

George Abbot Bulletin

17 January 2025



Message from Mrs Carriett: Welcome back to the Spring Term—a term interestingly named given the current climatic conditions. Students have returned with energy and focus and the next three months are busy; indeed, they are mission critical for our exam cohorts. Year 11 mock exams are almost all marked and reports are due with parents/carers next week. Year 13 have almost completed their mocks and the UCAS deadline is the end of January. Both year groups have a positive work ethic and continue to be excellent role models around the school. They know how much this matters to me and our school. Some key information follows which I hope you find useful.

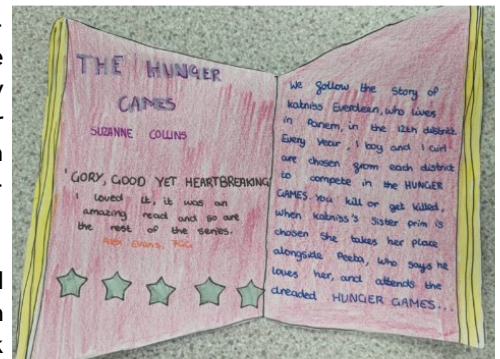
The **whole school production** reveal for 2025 will be at 3.15pm on Tuesday 28 January in PA1. Open auditions will take place on Tuesday 4 February. More details to follow in the bulletin on Friday 31 January.

Surrey Cricket Scholar Programme: We are pleased to let you know that applications for the Cricket Scholar Programme for September 2026 are now open for Year 10. The programme is for talented cricketers, male and female. Students access Surrey County Cricket Club coaching twice weekly, a strength and conditioning training programme and complete coaching qualifications, all while completing usual Sixth Form studies at George Abbot. Vitally, it is all **free**. Places are allocated based on trials and talent identification. SCCC oversees all decisions on placements on the programme. Please complete the following link to express interest: <https://forms.office.com/e/mfMMUBNhvZ>. There will be an online information presentation on Tuesday 4 February at 7.30pm which will outline the programme as a whole and the trial and training process that will take place later this year – to attend this presentation please complete the invite for using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/RfWQ4F53Xb>

World Book Day Celebration – Thursday 6 March: Reading is a powerful and transformative experience. To celebrate this year's World Book Day, George Abbot will be hosting a day of literary-themed festivities. We would like all students and staff to dress up as their favourite literary-themed character, and have a day immersed in the world of fiction. Events and competitions will run in lessons and during breaks throughout the day, culminating in a World Book Day Fair after school. To make the fair an inspiring opportunity, we will be asking students, parents/carers and staff to donate their loved and used books to spread your favourite reads with our community. More details to follow soon, but in the meantime, please consider where you would like to make some room on your bookshelves and keep any unwanted books for GA!

Reading Matters: Thank you for supporting your child to improve their reading skills. We know from research that the ability to read fluently is the single most important skill for academic success. That's why we set compulsory reading homework in Sparx Reader, for all students in Y7-Y9. Sparx Reader gradually raises the level of difficulty in the books that it suggests for each student and it gives us useful information about how students are progressing as readers so that we can provide support.

We also encourage students to join the KS3 Book Club. They're just finished reading *The Hunger Games* and you can read a club member's review here on the Reading Hub link below. We'd like all KS3 students to have a reading book of their choice on the go, and to carry it around with them in school for those moments when they grab a few moments to read. Students can borrow books from The Gallery (KS3 library) and we've also got recommended reading lists for each age group on our Reading Hub: <https://georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/reading-hub/>



Seasons of Love: A Cabaret

The Music Department are delighted to present 'Seasons of Love: A Cabaret' on Thursday 13 February. This is a musical theatre cabaret evening with stunning live performers, a 22-piece band and drinks, tables and nibbles for the audience. Tickets will be for seats around tables, fast-selling and will go on sale in the next 2 weeks - watch out for an announcement on the bulletin and please contact Leanne Evans-Dix for more information: levansdix@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.



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Dates for you diary	
Monday 20 January	Year 10 RE Internal Assessment, George = period 3, Abbot = period 4 Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive, period 4 Year 11 Online Information Evening, 6.00pm
Tuesday 21 January	Year 9 'Masking' Production, period 4
Friday 24 January	PTA Coffee Morning, 10.00am, Elmslie Hall PTA Cake Sale for students, 3.10pm-3.30pm, Elmslie School Gates
Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 January	Year 9 Immunisations
Wednesday 29 January	INSET Day
Thursday 30 January	Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—school closes at 1.35pm but the day is accelerated . Students need books for lesson 1-4 inclusive.
w/c Monday 3 February	Year 9 Assessment Week
Thursday 6 February	Year 13 Parent Subject Meetings
w/c 10 February	Year 8 and Year 12 Assessment Week Year 9 Option Choices Interviews commence
Thursday 13 February	Cabaret Evening, 7.00pm—more details to follow
w/c 17 February	Half Term

Notices	<p>Week commencing 20 January = Week B</p> <p>Week commencing 27 January = Week A</p>
Whole School	<p>⇒ Early school closure for Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 30 January Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.35pm on Thursday 30 January for us to conduct the Year 11 Parent Subject meetings. When the Parent Subject Meetings 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 Bromcom and/or the SLE.</p> <p>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 Wednesday 29 January. 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 with Mrs Cordery in Student Support in Moloney building, you will be contacted by a truancy call alert from our attendance system. Therefore it is important that they register with Mrs Cordery in Student Support in Moloney Building at 2.00pm 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.</p> <p>⇒ Young Carers Bulletin Please see attached to this bulletin.</p> <p>⇒ Extra-curricular A reminder that you can find our extra-curricular timetables on the following page of the website: https://georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/extra-curricular/. Although we do take registers, on the day, students are not required to sign-up in advance. Please be aware that we will not, therefore, be able to inform you if you were expecting your child to attend but they have not.</p> <p>⇒ Volunteer Science Technician We are looking for a regular volunteer to join our science technician team on a part time basis during term time. This is a fantastic opportunity for individuals with a keen interest or background in science, to experience and explore life working in a school. You will be supported by an experienced team and can work flexibly around your commitments. If you would be interested in discussing this opportunity, please contact Dawn Gara, Senior Science Technician on dgara@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, for an informal conversation. George Abbot School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share and demonstrate this commitment. The individual will be subject to an enhanced DBS Check via the Disclosure and Barring Service, alongside other relevant vetting checks.</p>

<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Dinner Money At the start of the year, we planned on moving dinner money payments from WisePay to My Child At School (MCAS). Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside our control, the catering provider did not install the necessary IT updates on the till systems, meaning that the systems could not recognise Bromcom balances. We have therefore taken the decision to carry on using WisePay for dinner money top ups until at least February Half Term. We will communicate more nearer Half Term, but in the meantime please continue to use WisePay to top up your child's lunch account.</p> <p>We are pleased to say purchasing of all items and new trips has successfully moved from WisePay to MCAS. Any new trips launched from now will be on MCAS, please click on the Trips option on the left hand side and this brings up a list of the trips that are available to purchase. A couple of trips are still on WisePay as they were initially launched there, for example, German Exchange and Duke of Edinburgh enrolment. Payments for these trips should continue to be made through WisePay. Any queries about payments please contact the Finance Team, finance@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. If you have any issues logging into MCAS please contact: MCAS@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>⇒ Parental Pastoral Conference at Guildford High School On Saturday, 1 February 2025 GHS is hosting their biennial pastoral conference, they would like to extend an invitation to parents to join them. It is set to be an enjoyable and informative day, pitched at parents/carers of pupils in Key Stage 2 – 5. It will be an excellent opportunity to hear from outstanding speakers, who can offer expert advice on how to support your child in helping them to navigate relationships, become more independent & have increased wellbeing and the necessary skills to thrive both now and in the future. For more information, please click here.</p>
<p>Year 13</p>	<p>⇒ Year 13 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 6 February 2025 For more information on how to book appointments, please click here.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>⇒ Year 11 Online Information Evening—Monday 20 January 2025 A reminder that there will be an online information evening for Year 11 Parents/Carers on Monday 20 January at 6.00pm. Please use the Zoom link to join the meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91784749154</p> <p>⇒ Year 11 Parent Subject Meetings—Thursday 30 January 2025 For more information on how to book appointments, please click here.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>⇒ Year 10 RE Internal Assessment—Monday 20 January 2025 A reminder that Year 10 students will sit their RE Internal Assessment on Monday 20 January. George side—Period 3. Abbot side—Period 4.</p>
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ 'Masking' a performance by Peer Productions on Tuesday 21 January 2pm Students in Year 9 will be attending a performance during Lesson 4 on Tuesday 21 January. 'Masking' is a brand-new play designed to address the impact of modern life on teenagers' mental health. It asks the audience to consider how they might know when strong feelings, which are common in adolescence, become something that needs intervention. It invites the audience to develop their empathy skills by stepping inside the different characters' heads, discovering what they are masking and what's happening beneath the surface. By doing this we aim to destigmatise mental health and mental illness and bring those conversations to the surface. 'Masking' zooms in on young people (we see no adults on stage) asking them to consider how they can build connections and find joy in this uncertain world as well as how they can know when they need to ask for help. For more information please follow link https://www.peerproductions.co.uk/plays/masking or ask to speak with a member of the HSLW team at school.</p>

Year 7

⇒ Core PE Parent Subject Meetings

We understand there was an issue with the Parents Evening system, meaning that parents/carers were unable to book appointments with their child's core PE teachers. We apologise for the inconvenience this has caused. If you would like feedback on your child's progress, or have any queries, please email your child's class teacher and they will get back to you in due course.

⇒ Next Assessment Period

Year 7 next assessment period will be in the Summer term, after which parents/carers will be sent a report on their child's progress.

PTA - Building a stronger home-school community



Following last term's popular coffee morning and cake sale events, we'd like to repeat them...

Friday 24th January



Coffee Morning 10 am – 12 noon
Elmslie Hall
for parents/carers



Cake sale 3:15–3:45 pm
Elmslie Gate
for the kids

Any contributions for the cake sale will be greatly appreciated, especially by the kids! Please leave them at Elmslie reception on Friday morning.

Keep an eye out too for our upcoming events – an evening talk on artificial intelligence on 12 February, and a social evening on 26 February. Stay up to date via our [Facebook page](#) or our [PTA events website](#).

Hot off the press -- tickets are now on sale for our 14 March **quiz night** (a joint event with Zero Carbon Guildford) <https://tinyurl.com/pta-zero-quiz>, as well as for our car boot sale on 23 March: <https://tinyurl.com/pta-boot-sale>.

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

Having a January clear out? It's coming around again - the George Abbot Preloved Clothes sale!

If you are having a January clear out, please think of us and bring any preloved clothes, accessories and shoes to Elmslie reception.

Date for your diary: our Preloved Clothes and Second hand Uniform Sale to be held on Thursday 3 April.

The money we earn from these sales is spent on sustainability related actions or sustainability enrichment opportunities in the school.



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Online Safety Tips and Resources

Please click the images below to view.

On the evening of Tuesday 11 February, Matrix are hosting East to West as they offer free support for parents of young people struggling with self-harm. East to West are fantastic as journeying with families, and not just delivering a one-off, 2 hour workshop. For more information, [click here](#).



MATRIX TRAINING HUB

SELF-HARM PARENT WORKSHOP
Tuesday 11th February
6:30 - 8:30pm
The Hideaway Café, Eastgate Gardens
Guildford, GU1 4AZ

Led by seasoned experts from the charity East To West, this workshop offers parents support, guidance and practical strategies.

This event is run free of charge.

Scan the QR code to book or contact paulsharpe@matrixtrust.com



east west **matrix** with young people for young people **SCAN HERE**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube - but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and a third of the content is tagged 'down content' if the user's age is 13 or under.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
While TikTok's algorithm tends to show only age-appropriate content, it's not perfect. Some users have reported seeing inappropriate content, such as videos of self-harm, drug use, and eating disorders. Parents should monitor their child's account and discuss any concerning content they see.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
While TikTok is often used privately, it's not always. Some users have reported being contacted by strangers, including those who claim to be interested in their content. Parents should discuss the risks of interacting with strangers online.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN
TikTok's algorithm is designed to be addictive, showing users content they're most likely to watch. This can lead to excessive screen time and potential addiction. Parents should set limits on screen time and encourage breaks.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**
Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's. This enables parents to monitor their child's account, including their watch history and who they follow.
- BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**
If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can block in-app purchases. This prevents your child from making in-app purchases, such as buying virtual gifts or coins.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**
It's important to talk to your child about the risks of TikTok. Discuss the risks of interacting with strangers, seeing inappropriate content, and spending too much time on the app.
- READ THE SIGNS**
If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they're being negatively affected by the app, there are signs to look out for. These include changes in mood, loss of interest in other activities, and spending more time on the app.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written hundreds of articles on the latest tech news. He's the author of the book 'The Future of Work'.

Wake Up Wednesday **The National College**

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake_up_wednesday | @wake_up_weds

Visual Arts 2025 Calendar for sale!



To celebrate the wonderful work of some of our KS3, GCSE and A-level Fine Art, Graphics, Photography and Textiles students, the Visual Arts department has created a professionally printed, limited edition, A4 colour calendar for 2025, which features our students' work.

Please help us to raise money for the school by purchasing a calendar for £5 on WisePay.

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Community Notices

Looking for a Prom Dress? Try Damsel Dress Agency via <https://www.damseldressagency.com> or Boutique on the Hill: or Dress to Go:



Boutique on the Hill

Prom dresses from **£99**

Style your way - purchase or hire the prom dress of your dreams

*10% off with this flyer

Now Accepting Appointments for 1:1 styling

BOOK NOW!



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*£5 DONATED TO YOUR SCHOOL'S PTA FOR EVERY DRESS PURCHASED 10% FOR PURCHASES ONLY

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOPS 2025

YA YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE

Theatre workshops for ages 5-16 yrs

Stage Combat ● Creative Make-Up ● Family Circus ● Drama Camp



Bursaries available


For further information email our Creative Learning team: creativelearning@yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

Book Now:
Yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

For Earth's Sake & Great Green Barn present The Guildford Shakespeare Company's

1920s MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

A diamond... a death... a drama... a mystery that needs to be solved!



The SHAKESPEARE Solitaire

Immerse yourself in the glittering razzmatazz of the 1920's, dress for the occasion (if you wish!), and enjoy a delicious three-course meal as a brain-teasing murder mystery plays out around you!

Saturday 8 February, 7.30pm

Great Green Barn

Upper House Lane, Shamley Green, GU5 0SX

GreatGreenBarn.com

SURREY ARTS

SOUTH SURREY ENSEMBLES OPEN REHEARSALS

Mid Surrey Wind Band
Grade 3+ | Tuesday 21 January
4pm to 5.30pm
at The Ashcombe School, Dorking

South West Winds
Beginner to Grade 4
Wednesday 22 January
5.15pm to 6.30pm
at Tillingbourne School, Chilworth

Mid Surrey Training Band
Beginner to Grade 2 | Tuesday 21 January
5.30pm to 6.30pm
at The Ashcombe School, Dorking

South West Surrey Youth Orchestra
Grade 4+
Wednesday 22 January
6.45pm to 8.45pm
at Tillingbourne School, Chilworth

Prima Strings
Beginner to Grade 2 | Wednesday 22 January
5.15pm to 6.30pm
at Tillingbourne School, Chilworth

Opus Strings
Grade 2 to 4 | Wednesday 22 January
5.15pm to 6.30pm
at Tillingbourne School, Chilworth

Contact Surrey Arts for information on joining:
T: 01483 519303
E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk

surreycc.gov.uk/music

Find out more online




Enter our **Super Draw**

Win a **£1,000 Aldi Gift Card**

OR **£1,000 CASH PRIZE**




GUILDFORD COMMUNITY LOTTERY

GEORGE ARBON SCHOOL

Looking for a career in teaching? South Farnham SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), an Ofsted Outstanding teacher training provider, is hosting several information sessions this term for prospective teachers. These sessions are designed to help you explore the possibilities of a teaching career and understand the various pathways available. Whether you're just beginning to explore the idea of teaching or you're ready to take the next step toward application, these sessions will provide valuable insights into:

- Different routes into teaching and which might suit you best
 - Entry requirements and qualifications needed
 - The application process explained step-by-step
 - What teacher training with South Farnham SCITT involves
 - Our comprehensive training programme and partner schools
- For more information, [please click here.](#)

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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING CLASS

Move through Menopause in a strong and healthy way

with a fun strength and conditioning workout that will not only help with this transitional period and beyond, but will provide information on the menopause and set you up with tools for life!!!

Wednesdays
6.30pm-7.30pm

Saturdays
9.15am-10.15am
George Abbot School
Dance Studio

Heavenly
Resistance
Training

For more information or to book one of our classes, please head to our website www.heavenlyresistance.training

You can also contact us by email at hello@heavenlyresistance.training

Money Back Guarantee on your first attended session with us!

See website for details. Please note that advanced booking is required

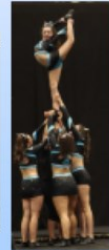
ALTITUDE CHEER

CHEERLEADING CLASSES IN GUILDFORD!

Altitude Cheer offer recreational and competitive cheerleading classes at George Abbot School to all ages and abilities!

Classes run on Mondays and Thursday

Cheerleading is a combination of gymnastics skills, acrobatics and dance. It is a great team sport which helps to improve confidence as well as general fitness and is also a great way to make new friends!



For more information and to sign up please email:

altitudeguildford@gmail.com

Follow us on Social Media-

Instagram: Altitude Cheer

Facebook: Altitude Cheer

GEORGE ABBOT COMMUNITY CLUBS

George Abbot School hosts a number of community clubs out of hours. If you are thinking of trying something new this January we currently host:

- Persian School
- Cheerleading
- Rugby
- Football
- Yoga
- Boxercise
- Fitsteps
- And more!

If you'd like any further information, please contact

lettings@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk.

Or if you'd like to organise something new and use George Abbot as a host space, please get in touch and we will see how we can help.

YOGAFLOW

Tues 11.45-12.15 Queen Elizabeth Park Centre
Wed 11.15-12.15 Compton Village Hall
Thurs 7-8pm George Abbot School

YIN YOGA in the Yurt

Thurs 10-11.15am

Suitable for all levels inc. beginners






IS HERE

WEEKLY CLASS TIMETABLE

Day:	Time:	Location:
Monday	11.30am	Spectrum Leisure Centre
Tuesday	10am	Queen Elizabeth Park Centre
Tues & Wed	7pm	George Abbot School
Wednesday	10am	Compton Village Hall
Friday	11am	Queen Elizabeth Park Centre

Contact number: text 07951508425

Instructor email: wendygtaylor@gmail.com

www.fitsteps.co.uk

Reminder: Cambodia Vietnam 2026 Expedition

Following the success of this year's international expedition to Nepal, we are excited to offer the opportunity for current Years 10, 11 and 12 students to participate in an 18 day expedition to Cambodia and Vietnam in July 2026. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please complete the form below and join us for an information evening with Adventure Lifesigns on Monday 27 January 2025 from 6pm-7pm, Elmslie Hall. [Cambodia & Vietnam Expedition 2026 Information Evening attendance form](#)



If you have any questions, please email Ms Ferguson: kferguson@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Careers

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

- **Activate Learning Open Days:**
Guildford College—Wednesday 5 February, 4.30pm-7.00pm
Merrist Wood College—Wednesday 26 February, 4.30pm-7.00pm
Farnham College—Wednesday 12 February, 4.30pm-7.00pm
- NHS Midwifery Insight Event
- NHS Allied Health Professions Insight Event
- Get into Medicine conference
- Get into Dentistry conference

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

- Ernest Young
- National Audit Office
- Warner Bros Discovery

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

- Dyson Institute—Online Engineering Club

IMAG LGBT+ History Month 2025 – Activism and Social Change #SocialActivism #LGBTplusHM25. The RGS English and History Departments will welcome Dr Will Tosh and Peter Parker, both of whose recent books chart queer experiences in the respective eras they cover. This free event is open to Year 10-13. For more information please follow this link: <https://www.imag.education/event-info/imag-lgbt-history-month-2025-activism-and-social-change>

IMAG Aim High Maths Online: GCSE Preparation Aim High Maths Online is for GCSE students who are aiming for an 8/9 grade in their exams. The sessions are live, interactive, and led by Maths experts, including an experienced examiner. They are designed to prepare students revising for their GCSE exams through exploring the more challenging Maths questions that appear towards the end of the exam papers and helping students develop strategies for maximising their marks. The questions discussed will be appropriate for all exam boards. For more information, please follow this link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EC4MBMgySa62OTolN85edg#/registration

Astronomy Evening at University of Surrey The astronomy evenings, run by the Astrophysics Research Group, will begin with an exciting, cutting edge research lecture, followed by going up to our telescope to view the night sky. If the weather is not good, we will give you a tour of what you can see in the night sky on clearer nights. Members of our Astrophysics Research Group will be on hand during the evening to answer your questions. For more information, please follow this link: <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/school-mathematics-and-physics/events/astronomy-evenings>

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