

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

3 May 2024

All

Despite a still wet field restricting our usual 'May spread' onto green spaces, the last fortnight has seen much success. Our Dance Live team took part in the National Dance Live Finals in Portsmouth - we did not place in the top three, but their performance was so impressive. I loved the costumes, the use of the stage, the Dr Who inspiration, the drama, the range of graceful movement and the obvious sense of unity.

Our Surrey Cricket Scholars have begun their summer match campaign. Their first two matches have been played and won - against Kind Edwards Witley in the National T20 Cup and against Worthing College in their AoC league. Next up we have Peter Symonds College away in Winchester and RGS in the T20 Cup. A big week ahead!

Yesterday evening saw our Year 11 Awards Evening - an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of our Year 11s who have worked consistently hard, made superb progress, achieved significant academic success as well as those who have made our school a better place through their leadership, character and contribution to life outside of the classroom. Last lesson today, the whole year group met together with final awards, presentations and goodbyes - along with the now traditional visit of the ice cream van (despite the temperature).

On the note of Year 11, another important announcement. As Year 11 are now aware, Miss Northcote is off to a promotion in September - she has been a powerhouse in her work with this year group. They will recognise that her tenacity and constant work in their support has been key to their success. An official thank you for all that she has done for our school and our students. This week, some of our Year 7s were involved in the recruitment process for a new Inclusion Manager who will lead our current Year 7s as they move into Year 8. Miss Lewis has been appointed - she is one of our History teachers and has the qualities that are vital to this role - great relationships with students, high standards and absolute determination for every child. She will be joined by Mrs Finnis as their Head of Year. Our current Year 10s will continue to have Mr Ratcliffe as their Inclusion Manager into Year 11 and Ms Murphy, in her role as a 'fixed' Head of Year 11 will work alongside them all to guide them through the final 10 months of school.

Lastly, a note about our PTA and a plea for your help. Every few years, it is time for our PTA leadership to move on, as their children get older and start moving on to university and life beyond school. We are in urgent need of just a few hours a month from any willing parents or carers. It is REALLY important that we keep this vital support arm to the school up and running. Every year, money that they raise supports resources in classrooms, extra opportunities, the very fabric of the building. I have spoken before about the funding crisis in education - it is real. As we prepare the final budget for 24/25, yet again, it is going to be hugely challenging to achieve a breakeven budget. And this in the context of multi agency services around the school having less and less capacity, the cost of resources, utilities and maintenance rising.

Please can you think about whether you can offer just a little of your time? To find out more, we have organised a Zoom meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 May: <https://zoom.us/j/92488624798>. Please join us.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



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Social media influencers

Over recent months and years the media have reported on growing concern regarding social-media influencers, not solely but in particular when it comes to their potential impact on boys and young men. We have noticed a recent uptick of incidences targeting some of our female and LGBTQ students in particular. You may already be aware of one such individual, Andrew Tate, who describes himself as "absolutely a misogynist". Many of our students in Years 10 and 11 know of Tate and his views are challenged within our PSHE curriculum and our Character Development programme in form times. It has since become clear that children in younger year groups are also familiar with Tate and the opinions he supports. Whilst some of Tate's posts appear to focus on wellbeing and mental health, they are interspersed with deeply misogynistic, sexist, homophobic, and violent posts, the views of which are not condoned in the inclusive and welcoming culture of George Abbot school. I attach a useful document for parents on how to approach conversations about Andrew Tate and the 'manosphere' online ideologies that he espouses and would welcome your support in tackling these narratives to keep our students safe from harm.

Notices	Week commencing 6 May = Week B Week commencing 13 May = Week A
Whole School	<p>⇒ Parking on Woodruff Avenue Please can we remind parents/carers to park considerately on Woodruff Avenue and the surrounding roads at drop off and pick up. In particular, please ensure you are not parking on double yellow lines at any point</p> <p>⇒ Sparx Science From 9 May, we will be using Sparx Science for science homework. (Year 10 will start after their RE GCSEs exams). Your child's homework will be set every Thursday and is due on Wednesday of the following week.</p> <p>How do students log in? Students log in at sparxscience.com. They will need to find their school and log in using their Sparx Maths details.</p> <p>What devices are supported? Your child can access Sparx Science on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.</p> <p>Length of homework For year 7 and year 8 each Sparx science homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes. For year 9 and 10 each homework should take between 30 and 40 minutes. We would not expect students to spend more time than this.</p> <p>Science assessments and assessment weeks In addition to Sparx homework, science teachers will set some other homework. This will mainly be homework where students are preparing for science assessments (mind maps, core questions etc).</p> <p>In order to help students manage their workload for assessment weeks Science Sparx homework will not be set for the week before assessment week, or for assessment week.</p> <p>How can I support my child with their homework? Sparx Science adapts to each student's ability level, so it's important that you don't help too much, e.g. by answering questions for them. This can lead to Sparx giving homework that is too long or hard in future. We recommend letting students answer each question themselves and you can give help if they are stuck with the support and follow-up questions. You can also help to provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.</p>

Whole School

How can I monitor my child's homework?

You are able to keep track of homework by clicking the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email. On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx learning system your child is using. If you have any technical issues please contact Mrs Helen Wolstencroft (Science Administrator) by email: Hwolstencroft@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. When your child has started using Sparx Science, if you have any feedback that you think would be useful to us please could you send it to Mrs Wolstencroft.

⇒ What's Your Talent?

This is a reminder that the deadline for the House Competition 'George Abbot's Got Talent' is 13 May. Whatever your child's skills or talents may be, please encourage them to get practicing and recording their talent videos over the bank holiday weekend. Entrants pick up valuable house points, plus the chance to WIN that prize of live TV show tickets to see the making of a semi final of 'Britains Got Talent'. For further details, students should refer to the post on Satchel that came out at Easter, or ask them to speak to their form tutors. Good luck!

⇒ Date for your diary—Chamber Choir performance

Chamber Choir are singing at St Martha's, Guildford this coming Sunday at the 11.15am morning service. They are also singing Evensong with Guildford Cathedral on 16 May at 5.30pm. Both services are open to the public, and all members of the George Abbot community would be very welcome.

⇒ Mirrors

We are currently looking for some full-length mirrors to be put in our uniform store so that students can try on items. If you have any spare mirrors at home that you would be willing to donate, could you please drop them at reception. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

⇒ First Steps to Understanding Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

This course is a FREE online 2-hour three-week course in June, you will be able to discuss early signs of your child struggling at school, and the common reasons of school non-attendance, this course will introduce methods for finding out why your child is avoiding school and you will learn on how to best communicate with your child's school, and what to do at crisis point. There will also be opportunities to talk about your situation, feel supported and problem solve together.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/overview?id=43635>

In addition, West Sussex Mind have released a set of webinars for parents, including the topic of EBSNA:

<https://www.westsussexmind.org/training-courses/mental-health-training/training-to-support-young-people/training-for-parents-and-carers/webinars-for-parents-and-carers>

Please contact the HSLW Team at George Abbot if you have any questions:

<https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/pastoral-care/>

Year 12

⇒ Year 12 Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 13 May 2024

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

Year 11

⇒ Year 11 Prom 2024—Payment deadline Friday 17 May

Please purchase tickets via WisePay.

⇒ GCSE exams - uniform

A reminder that full school uniform is required for students sitting their GCSE exams. On colder mornings, an under layer should be worn, as hoodies and coats are not permitted to be worn in the exam venues and students will be asked to remove them. Students may wear the George Abbot $\frac{3}{4}$ zip sports top as an extra layer.

Year 10

⇒ RE GCSE exam

Year 10 students will sit their RE GCSE exams on the 9 May (paper 1) and 16 May (paper 2). To support them with their revision, the following is available:

- [Revision calendar 2024.docx](#) to help students plan their revision. This covers all topics students need to revise for both exams and contains links to the revision guides. Short course calendar: [Revision calendar SC 2024.docx](#). These calendars are also linked on Satchel One.
- There is a drop-in session in E17 every Wednesday during break 3 and every Thursday after school from 3.20-3.40. Please encourage your child to attend if they have any questions, would like advice, or have any practice questions they would like feedback on.
- Recorded revision PowerPoints will be uploaded weekly to Satchel One on exam skills, Christianity, Buddhism, and themes.
- There is a wealth of resources on the SLE and linked on Satchel One. These resources include revision guides, workbooks and past exam questions.

Please do encourage your child to engage with these revision resources. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Lenehan (hlenehan@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

Careers

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

- Activate Open Events

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

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

Focus on: German Exchange

An account from Ollie N, Year 12 on his experience of the German exchange trip:

"During the last part of the Easter holidays, we had the chance to experience the first part of the German exchange with our partner school in Freiburg, staying with our exchange partners for a week. The idea of living with another family in another country (and most of all speaking in German!) seemed very daunting at first, but it turned out to be quite easy to settle into the routine of Freiburg life, especially with the support of our host families. We were able to see a lot of Freiburg and beyond during the week, including going on a tour around the city, a day trip to Basel and climbing to the top of Feldberg, one of Germany's tallest mountains. On the weekend we spent time with our host families, and trips included a day at Europapark, a visit to nearby France, or just spending time in the very picturesque Freiburg.



Despite all of these great activities, the real highlight of the trip

was getting to know our exchange partners and their families, and seeing the differences in our day to day lives – one of the hardest changes for most of us was school starting at 7:50am! It was an amazing experience being able to live the "German way" for a week, and we can't wait to show our partners the best parts of Guildford during their stay with us in July."



Sports round-up

- In Cricket, our U15 girls made it to the pool stage of the Surrey Smash It Cup by beating Gordons by 24 runs and St Teresa's by 41 runs. They lost to St George's by 25 runs. Best batter went Megan W with some huge hits (50 runs in total). Best bowler was Imogen F, bowling 6 overs and taking 3 wickets for 22 runs. Best fielder was Annie B for two fantastic catches!
- Our U13 & U15 Girls Tennis teams played Prior's Field: U15 Lost 5 - 1, U13 Won 4 - 3.
- Our Year 10 girls netball team took part in the Surrey tournament, coming fourth. Well done to Ashley V for being nominated player of the tournament.
- In Basketball, our Year 7 girls competed in the U13 Surrey basketball finals playing an age group up. They did incredibly well, however, they lost in the final but are now ranked 2nd in the County.
- The U16 Girls Football team were victorious in the Inaugural Guildford and Leatherhead District Football League at Cobham Football Club, beating Howard in the final. The girls went into the season unbeaten in the league and will look to build on that next year in both the National and County competitions. Well done to Cicely, Immie and Poppy on playing their last game for George Abbot but we hope to see them back in the kit next year for the First XI.
- The U13 girls football team competed in an under the lights tournament at Chelsea Football Club where they played against very competitive club sides from Surrey. The girls performed brilliantly throughout the competitions and finished in 4th place out of 8, winning three, drawing three, and only losing one as well as only conceding one goal throughout the whole competition. Thank you to Toby, Cam, and Stephen from Thrive Coaching for entering us into the competition!
- The Year 7 football team finished off a superb debut campaign at George Abbot with a 4-3 win vs. a combined Year 7 & 8 team from Christ's College. There was some fantastic football being played in the sunshine and a late goal from Pearl made the score 4-3 in what was a close game. Year 9 boys football team are through to the district final after a 6-1 win against Kings College.

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.

Dear all our loyal customers, parents, friends, and little adults,

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Anything purchased during our promotion can be exchanged right up until schools open in September!

Please note that we are unable to accept returns and exchanges during our promotional dates above 20th May – 2nd June 2024. Returns & exchanges are all subject to our normal returns policy. These offers are available online and in store. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers.

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