

Why Abingdon Preparatory School?



Abingdon Prep provides tremendous opportunities while encouraging a conscientious work ethic and nurturing self-confidence. Children are encouraged to enjoy all that they do throughout their time here, whether it's learning to read, playing tag-rugby at Twickenham, winning a scholarship to secondary school or spending a week together in France at the end of Year 8. The learning environment is continually evaluated and adapted to provide a stimulating all-round education.

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 an adventure playground, a ball games area, the quad for peace and quiet and a garden looked after by the gardening club. There are also sports fields with rugby, football and cricket pitches on site. Pre-prep have a dedicated play area with sand, water and a kitchen garden. Indoors there is an art room, drama studio, music rooms, a science lab, CDT and ICT suites plus a well-stocked library. Sports facilities include an indoor swimming pool, sports hall which can accommodate cricket nets, indoor hockey and football as well as a beautiful pavilion.

Art – Abingdon Prep has an excellent reputation for Art. We have a stunning art room with facilities for ceramics, print and of course drawing and painting. There is a flourishing art club open to all and a specialist art scholarship group, by invitation. The School often takes part in Oxfordshire Art Weeks and boys have exhibited their work at Linacre College Oxford. Visiting artists run workshops and pupils study a broad curriculum of styles and media. Each year group enjoys art-focus trips including to Modern Art Oxford, the London galleries and the Botanical Gardens.

Music – with a full time music teacher and lessons beginning in Reception, children experience a wide range of music from classical, jazz and contemporary to African drumming. Pupils are encouraged to sing in choirs, play in orchestras and perform at informal recitals and concerts. 12 peripatetic teachers teach a wide range of instruments including violin, saxophone, clarinet, trombone, flute and percussion. All abilities are catered for and to play for enjoyment as well as improvement is very much encouraged. Summer and Christmas concerts are performed in the Amey Theatre at our senior school,

Abingdon, and there are informal monthly opportunities to play to the School, whether a beginner or proficient.

Drama – drama is enjoyed by all with every year group getting involved and a major production once a year. These ambitious projects include demanding plays such as *Lord of the Flies* and *Private Peaceful* as well as musicals involving large casts. The discipline of auditioning and attending rehearsals, often over several months, is rewarding and putting on successful performances to large audiences is an enormous achievement. The younger classes have productions every year and everyone is encouraged to take part. A number of pupils have gone on to perform in the West End and in TV productions and to win drama scholarships to their secondary schools.

Sport – although class sizes are small, there are two classes from the age of seven which enables the School to field strong sporting teams whilst giving everyone a chance to play, no matter what their ability. Children are encouraged to find a sport that they enjoy and many earn their school colours as they move up the School. The principal sports are rugby, football and cricket and additional sports include golf, hockey, tennis, fencing and judo with many sports having specialist coaches. 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 senior boys reaching elite squads for rugby, cricket and football as well as Master of Arms for fencing.

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. Over 70% of boys move onto Abingdon each year, with the remainder winning places at other leading senior schools. From Year 8, academically able boys are challenged within a scholarship set and all boys are thoroughly prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarship exams. It is expected that all final year boys will gain places at their target secondary school and with an ever-increasing number gaining awards.



Further information: please contact Cathy Hambly,
Registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk T: 01865 392303