George Abbot Bulletin

GEORGE ABBOT

Headteacher's Message

08 November 2024

ΑII

I hope that half term was good; your children have returned with energy and vitality. I spoke to all of Years 7-11 in my regular half termly assembly - the focus was on two of our GA Way behaviour principles; **Present** and **Pace & Purpose**.

We know that nationally, attendance to school has plummeted, post-Covid. We also know that it is vital that students get into school and access all that a relationship with school can bring - education in classrooms with great teachers, friendship, positive interactions with adults, clubs and school trips, school community events, personal education, character development, creativity and problem solving. All of these attributes, that are unique to the daily school environment, are key to fostering resili-



ence, self-esteem and readiness for life. There is clear evidence that students achieve best, academically, in their GCSEs, BTECs, A Levels when their attendance at school is above 96%. Thank you to all of our parents/carers for your support in ensuring your children are at school whenever they possibly can be.

Also, a reminder of the new national attendance procedures which include a system of penalty notices. This process is triggered if your child has been taken out of school for 10 sessions (i.e. $10 \times \frac{1}{2}$ days or 5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. As I have said before, I continue to be very grateful for the positive support of our parent community and know that for you, the message of attendance to school is one you fully embrace.

On the theme of **Pace & Purpose** my message to your children was all about the way we move to our lessons inside the corridors. There are 2000 young people at George Abbot and it is really important that we think about how it feels to be of smaller stature when a wave of those of larger stature approaches! So, a message regarding empathy and self-discipline. Do please reinforce this with them and ask them to remember to think about others. Our school motto is key to our altruistic approach; non sibi sed toti - not for oneself but for all.

It was very good to see a number of parents at school today for our first PTA coffee morning in Elmslie Hall - a great opportunity to meet others and chat about the common theme of navigating the teenage years successfully. We are keen to host more of these, so do look out for further opportunities in the Spring and Summer terms. On Wednesday 13 November, we also have a fascinating talk that is open to all of our community - please feel free to bring grandparents or neighbours if of interest. It is entitled 'Scales of the Universe' and covers quarks, galaxies and the Big Bang plus more. I especially hope that our senior school science students will choose to attend and enhance their understanding of this field - please do encourage them! You can sign up here: https://forms.gle/kz5sWjPSCEaVqFjS7

There is an opportunity to come and see me on Thursday 21 November, between 5 and 7pm, to raise anything, informally. If you have something that is of concern or that you would like to talk through, then please do contact my PA, Miss Jacobs on pjacobs@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk to make an appointment time.

On a similar theme, I am seeking a very quick bit of feedback on the school uniform and our provider Valentino's. If you have two minutes to provide your views, we would be very grateful. The link is here: https://forms.office.com/e/z6aUqWxPVc

Lastly, a date for your diary: we would like to invite parents and carers to our safeguarding workshop event on Monday 25 November at 5-6pm in Elmslie Hall. We are pleased to welcome Daniel Sykes from the Surrey Police Cyber Unit to support our school community in understanding the ever-evolving cyber threats and challenges that face us all. Please join us if this is of interest, sign up link: https://forms.office.com/e/CsA60QVR58 - do make a note of the date and we hope to see you there.

Kate Carriett Headteacher

Notices

Week commencing 11 November = Week B Week commencing 18 November = Week A

Whole School

 Year 11-13 Online Progress Support Meetings – Tuesday 12 November 2023 – 5.00-7.00pm – online video appointments via SchoolCloud (parents evening system)

Please be reminded that the Progress Support Meetings will be taking on Tuesday 12 November. Parents and Carers who have been invited to attend have been sent an email from SchoolCloud notifying them of this, with details of their appointments. Please note that students are also expected to attend the appointment(s). If you have not received an email from SchoolCloud inviting you to attend, please can you check your email junk or clutter folders or alternatively log in to the system to check you do not have any appointments.

The appointments are eight minutes long and at the end of the eight-minute appointment the video call will automatically end. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the teacher to extend the appointment. Appointments have been made using the priority one contact we have listed for each student in SchoolCloud. If you have appointments for more than one of your children, as long as they have been made for the same parent then the appointments should run consecutively after you have selected the 'Start New Appointment' button. When logging on please use your child's "preferred" name.

If you do not have any appointments in SchoolCloud then on this occasion teachers have not requested to meet with you. You will have an opportunity to meet with subject teachers during the Parent Subject meetings later in the academic year.

 \Rightarrow Mind of the Student Mental Health Workshop Day - Thursday 28 November

We are pleased to announce an upcoming Mental Health Workshop Day for all Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students which is being delivered by Mind of the Student. Codesigned by teachers, healthcare professionals, students, and parents, this workshop will cover key topics like Depression, Anxiety, Confidentiality, Social Media (KS3), and Exam Stress (KS4). Each year group will have a one hour session which provides students with essential knowledge and practical tools to manage their mental wellbeing.

Please find attached an information sheet about a pre- and post-workshop survey conducted by Mind of the Student, which 30 children from each year group will be asked to fill in. The survey is completely voluntary and children can opt out if they prefer. The survey will help both us and Mind Of The Student understand young people's current knowledge of mental health. If you would prefer for your child not to take part, please email cfearn@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you for your support in promoting mental health awareness at our school.

⇒ Medication/Expiry Dates

Medications (controlled, prescription and emergency) should only be brought to school when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to your child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. The school are unable to provide any painkillers. Any controlled drugs must be delivered to a staff member or Elmslie reception by a parent or carer.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure any medications provided for use at school are in date and that replacements are sent in prior to their expiration. Expired medicines cannot be administered and will be returned to you via your child for safe disposal. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that valid adrenaline auto-injector pens, asthma inhalers and diabetes medication held by the school are in date. Please email medical@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if you need to check any expiry dates of existing medication held here so you can set a reminder.

The storage of medication at school will only be accommodated in school if accompanied by a 'School Health Care Plan and Parental Agreement for School to Administer Medicine' form, available from the medical room, or by emailing the Medical Room medical@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Whole School

Please note:

- Medication must be in the original container in which it was dispensed.
- The original dispensing label must be intact and all necessary instructions clearly visible
- The name of the person for whom the medication is prescribed must be clearly displayed on the label.
- The dosage and frequency of the medication is clearly displayed on the label.
- The expiry date is clearly displayed on the label/bottle

⇒ Police Cadets

Guildford Cadets meet at Guildford County School on a Thursday from 6-8pm. They are actively looking to recruit, so if your child is interested, further details can be found via their website: https://www.surrey.police.uk/cadets.

⇒ Years 7 to 11 - Missed Flu Vaccination

The School Immunisation Team have re-opened the portal for any students who were unable to receive the flu vaccination when they visited last month. If you would still like your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the e-consent by visiting www.surreyimmunisations.co.uk and entering the school's unique code **SR136906** (see attached letter for further details)

After you have submitted the Flu vaccination consent form you will receive an automated email link from Cinnamon Digital to self-book a clinic appointment.

If you have any queries, please contact the School's Immunisation Team directly by emailing: csh.sur-schoolimmswest@nhs.net or by phone on 01483 794887.

⇒ Bereavement Group for Year 8 and 9

We are pleased to announce that we will be running another bereavement group, for students in Year 8 and 9, in school as part of our partnership with Jigsaw SE. This will run in the New Year, dates to be finalised. Please find <u>attached information</u> about Jigsaw SE.

If you feel that your child has been affected by a bereavement of a family member or friend, or think that the group may be something that your child would benefit from, please contact a member of the Home School Link Worker Team: HSLW@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ Reminder: Charity Fundraising

We are collecting for the North Guildford Food Bank and Mulberry House (a local 15 bed hostel for homeless women aged 18-99). If you are able to support, please ask your child to bring any of the following donations, up to the Sixth Form and we will drop to the charities in early December. Any questions please ask Miss Smith in the Sixth Form. Items needed:

- Bags for Life
- Christmas Biscuits (sharing tins/boxes)
- Tinned Meat
- Gift Toiletries
- Laundry detergent
- Dried Flavoured Noodles
- Tinned Pasta
- Tinned Vegetables
- Food ketchup, LongLife milk, flour sugar, stock cubes, biscuits, chocolate, vegetable oil
- Pillows (only brand new pillows can be accepted)
- Tea towels
- Bath/ Hand towels
- Toothpaste & deodorant
- Saucepans, frying pans

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)

Year 7

⇒ Online Presentation: Introduction to Assessment

On Thursday 14 November from 5.00pm-6.00pm, we will be holding an online presentation evening to provide parents and carers with further information on the Year 7 Assessments. The Zoom link can be found here: https://zoom.us/j/92966575816. We look forward to seeing you, virtually, then.

Anti-Bullying Week—11-15 November

What is Anti-Bullying Week?

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual event that aims to raise awareness of bullying of young people, with an emphasis on prevention and effective responses to bullying. The event is coordinated by the charity Anti-Bullying Alliance.



When is Anti-Bullying Week?

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday 11 - Friday 15 November.

The theme is Choose Respect.

What are we doing at school?

There will be a number of tutor time activities, during the week, which will help to raise awareness of bullying. In addition to this, there will be an assembly which focuses on the theme of Choose Respect.

See (right) 10 top tips for parents and carers to encourage children to choose respect. Click on the image to enlarge.



Sports Round Up

Swimming

We had 32 swimmers from across all year groups competing in the Surrey Schools relay championships. Medallists in:

- Junior girls freestyle—3rd
- Junior boys freestyle—3rd
- Senior girls freestyle—1st
- Junior Medley—2nd
- Senior girls—1st





Rugby

All years have played at the district festival at Guildford RFC each Tuesday this term with lots of matches and development from the boys and girls. We continue to be in the top three schools in all age groups.

The under 12 and under 14 girls rugby festival at GRFC saw a great turnout from George Abbot students, providing a great opportunity to develop our teams. The festival finished with hotdogs and hot chocolate. The Year 11 A team narrowly lost out to victory at the area tournament, losing by just 3 points. It was excellent to have two Year 11 teams competing and all played brilliantly.

The Year 11 team had a great showdown at the GRFC tournament showing their skills and coming away with victories against Rodborough and Weydon. We will meet Howard again for a rematch in a few weeks time. The 6th form team played three games unbeaten against Worthing College, Woking College and Guildford County.







Football

Year 7 girls have had a fantastic start to training with strong numbers attending weekly training. The start of the season saw a close loss to a strong Surbiton High School team for the A team. The B teams took part in a tournament against St Peter's and Guildford County, securing first and third overall with a goal in the last minute to win. Unfortunately, the year 7 team lost 7-0 to Rosebery School in their National Cup game in the final week of the half term, but we look forward to a strong Surrey Cup campaign ahead.

The U14's have had a great start to the academic year and performed excellently in their games so far. Their first game of the season was a National Cup fixture against Orleans Park where George Abbot ran out 5-1 winners. In the following round we put in an excellent display against Surbiton High but unfortunately lost 3-0. The girls' performance was very good and managed to put Surbiton under a lot of pressure throughout the game and were heavily complimented by their teacher. In their most recent game, the U14's played Guildford County in the Guildford league and again put in a very impressive performance and ran out 7-1 winners. The U14's have more league games as well as a Surrey Cup game after half term against Warlingham School.





The U16's unfortunately lost 3-0 in the National Cup 1st round against Collingwood College who were a very strong side. The U15's also played Charterhouse in a friendly where the girls put in another strong performance and won 2-1 with a late winner. The U16's have more league and cup games after half term where they have been drawn to play Esher High in the Surrey Cup. The U18's had a friendly against Charterhouse where they put in a convincing first performance as a team and came out with victory. They have also got a Surrey Cup game after half-term where they will play St. Richard Reynolds CC.

The year 9 boys have made a sound start to the football season with excellent performance across league and cup games. In the National Cup they were given a bye in R1 and then drew against The Weald in R2. In this game against The Weald, George Abbot ran out convincing winners and put themselves in the hat for R3 where we are awaiting our opponent. In the league, we narrowly lost to Howard of Effingham in a closely contested game. George Abbot went 1-0 up but then fell behind in the second half and lost 2-1. In the Surrey Cup the boys have been drawn against Reigate School which will be played on Monday 11 November.

Netball

It has been fantastic to welcome over 50 very enthusiastic Year 7 pupils to netball club this term! Players have made excellent progress already by working hard, supporting each other and showing impressive teamwork during gameplay. There have been many opportunities to represent the school in friendly fixtures - in particular we had four teams playing St Peters at home which was incredible! The teams have secured a few wins already and we have been particularly pleased with the superb etiquette displayed on court - keep it up! Sadly, some schools have cancelled their fixtures with us, but we have still managed to play fixtures with St Peter's, Howard of Effingham, Prior's Field and Christ's College and look forward to playing more fixtures after half term as the



season progresses. We have been so fortunate to accommodate some talented senior netball assistants who have played a key part in helping with training and fixtures each week. Thank you to the parents/families who have kindly come along to watch some of our home and away fixtures; it always adds such an atmosphere to have an audience, and we really appreciate the time they give up to kindly support our George Abbot players. We look forward to welcoming even more spectators to our fixtures in the coming months so they can see for themselves how wonderful the year 7 netballers are!

The year 8 team have returned from the summer in strong spirits ready for the season ahead, with excellent numbers attending training each week we have been able to really develop our assertiveness in games over the last few weeks. The A team unfortunately lost their first fixture against St Peter's but pulled together as a team in the final quarter, scoring 5 of their 10 total goals for the game. Learning from the previous game, they were able to secure a strong win against Christ's College scoring 23 goals and a win against St Peter's in the last week of the half term. The girls demonstrated great resilience over the half term, reflecting on feedback and improving every week!

The year 9 team have been working incredibly hard in training so far this season. They have been one of the most dedicated year groups, with a large number of girls coming to training each week. As they transition from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4, the standard of netball will become more physical. The girls have been preparing for this by developing their understanding of the game in training. The focus this term has been on when to drive for the ball and when to clear, creating space for a teammate to drive through. This can be a difficult concept to grasp, let alone apply. The girls have persevered, showing resilience and I cannot wait to see them put what they have learnt into action after half term. Unfortunately, due to cancelled fixtures, the girls have not played as many games this half term as originally booked in. Last week the girls put on a strong performance in a friendly game against St Peter's, but unfortunately lost at home. At the time of writing, the girls have been preparing to play them again this week in their first league game of the season. They also met Guildford County in the later part of the week for the second league game of the season. I am confident with how these girls have been preparing they will come away with the win in both matches. We will have to wait to see the results posted on our social media sites. Overall, well done girls!



A busy start to the season for the year 10 netball team. They have competed against a strong Guildford County side, played Priorsfield and St Peter's twice; and represented the school in the local district netball tournament. There have been some mixed performances but overall, it has been positive, with the girls winning the majority of their games. In the district tournament, they narrowly missed out coming first, beating Rodborough, Broadwater and Christs to finish first in their group stages. But they lost by one goal in the final seconds of the game to a strong Glebelands side. The girls played well and there was nothing they could do on the day. We are looking forward to getting back to training and focusing on specific areas of play to make our game performance even stronger. There are still plenty of league games to play and hopefully qualify for the Surrey County Finals Day, at Surrey Sports Park in March.

Extra Curricular timetable—Autumn Term 2

Be Active - Extra Curricular Sport

	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday		
	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher
1 st & 3 rd Break	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	CRM & MT	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	CRM	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	CRM	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	CRM
2 nd Break	Year 7 Badminton / Volleyball	SH	EXL	Year 8 Badminton / Volleyball	SH	JLJ	Year 9 Badminton / Volleyball	SH	SGB	Year 10 Badminton / Volleyball	SH	BRI
A f t e r S c	Year 7 Boys Basketball	Gyms	External Coach	Year 7 Boys Rugby	Field	МТ	Gymnastics Gym (All years)	Gvm	JZH	Year 7 Girls Basketball	Gym	External Coach
				Year 7-10 Girls Rugby		VXH		Gym		Year 8/9/10/11Boys Basketball	SH	CRM / SGB / External Coach
				Year 7/8 Girls Netball	Courts	JLJ/CEF/ External Coach	Year 7 Boys Football	Field	SGB	Year 9/10/11/6 th Form Girls Netball	Courts	JLJ/VXH/ CEF/External Coach
			Year 8/9/10/11 Girls Basketball	SH	CRM / EXL / LXS	Year Boys 8 -11 Rugby				Field	External Coach (2) / BRI	
h o				Year 8/9/10 Boys Football	Field	External Coach / AJR / BRI		Astro/ Field				
o I							Girls Football		EXL / AJR / LXS / External Coaches	Year 7-9 Cheerleading	Gym	External Coach
				Y9/10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite	FS	JZH	(All Years)	Field	External Coaches	Y9/10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite	FS	схс

Christmas card competition—now open!

Calling all aspiring photographers! Have your cameras at the ready, as the search is on for our 2024 Christmas card competition winner!

Brief: we are looking for a photograph which reflects the festive season. Think outside the box, this doesn't necessarily mean snow-covered cottages and Christmas trees! It can be anything that you think represents this time of year, it could be a landscape photograph, still life or street/documentary style photograph.

How to enter: email your favourite seasonal/festive photo to Ms. Ferguson in the Photography department: kferguson@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Include:

- Your full name and form
- The image file
- When and where the picture was taken

The closing date for all entries is 3.15pm on Tuesday 26 November 24. The winner will be notified shortly after. GET SNAPPING NOW for your chance to be entered into the Learning Partners Trust Christmas Card Competition.

The winning designs will receive prizes and be made into a Learning Partners Trust Christmas card. The winners will receive a prize presented by the CEO and advertised in trust communications (website, staff bulletin, parent/carer newsletter and social media).





Focus on

October Careers Fair

Wednesday 23 October was our second biennial Careers Fair. Over 40 different companies, employers and employees gave up their time to help our students with their career development and potential next steps. We had representatives from a wide range of employment sectors including: law, finance, hospitality, psychology, aviation, health, graphic design, security, retail, construction plus many more. Our grateful thanks goes out to all.



The event was run over two lessons and two break times. Students in Y9 and Y11 had time out of a lesson to attend, sixth formers could attend at any time and the remaining year groups could visit during the break times. We estimate that between 700 and 800 students visited the fair.

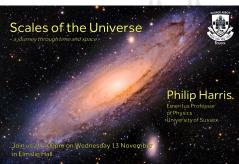
It is not the easiest thing for a student to go up to a person they do not know and start a conversation. I spoke to a number of exhibitors who were very impressed with our students and their confidence in speaking to them. So, a big well done to our students. Equally a big thanks must go to Innovate for providing and funding the refreshments to our visitors and for their samples of biscuit and cake for the students. Finally, none of this would happen without the enthusiasm of the careers team at George Abbot.

PTA - Building a stronger home-school community

Step aside, Brian Cox!

From quarks, galaxies and the Big Bang, to Spiderman's strength, the jumping ability of fleas, and what's really in your morning coffee... Join us for our <u>Scales</u>

<u>of the Universe</u> talk in Elmslie Hall at 7 pm on Wednesday 13 November; please sign up <u>here</u>. And then...



Christmas Fair & Raffle

Come and enjoy the wonderful George Abbot Christmas Fair, in Raynham Hall on Sunday 1 December, 12-3 pm. There will be mulled wine and other refreshments, gift and craft stalls and a chance to get some bargain restaurant vouchers! The Christmas Raffle is now live, and with over 50 prizes worth a combined £1900 and a star prize of £250 cash courtesy of Seymours, it's worth buying some tickets using this link:

https://raffall.com/367062/enter-raffle-to-win-a-george-abbot-school-pta-christmas-fair-prize-hosted-by-george-abbot-school-pta

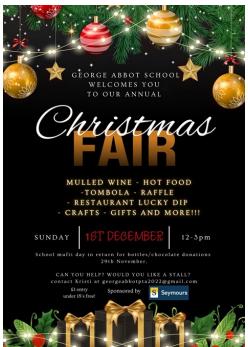
If you feel you can help out or would like a stall, please email Kristi at georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com.

Here's a Christmas puzzle for you. Every year on his birthday, Santa gets up at sunrise, walks five miles south, five miles west and five miles north, ending up where he started. When is his birthday? If you need help working it out, come to the Christmas fair, where the answer will be revealed!

And more...

There will be a PTA meeting on December 16, where you can find out what else we're up to – social evenings, quiz night, car boot sale and more. For all the details, see our new events website https://www.facebook.com/georgeabbotparents.

Philip Harris, PTA Chair g.abbot.pta@gmail.com









Call Out for 'Prize' Donations...

to be brought into school on Friday 29 November

in support of the GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS AND CRAFT FAIR –

which takes place on Sunday 1 December 2024, 12-3pm

Dear Parents/Carers.

Each year, we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our community in giving donations of 'prizes' that can be awarded at the PTA's annual Christmas Fair; an event that raises much-needed funds for the school.

It is that time of year again, that the school and PTA are calling upon your trademark generosity.

In exchange for a prize donation, your child will:

- be allowed to come to school in Mufti (non-school uniform) on Friday 29
 November
- AND will receive 5 House Points from their Form Tutor.

We are asking as many George Abbot students as possible to:

- 1. Find one of these gifts that can be used as a Christmas Fair prize:
 - Boxes or bags of chocolates / boxes or bags of sweets
 - non-alcoholic bottled drinks (not energy drinks)
 - NOTE: Alcoholic drinks may be donated, but...
- ... These should be brought into school by parents and left at the Elmslie Reception, where parents will be asked to leave details of their child's name and form, so that they may receive House Points.
- 2. Bring in donations on Friday 29 November, to Form Rooms. Form Tutors will note the student's name and award them 5 House Points!
- If the gift is alcoholic, ask their parents to bring in the gift and leave it at Elmslie Reception, noting their child's name in order that the student receives 5 Bromcom House Points.

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/



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DSL: Mrs T Young - dsl@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



