

ABINGDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



“There are not enough superlatives to describe this school. Never has a school given so much opportunity and support to its pupils, the perfect balance of enjoyment and hard work.”

Year 8 Leaver





*I am confident that when you visit us at Abingdon Prep, you will find a happy and thriving community. We are fortunate to be set in 50 acres of beautiful countryside within easy reach of Oxford, Abingdon and many surrounding villages. From the ages of 4 to 13+, every child is treated as an individual and encouraged to explore and develop his/her own talents. Our pupils enjoy school and develop a genuine love of learning, benefiting from our superb facilities and “outstanding” pastoral care. As part of the Abingdon Foundation it is no surprise that “outstanding” teaching, individual attention and small class sizes deliver consistently excellent results and many scholarship successes. However, it is not just in the classroom where pupils are given the opportunity to excel. Our renowned Other Half of the curriculum promotes a healthy balance between academic rigour and a wide variety of other artistic, musical, sporting, intellectual and outdoor pursuits, providing a tremendous all-round education for every pupil. I look forward to welcoming you to our School.*

*C. Hyde-Dunn*

Crispin Hyde-Dunn, *Headmaster*



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## academic

Abingdon Prep's approach to the academic curriculum, as described by a parent, is "quietly rigorous" and the School's academic credentials are second to none. Each year the majority of boys move onto Abingdon, the senior school, with others winning places at leading secondary schools, including Radley College, Magdalen College and St Edward's. From Year 8, academically able boys are challenged within a scholarship set and all boys are thoroughly prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarship exams. We fully expect all final year boys to gain places at the senior school of their choice and, in recent years, an ever-increasing number of pupils have gained awards. We teach the standard Foundation Year Programme in Reception followed by the National Curriculum in Years 1-6 and the Common Entrance syllabuses in Years 7 and 8. Full curriculum details can be found on our website at [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/curriculum\\_by\\_year](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/curriculum_by_year)





“The high number of scholarships for academic achievement, sport, music, drama and art is a testament to the excellent standards many pupils achieve by the time they leave school.”

ISI report 2011

## sport

Although class sizes are small, there are two classes in each year group from the age of seven which enable the School to field strong sporting teams whilst giving everyone a chance to play, no matter what their ability. Pupils are encouraged to find a sport that they enjoy and many earn their colours as they move up the School. We teach the value of sport for all and have a wide variety of activities to suit all abilities and interests, with sailing, fencing, judo, golf, tennis, badminton, volleyball and rifle shooting supporting our core sports of rugby, football, cricket, hockey and swimming. Often a year group's A, B and C teams will all play fixtures, with the first teams competing against other leading prep schools. The School's sporting reputation is excellent with several unbeaten teams in most years and boys reaching elite squads for rugby, cricket and football as well as Master of Arms for fencing.

In 2011 we launched the Abingdon Prep School Sports Academy which runs courses for children aged 5-13. Sports include rugby, cricket and multi-activity and children benefit from specialist coaching from experienced external and school staff.



## music

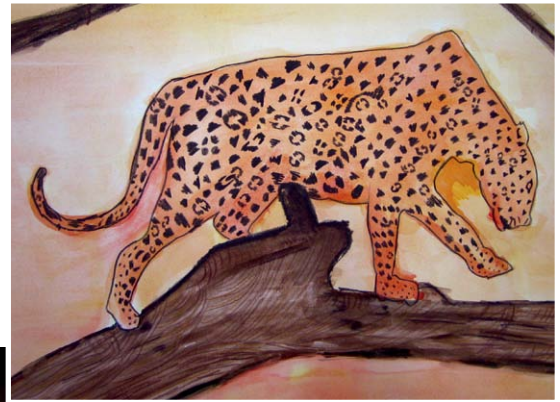
With a full-time Director of Music and music lessons beginning in Reception, pupils experience a wide range of music including jazz, brass, acoustic guitar and strings plus our two choirs, the orchestra and wind band. There is plenty of opportunity to perform, whether a beginner or proficient, at the House Music Competition, informal recitals or at our flagship concerts at Christmas and in the summer. We offer lessons, including free 'taster' lessons, on a wide range of instruments from violin, cello and guitar to trombone, euphonium, mandolin and piano. Increasing numbers of children take the Associated Board instrumental exams and achieve excellent results. All abilities are catered for and to play for enjoyment as well as improvement is very much encouraged.



"The pupils' achievement and progress throughout the School is outstanding."

## art

Abingdon Prep has an excellent reputation for art. Our stunning new art room has facilities for ceramics, print and, of course, drawing and painting. Visiting artists are frequently invited to run workshops and pupils study a broad curriculum of styles and media. Each year pupils enjoy trips to varied locations including Modern Art Oxford, the London galleries and the Botanical Gardens. In addition to timetabled art lessons, there is a flourishing art club – open to all – where pupils enjoy a relaxed chance to be creative. Our Invitation Art and Advanced Drawing clubs provide the opportunity for able pupils to enjoy detailed study and these pupils have a successful track record for winning artistic awards to senior schools.



## drama

Drama is enjoyed by all our pupils and we have recently invested in a bespoke drama studio. Every year group is involved from the nativity play in Pre-prep to an ambitious Upper School production, such as the recent musical, *Peter Pan*, with a large cast performing to packed houses at Abingdon's Amey Theatre. The discipline of auditioning and attending rehearsals, often over several months, is rewarding and staging successful performances to large audiences is an enormous achievement. Several boys have gone on to perform in the West End and in TV productions and to win drama scholarships to their senior schools.



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## the other half

Abingdon Prep is justly proud of its tremendous reputation for extra-curricular or Other Half activities. We have over fifty activities taking place each term and there is something for everyone from Art, Drama, Music and Sport, to general interest including Fun with Food, Science, Touch Typing and the Environment Club.

Children are encouraged to explore the many opportunities available to them and our aim is for pupils to enjoy varied interests and to try something new. The Other Half is about spending time outside the classroom with teachers and friends. At Abingdon Prep we recognise that so much of our children's confidence comes from the excellent relationships built up with staff as they continue their learning beyond the classroom. We aim to inspire young minds, not just by excellent teaching and visiting speakers with a story to tell, but also by providing many and varied experiences, both school-based and through trips and activities in the UK and abroad. In a typical school year, our pupils will have the chance to explore activities as diverse as bushcraft, sight-seeing in Normandy, kayaking, walking the Ridgeway and visiting the Intech Planetarium. Moreover, it's not simply about what the pupils gain; we believe that giving back is just as important and our pupils raise thousands of pounds each year for a charity of their choice.

A full list of our Other Half activities is available on our website:

[www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/introduction\\_to\\_the\\_other\\_half](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/introduction_to_the_other_half)

“Our son was made to feel extremely welcome and settled quickly. The staff are friendly and approachable and are very available whenever you want to talk.”

A parent







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## room to grow

Children need space, whether it's in the classroom, at lunch or during break. Abingdon Prep pupils are free to roam in extensive grounds which include two adventure playgrounds, a ball games area, the quad for peace and quiet and a garden looked after by the gardening club. There are also rugby, football and cricket pitches plus an indoor swimming pool, multi-activity sports hall which can accommodate cricket nets, indoor hockey and football, as well as a beautiful pavilion. Pre-prep children have their own dedicated play area with sand, water and a kitchen garden. There are superb art and drama studios, music rooms, a science lab, CDT and ICT suites plus a well-stocked library.



## aims and ethos

Abingdon Prep School aims to deliver an excellent education to all its pupils in an unpressured but stimulating environment.

Pupils are taught a broad and academically challenging curriculum. Particular emphasis at age-appropriate levels is placed on thinking skills, questioning and independence skills. Pupils are encouraged to become involved in the wider community through a variety of whole-school charity and fundraising activities. This broadens pupils' perspectives and fosters a sense of service to others. As part of the Abingdon Foundation we promote Christian values and welcome pupils from all backgrounds. We promote kindness, tolerance and understanding.

Pupils are encouraged to take their opportunities in an atmosphere free from failure and to develop confidence and leadership skills. Pupils should feel happy, secure, safe and valued.

In order to achieve this, the School aims for consistent excellence in its teaching and facilities and in the opportunities it offers its pupils. The School is keen to ensure that its pupils enjoy the broad mix of activities on offer. Good relationships between pupils, staff and parents are at the core of its aims and ethos.

The implementation of these aims should lead to all pupils being effectively prepared for senior school. The vast majority of our pupils will transfer to Abingdon. However, we pride ourselves on preparing each pupil for a place in a senior school which is right for them.

This policy also includes those in the Early Years Foundation Stage, EYFS.



## admissions procedures

Here is an outline of our admissions procedures. For full details including assessment dates please contact the Registrar by email: [registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk](mailto:registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk) or tel: **01865 392303**

### Reception entry

- A registration form must be completed and the form and fee of £75 returned to School before the entry process can begin.
- Observation play morning – this will be on a Saturday in the autumn term. Please call the Registrar to book a place for your child. Places on the observation morning will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- During the morning the children will join our Pre-prep staff who will observe them at play. This involves some very simple games which encourage conversation and interaction between the children.
- Places are offered on the basis of the observation morning. Parents usually hear within ten working days.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond within two weeks. A deposit of £500 to secure the place is payable on acceptance.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an Activities Day for all new children coming into the School.



### Years 1, 2 and 3 entry

- A registration form must be completed and the form and fee of £75 returned to School before the entry process can begin.
- Assessment morning. Having received a completed registration form, the Registrar will contact you with dates for an assessment morning during the autumn term. Please confirm with the Registrar which date is suitable for you.
- The assessment morning involves taking part in the usual lessons and activities of the candidate's current year group and some short evaluation tests.
- A reference will be requested from the candidate's current school. Places are offered on the basis of the assessment morning and parents usually hear within ten working days.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond within two weeks. A deposit of £500 is payable on acceptance.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an Activities Day for all children coming into the School.

### Years 4 – 8 entry

- A registration form must be completed and the form and fee of £75 returned to School before the entry process can begin.
- Assessment day. This is arranged on an individual basis. Please ring the Registrar to arrange a convenient day.
- The assessment day programme will include:
  - CAT Tests (computer-based Cognitive Assessment Tasks in English, Maths and Non-verbal Reasoning)
  - Taking part in the normal lessons of the candidate's current year group
  - Observation of academic ability and social interaction
- Request to approach current school for references.
- Receipt of reference from current school.
- Result of assessment morning sent to parents within ten working days (as long as all information has been received).
- Formal offer of a place and request for acceptance fee of £500 to secure the place.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an Activities Day for all new children coming into the School.

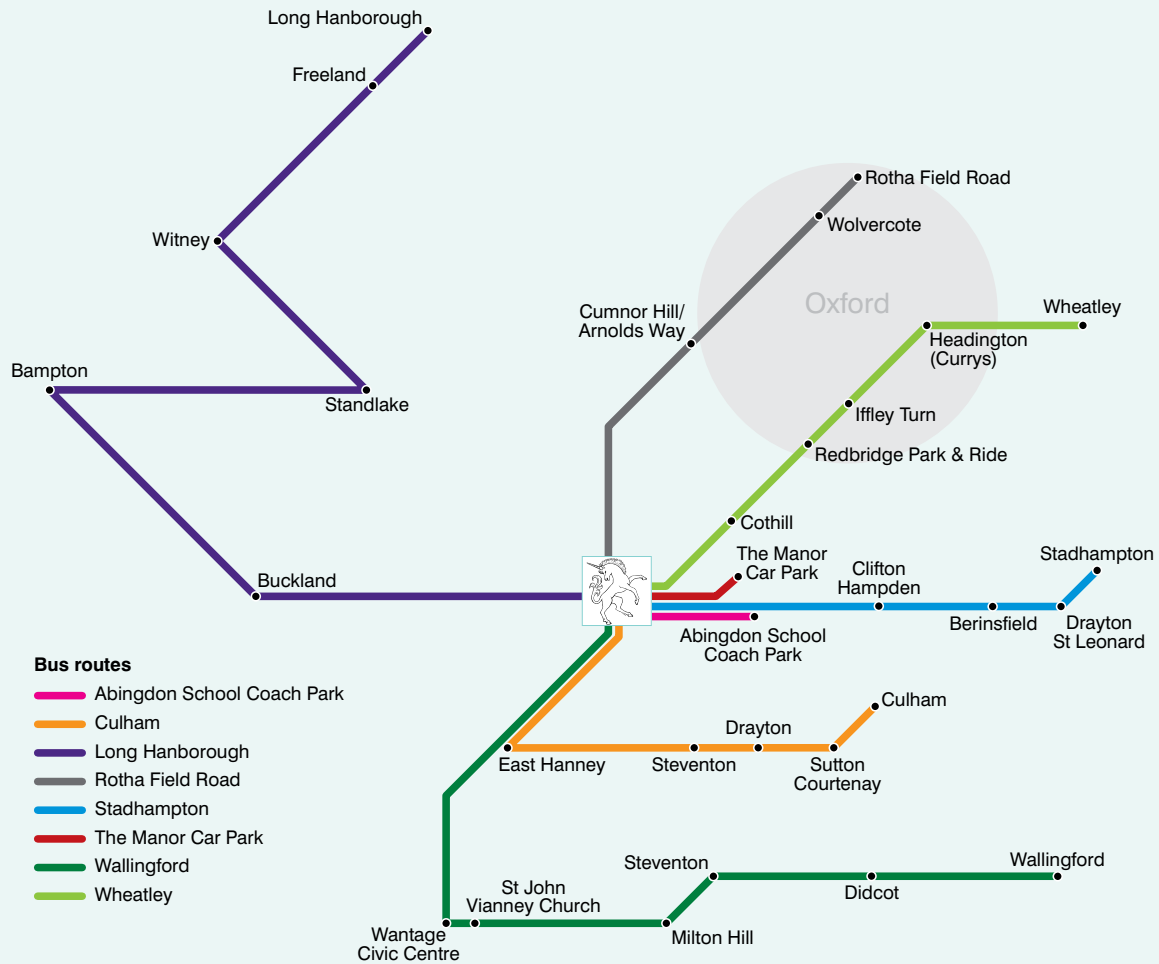
## additional information

- Breakfast club
- After-school club
- School holiday activities
- Well-balanced, nutritious school meals cooked on the premises

## minibus service

Abingdon Prep has its own minibus service which collects from the surrounding area. The map below gives an indication of the routes available. We reserve the right to adapt routes to suit changing numbers, timings and roads. Please check the school website for full details of current timings and costs:

[www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/bus\\_service](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/bus_service)



Useful information on our website: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep)

Abingdon Prep School Policies: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school\\_policies](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school_policies)

ISI report 2011 and Good Schools Guide: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school\\_notices](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school_notices)

Open day dates: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/open\\_day](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/open_day)

Abingdon Prep Sports academy: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/sports\\_academy](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/sports_academy)

Take a virtual tour of our facilities: [www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/virtual\\_tour](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/virtual_tour)



## contact us

We would be delighted to welcome you to the School.  
Please contact the Registrar on **01865 391570** or email  
**[registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk](mailto:registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk)** if you would like to visit.

We very much look forward to meeting you.



**ABINGDON**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**Abingdon Preparatory School**  
independent day school for  
boys aged 4 to 13 and girls aged 4 to 7

**Headmaster:**  
Mr Crispin Hyde-Dunn

**Chair of Governors:**  
Mr Jon Gabitass

Josca's House, Kingston Road  
Frilford, Abingdon  
Oxfordshire, OX13 5NX

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[www.abingdon.org.uk/prep](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/prep)