

Abingdon School The Sixth Form



ABINGDON



What are you looking for from a Sixth Form?

Time for a change? To study the A level subjects you want?
To get to a good university? To try something new?



Click on any of the pink links on the following pages for further information.

Here's what Abingdon offers

A level choices and curriculum

At Abingdon we pride ourselves on our ability to accommodate almost all of the nearly 150 combinations of A level subjects that our students request. We fit our timetable around the subjects our students want to take and not vice versa. In most years we teach 23 A level subjects including all of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects and each year we publish on our website the A level [results by subject](#) so you can take a look. For more information on each subject please see our [sixth form curriculum](#). Some of our subjects are taught jointly with the girls from St Helen and St Katharine School.

Our teaching

Our teaching is excellent but then we would say that wouldn't we, so here is what the independent experts, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, ISI, report:

“ The quality of teaching is excellent and fulfils the school's aim to achieve first-rate academic standards and to encourage boys to demand the best from themselves.

” Pupils' excellent standards of achievement are fostered by a high quality of teaching which, at its best, involves pupils in all aspects of their learning and challenges their intellects.

The ISI report 2011

Our class sizes range from 5 to 16, averaging around 12 or 13. We offer academic enrichment through masterclasses, lectures – ranging from the Syrian Team at the Foreign Office to TED and MED talks – and participation in a wide range of activities from the PolyU Global Challenge to a Particle Physics masterclass. Over the last few years we have had boys represent the UK in Linguistics, Geography and Chemistry International Olympiads.





Applying to university

In the last two school inspections the ISI **commented** on how impressed they were both with the quality of the advice given to and the **university destinations** of our students. We have a **team of advisors** who help with applications to university whether it's in the UK, USA, Europe or Hong Kong. We have won two scholarships to the USA in the last three years and a significant number attain Oxbridge offers every year. The majority of our students get into their first choice of university. Our University Applications Co-ordinator works alongside a team of staff helping boys – and their parents – with **the application process** and we have specialist advisors for potential medics, vets and Oxbridge candidates.

Broadening horizons

There is much more to our sixth form than just the high academic standards you would expect. We want to see our students using every opportunity to learn new skills, develop interests and try a range of activities. There are opportunities to travel in just about every department including Languages, Classics, Geography, Sport, Art and Music. We have a very active **CCF** and there are kayaking, canoeing, sailing and walking expeditions through The **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**. We have internship opportunities for work experience in a range of companies through the Old Abingdonian Club who also provide, alongside our parent organisation, interview experience and awards for sixth formers who are looking to travel in the summer holidays or during a gap year.

We ask all our students to 'give something back' during their time at Abingdon – whether it's through the CCF, the service element of DofE or volunteering through our **Other Half** (extra-curricular) programme – it is an important part of any education and also helps when applying to university.





Activities

With over 100 **Other Half** activities on offer and as wide-ranging as debating, composing, film-making and chess, there is plenty to do wherever your interests lie. **Drama**, **Music** and **Sport** feature strongly throughout the Sixth Form. There are individual and team **sports** from rugby and rowing to cross-country, fencing and shooting and whether you are aiming to represent your country or tour Scotland with the third XV, there is something for everyone. Our sportsmen regularly tour and train abroad from rugby in the southern hemisphere to rowing in the USA.

Many Abingdonians go on to make a career on the stage, David Mitchell, Toby Jones and Tom Hollander to name a few. We are also one of only a handful of schools with an award-winning **Film Unit**. Much of the **Sixth Form drama** takes place with the girls from St Helen's – take a look at our recent productions **Equus** and **Les Misérables**.

As well-known for musicians as actors and sportsmen, Old Abingdonians include all four members of Radiohead and many classical musicians. There are regular opportunities to perform at Abingdon, in venues across the UK and on overseas tours. We have two **orchestras**, a variety of ensembles, **choirs** and of course the **Big Band**.

Independent Learning

We recognise that the Sixth Form represents a transition from school to further education and at Abingdon we encourage responsibility and independence. We appreciate that maturity doesn't happen overnight and some boys need more supervision than others; your tutor and teachers will get to know you well and what works best for you. Boys remain with the same **Tutor** throughout the Sixth Form and your tutor is the principal link between home and school.

Our Sixth Form has a co-educational feel; Critical Thinking & Theory of Knowledge lessons for all boys take place with girls from St Helen's and there is plenty of social life whether it's the Griffen Ball at the end of the year or less formal occasions such as **Abingdon's Got Talent**.

The School Day

9am – 4pm **Lessons and study periods** – Usually four lessons of 50 or 55 minutes. These include academic lessons, enrichment activities, extensions lessons and core sport.

4pm – 5pm **Other Half activities**
Each day includes lunch and mid-morning breaks. Some Other Half activities take place at lunchtime and on Wednesday afternoons.

Homework A minimum of 4 hours per week per subject.

We have dedicated Sixth Form workspace and a common room with a careers library and university applications office. There will be a school café opening soon.

Boarding

Weekly and full boarding are popular options at Abingdon and almost half of our boarders are sixth formers. Boarders benefit from the School's superb **facilities**, including the **sports centre** and from a full activity programme at weekends. With no commute to and from school, there's plenty of time to study and to enjoy boarding life.

Entry Requirements

If you would like to know more about how to join our Sixth Form please see the sixth form **admissions information**.





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