

Wanted – Parent Governors

What are we looking for?

Our Local Governing Body is made up of Governors from all walks of life with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

We want you

We are currently looking for two new Parent Governors* and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school
- a desire to contribute to and bring a parental perspective to the Local Governing Body
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare

Applications from people with an understanding of accounting and finance would be particularly welcome. However, just as importantly is the motivation and enthusiasm to become a governor. Parent Governors play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

** A Parent Governor is defined as a person with parental or legal responsibility of a child at George Abbot School.*

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our school
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

What is the Governing Body's Role?

The Governing Body of our school plays a key role in:

- setting targets for raising standards of educational achievement.
- monitoring progress towards meeting these targets
- supporting and challenging the performance of the headteacher
- deciding policy and future development plans

As well as attending some daytime and evening meetings, governors are asked to look at specific areas of the school's work in more detail. They are expected to attend training and commit time to the role, more details of which can be found [here](#) on the website.

How to apply

If you're interested in applying, please [complete the candidate nomination form](#) and return via email to Lauren Huse, Clerk to Governors at clerkga@learningpartners.org by **Friday 30 January 2026**. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot of all parents/carers will be carried out. We will inform you after Monday 2 February 2026 if we have to do this.

If you have any queries about this process, would like to find out more about the role or require a paper copy of the candidate nomination form, please contact Lauren Huse on the email above.

<p>Notices</p>	<p>w/c 19 January = Week B w/c 26 January = Week A Wednesday 28 January = INSET Day</p>
<p>Whole School</p>	<p>⇒ Consultation on 20mph Residential Roads – Have Your Say The local council has opened public consultations on introducing 20mph speed limits on residential roads around our school. As a community that values the safety of students, families and staff, we encourage parents and carers to engage positively with these consultations.</p> <p>Slower speeds can help make the journey to and from school safer for everyone—particularly those who choose to walk, scoot or cycle. If you would like to share your views, you can do so through the consultation links below: Bushy Hill area: https://bushy-hill-guildford.commonplace.is/?utm_campaign=new_commonplaces&utm_source=cp-email&utm_medium=email Cranley Road area: https://cranley-road-guildford.commonplace.is/?utm_campaign=new_commonplaces&utm_source=cp-email&utm_medium=email</p> <p>Thank you for supporting safer streets for our school community.</p> <p>⇒ Early school closure for Year 12 Parents' Evening on Thursday 29 January Please be reminded that school will be closing at 1.35pm on Thursday 29 January for us to conduct the Year 11 Parents' Evening. When the Parents' evening is 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. 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 28 January. It is vital that we are forewarned of those who will be in attendance.</p> <p>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>⇒ Electric scooters A reminder that electric scooters are not permitted on school site.</p> <p>⇒ Wet and Dark Weather As the winter weather continues with darker days and frequent rain, we kindly ask all members of our community to take extra care when driving on and around our site. Please be mindful of pedestrians—slow down near pavements and avoid driving through puddles where splashing may occur. A small gesture of consideration helps keep everyone safe, dry, and comfortable. Thank you for doing your part to look after our community.</p> <p>⇒ Afterschool provision Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that students are attending a provision after school if you are unable to collect your child at 3.15pm. Students should attend extra curricular clubs or visit USIC for homework club. We are unable to supervise students sitting in Reception waiting to be collected. Thank you for your cooperation.</p>

⇒ Volunteer Interviewers needed!

One of the highlights of the school calendar is Year 10 Interview Day, which is taking place this year on Thursday 19 March. This is an opportunity for students to apply for a job role of their choice and take part in a mock interview. Although this will take place at school, the interviews are conducted by volunteers who kindly give their time to help support this activity.

These volunteers are parents/carers and members of the local business community with some experience in interviewing. We are currently in the process of securing interviewers and are on the lookout for more! Please do let us know if you would like/are able to offer time to volunteer between 8.00am - 1.30pm (or part of this time) on 19 March to take part in this very rewarding process. Or, if you know of anyone who would like to offer their time, we would be very grateful – please do pass this on.

At George Abbot we are committed to cultivating an environment that promotes equality, diversity and inclusion. Hence, we are particularly keen on interviewers from a diverse background and varying industries and trades so that our Year 10 Interview Day reflects the community of George Abbot and also the world of work that our students will eventually enter.

Please do email the careers team if you are able to assist on ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk, or if you have any questions about interview day.

⇒ Dates for your diary—Performing Arts

- Cabaret—Tuesday 24 February, 7.00pm
- Spring Concerts—Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March, 7.00pm

Congratulations to all the 185 students who auditioned for the 130 available roles for this year's production 'West Side Story'. Performances will run from 30 June-3 July, 7.00pm start. Information regarding rehearsal schedules has been communicated to parents/carers separately.

⇒ Charities and Non-Uniform Days

The student body has selected the following three charities to be this year's recipients of the proceeds from our next two non-uniform days on 20 March and 10 July: The Grace Dear Trust; Breast Cancer UK and UNICEF. Please find a link available via MCAS, entitled 'Non Uniform Days 2026' requesting a voluntary contribution of £2 to cover both of these non-uniform events. This link will remain open until the end of the Summer term. Additionally, any fundraising from our RAG and House Weeks will be divided between these charities.

⇒ Sparx Maths

We have been pleased to see so many of our students engaging positively with their learning, and I would like to begin by recognising their continued efforts.

Additionally, we ask for your support in a matter related to Maths homework. A small number of students appear to be completing their mathematics homework (Sparx Maths) at a pace that far exceeds what would ordinarily be possible, even for experienced teachers. Entire pieces of homework are being finished within minutes, and individual questions in mere seconds. This pattern suggests that some students are relying on AI tools to complete their work, rather than engaging with the material themselves.

Mathematics learning depends not only on arriving at the correct answer, but on developing fluency, problem-solving skills, and confidence through working systematically. When students bypass this process, they miss out on essential practice that is crucial for long-term progress. GCSE and A Level Maths exams are entirely dependent on students' own maths skills.

Whole School

To address this issue, we are implementing a clear expectation moving forward: all students must show full written workings for every homework task in their exercise books. These books will be checked each week.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Encouraging your child to complete their homework thoughtfully and authentically will help them build genuine understanding and resilience and prepare them for their GCSE exams. Thank you for your continued partnership.

⇒ **PSE Half Termly Round up**

During PSE lessons this half term, the following topics are planned to be covered. Lessons are delivered through guided discussion, supporting students to explore real-life scenarios, develop understanding, and reflect on their feelings in a safe and respectful way.

Please note that PSE is taught in a fortnightly basis, and classes may progress at slightly different rates. As a result, not all groups may reach every topic listed below within this half term. Teachers will adapt the sequence and pace of lessons as needed to meet the needs of each class, while ensuring that all required content is covered by the end of the academic year.

Year 7

Puberty and identity: Identity and stereotypes

Relationships: Changing friendships, hurtful behaviour

Year 8

Careers: Workplace skills, introduction to Unifrog

Relationships and online safety: Self-esteem, social media and online grooming

Year 9

Healthy relationships: FGM and honour-based violence

Careers: Labour market information, apprenticeships, career searching - including a presentation on a career of interest

Rail safety and water safety

Year 10

Personal wellbeing: Blood and stem cell donation, eating disorders and sleep, habits/addictions and gambling

Intimate relationships: Responsible behaviour; consent and pleasure

If you would like more detailed information about our lesson content, please refer to our RSE policy in the policies section of our website or contact Miss Sellers, Head of PSE: esellers@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Year 11

⇒ **Year 11 Parents' Evening—Thursday 29 January**

For more information on how to book appointments, please [click here](#).

⇒ **Year 11 Online Parent Information Evening—Monday 19 January**

Please use the following link to join the meeting at 6.00pm: <https://zoom.us/j/97503233968>

⇒ **PSE speaker talk**

As part of the Year 11 PSE speaker programme please be aware that on 22 January during period 2, all Year 11 students will be attending a talk by Peter Radford on Masculinity and Misogyny.

Year 11	<p>This talk explores how inequalities have been created which are unjust and dangerous. Students will consider the following topics and have the chance to explore their views and those of others within a safe, constructive environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unconscious bias and systemic discrimination • sexual harassment and how to address it • gender stereotypes and how they generate harmful behaviours • positive masculinity and what it means to be male • power and consent • how to navigate online influences and harmful messages • the impact of pornography • what feminism is really all about"
Year 10	<p>⇒ Year 10 Online Parent Information Evening—Monday 26 January Please use the following link to join the meeting at 6.00pm: https://zoom.us/j/93934871588</p>
Year 8	<p>⇒ Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination Please see the letter attached regarding HPV vaccinations being offered to your child.</p>

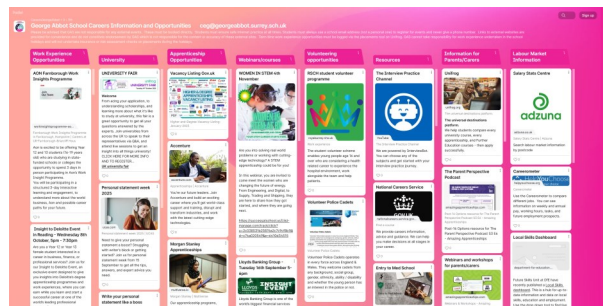
Careers

CAREERS ... at George Abbot

EXPLORE ASPIRE ACHIEVE

At George Abbot we are committed to providing students with a variety of opportunities and resources to learn, work, volunteer and gain some extra and super curricular experiences to support their education and help prepare them for life after school. These opportunities come through a number of sources and are advertised on our Careers Resources Board which is updated on a regular basis. Also included on the board are apprenticeship information and opportunities as well as university and UCAS information/events as well as a section dedicated to parent/carer information/resources.

All students have been sent the link to the board via their school email and Bromcom. They can also access it directly from the [Student Hub](#) on the George Abbot website. Please can we ask you to encourage your son/daughter to look at the board on a regular basis to see if there are any opportunities that they would benefit from engaging with.



Discover Digital Arts Careers!

Careers Talk by University of the Creative Arts

Learn about creating art as a response to a digital culture



Date: Tuesday 27th JAN
Time: 8.30 – 8.55am
Location: Elmslie Conference Room
Tickets: Email ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk for a ticket

THINK CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES
THINK UCA



University for the
Creative Arts

CAREERS ... at George Abbot

EXPLORE ASPIRE ACHIEVE

Happy National Year of Reading!

We are pleased to be running a series of events, challenges and competitions over the coming year to celebrate this government-backed initiative to encourage more of us to read. For more information on this campaign, please visit: [About | National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)



The first event will be in the Gallery on **Tuesday 27 January from 3:15 - 4.15**. Open to KS3 students, Ms King and 3 poets from Y12 will be running a **performance poetry workshop**. It is guaranteed to be a fun, informal and interactive event, which will hopefully inspire many students to take part in [Poetry By Heart's](#) national competition. To reserve a place, email vjking@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk or sign up on the list in the library. We will be launching the campaign in assemblies next week, including our 50 by 16 reading lists, aimed at encouraging all students to read at least 50 books by the time they finish Year 11. These are suggestions only - further inspiration and recommendations can be found on our library website, [Reading Cloud](#).

I would like to invite parents and carers to visit the library with their child on Wednesday **11 February from 8am - 9.15am** to browse what's on offer and chat all things book related. If there are any parents or carers who would like to get involved in our national year of reading, please do get in touch with me, Verity King (vjking@) or pop along to our open library event.

I hope to see you or your child at an event soon. Happy reading! Verity King (Library and Reading Manager)

PTA Building a stronger home-school community

Two special events coming up—don't miss them!



Wednesday 21 January, 7,00pm—An Evening with Rosie Nixon

Rosie is an author and life coach - and former Chief Editor of Hello! Magazine. She is passionate about the power of reinvention in midlife, and she helps her clients to move through challenging chapters to rediscover their purpose and creativity. This promises to be an engaging and inspiring evening, perhaps particularly for those who feel ready for a new challenge or chapter. The talk starts at 7.00pm, with refreshments available beforehand. The event is free, but donations to the PTA are welcome and encouraged.

Monday 9 February—Ashuka Evening

We still have a few tables left... Bring your family and friends; come along and enjoy a full meal of delicious authentic Tandoori cuisine for just £23.95 per person at Ashuka restaurant on Epsom Road, Merrow - and help raise funds for the PTA! Ashuka have very generously offered to donate more than half of all ticket-sale income to the PTA, towards our new school dining area. Further details and tickets available at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=110069>.



WELCOME TO
ASHUKA TANDOORI



PTA Meeting

We had to postpone our post-Christmas PTA meeting last Monday (12 January); it will now take place on Monday 2 February, both in person (Elmslie Conference Room, behind/above reception) and on Zoom. Agenda and details will be posted at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=100771>.

Community Support

We are always keen to build links with our community. Do you know of any local companies that would be interested in advertising, at very competitive rates, on our [website](#)? If so, please do get in touch.

Please don't forget that you can also support us, at no cost to yourself, either through our [Sainsbury's scheme](#) if you shop in store, or through [Easyfundraising](#) if you shop online (don't forget to name George Abbot PTA as your preferred charity). For other ideas, please see our [fundraising page](#) - and if you have ideas of your own, please let us know!

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Community Notices

⇒ Free entry to English Heritage sites for refugees

English Heritage offer free entry to their sites for people who have been granted refugee status or have been given leave to remain as a displaced person. You can find out more information about this [here](#). It is the last question under the Paying for your Visit section.

⇒ Matrix Youth Café Events 2026

Please see the poster (right) for all of Matrix's upcoming events. Wednesdays are Matrix's relaxed Neurodivergent friendly youth café day, with workshops running from 3.30pm.

⇒ Guide to Keeping Teens Safe on Social Media

Young people are spending more and more time online. Whether for school or socialising, learning or creative expression, so much of their world exists at least partly online. As a result, social media is a big part of most teens' lives. And many parents and carers worry about the content they're seeing or the dangers they might encounter. Together with your young person, you can learn about how to set up controls on the content they might see online or on social media by viewing this [Social Media Safety Guide](#).

⇒ ExpertEd—Free Webinars

Please find registration details below for ExpertEd's free webinars taking place in the Spring term. ExpertEd offers students the chance to learn through live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas, providing enrichment and curriculum coverage.

Family Science

Led by Dr Becky Waldram from Swansea University, Family Science aims to offer some stretch and challenge to pupils and to encourage conversations about science between inquisitive young people and their parents. Each session has a different guest, exploring a new area of science. The sessions are live, fun, and interactive. For years 5-8. [Register here](#).

Aim 5 Maths Online: GCSE Preparation

Aim 5 Maths Online supports GCSE students aiming for a Grade 5 or looking to secure a Grade 4. These live, interactive sessions are led by experienced maths teachers, including an examiner, and focus on building confidence with the key topics needed for success. The sessions will help students strengthen their understanding of core concepts, tackle common problem areas, and develop strategies to secure marks across the exam papers. Suitable for all exam boards. [Register here](#).

Aim High Maths Online: GCSE Preparation

Aim High Maths Online is for GCSE students aiming for a Grade 8/9 in their exams. The sessions are live, interactive, and led by maths experts, including an experienced examiner. Designed to prepare students through exploring and developing strategies for the more challenging maths questions towards the end of the exam papers to maximise marks. Suitable for all exam boards. [Register here](#).

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS SPRING 2026
at MATRIX YOUTH CAFÉ 4-5:30pm YR7-YR11

Matrix Youth Café, Allen House Guildford, Guildford, GU1 4AZ
Wednesdays are now our relaxed, Neurodivergent friendly youth café day. Come and spend time in a calm, friendly space, chat, play games, create and unwind. We will also be running workshops that you can join if you feel like it! Café opens 3:30pm and workshops start 4pm

GET GOLFING 1ST JAN
Swing by for a short, fun, beginner friendly golf workshop where you will learn basic skills and games with an expert instructor 4PM-4:30PM

WILLOW BIRD FEEDERS 21ST JAN
Weave your very own beautiful willow bird feeder in this cozy and relaxed workshop with a professional from RHS Wisley

BRIGID CROSSES 28TH JAN
Enjoy a fun introduction into folk crafts as you learn to weave your own Brigid's Cross using natural materials to celebrate St. Brigid's day!

LUSH BATHBOMBS 4TH FEB
Dive into the sensory world of fragrance and touch as you make your own bathbomb with the professionals at LUSH. Tickets are £3 to cover special costs

SURREY SPORTS 7TH FEB
The wonderful people from Surrey Sports Park are coming to us to do a fun exercise games workshop. Get ready to boost your wellbeing!

Drop in or reserve your space. Scan to find out more. FREE!
<https://linktr.ee/MatrixYouthWork>

matrix @matrix_youthcafe

Coaching for Children & Young People



My name is Claire Daniels, and I am a Certified Coach for Children and Young People, aged 7 to 21 years.

My focus is on developing positive mental health and wellbeing.

Alongside my role as a Social and Emotional Wellbeing Coach at George Abbot School, I also work independently in my own private practice.

I am based in Merrow, Guildford, close to many of our local schools. Please visit my website for further information about the support I offer.

I look forward to hearing from you if you feel I can help in any way.

www.coaching-with-claire.co.uk

07899048563

...Growing Confidence for Life

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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.



Merrow Dramatic Society presents

Dick Whittington

the **pu**rnfect family pant!

Thursday 22nd - Saturday 24th January 2026

Show Times: 7:30pm | 2pm Saturday Matinee

Tickets **Venue**
 £12.50 Child (u16) Merrow Village Hall,
 £14 Adult Guildford, GU4 2QY

www.ticketsource.co.uk/merrow-dramatic-society

Book Now!

Run Miles for Mental Health in Surrey

22nd March 2026 | 13.1 Miles | 5K Fun Run

Woking Leisure Centre, GU22 9BA

Surrey Half Marathon 2026

Every mile you run funds: What you get:

- Counselling that turns lives around
- Crisis support when it's needed most
- Specialist outreach to rebuild lives
- FREE entry (worth £45)
- Exclusive running vest
- Fundraising support
- Epic cheer squad

Sign up today Scan to sign up

laura.simpson-pirie@catalystsupport.org.uk

Cross Country Open Meeting
 Sunday 8th February 2026
 Venue: Stoke Park, Guildford
 Parking at Spectrum GU1 1UP

For age groups: U9, U11, U13, U15
 First race: U9 Girls 1.30pm
 £7 entry fee

Click here to enter: <https://events.kronosports.uk/event/1981>

ELECTRONIC Timing by Krono:Sports

- Medals for top 6 in each age group boys / girls
- Results on Krono website
- Easy to navigate course with marshalls and hares
- Distances to suit each age group
- Finish line archway, music and announcements
- £7 entry fee

Age groups:
 U9 - school years 3/4
 U11 - school years 5/6
 U13 - school years 7-8
 U15 - school years 9-10

Scan the QR code to enter

ENTRIES on: <https://events.kronosports.uk/event/1981>
 Also see: www.young-athletes.co.uk
 See website for details, timetable and course map
 Cost: £7.00 per entry

Entries CLOSE Friday 6th Feb 2026
 No entries on the day
 See "Competitions: Cross Country" on our website:

KARATE BY CHRIS
 CONFIDENCE. COURAGE. GROWTH.

Are you ready... to become someone stronger?
 to prove something to yourself?
 to build confidence that lasts a lifetime?

Karate for kids, teens & adults
 No experience needed
 just a willingness to grow.

Start your journey with
KARATE BY CHRIS

<https://karatebychris.co.uk/>
 Guildford Spectrum
 Tue & Fri - 7-8pm Kids - 8-9pm Adults
 Free Taster Session

Enter our **Super Draw**

Win a **£1,000 Aldi Gift Card**

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

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

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 academy trust

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 A company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, company number 08303773

**MOMENTS
 MATTER,
 ATTENDANCE
 COUNTS.**