George Abbot Bulletin



Headteacher's Message

22 November 2024

All

It has been a very fine GAbbot fortnight. Much has occurred:

- The George half of Year 10 went to High Ashurst and had a brilliant time working together, problem solving and team bonding in the big outdoors.
- The MFL team hosted our governors on their bi-annual Open Morning and showcased some superb teaching and learning.
- Year 11 Business groups went to Chelsea FC and came back really enthused by the opportunity.
- Over 100 parents/carers/students/staff attended our physics lecture given by Philip Harris, Emeritus Professor of
 Physics and Chair of our PTA he did a great job of helping the audience to get our head around the scale of our
 universe.
- Year 11 and 13 went to the Yvonne Arnaud to see Pride and Prejudice (sort of). Darcy is one of my favourite literary characters "I have faults enough, but they are not, I hope, of understanding.".
- We provided an online parents/carers information evening for Year 7 to support their upcoming assessments.
- Year 13 Historians attended a series of History lectures and were noted as fine questioners and interrogators of truth.
- Year 10 undertook a big RE mock exam important steps in their preparation journey.
- MFL and Year 9 linguists visited Bushy Hill to do some languages work with KS2.
- Our first ever Poetry Slam at the University of Surrey was an absolute triumph a packed house, delicious food and poems that got straight to the heart of the theme of 'counting' please read the full article that follows.
- Maths Challenges both Kangaroo and Olympiad for our finest mathematicians.
- Year 11 attended a performance of a Christmas Carol to support their GCSE prep.
- KS4 music students went to the Festival Hall to hear the London Philharmonic present a live analysis of one of their set works.
- The Winter Dance Showcase was absolutely superb our best yet in terms of production and quality quite phenomenal—please see the photos that follow.
- Year 13 politicians are learning more about American politics at the British Museum Eccles Centre, as I type, and Year 11 are heads down in their English Lit mock exam.

Alongside this, there have been numerous sports fixtures and clubs - see the sports round up for all of the details.

Looking forward, the Abbot half of Year 10 are off on their High Ashurst visit, Year 11 arts mock exams are getting underway, a Year 11 mock maths paper takes place on Monday, Year 7 have their assessment week, KS5 social sciences students are off at a big revision conference, our Year 10 Construction students are off on a visit. We also have two important wellbeing and safeguarding events next week. Our KS3 and 4 students will attend a positive mental health workshop during the school day on Thursday and for parents/carers:

We would like to invite our community to a 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: <u>https://forms.office.com/e/CsA60QVR58</u> - we hope to see you there.

Also, for parent/carer diaries, please can I ask for your support with the **George Abbot Christmas Fair** being organised by our brilliant PTA - this comes in two parts:

- 1. Students have a non-uniform day on Friday 29 November in exchange for a prize donation for the Christmas Fair we seek chocolates/sweets/beverages (please see the article herein for how to manage beverage donations).
- 2. Come along to the Christmas Fair itself on Sunday 1 December from 12-3pm there is a great line-up of stalls, a restaurant voucher draw and a big raffle.

Lastly, in our annual cycle, please can I ask for your honest feedback in the first of our three parent feedback snapshots. There are 6 really quick questions via the link here: <u>https://forms.office.com/e/QsCMyY8i8S</u>

Thank you for your time - your views on your child's educational experience are vital to effective leadership at George Abbot.

Kate Carriett Headteacher

Notices	Week commencing 25 November = Week B Week commencing 2 December = Week A
Whole School	 Reminder of early school closure for Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings—Tuesday 10 December 2024 Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.35pm on Tuesday 10 December for us to conduct the Year 10 Parent/Teacher consultation meetings. When the Progress Monitoring Subject Consultations are for a year group other than their own, students are expected to complete work set independently at home during the afternoon. This work will be set via Satchel One and/or the SLE. Provision has been made for students who are unable to go home at this time. If you wish for your son/daughter to remain supervised in school, please let us know by emailing curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk by close of school on Monday 9 December. It is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance. If you notify us that your child will be remaining in school and your arrangements change, it is essential that you let us know of the change before 12.00pm on the day. Where we have been notified that a student will be remaining in school, if they fail to arrive and register at USIC, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system. Therefore it is important that they register in USIC at 2.15pm if you have notified us that your son/daughter is remaining in school.
	 Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual times. ⇒ Performing Arts Calendar Please find <u>attached</u> a list of performance dates for the remainder of the this academic year. We hope this enables a degree of forward planning for families. ⇒ Vacancies Please see the following page of the school website for further details on our current.
	 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: Medical and Wellbeing Officer Reminder: Mind of the Student Mental Health Workshop Day - Thursday 28 November A reminder of our upcoming Mental Health Workshop Day for all Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students which is being delivered by Mind of the Student. Co-designed 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.
Year 10	$\Rightarrow Year 10 Parent Subject Meetings—Tuesday 10 December 2024$ For more information on how to book appointments, please <u>click here</u> .

\Rightarrow 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),
- Gift Toiletries, Laundry detergent, toothpaste & deodorant
- Dried Flavoured Noodles, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Meat, 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
- Saucepans, frying pans







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 muchneeded 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 non-school uniform on Friday 29 November
- AND will receive 5 Bromcom 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!
- 3. 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.

Online Safety Tips and Resources

- The following website contains some very useful resources on online safety: <u>www.internetmatters.org/</u>. Please see this weblink for more information on deep fake images: <u>https://</u>www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-is-a-deepfake/#deepfake-guide
- On Wednesday 27 November at 8.00pm, Dr Susie Davies is holding an interactive webinar on <u>'The Healthy Selfie</u>'. The Healthy Selfie empowers teens to build a healthier relationship with themselves and their devices. Dr Susie Davies has created an essential guide that helps adolescents explore the impact of social media on self-esteem, self-image, and mental health. Each chapter is packed with practical tips and exercises to develop self-acceptance, build self-esteem, and foster resilience along with self-help exercises and tools for reducing screen time. To register for the webinar, please click here.
- As parents and carers, we are having to adapt and overcome new challenges that screens and the
 online world present. It is an increasingly difficult conversation to manage; balancing screen time without upsetting the balance of social life initiating confrontation. Childnet have released some support
 documents for discussing concerns around social media usage and screen time that can be done collaboratively. There is helpful guidance around how to orchestrate the conversation and recording the
 voice of your child to find a mutually agreeable solution. Furthermore, they have designed a <u>family
 agreement</u> around screen and phone usage which might be helpful in the approach to the Christmas
 period.
- Mindworks Surrey are offering a free workshop for parents/carers on Building Confident and identifying and supporting additional needs. Please see the poster below for more details.
- Click on the images below to find out top tips for supporting children with mental health, how to deal with upsetting content online and how to manage group chats.



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Sports Round-Up

We are excited to announce that George Abbot has been selected as one of the <u>The</u> <u>Cricketer's</u> Top 25 Cricketing State Schools in the country and will feature in The Cricketer Schools Guide 2025! We have also been included as one of the top 100 Senior schools, which includes schools from the private and independent sectors. We are proud to ensure that cricket remains central in our PE curriculum and are grateful to our PE department for their commitment to our cricket teams. Our SCCC Cricket Scholar programme is also vital to our success in this sport.

Year 7s have continued to show commitment to netball club and have represented the school admirably; the A/B mixed team played away against Glebelands and had a brilliant 9-1 victory. The B/C mixed team also played Glebelands away and skipped away with a 2-1 win. The Year 7 A team played away at Howard and although they lost 15-1, the players kept going, fought for every ball and showed excellent grit. We welcomed coach Andrea and coach Lainie to George Abbot this term and the teams have welcomed them warmly. It has been great to see players putting their skills into practice and the coaches have been so impressed with the girls' etiquette, progress and effort! We are sure this will continue into the season and we hope for more fixture success in the coming weeks.

Year 10 boys football beat Harris Academy 6-1 in the County Cup. 4 goals from the lethal George E up top. The Year 9 boys were knocked out of the 1st Round of the Surrey Cup to a very strong Reigate School. The boys went 1-0 up but then fell 4-1 down in the second half before fighting back to reduce the deficit to 4-3. It was an extremely competitive game where both sides struggled to play their usual football. After getting it back to 4-3, George Abbot pushed bodies forward but were unable to tie up the game. We fully expect Reigate School to go far in the Surrey Cup. The Year 9 Boys B-Team had a fantastic first fixture of the season where they competed against Rodborough and Glebelands in a variety of formats (5 a-side, 7 a-side and 9 a-side) under the lights on a Friday night. The boys showed their excellent quality throughout the evening as they went unbeaten without conceding a single goal! We look forward to our future fixtures against Glebelands and Rodborough in 11 a-side formats in the new year.

Year 7 boys rugby had a great day at Reading Blue Coat School, playing six 12-minute games over the day. Results from the day:

Round 1: GA vs John Hampton, 3-7 lost, GA vs Reading B, 8-1 win, GA vs RBCS C, 4-0 win

Round 2: GA vs Forest A, 1-7 lost, GA vs Reading A, 2-1 win, GA vs Maidan Erlegh A, 2-4 lost

Year 9 boys basketball had a large squad of boys that were quick to learn from a good Glebelands side and worked out how to operate their attack and defensive strategy as the game went on. They controlled the 4th quarter really well and deservedly came out as victors, George Abbot 40 - Glebelands 34. Year 10 boys basketball won 45-40 against Hampton School.

We took a very strong field of cross-country runners to Charter House this Thursday, who performed incredibly and enjoyed the day despite the cold conditions! Our top results included: Year 7 girls placing 13th and 19th Year 8 and 9 girls placing 5th, 11th and 19th Year 10 and 11 girls placing 6th and 13th Year 7 boys securing 1st place Year 8 and 9 boys securing 2nd place Year 10 and 11 boys placing 6th, 9th, 10th and 13th









We took 3 squads to the English Schools Swimming Association national relay finals in Birmingham last Saturday (Junior boys, Junior girls, Senior girls) all swam in both the Freestyle and Medley relays against the top 25 schools in the country. Results...

Freestyle

Junior Girls 13th in country (2nd best state school) Junior Boys 14th in country (4th best state school) Senior Girls 14th in country (3rd best state school)

Medley

Junior Girls 8th in country (2nd best state school) Junior Boys 20th in country Senior Girls 20th in country

And finally, Jack (Year 10) came an amazing 7th out of the 32 in the National Karting Final. He had some bad kart luck with the kart they gave him for qualifying and he qualified 11th when he had been lapping a lot faster in practice, but he managed to claim back places during the heats. He qualified for the grand final (the final 16) and started 9th. In the grand final everyone had to make one pit stop and he made a great strategic call to pit early and managed to leap frog two drivers. Sadly, the driver in 6th drove a perfect defensive line and although Jack was quicker there was just no way past. Initially he was really disappointed because he had the pace to podium but on reflection it was still an awesome achievement.

The following day he had the final round of the club100 championship at Buckmore Park and again an unlucky final put him starting 3rd in the pre-B final which he won, this then promoted him to start last in the pre-A final. An incredible drive in pre-A and he went from 21st to 7th it was so exciting to watch as he made overtake and overtake!

In the A final he made it up to 4th but the race finished under full course yellows for half of the race due to an accident so sadly no opportunity to get to the front.

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/

ExpertEd offers **free** webinars to schools and students, giving them the chance to learn through live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas, providing enrichment and curriculum coverage. For more details see their website: <u>www.expertedlive.org</u>. On Thursday 28 November, they have Richard Evans, a speaker from the United Nations Refugee Agency discussing how he has used engineering for Humanitarian purposes in a live Q&A. For more information, <u>please click here</u>.





Focus on:

A rising swimming star...

Congratulations to Lily H (Year 7) who has been selected by Swim England to be part of their Youth Development squad! Well done, Lily, and good luck with your training.

Guildford Library's short story winner

Congratulations to Megan G (Year 7) who was the winner of Guildford Library's short story competition. In Megan's story, the cloud men, who live in the clouds and paint the sky, take notice of a young boy in need of some kindness and start plotting ways to make his world a little brighter.

On 16 November, Megan met with the competition judge and published short story author, Alice Fowler, at Guildford Library for a creative writing workshop. "Megan's entry stood out as an imaginative and carefully crafted story," Alice shared. "Megan has a gift for bringing humour to her writing and for capturing the 'voice' of her characters. As a keen reader, she has an innate understanding of story too. Keep writing Megan, and I look forward to reading more of your work!". Laura Randall, Library Assistant at Guildford Library, added, "A story starts from the message - what you want to say through your writing. We were so impressed with Megan's writing skills, but for us it was the heart behind the words that really made her story come to life."



In the workshop, Megan explored how remaining inquisitive and asking questions about what you see in everyday life can spark inspiration for a story, and how to create distinctive characters by tuning into the specific sounds and smells that would have significant meaning to them. Alice also shared about her path to becoming a published author. "At the library we love seeing the ideas and creativity of storytellers in the Guildford community, so please always feel welcome to share your stories with us."

Poetry Slam success!

On Tuesday 19 November, the English department hosted George Abbot's first ever poetry slam. Inspired by the theme of 'counting' adopted by National Poetry Day in October, students from Year 7 through to Year 13 crafted pieces which counted all the ways the feel like they do and don't count.

The evening was judged by two professional poets - Woodzy and Articulit - who also delivered memorable performances of their own on the themes of men's mental health, the battle against (anti-) social media and the poetry that lives and breathes in every corner of our lives.

But the true stars of the evening were the students themselves. In front of over one hundred audience members, students took to the spotlight on the stage and delivered performances that will live long in the memory. We heard from students battling against racism, sexism and social media addiction. We heard from students navigating between two, three or even four differing identities. We heard from students who feel invisible, unheard and overlooked. And we even heard from a student who, unthinkably, called into question the school's uniform policy - "Don't be a sheep!" But underlying each performance was a common theme: 'WE MATTER!'

Through their unwavering voices, bold confidence and defiant glares, we saw the strength of our students rally against adversity. We are absolutely blessed to have such a diverse range of voices in the George Abbot community, and though there of course had to be winners in a competition, every single one of our students found their voice and won the hearts of the audience. At the dawning of their lives, they made the adults in the room feel the full spectrum of human emotion. What could be more powerful than that?



Well done to:

Year 7-9 Competition: Ben S- Year 7 - WINNER Lexi W, Lyla T and Ria T - Year 7 - COMMENDED Philip T - Year 10 - COMMENDED Matvii P-Year 8 - COMMENDED Piper M-B - Year 7 Abigail T - Year 7 Maryam S - Year 7 Laea H - Year 7 Grace B-Year 8 Hollie E - Year 9 Medhaa R-Year 9

Year 10-13 Competition:

Eloise H - Year 11 - WINNER Laila G - Year 10 - COMMENDED Sophie R - Year 11 - COMMENDED Mackenzie E- Year 12 - COMMENDED Keira M - Year 10 Evie B-Year 10 Anisa B - Year 10 Lily D-H - Year 10 Jessica J - Year 10 Ariya A-H-F - Year 10 Sachika S - Year 11 Lily E - Year 11 Poppy W – Year 11 Emanuelly TDL – Year 11 Zach S - Year 11 Nola M - Year 12 Hana E – Year 12

Winter Dance Showcase



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.



events – providing cake for the cake sale, and coming along to the coffee morning and the evening talk. All proved extremely popular, and we'll be having more of them!

PTA - Building a stronger home-school community

Christmas Fair & Raffle

The Fair is now approaching, the Christmas tree is going up and the mulled wine is warming (well, nearly!). Please come along and enjoy some Christmas shopping at our fabulous range of stalls, some hot and cold refreshments, and have a go at some of our games where you could win a bottle of wine, a case of beer or £50 cash!

Come early and bag yourself one of our bargain restaurant vouchers we have over £500 worth up for grabs from some of Guildford's bestloved restaurants. (The restaurant voucher stall is also where you'll find Philip, who can give you the solution to the Christmas puzzle in the last Bulletin in case you haven't worked it out yet) Or perhaps you just need to pop along for some second hand uniform?

The raffle is running alongside the Fair, and winners will be drawn at 11.55pm on Sunday 1 December, so head over to https:// raffall.com/367062/enter-raffle-to-win-a-george-abbot-school-ptachristmas-fair-prize-hosted-by-george-abbot-school-pta to buy your

tickets ASAP! Star prize is £250 cash courtesy of Seymours, but there are now 59 prizes together worth over £2100, so you don't want to miss out - don't delay or you'll forget!

We do need more help setting up, running stalls, and clearing up afterwards, so if you are able to help please message Kristi at georgeabbotpta2022@gmail.com, or if you work for a company that offers match funding please let us know, as this is 'free' money for school!

Don't forget that there's a school non-uniform day on Friday 29 November in exchange for a bottle or chocolate donation to the tombola.

And more...

There will be a PTA meeting on 16 December, 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.ptaevents.co.uk/gapta, and don't forget to follow our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ georgeabbotparents.

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