

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

23 February 2024



All

I hope that all of our families managed to enjoy time together over the half term break and that your children relished some rest, reading, fresh air, time with good friends and exercise alongside their virtual social lives. If your child attended the ski trip, the sixth form Politics visit to Washington, or the Dance visit to Edward Scissorhands, I hope they had a fantastic time. This half term we have numerous extra curricular events including: London galleries visits, a night at the opera, Bronze DofE training, a visit from an author, MFL theatre events, a visit to the National Archives, an Army challenge day, visits to post 16 colleges, the First Lego League, a night at the theatre, Law lectures, Dance Live Competition, Girls in STEM, rock climbing, indoor skydiving, kayaking, a visit to the zoo, sixth form RAG week with lots of events for all students (see details herein), two nights of school Spring Concert - please save the dates: 26 and 27 March. Quite a half term ahead before we even begin the core business of great teaching every day. I hope that our Year 7 parents and carers found this week's parents' evening helpful and that it helped to secure your connections to your child's teaching team and progress. Year 9 have their parents' evening on Monday 4 March.

Today, I want to highlight the upcoming World Book Day on 7 March 2024. Reading is a vital indicator of a child's future success. We want all young people to enjoy a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings. The Department for Education's reading framework recognises the "fundamental importance" of reading for a child's academic success and wellbeing. However, research shows that reading for pleasure is declining across all age groups. At George Abbot we have two well stocked library spaces. The Gallery is our base for Years 7, 8 & 9 and houses both fiction and non-fiction. New books are regularly acquired and there is an excellent breadth of author and genre. Please could I ask you to challenge your young reader to go The Gallery and take out a book and then discuss their choice and thoughts on the book with you at home. For Year 10 upwards, USIC is the home of age appropriate fiction and some excellent non-fiction resources related to both our GCSE and A Level courses.

I would like to ask for your feedback in our second parent voice snapshot of the year - there are 6 quick and easy questions that I would truly value your feedback on via the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Vmvj1Rx9MG>

We understand that our school is only as successful as your children and you experience it to be. Data is one indicator and we know that the recent published school data places George Abbot in a very strong position in that regard, but lived experience is a vital factor for all of us if our school is to continue to improve and flourish.

Lastly, a reminder to our Year 11 parents and carers of the Year 11 Revision and Study Preparation session on Thursday 29 February from 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Elmslie Hall. We have an expert speaker joining us, Mrs Michele Miller, and urge you and your child to come along to help focus everyone's energy on strategies that will make a tangible difference to your child's academic success. The booking link is here: <https://forms.office.com/e/bGqgwCEsrg>. Thank you to our Year 11 and Year 13 parents/carers, as well as our Year 10 parents/carers (who are supporting their children with their GCSE RE preparations), for your support in ensuring they have a sensible revision plan, know what they are revising and what they don't yet have secure and work hard to achieve their goals. Very little of true value in life is achieved without hard work.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

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GA6 RAG Week: 4-8 March

Our Year 12 Student Leadership Team have organised an exciting range of events during the week beginning 4 March to raise as much money for charity as possible. Alongside selling sweet treats throughout the week, there will be challenges, raffles and student vs staff events. If you would like your child to have tokens in order to participate in the range of charity events occurring, please can you upload funds via WisePay - General Payments section under the option titled 'Sixth Form RAG Week March 2024 Tokens'. One token will cost 50 pence and tokens need to be bought in advance to allow the team time to get them ready for collection at first break each day (last day to collect tokens will be Thursday first break). Unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is going to charity.

On Thursday 7 March, we will be holding our annual "GA6 Culture Day" whereby our Sixth Form students celebrate their range of cultures through traditional dress and cuisine. **On Friday 8 March, it is a mufti day for the whole school and we ask that your child pays £1 via WisePay to come in wearing their own appropriate clothes.** There is a separate option on WisePay for mufti payments titled 'Sixth Form RAG Week March 2024 Mufti'.

Notices	Week commencing 26 February = Week B Week commencing 4 March = Week A
Whole School	<p>⇒ Early school closure for Year 9 Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 4 March Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.35pm on Monday 4 March for us to conduct the Year 9 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.</p> <p>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 Friday 1 March. It is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>⇒ Year 10 RE and Year 11 - 13 Progress Support Meetings – Wednesday 20 March 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via SchoolCloud (Parents Evening System)</p> <p>We will be holding the above event on Wednesday 20 March. 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.</p> <p>Appointments are by staff invitation only. We will only contact parents with appointments if subject teachers have concern about how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 10 students are working in the final year of their Religious Education course• Year 12 students are progressing in the first year of their exam courses• Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses <p>We will notify you via email no later than Wednesday 13 March. You may also log in to SchoolCloud system after this date to view your appointments.</p>

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>.

⇒ **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:

- Teacher of Maths

⇒ **Free Online 'Life Skills for Teens Mental Wellbeing Programme' from The Green Hub**

Follow our super-helpful 8-week Life Skills for Teens mental wellbeing programme. The aim of this online course is to give young people like you the science of why we behave the way we do when we get overwhelmed, or stressed. And what we can do to counter-act this. You may find several strategies that work for you... or you may just find just ONE that is super helpful! Please click on the link for further information and on how to sign up: <https://greenhub.org.uk/lifeskills/>

Year 9

⇒ **Year 9 Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 4 March**

For more information on how to book appointments, please [click here](#).

Focus on: Online Safety

Child Online Safety Workshops for Parents/Carers

'Social Jess' is running a series of four parent workshops at the Matrix Hideaway Cafe in the centre of Guildford each Tuesday evening in March, from 6.30pm - 7.30pm. The workshops will equip parents/carers to navigate control settings, as well as how to have digital conversations with their children. They will cover online safety; gaming; social media and pornography. [Please click](#) on the link which will take you through to the booking details.

Instagram Privacy and Safety Checklist

Please [click here](#) to view a useful guide on Instagram safety, including how to report content, Instagram's anti-bullying features, how to block and report comments etc.

Sports Round Up

- A big well done to our Year 12 Sports Leaders who helped deliver a primary school disability sports event on 18 January. They were amazing and the feedback from schools was overwhelmingly positive. The Pentathlon UK representative said they were so good he would recommend that we assist at the national finals in Birmingham!
- Well done to all the girls who competed in the Cross Country Relays at Stoke Park and a special mention to the Year 7s and 10s who both finished in the top 3.
- Our Year 7 boys Basketball team won their first tournament versus Glebelands and Guildford County. Year 7 girls came third in the district tournament at BDB, and came second in the local tournament held at George Abbot. Well done all!
- In Cricket, our Year 7/8 boys won the South Surrey regional indoor cricket final and progress to the Surrey Finals. Our Sixth Form Cricket Scholars, have continued their hard work in the new term and are currently working on how to play spin bowling. Before half term we welcomed the Surrey academy batting coach in for a master class. They have also now completed their assistant coaching course and move on to their level 1 coach qualification.
- Our U16 girls Football team have made it through to the semi-final of the County Cup with an impressive win against Glenthorne. What has made it even more impressive, is that the majority of the team are Year 9 and Year 10 playing against teams of Year 11s. We welcome Surbiton High to George Abbot in the semi-final! Year 8 girls competed in a tournament hosted by Woolmer Hill where we entered two teams. George Abbot put on an impressive showing as we came both 1st and 2nd in the tournament. A mixed team of Year 7s and 8s went over to Therfield School for a friendly game under the light where George Abbot again managed to come away with a win by a narrow margin of 3-2.



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Careers

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- Surrey Police Open Evening
- Careers in Horse Racing
- Univeristy of Law Careers Week events

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

- Virgin Media Apprenticeships
- National Audit Office Apprentice Accountancy Scheme
- Costain—Finance and Admin in Civil Engineering
- Government Social Research Degree Apprenticeship Programme
- Aon Apprenticeships
- BMW Apprenticeships
- Vodafone Apprenticeships

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

- Virgin Media
- Satro Research Work Placements
- Surrey County Council summer work experience

IMAG Politics Evening—Guildford High School, Monday 11 March at 7.00pm

This free event is available to students in Year 11 to 13, particularly those who are currently studying, or planning to study Politics at A Level. It is also open to any parents/carers who might find this topic of interest. For more information, please [click here](#).

A guide to Career Options 2024

This guide is full to the brim with career and application advice for your child. Copies can be found in the careers hub in USIC. You can also download the online version of the free guide [here](#).

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