

George Abbot Bulletin

14 February 2025



Message from Mrs Carriett: Firstly, a big thank you to all of our students who represented George Abbot so positively during our Ofsted inspection last week. The inspection team selected the students they wanted to speak to and met with them independently of school staff. It was so lovely to hear the Ofsted team speak so positively about your children in their feedback to the school. Thank you for enabling us to work with such fine young people.

This inspection was an ungraded inspection - there are **three possible outcomes**. Firstly, that a school's standards have significantly declined and Ofsted will be back in 1-2 years to reinspect it and regrade it downwards. Secondly, that standards have been maintained in line with the previous inspection and Ofsted will return in 4 years time. Thirdly that standards have significantly improved and they will return in 1-2 years to regrade the school upwards. Clearly, our aim for the last five years has been for the latter of these outcomes. **Our Progress 8 data is in the top 14% in the country - a very relevant context.** We are still awaiting the published outcome, which will also identify any areas for improvement, and will let you know as soon as we receive it. At this point, we are just pleased that the inspection is over and we can breathe a little more easily. Half term will be much appreciated by all of the school staff.

Thank you to all of our community who joined us for the Cabaret Evening yesterday. The quality of musical performance was exceptional. I am so grateful to Mrs Evans-Dix for all of her work arranging the music, rehearsing the musicians and putting together a cracker of a cabaret. Over the last fortnight, other school events have continued apace, despite Ofsted.



- Year 11 English students went to Brighton for a poetry workshop
- Year 10 Business students enjoyed a day long SATRO workshop to support their curriculum studies
- Year 11 MFL students completed their mock oral exams
- Year 9 undertook their formal assessments
- Year 11 Food and Nutrition students sat part of their NEA
- Bronze DofE students had their first training weekend
- Year 13 and their parents/carers attended the teacher consultation evening to review progress
- Year 12 Historians took a trip to the National Archives
- Year 13 Law students visited the Crown Court
- All main school year groups attended a talk on internet safety
- Parents and carers enjoyed an insightful talk on AI from Russell Whitworth, supported by the PTA
- Year 9 attended a Bold Voices talk thinking about gender inequality
- Year 9s have also started to meet with senior leaders to discuss their options choices for GCSEs
- The sixth form attended assembly with Zoe Franklim, the Guildford Liberal Democrat MP

Our Upper School ski trip sets off for Sestriere after school today and some of our sixth formers are Iceland bound with team Geography over the half term break. We wish them all safe travels and very safe skiing.

I am sending best wishes to you all for a happy week with your children and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 24 February.

World Book Day Celebration—Tuesday 11 March Although World Book Day is officially on Tuesday 6 March, we will celebrate at George Abbot on **Tuesday 11 March**. To encourage students to promote the magic of reading, we are encouraging all staff and students to dress up as a literary character on **Tuesday 11 March**. In return, we would like students, parents/carers and staff to donate their used and loved books. Please send in as few or as many books as you would like to donate to the cause - each of which will be available to share at our World Book Day fair from 5.00pm-6.30pm in Raynham Hall on Tuesday 11 March. Form teachers are accepting book donations NOW and the form group in each year who collect the most books will win prizes!

Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Tickets for the World Book Day fair will be available for sale on the MCAS portal at 6pm on Friday 14 February, £5 for adults and £3 for students. Due to the predicted high volume of demand, we ask that families limit themselves to two tickets only please - one for a student and one for an adult. Students are also welcome to attend without their parents/carers. If you are a parent/carer who wishes to attend, please also dress up in literary theme for the fair! For the price of admission to the fair, you will receive:

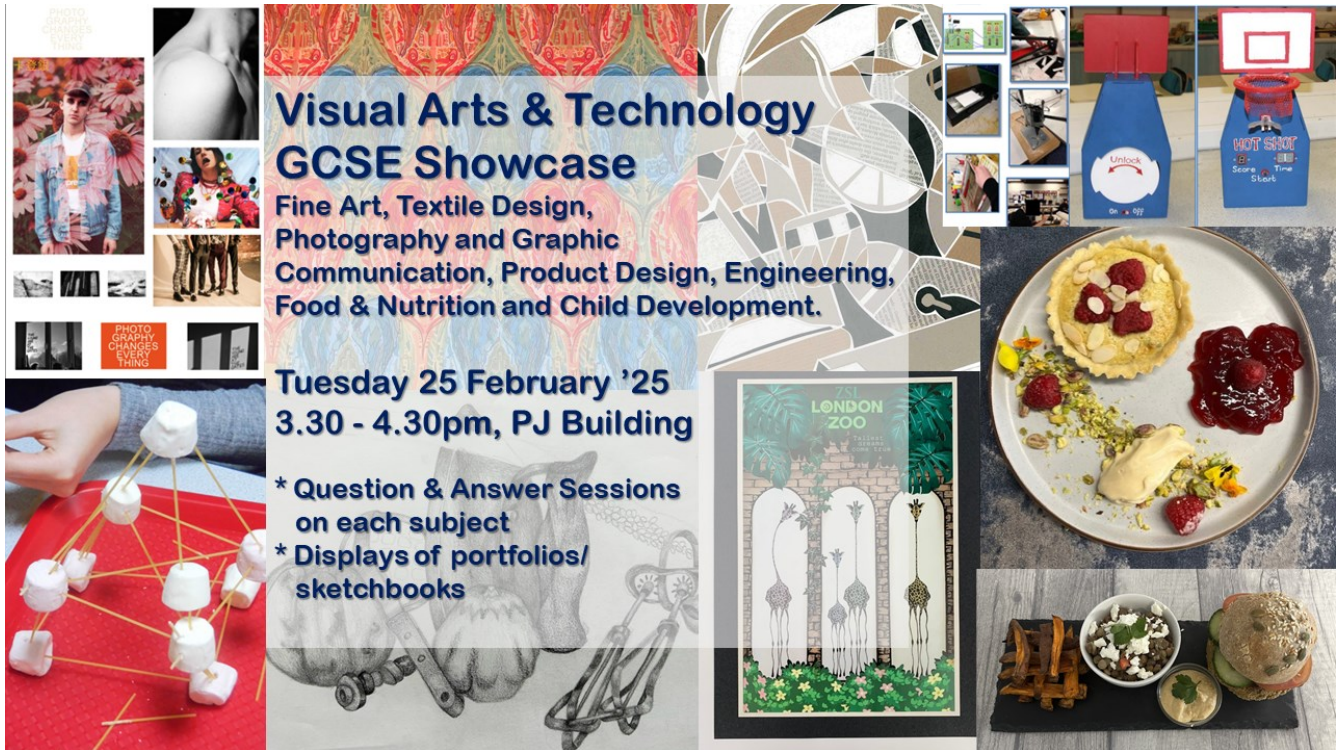
- The opportunity to take as many books as you desire - please bring a bag!
- Prizes for lots of competitions and activities running throughout the evening, including best dressed, best 6 word short story, best front cover design and many more!
- Opportunity to hear some student poetry performed live
- Live music from a student band throughout the evening
- A soft drink bar run by our PTA

<p>Notices</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"> Week commencing 17 February = Half Term Week commencing 24 February = Week B Week commencing 3 March = Week A </p>
<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Year 9 Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 10 March 2025 Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.35pm on Monday 10 March for us to conduct the Year 9 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 Friday 7 March. 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.</p> <p>Please be reminded that school buses will run at the usual times.</p> <p>⇒ Ramadan 2025 Muslims around the world celebrate Ramadan, which is expected to start on Friday, 28 February. It is a time of fasting, prayer, self-reflection, and community. Fasting during Ramadan involves abstaining from food and drink from dawn to sunset, fostering spiritual discipline and empathy for those in need.</p> <p>This month highlights the importance of acts of charity, kindness, and family unity. The day ends with Iftar, a meal to break the fast that is commonly shared with loved ones. Ramadan ends with Eid al-Fitr, a joyous celebration marking the conclusion of the fast.</p> <p>We extend our support to our students, staff, and families observing Ramadan and encourage understanding and respect during this special time.</p> <p>⇒ Free School Meal Vouchers We have been advised by Surrey County Council that we are able to issue a £15 voucher to students eligible for Free School Meals to cover February Half Term. This voucher was issued by email via Wonde/eVouchers last week. If you have any queries regarding your vouchers, please email Bernice Evans (bevans@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk). If your request is for a printed copy of your voucher, please specify the supermarket you would like the voucher to be for.</p> <p>⇒ Contact and medical information A reminder to contact office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk if any contact or medical information for your child has changed. This includes phone numbers, email addresses and postal addresses.</p> <p>⇒ 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher of Maths
<p>Year 9</p>	<p>⇒ Year 9 Parent Subject Meetings—Monday 10 March 2025 For more information on how to book appointments, please click here.</p>

Year 7

⇒ Mobile Phone Pouches

We would like to ask for your continued support to ensure that your child uses a mobile phone pouch if they bring a telephone into school. Our view is that students are better able to focus on their learning and develop their interpersonal communication skills if they are not distracted by the pressure of checking messages and calls or scrolling through social media websites. Students should have their phone in the pouch between 8.25am and 3.15pm, whereby they may locate an unlocking point before departing from school. If your child's pouch is damaged, please alert the Year 7 Pastoral Team as the school has ordered a set of replacements to remedy this.



Visual Arts & Technology GCSE Showcase

Fine Art, Textile Design,
Photography and Graphic
Communication, Product Design, Engineering,
Food & Nutrition and Child Development.

Tuesday 25 February '25
3.30 - 4.30pm, PJ Building

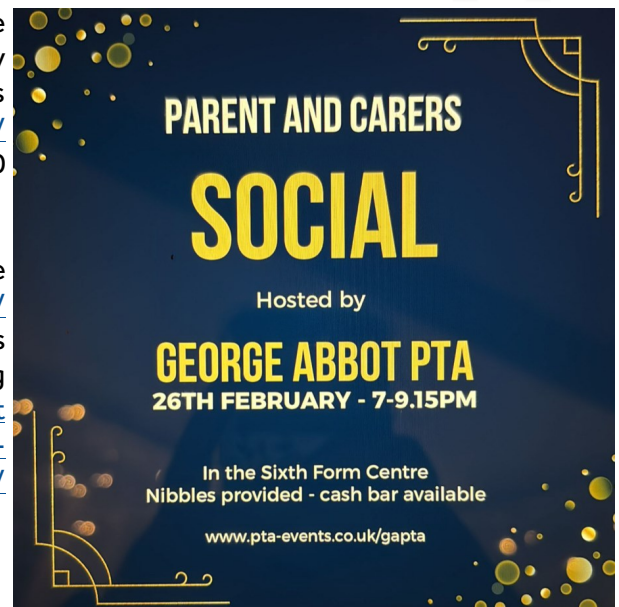
- * Question & Answer Sessions on each subject
- * Displays of portfolios/sketchbooks

PTA Building a stronger home-school community



The PTA Committee would like to wish everybody a very happy half-term break! On your return, please do come along to the next [PTA Meeting](#) on Monday 24 February 2025, from 6-7 pm in Elmslie Conference room (upstairs from Reception), or on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7751905209?omn=98973013415> Meeting ID: 775 190 5209.

Then, on Wednesday 26 February from 19:00-21:15 in the Sixth Form Common Room (location: <https://w3w.co/legend.rival.wiping>) please join us for a social evening. As always, you'll find details of our upcoming events including our [coffee morning and cake sale](#), [Quiz Night](#) and [Car Boot Sale](#), please see our events web page at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta>, or join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/georgeabbotparents>.



PARENT AND CARERS SOCIAL

Hosted by
GEORGE ABBOT PTA
26TH FEBRUARY - 7-9.15PM

In the Sixth Form Centre
Nibbles provided - cash bar available
www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta

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Tips and Resources

Energy drinks

We have seen an increase in the amount of students consuming energy drinks at the beginning of the day. Energy drinks are often marketed as a quick way to boost energy and alertness, but they contain high levels of caffeine and sugar, which can be harmful to children.

Please may we remind parents/carers that energy drinks are banned at school. Please can we ask you to discourage your children from consuming these drinks and instead encourage them to maintain a balanced diet, stay hydrated with water, and get plenty of rest to naturally support their energy levels. More information and guidance on energy drinks can be found on the infographic, please click to enlarge.



Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign—5 ways to help your children build healthier smartphone habits

Smartphones have been around for barely 15 years, and as parents and carers, we're still figuring out how best to navigate bringing up kids in the digital age. If your child already has a smartphone, it's never too late to help them build healthier habits. Here are five simple steps to support them.

Set up Parental Controls

Use parental controls to limit screen time, block inappropriate content and ensure their device is as safe as it can be. Most phones have built-in options, or you can explore third-party tools for more control.

No phones at meal times

Set a rule: no phones at the table. This encourages real conversations and helps everyone stay present and connected in real life for regular times each day.

No phones an hour before bed

Phones before bed can disrupt sleep. Set a rule that phones go away at least an hour before bedtime. This helps reduce blue light exposure, allowing your child to get a better, longer night's sleep.

Take a break

Introduce regular phone-free times, like 'Smartphone Free Sundays' or family outings with no screens. These breaks give everyone a chance to disconnect, recharge, and connect with each other face-to-face.

Create tech-free zones

Establish tech-free zones in your home, particularly in bedrooms. Alone at night in their bedroom is where kids are most likely to come to harm via their smartphone, so a no phones in the bedroom rule keeps them safe and promotes better, deeper sleep.

These boundaries help your child build a healthier relationship with tech so that they can thrive at school, with friends and at home.

For more information, click here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

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Community Notices

Enter our **Super Draw**
Win a Year of Adventures!
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

GUILDFORD COMMUNITY LOTTERY
GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Refer a friend
TO BE IN FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN £200!

GUILDFORD COMMUNITY LOTTERY
GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2025

GUILDFORD ROCKS™

WHAT'S ON THIS HALF TERM

THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND THINGS TO DO IN GUILDFORD

www.guildfordrocks.co.uk



FIND HALF TERM FUN

Half-term fun made easy! The Guildford Rocks website is packed with family-friendly activities, from exciting parks and scenic walks to our holiday club guide. And to make things even simpler, we've added a handy button to help you find it all in a flash!

- HALF TERM FUN
- PARKS & WALKS
- HOLIDAY CLUBS

OUR FAVOURITE HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Snow Globe Skate - at The Guildford Spectrum

Awesome Animal Trail - at the Guildford Museum

Flower Fairies Family Days



www.guildfordrocks.co.uk



Having a half term clear out? It's coming around again - the George Abbot Pre-loved Clothes sale!

If you are having a half term 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.



SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

TAKE PART IN OUR BRILLIANT BILINGUAL BRAIN COMPETITION!

CREATE

A POEM A DRAWING A COMIC STRIP

A SHORT STORY

This is your chance to show the GA community what you love about speaking more than one language, what challenges you face, why you're proud of your skills and why others should learn a language.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE LANGUAGES STAFF ROOM OR BY EMAIL TO MR WEARN

DUE 24TH FEBRUARY 2025

PRIZES TO BE WON

CHOCOLATES HOUSEPOINTS

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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

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

Heavenly
Resistance
Training



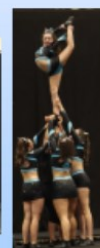
ALTITUDE CHEERLEADING

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: wendyqtaylor@gmail.com



www.fitsteps.co.uk

Careers

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

- Royal Surrey NHS Foundation—Careers Evening

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

- Siemens Apprenticeships

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

- PwC Virtual Experience Day—Tuesday 18 February

IMAG: FREE Aim High Physics Online: GCSE Preparation

'Aim High Physics Online' is a series of 3 sessions designed for students aiming for an 8/9 in their GCSE Physics exams. The focus is on helping with revision techniques specific to Physics GCSE and exploring strategies to answer the more challenging calculation questions and longer written answers. The sessions are live, interactive, and hosted by Kit Betts-Masters. Kit is an experienced GCSE and A Level Physics teacher, YouTube educator and author of Cambridge University Press Physics revision texts. For more information, [please click here](#).

Careers in Creative, Theatre, Design Sport Evening at Tormead School

- Wednesday 5 March from 7pm to 9pm
- For Year 10-13

We have a wonderful range of industry speakers offering the opportunity to hear about their career paths and receive advice on getting into their sector. Careers include architecture, design project management, theatre education and management, playwriting, journalism, illustration, publishing, charity fundraising, music therapy, sports marketing, football commentating, sports coaching, and talent agency management.

The schedule for the evening is as follows:

7.00pm - 7.45pm: First career panel sessions in the Sixth Form Centre

7.45pm - 8.15pm: Refreshments and informal networking with panelists in the Sixth Form Centre

8.15pm - 9.00pm: Second career panel sessions in the Sixth Form Centre

Please book your tickets via the link below. We will then contact you to ask which panels you would like to attend.

[Career Networking: Creative, Theatre, Design and Sport | Events | ConnecTormead](#)

Tickets are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Booking closes at 4pm on Monday 3 March.

George Abbot School, Woodruff Avenue, Guildford, GU1 1XX
01483 888000 - www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk
DSL: Mrs T Young - dsl@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk