

Unveiled

The Science Fusion Tower

Inspirational is a much overused word but when referring to the Yang Science Centre (YSC) sculpture, unveiled in January, it's not an exaggeration. The Science Fusion Tower, as it is officially named, was designed and built by sculptor, Matthew Lane Sanderson. Matthew asked the boys to learn for themselves about the many themes incorporated into the sculpture, *the Fibonacci sequence, tokamak nuclear fusion, biomass and biodiversity, the Tree of Life* - and to consider their impact on our future.

The sculpture was made possible by a donation from OA Martin Iredale and family.



Felicity Lusk reflects

The Abingdon community puts questions to Miss Lusk as she begins her final term at Abingdon.



Miss Lusk enjoying a game of pool with the Lower School

What attracted you to Abingdon?

Abingdon has ambition; it's really going places and has enormous potential. I like to stimulate change and I felt that there was a lot I could do at Abingdon. It also has a strong sense of community.

When you got the job at Abingdon there was much talk about a woman taking over – did that surprise you?

Completely – I was very surprised at the level of surprise! I really had no idea it would be that much of a story. It was a full time job just managing the interest. Equally though, I was surprised when I got here, I had expected it to be much more testosterone filled but it really isn't.

And all the interest in your clothes etc. – how did you feel about that?

It was all a bit silly, and got very 'wearing'!

What was it like to deal with boys after 12 years with girls at Oxford High School?

Absolutely no different. The only thing I would say, if pushed, is that girls sometimes need more encouragement to aim high but the same could be said for some boys. The pupils are very similar at both schools, lively, intelligent, great fun.

How does Abingdon compare to your time at other schools?

Abingdon is just a lot bigger with a huge Other Half programme. It has certainly taught me to prioritise, you cannot do everything and you have to manage expectations.

Magdalen College School is now following Abingdon's lead having appointed a female Head; do you have any tips for the incoming Ms Pike?

Be a strong leader, be yourself and enjoy it.

What have you learnt from this headship?

Such a lot, I am surprised by little these days. You are very privileged as a Head to be given access to other people's lives and you soon realise that an individual's well being is so much bigger than passing exams in education.

What are you going to miss most about being a Head?

Being part of making things happen, it can be quite an adrenaline rush. I also like the routine and rhythm of the School and seeing the boys completely absorbed in what they are doing.

What won't you miss?

Managing difficult parents' expectations!

Have you achieved what you set out to achieve six years ago?

More.

Is there anything you failed to do that you would have liked to?

No.

You opened the new YSC to educate the next generation of scientists – if you could hope for one of them to go on to discover something that would change the world, what would that be?

A cure for loneliness, especially for the elderly in the UK.

What would you like to be remembered for?

Improving the lives of boys and staff, through a combination of things such as ending academic lessons on a Saturday, emphasis on pastoral care, perhaps changing the ethos to be more open.

If you had to pick one highlight from your time at Abingdon what would it be?

So many highlights, very difficult to pick just one. Perhaps the sixth form leavers singing at their final chapel service each year, it's lovely to see how much they are moved by the occasion.

What tips would you give your successor?

Keep looking at the 'big picture'. You can't do everything, so leave the minutiae to others and concentrate on looking ahead and adapting to change.

Of the Headmasters of Abingdon School that have gone before you – who do you most admire and why?

Sir James Cobban. He made a huge difference to boys' lives on an individual basis. Our OAs credit him with making a real difference. He poured himself into the school.

If you could start one last project or development for the school what would it be?

Now that would be telling – it may still happen!

What's made you smile most about Abingdon?

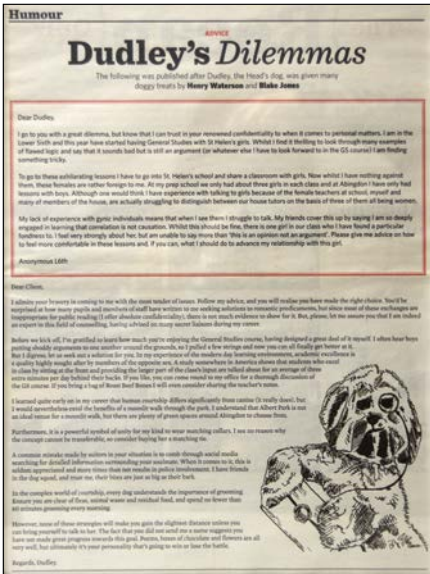
Dudley's Dilemmas in the *Martlet**. The boys have a very keen sense of humour! (*Dudley is Miss Lusk's dog. He is very much a part of school life.)

What's the funniest thing that has happened to you here?

There was the mystery of the single trainer that appeared in the most unlikely places around Lacies Court and the time when the All Blacks defeated England and my NZ flag in the garden was found mysteriously lowered to half mast.

Do schools have a character? What would Abingdon's be?

Yes – civilised, aspirational, surprisingly gentle and very nice!



Framed extracts from Dudley's Dilemmas adorn the Head's office

If Abingdon was an animal, what would it be?

A Lhasa Apso, of course.

So now you're turning the page – what next?

It's yet to be written.

Will Dudley be staying?

Come September, I think his position will be filled as well as mine.

What will Dudley miss most about Abingdon School?

Senior Leadership Team meetings. He knows absolutely everything about what happens here and he is very discreet.

What TV will you be catching up on with your free time?

All the Scandinavian dramas – I have not watched one.

As a musician, which piece of music would you take to a desert island and why?

Schubert String Quintet C major, 2nd movement adagio. Formidable and unforgettable, it holds my soul.

What have you missed most about NZ over the years?

The smell of the Bush, where I live. Soil, pohutukawa flowers – it's so evocative almost ancient, primeval.

Do you miss NZ less now than when you first came over?

I've never missed home. As my roots are there, I will always be a Kiwi but I love England.

Where will you be in ten years?

Somewhere having a really good time! Ten years is actually not very long, just 3650 days and time goes so quickly. I have an army of friends to catch up on, more trekking, being active - health willing - there's so much I want to do.

Where will Abingdon be in ten years time?

I pass that mantle over to Mike Windsor!



An Excellent All-round Education

“The pupils’ achievements and learning are excellent, as a consequence of the excellent curricular and extra-curricular provision and teaching.” - ISI Inspection November 2015

The full ISI reports can be found at www.abingdon.org.uk/inspection

Every school talks about offering an excellent all-round education, its extra-curricular activities and the strength of its academic performance. At Abingdon, we are fortunate to be able to leave the talking to others. In January we received the findings from our latest Independent Schools Inspectorate, ISI, inspection, which gave an Abingdon education a ringing endorsement. To receive such an endorsement from this independent body is praise indeed. But we are not complacent; we constantly review and develop the education we provide.

The ISI's findings add to an increasing list of independent accolades for Abingdon, including *The Week* magazine which, in its *Best of the Best* feature nominated Abingdon as “Great for extra-curricular”. Plus the *Tatler Schools Guide 2016*, that considered Abingdon to be “most parents’ top choice” of the “excellent schools in Oxfordshire”.

ISI found the School to be, “Highly successful in achieving its stated aims in educating boys and young men of talent and potential to a high level.”

And we are equally proud of the following findings:

- “Every pupil is known as an individual.”
- “There is a caring atmosphere throughout the school.”
- “The pupils are proud of their school and there is a true sense of belonging.”

And not to forget our Prep School, which received a tremendous independent accolade from ISI. The inspection gave the School the highest rating in all aspects of the education provided, including the very rare rating of “Exceptional” for “pupils’ achievement both inside and outside the classroom.”



Lower School Public Speaking

In January, the entire First Year enjoyed a public speaking workshop run by two trainers from the English Speaking Union. They took part in a range of activities designed to help them understand how to deliver a good speech including content, linking arguments and how to engage with their audience. The boys also considered how to act as a chairman, a main speaker, and to give a vote of thanks - all of which will prove invaluable to them in the Lower School Public Speaking Competition. The workshop was made possible thanks to a donation to the Annual Fund from the Second-hand Uniform Shop.



Classics Geophysics Day

The Lower School Archaeology Club and other classics students enjoyed a visit from the Archaeology Department at Reading University. The boys conducted an archaeological geophysical survey of sites around the school campus. Many thanks to Dr Rob Fry and Dr Christine Milton who made the day possible.



IFS Student Investor Challenge

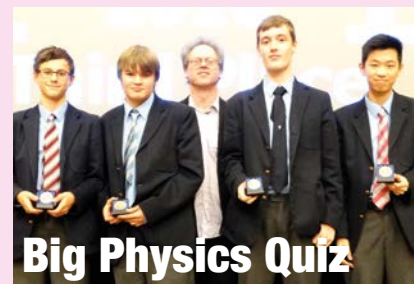
The School's economists showed great potential in the Institute of Financial Services Student Investor Challenge – a UK wide investment game, where teams are given a virtual £100,000 to invest. Both Abingdon teams reached the semi final and team 'Tigers' came in the top eight (10,000 teams entered) and will compete in the final on 27 April.

Cryptogram King

Congratulations to fifth year James Hogge who finished as runner-up in the National Cipher Challenge, run by the University of Southampton Mathematics



Department and sponsored by Trinity College, Cambridge. In the annual Challenge, competitors attempt to break cryptograms - a type of puzzle that consists of a short piece of encrypted text. James showed enormous initiative and resourcefulness in solving the challenges so quickly. He is a member of the School's Code Breaking Club, which runs during the Michaelmas term. James collected his prize at an event at Bletchley Park at the beginning of March.



Big Physics Quiz

At the Big Physics Quiz held at Birmingham University all four third year teams finished in the top half of the 100 teams participating with one team finishing in an excellent third place.



BASE Success

A team of six boys won through to the national final of the Institute of Chartered Accountants National Business Game, BASE.

BASE is an ideal opportunity for students to learn about careers in accountancy, finance and business and develops key skills required for university, college or job applications. The final is to be held in June.

National Final Senior Maths Challenge

In the national final of the Senior Maths Team Challenge, Abingdon's team of Harry Lei, Jerry Yang, Ben Schneider and Angus Shen came 21st out of 86 teams of the top sixth form mathematicians in the country. A very impressive result indeed. The boys defeated 31 other teams in the regional round held at Cherwell School to reach the final, which was held at the Royal Horticultural Halls at Westminster.





MUN awards

17 boys attended the three-day Model United Nations conference at Magdalen College School, picking up 11 awards between them.



Wear a Hat for Brain Tumour Day

Boys and staff sported all kinds of head gear in aid of 'Wear a Hat Day' for brain tumour research. Caps and beanies, an outlandish umbrella and jester hats were all worn with style and we had a Viking at the helm!



Bell Ringing

Congratulations to Scott Elkington, Jamie Farrow, and William Sheffield who passed levels 2, 3 and 5 respectively of the ART Learning the Ropes training course in bellringing.

The CCF came 7th out of 18 teams in the national final of the Air Squadron Trophy - an excellent result.



Air Squadron Trophy



Chess

Abingdon's A team defeated Cherwell School 6-0 in a Region 6 quarter final of the prestigious National Schools' Championship. In the Wiltshire Junior Open Chess Championships, nine boys took part and all played well. Many congratulations to Rafi'i Al-Akiti who won the intermediate section and to Saxon Supple and Lawrence Putt who were 2nd and 4th in the beginner section.



Historical Novelist

Ben Kane spoke to lower school boys, dressed as a Roman legionary, about the evolution of the Roman army over the centuries. After school he spoke to middle school boys who are studying Rome's wars with Carthage as part of their Ancient History course.



Bouncing Boarders

Austin House boarders took enthusiastically to an afternoon of urban bouncing at the Freedog Trampoline Centre. Following the safety briefing and a quick warm-up, it was time for most to step up to the challenge of the foam pit... in true competitive spirit, Mr Ghosh started with some bold front somersaults, quickly followed by some simple 'bounce and launch' from the Golding family. Not to be outdone, the Austin House boys performed some fantastic mid-air manoeuvres, with Chukuka Okonjo, Dmitry Muravyev and Min Laohavisit excelling in particular!



D Day Landing Diorama

The Lower School History Club created a diorama of the Allied assault on Hitler's Atlantic Wall. It shows the British paratroopers having taken a small Nazi airfield before the main assault.

Made by: Wilf Searby, Marcus Bainbridge, Josh Broadbent, Johnnie Willis-Bund, Tom Russell, Aiden Coster, Hugo Leedham.



Under Pressure ... ?

Mark Hindley, Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Abingdon School talks about managing exam pressure.

We can all remember that sinking feeling of turning over an exam paper and panicking that we had revised the wrong topics. The hours and days leading up to the exam could be just as worrying as a series of worst case scenarios played out in our heads.

This feeling of dread is exponentially worse for today's children. Yes, exams were important in our day, but there wasn't the surrounding hype that comes with the exam results of today. Often teenagers at selective schools seem to think that the total judgement of their worth is the string of letters that they are awarded on a Thursday in late August – the fateful Results Day.

No wonder teenagers feel pressure

However, pressure itself is not always a bad thing. For many it is a spur that they need: some pupils love the sense of a deadline and the buzz of the exam hall. Yet, for others it can be a crushing

expectation. The crucial thing is learning to prepare for pressure, and to ensure that pressure is a positive experience, a mode in which an individual can flourish, rather than something that is crippling. School, parents, peer groups all have an important part to play.

School

The role of the school is to ensure that a child feels prepared. Students need to know the curriculum, how to convey the right information on the day and to be familiar with the exam format. This is why at Abingdon we have regular testing and revision sessions, revision clinics, mocks, formative and summative assessment, and why we introduce the key ideas of the exams early, rather than cramming it all into the final moments.

In addition we have a Learning Support Team who can step in to top up a pupil's learning skills and help them to find the strategies to try to make their work optimal. Knowing how to revise and what type of learner you are is an invaluable life skill, so it is something we ask the boys to think and be self-analytical about.

But as ever at Abingdon, the Other Half is crucial. Boys need perspective, and they need to be able to compartmentalise their studies. If work becomes all consuming, then the pressure can be all consuming, so boys should maintain a good balance of social and Other Half commitments. Exams do matter but they are only one aspect of life and (so-called) soft skills matter as much.

Parents

The role of parents is just as significant, if not more so, than that of the school. Your sons need to know that while exams are important, their value in your eyes is not dependent on their results. This is a difficult balancing act.

Most parents want the best for their children and for them to have the best opportunities in life. Sometimes this means that we scold our children, at other times they need unadulterated praise. All children are different and respond differently to carrots or sticks.

However, if there were to be common themes for almost all children it would be these: they want to be listened to, and to know that their parents are interested in them; they need parents to be realistic about their abilities and to manage expectations, both the boy's own expectations, and the expectations of his family; they need to be supported; they need to know that parental love is unconditional. There are times when we may not like the actions of our son, but we will always love him.

If a child is struggling, be prompt to step in - offer an escape valve and talk both to him and to school. Issues that are dealt with early are much more easily deflated than ones that have spawned a life of their own over time.

As with our view of the Other Half, we would encourage parents to see exams as simply one piece of a complex jigsaw.



Appreciate your child for more than just his academic endeavours. This might be by encouraging his other pursuits and skills, or it might simply be by enjoying his company, going for a walk with him (if you can get him out of the house!) or having a chat over a pizza (once you have convinced him to put his phone away!)

Practically, he will also need support in creating a calm working environment. For the Middle School this might mean a more hands-on approach by helping him to structure his revision and carve up his time; as your son gets older he will need to take on more personal responsibility for his approach, and results. Whatever his age, he will need a quiet, orderly space in which to work.

Your son and his peers

Most children want to do well in order to succeed and to impress. They put pressure on themselves in their desire to please their parents and keep up with their peers.

There are practical tips to help with this: your son needs to structure and manage his revision effectively. Plan in advance. In planning, build in variety – some topics and subjects lend themselves to lots of short regular slots, others can benefit from longer chunks of time. Make sure that these are mixed up with fresh air and exercise! Self-reflection is also important – the student needs to think about how he learns most effectively: staring at a piece of



paper for an hour isn't necessarily effective revision. All revision needs to involve writing or note taking. Finally, he needs to make sure revision is fairly apportioned – he mustn't spend all his time on subjects he enjoys, or indeed the opposite.

However, the biggest pressure often comes from the sense that everyone else has done more or knows more or will do better. Having a work-buddy or chatting to friends can be useful, but it is important

that your son works at his own pace, and in the way that suits him best. He mustn't get side-tracked by the boasts of peers on social media – either about how much they have done, or about how little they are going to do – or by those who insist that their way is the best and only way to achieve success.

Peer pressure can eat away at us all, but it is especially marked in teenagers, so do try to encourage him to talk to you. Boys are notoriously bad at this, especially when in face-to-face situations, so do try to find times when you are side-by-side over a shared activity (in the car, on a walk, washing up...) Boys are more likely to let you know how they are feeling if they don't have to face you, especially if they are feeling vulnerable or stressed.

Finally....

Pressure does not have to be negative, but it is a fact of life. As with all experiences when growing up, pressure needs to be seen as part of a learning curve. As we say to all parents, prospective and current, education is about more than just exam results. I can't remember a meeting at work, or a social event, when someone asked me what I got in my A-levels or GCSEs, but I can remember lots of pressurised situations. Treat the exams as a means to an end, not the end in itself.



Abingdon Music and Drama



Anything Goes, the joint senior production with St Helen's, played to sell-out houses and was enjoyed by over 1000 people. It was a vibrant, colourful show full of glamour, sparkle and wit. Ethan Saphie (Billy Crocker) and Charlie Landells (Moonface Martin) were outstanding in their comic timing and the plethora of disguises they took on and Ryan Clune was hilarious as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Conor Martin (Eli Whitney), Patrick Cole (Captain) and Reuben Havelock (Purser) also played their roles with charisma and charm, and the chorus of sailors and passengers brought the 1930s production to life with fun, dynamism and great company spirit.



Caucasian Chalk Circle

Sixteen Abingdon and St Helen's pupils put on a remarkable production of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* directed by Alison Quick. It was an absorbing and thought-provoking production created by a multi-talented cast who acted, sang and played instruments as they told the story of a country in political and military turmoil. The parallels with what is happening in the world at the moment provided food for thought as the cast moved swiftly between roles, by changing a coat here or a hat there with electrifying energy and versatility.



Chilingirian concert and Masterclass

We were delighted to welcome the Chilingirian String Quartet for their third biennial visit to Abingdon School. In the evening this internationally famous string quartet played a programme of music by Beethoven, Bartok and Dvorak, which was enthusiastically received by the audience in the Amey Theatre.

Earlier in the day the members of the quartet, led by their charismatic Armenian first violinist, Levon Chilingirian, had kindly offered to coach our 12 chamber ensembles. The boys found the masterclass extremely helpful, learning to think about subtle aspects of their playing.



Woodwind concert and Masterclass

Nine woodwind players enjoyed a woodwind masterclass with the eminent clarinettist, composer and musical educationalist, Paul Harris. Paul worked with flautists, oboists, clarinettists, saxophonists and a bassoonist and had many thoughtful insights and recommendations.

Pro Corda

Five of the 11 chamber ensembles who took part in the preliminary round of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival got through to the semi final held at St Helen's at the beginning of March.

The annual chamber evening was also a tremendous success with 15 ensembles directed and presented by the boys with a wide range of music from large and small ensembles.

New Year Charity Concert



This year's New Year Charity Concert focused on easy listening with the entire Second Year opening the concert with *Under the Sea* from the film *The Little Mermaid*. Lower School Band followed with music from the Harry Potter films. Chamber Orchestra introduced a more serious note with Vivaldi's Concerto Grosso in D minor followed by Second Orchestra with a very enjoyable 'damp' medley – *Raindrops Keep Falling, Come Rain or Come Shine* and *Singin' in the Rain*. First Orchestra took us to the interval with Elgar's Cello Concerto (first movement) and a Burt Bacharach medley. Jamie Corish, the solo cellist, played beautifully.

The second half belonged to two of the senior bands, Brass Band and Big Band. Brass Band played *Army of the Nile* and *Music to Watch Girls By*. Despite the hordes of trumpets (some 20 or so), the lower brass held their own, especially the lovely chromatic sound of Harry Brown's euphonium. Finally, Big Band rounded the evening off with the inimitable *Pink Panther* and *Cold Duck Time*. The retiring collection raised £285 for NOFA, the National Orchestra For All.



Scholars' Concerts

Music scholars impressed appreciative audiences in two concerts this term. There are five scholars concerts throughout the year.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 May

Junior Scholars' and Soloists' Concert
6pm Amey Theatre admission free

Wednesday 23 June

Lower School Gala Concert
6pm Amey Theatre admission free

Wednesday 29 June

Summer Concert
7pm Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Tickets and event details online at
www.abingdon.org.uk/future_events

Abingdonians Out and About



The Spanish exchange enjoyed the sites of Oxford and Abingdon during their visit to the School in March.



Over half term, 11 fourth year boys and six girls from St Helen's immersed themselves in German language and culture through the Bielefeld exchange.



The CCF was very privileged to spend the day as guests of the Coldstream Guards at the Victoria Barracks and at Windsor Castle. They learnt about Life on Duty as well as enjoying a tour.

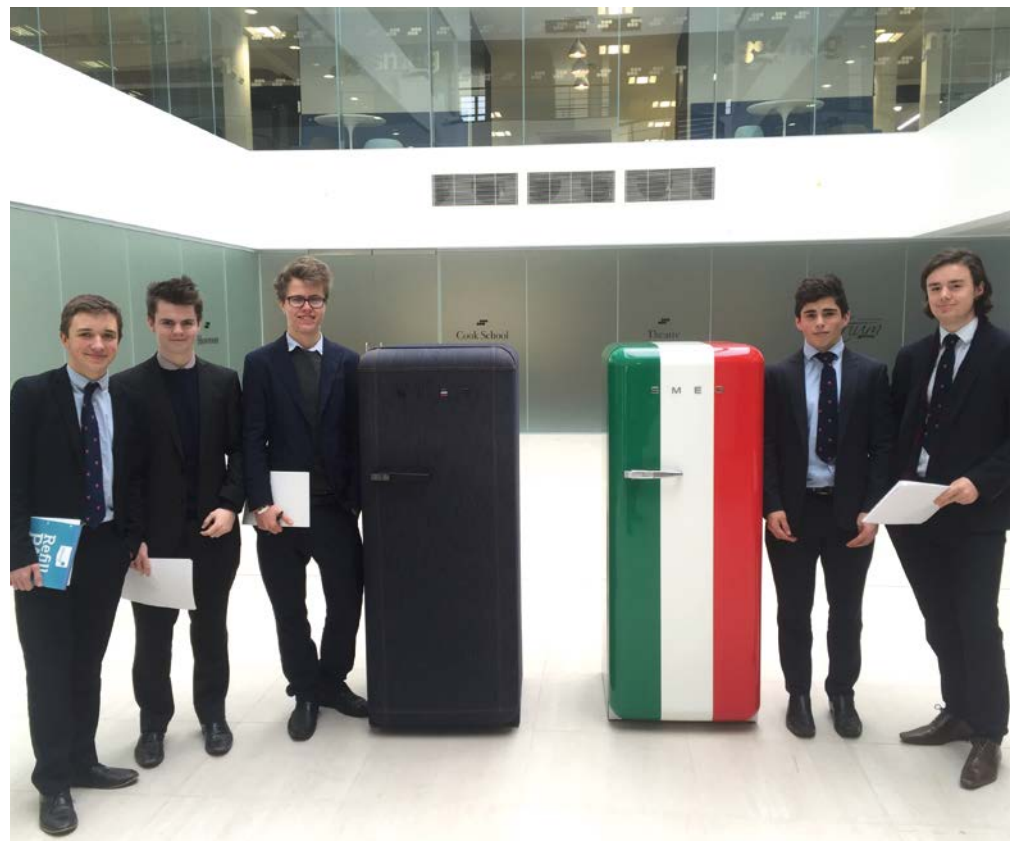
Abingdonians Out and About



Over the Christmas holiday, 19 boys travelled to the Oulanka National Park just south of the Arctic Circle on the Russian border for a winter wilderness expedition. After three days of wilderness and winter skills training to prepare them for the extreme conditions of the Finnish winter, the boys headed out into the icy wilds to complete the 25km trek through powder snow in temperatures falling to minus 28 degrees celsius.



Sixth formers studying Economics and Business Studies took part in an extremely busy and interesting trip to Brussels. Activities included visiting the Council of the European Union, publishing houses, banks, a brewery and a chocolate factory. They also explored Bruges, Brussels and Antwerp.



Lower sixth boys studying Business Studies visited SMEG's headquarters, learning about the company's marketing strategy and business prospects.



Austin House boarders celebrated Chinese New Year with a whole house trip to Sojo in Oxford. They were joined by boarding house tutors and Helen the matron.

Abingdon Sport



The Hockey Club enjoyed a successful and challenging term. Highlights included: 15 boys representing county teams, 1st XI pre-season tour to Barcelona, U13s winning the County Championships and Max Carter Keall selected for England at U16. Over 100 fixtures were played and 16 teams took to the pitch each week. The Club continues to compete at a high level in the Independent Schools Hockey League.



The Fencing Club won all their fixtures this term to take their unbeaten run to three years. Several boys continue to perform well at national and international competitions. Harry Baston-Hall won Gold in Boys' Epee at the Southern Region Qualifiers for the British Youth Championships, while Fencing Captain Robert MacLennan has been representing Great Britain at international events in Copenhagen and Bratislava. He is ranked 2nd in Great Britain at U17 and will represent GB in the European Championships and the World Championships.



This term 18 sides have represented the Football Club across six different age groups. The 1st XI had notable wins and the U16 As remain unbeaten, having won against tough opposition including Bedford Modern and Aylesbury Grammar. Middle School block victories against Oratory and Reading Grammar demonstrated the progress the sides have made. It's tremendous to see the number of pupils now playing representative football.



The Swimming Club finished second to Whitgift at the Warwick 100s Gala, the School's best result to date, before going on to win all three age groups at the School's own event, the Abingdon Sprints, where ten schools competed.



Rowers competed well at the GB junior trials winning the Pairs and the Double Scull events. At the Schools' Head the 1st VIII was an excellent 5th out of 342 crews.



The Sailing Club competed in the Winter Match Racing Qualifier in Portland Harbour winning three races against very tough opposition.



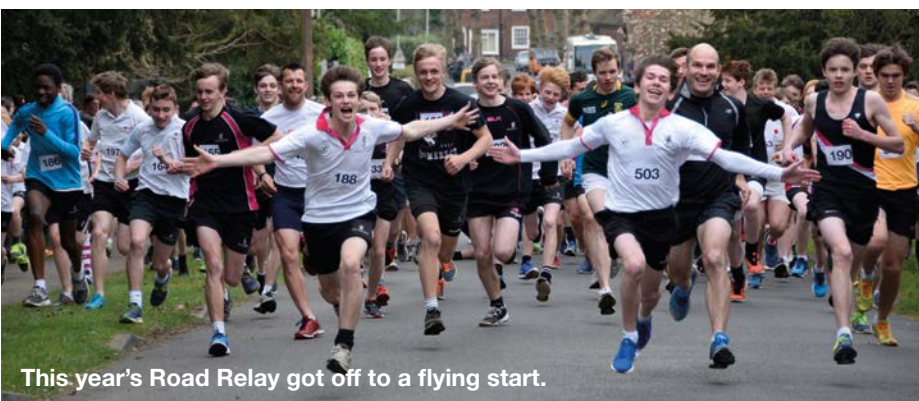
Out in front, Abingdon School sixth former Charlie Quarterman of the Zappi Race Team, won the 50th edition of the Junior Circuito del Guadiana in Extremadura for the second consecutive year.



In December, Tom Digby, beat the World Record for rowing 5000m on the indoor rowing machine, completing the distance in 15:54.9.



Calum Steer, Alexander Pennington, Daniel Lawson, Jonty de la Harpe, Alex Miell-Ingram, David Bunn and Ivo Brown made up a formidable senior team that took first place against tough opposition at Marlborough College.



This year's Road Relay got off to a flying start.



Squash has enjoyed an excellent term. One of the highlights was the third match in a series against Radley. With the scores at one all, our young team contested each match strongly, and although we were defeated, the boys Seb Hickman, Nikhil Vyas, Hector Chambers, Will Pearson and Joe Kelly have proven themselves the strongest in Abingdon's history.



Seb Hickman, Joe Sandall and Josh Roche lost by the narrowest of margins to Warwick School in the regional final of the ISGA knockout competition. Josh Roche and Joe Sandall have been selected to represent the county.

“ Pupils’ achievement is exceptional, both inside and outside the classroom. They reach unusually high standards and make rapid progress through the school, displaying outstanding attitudes to learning.”

The Prep School was delighted to receive the very rare accolade of **“exceptional”** from the Independent Schools Inspectorate.



The boys in 5S invited Crispin to come and test out their football goals, which they had created in their CDT lessons.



World Book Day

This year's World Book Day took the theme of characters from history and leading us *around the world* was Phileas Fogg, otherwise known as our very own Stefan Gerrard, who organized a human timeline made up from the boys' various characters. Among our visitors were Julius Caesar, a highwayman, a Samurai warrior, Elizabeth I and Napoleon Bonaparte himself. This literary celebration was rounded off with a visit from the popular children's author Annabel Claridge.



Wall sculptures

The January Saturday art workshop involved creating wall sculptures with the theme of fair grounds. As inspiration for their designs, the boys looked at pop artist Frank Stella who created wall sculptures in the 1960s.

For Mother's Day, the boys in the Wednesday Art Club used daffodils to decorate porcelain tiles, demonstrating some wonderful painting skills and a great deal of creativity.





Michelangelo

The senior production, *Michelangelo*, played to packed houses. The audience was transported back in time to the Italian Renaissance, courtesy of some modern-day tourists and their guide, and duly learned about what life was like in Florence during the late 15th century.



Cross-Country

Inter House Cross Country

The whole school turned out for this hotly contested event with Pre-prep starting proceedings with the under 7 race. The Under 11 race was the most eagerly anticipated of the afternoon and it did not disappoint. William and Quinn were 'neck and neck' throughout but William was the faster finisher and broke the Year 6 school record in 6:57sec. Quinn also broke the Year 5 school record in 7:01. The finale was the Under 13 race with a number of runners with good pedigrees including county representation. The final outcome was Rowan (1st), Nicholas (2nd) and James (3rd).

IAPS Champions

The under 11 cross-country team won the IAPS National Cross Country Championships beating 63 schools to take the title and William was the individual winner. William, Quinn (5th), Johnny and Freddie all finished in the top 25 out of 384 runners. A superb performance.

Grandparents to Tea

Our annual tea party provided a fabulous opportunity for grandparents to share their experiences, games from the past and wonderful memories of times gone by. There were treasured moments for all as the generations came together to share old and new skills, along with a delicious piece of cake and a well-deserved cup of tea.



How the Body Works



The boys in the Junior Section were enthralled by an assembly given by Dr Lucie Winter and Dr Gabi Rees. They talked about the role of pathology as a science in looking for cures for a variety of illnesses. Boys were shown pictures of cells in different areas of the body and on Bill, the cut out human. They were also asked to place the organs of the body. For each body part they learnt its size, weight and function and, in some cases, talked about how we take care of it: diet, exercise and avoiding certain substances.

Congratulations!

It has been another excellent year for 13+ scholarships. Ashwin has earned the Mercers' Company Award, the top academic scholarship to Abingdon School. This is the record fifth year in a row for this distinction to be won by an Abingdon Prep pupil. Ashwin was also awarded a music scholarship to Abingdon. In addition Benjamin gained an academic scholarship, The Lady Wantage Award to Abingdon. In other scholarship success, Freddie and Nicholas both won sports scholarships to Abingdon, while Harrison gained a sports scholarship to St Edward's and William an art scholarship to Cokethorpe. The boys and staff can all be very proud of these fine achievements across the curriculum.



Pink ties and tiaras at the ready!

ASPA's Pink Tie & Tiara Dinner & Disco promises to be a sparkling evening of great food, fun and entertainment. Taking place on Saturday 21st May at Abingdon School, the event kicks off with a drinks reception, followed by a four course dinner and Grand Auction, presided over by OA, Garth Lewis, of *Cash in the Attic* and *Antiques Road Trip* fame. Tickets are selling fast but if you are still interested in booking your place, there may be some available via the Abingdon School online box office. Proceeds from the sale of the ties and tiaras will go towards helping the charity, *Blue Skye Thinking*.

Quiz, Quiz, Quiz!

Congratulations to the following three teams who came top at last term's Quiz Night: 2P or not 2P (2nd Year parents), Pang Valley Ponderers (3rd Year parents) and the Orchard Lane Originals (parents from various year groups). We were challenged this year by a professional quiz company who got a massive "thumbs up" from the parents who attended on the night. Thanks to Suzanne Mara for organising the event, to Harriet Woollard and Heather Atkinson for running the bar as well as to the Catering Team who delivered some delicious Mexican fare on the night.



Supporting innovation in the Lower School Podcasting Club

With the help of a recent donation from ASPA, among a range of other funded projects, the School bought equipment to start up a Podcasting Club. Initially for boys in Lower School, the Club will be expanded to Middle School in the years ahead. The Club meets each week and boys work in teams to create short digital audio features on subjects that interest them. Through both teacher instruction and their own trial and error, they learn how to conceive, plan, and produce an interesting podcast of a high technical quality. With the help of ASPA, Su McRae, the biology teacher who set up the Podcasting Club, purchased two professional studio recording microphones, headphones for iPad minis, and related accessories.

Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS) 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.

At the time of writing, SUS were keen to let parents know that they have a large stock of track suits (tops at £25 and trousers at £20) as well as blue and white shirts (£2 each) and 5th Year striped shirts (£5 each). Additionally they have lots of cricket pads, bats and helmets in stock. All dates and times of opening are available on the school website and enquiries to: sus@abingdon.org.uk

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Annual Fund 2015/16: Funding Projects that enhance School Life

The aim of Abingdon School's Annual Fund is to raise money for a variety of projects that enhance academic, extra-curricular and pastoral opportunities at Abingdon School, but which are not affordable within current school budgets.

This year's Annual Fund has eighteen projects of which ten have so far been fully funded:

- Retractable Cricket Nets (£2,400)
- Go-Kart Build Project (£2,400)
- Podcasting Club Equipment (£1,500)
- Music Tech Hardware (£1,400)
- Polyglot Magazine (£1,000)
- Guest Speakers for Modern Languages (£1,000)
- Public Speaking Workshop for Year 1 (£900)
- BMX Workshop for 80 lower school boys (£500)
- Debating Club Workshop (£500)
- Lego Clock Workshop and Display (£300)

Abingdon School would like to thank the Parents' Association (ASPA), Second-Hand Uniform Shop (SUS), and those parents and alumni who have made donations.

Don't forget to **Gift Aid** your donation, which makes it worth 25% more at no cost to you.



www.abingdon.org.uk/donation

We have eight Annual Fund projects remaining that still need funding, including:

- Kayaks for Canoe Polo (£4,500)
- New Keelboat Sails for Sailing Club (£4,000)
- Underwater Swimcam (£3,800)
- Left-Handed Rifle (£1,800)
- Abingdon Entomological Society Start-up Supplies (£2,000)
- Travel Bursary for Classics Trip (£1,000)
- Golf Tournament Travel Fund (£750)
- Timeline History Magazine (£500)

Details of all these projects can be found online at:

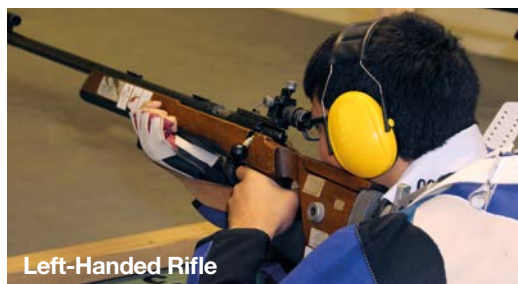
www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund

If you would like to support one or more of these projects – or give to the School's bursary appeal or another aspect of School life – please donate online at www.abingdon.org.uk/donation by cheque, credit/debit card, standing order, or bank transfer. If you are a current parent, your donation can be placed on your termly school bill, too.

If you would like to discuss a donation, including tax-effective ways to give, please contact Michael Triff, Director of Philanthropy, on 01235 849129 or email him at: philanthropy@abingdon.org.uk.



Canoe Polo



Left-Handed Rifle



Classics Trip



Entomological Society



Swimcam



International OAs

OAs live around the world. Here are three snapshots of international lives.



Mike Kendrick (1979) **Wild Shots, South Africa**

Inspired by teaching at Abingdon, I spent 25 years in education in Bristol.

I then leapt into the unknown to follow my dream: living in Africa. I spent five years directing an educational NGO in Cape Town's townships, as well as developing an International Academy in the Northern Cape.

I now live just outside Kruger Park, combining my passions for teaching, conservation and nature photography. I run an educational outreach programme with local communities - engaging young people from disadvantaged communities in wildlife and wild places through photography.

Mark Lintott (1977)

Mark Lintott Design, Taiwan

Eight years after leaving design school, I managed a project in Taiwan. I eventually relocated and established a practice there. Looking back, I couldn't imagine a harder place to set up shop, but it seemed like a fascinating place full of possibilities.

Although my career has been more opportunistic than planned, the desire to build and make things, and avoid a corporate lifestyle, shaped the few decisions I did make.

Abingdon gave me an independence and self-reliance that has constantly supported my choices – choices made on gut feeling rather than a master plan.

Paul Evans (1975)

SAGE Publications Asia Pacific, Singapore



I first worked abroad (for the Japanese government) after studying English in 1979.

In my 40s, I was asked to set up a publishing office in Beijing. China had opened up, and copyright was being better respected. I hesitated initially, but I threw myself in and have never looked back.

I have spent the last eleven years working abroad, in over 50 countries. Abingdon started me off with modern languages, to which I added some Japanese, Chinese and Dutch. My father was a physicist, and I feel proud to have served not only science, but social sciences and humanities as a publisher.

Upcoming Events

OA 1950s/60s Dinner

Friday 6 May

Dinner for 1950s and 1960s OAs at The Fish on the Farncombe Estate in the North Cotswolds. Contact Alison Lester at alison.lester@abingdon.org.uk for details and booking.

OA Golf Day

Thursday 12 May

A day of golf at Frilford Heath. Old Abingdonians of all abilities welcome. Contact David Blomley (OA 1976) at d.blomley@btinternet.com for more information.



Durham Regional Reunion

Saturday 21 May

Lunch for OAs in and around Durham at Lebaneat in Durham. Check online for details and booking.

Durham and Newcastle University Reunion

Saturday 21 May

Dinner for OAs studying at Durham and Newcastle at The Bishop Langley in Durham. Check online for details and booking.

Year Group Reunions

Saturday 11 June

OAs who left in 1946, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 06 and 2014 are invited to an evening reunion event at Abingdon School. Check online for details and booking.



An Afternoon of Croquet

Saturday 18 June

OAs vs current boys in a round robin on the lawns at Whitefield. Contact alison.lester@abingdon.org.uk if you are interested in playing.

Tennis Day

Friday 24 June

Annual School v OAs tennis event, 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm on the courts at Tilsley Park, Abingdon. Check online for details and booking.

Henley Royal Regatta Tea

Friday 1 July

Strawberries and Pimm's during the afternoon tea break at the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club marquee in Henley Cricket Club Car Park.

OA Rugby Match

Saturday 3 September – Save the date.

Hong Kong Reception

Monday 19 September – Save the date.

Open Day BBQ

Saturday 1 October – Save the date.

Regional and University Reunions

This term, the OA Club hosted successful regional and university reunions in Exeter and Cambridge. These were lively events bringing together OAs from across these regions for lunch, and OAs currently studying at these universities for dinner. We look forward to visiting Durham in May!



Abingdon Out of the Past

A Walk Through History

Chapel Corridor has been hung with a collection of documents, prints, plans, portraits and photographs from the School's past, transforming it into a picture gallery. Now as you walk down it you take a walk through the School's history: from the middle of the sixteenth century to the end of the twentieth.

From the Sixteenth Century

Letters Patent dated 1549 from the reign of Edward VI confirming John Roysse's purchase of the properties in Birchin Lane, London with which he endowed the School in 1563.

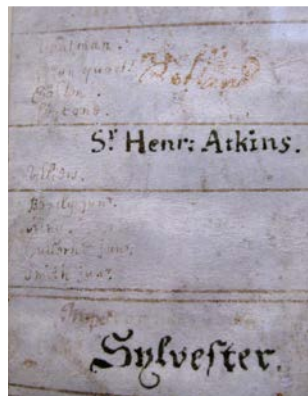


From the Seventeenth Century

A petition to Oliver Cromwell from the burghers of Abingdon in 1654, asking for the removal of Anthony Huish as Headmaster of Abingdon School. Huish had supported the King in the Civil War.

From the Eighteenth Century

A collection of prints of Old Abingdonian clergymen, authors, explorers and lawyers and a school roll, dated 1732, naming 86 pupils, the names of the aristocrats written in larger letters than the rest.



Part of the 1732 School Roll



From the Nineteenth Century

Photographs and plans of the old School in the centre of town and of the present School in Park Road.

From the Twentieth Century

Pictures of the expanding school buildings, portraits of Governors and Headmasters, and one of OA Wing Commander John Viney DSO, DFC, who was 24 when he retired from the RAF at the end of the war.

The collection does not attempt to provide a narrative history of the School; all the items have been acquired over several centuries and each one has its own label and tells its own story.



Abingdon School 1970 by Ken Messer