

George Abbot Bulletin

Headteacher's Message

4 October 2024

Showcasing our School

The last two weeks have seen 900 visitors to our school for our Year 6 Open Mornings. As ever, your children were great ambassadors for the school. Visitors always comment on how focussed and calm George Abbot is. My response is that we expect nothing less. Today, it has been a delight to welcome Danny Moloney and Geoff Wilson back to George Abbot. Geoff Wilson was Headteacher here until 1999 and then Danny Moloney followed him. Two of our buildings are named after them in true George Abbot tradition. Some of you will know the history of the school, but originally, in the late 1950s, the school began as two grammar schools; a girls' grammar school under the leadership of Miss Elmslie and a boys' grammar school under the leadership of Mr Raynham. We have a great photo of the opening of the school that is now George Abbot in 1960, with all of the staff assembled on the stage and a fine array of 1960s fashion on display.

The London Road Active Travel Scheme

George Abbot instituted our Sustainability Policy in 2022. Climate change is, arguably, the most complicated socio-economic and environmental issue that humans have ever faced. Our work on sustainability at school envisions a sustainable school community with climate justice and the protection of nature at its core. It is with this in mind that we have been involved in stakeholder engagement for the active travel scheme currently being planned to run from New Inn Lane to York Road along London Road. We are very mindful of the scale of our organisation and the impact this has on Burpham and we want to minimise that impact for the benefit of our environment. In a survey conducted amongst students in 2023, just under half of the 740 respondents indicated that they would cycle to school with improved cycle routes. We have therefore, followed the development and many iterations of the London Road active travel scheme with interest. One of our local residents, who navigates the congestion as a pedestrian has asked us to share this QR code with our parent community. Surrey County Councillors have a free vote on 29 October regarding the sustainable travel corridor in Burpham. If you are a parent/carer who would like your child to cycle and walk more safely to school and feel you know enough about this project to make an informed decision, you may like to show your support for the scheme. This QR code allows anyone to easily email all Surrey County Councillors to show your support.



Black History Month

George Abbot actively celebrates the diversity of our community. We speak often with our students about the richness that this diversity brings to our school and our educational experience. Black History Month is actively marked at our school. There will be different ways that students engage including our 'I have a dream' project in next week's Community Week and our 'Find your Voice' tutor time scheme. As Cherron Inko-Tariah MBE explains: 'this year's theme for Black History Month is "Reclaiming Narratives," and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture. This theme underscores a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies and showcasing the untold success stories and the full complexity of Black heritage'. Please take some time to discuss this important month with your children over the coming weeks. #ReclaimingNarratives

PTA

Even in leafy Surrey...

...fourteen years of austerity bite, and George Abbot's infrastructure needs investment. **Your PTA** is working to raise funds to improve the children's experience and educational opportunities. Please help us – get involved; find out what the school's spending priorities are, and help to decide what events we should run this year. Come to the



PTA meeting, 7 October 2024, 6pm, ECR

If you can't make it in person, please try Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98309042283>, technology permitting. As it's our first meeting of 2024/25 it's also our AGM – here is the [agenda](#), with links to associated papers.

Notices	Week commencing 7 October = Week B Week commencing 14 October = Week A
Whole School	<p>⇒ Medical appointments and signing out during the school day If your child needs to leave for a medical appointment, please notify us via attendance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Once we have been notified a note will be put on the register so the teacher will know to let your child come to reception at the specified time. Please remind them in the morning to leave their lesson promptly to prevent any delays.</p> <p>⇒ Year 11 - 13 Online Progress Support Meetings – Tuesday 12 November 5.00pm – 7.00pm, online video appointments via SchoolCloud We will be holding the above event on Tuesday 12 November. 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 12 students have started their new 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 6 November. You may also log in to the SchoolCloud system after this date to view your appointments. If you have not been contacted by this date, please assume that your child's teachers have not requested an appointment. 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.</p> <p>⇒ MFL Volunteers The Modern Foreign Languages Department is looking for volunteers who are fluent Spanish or German speakers to support our students with their language learning at GCSE and/or A Level, in particular their speaking skills. In previous years we have had huge success working collaboratively with our local community to enhance language learning at George Abbot. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Miss Smith for more information at hsmith@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.</p>

Whole School

⇒ **Poetry Slam Competition Y7-Y13**

George Abbot will be hosting its inaugural poetry slam competition on Tuesday 19 November. The event will take place in the evening at the University of Surrey and be judged by two professional performance poets - Woodzy and Articulit. Assemblies and English lessons for National Poetry Day will take place during the week commencing 7 October. We will then encourage all students to find their voice and create a poem to be entered into our competition. The theme this year is 'Counting' and all details about how to enter can be found on BromCom. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 23 October so please encourage your child to produce a poem to be selected and performed!

⇒ **Litter**

We have received reports of students, from George Abbot School, littering one of the public buses. Please could you talk to your child about keeping the community clean and safe, reiterating their citizenship responsibilities and the need to represent the school positively.

⇒ **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:

- Progress Mentors

⇒ **Ordering your child's school photograph**

A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Monday 7th October 2024. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Year 12 School Photographs

Year 12 parents wishing to order copies of the photographs taken on 18 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. 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.

Year 11

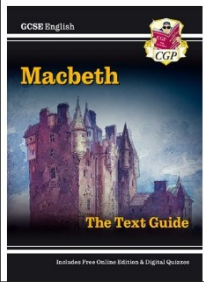
⇒ **Maths Paper**

Please be informed that Year 11 students will be sitting a non-calculator paper in November. The exam will consist of 90 minutes of exam-style questions, designed to help students prepare for their final assessments. To ensure they are fully equipped, students will need the following materials: pen, pencil, ruler, compass and protractor.

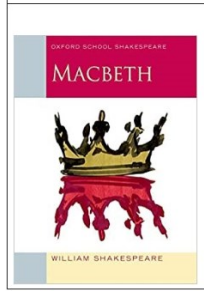
Thank you for your support in making sure your child is prepared for this important assessment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Miss Coles, Head of Maths: ccoles@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Year 11

ISBN 9781841461168



ISBN 9780198324003



⇒ Purchase of Macbeth Text and Study Guide - REMINDER

The academic year has started and Year 11 students are now studying the Shakespeare play 'Macbeth'. This text is an integral part of the GCSE examination and students are strongly encouraged to have their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision in the summer of 2025. In addition to the play 'Macbeth' there is a CGP Study Guide available as an optional extra - this is highly recommended by English teachers. Both the text and guide are available for purchase via various booksellers - please use the ISBN numbers shown below.

Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their text and guide free of charge. If a student already has their own copy (perhaps previously owned by a sibling, relative or friend), then this too will be acceptable.

Any queries please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 10

⇒ RE Mock

Students in Year 10 will sit their RE GCSE mock on 15 November at 8.30am. It will last 1 hour 45 minutes. Students will be examined on the following four units:

- Christianity: Practices
- Buddhism: Beliefs and Teachings
- Buddhism: Practices
- Crime & Punishment

Please do encourage students to start revising early – there are plenty of revision activities linked on Bromcom, as well as:

- A revision calendar is available here: [Revision calendar.docx](#)
- Revision resources including revision guides, workbooks, mind-maps and past exam questions are all available here: [Mock resources 2024](#)

Miss Lenehan will be available in E17 every Thursday during break 1, to answer any queries that students may have, and feedback on any practice exam questions. All students welcome.

There is no requirement to purchase a revision guide, but if you wish to do so we would suggest:

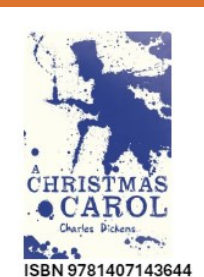
- ⇒ AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide Paperback – 1 Jan 2018 by Marianne Fleming (Author)

⇒ Purchase of A Christmas Carol Text and Study Guide - REMINDER

The academic year has started and year 10 students are now studying 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. This text is an integral part of the GCSE examination and students are strongly encouraged to have their own copy so that they can annotate and use again for revision in the summer of 2026. In addition to the novella 'A Christmas Carol' there is a CGP Study Guide available as an optional extra - this is highly recommended by English teachers. Both the text and guide are available for purchase via various booksellers - please use the ISBN numbers shown below.

Students in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive their text and guide free of charge. If a student already has their own copy (perhaps previously owned by a sibling, relative or friend), then this too will be acceptable.

Any queries please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



ISBN 9781407143644



ISBN 9781782943099

Year 8

⇒ The Gallery

A reminder that students are welcome to visit the lower school library - The Gallery - from 8am before school and during every break time. In addition, Homework Club is available for all students after school until 5.00pm in USIC. Some books in the Gallery are categorised as 'Young Adult' (for Year 9 and above) due to their more mature content. If students in Y7 or Y8 wish to borrow these please could we request a parent/ carer email their consent to fmclean@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Year 7

⇒ The Gallery

A reminder that students are welcome to visit the lower school library - The Gallery - from 8am before school and during every break time. In addition, Homework Club is available for all students after school until 5.00pm in USIC. Some books in the Gallery are categorised as 'Young Adult' (for Year 9 and above) due to their more mature content. If students in Y7 or Y8 wish to borrow these please could we request a parent/ carer email their consent to fmclean@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

⇒ Reminder: Year 7 Parent/Carer Social Event

The PTA are delighted to invite you to a social evening on Wednesday 16 October, 7 for 7.30pm, in the Sixth Form Common Room in the Performing Arts Building. Live entertainment will kindly be provided by Sixth Form music students. Nibbles will be provided, and there will be a cash bar. For catering purposes, please sign up by Monday 14 October at <https://forms.gle/9XymUC4kSNu5PKUr5>. If you have any questions, please email the PTA Chair, Philip, at g.abbot.pta@gmail.com.

Careers

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

- Tormead School Careers Networking event
- UK University Fair—Wednesday 16 October
- Careers in Finance with ACCA
- Stevens & Bolton legal practice
- Activate Colleges Open Days

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

- Insight into PwC

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

- University for the Creative Arts—Arts Award

Focus on: bake sale success!

On Thursday 26 September, more than 40 Year 7 and 8 students brought in European themed cakes for the European Day of Languages Charity Bake Sale. The entries were fantastic and it was lovely to see students sharing their own international cultures, and celebrating those of others. The sale raised £129.25 for Doctors without Borders - thank you to all who donated! Special thanks to sixth formers Ollie N, Toby B, Lauren T, Yundi C and of course Team Languages for their help on the day.



Online Safety & Safeguarding Notices

Spice Spiked Vapes

We have been made aware of an increase of Spice Spiked Vapes (or Fake Weed Vapes) amongst young people nationally. Spice, also known as synthetic cannabinoids, is a synthetic street drug that has been causing concern due to its dangerous effects. It's turning up in an unexpected place: school vapes. Researchers from the University of Bath conducted an investigation, and their findings are quite alarming. They tested 596 confiscated vapes from 38 schools across England. Unwitting schoolchildren might be using spice without even realising it.

What is Spice?

Spice is a synthetic cannabinoid, often referred to as "fake weed." It's not cannabis, despite some misconceptions. In fact, it's far more potent and risky. People who use spice report effects like dissociation (feeling disconnected from their bodies), aggression, psychosis, seizures, and even cardiac arrest.

How did it end up in vapes?

Drug dealers and unscrupulous sellers are substituting spice into vapes that are supposedly filled with cannabis oil because spice is cheap compared to THC (the psychoactive component of cannabis). A child may think they're getting a regular cannabis vape, but it's actually spiked with spice.

What are the risks?

Spice can cause serious harm. The are associated with cardiac arrests, and intensive care stays. This has the potential to be life-threatening and some schools in the Midlands have reported incidents.

What can we Do?

Education Teachers, parents, and students need to know the risks. If someone offers you a cheaper "cannabis" vape, it's likely spice. Researchers are working on spice detection technology.

What are the effects of taking Spice?

Dizziness and confusion, mood swings, anxiety and paranoia, suicidal thoughts, memory problems and amnesia, nausea and vomiting, hot flushes, increased heart rate and blood pressure, which may cause chest pains and damage your heart and even cause a heart attack, tremors, seizures and fits.

Online Safety:

South East Cyber is a regional Police Cyber Crime Unit consisting of 4 Police Forces. Hampshire, Thames Valley, Surrey and Sussex Police. They investigate crime as well as proactively educate communities to become Cyber Resilient. Please consider signing up to one of their [webinars](#) for all kinds of useful information to help keep you and your loved ones safe in a Digital Age.

Please click the images below for further information:

This infographic provides a comprehensive overview of Instagram's risks and offers practical advice for parents and educators. It covers various aspects of the platform, including addiction, unrealistic ideals, going live, influencer culture, product tagging, exclusion and ostracism, and managing like counts. It also includes a section on 'Advice for Parents & Educators' with specific tips on avoiding going public, having an open dialogue, and using moderators. The infographic features a central illustration of a young girl looking at her phone, surrounded by various Instagram icons and a '13+' age restriction badge.

This infographic details the risks associated with in-game chat and provides advice for parents and educators. It covers different types of chat, bullying and abuse, potential for private chat, competitive atmosphere, danger of grooming, and lock-down in-game chat. It also includes a section on 'Advice for Parents & Educators' with tips on reporting potential offenders and communication being key. The infographic features a central illustration of a young boy wearing a headset and playing a video game, surrounded by various in-game chat icons and a '13+' age restriction badge.

Community Notices

Scouting for Volunteers! It's easier than you think...

Whether you can spare a day, a year, an hour a month or perhaps even more, then Cubs and Scouts in Jacobs Well need you! We have loads of opportunities both behind the scenes and working with young people. With full support and training you can join the fun and adventure – and all on a flexible basis to suit you. Whether it's helping take young people on an international scout camp to Switzerland or helping to raise some funds for new tents and equipment, there will always be a place for volunteers who want to get involved with the Scouting movement at 1st Jacobs Well Scout Group. If you would like to volunteer and/or see what opportunities are available at Jacobs Well for you or a young person you care for then please get in touch at info@1stjacobswellscoutgroup.org.uk.



Surrey Youth Arts and Culture Festival

The Surrey Youth Arts and Culture Festival is back this year in Camberley, on the 1st and 2nd of November. It is a free event for young people aged 11 – 18, aiming to encourage participation in the arts and promote the fantastic creative skills development opportunities we have available for young people in Surrey. The festival is packed full of activities, supported by organisations including the University of Creative Arts, Royal Holloway University, the National Film and Television School and much more. For more information visit: <https://www.cultureboxsurrey.org.uk/youth-festival-2024/>

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.



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