

ABINGDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



“There are not enough superlatives to describe this school. Never has a school given so much opportunity and support to its pupils, the perfect balance of enjoyment and hard work.”

Year 8 Leaver





I am confident that when you visit us at Abingdon Prep, you will find a happy and thriving community. We are fortunate to be set in 50 acres of beautiful countryside within easy reach of Oxford, Abingdon and many surrounding villages. From the ages of 4 to 13+, every child is treated as an individual and encouraged to explore and develop his own talents. Our pupils enjoy school and develop a genuine love of learning, benefiting from our superb facilities and “outstanding” pastoral care. As part of the Abingdon Foundation it is no surprise that “outstanding” teaching, individual attention and small class sizes deliver consistently excellent results and many scholarship successes. However, it is not just in the classroom where pupils are given the opportunity to excel. Our renowned Other Half of the curriculum promotes a healthy balance between academic rigour and a wide variety of other artistic, musical, sporting, intellectual and outdoor pursuits, providing a tremendous all-round education for every pupil. I look forward to welcoming you to our School.

C. Hyde-Dunn

Crispin Hyde-Dunn, *Headmaster*



academic

Abingdon Prep's approach to the academic curriculum, as described by a parent, is "quietly rigorous" and the School's academic credentials are second to none. Each year the majority of boys move onto Abingdon, the senior school, with others winning places at leading senior schools, including Radley College, Magdalen College, Bradfield College, Stowe and St Edward's. From Year 8, academically able boys are challenged within a scholarship set and all boys are thoroughly prepared for Common Entrance and scholarship exams. We fully expect all final year boys to gain places at the senior school of their choice and, in recent years, an ever-increasing number of pupils have gained awards.

In 2015 our results were record breaking, both for Common Entrance and for the number of scholarships and awards won by our Year 8 pupils. These included the prestigious Mercers' Company Award at Abingdon, which went to an Abingdon Prep boy for the fourth year running.

We teach the standard Foundation Year Programme in Reception followed by the National Curriculum in Years 1-6 and the Common Entrance syllabuses in Years 7 and 8. Full curriculum details can be found on our website at www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/curriculum_by_year





“The high number of scholarships for academic achievement, sport, music, drama and art is a testament to the excellent standards many pupils achieve by the time they leave school.”

ISI report 2011

sport

Although class sizes are small, there are two classes in each year group from the age of seven which enable the School to field strong sporting teams whilst giving everyone a chance to play, no matter what their ability. Pupils are encouraged to find a sport that they enjoy and many earn their colours as they move up the school. We teach the value of sport for all and have a wide variety of activities to suit all abilities and interests, with fencing, judo, golf, tennis, badminton, cross-country, karate, athletics and rifle shooting supporting our core sports of rugby, football, cricket and swimming. Often a year group’s A, B and C teams will all play fixtures, with the first teams competing against other leading prep schools. The School’s sporting reputation is excellent with several unbeaten teams in most years and boys reaching elite squads for rugby, cricket and football as well as cross-country national champions.



music

With a Director of Music and music lessons beginning in Reception, pupils experience a wide range of music including jazz, brass, acoustic guitar and strings plus our two choirs, the orchestra and wind band. There is plenty of opportunity to perform, whether a beginner or proficient, at the House Music Competition, informal recitals or at our flagship concerts at Christmas and in the summer. We offer lessons, including free 'taster' lessons, on a wide range of instruments from violin, cello and guitar to trombone, euphonium, mandolin and piano. Increasing numbers of children take the Associated Board instrumental exams and achieve excellent results. Boys also frequently win music awards to senior school. All abilities are catered for and to play for enjoyment as well as improvement is very much encouraged.



"The pupils' achievement and progress throughout the School is outstanding."



art

Abingdon Prep has an excellent reputation for art. Our stunning art room has facilities for ceramics, print and, of course, drawing and painting. Visiting artists are invited to run workshops and pupils study a broad curriculum of styles and media. Each year pupils enjoy trips to varied locations including Modern Art Oxford, the London galleries and the Botanical Gardens. In addition to timetabled art lessons, there is a flourishing art club – open to all – where pupils enjoy a relaxed chance to be creative. Our Invitation Art and Advanced Drawing clubs provide the opportunity for able pupils to enjoy detailed study and these pupils have a successful track record for winning artistic awards to senior schools.



drama

Drama is enjoyed by all our pupils and we have recently invested in a bespoke drama studio. Every year group is involved from the nativity play in Pre-prep to an ambitious Upper School production, such as the recent performance of *The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes*, with a large cast performing to packed houses at Abingdon's Amey Theatre. The discipline of auditioning and attending rehearsals, often over several months, is rewarding and staging successful performances to large audiences is an enormous achievement. Several boys have gone on to perform in the West End and in TV productions and to win drama scholarships to their senior schools.



the other half

Abingdon Prep is justly proud of its tremendous reputation for extra-curricular or Other Half activities. We have over fifty activities taking place each term and there is something for everyone from Art, Drama, Music and Sport, to general interest including Fun with Food, Science, Touch Typing and the Environment Club. Children are encouraged to explore the many opportunities available to them and our aim is for pupils to enjoy varied interests and to try something new. The Other Half is about spending time outside the classroom with teachers and friends. At Abingdon Prep we recognise that so much of our children's confidence comes from the excellent relationships built up with staff as they continue their learning beyond the classroom. We aim to inspire young minds, not just by excellent teaching and visiting speakers with a story to tell, but also by providing many and varied experiences, both school-based and through trips and activities in the UK and abroad. In a typical school year, our pupils will have the chance to explore activities as diverse as bushcraft, sight-seeing in Normandy, kayaking, walking the Ridgeway and visiting the Intech Planetarium. Moreover, it's not simply about what the pupils gain; we believe that giving back is just as important and our pupils raise thousands of pounds each year for the School's nominated charity.

A full list of our Other Half activities is available on our website:
www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/introduction_to_the_other_half

"Our son was made to feel extremely welcome and settled quickly. The staff are friendly and approachable and are very available whenever you want to talk."

A parent







room to grow

Children need space, whether it's in the classroom, at lunch or during break. Abingdon Prep pupils are free to roam in extensive grounds which include two adventure playgrounds, a ball games area, a gazebo, table tennis, the quad for peace and quiet, a wood and a garden looked after by the gardening club. We also have a Forest School and outdoor learning area.

There are rugby, football and cricket pitches plus an indoor swimming pool, multi-activity sports hall which can accommodate cricket nets, indoor hockey and football, as well as a beautiful pavilion. Pre-prep children have an outside learning area plus their own dedicated play area with sand and water. There are superb art and drama studios, music rooms, a science lab, CDT and ICT suites plus a well-stocked library.



aims and ethos

Abingdon Prep School aims to deliver an excellent education to all its pupils in an unpressured but stimulating environment.

Pupils are taught a broad and academically challenging curriculum. Particular emphasis at age-appropriate levels is placed on thinking skills, questioning and independence skills. Pupils are encouraged to become involved in the wider community through a variety of whole-school charity and fundraising activities. This broadens pupils' perspectives and fosters a sense of service to others. As part of the Abingdon Foundation we promote Christian values and welcome pupils from all backgrounds. We promote kindness, tolerance and understanding.

Pupils are encouraged to take their opportunities in an atmosphere free from failure and to develop confidence and leadership skills. Pupils should feel happy, secure, safe and valued.

In order to achieve this, the School aims for consistent excellence in its teaching and facilities and in the opportunities it offers its pupils. The School is keen to ensure that pupils enjoy the broad mix of activities on offer. Good relationships between pupils, staff and parents are at the core of the School's aims and ethos.

The implementation of these aims should lead to all pupils being effectively prepared for senior school. The vast majority of our pupils will transfer to Abingdon. However, we pride ourselves on preparing each pupil for a place in a senior school which is right for them.

This policy also includes those in the Early Years Foundation Stage, EYFS.



admissions procedures

Here is an outline of our admissions procedures. For full details including assessment dates please contact the Registrar by email: registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk or tel: **01865 392303**

A registration form is enclosed with this prospectus or can be downloaded from our website at www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/registration_form

Reception entry

- Please complete the registration form and return it to the Registrar together with the registration fee.
- Observation play mornings – all children are asked to attend a 'play morning'. These are very informal and nothing to worry about. Please call the Registrar to book a place for your child.
- Observation mornings are designed to be fun and enjoyable and no preparation of any sort is needed. During the morning the children will join our Reception teacher, the Head of Pre-prep and the Head of Phonics, who will observe them at play. This involves some simple games and tasks which encourage conversation and interaction between the children.
- In addition to the play mornings, we ask for a copy of your child's recent 2 year check as provided by his current early years setting.
- Places are offered on the basis of the observation mornings. We will also offer places on a reserve list.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond by a predetermined date given in the offer letter. Parents wishing to accept the place will be asked to sign the parent contract and pay a non-refundable deposit to indicate their acceptance of the

School's offer. The School is happy to provide further guidance where special arrangements relating to the duty of care of the child and the payment of fees for the child are necessary.

- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an induction morning for all new children coming into the school. The first two weeks in school in September will have a staggered day to give the children a chance to settle in without getting too tired.

Years 1 and 2 entry

- Please complete the registration form and return it to the Registrar together with the registration fee.
- Assessment morning. This is very informal and nothing to worry about. It involves taking part in the usual lessons and activities of the candidate's current year group and some short evaluation tests. Please ring the Registrar to arrange a convenient date.
- A reference and recent report will also be requested from your child's current school. Places are offered on the basis of these and the assessment morning.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond by a predetermined date given in the offer letter. Parents wishing to accept the place will be asked to sign the parent contract and pay a non-refundable deposit to indicate their acceptance of the School's offer. The School is happy to provide further guidance where special arrangements relating to the duty of care of the child and the payment of fees for the child are necessary.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an induction morning for all children coming into the School.



Year 3 entry

- Please complete the registration form and return it to the Registrar together with the registration fee.
- Assessment morning. This is very informal and nothing to worry about. Please call the Registrar to book a place for your child.
- During the morning the children will join the Head of Pre-prep, the Head of Phonics and Class teachers. Children will be given a reading and writing assessment plus a maths task. There will also be some fun activities to encourage interaction between the children. We aim to make the morning as fun as possible.
- We will also contact your son's current school for a reference and recent report before the assessment date.
- Places are offered on the basis of the assessment mornings and the current school reference. There will also be places available on a waiting list.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond by a predetermined date given in the offer letter. Parents wishing to accept the place will be asked to sign the parent contract and pay a non-refundable deposit to indicate their acceptance of the School's offer. The School is happy to provide further guidance where special arrangements relating to the duty of care of the child and the payment of fees for the child are necessary.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an induction morning for all new children coming into the School.

Years 4 to 8 entry

- Please complete the registration form and return it to the Registrar together with the registration fee.
- Assessment day. This is arranged on an individual basis and on availability of a place. Please ring the Registrar to arrange a convenient day.
- The assessment day programme is relaxed and informal. It includes:
 - CAT Tests (computer based Cognitive Assessment Tasks in English, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning)
 - Taking part in the normal lessons of the candidate's current year group
 - Observation of academic ability and social interaction
- A reference and recent report will be requested from the candidate's current school before the assessment day. Places are offered on the basis of these and the assessment day.
- If a child is offered a place, parents are asked to respond by a predetermined date given in the offer letter. Parents wishing to accept the place will be asked to sign the parent contract and pay a non-refundable deposit to indicate their acceptance of the School's offer. The School is happy to provide further guidance where special arrangements relating to the duty of care of the child and the payment of fees for the child are necessary.
- Joining papers will be sent to parents in June.
- During the summer term there will be an induction morning for all new children coming into the School.

Abingdon Prep School Academy

In 2011 we launched the Abingdon Prep School Academy which runs courses for children aged 5-13. Courses include Music, Art, Drama, Sport and Science and children benefit from specialist coaching from experienced external and school staff.



additional information

- Early-birds club
- After-school club
- School holiday activities
- Well-balanced, nutritious school meals cooked on the premises

minibus service

Abingdon Prep has its own minibus service which collects from the surrounding area. Please check the school website for full details of current timings and costs:
www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/bus_service

Useful information on our website: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep

Abingdon Prep School Policies: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school_policies

ISI report 2011: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/school_notices

Open day dates: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/open_day

Abingdon Prep Academy: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/academy

Take a virtual tour of our facilities: www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/virtual_tour



contact us

We would be delighted to welcome you to the School.
Please contact the Registrar on **01865 391570** or email
registrar@abingdonprep.org.uk if you would like to visit.

We very much look forward to meeting you.



ABINGDON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Abingdon Preparatory School

independent day school for
boys aged 4 to 13

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To contact the governors of the school email:
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www.abingdon.org.uk/prep