

# George Abbot Bulletin

25 September 2026



All

The Autumn Term is proceeding at pace! We only have three weeks left until half term, which this year, is our first ever two-week break at this point in the year. We are just getting into our school rhythm, and then a hiatus. One consequence of the two-week break is that we are doing more things in less time!

Thank you to all of our parents who have attended our Parent Information Evenings this month; the pastoral teams have truly appreciated your partnership as the school year has got underway. We hope they have been useful and offer important time to connect with our George Abbot community. Likewise, our Form Tutor appointments were really well attended and our Form Tutors enjoyed meeting you and having the opportunity to build a meaningful partnership with our parents and carers.

Sporting events have been numerous; a few important victories cannot go unmentioned:

Netball: Y7 district tournament, eight local schools involved with more than twelve teams in attendance. Y8 are through to second round of Sisters n Sport national competition.

Girls football: Y8 win against Farnham Heath End. Y9 are through to second round of National Cup.

Football: U18 are through to second round of National Cup.

Rugby: Y10 and Y11 teams attended Guildford rugby festivals, multiple wins against other local schools.

Swimming: Yrs 7-13, with many 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place positions.

Our now annual Year 7 mini musicals are being staged on the 6 and 7 October - rehearsals are well underway and as ever, anticipation is building. Regular readers will have heard me mention the power of music on more than one occasion (!), but seeing our youngest cohort growing in confidence, learning new skills, working as a team, developing the discipline of performance is a treat to behold. We are halfway through our Year 6 parent tours and as usual, your children have been an absolute credit to you and us. Our visitors have made comments such as:

"it's so quiet and focussed"

"it doesn't feel like there are 2000 students at all"

"the students seem to be really enjoying school"

"the atmosphere is nice here"

We know that every day is not always rosy for every one of us, but we aim for that, for all of us, every day. We work hard to shape the culture at George Abbot. We have high standards and we are privileged to support your children in exceeding them.

Kate Carriett  
Headteacher

| Notices       | w/c 28 September - Week A<br>w/c 5 October - Week B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Whole School  | <p><b>Flu vaccination catch-up session - 3 December 2026</b></p> <p>If your child did not receive the flu vaccine (nasal spray) on 16 September, you can still complete the consent form, and your child will receive the vaccination on 3 December. If you have any questions regarding the immunisations, please contact: <a href="mailto:Scfh.immunisations@HCRGCareGroup.com">Scfh.immunisations@HCRGCareGroup.com</a></p> <p><b>Prayer Room</b></p> <p>A prayer area for Muslims is available in the Vault, Elmslie, for students and staff who wish to perform prayer during the school day. It's available every day during Break 3, with the Friday sermon also taking place there on Fridays. Please come early to allow enough time to get ready and find a place to pray.</p> <p><b>Parking reminder</b></p> <p>A request to please not drop off your child/ren in the small driveway on the approach to the school (Charlock way). It can become easily congested and we wish to keep our pupils safe as well as ensure access for the school bus. We appreciate your support in this matter.</p> <p><b>Mobile phone pouches</b></p> <p>To support a mobile free childhood, we expect all students to place their phone in a signal blocking pouch. These can be paid for via MCAS and the cost is £9.75. We appreciate your active support with this important working initiative. Students entitled to Pupil Premium do not have to pay for their pouch.</p> |
| Years 7 to 11 | <p><b>Sparx Reader</b></p> <p>All students are assigned Sparx Reader as part of their English homework in years 7-11. Sparx is a tool which is designed to suggest books based on a child's reading ability, gradually increasing in difficulty as reading skills improve. Sparx points are earned through slow, deliberate reading, and students will be most successful if they take their time and read each passage carefully, concentrating on both explicit and implicit meaning.</p> <p>Sparx is not designed to replace reading for pleasure, and we strongly encourage students to read a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction in their own time. Students who regularly exceed their Sparx Reader Points target will unlock Gold Reader and be able to read a book of their choice alongside their Sparx comprehension title.</p> <p>Please email Mrs Staniforth or Mr Dixon if you have any questions about Sparx Reader.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Notices | w/c 28 September - Week A<br>w/c 5 October - Week B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Year 10 | <p><b>Year 10 December RE Mock Assessment</b></p> <p>Year 10 students will complete their Religious Education Mock Assessment on the week commencing 15 December.</p> <p>The assessment will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian Beliefs</li> <li>• Christian Practices</li> <li>• Buddhist Beliefs</li> <li>• Buddhist Practices</li> </ul> <p>Students should use their class notes, knowledge organisers, and revision materials to review key beliefs, teachings, practices and religious sources of authority from both religions. If a student requires any extra support or material, please can they ask their RE teachers for any resources or check the SLE in the year 10 summer revision folder for helpful resources.</p> <p>This assessment is an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding and identify areas for further development as they continue their GCSE studies.</p> <p>More communication about the after-school revision sessions will be sent closer to the time of the exam please keep an eye in the bulletin.</p> <p>Thank you for your support in encouraging effective revision at home.</p> <p>Mr Clarke</p> <p><b>Option changes</b></p> <p>The deadline for changes to GCSE options is Monday 28 September. No requests will be actioned after this date.</p> |

## YEAR 7, 8 and 9 AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB FOR YOUNG CARERS

We are delighted to announce the start of an after-school drama club, originally offered to Year 7 and 8 students who are young carers , but we are now able to open this to Year 9 young carers. This is in collaboration with the Guildford Shakespeare Company. The club will run every Wednesday from 30 September from 3.15 - 4.45pm. If your son or daughter is interested, please contact Mrs Batcheler (cbatcheler@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) by Tuesday 29 September. They are able to bring a friend from school, but this must be communicated to Mrs Batcheler.

## Art achievement

Well done to Ruby, whose artwork, Deutsche Mann, has been accepted into the open call exhibition for the 2026 Guildford Festival of the Arts. We are delighted to see her creativity and hard work being recognised beyond the school. It is a wonderful reflection of her talent, commitment and artistic voice.



## English achievement

We have a published author in our midst! Emma learned about a Young Writers competition through the English Department and went on to write a poem entitled "Sometimes I Wish". The poem was published in August in the anthology "I Have a Dream". Emma has also written a short story, "All I Wanted Was Freedom", which has been selected for inclusion in the forthcoming book "Wanted - Awesome Tales". We are delighted by her achievement and congratulate her on this wonderful success.

## Enrichment

We are delighted to offer a huge range of clubs and events for the pupils at George Abbot. Staff are busy putting the details of their clubs onto MCAS so please do look to see what is available to your child. You can see an overview of what is on offer here: [GAB Enrichment](#)

Please see the performing arts brochure here - [Performing Arts](#)



## Year 11 Hampton Court Palace Trip

It was a true delight to take our Y11 History students to Hampton Court Palace. There were lots of gasps and "wows" and pointing to the many features we've learned about in the classroom. We had a fascinating talk from palace staff and got to explore the spaces once occupied by Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell and William III. The students were engaged and curious and a real credit to the school.

### Might your child qualify for free enrichment opportunities?

The school gets offers for free extra programs (like Saturday schools for careers in law, medicine, or banking). Many of these opportunities have places reserved for students whose parents didn't go to university. Because the school doesn't currently keep track of which parents went to university, we're asking parents in this category to fill out a quick form [Parent information – Fill in form](#) so we will know your child is eligible when these opportunities pop up.

## Movement breaks for those with SEND needs

This year we are reducing the number of out of class movement breaks allowed. This is in line with research that suggests students will achieve better, the more they are in class. Identified students are being given new movement break cards this week. The vast majority of students will be allowed:

- a "brain break" in class to stop work and apply relaxation strategies before carrying on
- A movement break in class allowing them to get up and move around in class, possibly to hand out resources or to stretch and move at the back of the room where appropriate. Students and staff have exercise cards they can use in their seat or at the back of the room.

A small number of students will have a movement break outside of the classroom, giving them permission to check-in with an identified staff member and then return to class.

If you have any questions about movement breaks, please email the Year Group Deputy SENCO.

## Group Instrumental Lessons

After a very successful pilot last term, we are delighted to be able to offer 10-week course of group instrumental lessons on the following instruments: Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone.

There are 5 places available for each of the following groups:

Mondays, 3.30 - 4.00: Trumpet

Mondays, 4.00 - 4.30: Trombone

Tuesdays, 3.30 - 4.00: Flute (beginners)

Tuesdays, 4.00 - 4.30: Flute (intermediate/returning players)

Thursdays, 3.30 - 4.00: Clarinet (beginners)

Thursdays, 4.00 - 4.30: Saxophone (intermediate/returning players)

Please book places via MCAS. Lessons will start next week (w/c 28 September). If, when booking, you select to hire an instrument, this will be provided at your first lesson. Students who successfully book a place should come to the Music department on their allotted day/time. The cost of this scheme is £7.75 per lesson. For eligible students, the cost of lessons can be paid for by their entitlement to Pupil Premium.



**SURREY ARTS**

**MUSIC LESSONS WITH SURREY ARTS**

10 weekly 30 minute group lessons

- TRUMPET or TROMBONE - Mondays 3.30pm & 4pm
- FLUTE - Tuesdays 3.30pm & 4pm
- SAXOPHONE or CLARINET - Thursdays 3.30pm & 4pm

£7.75 per lesson including instrument hire.

To register:  
E: [mhartley@georgeabbotsurrey.sch.uk](mailto:mhartley@georgeabbotsurrey.sch.uk)  
Further details can be found on Student Bulletin.

[surreycc.gov.uk/music](http://surreycc.gov.uk/music)

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

### **Building a stronger school community**

It's happening! Building work has started on the new dining hall and the PTA has paid the first £20,000 instalment of our £80,000 contribution.

That's an amazing achievement - thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered, bought a cake, attended an event, run a bar, bought uniform or supported us in countless other ways. But we're not quite there yet! We still need to raise around £18,000 (we'll have the final figure after the AGM). One last push and we can get this over the line.

### **Christmas Fair - save the date: 22 November**

This year is promising to be our biggest Christmas Fair yet. Our Christmas elves are taming the reindeer, untangling the lights and dusting down the tinsel... Fancy adding a bit of early Christmas cheer to your life? Join the Christmas Fair team - whether you can spare an hour, help beforehand or get stuck in on the day, we'd love to have you. [Join the Christmas Fair WhatsApp group](#)

### **Could you lend us your front garden?**

Seymours are sponsoring the Christmas Fair and every advertising board they put up raises money for the PTA. They still have room for a few more. It costs you nothing and requires almost no effort - possibly the easiest bit of fundraising you'll do all year! [Sign up for a Christmas Fair board](#) - deadline 3 October.

### **New Year 7 parents - wine & cheese**

Our New Parents' Wine & Cheese evening is on Thursday 8 October, 7–9pm, in the Sixth Form Centre. It's a relaxed evening and a great chance to meet other new parents and find out a little more about the school community.

### **Come and meet your PTA**

Our AGM is Monday 5 October at 6pm in the Elmslie Conference Room (just above reception). We'll find out exactly where we are with the £80,000 dining hall target, look back at what we achieved last year and talk about what comes next. Come along, listen, have an opinion or bring an idea. You don't have to join a committee! Our mission is simple: to enrich the experience of pupils at George Abbot. How we do that depends on the ideas and help of our school community.

**We have an urgent request for a new PTA secretary. Offers/enquiries to [g.abbot.pta@gmail.com](mailto:g.abbot.pta@gmail.com)**

### **Coming up at school**

Mini Musicals - 6 & 7 October

Good luck to all the brilliant Year 7s taking part! The PTA will be running the bar both evenings - and we could particularly use another pair of hands-on 6 October.

### **Duke of Edinburgh - 8 October**

Well done to all the students who have completed their expedition. We'll be there running the bar for the event too. If you can occasionally spare an hour to help at events like these, we'd love to hear from you.

### **Sound bath, anyone?**

One of our lovely new parents is a sound therapist and has offered to run a sound bath fundraiser for the PTA. Interested? Know something about sound baths? Or fancy helping us organise it?

### **Keep in touch**

[Follow @ga\\_school\\_pta on Instagram](#)

[Follow George Abbot Parents on Facebook](#)

[See what's coming up on the PTA website](#)

Email us :[g.abbot.pta@gmail.com](mailto:g.abbot.pta@gmail.com)

And, of course, you can always [donate or sponsor the PTA](#).

Thank you for being part of it.

# Careers

## Supporting Your Child's Future with

**CAREERS ... at George Abbot**

EXPLORE

ASPIRE

ACHIEVE

As a school, we use Unifrog to support students with career exploration, education pathways, skills development, and planning for their future. As parents/carers, you may sign up for your own account allowing you to become more involved in these important conversations and better support your child as they make decisions about their next steps.

### What are the benefits of a Parent/Carer Account?

A Unifrog parent/carers account gives you access to a wealth of information and resources, including:

- Information about careers, apprenticeships and university pathways
- Parent-focused guides, webinars and resources
- Access to the same career and progression tools that students use
- Information about careers-related opportunities and events
- The ability to support and discuss options with your child using reliable, up-to-date information

### What will I be able to see?

Your parent/carers account is linked to your child's Unifrog account, allowing you to see useful information such as:

- Careers and progression-related events
- Activities and interactions recorded within Unifrog
- General progress and planning information that can help support conversations at home

### What won't I be able to see?

Parent/carers accounts are designed to support students while still respecting their independence and privacy. You will not have unrestricted access to everything within your child's account. Access is limited to information that helps you support their future planning and progression discussions.

### How do I get access?

You can create your account through the Unifrog Parent portal by going to [www.unifrog.org/parent](http://www.unifrog.org/parent). We encourage all parents and carers to make use of this excellent resource. Exploring Unifrog alongside your child can be a great way to support meaningful conversations about careers, further education, apprenticeships, and future aspirations. Please contact the careers team if you have any questions or any problems accessing your account on [ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ceg@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

### Careers Resources Board

The Careers Resources Board is updated on a regular basis, and includes apprenticeship information and opportunities, university and UCAS information/events as well as a section dedicated to parent/carers information/resources. Pupils can 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.

# GUILDFORD 11-19 PARTNERSHIP



October 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.*

IMAG are pleased to invite you and your parents to Guildford High School for a lecture titled **'Developing Your Roadmap to Top-Ranked US Universities: Building Your 3-Dimensional Profile'**. The event is free to attend and is aimed at students interested in studying at US universities. Parents are warmly welcome to join.

## IMAG Developing Your Roadmap to Top-Ranked US Universities: Building Your 3-Dimensional Profile

Date: **Monday 12 October**

Time: **7 – 8.30pm**

Venue: **Guildford High School**

Cost: **Free**

Target: **Y9 - Y12**

Places: **Limited**

*Matthew Ding, US Strategy Consultant at Crimson Education, will offer a clear, behind-the-scenes look at building a strong profile for top-ranked US universities. Top 30 US universities look beyond grades — to academics, extracurricular activities, competitions and awards, essays, recommendations, and interviews. Families will leave with a clearer understanding of the journey ahead.*

Please visit the IMAG website to **register your attendance**:

[www.imag.education/events](http://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](http://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.

**IMAG**

**IS YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER LOOKING FOR A NEW TEAM FOR SEASON 2026/27?**

**SEND UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

**SEND UNITED U13 MOVING TO U14's**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CURRENT SQUAD?**

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AS WE ARE HAVING OPEN TRAINING SESSIONS

**TUESDAYS 18:30 - 19:30**

**@ SEND RECREATION GROUND**

**WE PLAY IN THE NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS LOOKING TO PLAY UP A YEAR ALSO GET IN TOUCH IF THEY ARE IN YEARS 8 & 9 AT SCHOOL**

**WINTER TRAINING IS HELD AT WOKING SPORTS BOX ON 3G**

**Get in touch!**

SendUnitedFootballClub@gmail.com

Contact Chris Delle 07872 573022 @sendunit13

**TEAM | RESPECT | DEVELOPMENT | TOGETHER**

*More Than Just A Club*

# Guildford Book Festival

Opening Books. Inspiring Minds.

**3 — 18 OCTOBER 2026**

WELL-KNOWN AUTHORS  
WORKSHOPS & TALKS  
FAMILY EVENTS

**guildfordbookfestival.co.uk**

Books featured: *Farewell To Eden*, *Sebastian Faulks*, *Drawn + Nature*, *MARY PORTAS*, *THE EYN RET*, *AMY JEFFREY*, *ARTHUR*, *ALISON WEIR*

**SURREY ARTS**

## MUSIC LESSONS AT GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Lessons include:

**Flute | Guitar | Drums**  
**Clarinet | French Horn**  
**Alto Sax | Ukulele | Voice**  
**Trumpet | Piano | Trombone**

- Weekly lessons from £18.30
- Financial assistance subject to meeting eligibility criteria
- Affordable instrument hire

T: 01483 519303  
E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk

Apply online at: **surreycc.gov.uk/music**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

# 21

**for 21**

## Charity Run

24th and 25th October  
Merrist Wood College, Guildford

A weekend of running (or walking!) food, drinks & music!

On 28th October, Charlie would have been celebrating his 21st birthday.

Help us raise £21,000 in his memory, and help keep young people safe.

You don't need to be a runner. Walk, jog or run, every distance, open to all abilities.

**Sign up, prices & full details**

Scan here

or visit [www.charliespromise.org/21for21charityrun](http://www.charliespromise.org/21for21charityrun)

Registered Charity No. 1207246

**Saturday 24 October**

- 2.1km Family Fun Run Reg Barn - Start 9am
- 5km Charity Run Reg Barn - Start 9:20am
- 10km Charity Run Reg Barn - Start 1:30pm

**Sunday 25 October**

- 21km Charity Run Reg Barn - Start 9am
- 21km Charity Walk Reg Barn - Start 9:05am

**ALBURY FC**

## ALBURY U12s

### NEW PLAYERS WANTED

**PLAY LEARN BELONG**

**Training: Tuesdays 6.30pm-8pm**

**Venue: Mewrow Junior School**

**Matches: Saturdays**

**All abilities welcome**

**Come and join a fun, friendly team!**

- Great coaching
- Team spirit
- Make new friends

**CONTACT US**

[www.alburyfc.co.uk/contact](http://www.alburyfc.co.uk/contact)

**ALBURY FC**

## 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 Mewrow, 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](http://www.coaching-with-claire.co.uk)

07899048563

*...Growing Confidence for Life*



### ARE YOU A PARENT OR CARER OF AN AUTISTIC CHILD?

You're not alone—and you don't have to figure everything out by yourself. Whether your child has a diagnosis or you're still exploring things—you are very welcome to join our **small, welcoming, parent-led support group in Guildford** where you can connect with others who truly understand what day-to-day life can be like.

#### What is the group like?

Our meet-ups are **informal and relaxed**—there's no pressure to talk, share, or attend regularly. You can:

- Chat with other parents who "get it"
- Share experiences, challenges, or small wins
- Ask questions or swap practical information
- Or simply sit, listen, and have a cup of tea

Many parents tell us it's a relief just to be in a room where they don't have to explain everything.

#### We run groups for families of:

- Autistic children (of all ages)
- Autistic girls
- Children with Pathological Demand Avoidance
- Autistic adults
- Partners and spouses

#### We also offer:

- Talks and workshops
- Family activities (including siblings)
- An online forum for ongoing support
- Signposting to local services

Our Guildford group meets regularly in a relaxed, supportive setting. To find out more or join us contact: **Sarah Roberts** (parent volunteer)  
[sarah.roberts@nas-volunteers.org.uk](mailto:sarah.roberts@nas-volunteers.org.uk)

We know it can feel daunting to come along for the first time. Feel free to get in touch beforehand, to ask questions or just have a chat.

We are part of the National Autistic Society, 2nd Floor, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk). Registered charity, number 269425.