



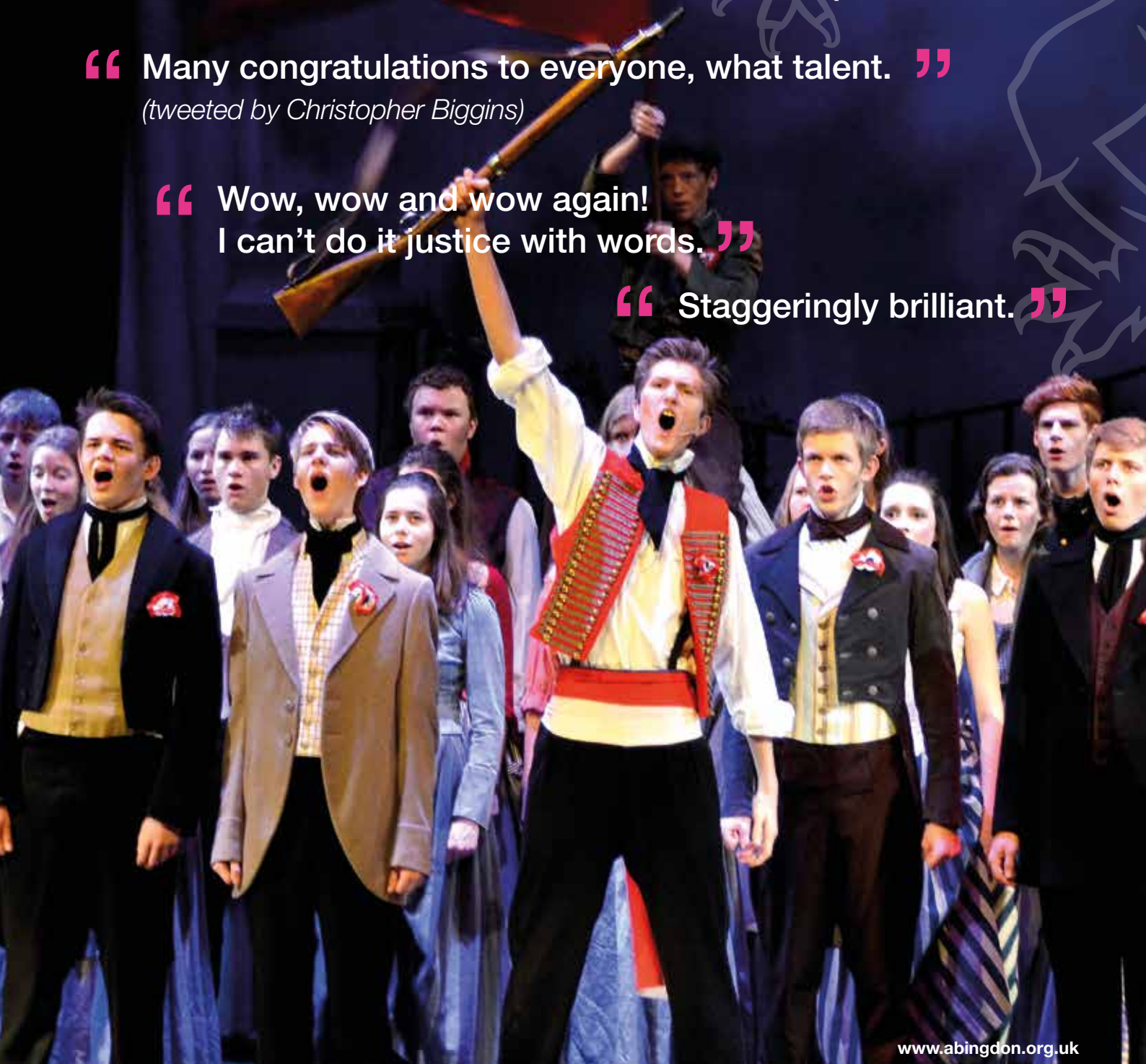
LES MISERABLES

“ The whole cast was incredible; and the crew, from lighting to stage direction. You would never have known it was a school production. ”

“ Many congratulations to everyone, what talent. ”
(tweeted by Christopher Biggins)

“ Wow, wow and wow again!
I can't do it justice with words. ”

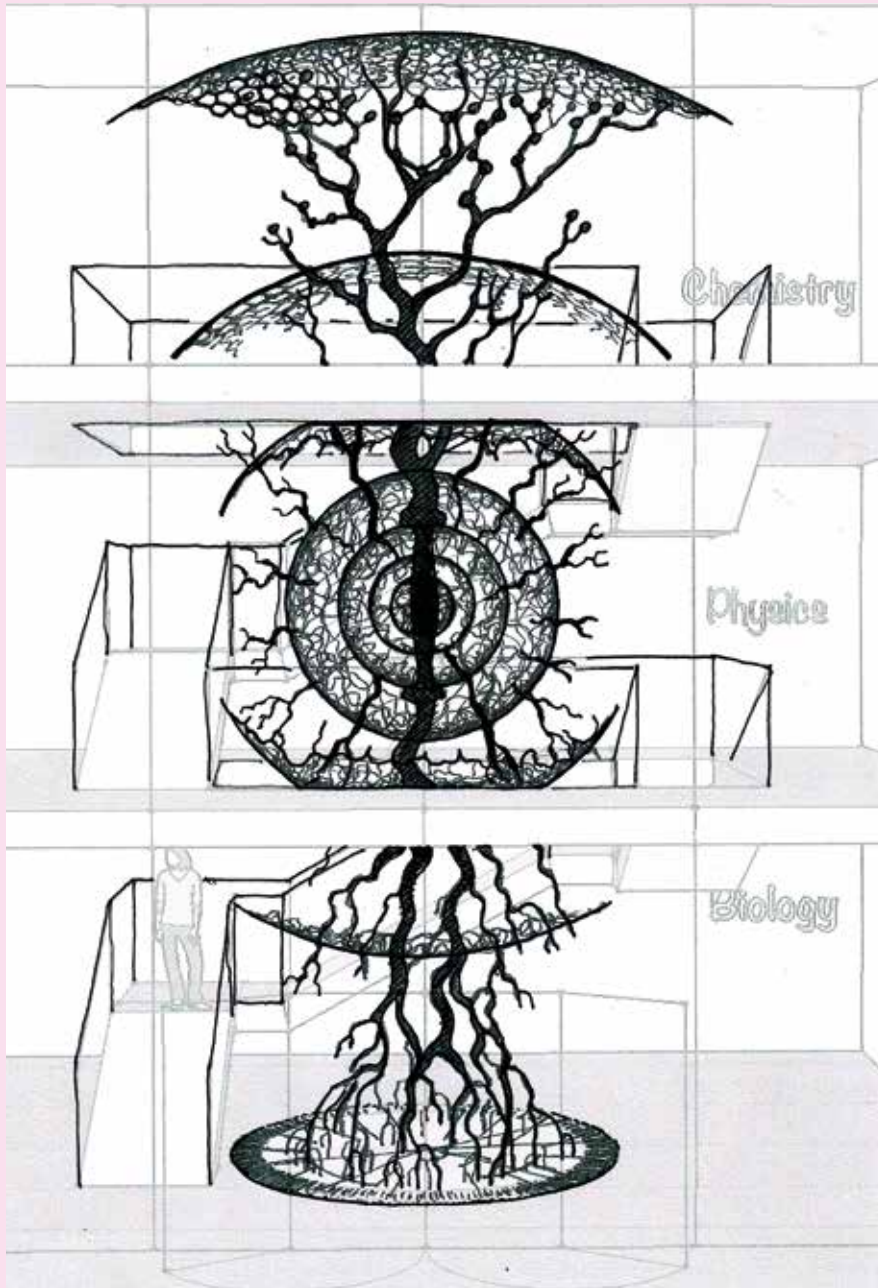
“ Staggeringly brilliant. ”



Art adorns Science

A stunning artwork standing 10m tall and spanning the three floors of the new Science Centre, due to open in the autumn, has been commissioned from sculptor Matthew Lane Sanderson. The sculpture, made possible by a donation from Old Abingdonian, Martin Iredale and family, will rise through the stairwell depicting Biology then Physics and finally Chemistry on each of the corresponding floors. As you climb the stairs the sculpture will reveal a fresh perspective at every level.

Talking about his creation Matthew says, "Standing as tall as a house and over a ton in weight, this sculpture could be considered Big! Whilst its purpose and obvious presence will be clear, it will hold some secrets also. Semi-transparent and with no solid volumes, there are some conceptual 'keys to life' within the structure and discernable for those who are prepared to find them. By identifying these keys, and linking them to each other, I hope all who visit the Science Centre may enjoy both the visual and cerebral challenge presented for years to come. It is my aim, not merely to decorate a building, but to inspire many generations of pupils to take up the challenges of science at Abingdon."



Felicity Lusk to retire

Felicity Lusk has announced that she will retire as Head of the Abingdon Foundation at the end of August 2016. At retirement, Miss Lusk will have led the school for six years and will have overseen a period of considerable change and development including the abolition of Saturday school and the building of a new Science Centre. When announcing her retirement to the school community Miss Lusk said,

"I shall be retiring from the headship of this wonderful school having completed almost 20 years as a head, both at Abingdon and at Oxford High School, and having enjoyed a career in education spanning some 40 years. The realisation that I shall celebrate my 60th birthday later this year has spurred me on to look to the future. But there is still much work for me to do here and I intend to make the most of my remaining time and enjoy all that this school represents, does and achieves."

The Chairman of Governors, Adrian Burn, in his statement to the Abingdon Community said, "Felicity will be a very hard act to follow. It must in many ways have appeared a considerable challenge when she agreed to become the first female head of a leading all boys day and boarding school, but she has certainly risen to that challenge."

"I am immediately starting the process to appoint a successor. Abingdon is a leading independent school with extremely talented and dedicated staff and an excellent reputation that will attract strong candidates. My aim, with the help of my fellow governors, is to appoint an individual of the highest calibre to build on the successful development of the school under Felicity's leadership."

The Abingdon Science Partnership



The partnership, based at and supported by Abingdon School, aims to widen access to science and to broaden participation in science for everybody across all stages of education. The partnership held its second GCSE masterclass with pupils from Fitzharrys, Larkmead, Headington, St Helen's and Abingdon synthesising and analysing aspirin. The new science centre offers exciting opportunities to further the aims of this partnership.

Third Year in *Hope and Chaos*

Third year students thoroughly enjoyed their 'cross-curricular' day at the end of January. The boys were 'off-timetable' and explored *Hope and Chaos* in an activity of their choice, with eight disciplines including Drama, DT, Art and Music available. The hope was that they would produce something exceptional, out of the chaos of the freedom to explore. The results were at times humorous, engaging, challenging, thoughtful and vibrant.



Writer in Residence

Author Jason Hewitt will be working with the English Department over the coming year as a writer in residence.

Jason will be working with boys to produce an 'Abingdon Anthology'. Jason's first novel, *The Dynamite Room*, was long-listed for the prestigious Desmond Elliott Prize for New Writing 2014 and his second novel, *Devastation Road*, will be out in the summer.

Jason's appointment was made possible through the Annual Fund.



Debating Success

In *Les Joutes Oratoires*, a French debating competition, Sasha Bond and Bruno Rogers were very impressive winning through to the final where they were narrowly defeated by Radley. In the qualifying round of the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition, all five boys who took part secured places in the final.





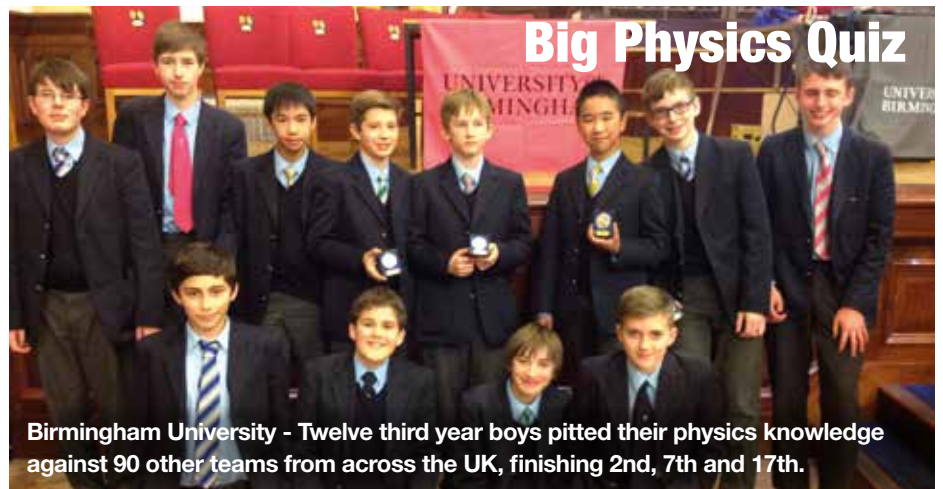
Road Relay

Miss Lusk fired the starting gun for the 47th annual Road Relay in which pupils from every tutor group throughout the school take part. Amongst the staff teams was the "4 Revs": The Reverend Dr Simon Steer, Henry Barnes (standing in for injured The Reverend George Moody), The Reverend Paul Gooding and OA The Reverend Dr Edmund Newey whose time was only about half a minute slower than his time when he left school in 1990 - very impressive!

Chess Club

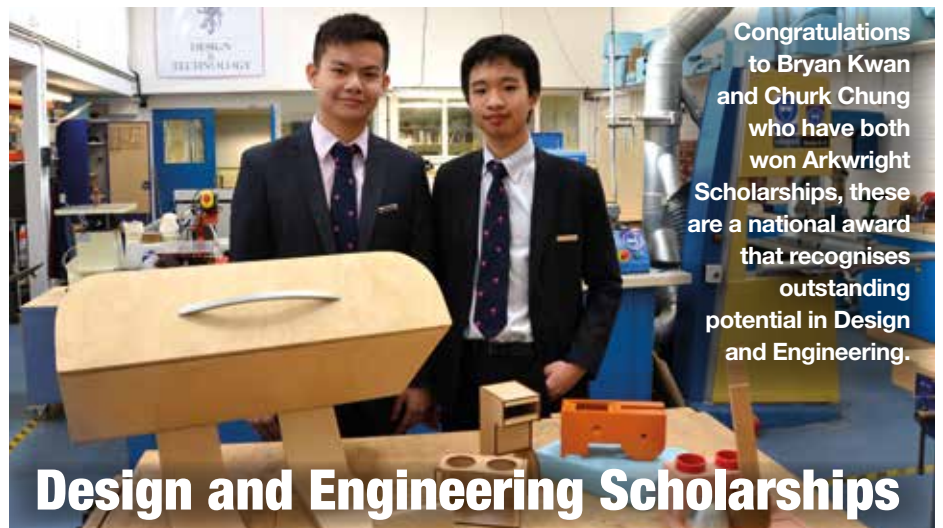
The Chess Club faced some tough opposition this term in the National Schools' Championships losing to the National Champions Reading. The Club battled hard for a place in the Plate competition, which they secured for the second year in succession. Abingdon is Oxfordshire's sole representative in the finals stage of this tournament. The Club is top of their Oxford and District Chess League, won both the beginner and intermediate sections of the Wiltshire and Junior Open Chess Championships and performed well at the Team Chess Challenge.

In the School's own individual knock-out tournament congratulations go to the winners of the Sixth Form, Middle School and Lower School competitions, Rafi'i al-Akiti, Jeff Abraham and Joe Lamond.



Big Physics Quiz

Birmingham University - Twelve third year boys pitted their physics knowledge against 90 other teams from across the UK, finishing 2nd, 7th and 17th.



Congratulations to Bryan Kwan and Churk Chung who have both won Arkwright Scholarships, these are a national award that recognises outstanding potential in Design and Engineering.

Design and Engineering Scholarships



Young Enterprise

Abingdon's Young Enterprise teams picked up three awards in the Best Product and Best Customer Service categories at the Cowley Trade Fair competing with 26 companies from across Oxfordshire.



Oxfordshire Book Awards

The School hosted the 7th annual Oxfordshire Book Award Ceremony with more than 300 students, teachers and librarians from 24 schools filling the Amey Theatre.



Aspiring Sports Reporter

Sixth former Tim McGovern has won BBC Radio Oxford's, Oxfordshire Young Sport Reporter competition. Tim, who is also one of the School's up and coming young actors, is a great sports enthusiast and is interested in a career in sport journalism. Tim's prize includes a day's training with a professional broadcaster as well as the chance to report or commentate on the Oxfordshire Schools Games later this year.



Inspiration from Outside

A selection of the impressive speakers we have enjoyed this term.

Dr Max Michaelis was welcomed by the Physics Society; he gave a fascinating talk on the Halitron.

Professor David Miles from the Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England spoke to sixth form economists.

Professor John Cottingham gave an Edmund Society lecture on *God and the Soul in Descartes*. Not surprisingly 'I think and therefore I am' was a key component.

Pedro Arroyo, a Spanish journalist, entertained a group of Abingdon and St Helen's sixth formers with a lecture on the Spanish Civil War.

Professor Frank Close revealed secrets surrounding atomic scientist Bruno Pontecorvo and the Cold War spy scandal.

Henry Olonga, the youngest and the first black cricketer to play Test cricket for Zimbabwe, spoke with passion in Chapel and to Lower and Middle School. Olonga together with team-mate, Andy Flower, wore black armbands in a match to protest 'the death of democracy' in Zimbabwe under the rule of Robert Mugabe. A warrant was issued for Henry's arrest for treason, punishable by death. Henry had to go into hiding and then exile in the UK. This multi-talented man is also a trained opera singer.



Pedro Arroyo



Professor David Miles



Dr Max Michaelis



Henry Olonga

Sailing

Sailing activity included a tough fixture against Radley and good performances at the National Schools' Competition.



Cross Country



The Cross-country Club had a very successful season. Notable performances include the first school outside Kent at the Knole Run, an A team win at the Wellington Relays by 16 seconds, Senior and Intermediate wins at Marlborough and a 9th consecutive victory at the Oxfordshire Championships.

Hockey



Will Carter Keall

Highlights include the 2nd XI's unbeaten season in the ISHL and the U16As reaching the regional quarter final of the national competition. Congratulations to Will Carter Keall who was selected for the England U18 squad for the second year and to the 25 boys selected for county and regional squads.



Rowing

Boys have been competing for selection to A crews for the summer regatta season. Highlights include wins for the J16s and 1st VIII at Wycliffe Big Head and for the J14 A-D crews in their first match against St Edward's. Gold, silver and bronze medals for Tom Digby, Max Thompson and Peter Coope at the British Indoor Rowing Championships and victory at the Great Britain national trials for Tom Digby and Adam Teece.



Rugby

Michael Dewar and Theo Brophy Clews were selected by opposing squads for the U18 Scotland v England rugby international. Theo captained the English side, scored and was Man of the Match.



Swimming

The swimmers were third in the Warwick 100s with an excellent swim from the U14 squad. The Abingdon Sprints saw five new school records, wins in 14 of 18 events and all squad age groups. Excellent results followed at the Bradfield College Gala and the Bath and Otter Cup.



Cycling

Charlie Quarterman won the 80km Circuit del Guadiana cycling race in Spain.



Fencing

The Fencing Club added Dauntsey's and Winchester to their unbeaten run and at the Southern Region Age Group Epee Competition, eight of Abingdon's fencers won medals.



Karate

Joshua Valentine won gold and silver in the UK Open Karate International Championships.



Football

The lower school footballers showed great potential and the U14s and U15s made noticeable progress, with the 2-1 victory for the U15As against Hampton being a highlight. The U16s impressed with numerous wins. The senior sides put in tremendous performances in the Thames Valley League with the 2nd XI winning and the 1st and 3rd XIs finishing second in their leagues.

Summer Holiday Coaching Camps

Rowing, Rugby and Multi sports

All welcome. Full details:

www.abingdon.org.uk/sports_coaching_camps



Art Exhibitions

Art Scholars / Exhibitioners Show

23 April 4pm - 6pm in the Art Department.

The boys have been working since September on a piece of art that relates to the theme 'The Elements' and the work will be displayed around the department.

GCSE Art Exhibition

21 May
4pm - 6.30pm in the Art Department.

A Level Show

18 June
4pm - 6.30pm in the Art Department



Gospel Choir's Debut

New Year Charity Concert

Featuring life-affirming music to counter the January blues, we heard the debut performance of the School's Gospel Choir. This new musical venture was a real crowd-pleaser with staff and boys performing *Amazing Grace* and *This Little Light of Mine*.

The concert's varied programme included Second Orchestra's melodies from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, First Orchestra's medley from *The Sound of Music* and the Lower School, Brass and Big Bands.

The collection raised £916 for charity.



A video clip of the Gospel Choir performance can be seen at www.abingdon.org.uk/gospel_choir_debut_performance_jan15

Music Scholars' Concerts



The School's senior musicians gave very impressive solos and ...



65 young musicians entertained an appreciative audience at the ...

Annual Chamber Music Concert

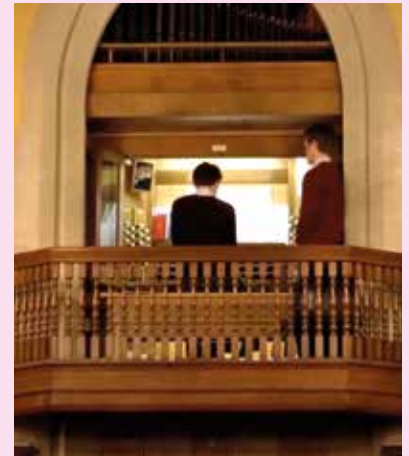
Congratulations to the two ensembles that were selected for the final of the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Festival.



Les Miserables stuns audiences

The young talent of Abingdon and St. Helen's was evident for all to see in this term's senior production of *Les Miserables*. The cast performed to capacity audiences over three nights, and received wide acclaim and standing ovations each night. Audiences were stunned by the professionalism and the raw emotion with which the phenomenal company told the highly intense story of Jean Valjean.

Hugh Cutting, pictured, who played the lead said, "It's hard to find original words about a show that's had such success over the past quarter of a century. What I hope we achieved was an authentic version of *Les Mis* that's truly our own, and representative of the talent at Abingdon and St Helen's. This show is perhaps the mother of all musicals; its characters and story are timeless and its message always potent. We have all relished the chance to put on such a challenging production. The Valjean experience has been one that has matured me as an actor and singer, and we are all aware of quite how privileged we are to be grappling with some of the most celebrated roles in musical theatre".



Annual Organ Recital

Bach was the theme for this term's annual organ recital played by two extremely talented musicians, lower sixth former James Anderson-Besant and upper sixth former Joe Barber. Whilst James has another year at Abingdon, we congratulate Joe on his organ scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford where he has a place to read Classics.

Dates for your diary

Concerts

Wednesday 20 May

Junior Scholars' Concert

6.30 pm: Amey Theatre - admission free

Wednesday 24 June

Lower School Gala Concert

6 pm: Amey Theatre - admission free

Friday 26 June

Music on a Summer Evening with Orchestras and Bands

7 pm: Amey Theatre; tickets: £6, £4(concessions), £16 (family)

Saturday 27 June

Leavers' Service, Chapel Choir

9.30 am: St Michael's Church

Drama Productions

Thursday 14 - Friday 15 May

A Midsummer Night's Dream

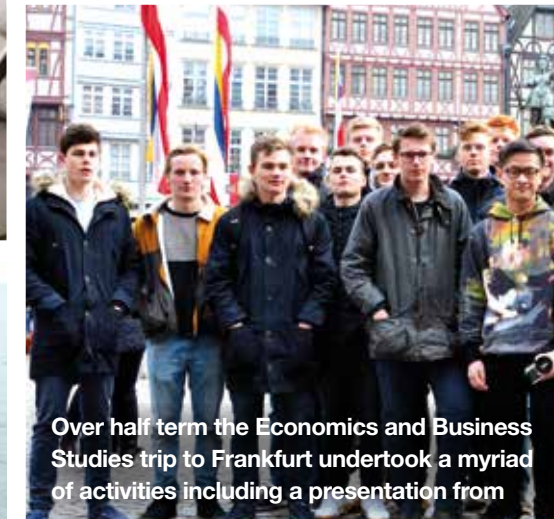
Lower School Production

7pm: Amey Theatre

Abingdonians Out and About



A group of lower school boys took advantage of the Activities Weekend to visit the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to look at the Greek and Roman artefacts.



Over half term the Economics and Business Studies trip to Frankfurt undertook a myriad of activities including a presentation from



Fifth year sailors braved the cold in Plymouth preparing for their Day Skipper Yachting qualification.



For a week of the Christmas holidays lower sixth formers from Abingdon and St Helen's visited the Lycée Jean XXIII in Metz. We hope this inaugural visit is the beginning of a long partnership between the three schools. The visitors were warmly welcomed by their host families and by the school.



Abingdon's CCF came an excellent 5th in the final of the Annual Air Squadron Competition.

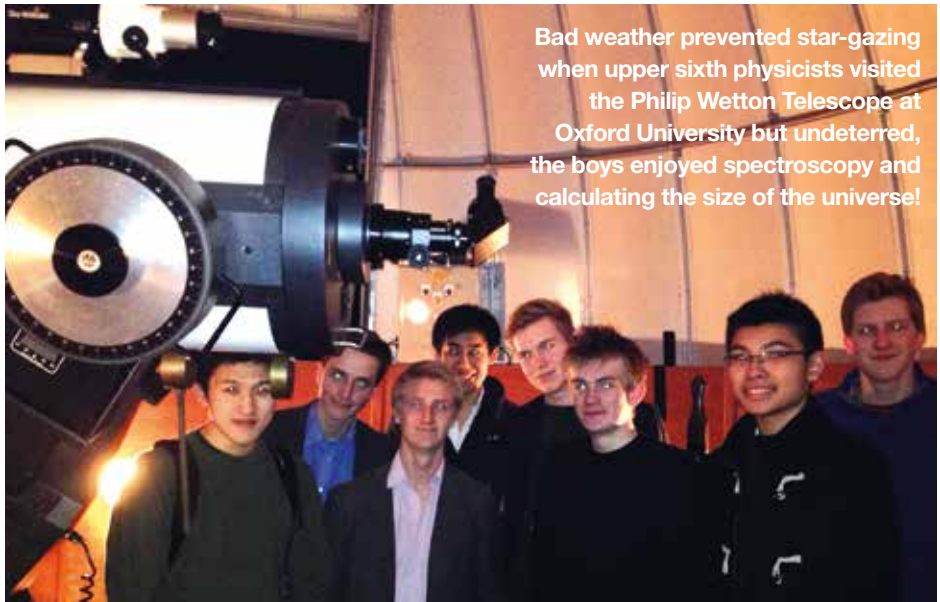
Abingdonians Out and About



Boys welcomed the opportunity to try gliding by kind invitation of Bob Bickers (OA 1961).



Deutsche Bank, visiting the European Central Bank and a rare opportunity to see the trading floor of the stock exchange



Bad weather prevented star-gazing when upper sixth physicists visited the Philip Wetton Telescope at Oxford University but undeterred, the boys enjoyed spectroscopy and calculating the size of the universe!



Recruits visited Abingdon Airfield and the 612 Volunteer Gliding Squadron and enjoyed a field day at Dalton Barracks.



The hockey season started well with third place in the prestigious Goes Hockey Cup 2015 in Barcelona. In addition to playing fantastic hockey, the team was also recognised as the winners of the 'Fair Play Award'. This says a great deal about the way the boys conducted themselves both on and off the pitch, they were an enormous credit to themselves and to the School.



Young Entrepreneurs

Six boys from the Middle Section took part in the Prep Schools Business Challenge held at the Senior School. Their task was to design a healthy snack that would thrive in the competitive snack food market. The boys suggested how their product should be marketed and gave a three-minute presentation to judges. The product that they designed was the 'Snack Circle' a combination of six separate healthy snacks in a circular package.



National Champions

Abingdon Prep boys won the top prize in the under 11 age group of the small schools category of the National Preparatory Schools' Cross Country Championships. Against the stunning backdrop of the Malvern Hills, the five boys ran 2.6km and their cumulative score won them the prestigious trophy. 70 prep schools took part in the competition.

Botanical Painting



During the bleak January days senior boys anticipated the onset of spring and the variety of colours and textures that would be found in fresh food. The boys discussed manipulating media from adding salt, drawing with candles and using masking fluids. After a series of experiments everyone chose their stimulus based on its colour or texture and began creating an accurate recording from observation.

Amazing Animals!



We were delighted to have some exciting visitors last term. A squirrel monkey, ring-tailed lemur and two penguins came to meet the boys who loved letting the monkeys jump onto their shoulders, stroking the lemur's tail and feeding fish to the penguins. The children learnt about each animal from the entertaining and highly experienced keepers from the Heythrop Zoological Gardens who rear and train the animals to take part in films and television productions.



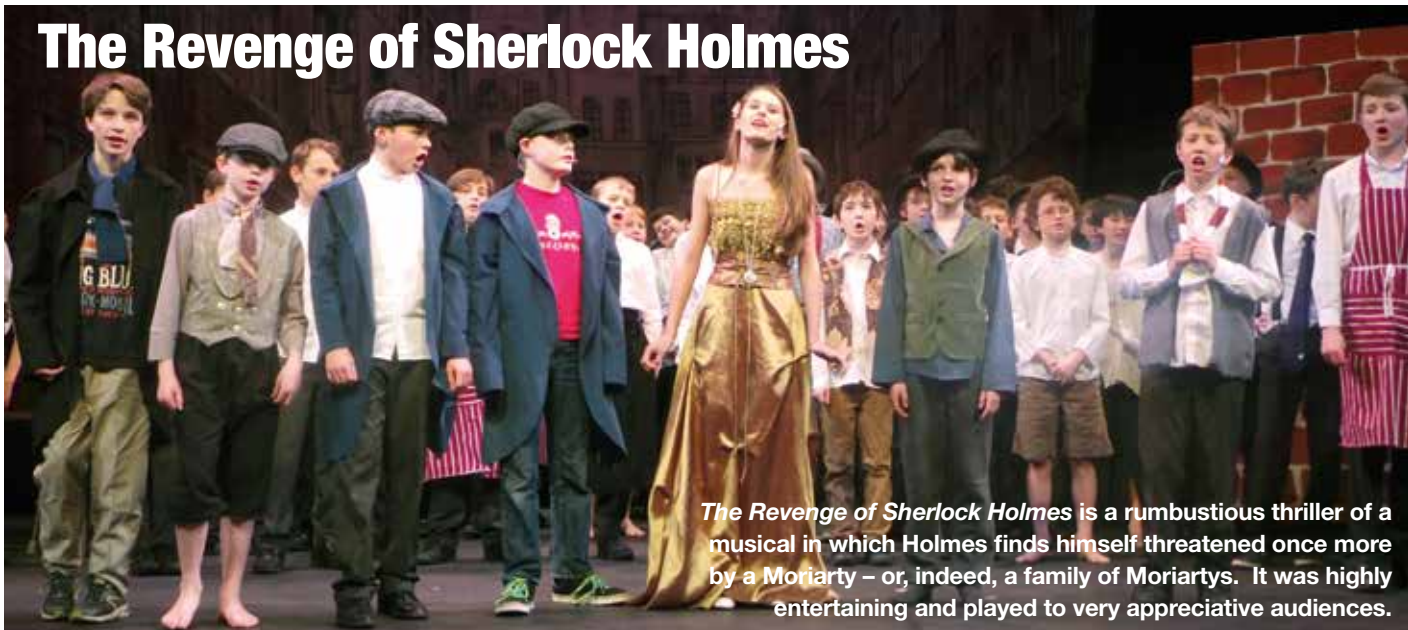
Step Back in Time

Sulgrave Manor brought to life Year 4's classroom work. The boys were met by Master John and Mistress Amy and they put on their Tudor clothes; breeches, doublet and ruff. After a quick visit to the 'jakes' and a tour of the large, impressive gardens the boys went to Meg's kitchen to warm up. Boys turned the spit, collected bread from the ovens and attempted to start a fire with flint and kindle. After lunch the boys helped to build a large Tudor galleon. With sail attached, oars, an anchor and barrels of ale the boys set off on a voyage of discovery.

Outstanding Scholarship Success

It is a truly outstanding year for our Year 8 boys who between them have earned an extraordinary total of 19 awards, 13 scholarships and 6 exhibitions. These include 8 academic scholarships and 1 academic exhibition to Abingdon School. It is the fourth consecutive year that an Abingdon Prep pupil has won the most prestigious scholarship, The Mercers' Company Award. In addition there have been 2 music scholarships and 4 music exhibitions, 2 sports scholarships and 1 drama exhibition. Very many congratulations to the boys, their families and the staff.

The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes



The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes is a rumbustious thriller of a musical in which Holmes finds himself threatened once more by a Moriarty – or, indeed, a family of Moriartys. It was highly entertaining and played to very appreciative audiences.

Pre-prep experiment with Science



Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a trip that really was 'out of this world' when they visited the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium for a day packed full of exploration and questioning. Boys took full advantage of the interactive exhibits and favourites were the underwater jellyfish, tidal vortex, heat sensor camera, recycling collections, parachutes and the Olympic challenges. The shop provided a practical maths session, perhaps indicating a bit more practice was needed, and the Neighbourhood Earth show was a brilliant introduction to astronomy.

Senior Choir Sing at the O2



One of the musical highlights of this term was the Senior Choir taking part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. They sang with 8000 children from schools around the country, creating the largest school choir in the world.

Also this term boys had the opportunity to 'try out' a wide range of instruments, from cellos and trombones to flutes and saxophones, in the annual Instrument Taster Carousel. It's a wonderful opportunity to discover the feel and sound of each instrument before deciding whether they want to learn it. On hand, with ear-defenders, were some of our visiting music teachers!

Abingdon Boarding



A Glimpse of Boarding Life – which seems to revolve around food!

- The 'normal' day for an Abingdon boarder does not, like a normal household, begin at a particular time but rather over a period of an hour, with the committed minority making it down for breakfast dead on 7:30am whilst the rest of the house, who struggle to make it out of the comfort of their beds at such an 'early' time, perform an excellent dance with time to maximise sleep. To the awe of the younger, less experienced boarder, such a master of time will be showered, dressed and even manage a hearty breakfast in under 10 minutes without even breaking a sweat, and all just in time for registration.
- It takes only two morning lessons for the full force of a boarder's appetite to return. Luckily, food is at hand once more, with break time snacks available in the kitchen. Such a popular feeding frenzy for the grazing students, one may think would result in congestion, however all happens in respectable time thanks to the three toasters at hand. The hot crumpets, waffles and toast are guzzled down, with the kitchen emptying in time for the next lesson, leaving no evidence that a hoard of hungry teenagers had just exited (that is until someone checks the waffle cupboard).



- After the school day ends, the boarders encounter another food based ritual in the form of 5 o'clock teas, where the most prized sandwiches hurriedly disappear, leaving the poor tutor on duty with a solitary egg and cress. At this point the boarders have a couple of hours to relax in their rooms, go to the gym, play indoor football or wander into town before making their way to dinner where boarders in other houses catch up on the latest news.
- Dinner is followed quickly by registration where students are updated on house-related news and evening arrangements as well as, of course, who is on washing up duty. The two rostered boys are met with rapturous applause for their soon to be sterling work. Boarders then have 90 minutes to do prep before an evening activity with the duty teacher, usually consisting of loud music and, whilst aesthetically displeasing, enthusiastic dancing; what Abingdon boarders lack in quality on a dance floor, they make up for in quantity.

- As the hard-core partygoers tire, younger year groups are put to bed by the duty prefects who, to the wonder of any observer, manage to get 20 students out of the shower and into bed on time, with not a minute to spare. The duty tutor then comes round for a quick check, just to make sure the well-oiled machine that is the boarding house is running smoothly. Slowly the house settles down, eventually leaving only the sixth form awake as they get some extra work done before going to bed, which they try to do as quietly as they can; unfortunately they aren't renowned for their subtlety. After the odd late shower, they too head to bed and the house goes to sleep; that is until the duty tutor leaves, after which the odd side lamp switches back on as an unlucky soul remembers that he hasn't done a piece of homework due in the next day.

Solomon English, Lower Sixth



The Sixth Form Curriculum

Important Changes from September 2015

September 2015 sees big changes to A Level qualifications at a national level. We are tremendously excited by the opportunities this has offered us to rethink our sixth form curriculum. We carefully considered all the possible models over a number of months and consulted with schools that are similar to us in terms of academic strength and size. We are certain that the route we have chosen gives Abingdonians the best of all worlds - a breadth of rigorous academic study within a framework that has been freed from the limiting nature of the bite-sized, modular system.

The AS qualification, which used to comprise 50% of the complete A Level, is being decoupled from A Level. This means that, whilst AS qualifications will still exist, they will not contribute to the overall A Level any more - they will be completely stand alone qualifications. The new A Levels will be linear courses, which means that exams will all be at the end of the two-year course.

Subjects are being reformed in three phases, so for a period of time there will be a mix of old and new qualifications in Sixth Form. Abingdon has chosen to move to an entirely linear approach for its Sixth Form from September 2015, regardless of whether a subject is reformed or unreformed. Boys will choose four subjects to pursue in the Lower Sixth until at least the summer of that year. They will then decide whether to drop a subject for Upper Sixth or to take four subjects. We will not be offering the stand-alone AS qualifications for reformed subjects and there will be only limited sitting of units in the Lower Sixth for the unreformed subjects until they have been reformed.

Sixth form pupils will have the space and time to explore their subjects properly without the spectre of an exam coming at them almost as soon as they've started. It is the triumph of 'education' over 'exams'.

Further information:

www.abingdon.org.uk/sixth_form_curriculum_from_september_2015

Making the Right Choice

Deciding which subjects to study in the Sixth Form is, for some, relatively straight forward. If you are lucky enough to know what you want to do as a career and have the ability to do it, then your subjects are often dictated by the course you wish to follow. But for others, and this is probably the majority of 16 year olds, choosing the subjects to study for the next two years can be quite daunting.

Enjoyment and vocation

Enjoyment is vital to the route for success and we strongly advise boys to take subjects they find interesting. However it's not always possible to have the luxury of choosing the subjects you enjoy. A student wishing to study engineering at university almost always needs Maths and an aspiring Medic, Chemistry. Whether they like the subject is irrelevant, with these university courses there is rarely an option.

Aptitude

A certain aptitude for a subject is recommended, but you do not have to be top of the class. A good work ethic and enjoyment is as important. Many boys are influenced by their GCSE results but Abingdon counsels against pinning subject choices solely on this. A minimum of an A grade at GCSE is usually recommended to go on to study a subject at A level but an A* is not essential – a far better guide is a teacher's assessment of a pupil's ability. At Abingdon, the iGCSE is widely used because it gives a more rigorous preparation for sixth form study. If a pupil has coped well with the iGCSE, then this is a good indication that he will go on to enjoy and succeed at the next level.

Breadth and balance

Pupils are also asked to consider the 'breadth and balance' of their choices. Abingdon is happy for pupils to mix arts, sciences and humanities. Choosing four subjects to study in the Lower Sixth enables a pupil to do the subjects recommended by a university course and also allows for a fourth choice as an 'interest' subject. Pupils are also asked to consider 'workload': are four essay-based subjects really a good idea? Would an arts or language subject add diversity to a science and Maths combination?



There is a choice of 23 subjects to study in the Sixth Form, giving enough variety to accommodate the very diverse interests and further education pathways chosen by our pupils. Traditional arts, Maths and science subjects are popular but more recent introductions such as Psychology have a good up-take. Unlike many schools, Abingdon offers flexibility in subject combinations, aiming for everyone to study their preferred subjects. It's this that determines the timetable and not vice versa.

All subjects have to pass our rigorous academic requirement to be made available to study. All the "facilitating subjects" - as defined by the Russell Group - are taught at Abingdon.

Facilitating Subjects

English Literature
History
Modern Languages
(French, German, Spanish etc)
Classical Languages
(Latin, Ancient Greek)
Maths & Further Maths
Physics
Biology
Chemistry
Geography

ASPAA Donations Helping to Make a Difference

Thanks to the many ASPAA activities supported by parents, funds were recently donated towards a number of important resources. Among these was a bench for the Health Centre, dedicated to the late Ken Kerby who worked for Abingdon School for over 20 years, most recently as resident caretaker.

In addition, the Fencing Club has already been making good use of their new fencing masks and scoreboards. One appreciative fencer said: "Having fenced since the first year (when we were in the Charles Maude Room), the club has come a long way in terms of success and ability. I am very grateful for the new boxes as I know they will benefit the up-and-coming fencers long after I've left Abingdon." Jack Dawson.

Teams Battle it Out at the Annual Quiz and Curry Night

Back in February, 10 teams – including a team of Old Abingdonians – competed at the annual ASPAA Quiz. Jim Bischoff, Senior Master at Pinewood School, returned as the event's expert quiz master and this year his tasting round taxed everyone with the range of obscure fruits and vegetables! Thanks to Jim and also to ex-parents Peter Garratt, who returned to run the IT and scoring, and Rod Alexander, who returned to run the bar. Thanks to everyone who came along and to all the helpers for making it such an enjoyable evening.

Second-Hand Uniform Shop (SUS)

On behalf of Abingdon parents, ASPAA would like to thank and recognise the hard work and dedication of the SUS team, under the leadership of Marilyn Moore.

Rosie Brown	Alison Moody
Alison Wright	Barbara Trafford
Maria Heron	Wendy Jersing
Vicky Ling	Jill Corran
Mia Dellafield	Stephen Chung
Kerry Dawson	Frances Reynolds
Nicola MacPherson	

Since 2012 alone, the shop has given £17,000 to the Annual Fund initiatives, directly benefiting the boys.

The shop is open most Saturdays and Wednesdays during term time so please come and take a look. All dates and times of opening are available on the school website.

Enquiries to sus@abingdon.org.uk

Save the date: 2015 events

6 June - ASPA Barn Dance Buffet, Ceilidh & Disco, Ipsden Barn.

21 June - Abingdon School Community Golf Day, Frilford Heath Golf Club.

For full details of all events go to ASPA website:

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspaa

Travel Award Student Helps Children in Africa

Another recipient of a travel award from ASPAA and the OA Club last year was Jonathan Ainslie who travelled to Africa to help teach children in a charity-funded school in an area of extreme poverty. As well as teaching English and Maths and taking sports classes Jonathan also spent time in a traditional Maasai tribal village, painting a nursery classroom to the delight of all the children! After travelling through the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro crater, Tarangire National Park and Lake Manyara reserve, he also climbed the slopes of Kilimanjaro to a village perched 2000 feet high in the top of the treeline.



In Jonathan's words, "The ASPAA/OA Club travel award allowed my summer to be more exciting than any other I have yet experienced. But – considerably more importantly, I feel like I tried my hardest to improve the lives of people who may not have otherwise had such attention on their education."

For further details about this and how to apply for future travel awards, please visit the website at www.abingdon.org.uk/aspaa



Annual Fund: Supporting All Aspects of School Life

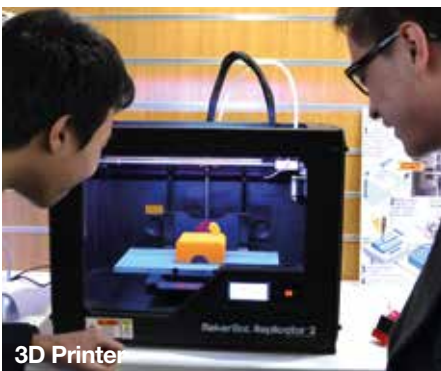
Abingdon School's Annual Fund raises money for projects that support all aspects of school life. Annual Fund projects add opportunities for boys to develop themselves intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially and artistically.

In September, we announced a range of projects in three categories: Academic, Extra-Curricular Activities and Pastoral Care. We are now over half way through the year and already seven projects have been fully funded. We need your help to fund the remaining 18 projects:



Academic Projects

- Guest Speakers for Modern Languages
- Travel Bursary for Classics Trip
- High Altitude Balloon Project
- Product Handling Library for DT
- Biology Centrifuge
- 3D Printer
- Art/Neuroscience Project
- Writer in Residence Programme



Please visit www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund for more information about each of these projects. All donations, regardless of size, are gratefully received. You can, of course, also donate to bursaries or leave your donation unrestricted so it may be used where it is most needed.

Extra-Curricular Projects

- Golf Tournament Travel Fund
- Cricket Net Bays
- Debating Workshop
- 7-a-Side Football Goals
- Sculpture Workshops
- Hockey Pitch Dividers
- Local Partnership Team Building Days
- Writer in Residence Programme

Pastoral Care Projects

- BBQ for Boarding Houses
- Lenten Life - A Week Exploring the Christian Faith
- Photos to decorate Davies House



Thank you



The School would like to thank everyone who has so far donated to the Annual Fund, including the Parents Association (ASPAs), who have funded five projects, and the Second-Hand Uniform Shop (SUS), who have fully funded a further two projects.

ASPAs

- Fencing Scoring Boxes and Masks
- Health Centre Bench
- Student History Magazine
- Online Language Lab
- Human Eye Model

SUS

- Piano for Amey Theatre Foyer
- Hockey Training Goals

"In supporting the Annual Fund, ASPAs has seen how projects can have a positive and immediate impact on the boys. I hope that parents who are able to donate to the Annual Fund will."

Kerensa Butler
Parent and ASPA Chair

www.abingdon.org.uk/donation

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

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



... and Mrs Thatcher Wore Yellow

L to R Donald Willis, Sir George Sinclair OA, MP, Eric Anderson, Denis Thatcher, Margaret Thatcher

The dark ages for Abingdon lie between 1970 and 1990 since the archives have few photographs from this period only slides and some negatives. Now however, thanks to a digitization project by a group of boys from Crescent House, Astin Yeo, Michael Man and Felipe Jin Li, these images are beginning to emerge from the past. So far they have revealed Mrs Thatcher's 1974 visit to inaugurate the building of the Dining Hall, and publicity photographs from the early 1990s.



Lady Alison Radford with Robert and Anne Hickling

On Monday 16 February the School received a visit from Lady Alison Radford, the great-great-grand daughter of William Strange, headmaster of Abingdon School 1840-1868. She and her daughter and son-in-law were fascinated to see Dr Strange's portrait and to examine some of the documents from the archives relating to his headmastership. Lady Radford was able to tell us that the family still possessed the tea and coffee service the OAs gave Dr Strange in 1863 both as a token of gratitude and to mark the School's tercentenary.

The Fate of Lt W.C. Williams



R. Bantscho Guev, Iliya Guev is the baby

All his family and school knew was that Cyril Williams, OA 1913, had gone missing on 24 September 1916 whilst on a patrol in Salonika, presumed killed in action. Now a Bulgarian family can tell us what happened to him. Bantscho Guev was a clerk in a field hospital on the Dorian front when a prisoner, an English lieutenant, was brought in to have his wounds dressed prior to questioning. Later that day Bantscho came across the lieutenant's half buried body abandoned in a ditch. The man's face haunted him and in later life he often recalled the episode, so much so that his son, Iliya, wrote it down. Now Iliya's grandson, Ilian, has translated the story into English. After some difficulties with the transcription of what his great-grandfather heard and wrote down in Cyrillic, Ilian was able to work out that it read, Cyril Williams, Newport. Ilian put that into Google and discovered him on Abingdon's WW1 website. Ilian made contact with the School hoping that one day it might help Williams' family to discover his fate.



Lieutenant Cyril Williams, Hampshire Regiment

Read the whole story at: www.abingdon.org.uk/lieutenant_wilfred_cyril_williams

OA Club Events Summer Term

Friday 8 May

1950s/60s Reunion, Brighton

Old Abingdonians who left School in the 50s or 60s are invited to The Grand, Brighton, for a drinks reception and dinner from 7 pm. The price is £60 per person. Partners very welcome.



Tuesday 12 May

OA Golf Day

OA golfers of all ages and abilities are invited to a full day of golf at Frilford Heath Golf Club, Oxfordshire. The day will be rounded off with a dinner and prize giving. The price is £88 for visitors and £40 for members of Frilford Heath, including a bacon butty on arrival, ploughman's lunch and dinner. Please email David Blomley (1976) to book: d.blomley@btinternet.com



Saturday 6 June

Year Group Reunions

OAs who left school in 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 or 2005 are invited to a reunion at Abingdon School. Starting at 6 pm, the evening will comprise a drinks reception, tours of the school, and dinner. There is no charge and partners are welcome.

Friday 19 June

OA Tennis Afternoon

An afternoon of tennis matches between Old Abingdonians and current pupils at Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club. All OAs welcome, no charge.

Sunday 21 June

Abingdon School Community Golf Day

OAs, current & former staff, governors, pupils and their families are invited to a day of Golf at Frilford Heath. Cost is £45 for juniors and £55 for adults (discounts for members of Frilford Heath) and includes refreshments, dinner and green fees. Event runs from 11am to 7.30pm.

Wednesday 24 June

Abingdon Alligators Reunion Lunch

A reunion lunch on the 50th anniversary of the first Abingdon Alligators match will take place at 12.30 pm at Frilford Heath Golf Club. Please email Julian Shellard (1971) to book: jjshellard@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 3 July

Henley Royal Regatta

OAs and parents are invited for strawberries and Pimm's during the afternoon tea break at the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club tent in Henley Cricket Club Car Park.



Full details of all events and booking:
www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

Any questions, please call:
01235 849074

Regional Reunions

This year we have started a series of reunions for OAs currently at university. We chose Oxford and Manchester, as these have been the top two university destinations for the last three years – with about 30 OAs at each. Oxford Abingdonians gathered at the Kings Arms, Oxford, on Tuesday 10 February together with their former teachers, Chris Burnand, Hugh Price and Michael Stinton. And on Saturday 28 March, teachers Mike Litchfield and Su McRae travelled up to Manchester for dinner on the curry mile with OAs studying there. OAs based in Cornwall also had a get together on Saturday 7 March, enjoying a hearty pub lunch.

More regional and university reunions will be announced for the next academic year.



Save the Date

Saturday 3 October 2015

Celebration of Abingdon Rowing

Anyone involved in rowing at Abingdon School, past or present, is invited to an afternoon at the Abingdon School Boathouse, 1pm to 5pm. Pig roast lunch followed by rowing (optional) and afternoon tea. Our special guest will be Sir David Tanner KBE (OA 1966), British Rowing's Performance Director.

Wednesday 11 November 2015

OA London Drinks Reception

All OAs are invited to the annual London Drinks Reception from 6 pm to 8.30 pm at Charter House, EC1M 6AN.



Abingdon Careers Support

Thanks go to the following OAs for giving their time to support the Sixth Form Careers Evening held on Friday 23 January.

Fearghus Raftery 2008 (Art and Architecture)
Dan Knowles 1988 and Paul Green 1983 (Business)

Jack Wearne 1998 (Banking)

Chris Smith 1995 (Engineering)

Phil Cooper 1994 (Entrepreneurship/SMEs)

Ahilan Rabindran 2001 (Finance)

James Emmett 1987 (Information Technology)

Jonathan Lipman 1986 (Law)

Andy Lyon 1991 (Management Consulting)

Andrew Rowe 2003 (Media)

Tom Pollard 1994 (Medicine)

Richard Craig 1991 (Military)

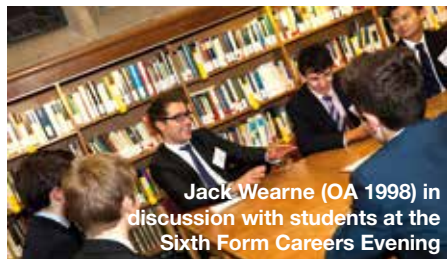
Christian Davies 2005 (Politics)

Jonathan Day 1997, Adrian Champion 2003
and Tom Scrase 2006 (Science)

Ben Prior 2003 (Work Readiness)

Alex Hutchinson 2001 and Tomm Adams 2002
(Opportunistic Careers)

Rob Dalby 1991 (The Portfolio Career)



Jack Wearne (OA 1998) in discussion with students at the Sixth Form Careers Evening

OAs, most at early- and mid-career stages, were on hand to lead small group discussions with some 65 sixth form students who had chosen in advance which career topics they wished to attend. Many OAs talked with students about their specific career, while others shared their views on preparing for the job market after university and on longer-term career management strategies. After the sessions, all moved to the Dining Hall for a networking buffet supper during which OAs hosted tables so that students could continue conversations from the earlier sessions. After dinner, Mike Stevens (OA 1968) shared observations he and his co-chairs, Christopher Clayton (OA 1973) and Ken Welby (OA 1984), had made sitting in on discussions. The event was hosted jointly by the School's Careers Department and the Old Abingdonian Club.

Internships

Thank you also to OAs who have generously offered internships for lower sixth students. Placements will occur over the summer, providing students with valuable experience that will prove useful when applying to universities and starting their careers later on.

Abingdon Bursaries Appeal



As a direct grant grammar school after WW2, Abingdon was either free or relatively inexpensive. But, when the direct grant system was abolished in 1976, Abingdon went independent; there were already three other state comprehensive schools in town and no appetite for a fourth. The Assisted Places Scheme, which started in 1981, helped a number of families until it, too, was abolished in 1997. Since then, the full cost of an Abingdon education has been borne by pupil families...who can afford it.

For some families who can't, Abingdon provides means-tested bursaries up to 100% of fees. Bursary support is central to our values as well as our historical roots, and Abingdon's governors have recently

reaffirmed the School's commitment to enabling boys from families who cannot afford to pay full fees to still come here and benefit from all that Abingdon has to offer. Approximately 60 Abingdon families currently benefit from bursary support each year, and we feel most fortunate to be able to offer such support, but we want to do more...a lot more.

To this end, governors have set a goal of doubling, by 2025, the number of pupils we support with bursaries, from 60 to 120 per year. This will require raising approximately £10 million in donations and legacies over the next ten years. Both expendable funds and permanent endowment are needed. To achieve this ambitious goal, individuals

and organisations from across the school community – and beyond – will need to give generously.

As an Old Abingdonian, I shall be making a legacy provision in my will for bursaries at Abingdon School. If you believe in the importance of bursaries, as I do, and would like to give to Abingdon School's 10-in-10 Bursary Appeal, please contact Michael Triff, Director of Philanthropy, on 01235 849129 or email philanthropy@abingdon.org.uk. He can discuss with you a variety of ways to donate to the Appeal and tax relief for which you may be eligible.

*Adrian Burn (OA 1963)
Chairman of Governors*

