

George Abbot Bulletin

19 September 2025



Message from Mrs Carriett:

The school term is now in full swing. Our Year 7s are feeling much more confident and relishing the challenge of their secondary school timetable. Our older year groups are back into the routine of school and engaging impressively in their lessons. Sport and Music clubs are up and running ([see this page of the website](#)) and the full programme of extra curricular activities will be published in the coming days. Lots of our ex Year 13 student have just experienced Freshers Week at uni and another tranche head off this weekend; George Abbot sends them our very best wishes in this exciting new chapter. My 6'3" 'little one' is amongst them and it will be eerily quiet at home next week!

Last week, we held our first fire drill of the year. I am always immensely proud when I stand on the field and observe 1940 students lining up in absolute silence. Your children are superb—thank you for entrusting us with them. Over the next two weeks we welcome 800 visitors to our school for our Year 6 open mornings—an opportunity to showcase the positive and focussed school culture that we have carefully curated. Schools are actually really varied in the ethos and values they actually live. At George Abbot, we are led by our motto: non sibi sed toti. Altruism and lifting others up, teamwork and empathy, kindness and integrity. A commitment to academic excellence sits at the fore; learning here is carefully planned and challenging in the right way. I hope that George Abbot learning ignites imagination, sparks curiosity and instils a confidence that all of our young people CAN.

Fundraising Challenge

A reminder of our fundraising project, particularly for those parents/carers who have recently joined our community. We are raising £75,000 to help us expand our dining and social space for students. A new dining area will allow students to eat comfortably, enjoy a meal with friends and provide a sheltered space where they can socialise, relax, and take refuge from the elements during breaks, especially on rainy or colder days.

Our target is to complete the building project by the summer of 2027 at the latest. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. [Please share this page with family, friends, colleagues, and the wider community](#) and thank you for anybody able to donate—it will make a big difference to daily school life for all our young people.



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Whole School

⇒ **European Day of Languages**

Next week, George Abbot will be celebrating European Day of Languages. Student will take part in scavenger hunts, language quizzes and should look out for Italian and German cuisines in the canteens on Tuesday and Thursday. Follow [@gabbot_mfl](https://www.instagram.com/gabbot_mfl) on Instagram to find out more!

⇒ **PE Enrichment**

Please remind students that they must be wearing PE kit, not school uniform, to take part in PE clubs.

⇒ **School Photography Goes Paperless!**

This year we're excited to share that school photographs at George Abbot will be going paper-free. By using Tempest Photography's eProofing service, we're cutting down on admin and helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

It will now be quicker and easier to view and order your child's photographs online. In the coming days, you will receive an email from Tempest Photography with information required to view and order photographs.

A quick reassurance about your data: Tempest will only be emailing a single time, and never uses contact details for marketing unless you choose to opt in on their website. Your email address details are only kept for three months.

Any orders placed within 14 days of receiving the eProof pictures of your child, will qualify for FREE back-to-school delivery. After 14 days, orders will be posted to your home address for a fee.

Thank you for supporting this greener, easier way to manage our school photographs!

⇒ **Sparx Science homework – information for parents/carers of Y7 to Y11 students**

We will be using Sparx Science for science homework again this year. Sparx science homework will be set every Wednesday (at 3pm) and is due on the Wednesday of the following week. For year 8, 9, 10 and 11, the first Science Sparx homework was set on 17 September. For year 7, the first Science Sparx homework will be set on 24 September.

How do students log in?

Students log in at sparxscience.com. Students can use the Microsoft login. This is the username that they log on to school computers with (USERNAME@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) and their password. Students can also log in using their Sparx Maths login.

What devices are supported?

Your child can access Sparx Science on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

Length of homework

For year 7 and year 8 each Sparx science homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes. Even if they have not completed it they should stop after working on it for 30 minutes. For year 9, 10 & 11 each homework should take between 30 and 40 minutes. Even if they have not completed it they should stop after working on it for 40 minutes. In addition to Sparx homework science teachers will set some other homework. This will mainly be homework where students are preparing for science assessments (using resources on the SLE such as mind maps, core questions, and look-cover-write-check sheets).

Assessment weeks

In order to help students manage their revision for assessment weeks Science Sparx homework will not be set for a 3 week period before and during each assessment week.

Whole School

How can I support my child with their homework?

Sparx Science adapts to each student's ability level, so it's important that you don't help too much, e.g. by answering questions for them. This can lead to Sparx giving homework that is too hard in future. We recommend letting students answer each question themselves. If their answer is incorrect Sparx gives an explanation of the concept and then gives them a similar question to try.

How can I monitor my child's homework?

You are able to keep track of homework by clicking the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx weekly homework email.

If you have any technical issues please contact Mrs Helen Wolstencroft (Science Administrator) by email: Hwolstencroft@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

⇒ National Youth Orchestra Inspire 2026

NYO Inspire 2026 is a free musical adventure for teenage musicians who are ready to go further. It's a massive orchestral music community where teenage musicians get to play incredible music with other young musicians and accelerate through world-class tutoring. The deadline to apply for NYO Inspire 2026 is fast approaching. Musicians must complete their application by 30 September. Open to 13-18 year-olds playing orchestral instruments at Grade 6-8+, no need for any official grades. For more information, please see the following webpage: <https://www.nyo.org.uk/get-involved/nyo-inspire>

Sixth Form

⇒ Class of 2025 Year 11 and Year 13

All GCSE or A-level Art & Design work (Fine Art, Photography, Textiles or Graphics) cannot be released by the centre until after October half term. This is in line with JCQ and exam board requirements. We will send further messages out nearer the time to inform parents, carers and students of when they can collect their work.

Community alert: spice spiked vapes

We have been made aware that there is an increase in Spice spiked Vapes circulating throughout the UK. The ingestion of the drug Spice can result in significant health problems. Please speak to your child and let them know of the dangers that vaping has and how important it is to not purchase illegal substances from any sources including social media sites. For more information on this please see this article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj3l231xz5ko>

For more information on the dangers of vaping generally, please see some further resources here:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/sep/01/vaping-may-be-causing-irreversible-harm-children-health-doctors?>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/?>
- https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/educator_hub/about/for_parents?

Online safety talks with Daniel Sykes—[The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online](#) | Eventbrite

Do you know what your child does online? How safe are they? Join us for an action packed session about how to protect your children from online harm. Delivered by our expert presenters, these sessions give you easy to implement advice for parents to enable your child to grow up in the digital age with confidence and security.

Key Topics Include:

- Email & Mobile Phones: The art of spotting a scam and keeping your children safe from common scams online.
- Social Media/Chatroom Safety: The risks of social media. Social Engineering, disinformation, AI, privacy and account compromises.
- Gaming: Understand what the risks are to young people when gaming and discover how to monitor and restrict use.
- Password Mastery and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Helping you and your family to secure your account following best practice.

Community Notices

Online Course

Stronger Relationships



For parents and other adult carers living together or apart **For Arabic speaker only. Group starting 12th September @ 11 am**

- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?



What to expect...

- Information on strategies to identify and reduce arguments.
- Hear from other parents and carers.
- Downloadable worksheets and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and interactive activities.
- Do sessions at a time that works for you.
- Weekly support from our course experts.

Topics covered...

- Healthy adult relationships.
- Identifying and managing disagreements.
- Understanding how conflict affects your children.
- Enhancing parent-child relationships.
- Managing stress, anger and emotions.
- Strategies to resolve conflict and create a parenting agreement

Group discussion...

1. Speak to a course expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have
2. Talk about how the strategies are going at home.
3. Address other difficulties relating to your relationships.
4. Hear from others about what works for them.

Find out more or register for the course by scanning the QR code or emailing us at: sfscparent@racefound.org.uk



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Online Course

Stronger Relationships



For parents and other adult carers living together or apart **For parents of neurodivergent children only. Group starting 13th November @ 7.30pm**

- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?



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strengthening families
strengthening communities



We're Hiring

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT WORKER

- Providing 1:1 support to young adults in the community
- Variable hours contract Support hours matched around your availability
- £12.38 per hour
- Resilience and adaptability are key. Experience is desirable but not essential.

For more information Scan the QR code



jobs@halowproject.org.uk

01483 447960

BASKETBALL
Andrew Lawrence Skills Sessions
2025
Learn and play Basketball
Mondays
5-6pm Primary School (year 2 - 6)
7-8pm Secondary School (year 7 and 8)
St Peters School - Sports Hall
Guildford GU1 2TN
Learn from a current Professional Player
Contact - andrewlawrencecoaching@gmail.com

Come on a bike ride



Sat 27 September

Meet by G-Live on the green

[Guildford Kidical Mass](#) on Facebook, Instagram, X & [G-bug.org/events](https://www.g-bug.org/events)

2pm

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We're Hiring

LEARNING SUPPORT WORKER

- Providing 1:1 support to young adults accessing our informal educational Programme.
- Variable hours contract 10am-4pm (during term time)
- £12.38 per hour
- Excellent communication and person centred support. Experience is desirable but not essential.

For more information Scan the QR code

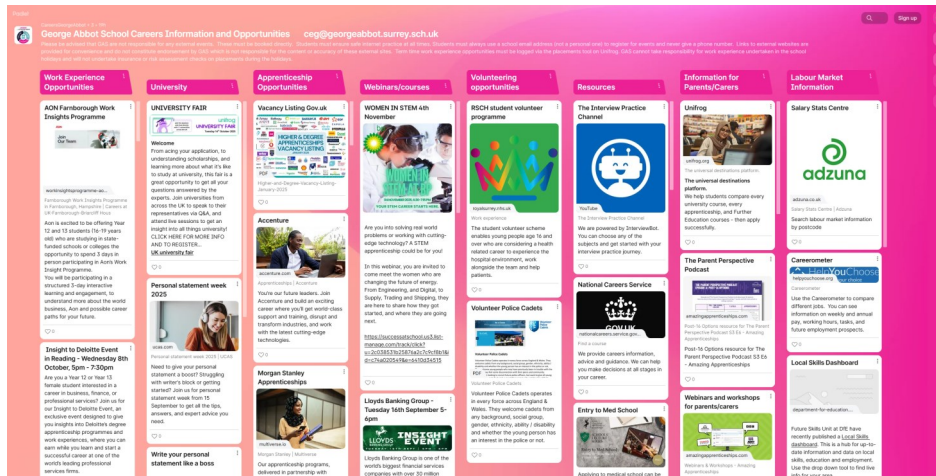


jobs@halowproject.org.uk

01483 447960

Careers

Our Careers team have been busy developing a website full of careers information and opportunities. Please click the image below [or here](https://georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers/) to visit the site. If you have any Careers based questions, please contact ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. <https://georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers/>



PTA—HOLD THE DATE

Christmas Fair 12-3pm Sunday 30 November 2025

Planning for the Christmas Fair is well underway. Please put the date in your diaries! Seymours in Burpham are once again sponsoring us, big thanks to them. If you are able to 'host' one of their boards this year, please fill out the form on the link below ASAP - Seymours will pay us £25 for every address! [George Abbot Christmas Fair Estate Agent Board](#)



If your company has a fund matching scheme please let us know, as this can raise significant funds.

There will be a whole school non-uniform day on Friday 28 November: children are asked to bring a donation of chocolates or a bottle for the tombola. If you have any unwanted gifts please drop off to Elmslie Office for the gifts & goodies stall.

If you would like your own stall at the Fair, would like to help (either with panning or on the day), or have any other queries, please email Kristi on gachristmasfair@gmail.com

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