

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

5 July 2024

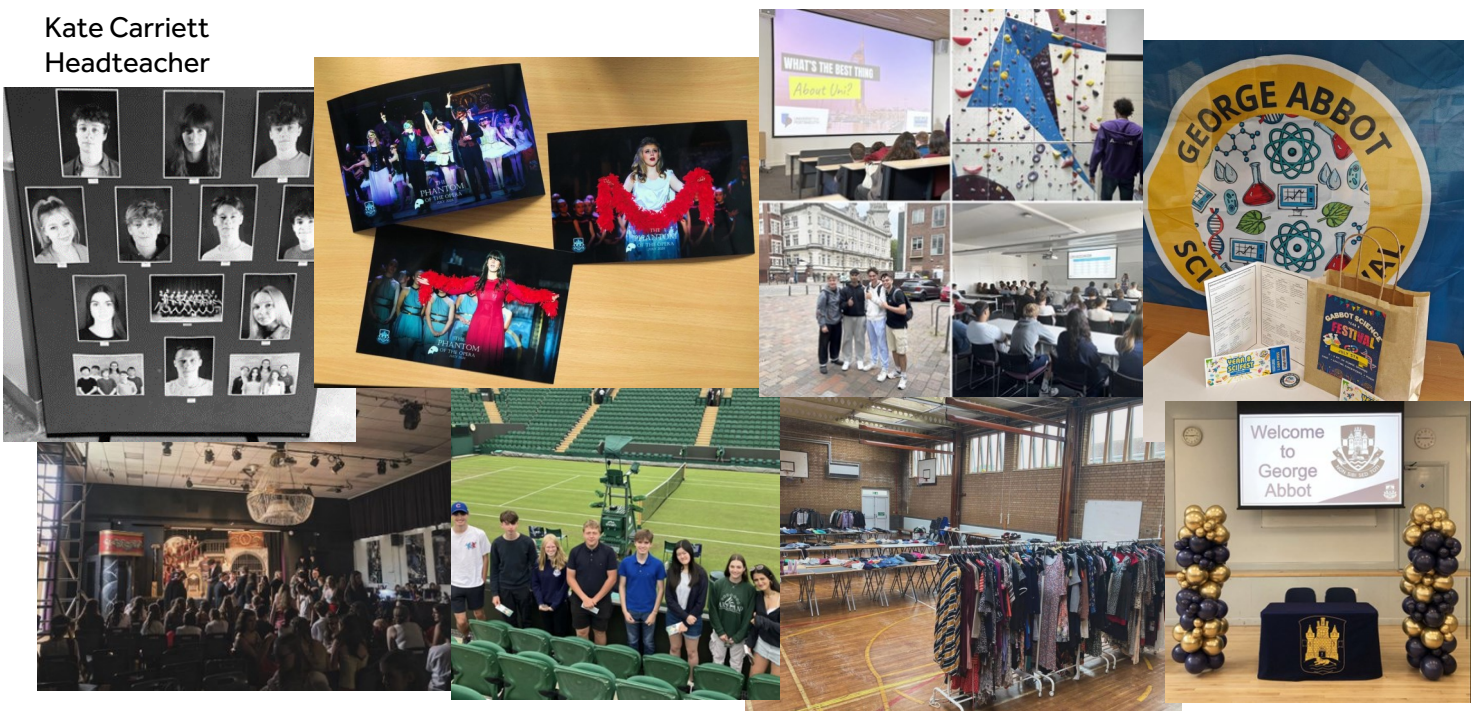
I must start with Phantom of the Opera. Thank you to the many hundreds of our families who have come to support the show. I hope that you have been genuinely astonished by the quality, scale, technical brilliance, musicality and sheer star quality of the students involved. This is a level that surpasses anything state schools can offer and stands alongside the quality seen in some of the most financially privileged schools in the country. Proof that with the very highest quality staff, dedicated and creatively gifted students and a school commitment to the value of performance, ceilings can be smashed.

Around the buzz of the show, we have also staged many other events in this school week:

- The conclusion of next steps week for our Year 12 - a programme that has seen significant levels of organisation from the GA6 team and important guidance for our students.
- A visit to Wimbledon for the joys of the grass court season.
- A mock election in which the Liberal Democrats were victorious.
- Year 6 induction day successfully accomplished - we are looking forward to welcoming the cohort, many of whom are siblings and whose families we are pleased trust us with their next little one.
- Prizegiving for years 7-10, celebrating some of our superstar students and welcoming their parents to join us in recognising the contribution they make to our school.
- More Year 7 students visiting Strawberry Hill and enjoying a day out after a really successful start to GAbbot.
- The inaugural Festival of Science underway this very afternoon, for 80 of our Year 8 students.
- Our preloved clothes sale in support of our sustainability agenda and one of my favourite days of the year.

I want to update all parents and carers on the new approach we are taking to mobile phones. We are phasing in the requirement for every new Year 7 cohort to put their phone into a signal blocking and locked phone pouch at the start of every school day. We are very concerned about the impact of social media and internet interactions on young people's concentration and mental wellbeing. We want to be leaders in a change of culture and support parents and carers with reducing dependency as your children become young adults. For our existing cohorts, phone pouches will now become a requirement as a sanction if phones are seen or heard in school. Persistent infringements of the policy will result in term-long periods of compulsory phone pouch use across the year groups. We hope that this shift will be one you support for the benefit of all our young people.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher



[Return to home page](#)

GabbotFest is back!

Our yearly school festival, where we come together to celebrate our community and raise money for local and national charities (UNICEF, Guildford Action, Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity, Young Minds) and for school environment improvements is happening on Friday 12 July. The festival is made up of village fete style stalls, live music, games, food and drinks. We are running a cashless festival where WisePay contributions are exchanged for tokens (50p a token), which will be a different colour to previous events, and will be issued to students on the morning of the Festival during tutor time. Please note the deadline for buying tokens is Tuesday 9 July in order to give us time to organise the tokens ready for handing out. **Please note, Friday 12 July is also a non-uniform day.**

Mufti is on WisePay under Donations tab titled Non Uniform Day donation 23/24. Tokens are on WisePay under General Payments tab titled GabbotFest tokens 12 July 2024.

If you have any WisePay queries, please email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Please note, any unspent tokens will not be refunded as the money is being donated to charity.



PTA: Come and Meet Us

If you want to know more about how you can support the PTA, we would like to invite you to the next George Abbot PTA meeting on Tuesday 9 July. It is online on Zoom and starts at 6.30pm. Joining details are below. Join Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/98285176102> Meeting ID: 982 8517 6102

Notices	<p style="text-align: right;">Week commencing 8 July = Week B Week commencing 15 July = Week A</p>
Whole School	<p>⇒ Medical Room Procedures</p> <p>We are seeing an increase in parents arriving at school to collect their child, without their child first attending the Medical Room. Please see below a few key reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students should not contact parents/carers directly using their mobile phones if they feel unwell. If this happens, please contact the school immediately. Please can you remind your child that they must report promptly to the Medical Room to be assessed. If they do not have a temperature or sickness/diarrhoea, the Medical Officers will always try and encourage them back to class, in the first instance. When assessing students, the Medical Officers will make a decision based on existing medical conditions and how the child presents at the time. As a reminder, we do not provide paracetamol and are not authorised to give any to your child. If your child/children do suffer from migraines/headaches or other conditions you feel may need occasional pain relief, please supply a new box of prescribed or over the counter medication which will be held in the Medical Room. This will need to be in the original box with dosage leaflet/instructions, and your child's name clearly displayed on the front. Medication from overseas will not be accepted. Aspirin will not be accepted for under 16's unless prescribed by a GP. The medication must have your child's name on the pharmacy label or be supported by a letter from the GP confirming that your child can take Aspirin for a specific medical condition. <p>Please email medical@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions, or would like a medication consent form. Alternatively, please ask your child to collect a hard copy consent form directly from the Medical Room. Your co-operation with our procedures is very much appreciated.</p>

⇒ **Three Peaks Challenge**

A big well done to Gordon and Kezia Winter family, from our school community, who climbed three mountains in 24 hours and raised £15,000 for suicide awareness charity Papyrus along the way in memory of former student, Finn. To read more about their story, please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjeerg0l2yjo>. To donate, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/kezia-winter-1700161156602>

⇒ **Free School Meals**

We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £90 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover the Summer 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 Bernice Evans (bevans@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.

⇒ **Uniform top-ups for students in receipt of Pupil Premium**

Parents/carers can order a uniform top-up from Valentino's, up to the value of £50, by ringing the shop and stating that their child is in receipt of Pupil Premium. If a more extensive uniform top-up is needed, parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year.

⇒ **Safety on School Buses**

Please ensure you remind your child that when travelling on school buses with seatbelts, the seatbelts must be worn. Additionally, students with bus passes must carry them to access a bus, and to avoid being refused entry.

A reminder that Surrey County Council bus passes for next academic year can be collected from Reception at break times.

⇒ **PE Extra-Curricular Clubs—Wednesday 10 July**

PE extra curricular clubs will be cancelled on Wednesday 10 July due to Sports Day. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

⇒ **PE Kit sponsorship and trainers/football boots donations**

We are looking for a local company in our community to act as a sponsor for our football shirts. Additionally, if you have any old running trainers or football/rugby boots you feel you would be able to donate to the school, it would be much appreciated. If you are able to help, please email Mr Ranger: aranger@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ **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:

- Head of Finance
- ELSA/Specialist Progress Mentor
- Progress Mentor

⇒ **WisePay Security update**

As mentioned in previous Bulletins, WisePay now requires parents/carers to change their log in passwords every 90 days. Given the length of the Summer Holidays, you may want to think about changing your password before the end of term, so it does not expire during the holidays, when school is closed. A communication will be posted on the parent log in page advising of this new security feature and there is a guide available [here](#) for parents and staff.

⇒ **Progress Monitoring 2024/25**

Progress Monitoring dates for 2024/25 can be found on the following page of the website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/progress-monitoring/>

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Does your teenager struggle with sleep? Children and Family Health Surrey has created a series of four videos with nurses and sleep experts giving tips, advice and information about children's sleep.</p> <p>Jointly funded by Children and Family Health Surrey and Surrey County Council, the videos are suitable for toddlers, children and teenagers including those with additional needs and learning disabilities, and give advice, information and tips for supporting sleep. For more information, please click here.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ WisePay balance A reminder for students not returning to George Abbot in September 2024, if there is money on your child's canteen account there are several options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer balance to a sibling returning in September 2024 by emailing finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with the names of the students you want the balance transferring from and to. • Donate the balance to the school. • Request a refund: we will either refund back to the card used to pay on WisePay, or if the card has expired bank details will be requested. Just email finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk with the student's name and request a refund. Please be aware the refund may not be able to be processed until September. <p>If we have not received a response by 30 September 2024, we will donate any balances to the School Support Fund.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Year 8 and 9 Parent Information Evening We are delighted to welcome parents/carers of Year 8 and 9 students to school for a 'wellbeing' information evening. At this event parents/carers will hear important information from the Pastoral Teams and Senior Leadership Team about online safety, safeguarding and mental health, alongside general information for the new school year from September. There is no need for students to attend.</p>
<p>Year 8</p>	<p>The event will take place in Elmslie Hall on Monday 15 July: George-side parents/carers to attend from 5.30pm; Abbot-side parents/carers to attend from 6.30pm. Each session will run for around 45 minutes. If for any reason you are unable to attend your child's scheduled session, please email the relevant Inclusion Manager or Head of Year.</p>

Focus on: Outdoor Cooking

Ms Wallace-Jones, Mrs Cavalli-Chapman and Miss Lawson-Hayward teamed up with our school catering provider, Innovate, to run some outdoor cooking session with some of our students last week in our Outdoor Learning Copse. The students had a great time learning to grill different meats and pitta breads!



George Abbot School Visual Arts **PRESENTS**



A Celebration of Fine Art, Photography, Textiles & Graphics GCSE & A-LEVEL Work

THE SUMMER EXHIBITION

Private View: Tuesday
9th July 2024
4 - 7.30pm

Exhibition open from Tuesday 9th July - Friday 12th July 2024./ For students, family, friends and staff of George Abbot.

'be_more_visual_arts'

[Return to home page](#)

Careers

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

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

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

What Next?

With so many options available to students after school or college, knowing where to start can be overwhelming. With this brand-new webinar series, you'll be able to start navigating the post-school choices, how to get started with applications and avoid some of the common mistakes students make throughout the process. Visit: <https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/advice/webinar-series/>

Guildford Community Lottery



Enter our **Super Draw**
WIN A SUMMER BBQ PARTY BUNDLE!
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

NINJA

GUILDFORD COMMUNITY LOTTERY
GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

The advertisement features a green background with a pattern of small white dots. It displays a collection of Ninja kitchen appliances, including a blender, a food processor, a pizza maker, and a rice cooker. The text is in white and yellow, with the word 'NINJA' in large, bold, black letters. The logos for Guildford Community Lottery and George Abbot School are in the bottom left corner.



Refer a friend
TO BE IN FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £200!

GUILDFORD COMMUNITY LOTTERY
GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

The advertisement has a blue background with a white wavy shape at the bottom. It features an illustration of a woman in a pink shirt pointing upwards, with a dashed line leading to a gold coin with a pound sign (£) and a pink heart icon. The text is in white and yellow. The logos for Guildford Community Lottery and George Abbot School are in the bottom left corner.

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01483 888000 - www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk