keyword=parenting>

Whole School	<p>⇒ Tennis Club If you are part of a local tennis club and would like more space to play in the Summer Season, then please get in touch with our lettings team on: lettings@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. We are looking for a community club, who would be interested in getting more young people involved in Saturday morning tennis, to engage in a partnership with the school, using our courts.</p>
Year 10	<p>⇒ Cricket Scholar Programme—Sixth Form entry 2025 Surrey County Cricket would like to offer you the opportunity of joining a Zoom presentation on 6 March, to learn more about the Cricket Scholar Programme for Year 12 entries in 2025. For more information, please fill in the following form.</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>
Year 9	<p>⇒ Year 9 one-to one interviews taking place from Monday 5 February to Friday 23 February excluding half term This week students have been shown a presentation that provides them with information about preparing for their one-to-one interview with a member of staff. A link to the presentation is here, if you would like to watch the presentation with your son/daughter.</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>
Year 7	<p>⇒ Year 7 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 22 February 2023 For more information on how to book appointments, please click here.</p>

Focus on: Year 10 Business Enterprise Day

On Tuesday 20 January, our Year 10 GCSE Business students took part in a Business Enterprise Day run by SATRO. The day was a great success with students being able to apply their knowledge to how businesses work in the real world, including insights into operations, finance and marketing. Thank you to SATRO for visiting and Mrs Mensah for organising and supporting our students on the day.



PTA

The PTA would like to invite you to the first meeting of 2024. It will be held this Monday 5 February between 6-7pm in the Elmslie Conference Room (ECR) which is halfway up the staircase to Elmslie library. We will be discussing forthcoming events and welcome any new suggestions to raise money for our students. We are always looking to expand our small committee and would welcome any new parents/carers who can spare a few hours a month to support the PTA.



Additionally, a date has been set for the Quiz night, Friday 22 March 2024. Please save the date as we know a successful quiz night can be great fun whilst raising money for an excellent cause! If you would like to be involved in the quiz night as a volunteer please email: gabbotptaevents@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ANDREW LAWRENCE BASKETBALL SKILLS HALF TERM CAMP

Monday 12—Wednesday 14 February, 8.30am-11.30am at George Abbot School. This Camp will aim to offer fun skill-based sessions which will keep the children engaged and help them not only develop their basketball skills, but also to understand how to work within a team environment. Our core values will be to instill discipline, respect and sportsmanship. We offer high-level coaching from current and ex-professional players, as well as coaches, to give the children the best experience possible and role models to look up to. <https://forms.pabbly.com/form/share/1oiK-722601861>

Careers

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

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

- National Apprenticeship Week
- Toni & Guy Apprenticeships

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

RGS SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE

2024

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

5:30PM - 7:30PM

SEMINAR ROOM

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

DATA SCIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, INTERNET CULTURE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

Dr Elodie Hudson, former RGS Biology teacher and now Lead Data Scientist at AssessTech Analytics
 Dr Anjan Dutta, Senior Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Surrey
 Dr Ana Andries, Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Surrey
 Seb Chaumeton, up-and-coming multi-media artist
 James Miller, environmental activist

NEW STRENGTH CLASS STARTS 24TH FEBRUARY

Move through Menopause in a strong and healthy way

with a fun strength and conditioning workout that will not only help with this transitional period and beyond, but will provide information on the menopause and set you up with tools for life!!!

Saturdays
9.15am-10.15am

George Abbot School
Dance Studio



For more information or to book one of our classes, please head to our website www.heavenlyresistance.training

You can also contact us by email at hello@heavenlyresistance.training

Money Back Guarantee on your first attended session with us!

See website for details. Please note that advanced booking is required

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