

2011

abingdonian





# The Abingdonian

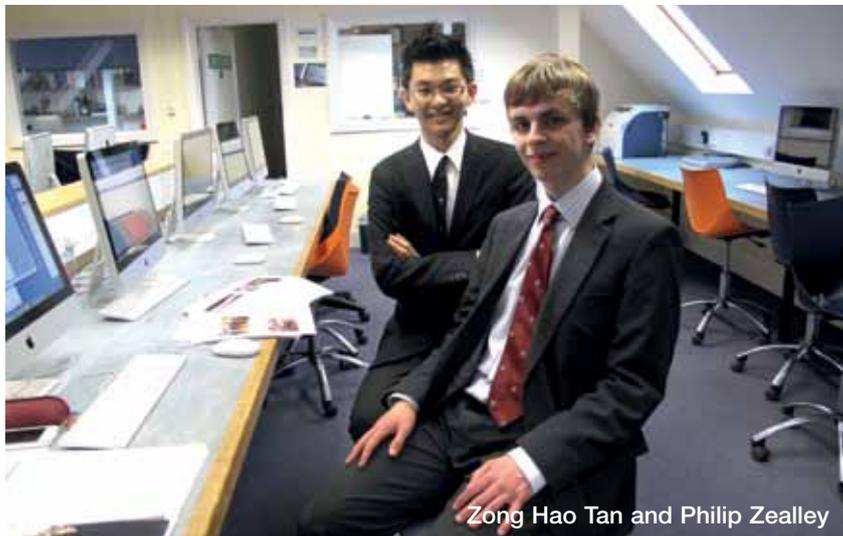
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It is 122 years since the first issue of this magazine was published, since which time it has formed an unbroken commentary on Abingdon life. Looking back through it you can see that some things have changed completely. FA Bartlett, writing in the 1911 magazine, describes how when he was at school in the 1860s lessons began at 6.40 am in the Spring and Summer terms. Boys worked until 8 when they all went home for breakfast, returning at 9.45. They went home again for lunch at 12 noon and afternoon lessons resumed at 2.15. Barlett doesn't say what time lessons finished for the day but one suspects that it wasn't early.

Some things haven't changed however. Exactly one hundred years ago a writer in the Abingdonian lamented that "the decay of manners does not allow us twentieth century decadents to write a decent letter (like our grandparents) set out with style and circumstance – a scribbled note perhaps, better a wire or 'phone." Substitute the words email and text message and it could be a twenty-first century lament.

The production of the magazine is now thoroughly twenty-first century, so much so that all last term one of the two sub-editors worked remotely because he had another commitment on Wednesday afternoons and the design consultant, Simon Greenland OA 1996, is working from Australia.

I should like to thank both of the sub-editors, Zong Hao Tan and Philip Zealley, for their dedicated work on this magazine, and David Dawswell for reading through the proofs.

*Sarah Wearne - Editor*

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# Head's Foreword



Reading this edition of the Abingdonian, it has the ring of familiarity about it for it coincides with my first full year at Abingdon. If I was impressed on arrival by the sheer enormity of the opportunities offered to the boys, then seeing the diversity and variety of School life written up in this publication certainly reinforces that impression.

Each boy will find something which reflects his own special interests. It is also a record of a whole year of Abingdon endeavour and will be a reminder for the boys in years to come of their time here. I hope that each family will keep a copy in perpetuity for this very reason.

Happy reading!

*Felicity Lusk*

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# Common Room Farewells



## Marcus Gibbs

The ISI report made particular note of the “quiet passion” of the Physics Department and this is a good description of Marcus’s own approach to his subject. He really cares about physics and physics teaching and has always been keen to pass on this enthusiasm to his pupils, and to help in what any way he could with the running of the Department itself: setting exams, taking on extra duties like Common Entrance and Oxbridge entrance and introducing the very popular Electronics GCSE.



*Marcus's faith ....  
underlines his whole life*



In addition in his responsibilities in the Physics Department, Marcus ran the Careers Department with a similar degree of organisation and a commitment to update and improve the provision of careers advice at Abingdon. He also willingly helped out on Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and with the Sailing Club, where he started as a beginner but now intends to set up a Sailing Club at

his new school. Music also played a large part in Marcus’s life and he played bass for School House in the House Singing Competition and appeared with Jeremy Taylor and others in Abingdon’s Got Talent.

Marcus’s faith, which he demonstrates by example rather than by preaching, underlines his whole life. To this end he involved himself in Alpha Courses at the School and in supporting counselling courses.

Marcus joined the Abingdon Physics Department from King Alfred’s School, Wantage, in 2002. He leaves to become Head of Physics at Ipswich High School for Girls. I will miss his enthusiasm, caring approach, good humour, wit, support and friendship. The whole Department wish him well in his new job.

*John Brooks*

## Joss Williams

Joss joined Abingdon School in September 2005 from Oundle. I came to know him mainly through the Combined Cadet Force. He is a former Royal Marine Commando and holds dearly to the Commando principles of courage, determination, unselfishness and cheerfulness in the face of adversity, qualities that he has displayed both as Contingent Commander of the Abingdon CCF and as Housemaster of Crescent House.

It takes courage to shoulder the responsibility for the health and safety legislation involved in CCF activities. As a TA officer you are subject to military law and, if you get it wrong, a holiday in Colchester Garrison awaits! There are



plenty of opportunities to get it wrong on field exercises where teenagers are firing blank ammunition and on other trips, like the occasion when Joss had to lead the cadets off the Lauberhorn mountain in Switzerland in minus 20°C and in white-out conditions. Others might have panicked but Joss, a BASI ski instructor, calmly led the cadets through what could only be described as ‘character building’ conditions!



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Commando principles of  
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in the face of adversity*



Organizing exercises has grown more challenging in recent years and the easy option would have been to tone down the training for our cadets, but Joss always put the cadets’ training needs first, leading one regular army captain to comment that our advanced infantry training was on a par with some army training regiments - a wonderful accolade. In addition, Joss forged strong and very beneficial links with the Oxford University Officer Training Corps. Our cadets were privileged to be able to train with the

OUOTC, testament to how the Colonel viewed the calibre of the Abingdon cadets. As a sign of the regard in which he is held, Joss was selected to serve as Assistant Directive Staff at the Cadet Training Centre Frimley Park, and to report to senior army officers on issues facing contingent commanders.

It was a boy in Crescent who commented, "Mr Williams brought to it a real sense of community spirit, which ensured that the quality of the House was not down to just bricks and mortar for the people who call it their home. He ensured that friendships existed both within year groups and through the House as a whole." This statement speaks for itself and reflected Joss's determination to make a real success of Crescent House. To make it a home for the boys is the challenge for every Housemaster and one that Joss achieved.

Another pupil said, "No one can doubt the input that Mr Williams has given to all aspects of Abingdon School and it is clear that he has had a huge impact on many students during their time at Abingdon". One of his initiatives was to set up a new Karate Club, which the boys have both enjoyed and benefitted from; he has also been a rugby coach. In fact I have sometimes wondered if Joss ever slept as, in addition to all this, he found the time to finish his MBA and gain his black belt in Karate.

The Abingdon boys that Joss touched – as officer, schoolmaster or friend – fed off his enthusiasm. He encouraged them to be the best they could be in all that they did: in the House, in sport, in the CCF, and in the classroom where he taught English.

We wish Joss and Angela (to whom we also say goodbye and thank for her services as Crescent House matron), Kit and Rosie (and of course Star the dog!) every success and God's speed for the future as they move to Suffolk where Joss takes up the role of Joint

Deputy Head at Culford School. He has been a tower of strength to many, an inspirational leader and a loyal friend. We will miss his company, professionalism, leadership and lust for life, qualities that he will, no doubt, bring to the Common Room at Culford School in the years to come.

*Paul Gooding*

## Sophie Payne

Sophie joined the Language Department in 2006 and it was soon apparent that we had been very fortunate to gain such an extremely talented Hispanist who had a real passion for the subject, qualities that Sophie conveyed effectively in the classroom where she quietly gained the respect of her pupils.

Having lived for several years in both Spain and Latin America, her Spanish was not only extremely fluent but she had also acquired a wide knowledge of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. This knowledge, supported by her previous experience of A-Level teaching, was put to extremely effective use at Abingdon.

Sophie established a formidable partnership with Trish Henderson, a former Spanish and French teacher at the School, and her enthusiasm and competence in the classroom was instrumental in the impressive results the Department gained – with several boys deciding to study Spanish at University – winning for the Department an enviable reputation and making it a force to be reckoned with.

“  
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Hispanist who had a real  
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”



During her time at Abingdon, Spanish became firmly established as a popular and vibrant Department, and Sophie's commitment played an important part in this. She also taught German, demonstrating the same level of dedication and attention to detail, which enabled her charges to perform well. She was well liked amongst her colleagues, who warmly appreciated her good humoured, tolerant approach and her patience with those less competent than her in areas such as ICT ...

The School's charitable activities also benefited from her guidance, her organisational skills and her commitment to the various fund-raising activities, which as a result invariably ran smoothly.

Sophie has left to devote more time to her young family and we wish her well. She will be missed by her pupils and her Department colleagues especially, and should the opportunity arise in the future for her to return to the School (family commitments permitting) I am sure she would receive a very warm welcome up on the top corridor of Big School.

*Andrew Loughie*



## Dr Megan Bowdrey

Megan joined the School in September 2007 from Welshpool High School in Wales. Prior to that she had completed her DPhil at York University. Megan's strong academic background proved to be a real asset to the School.

In the Chemistry Department, Megan taught across the full range of abilities and year groups, and her lessons were always characterised by high standards of preparation and by her high expectations of the pupils. It was therefore no surprise that Megan taught some of the top chemists we have had at Abingdon, including boys who have competed for the national team in the Chemistry Olympiad, as well as the number she inspired to pursue the subject further at university. Her experience as a research chemist proved invaluable when it came to running the projects for sixth-form students. Over the years a number completed the CREST Gold Award project, which included undertaking novel research in conjunction with Oxford University. Under Megan's invaluable guidance, the boys produced an extremely high level of work and some of it was even published in Chemistry Review.

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*her lessons were always characterised by high standards of preparation and by her high expectations of the pupils*

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As one of the more experienced teachers in the Department, advice from Megan was gratefully received not only from the pupils but from her colleagues as well. On numerous occasions, Megan was the source of a well-timed worksheet or even a lesson plan if things were getting desperate, and her formal mentoring and rigorous lesson observations were much appreciated by Dr Mike Streule in his first year teaching. It has to be mentioned as well that her regular home baking for Departmental tea has left a hole that has yet to be filled.

Above and beyond the regular teaching commitment, Megan contributed in many other ways to school life. There was great excitement when Megan was issued her combats for the CCF and she very much enjoyed regaling us with stories of the recoil on an assault rifle and the notorious CCF nights out. Megan also took on the responsibility of Health and Safety officer, a somewhat thankless task at points, but one she typically did with great professionalism and efficiency.

Megan moves on to a temporary post at Radley and from there she will go to The Royal Grammar School Worcester. As part of a legendary Whitefield House in her first year, Megan leaves behind a great number of good friends at Abingdon. However she does take with her her husband, Mark, who she picked up when covered in mud walking along the towpath to Oxford. If that is not an inspiring legacy, what is?

*Mark Forth*



## Jenni Matthews

Jenni Matthews left Abingdon at the end of the Michaelmas term 2010 having completed three years as Assistant Director in the Music department.

Unbeknown to many, this stint at Abingdon was not Jenni's first. She is, in fact, an unofficial OA herself having been taught A-level music here when she was a St Helen's girl. She was also an Our Lady's girl at one stage so knew the School well. This clearly wasn't enough to put her off the place, and when the post of Assistant Director came up, it was a chance too good to miss for Jenni; working at Abingdon had been an aspiration of hers for a long time – and not just because her parents live around the corner.

“

*a determined and professional colleague, and a dedicated and popular teacher*

”

She began in January 2008, coming to us after four years at Kingswood School, Bath, having completed her undergraduate degree and PGCE at Cambridge. She initially spent two terms as a sixth-form tutor in what was then Older's House and the remainder of her time as a Lower School tutor.

Her impact in Lower School was second to none – and not just when preparing the boys for the House Singing Competition. Those charming dance moves that always caused such a stir are thanks to Jenni, leaving Adam Jenkins a hard act to follow in future years.

Jenni quickly established herself as a determined and professional colleague, and a dedicated and popular teacher. Teaching is the thing that Jenni loves and does so well: she was famed in her department for the energy that she brought to her lessons and her sixth formers in particular were always full of admiration and compliments.

On top of her inspirational and energising teaching, Jenni made a massive contribution to the Other Half – establishing the School Choir and the African Drumming Circle; organising the Joint Choral Society's performance of Fanshawe's complex African Sanctus in 2009 (a huge undertaking) and a charity concert to raise money and awareness for the Moldova link. In her three years she also arranged music for and conducted the boarding houses in their singing in Chapel on Thursdays. She went on numerous residential trips, ran the Third year 'Music in the Community' group and worked with local primary schools to perform a concert alongside our boys in the Amey Theatre. December 2010's South Africa concert was a real highlight, and perhaps climax, of Jenni's commitment to the extra-curricular life of Abingdon. She left big shoes to fill in terms of her contribution to school life.

Jenni always managed to keep up her life outside school, enjoying life in Summertown, cooking, drinking wine, lots of travel around the UK and abroad and keeping fit – including a 10k run in December 2010 to raise money for charity.

An exciting future surely awaits Jenni. Needing a change in direction, she left Abingdon to explore other avenues

in her career: these include teaching at Longwick Combined School near Thame and Rupert House School in Henley. She is keen to pursue her interests in singing, and working with young people and choirs in the Oxfordshire area.

Many of Jenni's colleagues and friends here at Abingdon were sad to see her leave after what seemed like such a short time, but ultimately we knew that Jenni was excited about what the future held and was looking forward to what lay in store. Jenni is greatly missed by many.

*Andrew Loughe*



## Richard Castle

In having a colleague like Richard Castle, the Economics and Business Studies Department at Abingdon School could not have been more fortunate. His energy, enthusiasm, humour and kindness pervaded everything he did. He quickly established himself as a dedicated, organised and committed teacher, whose enthusiasm was wholly apparent in the classroom. His lessons were well planned, lively and always engaged pupils in a wide variety of tasks. As such, his dedication, high expectations and jocular manner swiftly earned him the respect of his pupils.

One could always rest assured that in everything Richard was asked to do, it would be done to the highest of standards and with a painstaking attention to detail. In leading two excellent foreign trips to New York and Barcelona for the Department, his organisational skills very much came to the fore. The itineraries were thoughtfully and carefully crafted, and the detail of his planning was such that pupils were even given personalised luggage labels!

It quickly became apparent that whatever the task, Richard was never content to do 'just enough'. He always went beyond what was required of him – without prompt he would create wall displays in the Department or produce a plentiful stream of classroom resources (all of which were freely shared). This was characteristic of Richard's whole approach: he looked outward and would always do what was for the greater good. As a colleague, Richard was remarkably flexible and helpful, and whilst he was never afraid to speak his mind, his comments were always without side.

His dedication and enthusiasm went well beyond the classroom too. He was involved in a whole host of activities such as golf, badminton, hockey, multisport, Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Blues Society. These activities were never seen as burdens and he always contributed with generosity and zeal. As a boarding house tutor in School House, Richard showed genuine concern for his tutees and other pupils in the House, actively involving himself in the life of the school's boarding community. He organised many an excursion for

“ His energy, enthusiasm, humour and kindness pervaded everything he did ”

School House pupils, and his 'Film and Pizza' evenings became something of an institution.

Whatever the vicissitudes of life, Richard's principled and unwavering dedication to his job always shone through. He was, without question, a truly wonderful colleague with whom to work and, although sad to see him go, we were delighted to hear of his much-deserved promotion to Boarding Housemaster at Rossall School. It goes without saying that we wish him and his family every happiness and success as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives.

*Simon Grills*



## Daniel Freyhan

If I had to sum Dan up in one word, it would be *commitment*. Whether it's to his religious beliefs, pure mathematics, football (6th form teams / Arsenal / England), cake baking for charity ... or even competitive board games, Dan shows amazing commitment to each and every cause with which he is involved ... and he looks so young!

“  
*shows amazing commitment to each and every cause with which he is involved*  
”

New to teaching when he came to the Abingdon Maths Department three years ago, Dan has always been a role model in his preparation for lessons, especially in terms of trying to provide differentiated activities for each level within a set. He was also extremely open-minded, welcoming the opportunity to try new ideas – including ICT tools – to help the boys' learning, and willing to share his experiences in an open and honest way. His passion for maths was frequently demonstrated by his thoroughness when solving problems and his interest in debating the finer points of more advanced topics. It has been a real pleasure to have Dan as a colleague.

From a personal perspective, Dan is an extremely supportive and loyal friend, willing to take the time to listen to others and to hear their opinions and issues. His integrity and care for others are great strengths which shine out and provide a superb example for the boys.

*Jan Wiejak*

Dan has been enthusiastic and caring in his leadership of the Lower School Christian Union (known as 'The Way'), seeking to share his faith in Jesus and encourage the boys to think through important questions in life. The boys have enjoyed his wacky games, but most of all his ability to understand the worries and ambitions of a 12 year old and show them clearly from the Bible how Jesus answers those questions. No doubt, he has learnt some important lessons for ministry from the bizarre but often profound comments of the boys.

*Hugh Price*

## Nick Stokes

Nick is a professional, hard working, dedicated teacher. He was only at Abingdon for three years but he made



a big impact. He fitted seamlessly into the Physics Department, happily teaching at all levels from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, getting good results with all his classes. He put in a lot of time and effort, both with his lesson planning and with his extra-curricular activities. He was always good humoured with the students, but firm where necessary.

He got on very well with both students and staff and was a big help in the Department, especially in helping to update its use of ICT. He was always willing to help and to take on responsibilities within the Department, such as setting exams, organising and marking coursework, coaching Oxbridge students and marking Common Entrance papers.

“  
*always good humoured with the students, but firm where necessary*  
”

Nick, who is an examiner for AQA and OCR, has a good academic background; his knowledge and understanding of his subject is excellent and he cares about the way it is taught. He is clearly ready for further responsibility.

Outside the classroom, he has set up and run a very successful and competitive Swimming Club, coached rugby and taken on the responsibility

of organising World Challenge expeditions. In the triathlon he set himself new challenges, mostly trying to impress Mr Christodoulou, but also inspiring boys to push themselves to find their limits.

As a House boarding tutor, housemaster Ed Davies described him as a natural, able to use his own initiative, always making sensible decisions, but keeping him informed.

We are sorry to lose him but realise that he needs fresh challenges.

*John Brooks*



## Ellen Kite

Ellen joined us in September 2010 having completed her graduate training programme at St Olave's Grammar School in Kent. She proved very quickly what a natural teacher she is, always remaining calm and collected, rarely even raising her voice. The students responded with excellent behaviour, and all who were taught by her progressed rapidly. The A level results in particular showed that she could inspire not just the very brightest but also those who found physics A level a struggle. Her subject knowledge is very impressive and she is always keen to learn more. Outside the class she spent a lot of time working as a tutor in School House and in coaching cricket.

“

*she could inspire not just the very brightest but also those who found physics A level a struggle*

”

Sadly for us but happily for her, Bernard, her then fiancé, was offered a research post at MIT Boston and after their marriage in August she went to join him in Boston.

*John Brooks*

## Andy Glass

Andy Glass was appointed in 2005 as a part-time teacher of ceramics with a brief to extend and develop 3D work in the department. From the start he worked with all sixth-form groups and took a large chunk of the third-year teaching load, as well as running extra-curricular clubs. He brought to Abingdon a rich experience as a teacher but also as a practicing ceramicist with extensive experience from residences and running workshops. His knowledge of clay was outstanding and his ability to communicate these skills to his pupils was exceptional. However, his teaching wasn't confined to clay and his work with sixth formers especially encouraged a wide range of materials in the development of 3D work.



His sixth-form groups will especially remember him for his high expectations and inspiring tutorials. His extra-curricular clubs were famous – who will forget the penguin orchestra. His interest in experimental photography introduced a small group to Lomography, pinhole cameras and cyan prints with great success.

“

*his ability to communicate these skills to his pupils was exceptional*

”

I will remember Andy for his calm and ordered classes; his compassionate consideration for others; his support on our trips to New York and Paris; his spell-checking of reports; his polyurethane foam sculpture with Tom Bateman; long-jump-pit sand casting in concrete with Richard Worth and lollipop-stick figure construction with Matthew Halls. We all wish him well for his new ventures in the West Country.

*James Nairne*

## Jane Jelley

Jane Jelley left the school in February 2011 for personal reasons. She had taught part-time at Abingdon since 1999, entering initially as a replacement for Janet Boulton and working mostly with sixth formers. In more recent years she concentrated on middle and lower school classes taking several very successful GCSE groups. An advocate for painting and with a wide knowledge of twentieth-century work, especially within a modernist tradition, Jane's classes produced bold work that excelled in their striking composition and thoughtful use of colour. Her approach left a lasting influence on all those taught by her.

*Graeme May*



## Steven MacIver

When I first met Steven, I was surprised that a young, ambitious, award-winning artist would choose to make Abingdon his home – wasn't London the place to be? Apparently not! Steven was born in Orkney; he didn't come south until his post-graduate study at the Slade School of Art and his strong Scottish accent, echoing through the department, was feature of his time with us. How could this great contact be used at Abingdon? I employed him for a day's workshop with our sixth-form artists in November 2009. The boys immediately responded to his enthusiasm and skilful communication of ideas. Later that year the opportunity to appoint an artist-in-residence, through the School's Annual Fund, was made possible and Steven was the obvious choice. He worked in the sixth-form shed through July and August 2010, and showed new work in the Sports Centre atrium in September prior to sending work away for a large one-man show at the Pier Art Gallery Orkney.

The requirement for extra teaching for 2010-11 created the opportunity to appoint a part-time teacher in the department for one year only. Would Steven be free? He seemed the natural choice although he hadn't taught before. We were delighted when he said 'yes' and so started a

//  
*young, ambitious,  
award-winning artist*  
//

year of exhilarating partnership in the department. Steven taught mostly Middle and Lower School groups but helped out also with life class with the sixth form. He purchased two plain dark suits to teach in and amazingly managed to keep them clean. He made my black Levis seem shabby! Steven's confidence quickly saw him through some early difficulties and by the end of the year his groups were humming. We wish him all the best for his shows at his New York gallery and hope he will stay in contact with the department as long as he continues to make Abingdon his home.

*James Nairne*



## Kaoru Wada

Kaoru Wada, our Music Assistant 2010-2011, was recruited from Munich's Hochschule für Musik where she was completing a master's degree in piano performance. Japanese by birth, but educated in New York, London (City of London Girls') and Manchester (RNCM), Kaoru demonstrated her prodigious skills as a pianist at audition, both as an

//  
*outstanding ability to get  
things done at a high level  
and with a minimum of fuss*  
//

accompanist and a soloist. She quickly made her mark in the department, proving keen to meet all the elements of the role with ready willingness and an engaging smile, which endeared her to both colleagues and boys. Whether it was organising, presenting and accompanying lunchtime informal concerts, teaching piano pupils, aural or theory, helping staff with reports or taking minutes at department meetings, Kaoru showed an outstanding ability to get things done at a high level and with a minimum of fuss.

We are delighted that Kaoru will return next year as a member of our piano teaching team, particularly as this was one of the many areas in which she excelled.

*Michael Stinton*

## Sebastian Thomson

Sebastian Thomson joined us for two terms to cover for Jenni Matthews who had left us at Christmas. Sebastian came with a distinguished CV – Head Chorister at Christ Church, Oxford (under Simon Whalley), music scholar at Harrow, graduate of Bristol University, and a freelance organist, choir master and teacher. Sebastian, who had been a church director of music in Northampton, had recently given organ recitals at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral whilst teaching piano and organ as a visiting teacher at Eton College. He continued with his Eton work on Mondays and Tuesdays, but was able to spend the remainder of the week with us.



*musical skill, enthusiasm and commitment*



Sebastian soon assimilated the skills required for effective classroom teaching and proved to be a real team-player, happy to pull his weight and to help out in all areas as required. He progresses to a similar temporary role at Bloxham School next year – another opportunity to hone his teaching skills in a role which is set to continue beyond if he decides that class teaching is for him. We are most grateful for all the musical skill, enthusiasm and commitment that he brought to the department during his two terms with us.

*Michael Stinton*

## Marie Laurent and Leslie Blanc

### French Assistants

It is amazing to think that Marie, from the French Champagne region, and Leslie, from the South Western city of Toulouse, didn't know each other before they came to Abingdon. Not only have our two French assistants worked exceptionally well together, they have also built up a solid friendship. Their calm, purposeful approach has been much appreciated both by the boys and by all members of the MFL department. They have worked tirelessly preparing boys for their public oral exams, creating and sharing resources and always dividing fairly the work to be done. They

have both shown a lot of initiative and pride in their work and have built up a large bank of resources that is an invaluable legacy to the department. A day in the life of a French assistant can be very varied. Whatever the task, Marie and Leslie have always been organised, committed and good humoured.

Of course, they have their own tastes and personalities and this came through in their contributions to the Modern Languages Club. Both of them have always been big supporters of the boys and they were sure to attend all the concerts and drama productions that they could while they were here. Amongst all this Marie also found time to go back to France to pass her finals with flying colours and Leslie to gain an EFL teaching qualification in Oxford.

We will miss them and we wish them the best of luck as they go back to France to begin the next stages of their lives. Marie is to return to university to obtain a qualification in human resources, and Leslie to teach English to adult learners.

*Jane Mansfield*

## Gisela Ramos

### Spanish Assistant

Gisela Ramos Zorrilla came to Abingdon School through the British Council. She has a degree in Translation and decided to come to England to improve her English and get to know the culture first-hand. During her time at Abingdon she found teaching the boys so rewarding that her original plan of moving to France and working as a Spanish assistant changed and she is now in Spain about to start her PGCE with the purpose of coming back to England and working as a Spanish teacher.

Gisela worked mainly with our IGCSE, AS and A2 pupils, her lessons were

always thoroughly prepared and invariably tailored to the needs of individual boys. She was prompt, reliable, trustworthy and always willing to help whatever was required by the department. I wish her well in her personal and professional future.

*Victoria Pradas*

## Jana Wüllner

### German Assistant

There is a common joke in Germany that Bielefeld doesn't actually exist. This has been a regular source of humour for former German assistants at Abingdon so there was a flurry of excitement when Jana's application arrived (not solely due to the fact that we were to welcome a female assistant into the German department for the second year running) and we noticed that she hailed from Nordrhein-Westfalen. Bielefeld was back on the map – result! We were very fortunate to have Jana with us this year. Having spent a year as an au pair in New York City, this was to be her second experience living abroad. She worked tirelessly with our IGCSE, AS and A2 pupils throughout the year and as usual upped the pace in the weeks leading up to public oral exams. She also helped out with some eye-catching displays and a number of activities at Modern Languages Club. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work. Jana also made the most of her time here in England, not only in Abingdon and Oxford, but also further afield when visiting other places of interest in the UK. Diligent, discreet and reliable, we wish Jana all the best as she returns to Germany to finish her studies in English, German and Philosophy at the University of Paderborn.

*Andrew Loughe*

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## Brenda You Fang

### Chinese Assistant

Brenda joined Abingdon as a Chinese assistant for the academic year 2010 – 2011. Throughout her time here she was an extremely hard working colleague, always going the extra mile to help the boys to gain a deeper understanding of Mandarin. Brenda maintained a busy timetable: as well as her regular lessons she also had lunchtime and after-school one-to-one oral practice sessions with our fifth-year boys, giving them all as much practice as possible before the summer exams. She cared so much about her students, and was extremely happy to hear that all Abingdon boys achieved Grade A and above.

Brenda enjoyed being involved with the Chinese Club, and introduced Chinese culture, calligraphy and traditional paper cutting to many boys on Tuesday afternoons. During Chinese New Year, she cooked traditional dumplings for the boys, which were so popular that some boys wanted them for their lunch! She also ran a weekly Chinese Club at John Mason School. It proved to be very popular, and she attended every week without fail. The comments from the teachers at John Mason were extremely positive.

Brenda has a very friendly personality and could often be found in Common Room chatting with other colleagues, learning about English culture and finding ways to share Chinese culture. She formed strong friendships with the other languages assistants and they travelled to various parts of the UK together.

We were very fortunate to have Brenda as our assistant for the year. We wish her all the best as she returns to China to continue her teaching career.

*Lina Man*



L-R Marie Laurent, Brenda You, Leslie Blanc, Gisela Ramos, Jana Wüllner

## A Farewell to Abingdon from the Language Assistants

When we arrived in England ten months ago, we all thought it would be really difficult, even impossible, to get used to living in another country and cope with the barriers that this usually implies. First and foremost, bad weather! (We all know England does not have a good reputation for its sunshine.) Secondly, distance, living away from our relatives, and finally, the cultural and culinary differences.

Nevertheless, in a blink of the eye, our vision changed radically. Why? We would say that there were several reasons but the most important one, without any doubt, was the warm welcome we were given by all members of staff and especially by the Modern Languages Department.

Time passed quickly and now we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and

appreciation. It was an enormous privilege and honour to work here. Thanks to everyone for all their help, support and kindness over this year. They were great both in the professional and personal sphere.

We have enjoyed sharing this unforgettable experience and we will miss you! (By the way, the atmosphere in Abingdon is lovely and we will miss English desserts, in particular, the delicious chocolate cakes we devour every day after period 6 and 7 and 8!)

Merci beaucoup! Danke schön! fei chang gan xie ¡Muchas gracias!

*Marie Laurent (French Assistant), Leslie Blanc (French Assistant), Brenda You Fang (Chinese Assistant), Jana Wüllner (German Assistant), Gisela Ramos (Spanish Assistant)*

“ an enormous privilege and honour to work here ... this unforgettable experience ”

# The School

## Chapel

The Right Reverend Henry Scriven confirmed in Chapel James Anderson-Besant, Tom Farrant, Ben Passey and Hector Stinton, along with eight pupils of Our Lady's School. Preparation included visits to the three central Abingdon Anglican Churches of St Nicolas, St Helen, and St Michael and All Angels, St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Dorchester Abbey, Iffley Church, the Carmelite Priory on Boars Hill, and in Oxford, Christ Church Cathedral, St Mary's Church and University College.

The preachers at the School services in St Helen's Church were the Chaplain, the Reverend Dr Edmund Newell, Sub-Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Father Nicholas King, Oxford.

Visiting preachers at Chapel services for the boarders were the Reverend Dr Teresa Morgan of Oxford University Classics Faculty, the Reverend Jonathan Meyer of Ewelme, the Reverend Jane Baun of Oxford University Theology Faculty, the Reverend John Paton, Precentor of Christ Church Cathedral, Brad Palmer from *Build the Nations* charity in South Africa, the Reverend David Willbraham, Chaplain of Thames Valley Police, the Reverend Robert Tobin of Oriol College, Oxford, and Father Jamie McGrath of St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Abingdon. The services included the Lord's Prayer being said in the different languages of the boarders. Midsummer was celebrated with a service on Waste Court lawn, followed by a performance of a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Canon RT Moll, OA, preached at a special service for the centenary of the birth of Sir James Cobban, former Headmaster.

I am most grateful to the Chapel organists, the Reverend Paul Gooding, Assistant Chaplain, and colleagues

who led worship, Naim Peyman, Head Sacristan, and Matthew Roberts and Zong Hao Tan, Sacristans, for all their invaluable help.

*The Reverend Henry Kirk*

Discussion at the Carnegie Tea



## Library

The start of the Michaelmas term provides all new 1st Years with the opportunity to select a book of their choice from a wide selection of current children's literature as part of a government initiative.

Open Day is soon upon us early in this first term and gives a chance for our pupil librarians to show visitors the wide variety of resources available and talk about the work that they do as part of a service to the School and as an Other Half activity.

After half term the selection began for two teams of four Lower School boys to represent Abingdon School at the Oxfordshire/Berkshire heat of the national Kids' Lit Quiz in November, held this year at Oxford High School. The event is always one of high emotion and excitement as competition is very stiff and this year was no exception with over 40 teams competing. They were encouraged by a team of children's authors amongst them Dennis Hamley, MG Harris and Mark Robson.

We were delighted to be able to host the Oxfordshire Book Awards again in October, now in its fourth year and continuing to expand. These awards are selected and voted for by Oxfordshire schoolchildren, rather than their teachers or librarians.

It was a pleasure to welcome the winner of the Primary Illustrated Book award, Nick Sharratt (his second consecutive win), Michael Morpurgo for Best Book Primary award and Rachel Ward for the Secondary School Award. The queues for students to meet the authors wound all the way around the Dining Hall, but all of them had their books successfully signed.

In the Lent Term we hold our annual Joint Schools' Author event, organised by the librarians from three Abingdon schools (Abingdon, Our Lady's Abingdon and the School of St Helen and St Katharine). The venue is rotated between the three schools and this year Our Lady's, Abingdon was host to the popular Oxford author, Julia Golding. The visit is an opportunity for as many primary and secondary students as possible from the local area to hear a first-class children's author

talk about their work. Julia entertained the children with two teams answering questions on mythology.

In February author Tim Bowler's publisher contacted the School at quite short notice and asked if Tim could do a workshop as he was on a tour with a small amount of time available. What librarian would say no to such an offer! Tim conducted a workshop with some very lucky third-formers and even their English teacher was surprised by their response to him. He was an inspiration not only to the boys keen to demonstrate their writing prowess but also to those who would not necessarily consider themselves writers.

World Book Day was celebrated in March. Boys representing all year groups, and a small group of staff (also of varied years), sat in a faux drawing room on stage and talked about a book that meant something to them. It was a riveting selection from a skeleton detective story to Shackleton's life and *A Curious Dog in the Night-Time* to existential philosophy via a Booker prize winner; the readers held their audience with their collective passion. And that was the point – to illustrate how different books light a passion and to encourage the whole school to find 'their' book in the week of World Book Day.

Talking about books is one way of encouraging reading, another inspiring way is to hear an author talking about their work. Abingdon was fortunate to host the well-known author, Anthony Horowitz, on the evening of Tuesday

“ an inspiration not only to the boys keen to demonstrate their writing prowess but also to those who would not necessarily consider themselves writers ”



Abingdon Team at the Carnegie Forum

10 May. This was an opportunity for a wider audience to hear him whilst also raising funds for *Helen & Douglas House*.

The main library activity of the Summer term is always Shadowing the Carnegie, a national scheme involving over 30,000 school children reading the shortlisted titles of this prestigious award, the Carnegie Medal, awarded annually for the best of children's literature published in the last year. Students from all the Abingdon secondary schools join in shared events held at the six participating schools. The first event, the Carnegie Tea, held this year at Larkmead School,

serves to give students the opportunity to exchange first impressions of the shortlist by comparing covers, 'blurbs' and first paragraphs. Each group makes a short presentation on their favourite for each category.

The Carnegie Quiz is the second shared event in the Carnegie calendar, where a more in-depth knowledge of the books is required. This year, Fitzharrys School hosted the Quiz with each school's librarian setting a set of questions on the individual shortlisted books and awarding a prize to the student who had contributed most to shadowing within their school.

Shadowing the Carnegie concluded our year with the Carnegie Forum, held in Abingdon Guildhall. Over 100 students take part in the daylong event, which has a mixture of discussion groups, rehearsals and presentations centered around the shortlisted books. The groups are led by PGCE students from Oxford Brookes – and the competition is fierce to produce the best presentation – and not just amongst the Carnegie students!

Sam Martin and Alex Reynolds were awarded prizes both for their contribution to their groups and for the best reviews, and Josh Forman was highly commended for his book review. James Kennedy was a member of the winning team, *The Beggars*. The Forum voted *Out of Shadows* by Jason Wallace as their winning book; as usual this was at variance with the national winner, which was announced as *Monsters of Men* by Patrick Ness.

*Gaynor Cooper*

The Library would like to thank the team of pupil librarians, without whom it could not run as effectively.

The Library would like to acknowledge donations from the following:

Baroness Cox (author)

MBJ Mawhinney (author)

Mr Robin H Meakins (OA & author)

Mr Matthew DH Clark (OA & author)

Mr Nick Stokes (MCR)

Mrs Egerton

Na'im Peyman (pupil)

Modern Languages & History Department

La Nativite, Aix en Provence (exchange school)

Mrs F Wills (parent)

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# Clubs & Societies

## Chess Club

Having achieved promotion to Division III of the Oxford and District Chess League last season, the challenge this season was to field teams able to compete in the longer, tougher matches while still developing less experienced players on the lower boards. Abingdon's team, now playing as "City 4," made a strong start, losing only one of its first five matches. It ended on 4 wins, 4 draws and 4 losses, coming joint second overall with Oxford University 3. City 4 was also the only team to take any points from the runaway winners of the Division, Cowley 3. Jeffrey Yu's win against England junior Anna Wang secured the away draw.

Seventeen players contributed to Abingdon's continued success in the League. The star player was again Jeffrey Yu (11/12), who was just one win short of achieving a perfect record on Board 1. Edward O'Brien (5/7), playing mostly on Board 3, also had an

excellent season. Dr Jeffreys (1½/5) and Mr English (4½/12) fought hard for points on Boards 2 and 3, as did Omri Faraggi (3/7), more successfully, on Board 4. Ben Vaaler (4/4), an American visitor to the Club, and Thomas Salt (2/3) performed well on Boards 4 and 5, and Edward Reynolds (2/3) and Leon Wu (1/3) earned valuable points on Boards 5 and 6. The other contributors were Ryan Ho, Alex Lee, Angus Chan, Thomas Kelly, Giles Waterson, Jeffrey Hang, Alex Churchman-Davies and Matyas Hanisch. The full results are available at [www.oca.oxfordfusion.com/](http://www.oca.oxfordfusion.com/).

The chess season kicked off early for some with an event organised by Oxford City Chess Club, to which Abingdon's Club is affiliated. On Christ Church Meadow just before the beginning of Michaelmas Term, players from Abingdon School joined other members of City Chess Club to play chess in the open air. Abingdon's giant chess set was the main attraction for passing spectators. This was a rare occasion when a game of club chess

could be witnessed with a Thames river scene as backdrop.

The Club's annual simultaneous display took place on 29 September. This year we invited back Old Abingdonian Stuart Robertson, who has now completed his degree in mathematics at Trinity College, Cambridge. Stuart, whose ECF grade is 177, faced 18 boys, from across the Abingdon age range, and 2 members of staff, the established format. Two years ago, Stuart triumphed 17½-2½ with 5 draws and no losses. This time the Club held him to 16-4. Thomas Kelly and first year Joseph Truran drew their games, whilst Jeffrey Yu, Edward O'Brien and Dr Burnand won. It was another terrific display of chess skill from Stuart and an enjoyable occasion for all participants.

At the Oxfordshire Junior Chess Tournament, held at MCS on 7 November, fifteen Abingdon players took part, the largest contingent from any school. Jeffrey Yu (4½/6) was again Abingdon's best player, finishing runner up to Matthew Daggitt (ECF 174) in the U18 section. The other players were: Joseph Truran (3/6) in the U12 section; James Anderson-Besant (3/12), Joseph Barber, Yan Yang Chen, Alex Churchman Davies, Edward Reynolds (2½/6) and Leon Wu (3½/6) in the U14 section; Omri Faraggi (3/6) and Thomas Kelly (2½/6) in the U16 section; and Angus Chan, George Eason, Ryan Ho and Thomas Salt (3/6) in the U18 section. U14 Matyas Hanisch (3½/6), a visitor to Abingdon from Oxford Spires Academy, won the special controller's prize for his particular dedication to chess improvement.



**Simon King, a former Abingdon parent, plays White on the School's giant chess set. In the background are Joseph Barber, Giles Waterson and Leon Wu**

the challenge this season was to field teams able to compete in the longer, tougher matches

Abingdon entered two teams in the prestigious National Schools' Championship, again preferring the knockout to the league section of the local zone. Team B comprised Angus Chan, Thomas Kelly, Giles Waterson, Edward Reynolds, Alex Churchman-Davies and Lewis Wu, who bravely substituted at the last minute for James Anderson-Besant. Playing away against St Alban's sole entry on 22 November, the team lost 5½-½. Interestingly, two of the results turned on knowledge of King and Pawn versus King endgame technique. Giles had actually achieved a drawn position on Board 2, and Angus's impressive draw on Board 1 could easily have been a more impressive win. Team A comprised Jeffrey Yu, Edward O'Brien, Omri Faraggi, Thomas Salt, Leon Wu

Edward Reynolds saw that Black is lost after  
1. Rxd8 Qxd8 2. Rd1 Qe7 3. Rd7 Qxd7 4. Qf6.



Left to right - Lewis Wu, Yan Yang Chen, Edward Reynolds, Joseph Truran, Anthony Bracey, Ray Ren

and first year Joseph Truran. Playing at home on 1 December against Dame Alice Owen's sole entry, the team triumphed 4-2, winning on the top and bottom pairs of boards. In the next round, a Zone 7 semi-final, the team played away against MCS's sole entry and were defeated 5-1, Abingdon's only point scorer being Edward O'Brien. But the match was closer than the score-line suggests, the Abingdon players on the bottom two boards both having genuine chances to win.

In Michaelmas Term, boys also competed in knockout tournaments in the Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form, the finals being played on Wednesday 8 December. In the Lower School tournament, attracting 20 entrants, Leon Wu defeated James Anderson-Besant to retain the Nightfall-Jakubovics Cup. In the Middle School tournament, attracting 9 entrants, Edward Reynolds defeated Omri Faraggi to win the Pearce Cup. And in the Sixth Form tournament, attracting 6



Ray Ren receiving his trophy from Grandmaster Matthew Turner at the Wiltshire Junior Chess Tournament

entrants, Edward O'Brien employed the Danish Gambit to defeat Jeffrey Yu and win the Harding Cup. Congratulations to both Edwards for overcoming their more highly ranked opponents.

On 26 February, Seven Lower School boys travelled to St Joseph's Catholic College, Swindon for the Wiltshire Junior Chess Tournament, a new departure for Abingdon School. Three entered the Beginners' and four the Intermediates' section. Ray Ren came first out of 29 in the Beginners' section, ending on an impressive 5½/6, defeating Eva Wang along the way. Anthony Bracey was third on 4½/6 and David Chung joint fourth on 4/6. Ray Ren received his winner's trophy and Anthony Bracey his medal from Grandmaster Matthew Turner. In the Intermediates' section, Leon Wu, James Anderson-Besant and Joseph Truran all finished joint fifth out of 28, ending on a highly creditable 4/6. Leon Wu was also the only player in the section to take a point from the eventual winner, graded 126. All in all it was an enjoyable and successful day of chess competition for Abingdon's youngest players.



Abingdon's Megafinalists, following the day's play at the Licensed Victuallers' School, Ascot. Pictured, from left to right, are, in the front row, Giles Waterson, Ray Ren, Leon Wu, James Anderson-Besant and Joseph Truran; in the middle row, Jeffrey Yu, Gleb Valitov, Angus Chan, Alex Lee and Anthony Bracey; and, in the back row, Omri Faraggi, Thomas Kelly and Edward O'Brien.

Abingdon's contribution to county chess expanded this season to the point where Oxfordshire's twelve-strong U-125 team had on one occasion a majority of Abingdon players. Teams travelled to Winchester College, Wellington College and Cumnor on four Sunday afternoons to represent Oxfordshire in Division III of the Chilterns' League. Last year's overall victory was not repeated but a greater number did gain valuable extra match experience. Abingdon's county players were Thomas Salt, Alex Lee, Angus Chan, Omri Faraggi, Thomas Kelly, Edward Reynolds, Alex Churchman-Davies, Leon Wu, James Anderson-Besant and Mr English. We are grateful to Steven Bennett of Cumnor Chess Club for arranging the fixtures.

The House and Lower School Chess tournaments took place in Lent Term. Houses were again represented by individuals, while the Lower School tournament retained teams of three. In the House tournament semi-finals, Jeffrey Yu of Davies' beat Omri

Faraggi of Boyd's, and Thomas Kelly of Webb's upset the odds to beat Edward O'Brien of Southwell-Sander's. Davies' won in the final. In the final of the Lower School tournament, 1HFCP represented by Ray Ren, Alex Reynolds and Lewis Wu, all Club players, defeated 2SW, represented by Leon Wu, Joe Blanch and Douglas Ward.

The main event of Lent Term is the school stage of the UK Chess Challenge, which consists of seven rounds of rapid play. Of the 28 Abingdon entrants, half earned sufficient points to qualify for the Berkshire Megafinal. Jeffrey Yu's only loss was to the eventual trophy winner Edward O'Brien, who again used the Danish Gambit, but even Edward did not win all of his games, drawing the last with Edward Reynolds. The qualifiers were Edward O'Brien (20), Jeffrey Yu (19), Alexander Lee (16), Angus Chan (16), Edward Reynolds (16), Joseph Truran (16), Gleb Valitov (15), Omri Faraggi (15), Thomas Kelly (15), Giles Waterson (15), Leon Wu

(15), James Anderson-Besant (15), Anthony Bracey (15) and Ray Ren (15). Despite being one of the more successful county players this season, Thomas Salt failed to qualify due to repeated losses on time, illustrating that the clock is very much a part of the modern game. On 2 May, all 14 qualifiers travelled to the Licensed Victuallers' School, Ascot. But only two qualified for the Southern Gigafinal, Leon Wu (4/6) from the U-13 section and Joseph Truran (4½/6) from the U-12 section. Because of the strength of Berkshire's U18s, who are current national champions, none of the boys in the U16-18 section could get beyond 3 points. Nevertheless, 5 of the top 10 places went to Abingdon, making it by far the best represented School at the tournament.

In the Southern Gigafinal last year, held at Wellington College on 4 July, Abingdon's five qualifiers together ended on 15/30 over the six rounds, a highly respectable outcome. Deserving special mention are Omri Faraggi, who ended on 3½/6, and Jeffrey Yu, who ended on 4/6 and drew his game with the U16 winner Akash Jain (ECF 187).

Summer is traditionally a quiet term for the Club, but numbers held up well on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and sessions remained lively right through to the last meeting of June.

We are grateful again to Dr Burnand, Dr Jeffreys, Grandmaster Peter Wells and Mr Truran for their terrific coaching effort. And going up to Oxford this year is the latest recipient of the King Trophy, Jeffrey Yu, who has made an excellent contribution to the Chess Club during his two years at Abingdon, both in his exemplary willingness to play for the Club and for Oxford City, and in his patience coaching less gifted players. He has been a fine chess ambassador for the School.

*Andrew English*

## Debating Society



The Debating Society has the honour of being the oldest non-sporting society in the School's long and sometimes rather tedious history. This is an accolade that we in the Society have clung to over the years like a life belt, in the (no doubt vain) hope of salvaging some self-respect; this last year was no different.

This does not mean that we didn't see some changes this year however, with the introduction of impromptu debates, occasional tea and cake, and female blood (including that of our new Headmistress) into the heated testosterone-fuelled chaos of the Charles Maude Room; all are welcome additions to the eclectic mélange of the Society.



*the weekly debates being both consistently popular and of a high standard*



Unfortunately our competition performance this year was mediocre at best, with not even the surprisingly good quality of Magdalen College School's doughnuts being able to cheer our teams after a disappointing performance in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition.

Overall, however, we like to think, perhaps a tad arrogantly, that this year has been rather successful with the weekly debates being both consistently popular and of a high standard. Some highlights include Will McDowell's stunning performance as Miss Lusk at the Christmas balloon debate, Mr Franklin's impassioned defence of Tony Blair and New Labour, losing one gavel and having another stolen by some Wycombe Abbey girls, Edward Turner-Fussell's heated argument with Mr Wickes about the number of nuclear warheads possessed by the various



superpowers during the 1950s, Mr Carson's witty yet surprisingly persuasive dismissal of the School as a provincial backwater, some half-decent poetry, Robin Veale's powerful plea for prisoners to get the vote, and a long discussion about who would save cats from trees if the military were to be abolished.

*Alec Burt 7AJL*



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# House Reports

## School House

Back in August 2010, when Mr Webb was, I am sure, already working on his House's entry for the House Singing Competition, Mr O'Doherty was again planning school domination (successfully, as it turned out), and Miss Lusk's arrival was eagerly anticipated, School House boys, present and future, were looking forward to a new year in their house of dreams! The result was another year of great achievement by many individuals in a wide variety of activities, as well as steady progress in the right direction for the House as a whole. The boys have once again given me many reasons to feel privileged and proud because of my association with them. And there is always next year for the House Singing.

The Third-formers, ably and energetically looked after by their tutor Miss Petrov, another formidable new girl who obviously meant business, settled down very quickly. We once

again seemed to get the pick of the crop from the Lower School, with Gus Mills, Tommy Nicholson and Jack Walsh showing the new boys the ropes, as well as Archie Ashford returning after a year's absence. Boarding numbers were up, but this was very much one integrated tutor group. As a result, they soon started to win things, and will, I am sure, continue to make a really positive impact. There are some great musicians amongst them as well as some fine sportsmen, and final reports showed they have been doing their bit in the classroom too. And they know how much it will mean to their tutor to win a few more House competitions next year. We wish leaver Gus Mills all the best at his new school.

The Fourth Form had Mr Hallinan to look after them, so it came as no surprise that the emphasis was on the urbane, intellectual, indeed thoroughly



Charlie Hall

charming approach to life. This is not to say that they made none of the mistakes that young men of this age seem programmed to make, but their contribution to Abingdon life has been overwhelmingly positive all the same. There are some great musicians amongst their number, a decent cricketer or two, including new boy Felix Ogdon, some other very strong sportsmen both in and out of school, and as strong a mathematician as you are likely to meet in another new boy to School House, Julian Ting. Other personal qualities were also deservedly recognised at the end of the year when Matthew Corne, Tim Davies and Daniel Matthews were appointed as Lower School Assistants for 2011-12.

The Fifth-formers had to adjust to life without their previous tutor Mr Callan, but in Miss Kite they had a tutor who looked for similar high standards, even if she did so in a less obviously robust manner. They once again clearly enjoyed each other's company, and their mutual support will have helped with their main challenge of the year,



Front row L – R Kelvin Hung, Gleb Kozlov, Timothy Lee  
Back row L – R Will Hollier, Charlie Studdy, Koyejo Abraham  
Crescent House, Kolujo Abraham, Toby Ogg



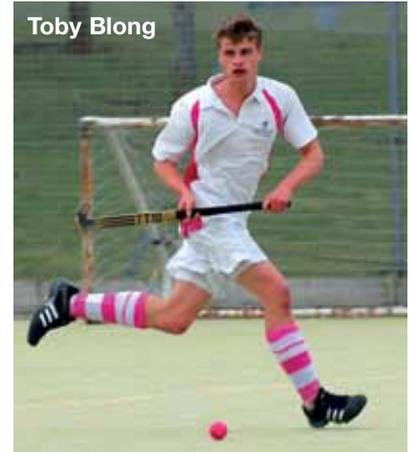
the public exams; as a result, I look forward very much to inviting the whole group back for the Sixth Form. They came close to repeating their public speaking success of the Fourth Form, but, being a small tutor group, had to rely on the individual sporting talents of such as fencer Thomas Chan to make any headway in House competitions. Sam Baxter and Thomas Browne did excellent work with the Lower School as expected, and characters such as Chris Cooke and Andy Yi personified the respectively quiet and not so quiet determination that is the hallmark of the group. They will make a great sixth-form tutor group. Unfortunately it will have to be without the guidance of Miss Kite, who is relocating to the United States. We thank her for all she has done in her short time at Abingdon.

The Lower Sixth, all in the sixth form very much on merit, had their number boosted by six outstanding young men – five newcomers to the School, and Will Hollier, who came over fully from the dark side to continue boarding in the House. Mr Castle was the kind of straight talking tutor the group needed, even if it turned out to be for only one year. Although the pinnacle of our success in terms



of House competitions turned out to be our victory in the Tug of War at the end of the year (henceforth to be regarded as the Blue Ribbon event on the calendar), the group's huge potential came much closer to being recognised – intellectually, on stage, in music ensembles and in House and School sports teams. To name but a few: Phoenix Tse and Hussein Ibrahim got the sort of report most of us can only dream about, Will Abell once again excelled in drama productions, Gerald Chan lived up to his billing as a music scholar, and Toby Blong's sporting prowess came to the fore most obviously as Captain of Hockey, as well as in our House athletics team. I was pleased to appoint Toby and Simon Spafford as Heads of House for the new academic year. Toby will be a School Prefect as well, and new boy Kolujo Abraham has done very well to be also recognised in this way. We wish Mr Castle well as he runs his own boarding house at Rossall School in Lancashire – he has gained the respect of School House during his time here, not always an easy thing to do!

The Upper Sixth continued to be looked after by their tutor Mr Carson, who served them well in so many ways, not least in his support of their university applications. As a result of this, and of course of their own hard work, many of the group can realistically look forward to being where they want to be, studying what they want to study, for the next stages of their careers. Particular mention should be made of David Choi and Nick Williams who are heading for



Oxford, and Alex Leung and John Mulvey who can look forward to starting at Cambridge. They have as a group achieved much in their time at Abingdon in the full range of activities here. As well as those already mentioned, Vassilis Ragoussis ended his Abingdon career on a high as part of the victorious crew at Henley, Forrest Radford got well-deserved recognition for his entrepreneurial skills as displayed in his work on this year's Leavers' Book, and Charlie Hall's contribution to Abingdon music reached an appropriate climax. But I would like to thank the whole group for their humour, for their usually being at least as punctual as their tutor, for their preventing me from becoming too self-important, and, occasionally, for making me feel I have really earned my salary ... Finally, I would like to express my particular appreciation of the job done with huge style by boarding Head of House, Gleb Kozlov.

Once again, I would like to record my gratitude to the House staff for all they have done to help the boys – Di, Ratko and all the ladies, as loyal a team as one could wish for, and very long-suffering; to my family for remembering who I am; and to the School House boys themselves – where would I be without them?

*Douglas Aitken*

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## Crescent House



I have heard the phrase 'the long goodbye' somewhere and it seems an evocative phrase to describe my last year in the House. I think, though, it refers also to dementia and the awful drifting away that that entails. I'll pause now for you to add your own joke ... I am on my way to Culford School in Suffolk. The post of Deputy Head was advertised in May 2010 and interviews should have been in June. However, there, as here, the end of the year was frantic, so interviews were postponed to September 2010, and thus my start date to September 2011. I have therefore had the extraordinary experience of being appointed on 13 September 2010 for a job starting on 7 September 2011. A year offers plenty of time for reflection.

So now you would expect me to offer my reflections – are you even still reading at this point? Well, I did say time for reflection. This does not mean that I did any. Mostly I have ignored what is going to happen in September 2011 for the day-to-day detail of what is happening each week. Thus it all seems a long way away, even as

the year comes to a close. We have somewhere to live and have sorted out schools for the kiddies. The rest will all happen in good time, I am sure. Certainly my new boss has what seems to be an enlightened approach – he has told me that as I will be paid from 1 September, that is when he expects me to start working for him. I am not sure I am nonchalant enough to leave it quite that late, but I admire the sentiment.

The House has been as busy as ever. The idea of being a boarding and day House no longer seems novel in any way and our two Heads of House certainly worked well together – Xilin Song as Boarding Head of House and Edd Arnold as Day Head of House. They have done a great job, often behind the scenes, in enhancing the ethos of the House and helping boys to be as helpful and kind to each other as they can. Xilin represented the School in the rugby and tennis first teams. Edd Arnold's entry to the 'Travellers Journal Sketchbook Competition' won and was exhibited to the public in the Ashmolean Museum.

Nick Acutt did a great job as Head of School and used his authority and position well to the benefit of the boys. Matt Roberts was a School Prefect and won a service prize on Speech Day for his dedication to serving others. Benny Liang, as well as teaching his tutor group origami, won the national Challenge the Chancellor Competition. Charlie Uden rowed at the Henley Royal Regatta in the coxless quad and Chris Green won the hockey prize for his determination and team spirit.

Tom Price was a stalwart of the cricket 1st XI, Amir Garmroudi shone in the Art Department and attacked his A levels with real determination. Ryan Ho played in the First Orchestra alongside Jooh-Ho Sung and Jay Jung. The latter two also played for the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra. Oliver Leach found his forte in class discussion of ideas, while Jack Trodd's artistic abilities developed strongly both in his art and in a number of dramatic roles in school productions including *West Side Story* and *An Italian Straw Hat*. Talented guitar-player Henry Gibson is most likely to become a politician and Hadrien Combe Orsoni has worked determinedly towards his goal of studying medicine and played alongside Xilin in the Tennis 1st team.

We have never had three school prefects appointed in one year during my time until now – Andrew Halls, Mike Deeks and Daniel Leach are to be congratulated. Andrew, along with Neil McKenzie, formed two of the nine crew members who won the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup and Schools' Head. GB honours came their way too! Adrian Lam, Paul Woo, Wesley Yung and Will Haines won the inter-house senior tennis. Koyejo Abraham tried to win the inter-house athletics by entering everything as far as I could see.



Jay Jung at a strings masterclass

The Fifth Form GCSE mocks promised great things for Jack Williams, Charlie Hames, Angus Chan and Toby Brown and hope the summer exams turned out as well for them. Freddie Locock-Harrison represented the 1st VI Tennis two years early and Toby Brown played U16A rugby. Azarel Adebajo was in the U16 Rugby Sevens and Ed McLaughlin formed part of an extremely promising J16 crew. Angus Chan played very well for the chess team and Arvin Wong gained Grade 7 Violin. David Jorgensen formed the backbone

of the CCF and looks very promising for high honours there in the future.

In the Fourth Form Jamie Irwin gained two Head's Praises for being the top of the year in the German exam and for consistent excellent work in history. Heysen Ip gained a Head's Praise for excellent work in art. Adam Parkes won the Form Prize with an A\* average in his end of year exams, where Kester Bond remarkably got 100% in his art exam.

Music scholar Sebastian Johns achieved distinction in Grade 8 cello and Adam Parkes gained Grade 8 in saxophone. Jonathan Lord and Luke Derrick were part of the A team who won the Novice VIII at Reading Town Regatta, so the strong tradition of Crescent House rowers looks set to continue. Patrick Boyd Gorst, in cricket, achieved 17 wickets in eight games, and the best bowling average in the Fourth Year with 5.46 runs per wicket. Will Sharp and Jonathan Lord were selected for the Oxford county rugby performance squad. Edmund Cornforth was selected as a member of School Council and Adam Parkes, Will Sharp and Luke McCormack have been selected as Lower School Assistants.



Xilin Song

Jeffrey Hang was also elected to School Council and James Beazley gained three Head's Praises in one year. Henry Hart won a gold medal at the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Tim McGovern was a ball of energy, as ever, and was pleased to gain a hard-won place in the Abingdon Film Unit, as was Felix Tasker. Soumya Bhadra was in the A team for rugby and the A team for cricket, and batted four consecutive half centuries in matches. Bruno Rogers was in the cricket C team and got 6 wickets for 8 in one match, he also came 2nd in *Abingdon's Got Talent*.

And there are many more highlights I have not mentioned yet ... I am delighted that so many members of Crescent House continue to throw themselves so fully into all that the School has to offer.

I should like to thank all the tutors of Crescent House, past and present, for their care and diligence on behalf of the boys. Some tutors are departing the House this year, but the core of a great team remains. Farewell to Mark Forth and, at Christmas to Sarah Carey who will hand over her Upper Sixth set to Ben Whitworth so that she can concentrate on her role in charge of careers.

Finally, Crescent House is losing its matron too. All of the boys know how much Angela has done for them. For my part, it is not so much losing a matron as gaining a wife.

Being the housemaster of Crescent House has been the best job I have had in education and I shall certainly miss it. If being a deputy head is even half as rewarding, I will be doing well. I wish the very best to Alex Tate and his family and to all who have been, are and will be members of Crescent House.

*Joss Williams*

# Davies'

Some of the 2011 leavers



This has been my first year as housemaster of Davies' House and although I could have been worried at the prospect of being thrown in at the deep end, I knew enough about the character of the pupils in the House to feel confident that they would pull through in great style. Reflecting on what has been a fantastic year it is clear that I was not misguided in my confidence. At the start of the school year the boys decided on the characteristics of the perfect member of the House: honest, courageous, passionate, generous and imaginative. Between them they have succeeded in demonstrating all these admirable traits.

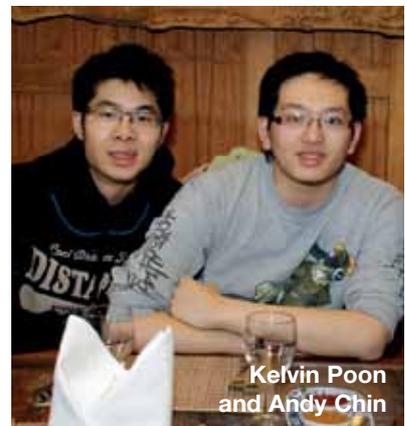
It is in the field of academic study that I believe the boys' honesty is best measured. It takes a great deal to make a realistic and fair assessment of academic strengths and weaknesses and to find the application to maintain the highest of standards throughout the year. Revision during study leave in particular requires a great deal of honest appraisal of both effort and achievement. In this respect the House has excelled. Highlights include the places at Oxford taken up by Peter Zeng, Andy Chin and Jeffrey Yu as well as some outstanding A level, AS and GCSE results. Looking lower down the House, the excellent performances of Robbie De La Harpe, William Nash and Bart Jennings in the Fourth Form, along with Tom Shaw-Stewart and Robert Yates in the Third Form, show that the House has a bright and honest future ahead.

Courage is something that is best measured on an individual basis and the pupils in Davies' House have all bravely faced some very daunting challenges since September. There are one or two notable examples of

calmness under pressure, however, that I feel deserve a mention. I would like to congratulate the international boarders who travel thousands of miles from home, and who have coped admirably with the weird and wonderful idiosyncrasies of Abingdon. Similarly the Third Form, thrown into the hustle and bustle of school life, have settled superbly well and navigated their first year in the Middle School with great success. Certain individuals have also shown great courage this year: Matvey Kazarnovskiy maintained wonderful composure when faced with the high ropes at Culham Science Centre, Nikita Khovanov and Sam Delo took on the go-kart track in spite of their obvious fear of high speeds, and Matthew Fitchett showed no fear of authority when he decided to bump his Housemaster off the track in the final corner of the Go-Kart Grand Prix. In addition, Alec Burt's dress sense, Will McDowell's impersonation of Miss Lusk, Ayo Lawanson and Kelvin Poon's attempts at karaoke, and Zong Hao Tan's efforts at fencing, have demonstrated a wonderful disregard for peer pressure and the opinions of others! Finally, Ed Hambly's effort in the 100m House butterfly competition was so brave that there was a point when I thought I might have to dive in and rescue him!



Sam Delo, Will Sadler, Nikita Khovanov



Kelvin Poon and Andy Chin

I am very fortunate that Abingdon provides such a vast range of outlets for expending energy because the pupils in the House are such an incredibly passionate bunch that, were they not kept busy, there would surely be trouble. On the sports field in particular, passion is evident and the House has excelled. Gregor Hearn and Matthew Hart have represented their respective age group A teams, in Gregor's case the 1st teams, in rugby, hockey and cricket; while Guy Giles and Giles Waterson have achieved success on a national level in swimming and tennis respectively. In addition, we have seen great contributions from Sam Alexander, Daniel Scott-Kerr and Max Mannering on the cricket field; the Boat Club has benefited from the power of Will Sadler (1st VIII and Henley winner), Max Townley, Rob Yates, Matthew Prior, Milan Banerjee and Will Horlock; the Football Club has been built upon the steady foundations provided by Ed Kempell, Tom Fishpool, James Bater, Jack Ward and Joe Read; Christian Reedman, Stuart Jones and Tom Fabes have all covered miles of Oxfordshire turf for the Cross Country Club; James Francis-Barrie represented the 1st XI hockey; and the Rugby Club has been propelled forward on the back of the efforts of players such as Marcello Cau Tait, Tom Sishton and Sam Hughes (1st XV), to name but a few. With all this athletic talent it can



Stuart Jones



On a visit to London: L to R Mikhail Mikhaylenko, Philip Ivlev-Yorke, Francis Chan, Matvey Kazarnovskiy, Zong Hao Tan

be no surprise that the House won the Michaelmas term sports competition and was only just beaten into second place in the Lent term.

In regard to the creative side of school life the House has proven no less successful and hugely imaginative. Tom Allen set the bar high with an ingenious film about recycling and energy conservation. Film seems to be a format the House is comfortable with since Will McDowell's documentary about unemployment in Moldova won national recognition. The artwork of Mathew Hartshorne drew great praise at the end-of-year exhibition. Similarly, Alex Hewetson-Smith's Design and Technology work was much admired.

The House excelled upon the stage with Alex Bond, Sam Kashti and Max Moyle all producing great performances in the Middle School production of *Alex in Wonderland*.

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honest, courageous, passionate,  
generous and imaginative

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Finally, the members of the House have shown great generosity. I would like to thank the Upper Sixth, particularly the House prefects led by Paddy MacMahon and Peter Zeng, who have made my first year in charge infinitely easier with their help and concern for the House. The everyday acts of kindness are one of the great things about the House, and the support that the boys provide for each other in regard to work, the Other Half and, most importantly, friendships, are priceless and make up the cement that holds the community together. Special mention, however, should go to Gary Ling and Ben Liu for their efforts in helping the new boarders settle, also to the Fifth-form mentors who have done much to smooth the path of the new Third Form. Lastly, my favourite act of generosity has come from Mikhail Mikhaylenko and Jake Burgess who have put in the time and devotion necessary to create the School's first break dancing club. In the future, dance floors throughout the world will benefit from their moves!

Edward Davies

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# Boyd's



House Singing Competition

It was another busy year within the House community. Ed Otty took up his position as Head of House after returning from doing charity work in Moldova with the School's charity programme. He was joined by James Cross and Ben McGuire from the Upper Sixth who had also volunteered to take the group of young Moldovan school children on a rare holiday to the Romanian mountains just over the border. For many of these children it was their first holiday and I was

extremely proud that once again boys from Boyd's house were at the forefront of this kind of service activity.

For me this was the particular strength of the tutor group and one I wish to focus upon in this Abingdonian report: the Upper Sixth's willingness to become involved in this unglamorous, but most worthy aspect of Abingdon life. At the end of term prize giving almost all the awards for service to the school community, or to charitable projects,

went to boys in this House. From Alex lley and Charlie Beirouti who between them manned many of the snack stalls at school events over the past five years, raising money for the charities committee, to Ben Haveron, and James Yan who were both heavily involved in the local civic forum, Boyd's House boys in this tutor group were well aware of their responsibilities to the wider community. This extended as far as South Africa when Josh Ridley travelled out with a small group of boys and Mr Loughe on a project with *Build the Nations* to help at a local school for the summer.

If they were generous with their time, they didn't skimp on using what remained for academic study. This group had an intellectual depth, especially in the areas of engineering, languages and business (the latter hardly a surprise with Mr Grills,

“ they were, in the most genuine sense of the word, a fantastically inspirational group



Ed Otty



Head of Economics, as their sixth-form tutor). However, in a refreshing upset from the stereotype of the average independent school student, many of those boys who were keen to pursue a career in finance and business were the same students who used their skills to improve the lives of others (again hardly a surprise with Mrs Payne, Head of Charities, as their middle-school tutor).



As a sixth-form group they also had breadth as well as depth. Hugh Brash was a leading NCO in the CCF, James Yan had innovative modern dance skills, Beirouti's Film Unit projects always impressed and Ridley as Cross Country captain could outrun anyone in the school. I mention only a few and I could mention many more (I hope those others will forgive the omission) but they should believe me when I write that they were,

in the most genuine sense of the word, a fantastically inspirational group. For other Houses, the plaudits of winning House sports competitions or having the most 1st XV players may signify some measure of success, but this year in Boyd's it was the 'still small voice' of many individual acts of kindness and empathy that spoke loudest from a compassionate and caring group of young men.

*David Boyd*



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## Christodoulou's



We did not win the House Singing Competition, even with Robert Brooks at the helm, but we had a lot of fun preparing for it and on the day itself – these, by the way, were the boys' words not mine. In terms of inter-House sport we were comfortably nestled in the top three without causing ourselves undue stress, or seeing me become a shouting and angry housemaster! The boys did very well and enjoyed themselves without breaking too much sweat. One could list myriad accomplishments from our boys in the context of what they have done within the School or while representing the School, and they are nothing but impressive but I only have room to mention a few:

Felix Newman rowed for the first VIII, which won the Schools' Head and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. James Boreham was an excellent NCO within the CCF and made a first class contribution to the running of the Contingent. Jonathan Bourchier started his year with the 1st XV rugby, alongside a hugely talented Matthew Boyd and Harry Copson. Jonathan followed this by captaining a successful 1st XI cricket team, and in a crucial innings against Dulwich College

in 2010, when the team needed him most, he produced 48 runs. Andrew Russell played for three years in the 1st XI and was the leading wicket taker in the Dubai tournament in 2010. Robin Veale and David Wills were instrumental in the national successes of the Cross-Country Club, and Robert Brooks' achievements in music and in service to the House are too many to list here.

My belief has always been that the boys here at Abingdon are the message that we, the teachers and parents, are sending into the future. So it was with interest that I decided to explore not what they do in school but what they do out of school, in their own free time, of which until recently they have had very little. If what they do in school defines what they have, in terms of their names being mentioned in assemblies, names on boards, colours ties, cups, medals, grades and so on, then perhaps what they do out of school in their free time defines who they are. I had always suspected that our boys do a lot in their free time by way of recreation which was neither fit for these pages nor something that I and their tutors could bear to know much about – it was something that I normally got to hear about and had

to deal with, in one way or another, normally after their summer holidays – they are boys after all!

So, curiosity led me to take a random sample of boys in the House and here is what I hadn't expected to learn:

In July 2010 Matthew Landells cycled 874 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End for *Macmillan Cancer*



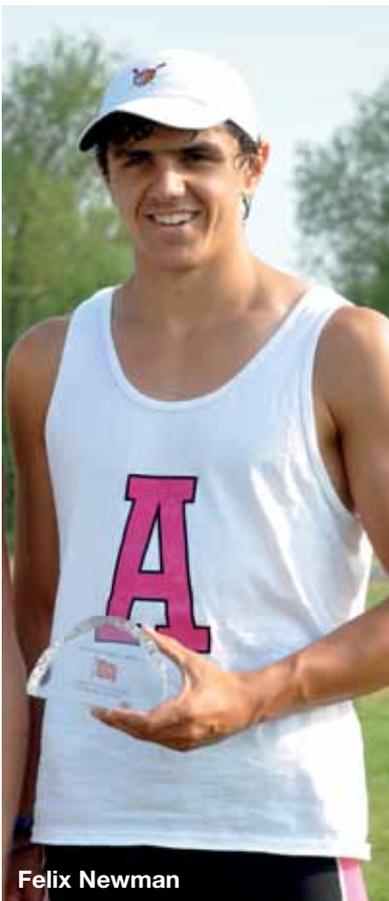


James Boreham (front right)



Robert Brooks

“  
taking the initiative,  
volunteering, making a  
profound difference  
”



Felix Newman

*Support*, raising in excess of £3,500, followed in June 2011 by a brisk 100 mile bike ride in the Chilterns, raising over £100 for *Action Medical Research*. Not content with this, he is currently drawing up a plan for a longer trip for charity in the summer of 2012, cycling from Ancient Olympia in Greece back to London for the 2012 Olympics – 1,750 miles. This may go some way to explaining why he is now Head Boy. Robert Noyes, on the other hand, decided to climb the Three Peaks in June 2011. He started with the ascent and descent of Ben Nevis, then Scafell Pike, which took a total of 10 hours each; he then sped to Mount Snowdon in Wales to deal with that too. In spite of harsh weather conditions and food poisoning, he managed it all ‘comfortably’ within the 24 hours. He was part of a team that has raised £22,000 for the *Emma Maltby Memorial Fund*, a charity that helps children with cancer to take exams in a hospital. David Wills, with genuine concern, lamented that he has had very little time outside school during the last three years, but that the only thing he has managed is three hours a week as a volunteer care worker at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow, created for children with disabilities

in order to give their parents respite. Oscar Newman spent a few weeks of his summer, and continues through his spare time during the academic year, doing voluntary work at the Sanctuary Care Home in Watlington, which provides nursing for dementia patients and respite care.

The list goes on and there simply isn't enough space here for me to mention the rest of the boys who do remarkable things in their spare time. The experiment was therefore a success. This sample of boys from Abingdon have done some quite remarkable things in their spare time: taking the initiative, volunteering, making a profound difference and, unusually, keeping rather quiet about it. Yes, they will have some of the best qualifications in the country if not the best, yes, they will read fascinating subjects at university, and yes, they will be leaders in their field of application. I do wonder however, out of all the other young men and women they find themselves with at university and beyond, who will truly stand out as the perfectly rounded, successful, altruistic, modest and responsible member of society ...

*Alexis Christodoulou*

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## Franklin's



This year's Heads of House were Clym Buxton and Tom Spears. Both of them took on their responsibilities with aplomb, and were model examples of friendly reliability. Clym and James Percival were made School Prefects in recognition of their qualities and contribution, and carried the role with honour. Their tutor group had become the smallest in living memory, and only eleven of them made it over the finishing line as Abingdonians; but they were survivors with an extraordinary variety of qualities, and they will surely go on to great achievements in the future.

The House Singing Competition brought the year's first opportunity to compete as a house. Henry Jenkinson, now a grizzled veteran of the event, conducted us in a rousing version of Duffy's greatest hit. In illegally beautiful harmony we begged for mercy, but we did not receive it from the judge. Never mind. We know we were great.

Then came the first proper inter-House Rugby Sevens tournament. After all the unpredictabilities of tag rugby, this was very much the real thing. Our juniors did well, but our seniors were quite brilliant. Incorporating talents like James Percival, David Grant, Joel Cooper and Tom Kynge, they stormed through to win the competition in style. Franklin's have won quite a few House competitions in recent years, but this was certainly one of the biggest.



This year saw the advent of inter-house sports days where a number of sports all happened at once. These gave opportunities for co-operation between year groups in the House, and it was great to see boys working together so positively. We also had a number of successes: Josh Bradlow and Jordan Anning excelled in badminton; in the squash competition Tom Spears came third in the school, and Alex Jeffreys won the B tournament. Adam Uberoi, Dan Chen and Gem Vongseenin are all superb badminton players and it was not surprising that they won their competition in great style. Isaac Hopkins earned particular mention for his performances in the swimming pool, and Sam and Mike Clarke-Warry were outstanding in their hockey competitions.

“ survivors with an extraordinary variety of qualities ”



There were many individual achievements and successes over the year. Josh Bradlow, Chris Hyde and David Mears all won offers from Oxbridge. David continued to play the clarinet with distinction in the National Youth Orchestra, as he had done for four years. Nick Kroi and Henry Jenkinson were shining stars of the stage, and further developed their talents in dance and singing within and outside of school. Clym Buxton

and Tom Spears won more plaudits for their music. Alex Jeffreys achieved national selection in karate. In rugby, Joel Cooper won his way through to county trials; Tom Kynge was selected to play for England, and further earned the extraordinary honour of captaining them. AJ Hatzis established himself as a national standard oarsman, and used his prowess to help Abingdon become national champions, winning the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. Josh Bull proved himself the School's best fast bowler, and was key to many winning performances. He, James Percival and David Grant were all valued School rugby players. Peter Barnshaw won further success at national level for athletics, and is now an exciting talent in the decathlon. Luke Terry ran quite brilliantly to win the Longworth 10K, an extraordinary achievement; he was a key member of the cross-country team, and won further glory for the House by winning the 1500m on Sports Day. Alex Foster has signalled himself as a brilliant cricketer of the future, taking impressive hauls of wickets and scoring a century.

The atmosphere in the House was cheerful and friendly, and boys enjoyed both competition and relaxation. We are looking forward to this summer's refurbishment of the house room, and that will only add to the sense of purposeful renewal in September. I would like to thank my tutors for their hard work and support of the boys again this year, and wish everyone an enjoyable summer.

*David Franklin*



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# O'Doherty's

**Chris Wilkinson conducting**



In October the House Singing Competition was the first big test of our corporate strength and we had committed ourselves to a more demanding song in order to mount a realistic challenge to Webb's. The choice of *All These Things That I've Done* by The Killers seemed to be wholly popular and rehearsals, ably led by Chris Wilkinson, went pretty well. On the day a really good performance was worthy of second place and we had to be satisfied with this, but our appetite was whetted for greater glory next year. At the opposite end of the singing quality scale was Hugh Cutting's invitation to take part in a BBC recording of Mozart's *Requiem* with his brother Guy, who left the House two years ago.

The House continued to provide more than its fair share of players for the Rugby Club. Tom Foxon, David Snead, Harry Aitken, Ben Brazel, Joe Hogan, Will Barnes, Kristian Wood and Peter Moore all represented the 1st XV at some stage in the season. Peter Moore's talent, hard work and superb attitude saw him selected for the SW division and then England B. The U18s were runners-up in the House Sevens Competition, but the U16 and U15 teams won so that the overall title was

ours and we were off to a flying start in the new look inter-house sports events. At the end of term we discovered that we were pretty good at badminton and table tennis, in which wins were recorded, and not so great, despite a lot of noise and controversial refereeing, at football. An overall second place to Davies' in swimming showed excellent strength in depth and was set up by a win from the U16 team.

The Lent term got off to a great start with the news of Stephen Horlock's offer from Oxford to read Psychology. Stephen has been the outstanding academic in his tutor group over the years, but is equally at home in the House hockey team or talking football like a true pundit on a Monday morning.

Superb inter-house competition performances were not exclusively in sport this year. The annual Public Speaking Competition provides an opportunity to display the more cerebral talents of the House. The new third-year team showed tremendous maturity but were harshly dumped out in the first round. Alex Tilley's fascinating speech on the effect of 'shoot 'em up' games on society was beyond anything else I heard in the rest of the competition. They can be optimistic,

as the fourth-year team led by Edward Antonian, also unsuccessful last year, swept all opposition aside with witty (and at times a little cheesy!) topics. The sixth-form team made it to the final but lost narrowly to a very experienced and capable Boyd's team, but Aidan Robertson's main speeches would not have been out of place at *Jongleurs*. The most exciting competition was in the fifth-year, with our team narrowly winning early rounds in which they showed great teamwork and during which Olly Jackson, in particular, impressed with his selflessness. Jamie Marsh's speeches combined intricate argument and outstanding research and deservedly won against the much-fancied Davies' trio.

**Kristian Wood**





Alistair Duff



Peter Moore

The House provided a number of key players for the hugely successful School hockey teams. Bas Marshall, Tom Best, Alex Davies and Dominic Whaler helped the U14s to the regional finals, and Sean MacLachlan and Laurence Lilley were key members of the U15 team that won the Independent Schools' Hockey League. Solid performances in inter-house hockey, including a successful defence of their title, and a brilliant win in the Ergo Competition against the huge favourites Boyd's, were highlights of the end of term for the U15s. Henry Lambe, Edward Antonian, Sam Hogan and Alex Rudd were delighted with their huge giant-killing exploits. Toby Warren won the U18 squash tournament, but was missed from the hockey team who were runners-up.



*our appetite was whetted for greater glory next year*



Alistair Duff was first home in the team that won bronze at the Knole Run in January. This was Abingdon's first ever medal at this most prestigious of events in the independent schools' cross-country calendar. Third-former Teddy

Curtis burst onto the cross-country scene with an outstanding first season at the School. His form improved as he became more experienced but a season including a team county championship, a top ten finish at the South-East Schools' Championship and fastest in year at the Road Relay, leading the House U14 team to victory, bodes well for the future.

Alex Davies' cricketing ability was rewarded by selection for the 1st XI and he proved his worth with some useful contributions with the bat, helping the team to win the Birkenhead Festival. Tom Ling (91) and Hugh Cutting (82\*) were high up on the Cricket Club roll of honour for their contributions to their teams' 100% winning seasons.

By the end of the Summer term it was clear that the inter-House sports competition was a two-horse race. Davies' came strong at the end, picking up useful points in cricket and the prestigious tug-of-war, but ultimately the near whole-House Athletics Competition decided the outcome. The U14s capped off a very good year by taking first place, but points gained by boys pressed into service against their better judgement in the 1500m or triple jump were every bit as valuable. The inaugural inter-House sports

competition was won by O'Doherty's by a single point from Davies'. In July, Max Brittan and Kristian Wood gained selection to row for Great Britain against France in the U16 coxed fours and won.

The future of the House looks strong as the new Third Year contain some very capable young men. In Edward Reynolds, Alex Taylor and Hugh Cutting we have some of the leading academics of their year. The Fourth Year have to defend their House sport and debating titles next year as well as do a few GCSE exams, and the Fifth Year will enter their Sixth Form years as a very strong all-round tutor group. The Lower Sixth displayed their ability in a number of areas, Alistair Duff extending his musical career overseas in Taiwan, and Tom Earl being accepted into the National Youth Wind Orchestra to play saxophone. Tom McGivan co-edited the increasingly impressive Martlet and Oli Wheatley proved that Lord Sugar would be unwise to fire him because of his impressive Young Enterprise project. Nick Topping's brilliant wax sculpture 'Red Kite' was shortlisted in the Royal Academy Schools online exhibition and dominates the art garden. Congratulations go to Joe Hogan on his appointment as Rugby Club captain and Head of School.

In July the House said farewell to Dr Tim Gunn, whose numerous tutor groups had benefitted hugely from his vast experience of the UCAS process, starry contacts for work experience and opportunities such as dog sledding trips to Norway. He takes up a position in Christodoulou's House.

I thank all tutors and boys for their contributions to House and School this year and look forward to their continued efforts and achievements next year.

*Nick O'Doherty*

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## Southwell-Sander's



As the lights flashed and the music pumped at about 11.30 pm on the night of the Griffen Ball, alas it was time to say goodbye to the latest group of 'The Green Army' to fly the nest and head off to pastures new. 7SAE has reached the end of a long and entertaining journey and it is time to bid them a fond farewell. Leavers include Alex Bowyer, Joe Brown, John Carter, Jack Channon, Jonty Cook, Jamie Copus, Will Davey, Campbell Garland, Edward Griffiths, Matt Haywood, Angus Innes, Hugo Mendus, Will Summers and Evan Westenbrink. Throughout the course of the year, they have been a happy, supportive tutor group who possess a versatile range of talents. First and foremost, special mention must go to Jonty Cook and Campbell Garland, who were my joint Heads of House. Both lads were friendly, approachable, efficient and, most importantly, reliable. They contributed an enormous amount

to the House over the last year and made my life an awful lot easier. In addition, Jonty Cook was head of his section in the CCF and represented Great Britain in the Keelboat Championships, while Campbell was rightly rewarded for his contributions to service in School. From the point of view of music, Joe Brown was the resident genius and worked tirelessly with the support of others to put on a cracking performance of Coldplay's *Viva la Vida*. Alex Bowyer deserves special mention for constantly stepping into the breach and being an enormously reliable presence in the houseroom, as well as excelling as the leader of the RAF section in the CCF. Will Summers, another excellent House prefect, is hoping to take up a place at Oxford to read Engineering, while Ed Griffiths deserves recognition as an excellent School Prefect as well as heading up his section of the CCF.

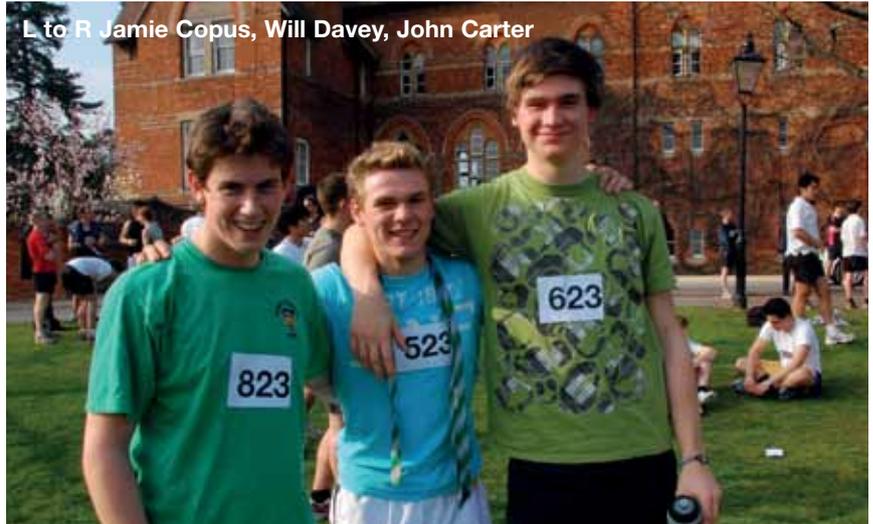
We have always had strong rowing connections in the House and it is worth highlighting that celebrations have barely died down following the 1st VIII's famous victory in the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. The tutor group had three representatives in the crew – John Carter, Jamie Copus and Boat Club captain Will Davey, all of whom have also represented GB U19's, a superb achievement. John also won the Road Relay in the second fastest time ever.

“  
*the genuine respect and loyalty they feel for the School and what it means to be an Abingdonian*  
”

The House is left in the very capable hands of 6JJ who already appear eager to take over the reins. Congratulations go to Ben Bryant, Alex Sunderland and James Tracey on their recent

selection as School Prefects, while Ben has also achieved national shooting honours. Well done to Oliver Bowyer and George Jorgensen who have both been selected to head up their respective sections of the CCF next year. As I write this, I am busy finalising an excellent looking selection of House Prefects who, during interviews have already demonstrated some encouraging suggestions to further their role, and to help mentor those in younger years. This is a crucial aspect of the House and this intermingling between year groups helps foster a sense of pride and belonging which is vital if individuals are to reach their potential.

The Fifth Year, who are nervously awaiting their GCSE results, say goodbye to Dr Jeffreys, who will become the new Third Year tutor. I have been very impressed with the focus and maturity on show in the build up to their exams and hopefully they will be rewarded accordingly. Well done to Sasha Barras who recently captained the 1st XI to victory against Winchester, while Matt Carter continues to make enormous strides for the Boat Club. We say goodbye to Niall Keown, who is moving to d'Overbroeck's College in Oxford as he follows a possible career in football, while George Stoneham is moving to Bartholomew School in Eynsham to study his A-Levels. We wish both Niall and George the very best of luck with their future studies and thank them for their contributions



L to R Jamie Copus, Will Davey, John Carter

over previous years. The Fourth Year have ended a good year with Leo Wood and Jack Squizzoni being selected to be Lower School assistants, while Finlay Garland, Tom Munro, Jamie Sandall and Luke Teh are the newly appointed houseroom monitors. Well done to Matt Allison and Danny Belcher on some fabulous performances for the Rifle Club. Finally, the Third Year have reached the end of the year well, coming fourth in the inter-house athletics, as well as gelling really well together as a group.

Events such as House Singing, with a rousing performance of *Viva la Vida* by Coldplay, directed by Joe Brown, as well as the memorable candlelit carol service and summer 'strawberries and wine' social, will provide me and hopefully the boys and their parents with many happy memories of an active, enjoyable and

fun-packed year. A big thank you must also go out to the tutors, Mr Evans, Mrs Jennings, Dr Jeffreys, Mr Willerton and Mr Bickerton for their hard work, care and professionalism throughout the course of the year. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Evans who is focussing on his role as master-in-charge of the Other Half, and thank him for his many years of service and counsel to 'The Green Army' under Jamie Older and myself. As a result, we welcome Hannah Allcock to take over the new L6th tutor group and wish her a happy and successful time here at Abingdon.

So there we have it, another year draws to a close and here is a brief synopsis of what those green-tie wearing 'Southwell-Sander's' lads have been up to. As usual apologies for any omissions, but as I am sure you understand it is difficult to keep up. While these achievements are worthy in their own right, in terms of the House as a whole, the thing I am most proud of is the way the lads treat each other and the genuine respect and loyalty they feel for the School and what it means to be an Abingdonian. As long as this ethos continues Abingdon will remain a very special place to teach.

*Robin Southwell-Sander*



House Singing Competition

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## Webb's



As I sit writing this (using/stealing our Head of House's home, food and computer), I am struck by how good a year this has been for Webb's. It started off with the appointing of a well-rounded team of House Prefects in Harry Granger, Sanchit Turaga, Ben Stockwell and myself, with Robert Minshall often helping us out. Oli Stanier led us with quiet enthusiasm and competence. The rest of the tutor group had their own jobs with two School Prefects in Tim Gladstone and Will Sensecall and Mark Francis as Webb's second Head of School in as many years to top it all off. At the other end of the spectrum, we welcomed in a very promising set of third-formers to the House who were to prove an immense asset. A House social on the night of Abingdon's Got Talent helped everyone to get to know each other and we all had a great time in the five-a-side tournament.

Webb's was strong in competitions inside and outside the House. The main House event of the first half term of the year is the House Singing Competition. We had built a reputation in the preceding years, and although not confident, we started our week of rehearsals knowing the standard that we had to reach to be a contender again. Each tutor group proposed several (in some cases many) songs and the list was whittled down by our Head of House, Oli Stanier, to a select few. The final choice, made by Mr Webb and Oli, was Ed Norris' proposal of *Under the Bridge* by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. For the third time in a row (breaking the school record), we won the event. With much of the musical team staying on for next year hopes are high that 2011 will extend Webb's musical dominance.

The third form lived up to their promise by coming second in the Public Speaking Competition, narrowly losing to Christodoulou's in a close-fought final.

We also excelled in sports, although it often seemed to happen that for inter-House events our better players were either injured from School matches or there was a clash of fixtures. Rugby was one of those occasions and the U18s and U16s couldn't field teams. The U15 team, again depleted and drawing on our third years for five of the seven players, (Rory Garrett and Gavin Elliott, along with Duncan Grant,

“ we welcomed in a very promising set of third-formers ... who were to prove an immense asset



**Ed Norris conducting Webb's to victory**

Michael Dewar, Freddie Pinkerton, Alex Munro and Alastair Smith) missed out on being the School's rugby champions on points difference. In fencing though, we had no injuries and Oli Stanier and I gave a solid performance to secure second against very formidable opposition. Towards the end of the year we had even more success, going to the finals of the inter-house Buckley Cup tennis tournament with Joel Morris and winning the athletics competition outright by a good sixteen points.

Within the House, the pool and table tennis tournaments provoked fierce competition, with Tom Padfield winning

the pool. The table tennis, played in the second half of the Michaelmas term, was particularly good as it bought lots of the Sixth Form back and caused several matches between old rivals. In the end, Joel won through again to make it his third win in four years.

Individual members of the House had their own share of the glory in a huge range of sports and activities. Just to mention a few here; Joel Morris competed well as part of the school's very successful 1st tennis pair, along with Giles Waterson, winning 23 of their 24 matches; Mark Francis inspired the 1st XV in rugby as their captain,

picking up prizes for his efforts at the end of the school year; Michael Esnouf showed that all his training in the pool is paying off, when he won all his events at the inter-House Swimming competition and took his tally of school records to four.

Three other fourth-form students were also rewarded in recognition of their maturity and reliability; Jonny Burrow, Rory Garrett and Oliver Phillips were all chosen to be Lower School assistants, a strong showing from Webb's Fourth Year; outside the school, Finn Ryley retained his position as one of the finest rifle shots in his age group and competed strongly for the British team in Germany, posting the second highest score; cross-country also deserves a mention as we seem to be an emerging force in the sport. There were lots of cross-country events in the Lent term and our fourth-formers particularly helped to make up the School team. Thomas Kelly was the new face of the sport to win the county team Cross-country Championships at Radley.

This has really been a fantastic year for all of us. Both Oli and I hope that the Webb's of next year will have just as brilliant a year as we believe this one has been.

*James Honoré 7 LPGM*



**Ned Roberts**

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## Lower School



September 2010 saw sixty-six new boys come into the First Year. They were joined by two tutors new to Lower School: Mr Price came to us after several years in Crescent House and Mr Phillips arrived fresh from university although, being an OA and former Lower School pupil himself, he was very quick to learn the ropes. A new mentoring system introduced this year meant that each new boy had a Second-former assigned to him to help him find out how everything works and it was very clear that this, coupled with the excellent work done by the latest group of Lower School Assistants, helped the new boys to settle in pretty quickly on the whole.

The House Singing Competition which took place just before half-term allowed Lower School to demonstrate its strong sense of House identity and, keen to improve on their 'honourable mention'

of 2009, the boys were quick to get to grips with *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go* by Wham. Rehearsals were run by Miss Matthews, but the final performance was led in commanding fashion by Leon Wu (2W) at piano and David Chung (2S) as conductor. The enthusiasm of the boys was clear for all to see, as was some choreography that, even by Miss Matthews' standard, plumbed new depths of cheesiness. The boys' efforts were rewarded with joint third place.

Bad weather towards the end of term meant that the usual inter-tutor group sporting fixtures did not take place, but Leon Wu (2W) proved victorious in the Lower School Chess Tournament and the introduction of a new general knowledge competition, the Lower School Challenge, allowed Mr Phillips to secure his first victory when 1P blew the opposition away in the Grand

Final which was masterfully presided over by the legendary Dr Zawadzki. We were sad to say goodbye to Miss Matthews as a tutor at Christmas when she moved away from Abingdon to pursue exciting musical projects – her contribution to Lower School over the last two and a half years has been greatly appreciated. Miss Spurling-Holt took over as 1J's tutor in January.

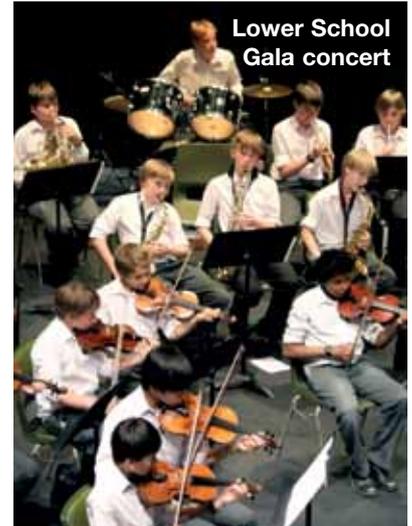
The Lent term saw the First-formers getting into their stride academically and showing that they have much to offer, while several members of the Second Year began to prepare for scholarship exams and auditions – a fantastic fifteen awards were made to members of Lower School for artistic, musical, sporting, and academic achievements. The rugby season came to a successful conclusion at half term with the pick of the teams being the U13As who won 8 out of 11 matches. Not to be outdone, the First-formers showed that they have real potential on the hockey pitch with only one game at U12 level being lost all season. Michael Fabes (2S) was the fastest Second-former in the Road Relay with a superb time of 8.53, while Patrick Leggett (1J) was





the top First-former and 2W the overall Lower School winners. Ray Ren (1H) defeated Harry Anderson (2W) in the final of the Lower School Pool Tournament, and 1P were victorious in the Public Speaking Competition.

The Easter holidays saw the two Lower School adventure trips. Firstly, twenty-nine Second-formers travelled to Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre in Brecon to enjoy five days of adventure activity including caving, climbing,

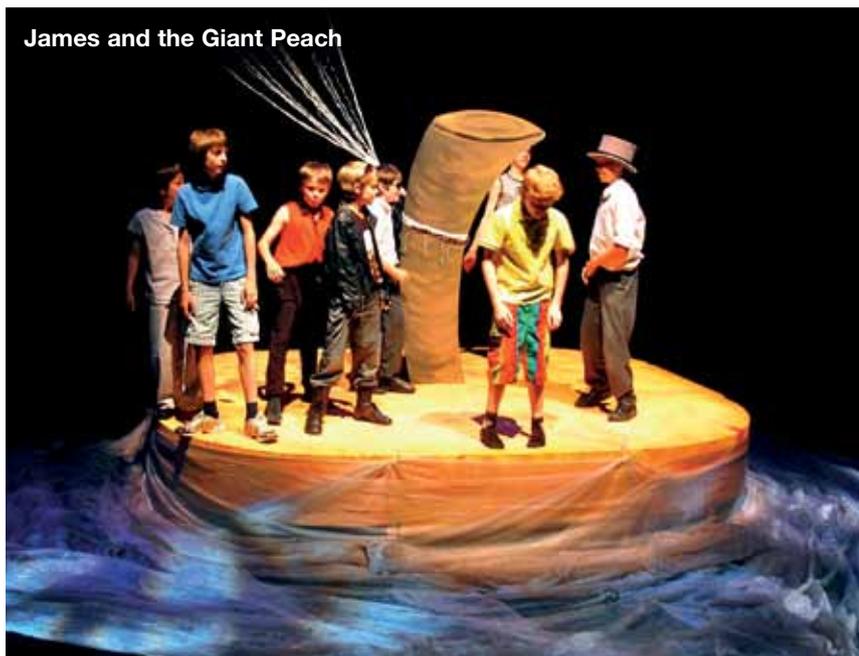


kayaking and mountain walking. The boys were split into three teams and alternated round the different activities on different days. Weather conditions changed from day to day with one team climbing the mountains in sunshine and another climbing it in blizzard conditions, but all groups reached their chosen peak. Kayaking down the River Wye proved too much for the Lower School Housemaster who experienced more time in the water than on it – whilst the boys were sympathetic to his plight at the time, it only took until the break for lunch for one cheerful Second-former to inform him that seeing the expression of terror on his face as he was rapidly washed down the river was one of the highlights of his entire year! Caving presented exciting challenges too and the boys proved adept at squeezing themselves into ever-smaller spaces as they went deeper and deeper into the gloom. The final day saw an extreme gorge walk with the boys walking under and through waterfalls with wild abandon before the realisation came that they were not going to have time for a shower before the coach trip home.

A week later, fifty-seven of the First-formers also travelled to Wales to spend five days at the Manor Adventure Centre in Llanwrtyd Wells.



First Year adventure trip - Wales



Hargreaves (2M) as James, Charlie Macpherson (2W) as the narrator, and Charlie Landells (1J) as the Centipede, complete with leather jacket, spiky hair and Dr Marten boots. There were nice comic turns from several members of the cast but John-Christian Davey's (1P) pessimistic Earthworm, blighted by a lack of vision, was a favourite with the audience. The cricket season saw good performances from all teams with the U12As making it to the semi-final of the County Cup and the U13As having both a good run in the national competition and winning the County Cup for the second year running.

Exams came and went with the usual mixture of trepidation and excitement and, when all the results were in, it was gratifying to note that many Second-formers had significantly improved on their results from a year earlier, many due to the work they had done on revision skills with the Learning Support department, and that the First-formers had handled their first major set of assessments without too many difficulties. Academic prizes for exam results went to Henry Waterson (1H), Patrick Leggett (1J), William Sheffield (1P), James Anderson-Besant (2M), Anthony Bracey (2S) and Leon Wu (2W).

This time all activities were based in the grounds of the centre and included abseiling, crate-stacking, and high ropes. The Lower School Housemaster once again found himself on the water, this time sharing a canoe with two boys – any hopes of staying dry were quickly dashed as it became apparent that stability was not something sought after by Manor Adventure when they purchase their boats: it is just possible that the first capsizing was accidental, but the mischievous glint in the eye of one of the First-formers in the boat just before the second suggested that getting their Housemaster soaking wet was now a deliberate tactic!

Both these trips were a great success with all the boys behaving well – as ever, it proved to be a really good experience for both staff and boys to spend time with each other away from school: existing friendships were cemented, and new ones formed, while many boys pushed themselves to achieve things that they did not initially think possible.

The first half of the Summer term was very short so minds did start to turn towards end-of-year exams

fairly quickly, but even so there was time for plenty of activities with the First-formers finding out more about the history of the School on a walk around Abingdon, and enjoying a trip to the Natural History Museum, while the Second-formers spent a day at half term, Mr Phillips' first Lower School Drama Production, *James and the Giant Peach*, hit the stage and proved to be a great success with strong central performances by Adam



First Year football tournament winners



Battle of Hastings

Ray Ren - First Year  
Pool champion

The term ended with a flurry of inter-tutor group competitions and it was good to see that no one tutor group had it all their own way: 2M and 1P proved dominant in the athletics, 2S and 1H won the day in the swimming gala, 2M secured victory in the cricket, and 2S and 1P won the tug-of-war. Special mention should be made of three athletes who shattered previous Lower School records: Douglas Ward (2W) in the 100m, David Chung (2S) in the Long Jump and Michael Fabes (2S) in the 1500m with a performance that put boys several years above him to shame. Joe Blanch (2W) was awarded the Woodgett Cup for his all round contribution during his time in Lower School, while Tom Bishop (1H) became the first recipient of a new trophy, the Broadbent Cup, awarded for his excellent contribution to Lower School sport – he has competed at U13 level in all three main sports while still being in the First Year.

“

*a very cohesive group with a strong sense of identity and a willingness to accept everybody, no matter what their relative strengths and weaknesses*

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The end of term saw Lower School saying goodbye to Mr Shirazi who, after three years as a tutor in Lower School, moved on to get a taste of boarding life in School House. The enthusiasm and energy he has brought has been much appreciated – as have his legendary pep talks!

The Second-formers also move on to Middle School and are undoubtedly ready for the challenges that lie ahead – rather too many of them have quite literally grown too big for life in Lower School and have not done

their Housemaster's ego any good by making him look up to them when they talk to him! These boys have from very early on been a very cohesive group with a strong sense of identity and a willingness to accept everybody, no matter what their relative strengths and weaknesses – they are going to be a force to be reckoned with both inside and outside the classroom. They have been a pleasure to work with for the last two years and their tutors and I wish them well.

*Adam Jenkins*



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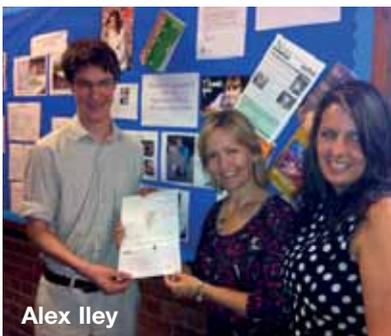
# Service Activities

## Charity Fundraising – how the School raised £47,000



The year started with the biennial sponsored walk, which, with Gift Aid, raised an astonishing £28,000 for four charities: *Helen and Douglas House*, *Agape*, *Merlin* and the Pegasus Theatre.

The Michaelmas term included the annual doughnut sale for Open Day, which raised £283, a Christmas card sale, which raised £120.97, and a Lower School Tower Challenge which managed to raise £60. All money from these events was sent to *Agape*.



Alex Iley

A second hand book sale managed to raise almost £100 for *Bookaid International*. Parents gave generously at the Christmas Concert collection, raising £687 for the *Nightingales Children's Project*. A further £143 was donated by staff and boys in the Christmas Service collection for the *Musicians Benevolent Fund*.

The Lent term saw the annual Abingdon's Got Talent, an event entirely run by students unconditionally supported by Rory Fraser-Mackenzie and his technical crew, which managed to raise £2,100 for three charities: Moldova Charities, *Build the Nations* and *Abingdon Bridge*. The audience had a great time and laughed with Miss Man, Miss Yarrow and Mr Hall's comments on performances. This term, Home Clothes Day raised £1,791.53, which was sent entirely to *Helen and Douglas House*. As every year, the school housekeeping team

raised money through raffles and the final amount came to £1,150 for several charities but mainly for *Pain Relief Clinic*. Sports events raised £316.44, which was sent to the *Meningitis Research Foundation* and *Helen and Douglas House*. Abingdon musicians kindly contributed with £372.70 for *Mathieson Music Trusts* and a further £263.93 was sent to *Helen and Douglas House* from the Easter collection. The Third-Form Charities Group organised a doughnut sale and a movie night together with St Helen and St Katharine and managed to raise £100 which was split between *Cancer Research UK* and *Oxfam*.

The Summer term on this occasion was no quieter in terms of fundraising. The main event of this term was the 24-hour sportathon organised by Su McRae and her tutor group which managed to raise over £6,000 for the *Felix Fund*, a charity that supports bomb disposal operators and their families throughout their lifetime in service and beyond.



Selling doughnuts on Open Day



Home Clothes Day raised £1,574.54, which was sent to the British Red Cross for the Japanese Earthquake Appeal. And once again people were extremely generous and church service collections raised a further £994.61 for several charities: *Help for Heroes*, *Agape*, ODBF Administered Fund and *Helen and Douglas House*. Sixth-formers Harry Williams and Rory Marsh entered the annual Henley swim and managed to raise over £1,000 for *Help for Heroes*. And last but not least the Third-Form disco, supervised by Andrew Loughe and Adam Jenkins, raised £920 split between *Agape* and *Build the Nations*, a South African charity we are supporting for the third year running.

The School managed to raise more than £47,000 over the course of the year. Thank you to everyone involved and especially to Alex Iley who was Head of Charities for many years and has now left for university.

*Victoria Pradas*



Scenes from the ten-mile sponsored walk from Dorchester to Abingdon on 30 September, which raised more than £28,000 for charity



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## CCF



My final year as Contingent Commander began in September 2010 with the first-year team-building event on a Monday early in September. Lots of excited First-Formers crawling about with ropes, barrels and planks navigated shark-infested custard and invisible chasms. They seemed to have fun, as usual, and we have been invited to do it all again in 2011, so it must have gone quite well. Final score: CCF 1, custard-infesting sharks 0.

The good news was that the new cadet GP rifle arrived this year. The bad news was that they did not arrive until after the September Field Weekend, by which time the old rifles (good riddance) had already been handed back. Spike Milligan as a WWII gunner used to shout “bang” when they had no blank ammunition to train with, but we adopted, adapted and overcame by designing a new exercise around Observation Position work and had a ‘Ready Steady Cook’ competition based on army ration packs with a few additions such as soldiers might scrounge, find, pinch: eggs, potatoes and so forth. The results looked awful, but tasted fine (yes, I am willing to

take significant risks when wearing Her Majesty’s uniform, medal in the post they tell me).

The September Field Day followed hard upon the weekend. Trained ranks off to Tidworth to visit the King’s Royal Hussars and the recruits to Dalton Barracks for a day of basic training – drill, ration packs, camouflage and such things (still no guns though). At Tidworth, Captain Perriss was able to talk cavalry to other tankies and was clearly relieved to be back among his own kind, away from the horrid infantry types who make up the rest of the Contingent.

The Remembrance parades in Abingdon Town for Remembrance Sunday and at School for 11 November were a poignant reminder of the fact that a number of old boys of the School are serving in hot and dangerous places and are very much in harm’s way.

Exercise Winter Warrior V was to Wengen in Switzerland again. Can it really be five years since our first one? The camp was fun, but is a reminder of how tired one gets by the end of term. The energy was lacking at times, but the snow and wonderful surroundings were their own motivation and there were always apple fritters at Brandegg if one was only being held up by one’s chinstrap.

The Self Reliance Exercise at Colonel David Carson’s farm went swimmingly again – we are grateful to him as ever for his hospitality. All cadets relied upon themselves beautifully and evaded capture by the hunter force, ably assisted by Squadron Leader Haworth in his aircraft, spotting them as they scampered across the Wiltshire countryside.

Sadly the Lent Field Day was cancelled. It was due to be spent at RAF Brize Norton. The Prime Minister got his priorities wrong again and decided



that the RAF would be better involved in developing international relations in North Africa than assisting Abingdon School CCF.

Easter Camp was a super last hurrah for three of us. As well as training with Oxford University OTC again, the Advanced Infantry Cadre finished the week with a dawn attack followed by a trip in a Lynx, courtesy of the Army Air Corps. The final event was the passing out parade for the Third and Fourth Years. This year the Inspecting Officer was Major General Greg Smith QVRM, TD, DL, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff. It was a tremendous honour to have him inspect the cadets and he was kind enough to compliment us on the work that we do.

As I have mentioned, three officers left the Contingent in July this year. Captain Paul Gooding and Captain Matthew Perriss have given enormous amounts of time, energy, enthusiasm and entertainment to the Contingent and will be sadly missed. Unfortunately the time that being an officer in the CCF takes has proved a bridge too far for teachers with young families and a myriad other commitments.

Working in the CCF has reminded me of a number of lessons. It is the busiest people who give the most and



can be most relied upon. Adversity can be enormous fun, as long as you don't get caught when your solutions are creative. Young people have a marvellous sense of ignorance of their true capacity and can be fooled into doing amazing things if you don't let on just how significant what you are expecting of them is.

Despite the numerous methods of communication the School employs – paper, announcements, online, e-mails, noticeboards, guidebooks published

a year in advance, hand-outs and letters – it still seems to be possible for cadets not to know that an Easter Camp is coming up and that they are expected to go on it, to still be ignorant of the benefits of sunscreen, or that they are required to bring it, or that you cannot write your notes in the field with a stone if you have forgotten your pen. Hopefully, more CCF training will help them overcome these tendencies.

The summer Field Day to Dalton Barracks involved shooting on the 25 metre range, an acquaint with a number of foreign weapons, a flight in a Merlin helicopter and air experience flights for many in a glider.

Even when the year had finished, there were camps with Oxford University OTC at Okehampton, RAF Summer Camp, and CCF Duke of Edinburgh Camps at Bronze and Silver level.

As I hand over to Major Eleanor Kaye, the Contingent is busy and the cadets are having fun. Long may that continue. I wish her and the Contingent the very best for the future.

*Major Joss Williams*



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## Community Service

As part of their Third-Year Community Service boys visit the elderly residents of Old Station House in Abingdon. Here some of them report on these visits.



Our group visited an old people's home called Old Station House. The first time we went we entered their intimidatingly large front room and settled down to wait for the people we would soon get to know so well, as they steadily streamed down the stairs to the table where we were waiting.

At first we just talked in order to get to know each other and to share many interesting stories. Then we moved on to playing games, like quizzes and word games, which we had created the week before our visit. We went every other week and at the end of the term there was a summer party for us and

for all of the residents from the different groups. We had strawberries and cream and various other treats and we all had a brilliant time. At the end of the party we went our separate ways having had an enjoyable term.

*Max Mannering 3 JM*





met and got to know some old people with interesting stories to tell

During the Summer term five of us visited Old Station House as part of the School's community service programme for third-formers. We spent half of the weeks preparing posters for the residents and half of the weeks visiting the residents, playing word games and bingo with them.

At the end of the term we held a tea party at School for the residents of Old Station House, as well as for those from other residential homes and community centres in Abingdon. There was music performed by some of the third-formers as well as a raffle and a quiz. Tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream were served and the event was enjoyed by all.

*William Mylrea Hemmings 3 JPN*

As my community service for this term I have been involved in visiting the elderly. Under the supervision of Miss Hicks we have regularly gone to Old Station House, which is in the centre of Abingdon. On our visits we managed to come up with various entertainments for the residents. These ranged from bingo to word games as well as trying to mention animals beginning with every letter of the alphabet!

The term culminated with the annual Summer Tea Party, this is where residents from residential homes all over Abingdon came to the School's Dining Hall where we serve them tea and coffee while chatting over a sandwich too. As well as this there is always some musical entertainment and a raffle and quiz that go down well. From the conversations we have had it has been very interesting to find out about their lives.

*Tommy Nicholson 3 NP*



During the Summer term we went to visit the residents of Old Station House. We mostly played games with them such as bingo and various quizzes, plus a few word games. We did this once a fortnight, spending every other session at school planning things to do next week. At the end of the term we hosted a tea party in the Dining Hall where we invited about fifty people to come for a social gathering with a raffle and some music played by Third-Form students. We had several other guests too such as the new Head, Miss Lusk.

*Jonathan Goves 3 JM*

During the Summer term some other boys and I did visiting for the whole term as part of our community service. We visited Old Station House every other week and met and got to know some old people with interesting stories to tell. At the end of the term, on the second to last Tuesday, we hosted a tea party to which we invited the elderly residents of a number of homes as well as members of community groups. We gave them tea and cakes and had a quiz and a raffle in which they could win prizes. Overall I enjoyed the experience and enjoyed meeting these people too.

*Jacques Tasker 3 DJC*



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## The Moldova Project

Every year since 2000, Abingdon School has been working with the charity *Agape* and 2011 was no exception. Over the first ten days of the summer holidays, nine Abingdon boys and two members of staff – Mr Jenkins and Mrs McRae – travelled to Moldova, the poorest country in Europe. *Agape* works with young people in Moldova and aims ‘to serve the educational, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of those suffering the effects of poverty.’ Before attending the trip we set about raising money for the charity by, amongst other things, selling doughnuts and organising a disco for third-formers – we raised a total of over £1,250.

Flying out at 8 am felt like an early start, but when we arrived in Ialoveni, a village just outside the capital, Chisinau, it all seemed worth it. As we drove into the village the difference between England and Moldova was obvious, and the signs of poverty were all around: the roads were just tracks filled with potholes and cracks, and the houses were made of a variety of basic materials but almost always had corrugated iron roofs, which gave them a shantytown feel. When we arrived in Ialoveni we went to meet our host



Simon Spafford plays Twister

families. They are very proud of what they have, even though they have what seems to us so little, and are such humble people. The hospitality we were shown was remarkable.

Over the first three days we worked in the community centre in Ialoveni, where disadvantaged children can go and find support, relax and learn. During our time there we taught the children English and played a number of games. Whilst in Moldova we also visited Chisinau and spent time at *Agape*'s head office to understand

a little bit more about what they do and the problems that Moldovans face. In Moldova over half the adult population are unemployed and the average wage is £20 a month. As a result of this around a quarter of young Moldovans leave the country to find work in other countries. Many women find themselves in the sex trade, with Moldova being the people-trafficking capital of Europe.

Chisinau itself, amazingly, is really similar to any westernised capital, full of trams, big advertising billboards, and even *McDonald*'s! It was a real contrast to where we had been staying out in the countryside and it really showed how all the money the country has is poured into the capital. Meanwhile, in the main park, a few of us enjoyed a short paddle in the fountain, which seemed to amuse the locals immensely.

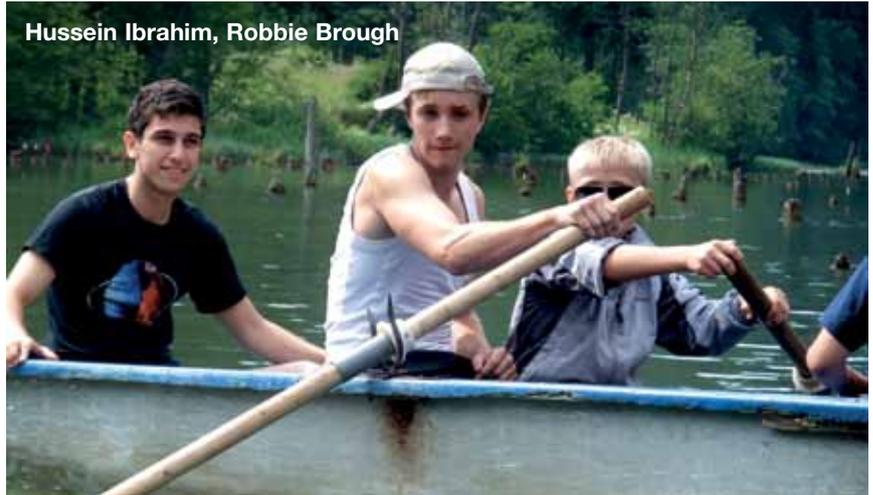
On the fourth day we travelled to Romania with around twenty-five children. The aim of this leg of the trip was to set up a summer camp for the children in a cabin owned by *Agape* in Lacu Rosu, allowing them to relax and



Jamie Campbell teaching English

have a break away from any troubles they may have back in Moldova. We worked on a rotation basis, playing sports, teaching English and doing arts and crafts. It is safe to say that we all found teaching English hugely beneficial as not only did we all have to plan our lessons individually, but we also had to be able to change the way we taught depending on the age and skill of the children we were teaching. The children, especially the young boys, were boisterous but very keen to learn which made English lessons even more entertaining. The range of personalities at the camp made meeting each individual child unique, and it was a real experience just having conversations with the Moldovans.

We also went on several trips out of the cabin where we were staying, giving us a chance to see the sights. Down the road was a lake where we went rowing on the first day. The whole activity was a really good opportunity to get to know the children and it allowed them to put their confidence in us. On our fourth day at Lacu Rosu we all climbed a mountain near the cabin. It was a long trek but the sights at the top were incredible. The sheer beauty of the surrounding area amazed us all. In the evenings we often did group activities, including name games, activities based



Hussein Ibrahim, Robbie Brough

around learning English, and also a variety of old favourites such as musical chairs and statues. Several funny moments made the trip even more entertaining – Mr Jenkins totally losing it during some Moldovan dancing being one that stands out in my mind!

On the final night we set up a talent contest, which was a great way to finish the trip with a selection of both Moldovan and Abingdon talent on show, including break dancing, opera, a performance by the Soulja Boys, and a tearful thank you at the end. That evening, most of us stayed up all night to spend as much time as we could with everyone, before saying an emotional goodbye at 4 am.

Looking back on it now I think it is safe to say that what we have gained from this trip is an ethos to try everything and anything, to be more out-going and to learn as much as possible in every situation we come across. The children in Moldova were so keen to enjoy and gain everything they could from us and it has certainly changed the way I view our own education, and I'm sure the others would agree.

On the way back Asin Zahir said, "I am extremely lucky to have what I have today, and from now on I will try to minimize the unnecessary complaining that I do, try to be more grateful and think about the simpler side of life that people less fortunate than us are experiencing everyday." I think this sums up how this trip has changed us. It really was a life changing experience, and I would advise anyone to take the chance of going on future trips.

*Sam Hardy 6 EOD*



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*The children in Moldova were so keen to enjoy and gain everything they could from us*

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## Hospital Visiting

During the hospital visits on Wednesday afternoons we mainly went round talking to the patients, and to the nurses who were working in the hospital. This was a bit difficult to start with as we were on the dementia ward and some of the patients we spoke to on the first day couldn't hold a conversation. However, over time, it got easier as the people working there helped us by showing us which patients were capable of talking properly and who could hold a conversation. Overall it was very worthwhile talking to the patients as it gave us an opportunity to see what it was like living inside a hospital ward for several weeks. Furthermore, on some of the days that we were in the hospital, we stayed with a doctor and shadowed him whilst he checked up on some of his patients. This was very interesting as it allowed us to do something a bit more practical and from this I saw patients with some illnesses that I had never even heard of.

### *Nian Patel 6 LFD*

Starting in September Joe Hogan and I spent an hour and a half a week at the stroke ward at Abingdon Community Hospital. This was done in order to get an insight into patient care, something that is extremely important when considering a career in medicine. After a few weeks we had settled in and were welcomed weekly by the nursing staff and doctors. On arrival we would sit with patients whilst they had their tea, speak to them about their lives and sometimes speak with the doctors about their conditions and walk with them whilst they did their rounds of the ward. Obviously not all the patients were too friendly, but in general the people at the hospital were very welcoming.



Throughout the year I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this. It offered a good insight into a career in medicine and the skills one needs for good patient care and contact with people. One of the most enjoyable things, however, was actually witnessing the patients recover and leave the hospital after a period of time. Building up relationships, where patients would look forward to seeing you, was also very rewarding. I look forward to carrying on this commitment next year and believe that after volunteering at the hospital my will to pursue a career in medicine has grown. I recommend to anybody who is considering a career in medicine (or those who simply wish to help out and do something worthwhile) to take part in this insightful commitment, which is both fun and rewarding.

### *Hussein Ibrahim 6 RIC*

We began by talking to people who we didn't know and spoke about what life in the hospital is like and why they are there. After a few weeks we started to get to know people and developed a deeper understanding of what life in a hospital is like. We met one man in the first week who stayed for a few months and we spoke to him every week. We saw him gradually deteriorate until he was too ill to talk to us and was moved out of the community hospital to a larger one. This made us realise how serious the place is. However, we also saw lots of people who after a couple of weeks in the hospital were well

enough to go home and get back to their lives, which was nice to see. On a few occasions we were able to follow Dr Crawshaw who talked to us about life in medicine and introduced us to a few of his patients, including one with ileus, whose intestines we listened to with stethoscopes. We also examined some of their x-rays, which gave us a good insight into hospital medicine. I think it is a great experience and definitely a fantastic insight into the world of medicine and nursing.

### *Alex Sunderland 6 JJ*

I visited the hospital once a week and was on the stroke ward. At first Alex and I just talked to the patients, asking them how they were feeling, how they got there and a bit about their personal histories. It was really interesting hearing some of their life stories, with one man whose father had been captain of the England rugby team in 1926! By providing a friendly face we were welcomed and I felt our presence was much appreciated. We were fortunate to be able to spend some time doing rounds with a doctor, which gave us a good insight into community medicine and also allowed us to see some interesting case studies. I thought the experience overall was very rewarding as it allowed us to get a look into the more caring aspect of medicine. I have enjoyed the experience and hope it will be well regarded in my medical application.

### *Joe Hogan 6 LFD*

# Departments

## History

### Paris Trip

On the morning of Saturday 2 April, nine Lower Sixth-formers, accompanied by Mr McGill and Mr Hallinan, congregated at the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras International, ready for a long weekend of sightseeing, fine dining and the Parisian nightlife – until the 10:45 curfew, at least – and history, of course! For we were all (officially) going in order to learn more about the French Revolution of 1789-95 for our AS-level by visiting key sites and museums across Paris.

After our arrival we started with a boat ride along the river Seine: a suitable starting point, giving us a view of some famous Parisian tourist traps, such as the Louvre, the Pont Royal and the Luxor Obelisk. The unnaturally scorching sun was a pleasant surprise at the beginning of April, and temperatures remained high throughout the day. The evening saw



A 'world famous  
Luke Terry handstand'



AS level History students in Paris

us scale the Eiffel Tower, allowing us an unparalleled view of Paris, and a chance to distinguish tomorrow's destinations among the urban sprawl – as well as witness a world-famous Luke Terry handstand several hundred metres above ground.

The next day started with a visit to the Conciergerie, a famous jail used mainly for political prisoners during Reign of Terror under Robespierre's dictatorship in 1793-94. Unfortunately, the French weather noticed the arrival of British tourists, promptly dropped by ten degrees and started to rain. Undeterred, we visited Marat's residence during the revolution and the towering statue of Danton, a key revolutionary figure who eventually fell to the regime he had helped create. We spent the evening at Montmartre, which provided us with both a stunning view and bad singing from the mustered buskers, though some stopped to seek cover when Luke forgot again that humans walk using their feet, not their hands.

On our final day, we used up our remaining hours in the Louvre, spending half the time admiring its contents – including the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo, as well as revolutionary paintings such as David's 'Oath of the Horatii' – and the other half we spent getting utterly and hopelessly lost. Once everyone had somehow managed to return to the entrance, we spent our last few hours walking to the Arc de Triomphe via the Champs Elysées, before our long return trip home began.

I speak for us all when I say that the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and we collectively thank Mr McGill and Mr Hallinan for the organisation and historical expertise they provided in the absence of a guide (the dullness of which we all agreed we were much better off without!). Indeed, the lack of a guide merely added to the overall fun of the trip: "so guys, this is where the Jacobin Club used to be... I think."

*Christian Reedman 6 KL*

## Berlin Trip

On the first day of our trip to Berlin we had to drag ourselves out of bed at one o'clock in the morning (which went against every teenage fibre in our bodies) in order to arrive at Abingdon in time to depart on the coach at half past one. We had an uneventful bus journey that was surprisingly quiet, mainly due to the fact that the majority of the party was in a catatonic state and unable to initiate conversation.

At Luton Airport we emptied the shops of anything containing sugar and must have left the shop assistants in awe of our eating capacity. After taking off from Luton we touched down in Berlin, and were met by a blast of warm air, which is very unexpected to any person used to the usual weather of May in the United Kingdom! We were fortunate enough to have clear blue skies, and the temperature remained above thirty degrees celsius for the majority of the trip, apart for the last few hours when we experienced some light rain.

The coach dropped us at the Holocaust Memorial (to which we returned later on) to reflect on the crimes committed during the Second World War. We then went on our walking tour accompanied by our guides; this included the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag where the guides furthered our



knowledge of the early Weimar Republic with an in-depth discussion. We learned about the first leader after the war, Friedrich Ebert, and the problems he faced, as well as the Freikorps and how they suppressed the Spartacist uprising of January 1919. After being briefed on what not to eat because of the E.coli outbreak we were left to source our own lunch. This involved not eating any fresh fruit or vegetables, not that these were at the top of any of the Abingdon student's agenda for lunch. We then continued our walking tour to the Bebelplatz, Humboldt University, a section of the Berlin Wall and the Topography of Terror museum. At these sights the guides deepened our understanding of German history. We then returned to the Holocaust Memorial and were given time to wander through it and to think about what had happened. We then took the bus to the Wehrmacht Headquarters where we were told about Operation Valkyrie and how it nearly changed the course of European and world history. Our next stop was the Olympic stadium, the site of the controversial 1936 Olympics. After this, we arrived at the hotel emptied of energy after a hard day's touring. The town we stayed in was relatively quiet except for the fact that the Tour de Berlin was going through the middle of the town. The loud speakers blared German music, which is unique and

consequently very difficult to describe. Thankfully, and much to everyone's joy, it stopped so we could enjoy a well-earned night's sleep.

We rose early the second day and so began another full day of touring and learning. We started the day by visiting Sachsenhausen concentration camp. We saw the iron gates at the entrance bearing the famous phrase 'Arbeit Macht Frei' ('work will set you free'). This visit was an eye-opening experience to all, as we looked at inmates' accommodation, the punishment block, kitchen and parade ground; it was a stark reminder of the atrocities committed in such camps and really brought home to us what we had learned in class.

In the afternoon, we drove across the famous Glienicke Bridge (the scene of many exchanges of spies during the Cold War) on our way to Wannsee, where we looked at the house in which the Wannsee Conference (that coordinated the Holocaust) was held. From there we made our way to the Allied Museum where we saw Checkpoint Charlie and various other remnants of the Cold War. The day ended with a session of ten-pin bowling.

On the morning of the third day, we woke and travelled to Berlin city centre. We then walked to the DDR

Museum where we learned about life under Communism in East Germany. After exploring this museum, we walked the short distance to the vast bronze statues of Marx (the founder of Communism) and Engels. We went to look at the Fernsehturm and were then given the opportunity to sample the local cuisine in the neighbouring area. Predictably, a McDonald's was located nearby and the majority of the party dined there. After lunch we were given a tour of the Stasi prison by an enthusiastic guide who had a wealth of knowledge on the subject, about which he spoke passionately. There was a brief stop at a section of the Berlin Wall where we gained an insight into how Germany was divided by the 'Iron Curtain'. After visiting the Soviet War Memorial, we left for the airport as a group whose knowledge and understanding of German history had been broadened greatly. We arrived back at Abingdon in the early hours of Monday morning, welcomed by rain.

*Jamie Sandall 4 PW*

### Battlefield Tour

On April 22, at the end of the Easter holidays, thirty-six Third-formers and I left the School coach park for our trip to the Somme and the Ypres Salient. We picked up our guides at Maidstone Services and continued on to the Eurotunnel. After a jam-packed first day of travelling and visiting the battlefields, few of us wanted little more than to spend many, many Euros on Belgian chocolate in Ypres, and that is exactly what we did before going off to have dinner. Very few could do justice to that chicken and chips.

The guides were extremely knowledgeable, were able to make their talks very emphatic and really gave us personal knowledge of how it must have been for the lives of the soldiers in the trenches; my guide had



At the Thiepval Memorial

done over 20 years of service in the Paratroopers. They really brought the experience to life by movingly recounting stories of the lives of the people in the trenches and the excess bravery of some certain individuals.

We visited some British, German and French cemeteries and it was fascinating to see the differences between the layouts of them; the sheer size and scale is something that a picture can never express. This is certainly true of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, which is visible for miles around.

We also explored some reconstructed German and British front line positions. At Sanctuary Wood, the Allied front line,

the tunnel complex was fascinating and it is easy to see how you could get lost. The farmers are still finding unexploded shells in the fields and they could go off at any moment. Lochnagar Crater was an impressive site, where the British tunnelled in silence for a mile and missed their mark by a few feet after laying several tons of high explosives under the German position.

Thanks again to the teachers and guides who took us on this extraordinary trip to visit the battlefields of the Western Front ... lest we forget.

*Bart Jennings 4 VEH*



Wearing the uniform of a First World War soldier



The Cross of Sacrifice at Tyne Cot

# Classics

## Classics Overview

2010-11 was another busy year in the Classics Department. We held speaker meetings with Dr Alison Cooley talking about Pompeii, Dr Philomen Probert on Indo-European Philology, Dr Katherine Clarke on Herodotus, and attended various Classical Association events, including one we hosted on Greek religion. A novelty was a dinner for OAs who had gone on to university to study Classical subjects: this offered an excellent opportunity for current boys to talk to OAs about reading the subject at university, and it was great to see so many old faces return. All were entertained on the subject of the Roman Games by a talk from Nicholas Purcell, which challenged many orthodoxies about Roman entertainment.

Four boys spent two weeks of August studying Greek at the JACT Greek Summer School at Bryanston, and three (Thomas Finch, James Honoré and Chris Hyde) went on to achieve deserved success in winning places at Oxford to read Classics. There was also record success in the Oxford Classical Association Reading



Lower School boys in masks inspired by the Roman Theatre

Competition, where Fourth-formers were entered in five categories: against the usual stiff competition, an unprecedented four won first prizes (Benjamin Nabnian, Oliver Sayeed, Thomas Fabes and Thomas Kelly), and three second prizes (Ned Roberts, George Ruck and Sam Ashby-Crane).

There were also many trips. We went to see the *Lysistrata* in English and the excellent Cambridge production of *Agamemnon* in Greek. The First-formers visited Fishbourne Roman Palace, those in the second year went

to Roman Bath, and a further Lower School trip travelled to Caerleon to see the extensive Roman remains there. Middle School students of Classical Civilisation visited the Ashmolean and – further afield – Hadrian’s Wall, where they enjoyed the benefits of excellently refurbished museums to research their projects. 57 boys went on our trip in October to Rome and the Bay of Naples, on which James Honoré has written a separate report.

Chris Burnand



Fishbourne



Caerleon



Hadrian's Wall



Roman Bath

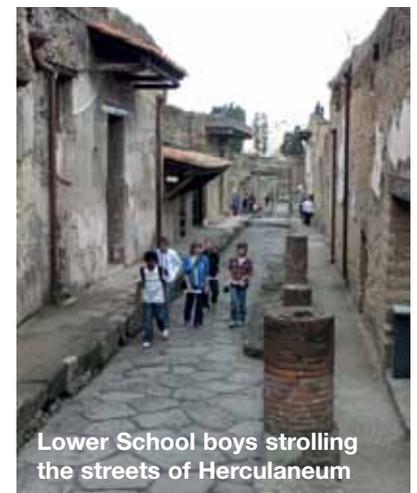
### Italy Trip

The annual October Classics trip – to Italy this year – started off in typical fashion (far too) early in the morning, but did manage to avoid the usual issue of latecomers holding everyone up and making us wish we'd spent some precious extra minutes in bed. Nevertheless, when we landed in Italy and arrived at our first hotel, everyone seemed ready for a short walk. We found an excellent view of the Bay of Naples, which set us up for the next two days of touring the towns that Vesuvius had destroyed in AD79. Both the grand ruins at Pompeii and the

more cramped streets of Herculaneum managed to give us a vivid impression of a Roman town – much stronger than the impression any remains in Britain can give. The great theatres showed how seriously the Romans took their entertainment, with reserved seats and places of particular importance carved into the stone. We were lucky to come when we did – some of the buildings collapsed soon after our visit, including the House of the Gladiators. There is absolutely no reason at all to associate this unfortunate accident with us. More seriously, we also saw the casts of those caught by the eruption in Pompeii – a sobering sight.

While we were still in Campania, the area around the Bay of Naples, we also toured several villas, getting to see larger, country residences in contrast to the urban feel of the towns. Of particular interest was the Villa Poppaea, home to the scheming wife of Nero, whom the Upper Sixth were studying for their Latin set text. It contained intricate friezes and interior walls with startlingly red paint. We also (during some heavy rain) visited the seaside grotto of the Emperor Tiberius and saw the recovered pieces of the enormous statues he had put up in there to imitate mythical deeds and beasts. Odysseus' blinding of the Cyclops was the most prominent of these, and the most fitting for the sea-cave.

Most of the second half of our trip was spent in Rome itself. The first point of interest was the Porta Maggiore immediately outside our hotel. This great limestone archway had supported aqueducts and bore the inscriptions of three different emperors – Claudius, Vespasian and Titus. We went on to see as many of Rome's famous sites as we could. The Colosseum impressed everyone with its scale, and the winning entry for the photo competition showed it against the sky in the early morning. We were also able to visit the various forums of Rome, and the sixth-formers gave lectures to the younger years



Lower School boys strolling the streets of Herculaneum

The whole group at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome



about the history and architecture of the buildings within them. We held a short race, won by Luke Terry, in the Circus Maximus before moving up onto the Palatine and into the ruins of Domitian's Palace, from which he – and we – looked down onto the Circus. By this point in the day the crowds had become so thick that we weren't able to see some of the other sites, such as the supposed hut of Romulus and Remus. Instead, most of us broke off for pizza at lunch, a pattern that was to repeat itself over the next few days.

We also ventured outside Rome again: Ostia, the ancient port of Rome, was

incredible, with kilometres of streets and townhouses. The ruins stretched so far that we couldn't reach the end of them before the curators began to use an incomprehensible mix of shouted Italian, English and loud whistles to clear us out before sun-down. Towards the end of our stay we left Rome once again for a short trip to the Emperor Hadrian's villa at Tivoli. The estate was astounding, combining beautiful gardens, miniature lakes and multiple bathhouses. The sheer size of the grounds made us all determined to become Emperor and own the same sort of thing someday – or was that just me?

On the final full day, we visited the Pantheon and saw how one of the finest old buildings of Rome had moved with the times, going from temple to church, to survive the rise of Christianity. We were also able to indulge ourselves with sinful amounts of Italian ice cream just after lunch. That evening, we had the traditional quiz and thanked our teachers for their care. We certainly hope that Dr Burnand still treasures his pink tartan hat!

*James Honoré 7 LPGM*



Andrew Convery showing his allegiance at Pollio's villa near Sorrento

The blinding of the Cyclops (from the imperial dining-cave at Sperlonga)



## Economics and Business Studies



**Gary Ling, Forest Wong and Benny Liang**

The academic year began with the wonderful news that four Abingdon students, who left at the end of last year, Forest Wong, Gary Ling, Benny Liang and John Yoo, had won first prize in the national 2010 'Challenge the Chancellor' competition. The competition is run by the Chartered Institute of Taxation and students across the country were asked to submit suggestions for a new tax and then explain why they would introduce it. The group proposed a tax on nightclub entrance fees; it was deemed by the judges to be "of a high standard and very well thought out." Their submission was carefully crafted and they completed primary research of their own on the price sensitivity of clubbers to support their proposal. The prizes of £1000 for Abingdon's economics department and £100 each for the students were presented at The Travellers' Club, Pall Mall.

Competitions such as 'Challenge the Chancellor' clearly play an important role in bridging the gap between what is learnt in the classroom and the practical application of economic theory to the real world. Visiting businesses is also important in this context too and the department has, for over a decade, ensured that students have a chance

to visit both domestic and foreign companies during their A-level courses in either Economics or Business Studies.

This year, twenty-three of our students had the chance to visit Barcelona over the Lent half term. Mr Castle ably led the trip, accompanied by Miss Kite and Mr Grills,. The first day in Barcelona included a visit to the winery 'Bodegas Torres', which acted as a good example of a business that is expanding rapidly (with global ambitions). Whilst the company was dedicated to maintaining its family heritage and traditions, it was

clear to see that environmentally friendly capital was playing an important part in its future strategy too. Other trips included the Seat car plant and the Port of Barcelona. Seat were keen to impress upon us the increased innovation and productivity that had resulted from their €500m investment in new capital and facilities under the supervision of their new owners, Volkswagen. The visit to the Port of Barcelona allowed us to enjoy a boat trip around the port and pupils saw how the capacity of the port's commercial facilities had grown significantly over the past decade. Every evening the Economics Department ran a series of seminars on the Spanish economy. These seminars covered themes such as Spain's recent macroeconomic performance, the key challenges that lie ahead for the Spanish economy, and the potential danger of a sovereign debt crisis in Spain. The trip also allowed for time to explore La Sagrada Familia, witness Barcelona play Athletic Bilbao, enjoy a variety of Spanish restaurants, and experience the retail charms of Las Ramblas!





The Economics Society's talks concluded with a lecture by Professor Tim Jenkinson of the Said Business School, Oxford on the topic of 'The Credit Crunch – where are we now?' He skilfully guided the audience through the complexities of the credit crunch with a chronological narrative beginning with the origins of the crisis in the US housing market. He then explored the mechanism through which the fall in US house prices triggered a global banking crisis. Potential risks to the nascent recovery such as a collapse of confidence in government bonds or sustainability of the single currency were also mapped out.

“  
*the importance of purely academic endeavours should never be underestimated*  
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In addition to the activities happening outside the classroom, perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of the academic year was the introduction of extension classes. The School created protected time within the timetable for sixth-formers (on a voluntary basis) to delve into topics that go well beyond the A-level curriculum. This freedom allowed us to put on twenty-four additional classes that explored topics such as Efficient Market Hypothesis, Behavioural Economics, 'Bubbles', global imbalances, credit creation, Quantitative Easing, Yield Curves and a whole host of issues surrounding the current financial crisis. Members of the extension class were also able to videoconference with Shashank Joshi of Harvard University, meet with the BBC news correspondent Hugh Pym and visit both Lloyds of London and the London Metal Exchange.

*Simon Grills*

Back in the UK, a visit to Jaguar Cars at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham acted as a useful comparison with the more capital intensive Seat plant in Barcelona. The visit to Jaguar gave pupils an insight into the complexities of running a modern car plant. The tour included a visit to the factory floor, a briefing on the economic factors influencing the company and a 'production task' (using Lego) that sought to promote teamwork.

Whilst competitions and visits undoubtedly play an important part in promoting breadth within the curriculum, the importance of purely academic endeavours should never be underestimated. We were extremely fortunate to have three excellent speakers address our Economics Society during the year. Andrew Dilnot,



the Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford spoke on the topic of 'Inequality in the UK'. He outlined very effectively the ignorance surrounding the degree of inequality within the UK and the fiscal implications of seeking to diminish these inequalities. He made it clear to the assembled audience that 'solving' an issue such as inequality was impossible; redistribution policy simply has to grapple with inherent trade-offs.

The Director of OVO Energy, Stephen Fitzpatrick, spoke on the 'Economics of the Energy Market'. In the days running up to the talk, British Gas had hiked their prices by 7%, other energy firms had followed with similar rises within days and the regulator OFGEM had just announced yet another inquiry into the energy market. Having launched OVO in November 2008, Stephen spoke about the difficulties of breaking into a market previously dominated by six large firms, and the prevalence of consumer inertia (i.e. consumers' lack of willingness to switch supplier). The talk covered a wide variety of topics such as privatisation, price transparency, information failures, globalisation, the role of regulators and the division between the production and sale of energy.

## Young Enterprise



A lot of people think that *Young Enterprise* is a 'school' activity, not an actual business – you turn up for your allotted times, do the activity for the week and have something good to put on your CV afterwards! When I first considered doing Young Enterprise I was a bit worried that this is what the experience would be like. However, the more I found out about it, the more this turned out to be wrong. I was pleased to be chosen from the four candidates to take the role of Managing Director – I knew that it would be challenging at times and involve a lot of work, but I was keen to experience a taster of what running an actual company would be like.



*a strong sense of teamwork, of everybody pulling their weight, and a great enthusiasm for the company that, in the end, led to its success*



Very early on we decided to cater for the massive and expanding market of *iPod* and *iPhone* accessories. This

turned out to be hugely successful for us, and we made just over £730 in pre-tax profits in the 9-month window in which our company existed. During this time we raised capital by selling shares, conducted market surveys, designed advertising campaigns, chose and ordered products, produced packaging and sold to the public in the Templars Square shopping centre, Oxford. All this had to happen whilst juggling everything else in school. It was, in many ways, just like running a real business. Attending the weekly board meeting, reviewing our performance and making plans for the coming weeks. Unlike *The Apprentice*, I didn't get to fire somebody once a week, unfortunately...

It is hard to say what makes a company successful, but I believe that our company has shown many of the key principles. I'd love to say it was perfect all of the time, but in truth, we had our ups and downs, disagreements and less than perfect organisation. What we did have though was a great team – there was a strong sense of teamwork, of everybody pulling their weight, and a great enthusiasm for the company that, in the end, led to its success.

Overall, I really enjoyed being Managing Director. Yes, it was a lot of hard work at times, but when things were going well, there was an enormous sense of achievement, not just for me but also for the whole team, that we had been responsible for the company doing well. It was an experience that I think will be useful for whatever I do in future – I have learnt more about teamwork, communication and organisation by actually doing it than I ever would otherwise.

I'd like to say 'Thank You' on behalf of all of us once again to Mr Grills for giving up his time each week and for standing around in shopping centres, and to our Business Advisors, John Hudson and Michael Herbert, for supporting and guiding us through the entire process.

Young Enterprise has been a great experience, and certainly not your typical 'school' activity. As we close down the company, the lessons it taught all of us will be valuable, whatever we end up doing, and looking back I am glad that I chose to be a part of it. I would recommend anybody considering it to attend the first introductory meeting and see what you think.

*Matthew Landells 6 DJP*



# Modern Languages

## Lower School visit to Normandy 23-26 June 2011

Another successful Lower School trip to Normandy, forty Lower School boys did the School proud – as ever – and all visits went well, including a trip to Mont St Michel, Arromanches, the D-Day Museum and 360 degree cinema, Port-en-Bessin and the fish market, Bayeux and its famous tapestry, Caen and its market, a cheese factory and visit to a huge centre commercial (plus an evening walk of the harbour, an evening coastal walk and a quiz on the last evening).



We were all filled with excitement as we boarded the bus ready to start our long day. Sweets flying one way, top-trumps cards flying the other and the occasional 'I saw a Ferrari!' all, thankfully, drowned out the noise of Mr Loughe's singing when his favourite song came on. We arrived at the Eurotunnel after a long journey and a couple of stops, all relieved to be able to get off the bus and walk around. The Eurotunnel was quick and soon we were back on our way to Normandy. We arrived and went on a walk after dinner around the port of Port-en-Bessin (where we were staying). This was good fun. Breakfast was really nice as it was the typical croissants, baguettes and butter. Mont St. Michel was an amazing town with a massive abbey all built on a small mountain. We spent most of the time sightseeing but once we had seen it all we got free time in the town, some shops sold crêpes and French snacks, whereas others had a strange obsession with weapons and most of all samurai swords! After

that we had lunch on the beach and had a stone skipping competition and then headed to Bayeux to see the Bayeux Tapestry, which was cool. Once we had seen the tapestry we went back to the hotel and had dinner. Dinner was a crêpe filled with mushroom and something to start with, then chicken and French fries, and finally a coffee éclair (none of us was quite sure what everything actually was). After that we went on a walk up the cliffs overlooking Port-en-Bessin and had a massive game of manhunt. The next day was the best. We made a quick visit to the fish market that was setting up in town. After that we headed off to Arromanches and the D-Day Museum. The museum was amazing and I learnt so much about D-Day that I never knew before. We also went to the 360 degree cinema, which was really amazing as it showed a mixture of the land today and WWII footage, the whole thing together made a really overwhelming film and the sounds were ear-piercing. After that we

headed to the Fromagerie Graindorge. We learnt a lot, but unfortunately I'm not so keen on cheese so it didn't really mean much to me. We also went to the supermarket and most of us stocked up on sweets for either home or the journey back (I bought some Carambars). We had a quiz after dinner – a mixture of general knowledge about France and things we had seen on the trip. My team won! The next day we went to the market in Caen, which was great fun and we had an opportunity to try out our French whilst bartering. People bought a mixture of things from mini Eiffel towers, to Jamaican hats, and inflatable penguins! After we had crossed back to Portsmouth, we finally arrived at School and we were all relieved to be back but slightly sad that we weren't still in France. My favourite bit of the trip was the market, and the D-Day Museum. My second favourite bit was definitely Mr Loughe's singing.

*George Jeffreys 1H*

Mont St Michel



The American Military Cemetery

George  
Jeffreys

### French Exchange 1-8 April 2011

This was the sixth year of the popular French exchange with the Lycée La Nativité in Aix en Provence and, as in previous years, all the pupils involved (a grand total of 66) enjoyed the unique mix of social, cultural and linguistic opportunities that only a language exchange can offer.

The French exchange definitely fulfilled its main purpose for me as my French improved by a phenomenal amount, but this was just the icing on the cake as the best part was that even though the trip was so helpful to my French, it was also very interesting. I found the cultural visits very eye opening and I loved the beautiful city that is Aix en Provence and the architecture was amazing. The family I stayed with were very sympathetic and helped me to boost my French and by the end of the week we were speaking almost fluently. All in all it was a great trip that I highly recommend for people who are looking for a fun way to improve their French, whether they are amazing already or struggling.

*Thomas Fabes 4 VEH*



**Chateau d'If, the setting of Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo***



**Roman amphitheatre Nîmes**

The French party arrived in Abingdon in February and braved the cold weather to enjoy trips to Bath, including a civic reception as the city is twinned with Aix-en-Provence, Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, with a tour of Keble College, and London where they went to the British Museum and were able to participate in a workshop based on *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe Theatre.

Abingdon boys were more fortunate to be travelling to Provence at Easter and enjoy the beautiful weather on offer. Although, as they got off the Eurostar, some were a little daunted by the prospect of meeting the families, any anxieties were soon dispelled as they were welcomed warmly and enjoyed a weekend of beach visits and delicious Provençal food. As Laurence Lilley (4GRM) puts it: "I really enjoyed the French exchange. It was a great experience and it improved my French. We visited some interesting sites. The French family I stayed with was very welcoming." Alexis King (4MJS) adds, "The French exchange 2011 was a very good experience to get a feel for French culture and French schools. I had a really great time and I would recommend it to everyone."

Trips during the week included Marseille, taking in the Château d'If, the setting of the Alexandre Dumas novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Le Pont du Gard, a spectacular Roman aqueduct, the town of Nîmes with its Roman amphitheatre, the medieval castle of Les Baux de Provence and the Roman remains in Glanum. The boys were also lucky enough to see how some typical local products are made: the famous calisson from Aix and truly Provençal olive oil (appellation contrôlée, no less), enabling them to make a few late Mothers' Day purchases.

### **German Exchange, Bielefeld, 13-21 February 2011**

The away leg of this year's German exchange with the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld returned home safely after eight days away in the wintry climes of northern Germany. Now in its 45th year (surely one of the longest running school exchanges in the country?), this year's trip was another great success. The eighteen fourth-form boys and five St Helen's girls spent their time in Germany hosted by their exchange families fully immersed in German.

Highlights this year included participating in school lessons, the annual Anglo-German project, excursions to Münster and Cologne, ice-skating and a visit to the Dr Oetker visitors' centre to learn about the history of German's biggest and most successful private food producer (Dr Oetker's international headquarters are in Bielefeld). Some of the more fortunate boys were even treated to a weekend in Berlin by their host families. Mr Revill, Mr Loughe, Dr Clark and Mrs Astbury (SHSK) also enjoyed the generous hospitality of their German colleagues. Despite the chilly weather, the sun shone throughout the week and everyone was talking about how much fun they had had – and of course how much their German had improved! – when we arrived back to the (as ever) pouring rain in a dismal Stansted airport.

*Andrew Loughe*

### **Sixth-form Berlin Study Trip, 22-26 February 2011**

Abingdon's nine A-level Germanists, accompanied by Mr Aitken and Mr Loughe, spent four fantastic days in Berlin. Blessed with gloriously sunny



The Brandenburg Gate

weather (albeit minus ten degrees), the group spent their time exploring different aspects of the German capital – its cultural highlights, its scarred history and its so-called ‘multikulti’ (multicultural) society. Highlights of the trip included visits to the main GDR/Berlin Wall sites (including Checkpoint Charlie and the former Stasi headquarters), the Jewish Museum, the Neue Nationalgalerie, the interactive Story of Berlin exhibition, a guided tour of Kreuzberg (the Turkish district) and a seminar with a Turkish-German writer. The boys attended a performance of Günther Grass’ complex work *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin Drum) at the Maxim Gorki Theatre and saw Daniel Brühl’s new film *Der Ganz Große Traum* (The Really Big Dream) at the KulturBrauerei cinema. Of course no trip

to Berlin would be complete with a visit to the Brandenburg Gate, the impressive Reichstag, the Holocaust Memorial and the Fernsehturm. The boys also sampled a wide variety of Berlin’s culinary offerings, including both traditional German and Turkish cuisine. Many aspects of the itinerary complemented the topics studied in AS/A2 German and certainly provoked interesting discussion amongst the group when travelling around the city.

Quite a hectic schedule with lots packed into the four days, but surely still enough left for the boys to explore for themselves at some point in the future. Alexander Sunderland (6 JJ) said: “Es war total wunderbar.”

*Andrew Loughe*



Outside the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld



The Berlin Wall

### Spanish Exchange 19 - 27 October 2010

This year’s Spanish Exchange to the pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia took place over the October half term, and the boys were privileged to visit the cathedral – a key shrine in Christendom – in this holy year (a year when the feast of St James falls on a Sunday). The weather was kind to them too. Visits to the old town of Santiago, to the oldest remaining lighthouse in the western world and to the HQ of the Spanish clothes manufacturer, Zara, all took place in blazing sunshine. Much Spanish was spoken by all, and an appreciation of the tremendous quality of Galician seafood was awakened in everybody’s palate. A very successful and enjoyable exchange, not least thanks to the excellent behaviour of Abingdon boys throughout.

*Jane Mansfield*



# Art



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## Art Department

The variety and standard of work produced in the department each year continues to amaze me. This year we achieved very positive exam results at GCSE and at A level but I value more the enjoyment and satisfaction of seeing what our students can produce in our end of year exhibitions. The exhibition pages of this magazine aim to show something from every boy so that readers can see the depth and range of our work.

The year was as full as ever of trips and workshops. As well as a sixth-form trip to New York in the autumn, we took GCSE groups to the London Transport Museum, the Museum of Branding, the Courtauld Institute Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Ashmolean Museum. Sixth-form groups visited the Gauguin Exhibition at Tate Modern, the Modern Sculpture show at the Royal Academy, 'Newspeak' at the Saatchi Gallery, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Workshops were run for fourth- and fifth-years including one led by illustrator Joanna Harrison working with our fifth-year graphics students.

Andy Glass, Steven MacIver and Jane Jelley left the department and acknowledgments are made elsewhere of their contributions to the department over the years.

A good number of our sixth form will pursue art at a higher level. Tom Fishpool goes to read Fine Art at the University of Newcastle while the following students went on to Art and Design foundation courses: Edd Arnold and Ben Westcott to Brookes, Jack Perry to CCW in London, Jack Trodd to Portsmouth and Jack Oliver to Manchester.

As always, the art and design pages of the school website aim to cover recent art news.

*James Nairne*



## New York 21–26 October 2010



“I’m in heaven,” said one student as he viewed the galleries of the Metropolitan Museum. The quality of art in New York is hard to beat. At times it felt like we were only touching the surface. When you learn there are up to 350 galleries in the Chelsea area alone and we visited maybe 20 or 30 in the morning we spent there, you realise this is a place to visit again and again. This was the Abingdon Art Department’s second visit but the first for this set of sixth-formers. It was truly memorable. The boys were brilliantly well behaved and worked very hard in all the galleries and at their sketchbooks throughout the visit, drawing from the art and the city around them. The impact on their work will surely come through in the weeks and months ahead.

Our itinerary saw us visit MoMA, The Whitney Museum of American Art, and smaller commercial galleries in Chelsea, The International Center for Photography,

the Metropolitan Museum and the Guggenheim. It was in a way all too much: the astounding art of Picasso and Matisse’s work of the early 20th century, the variety of Rothko’s abstract work seen at MoMA and the Met (which makes Tate Modern’s Rothko room look paltry), and the astonishing inventiveness of some of the contemporary artists we saw, will be abiding memories for me but, because there was so much to see, each person’s itinerary and story will be different.

Just as memorable is the city of New York. The YMCA is not the most luxurious of places but it is very well-placed for what we wanted to see, and especially so for Central Park. As we walked through its leafy paths on the way to the Met on Sunday morning it was hard to believe we were in one of the world’s busiest cities. On the other hand, moving through Times Square on our way to an evening meal at *Bubba Gump’s Shrimp*

Co. restaurant, or through the crowds of good humoured ice hockey supporters at Madison Square Garden, or around stylish shoppers on Spring Street in Soho, we began to see the variety and hectic pace that is Manhattan. Other highlights included a sunset over the Hudson River and the lights of Manhattan from the top of the Rockefeller Center, playing ‘football’ in Central Park (L6th vs UV1th) before going to the Guggenheim, seeing the original Alberto Korda photograph of Che Guevara, *Guerrillero Heroica*, at the International Centre of Photography, the concourse of Grand Central Station at night, and queuing for a bathroom at the Y.

My thanks to Andy Glass and Steve MacIver for their help, and to the boys for their conduct, enthusiasm, appetite and exemplary timekeeping!

*James Nairne*

# GCSE Art

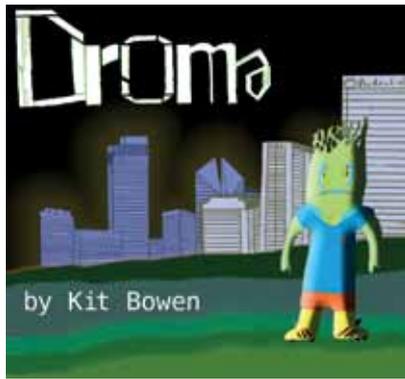
A	City Lights	Acrylic on board	Joe Berrett
B	Book Cover Illustration	Watercolour	Thomas Bibby
C	Book Cover Illustration	Digital	Kit Bowen
D	Figure Sculpture	Ceramic	Rory Brampton
E	Divide Landscape	Mixed media	Oscar Buckland
F	Acrobat	Wire sculpture	Julius Coventry
G	Oxford Postcards	Digital prints	Gabriel Drewett
H	Exhilarate Drink design	Digital	Tom Farrant
I	Walking	Charcoal	Thomas Farrant
J	Garden	Acrylic	Charlie Fitchett
K	Landscapes	Acrylic	Matthew Fitchett
L	Walk the Sights Poster	Digital	Thomas Godfrey



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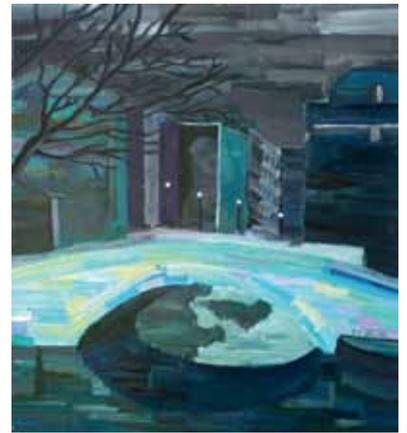


L

M Blue Bridge  
 N Figure  
 O Landscapes  
 P Front of School  
 Q Tower  
 R Power  
 S Bottles Triptych  
 T London Sights  
 U London 7s Poster  
 V Untitled  
 W Table Abstract

Acrylic  
 Ceramic  
 Mixed media  
 Charcoal  
 Mixed media  
 Digital  
 Acrylic  
 Acrylic  
 Digital  
 Acrylic  
 Mixed media

Joe Greenman  
 Matthew Hague  
 Rowan Hall  
 Charlie Hames  
 Mathew Hartshorne  
 Joseph Heade  
 Christian Huck  
 David Jorgensen  
 Tom Kynge  
 Patrick Lawson- Statham  
 Richard Knight



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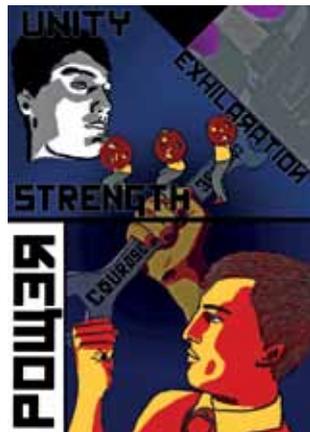
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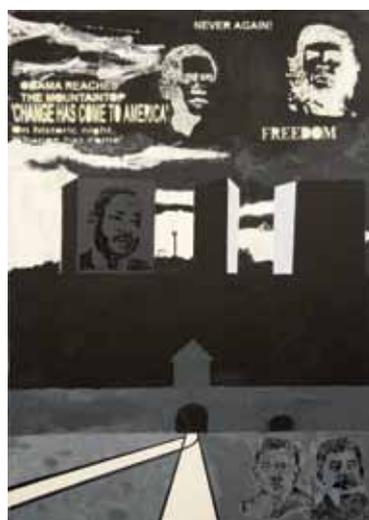
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# GCSE Art

A	Cornmarket	Charcoal	Edmund Lewis
B	Landscape panorama	Acrylic	Patrick Lay
C	Trees in light	Charcoal	Jack Maxted
D	Hunted	Digital	Ben Mallett
E	Momento Mori	Chalk pastel	Russell Orr Burns
F	Still-life	Ceramic	Duncan McLeish
G	Window View	Acrylic	Neil Salata
H	City Towers	Mixed media	Patrick Sardeson
I	Rose	Acrylic	Charlie Stenton-Putt
J	Still-life	Acrylic	George Stoneham
K	Rowers	Acrylic	Jack Szynaka
L	In thought	Acrylic	Christopher Tayler



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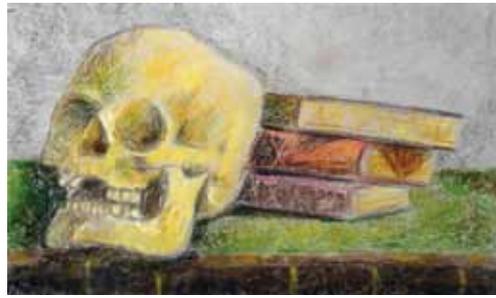
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M Still-life  
 N Abstract Relief  
 O Garden  
 P Play  
 Q Paradise Lost cover  
 R Garden Abstract  
 S Monaco Poster  
 T Street Illustration  
 U Recruitment Poster  
 V Book Cover Design  
 W Song Illustration

Acrylic  
 Mixed media  
 Acrylic  
 Portrait  
 Digital  
 Acrylic  
 Digital  
 Digital  
 Digital  
 Laser print  
 Digital

Ben Thompson  
 James Weaver  
 Connor Taylor  
 Jack Wardell  
 Joe Westcott  
 Alexander Whitworth  
 Matthew Workman  
 Christopher Young  
 Harry Wilder  
 Mensun Yellowlees-Bound  
 Kristian Wood



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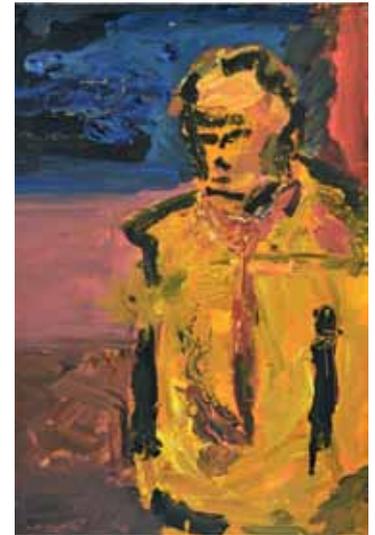
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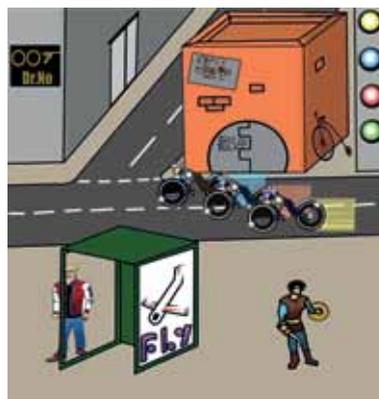
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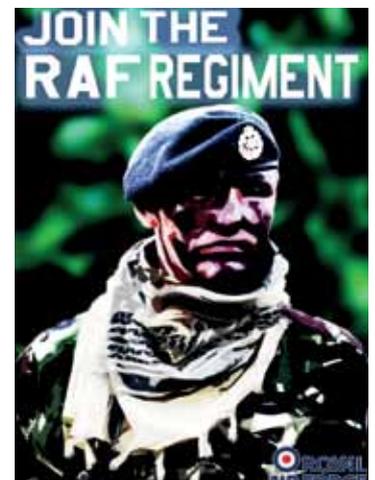
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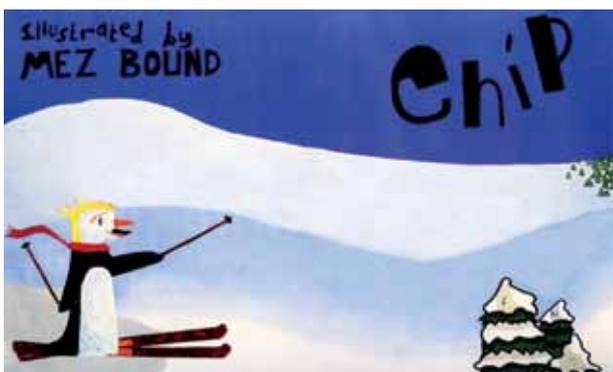
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## AS Art

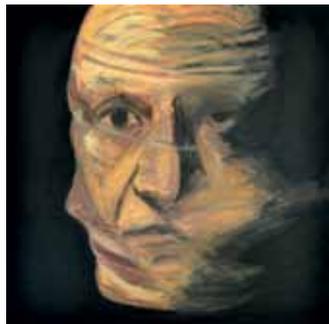
A	Apple of your Eye	Mixed media	Jake Burgess
B	Sleeping Girl	Mixed media	Jake Burgess
C	Portrait	Oil	Laurence Copson
D	New York Portrait	Oil	Laurence Copson
E	Architectural piece	Mixed media	Robert Brough
F	Skin	Mixed media	Robert Brough
G	Chinese Landscape	Mixed media	Gerald Chan
H	New York Apartment	Oil	Gerald Chan
I	Life Drawing	Chalk	Harry Gibbs
J	Mixed Memories	Oil	Harry Gibbs
K	Urban Fragments	Mixed media	Sam Hardy
L	Untitled	Screen print	Sam Hardy
M	Sixteen	Oil	Tom McGivan
N	Street	Mixed media	Tom McGivan
O	New York	Mixed media	Nicholas Krol
P	Girl	Watercolour	Nicholas Krol



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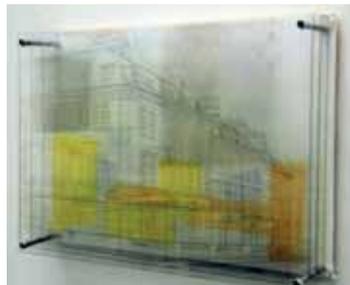
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**Q** New York  
**R** Bottle Piece  
**S** Matilda  
**T** Ellie  
**U** Tap  
**V** Still-life  
**W** Bottles  
**X** Literally Anything  
**Y** Escape  
**Z** Wolf  
**AA** Wolf 2  
**AB** Cathedral Falls  
**AC** Red Kite  
**AD** Falling Stories

Oil on canvas  
 Ceramic  
 Oil  
 Oil  
 Ceramic  
 Charcoal  
 Painted modroc  
 Mixed media  
 Modroc  
 Acrylic  
 Acrylic  
 Recycled glass  
 Carved Wax  
 Ceramic

Dominic Ramli-Davies  
 Dominic Ramli-Davies  
 Simon Spafford  
 Simon Spafford  
 Oliver Howard  
 Paul Woo  
 Paul Woo  
 Harry Williams  
 Harry Williams  
 Howard Winfield  
 Howard Winfield  
 Nicholas Topping  
 Nicholas Topping  
 Oliver Howard



Q



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X



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AA



AB



AC



AD

## A2 Art

<b>A</b> Dream State	Mixed media	Edd Arnold
<b>B</b> Asian values	Oil	Edd Arnold
<b>C</b> Edd	Acrylic	Peter Barber
<b>D</b> Exit	Oil	Tom Fishpool
<b>E</b> Window	Oil	Tom Fishpool
<b>F</b> Warehouse	Oil	Tom Fishpool
<b>G</b> Autumn Walk	Oil	Amir Garmroudi
<b>H</b> Two Girls	Acrylic	Amir Garmroudi
<b>I</b> Celebs	Oil	Harry Granger
<b>J</b> New York Mashup	Mixed media	Harry Granger
<b>K</b> Self	Oil	Mark Kardos
<b>L</b> Oriental	Oil	Mark Kardos
<b>M</b> Central Park	Installation	Will McDowell
<b>N</b> Memorial	Garden installation	Will McDowell



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- |    |                        |                         |                  |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| O  | Giving Assemblage      | Mixed media             | Jack Oliver      |
| P  | Home Sweet Home        | Installation            | Jack Oliver      |
| Q  | Now and Then           | Screen print on acetate | Jack Perry       |
| R  | Distopia Utopia        | Installation            | Jack Perry       |
| S  | Male Torso             | Mixed media sculpture   | David Snead      |
| T  | Male Torso (rear view) | Mixed media sculpture   | David Snead      |
| U  | Jack                   | Oil                     | David Snead      |
| V  | Emotional States       | Oil                     | Jack Trodd       |
| W  | Dreamscape             | Acrylic                 | Jack Trodd       |
| X  | Joe                    | Mixed media             | Ben Westcott     |
| Y  | Generations            | Mixed media             | Ben Westcott     |
| Z  | Self-portrait          | Oil                     | Evan Westenbrink |
| AA | Abstract               | Oil                     | Evan Westenbrink |



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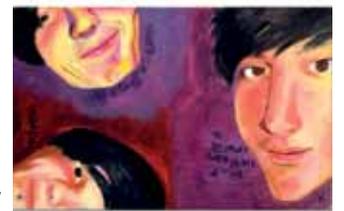
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# Design Technology

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Finn Ryley  
MP3 speaker for 'The North Face'



Matthew Landells  
Laptop cooling stand for 'British Airways'



Jack Swanborough  
Computer storage for 'Lian Li'



Edward Norris  
Flask holder for 'JCB'



Felix Newman  
Sunglasses stand for 'Oakley'



Angus Wilson-Macdonald  
Jacket holder for 'BMW'



Felix Russell  
Mug holder for 'Kitchen Aid'

# A2



David Wills  
*Adjustable expedition stove*



James Cross  
*Toothpaste dispenser*



Jack Oliver  
*Retro desk lamp*



Jamie Copus  
*Bike Rack*



Sam Delo  
*Student desk*



Christopher Green  
*Ergonomic study desk*



Forrest Radford  
*Cycle storage*



Peter Barber  
*Adjustable jack stand*

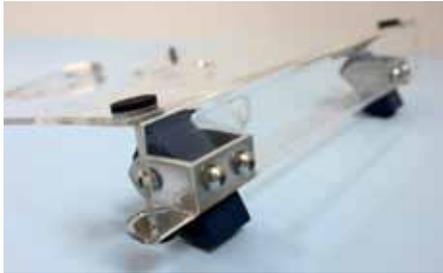


Clym Buxton  
*Stylish seating*



Alexander Iley  
*Lockable study desk*

# GCSE



Thomas Godfrey  
*Laptop stand*



Richard Matthews  
*Video camera unit*



Tom Farrant  
*Stabilising camera mount*



Charles Pope  
*Tea-light lantern*



Alexander Hewetson-Smith  
*Seat mounted bin*



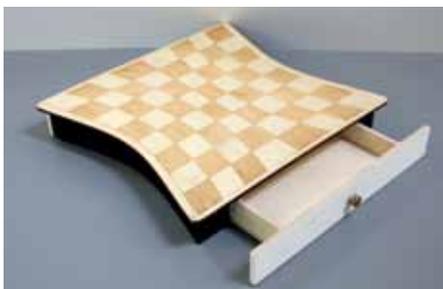
Gabriel Drewett  
*Stationery storage*



Duncan Chow  
*Storage*



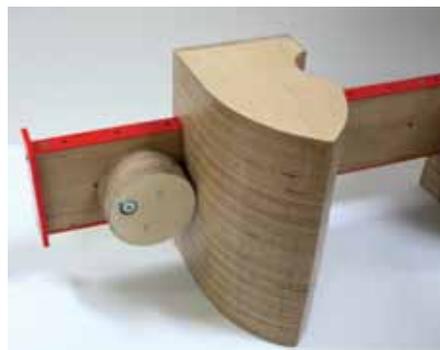
Oscar Buckland  
*Guitar storage*



Zack Berg  
*Chess board*



Jonathan Moloney  
*Collapsible seating*



Edmund Lewis  
*Surfboard rack*



Azarel Adebanjo  
*Coffee table*

# GCSE



James Weaver  
*Bike maintenance stand*



Daniel Knott  
*Golf club rack*



Arvin Wong  
*Violin stand*



Harry Stout  
*DJ stand*



Christopher Garratt  
*Bedroom drawers*



Jordan Anning  
*Kayak trailer*



Rory Brampton  
*Weights rack*



Sanjay Bhattacharya  
*Coffee table*



William Sharps  
*BBQ unit*



James Graham  
*Garden tool carrier*



Tom Pugh  
*Mug holder*



Harry Shortis  
*Golf club rack*



Alex Whitworth  
*Parasol lighting*



William Barnes  
*Music stand*



James Rogers  
*Bookshelf*

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# Drama and Film

## An overview of the year

At their best, the arts always involve reaching out to make connections – between people, places and ideas – to allow audiences to understand, learn from, and inspire each other. As E M Forster wrote, “Only connect”. Well, if connecting is the yardstick, this was a particularly good year for drama and film at Abingdon, one in which new relationships were forged and old friendships revived.

In September, we welcomed back Ben Phillips, who left here as a pupil in 2005, to return as a fully-fledged member of the drama department. He quickly set to work with Jeremy Taylor and fellow OA Matt Hawksworth (2000) on a joint production of a brand new play by OA Mike Bartlett (1999) called *Earthquakes in London*. This 3-hour modern epic had not finished its first run at the National Theatre when term started, but with Mike’s help, the rights to stage the first amateur production of the play were secured and the play was presented in the Amey Theatre in December. The scale and ambition of the play was breathtaking, and the cast of thirty-three and technical team of fifteen, led by Rory Fraser-Mackenzie and new arrival Matthew Cooper, delivered a memorable show.

Two further senior productions took place at St Helen’s during the winter – *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Oliver Hogben and *Metamorphosis* directed by OA Ash Verjee – both of which saw excellent performances and helped to make ever stronger our links with St Helen’s.

No less of a highlight was Alison Quick’s third year production of *Adventures in Wonderland* in January. The first joint production for pupils at this level since 1998, it provided ample evidence that there are exciting actors and performances to look forward to in years to come. The same is true of *James and the Giant Peach*, Ben Phillips’ debut production with Lower School which involved more pupils than ever, and created a genuine buzz around the school in the last week of May. The fourth year got their chance in June with a delightful production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, directed by Jo Watt at St Helen’s, before – appropriately enough – the curtain came down in the very last week of the school year with Graeme May’s splendid L6 production of Beckett’s darkly comic masterpiece, *Endgame*. The annual drama dinner for members of the sixth form – the fourth of its kind – allowed students to spend an evening in the company of professionals from

the world of theatre – actors, writers, producers and designers – to find out more about the realities of the life on and around the stage. Meanwhile, the Abingdon Dance Project, launched in 2010 by Matt Hawksworth, enjoyed a successful second year of operation, including a special workshop with the stars of the London production of *Salad Days*.

The Film Unit continued to make connections far beyond the boundaries of the School. In October, the documentary *One Foot on the Ground*, itself the product of Abingdon’s long-running Moldova project, was selected for the prestigious Raindance Festival in London, allowing Matthew Copson, Tom Bateman and Will McDowell to attend a screening of their film at the Apollo Cinema by Piccadilly Circus. The film received a further accolade in May when it was included in the London International Documentary Festival. Meanwhile, the Film Unit’s Annual Screening, also in May, featured a dozen new films that took to well over a hundred the total number of films produced by members of the Unit since its inception in 2003.

For me, there was also the chance to make connections beyond the School during a term’s sabbatical. I am



most grateful to my colleagues Alison Quick – who ran the department in my absence – Ben Phillips, Graeme May, Rory Fraser-Mackenzie, Matthew Cooper and Charmian Hart at Abingdon, along with Jo Watt, Oliver Hogben and Ash Verjee at St Helen's. They worked tirelessly to provide students with the exciting opportunities to reach out and connect that you can read about in the reports that follow.

*Jeremy Taylor*

## Earthquakes in London

**Senior Production,  
Amey Theatre, Abingdon**

"The planet can sustain one billion people. There's currently six billion."

*Earthquakes in London*, which premiered at the National Theatre in July 2010, addresses some of the biggest issues facing us today – issues such as climate change, corporate corruption and fractured societies. It follows the fortunes of a family over a period spanning the years 1968 to 2525 so it's hardly surprising that this was a highly ambitious production for the Drama Department, whose personnel had to face challenges of set design and construction (Rory Fraser-Mackenzie and Matthew Cooper), direction (Jeremy Taylor, Ben Phillips and Matthew Hawksworth) and stage management (Charmian Hart and her team, for whom there were over four pages of props to find). The challenges of this play certainly went far beyond those of a run-of-the-mill senior drama production.

Yet the outcome of the play's first amateur production was a powerful explosion of colour and intensity, with scenes ranging from burlesque dancing clubs to hospital waiting rooms that



**"It's over". Steve (Nick Krol) with Freya (Lucy Taylor)**

overlapped and crashed into each other at full-steam. As writer Mike Bartlett (OA, 1999) explained in his notes: "The play is about excess, and we should feel that". The curving purple 'catwalk' stage vividly illustrated this, offering the bravest punters a chance to sit on barstools along its edges, as if in some giant nightclub. Along with three further 'satellite stages', it boldly invaded the parts of the theatre that usually allow spectators to remain at a safe distance from the action. Instead, everyone was on the edge of their seats, wondering where the next scene would take place, yet always somehow at the heart of things.

With more than fifty different characters, the play demanded clear focus, commitment and energy from its juggernaut cast, and every one of the thirty-three strong team of performers rose to the challenge magnificently, possibly sensing their unique opportunity as the first amateur company to stage the play, as well as a keenly felt responsibility to the text and its author. After all, Mike Bartlett

seemed one of their own, not least after he'd led a tremendous question and answer session in the theatre ahead of the final show, which ended with him signing everything from posters to canvas chairs in response to the genuine excitement his presence generated.

To single out individuals in such a compelling team is invidious. Nevertheless, particularly strong



**"You wanted them to see you, Mum" Emily (Leying Lee)**

**“You don’t get to tell me what to wear” Jasmine (Clea Southall) & Robert (Will Hewstone)**



performances came from Lucy Taylor (Freya, a mother-to-be whose deep sense of foreboding puts her on the brink of suicide), Nick Krol (Freya’s husband Steve, a cynical writer determined to find out why his wife is so ill-at-ease), Will Hewstone (Robert, a brilliant scientist whose research predicts a terrible future for the world’s population), Chris Young (Tom, a university student with family in Eritrea who’s passionate about saving the environment) and Laying Lee (Peter, a teenage schoolboy with autistic tendencies who miraculously

metamorphoses into Freya’s 16-year old daughter Emily). With maturity and conviction, these actors explored the complex nature of their characters to embody one of the play’s key assertions – that in our constant re-using and reinventing of aspects of our lives “we are simply earthquakes ourselves”. No less compelling were the performances of Charlie Beirouti (Carter, director of a leading British airline), Elizabeth Rushbrook (Sarah, Lib Dem Cabinet Minister and Freya’s elder sister), Mathew Hartshorne (Colin, Sarah’s out-of-work banker husband),



**“So every time you hugged me...” Sarah (Elizabeth Rushbrook)**

Clea Southall (Freya’s younger sister Jasmine), Miranda Jackson (Grace, Robert’s wife), Catherine Livesley (Mrs Andrews, Robert’s housekeeper), and Charlie Bateman (Robert in the sixties and seventies scenes).

Yet ultimately it was a performance that relied on each and every member of the cast and crew who, in addition to their numerous cameos, character changes and technical effects, had to master complex dance routines created by OA Matt Hawksworth that required meticulous timing if scenes were to dissolve into each other as effortlessly as the breakneck pace of the action demanded. That they succeeded was clear from the reaction of audiences thrilled by the flying umbrellas, predatory prams, muscular swimmers and robotic dance moves. All in all, it was a momentous achievement for everyone involved. Those who saw them, including Mike Bartlett himself, were left awe-struck by the professionalism of the performances. It will be interesting to compare them with the professional touring production of *Earthquakes in London* when it comes to the Oxford Playhouse in November 2011.

*Nick Krol 6 JEF and Jeremy Taylor*

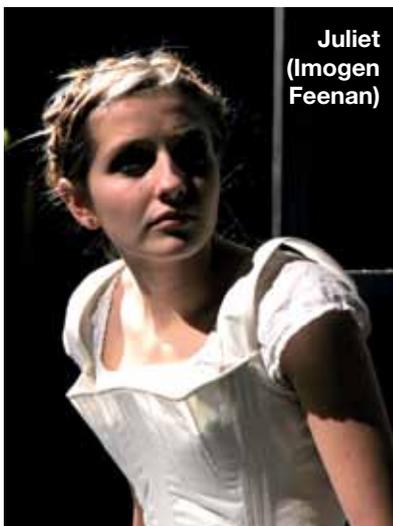
**Tom (Chris Young)**



## Romeo and Juliet

If you had suddenly been transported to the St Helen's studio theatre at roughly 9 pm on Friday 10 December, you would have found yourself in a room with two dead bodies, several white roses and a lot of fake snow. You would have been quite justified in feeling bewildered by this macabre display, but what you would not have realised is that you were party to the culmination of a truly incredible journey that had begun only a few months before.

At this point you might accuse me of triteness, but had you been present at the first cast rehearsal I think you would realise that "incredible journey" is in fact wholly appropriate. Read-throughs, especially Shakespeare read-throughs, as I have now learnt, are always bad. Ours was no exception. It would have helped if we'd known what half our lines meant, but as it was, we stumbled through the iambs with our heads buried frantically in our scripts. I felt at the time it was far better to try a little and be thought a bad actor, than to try a lot and have it confirmed. It was therefore no big surprise after the first few scenes when Mr Hogben, our director, put down his script and said,



**Juliet**  
(Imogen Feenan)



"If this goes on, I think I will have to kill myself – if I don't die of boredom first". It was fair enough. Yet although most, if not all of us were slightly daunted (absolutely terrified) at the full realisation of what we were trying to pull off, the experience also instilled a determination to make this a really, really good play.

The challenge lay in making the beautiful but archaic language meaningful and relevant to an audience, to make the characters and relationships not stilted but human and believable, hopefully even compelling. This was driven from the beginning by Mr Hogben and our assistant director, Claudia Stott, whose visionary idea it was to create a 'steam punk' production. I'm still unsure as to what exactly the parameters of the genre are, but imagine, if you will, a warped 2011 still run by the Victorians, add a few random elements of your choice and you're probably getting there. This created a dark world of gloom and smoke in which morality could be made unclear, an appropriate atmosphere for the self-destructively intense emotions we were trying to find and convey.

This was then brilliantly offset by the comedy we discovered in the script under Mr Hogben's direction. I wouldn't blame you for not having



**Romeo**  
(Robert Brooks)

thought of *Romeo and Juliet* as a funny play but, looking back, the comic nature of certain scenes seems obvious. It was important for us to learn as actors that it is far easier to make an audience cry if you can make them laugh first. However, the incredibly haunting and poignant music that another drama teacher at St Helen's, Mr Verjee, wrote and permitted us to use, did a lot to bring the audience to tears anyway.

Finally, although it is fantastic to have been part of a production that went down so well, and to have worked with so many talented actors and teachers, it is the personal bonds that are left. The lines are slowly receding from memory, but the strangers who became colleagues who became friends remain warm in the heart.

*Robert Brooks 7 PJEC*

# Metamorphosis

Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* is known by most as a book about alienation, society, identity, and the family unit. The play's adaptation does not have the same widespread notoriety. Nonetheless, this year the St Helen's Drama Department chose to stage this challenging text in their Studio Theatre. Under Mr Verjee's expert direction, six members of the Abingdon and St Helen's thespian stock performed the play on 11 and 12 January. The small cast was led by Ellen Robertson, who shone as Gregor Samsa, a young salesman who wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into an insect. Her tender depiction of Gregor's tragic situation was exceptionally well executed. Her physicality and movements were spot-on throughout, and required a huge amount of discipline since insects are not the most common of theatrical stereotypes. Despite this, she was totally believable and utterly compelling in the role, and approached the character maturely with a comprehensive understanding of the balance required between being an insect and being Gregor.

Charlotte Chisholm took on the role of Greta, Gregor's sister. The compassion with which she began to tend for Gregor after his transformation was touchingly portrayed. Her shy, controlled temperament was beautifully understated, and harshly offset her suggestion to kill Gregor at the end.

Lucy Samsa, Gregor's mother, was excellently played by Zenia Selby. The constant dilemma between her love for Gregor and social aspirations was brilliantly illustrated. She provided a middle ground between the extreme opposing views of Hermann Samsa, Gregor's father (played by Henry Jenkinson) and Greta, and remained calm and collected in the heat of any argument. This added subtlety and depth to her performance, giving insight into her torn loyalties between her husband and her children.

Henry Jenkinson's Hermann Samsa was aggressively interpreted, often directing his anger and shame on other members of the family. His reluctance to accept or deal with Gregor's predicament led to a real sense of denial, and ultimately a kind of morbid relief in his death. The tension between Hermann and Mr Fischer (played by Jack Trodd) in the aftermath of the dinner fiasco was a turning point for



**Greta (Charlotte Chisholm) finally sees what's become of her brother**

Hermann, as it was the first time in the play he chose his family over society, providing an odd catharsis given that the solution to their family problems was to "get rid of" Gregor.

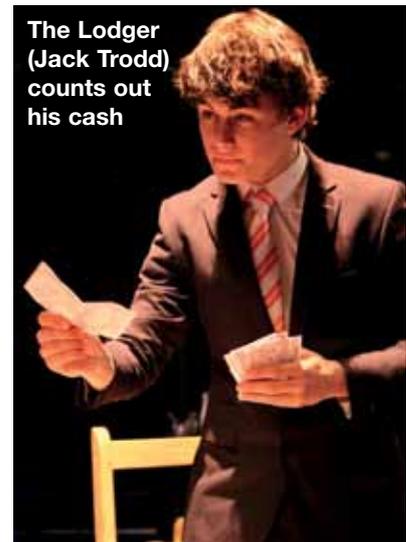
Jack Trodd's smarmy rendition of Mr Fischer had an appreciative audience laughing time and again. His description of how to shoot was particularly well received. The conflicting relationship between him and Hermann Samsa was particularly well established and showed his dominance and conceit.



**Ellen Robertson as Gregor Samsa**



**Mrs Samsa (Zenia Selby)**



**The Lodger (Jack Trodd) counts out his cash**



**Mr Samsa  
(Henry  
Jenkinson)**

Finally Dale Knight as Ms Stietl added a cold, bureaucratic insight into the attitudes towards workers in twentieth-century Prague. This was juxtaposed nicely by her incredibly humane, disgusted interpretation of Gregor's shocking appearance after his transformation.

Mr Verjee was the real powerhouse behind the production. Being responsible for set design, lighting design, sound, and direction is no mean feat. He was the brain behind the surmounting of every hurdle: how to make a girl into an insect; how to create a second storey; how to get an insect to crash through the roof of a dining room and how to produce an interesting, unique piece of theatre. The amount of time and effort he put into *Metamorphosis* was astounding and resulted in one of the most memorable productions I have ever taken part in. On behalf of all the cast, I would like to thank Mr Verjee and the Drama Departments at both Abingdon and St Helen's for the opportunity to perform in *Metamorphosis*. It was a fantastic experience.

*Henry Jenkinson 6 JEF*

## Endgame

"Nothing is funnier than unhappiness" wrote Samuel Beckett, thereby providing a fitting description for the latest production put on by four post-AS Level Sixth Formers – Nick Krol, Henry Jenkinson, Charlie Bateman and Chloe Blows – in the drama studio at Abingdon in July 2011.

Beckett's play, set in an absurdist hinterland, explores relationships between characters in a cyclical pseudo-hell of love-hate marriages, loneliness and farcical routine; their empty lives are filled only with unyielding pain, yet they keep on living. This alone presented a great challenge for the actors, but one augmented by the particular character traits set out by Beckett; Hamm (Henry Jenkinson) is unable to stand, Clov (Nick Krol) is unable to sit and Nagg (Charlie Bateman) and Nell (Chloe Blows) are confined to the depths of two filthy dustbins. With the proverbial gauntlet thrown down by Beckett, only to be scooped up by the guiding hand of Mr May as director, the four of us set about pulling the production together in three weeks.

The intriguingly tragic relationship between Clov and Hamm that forms the crux of the piece was strikingly portrayed, giving the audience a real



**Hamm  
aware (Henry  
Jenkinson)**

sense of both the undeniable tragedy of the piece, but also affording glimmers of comedy.

Similarly, Nagg and Nell provided much comedy with their incessant blabbering despite their dismal setting, adding a further dimension to the 'not-quite-tragedy-but-not-quite-comedy' aspect to the play.

There were accomplished performances from all four of the cast, with Henry Jenkinson and Nick Krol deserving special mention not only for their excellent acting, but also for managing to achieve such high levels of performance in so short a rehearsal period, as well as taking account of the astronomical number of lines they had to learn in addition to the number of detailed stage directions they had to observe. Both the set and costume design, by Rory Fraser-Mackenzie and Charmian Hart respectively, with their subtle simplicity and washed out colours, helped create an appropriate ambience, complementing the nature of the play.

*Charlie Bateman 6 MIL*



**Nagg (Charlie  
Bateman) & Nell  
(Chloe Blows)**

# The Importance of Being Earnest

## Fourth Year Production

It began in October. Eight months, too much hairspray and several cucumber sandwiches later, a sparkling production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* was presented at St Helen's on 27 and 28 June 2011. Directed by Jo Watt, a cast drawn from Abingdon's fourth form and St Helen's year ten was completely credible, making it easy to forget that the familiar nineteenth-century characters standing before us were in fact twenty-first century fifteen-year-olds. The cleverly cut script moved smoothly from Algie's flat in London to the garden of Jack's country house and finally into the morning room of the house, with each location effectively indicated by a few statement pieces of furniture or, in the case of the country scenes, by a stunning display of pink roses trailing from the balcony to the stage floor, creating the perfect backdrop for the actors and echoing the impressive period costumes.



**Bachelor bliss, Bart Jennings as Algernon**



**Cecily (Stella Ryley)  
Algernon (Bart Jennings)**

What was so enjoyable about the show for those who took part was the laughter both on and off stage. The team of OCD butlers (Thomas Kelly as Lane and Johnny Burrow as Merriman) and bustling maids (Sophia Steinsberg, Susannah Thorn, Bethan Pitts, Rachel Mercer and Poppy McAlister) who appeared onstage to change scenes also contributed to the work backstage and to the upbeat atmosphere of rehearsals. The fact that the maids agreed to wear ample bonnets deserves a round of applause in itself.

As Algernon and Jack, Bart Jennings and William Nash were both comic and stylish, delivering the Wildean dialogue with confidence. Their ongoing banter made them the perfect team with their meticulous timing and amusing bickering over Algernon's constant eating and the ridiculous situations they both landed themselves in. Gwendolyn and Cecily, played by Freya Granger and Stella Ryley, created a wonderful mask of manners, particularly in the garden scene in which they relentlessly threw compliments and insults at each other, provoking much hilarity. The

proud and domineering Lady Bracknell, played by Helen Dallas, commanded the stage from her very first entrance in her overpowering costumes and delivered some of the best-known lines in British drama with a convincing and hilarious upper-class voice. The endearing and wonderfully touching pairing of Dr Chasuble (Ed Hambly) and Miss Prism (Tilia Astell), two elderly characters who are too shy to show their true feelings towards each other, provoked sympathetic "ahs" from the audience.



**Gwendoline (Freya Granger)**



**Jack (Will Nash) feels the heat of his double life**

Ash Verjee, assisted by Teddy Clamp, was the technical manager of this stylish and engaging production, one that those involved will never forget. The fun of the rehearsals added to the comedy on stage, and proved that, in fact, there is no 'vital importance in being earnest'.

*Susannah Thraves*

## Adventures in Wonderland

### Third Year Production

In September 2010, Abingdon's third-year boys and Year 9 St Helen's girls were invited to audition for a joint production of a new adaptation by director Alison Quick of Lewis Carroll's enduring masterpieces, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. The story followed the adventures of a boy called Alex who falls down a rabbit hole and meets a bizarre collection of creatures in the topsy-turvy world he encounters. The



**"Off with his head!"  
Jenny Matthews as the Queen of Hearts**

production accommodated eighteen girls and eighteen boys, sixteen of whom constituted the hard-working, dancing, chanting 'chorus': Rhodri Lewis, Tim McGovern, Max Moyle, Luca Rampin, Adam Spears and Al Taylor, and Catherine Barr, Beth Brazel, Eloise Carey, Bryony Dawson, Jasmine Ellesmere, Emily Hebbes, Laura Hutchison, Lauren McLoughlin, Millie Southgate and Georgy Southall.

Alex Bond gave a splendid performance as the alternately puzzled

and inquisitive Alex; Louis Hudson and Gus Mills played the football supporters Tweedledum and Tweedledee with plenty of attitude; James Beazley and Izzie Crowther brought the house down as the Walrus and the Carpenter, devouring the unsuspecting Oysters; Sarah Sharp was a mercurial Cheshire Cat while Nathan Allaby, as a suitably 'mellow' caterpillar, and Sam Kashti, as the relentlessly logical, but nonsensical Humpty Dumpty, caught the audience's attention with contrasting but equally strong performances.

**The Mad Hatter's Tea Party - Alex Grantham, Millie Harris and Izzy Ives**



**Sarah Sharp as the Cheshire Cat and Sam Kashti as Humpty Dumpty**



The arrival of the terrifying Jabberwocky gave Alex James as Father William and Michael Dewar as his son (who slays the Jabberwocky) a chance to take their places in the limelight with theatrical flair. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party was both comic and fantastical from beginning to end with Alex Grantham as a commanding Mad Hatter, Izzy Ives a lively and contrary March Hare and Millie Harris as a sweetly sleepy Dormouse. Selma Rezgui, Al Taylor and Bryony Dawson made the most of their scene painting the rose bushes as the gardeners, responding with mortal fear to the entrance of the King and Queen of Hearts. These characters played impeccably by Jamie Blackwell

and Jenny Matthews signalled the denouement of the whole piece: Josh Sarphe played a wonderfully grumpy Executioner and Sophie Topp a charmingly flustered White Rabbit. The penultimate scene, with the whole company involved in a complicated 'Lobster Quadrille', was a surreal and atmospheric sequence with the Gryphon (an assured and stylish performance from Ben Seares) and the Mock Turtle (played with grace and power by Heather Conder).

We were lucky to have the services of OA Matt Hawksworth as our choreographer: the Caucus Race and the Lobster Quadrille were a masterclass in getting a huge group of fourteen year olds to dance in time

AND with enthusiasm! Rory Fraser-Mackenzie and Matthew Cooper built our versatile set of bleachers and doors and Charmian Hart was our costume supremo. Felix Russell and Jack Swanborough were our stalwart technicians on the nights of the performances, with Will Abell our ever-efficient front-of-house manager. Thanks also to Steve King who filmed the last performance, giving us all a chance to meet up again ten days later to watch the production at a 'private screening' in the drama studio.

*Alison Quick*

### **Comments from the cast:**

*"This production was amazing: as well as learning so much more about drama, I made new friends."*

*"I've met so many brilliant people and new mates – amazing!"*

*"It was really good to participate in something like this and I hope to be in another production again."*

*"I had a whale of a time! It all came together really well. It was sad to see it come to an end. The play has been a great experience and a great memory that will stay with me for life."*



**Nathan Allerby as the Caterpillar**



**Alex Bond as Alex**



## James and the Giant Peach

### Lower School Production

This summer, the Lower School presented a lively and colourful take on Roald Dahl's classic, *James and the Giant Peach*. Our production brought Dahl's story into the 21st Century by using contemporary dance, song, physical theatre and mime (choreographed by Henry Jenkinson and OA Matthew Hawksworth) to reimagine the tale of James Henry Trotter (Adam Hargreaves) and his amazing adventure as he crosses the Atlantic Ocean on a giant peach. The show featured exciting twists such as the Mexican Cobbler Club nightclub inside the peach itself, and a rapping, 'biker-dude' Centipede (Charlie Landells).

There were vibrant and eye-catching performances from all the performers. The grotesque Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker (Edward Turner-Fussell and Darren Maddison) were played with authentic unpleasantness, and James' new-found companions each had their own individual quirks. There was the ever-pessimistic Earthworm (John-Christian Davey), the gloomy 'emo' spider (Hamish Roper), the refined and wise Grasshopper (Joseph Kelly), and the flamboyant Ladybird (Jonathan Allison). The story was presented by an engaging and sharply dressed Narrator played by Charlie Macpherson. Other outstanding performances included the mysterious Old Man, played by William Sheffield, who starts James on his journey, and two dancing, tequila-downing barmen, played by Stuart Pearson and Tom Haynes.

The superb acting of the cast, and the amazing technical wizardry of Mr Fraser-Mackenzie and Mr Cooper, who created the various sets, made for a smash-hit production which cast, crew and audience enjoyed enormously.

*Ben Phillips*



## A2 Devised Plays

In the middle of February, the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies students presented their devised pieces in the studio theatre at St Helen's. These were the result of intensive work over the last half of the Christmas term and the beginning of the Easter term.

*Meat* was a scathing satire on the cult of celebrity, showcasing a cast of vindictive, cynical media types who created and then discarded 'celebrities'. Nicholas Williams played the slick, amoral boss with Alice Buys, Joe Ridley and Jack Trodd as his equally repellent seconds-in-command. Emily Brathwaite and Charlotte Chisholm played the two girls desperately seeking fame, each outdoing the other in the lengths to which they would go to achieve their illusory goal. It was fast-paced, well executed and funny – albeit in a deeply cynical vein.

*The Untimely Death of Arnold Strauss* was a witty and probing look at the nature of belief. Although entirely fictional, the dilemma inherent when a belief system becomes a money-making enterprise was illustrated



**The Untimely Death of Arnold Strauss, Olivia Beazley, Elizabeth Rushbrook, Charly Clive, Madi Bahu, Aidan Robertson**

beautifully by the device of setting the whole piece in a call centre staffed by 'faith guides', who followed a prompt script, which included offering callers in a crisis about their faith, the latest special offers. Elizabeth Rushbrook and Madi Bahu played the vice-president and the vice-vice-president with suitably ice-cold efficiency, while the faith guides were played with impeccable comic timing by Aidan Robertson, Olivia Beazley and Charly Clive.

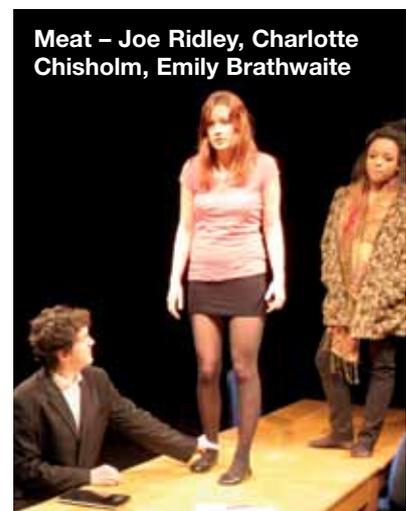
*A Civilised Society* used the intriguing idea of having four homeless people acting out different solutions to the problem of homelessness as a frantic and increasingly futile game in which

they all took on the roles of the people in the possible scenarios. Black humour reigned in this piece as a totalitarian regime, advocating the transformation of homeless people into tasty pies, gave way to the next scene in which a breathlessly naive do-gooder suggests a homeless person comes and lives in her shed. The final scene exposed a level of cynicism in the present government that was both outrageously comic and shocking. Beautiful ensemble work was evident in this piece, played with great sincerity by Ellen Robertson, Anna Canlan-Shaw, Ciara Hagan and Katie Halfhead.

*Alison Quick*



**Anna Canlan-Shaw, Ciara Hagan, Katie Halfhead, Ellen Robertson – the cast of A Civilised Society**



**Meat – Joe Ridley, Charlotte Chisholm, Emily Brathwaite**

## AS Plays

### The Insect Play

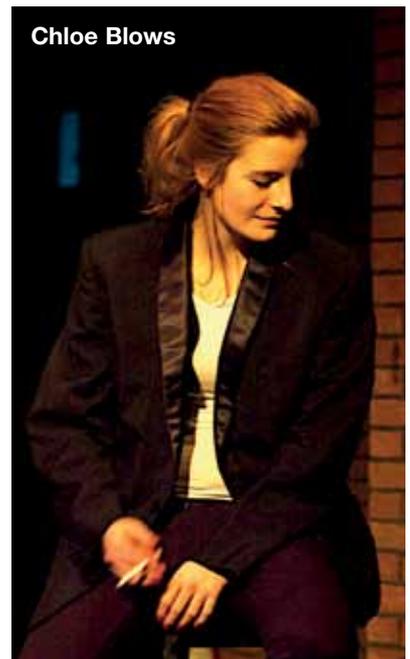
The first thought in all our minds when we began rehearsing *The Insect Play* was, how do we play bugs without actually being bugs? The prospect of playing an insect seemed more than a little daunting when we started grappling with the Capek brothers' famous satirical script that compares human behaviour to that of creepy-crawlies and asks why human beings act as they do. As a group, we learned to embody different kinds of physicality to represent each role in society, drawing on the Brechtian concept of 'gestus' – a kind of signature gesture that conveys the gist of a character type and its attitude. We also did our own version of method acting by observing a bug that flew into our common room one afternoon.

Chloe Blows, Megan Convery, Imogen Feenan, Miranda Jackson and Lucy Taylor took on the roles of the Butterflies, the thoughtless rich who flit and flirt their way through Act One, the gluttonous Dung Beetles of Act Two, whose mindless consumption echoes human materialism, and the resilient Ants in Act Three, whose terrifying mechanical natures suggest the horrors



of modern warfare. The figure of the Tramp, played by David Thornton, was an observer and narrator figure, who poetically commented on the behaviour of the creatures with disgust and a sense of inner turmoil.

Performing the play in the Amey Theatre was a great experience, especially as the normal configuration of the theatre was reversed: the audience sat at the back of the stage looking into the auditorium, with the action taking place on the apron, leaving a cavernous space for us to



play and conceal ourselves in. As the Butterflies, we propelled ourselves into this space, aimlessly scurrying and twinkling in the background. Swathed in glittery netted skirts – thanks to Mrs Hart) – in an auditorium scattered with fairy lights and filled with folk music to give a sense of May Ball (thanks to Abingdon's technical gurus Messrs Fraser-Mackenzie and Cooper), we were ready to go.

Grateful thanks go to our director Mrs Quick for all her help, and to both Abingdon and St. Helen's drama departments.



*Lucy Taylor*

### Dracula

Dracula is traditionally thought of as a play full to the brim with Transylvanian accents, fangs and sweeping cloaks. However, our director Mr Hogben had another vision for this production, summed up by his opening line to us in the rehearsal room: 'Forget everything you've ever heard about Dracula'. With little more than six staffs and a block of steps, he and his cast created a

The cast of *Dracula*



forty-minute production that borrowed many techniques from the renowned physical theatre company Theatre de Complicité.

For those unfamiliar with the original story of *Dracula*, the play explores the tragic situation of the Count Dracula and his chosen partner Lucy, along with her other suitors. The cast – Millie Crowther, Tess Lonergan, Kia Little, Olivia White, Amy Robinson and Oliver Bailey – played all the characters

between them, and were on stage all the time. This allowed little scope for costume changes, but the actors countered this through strong physical and vocal characterisations and the use of an occasional scarf or coat to help define changes of identity. The most substantial costumes were Tess and Millie's lifeguard coats, worn as they regaled the audience with stories of the empty ship carrying only a dead man on its bow. The swift changes of role not only tested the actors, but

also kept the audience alert as they worked out the shifts in the narrative for themselves.

The six wooden staffs were used to impressive effect to create everything from Transylvanian castles to ships, houses and horse-drawn carriages without ever jeopardizing the audience's belief in the story. They were also part of a dramatic opening fight scene that Dracula (here played by Millie) seemed to take particular pleasure in. A set of steps was used as a centrepiece for the production and hosted the Vampire Bride scene in which five female vampires descended upon, and seduced the modest Jonathan Harker (Oliver Bailey). Mr Verjee deserves grateful thanks for manufacturing steps and staffs as well as creating some brilliant soundscapes and lighting effects.

*Dracula* was performed in the thrust arena of the St Helen's studio theatre in front of appreciative full houses on both nights. I hugely enjoyed being a part of the production and would like to thank Mr Hogben and the rest of the cast who made both the rehearsals and the performances enormously enjoyable.

*Oliver Bailey*

### The Ash Girl

The story of Cinderella is familiar to most people, though Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Ash Girl* turns the well-known fairy tale on its head by changing the setting and adding seven deadly sins for good measure. We embarked on this ambitious play with the wonderful Miss Watt as our director. She pushed her cast to think independently and deeply about their respective characters, and thereby created a rounded, intriguing piece of theatre and prevented what might otherwise have been an inevitable slide into pantomime.



There were strong performances from the whole cast. Megan Foster and Amelia Juster were particularly funny as Judith and Ruth, the ugly sisters. Their grotesque performances perfectly complemented the touching love story between the prince Amir (Henry Jenkinson) and Ash Girl (Georgina Brooks). Theatrical tension was created in the relationship between Sadness (Will Abell) and Fairy (Jyothi Giles) that also added a cosmic dimension to the play. Miss Watt allocated each character his or her own secret to give each individual depth, and forge connections between characters that might not have been immediately apparent in the text. For example, the knowledge of Amir's father's death was seen to play on the minds of both Paul (Charlie Bateman) and Zehra (Agnes Donnelly) and give an extra layer to both their performances. Likewise, the knowledge of her abuse of Ash Girl and her other daughters informed Zenia Selby's portrayal of Mother and gave a harsh edge to the play that made the story more compelling for the audience.

The production took place in the thrust space of the studio theatre



**An ugly pursuit - Judith (Megan Foster) and Ruth (Amelia Juster) tempt the Prince (Henry Jenkinson)**

at St Helen's, which gave actors an opportunity to explore a full range of spatial relationships with the audience. There was a heightened sense of naturalism in some performances, alongside the bold and earthy style of Judith and Ruth's comic performances. Miss Watt also decided at an early stage to 'show' the telling of the story, making all set and costume changes visible to the audience, which lent

the play a raw feeling and focused attention on the actors' performances and the way in which the story was constructed.

Overall, I felt *The Ash Girl* was a success as every performance and creative opportunity was explored, making it both an enjoyable production to perform in and to watch.

*Charlie Bateman 6 MIL*



**Ash Girl (Georgina Brooks) and Fairy (Jyothi Giles)**



**Paul (Charlie Bateman) and Zehra (Agnes Donnelly)**

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# Abingdon Film Unit

The collection of new films made by members of the AFU in 2010/11 was the eighth to emerge since the Unit's formation. The dozen new shorts brought to well over a hundred the total number of AFU films – a remarkable return on Mark Turner's decision to back the re-introduction of filmmaking at Abingdon in 2003.

With Jeremy Taylor's sabbatical during the Lent term, the young filmmakers were more than usually indebted to the professional filmmakers – Mikkel Eriksen, Michael Grigsby, Joanna Harrison,

Nikolaj Larsen, Jonas Mortensen, and Rebekah Tolley – who not only guided and inspired them as before, but together with Charmian Hart, also managed the running of the Unit, and ensured that all twelve filmmaking teams met the screening deadline.

The variety of subjects and approaches the students' chose was as intriguing as ever. A large and appreciative audience attended the annual screening in the Amey Theatre in May. The films were presented in the following order:



## Une Animation avec le Whiteboard by Joshua Sarphie

A whiteboard is not just an ordinary classroom utensil; it's also a portal into a creative world of shapes and strange happenings. Here, 'the crazy' is taken for granted in this random and unusual tale of what happens when reality becomes less real...



## Sally the Snake Flies by Ben Oliver

A snake. A snake on a journey. But slithering is too slow. So? What does she do? She takes to the skies in this hand-drawn animation of epic proportions. Intrigue, action, adventure, comedy, horror, mystery, emotion. It has it all! Plus, lizards in nurse hats.



## Max Moonlight's Plan B by Felix Tasker with Will Abell

This film celebrates the talent of John Hinkes – aka Max Moonlight – a man who can't live without music. Juggling his roles as guitar teacher and busker, Max does his best to earn a living. This intimate portrait offers a glimpse of his life now, together with a sense of the past that led him to choose Plan B.



## The Carrier by Fred Clamp-Gray

This is a film about an unsung hero, who bravely returns misplaced items to their owners – who'd better be grateful, or else...



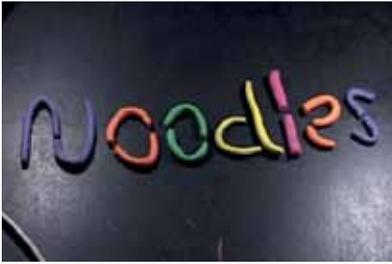
## Picnic Party by Tim McGovern

We all know you are what you eat. But have you ever wondered who what you eat...is? This is what food gets up to when no-one is looking...



## Course by Jack Oliver with Evan Westenbrink

This short film looks at the build-up to a large event from unusual angles – ones not usually available to those who pass through the turnstiles.



### Noodles by Henrik Cox

Ever watched multi-coloured cells reproducing under a microscope? Ever imagined that set to music? No? Shame on you. These dancing worms will broaden your horizons.



### The Art of Crime by Michael Bicarregui, Chris Mears, Ollie Sayeed & Chris Young

Three unlikely criminals break into an art gallery to steal a priceless painting, only to find its corridors crawling with eerie security guards. Will our adorable heroes escape with the painting, or even their lives? Find out in this epic animated comedy from the creators of A Dice with Death.



### Eighteen by Will McDowell

Eighteen captures a brief rite-of-passage moment in the lives of six young people as they reflect on their experiences so far, and wonder how things will change in the future.



### Inside by James Yan

Hannah and her mum are locked inside the house every day when it gets dark. Hannah's dad beats her and her mum. They cannot escape. One day Hannah finds a camcorder and begins to record evidence of their abuse.



### From an Acorn by Jack Bradley

This film tells the story of carpenter Philip Koomen and his passion for the wood with which he works. The camera tracks him as he fashions something new from material that's so old. For Philip, it's all about giving new life to a tree that may have stood for hundreds of years. But there's also a sense of wonder that something as small as an acorn can grow into an artefact as beautiful, elegant and enduringly useful as a chair.



### The Animator's Nightmare by Edmund Cornforth

Bad things happen. We all know that, but seriously, we don't expect them to continue to happen. Unfortunately for Trevor, the hero of this film, they do. Thrown into a world where Murphy's Law reigns supreme, can Trevor ever escape? Somewhere in the darkness, someone's got it in for Trev ... perhaps that's what they mean by 'the war on Trevor'.

The programme concluded with *Siren*, a short film by AFU founder member Ed Hofman, now in his last year at King's College London, who is hoping to secure a place at the National Film and Television School. Shot partly underwater with a green screen in the pool at Abingdon, *Siren* offered a glimpse of the kind of ambitious and technically demanding filmmaking that a gratifying number of those who learned their craft here have gone on to pursue.

*Jeremy Taylor*

### The Abingdon Film Unit, 2010/11

Will Abell	Henrik Cox	Joshua Sarphie
Michael Bicarregui	Will McDowell	Oliver Sayeed
Jack Bradley	Tim McGovern	Felix Tasker
Johnny Burrow	Christopher Mears	Evan Westenbrink
Fred Clamp-Gray	Ben Oliver	James Yan
Edmund Cornforth	Jack Oliver	Chris Young

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# Music



## Woodwind Masterclass with Paul Harris

13 October 2010

Paul Harris, the distinguished clarinetist, teacher, composer and biographer, gave fourteen Abingdon woodwind players a full day of lessons followed by an evening masterclass. This woodwind masterclass follows on from last year's piano and strings' masterclasses, which were given by Gyorgy Nador (piano) from Budapest Academy and Levon Chilingirian (violin) of the Chilingirian String Quartet.

Lessons during the day featured the following young players: Flautists: James Crowe, Toby Marlow, Charlie Leslau; Oboists: Henry Binning, Sam Gibb, Tom Spears; Clarinetists: Timothy Hui, Freddie Locock-Harrison, David Mears; Bassoonist: James Telford, Saxophonists: Will Davey, Tom Earl, Adam Parkes

Paul Harris is renowned all over the world for his work, and rightly so. At the evening concert and masterclass, in front of an appreciative audience, he took the players through numerous insightful aspects of performance, inspiring them to think in exciting new ways about their music-making, tuning, articulation, matters of technique,

styles of presentation, breathing, characterisation and much else.

The evening concluded with a performance by David Mears, Abingdon's award-winning clarinetist, a seasoned member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, who has recently come fourth in the International Society of Clarinetists and Saxophonists' competition. David is an extraordinarily refined musician and it was fascinating to see him experimenting with really flamboyant styles of playing in his Burgmuller Duo. It was a very stimulating evening for everyone.

We were very lucky throughout the day to have the outstanding piano accompaniment of our music assistant, Kaoru Wada. Our enormous thanks go to both Miss Wada and Mr Harris for a wonderful and memorable day and to The Abingdon School Music Society for funding this most valuable venture.

*Michael Stinton*

## House Singing Competition

**20 October 2010**

This year's House Singing Competition was a memorable occasion, impressive both for the consistency of standard across all of the Houses and the blend of competitiveness and fun that characterised the event. From an organisational viewpoint, the competition is prominent on the agenda of both Housemasters and pupils, so entries were relatively swift to be submitted and showed the usual wide range of sources from popular songs, both classic and contemporary, to film and music theatre.

The event, and the week's rehearsal leading up to it, fulfilled its primary purpose of raising awareness of singing and its benefits among the boys, as well as its secondary purpose; that of providing an opportunity for senior musicians to show leadership in organisation, direction and accompaniment and, perhaps most important, a force for social cohesion within each House. It was good to see the boys focusing and interacting so effectively in order to maximise the quality of their performances.

Our adjudicator this year was Alex Tester, Director of Music from St Edward's School in Oxford. Describing his musical background as one of Choral Director meets Jazz Pianist,

Mr Tester seemed eminently well qualified to be our judge. In his lively concluding summary, he complimented all the Houses on their hard work in preparation and their slickness in performance. This year many of them succeeded in creating a degree of subtlety and contrast of dynamics in performance. So too with the arrangements – Southwell-Sanders' had a string quartet plus piano, whilst Crescent House boasted a ukulele in the expert hands of third-former Bruno Rogers.

Although it is a fact that each House felt that they should have won (each had seen significant, if not dramatic improvement over the week), it was good that all seemed happy to concede that Mr Tester had done a good job in his adjudication. We are immensely grateful to Mr Tester for his excellent work in potentially challenging circumstances and for all his encouraging comments.

### Joint 3rd place

Lower School – Wham!: *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go* (Director David Chung, Piano Leon Wu)

Southwell-Sanders' - Coldplay: *Viva La Vida* (Director Joe Brown, Piano Humphrey Thompson)

### 2nd place

O'Doherty's - The Killers: *All These Things That I've Done* (Director Chris Wilkinson, Piano Tom Earl)

**1st place** (for the third year running ...)  
Webb's - Red Hot Chili Peppers: *Under the Bridge* (Director Ed Norris, Piano Rory Marsh)

Congratulations to all involved.

*Michael Stinton*

## Singing Masterclass with James Gilchrist

**11 November 2010**

On Thursday 11 November it was the turn of our senior singers to enjoy the experience of working with a prominent figure of the performing world – the internationally renowned tenor James Gilchrist, who fortunately was able to come at very short notice when Robert Tear became ill.

Andrew Yeats, Abingdon's singing teacher, had arranged a wonderfully varied evening of music from J.S. Bach to Stravinsky, taking in Mozart, Brahms, Elgar and Vaughan Williams en route. Each item in the programme was carefully chosen to display the musical strengths of the individual performer, and each gave our adjudicator an opportunity to interact with him in repertoire from song to oratorio and opera.

From the very outset, James Gilchrist was warm and enthusiastic about each of the performers and encouraged them to experiment – to get inside the words and to explore various ways of projecting their meaning in performance. It was marvellous for the large audience of parents, teachers and pupils to see the performers develop during the course of each lesson.

Ben Etherton sang from Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, capturing the pleading nature of *Jesu by that Shudd'ring dread*. James was incredibly enthusiastic about Ben's developing baritone and was able to demonstrate the possibilities for characterisation in this extract.

Lewis Spring sang Vaughan Williams' *The Vagabond* with conviction and character. Soon he was able to sing much from memory and learned



## Abingdon Christmas Concerts

6 and 8 December 2010

In time-honoured fashion, Abingdon's musical Christmas festivities took place on two evenings during the penultimate week of term, enabling large numbers of musicians to showcase a wide cross-section of music.

The two programmes differed slightly; on Monday the Lower School choir got things underway and on Wednesday it was the Chapel Choir that took this role. These choral elements, together with Humphrey Thompson's baritone aria *Non piu andrai farfallone amoroso* from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, complemented a largely instrumental programme.

Whilst there was no concerto performed with First Orchestra this time, it was the inimitable Osman Tack in his thirteenth and fourteenth Christmas performances, who enthralled the audience with his outstanding pianism in Schumann's virtuosic *Abegg Variations*, which started the second half of each concert. This remarkable young musician, now in his last year – who hopes to read Chemistry at university – had played Saint-Saens' 2nd piano concerto just two nights earlier with the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra.

Both Lower School and Chapel Choirs showed their customary high standards of performance under their directors, Miss Matthews and Mr Whalley, respectively. In a huge feat of logistics and organisation, almost 120 first and second-year boys were corralled in serried ranks to perform with great commitment and enthusiasm. Particularly effective was Miss Matthews' own arrangement of *Come*

the importance of 'living the words' to capture the real essence of the story being conveyed. Humphrey Thompson's extract from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, *Non piu andrai, farfallone amoroso*, also marvellously captured the character of Figaro as he plots to ensnare the unsuspecting Cherubino. This aria was included in the USA tour repertoire.

After the interval, Hector Stinton (treble) and Hugh Cutting (baritone) sang a duet from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, *Herr, dein Mitleid, dein Erbarmen*. These two sang together over five years in New College Choir where they were, until recently, joint Head Choristers. With changing voices and consequent issues of balance, the two were soon able to sing with increased confidence and sense of ensemble.

Otta Jones' baritone, in Brahms' beautiful and atmospheric nocturnal song *Sommerabend*, captured the atmosphere of this reflective and intimate setting – as ever, he sang with great sensitivity and with the musicianship that we have come to expect from this young musician, who was also a former Head Chorister.

Finally, an extract from Stravinsky's opera, *The Rake's Progress*, featured Robert Brooks (Nick Shadow) and John Carter (Tom Rakewell). An ideal vehicle for these two mature singers, this duet was a brilliant way to end, allowing the two to interact dramatically and to great effect.

This was an outstanding and memorable evening of music and teaching. We are indebted to Andrew Yeats as both our singing mentor and expert accompanist – and to Abingdon School Music Society for funding this venture. It was a privilege to have Professor Edward Higginbottom from New College in the audience as he had been the choirmaster of not only most of the boys, but also of Mr Gilchrist himself – who had been one of his first Chorister Probationers many years ago.

James Gilchrist was an inspiring 'Master' – we look forward to his next visit with much anticipation!

*Michael Stinton*



## Concert with St Mary's School, Waverley, South Africa

10 December 2010

Friday 10 December saw the third school concert in the Amey Theatre in a week: the School Choir joined with a South African girls' school choir from Waverley, a suburb of Johannesburg, who were on a two-week tour of England. This was the fourth concert of their first week.

Clearly well prepared, they started the concert by linking their pieces with little explanations about the composers, the dates and the types of music they sang. These announcements were made by the girls, which created a nice, welcoming atmosphere in the, sadly, sparsely filled Amey Theatre. Moreover, it showed their quality – as well as singing most of their songs without a conductor, they used only piano, saxophone and drum backing. The choir performed a mix of slower and faster African songs in various dialects. After 40 minutes it was time for an interval, which provided another chance for all choir members to get to know each other better. The girls were quite unsure about the rather respectful English audience; they could not tell whether they were enjoying the concert or not. But they were, and they showed it later.

The second half started with the four songs that Miss Matthews had practised with the School Choir for her last concert at Abingdon School. Both boys and conductor wanted to present them as perfectly as possible and they did well. After two slower songs, *Kyrie Eleison* and *Moonshadow*, they woke the audience up with the Gospel song, *Ride the Chariot*. Afterwards they sang

*Thou Long Expected Jesus*, which had an ingenious jazzy section interspersed with the more conventional tune and involved some Lower School soloists and instrumentalists.

Second Orchestra, led by Leon Wu, which was appearing in a Christmas Concert after a break of some years, had clearly earned its place with some delightfully assured playing in *Theme from New York*, Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance* and Leroy Anderson's seasonal *Sleigh Ride*, complete with whip and woodblock cloppers!

First Wind Band gave some exciting performances of Vaughan Williams' *Flourish*, Leroy Anderson's *Christmas Festival* and *Coldplay on Stage* (a hit with the boys ...). Simon Currie, with his well-honed Big Band, brought the first half to a close with three numbers, *Autumn Leaves*, *Peter Gunn* and *Rock Around the Clock*, complete with audience participation (ladies clapping and men stamping), always a good way to herald the interval.

In the second half, Osman Tack's Schumann created a spellbound atmosphere that gave way to effervescent delight in Humphrey Thompson's winning interpretation of the lecherous Figaro, ably accompanied

by an augmented Chamber Orchestra directed by Mariette Pringle and led by Charlie Hall.

A large symphony orchestra then took to the stage for the finale. First Orchestra started with Malcolm Arnold's cleverly written *Suite No 2*. The Overture gives each section a chance to shine, as well as requiring some really rhythmically tight full orchestral playing, whilst the film score-like second movement, *Ballad*, is followed by a fugal *Dance* in Cuban style, complete with soloistic bongos and cymbals, ably handled by Rory Marsh and Sam Adamson. Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave* gave the orchestra another showcase with typical big tunes, exciting rhythms and a virtuosic coda.

The audience sang us out with *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* and donated most generously to a retiring collection for *Nightingale Children's Project* – a small independent charity, which helps HIV affected youngsters integrate in Romanian society, work now led by OA and former Head of School Ben Wells.

*Michael Stinton*



Michael Jackson's *Man in the Mirror* accompanied by a small band. This song finally got the audience on board and participating; led by girls from South Africa they clapped through the choruses. Directly afterwards the St Mary's Choir sang the second part of their programme, starting with a mix of famous South African jazz songs. They then sang a few quite beautiful songs about love and relationships, before they finished their programme with the South African rugby hymn – a funny song about a grumbling policeman.

As an encore the St Mary's Choir sang the rugby hymn again, together with the School Choir who clearly did their best to perform the dancing movements as well as the girls and, at the same time, to pronounce the words correctly.

The School Choir managed to create a good last concert for Miss Matthews who is leaving, but the girls from the St Mary's Choir were even more stunning and amazing in their performance. We

are really happy about having had the St Mary's Choir in Abingdon and we do hope that they will be back again one day with more African songs to dance along to.

*Christian Mattiat 6 SEC*

## The New Year Charity Concert

27 January 2011

The annual New Year Charity Concert on 27 January featured a broad range of Abingdon's instrumental ensembles – Second Wind, Brass and Big Bands in the first half and Junior Strings, Chamber and First Orchestras in the second.

The inimitable Nigel Somerville drew some enthusiastic playing from his young band (helpfully stiffened in one or two sections by some older ones – did I see a National Youth Orchestra clarinetist lurking among the section?)

After *Eye of the Tiger*, the second piece gave the audience an opportunity for some participation with *Tequila*, suitably rehearsed to the boys' satisfaction beforehand! We were just missing a whistle for that salsa flavour – must remember to bring one next time.

Brass Band, under Andy Townsend, displaying that characteristic Kneller Hall military training, performed two numbers – William Rimmer's *Slaidburn*, then the Rocky theme tune – *You're Gonna Fly Now*. A good Brass Band makes a wonderfully distinctive sound and it was there for us all to enjoy.

Big Band, shaping up for the April tour to USA was in great form – I counted fourteen saxophones, thirteen trumpets and six trombones enjoying themselves in *Pink Panther*, *Birdland*, and Pastorius' *The Chicken*. It was great to hear the debut of vocalist Toby Marlow who sang *Fly Me to the Moon* with tremendous class – though he had to compete a bit with the sound levels of the band on this occasion.

There were plenty more treats after the break, not least Junior Strings with *Songs of Children* and a very innovative and challenging piece – *Bio Rhythms*, which requires great physical coordination as the young boys had to pick up and put down their instruments and clap, whistle, scream, toe-tap, chest-pat and hand-slap in varied textures. The effect was fantastic and the performance brought the house down.

Chamber Orchestra was in great form too, they played Vivaldi's *Double Cello Concerto* with soloists Ben Etherton and Jay Jung. This was absolutely lovely playing, the slow movement's cantabile lines singing and dialoguing with excellent intonation from these accomplished soloists. The orchestra under Mrs Pringle accompanied most sympathetically. Copland's *Hoe Down* from the ballet *Rodeo* was a thrilling contrast.

First Orchestra, finally, were able to demonstrate the huge benefits to be gained from the preparation for a foreign tour – this time to USA in April. The playing of this quite young orchestra showed great advances already since September in a lighter programme which included *The Big Country* (Music for a Western), *Salute to the Big Apple* (a medley of well known songs from Broadway) and Derek Bourgeois' *Serenade*, a piece which, in some unusual time signatures of 11/8, 13/8 and 7/8, kept the boys on their toes. We finished with an encore, Strauss' *Radetsky March*, which gave the event a suitably Viennese New Year flavour to finish. The retiring collection raised £372.70 for the Mathieson Music School in Kolkata, a school that gives hope and a career through music to orphans and destitute children in India.

Michael Stinton

## Cello Masterclass with Robert Max

2 February 2011

On Wednesday 2 February, Abingdon musicians were delighted to host a cello masterclass with Robert Max, the third in their series of this year's masterclasses.

Robert Max is well known locally as the conductor of the Oxford Symphony Orchestra, and nationally as the cellist of The Barbican Trio, as principal cellist of The London Chamber Orchestra and as a conductor of orchestras further afield. He founded MusicWorks, the chamber music summer school and also teaches at the junior department of the Royal Academy of Music. As a pupil at St Paul's School in London, he, himself, was taught by Abingdon's Director of Music, Michael Stinton.

Robert Max listened to six of Abingdon's senior cellists play music by Shostakovich, Bach, Rachmaninov and Elgar – the pupils having been prepared for the evening's performances by their cello teacher, Valerie Findlay. His excellent coaching, in front of a large audience in the Charles Maude Room, made for a fascinating evening. He listened carefully and brought to the occasion many insights, both technical and musical, which encouraged the pupils to try new ideas in their playing.

Joseph Ereat and Robert Brooks playing movements from Shostakovich's profound Sonata Op 40, a work that is full of pathos, discovered new ways to expand the expression of their playing as did Jack May, who played from Rachmaninov's beautiful and romantic cello sonata. Sebastian Johns, in a transcription of a chorale prelude by Bach, was shown how to produce a better balance with his accompanist, and to further develop his singing line. Jay Jung was encouraged to

use some theatrical effects to give the music more impact, whilst Ben Etherton experimented with some useful technical exercises with his bow hold.

This was an immensely successful evening of music and teaching and our cellists benefitted greatly from the experience – our thanks go to Mr Max, to the accompanist Olivia Newbold and to Mrs Findlay for the outstanding teaching that she offers our talented cellists. Thanks, also, to The Music Society, our parental supporters, who financed this occasion.

Michael Stinton

## Chamber Music Evening

16 February 2011

On Wednesday 16 February, following on from the chamber music workshops and *Pro Corda* Festival Qualifiers of the previous week, a large number of musicians of all ages assembled to present the Annual Chamber Music Evening. The timing of this event coincided with final preparations for the national festival and it was very pleasing to hear that six Abingdon groups subsequently progressed to the semi-finals of this competition, the largest number of any school in the country.

The concert included a wide variety of instruments – woodwind (bassoon and clarinet ensembles), a brass octet, a number of string trios, quartets, a quintet, a violin octet and some mixed ensembles. We started with a bassoon sextet (actually a quintet as one player was frustratingly absent) playing an arrangement and medley of American songs. This promised much for future development as the boys were all from the Third and Fourth Years.

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A violin octet followed, made up of Middle School boys playing Gordon Jacob's *Suite*, forcefully demonstrating the great depth that we currently have at Abingdon in our string programme. This was followed by a piano trio (Beethoven), a clarinet trio (Zemlinsky), a piano quartet (Fuchs) and the Senior String Quintet in a stirring work by Arensky, which concluded the first half.

The second half started with a splendid cello quartet playing Putz' *Tango Appassionato*, the four Middle School players (Joe Ereat, Jack May, Jacopo Blumberg and Sebastian Johns), all Grade 8 in standard, showed the quality that can be achieved with equally talented and committed musicians.

A splendid performance of an arrangement of Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary* then gave a group of GCSE brass players a chance to make a recording to support their performance module, and they were grateful to have Head of School, Nick Acutt, supporting them on tuba.

The concert continued with a performance of Mendelssohn's *Konzertstück* for two clarinets and piano, played by David Mears, Tim Hui and Osman Tack, all showing their impressive mettle in this virtuosic musical vehicle. David was busy in the next two items, too – first in a quintet of clarinets with an arrangement of the second movement of Mozart's *C minor Serenade*. This performance certainly impressed everyone with excellent tuning and a real sense of ensemble and they subsequently progressed to the next stage of the competition.

The finale was reserved for David Mears' own arrangement of a number by Billy Joel from the 70s – *Root Beer Rag*, which was enthusiastically played by a mixed ensemble of oboe (Tom Spears), clarinet (David Mears), bass clarinet (Joon-Ho Sung) and double bass (Joe Brown). This



was an upbeat and effective way to conclude, demonstrating that the best playing comes from those who show enthusiasm and commitment together with an ability to derive great enjoyment from playing together regularly.

*Michael Stinton*

## Singers' Platform Concert

25 March 2011

The Singers' Platform, held in the Charles Maude Room on Friday 25 March, saw nine talented artists giving us a series of bravura performances. Michael Stinton ended the evening by paying tribute to voice coach Andrew Yeats, but it seems appropriate to start this review in this way. The evening's singing was of a very high standard but in many ways Andrew was the real star having trained the boys, chosen the repertoire to match their voices so well, and then accompanied them with consummate and sensitive skill throughout their performances.

These boys come to Andrew at thirteen, still with their treble voices, and often after five years as choristers (seven of the nine performers had been members of New College Choir under Edward Higginbottom) where they already have considerable experience of the recording studio and concert hall. He then has to help each boy through the trauma of the loss of their treble instrument and guide them through various transitions to a new voice, all the while giving them the confidence and technique to ensure they emerge with the professional accomplishment that we saw at this concert. It is a task that involves much more than just musical ability. We are sure Andrew was very proud at the end of the evening and Abingdon should be very pleased that they have him guiding their boys.

It was an evening of two parts not divided strictly at the intermission. The first part of the concert consisted of conventional solos and duets whilst the last third was devoted to some of Williams Blake's proverbs and poems set to music by Benjamin Britten. Opening the evening, William



Hewstone's mellifluous baritone, sung as if in native Italian, filled the room with *Gia il sole del Gange* by Scarlatti. This was followed by his duo with Lewis Spring in a well-balanced performance of Purcell. Later in the programme William gave an even-toned and affective performance of *Sommerabend* by Brahms.

We were arrested anew by Handel as Humphrey Thomson and Hector Stinton sang *O Death Where is thy Sting?* from the *Messiah* and were later serenaded by Humphrey in Britten's *Last Rose of Summer*: no easy ask for a young voice. Despite a wobble on top D (Humphrey's own words), we are left in no doubt that here is a powerful tenor and mature interpreter of song. Hugh Cutting's performance of *Whither must I Wander* by Vaughan Williams combined power with poetry which, together with his later singing of the Britten, showed what a talent is in the making.

In such a talent-packed evening it is hard to single out performances, but Ben Etherton's warm, powerful baritone in the Recitative and Aria from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* was a special treat. Henry Jenkinson gave us a glorious Broadway interpretation

of Fauré and a very powerful *Blow, Blow thou Winter Wind*. Later in the evening Henry sang *Cry me a River* in an arrangement by Buble that rocked the rafters of the CMR. Last on before the interval, Robert Brooks gave an intense performance of Schubert lieder, which again combined musical intuition with feel for the language. Robert's use of different voices in *Erlkonig* certainly brought the tragedy to life and the German speakers present were complimentary. The regular solo part of the evening concluded with another miniature recital as John Carter gave a flawless rendition of Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*, which were well suited to his bright tenor.

The last part of the evening was devoted to the not widely known Britten settings of Blake's poetry taken from *Songs of Experience*, *Auguries of Innocence*, and *Proverbs of Hell*. This brave and unusual selection was confidently delivered by five alternating voices. The piece was hauntingly anchored by Lewis Spring singing the short but challenging proverbs preceding each poem. Ben Etherton sang the first and second poems,

*London* and *The Chimney Sweeper*, with a relaxation and purity of tone that was impressive given that these songs, originally written for the voice of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, lie high in the baritone range. Poems three and six, *A Poison Tree* and *The Fly* were sung by Humphrey Thompson, and he delivered a chilling performance that, so different from the earlier Handel duet, showed his versatility as a singer. Hector Stinton sang the fourth piece, *The Tyger*, which was perhaps the best known of the poems performed. With a treble voice still just intact Hector rose to this responsibility, able to beautifully encapsulate a child's wonder and fear at the terrible creature described. Poem six, *Ah, Sun-Flower*, was sung by Hugh Cutting and again the power and control exhibited, from one not yet in Upper School, promises much in concerts to come. The evening ended with Ben Etherton singing *Every Night and Every Morn*, bringing a memorable concert to a close both beautifully and thought-provokingly.

In closing perhaps a brief word about the audience, which, as usual, was mostly parents and other family members. Also in attendance were Revd Henry Kirk and his wife and had there not been the conflict of a careers evening we would also have seen David Dawswell. These non-music department members of staff are regular attenders at music events: something that is noted and appreciated by boys and parents alike. It would not be an exaggeration to say that some of the performances at the concert had been to a professional standard – with free entrance! – and we should try and encourage a wider attendance. It continues to amaze that one school can produce such an array of talent.

*David Brooks, parent*



The tour group outside Washington Cathedral

## First Orchestra USA Tour

1-11 April 2011

Having prepared for months beforehand, the hype surrounding the US Orchestra tour was sizeable, to say the least. On the last day of the Lent Term the usual cries of "See you next term!" were replaced with slightly confused looks and realisations of "Oh wait, see you tomorrow!" and for many of us Friday-night plans were replaced by hours and hours spent packing extraordinarily large suitcases, after all, as one friend of mine said, "This is America, we've got to look fabulous!" Quite.

Anyway, eventually the day we'd all been waiting for arrived, music was collected, coaches were loaded, mothers were hugged (awkwardly) and the journey began.

The first couple of days were spent near Boston, Massachusetts, and our first concert was given in the St Paul's

Cathedral, Worcester. Unfortunately, the concert was plagued with 'cello problems'. No, I don't mean when cellists get angry and moody, I am actually referring to the fact that we didn't have any cellos. Help was on hand from the locals and three cellos were found for the concert, which led to a bizarre rotation of cellists, cellos, chairs and even chuckles when we cellists had to sing our parts during the rehearsal. We were not very chuffed by the chuckles having thought that our singing was of an excellent standard.

In good old English spirit, we carried on despite the adversities and went on to give a successful concert to the people of New England, and I think we all have a lot to be proud of from that day.

From Worcester we moved on to the concrete jungle that is New York City, and after a four-hour journey we met our hosts from the Horace Mann School in the Bronx. We were assigned to our hosts in groups of varying sizes ranging from two boys to one host to eleven boys to one



Concert in Worcester Cathedral



Washington Cathedral, the combined orchestras and choirs

host! I think I can speak for all of us when I say that our hosts were lovely, generous and kind people who were extraordinarily welcoming to us and showed amazing hospitality, and some lasting friendships have definitely been forged.

We gave a concert to the pupils of Horace Mann School and others (including some family members) at lunchtime on Wednesday and it was a great performance, perhaps with the odd slip but overall a great event, so much so that I have been told by many an American that we're really "swell".

From New York we moved on to Washington DC, with another long coach journey, this time four and a half hours long! We arrived in the most powerful city in the world on Thursday afternoon and were greeted by a gloriously sunny day and the stunning sight of Washington National Cathedral, which led to a heated debate on the topic of 'Is this cathedral prettier than

the ones in England?' The 'no' team had only one extremely vocal member as the majority of us agreed that it was a truly magnificent building. We were then taken to what were to be our homes for the next three nights by the families of our hosts and given a chance to settle in. I must say, it felt sad to be leaving behind our hosts in New York but we soon settled in well with our new ones.

The highlight of the tour musically was the concert in Washington National Cathedral on the Saturday. The turnout in terms of the audience was fantastic and they were wowed by the vast numbers in our joint orchestras and several combined choirs into giving us standing ovations. Yes, multiple ovations! It was definitely a proud moment for all of us and the culmination of all our hard work in the months leading up to the tour. Some say that a tour of such standard must be the peak of an orchestra's career

but I know that the orchestra will keep on powering ahead, onwards and upwards!

The tour was an amazing experience in so many ways, especially culturally and musically. Thanks are due to all those who made it possible, from our parents who carved holes in the bank accounts to let us go, to the teachers who made the process so smooth and easy for us, to the American host families who welcomed us into their homes with open arms (literally in some cases!). We had an amazing ten days touring some of the most amazing cities in the world and we boarded the return plane on Sunday with heavy hearts (which may have had something to do with the large amounts of chocolate I consumed beforehand), but we keep with us lasting friendships and an array of memories that won't be forgotten very quickly.

*Jack May 5 DJWF*

Boston High School



## Big Band USA Tour

1-11 April 2011

Looking back on this tour it was, quite literally, a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I couldn't have wished for a better trip. However, in the days leading up to it I had had my reservations. This is my account of a fabulous tour from the perspective of playing with the Big Band in some of the world's largest and most influential cities.

It was only a few weeks before we had been due to leave that we were told that the majority of the sixth-formers wouldn't be joining us as a result of GB trials. This, needless to say, was a massive blow, the fact that our most experienced players were not going to be performing with us, together with the fact that both our leader Simon Currie and our brass coach Andy Bush were not going to be joining us either, didn't bode well.

### Boston

On the second day, following a concert by the orchestra the previous day in Worcester Cathedral, and a rehearsal shortly beforehand to sweep away the cobwebs and sort out some of the choreography, we donned our waistcoats and got the musical side of our tour underway. Clym Buxton began the concert by taking the stage on his own and playing the rest of us in. This was our stand-in leader Andy Townsend's choreography being put into practice and it proved to be a masterstroke – starting the concert so well that we started all our subsequent concerts in the same way and with the same piece! From there we went on to play some of the best music that I think I have ever been involved in. The hugely appreciative audience gave us a standing ovation and even demanded an encore, for which we played our new found showstopper – *Chameleon* (the same piece we had just choreographed). We finished that concert in very good spirits and were

so encouraged by our performance and inspired by each other's playing that we were able to demand another concert in New York!



*The hugely appreciative audience gave us a standing ovation and even demanded an encore*



## New York

As I said, in this, the hometown of many a famous jazz musician, we weren't originally due to be giving a concert. However, as a result of the great reception we were given in Boston, and of our own keenness, a concert was duly organised at our host's, Horace Mann School. It was a much less formal concert having only been organised a few hours earlier, but we had a decent sized audience, among which were some of our parents who had come to join us in New York and who were pleased to find that they had a concert to go to.

For an unscheduled concert, we had a decent sized audience and we once again started with *Chameleon*. We played well but for me there wasn't quite the same electric buzz as at the first concert, probably due to its informal nature.

## Washington

Washington was my favourite of the cities we visited, it still had something of the big lights of New York but it had far more history and more open spaces than the other places. Once again our concert was held in our host school, St Alban's, which is closely linked with the girls' school, the National Cathedral School. This was our last concert in the States, as well as our last concert with our stand-in leader, so we were determined to make it a good one. We had the biggest crowd of the tour and all that was left was for us to try and wow them once again!

Once again we began the concert with Clim Buxton and *Chameleon*, as it had worked so well before – and it did again! The atmosphere was fantastic and the audience were brilliant making it one of the best concerts I have ever played. Toby Marlow, our Big Band singer, who sang a few Frank Sinatra songs, was given a particularly



good reception. Once again we got a standing ovation and this time we finished with an encore of *Birdland*, which was a fantastic end to the musical side of the tour.

Having been asked to share my experiences of playing in the Big Band, I haven't gone into anything else about the tour. There were however a couple of highlights that made it particularly memorable for me: the opportunity to be hosted, not something that you are often able to do on a standard holiday,

which enabled us to see what life is really like and, in addition, to make a number of new friends along the way. Also, going to visit the Lincoln Memorial and night walks along Madison Avenue (my host lived in the centre of Manhattan!) stuck in my mind and are things that I consider myself very lucky to have experienced. It was a wonderful tour and one that I doubt I will ever forget.

*Matthew Hart 4 VEH*

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## Leavers' Concert

5 July 2011

What better way to emerge, briefly, from a sabbatical, than to pay homage to a group of particularly distinguished leavers, who had assembled to give one last concert at the end of their Abingdon careers? Although the quartet of musicians lacked one or two notable contemporaries (Ben Etherton, John Carter, Otta Jones), the boys gave the select audience of some twenty or so parents, teachers and Governors a most memorable concert of outstanding music-making.

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*a notoriously challenging work ... he was, as ever, fully in command of both technique and musicianship*  
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Osman Tack, a seven-year veteran of Abingdon music-making, survivor of two major concert tours (China 2006 and USA 2011) and soloist of three piano concertos (Beethoven 3, Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* and Saint-Saëns 2) was the organiser, accompanist and first to perform. Ozy did not choose a piece for the faint hearted, but Liszt's virtuosic Transcendental Study, *Mazepa*, a notoriously challenging work of the piano repertoire. He was, as ever, fully in command of both technique and musicianship, playing the mesmerising double octave passages with a great sense of style and accuracy and with a confident and mature grasp of *rubato* in the middle section.

David Mears chose the slow movement of the Brahms *Eb Sonata* and played with an audaciously well-controlled *pianissimo* and a lovely *legato* line throughout. This was telling musicianship and a wonderful contrast



L-R David Mears, Osman Tack, Robert Brooks, Charlie Hall

to the theatrical bravura of the Liszt that preceded it. David's mature instinct in his phrasing reminded all present of his pedigree as an experienced NYO clarinetist over several years.

Charlie Hall, again accompanied by Osman, stepped forward to play Vivaldi's *Summer* from *The Four Seasons* (first movement). This was lovely playing, too, beautifully in tune and with a lovely sound and sure technique in the string crossings.

David Mears showed us another side of his musicianship as a pianist in Rachmaninov's *Prelude in G# Minor*. This was beautifully and confidently played, providing a fitting coupling with Charlie Hall's performance of another prelude from the Op 32 set, this time *Prelude No. 10 in B Minor*.

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*Particularly striking is this young man's ability to communicate through eye contact with his audience*  
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Our final soloist was Robert Brooks (baritone) who chose a set of five songs from Schubert's enchanting cycle, *Der Winterreise*, a setting of twenty-four poems by Wilhelm Müller describing a winter's journey in which the protagonist expresses feelings of solitude and rejection from his beloved, reflected in encounters with a village, a tree, a hurdy-gurdy ... Robert, a gifted ex-Head Chorister of New College, showed his customary ability to get inside the text and express the heartache with tremendous power, accuracy and musicianship. Particularly striking is this young man's ability to communicate through eye contact with his audience – and his concise verbal prelude, a description of the songs, gave us all the chance to grasp the poetry and to enjoy his wonderful, amber baritone voice.

What a marvellous concert this was and what a wonderful way to celebrate the passing of this distinguished musical generation.

*Michael Stinton*

## An Interview with Wichard von Hauenschild and Julia Rayson

*Hector Stinton visited the idyllic rural cottage setting of two long-serving music teachers, who have a collective teaching time at Abingdon of nearly fifty years and some amazing tales to tell of their lives as professional musicians and as teachers in the Music Department.*

H: How long have you taught percussion and clarinet respectively at Abingdon?

J: Sixteen years.

W: Thirty two years.

H: What have you enjoyed most about your time here?

W: The high point must have been playing timpani in the *Sweeney Todd* production by Abingdonians at the Fringe festival in Scotland.

J: Teaching good pupils.

H: Are there any particularly talented pupils who spring to mind?

J: Wichard and I had one shared pupil called Michael Hardy. Talented and clever, he went to Merton College Oxford to read music.

H: Have you taught anywhere else apart from Abingdon?

W: We both taught at Bedales and Radley, but I also taught at Winchester, Carmel College, the Dragon, Cothill, Our Lady's, and St Mary's Wantage.

J: I taught at Christ Church, Magdalen, Oxford High, New College and Wycombe Abbey Schools.

H: Is there anything you will miss about Abingdon?

J: The atmosphere, staff, and pupils. Everything!

W: Indeed. The average level of talent was outstanding.

H: Do you have any amusing recollections from your careers at Abingdon?

W: Perhaps when Mr. Stinton began giving me spare parts from his 1956 black Morris Minor, which matched mine!

H: I believe you first met in former West Germany. What were the circumstances?

W: We first met in a town called Gelsenkirchen. We had just started our first professional jobs playing in the Opera House there.

J: It so happens that I was the first ever female principal clarinetist in Germany.

H: What did your musical education consist of?

J: My first good teacher was Thea King. I got a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, then in my first year I received a summer scholarship to Tanglewood near Boston. I liked it so much that I postponed my scholarship at RCM, and acquired a further one year scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music. This was followed by a summer course in Santa Barbara and continued study in London and Rome.

W: I joined a marching band when I was eight, where I learnt to hold the sticks. Then nothing for a long time because we lived in East Germany which had few cultural opportunities. However, just before the war, we moved to West Germany and I attended Musik Hochschule. This gave me a professional orchestral education, which started my career in Gelsenkirchen.



H: Was it hard to decide where to settle?

J: We would settle wherever the work was. Simple as that.

H: Do you have any children, and if so, are they involved in music?

W: We have one son, involved in music indirectly. He played the violin to a high level – Grade 8 distinction – but decided that he did not want to practise nine hours a day to become a professional.

J: He became an osteopath. But his children play flute and violin!

H: What are your plans during retirement?

W: Camping, gardening, squirrel control...

J: ...and travelling, of course.

H: Thank you for talking to me today and best wishes to you both for your retirement!

*Hector Stinton*

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# Sport – Rugby



## 1st XV Rugby

The results very much suggest that this past season was not the greatest of successes, but much was gained by many boys throughout the course of the Michaelmas term and briefly into the Lent term. The team shared some fantastic moments, even if there were too few of them, and with such a healthy representation of Lower Sixth and Fifth-form players representing the 1st XV this season, those leavers who put so much into the cause can look back, albeit with disappointment, but safe in the knowledge that a platform is set for huge success next season.

The undoubted highlight of the season was the 12-12 draw with Radley College. This was a team who had put 150 points over the Upper Sixth-

formers during their years in Middle School, so to fight so hard for so long defending Abingdon's own try line was nothing less than we expected. But to contribute to and witness the immense passion and determination was something very special and nothing less than the team deserved.

Through all the disappointment at certain block fixtures, the Daily Mail Cup competition remained a focus for the squad. It was in these games that boys in the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth were able to get some game time. To the credit of them and the more senior players, it was here that they played with freedom and flair. Beating the likes of Cheltenham Bournside School and Magdalen College School was pleasing, after which we faced an away trip to Stowe School.

The year before, Stowe had beaten Abingdon in the last 32, so it was back to face the 'old enemy', playing against the magnificent backdrop of the National Trust buildings. We travelled to Stowe in style, in what can only be called 'The Weaveaway Spaceship', and this got the whole squad looking forward to our game. At kick-off the boys were ready, and the first twenty minutes had the Abingdon team camped in Stowe's half, but a missed tackle in midfield led to a breakaway try and suddenly the team felt vulnerable. A flourish of penalty kicks from either side brought some calm before a solo try from the Stowe centre put the game out of reach of our 1st XV squad. It was a disappointing loss, but the squad had learnt a lot, especially the Fifth-formers and Lower Sixth-formers involved.



The final block game of the season, and the final game for Abingdon School for many, was perhaps the greatest disappointment of the season. To lose to a last minute converted try when it looked like the season had belatedly clicked into action was the saddest of ends; however, the experience of togetherness that the team had again shared was memorable for many reasons.

Those Upper Sixth players that gave so much in the season should be remembered for starting the upward trend of rugby at Abingdon. Ben McGuire, a big presence in more way than one, gave everything in each game that he wore the 1st XV shirt; James Percival, a player who must be remembered for his many try-saving tackles and thundering hits in midfield; Joshua Bull, who gave opponents a workout with his twinkle toes and acceleration in each match he played; Matt Boyd, the lineout specialist and giant of the team; Ben Stockwell, a very laid-back character off the pitch but a threat on it; Ed Otty, someone who ate and slept rugby, would always be first out to train and gave his all for the team; Tom Foxon, a player whose power and determination was the envy of all; James Cross, the powerhouse

within the scrum who enjoyed his front row battles each week; Harry Copson, the father figure of the side and the one to instil discipline; Jonathan Bouchier, the versatile utility back and impact player; and not forgetting our formidable captain, Mark Francis, a player gifted with pace and agility, and someone who finished better than anyone. I thank all of them for their efforts throughout the season.

Outside the school setup, the team had much recognition as a group at county regional and now national level. Peter Allan and Pearce Taylor have been regulars for Berkshire, and Hamish Grant and Joe Hogan represented Oxfordshire. Under 16's Peter Moore and Tom Kynge, who appeared in every Daily Mail Cup match and other block fixtures and certainly made their impact felt, have both been selected for the England U16 setup, which represents fantastic personal triumphs but also clear steps forward for rugby at Abingdon.

The future is undoubtedly very bright for rugby at Abingdon, and I look forward to seeing the sport grow in stature as well as individuals reaching their full potentials.

*Peter Coke*

**1st XV Squad:** Mark Francis (Capt), Edward Otty, Edward Hughes, Ben Bryant, Pearce Taylor, Dan Lloyd, Jonathan Bouchier, Charlie Manasseh, Tom Foxon, Sam Hughes, Peter Allan, Charlie Studdy, Matthew Boyd, Toby Ogg, Ben McGuire, Gregor Hearn, James Cross, James Percival, Harry Copson, Hamish Grant, Ben Stockwell, Joshua Bull, Joe Hogan

Merchant Taylors'	W	12-0
Clifton College	L	8-18
MCS	W	29-19
Eton	L	3-45
Aylesbury GS	L	7-21
Warwick	L	17-33
Farmor's School	W	43-24
Radley College	D	12-12
St Paul's	L	13-25
MCS	D	19-19
Oratory	L	3-30
Bromsgrove	L	13-34
Bournside	W	21-19
Marlborough	L	15-17
Stowe	L	6-37

## 2nd XV Rugby

It is in the 2nd XV where the true spirit of rugby is displayed, with a team that plays with enjoyment and is bound by unity, passion and belief. Whatever the score, situation or opposition this season, the seconds showed an 'eius' (to use a Mr Hall favourite) which could only be admired by all. From heroic close defeats away at Radley and Eton to memorable victories against Bromsgrove and Clifton College, the season was never dull or short of drama.

The season began with a stunning 16-13 victory at Clifton, with a notable performance from Tom Foxon and some scorching backline play. The game was also notable for some huge hits from big David Snead. Next came a trip to Eton College, which saw a nail-biting but disappointing 10-3 loss, but an impressive performance came from lower-sixth debutant George



Read-Smith, who looks certain to be a leading member of the second team next season.

Keeping with an attack minded approach and playing with an athletic pack, we came quickly out of the blocks against Aylesbury Grammar to hammer them 52-0, with even the senior players Marcus Seller and Jamie Hall crossing the try-line! This was perhaps one of our best games of the season. Against Warwick School the following week, despite an impressive first half, we eventually ran out of steam against a pack bigger than our own first team, and unfortunately conceded several tries in the second half to lose out by twenty points.

Against St Paul's, Lower Sixth-former and number 9 Jack Wilson put in an excellent performance, which ensures that the backline will be in safe hands both in South Africa and next season. While an astounding 'bullet tackle' by winger Tim Gladstone was also notable in this match the final score was 13-27.

The local derby against the Oratory was met with relish and we ran out 10-0 winners in a highly competitive match. Unfortunately, Bromsgrove

School away was to be our last match in a pink and black shirt due to the weather, but what a match it was! With fly-half and vice-captain Andrew Russell dominating proceedings, we ran out 21-18 victors. In a fiercely competitive game where the lead changed hands numerous times, it was the abrasive Chris Green who scored the winning try to scenes of epic celebration.

#### *Matt Perriss*

#### 2nd XV Results

Clifton College	W	16-13
Eton	L	3-10
Aylesbury GS	W	52-0
Warwick	L	12-29
Radley College	L	0-17
St Paul's	L	13-27
Oratory	W	10-0
Bromsgrove	W	21-18

#### 3rd XV Rugby

After an intensive pre-season, the 3rd XV started the season with a heavy victory over Clifton College. It was close until half time, but a try out of nothing from Calum Smith tipped the balance and in the end a fitter and more committed team ran away aseasy winners. Next up was a trashing of

local rivals Magdalen College School. The 3rd XV got about the opposition from the start of the match and their physical approach opened up gaps in the second half. Harry Williams was particularly good in the lineout and the front row combination of Jamie Ward, David Grant and Sam Bowers provided a solid platform.

The trip to Eton proved a very different experience. Against a very skilful side, the 3rd XV stuck at it in the first half but ran out of energy in the second, with the fixture congestion of two big games in a week proving too much for some of the top class sportsmen in the team. Sam Murrell and Mark Shuttleworth tackled with commitment and bravery to keep the score down. After a break, the next game was the keenly awaited resumption of hostilities with Warwick School. After a hotly contested game away last year there were scores to be settled. A blistering start took the game out of Warwick's reach. Nick Acutt and Will Sensecall formed a powerful combination at halfback, with Tom Price and Dan Leach providing skill and presence in the centres. The pace of Jack Perry, Tim Gladstone and Toby Blong in the back three was also a telling factor. A length-of-the-field try by the pacey Jake Burgess was the highlight of a 31-0 win. In the forwards, Will Huck was a growing force in the lineout.

In the matches against Radley and St Paul's, the team played well against very talented opposition. Against Radley, the opposition made a very strong start and scored two quick tries. The 3rds came back and were only trailing by 7-12 until the closing phases of the game. Strong performances from Stuart King and Will Bibby bode well for next year. St Paul's were in some respects the strongest opposition of the season and only some excellent defence kept the score down.

The season ended with two convincing performances. After a slow start, the introductions of Amir Garmroudi and Koyejo Abraham made a big difference against the Oratory in a match that was ended early after a drop goal attempt by Will Sensecall. The long trip to Bromsgrove ended in a very similar score line. Chris Hall had a strong game at hooker and at times there was a very good balance between the forwards and backs.

The 3rd XV enjoyed their rugby this season and a lot of this was down to the excellent leadership of Will Sensecall. He was fully supported by senior players like Tom Price, Nick Acutt and Jack Perry. Towards the end of the season there was a large number of Lower Sixth-formers in the team and this suggests another good season next year.

*Ian Middleton*

**3rd XV Squad:** Will Sensecall (Capt), Sam Bowers, David Grant, Chris Hall, Jamie Ward, Stuart King, Will Huck, Harry Williams, Will Bibby, Calum Smith, Mark Shuttleworth, Sam Hardy, Amir Garmroudi, Sam Murrell, Nick Acutt, Tom Price, Edd Arnold, Dan Leach, Koyejo Abraham, Jake Burgess, Jack Perry, Tim Gladstone, Toby Blong

Clifton College	W	32-5
MCS	W	52-3
Eton	L	3-35
Warwick	W	31-0
Radley College	L	7-19
St Paul's	L	3-29
Oratory	W	36-0
Bromsgrove	W	38-0

“*showed the sort of champagne rugby skills usually only seen on the beaches of Fiji*”



### 4th XV Rugby

As usual, the 4th XV was forged from a blend of Lower Sixth raw recruits and seasoned Upper Sixth players, who seemed to have matured into fully-grown men during the off-season. The returning Upper Sixth were led by captain and fly-half Matt Roberts, who showed the sort of champagne rugby skills usually only seen on the beaches of Fiji. The other Upper Sixth players who played all of the season included man-mountain Gleb Valitov in the pack and a number of classy backs: Gleb Kozlov, Joe Read, Chris Jones, Rajan Sehmi and Ben Brazel.

The first game of the season was an impressive, flowing game away at Clifton College, where despite having the majority of the play and possession we only managed to score three tries, enduring a nervous last ten minutes to win 15-7. Ben Brazel was outstanding in the game, scoring the first try and being the catalyst for the crucial second.

The second game found us at Eton, where we attempted to dominate upfront with our strong forwards and play fifteen man rugby at a pace. Eton had other ideas and produced more

open and pacy rugby than we were capable of that early in the season, putting an unanswered 69 points on us. Training the following week involved a little tackling practice before returning to the usual diet of touch and Rugby League.

An away fixture at Wellington, against their sevenths, saw more end-to-end rugby and an outstanding performance from acting captain Sam Clarke-Warry. At the end 28-28 was an exciting score, but the result could have been a victory had Head of School Nick Acutt not missed a drop-kick conversion in front of the posts. Nick was subsequently 'dropped' to the 3rd XV and never played for the fourths again.

Buoyed by this performance, the team steamrolled Warwick 50-7. This was despite losing star players Ben Brazel and Edd Arnold mid-game, who were called up to represent the 1st XV (!) who seemed to be re-enacting the Battle of the Somme on nearby Waste Court. In this game the fourths' forwards, with George Baldwin making his debut, were dominating Warwick and linking up superbly with the backs; 7 tries were scored in total with George and Sam Clarke-Warry impressing most.



strengthened both the spirit in the team and the ability to compete with powerful opposition forwards



The Radley fixture was a good game, and saw the debuts of Tom Fishpool and Alex Sunderland in the pack; this strengthened both the spirit in the team and the ability to compete with powerful opposition forwards. Although the game was tight, Radley had slightly more of the play in the second half and edged it 7-17.

The first fixture after half term was away to a formidable St Paul's School, who came, saw and conquered 7-43.

With the harder first half of the season out of the way the squad was looking forward to an improving record as Christmas approached. They managed this with a fantastic performance against Bromsgrove, where tries were scored by forwards and backs in a 39-0 victory. Alas, the snow intervened, the remaining three fixtures were cancelled and the season ended with a record of played seven, won three, lost three and drawn one.

It was an enjoyable season with a core of intelligent Upper Sixth players, moving off after playing two seasons in the fourths, and some enthusiastic, skilful Lower Sixth gelling well together. Matt Roberts was an excellent captain, and led the whole squad by example during games and in training, while standout players were George Baldwin, who relished running with the ball at the opposition, Ben Brazel, totally reliable and intelligent about his rugby, and Sam Clarke-Warry, with a natural eye for where the space is and the right place to go to during a play. I hope many of the leaving Upper Sixth-formers enjoyed their rugby at Abingdon and continue to play for either university or club sides in the future.

Mike Litchfield

**4th XV Squad:** (the following played on more than one occasion for the 4th XV) Matt Roberts (Capt), Ben Brazel, Sam Clarke-Warry, Gleb Valitov, Joe Read, Chris Jones, George Baldwin, Rajan Sehmi, Tom Fishpool, Edd Arnold, Gleb Kozlov, Sam Bowers, Nick Acutt, George Apps, George Bull, Michael Shortis, Robert Noyes, Mikhail Mikhaylenko, James Beer, James Waterhouse, Alex Sunderland, Jacob Bird, Daniel Leach, Chris Hall, Michael Deeks, Sam Hardy, Stuart King, Will Huck, Koyejo Abraham, Jake Burgess, Mark Shuttleworth, James Edwards, Pierre Joffrin

Clifton College	W	15-7
Eton	L	0-69
Wellington College 7th	D	24-24
Warwick	W	59-7
Radley College 5th	L	7-17
St Paul's	L	7-43
Bromsgrove	W	39-0

### Senior Colts A XV Rugby

The season started well with a good training camp, followed by a comfortable victory over Clifton College, courtesy of some great running from Niall Keown. This was followed by a win over Eton, overturning last year's result. In particular, the attacking play from William Barnes and Henry Sensecall was very good, both picking excellent lines and slicing apart the defence. The season was looking very promising and we continued our form into Aylesbury Grammar School, again winning comfortably; Peter Moore, who got a well-earned hat trick, performed very well. Next, we went on to our first away game against Warwick School. Despite a dogged performance, a number of errors in both attack and defence proved costly and we suffered our first loss.



We were soon back on our home soil again and back in winning ways, just beating our closest rivals Radley College in a nail-biting game, thanks to a superb finish from Kieran Boddington, who scored with his trademark leap over the line. This gave the team a huge boost after once again overturning a loss from last year. However, we were unable to maintain this momentum after half term and suffered a second loss against St Paul's. Although there were some exciting moments, including a great try from Kristian Wood from a well-worked back row move, we did not come out on top due to some silly errors.

We hoped to correct this going into our next match away at Oratory, but we were missing some key players who had been selected for the 1st XV, and lost in the final play of what was probably the longest game in schoolboy rugby history. However, there were some positives to take from the game, including a strong run from Richard Knight setting up Matthew Kitchen for his first try in his first appearance for the A team, not to mention the fact that we could still play at a high standard despite a below-strength team.



The season came to a rather sudden end due to cold weather, but there was still time for a comprehensive victory against Bromsgrove with what was easily our best performance. We played an incredibly physical game, with Tom Kynge, Patrick Sardeson, James Smith and Mensun Yellowlees-Bound all playing particularly well.

Overall, 2010 was a strong year for us as we finished the season undefeated at home. We improved our skills as a team and as individuals, and have become more aware of what is required to compete at the highest level. A particular mention should go to the numerous boys who represented the 1st XV this season – a tremendous achievement for an U16. Credit should also be given to Joel Cooper, who led the team well. It is worth noting too that five of the boys enjoyed recognition at county level, including William Barnes who was named captain. Kristian Wood was selected for a South West Division trial, while Peter Moore and Tom Kynge went on to represent the South West and London Divisions respectively at the England Trials. Finally, our thanks have to go to Mr Wickes for coaching us this year.

*David Wickes and Joel Cooper 5 CFC*

**Senior Colts A Squad:** Joel Cooper (Capt), Mensun Yellowlees-Bound, James Dewar, Chris Garratt, Tom Kynge, Richard Knight, Kristian Wood, Patrick Sardeson, Elliott Mills, Henry Sensecall, Charlie Stenton-Putt, Peter Moore, William Barnes, James Smith, Kieran Boddington, Thomas Sishton, Nick Bradfield, Toby Brown, Rory Brampton, Matthew Kitchen

Clifton College	W	47-8
Eton	W	35-10
Aylesbury GS	W	47-5
Warwick	L	12-23
Radley College	W	5-3
St Paul's	L	24-41
Oratory	L	10-13
Bromsgrove	W	39-0

### Senior Colts B XV Rugby

A tough fixture list, including the rugby powerhouses of St. Paul's, Radley and Warwick, alongside the A XV's of traditionally weaker opponents Cokethorpe and Magdalen, meant that wins were in short supply following a promising opening day victory over Clifton. It is testament to the character of all those involved that their heads never dropped and a positive approach to both training and match day was maintained throughout.

At no time was this character in greater evidence than against the Oratory. The Oratory's previously unbeaten XV surged to a 24-0 half time lead. Strong words at halftime seemed more in hope than expectation and did little to disguise the fact that another defeat seemed on the cards. Rarely has the cliché that football is a game of two halves been more aptly applied to the oval ball game. The casual observer could have been forgiven for failing to recognise the Abingdon that emerged for the second half. Oratory ball carriers were repeatedly driven backward by tackles that had previously lacked bite, 50-50 balls were snaffled and kicks hungrily chased down, as the pack, inspired by the back row of Charlie Fitchett, our captain Luke Carter, and Angus Weir, gained ascendancy over their shell-shocked adversaries. Azarel Adebajo, who had previously appeared content to spend his Saturday afternoons observing others' play from his station on the left wing, finally decided it was time to lend his not inconsiderable talents to the cause, quickly bagging a hat-trick of tries. Woken from their slumber by the realisation that a comfortable victory was rapidly becoming an embarrassing loss, Oratory began to offer renewed resistance. As the clock ticked down it seemed as though a brave face-saving fightback was destined to salvage nothing more than pride. Finally, in the dying moments of the game, a belligerent forward effort saw the resolute defensive line breached to bring the scores level. All that remained was for fly-half Sam Ward (why he had been hiding his prowess as all comers, including front row forwards, took the responsibility of kicking for goal remains an inscrutable mystery) to calmly slot a fourth difficult conversion and secure a victory against the odds, lifted straight from the pages of Roy of the Rovers.



## Senior Colts C XV Rugby

After a very long and relaxed summer holiday where fitness did not play a huge part of the break, we were straight back into a fast and tiring series of gruelling training sessions with the infamous Mr Evans. It did not take him long to discard the weak characters and choose what was to become a strong and physical U16C XV side. Under the motto of 'No retreat, No surrender' we burst into action obliterating a weak and unsuspecting Clifton College side on home soil. Having already formed fantastic backs' and forwards' moves under the close scrutiny of Mr Evans meant that we caught the opposition off-guard, and saw a team that had been working together since the fourth form walk over an exhausted Clifton side.

Magdalen College School was soon to follow with a close victory, but nevertheless it was a win on the board. Then unfortunately it all seemed to go downhill; four demoralising losses saw morale at an all-time low as big rugby schools showed no mercy against our finesse and skill. However, as captain I felt it my duty to pick up the troops and prepare them for the last few matches.

Under the strong leadership of Mr Evans, the able-bodied forwards, Henry Otty (the destroyer of nations) and I, we rose to the challenge and acting as if we had a clean slate, we destroyed Oratory and Bromsgrove in crushing victories. This was all due to strong plays from David 'the golden boy' Wheatley and a fearsome back line that the opposition defence parted for.

Fortunately for Oundle, St Edward's and Marlborough College, the matches against them were cancelled. However, I can only imagine that if the season had ended how it started we would have made quick work of the final opposition that stood in our way to victory.

*Connor Taylor 5 RKJ*

Unfortunately, this success was to prove a rare highlight, as the harsh winter weather led to the cancellation of the season's remaining fixtures and to the potential victories that promised to correct an unflattering record, which remains an unjust epitaph to the season. In what was essentially a team effort it is difficult to single out individuals for praise; however, the efforts of a few are worthy of acknowledgement. Matt Kitchen was the outstanding back and thoroughly deserved his promotion to the A XV, as did the prop forward Chris Garratt and the rapidly improving James Smith. Angus Weir's return from injury bolstered the forwards and he was justly rewarded with belated selection for the South Africa tour. Luke Carter led from the front and is capable of playing at a higher standard. Next season I look forward to seeing them and others representing Abingdon on the rugby field and trust that their efforts will deservedly gain richer reward in the future.

*James Barker*

**Senior Colts B Squad:** Luke Carter (Capt), Azarel Adebajo, Sasha Barras, Harry Blackwell, Kit Bowen, Leo Calnan, Chris Cooke, Tom Farrant, Charlie Fitchett, Chris Garratt, Christian Huck, Matt Kitchen, Richard Knight, Patrick Lawson-Statham, Oscar Newman, Russell Orr Burns, Henry Otty, Will Plumb, Sam Pope, Tom Sishton, James Smith, Connor Taylor, Jacob Templeman, Sam Ward, Angus Weir

Clifton College	W	26-0
MCS	L	7-27
Eton	L	19-35
Cokethorpe	L	0-35
Warwick	L	20-40
Radley	L	0-51
St Paul's	L	0-40
Oratory	W	28-24
Bromsgrove	W	21-3

“  
*50-50 balls were snaffled and kicks hungrily chased down, as the pack gained ascendancy over their shell-shocked adversaries*  
 ”



Under the motto of  
'No retreat, No surrender'  
we burst into action

**Senior Colts C Squad:** Connor Taylor (Capt), Varadh Khaitan, Charlie Kruczko-Cousins, Toby Marlow, Henry Binning, Chris Hayes, Matt Hague, Matt Workman, Henry Otty, David Wheatley, Arvin Wong, Paddy Lawson-Statham, George Stoneham, Matthew Fitchett, Joe Berrett

Clifton College	W	53-5
MCS (B)	W	35-26
Eton	L	0-51
Warwick	L	24-32
Radley	L	0-31
St Paul's	L	0-55
Oratory	W	31-24
Bromsgrove	W	55-12

## Senior Colts D XV Rugby

It is hard to assess the season for the D team; with few matches to begin with, even these dwindled to just two, against Radley and St Paul's, which spanned the half term, giving the team little opportunity to show improvement over the whole of the term. Matches cancelled at the end of the term meant that aspects of the game that the squad had been working on in practices were never employed, leaving a sense of frustration.

Nevertheless there was plenty of courageous play in both the matches; at Radley, up against a physically bigger pack, there were passages of heroic tackling to prevent Radley steamrolling over us, particularly from Harry Wilder, Tom Bibby and Will Sharps. But it was well into Radley's season while it was our first match, and we exposed plenty of tactical naivety, particularly in the backline defence.



Over eager centres were constantly drawn into rucks, leaving huge overlaps which David Jorgensen and Howard Ching on the wings did their best to cover. With gaps everywhere, we were lucky to hold Radley to 29 points. There were a couple of highlights: Arvin Wong's stunning solo try from our own twenty-two, plus a great team try which showed their potential.

Travelling soon after to St Paul's, we were hoping to learn from the defensive mistakes made against Radley. Michael Clarke-Warry and Afolarin Shasore were marshalling the backline effectively, and St Paul's found it harder to get round the outside. After a disappointingly sleepy start, we had fought back by half-time, with a piece of quick thinking from Charlie Bethell, who took a penalty quickly from close to their line and dived over.



there was impressive camaraderie and emotion in the team, which is always pleasing to see as a coach

Unfortunately there was some foolish play in the second half, including a bizarre sequence consisting of the backline passing the ball down the line while over their own try-line, and the street-wise Londoners soon took advantage. In the closing stages, there was impressive camaraderie and emotion in the team, which is always pleasing to see as a coach. Losing 20-10 seemed a promising result considering the success that St Paul's had in that year-group.

### Hugh Price

**Senior Colts D Squad:** Michael Clarke-Warry (Capt), Varadh Khaitan, Andy Yi, Tom Bibby, Chris Hayes, Gabriel Drewett, Charlie Bethell, Will Sharps, Harry Wilder, Afolarin Shasore, Howard Ching, Alex Hewetson-Smith, Zack Berg, David Jorgensen, Arvin Wong, Jamie Marsh, Charlie Marsh, Ian Chan

Radley	L	14-29
St Paul's	L	10-20



## Junior Colts A XV Rugby

The season got off to a good start with a convincing victory over Clifton College, followed up by an all too easy Daily Mail Cup win over Burnham, where the backs stole the show. The next game was arguably the best game of the season. This saw us face one of the biggest packs I have ever seen; it wasn't pretty, but we just ground them down and then killed them with our pace out wide. The defensive effort in that game was immense, being ably led by Laurence Lilley, who took down the biggest player on the park in the first minute. We then kept up the winning streak until we came up against Warwick. This was another good game, with us just losing out when they crossed the try-line in the dying minutes.

From then on our season started to lose its speed. We had a couple of disappointing losses, but then managed to pull it back to give Wellington a run for their money. We lost 5-10, which was a pleasing result as they were probably one of the strongest oppositions we have faced. This game probably brought about the most memorable moment of the season, Jamie Pearson's try; he broke through the middle of Wellington's

defence and ran in from the halfway line. It was definitely the try of the season. However, the season ended early due to the awful weather we had at its tail end.

All in all though, this left us with decent figures of played 12, won 7, lost 5. We scored 333 points and conceded 145. I think this shows how sharp our attack is, and that when we are on top of our game we are a very hard team to stop. Overall, it was a very pleasing season.

*Mark Forth and William Sharp 4 LM*

**Junior Colts A Squad:** William Sharp (Capt), Leo Wood, Kieran Routledge, Henry Lambe, Jamie Irwin, Jonathan Lord, Laurence Lilley, Stephen Moran, Matthew Hart, Rory Garrett, Jamie Aspinall, Jamie Pearson, Nick Boreham, Joe Tollet, Sam Harris, Sam Hogan, Sam Adamson, Francois Macé, Luke Wiggins, Matthew Cammack

//  
*when we are on top of our game we are a very hard team to stop*  
 //

Clifton College	W	41-5
Burnham US	W	51-0
MCS	W	31-12
Eton	W	26-14
Desborough	W	55-0
Ayelsbury GS	W	61-5
Warwick	L	17-22
Radley	L	12-29
St Paul's	L	17-35
Wellington	L	5-10
Oratory	W	17-14
Bromsgrove	L	0-13

## Junior Colts C&D XV

It was a rewarding yet frustrating season for both the U15 C and D XV's. Rewarding in that all the hard work in developing individual, unit and team skills went to plan in the first half of term, but frustrating that snow and ice at the end of the season denied both teams from driving home their potential. Several keenly contested matches were played, most notably the D's victory at Warwick, the C's 14 man win at Bromsgrove, and the D's record being deemed good enough to take on a talented Cokethorpe School's A XV!

While the weather put paid to several matches, we were able to adapt the practice sessions to the conditions, and the commitment, passion and strength of character was evident in all players preparing for matches which we knew would never happen.

Special mention must be given to the two captains Harry Stott and David Chadder for keeping up the good team spirit and to Mr Stokes, who played such a significant role in coaching the squad.

#### Jeff Drummond-Hay

Although the scores may not show it, the C's had a relatively successful season in terms of how our skills improved and how the team played together. Starting in September we won three matches and lost five, with the last three games cancelled. This was a great shame, as the last two games we played were both wins, with everyone playing well as a team. Although we lost more than we won, I am sure there was a lot that everyone could take from the season.

#### Harry Stott 4 NMR

**Junior Colts C Squad:** Harry Stott (Capt), James Telford, Edward Bryant, Daniel Torrance, Max Chaitow, Alexander Rowe-Jones, Felix Ogdon, Jamie Sandall, Ben Robinson, Daniel Matthews, Robert De La Harpe, Andrew Stoney, Nicholas Whitehead, James Crowe, Sean MacLachlan, James Peirce, Ned Roberts.

Clifton College	W	24-14
MCS	L	17-24
Eton	L	5-31
Warwick	L	0-50
Radley	L	5-34
St Paul's	L	0-55
Oratory	W	22-12
Bromsgrove	W	34-17

//  
the commitment, passion and strength of character was evident in all players //

**Junior Colts D Squad:** David Chadder (Capt), Samuel Ashby-Crane, William Nash, James Telford, Rian Bahia, Sam Cartledge, Jonathan Rothwell, Charles Brewer, Teddy Clamp, Oscar Jenkins, Gavin Elliott, Alexis King, Ryan White, Noah Rogers, Robert MacGinnis, Benjamin Bowers, Luke McCormack, Thomas Lawler, Michael Lloyd, Jibrán Huq

Clifton College	W	36-12
Eton	L	12-20
Cokethorpe A	L	0-42
Warwick	W	27-7
Radley	L	10-22
St Paul's	L	0-22

### Juniors A XV Rugby

The U14A team had a very successful season. Among many others, wins against Eton, St Paul's and Bromsgrove reflect the strength of the squad. The team played with great pace, moving the ball quickly and keeping it alive for as long as possible. Central to this were the half-back pairing of Theo Brophy Clews and Duncan Grant, who between them provided the team with intelligence and guile. They were ably supported in this respect by Alex Davies, Tom Best and Freddie Pinkerton, three players who took great strides forward over the course of the season. In addition, the team developed a never-say-die character that was evident in its powerful defence and dogged determination to win and maintain possession. The hearts of the team in this regard were Jack Walsh and Michael Dewar, both of whom demonstrated great courage with the ball in hand and when tackling their opponents. This core has been ably supported by a very strong set of attacking runners. Ben Seares, Marcello Cau Tait, Declan Field, Angus Tyrrell, Matt Prior and Leo Bethell all gave the team forward momentum, picking out good lines, finding space and providing close support to ensure

that the team crossed the opponents' try lines on regular occasions. A final group are the unsung heroes, Alex Munro alongside Josh Burdass, and Hector Blackwell who have done the dark and unglamorous work all season without uttering a word of complaint. Whenever the team has needed someone to put their body on the line then one of these three has obliged. Collectively and as individuals, they have demonstrated great potential and have put in some super performances in a super season for which they deserve great congratulation. However, they will recognise that the job is only begun and will be working hard for the rest of the year in order to put right the one or two results that went against them and to continue to hone their basic skills.

#### Ed Davies and Andrew Broadbent

**Juniors A Squad:** Josh Burdass, Freddie Pinkerton, Ross Cook, Soumya Bhadra, Hector Blackwell, Marcello Cau Tait, Alex Munro, Alastair Smith, Tom Best, Michael Dewar, Angus Tyrrell, Duncan Grant, Theo Brophy Clews, Adam Spears, Leo Bethell, Jack Walsh, Alex Davies, Declan Field, Ben Seares, Matt Prior, Jack Shearer

Clifton College	W	28-5
MCS	W	58-0
Eton	W	26-5
Aylesbury GS	L	7-17
Warwick	L	12-17
Radley	L	17-29
St Paul's	W	15-10
Oratory	W	24-5
Bromsgrove	W	36-7

//  
picking out good lines, finding space and providing close support to ensure that the team crossed the opponents' try lines on regular occasions //

## Juniors B XV Rugby

This was a thoroughly enjoyable season, with a team that worked exceptionally hard, improving drastically throughout the course of the season. It was a season that saw every type of weather conditions, with the first few games being played in scorching heat and the last two games being cancelled due to the snow. This wasn't conducive to the expansive brand of rugby we were fostering, but the lads always looked to throw the ball around and keep the ball alive.

The season started against Clifton College, with Mitch Keely running in four tries through the heart of the Clifton defence. Adam Spears and Bas Marshall provided the creativity in midfield and Milo Bussell was the first man to every breakdown.

Next up was a far tougher encounter against Eton College and although we were able to break through the opposition defensive line, we missed too many first up tackles and were made to pay.

We were starting to click into gear in the next few matches and there were emphatic wins against Aylesbury and Warwick. In the backline Owen Morgan was organising the pack well from scrum-half and Archie Ashford was enjoying receiving the ball on the front foot at 10.

The Radley match was hugely frustrating as this was a game we really should have won. We had the vast majority of the possession, but were denied tries by poor execution in the final third.

Things improved dramatically in the next game against St Paul's, and against a far better team we were able to come away with a try after most visits to the opposition 22. St Paul's came back hard in the final 10 minutes and some dogged defence on our own try line made the victory even sweeter.

Tommy Nicholson, James Wooding and Angus Black all put in try-saving tackles making this the display of the season.

The Oratory game was an exact turnaround of the St Paul's game, with Abingdon pressing the opposition line in the last 10 minutes, but failing to get over the try line.

The last game of the season was played against Bromsgrove and here we played our most expansive rugby. We moved the point of attack with speed and precision and were too hot to handle on the day, with tries from Owen Morgan, Max Finch and Alex Turner among others.

I thank all the players for their efforts over the course of the season and wish them all the very best next year.

*Steve Brenchley*

**Juniors B Squad:** Max Finch (Capt), Archie Ashford, Jack Shearer, Declan Kissane, Alex Carmichael, Tommy Nicholson, Mitch Keely, Bas Marshall, Adam Spears, Max Townley, Owen Morgan, Milo Bussell, Alex Turner, Alastair Smith, James Wooding, Jamie Blackwell, Henry Tipple, Angus Black, Mike Woolley, Joe Williams, Henry Bambridge, Soumya Bhadra

Clifton College	W	39-19
Eton	L	10-22
Aylesbury GS	W	44-7
Warwick	W	39-7
Radley	L	14-22
St Paul's	W	19-17
Oratory	L	12-14
Bromsgrove	W	53-17

## Juniors C XV Rugby

We started the season with a good win against Clifton College, although we conceded a few avoidable tries. We managed to beat Magdalen College School with a great team effort, which we were all pleased with. We then

went away to Eton and we started slowly, which left us chasing the game from then on. The Eton squad were just too strong and bossed us in the contact. Eventually we went down a lot to a little. Our next game was against the Cokethorpe A XV, with whom we were level in many aspects of the game, except for the score line. We were given the tough task of playing a strong Warwick side that we managed to overcome in a very closely fought contest. A great use of the chip and chase from James Fitzjohn saw Gus Mills gather to score one of the tries of the season. Against Radley, a tight first half provided just one penalty try in Abingdon's favour, narrowly winning us the match against a well-drilled unit. Despite putting in a great effort with one of our performances of the season, we were beaten at home against St Paul's, but overall there was a positive improvement and outcome to the match, which boded well for our game with Bromsgrove. A very strong first half saw us run in thirty points and eventually finish with a 42-7 victory. The end of the season was curtailed by cold weather, but overall it was a decent season by an improving team.

*Robin Southwell-Sander*

**Juniors C Squad:** Henry Bambridge (Capt), Jeff Zhao, Eric Whitfield, Max Townley, Matt Butcher, George Hale, John Francis, Christian Lawson-Statham, William Juffkins, Callum Russell, Alex Foster, Nikita Dyakonov, James Fitzjohn, Oli Carpenter, Will Carter-Keall, Ed Lowe, Hong Huang, Felix Tasker, Henry Nunney

Clifton College	W	22-12
MCS	W	38-7
Eton	L	5-48
Cokethorpe (A)	L	5-36
Warwick	W	26-14
Radley	W	7-0
St Paul's	L	14-24
Oratory	W	31-17
Bromsgrove	W	42-7

## Minors A XV Rugby

The team carried on from where they left off at the end of the previous season. Units had become established and some patterns formed. Initially selection was easy, but became more difficult as developing players pushed for selection. The aim of the season was to adopt a style of free flowing rugby with maximum continuity, with everyone capable of attacking and distributing; it was exciting to behold when it worked! In the first half of the season, the team settled into its stride and produced some confident winning performances, including a satisfying win over Magdalen College School, to whom we had lost the previous year. We put in a brave performance away against Warwick but couldn't quite pull off the win.

We defeated Reading School easily but the highlight of the first half of the season was a thumping home victory over the Dragon School; the team really took the fiery dragon's breath away with some scintillating, fast-paced rugby. When this team played at its best, a key feature was the speed of many players, including the forwards, as well as effective handling and off-loading. This match showed them at their sharp and skilful best.

Defence, however, remained a little inconsistent and the away trip to Bromsgrove against a very good, confident side put us in our place and showed the team's susceptibility to occasional weak performances. There was still plenty of room for improvement.

The second half of the season saw some really convincing wins — apart from a dire, lacklustre away match against Moulshford, which I am still trying to forget! There were strong victories (without any points conceded) over Berkhamsted, Cothill and Summer Fields where the strength of the collective squad really showed. The continuity of play was there, and



sometimes we even managed to achieve some efficient, quick rucks. It was pleasing to note the improvements in areas of the game we had been working on, as well as improved individual performances. Everyone had their moment of glory at some time, but Conor Graney (Captain) and Jamie Cox (pack leader) deserve special mention for the consistent quality of their play throughout the season, as well as their effective joint leadership by example.

It was a great pleasure to coach this talented team over two years and see them develop both as players and individuals. I enjoyed seeing their understanding of the game become more advanced and found their willingness to try out new ideas refreshing. The core of the team remained very consistent and this bred trust and confidence; at the same time they were always aware of letting themselves down and standards they were trying to achieve remained high.

They are clearly home-loving boys because, whenever we stepped onto a coach and travelled some distance away, they looked a weaker, softer side. If they are to develop further they will have to learn to be more consistent and tougher in their approach. A planned tour to Yorkshire next season should help to instil some much

needed northern grit! They have the talent and the enthusiasm to be very successful higher up the school and I will watch their ongoing progress with interest.

Finally, I must offer many thanks to all the parents who supported the team so loyally through another season of Minors rugby. I look forward to seeing you on the touchline in the future.

*Stuart Evans*

**U13 A Squad:** Conor Graney (Capt), Will Fearnough, Sam Mitchell, Douglas Ward, Joe Blanch, James Bourdon, Jasper Gooder, Harry Anderson, Dominic MacLachlan, James Robinson Ranger, Joseph Bassett, Jack Holford, Jamie Cox, Joseph McNamara, David Chung, James Baghurst, Sam Foster, Bradley Hayday

MCS	W	10-0
Akeley Wood	W	29-0
Aylesbury GS	W	39-5
Warwick	L	7-14
Reading	W	80-0
Dragon	W	52-5
Bromsgrove	L	0-36
Berkhamsted	W	28-0
Moulshford	L	7-19
Cothill	W	31-0
Summer Fields	W	47-0

# Hockey

## An Overview of the Season

This has been an exceptional year for the Hockey Club with success in the newly formed Independent Schools Hockey League and in the National Cup, and twenty Abingdon pupils playing representative hockey for other clubs and teams.

The ISH League is played between eight of the top hockey playing schools in the region and in 2012 every School team in the School will be playing in their respective league. In 2011, Abingdon U14A XI came second in their league, and the U15A XI clinched their title with an unbeaten record that saw them placed as the most successful team across all four leagues.

	School	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Independent Schools Hockey League - U15 A XI									
1	Abingdon	6	6	0	0	6	13	11	26
2	Marlborough	6	4	1	1	20	11	9	20
3	Cheltenham	6	4	0	2	14	11	3	17
4	Bradfield	6	3	0	3	8	6	2	12
5	Wellington	6	2	0	4	15	11	4	9
6	St Edwards	6	1	1	4	10	29	-19	6
7	Radley	6	0	0	6	12	22	-10	0
Overall Schools' League									
1	Bradfield	26	16	2	8	51	37	14	1.92
2	Cheltenham	26	15	4	7	63	42	21	1.88
3	Abingdon	26	14	3	9	49	44	5	1.73
4	Radley	26	9	8	9	67	52	15	1.35
5	Marlborough	26	9	7	10	50	56	-6	1.31
6	Wellington	25	7	5	13	57	51	6	1.04
7	Eton	13	3	2	8	10	20	-10	0.85
8	St Edward's	26	5	5	14	38	38	-45	0.83



1st XI v Eton

All Abingdon teams (1st XI, U16A and U14A) progressed through the Oxfordshire round of the National Cup to the Southern Regional Finals. The U14s went a step further and beat the Kent, Hampshire and Surrey Champions in the regional rounds. They were drawn against a strong Caterham side in the regional semi-finals, where they lost 2-0. In the third and fourth play off, they beat Reed's School 7-0 to finish third in the Southern Region and within the top ten schools in the country.

There has been real strength in depth in the Club this season, with the U14A, B, C and D teams winning 83% of their games and the 3rd and 4th XI only losing two of their sixteen matches played, a testament to the quality of hockey players being produced, and to the coaching that is being offered at every level.

Next year will see a further expansion of the ISHL, which will offer the same league format for every team in the school from U14D teams to the 1st XI. All ISHL results are uploaded onto *Fixtures Live* and players, parents and staff can keep updated on all results and goal-scorers from whatever league they wish to look at.

See [www.fixtureslive.com](http://www.fixtureslive.com)

*Steve Brenchley*



1st XI v Eton

## 1st XI Hockey

With so much to play for throughout the season, the 1st XI set their sights on going one better than last season and winning the League, as well as reaching the regional finals of the National Cup. Although there were some hugely influential departures from last season's successful team, there was a good deal of talent through the ranks with a lot of responsibility falling on Christopher Green, Mark Francis, Jack Perry and Gregor Hearn to support the young captain.

A good deal of work had been done indoors during the previous term, and a couple of pre-season tournaments at Eltham College and Uppingham School demonstrated that the team could control possession, score goals and compete at a very high level. They finished runners up at Eltham and won three of their four matches at Uppingham.

The first match of the season against the current National Champions, Repton, couldn't have been any tougher. The first half was very evenly balanced, with Abingdon controlling possession at the back and scoring a couple of well-taken goals. As expected, Repton had a great deal of talent up front and looked dangerous, but things looked poised at 2-2 at the break. Surprisingly, the turning point of the match was a yellow card to a Repton player that fired up the away team and saw the Abingdon team lose their focus. It was Repton that took control of the match, with some fine finishing, leaving Abingdon despondent after being in the game for so long. This really felt like an opportunity missed and indeed it took a couple of matches to recover from this loss.

After below par performances against St Edward's and Cheltenham, it was vital that Abingdon got their first win in the league against Marlborough.



1st XI v Radley

The performance was full of effort and commitment, exactly what had been lacking in the previous two games. Abingdon scored some excellent goals from Gregor Hearn and Toby Blong in a fantastic game, eventually winning 5-4.

The next league game was against Wellington College where both teams worked tirelessly off the ball and put such pressure on the opposition that in effect that they cancelled each other out, neither team were able to control possession for any real length of time and even though there were six goals in the match, a 3-3 result was fair.

Away matches against top of the table Bradfield and Radley were both difficult matches. Andy Russell and Jonny Bouchier were brought in off the back of excellent performances for the 2nd XI and proved their worth on debut against Bradfield, with Andy Russell slotting home a goal. It was Bradfield though that edged the match, executing two short corners low past the superb Jack Perry in goal.

The Radley game really came at the wrong time for us, with illness sweeping through the team. We had already beaten Radley in the Cup, but they

were top of the table in the League and keen to rectify the loss. A patched up Abingdon team were thoroughly outclassed on the day, by a quick and skilful Radley team, who went on to clinch the title.

The last league game of the season was against Eton College and as has been the case for the majority of the matches in the campaign, there was very little between the two teams. It was Abingdon though that eventually won through, which meant that we were able to finish the league matches with a deserved win.

The last game of the season was an entertaining local derby against Magdalen College School in which Gregor Hearn scored the goal of the season with a reverse stick effort into the roof of the net. Abingdon were 3-2 up with only a few minutes to spare, having played some good hockey in the build up to the three goals, but we were not able to hold on and MCS replied with a late equaliser.

In the cup competition, Abingdon progressed through the Oxfordshire County Championship round, only losing in the first game to St Edward's.

There was a fine 2-0 win against Radley, with James Rogers scoring a brace to cap a fantastic performance.

This saw Abingdon progress to the regional finals round and play teams from Surrey, Kent and Hampshire. This was a tough day, culminating in a good win against Portsmouth Grammar 2-0, having earlier lost to Tonbridge and an excellent Whitgift team. It was a great performance to get through to this stage of the National Cup against the winners from the other Southern counties and the goal again next year will be to reach the latter stages of the Cup.

There have been a number of excellent, consistent performers throughout the season but Chris Green has been a stand out. Throughout his three seasons in the 1st XI, he has given everything in terms of effort; his talent and his pace have seen him shut out a number of opposition strikers. Jack Perry and Mark Francis have been the real motivational force behind the team, both playing with a huge amount of passion and intensity. They have been vital in every match that they have played for the 1st XI and deserve a huge amount of praise. James Francis-Barrie, Jonny Bourchier, Sam Clarke-Warry and Andy Russell have all played an important role for the 1st XI and will need replacing next year. The captain, Toby Blong, will be looking to again lead the team to more success next year and will rely on the talents of Gregor Hearn to control the midfield and Toby Ogg to lead the attack.

*Steve Brenchley*

“  
their commitment and passion  
to play well for each other  
”

**1st XI Squad:** Toby Blong Capt, Jack Perry Vice Capt, James Rogers, James Francis-Barrie, Christopher Green, Toby Ogg, Mark Francis, Sam Clarke-Warry, Gregor Hearn, Jonny Bourchier, Daniel Leach, Mike Deeks, Toby Warren, Edd Arnold, Kieran Boddington, Andrew Russell

Repton	L	2-6
St Edward's	L	1-3
Cheltenham	L	1-3
Stowe	L	2-3
Marlborough	W	5-4
Wellington	D	3-3
Radley	L	0-6
Bradfield	L	1-2
Eton	W	1-0
MCS	D	3-3

### 3rd XI Hockey

The opening match against Repton saw a 3-1 victory and set the standard for what was to be a fantastic season for the 3rd XI. Out front we had the skilful duo of Dan Bayley and Will Bibby, racking up the goals and frustrating our opponents. In midfield, Will Huck, Hugh Brash, Finn Ryley and Matt Roberts, and our top goal scorer Harry Copson, were the most hard-working group, consistently dominating the field. In defence, Mike Shortis, John Mulvey, Jake Ampleford, Will Summers and the unbeatable Chris Moore, provided a solid backline, which came under the most pressure, but still held, during the tense last match against Eton. Our



goalie, Calum Smith, was a rock when all else failed (we won't forget that diving save against Eton).

Without a doubt, the highlight of our season was our 3-1 victory against Radley. It always feels good when you beat Radley, but during this match our backs, midfielders and forwards all played with an immense amount of effort, culminating in that delicious victory. Credit to Mr Drummond-Hay and Mr Evans for great coaching, and even greater banter. Thanks also to those 2nd and 4th XI players who helped us out when numbers were tight.

To all the 3rd XI players, well done for an incredible season!

*Will Summers 7 SAE*

Unquestionably one of the most successful hockey teams I have had the pleasure to be involved with, firstly for their outstanding record against some very strong opposition, and secondly for their commitment and passion to play well for each other. An average of 3 goals scored per game with only 1 conceded is an indication of the overall strength of the side.

*Jeff Drummond-Hay*

**3rd XI Squad:** Calum Smith(Goal), Michael Shortis, William Bibby, William Huck, Finn Ryley, Jake Ampleford, John Mulvey, Matt Roberts (Capt. alternate games), William Summers (Capt. alternate games), Dan Bayley, Harry Copson, Hugh Brash, Chris Moore

Repton	W	3-1
St Edward's	W	3-1
Cheltenham	D	2-2
Stowe	W	5-0
Marlborough	L	1-2
Radley	W	3-1
Bradfield	W	4-1
Bloxham	W	4-0
Eton	W	2-1



3rd XI v Radley

## 4th XI Hockey

Playing 4th XI hockey this year can only be described as memorable. This was a team overflowing with raw talent and bundles of enthusiasm and commitment. Our record speaks for itself, winning all but two games, demonstrating the sheer brilliance of the 4th XI constructed by the master tactician Mr Evans.

Our defence was a unit riddled with strength, mobility and aggression. We conceded thirteen goals all season but it needs to be considered that six of those were conceded in one game against Radley, which we played with a heavily depleted squad. Ben McGuire was monumental in goal providing firm resistance against all that came his way, sometimes with only one boot. He barely had a leg to stand upon. As much as his play was often suspect to calamity, or sheer unappreciated brilliance, the opposition strike force would certainly know they had been in a tough game following his destructive charges upon oncoming strikers. The defensive unit was manfully led by Sarab Sethi who provided inspiration to his defensive compatriots in Joseph Read, Hal Parke and the not so ever-present Jake Ampleford, who made sporadic performances for the

3rds. This back-line had it all from the doggedness of Read, the class of Ampleford and the elegance of Parke – an exquisite unit.

The midfield was arguably the highlight of our team. We utilised squad rotation in order to keep players fresh and to allow them time to meet their considerable media commitments. The keystones to our exciting, mobile and hardworking midfield could be found with Stephen Horlock, providing the team's flair and ingenuity, Ronan Baird, a box-to-box dynamo, and Tom Fishpool, who may have lacked the passing range but supplied endless amounts of energy and commitment. To supplement these mercurial midfield talents we rotated with the ever-energetic Bater, the flamboyant Kardos and the industrious Otty.

One of the main reasons for the success of our team this season was our ability to score a lot of goals. The strike force of Boyd, Kempell and Nian Patel often proved too much for the opposition. The team as a collective force scored 22 goals through the season, often in majestic style. Kempell provided a spatial nous considered alien at 4th XI standard whilst also having a Kalashnikov of a shot in the closet. Nian Patel

provided a monumental presence up front making himself a nuisance to all opposition defenders with his movement and physicality. Finally there was Boyd, the captain, who provided a poacher's instinct to the wonderful concoction, scoring 9 goals in 5 games.

The season was packed full of highlights, with only the Radley game providing any sort of disappointment with a 6-2 loss. The game that probably demonstrated the team's fighting spirit and desire was probably at home against Marlborough. We were 2-0 down with eight minutes to go when Ed Kempell struck with a venomous drive. Following this we delivered an onslaught before Boyd somehow bundled the ball in with seconds remaining. Pandemonium ensued: a brilliant example of teamwork and commitment delivering brilliant results. It was an honour to play hockey with such a great group of players both on and off the field and the memories of the season will live long in the memory.

I would also like to highlight the team's appreciation of the work and commitment of our coach and overlord Mr Evans whose rousing team talks and tactical awareness proved vital on a number of occasions.

*Matthew Boyd 7 PJEC*

**4th XI Squad:** Ben McGuire, Joseph Read, Hal Parke, Sarab Sethi, Ronan Baird, Jake Ampleford, Tom Fishpool, James Bater, Ed Kempell, Stephen Horlock, Mark Kardos, Edd Otty, Nian Patel, Matthew Boyd (Capt)

Rendcomb	W	3-0
Cheltenham	W	3-1
Marlborough	D	2-2
Radley	L	2-6
Bradfield	W	2-1
Bloxham	W	5-3
Eton	W	5-0

## U16A XI Hockey

U16 sides often suffer because their best players are pushed up into the 1st XI and although we lost Kieran Boddington and James Rogers, the team worked hard and newer players such as Elliott Mills and Peter Honey improved their game at this higher level. Nevertheless, we didn't have the same level of success as last year although the season had some good moments. Matthew Kitchen captained the team with gusto and determination. His hard work was inspiring to those around him. When not injured, Julius Coventry, along with James Weaver up front, were a formidable duo for defenders to deal with. Sasha Barras and Michael Clarke-Warry, at their best, held the ball well and distributed sharply. Chris Tayler and Peter Honey, with growing confidence, were able to control the wide areas and stifle the opposition. Both Zack Berg and Mensun Yellowlees-Bound's enthusiasm for playing, and commitment to the team, were much valued. Christian Huck's athleticism and speed got us out of trouble at the back on many occasions and his improving ball skills show that he will be an excellent central midfielder in time.

The season began really well with a good win against Repton – a school that take their hockey seriously and have a fearsome reputation. The

game began with a high tempo press on their players and we scored within 5 minutes. They came back fairly quickly to even the score but excellent goal keeping from Luke Carter and a further two goals from James Weaver put paid to their efforts. We also did well at the County Championship. We beat Radley and St Edward's and only narrowly lost to Magdalen College School in the last play of the game. However, for whatever reason the season did not continue so well. Did we get complacent? A very disappointing loss to Teddies, whom we'd just beaten on the previous Sunday 4-0, sapped the boys' spirits, although we did well to draw against MCS in the next game, their team being full of county players. The match against Cheltenham was the low point of the term. They had not lost players to their 1st XI so retained their strong side from the previous year. We lacked pace and fitness against their aggression and speed. Sasha Barras did score a dramatic goal – the ball flying in high off the top bar. The Stowe game saw a turning point as we came back from 2-0 down to lead 4-3 and 5-4 only to end with a 5-5 draw. Who said hockey wasn't exciting!

This year we played in the Independent Schools League for the first time and the next two games, against Marlborough and Wellington, were

crucial in ensuring we achieved a reasonable mid-table place. Marlborough were assertive and worked hard but lacked our skill and we were worthy 3-2 winners. The Wellington game was scrappy but again we worked hard with an injury-depleted team to win 3-1 having been 1-0 down. Radley is always a difficult game and although we'd beaten them 2-1 in the 40 minutes of the County Championship we knew a game on their home turf would be tough, and so it proved. We were without Weaver up front and lacked the ability to hold the ball high. Bradfield and Eton, our last games in the League, were disappointing even though we had James Rogers back from the 1st XI. We failed to move the ball around and missed the speed of Coventry up front in the Eton game. In both games superb goal keeping from Luke Carter kept us in play. Luke, selected at county level, was the season's star player.

As always I am grateful for all the support from parents on the touchline and the boys' enthusiasm and tolerance of my faults.

*James Nairne*

**U16A Squad:** Luke Carter, Peter Honey, Christian Huck, Michael Clarke-Warry, Mensun Yellowlees-Bound, Chris Tayler, Matthew Kitchen (Capt), James Rogers, Kieran Boddington, Sasha Barras, James Weaver, Julius Coventry, Zack Berg, Elliott Mills, William Plumb, Tom Bibby



**Goalkeeper Luke Carter in the Radley match**

Repton	W	3-1
St Edward's	L	2-3
MCS	D	1-1
Cheltenham	L	1-6
Stowe	D	5-5
Marlborough	W	3-2
Wellington	W	3-1
Radley	L	1-3
Bradfield	D	2-2
Cokethorpe 1st X1	L	0-1
Eton	L	1-2

## U16B XI Hockey

For a team where the majority of the players had played little hockey before, the U16Bs season was extremely successful. Coached by Mr Castle, they played ten games, winning six, drawing two with two close losses. To begin with, the B team faced an extremely tough fixture against Repton. In a thrilling but slightly scrappy game, Abingdon narrowly lost 1-2, Oli Jackson getting the only goal. In their next game, the hockey was more free flowing and the team stormed to a 4-0 victory over St Edward's. This time, Charlie Bethell was the star of the show, scoring a hat trick, together with Matthew Fitchett, who ran St Edward's ragged down the right. For the next game we travelled to Cheltenham only to come away with nothing. However, the real stars of the show were the defenders, Andy Birch, Tom Bibby, and Rob Fishpool, who stopped the result from being a lot worse. Stowe, who we met on our first mid-week fixture, proved to be a very frustrating encounter where we controlled the whole game but just could not break down their defence. Next, the B team faced Marlborough, which turned out to be the same story as against Stowe: we dominated possession but could not break them down. They managed to break three times and to score on each occasion. Man of the match was William Plumb who practically ran the midfield. Rowan Hall also showed his versatility by making a smooth transition from midfield to defence. In the next match against our old rivals Radley, despite the added experience of Leo Calnan, the captain of the C team, the B team lost 1-3 in a tightly fought game. The next game against Bradfield also went badly and we eventually lost 2-5 to an extremely strong side after leading 2-0. Despite these setbacks, the B team's best match of the season was still to come. In the final game of the season against

Eton, the team finally worked together to produce hockey of a standard to make the A's proud. Following an outstanding strike by Harry Shortis, the B team hung on until half time following some impressive stops from Tom Farrant. Eton snatched an early goal at the start of the second half but following some impressive attacking play from David Jorgenson, Oscar Newman was able to pick up the ball in the D to slot home the winner on the stroke of full time. Overall, it was an extremely enjoyable season for a novice side.

*William Plumb 5 RKJ*

**U16B Squad:** Thomas Farrant, Tom Bibby, Andy Birch, Robert Fishpool, Rowan Hall, Will Plumb, Oscar Newman, David Jorgenson, Matthew Fitchett, Charlie Bethell, Harry Shortis, Leo Calnan

Repton	L	1-2
St Edward's	W	4-0
Cheltenham	L	0-5
Stowe	L	0-2
Marlborough	L	0-3
Radley	L	1-3
Bradfield	L	2-5
Eton	W	2-1

## U16C XI Hockey

We had a mixed set of results but the results do not tell the whole story of the team's season. We had a small group of experienced hockey players who I fought hard to keep at C level, but inevitably after some expert coaching and solid game play, their talents were obvious to the B team coach and I lost them on several key occasions, notably David Jörgensen, Leo Calnan and Howard Ching. As a counterbalance to this skill and experience, the rest of the squad was dominated by a number of boys who had never played hockey before. The enthusiasm and team spirit within the squad were exceptional. A number

of the 'newbies' were outstanding sportsmen in their preferred fields and they brought huge energy and some unorthodox techniques, which are unrivalled in any hockey I have seen or coached before. Don't get me wrong, whilst it's strange to watch Richard Knight and Toby Brown dribble the ball one handed up the pitch towards the goal, their speed and ball control confounded the opposition almost every time.

Special mention needs to be made of Ian Chan in goal who dived and dominated the goal mouth, making the space an intimidating place to enter, and one he commanded with great skill and commitment. Unfortunately the team were often outgunned by more experienced opposition and, whilst results may have looked poor, Ian definitely had a profound effect on maintaining a reasonable goal difference in every game.

Defence was also the place to find two wholly committed and dedicated team players, Connor Taylor and Harry Wilder. Together they provided a coherent defence which instinctively covered for the actions of the other. The sum of the two was so much more than the individuals could produce alone.

Our final match (although not a victory) ended with a superb goal in the last 20 seconds which allowed the team to end the season on a very high note.

Finally to the rest of the team, Gabriel Drewett, Paddy Lawson-Statham, Chris Mears, Neil Salata, Alex Whitworth, Charlie Kruczko-Cousins and Richard Matthews, I had a ball coaching you and so much fun – it was a pleasure. I hope you can carry the spirit and ethos on to next year's hockey and I look forward to hearing of your successes in the senior teams.

*Su McRae*

**U16C Squad:** David Jörgensen, Leo Calnan, Howard Ching, Richard Knight, Toby Brown, Connor Taylor, Harry Wilder, Gabriel Drewett, Paddy Lawson-Statham, Chris Mears, Neil Salata, Alex Whitworth, Charlie Kruczko-Cousins, Richard Matthews

Rendcomb	W	3-1
Cheltenham	L	0-6
Marlborough	D	2-2
Radley	L	0-5
Bradfield	L	0-6
Eton	W	1-4

## U15C XI Hockey

I wish I could say that it hadn't been a disappointing year for the U15C XI but with no wins all season it unfortunately was. Despite a keen bunch of boys, led well by Alexis King, a disjointed start with players moving between teams did not help the team to gel. Although I say this, the determination of all players involved was unprecedented and the start of the season derby against St Edward's resulted in a promising 3-3 draw. Our strong defence was tested weekly with goalkeeper Luke McCormack receiving some real challenges. His back line of Will Sharp, Ben Wills, Tim Davies and Thomas Ling proved to be very strong, especially in the games against Cheltenham and Stowe. Goals early in the season from Oscar Jenkins and Harry Sandford set up the competition to be top goal scorer. They were closely rivaled by Toby Butterworth who was only one goal away from taking the crown in the last game of the season against Eton, had it not been for the post and the Eton goalkeeper, who had an exceptional game.

The main event in the middle of the season was the fixture against Radley. A home advantage gave the U15C XI real buzz and determination.



The game was far from one sided, despite the result, but with both teams keen for victory and all boys playing well, tensions were high and Radley managed to keep their heads a little more than Abingdon resulting in their 4-0 success.

Despite the results, and it was unfortunate that the forward line did not always have the chance to shine; the midfield and defence, particularly Will Sharp, Alexis King, Thomas Ling and Jack Fountain, gave consistently strong performances, more often than not holding some very strong opposition at bay and creating more attacking play. All players must be complimented on their individual improvements in both their skills and tactical play and should look forward to next season in earnest.

*Katharine Coke*

**U15C Squad:** Alexis King, Luke McCormack, Will Sharp, Ben Wills, Tim Davies, Thomas Ling, Oscar Jenkins, Harry Sandford, Toby Butterworth, Jack Fountain, Jibran Huq, Max Chaitow, David Chadder, Johnny Burrow

St Edwards	D	3-3
Cheltenham	L	1-3
Stowe	L	1-2
Marlborough	L	0-5
Radley	L	0-4
Bradfield	L	1-3
Eton	L	0-1

## U14A XI Hockey

The U14A hockey side can be very proud of their achievements this year – a hugely encouraging win-rate, coupled with the title of County Champions.

The season started in cold, icy January with pre-season training at Tilsley Park. The large turn out, clear enthusiasm and talent that were on show was very encouraging to all the coaches involved. Come the first game, and one of the hardest selection meetings on record at Abingdon, the first sides were announced for the matches against Repton, a highly regarded hockey school. Repton had been national champions at three age groups last year so we knew this would be a tough game. An hour later, the boys had remarkably run out comfortable victors at 5-1.



U14As

The following day, and with the Repton trip still in our system, the boys then went on to dominate Magdalen College School, Shiplake and Bloxham in the early stages of the County Cup Day at Radley College. This led us to the final of the cup against St Edward's School where, despite striking the post on five occasions, the game finished 0-0 and went to penalty strokes. Abingdon held their nerve and went through thanks to their then captain Bas Marshall's classy finish, and some typical Alex Grantham heroics in goal. As a result Abingdon retained the county championship title that they had earned at U13 level.

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*proved to be the catalyst for the resurgence in our form and style of play*

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The following week saw us defeat St Edward's again, 3-0 this time, in the ISHL. We also defeated MCS 4-0 in a mid week friendly. Next up in the ISHL was a trip to Cheltenham and, with key personal out due to injury, as

well as a number of other issues, the boys went down 2-1. At the time this felt like a devastating blow but in the end it proved to be the catalyst for the resurgence in our form and style of play.

With the previous week still in the minds of the Abingdon players, we then went on an unbeaten run of five games, which included victories over Marlborough, Bradfield and Bloxham. We also progressed through the regional round of the National Cup, thanks to a hard fought victory over Portsmouth Grammar School. Sadly this cup run ended in the next round when we narrowly lost to Caterham, before claiming third place in the south thanks to a 7-1 win over Reed's School.

The final game of the season saw the side famously opt for all out attack in a tribute to the BARCELONA football style against Eton. In a game that resembled basketball or tennis, with both sides having twenty or so shots on goal, the boys finished the season in style with a 7-3 win.

*Damian Shirazi*

**U14A Squad:** Alex Grantham, Alex Davies, William Carter Keall, Tom Best, Duncan Grant, Gus Mills, Alexander Foster, Dominic MacLachlan, Alex Munro, Theo Brophy Clews, Leo Bethell, Bas Marshall, Edward Lowe, Angus Tyrrell. John Francis

Repton	W	5-1
MCS (Cup)	W	3-0
Shiplake (Cup)	W	8-0
Bloxham	W	1-0
St Edwards (Cup)	W	7-6 (strokes)
St Edwards (ISHL)	W	3-0
MCS	W	4-1
Cheltenham (ISHL)	L	1-2
Marlborough (ISHL)	W	4-0
Wellington (ISHL)	D	0-0
Radley (ISHL)	W	1-0
Trinity (Cup)	L	1-2
Langley Park (Cup)	W	4-0
KES Southampton (Cup)	W	2-1
Bradfield (ISHL)	W	2-1
Bloxham	W	5-0
Caterham (Cup)	L	0-2
Reed's (Cup)	W	6-0
Eton (ISHL)	W	7-3

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# Cricket



## 1st XI Cricket

The summer of 2011 will be remembered in a very positive way as the one where an inexperienced, transitional side exceeded all the projected goals and aspirations. Abingdon's results and reputation within the independent schools cricket circuit has recently grown year on year but with the loss of six of last year's side it was felt that 2011 might be a struggle.

The squad pitched up as early as October 2010 to discuss and partake in some specific winter training; at this time our aims were very simple – to achieve more wins than losses.

Pre-season started in a sun-baked April with the boys staying at their War Memorial Field base and putting in three excellent days of hard work. This involved boys from across all the School's year groups, which has certainly made us think that the future

seems bright for Abingdon cricket. At the end of this, the boys took part in a pre-season fixture against our neighbours Radley College. Despite losing the game (against a side containing three England U17 players) the boys showed just how competitive they could be. The game featured a maiden five-wicket haul for Tom Price and a first School half-century for Head Boy and 1st XI debutant Mark Francis.

As term started, the boys celebrated the marriage of William and Kate with a comprehensive victory over the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. They began at an alarming rate and then had to recover from losing five wickets for one run in the middle of the innings, which they did with half centuries from Gregor Hearn (71) and Henry Sensecall (54), posting 261-8. The wickets were then shared round as Abingdon completed a comprehensive 150-run win.

The following day saw the boys take part in the National Schools Twenty/20 regional round. The event was hosted excellently by St Edward's School in Oxford and saw us drawn against them in the first game. Having lost the toss and been put in to field the signs were ominous. Despite a batting-friendly surface, the boys fielded and bowled out off their skins to skittle the hosts for a meagre 67. Some typical Sasha Barras explosives then knocked off the total inside 9 overs and set up a final against Magdalen College School. This game followed a similar pattern to the first game as MCS only managed 111 before Hamish Grant and William Sensecall beat the total with 5 overs to spare.

Next up were Reading's Oratory School. The boys yet again elected to field first and restricted the opposition to a par score of 120 on what was a dry surface ideally suited to our four

spinners. Andrew Russell, who had only recently become an off-spinner, was particularly miserly. Despite a shaky period during the reply, a William Sensecall's half-century and some calm batting by the tail saw us limp home with another victory.

The next three games saw a dark period for the boys where we lost out in three nail-biting games. First up was a visit to the much fancied Stowe side. Although we restricted Stowe to a well below par 169-7, a mixture of inexperience and some poor shot selection saw us fall 80 runs short. The following week saw us play the in the last 32 round of the national Twenty/20 against Wellington College. Despite being 29-0 after two overs, and chasing only 116, a late collapse saw us fall 9 short leaving us heavily deflated after a big chance missed. The following morning we were up against St Edward's in the block fixture. A very similar pattern then followed, where having bowled out the hosts for 123 we then succumbed to the wiles of their young Gloucestershire spinner, who bowled an excellent 27-over spell, leading to a 21-run defeat.

At this point it was clear that our lack of batting depth was causing an issue and during half term a reshaping of the side saw us bring in some younger players. One of these younger players was fourth-former Daniel Matthews and, after Joshua Bull had helped bowl MCS out for 136 with 5 for 20, a stand of 101 between Matthews and Hamish Grant saw us victors by 8 wickets.

A loss against Haberdashers' Aske's in the first game back after half term was a bitter pill to swallow, but some pleasing displays against Berkhamsted and Winchester College got the season moving again. A Daniel Matthews 73 and a do-or-die 56 from new captain Sasha Barras were the highlight of the Winchester game on a ground

that surely must be one of the most picturesque in the country.

Next the 1st XI hosted Pembroke College from Adelaide. The boys, who each looked after one of the visitors, took part in a strongly fought-out contest. Having bowled tidily we proceeded to knock off the 195-run target with 7 wickets to spare. A brutal William Sensecall (47) innings was then followed by half centuries by Jonathan Bourchier (51) and Hamish Grant (54 not out).

During the final week of term the 1st XI headed off to the Birkenhead Cricket Festival, lacking two of the squad due to Duke of Edinburgh commitments. This gave some of our younger players an opportunity to make their debuts. In a highly enjoyable set of games we ended up as festival winners with Henry Sensecall in particular having an excellent week with the bat and Sasha Barras winning the tournament's bowling award.

In all, a record of 11 wins out of 17 makes it a highly positive year and shows how much hard work and effort this team put in to maintaining the previous year's success. The camaraderie and togetherness shown by this very close unit, as well as the focus given to cricket during their exam period, must be commended. The fielding was frequently of an absolutely superb standard, often making up for a lack of quality and experience in other areas. A lack of substantial runs may have cost us, as the bowlers rarely let the group down.

Joshua Bull, bowling with both skill and maturity, led the seam bowling with 25 wickets, ably backed up by Tom Price (22 wickets), their varying style and height making them an excellent partnership. The spinners were a real strength in the group, with Andrew Russell, William Sensecall, Sasha Barras (26 wickets), and Hamish Grant

often applying the squeeze in the middle of the innings. Henry Sensecall and Daniel Matthews both kept wicket with assurance and I don't look forward to the hard choice I will have next year regarding this position. Gregor Hearn and Henry Sensecall both had fine first seasons with the bat in the 1st XI, and Hamish Grant, William Sensecall, Sasha Barras and Jonathan Bourchier all made contributions as the year went on.

For me, the 2011 season was a highly informative year for both the players and the coaches. I have learnt a great deal from this particular group of players and as many of them will be available next year, and further down the line, I look forward to pushing them on further. With this in mind I'd particularly like to thank all of the Upper Sixth-formers for their contributions to cricket at Abingdon School and look forward to seeing them back at the proposed Old Abingdonian fixture next year.

*Damian Shirazi*

**1st XI squad:** Jonathan Bourchier (Capt), Hamish Grant, William Sensecall, Daniel Matthews, Gregor Hearn, Henry Sensecall, William Bibby, Mark Francis, Andrew Russell, Tom Price, Joshua Bull, Matthew Hart, Alex Davies, Rory Garrett, Sasha Barras, Jack Channon

Radley	Lost by 67 runs
RGS High Wycombe	Won by 150 runs
Oratory	Won by 3 wickets
Stowe	Lost by 82 runs
MCC	Lost by 8 runs
St Edward's	Lost by 16 runs
MCS	Won by 8 wickets
Haberdashers'	Lost by 42 runs
SOA	Lost by 5 runs
Winchester	Won by 3 wickets
Abingdon Vale	Won by 9 wickets
Shiplake	Win by 8 Wickets
Marlborough	Match Abandoned
Abingdon Vale	Won by 116 runs
Pembroke College (Aus)	Won by 7 wickets

## 2nd XI Cricket

It was a rollercoaster season of inconsistent performances, victories against strong opposition from Stowe, St. Edward's and Haberdashers' mirrored by disappointing losses to inferior teams that should have been comfortably beaten. While variable levels of performance can, at least in part, be attributed to the usual selection difficulties posed by exam season, erratic levels of concentration and application must take their share of responsibility.

The highlights of the season were the home victories over St Edward's and Haberdashers'. Both games boiled down to tight finishes with all results still possible into the dying overs. We batted first against St Edward's and, thanks to a bold attacking innings of 66 by Harry Shortis, posted a seemingly impregnable 190-7. After an extremely tight start in the field, the wheels came off in the middle overs and defeat looked a very real possibility with five overs to go. Opening bowlers Michael Shortis and Charlie Fitchett returned, held their nerve and secured a deserved victory against strong opposition by 14 runs. The game against Haberdashers' saw the opposition post a challenging total of 171. Rory Garrett, available due to the cancellation of the Under 15s game, got the chase off to a flying start with some majestic driving through the off side before Will Bibby played a perfectly-judged innings of 48 not out to take Abingdon over the finishing line with 7 balls to spare.

These victories were not the only close finishes of a nail-biting season. Charlie Fitchett's 3-14 wasn't quite enough to pull the iron from the fire after a strange decision to bat first on a green wicket against Berkhamsted saw us dismissed for a meagre 95. The last day of the season saw a spirited chase

of Winchester's imposing 184-5 fall just eleven runs short, despite a rather fortuitous innings of 66 from Will Bibby and a breezy 41 from George Read-Smith.

The season's other victory was achieved against Stowe, who were bowled out for only 78. Joel Morris, in a rare appearance made possible by the absence of tennis commitments, took five wickets for only thirteen runs in a devastating display of seam bowling; he was ably supported by three wickets taken by Chris Cooke's flighted leg breaks. One other individual performance of note was the half-century posted by Jack Channon in the disappointing defeat away at Magdalen, a game that should have been won.

The 2nd XI's playing record makes for slightly disappointing reading, as more positive results could and should have been posted. Nevertheless, the season has been an enjoyable one and served notice of potentially better things to come.

### James Barker

**2nd XI squad:** Will Bibby, Tom Bibby, George Bull, Luke Carter, Jack Channon, Sam Clarke-Warry, Chris Cooke, Alex Davies, James Dewar, Charlie Fitchett, Rory Garrett, Guy Giles, Matthew Hart, Joel Morris, Rob Noyes, George Read-Smith, Harry Shortis, Michael Shortis, Calum Smith, Angus Weir

RGS High Wycombe	Lost by 8 wickets
Oratory	Lost by 71 runs
Stowe	Won by 7 wickets
St Edward's	Won by 13 runs
MCS	Lost by 23 runs
Haberdashers'	Won by 5 wickets
Berkhamsted	Lost by 2 wickets
Winchester	Lost by 11 runs

## 3rd XI Cricket

The 3rd XI has had a roller coaster of a season in terms of personnel, results and performances. The one constant, however, has been the fun that the players have had on the field.

It quickly emerged that there would be two types of match from the 3rd XI: a thumping victory or a narrow and nail biting defeat. The opening match against The Oratory saw the 3rd XI demolish their opponents in a game that will be remembered for its brevity and was of the former type of match. Fine bowling performances from Campbell Garland, Sam Bowers, Hal Parke and Charlie Roberts left Abingdon chasing a minimal total. Nonetheless, this ever-unpredictable side contrived to add a touch of tension to the game by throwing away four early wickets, a reflection on the lack of time for preparation at this early stage in the season, rather than the quality of the batsmen. Luckily George Read-Smith and Calum Smith, ably assisted by Chris Garratt, came to the rescue and saw us home. A similar demolition of St Edward's, this time by an entirely different team, displayed the depth as well as the quality of the Abingdon 3rd XI squad. A team of heroic upper sixth-formers in their penultimate performance for the School showed their steely character and stylish swagger. St Edward's opened the batting but were soon on the back foot, particularly so when Matthew Fitchett came on as first change, after the openers had done considerable damage, to claim three wickets for 9 runs in a five-over spell. At this point it seems only right to note the generous captaincy of James Barratt who, in

“*The one constant has been the fun that the players have had on the field*”



his concern about the tiredness of his team mates, decided to give himself a full five over bowling spell and open the batting. He then went on to complete the innings not out, scoring a confident 37. Needless to say his team mates were not only impressed by his care for their welfare but also by his modesty after the game! The following week saw another big victory in a game notable for an over that saw Sam Bowers come within an easy catch of a hat trick, and a member of the opposing team hit the biggest six ever seen on Upper Field! However, with the cool and calm Jamie Hall, the precise Chris Moore, the casual Matt Roberts and the intimidating Matt Boyd all in the side the result was never in doubt and the upper sixth were able to say their farewells with a win.

It is not often that the best game of the season is a defeat, and I would hesitate to say that the match against Stowe was our best game, but it was certainly a cracker. On this occasion the 3rd XI, playing the U16As, opened the batting. Excellent innings from the ever steady Calum Smith, the imperious Toby Blong and the nonchalant Daniel Leach set a good total for Stowe to chase. Abingdon started confidently in the field, as Oliver Wheatly's dubious banter suggested. However, for once a team managed to get after our openers.

In spite of this early setback the indomitable 3rd XI came back strongly, slowing the run rate and taking wickets. Particularly impressive was Chris Hall's ability as wicket keeper to stop the ball with just about any part of his body except his hands, and Tom Bibby's devastating and frugal spell of spin. With one over remaining in an epic 30 over match, Stowe were left needing 3 runs to win. Unfortunately they squeaked it but the Abingdon pupils had demonstrated great courage, fortitude and imagination against a highly rated A team.

The defining feature of the season was the character of the boys who stepped out for the 3rds. Many have received a mention already but others also deserve recognition, Edward Otty reflected the never-say-die attitude of the team when he collected his cricket bag from the SUS shop, where it had been languishing unclaimed for a number of years, so that he could play against Winchester on his last ever day at Abingdon, a time when betting men would have thought his career long over. Similarly, William Swarbrick and Jamie Ward delivered match-saving appearances with their mere presence in the side, Will producing a bowling master class at Winchester, and Jamie giving new meaning to the wagging tail with a fine innings not out against

Haberdashers'. Finally Charlie Bethell's fiery determination to play, in spite of the fact that he was in the thick of his GCSEs, provided a clear signal that although many fine young men have moved on to pastures new, the spirit of the team they leave will be as strong as ever as we now look ahead to the 2011-12 season.

*Edward Davies*

**3rd XI squad:** James Barratt, Campbell Garland, Samuel Bowers, Jamie Hall, Matthew Boyd, Nicholas Williams, Nicholas Acutt, Matthew Roberts, Christopher Moore, Stephen Horlock, Edward Otty, George Read-Smith, Calum Smith, Hal Parke, Christopher Hall, Toby Blong, Oliver Wheatley, Daniel Leach, Luke Terry, William Swarbrick, Jamie Ward, Charlie Roberts, Charlie Bethell, Christopher Garratt, Matthew Fitchett, Thomas Bibby

Oratory	Won by 5 wickets
Stowe	Lost by 1 wicket
St Edward's	Won by 10 wickets
MCS	Won by 33 runs
Haberdashers'	Lost by 100 runs
Winchester	Lost by 13 runs

## U15A XI Cricket

The U15A squad enjoyed a good season, with several very fine individual performances, and a marked improvement in the general standard of cricket that the whole team played. However, in the final reckoning, the season disappointed when measured against the very highest standards of which the boys were capable.

The team began with a convincing win by nine wickets against the Royal Grammar School High Wycombe. Although both Davies and O'Kelly scored undefeated fifties in the victory, the side's performance in the field

underlined just how much work they had to do. These failings came back to haunt us in the next game, which we contrived to lose against a weak Oratory side. We should never have allowed them to score 166, but even so we should have won easily from a score of 123 for 4. The collapse that followed emphasised the need for individuals to take personal responsibility and bat according to the situation in the game rather than succumb to pressure and make poor decisions.

However, the defeat served us well as we won the next four games in the run-up to half-term, including victories against a strong Stowe side as well as local rivals St Edward's and Magdalen College School. The fielding was sharper, the bowling accurate, and the batting was solid around excellent performances by Garrett and especially Matthews. The latter set a fine example by valuing his wicket and scoring quickly by looking to rotate the strike rather than taking big risks with 'marquee' shots.

The second half of term looked full of promise, and this was initially fulfilled (in spite of a washed out-trip to play Merchant Taylors') with a second resounding victory over MCS, this time in the County Twenty-20 Cup. A good performance in the field was followed by Matthews and Garrett seeing us home comfortably after the loss of three early wickets. This latest effort saw the deserved promotion of Dan Matthews to the 1st XI. The loss to the team not only of his batting, but also of his excellent wicket-keeping promised to give the rest of the side the opportunity to step up to the challenge against Berkhamsted. This we sadly failed to do with the bat as we collapsed to 73 all out, albeit on a tricky pitch. We bowled and fielded aggressively, but defeat by six wickets still ensued.

The Cup offered the opportunity for redemption and we went on to win the

county final against St Bartholomew's as Davies showed good leadership to captain the team in the absence of several senior players. Sadly, in the regional round we went on to lose heavily against the same Stowe team that we had beaten so convincingly earlier in the season.

However, there were a lot of things to be treasured from the season: the fielding of Lilley, Hart and Alexander, the numerous stumpings effected by Matthews, the effective bowling of Davies, Ogdon, Hart and the miserly Alexander, and the batting of Matthews and the clean-hitting Garrett, supported well by Davies. However, the final game in which the team comfortably thrashed a very weak Winchester side should not disguise the fact that many of the side still have a lot to do to work on with their fitness, strength and mental approach to the game if they are to go on to make major contributions for the 1st XI in the coming seasons as their talent would suggest that they should.

*Andrew Broadbent and Chris Burnand*

**U15A Squad:** Sam Alexander, Rory Garrett, Matthew Hart, Laurence Lilley, Dan Matthews, Robert O'Kelly, Felix Ogdon, Aman Patel, Daniel Scott-Kerr, Alex Davies, Felix Frank, Soumya Bhadra, Adam Spears

RGS High Wycombe	Won by 9 wickets
Oratory	Lost by 33 runs
Stowe	Won by 7 wickets
Lord Williams's, Thame (Oxon 20/20)	Won by 63 runs
St Edward's	Won by 8 wickets
MCS	Won by 6 wickets
MCS (Oxon 20/20)	Won by 7 wickets
Berkhamsted	Lost by 6 wickets
Batholomew School (Oxon 20/20 final)	Won by 44 runs
Stowe (Regional 20/20)	Lost by 73 runs
Winchester	Won by 6 wickets

## U15B XI Cricket

The U15Bs had a great season this year; we had a 100% record of played 8 and won 8. We got the season off to a great start with a 9 wicket victory over the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe and from then on we never faltered and continued to play excellently and overpower every team.

There were many highlights of the season, Jack Fountain getting a superb 109 against Berkhamsted; Gavin Elliott getting a hat trick and finishing with figures of 4-15 against Stowe; Paddy Boyd-Gorst finishing the season with 11 wickets for 75 runs and an average of 6.8, and Will Terry finishing the season with a total of 13 wickets.

We kept our discipline with our bowling, we never usually gave our wickets away whilst batting and we always stuck by our motto of 'Catches win Matches' which Mr Drummond Hay told us every session and match, together with the fact that it is somehow possible to score 50 runs in one over!

Our batting was very solid with a great opening pair of Dan Newton and Adam Scholey. Then we had a middle order with exciting players who could score runs quickly, for example Tom Ling who scored 25 off 16 balls against Haberdashers'. If needed, we had players who could bat right up to number 11 but the most wickets we ever lost in a single game was 6 against Winchester. This meant we were always able to set very competitive scores when we batted first. Our opening bowlers were very accurate, often getting many wickets in the first few overs, immediately putting pressure on the opposition; our great bowling meant we only ever had to chase down scores of at most 115, which was against Magdalen College School.

We always kept our team spirit high and there was always someone talking in the field, helping us to keep awake and concentrate, but also to have a friendly atmosphere where people could feel comfortable and perform to the best of their ability.

It was difficult for us at times, with many of our best players moving up to play for the As, but we could always rely on some steady players from the C team and we were usually spoilt for choice when we came to picking the team. This allowed us to have strength in depth and so even when we lost good players we could always have a good team and win. In total 16 different players played for the teams at some point during the season.

#### *Tim Grant 4 GRM*

Congratulations to the team on winning all their matches this season. This is by no means an easy feat and was achieved by a determined and focused effort from all players against some strong opposition.

#### *Jeff Drummond-Hay*

**U15B Squad:** Adam Scholey (Captain), Tim Grant (Captain), Patrick Boyd-Gorst, Felix Frank, Jack Fountain, Sam Hogan, Tom Ling, Ben Mitchell, Stephen Moran, Dan Newton, Angus Parker, Aman Patel, Nicholas Schneider, Andrew Stoney, Will Terry

RGS High Wycombe	Won by 9 wickets
Oratory	Won by 5 wickets
Stowe	Won by 6 wickets
St Edward's	Won by 7 wickets
MCS	Won by 7 wickets
Haberdashers'	Won by 76 runs
Berkhamsted	Won by 145 runs
Winchester	Won by 5 wickets

### U14A – County Champions



### U14A X1 Cricket

We began the season with a good win against the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe thanks to 91 not out from Adam Spears. Our next game was against The Oratory. Duncan Grant was our top scorer with 48 and he was well supported by the middle order, which took our total to 159. Everyone chipped in with the ball to secure another win. Unfortunately, our game against Bradfield was rained off. The weather wasn't a problem against Stowe and good bowling from Leo Bethell and Archie Wimborne restricted them to 114. However, our chase started off very slowly and our tail-enders, Joe Williams and Matthew Butcher, required 25 from the last 2 overs, which they managed to achieve with 2 balls to spare in what was the most exciting game of the season. After this fantastic win, we suffered our first and only loss of the season to a strong St Edward's team, despite an excellent 65 from Soumya Bhadra. We then bounced back to form with five straight wins, thanks to consistent runs from Soumya and fellow opener Callum Russell, economical bowling

all round, especially from spinner Max Mannering who bowled 6 overs for 6 maidens against MCS, and outstanding work in the field from the whole team. We then finished the season against a touring side from Cape Town who, despite being U13s, were very good for their age. We held the tourists to 106, thanks to tight bowling from Alex Davies and Owen Morgan. Our openers then set out to chase down the total, and they did so in style thanks to yet another half-century from Soumya Bhadra, who was in sensational form all season.

We also had a very successful County Cup campaign. We made easy work of King Alfred's and Bartholomew's, before meeting Burford in the semi-final in a slightly tougher game. However, we managed to get the win to set up a final against Lord Williams's Thame. Once again our openers Callum and Soumya both made 50s in a big opening stand of 121, setting up captain James Fitzjohn for a quick-fire 28, leaving our opponents requiring 194 from their 30 overs. The openers got off to a good start at 60-0, but a good run out from Bas Marshall broke

**Soumya Bhadra**



the partnership, Lord Williams's failed to recover, and we eventually ended up as County Champions in what capped off an outstanding season for the team. With thanks to Mr Wickes and Mr Southwell-Sander for their hard work coaching us.

*James Fitzjohn 3 SEB and Owen Morgan 3 DJB*

**U14A Squad:** Adam Spears, Duncan Grant, Leo Bethell, Archie Wimborne, Joe Williams, Matthew Butcher, Soumya Bhadra, Callum Russell, Max Mannering, Alex Davies, Owen Morgan, James Fitzjohn, Bas Marshall

RGS High Wycombe	Won by 5 wickets
Oratory	Won by 50 runs
Stowe	Won by 1 wicket
St Edward's	Lost by 6 wickets
King Alfred's (Oxon Cup)	Won by 10 wickets
MCS	Won by 6 wickets
Merchant Taylor's	Won by 45 runs
Bartholomew School	Won by 7 wickets
Haberdashers'	Won by 5 wickets
Berkhamsted	Abandoned
Burford (Oxon Cup)	Won by 5 wickets
Winchester	Won by 70 runs
Lord Williams's, Thame	
Lord's Taverners Final	Won



*yet another half-century from Soumya Bhadra, who was in sensational form all season*



### U14B XI Cricket

This was a season of outstanding success by a team that would have matched many an A team. There was strength in depth: Hugh Cutting was only dismissed once in acquiring 182 runs – this included 82 not out against Winchester – in addition he took 8 wickets at an average of 10.5. Alex Grantham scored 266 runs at an average of 88.7, which included 90 not out against Merchant Taylors', and he took four catches. Alex Foster scored 165 at an average of 55, including 104 not out against Haberdashers'. He also took 12 wickets at 7.4, including 5 for 16 against the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe and four catches. Sam Herbert scored 51 runs without being dismissed and captured 13 wickets at 8.8, including a hat-trick against Shiplake. Joe Williams scored 149 runs at 74.5.

George England was the outstanding bowler, taking 24 wickets with his demon leg-spin at 6.5 runs each, including 5 for 29 against St Edward's – and he made 5 catches. Bas Marshall scored 188 runs at 47 a-piece. John Francis captained the team very ably and took the greatest number of catches (6). Will Carter Keall, vice-captain, scored 83 runs at 41.5, 8 wickets at 10, and took 3 catches. Freddie Iswariah took 13 wickets at 10.6 and 4 catches. Jack Dawson took 4 wickets and 4 catches.

In a strong team, regulars Jack Dawson and Tom Harkness, with four dismissals as wicket-keeper, only had one innings each. Memorable events included Jack's 2 not out – he laughed as he ran between the wickets – and the Haberdashers' umpire running off the field to kiss his wife and returning to the spontaneous applause of our team.

*Henry Kirk*

**U14B Squad:** John Francis (Capt), Will Carter Keall (Vice-Capt), Hugh Cutting, Alex Grantham, Alex Foster, Sam Herbert, Joe Williams, George England, Bas Marshall, Freddie Iswariah, Jack Dawson, Tom Harkness

RGS High Wycombe	Won by 96 runs
Oratory	Won by 8 wickets
Stowe	Won by 8 wickets
St Edward's	Lost by 68 runs
MCS	Won by 108 runs
Merchant Taylors'	Won by 9 wickets
Haberdashers'	Won by 212 runs
Berkhamsted	Abandoned
Shiplake	Won by 8 wickets
Winchester	Won by 131 runs
Berkhamsted	Abandoned / rain

# Rowing



**1st Eight winners of the Schools' Head of the River 2011**

## 1st VIII

At the start of our training back in August, Henley seemed a long way away. We started off training in small boats, working on technique and base fitness. Our first real test of the season was when we went to America, to race at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. We stayed in Philadelphia, kindly hosted by St Joseph's Prep, and travelled up by coach to chilly Boston for the race. Starting near the back of a field of over 70 crews, we experienced one of the more exciting races of the season, overtaking 7 crews to finish a respectable 6th considering our starting position. While we were quite pleased with this, we realised that we had lots of hard work to do to beat Eton, the best placed

school, who had come 3rd. This was reinforced again at the Fours Head in London in November, where we fielded four crews, but our top coxed four lost out to Eton again. The other crews were placed respectably, but didn't win. Training hard against the snow and ice that tried and failed to halt our progress, we worked towards the first big race of the season — the Schools' Head of the River.

In March, we raced in our first long distance event of the year as a 1st VIII at Reading University Head, winning Intermediate 1(IM1) Eights, beating all the other schools that entered and coming 3rd overall, a remarkable achievement. This was a big confidence boost going into the Schools' Head, which was the

following week. Racing in relatively good conditions on the normally choppy Tideway, we started second behind Eton. After holding off an early push from Shrewsbury in an attempt to upset our rhythm, we stuck to our race plan, maintaining an efficient rate that would allow us to attack in the second half of the race when the most damage could be done. Just after the halfway mark, at the Chiswick Eyot, we stepped up a gear, and spurred on by the tremendous support on Hammersmith Bridge, we opened up a margin on Shrewsbury and pushed up to less than a length of clear water behind Eton. After a manic finish we won by 5 seconds, 3 seconds off the record. This was a great result for us, and from here we thought we really had a chance of taking the triple.



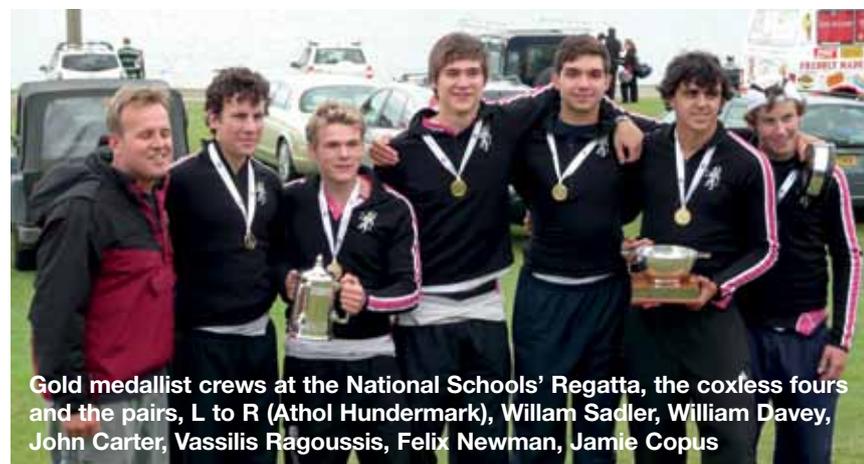
**Parental support on Hammersmith Bridge at the Schools' Head**

After this, the Head season was over and so we changed our focus to the shorter (yet more painful) 2k racing of the summer regattas. We had our annual training camp in Temple-sur-Lot, in the south of France, which is always a highlight of the year, and thanks to five days of nothing but rowing we were really able to move on as a crew. This showed when we got back from the holidays, having strong performances at Wallingford and Bedford Regattas, and half the crew winning silver medals in the GB VIII at Munich. We hoped that we could take this confidence into the National Schools' Regatta at the beginning of the half term holiday.

At Nottingham, there was a strong cross-head wind, favouring certain lanes. In our semi-final we had a strong race, recovering after a battering

from the wind and breaking waves up at the start, to row through Radley comfortably to win by 2 lengths. We had a reasonably good lane for our final, but were up against a strong and heavy Eton who had been given the most sheltered lane. After a fast start, we were up on the rest of the field but got caught up in the excitement of a final and never hit a sustainable rhythm. This allowed Eton, who rowed a well-judged race, to row through us to win by three quarters of a length. This loss devastated us, and although we won gold in the pair and coxless fours on the Sunday, we returned to Abingdon with new resolve to row our own race and to never be rowed through again.

A week later, we had strong performances at the Met Regatta, winning IM1 eights, and also showed



**Gold medallist crews at the National Schools' Regatta, the coxless fours and the pairs, L to R (Athol Hundermark), Willam Sadler, William Davey, John Carter, Vassilis Ragoussis, Felix Newman, Jamie Copus**



**The 2nd Eight at the Schools' Head of the River**

class at the short, tricky Reading Amateur Regatta. With our preparation done for Henley and with the crew moving well, in good spirits we moved onto what had been the focal point of our entire season.

We moved our training base to Henley the week before the race and our boat was moving better than it had all season, and after doing pieces against St Joseph's Prep USA, whom we were hosting, we felt confident. We moved into our 'Henley House', kindly offered to us by Norman Guiver, the Sunday before Henley week and started to get away from all distractions so we could be at our best.

Our first race was a potential banana skin against a strong Bedford Modern School, but we stuck to what we did best, moving away to win by 3 lengths. Thursday brought St. Peter's School whom we comfortably beat by an 'easily' verdict. Friday's race was a big one, as it would mean we could get to the weekend, and coming up against a St Edward's crew at their best, we knew it would be tough. They went out hard and were leading us off the start, but we moved back on them in our now feared rhythm to win by two lengths. This set up a massive race on the Saturday against local rivals Radley, whom the School had never raced at Henley before, while Eton and



The triumphant 1st Eight with the Princess Elizabeth Cup. L-R Andrew Halls, William Sadler, AJ Hatzis, John Carter, Neil McKenzie, Vassilis Ragoussis, Felix Newman, William Davey, Jamie Copus



Abingdon lead St Andrew's in the final of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta

the American crew St Andrew's made up the other semi-final. We set off hard and took a canvas by the quarter mile. However, once we reached our rhythm we never looked back and although Radley pushed us hard, we always felt in control and won by three quarters of a length, whilst also setting a new course record of 6 minutes 19 seconds, beating the old record by 3 seconds which had stood since 1992. Sunday was against the American

school, St Andrew's, who had beaten Eton on the Saturday. Although the verdict was one and three quarter lengths, the race was hotly contested until the very end, when our wind to the finish seemed to finish them off, and we pulled away to get clear water.

Throughout the week, the support from the Abingdon old boys was incredible. Walking out to masses of pink and white on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, you could feel the noise and

support from the crowd, and it really helped to settle the nerves. Knowing that all these people were willing you to win, and hearing the chants for Abingdon at the boat area and going up the course, the support for us was immense, and something that everyone in the crew really appreciated.

Thank you to every one who has supported us this year and especially to Mr Hundermark whose coaching was key to our success. Other mentions should go to Mr Currie and Peter Haining for their help throughout the year, Mr Perriss who pushed us harder than we thought we could ever go to help us get faster, and Austen who kept our equipment in perfect condition.

*Andrew Halls 6 SEC and AJ Hatzis 6 JEF*



OA support at Henley



The J16s winning the Novice Eights at Bedford Regatta

## J16 Rowing

After a rather successful 2010 season, the 2011 season started brightly with the main focus of the first term on improving technique and putting in a good performance at the Schools' Head of the River, which is held on the Thames. Things were looking promising for the J16s, now under the guidance of new coach David Currie. With good performances at BASHER regatta in mixed eights, the crews set out for the Thames with high hopes. The B crew had a good row and came in a solid 5th place in the J16 2nd eight category. The A crew, consisting of Max Brittan, Will Horlock, Matthew Carter, Ed McLaughlin, Russell Orr Burns, Kristian Wood, Rory Brampton, Tom Browne and Joel Cooper, gave a strong performance, rowing down Eton College to come in 3rd place and secure the Thames Team Trophy for the School.

During April, as usual, the Boat Club went to Temple-sur-Lot in the south of France. The A crew posted a very fast time over 2k. In the second

rowing term most of the racing was 2,000 metres or less, which suited the rather large A crew. Our first real test was at Wallingford Regatta where the As dominated their heat. Things were looking good for the final until the rudder wire snapped and we were disqualified. This cruel blow to the crew left us determined to win the National Schools' Regatta, which was only a few weeks away. We headed up to Nottingham confidently, with a win at Bedford Regatta and a good performance at BASHER regatta under our belt. The A crew, which was unchanged from Schools' Head, won their semi-final easily, setting up a battle against Hampton in the final for the gold medal. The final did not start well, with Hampton taking nearly a length lead heading into the last 500 meters. Encouraged by the shouts from Mr Currie and the parents on the bank, we launched a final charge on Hampton and crossed the line almost level but just not ahead so we came second, losing to Hampton by 0.19 seconds, making our final the closest of the entire regatta. The regatta continued

on into the next day and the B crew, made up of Ian Middleton, Joe Heade, Milan Banerjee, Jack Maxted and Harry Blackwell, raced in the J16 coxed fours event, coming a very respectable 10th place, despite having to race against other schools' A crews. Kristian Wood, Will Horlock, Tom Browne and Joel Cooper also raced in the J16 coxless four category, coming second once more to a Hampton boat.

With National Schools' gone, the main focus was on qualifying for the GB v France match. The A team was split into two fours and the crew of Matthew Carter, Kristian Wood, Tom Browne, Joel Cooper and Max Brittan qualified to represent Great Britain as the coxed four. The other half of the As were unlucky to miss out on selection, despite putting a very strong performance. Some of the A crew also joined with two members of the second eight in an attempt to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. The crew rowed very well, but missed out on qualification by three seconds.

It was a very successful year for the J16s and our thanks have to go to Mr Currie for being a wonderful coach throughout the year.

### *Joel Cooper 5 CFC*

**J16 squad:** Max Brittan, Will Horlock, Matthew Carter, Ed McLaughlin, Russell Orr Burns, Kristian Wood, Rory Brampton, Tom Browne, Joel Cooper, Ian Middleton, Joe Heade, Milan Banerjee, Jack Maxted, Harry Blackwell, Toby Ross, Charlie Marsh, Jamie Marsh, Henry Binning, Ben Thompson, Lewis Spring, Chris Cooke and Lachlan McGregor

## J15 Rowing

After a season of mixed fortunes, the J15s have learnt, seemingly through trial and error, valuable lessons that will surely stand us in good stead for next season. Taking three mixed eights to BASHER allowed everyone to experience our first sweep-rowing regatta, and all crews displayed promise, posting similar times. After a few Saturday afternoon training sessions we arrived at Reading University Head for our first true Head race. At 4.5 km it was the furthest we had ever rowed continuously and it certainly felt like it but both A and B crews finished in the top 10 in their respective events, with the Cs not far behind. A few weeks of tough training later, we arrived in London for the Schools' Head. After a short paddle on the rough water and an inspirational team talk we felt ready to attack the Tideway. We raced hard but when the results finally emerged we had not done as well as we had hoped: the As came in 21st and the Bs 10th in their respective categories.

Having put this result behind us, we arrived in France for our training camp

with a positive attitude and ready to get down to some hard work. We began the week in mixed eights and small boats before moving onto selection races including a pairs' matrix. The top four from this were given the chance to row in the brand new 'Animus' with the stern and bow pair of the first eight. Our hard training was rewarded with an afternoon of go-karting in which Leo Wood came out on top. It was a tough week but everyone enjoyed it.

BASHER presented us with our first six-lane racing and it was immediately evident how much we had improved. The A boat won their first race and the Bs came in the middle of theirs, beating several A crews. In their final races, both crews raced well against some strong U16 crews. We then moved on to Bedford, our last regatta before National Schools' Regatta. The Bs lost out to Radley in their final; however, the A crew valiantly fought off Radley to gain a spot in the final. Despite many complaints from the Radley crew about their boat camera, it unfortunately did not record this triumph. However, it did work just in time to capture our narrow defeat to Bedford Modern School in the final.

We now felt ready for the National Schools' Regatta. In spite of wet and windy conditions, the A crew comfortably qualified for the final in third place. After a very early processional, the B crew put up a valiant effort in their semi-final but narrowly missed out on a spot in the final. The C crew put in a great performance to qualify for the semi-finals of the B event, beating many B crews in the process. The A boat battled severe conditions and raced hard to finish a creditable 5th. A couple of weeks later the A crew raced at Reading Amateur Regatta in J15 and Novice eights, finishing runner-up in both finals after some strong racing.

For the Marlow Regatta, we arrived bright and early at Dorney, ready for

a tough day's racing; unfortunately, half the B crew's riggers didn't. However, having got around this minor mishap, both crews went out all guns blazing. The A crew ended up 4th in the final, an improvement on their National Schools' result. The B crew unfortunately did not qualify for their final but thoroughly enjoyed the day nevertheless. Our last regatta was Reading Town, which provided us with pots aplenty with the As winning Novice eights and the top B four gaining a tankard in their event. We would like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and dedication this year.

### *Leo Wood 4 PW*

## J14 Rowing

Abingdon School has been blessed with a good cohort of third-form rowers for the last few years, and it was no different this year; a remarkable group of boys joined the squad, showing their commitment and skill even early on. Early ergo tests showed an overall strength and fitness even beyond previous years, while the early fixture with St. Edward's showed great strength in depth as even our E crew beat the St. Edward's C crew. St. Edward's, with whom we have a strong partnership at this level, also had a strong crew, and we would come up against them regularly during the season. For the first time in five years we dared to enter two matched A crews into the National Sculling Head; although we are not usually up to racing standard by that stage in the year, this year the boys learned so quickly that it was worth a go up against schools who had been training since September or before. The boys finished a creditable 15th and 11th, both clocking 6.49 on the second leg. This left us convinced of the possibility of a fast A crew.

**J14As, silver medallists at the National Schools' Regatta:  
Will Clamp-Gray, Adam Pearson, Declan Field, Angus Black, Max  
Townley, Jack Walsh, Marcello Cau Tait, Alastair Smith, Calum Farwell**



The Easter holidays saw the usual single-sculling training camp, which was favoured by excellent weather. The boys learned much, sometimes the hard way! The comment of a visiting crew told it well when one complimented us on the quality of our capsize drills. The Summer term was packed with racing; few Saturdays were not taken up by regattas. The prospects for the season looked promising at BASHER, where the A crew won, beating Bedford in the final race, while the other 3 crews all showed good potential. At Bedford Regatta, however, the A crew realised how competitive the top flight is, beating Latymer B, but losing narrowly to King's College School. In fact, all the winning times were within a few seconds. As the National Schools' Regatta loomed, we had a good feeling that we could pull off a surprising result. The B and C crew began in fine fashion, both qualifying for the B event, with the C crew showing themselves the fastest C crew in the country (for the second year) – sadly, there was no prize for this! The B crew got into the final and finished in 5th. The A

crew qualified for the final and were part of one of the most dramatic races of the day, finishing 2nd with the top three crews all within 2 seconds. They were rightly proud of the silver medals, having beaten many schools on three-term rowing. The rest of the season was fraught with mishap: at Marlow Regatta, in the lead with 300m to go, a blade broke in the choppy waters and we came in 3rd. At Reading Town Regatta, a collision before the race put the bowman out of action, despite this, the seven remaining men raced with great passion, holding Radley to only a length with an extra man. No doubt this will have increased the resolve to dominate next season, as will the desire to follow in the footsteps of the seniors.

*Hugh Price*

“

*That four is from Abingdon,  
the best rowing school in  
the country*

”

## GB Rowing

For the second time, Abingdon School Boat Club represented Great Britain in the annual GB v France match, a longstanding race against the French rowing team. The match took place on Sunday 10 July 2011 and saw Abingdon's J16 (A team) coxed four win the race with a thrilling 5 second lead ahead of the competition.

Abingdon had entered two J16 coxed fours to the trials for the Great Britain J16 team. The A four of Max Brittan, Tom Browne, Matthew Carter, Kristian Wood and Joel Cooper won the trial, beating the National Schools' Champions and immediately gaining selection to row for Great Britain.

The B four of Ian Middleton, Rory Brampton, Will Horlock, Russell Orr Burns and Edward McLaughlin were a little bit off the pace in their first race, so they qualified to race again to try and make up half of the eight. Unfortunately they were unable to hold off strong performances from other schools' A fours and so did not qualify.

The GB v France Match is held in France or Great Britain on alternate years. This year, the event was held in London at the Royal Albert Docks. The team moved to the racing venue on Thursday 7 July for a pre-race training camp in preparation for the race. The preparations went well with our boys enjoying being part of the Great Britain rowing team and as well as being great ambassadors for Abingdon School. On race day the boys were extremely focused, professional and above all else, calm. The French opposition looked to be a strong boat in training, with rowers that equalled the size of the Abingdon boys so we knew we were going to be in for a tough race. Off the start, the two boats were neck and neck, with the British boat maybe having the upper hand by about two feet for the first 500m. Coming through



750m the Abingdon boys made a big push and pulled slightly in front of the French. Moving into the final 500m the British boat stamped its dominance on the French by breaking clear, and the Abingdon 4+ won their first international competition for Great Britain in style. This win enabled the team to win the Boys Team Trophy and helped Great Britain retain the Overall Team Trophy.

After the event both teams took part in some fun dragon boat racing to end the day. A party then followed with a banquet and a riverboat cruise down the Thames through London.

One of the highlights of the day, other than winning, must have been when one of our very supportive parents overheard another parent explaining, "That four is from Abingdon, the best rowing school in the country," ... enough said!

Also on that weekend, six of our 1st VIII were successful at the GB Junior trials. John Carter, Vassilis Ragoussis, Jamie Copus and Felix Newman have won places in the Great Britain World Championship team, which is held from 4-7 August at Dorney Lake and

Will Davey and Neil McKenzie were selected to race for Great Britain in the Coupe de la Jeunesse, also known as the Junior European Rowing Championships, which was held from 29-30 July in Linz, Austria.

*David Currie*

## House Quads

The annual House Quads match took place on Wednesday 6 July. It started ahead of schedule and once crews were on the water the rain eased, although a strong cross-head wind made conditions challenging. Inexperienced scullers and coxes were banned and so some coxes were kept busy jumping in and out of other House crews.

The first heat was cancelled owing to a lack of a Crescent crew, the second heat saw Boyd's take a conclusive lead over Franklin's, who in turn opened up over a length's distance over O'Doherty's. The third heat saw a much closer battle between the top two, with only three feet between Southwell-Sander's and Davies', leaving Christodoulou's trailing.

Boyd's secured another victory in the first semi-final, showing off their neat blade work to the crowd, with Webb's, who had had a bye to get there, in their wake. Southwell-Sander's started the next semi-final as favourites, and showed their superiority from the start; Franklin's were disappointed but unsurprised by the result. In the third semi-final, School House beat Davies' to make it through to the final, with confidence in their 'all power, no technique' approach to racing!

The grand final proved to be very exciting for those spectators who had waited around to watch. All three crews showed neat and powerful sculling, and it was almost a photo finish between Boyd's and Southwell-Sander's. Southwell-Sander's put in an enormous burst towards the finish, which was almost enough to close the gap. Unfortunately, the burst came too late and Boyd's were victorious by a couple of feet, with School House in a respectable third place, one and a half lengths down.

*Hugh Price*

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# Cross Country

This season will be remembered as a highly successful one in terms of the number of medals awarded to boys, and it may also be remembered as a season that highlighted some key areas for growth. The Knole Run suggested that we ought not to have settled for a bronze medal when the silver one was quite within reach. The King Henry VIII relays pointed out perhaps a need for us to improve on our consistency and speed and to get rid of the idea of performing and winning only when 'it felt right'. Talent was in abundance within our squad but it was, alas, also the case with any podium contender. What would separate the teams and podium positions was what was to be found in the hearts and minds of athletes – this we continue to explore and develop. Here are some of the exciting highlights of the season:

## County Championships – 25 January

The Cross Country Club travelled to Radley College to compete in the County Championships, with the aim of winning all three age groups. And they did: having run the same course only five days previously in the Vale of White Horse Championships and won the three age groups convincingly, we had felt fairly confident. In the most competitive age group – the U15s – there were some fantastic performances from Teddy Curtis and Michael Fabes, who came 4th and 5th respectively after being overtaken in the last 50m. This team showed a lot of potential as 4 of the 8 boys were in the second year, and we won 1st place – a great start to the day. Next up were the U17s. Despite Mathew Hartshorne's absence due to injury, our top 4 runners worked as a team and

School runners at the Longworth Run



all finished in the top 21 with Thomas Kelly coming 4th, so it was no surprise when we took the gold. The final race of the day was the U19s. There was a slightly smaller number of participants in this race but the standard was very high: Alistair Duff ran very well, coming in 2nd, with Josh Ridley finishing close behind him to take 4th. Stuart Jones and Luke Terry finished 6th and 7th respectively resulting in an easy win for the U19s. In each race, the top 8 runners are selected to represent Oxfordshire for the inter-counties race later that term in Nottingham.

## King Henry VIII Relays – 2 February

After the recent success in the Knole Run, the Club entered, for the first time in seven years, the King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry, which is definitely the national independent schools' relay event. This fixture draws entries from schools as far afield as Lancaster Grammar, Sedbergh, St Alban's, Ipswich and Bryanston, showing the truly national nature of the competition as well as its prestige.

Upon arriving at King Henry VIII School we were handed a programme containing 40 years of past results,

with fastest laps by athletes such as Sebastian Coe. All the cross-country big names were there – Judd, Manchester Grammar, Marling (with two current GB 3000m runners), St Alban's – and notable other challengers – Shrewsbury and Ermysted's Grammar School, who boasted an international fell runner in their team. The best schoolboy athletes in the country were assembled to do battle over a mixed terrain course of 3.7km in teams of six. Our team and training is better suited to the Knole Run and this relay would give the Club an insight into how tough competing at the very top is. Captain Josh Ridley ran a good first leg, finishing sixth; next was Alistair Duff with a current form that enabled him to get the team into a medal position. A decent leg from David Wills and an impressive senior debut run from Thomas Kelly were outgunned by the big names from Marling and Judd, and pressurized by St Alban's, Lancaster Grammar and Shrewsbury. Going into the fifth leg in seventh place, seasoned performers Stuart Jones and anchorman Luke Terry just couldn't make up the ground despite giving their all. Eighth place overall for the

Oxfordshire County Champions showed why this fixture has such longevity and renown, but it beat our previous best result of 13th by some way.

### Radley College Relays – 17 February

The Cross-Country Club competed at the Radley College Relays against Epsom, Harrow, Magdalen College School (MCS), Marlborough, Mill Hill, Wellington College, Radley, Piggott, Southend High and Winchester. The U15s with Teddy Curtis, Henry Hart, Alex Gatenby and Michael Fabes raced with flair and precision of pacing and were rightly awarded their first medal of the season, scoring third place overall; they also qualified for their cross-country ties. In the absence of Mathew Hartshorne, Angus Parker and Thomas Kelly, the U17s, with Michael Esnouf, Thomas Fabes, Joe Greenman and Luke Teh, finally started to consolidate a strong team spirit and capitalised on their formidable strength, scoring third place as well. The Senior B team saw Nicholas Williams, David Wills, Robin Veale and Rory Marsh run a brave race while beating many A teams from other schools. The senior A team comprising Luke Terry, Thomas Kelly, Alistair Duff and Josh Ridley scored second overall, trailing the winners by about 6 seconds. While the A team could have been faster on paper, the Club would be stronger in the future as a



The U19s at the County Championships



The Under 17s at the County Championships

result of tactical re-shuffling of runners. Half term training on the Ridgeway preceded the remaining four fixtures, which saw some further successes.

### South East School's Championships – 12 March

The Cross-Country Club travelled to Harrow School to compete in the South East Schools' Championships. As defending champions, the pressure was such that the Senior team were looking to place in the top three at least – a good enough proposition for a relatively young senior squad who will hopefully reach race-readiness by next year. The opposition was as expected: very strong and already race-sharp. It was a good opportunity for us to measure up against our average times of last year and to see how the teams would cope with the unexpected injuries of key runners. The Senior team managed a respectable second place and were therefore awarded silver medals; runners who stood out were Mathew Hartshorne and Thomas Kelly in the A team, as well as Stuart Jones who led from the front, and Nicholas

//  
*boys, who achieve athletic prowess that few adults would ever contemplate, through hard work, hardship and resilience*  
 //

Williams in the B team who had the race of his life and quite probably earned his half colours from that event alone. Also from the B team, Joe Greenman and Thomas Fabes ran brilliantly. The Junior team ran valiantly despite circumstances beyond their control to score fourth place: Teddy Curtis, Joe Kelly, Alex Gatenby, Dominic Whaler, Edward Reynolds and James Tebbs were very impressive in their debut on such a traditional, and very hard, course.

All the runners had fun this season – that was important. Many of them will return to the 2011-2012 season with a thirst for even more success, feeling rested, stronger, resolute and focused on the aims of the Club. I am just an observer, as I have to remind myself, and some amazing boys, who achieve athletic prowess that few adults would ever contemplate, through hard work, hardship and resilience, do the real work. I also remind myself that I simply type and make lists, and that the real adult work is done by some quite spectacular coaches from the staff who dedicate their time, emotions and efforts unreservedly and over the span of not one, but two terms and the holidays too; this is amazing work, done by some amazing people.

*Alexis Christodoulou*

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# Football

## 1st and 2nd XI

The 1st and 2nd teams each enjoyed results that promise well for the start of football as a major sport next season. The 1st XI played all their matches away and recorded an unbeaten season, scoring 14 goals and achieving 10 points from a possible 12. The 2nd XI won 75% of their matches and scored 13 goals. The match reports for the 1st XI follow:

The Cokethorpe match came a little soon for us, with fitness and team communication still leaving a little to be desired. Nevertheless, we had an early chance to take the lead from the penalty spot after Tom Fishpool was brought down, but the keeper saved well. It was only a momentary reprieve for Cokethorpe as Jake Burgess gave Abingdon the lead after a couple of dangerous crosses from Koyejo Abraham. Cokethorpe continued to come back at us throughout the game, equalising to 1-1, and after Edward Kempell scored a stunning header, nodding a free kick over the onrushing keeper, they fought again to bring it back to 2-2. Our manager certainly was pleased to get the draw, and the players reluctantly agreed that Cokethorpe had made a few very good chances towards the end, and with our defence exposed and struggling for fitness, we were pleased to get the point.

With regard to the game against The Oratory, captain Matthew Boyd had nothing but praise for his team. Abingdon took the lead when Matthew Boyd bundled in a corner after about two minutes. We then scored the best goal of the game, a free kick from about 25 yards out. Jamie Hall played



a superb cross to the back post, where Harry Copson chested it down and volleyed it across goal for Jake Burgess to convert. Oratory scored from a penalty, after which our third goal came from Edward Kempell, who beat the offside trap to finish powerfully. Oratory scored their second with the last kick of the game after some defensive complacency from us, but it was a deserved win nonetheless. James Barratt, Tom Fishpool and Harry Copson had very strong games, and Jamie Hall, who was on the receiving end of some rough treatment, kept his cool well and let his football do the damage. We looked dangerous from set plays, and there were certainly chances for the strikers which we let pass by, something which was eventually to be resolved.

“  
*As their manager, I will certainly remember them for their neat pass-and-move football, which schoolboy teams rarely show*  
”

In the Magdalen College School match we won 4-1, feeling comfortable throughout. Tom Fishpool opened the scoring after just a few minutes from a James Barratt corner, and Jake Burgess doubled our lead, running through after a great through ball from Jamie Hall. After a lapse of concentration at the back, and what may have felt like a glimmer of hope for MCS, James Bater nodded in from another Barratt corner, something that we had worked on in training. After this, Jamie Hall provided a great through ball, with Harry Copson getting on the end of it to score. It could have been more but Jamie Hall's 30-yard effort came back off the inside of the post. Koyejo Abraham was very busy and created space for us up front, and Tim Gladstone will be remembered for his David Luiz-style runs up from the back.

Our final game against Reading Blue Coat was hyped up more than turned out to be necessary, with memories of a difficult fixture the year before. We dominated possession for the whole

match, creating six or seven clear goal scoring opportunities in the first half alone, but converting only one of them. Jake Burgess slotted home a fantastic through ball from Jamie Hall, a huge relief for the Abingdon fans. Koyejo Abraham netted early in the second half to help settle nerves, and his example spurred Jake Burgess on to score two more goals and complete his hat-trick before, fittingly, one of the stars of the season, Jamie Hall, scored his first goal for the School.

The 1st XI consisted of mostly Upper Sixth-formers, who will be missed, but they look forward to getting together again as an OA side. As their manager, I will certainly remember them for their neat pass-and-move football, which schoolboy teams rarely show. The team learnt the value of patience, both through and because of the training exercises that they worked on together.

*Daniel Freyhan*

#### From the Captain:

I'm absolutely delighted that we finished it off and I hope that this unbeaten season can provide some sort of platform from which Abingdon School football can build in the future.

*Matthew Boyd 7 PJEC*

**1st X1 Squad:** Matthew Boyd (Captain), William Sensecall, Oliver Wheatley, Tim Gladstone, James Barratt, Patrick MacMahon, Jamie Campbell, Harry Copson, Tom Fishpool, Jamie Hall, Tom Price, James Bater, Koyejo Abraham, Jake Burgess, Edward Kempell

Cokethorpe	D	2-2
Oratory	W	3-2
MCS	W	4-1
Reading Blue Coat	W	5-2



**2nd X1 Squad:** Oli Leach (Captain), Marcus Seller, William Sensecall, Edward Otty, Joseph Read, Ben Stockwell, Kolujo Abraham, Will Hollier, Alex McIntosh, Stephen Horlock, Tom Price, Mark Kardos, Jack Ward, Jack Channon, Joel Morris, James Edwards, Marc Woolley, William Swarbrick

Cokethorpe	W	4-2
Oratory	W	3-1
MCS	L	2-3
Reading Blue Coat	W	4-1

### 3rd XI

At Cokethorpe we dominated midfield with Jack Channon (who scored 3), James Edwards, Kelvin Hung and George Baldwin all playing well, though the score perhaps flattered us as, for instance, Edward Otty saved a penalty and a soft free kick dribbled past their goalkeeper. A week later a substantially different team (for various reasons) played at The Oratory. We were outplayed by a much younger team, they passed the ball better than us and one of their goals was a superb header. Our only reward was a William Swarbrick goal after chasing

a ball downfield through the mud. We got back to winning ways at Magdalen College School with many flowing attacks in an open game, an Ayo Lawanson hat trick and a sensational Kelvin Hung free kick doing the damage. Good defending by Campbell Garland also caught the eye. Finally, we salvaged a draw at Reading when William Swarbrick just beat the offside trap. Many people played in the 3rd XI and the attitude in training was consistently positive with many others keen to be selected for the matches.

*Nick Pritchard*

**3rd X1 Squad:** Jack Channon, James Edwards, Kelvin Hung, George Baldwin, Edward Otty, William Swarbrick, Ayo Lawanson, Campbell Garland, Alex McIntosh, Pourya Zabeti, Jim Grabham, Mike Williams, Oliver Jeffreys, Stanley Ng, Harry Granger, George Apps, Sam Hardy

Cokethorpe	W	7-0
Oratory	L	1-5
MCS	W	6-2
Reading Blue Coat	D	1-1

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# Athletics



L to R Peter Barnshaw, Jake Burgess, Tom Foxon, Luke Terry, Christian Reedman, Stuart Jones, William Nott

The most successful season in recent years had less than fortuitous beginnings. The heavens chose this year to delay the onset of Easter Day, quietly knocking a week off the athletics season, and then a certain well-known couple decided that early in the Summer term was just the right time to get married. In a stroke all our Saturday fixtures were gone, leaving us with only two significant opportunities to show for a year's preparation.

The first was the Radley College Medley Relays. This is a marvellous event run early in the term, as a kind of showcase of independent school talent, and held at a time when parents can attend. It is often a marvellous, balmy early summer

evening. This year it was windy and cold. We last won a trophy in Mr Moody's first year in charge of athletics, and having missed out by a whisker last year, when that successful junior team had returned as seniors, it seemed unlikely that we would have a chance this year.

The junior team of Ben Seares, Michael Dewar, Gus Mills and Alex Munro displayed some great talent for the future and were in contention after the 200s, but were unable to match some outstanding running from the opposition, coming in a distant 10th at the tape. The first heat of the Seniors was won well by Harrow, setting a solid time for the second heat. Led off by William Nott

and Jake Burgess, our team immediately began to stretch the opposition. Peter Barnshaw then showed why he has been chosen to captain the Oxford National Team this year by putting in a captain's quarter-mile, creating a vast gap. This left Josh Ridley to run the entire 800m alone, with not even a sound of opposition chasing. He proved a worthy last-leg man, pushing himself the whole way and almost collapsing over the line at the last. It was a fine performance, but the clock stopped on an identical time to Harrow. What would the tenths tell us? In the end, the answer was nothing, as they had not been recorded. A joint win was the only possible decision, though

there was an admission that the omission probably benefitted the hill-dwellers rather than those on the alluvial plane. We wisely snatched the trophy before Harrow could lay claim and returned to school with a unique record – one event, one win.

An exuberant team found themselves at the premier athletics event of the calendar a few days later, the Achilles Relays. This is the Ascot and Henley of inter-school athletics, but without the hats, the blazers or any of the fanfare. It is a marvellous event and, having won here as a schoolboy, it was Mr Moody's ambition to one day come away with a trophy. However, this year was not expected to be the year. We had good teams at 4x800m and 4x200m and expected to be competitive, but Southend, which acts as a kind of athletics academy of the east, had pipped us twice in the past, when we had even stronger teams on paper. Our 4x200m team reached the final but could not compete, as they had had to poach a member of the 4x800m team, who were to line up not long after. Stuart

Jones and Luke Terry started the team off with two very solid 800m performances, setting us an early lead. Tom Foxon then put in a medal winning performance, taking the lead to over 100m and allowing Christian Reedman a solid cushion. All eyes were then turned on him as he took on the baton. A hoarse croak of "surely he can do it" came from a tired Foxon, and he certainly did. Front running seemed to suit him as he not only kept the lead but extended it, giving us one of the longest winning margins in Achilles history. Two events, eight sixth form athletes, two cups.

Nothing else in the season could match this success, but there was still a wealth of excellence and endeavour. For the seventh year running we reached the regional finals of the ESAA Track and Field Cup, with a fine performance from the U14 team. Better on track than in the field, they pushed for victory in the first half of the final, before drifting back down the places in the afternoon. The team consisted of Bradley Hayday, Douglas Ward, Sam Mitchell, Dominic

MacLachlan, Joe Bassett, Michael Fabes, James Robinson-Ranger, Joe Kelly, Adam Lilley, Joe Blanch, Freddie Stenton-Putt, David Chung and Will Fearnough. The finest individual performances were probably from David Chung with a 4.98m long jump and Michael Fabes winning the 1500m by half a lap. The Inter ESAA team were not so successful, but nevertheless this disguised many fine individual performances.

**Inter ESAA team:** Sam Adamson, Matthew Cammack, Robert De La Harpe, Michael Dewar, Thomas Fabes, Alex Gatenby, Jamie Irwin, Gus Mills, Alex Munro, Ben Seares, William Sharp, Jacques Tasker, Luke Teh, Dominic Whaler

Many of these also competed at the Radley team match, where we were competitive in all the age groups we entered, but were unable to secure another senior team victory due to lack of quality in the field. One exception to this was Tim Gladstone, who has been a stalwart of the Athletics Club since its recent re-emergence as a competitive sport. He had the ability to break the school record, but unfortunately only achieved it in practice. Another individual who must be named is Peter Barnshaw, who yet again qualified for English Schools' in both single and multi-event competitions, and was also appointed captain. It is to his credit that this year was the most successful for the Oxford team in recent memory, with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

The Club would not operate without the commitment of my colleagues who coach week in, week out. My thanks goes to Nick Pritchard, Richard Fisher and Peter Coke for their unwavering support and commitment in many areas, from regular coaching to officiating at matches and running teams. They have helped to make it an excellent year.

*George Moody*



**Josh Ridley holding the Achilles Relays Trophy**

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# Tennis

The Tennis Club had one of its most successful seasons in recent years, picking up trophies at many of the National Independent Schools' tournaments. The senior team won Group 2 of the Independent Schools' League, reached the final of the St George's Pairs Tournament and of the Youll Shield at the Independent Schools' Tennis Association Tournament. The Juniors also reached the final of the Independent Schools' Tennis Association Tournament and the County round of the AEGON Cup.

Abingdon have been fortunate to have two top quality players in their ranks this season, who have swept all before them as a doubles pairing as well as when playing singles. Joel Morris and Giles Waterson have only lost two sets all season: against Reed's in the final of the St George's Tournament and in a tie-break against a Radley pair that they beat later in the season. They have had an unbelievable season and will team up again next year in a bid to remain unbeaten throughout.



They have been ably supported in the 1st VI by captain Sam Murrell, who has been an excellent servant of the Tennis Club. Together with Adrian Lam, he has been a force on the schools' circuit and has been pivotal in Abingdon's success.

Special mention must go to the coaching of Martin Butler. He has raised the intensity of each training session by ensuring that standards are maintained and that every pupil strives to improve. Martin continues to work hard to develop tennis at Abingdon and build on the success that is being generated.

## St George's Pairs Tournament

On Wednesday 28 June the top two pairs in the 1st VI travelled down to Weybridge along fifteen other schools, including some of the top tennis schools in the country.

Second pair, Adrian Lam and Jack Wilson, comfortably won all the

matches in their group and progressed into the main draw where they met the hosts, St George's. This was a tough encounter and unfortunately Jack and Adrian were knocked out.

First pair, Joel Morris and Giles Waterson, strolled through their group losing only three games against Winchester and KCS Wimbledon. They therefore won the group and went through to the quarterfinal. In the quarterfinal they played Cranleigh. This was expected to be a tough match but the Abingdon two played arguably their best match of the season, beating their opponents 6-1. In the semi-final they came up against a Marlborough pair that they had played earlier in the season and beaten 6-2. This time they went one better and beat them 6-1.

In the final, as expected, they had to play Reed's, the undisputedly best tennis school in the country. It was a highly entertaining match but the Abingdon pair unfortunately lost 8-5.

## 1st VI

### Independent Schools' League

Abingdon 1st VI, captained by Sam Murrell, won the Group 2 title in the ISL after two weekends of high quality tennis. The ISL is a sixteen-team tournament, with the teams divided into four groups playing singles and doubles over two rounds. Abingdon were drawn in round 1 against Charterhouse, Cranleigh and Hampton School. After comfortable wins against Cranleigh and Hampton, they played Charterhouse in the final round. Abingdon took the four doubles' rubbers 3-1, but were not able to back up these wins in the singles, eventually losing by one set to finish second in the group.

The second place finish meant that Abingdon were drawn against the second place finishers in the other three groups, Eton B, Radley and KCS Wimbledon. Abingdon started round 2 in inspired form in the singles against Eton, winning 7 out of the 8 matches, backing this up with a clean sweep in the doubles. They then took on local rivals Radley and after the doubles were 3-1 down, only to come back well in the singles. They needed to have a strong last round against KCS Wimbledon to finish above Radley on games and managed precisely that, comfortably coming through 10 sets to 2, winning the group by 2 sets over Radley. *Jack Wilson*

**ISL Squad:** Sam Murrell (captain), Giles Waterson, Joel Morris, Adrian Lam, Xilin Song, Jack Wilson, Peter Honey and Freddie Locock-Harrison

Group 1		Group 2	
Reed's	28	Abingdon	26
Eton A	22	Radley	24
Marlborough	16	KCS	16
Charterhouse	6	Eton B	6

Group 3		Group 4	
Cranleigh	22	Hampton	22
St George's	17	Whitgift	19
Bradfield	17	Epsom	17
Dulwich	16	St Paul's	15

### Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tournament

Our next event took place at Magdalen College School where we competed at the annual OXIST tournament. The perfect conditions favoured our aggressive and intelligent style of tennis and we managed to pull off impressive victories over St Edward's and MCS. In the final we met Radley once again. The great rivalry between our two sides was as evident as it always is but unfortunately they managed to break our winning streak.

#### 1st Pair

KCS	W	6-3
Winchester	W	6-0
Cranleigh	W	6-1
Marlborough	W	6-1
Reed's	L	5-8

### Independent Schools' Tennis Association

Abingdon's senior tennis team reached the final of the Youll Shield in the National Independent Schools' Tennis Tournament. With over sixty-four schools entering, Abingdon beat Portsmouth Grammar, RGS Guildford and Culford Tennis Academy, before losing to KCS Wimbledon in the quarterfinals. Losing at this late stage of the tournament put the team in the Shield and they continued their march into these finals. This was an incredible



achievement, considering that Joel Morris was absent and that many of these schools have full time tennis scholars in their ranks. Giles Waterson was again the star of the show being selected for the Independent Schools' Tennis Association team of six to play against the All England Club at Wimbledon later in the summer. He still has three years left in the competition and achieved some excellent wins throughout the tournament.

### Inter School Fixtures

In between the tournaments there was a good deal of success in a number of friendly matches. Early in the season and with a full strength side, there were wins against Stowe, The Oratory and St Edward's, but over the exam period we lost a lot of good men. This did mean however that we could show off our strength in depth by bringing in some quality recruits like Josh Ridley and Tom Jeffery who put in shifts for the team. Struggling with a broken squad we played Eton and Marlborough who were tough opponents. But, even though we were missing the likes of our captain Sam Murrell, we still performed well and just lost 5-3 to Marlborough. However, the quality of Eton's depth meant they beat our lower pairs resulting in a 7-3 loss.

## Buckley Cup

A tense encounter saw Abingdon's most successful doubles partnership come face to face against each other in the final of the Buckley Cup, the School's own internal championships. Those watching enjoyed some fabulous play from both players with a great selection of big serves, heavy groundstrokes and some very classy drop shots and volleys. The result saw Giles Waterson beat Joel Morris 7-5, 6-3.

## Lower School

There are a number of very talented players in the Lower School and competition has been fierce in the ladder leagues. These matches are played between the boys in their spare time, with eighty-eight singles and fifty-two doubles matches over the course of the term, which illustrates the players' enthusiasm to compete.

## Inter School Matches

The four Lower School teams played in a number of inter-school matches and tournaments, generating a good deal of success.

The first match of the season was against The Dragon with a fine win for the U12A team and battling displays



from the U13 A and B teams. Notable performances came from George Jeffreys and Alex Skelly who started the season in impressive style and continued to develop throughout the term.

The U13A team backed this up with a win against The Oratory and two impressive wins against Magdalen College School. James Bourdon looks to be a bright prospect for the future and his athleticism on court is impressive. Joseph Kelly, Freddie Stretch, Will Fearnough, Leon Wu, Jake Windsor-Lewis and Piers Clark have all played an important role in the tennis teams this season and look to have the drive to improve their games.

### Steve Brenchley

#### U13A Results:

Dragon	L	1-8
Oratory	W	7-0
Radley U14B	L	3-6
MCS	W	7-2
Moulsford	L	1-8
MCS	W	8-1

#### U13B

Dragon	L	3-6
MCS	W	6-3
MCS	W	9-0

#### U12A

Dragon	W	5-4
Oratory	W	7-1
MCS	L	1-8
MCS	L	2-7
Cothill	L	2-7

#### U12B

Dragon	L	0-9
MCS	L	4-5



## Independent Schools Tennis Association – Plate Runners Up

We played a few below par matches at the start of the tournament, but we soon started to build up to our standard. The semi final was our best match, because we were up for it and played very well. The final didn't go too well. We were tired, it was the end of the day and we made lots of unforced errors. Joe Kelly served well, he served only two double faults throughout the tournament; as for me, I served a couple more double faults than Joe. We won our matches with our volleys mostly. We have both learnt a lot from this experience and we will use this next time we play.

### James Bourden

Hampton	L	4-6
Claremont 2	W	6-2
RGS Guildford 1	L	4-6
Yarm 2	W	6-1
Colston's 1	W	6-0
Bradford 2	W	6-1
St James' 1	W	6-0
Bradford 1 (semi finals)	W	6-4
Haberdashers' Aske 1 (final)	L	4-6

“ He has raised the intensity of each training session by ensuring that standards are maintained and that every pupil strives to improve ”

# Badminton

This year's badminton schedule was as hectic as ever, with no less than twenty-five fixtures played over the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Old rivalries were re-joined and new ones emerged as Abingdon continued to produce some fine results at all levels of the game.

Perhaps the fiercest competition this year came from the 'auld enemy' Cheltenham College, who Abingdon have been playing regularly for the best part of a quarter of a century. The main threat came from their star player known only as 'Horace'. However, Abingdon's strength-in-depth told over the three matches played. In the first fixture in the Michaelmas term, Abingdon won a gripping match 5-4, as it went to the last game of the last pair to play – Paul Woo and Duncan Chow pulling through. In the corresponding fixture in the Lent term, Abingdon were able to extend their lead as a victory over Horace by our newly formed first pair of Benny Liang and Bernard Ng granted Abingdon a 6-3 win. At the triangular tournament at the end of the Lent term, this margin was further extended to 7-2, as Peter Zheng and Gary Ling (the captain) played a magnificent game to pull off a well-earned victory against Horace and his partner. The flourishing of this pair was perhaps one of the highlights of the year – the movement, grace and co-ordination which Gary and Peter brought to the court was at times breath-taking.

Yet Cheltenham did not prove to be our only rivals this year. The U16 National Schools Competition showed that across the country there are many schools playing some exceptional



badminton. The Abingdon troupe of James Zhou, Bernard Ng, Daniel Chen, Gem Vongseenin and Adam Uberoi again showed their mettle as they fought a few tough county rounds to be made county champions. At the regionals they progressed through the early rounds of the competition to the finals and there met their match in Denbigh School, who, with two England players, proved too strong. These competitions, though few and far between, provide an excellent outlet to challenge our best players and it is a great pity that no U19 competition exists. Nevertheless, there is much promise in this group of players who are fast becoming the top players in the team and who will return to compete in the same competition again next year.

On and off the court, the social side of the game was again exploited to the full this year. Another badminton reunion brought together those from the recent

and quite distant past, something that ought to be repeated. A trip to the All England Badminton competition was as well attended as ever, and a get-together at the Oxfordshire home of the captain for next term (Nick Topping) was a wonderful occasion. One of the strengths of the badminton squad this year as much as ever has been its togetherness. There is a good mix of day and overseas boys in the squad and the integration of the two groups has certainly been the most satisfying part of this season, greater than any victory.

Although many of our top players will be leaving this year (Peter Zheng, Gary Ling, Benny Liang and Ben Liu), the squad continues to grow in strength with new players and partnerships being forged. We can look forward to next season with great confidence.

*James Hallinan*

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# Sailing



Dr Dudin helms while on a voyage to Salcombe

This has been a very busy year for the Sailing Club with its combination of yachting trips and sailing competitions. This busy schedule has been helped by our ability to sail on Farnoor Reservoir on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the summer, and to do yachting theory in the winter.

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*On one of the expeditions, we had a competent fisherman on board and enjoyed almost infinite numbers of fresh mackerel*  
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Just after Christmas, three boys went on a yachting trip to Plymouth to practise for their Day Skipper qualification. The tricky conditions (fog and lack of wind) gave the boys extra yachting experience in sailing up the Tamar and around Plymouth Harbour.

We hoped to sail to Guernsey during the Royal Wedding weekend. Unfortunately, the forecast was, "very strong winds peaking at 40 Knots, although perfect in direction", so we stayed in England and had some excellent coastal sailing, including a record passage from Salcombe to Plymouth.

The Summer term saw many dinghy competitions; the younger sailors raced at the Thames Challenge, this year at Maidenhead. There was very little wind but we enjoyed the atmosphere of a friendly and well-run regatta.

There has been an increasing interest taken in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award over the past few terms and the summer was no exception. We sailed from Plymouth and went to Dartmouth and Salcombe in the east, or Falmouth/Helford and Fowey in the west. On one of the expeditions, we had a competent fisherman on board and enjoyed almost infinite numbers of fresh mackerel; five minutes from sea to plate.



At the start of the summer holidays eight Abingdon boys and two teachers flew to Athens and hired a 50ft yacht for the week. They sailed around the Saronic Gulf enjoying good winds during the day and local food from the tavernas in the evenings.

The summer culminated in the RS 500 World Championships, which were held in the 2012 Olympic Venue, Weymouth. We took three crews, who all sailed well in often very windy conditions. Will Summers and Sam Delo, Finlay Curran and George Jorgensen, Richard Matthews and Sam Hughes were the three boats representing Abingdon and were some of the youngest crews in the championships. Although we did not get on the podium we more than made up for it by winning the human table football competition!

Following the enjoyment of the RS 500 Worlds, two crews entered the RS 500 Inlands held at Grafham Water. Yet another strong wind competition tested the boys but they sailed well; Finlay Curran and Harry Bruce won the youth class.

At the end of the School year we said goodbye to Sam Delo, Will Summers and Jonty Cook who have made a great impact on the Sailing Club. The friends of the Abingdon School Sailing Club have had a busy year of fund raising. We have enjoyed barbecues, sailing-experience days for parents and

friends, as well as dinners. The Sailing Club is looking forward to another packed year of yachting and sailing. Our latest news and older articles are on the sailing blog on the School's website.

*Richard Matthews 5 CFC*



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# University Places taken up by Abingdon boys in 2011

## Aberystwyth

Countryside Management  
Human Geography

## Bath

International Management &  
Modern Languages – French

## Birmingham

Modern Languages with Business Management  
War Studies  
Geography & Urban & Regional Planning  
Sport & Exercise  
Geography & Urban & Regional Planning  
Business Management  
Medicine  
War Studies

## Bournemouth

Design Engineering

## Brighton

Business Management

## Bristol

Philosophy and Economics  
Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Music  
Engineering Design with Study in Industry  
Geography  
Accounting & Finance  
Chemistry

## Cambridge

Asian & Middle Eastern Studies  
*Downing*  
Linguistics  
*King's*  
Geography  
*Magdalene*  
Engineering  
*Robinson*  
Natural Sciences  
*Robinson*  
Natural Sciences  
*St Catherine's*

## City

Economics

## Cornell University, USA

College of Arts & Sciences

## Coventry

Psychology

## Durham

Physics  
Economics  
Economics  
Geography  
Business & Management  
Physics & Astronomy

## Edinburgh

History of Art  
Business Studies

## Exeter

Philosophy & Italian  
Geography

## Harper Adams

Agriculture

## Imperial College London

Civil Engineering  
Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Mathematics  
Mathematics  
Chemistry

## Keele

Medicine

## Kent

International Business  
American Studies

## King's College London

Biomedical Science  
Computer Science with Management  
Geography  
History  
Biomedical Science

## Lancaster

Philosophy, Politics & Economics

## Leeds

History  
Product Design  
Geography  
Biochemistry  
Asia Pacific Studies & Chinese  
Geography  
History & Roman Civilisation  
Geography  
Management & Spanish

## Leicester

Criminology

## Liverpool

History (Social & Economic)

## London School of Economics

Geography  
Social Policy  
Management Sciences  
Politics and Philosophy  
Law  
Government & Economics  
Economics  
Economics

## Loughborough

Mechanical Engineering  
Geography

## Manchester

Geography  
Music  
Chemical Engineering  
Music  
Medicine  
Geography & Geology  
Geography

## Manchester Metropolitan

Foundation Art & Design

## McGill University, Canada

Geography

## Newcastle

Fine Art  
Mechanical Engineering  
Economics & Business Management  
Marine Engineering  
Geography & Planning

## Nottingham

Design Engineering  
Geography  
Veterinary Medicine  
Mechanical Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Contemporary Chinese Studies  
Chemical Engineering

## Oxford Brookes

Foundation Art & Design

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### Oxford

Psychology & Philosophy  
*Christ Church*

French & German  
*Keble*

Classics  
*Lady Margaret Hall*

Engineering  
*New College*

Experimental Psychology  
*Pembroke*

Engineering  
*St Anne's*

Chemistry  
*St Catherine's*

Engineering  
*St Edmund Hall*

Engineering  
*St Hugh's*

English Language & Literature  
*St Hugh's*

Chemistry  
*St Hugh's*

Classics  
*St John's*

Biochemistry (Molecular & Cellular)  
*University College*

Classics  
*Wadham*

### Portsmouth

Foundation Art & Design

### Queen Mary London

Economics, Finance & Management

### Royal Holloway

Film & Television

Ancient History

Geography

### Sheffield

Mechatronics

Civil Engineering

Classical & Historical Archaeology

### Southampton

Aeronautics & Astronautics/Aerodynamics

Geography

Economics

Mechanical Engineering

Ship Science/Engineering Management

Mechanical Engineering

Management Sciences & French

Chemistry

Geography

### St Andrew's

Ancient History

### Surrey

English Literature with Creative Writing

### Sussex

Art History

Chemistry

### Swansea

Biological Sciences

### Trinity College, Dublin

History & French

### University College London

Chemistry with Management Studies

History

Politics and East European Studies

Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Economics

Language & Culture

Medicine

Chemical Engineering

### University of Arts London

Foundation Art & Design

Product Design

### University of West of England

Property Investment & Management

### Warwick

History

### Westminster

Illustration

### York

History

Economics

Philosophy, Politics & Economics





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