

A GRAND FIRST PERFORMANCE



Sheldonian is stunning venue for Christmas Concert

The School's new piano makes its debut at the prestigious Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford.

The beautiful, 25 year old Yamaha grand, generously funded by sales from the Second-hand Uniform Shop, took centre stage and featured from the very first item – the accompaniment of the First Year in *The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy* and *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, under the direction of Mr Cotton.

The Music Department was delighted when its bid to The Annual Fund for a piano was successful. The Piano Gallery of Faringdon kindly agreed to supply the piano to the Sheldonian Theatre for its first ever Abingdon performance in front of a capacity audience, before being delivered back to Abingdon the following day.

Three of our senior pianists, Leon Wu, Anthony Bracey and Daniel Tong, played a movement each of Beethoven's magnificent *Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor* as the key work of the first half of the concert. The second half featured Chamber Orchestra, Joint Chamber Choir, Wind Band and Big Band. With some 250 performers, in a stunning venue and with our new piano taking pride of place it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.



03 News



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Celebration of Messiah

Pupils, staff, parents and friends from Abingdon and St Helen's joined together at St Helen's School to sing the *Messiah*.

A brief encounter with our Housemasters

Their choice of music, film, a book and one luxury item for a desert island

Ed Swanwick

School House, English



Crowded House

Best of Crowded House

The musical genius of the Finn brothers never gets old.

Blues Brothers

Brilliant film with an awesome sound track that would essentially mean I had two albums on my desert island.

Ulysses James Joyce

I'm probably going to be there a long time, so I'll want something to keep me busy and mentally challenged.

Luxury: Yacht

Alexis Christodoulou

Mathematics



Global Underground - Destinations

To remind me of a year in a pick-up truck windsurfing on the pro circuit.

Cling Film

To keep my BlackBerry waterproof.

Les Miserables Victor Hugo

To remind me of the ever present gift of grace from strangers.

Luxury: BlackBerry charger

John Cotton

Music



Monteverdi Vespers

Life-changing music which reminds me of Venice.

England winning the Ashes in 2005

Memories of a wonderful summer.

Complete works of Shakespeare

I love the plays I know and would love the time to read the others that I don't sitting on a beach with a cool drink.

Luxury: Internet and BBC iPlayer

Robin Southwell-Sander

Geography



The Who My Generation

Just to remind me of my youthful antics!

Life of Brian

There are still a few lines I don't know off by heart!

The Shock Doctrine Naomi Klein

There is a lot to think about as the sun sets and I sip on my coconut juice.

Luxury: Family photo

Matthew Kendry

Crescent, Mathematics



The Clash London Calling

It's just the best album ever made.

A Bridge Too Far

A superb war film with a stellar cast and epic scope, but also notable for its smaller moments. Anthony Hopkins packing his dinner jacket before the airborne drop, the survivors of the 1st Airborne Division singing Abide With Me before they are captured.

Use Of Weapons Iain M. Banks

My favourite author, and there was a number of his books I could have chosen - *Use of Weapons* probably wins out as it is a cracking story with a clever chronology, and a great twist.

Luxury: Photo of wife and two daughters

Ed Davies

Waste Court, History



Oasis Definitely Maybe

Awesome and my favourite band from my teenage years.

This is their best album in my opinion. Great rock and roll, every song is a classic.

Cold Mountain

A spectacular film that combines emotion, farce and violence. It's set in a historical period I really enjoy and I love the music. I can watch it time and again.

One Hundred Years of Solitude

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A fantastic read (I read it in English). I thought the combination of history, ancestry, mysticism and reality was brilliant, funny and moving. Certainly re-readable many times over and I think I'd notice something new each time. Great value on a desert Island.

Luxury: Family photo

Henry Morgan

Mathematics



The Beatles Abbey Road

It has a bit of everything: the medley in the second half has always seemed a great soundtrack to whatever is going on, particularly when travelling.

The Graduate

One Hundred Years of Solitude

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

It's just a wonderful story, amazingly well told.

Luxury: Radio tuned to Test Match Special

David Franklin

Classics



Peter Gabriel 4

Brilliantly original, terrifying, soothing at the same time.

Groundhog Day

Starring Bill Murray - he's the funniest actor in the world, and the film is hilarious and profound. I've already watched it about ten times, and it just gets better.

The Iliad Homer

It is astonishingly gentle and subtle as well as huge and exciting. Every time I read some I find something new.

Luxury: Pen and paper to write masterpiece

Mike Webb

Design and Technology



Marvin Gaye I Heard it through the Grapevine

This was on a compilation tape on continuous loop in my first car.

Leon (The Professional)

I don't watch many films and am pretty useless at remembering names of films or actors but this one has stuck in my mind from about 20 years ago.

Papillon Henri Charrière

It's the tale of a French fugitive sent to Devil's Island in French Guiana and his endless mental battle and efforts to escape. I also remember the book because my mother had told me about it and it was her copy that I read, she was going through a battle with cancer at the time and after her death I kept hold of the book although it has since fallen apart, I'd find another copy and take it with me.

Luxury: Water desalination unit

Adam Jenkins

Lower School, Classics



John Williams Complete Star Wars sound track

Simply the best film score ever written.

Empire Strikes Back

It's the best of the Star Wars films and contains what still must be one of the biggest twists in film history.

The Odyssey Homer

I am a classicist after all and this does contain plenty of useful tips on how to survive being shipwrecked!

Luxury: Surround sound cinema system

Staff Profile



Sarah Wearne: School Archivist

Sarah Wearne edited the *Abingdon News* from its creation in January 2003 until the 36th issue, Summer 2014. The School would like to thank Sarah for her enormous contribution to *Abingdon News*, it is very much appreciated. It gave Sarah the feeling, she says, that she was writing the first draft of the School's history. Abingdon's earliest records and artefacts date from the sixteenth century and some of them featured in the online 'History of Abingdon School in 63 Objects' www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects, which Sarah worked on in 2013 to mark the 450th anniversary of John Roysse's re-endowment.

Last year, to mark the centenary, she put Abingdon's First World War Archive online www.abingdon.org.uk/1ww. She remembers with pleasure a member of staff's comment that she has reintroduced the School to its past.

She enjoys her work – holding the view that an organisation that believes in its future takes care of its past – and particularly enjoys managing the small groups of boys who regularly attach themselves to the archives as assistants.

Sarah is married with four children, three of them boys who came to Abingdon. A graduate with a PGCE, she taught history at a tutorial college in London before moving to Oxfordshire.



David Mitchell Entertains

Comedian, actor and writer, David Mitchell (OA1992) was in fine form on his return to School in November. In conversation with Mark Thornton of *Mostly Books*, David spoke about writing, broadcasting and ranting. He mentioned his youthful ambition, which must have worried his parents: quiet, reclusive, swot – the words are David's – decides he wants to be a comedian. The capacity audience in the Amey Theatre warmed to his genial, self-deprecating manner and his willingness to share his thoughts on the pleasures and perils of this internet age. David was publicising his latest book, *Thinking About it Only Makes it Worse*.

New Facilities – Exciting Times at Abingdon

A new café for pupils opened at the beginning of term and has gone down a treat with the boys. The School also took over the management of the all-weather football and hockey pitches at the Tilsley Park Sports Centre and we have plans to develop the site further. The Yang Science Centre is on track to be ready next autumn and this term saw the topping out ceremony to mark the highest point. The Amey Theatre is also undergoing refurbishment; the first phase was completed over the summer.





Sponsored Walk and Paddle

The biennial sponsored walk for boys and staff raised an astonishing £39,800 to be shared between three charities: Blue Sky Thinking, Emmaus Oxford and AGAPE. The lower and middle school boys walked ten miles from Day's Lock in Dorchester back to Abingdon along the Thames Path while the sixth formers walked 14 miles from Benson. Eight boys paddled the 10 miles; upstream, battling wind and water flow!



Boarding Life

There is never a dull moment in boarding life at Abingdon. From the induction days and Longridge Activity Centre that herald the start of term to the delights of Thorpe Park and socials with St Swithun's School, St Mary's and Westonbirt. The activities timetable is full and varied, even including an opportunity to hone bingo skills with residents at the Old Station House in Abingdon.

CCF

The CCF conducted this term's Remembrance Parade with self-discipline and professionalism. They have had a full term of activities with training at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire, the Army section at St George's Barracks, Bicester and the RAF section had a Field day at RAF Odiham including a ride in a Chinook. The CCF also celebrated its centenary at Abingdon School with a dinner, welcoming back former staff and OAs.

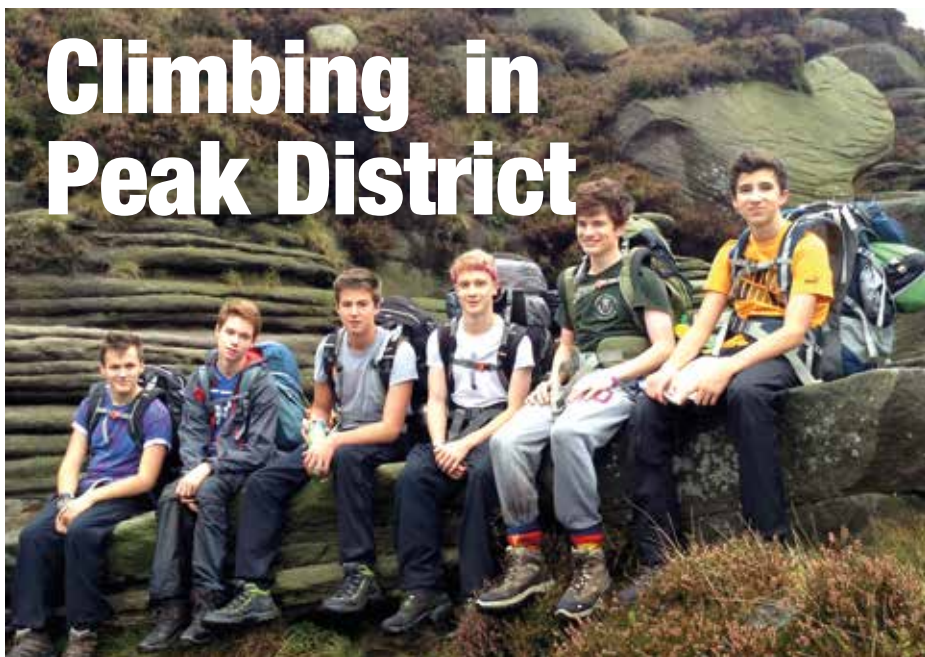


Paralympian inspires the Lower School

This year's *Be the Best You Can Be* programme was launched to the Lower School by Paralympian Talan Skeels-Piggins who encouraged the boys to never give up. Talan told how he overcame a motorcycle accident that left him paralysed from the chest down, to compete in the Giant Slalom at the 2010 Winter Olympics, become IPC European Champion in Alpine Skiing, and to be the first paraplegic in the history of motor-racing to compete against able-bodied motor cycle racers. Quite an inspiration.



Climbing in Peak District



DofE expeditions

The DofE expeditions this term have included canoeing on the River Thames, climbing Kinder Scout in the Peak District and sailing on the south coast. The latter involved upper sixth sailors completing their Gold DofE expedition sailing from Plymouth harbour in a 36ft Bavaria Yacht. Tough conditions with very strong winds and big waves tested their skills with the trip's highlight being a night spent in Cawsand Bay moored at anchor!

Each year approximately 200 boys sign up for DofE. The School runs all their expeditions in house using teachers as supervisors to give the boys extra support and mentoring. By completing the Award boys demonstrate team work, commitment and organisational skills.



Chemistry Masterclass

We welcomed many distinguished speakers to School this term including Dr Peter Wothers from Cambridge University who gave the prestigious Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 2012. Students from all secondary schools in Abingdon, together with Headington School, attended the informative and humorous lecture. Our sixth form chemists also enjoyed Dr Wothers' masterclass on shapes and maths of Atomic Orbitals. Dr Wothers teaches the First Year Natural Science Chemistry course at Cambridge.

Community Service



Boys entertained residents at the Christmas Tea Party.



German Partnership

During this year's visit from our German exchange school, the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld, pupils took part in a joint project to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. When war broke out the pupils at the Ratsgymnasium were in the middle of their final exams. One of the essay questions they answered was: 'The present – a serious but a good time for Germany'. The exhibition quoted extracts from their essays, which throw an unexpected light on German public opinion at this time.

Model United Nations – MUNTH

At this year's MUNTH, Abingdon boys represented Chile and Egypt across seven different committees. The standard of the debate was impressive, with wide-ranging issues, such as the Darfur Crisis, Underrepresentation of Women in Government and the Legalisation of Marijuana. Representing Egypt, Brett Chung and Liam Frahm were awarded Best Delegate in the Environment and Political committees respectively; Sam Farrar was Highly Commended for his performance in the Disarmament committee with Johnathan Goves being commended in Health. The Egypt delegation was also awarded Highly Commended for the tact, skill and diplomacy of its delegates.





Rugby

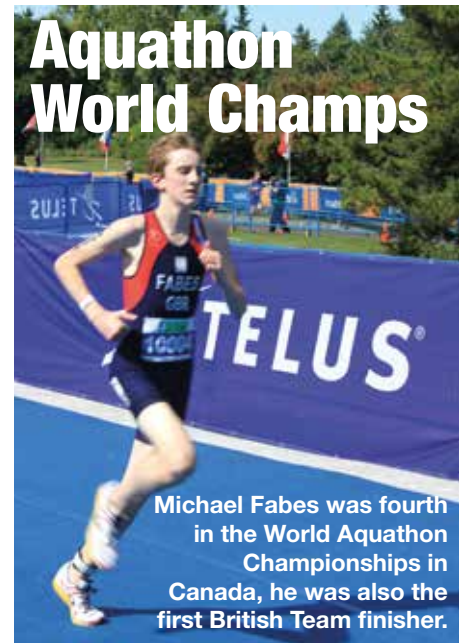


Highlights this term include impressive results for the 1st and 2nd XVs in the local derbies against Radley College and Magdalen College School and the first ever 1st XV wins against Eton College and in the inaugural fixture against Rugby. Congratulations to the U16B team that had an unbeaten season and to the seniors and the U15s who reached the County Cup finals. The 1st XV finished a very impressive 7th in the Daily Mail Schools Rugby Trophy out of the top 100 rugby playing schools in the country.



Cross Country

Congratulations to Nat Jones and Alex Miell-Ingram who were first and third home in the Longworth 10k back in September. In the first fixtures of the cross country season, the A team finished in third and the B team in 7th at the St Albans Relays, and at Harrow the teams were 1st and 2nd.



Aquathon World Champs

Michael Fabes was fourth in the World Aquathon Championships in Canada, he was also the first British Team finisher.

National Cricket Champions



Six boys, Callum Russell, Alex Davies, Adam Spears, James Fitzjohn, Leo Bethell and Max Mannering played in the U17 Oxfordshire County Cricket team that were crowned national champions at the end of the summer.

Boat Club training on the Thames



GB Trials

In November four boys competed against the top schoolboy rowers in the country at the first long distance trial for the Great Britain Junior Rowing Team.

All the boys put in excellent performances with Tom Digby and Adam Teece winning the event and Max Townley and Calum Farwell finishing in eighth place.

Sailing

The Sailing Club has had some excellent results this term with victories against both St Edward's and Cokethorpe schools.



The third years thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to sailing course at the beginning of term.

Badminton



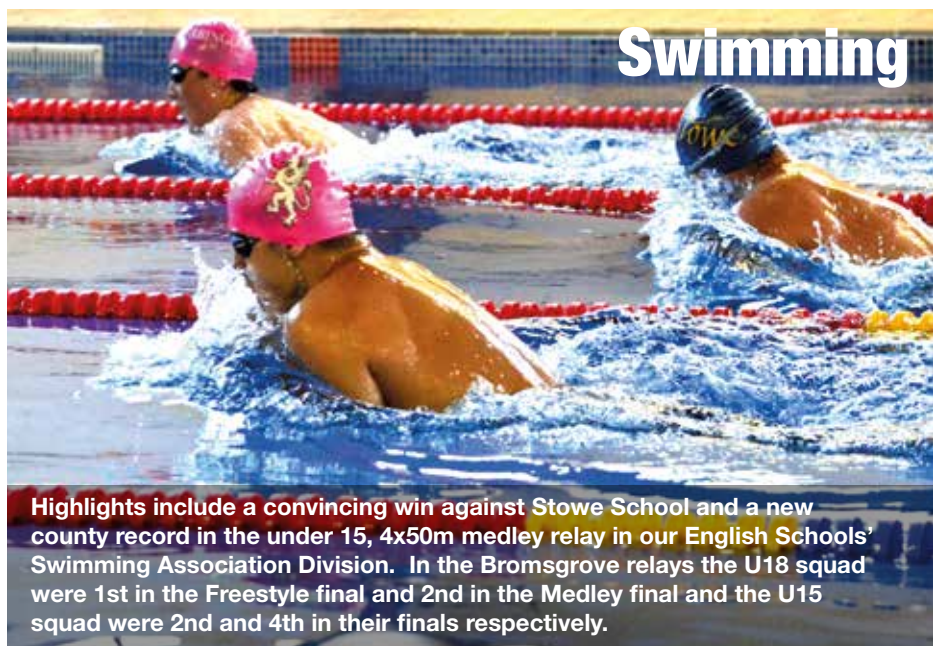
The badminton team in action against Bromsgrove

Fencing



Fencing continued last year's impressive performance with wins against Wellington, Winchester, Charterhouse and Bradfield. In the Southern Region Age Group Team competition, the U14 Epee teams won gold and bronze and the U18 Epee team also won bronze.

Swimming



Highlights include a convincing win against Stowe School and a new county record in the under 15, 4x50m medley relay in our English Schools' Swimming Association Division. In the Bromsgrove relays the U18 squad were 1st in the Freestyle final and 2nd in the Medley final and the U15 squad were 2nd and 4th in their finals respectively.



Inaugural Michael Grigsby Awards

The AFU's annual screening featured eleven new films with live action fiction, abstract pieces and the AFU's first music video adding to the mix of animations and documentaries. Another new element was the presentation of the first Michael Grigsby Awards in memory of the AFU's co-founder and mentor, and funded by donations from his family, friends and colleagues. The "Spirit of Grigsby Award" was presented to John Cheung and Aim Wonghirundacha for their fiction film *Blindside*, while the "Michael Grigsby Young Filmmaker Award" went to Jack Bradley for his documentary *One Fish at a Time*. A special award of a multi-coloured "Grigsby scarf" was made to Michael Bicarregui, the AFU's most senior member whose last year in the unit this was.

Further congratulations to John Cheung and Aim Wonghirundacha whose debut film *Blindside* was selected for screening



at the Future of Cinema Film Festival in Interlochen, Michigan, USA. This is the first time an AFU film has been screened at a film festival in America.

The Big Sculpt

GCSE students took part in a sculpture workshop using wire and willow withies.



Artists from the Lower Sixth and Fourth Year visited Tate Britain and The Saatchi Gallery.

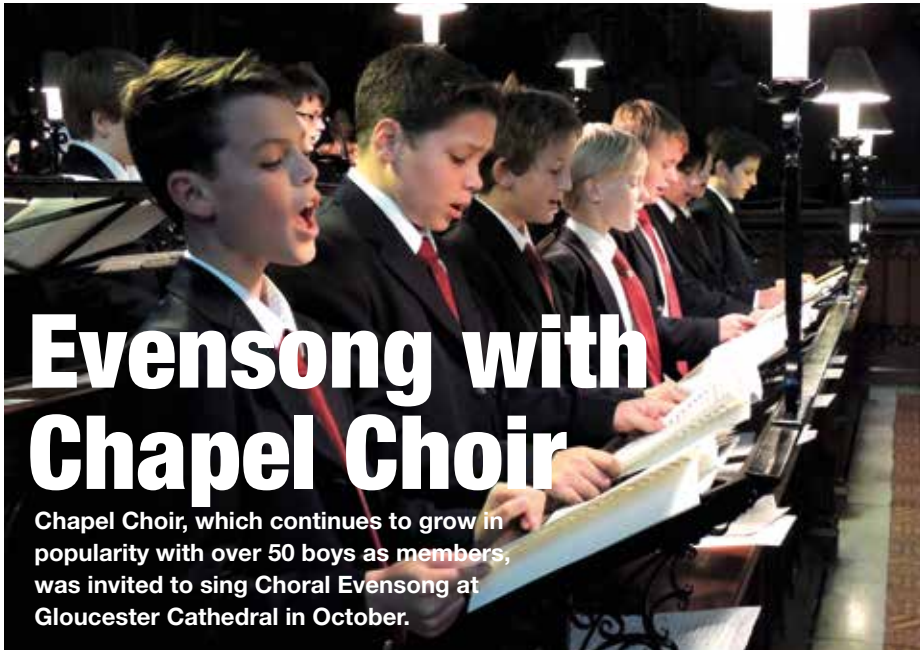
WW1 in a Matchbox

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, third year pupils worked to a historical brief in their art lessons this term. Each student was given a plain, small, white matchbox with which to create a theme and record his own reflections on the First World War. Drawings, collages, prints, paintings and little sculptures were created from images relating to the War.



Fearlessness encouraged

An audience of over a hundred sixth form English and Drama students from Abingdon and St Helen's was treated to a fascinating evening in the company of playwright Jez Butterworth, who was the guest of honour at the Literature Society's annual dinner. He encouraged everyone to approach their acting and writing "fearlessly".



Evensong with Chapel Choir

Chapel Choir, which continues to grow in popularity with over 50 boys as members, was invited to sing Choral Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral in October.



As You Like It

The third year joint production with St Helen's of *As You Like it*



Southwell-Sander's raise the rafters

This year's House Singing Competition was won by Southwell-Sander's with Sara Bareilles' *Love Song*, directed by Jamie Blackwell and accompanied by William Johnson. Second was Cotton's and Franklin's was third. A video of all the performances is available at: www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_house_singing_competition_oct14

Dates for your diary

Concerts

Thursday 15 January
New Year Charity Concert
7 pm: Amey Theatre

Wednesday 21 January
Piano Recital with Ben Schoeman
7 pm: Amey Theatre

Wednesday 25 February
Annual Chamber Music Evening
6 pm: Charles Maude Room

Drama Productions

21-23 January
Chekhov short stories
Sixth form joint senior production
7-9 pm: St Helen's Studio

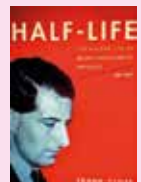
4-6 February
Les Miserables
Sixth form joint senior production
7-10 pm: Amey Theatre - Sold Out

16-17 March
AS play performances
Abingdon and St Helen's venues

Wednesday 4 March
Professor Frank Close
7 pm: Amey Theatre - free admission

Half Life: The Divided Life of Bruno Pontecorvo - Physicist or Spy ?

On the eve of the publication of his new book, Professor Frank Close will reveal his discoveries about the atomic scientist Bruno Pontecorvo, who disappeared from Britain just as his son Gil was about to start his second year at Abingdon. What nuclear secrets did he take with him; who was the M15 mole at the School, what role did Kim Philby play?



Most events can be booked at www.abingdon.org.uk/events_booking or by phone on 01235 849063 or email boxoffice@abingdon.org.uk

Keeping in Touch

The weekly mailing for parents and guardians is essential reading for all year groups. It is posted on the website at 5pm every Friday and parents are asked to check the mailing each week at: www.abingdon.org.uk/mailing

A weekly reminder email is sent out to parents. **Parent log-in** for accessing reports online through the website. If parents forget or mistype their password there is a link on the login page to have a new password emailed automatically. For any other issues with the log-in please email support@abingdon.org.uk

Parent and guardian contact details: all changes, including email addresses, should be sent to database@abingdon.org.uk
The School's mobile website has key information for when you are on the go including news, dates, the weekly mailing and match arrangements. www.abingdon.org.uk/m

Abingdon Exploration

This term Abingdonians have explored at home and abroad in pursuit of language, sport, knowledge, competition, innovation, skill and adventure!



Sixth formers trekked in the shadow of the Annapurnas, navigated the Seti river by raft, explored the Chitwan jungle on elephants and enjoyed a cultural tour of Kathmandu.



Be.spoke, one of the School's Young Enterprise teams, took first prize in the Bin Business challenge when boys attended EntrepreneurLIVE!



Classicists explored the sites of Rome and the Bay of Naples.





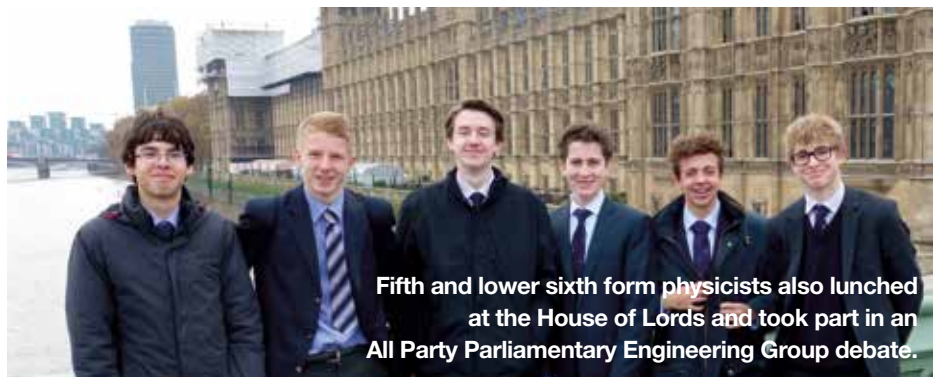
Linguists visited our exchange school in Santiago de Compostela, staying with Spanish families.



Over half term, rugby squads from all age groups took on tough opposition across the UK.



Physicists were at the forefront of science at the JET Fusion Reactor and the Diamond Light Source.



Fifth and lower sixth form physicists also lunched at the House of Lords and took part in an All Party Parliamentary Engineering Group debate.



Rowers trained and competed in Philadelphia.



Year 5 enjoyed an adventure to HMS Victory, in the historic Portsmouth docks. They explored the gun decks, learnt about the ship's guns (not cannons!), and were treated to a talk about the Victory's discipline methods. They all agreed that they were very happy to be under the authority of a caring headmaster, rather than a baton-wielding senior crew member!



Years 3 and 4 embraced Roald Dahl Day taking part in a range of activities relating to his various books. They wrote their own Revolting Rhymes, acted scenes from *The BFG* and designed their own chocolate bar, giving Willy Wonka a run for his money. The collage they created, based on *James and the Giant Peach*, was a masterpiece.



Boys from Year 6 competed against 20 teams at the annual Academic Challenge at St Edward's and Year 4 boys also competed in the Summer Fields School Year 4 Maths challenge. At St Edward's the boys solved the budget deficit, learnt how to speak and write some Arabic, studied the coral reef crisis and took part in a drama workshop on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The team came 2nd overall. At Summer Fields, plenty of fun was had with maths games and puzzles.



Winning Design for Hearing Dogs

One of the main charities that Abingdon Prep School supported last year, Hearing Dogs, ran a competition to design a dog coat. From over 700 entries, three of the Prep School's boys received Runners-Up or Highly Commended certificates and one pupil won the competition!

Sport

Some tremendous sporting successes this term with the U10s winning the Magdalen College School U10 rugby tournament after playing some valiant rugby. Three of our U13 rugby players were selected to represent the South East Region and three U11 players also had trials.

Abingdon Prep dominated the St Hugh's Team Cross Country competition winning all but one age group. Our biathletes competed at the Abingdon Vale Biathlon with six boys finishing in the top three for their age groups and at the British Biathlon Championships our U10 team were crowned national champions. A Year 5 pupil competed in the West Midlands Biathlon, recording both the best swim and run times and finishing first overall in the U10 boys category. He is currently ranked No. 1 in Great Britain in his age group.

Survival Skills ...



Years 6 and 8 both thoroughly enjoyed learning bushcraft this term. Year 8 travelled to Dorset whilst Year 6 stayed closer to home at Cornbury Park. Highlights included kayaking along the River Frome, having a guided tour of Corfe Castle, fishing off Swanage Pier and swimming on Studland Beach. Year 6 learnt to build fires, shelters and traps and feasted on lamb and vegetable kebabs and chocolate brownies.

Wind, Brass & Percussion Workshop

Some of our top woodwind and brass players attended Radley's annual workshop. They were joined by pupils from seven other prep schools. The instrumentalists worked in their section groups preparing pieces for the day's finale – a concert to the parents of the 60 children taking part.

Boys of all ages also enjoyed performing in this term's Concert Platforms. These small informal concerts give the boys an opportunity to play in front of an audience; instruments included piano, violin, clarinet, drums, guitar, cello and French horn.



.... Adventure and Bushcraft



Blues Brothers Narrate the Nativity Play



Oxford's Botanic Gardens

Year 8 study plant adaption (and wild life!)



Abingdon University places for 2014 leavers



Aberdeen

Petroleum Engineering

Bath

Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
International Management
and Spanish
Politics with Economics

Bath Spa

Business and
Management

Birmingham

Archeology and Ancient
History
Biological sciences
Geology

Bristol

Aerospace Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
History
Pharmacology
Physics

Cambridge

Engineering (4)
English (2)
Geography
History
Linguistics
Medicine
Music (2)
Natural Sciences

Cardiff

Biochemistry
Philosophy

Coventry

Electronic Engineering

Durham

Archaeology and Ancient
Civilisations
Chemistry
English
Geography
History
Natural Sciences
Physics (2)

University of East London

Songwriting

Edinburgh

Economics
English and Spanish
French and History

Exeter

Biological Sciences
Classics
Economics
Economics and Finance
English
History
International Relations
International Relations
and French
Mechanical Engineering
Politics and International
Relations
Politics, Philosophy and
Economics

Glasgow

Computing Science

Heriot-Watt

Biological Sciences
Maths and Computer
Science

Imperial College London

Chemical Engineering
Materials Science
Mechanical Engineering

King's College London

Film Studies

Leeds

Biochemistry
Geological Sciences

Liverpool

Aerospace Engineering
Dentistry

Loughborough

Business, Economics
and Finance
Geography
History
Mechanical Engineering

London School of Economics

Economics (2)
International Relations
Law

Manchester

Ancient History
Architecture
Business and Spanish
Chemical Engineering
Classics
Economics and Finance
Geography
Management
Medicine

Manchester Metropolitan Architecture

Newcastle

Geography

Northumbria

Design for Industry

Nottingham

Architecture
Chemistry
Classics
Environmental Science
Geography
History
Medicine

Oxford

Ancient and Modern
History
Biochemistry
Classics (3)
Economics and
Management
Materials Science
Maths and Computer
Science
Physics (2)

Plymouth

Geography

Portsmouth

Geology
Psychology

Queen Mary University of London

Medicine

Reading

Law

Royal Agricultural University

Agriculture

Royal Northern College of Music

Music

Sheffield

Chinese Studies
French and History
Genetics

Southampton

Aeronautical Engineering
Chemistry
Mechanical Engineering
Philosophy

Southampton Solent

Football Studies
Marketing

Swansea

Materials Science and
Engineering
Psychology (2)
Sports Science

University College London

Biochemistry
Classics (3)
History
Medicine
Philosophy

University of the Arts London

Fine Art

Warwick

Biomedical Science
Economics

West of England

Banking and Finance

York

History and Philosophy

Overseas

The University of Hong
Kong, Medicine
Duke, USA
Princeton, USA
George Washington,
USA



Where known, we have also included places won outside of the UCAS system.



Applying to University

The Next Step

The Lent term sees the Lower Sixth beginning to short-list their higher education options. The vast majority of the boys apply to universities through UCAS. Our university applications team sets out to explain to boys and their parents the process. Full details about university admissions and the places won by 2014 leavers can be found on the school website. www.abingdon.org.uk/university_admissions.

“*Preparation for the next steps in pupils' education is well guided by the careers department and through advice from tutors and the university admissions panel.*”

High levels of academic achievement allow boys to secure places at highly selective universities. ”

Extracts from the last two inspections at Abingdon, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, ISI



The Process

Details and information about the following at: www.abingdon.org.uk/applying_to_university

- Preparation is key
- Gap years and studying abroad
- Not knowing
- Lent term Lower Sixth
- Summer term Lower Sixth
- Course versus university
- Michaelmas term Upper Sixth
- The personal statement
- Additional requirements
- UCAS deadlines
- Tracking progress
- No offers
- Results day

Sixth Form Careers Evening

Friday 23 January, 6:30-9:30pm,
Charles Maude Room

A 'mini careers conference' offering boys a broad choice of small group discussion sessions led by OAs. Some sessions will focus on specific careers and others on career-related topics. The evening starts with a drinks reception and ends with a networking buffet supper.

Do:

- Be honest about what YOU want to do
- Take ownership of the process
- Start early - research universities and course content and delivery
- Use school holidays to take a look at universities
- Attend offer-holder days
- Defer - if it is what you want to do and it is an option for your course
- Have good gap year plans if you are deferring
- Be ambitious but also have a 'plan B'
- Avoid a last minute rush with your personal statement
- Be available on results day

Don't:

- Judge universities entirely by league tables
- Make your personal statement an essay on your subject, or a CV, or simply a list of achievements
- Neglect administrative tasks such as filling in your details on the School's internal UCAS database
- Leave anything to the last minute
- Worry if peers are hearing from universities before you do
- Ignore or overlook communications from UCAS



One of the three travel awards from ASPA and the OA Club last year helped student Alex Turner to travel to Borneo to undertake vital research into the impact of land use and climate change in tropical rainforests. Speaking about his trip, Alex said, "This was an incredible life experience and also provided an exceptional out of class learning opportunity. Many thanks to ASPA and the OA Club for funding part of my trip as without it, this wonderful opportunity would not have been possible".

The deadline for the next travel awards applications is 1 May 2015. For further details about this and other travel award participants which we hope to feature in future editions, please visit the website at www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa_oa_travel_awards



ASPA is delighted to be able to donate over £4,800 to Abingdon School's Annual Fund. Helping the boys in so many varied but highly valuable ways, these are the projects that ASPA is supporting this time:

- History Magazine
- Online Language Lab
- Fencing Masks and Scoreboards
- Model of Human Eye
- Bench for Health Centre dedicated to Ken Kerby, who had a range of roles at School, latterly the resident caretaker.

Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS), now located in a portacabin between Big School and Crescent, provides a means for parents to buy and sell good condition, second-hand Abingdon School uniform. 60% of the sale price will go to the parent/carer and 40% to the school to purchase extra items for the boys to use. Uniform must have the name removed and be clean and pressed ready for sale. The shop is open most Saturdays and Wednesdays during term time. All dates and times of opening are available on the school website www.abingdon.org.uk/sus Enquiries: to sus@abingdon.org.uk

A £7,000 donation, raised from SUS sales, is funding a piano and hockey training nets.

Parents' Associations

We warmly welcome parents becoming involved with the school and there are parents' groups for particular interests. The principal parent organisation is **ASPA** – the Abingdon School Parents Association – which is here to help you meet other parents, find out about ways that parents can support each other and the School, and have some good fun along the way! Find out more about us on the School website or at our next meeting on 14th January – anyone is welcome and help at events is always appreciated.

The Boat Club's parents' organisation is **FASBC**. **Touchliners** is for parents keen to follow the School's rugby, and the **Music Society** is for those who would like to be involved with the musical life at the School. Contact details for all of the above: www.abingdon.org.uk/parents_associations

A taste of Italy

Third year parents were greeted with Italian fizz in the Charles Maude Room before being ushered through to the dining room, which had been transformed into an Italian Bistro. Delicious food and wine and an Italian themed quiz all contributed to a fun and lively atmosphere. A big thank you to all who came along and also to the Catering Team who provided brilliant food and service, and helped to ensure the night was a success.

Quiz and Curry Night

This perennial favourite of the ASPA calendar will be held in the Charles Maude Room on Friday 6 February but you'll need to book by 23 January. Tickets cost £15 per person (cash bar available) and include a curry supper to be served half way through the quiz. You can enter a team (table) of 8 people or ask to be allocated to a team. Booking form is on the ASPA webpage: www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Save the dates for other upcoming events

6 June - ASPA All-School Hoolie Barn Dance & Buffet, Ipsden Barn. Look out for booking details

21 June - OA & ASPA Abingdon School Golf Day, Frilford Heath Golf Club: www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/community_golf

Make an Impact through the Annual Fund

Abingdon School's Annual Fund raises money from parents, alumni and friends. The purpose of the fund is to: increase the number of bursaries available to families in need of assistance with fees; enhance academic teaching and learning, extra-curricular activities and pastoral care and to carry out special buildings and grounds projects.

Donations to the Annual Fund supplement fee income, enabling teachers and staff to undertake additional activities (or to increase pupil participation in current activities), which would otherwise not be possible given budget limitations.

Please support bursaries or one of more than 20 proposed activities, projects, equipment purchases, and travel funds that form this year's Annual Fund. Or make a general (unrestricted) donation for the School to use where most needed.

At a cost of £800 per pupil, an increasing number of pupils are unable to afford to go on this trip. Your contribution to this travel bursary will increase access for those pupils from less well-off families.



Travel Bursary for Classics Trip
Fundraising target: £1,200

Seven-a-Side Football Goals

Fundraising target: £1,560 to buy 4 goals

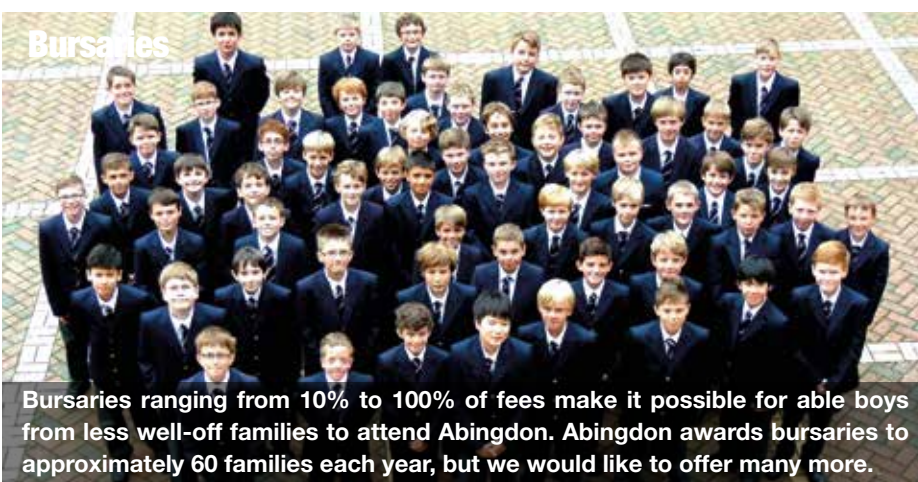


Seven-a-side football is played with smaller goals (12ft x 6ft) and pitches, enabling young players to have more touches of the ball, thus developing their interest and their skills in the game.

The Art Department would like to engage three artists to run a day of workshops focussing on wire sculpting, willow sculpting and wood carving. Artworks created would be exhibited around the School.



Sculpture Workshops
Fundraising target: £1,200



Bursaries

Bursaries ranging from 10% to 100% of fees make it possible for able boys from less well-off families to attend Abingdon. Abingdon awards bursaries to approximately 60 families each year, but we would like to offer many more.

Davies' House day and boarding pupils would like to decorate the House with photos from school trips and life back home. Photos are colourful and fun and help create a home-away-from-home feeling within the House.



Photos for Davies' House
Fundraising target: £500

There are many other Annual Fund projects that need funding. Find out more at: www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund or contact Michael Triff, Director of Philanthropy: michael.triff@abingdon.org.uk / 01235 849129

To make a donation, please use the School's online donation form at : www.abingdon.org.uk/donation

Death of Abingdon's Battle of Britain Pilot

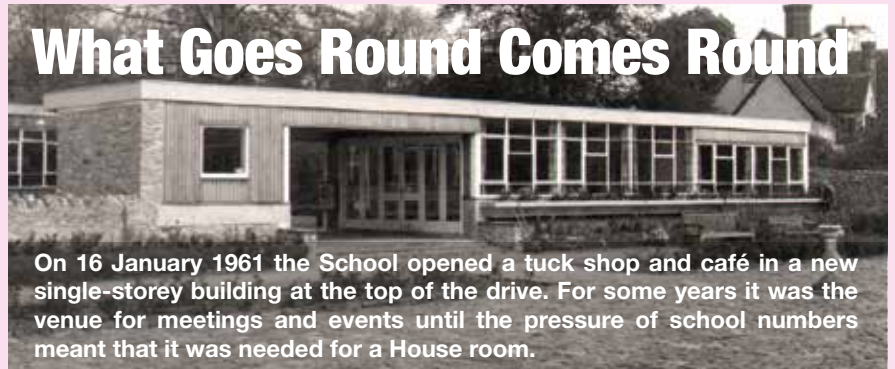


248 Squadron February 1940 – of the 25 men in the photograph, 14 have crosses under their names indicating that they were killed. Roger Morewood is sixth from the right in the front row.

Roger Morewood, OA 1933, another of the School's diminishing number of OAs who served in the Second World War, has died at the age of 98. Roger came to Abingdon as a boarder in 1929. His father was a naval attaché with the Egyptian Navy, and his mother died when he was born. He would admit that he didn't distinguish himself academically, but he played rugby and rowed for the School and was a very keen photographer. He joined the RAF in 1935 and in 1938 was serving with 56 Squadron when they were equipped with Hurricanes – a plane for which Roger had boundless admiration. On the outbreak of war he was promoted to lead 248 Squadron, flying Blenheims – “useless things” in Roger's estimation. Nevertheless Blenheims could stay in the air longer than any other English or German fighter of the time, which meant they were assigned to long-range fighter sweeps over the coast of occupied France and Holland during the summer of 1940.

In 2010 a group from the School went up to Scotland to interview him and so have managed to capture for all time a wonderful record of a charming, humorous and modest man.

What Goes Round Comes Round



On 16 January 1961 the School opened a tuck shop and café in a new single-storey building at the top of the drive. For some years it was the venue for meetings and events until the pressure of school numbers meant that it was needed for a House room.



It remained a House room until 2013 and then in September 2014 opened its doors once more as a café.

OA Club Events – 2015



Tuesday 10 February

Oxford University Reunion

OAs currently studying at Oxford are invited to an informal dinner at an Oxford pub.

Saturday 28 February

Manchester University Reunion

OAs currently studying at Manchester are invited to a reunion in Manchester.

Wednesday 4 March

Frank Close Lecture

Professor Frank Close will reveal his discoveries about the atomic scientist Bruno Pontecorvo, who disappeared from Britain just as his son Gil was about to start his second year at Abingdon. 7 pm in the Amey Theatre, followed by a book signing. Admission free.

Saturday 7 March

Regional Reunion: Cornwall

Lunch - 12.30 pm at The Punchbowl and Ladle Inn, Penelewey, near Truro.

Regional Reunion: Midlands

Lunch - 12.30 pm at The Baraset Barn, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Monday 16 March

Abingdon School Road Relay

Entries from OA teams (four OAs per team) are welcome for the School Road Relay starting at 2.45 pm. To sign up, please email oa.club@abingdon.org.uk



Friday 27 March

Hockey: OAs vs 1st XI

Abingdon's current 1st XI pit their skills against OAs. 3 pm, Tilsley Park, Abingdon. If you are an OA interested in playing, please email oa.club@abingdon.org.uk. Spectators welcome.



Sunday 19 April

Cricket: 1st XI v Recent Leavers

The current 1st XI cricket team will take on a team of recent leavers at Abingdon School. Spectators are very welcome.



Friday 8 May

1950s/60s OA Reunion

The annual 50s / 60s dinner will be held at The Grand in Brighton, organised by Chris Ford (1965). Dinner tickets are £60. There will be an opportunity to tour the Royal Pavilion. Online booking is now open.

Tuesday 12 May

OA Golf Day

A full day of golf at Frilford Heath. Old Abingdonians of all ages and abilities are invited. Please email David Blomley (1976) for details: d.blomley@btinternet.com

Saturday 6 June

Year Group Reunions for Class of 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005

Tours of the School and a drinks reception will be followed by a buffet dinner. There is no charge for this event. Partners are very welcome.



CCF Centenary Dinner

Friday 17 October

Old Abingdonians, CCF staff and current cadets attended a reception and dinner at School to celebrate the centenary of the CCF at Abingdon School. Many guests came in mess dress, with an impressive number of decorations across the group. The after dinner speeches were confidently given by six senior cadets who explained the history of the CCF and their impressions of its present day incarnation.

London Drinks

Friday 14 November

This year the OA Club held their annual London Drinks Reception at the Hospital Club in the heart of Covent Garden. 200 guests packed the modern reception room and enjoyed the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the Club. Year groups from 1944 to 2014 were well represented. Thanks to Gavin McLauchlan (OA 1981) for facilitating the venue.

OA Club Awards

Applications from OAs are invited for individual and group fund awards. Grants are made annually in June and therefore applications must be received by 1 May. Please visit: www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/oa_awards

Full details of events and booking at : www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

www.abingdon.org.uk/oa



OAs on land, at sea and in the air

Stephen Fabes, OA 1999, is cycling the length of six of the earth's continents – he is on his last continent and plans to be back some time in early 2016. It's been five years since he waved goodbye to loved ones from St Thomas' Hospital in central London, where he was working as a doctor, and began pedalling. So far he has passed through 54 countries and pedalled some 70,000 km – a distance approaching twice around the world. He is now on the home straight, cycling across Asia, from the punishingly cold Mongolian winter back to the UK, and visiting remote medical clinics en route.



RORC Round Britain and Ireland Race

George Jørgensen, OA 2012, took part in the 2014 RORC Round Britain and Ireland race this summer on board the Army's racing yacht *British Soldier*.

The race consists of sailing non-stop around the whole of Britain and Ireland, a distance of almost 2000 nautical miles, against professional crews. The team battled injury, damage and seriously heavy weather but they still managed to come second in class and eighth overall. George, the youngest crew member on the yacht, and one of the youngest competitors in the race, has now been invited to take part in the 2015 Fastnet and the 2015 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, which he will be fitting around his Ship Science MEng at the University of Southampton.



Solar Impulse



Phil Norris, OA 2006, will soon embark on an adventure of renewable energy, travelling alongside the only aircraft of perpetual endurance as it attempts the first round the world solar flight. Within the online marketing team, Phil contributes to the content that is available on the web and social media channels. In order to share the Solar Impulse experience, the marketing team spend time with the aircraft in the hangar and on the airfield and sit within the Mission Control Centre during flights. The aircraft, Si2, has just finished its Swiss series of test flights and once transported to Abu Dhabi it will prepare for launch in March 2015. The circumnavigation will take 25 days of flight, the longest leg of which will be five days and nights to cross the Pacific.

