September 2021 No. 28

AbingdonPrepNews



Year 5 - The Big Camp Out

AbingdonPrep News

From the Headmaster

Dear Reader.

It has been a lovely end to term with a range of trips, assemblies and prize giving, all of which have enabled us to celebrate a terrific year, despite all the difficulties that Covid-19 has thrown up. It never ceases to amaze me, when you reflect on the term past, just how much has been accomplished. I hope that you will all enjoy the stories on these pages showing what Abingdon Prep boys have been getting involved with at school this term, despite the restrictions that were still in place.

Our Year 8s will be moving on to their senior schools and I wish them all the very best of luck. They have been a delight throughout their time at APS and been impressive role models for the younger boys, throwing themselves into their academic studies and of course their Other Half activities as well. They are a talented group who will undoubtedly impress their new teachers. I

know they had an amazing time celebrating the end of their APS careers on their watersports residential

After so long without fixtures against other schools it was great to see the boys representing the school again on the cricket pitch and I know they enjoyed the chance to do so. The fact that we could also get back to both day trips and residentials as well was a real highlight of the term, as these trips are so important to an all round education and help to create memories for life.

I hope that you will all enjoy a well deserved summer holiday and take the opportunity to recharge batteries that have been working so hard for the past year.

Best wishes

Craig Williams





When we returned after Easter, the School Council finally had a chance to meet up to discuss the suggestions for changes and improvements which their forms had put forward. These had then been reviewed by Craig and the Leadership Team to see if they were suitable and possible to implement. They covered a number of topics such as food, the playground, the curriculum, Other Half and environmental concerns. The meeting took place outside in the gazebo, in socially distanced bubbles. As well as discussing the ideas and hearing the feedback from Craig, the boys enjoyed a delicious fruit juice and pain au chocolate before heading back to lessons!



House Merit Cup



This was won with a total of 19947 merits and house points for 2020-21 by

GRIFFIN

2nd Phoenix - 19639 3rd Unicorn - 19108 4th Dragon - 17905

AbingdonPrep News





Building begins!





Coming in autumn 2022

Thank you very much to the parents of our Year 8 leavers who presented the School with an outdoor table tennis table to join the other two by the MUSA.





sincerely for their generous gift to the School.

AbingdonPrep Out but In!



Cear 5's Big Camp Out

As we were unable to book a trip away for Year 5, Suzanne and Louise came up with the idea of camping out at school overnight, with a day of activities either side. Aided by gap students Tom and Jacob, former APS pupil Christopher and some of the Year 8s they set up the camp. Activities included a fun Olympics, a treasure hunt and rounders. Dinner was a BBQ and chocolate cake to celebrate Arthur's birthday, plus time to chillax with their friends.

Here are some of their best bits.

George: My favourite was the Olympics, we did lots of activities. First the dreaded water balloon catch. On my first go a balloon burst on my head. The water cup course, in this you balanced a cup and walked across a bench and under a camo net. There were many more games. This was my favourite because it teaches you how to act under pressure and be a team member. Later we had a massive water balloon fight. I aimed for Suzanne but missed. It was chaos. People ran screaming with delight or dismay. It was an action packed evening.

Xac: My favourite part was sitting around the fire for dinner. Suzanne announced we were going to have an extra surprise. For dinner there was either a tasty hotdog or a delicious burger with a side of yummy salad. I had a burger. When I sat down there was a dancing fire with glowing embers, we all sat around the burning fire, talking and laughing. Later when we had finished my heart was beating out of my chest for the surprise. It was ... CAKE! A huge chocolate cake – I was thrilled. Afterwards, we chatted again. It was the best.

Dewi: Excitement rushed through my veins as I sprinted down to Josca's Field to find out who my tent buddies were. I was so nervous and mine were announced after a long time. They were George and Monty. I was so happy. After that we grabbed my tent and started to put it up. It was hard work, our tent was like an army bunker that was being used for war. It was exhausting.

Isaac: My favourite part of camp: The Treasure hunt. (It was AMAZING). We were randomly put into groups and I was nervous and excited at the same time. Suzanne explained and then we were off! This was going to take a long time my group agreed, as we looked at the cryptic clues. We kept wandering around our massive playground, out to Pre-Prep to the forest, into Joscas, on the tarmac and the MUSA. Then we looked at the clue again and realised it was in the den building area! We asked for some help and sprinted to the different letters. But before we got the word another group got it and I was sad but happy for them. All in all it was the best part of the camp.

Joseph: I loved the rounders match we played. My team won, but my favourite part was when Tom the Gap Student hit the ball into the air and I caught it. I had the best time ever at the campout and it was an amazing end to Year 5.









AbingdonPrep Out & About

Year 8 Rockley Watersports, Poole







From the moment we could first see the sea. sounds of excitement could be heard from every part of the coach. Not long after, we saw a large sign saying Rockley Watersports. The coach pulled into the car park of our accommodation, and we were assigned to our dorms. Over the next few days, we did windsurfing, paddle boarding, kayaking and a few other activities. My favourite by far was the sailing, but I also loved the Rockley Challenge, which was a course of endurance and stamina at the end of the week on the morning before we left. One annoying thing was that before the kayaking, I forgot to put suncream on, and I had a painful burn line for the next few days. Toby



Year 8 went to Rockley Watersports in Poole for 5 days. My favourite activities were, Sailing, SUPing, MEGA SUPing, raft building and the final challenge; we also did windsurfing and kayaking, but these were not as much fun. On one occasion I was sent to the power boat for throwing mud at Archie, but it was worth it! Sailing with Philip was a particular highlight for me. In our dorm we chatted for hours in the evenings, and had loads of fun. The food was pretty good with nice packed lunches, however my favourite was the cooked breakfasts. We did a variety of evening activities, including sport on the beach, and crabbing, which was fun. The final challenge began with 'Push Sally Up' press-ups, then onto some basic prison escape challenges. We had to carry a massive kayak with a log on top about 200m without dropping it. This was hard, but the last 50m were through knee deep muddy sludge. Then we tied our kayaks to the power boat, and paddled them round to the slipway and then again to the next slipway. Finally we had to again carry our kayak back and forth through a battlefield of sludge, supposedly a beach. This covered some of us up to the chest. These were all races, or time trials, or marked competitions. Our group won the overall competition! Fintan.





After visiting the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Year 5S wrote about their impressions of life below deck in Nelson's Navy.

My favourite thing about HMS Victory

As we descended into the hold, I instantly saw what HMS Victory must have been like for the wounded. Rusty, bloodstained saws were lying on white clothed tables and a putrid smell would creep up on you and make you throw up. A solitary lamp sat on the floor where Lord Nelson died. As we walked round, I smelt a pungent odour that was such a shock that my eyes started to water but I knew with a pang of realisation that it would smell a lot worse back then. This deck would also be half submerged under water which would make it twice as dank and dark as it is now. Something that horrified me was this: all those poor sailors with serious injuries would have their arms and legs amputated (cut off) without anaesthetic! A leather tube would be put between their teeth, wet with the last man's saliva and when they cut it off they would scream and thrown up in their own mouths and the constant biting helped with the pain. *George M*

AbingdonPrep In School



The Year 8R boys enjoyed experimenting in Science for their Bronze Crest Awards ("a scheme that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers"). The boys worked in pairs to plan and carry out investigations and their projects this year included:

- Materials science: testing different materials to see how they affect the drop of a parachute; and designing a boat to test sail capacity.
- Reactivity: between metals and acid; sodium bicarbonate and fizzy drinks; and designing the perfect bath bomb.
- Ballistics: the experiment that led to most trial and error was our group building a machine for propelling tennis balls out of guttering.

After finishing their projects, the boys wrote them up for submission to Crest, and also presented their projects (including some demonstrations) to their parents at a socially distanced event near the end of term.









A Place of Fear

The ground was cold. The air was bitter. The blood was frozen. It was the sort of place where birthdays come and then get brutally kidnapped and murdered by demons from the depths of a fiery hell. Two men were there: one small, scared but had fought in many a battle and confused why he was here; the other unafraid, strong and brave.

"Why are we here exactly?" said the small, quivering voice.

"We are here because we were told to come here," said the gruff, confident voice.

"But for what purpose, Malcolm?" quivered the mouse-like voice.

"The purpose, John, is to slaughter the beast hiding here!" Malcolm said with as little fear as a cat walking into a city full of mice.

This is the place Death lingers waiting for the next poor soul who happens to wander upon to this place of doom. Legend tells of a being so horrific it makes Death look like a puppy. This being was a tentacle bearing thing, one eye that was so sharp it could slice a house in half, a beak able to crush several tons of obsidian at once and its name is Jagflan-Haroth. Everyone stays away from it whether they can or not.

A body was on the floor some feet away from the heroes. It was a mess. Its head was split in half revealing an empty socket. The body's legs were sticking off in directions that made the worst broken leg

seem as bad as a mere graze.

The runes on Malcolm's black sword were glowing a ghostly white, this sword was wrestled off the leader of the 1st legion of the Troll empire. The ground trembled. The tremble that sends dragons flying into space and were never heard of again. The grand beech tree in the centre of the hill launched into the sky revealing a huge hole. A purplish tentacle slithered out from the hole feeling blindly for its target.

"Ready yourself John" Malcolm said with much much less fear than he should have done. A brief moment when time seemed to freeze was then broken by a roar that should have been a scream but was somewhere in between, followed by a slowly emerging orange eye.

"Charge!" cried Malcolm with so much enthusiasm John forgot his worries. They charged.

Swords raised high above their heads aiming at any part of the unnatural being that came towards them. A smell that twisted even the guts of Death oozed out of the beings mouth was followed by that unearthly howl. The men leapt high into the sky the way heroes do in movies, really high in slow motion, only to be grabbed and brought under the ground with as much speed as a flash of lightning. Death raised his scythe to prevent a brutal death, as much as he'd liked to have seen it, and the scythe dropped.

There was a moment of silence and then the crows started singing their murderous melody.

Henry C, Year 7

AbingdonPrep In School

4A Poems

A Recipe for Making My Teacher Angry

First, sprinkle a teaspoon of messy handwriting Onto a bed of calling out with a splash of singing in class, Next add a dash of rudeness, And a paper plane freshly made, scrunched into a ball.

Then squeeze in some cheating in exams, Some stolen sweets, an empty pen, a mouldy rubber, Mix in littering and season with some screeching, Boil for the count of three, then microwave some ripped up books.

Dice up three swear words and add a dash of laziness Followed by a thin slice of swinging on chairs, Finally add a dollop of annoying comments, Serve warm.

George

Beautifully

Beautifully the sun glows spectacularly over the sea, Beautifully the river flows in the flourishing moonlight, Beautifully the fluffy bunny hops across the green land, Beautifully the red kite glides across the field, But the most beautiful of all is a spider spinning its irresistibly silky web.

Beautifully the famous artist paints his masterpiece, Beautifully the seal cuts through the water's wake, Beautifully the runner runs like the wind, But the most beautiful of all is the girl skating around the shining rink.

Lucas

Storyboarding in Latin





Year 7 Build Norman Castles

Year 7 has been studying the Norman invasion and enjoyed making motteand-bailey castles. The boys were extremely imaginative using everything from chocolate fingers and chicken wire to Minecraft!







I made the motile out of chicken were and the dilches from two rings of old hose pipe. It was all covered in model grass. The pairsade walks and drawbridge were cardboard ships with sticks stuck on them. The flying bridge was made of tolded cardboard. In the balley I used some model houses for the barracks, hall and statiles and for the keep in the motie. The flag is William the Comparent's two licits.









The Cambridge Latin Course tells the story of Dumnorix and Belimicus, rival captains in a boat race. Belimicus was furious to have lost, and takes a bear to attack Dumnorix at the after-race party! Pupils created illustrated storyboards of the story in Latin, (left).

L'année 5 - Liste de Courses

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AbingdonPrep In School

Year 7 and 8 Careers and Leadership Workshop

Years 7 and 8 spent time considering what life holds beyond school in terms of careers and whether they wanted to take leadership roles. Michael Triff, who advises all the students across the Abingdon Foundation about careers, visited the Prep and led very insightful and thought provoking workshops and lessons. The boys got an enormous amount from the activities and enjoyed considering what was important to them in life.













Partridges in Year 1



Pre-Prep were the custodians of some partridge eggs in Year 1. Partridges are an endangered species and we were looking after these eggs as part of a conservation project. After hatching the tiny chicks returned to their farm where they will continue to breed.





House Paper Aeroplane Challenge



AbingdonPrep CDT



The older boys have been studying Antony Gormley's Field in CDT. Just as he produced a field of 3D terracotta figures, the Prep School boys have adapted the idea into a design project of their own 'Field of Chairs'. Boys produced a design in card to represent themselves, with a 'guess who is who' game incorporated.

We learnt a great deal about each other, some sharing hidden hobbies as well as obvious sporting interests. Boys also produced a prototype of a wooden chair of their dreams. From recliners to deck chairs, there were a variety of designer chairs on display.















AbingdonPrep Art



Art Exhibition

On an early July evening, the art scholars gathered with their families for a private view of the tremendous work they have produced this year. Finally able to display their portfolios, the effort, hard work, and sheer variety was astounding.

Close family members attended, and were able to be given a guided tour of the exhibition by the scholars. Special thanks are given to Arjun for providing the musical accompaniment so beautifully.









Year 3-4 Art Club

As the end of term neared, Year 3-4 Art Club began thinking of summer holidays and trips to the beach. Using sponges and paints we created a background and then, just like we would at the seaside, we 'paddled' in paint to create the sandy footprints. Holidays here we come!







AbingdonPrep Art









Y4 Ancient Greek Battle Shields

Year 4 has been exploring Ancient Greek art this term. The boys learnt about shields, patterns and motifs, building them using layers of card in relief. Acrylic paints and their choice of colours denoted their rank in the Greek army, although we think they all looked rather frightening!





Year 3 had lots of fun looking at the work of Damien Hirst and experimented with spinning paint using a salad spinner to gain momentum with super and colourful results. Well done Year 3!



AbingdonPrep Other Half



The after school swim club has been focusing on different water safety activities. To help the boys understand how to be safe around rivers and lakes, they have been using posters to spot different dangers and how to avoid them, as well as how to recognise cold water shock. Later in the term, the boys had great fun swimming in their pyjamas - but along with the fun is an important message about water safety and how tiring it is to swim in water-logged clothes. The boys completed a series of tasks including treading water, floating on their back while signalling for help and identifying the flags on the beach with the question: is it safe to swim? The boys did really well, helping each other out when someone was struggling. They all achieved their swimming and water safety certificate. Well done swimmers!

Year 3-4 Karate Club

Boys in Years 3 and 4 have been learning martial art skills in Karate Club. They spent this session developing their technique as they mirrored the actions of our Sensei, Patience. Beginning with the karate bow or 'Rei' and then the 'Zenkutsu Dachi' forward stance.





The Lego Robotics Club provides an introduction to control technology and programming using robotics. Pupils learn by constructing their own models, such as a roaring lion and a goal keeper. They learn how to bring them to life by using the special programming blocks in Scratch, that interact with the motors and sensors in their creations.



Year 6 Lego Robotics Club



Here are the Year 6 boys at work on their latest constructions.

AbingdonPrep Other Half and Music



Understanding rhythm and pulse is fundamental to most music making around the world. In rhythm club, pupils will learn how to read and play rhythmic notation using various percussion instruments in a fun and accessible way.

Boys enjoyed an exuberant drumming session in the Other Half Rhythm Club. They practised keeping the beat by using the syllables of some of their favourite foods, including strawberry ice cream!

'Bell Playing' with Year 5

The Year 5s were learning how to play rounds today using the glockenspiels ('bell play' in German). This is a great instrument to learn how to read the notes on the treble clef and keyboard layout. Rounds help teach how to play together as an ensemble.





Year 3-8 were treated to a day of high energy workshops from Step 2 Dance as they had fun perfecting the impressive 'helicopter' and 'worm' moves. This culminated in the performance of a routine at the end of each session. Nadia and Taz, our instructors, will be back with us in September offering weekly lunch time clubs as a dynamic new addition to our Other Half programme. Watch out Diversity – here come the boys of APS!



AbingdonPrep Pre-Prep





Reception's 100 Days

In early July, Reception celebrated being 100 days smarter. From place value recognition to self chosen activities such as a 100 second silence, party hats, crazy spectacles and making the number 100 from party food – they celebrated in style!



Year 2's trip to nearby Draycott Farm's woods was a great end to the Forest School year.











In PSHCE, Year 1 made art to celebrate their favourite memories from the school year.

AbingdonPrep Pre-Prep









Pro-Prop Safari Day

Down in the jungle where nobody goes there are tigers, monkeys and elephants hiding in the undergrowth. We learnt about flags, disappeared into our woods to develop poems, made binoculars to spot the wildlife and ground our own coffee beans, and tried delicious exotic fruits.



Little Paws Hotel

Pre-Prep made the most of a very exciting visit from author, Clare Luther from Head to Heart Books. We learnt about *The Little Paws Hotel* series in which an aspect of emotional resilience is explored with a different pup taking the main character role.

Wotsit, Clare's sausage dog, accompanied her on the visit and completely stole the limelight with boys, teachers and parents alike!





Held outdoors for a socially distanced parent audience, the sun held out for our Pre-Prep summer celebrations. Dressed as animals from The Jungle Book the boys sang and performed with huge enthusiasm.

Then, armed with their bears, the families enjoyed a socially distanced picnic and work share. A fantastic end to our term.





AbingdonPrep Pre-Prep



It was fabulous to be able to resurrect our annual bike day for Reception and Year 1 children. Following safety talks and cycle helmet checks we were off! Boys honed their control skills by navigating a course of cones which required focus, agility and balance! Such great fun for all of us.





The weather was perfect for our Pre-Prep sports day with a gentle breeze keeping the young athletes cool as they took part in a range of activities from sack racing and target throwing to relay races and hurdles.

All of the Year 1 and Reception children took part in team activities, working around the events and trying to accomplish new personal bests! The Year 2 children embraced activities on a slightly more competitive level and then everyone joined together for the traditional house relay race, with Griffin coming in just ahead of Unicorn with a few seconds to spare. The overall competition finished as follows: Phoenix (1st), Unicorn (2nd), Dragon (3rd) and Griffin (4th). Phoenix completed their traditional 'lap of honour' to the applause of the parents. Thank you to the parents for your positive encouragement and support!



AbingdonPrep Sport









APS vs Cothill





AbingdonPrep Sports Success







House Cricket Cups

U8 Cricket – Unicorn U9 Cricket – Unicorn U11 Cricket – Unicorn

Sporting Awards

The following awards were made at the School Prize Giving:

Prior Cup for Sportsman of the Year: Ned, Ollie and Sam W Junior Sportsman of the Year: Josh

Anderson Cup for Cricket: Luke G APS Athletics Award: Orson APS Cross-Country Award: George, Hugh and Sam W APS Football Award: Luke M APS Golf Award: Lochie APS Hockey Award: Sammy and William K APS Swimming Award: Paddy and Xander Belvedere Shield for Rugby: Ollie Cricket All-Rounder Cup: Ned

Our Sporting Award winners have all contributed to Sport at Abingdon Prep and often outside school too.

Swimming: Both those awarded have regularly represented the school in swimming galas throughout their time at APS. They both swim for Abingdon Vale SC and have achieved County times in a number of disciplines.

Rugby: Our winner is physically uncompromising in both attack and defence. He would have been nominated for the Gloucester Rugby Academy had it not been for the pandemic. He plays club rugby for Chipping Norton RFC.

Junior Sportsman: Our winner won full junior colours in rugby, cross country, swimming and cricket, playing for his year's A-teams. He plays cricket for Oxfordshire, was 1st in the British Schools Virtual Swimming Championships and is a high ranking tri/biathlete in the South West Region.

Sportsmen of the Year: Throughout their time at APS these pupils have shown outstanding commitment, representing the school in every conceivable sport at the highest level. These include: biathlon, athletic, cross country, rugby, football, cricket, swimming and tennis. All were identified as potential Sports Scholars at Abingdon School.

Cricket Awards

In the Summer term we celebrate cricketing endeavour. The 'Most Outstanding Player' comes from the 1st XI of each year. The 'Most Improved Player' can come from any team in each age group.

| Team | Most Improved | Most Outstanding |
|-----------|---------------|------------------|
| Under 8s | Reuben | Teddy |
| Under 9s | Christopher | Oliver |
| Under 10s | Tom | George |
| Under 11s | Freddie | Paddy |
| Under 12s | Charlie | Freddie |
| Under 13s | Patrick | |









Sports Day Athletics

Victor Ludorum (* = record)

Years 3-4: Arthur (LJ, 150m*, Relay) Years 5-6: Jamie W (300m*, 200m, Relay) Years 7-8: Ned (400m, 100m, Javelin, Relay)

Athletics Cup: Unicorn

18 September 2021

AbingdonPrep Prizegiving and Fond Farewells



First to Last

From first day to last session,

The school has always taught a valuable lesson.

Before we found school useless and boring,

Now we see why the lessons shouldn't have been spent snoring.

For now we are leaving it seems so clear,

That it was far from a waste of these nine years.

William K





Year 8 Special Awards and Subject Prizes

Special Awards:

The Governors' Prize for Cooperation and Kindnessl: Oscar and Edward G

The Savin Cup for academic achievement in the end of year AP+ exams: Daniel and Sacha

The Abingdon Award for most outstanding academic results: George

Peer Cup chosen by Y8: Charles

Vaux Cup for personal progress: Rory

APS All Rounder Award: Patrick and Fintan



- Art: Edward R and Michael
- CDT: Toby, Thomas and Archie
- Computing: Daniel and James
- Computer Coding: Tamay and Piers
- Drama: lestyn and Paddy
- English: Hugh, Matt & William K
- Geography: Daniel and Ben
- French Sam W and Lochie
- Gen Studies / PSHCE: Harry, Will and Oscar
- History: Alfie, Philip and Sacha
- Latin: Edward G, Alfie and Fintan
- Maths: Max, Ned and Ollie
- Music: Toby
- RE: Philip, lestyn and Charles
- Science: Max and George
- The Music Award: Arjun
- The Drama Award: Jack

Debating & Public Speaking Award: Patrick





AbingdonPrep Fond Farewells

Trudi Hibberd



Steve Hibberd

Many of the boys will have been taught by Steve on the games field and in the pool, and he has had much success in this area. We thank him for his efforts over the years. We send our very best wishes to Steve and his family for their future.





Sadly, we say goodbye to Trudi, who has been central to the life

of APS for over 25 years. During this time, she moved through different sections of the school from Pre-Prep, where she was class teacher for Year 2, and then Year 4, adding the role of Junior Section Lead to her portfolio. In the past she has also been responsible for the delivery of a full PE curriculum, giving many the confidence to take their first strokes in the school pool. Trudi's energy and unstinting passion for her job, have inspired current and past pupils to achieve their potential and encourage those who needed a little extra support, to believe in themselves. It's rare to see a photo of Trudi, as more usually she would be found behind the camera, but here she is on one of the Y4

We would like to wish Trudi the very best for her future as she moves away from full-time teaching for a while in order that she can focus more fully on her family and have time to consider a change of direction after 30 successful years as a teacher in fulltime education, the majority of which have been here at APS.

Ridgeway overnight trips with her boys.

We also said adieu to Year 4 teacher Alison who is now on maternity leave. We send all our best wishes to her and her husband for the imminent birth of their baby.

Follow APS on social media:

- instagram.com/abingdon_prep
- twitter.com/abingdonprep
- facebook.com/abingdonprep



We are also sad to say goodbye to Steve Hibberd. Steve has been at Abingdon Prep for 20 years where he has acted as Head of PE, Games teacher, Latin teacher and form teacher.



P and Frika were able to step into the breach when Sam left at Easter. Tom and Erika regularly work at Tilsley for the Foundation but between them have managed to juggle the varied role of gap student. We have been hugely grateful to them for their cheerful nature, flexibility and willingness to support pupils and colleagues alike. From fixtures and sports lessons to help with After School Club and duties, they have experienced the full breadth of life at APS and we have thoroughly enjoyed them being part of our team.

