

George Abbot Bulletin

11 September 2026



A warm welcome back to the new academic year. It has been a really successful first full week back at school, with students embracing the new academic year very positively. It has been very good to see happy faces as we greet students at the gate in the morning.

A special welcome to our new Year 7 families and our GA6 students who have joined us in Year 12. We are so pleased that you have joined the George Abbot family.

Phone pouches have been adopted with minimal fuss, right through from Year 7-11, though we appreciate there may well be some grumbling at home! Please feel free to simply state that these are the rules in place for them all to safeguard them all. Students have been mature in accepting this position - something we are really pleased to observe. Just for your information, if a student does attempt to evade the policy and is found using their phone at school, we will ask you to come and collect the phone rather than returning it to them directly. We will talk to you about ensuring safe logistics around this should your child find themselves in this position.

We have also welcomed some new staff this term:

Mr Green - Computer Science
Miss Kelly - Acting Head of Psychology
Miss Jones - Maths
Mrs Swift - Chemistry
Mr Swift - Sociology and RE
Mrs Webb - Chemistry
Mr Guthrie - Director of Maths
Miss Morris - English
Miss Barnard - Biology and PSE
Mr Bekker - Geography and Psychology
Mrs Lindsay-Hames - Deputy SENCO

Today, we successfully accomplished our beginning of term fire drill and hopefully, after a full timetable week, students are beginning to slot back into the routine of school. Many of them will have teachers that are new to them, if not to the school, and I hope that they will quickly form positive working relationships with them. Enrichments are getting underway - sports club details are included herein and we will send a standalone email with a fuller round up of all of the enrichments on offer early next week.

I love the beginning of the school year - after many years of being a headteacher, I much prefer a daily routine (!); working with your children remains a daily joy. Thank you for trusting us with their education. Our 2026 exam results were really very good indeed, so please be assured that they are in competent hands. We are very much looking forward to another action-packed year ahead.

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

All schools are currently adapting to the changes made to the FSM system, which means that more students are entitled to this important financial support. We are aware that a number of different issues have arisen as a result this term.

The most important thing to be aware of is that **parents / carers must re-apply for FSM in each academic year and we would encourage all parents (including those of sixth form students) who are eligible to apply.** Over half a million additional pupils became eligible for Free School Meals under the new eligibility criteria. The change means that all households receiving Universal Credit, including those above the current £7,400 income cap, will qualify for this support. The form for new applications and re-applications is here:

[FSM Registration Form](#)

If your child was entitled to FSM in 2025-26

All children who received FSM last year, in Y6+, should be receiving FSM already this term because we decided, as a school, that we will not remove FSM allocations until we are confident that all eligible students have been registered or re-registered. We are working towards 30 September as the date by which we will have a full and accurate list of FSM entitlement for 2026-27.

A daily amount of £2.85 is being transferred to their MCAS account, which they spend in the canteens via their fingerprint. This buys them the hot meal deal (hot meal, pudding OR plain water bottle) or the cold meal deal (4 stickered items from the fridge). **We strongly encourage you to tell your child that they should bring a water bottle from home and make use of the meal deal, as this is the most filling, nutritious and cost-effective option.**

If you have recently applied for FSM and your child did not receive it last year

We are uploading new applications and re-applications within 48h. If applications are successful, our school database is then updated by the government, and students should start receiving their FSM allowance within a further 3 days.

If applications are made via the school form, we will contact parents/carers directly only if their child is NOT eligible for FSM.

Questions - problems

If your child goes to the till and does not have their expected FSM allowance, they should go to their Head of Year, who will be in their canteen, and we will make sure they don't go hungry. Every day, lots of children - whether FSM or not - ask their HoY for help because they were expecting (hoping for!) money to be in their accounts, so FSM children will not stand out as being different. Their HoY will then talk to the school finance team on the child's behalf.

If you have any questions or need support, please contact your child's HoY, or the Home School Link Worker team.

Reminder of Term Dates for 2026-2027

George Abbot School Term Dates 2026 – 27	
Autumn Term 2026	Tuesday 1 September – Friday 18 December
INSET Day	Tuesday 1 September (School closed for students)
INSET Day	Wednesday 2 September (School closed for students)
Start of Term	Thursday 3 September - Year 7 registration 11am ; Year 12 sign on at 10am Friday 4 September - Year 8 - 11 return 8:30am ; Year 13 sign on 10am Monday 7 September - Sixth Form Lessons Commence
INSET Day	Friday 16 October (School closed for students)
Half Term Weeks	Monday 19 October – Friday 30 October
End of term	Friday 18 December – 12 noon (Students finish)
Spring Term 2027	Monday 4 January – Thursday 25 March
INSET Day	Monday 4 January (School closed for students)
Start of Term	Tuesday 5 January – 8.30am (Students return)
Half Term Week	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February
End of Term	Wednesday 24 March – 12 noon (Students finish)
INSET Day	Thursday 25 March (School closed for students)
Summer Term 2027	Monday 12 April – Friday 23 July
Start of Term	Monday 12 April – 8.30am (Students return)
Half Term Week	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
INSET Day	Monday 28 June (School closed for students) – please note, Year 10 and Year 12 students may be undertaking Internal Assessments on this day
End of Term	Friday 23 July – 12 noon (Students finish)

Extra Curricular Sport – Half Term 1

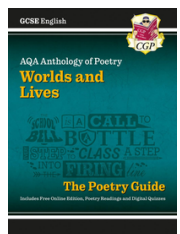


	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday		
	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher	Club	Area	Teacher
1 st & 3 rd Break	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	B1 – JXS B3 – GXS	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	B1 – CRM B3 – GXS	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	B1 – CRM	Basketball / Netball Shooting (Max 50)	SH	B1 – CRM B3 – CRM
2 nd Break	Touch Rugby Girls & Boys	SH	BRI / WJC	Badminton Club (First 40 students)	SH	JLJ	Indoor Cricket Girls & Boys	SH	WJC	Indoor Athletics Club	SH	EXL / MRB
A f t e r S c h o o l	Year 7 Boys Basketball	Gyms	External Coach	Netball All Years	Courts / SH	JLJ / EXL / CRM / CEF / MRB / GXC	Gymnastics (All years)	Gym	JZH	Year 7 Girls Basketball	SH / Gym	External Coach
				Boys Football All Years	Field	WJC / AJR / BRI / JXS / External Coach				Netball All Years	Courts / SH	CRM / JLJ / CEF / MRB / GXS / LAH
				Girls Rugby	Field	SXF / REM / External Coach	Girls Football	Astro / Field	WJC / AJR / EXL / GXC	Boys Rugby	Field	BRI / MT / AZE / External Coach
				Y10/11/6th Boys Fitness Suite	FS	JZH				Y10/11/6th Girls Fitness Suite	FS	NEJ

Notices	w/c 14 September - Week A w/c 21 September - Week B
Whole School	Year 7 -13 Tutor Meetings Reminder Bookings for appointments to speak with your child's form tutor on Wednesday 16 September 2025, 4 – 8pm have opened. We invite you to log in to SchoolCloud to book your appointments. The system will close for bookings on Tuesday 15 September at 8am. A reminder that parents will be able to book by logging in to SchoolCloud - https://georgeabbotschool.schoolcloud.co.uk Further information and guidance on how to book appointments and how to access the video function in SchoolCloud can be found here. SchoolCloud instructions Assistance: should you require any assistance accessing the system or making appointments, please contact the Curriculum Team via email on curriculum@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Flu Immunisations Reminder to please complete the flu vaccine (nasal spray) consent form if you have not done so already. No consent, no vaccine. Please visit www.surreyimmunisations.co.uk and enter your school's unique code SR136906 Immunisation team are coming on 16th September.
Year 8	Parent Information Evening, 22 September, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Elmslie Hall
Year 10	Parent Information Evening, 24 September, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Elmslie Hall
Year 12	School Photographs, Wednesday 16 September

Year 10 GCSE English Literature

This term Y10 students will be studying a poetry collection from the Worlds and Live Anthology. Copies of the anthology have been issued in class. In addition there is a CGP Guide available which is an excellent resource for extra revision and practice of this unit. It is available to buy from Amazon or CGP and we highly recommend students have their own copy. If students are in receipt of Pupil Premium, they will be given their own copy in class.



Year 11 GCSE English Literature

This term Year 11 students will be studying Macbeth and we highly recommend that they buy their own copy of the text. The version we use in school is CGP Macbeth The Complete Play with Annotations, Audio & Knowledge Organisers. ISBN 9781841461205. In addition, you may wish to buy the supplementary Text Guide as shown below. Both available from Amazon or CGP



Social media ban in the UK

On 15 June 2026, the UK government announced that major social media platforms will be banned from providing accounts to people under the age of 16. The new law is expected to come into force in spring 2027. Following this announcement, the NSPCC will be updating their online safety advice pages as more detail on the new laws becomes available. In the meantime, they have advice for you on supporting children through the changes. Please use the link to <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2026/supporting-your-child-social-media-changes/>



Diversity Club

Diversity Club is a safe and welcoming space for students. The club is built on values of belonging, inclusivity and acceptance - where every student is encouraged to be themselves without pressure. Through supportive staff and like-minded peers, students can connect, share experiences and celebrate what makes each of us unique. The Diversity Club provides friendship, understanding and encouragement for all who join. If your child is looking for a safe, supportive community at school, the Diversity Club is open to everyone.

Diversity Club is held every Thursday during Break 2 in E27 with Ms Goddard. Students can bring their food and any small games (e.g. cards) they may want to play. Sign up is not required and students can attend as frequently or infrequently as they feel necessary.

Introducing parents to the Togetherness Approach

Togetherness is an NHS emotional health team sharing evidence-based teaching and learning about emotional wellbeing and preventative mental health in the UK and around the world.

"Togetherness equips people with lifelong skills that build emotional resilience and wellbeing. We help foster robust relationships and connections that transform how we communicate and interact with others. Our approach offers practical and accessible support for people across all walks of life."

Please click on the link below to gain access to the courses.

[Home - Togetherness](#)

The online guides contain advice relevant to expectant parents, parents, grandparents and carers of children of all ages including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Access to the guides is unlimited with no expiry date, so you can return as and when you need and want to. Each guide has between 9 and 11 sessions, which last roughly 20 minutes each. There are also activities that can be carried out between courses.

The code to access for free is ACORN

We would particularly like to highlight their new course called 'Understanding your child in a changing world' which includes social media, gaming and lots more. Please follow the link below to explore what's available -

[Understanding your child in a changing world - Togetherness](#)

Parent's prayer group

Christian parents and carers of children at George Abbot meet to pray, arrange cakes for staff once a term and contribute to support young carers in the school twice a year. We stay in touch using a WhatsApp group. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact: helenwmum23@gmail.com or if you know someone in the group already, ask them to add you and introduce yourself.

Careers

CAREERS ... at George Abbot

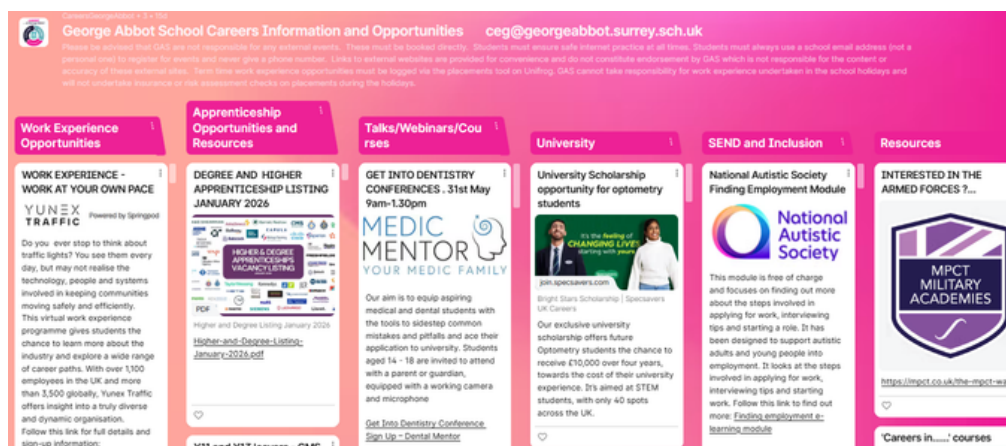
EXPLORE

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.

They can also access it directly from the [Student Hub](#) on the George Abbot website. Please can we ask you to encourage your child to look at the board on a regular basis to see if there are any opportunities that they would benefit from engaging with.



Year 11

As we begin the new academic year, it is important for students to start considering their next steps after completing their GCSEs. This includes researching the range of post-16 pathways available to them. To support students with this process, the Careers Team, in partnership with two external speakers, will be delivering a Next Steps information session for all students before the half-term break. The session will provide valuable guidance on the differences between A Levels and T Levels, further education colleges, apprenticeships, and the wide variety of career opportunities available within different industries and organisations.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that all students have access to the College Search Tool through their Unifrog careers platform, which can help them explore and compare post-16 options. Information about upcoming college open days is also available on the Careers Resources Board. As many of these events require advance booking, we encourage you to review the available dates and make any necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

One-to-one appointments with the external Careers Adviser for Year 11 students are continuing throughout the term.

In addition, any student who would like further guidance or support is welcome to visit the Careers Office, located in USIC, where a member of the Careers Team will be happy to assist them. Or, please email us directly on ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Young Carers

We are delighted to announce that at the end of last term we were successful in the renewal of our Young Carers Angel Award, issued by Action for Carers Surrey (Registered Charity). The award was given because, as a school, we recognise and support the needs of young carers and meet the eight standards required for the award.

If you would like to know more about Young Carers, please email cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk



Summer Expedition

Well done to our expedition teams who spent two weeks of the summer holiday on a school expedition to Vietnam and Cambodia. They built vegetable gardens for local families, assisted with the construction of a family toilet and made a valued contribution to families and communities in Battambang and Peaksneng. The umbrella local organisation, Better Lives were so pleased with their hard work, energy and care for others.

A big thank you to Mrs Richings, Mr Mallindine, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Wallace-Jones for accompanying our students on this life changing adventure.



Building a stronger home-school community

A very big welcome to our new families, and welcome back to those returning! I hope you all had a relaxing summer.

The school is changing — and it's thanks, not least, to you

Building work on the new dining hall starts this month, and the PTA has paid the first £20,000 instalment of our anticipated £80,000 contribution.

We're not there yet. We still need to raise about £20,000 more to reach our target, which we're hoping to manage this year. It's a huge project for us, and we'd love to have your help. Everyone involved is a volunteer. Some people help at one event; others help with nearly everything. People bring different interests, skills and amounts of time, so if you're curious, please come and have a look. Join the [WhatsApp group](#) or come along to one of our [meetings](#) - in particular, our Annual General Meeting, which reports on the past year and sets the agenda for the year ahead. It will take place at 6 pm on 5th October. We're very happy to have people who are "just looking", so don't be shy.

What's happening this year?

All the events the PTA organises are on the [PTA Events website](#). This shows what we're planning at the moment, but the list isn't set in stone. If you have an idea for an event, drop us a line.

Our first event is the [New Parents' Coffee Morning](#) on Friday 18 September, 10am–12pm in Elmslie Hall. Everyone is welcome. There's no need to book - just turn up, have a coffee and say hello. You don't even have to be a new parent!

Later on we'll have our quiz night, car boot sale, a series of evening talks on a wide variety of topics, and then of course there's the big one - the [Christmas Fair](#) — which this year will be on Sunday 22 November, 12–3pm. It might seem a long way off, but we're already getting ready. [Would you have a Seymours board outside your house?](#) Seymours pays the PTA for every Christmas Fair advertising board that goes up.

Other ways to help

Do you run a local business, or know somebody who does? We're still offering free business listings on the PTA website. We'd like to build up a useful directory of local businesses connected to the George Abbot community — whether that's parents running businesses or local companies that support the school. Listings are free at the moment, so if that's you, add your business to the [site](#).

There are lots of other ways that you can help. [Easyfundraising](#) is one of the simplest, and it works particularly well with the browser add-on: when you visit a participating retailer, you just click the pop-up to say that you're happy for the shop to support the PTA. It doesn't cost you anything extra. If you prefer in-store shopping, perhaps you could join our [Sainsbury scheme](#), which diverts 4% of your spend away from bankers' bonuses and to our children's education instead. Do you need [name labels](#) for school clothes, or perhaps your son or daughter would benefit from [tutoring](#)? Or maybe you'd like the chance to win £25,000 in the [Parents' Lottery](#)?

If you have any questions, or other ideas for fundraising, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Philip Harris, PTA Chair at g.abbot.pta@gmail.com.

GUILDFORD 11-19 PARTNERSHIP



September 2026

IMAG INTERESTED, MOTIVATED & ABLE GUILDFORD

Dear Parents,

The Guildford 11-19 Partnership IMAG programme aims to provide more opportunities for Interested, Motivated & Able pupils in the Guildford area to capture students' imagination and interest outside of the classroom and encourage them to take the initiative and engage with programmes and events to enhance their education.

The Royal Grammar School Guildford are running a screening of a Mathematics lecture ***Secrets of the Surface: The Mathematical Vision of Maryam Mirzakhani*** for students in **Year 12 & 13**. Please register now to ensure your place. This event is free of charge.

IMAG Mathematics: *Secrets of the Surface* screening

Event Date:	Thursday 24 Sept 2026	Venue:	RGS, Guildford Auditorium
Time:	5.00 - 7.30pm		
Year Groups:	Y12 - Y13	Cost:	Free
		Spaces:	Limited

Join the RGS for a screening of '***Secrets of the Surface: The Mathematical Vision of Maryam Mirzakhani***', an award-winning documentary about the first woman to win the prestigious Fields Medal. The film explores Mirzakhani's groundbreaking work, her passion for problem-solving, and the beauty of mathematical thinking. Suitable for anyone interested in mathematics, science, or inspiring stories of achievement. There will be a chance for a Q&A session following the film.

Please visit the IMAG website to **register your attendance**:
www.imag.education/events

You will also see the pop-up option to subscribe. This will give you the opportunity to be first to hear about our inspiring upcoming lectures.

Kind regards,

Mr TW Shimell on behalf of the **IMAG** team

For more information, please visit: www.imag.education



What is the Guildford 11-19 Partnership?

The G11-19 Partnership is a group of Guildford based institutions who cooperate for the benefit of all our pupils. It includes Christ's College, George Abbot School, Guildford County School, Howard of Effingham, Kings College, St Peter's Catholic School, Wey Valley College, The Royal Grammar School, Guildford High School, Tormead School, Guildford College and the University of Surrey.

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS

Matrix YOUTH CAFE

at MATRIX YOUTH CAFE 4-5:30pm YR7-YR11

Matrix Youth Cafe, Allen House Guildford, Guildford, GU1 4AZ
Wednesdays are now our relaxed, **Neurodivergent** friendly youth cafe 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! Cafe opens 3:30pm and workshops start 4pm

GET GOLFING 16TH SEPT
Swing by for a short fun, beginner friendly golf workshop where you will learn basic skills and games with an expert instructor

CASTLES + COTTAGES 23RD SEPT
Using recycled materials, get crafty and create your own cosy cottage or castle. Perfect for the autumn season!

ACTING & UP 30TH SEPT
Enjoy some fun acting games and tips from from Matrix's very own actor and youth worker, Paul Sharpe

SKATEBOARDING 7TH OCT
Free popular demand we will be giving a skateboarding basics workshop! Come along to learn new skills as share what you know

MASK MAKING 14TH OCT
Dream up new characters and bring them to life as you create your own masks - ready for Halloween

IT'S FREE!

matrix
with young people, for young people

<https://linktr.ee/MatrixYouthWork> @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

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or send an email to washinditrampolineclub@gmail.com

BASKETBALL OCTOBER CAMP

CRANLEIGH:
26th, 27th, 28th October
GUILDFORD:
29th, 30th October

YEARS 2-8 (AGES 6-13)
10am-3pm
Multi-day discounts!

- Fun games and matches.
- Learn new skills from experienced coaches.
- Cool prizes to be won.
- Everyone is welcome.

JESSAUSTIN.CO.UK/BASKETBALL

KARATE

KANSHIN/FUDOCHI

A small and friendly Shotokan Karate club. Our chief instructor is Sensei Rangan Ravindran, 5th Dan
www.kanshinkarate.org

TRAINING TIMES

MONDAY: 20:15 - 21:15 (TEENS & ADULTS - ALL GRADES)
TUESDAY: 16:30 - 17:30 (KIDS CLUB - AGE 8 - 16)
THURSDAY: 20:15 - 21:15 (TEENS & ADULTS - BROWN/BLACK BELTS)
SATURDAY: 13:30 - 15:00 (KIDS (11 & OVER) & ADULTS - ALL GRADES)

We are always open to new members, whether you're experienced, just beginning or coming from a different style. Feel free to come along for a free session and watch or join in. No need to book.

Shotokan Karate is a traditional martial art and combines elements of self-defence, sports and fitness training and discipline. Suitable for anyone regardless of age or ability.

Contact Rangan at rangan.ravindran@googlemail.com or Alice at alicemariaguellich@hotmail.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook

Visit our website

HD KI

Would you like to try table tennis?

Free taster session for all
by Guildford Table Tennis Association

Christ's College, Larch Avenue, Guildford, GU1 1JY
Saturday 12th September 2026 from 2PM to 5PM



Beginners welcome.

Wear comfortable sports clothes, trainers and bring a water bottle.
Bats and balls provided. Stay for as long as you want!

Come down to practice, play and have fun!



If you have any questions, please email Adam at the below email address.

adamlaws80@gmail.com
Website: <https://guildford.ttleagues.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuildfordTableTennis>