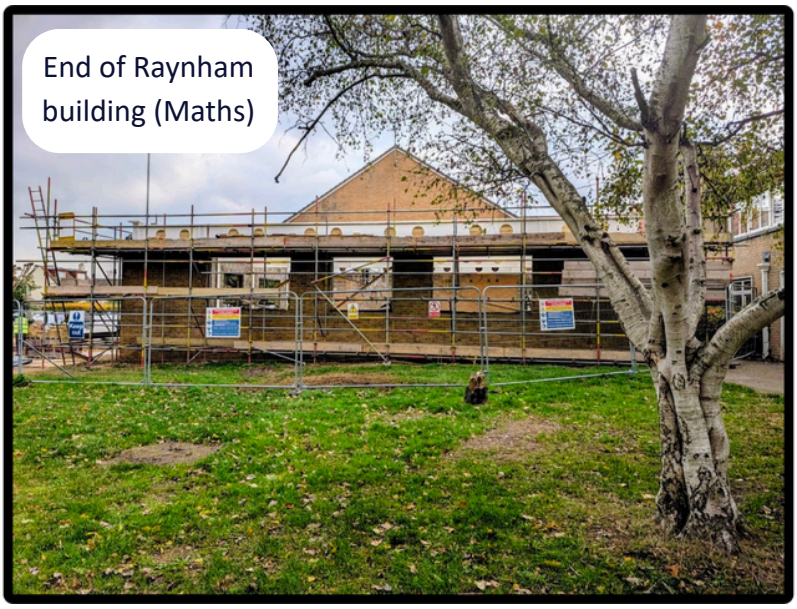
# George Abbot Bulletin

**6 November 2026**

All

We hope you all had a good half term with your young people; it is really good to see them back, revived and ready for work.

First an update on our dining room building project. As you can see from this picture, work is well under way for this single storey extension. This will be a space for 200 students to sit and eat, chat and be warm and dry at breaktimes - much needed. It is on target for February completion and usage. We have ensured the foundations are deep enough to go up a floor in the future (once more funds have been accumulated!) Thank you to everybody that has contributed to the PTA's fundraising efforts for this big project.



End of Raynham building (Maths)




On the theme of PTA, one of the most important fundraising events of the year is approaching with speed; our Christmas fair is taking place on Sunday 22 November, 12-3pm. Further details are included herein.

Lastly, another reminder to save the date for our big Christmas at the Cathedral concert; 4 of our local primary schools are taking part with us and ticket sales will commence next week. Look out for standalone comms and please do bring friends and family to celebrate the season with us. Christmas at the Cathedral, Thursday 3rd December, 7:30pm. Please save the date!

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Registered office: Learning Partners, c/o GU2 4LU

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

## Notices

**Library News!**

With Halloween now behind us, the library has a brand-new display: From Page to Screen. Students can explore a range of fantastic books that have inspired popular films and television adaptations. The display celebrates the original stories and encourages students to discover the books behind some familiar favourites.

**Creative Reading Competition**

To celebrate reading, we are launching a school-wide Creative Reading Competition.

**How to enter:**

Read a book of your choice.

Create something inspired by the book.

Submit your entry to the library.

Students can choose any creative format, including:

- Artwork or illustrations or posters
- Models or crafts
- Creative writing or poems
- Comic strips
- Book reviews
- Digital creations
- Any other creative response inspired by their reading

Prizes will be awarded for the most creative entries. Every student who enters will receive House Points for taking part.

**Why Reading for Pleasure Matters**

Reading for pleasure is one of the most powerful ways young people can develop their literacy, vocabulary, creativity and wellbeing. Research from the National Literacy Trust found that reading regularly can help students to:

- Develop a wider vocabulary
- Improve concentration and academic achievement
- Build empathy and understanding of others
- Reduce stress and support wellbeing
- Increase confidence and creativity

We hope this competition inspires students to discover a great book and share their creativity with our school community.

**Closing Date: 23 November**

**Important Information for Parents**

Some books in the library are recommended for older readers due to their themes, complexity or content. If your child is in Year 7 or Year 8 and would like to borrow a book identified as 13+ or 14+, parental permission is required. Parents wishing to give permission should please email vdemidova@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote a love of reading and lifelong learning.

## Notices

**Parking on Woodruff Avenue**

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers of GA6 students who drive. Please park considerately along Wooodruff Avenue. Earlier this week, one of our Compass buses experienced great difficulty navigating through the area due to parked vehicles, and we would hate for any vehicles to be damaged as a result.

**Seeking sponsorship for a Formula 24 project**

Some of our GA6 students would like to get involved in Formula 24 - this involves building a kit car and racing it. We need to raise £3,475 to buy the kit car from an organisation called Greenpower who run the youth challenge project.

Do we have any car enthusiasts, engineers or racing industry professionals who would be willing to donate any amount towards this total?

Do we have any links to companies who might be willing to sponsor this project?

If you can help us in any way, please email cbrinsden@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk

Thank you!

**Royal Marines Concert - 50% Ticket Discount**

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines (Collingwood) will be performing at Camberley Theatre on Thursday 4 February 2027 at 7.30pm.

Surrey Arts has secured a 50% discount on tickets for pupils, families and staff. The discount is available on a first-come, first-served basis and will automatically expire once 50 tickets have been purchased.

To obtain the discount code and booking instructions, please complete this form.

This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a live performance by one of the UK's premier military bands at a reduced price.

## Enrichment

**Year 13 Geography field trip**

Our Year 13 Geography students enjoyed a fantastic field trip, bringing classroom learning to life. From exploring sand dune ecosystems at Brean Beach and regeneration in Cardiff Bay, to peatland management in the Brecon Beacons and venturing underground into a working coal mine, students gained valuable first-hand experiences. A lively laser tag session added some team-building fun! Throughout the trip, students showed excellent enthusiasm and engagement, representing the school exceptionally well.





**Senior Choir Tour**

31 members of the George Abbot Senior Choir spent 5 days in Belgium over the October half term. We were based in Flanders Lodge, Ypres, and were able to explore the beautiful towns of both Ypres and Bruges, learning much about their history, as well as sampling (many) chocolates and waffles. The choir performed two concerts, both very well attended by both locals and tourists. The tour concluded on Sunday night with the choir taking part in the daily Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres. It was an immense privilege to be able to do so and provided a moving and meaningful experience that will stay long in the memory for all who took part. Huge thanks from the Music staff to all the students who took part in this tour - we are already looking forward to the next one!

**Assembly**

This week's assembly linked the themes of Remembrance Day and Anti-Bullying Week, encouraging students to reflect on the importance of courage, respect and standing up for others. Students learned about the significance of remembrance and heard inspiring stories of individuals who showed bravery and strong moral character in difficult circumstances. The assembly highlighted how prejudice, exclusion and silence can contribute to harm, whether on a global scale or in everyday school life.

A key message was that everyone has a role in creating a kind and inclusive community. Students were encouraged to challenge bullying, support those who may feel isolated, and think carefully about their behaviour both in person and online. The theme of anti-bullying week is "Break the Silence", encouraging children, young people and adults across the UK to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together.

The assembly concluded by reminding students that the lessons of the past can help guide our actions today: showing empathy, speaking up when something is wrong, and treating others with kindness and respect.

**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.

# Careers

CAREERS ... at George Abbot
EXPLORE ASPIRE ACHIEVE

**Careers Fair**

We are delighted to be hosting our **Daytime Careers Fair** on **Thursday 12 November from 9:00am to 1:30pm.**

The event will provide students with an excellent opportunity to meet a wide range of employers, industry professionals, colleges, and other post-16 education and career pathway organisations. Students will be able to explore different career options, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into future opportunities.

All students will have the opportunity at some point in the day to visit and meet the exhibitors. In addition, we will also be running a series of workplace and employability skills activities for **Year 8 students**, delivered by employer partners. These sessions are designed to help students develop key skills for the workplace and will complement their visit to the Careers Fair.

In the lead-up to the event, students will complete a number of pre- and post-event activities which will help students prepare for conversations with employers and reflect on what they have learned, ensuring they gain the maximum benefit from the experience.

We are excited to offer this opportunity and look forward to seeing our students engage with a range of inspiring employers and education providers as they begin to explore their future career pathways.

Please support and encourage your young person to click on the logos for links to some of the employers that are kindly supporting our event as part of their research in the run up to the event.

AIRBUS
LUSH
marston holdings
freedomleisure where you matter
RHS
COTEQ SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
THAKEHAM
SCOTT BROWNRIGG
NHS
ACTIVATE LEARNING
BROOKLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Scitech EKIUM
ARMY BE THE BEST
WOKING 18 87 FOOTBALL CLUB
savills
HARDING FINANCIAL
Lagden Ltd
Joseph Joseph
MANDOLAY One Unique Hotel Infinite Possibilities
POTENTIAL U EDUCATION
CITY OF LONDON

# PTA

**Building a stronger home-school community**

## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place from 12-3pm on Sunday 22 November, and there is so much to tell you about it! We will have 40 stalls ranging from candles to kimono fabric crafts, Christmas decorations to handmade jewellery, so think of it more as a Christmas Shopping Event than a School Fair... There'll be hot food, mulled wine, hot chocolate, excellent fresh brownies and cookies, and other refreshments.

The raffle is now live; you can buy your tickets here: https://tinyurl.com/xmas-raffle-26. Seymours are once again providing the top prize of £250 cash, but we also have a £100 John Lewis voucher from SkyLofts, a £150 Fortnum & Mason hamper from Leaf Living and a mattress from Emma Guildford with an RRP of £330! There are over 50 prizes in total, with a combined value of over £2,500, so definitely worth splashing out on a few tickets!

For more details please see Christmas Fair

**How you can help:**

- Come along on the day! Entry is £1 for adults, kids go free.
- Fund matching: if you work for a company who offers fund matching, please contact us.
- We are now collecting any unwanted Gifts and Goodies. Please drop donations to the (festive-looking) box in Elmslie reception.
- Mathnasium have offered 1 month of tuition for auction, which is available for bidding HERE
- Emma Guildford (located at 69 North Street, next to Itsu, opposite Decathlon) are also offering all GA customers 5% discount until Christmas Day by quoting ABBOT5.

All Christmas Fair enquiries: please contact Kristi on **gachristmasfair@gmail.com**

Call Out for 'Prize' Donations…
to be brought into school
on **Friday 20th November 2026**
in support of the
GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS AND CRAFT FAIR

Each year, we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our community in giving donations of 'prizes' that can be awarded at the PTA's annual Christmas Fair; an event that raises much-needed funds for the school.
It is that time of year again, that the school and PTA are calling upon your trademark generosity.
In exchange for a prize donation, your child will:

- be allowed to come to school in non-school uniform on Friday 20th November
- receive 5 Bromcom House Points from their Form Tutor.

We are asking as many George Abbot students as possible to:
1. Bring one item that can be used as a Christmas Fair prize:
- boxes or bags of chocolates or sweets
- non-alcoholic bottled drinks (not energy drinks)
- NOTE: Alcoholic drinks may be donated, but…

*…These should be brought into school by parents and left at the Elmslie Reception, where parents will be asked to leave details of their child's name and form, so that they may receive House Points.*

2. Bring in donations on Friday 20th November, to Form Rooms. Form Tutors will note the student's name and award them 5 House Points!

# PTA

**Building a stronger home-school community**

## Evening Talks







Not one but two interesting evening events coming up...

- First of all, at 7 pm on Thursday 12 November, there will be another opportunity to see the People's Emergency Briefing. Did you notice that this summer was a little warmer than usual...? If you haven't seen it yet, this is your chance to find out what's really going on with the climate - what the experts know, what the consequences will be for food prices, military security, immigration, our economy and much more, and what we can do about it - as shown to politicians at Westminster late last year. Definitely not to be missed. Recommended age 16+. This event will take place in Elmslie Conference Room, upstairs behind Elmslie Reception (there's something else going on in Elmslie Hall). It would be very helpful if you'd book a (free) ticket at https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124338.
- Then, at 7 pm on Wednesday 18 November in Elmslie Hall, Patrick Lalor will tell us some of the exciting history of aviation's pioneers, culminating in the definitive contribution made by the Wright Brothers and their historic first flight; details at https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gapta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=114604.

If you know of any interesting speakers that we could include on our agenda, please get in touch.

**Can you type? Please help!**

Our constitution, in line with Charity Commission expectations, requires us to have a secretary... At the moment the post is vacant. Can you please help? There isn't much work involved... it's mainly preparing agenda and minutes for meetings once or twice per term. Talking of which...

**PTA meeting cancelled**

I know you were all looking forward to joining in... but the PTA meeting anticipated for 16 November has been cancelled, as we're all just concentrating on preparations for the Christmas Fair. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 22 instead!

**Quiz night: organiser needed**

Are you organised - and good at organising others? At the moment we don't have anybody in place to make arrangements for our Quiz Night, which is foreseen for 5 March. Please get in touch if you think you might be able to help.

# Learning Partners Trust Christmas Card Competition 2026

## 🎄 Get Creative This Christmas! 🎄

With Christmas now on the horizon, it's time to get into the festive spirit!
Learning Partners Trust is delighted to announce the return of its much-loved annual Trust Christmas Card Competition, and we can't wait to see the creativity and imagination on display once again.

**Competition Categories**

There are four entry categories:

⭐ EYFS & KS1
⭐ KS2
⭐ KS3
⭐ KS4 & KS5

**Entry Guidelines**

- Designs can be created using:
- Pencil
- Felt-tip pens
- Paint
- Photographs
- Mixed media (a combination of different materials and techniques)

**Deadline**

📅 Monday 23 November 2026
Entries should be submitted to tutors by this date.
Tutors will make a digital copy of entries and shortlist them for submission to the Trust.
Please ensure every entry is clearly labelled with the pupil's name and year group.

**Prizes and Recognition**

🏆 One winning design will be selected from each category and featured as part of the Trust's official Christmas e-card.
🎁 Winners will receive a prize, presented by the Jack Mayhew, CEO.
🌟 Winners will also be celebrated (with permission) across Trust communications, including:

- Trust website
- Staff intranet
- Parent/carer newsletter
- Social media channels

We Can't Wait to See Your Designs! Get your festive thinking caps on and start creating. Good luck to everyone taking part!













Tickets can be purchased here