

George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

20 September 2024

All

We have been blessed with a good dry week with use of the field and a return to the contented rhythm of the school day. Our Year 7s have settled in and are navigating both the buildings and change very well indeed. Year 12 has completed a full timetable cycle and begun to understand the step change needed for sixth form study.

Positive relationships lie at the heart of our school; without them, things go awry. It matters that our young people think about their relationship with school. We are a community. The staff at George Abbot come to school, every day, to serve the creation of positive futures for your children.

In the summer term, the school was visited by The Good Schools Guide. They spent a day with us and wrote a report over which we had zero editing rights. It is fair to say that we were really pleased with their observations. Here follow some quotes and a link to read the full report.

A genuinely comprehensive school that prides itself on being a strong community, excels academically and offers a co-curriculum that produces 'very rounded individuals'

Parents and pupils attribute the school's success to its 'strong leadership' and 'supportive teachers'.

Extracurricular life is buzzing with clubs aplenty.

Sixth formers are refreshingly involved in life lower down the schoolgiving back to the community in some way.

An academically non-selective school with impressive results that put it up with the top performing state secondary schools nationally.

The scale and breadth of the school is its USP, enabling myriad opportunities and a deliberately broad curriculum.

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/schools/george-abbot-school-guildford/8E28329#tab_review

I hope that this report chimes true for you and your child/ren at our school. We are proud of our work at George Abbot and we are proud of your amazing young people. Our partnership with you remains at the centre of their success. Thank you to those of you who attended our parents' information events and the tutor meetings. We are looking forward to a productive and fast paced year ahead.

Kate Carriett
Headteacher

There will be a lockdown practice on Monday 23 September at 12.15pm. Please do not be alarmed - this is part of our annual routines for being prepared for all eventualities. Students have been told about it this week and we will remind them of all procedures again on Monday morning.

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Whole School

⇒ World Teachers' Day—5 October

'World Teachers' Day', organised by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), is held annually on 5 October to celebrate teachers all around the globe. Teachers occupy a vital role in educating and preparing future generations to take their place in the wider world. World Teachers' Day acknowledges the importance of teachers in all of our lives, wherever in the world we live and learn.

As part of George Abbot's celebration of 'World Teachers' Day', all of our students are being invited to communicate their thanks to one of their wonderful teachers in school. This will be done via a Microsoft Form, the link to which will be shared with your child via Bromcom Student—Homework.

Thank you, in advance, to your children for their messages of appreciation for teachers at George Abbot.

World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994. To find out more about this day and the story behind it, click this link - <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/teachers>

⇒ Parent Information Evening Presentations

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Parent Information Evenings over the last two weeks. If you were unable to attend, please see the presentations linked here: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/year-group-info/>

⇒ Ordering your child's school photograph

Year 7, 9 and 11 parents/carers wishing to order copies of the photographs taken on 10 September by the school photographers, can do so in the following manner once their child has brought home the 'proof' photograph sample from school next week:

- Click this link to directly get to the online ordering page: tempest-orders.co.uk. If this fails, go to Tempest Photography website - [Tempest Photography](https://www.tempestphotography.co.uk). Click 'How to Order' from the top bar. Click 'Order Online' on the icon for 'School Photographs')
- Enter the 10-digit number from your child's proof photograph that was given to them at school.
- Follow the remaining order procedure and payment.
- Orders placed within 14 days of the school issuing the proofs, will be delivered back to school and passed to your child. Orders made at a later time will be subject to delivery charges to your home.
- Full details are available on the Tempest website.

Note that proofs of the student photos, taken on 18 September, will be issued in about 10 days' time, once school has received them from Tempest.

⇒ Reports from the SIMsApp

Please ensure any progress reports you want to keep for your child are downloaded from the SIMsApp as soon as possible. All future reports will be shared with parents/carers via the MCAS app, but past reports have not be transferred to the new MCAS platform.

⇒ 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 RE/Humanities
- Teacher of Graphics and Art & Design
- Medical Officer
- Receptionist

⇒ **Parent Prayer Group**

Christian parents and carers of children at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for termly staff meetings and contribute to supporting young carers in the school, twice a year. If you are interested in being on the email list for this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com

⇒ **Secondhand clothes sales**

Please note, we will be running secondhand clothes sales on the following dates this academic year:

- Thursday 24 October 3.30pm-4pm
- Thursday 19 December 3.30pm-4pm
- Thursday 13 February 3.30pm-4pm
- Thursday 3 April - 3.30pm-4pm
- Thursday 22 May 3.30pm-4pm
- Thursday 17 July 3.30pm-4pm

Please report to Reception on arrival.

⇒ **Extra-curricular clubs**

Timetables can be found on the following page of the website: <https://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/extra-curricular/>

⇒ **Non-Uniform Days**

At George Abbot, we take pride in offering students the chance to learn and understand different ways to contribute to the community. One such way is through raising awareness of regional, national and international charities. There will be three non-uniform days, this year, to support this work, the dates, of which, are listed below. The Student Leadership Team will liaise with the wider student body to select the charities and we will write to you to confirm the outcome. In addition, please consider if you are able to contribute a prize, as below, for the PTA event.

- Friday 29 November for the Parent Teacher Association - please send your child to school with an appropriate prize for the PTA Christmas Fair Tombola (examples of prizes to be provided nearer the time)
- Friday 21 March for RAG Week student-nominated charities - £1 voluntary contribution (payment link to be provided nearer the time)
- Friday 11 July for Gabbotfest student-nominated charities - £1 voluntary contribution (payment link to be provided nearer the time)

In addition to this, each year group has the opportunity to experience a bespoke non-uniform day, as a celebration or reward. This might be in relation to improved attendance or record-breaking house points, for example. This event is at the discretion of your child's Inclusion Manager and will be communicated via the Parent Bulletin.

⇒ **Sparx Maths**

All students are set Maths homework via the Sparx platform. If you would like to know more about Sparx, please see the following 'Parents guide to Sparx Maths':

<https://sparxmaths.com/parents/>

⇒ **Sparx Reader**

Research tells us that if students continue to read regularly throughout KS3 then their outcomes at Key stage 4 are significantly improved. In light of these findings, the English department at George Abbot use a homework tool called Sparx Reader. It is a brilliant and intuitive programme which enables students to read novels that are tailored to their reading age and answer comprehension questions which earn them Sparx Reader Points (SRP).

Over the coming weeks, Year 7 students will sit a benchmark test in lessons. This will then enable them to begin their regular homework prior to the October half term. For all other years, Sparx Reader will continue to use Sparx Reader as a dominant form of homework.

In rough terms, 10 SRP should equate to 1 minute of close and careful reading. As a department, we have set a minimum benchmark of 300 SRP a week, which amounts to 30 minutes of reading. We recommend your child completes this in two 15-minute sessions per week. This can be completed on their phone, laptop or tablet.

Sparx Reader rewards careful and deliberate reading. If students do not pass the comprehension check after reading a section of text, they will have to reread the section and answer a different set of questions, thus meaning the HWK will take longer. If you find that your child is struggling to complete their homework within thirty minutes, as a first step, please reiterate to them the need to fully focus on the reading and remove themselves from distractions. Sparx times how long students spend in the reading section. If it recognises a student is skim reading, they will need to answer 4/4 questions to complete the section. However, if they read slowly and deliberately, they will only require 3/4 to pass.

If you find your child is still struggling to complete the reading homework within time, please make contact with your child's English teacher. They can either lower the difficulty level of your child's reading or halve the weekly homework threshold to 150 SRP. The last thing we want is for students to be put off reading by this tool, so please be open with us if your child is not enjoying the homework. If you have any further questions about the use of Sparx Reader at George Abbot, please contact Mr Dixon: edixon@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk


⇒ PSHE

As a part of your child's education at George Abbot we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. From the start of the Autumn term, students will be taking part in lessons throughout the academic year which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. Students will have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

- Year 7 – students learn about puberty and caring for changing bodies, they will recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy relationships, including mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex, and friendship.
- Year 8 - students identify the importance of digital criticality for personal safety, including conduct for themselves and others online. Students also have lessons promoting self-esteem and navigating relationships and friendships.
- Year 9 – students' lessons are on: relationship values and the law, peer pressure, domestic violence, grooming, sexually explicit content, and sexual harassment. There is also a scheme of work focused on extremism. FGM and honour based violence is also taught.
- Year 10 - lessons encompass positive relationships (including sexual relationships), contraception, sexually transmitted infections, consent, pregnancy choices and issues, and sexual wellbeing.
- Year 11 – Students will receive RSE content in form times and a program of professional speakers from outside agencies is currently being planned, the topics of which may include the law surrounding consent and sexual harassment.

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>PSHE education is taught in curriculum time through years 7 – 10, and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Student in all years, including Y11, will also have sessions delivered during tutor times that promote personal wellbeing, character development and supplement our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. The school has a written policy on sex and relationship education and if you would like to discuss or view the Schemes of Work, with the Head of PSE, a meeting can be arranged on request. Please email levansdix@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.</p> <p>If you would like to know more or talk to your child about relationships and sex, the FPA (Family Planning Association) can help make these conversations easier. FPA is a UK-registered sexual health charity providing straightforward information and support on sexual health, relationships and sex to everyone in the UK. https://www.fpa.org.uk/</p> <p>⇒ Mouthguards (Years 7-9)</p> <p>In PE this year, students in Year 7-9 will be participating in Rugby and Hockey. For both of these sports, we, and the Sports National Governing Body, strongly recommend that your child wears a mouthguard, owing to the potential dangers that could occur. Whilst teachers will do everything they can to ensure that students are safe in their lessons, to the nature of sport, accidents can happen, and we want to minimise the potential risks.</p> <p>With regards to Rugby, if your child does not wear a mouthguard they will be limited to touch / tag rugby and will not be able to play any contact games. For Hockey, as well as a mouthguard, we also recommend that your child wears shinpads during their lessons as there is a chance that their legs may come into contact with a hockey stick. If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything, please email Mr Ranger: aranger@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p>
<p>Sixth Form</p>	<p>⇒ Macmillan Coffee Morning</p> <p>Sixth Form students are encouraged to bring in cakes for the Macmillan Coffee Morning next Friday 27 September, break 1. Please ask your child to deliver their cakes to the Sixth Form Common Room.</p>
<p>Year 7</p>	<p>⇒ Year 7 Maths</p> <p>This week, students in Year 7 have moved into banded classes for Maths, called 'upper' and 'middle' bands. We have used KS2 data and the assessment that students completed in Week 2 to ensure that all students are in the correct class. The whole year group will be following the same scheme of work. The upper band will go deeper into the subject matter, which means the middle band will have more time to master the topics. Each term the students will have an assessment. We will use this, along with teacher feedback, to make sure that we have the students in the correct classes, and make any changes where necessary.</p>

PTA
99% of our parents are missing...



Does your child complain that there is nowhere indoors to sit at break time? Show them you care – join the small elite team volunteering a little of their time to help the PTA fundraising efforts in support of the school as it works to improve its infrastructure. Email us at g.abbot.pta@gmail.com, and/or come to our AGM at 6pm on Monday 7 October in ECR. Help to decide how we should raise the money, and what the spending priorities should be.

Can you help? We need volunteers to help organise our secondhand uniform store. Please email g.abbot.pta@gmail.com if you can volunteer some time.

Community Notices



ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

IN CONCERT WITH ST CATHERINE'S AND GEORGE ABBOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Thursday 7th November 2024
7.30pm – 9.45pm

Bar open from 6.45pm
St Catherine's School Auditorium | GU5 0DF

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is a British period instrument orchestra resident at the Southbank Centre and associate orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera. They believe in getting closer to the experience intended by the composers themselves, by playing instruments and using techniques from the period the music was written.

We are deeply grateful to Imogen Charlton-Edwards (Current Parent and Chair of the OAE) for helping to facilitate this event.



BOOK YOUR PLACE

Tickets are available through Brown Paper Tickets:
[georgeabbotoae.bpt.me](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/venue/georgeabbotoae)
alternatively please use the QR code.



Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment



www.surrey.ac.uk/WSW24

TUNGATE QUARTER GUILDFORD

Submission deadline: Thursday, 3 October 2024 at 4PM

Winners announced: Saturday, 5 October 2024 at 2PM

We are seeking visual artwork in any medium related to space.

You can enter one of two categories: KS1/2 [OR](#) KS3/4.

We encourage entrants to attend the WSW24 event on Saturday, 5 October at Tunsgate Quarter, where winners will be announced & will receive a prize.

Deliver your entry to **Tungate Quarter Shopping Centre** in Guildford any day between 2-4PM. On arrival, contact Centre Management (01483 560800) who will collect entries. Alternatively, submit digitally to publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk.

Remember to include your: name, year group, email address, and a 100-word description of your entry.

Surrey Youth Arts and Culture Festival
Friday 1 and Saturday 2 November at Camberley Theatre and Camberley Library:
<https://www.cultureboxsurrey.org.uk/surrey-youth-arts-and-culture-festival-programme/>

SHORT STORY COMPETITION



ALICE FOWLER (OUR SUPER COOL JUDGE AND SHORT STORY EXPERT)



ALICE'S PUBLISHED SHORT STORY COLLECTION!

Prizes:

Your work read by a published author! (above)
A workshop with Alice to get loads of top tips on writing, what it's like to be an author, how to get published, and more!
Book goodies!

The Brief



- ★ Age categories: 11-13 & 14-16 years
- ★ Short story or story scene about 'creating'
- ★ Length: up to 1,000 words typed or 3 sides of A4 if handwritten

Theme:

We would love for you to write a short story inspired by this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme 'Marvellous Makers', that includes some element of creating or making. For example: building, sculpting, crafting, drawing, painting, or music, dance, and drama.

To Enter:

Hand your entry into Guildford or Horsley Library, with your library card number, first name and age recorded at the top. Winners and runners-up will be notified by the email address recorded in your library account.

Closes: 14th September 2024

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