

# George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

8 March 2024

All

Today's edition comes at the conclusion of our annual RAG week. The Sixth Form team of students and supporting staff have done a great job in creating a vibrant, activity filled week for all of our students to enjoy. The much anticipated staff/student football match (resulting in a 2-0 win for the Sixth Form students), numerous staff agreed to being sponged, live music at breaktimes and themed dress up days have all contributed to a super week. Our fund raising currently stands at £4740. If you feel you might be able to add any more to this total through a last minute donation, you can still donate to our three charities via the RAG Week Donation section under General Payments on WisePay.



Thank you to all of you who completed the snapshot feedback questions from the last bulletin. 147 of you responded and your feedback was:

- 90% feel that George Abbot makes sure our students are well behaved
- 66% feel that George Abbot let's you know about what your children will learn in different subjects
- 73% feel that George Abbot let's you know how your child is doing at school
- 10% would like to see SEN students better supported at George Abbot
- 87% feel that George Abbot has high expectations for your child

This is really helpful to direct our work over the summer term. There is a section on our school website where parents can find information about the curriculum journeys in different subjects - this is a good place to start with finding out about what your child will be learning and when. The link is here:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/>

During the Summer Term, we will look at our assessment and reporting cycle and consider how we can better inform you about your child's progress. We hope that the use of the Satchel App for more comms has been a positive development to keep you and them informed of their many daily achievements and successes.

Lastly, some thing to mention that are coming up in this Bulletin:

Second Hand Clothes sale - 26 April - please save any clothes no longer needed for this important annual sustainability supporting event.

Spring Festival of music and dance - 26 & 27 March - tickets are on sale on Monday.

Book lists - some excellent recommended reads for your children.

[Books for children ages 8-12](#)

[Books for children ages 13+](#)

[Award winning books in different genres](#)

[What should I read next?](#)

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher



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# Tuesday 26 March - Non-uniform Day

On Tuesday 26 March, the school will be holding its planned Purple Day to raise awareness of epilepsy and to support our local Epilepsy charity. Students may wear full non-uniform, with at least one item being purple, on this day. We would also ask for your support to ensure that students' choice of clothing is appropriate for a working, school environment. For reasons of health and safety, flip-flops or backless footwear are not permitted. There is a link, on WisePay, to add a voluntary contribution for this event. Please go to the Donations tab and select Non-uniform day donation 2023-24.



<https://www.purleday.org/> and <https://www.meath.org.uk/>

Notices	Week commencing 11 March = Week B Week commencing 18 March = Week A
Whole School	<p>⇒ <b>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)</b></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. <b>Please note that students are expected to attend the video appointment with their parent/carer.</b></p> <p>Appointments are by <b>staff invitation only. We will only contact parents with appointments</b> if subject teachers have concern about how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 10 students are working in the final year of their Religious Education course</li><li>• Year 12 students are progressing in the first year of their exam courses</li><li>• Year 11 or Year 13 students are working in their final year of their courses</li></ul> <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> <p>⇒ <b>Are you doing any spring cleaning? Announcing the return of the George Abbot Second-Hand Clothes Sale on 26 April</b></p> <p>It's happening again! We raised an incredible amount of money last year for our biodiversity actions in the school grounds and food waste recycling through the second-hand clothes sale organised by the Sixth Form and we were able to provide clothes following the sale to two local charities as well. Please help us make it a success this year too. We would welcome any donations of new/used clothes for adults and teenagers in the Elmslie Reception. Students who bring in bag of clothes will be given a thank you sweet.</p> <p>⇒ <b>Secondhand Uniform</b></p> <p>Many thanks for all the donations we are continuing to receive for secondhand uniform. Just a reminder that we hold sales every other Monday. The next sale will take place on Monday 11 March. Parents/carers are welcome to come to reception between 3.30pm - 4.00pm (Please do not park on site. Access to the school via the pedestrian gate only). Any donations for items purchased would be greatly appreciated, and we can accept cash, card, or alternatively you can donate via WisePay. We have plenty of uniform items in great condition for sale, so do come and take a look. Alternatively, if you need any secondhand uniform items but are unable to make the sale, please email any requests to <a href="mailto:office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk">office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</a> with details of the items needed including quantity and sizes, and we will do our best to source them for you. Many thanks in advance for your support.</p>

## Whole School

### ⇒ **The World in Music—2 day course**

Surrey Arts presents The World In Music, a free 2-day course during the April School Holidays at Camberley Theatre. Participants will enjoy 2 days learning to play a range of instruments, sharing music from their own cultural heritage and learning songs and rhythms from around the world. There will be a short performance from the young people at 2pm on the second day. For more information, please [click here](#).

### ⇒ **Interested in a career in teaching?**

Thinking of changing your career or looking for a new challenge after a career break? Did you know you can train and qualify to teach in a year, in our school based initial teacher training. You can train to be a Primary or Secondary school teacher in your local area and be based in one of our local schools. If you are interested in training to be a secondary school teacher in a shortage subject, you can earn as much as £28,000 in your training year. For more information, please look at our website: [www.georgeabbottraining.co.uk](http://www.georgeabbottraining.co.uk)

We regularly hold information events via Zoom, book your place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/teacher-training-virtual-information-event-tickets-718416632487?aff=oddtcreator>

If you can't join us online, please give us a call 01483 888048 or email us at:

[contactscitt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:contactscitt@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

### ⇒ **Talking Teens Workshop**

Matrix Trust is offering a 4-session workshop with the aim of increasing parents' understanding of teenagers' feelings and behaviour, and deliver key strategies for improving relationships. For more information, please [click here](#).

### ⇒ **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 PE

## Year 11

### ⇒ **Internal Maths Mock**

Please be reminded of the upcoming Maths mock for Year 11 students. These mocks are an essential part of the preparation for the final exams.

**Year 11, G Side: The main venue will be Raynham Hall**

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2024

Start time: 2:00pm. Finish time at 3:30pm; Students with extra time will finish at 4:00pm

**Year 11, A Side: The main venue will be Raynham Hall**

Date: Friday 15 March 2024

Start time: 8:30am. Finish time: 10.00am; Students with extra time will finish at 10:30am

## Year 9

### ⇒ **'Masking' a performance by Peer Productions on Monday 11 March, 2pm**

Students in Year 9 will be attending a performance in Elmslie Hall for Lesson 4 next Monday 11 March. 'Masking' is a brand-new play designed to address the impact of modern life on teenagers' mental health. It asks the audience to consider how they might know when strong feelings, which are common in adolescence, become something that needs intervention. It invites the audience to develop their empathy skills by stepping inside the different characters' heads, discovering what they are masking and what's happening beneath the surface. By doing this we aim to destigmatise mental health and mental illness and bring those conversations to the surface. 'Masking' zooms in on young people (we see no adults on stage) asking them to consider how they can build connections and find joy in this uncertain world as well as how they can know when they need to ask for help. For more information please follow link <https://www.peerproductions.co.uk/plays/masking> or ask to speak with a member of the HSLW team at school.



# Young Carers Action Day—13 March 2024

Young Carers Action Day this year is on Wednesday 13 March, and this year's theme is 'fair futures for young carers'. This day is focused on building a more equal future for young carers and removing barriers that many of their peers do not face.

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides unpaid care to a family member. This family member may have a disability, an illness, a mental health condition, learning needs, or substance dependency.

The 2023 Young Carers' Survey found that 1 in 3 young carers (of which there are an estimated 14,000 in Surrey that have been identified by local services) are struggling to balance caring with their education. This can have a big impact on their progress going forward to higher education, apprenticeships and jobs.

At George Abbot, we are trying to raise more awareness of the role of young carers, and provide support to try and help students to strike a balance between caring and education as well as leisure time. Miss Lewis and the Home School Link Worker team are working with Heads of Year and Inclusion Managers to provide opportunities throughout the year to our young carers.

We also have additional support from Matrix ([matrixtrust.com](http://matrixtrust.com)), and Action for Carers Surrey ([actionforcarers.org.uk](http://actionforcarers.org.uk)), which are both charities that can provide opportunities and drop in's for support outside of school.

If you wish to find out more or think that your child could benefit from Young Carer support and isn't currently registered with the school as one, please either email Miss Lewis who is the Young Carers Co-ordinator for the school ([CLewis@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:CLewis@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)) or the relevant Home School Link worker to your child's year group:

Year 7: [cdaniels@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:cdaniels@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

Year 8: [KRhodes@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:KRhodes@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

Year 9 and 10: [EYoung@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:EYoung@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

Year 11, 12 and 13: [rneu@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:rneu@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

**WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS** SPRING TERM

**YOUTH HIDEAWAY CAFE** 4-5:30pm  
The Hideaway Cafe, Allen House Pavillion, Guildford, GU1 4AZ

- 6<sup>th</sup> MAR** **MINDFUL COLLAGE**  
Unlock your creativity with free-flow no-pressure collage making.
- 13<sup>th</sup> MAR** **DRUMMING!**  
Get down with the beat! Learn your way around a drum kit and play a variety of beats.
- 20<sup>th</sup> MAR** **JUGGLING**  
Could this be the start of a new hobby? Come along to learn the art of juggling.
- 27<sup>th</sup> MAR** **PYROGRAPHY ART**  
Learn the exciting craft of burning drawings into wood to create your own fire-infused art!

@youth.hideaway **YR6-11s** **matrix**  
with young people, for young people

**CARERS TRUST**

## YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY

**WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024**

### Fair Futures for Young Carers

Being a young carer shouldn't be a barrier to a young person's dreams. It should be a stepping stone to a brighter future.

Together, let's create a future where young carers can dream without limits.

Your voice matters. Support us on Young Carers Action Day so every young carer can learn, earn, and thrive!

Find out more and get involved:  
**Carers.org/ycad**  
#YoungCarersActionDay

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# Focus on: World Book Day

How often, as adults, do we say that we would love to have the time to just sit down and read? Casting our minds back to a childhood of a wet rainy day curled up on the sofa with a book in hand, or during the summer, doing the same while soaking up the sun.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
7 MARCH 2024

These memories are what we want for our students, the joy of Reading for Pleasure.

The National Literacy Trust has defined reading for pleasure as: 'Reading we do of our own free will, anticipating the satisfaction we will get from the act of reading'.

The benefits of reading for pleasure are well documented and include: extending a student's text comprehension and vocabulary, increasing their understanding of other people and cultures, increasing their general knowledge, and most importantly it helps with maintaining their mental wellbeing.

Now, although our aim is for students to enjoy a book from the front-to-back cover we accept that this is not for everyone straight away. Let's together encourage reading in all formats: books, both fiction and non-fiction, magazines, graphic novels, comics, news, audio books and even the back of cereal boxes!

And please don't forget to suggest to your child that both The Gallery and USIC libraries are bursting with great reads just waiting to be borrowed. We wish you all a Happy World Book Day.



## Author Visits

Last week, Year 8 were treated to an inspiring talk by leading football journalist and author Carrie Dunn. <https://www.carriedunn.net/about>

Carrie is a leading football journalist and author, whose most recent book, 'Unsuitable for Females: The Rise of the Lionesses and Women's Football in England', was shortlisted for Football Book of the Year at the 2023 Sports Book Awards. Carrie has covered the last three Women's World Cups for the Times and Eurosport, and has worked in-house regularly for both – as well as the Guardian and other publishing houses. Y8 were attentive and asked some fantastic questions, about football, publishing and lots more besides.

Carrie then spent an hour with our girls' football teams, talking in more depth about the turbulent history of women's football in the UK. The girls were shocked to learn about the conditions that the England national team used to endure and were very interested to get the inside story on our current Lionesses.

Parents/carers can buy copies of two of Carrie's books at a very discounted rate, via WisePay. These will come signed by Carrie, delivered to school.

Next week, we're delighted to be welcoming author Ramie Targoff, who is coming to talk to us about her new book Shakespeare's Sisters: How Women Wrote the Renaissance.

Please see different reading lists for your child below:

[Books for children ages 8-12](#)

[Books for children ages 13+](#)

[Award winning books in different genres](#)

[What should I read next?](#)

Students can also access our online library by visiting: <https://georgeabbot.eplatform.co/>

Username: firstname.lastname (student's first name and last name)

Password: Gabbot



**GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL PRESENTS**

# **Spring Festival:** a celebration of music and dance

**TUESDAY 26 AND WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024**

**7:00 PM, RAYNHAM HALL**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE ON WISEPAY FROM MONDAY 11 MARCH**



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# Spring Festival

The following groups will be performing at the Spring Festival shows:

Tuesday 26 March	Wednesday 27 March
Concert Orchestra Boomwhackers Senior Strings Concert Band	GAFC Young Voices Senior Choir KS3 Boys' choir GAMC
<b>Both concerts</b>	
Big Band Y7/8/9 Dance company Contemporary Dance Company Junior/Senior Dance Jazz Dance Company Chamber Choir	

## First Lego League 2024

On Thursday 29 February, a group of Year 8 and 9 students, took part in the annual First Lego League competition, Southern Area Region, at the STEMUnity in Portsmouth, against teams from schools in and around Portsmouth. This year's theme was 'Masterpiece', which was focused on making the arts more accessible for all people. The competition is split into 4 categories, Robot Tournament, Innovation Project, Core Values and Technical Robot Design.

The Innovation Project saw the students present to a panel of judges with their idea for innovation based on the theme, targeted at improving games such as Warhammer, to be accessible to people with different disabilities, through using augmented reality and mobile apps. The students worked collaboratively over the last few months, via Google Classroom, and created a well devised presentation, which was delivered brilliantly and impressively, leading to excellent comments from the judges, including some who thought the idea could even be taken forward in reality.

The Robot Tournament saw the students design an autonomous robot from Lego, then program the robot to complete a variety of challenges based around the Cargo Connect theme. In their runs, the team scored 215, 245 and 285 points, with the next best team achieving a high score of 160!

The team showed great determination and dedication both in the build up to the event and also during the event itself, making tweaks and changes in between runs. The students performed incredibly well during the robot section, with their attitude and development being highly praised throughout. This led to them being declared as winners of the Robot section, which is highly deserved.

Following their fantastic attitude and performance across all categories, the students were declared overall Area Winners of the Southern Region. This means they will represent the school and the region, for a second time in two years, in the National Finals in Harrogate on 20 April. The students were thoroughly excited about the result and are focused on preparations for the next stage. Thank you to Mr Hunter for supporting these students throughout.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# Careers

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

- National Careers Week (Law, Engineering and Finance)
- Stargazing night with University of Surrey
- Taster Sessions for Activate Learning

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

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

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