

Why Abingdon Preparatory School?



Abingdon Prep provides a wealth of opportunity whilst encouraging a conscientious work ethic and nurturing self-confidence. Boys are encouraged to enjoy and embrace all that they do throughout their nine years at the School, 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 boys 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 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, 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. 2007 saw the opening of a stunning new 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, which has resulted in art scholarships every year of entry. For the last three years the School has taken part in Oxfordshire Art Weeks and in 2009 boys exhibited their work at Linacre College Oxford. Visiting artists are frequently invited to run workshops and pupils study a broad curriculum of styles and media. Each year group enjoys trips to varied locations including Modern Art Oxford, the London galleries and the Botanical Gardens.

Music – with a full time music teacher and lessons beginning in Reception, boys experience a wide range of music from classical, jazz and contemporary to African drumming. Boys 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 and there are informal monthly opportunities to play to the School, whether a beginner or proficient.



Drama – drama is extensive with major productions once a year often in collaboration with the nearby girls schools and performed at the Amey Theatre at the senior school. These ambitious projects include demanding plays such as *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. Several boys 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. Boys 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 but the boys also enjoy 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 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 7, academically able boys are challenged within a scholarship set and all boys are thoroughly prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarship exams in Year 8. Over the last few years all final year boys have gained places at their target secondary school and with an ever-increasing number gaining awards.

For Further information:

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