



## The Other Half of School Life

Under 15 cricket tour to Sri Lanka - what a fantastic way to gain a glimpse of a nation with an excellent balance of sightseeing, culture and sport.

With over 130 activities to choose from, Abingdon's Other Half programme offers opportunities for travel, voluntary work, community service and leadership plus extra-curricular music, drama, art and sport. Our clubs and societies cover a multitude of interests from archaeology and Arabic to robotics and bellringing.







## Felicity's Farewell

As my final weeks at Abingdon have drawn to a close, I have felt moments of real sadness. Abingdon gets under the skin, but the time has come to hand on the mantle and open the door to whatever comes next, for me personally, and the School. I can, however, look back on six happy, vibrant and successful years where so much has been achieved for the boys, thanks to the team effort of my colleagues and governors.

There have been many highlights. Inspection reports have been glowing and the record number of boys who want to come here, and the very strong school roll, are clear indications of Abingdon's success and popularity. The Other Half, with some 130 activities and clubs, continues to be as extensive as it is exciting and diverse. It is what the boys do, achieve, explore and enjoy which really counts, and the list of boys' highlights is quite extraordinary. They lead very busy, productive lives and achieve remarkable things and I pay tribute to them all.

It has been a wonderful adventure being part of the lives of so many young people, and my time at Abingdon over the past six years has been the greatest privilege for me. My guiding mantra underpinning every decision I've made during my time here has been "what is best for these boys?" – and at my first assembly in September 2010, I told the

boys that I wanted them to have the best possible education. I also encouraged them to ask questions and not be afraid to take risks. I said that we were rather cramped for space and that I'd want to do something about that ... So much has been achieved since then. The governors have embraced the need to move on, from endorsing the end of Saturday morning lessons, to agreeing an ambitious programme to enhance and develop exciting new facilities. We've even introduced football as a mainstream sport!

We can see the impact of these decisions on our lives but what is less obvious are the many steps taken to encourage greater awareness of boys' mental health, and the importance of understanding how significant emotional wellbeing is, on how we live and enjoy our lives.

My hope for every boy who enters Abingdon is that he will leave as an adult who is secure in his own skin; that he is accepting of who he is and that he will want, to the very core of his being, to make a positive difference, wherever life takes him.

Much is made of the privilege an independent school education bestows on these fortunate young people. This doesn't, however, just happen; the boys who attend this school do so not because of some lucky random stroke of

fate. No – they are here because of the hard work, commitment and aspiration of their parents and families who want their sons to aspire, achieve and become ambitious for themselves and, eventually, others. They are here because of the talent, intelligence and dedication of their teachers and all those who work here supporting Common Room in their endeavours.

I have been fortunate in my fantastic Senior Leadership Team: gifted individuals who have helped me to make things happen. My ambition and vision for Abingdon as set out in 2010 has been realised thanks to the commitment of governors, colleagues, Old Abingdonians, the boys and their parents. I have asked questions, lots of questions, and I have taken risks.

My challenge for all Abingdonians remains unchanged. Ask questions, take risks. Above all, be kind and nice to others, even when it's really hard!

I have grown to love Abingdon and I've been happy here. I wish you all the brightest of Abingdon futures, happiness and enjoyment of life, wherever your path takes you.

Thank you

**Felicity Lusk**

Abingdon School Head,  
September 2010 to September 2016



## 2016 A level and GCSE Results



The hard work paid off for this group of boys receiving their A level results. They gained an impressive 15 A\* and A grades and 2 B grades between them.

### A level results (as of 18.8.16)

17.5% of passes at grade A\*  
55.9% of passes at grade A\* and A  
84.3% of passes at grades A\* to B  
94.6% of passes at grades A\* to C

### GCSE results (as of 25.08.16)

59.2% of passes at grade A\*  
87.3% of passes at grades A\* and A  
98.0% of passes at grades A\* to B

### Speaking about this year's results, Felicity Lusk said:

"This set of A level results sees almost 40% of the boys gaining A\* or A grades in three or more subjects and complements the wide-ranging achievements of a talented year group. Their enthusiasm to seize the many opportunities available to them and their determination to work hard to achieve the best they can will ensure they have a very bright future ahead.

At GCSE the results were outstanding. This year group exceeded the record set in 2015 for the percentage of passes receiving A\* and A grades, at a magnificent 87.3%. 22 boys gained ten or more A\* grades and 82 boys, nearly half of the year group, received all their GCSE passes at A\* or A. There is real strength across all subjects. Chemistry and Physics see over two thirds of boys with the top A\* grade, as do Spanish and Latin. All boys take English, English Literature and Maths and

the results were once again excellent with 107, 104 and 109 A\* grades respectively and of the 179 boys taking Maths iGCSE all received grades A\* to B.

This year's A level and GCSE results illustrate that Abingdon does what it sets out to do very well – to provide the best in all aspects of education. This year students have reached the national finals of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition, the Institute of Financial Services Student Investor Challenge, the Institute of Chartered Accountants National Business Game, BASE, the Air Squadron Trophy competition and the UK Young Enterprise competition.

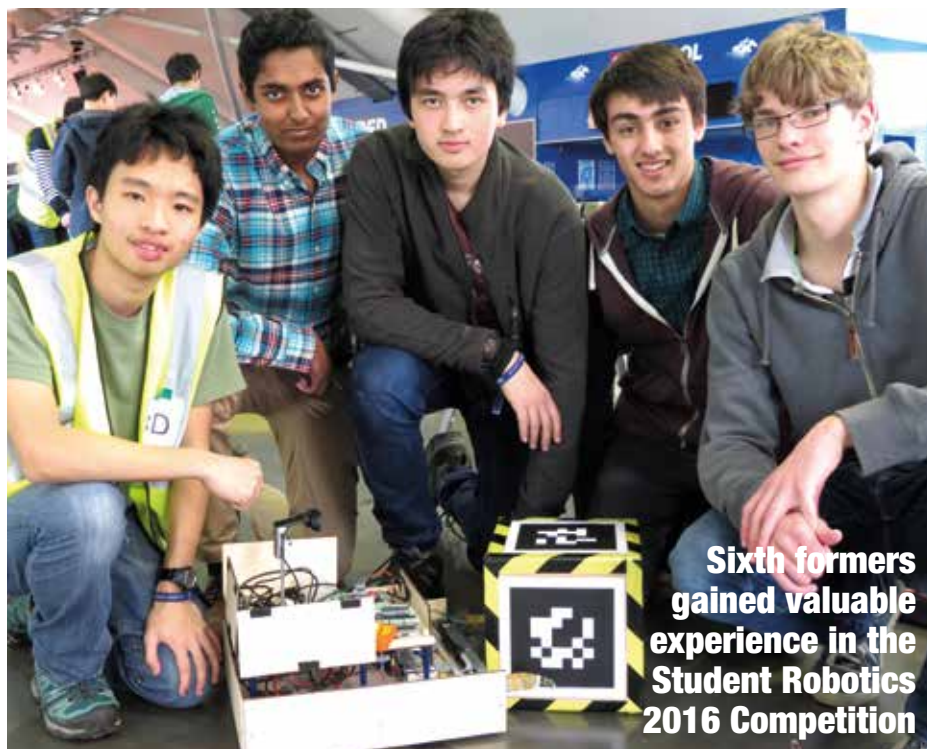
Individuals have won a number of prestigious awards ranging from the inaugural Young Walter Scott Prize at the Borders Book Festival, an Organ Scholarship to St John's College Cambridge, the Sir John Thomson

Memorial Sword and the De Havilland Medal for a member of the CCF and Oxford University's National French Film competition.

Abingdon's sporting reputation goes from strength to strength. In the international arena, boys represented their country at hockey, rugby, fencing, kayaking, triathlon and windsurfing and rowers competed for Great Britain and England this summer. One of the joint Heads of School broke the World Record for indoor rowing 5000m and numerous boys play at county and regional level across all sports.

It is the seizing of opportunity and the determination to do their best that makes Abingdonians stand out. It has been my privilege to watch these students embrace all that is on offer at Abingdon and to see them mature as they have moved up the school. I wish them every success as they take the next step."





**Sixth formers gained valuable experience in the Student Robotics 2016 Competition**

**Fourth year boarders enjoyed testing the go-kart that they had built. (Funded by SUS.)**



## Warhammer

Abingdon's Warhammer team was successful in the semi-final of the Warhammer 40,000 school league, coming third and qualifying for the national final.



**Top CCF (RAF) Cadet in the Country**

Sixth former Joseph Kelly has won two top awards from the RAF, the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword for 2016 and the De Havilland Medal 2016. Joseph is now considered the top CCF (RAF) cadet in the country.

## Open Day Dates

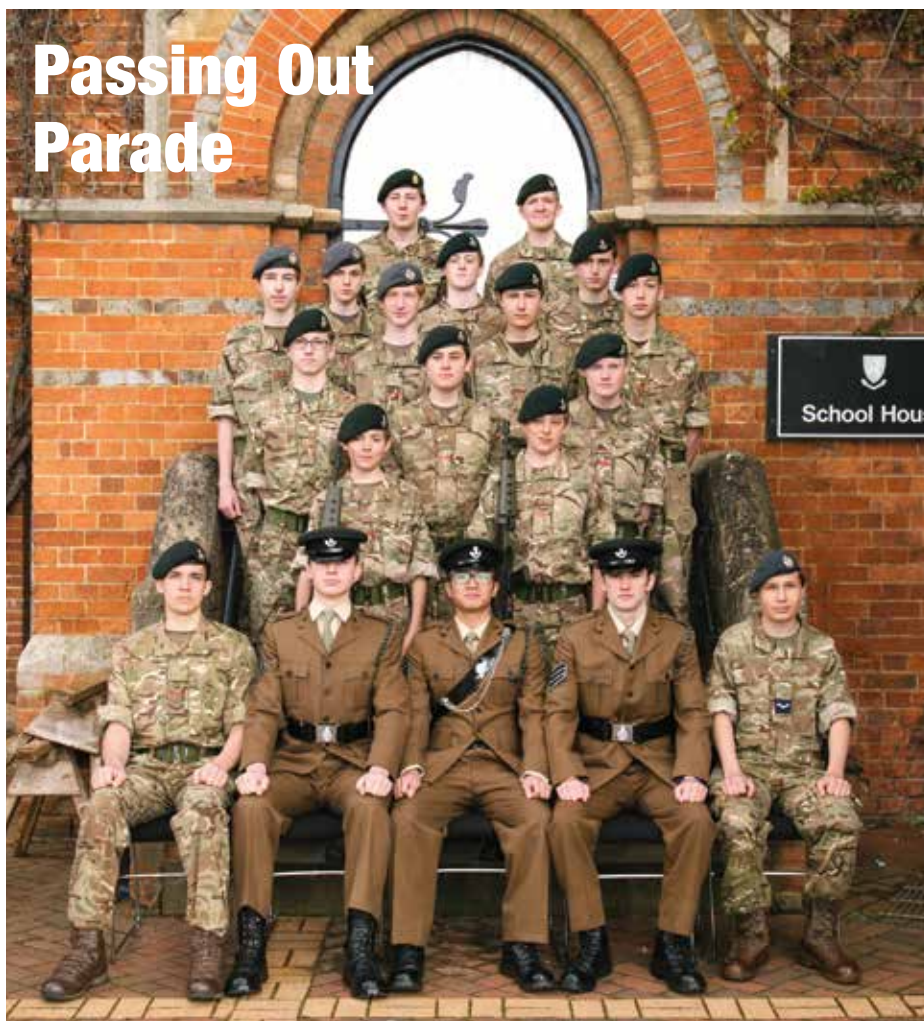
### Abingdon School

Saturday 1 October  
9.30am - 12.30pm

### Abingdon Prep School

Saturday 8 October  
10.00am - 12.00pm

## Passing Out Parade



CCF cadets impressed at the Passing Out parade that marked the end of their Easter Camp and at the equally professional biennial inspection.



## Leavers 2016 - We wish you well



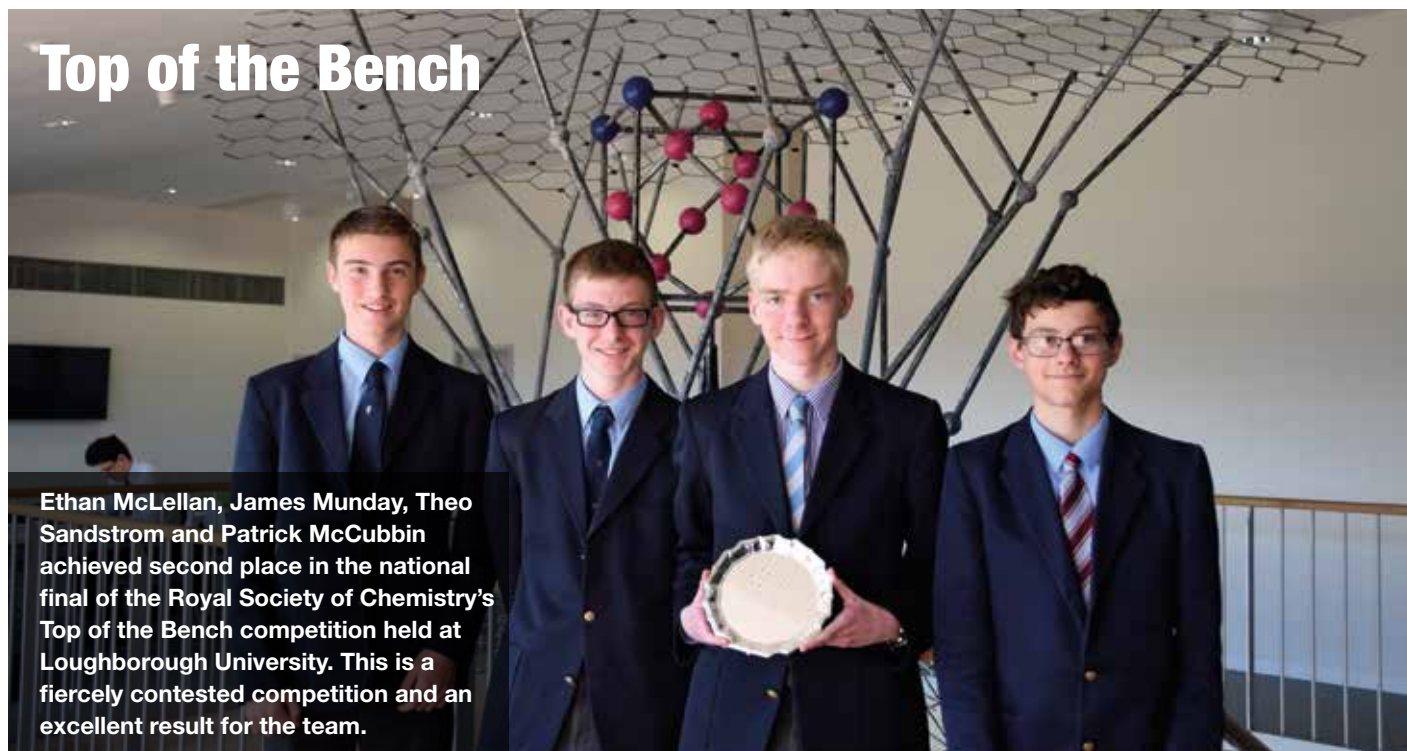
Sixth former George Jeffreys was the joint winner of Oxford University's French Film competition. The competition, organised by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, was to re-write the ending of a film in no more than 1500 words and was open to all students of secondary-school age. George submitted his entry as a YouTube video and wrote his alternative ending in French. He wrote and collaborated on the translation of the script, cast the film and directed it. The result is a very accomplished film complete with soundtrack, subtitles and credits.



*Wabi-Sabi* finished in the top 5 companies in the national final of the Young Enterprise competition, the furthest an Abingdon School company has ever reached. The team represented the South Central region and put in a fantastic performance, impressing the judging panel with their engaging trade stand interviews, vibrant and well-polished presentation and professionally written company report.



## Top of the Bench



Ethan McLellan, James Munday, Theo Sandstrom and Patrick McCubbin achieved second place in the national final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition held at Loughborough University. This is a fiercely contested competition and an excellent result for the team.

## Giving something back



Archie and Tony playing cribbage

### Jeffrey Leung (Upper Sixth):

As part of my community service, I spend time visiting residential homes, the local hospital and the Older and Bolder exercise group, where I serve tea and run a quiz. I really enjoy getting to know the residents of care homes. This is a rare opportunity and is a complete contrast to life at school. It is very rewarding just seeing the elderly appreciating the company. Not only have I gained fulfilment, I also completed an EPQ investigation on the issue of dementia, which was very informative and will help me when I go to university to study Medicine.

### Archie Williams (Lower Sixth):

Without wishing to sound obsequious, community service is something I find tremendously rewarding. I have been doing it since the 4th year, and have derived pleasure from meeting and engaging with the people at Old Station House to an extent that has surprised myself. I have met many remarkable people with fascinating stories to tell. One thing I particularly enjoy is playing cribbage with Tony at Old Station House, after he told me no one else there knew how to play. Though he did utterly destroy me the first time we played, I have improved and the playing field is now more even. I think he enjoys it - I certainly do

### Victoria Middleton, Master in Charge of Community Service

As part of the School's Other Half programme, boys take part in community service; visiting the local hospital, residential homes, primary schools and charity shops. Not only do they take pride in helping the local community, they also learn about residents' lives and British culture and they get to know the town. Two students, Archie Williams and Jeffrey Leung, who have been participating in the Community Service programme for years, describe their experiences.



Joe with memorabilia from his great-great-grandparents (and his great-great-grandmother pictured below).

## Inspired Writing

Third year student Joe Bradley has won the prestigious Young Walter Scott Prize in its inaugural year. Joe collected his £500 travel grant at the Borders Book Festival where he enjoyed a weekend meeting well know writers including Simon Mawer, this year's winner of the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. Joe's story, *A Most Unusual Childhood*, is set in China during the Boxer Rebellion and features a family of English missionaries. It is based on Joe's own great-great-grandparents.



## Creating Time

A level product designers and artists took part in a concrete casting workshop to design and manufacture a one meter diameter cast clock for the DT department. The boys worked in pairs to design the 12 segments combining their artistic and design skills into a fantastic legacy for the department.



Congratulations to Sam Penrose whose art was on display as part of the Henley Arts Trail where he was the youngest exhibitor. Sam takes up an Art Scholarship in the Third Year at Abingdon.

## Henley Arts Trail - Youngest Exhibitor

## NASA Astronaut

The visit by former NASA astronaut, Michael Foale, was a tremendous success, inspiring all those who came to his seminars and presentations. Pictured is Mike Foale with boys from the Lower School Science Club with a banner wishing astronaut Tim Peake luck in his London 'space' Marathon.





# Making the Most of Sixth Form

## Broadening Horizons



As a sixth form student at Abingdon, there's a lot more to life than A Levels. We provide a stellar academic education but we believe just as much in the importance of broadening horizons and preparing for life beyond school. We have specialist career advisors, a university applications team and a wide range of initiatives to help students decide on their next step, including funding for travel plans, work place internships and plenty of opportunities to study interests outside of A Level specifications.

Our sixth formers are encouraged to take on responsibility, to think for themselves and to develop as independent learners in preparation for moving on. We appreciate that this doesn't happen overnight and some students take longer than others so we manage the process, giving increased responsibility and freedom to boys as they earn it through their lower sixth year. Students are encouraged to take up leadership opportunities, both within school and through activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and CCF. They can sail, canoe or walk expeditions as part of DofE; our CCF cadets are recognised as some of the best in the country and our sportsmen have recently captained national teams in hockey and rugby as well as represented their country in a wide range of sports from rowing to rifle shooting.



Students with an interest in drama can take part in major senior school productions, or develop animation, film and documentary skills through our renowned Film Unit. Musicians have numerous orchestras, ensembles and bands to choose from and in recent years boys have gone on to become classical musicians as well as members of the more contemporary Foals and Radiohead. Most years we offer around 25 A Level subjects and subject combinations are geared around what individuals want to study not what fits into our timetable. We encourage students to take on the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in order to develop university research skills and either deepen their subject knowledge or broaden their interests. The topic is entirely their choice. The academic curriculum is complemented by a varied enrichment programme including lectures, discussion groups and practical workshops, and wide ranging trips in the UK and abroad.



The majority of students get to their first choice of university, usually Russell Group, and 10-15% receive offers from Oxford and Cambridge each year. The range of subjects they study reflects the very diverse nature of our sixth formers. Recently boys who have not chosen to follow the university path have opted to study music at the Royal Academy, Drama at RADA or pursue sporting careers. Each year a number of students will go to university abroad, particularly the USA, and we have specialist advisors to provide guidance in these applications.

At our open day on 1 October we are running a sixth form forum in the Science Centre. The Head of Sixth Form, Nick O'Doherty and his team will be there. Full details can be found on our website at [www.abingdon.org.uk/open\\_day\\_sixth\\_form\\_forum](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/open_day_sixth_form_forum)



# A Great Start to Life

## Abingdon's Boarding Enrichment Programme

A new initiative has begun in our boarding community with the aim of preparing boys for "life beyond boarding". Not quite as ambitious as it sounds, the boarding enrichment programme concentrates on mastering everyday tasks, delving into issues and lessons that are more often learnt in the home setting.

### Life after Boarding

On Tuesday nights, when there is no chapel, boys from all years are engaged in the new programme run by the Assistant Boarding Housemasters. The third year boys, who are the youngest boarding recruits, are encouraged to try new things, to appreciate the environment in which they live and to learn to get on with one another. Over the course of the Lent term, Sodexo, our school catering company, ran a healthy eating class followed by a blind taste test, where boys confused salmon with chicken and cauliflower and potato soup with leek! Clearly some way to go with acquiring culinary tastes. Over subsequent weeks boys were shown how to clean and iron by their matrons.

### Internet Charter

The Fourth and Fifth Years, under the guidance of Mr Barnes, have been exploring the new digital world. In many cases the boys are far more versed in gaming and social media than the staff, and we feel it is of utmost importance that boys take responsibility for how they behave online. It is their world, and they must understand how to interact with it. Together with Mr Barnes the boys have created an Internet Charter for the boarding community and will be going on to look at social media and gaming management.

### Responsibility

The Sixth Form enrichment programme focuses on preparing boys for their 'next step'. As most boys head towards university, they must be able to take responsibility for their own personal administration as well as their academic and social lives. To this end, Ms Elmore has been addressing the complexities of UK taxes and applying for student loans as well as making sure boys are aware of UK laws and expectations outside of the safety net provided by Abingdon School. As well as the complicated and serious nature of laws and taxes there is also the home comforts that are so important to making that next step. By the end of the Sixth Form, boys will have created an Abingdon Boarding Cookbook, to be bound and handed to every leaver, full of some of the favourite recipes from each house that can easily be made in university accommodation.

### Life Skills

The aim of the enrichment programme is to prepare the boys for life outside Abingdon and to smooth the transition to looking after themselves. We teach them the basics of organising their daily lives; simple tasks such as ironing a shirt, cooking supper, cleaning, understanding your student loan – all of which can be taught at home but are often over-looked in a boarding environment. We want Abingdon boarders to flourish once they leave the School and our aim with the boarding enrichment programme is to facilitate the change.





# Out and About



Boys prepared for the all important summer term rowing at a training camp in Bordeaux. The accounts from those in the J15 squads make good reading with a healthy emphasis on the vast quantities of food needed to fuel their endeavours!



DofE Gold practice walking expedition experienced inclement weather as a back drop to some stunning scenery in Snowdonia.



Third year classicists enjoyed the first Bank Holiday weekend exploring Hadrian's Wall. The boys combined ancient and modern, exploring Roman sites and falconry with a trip to the cinema to see the latest Captain America.



Fourth year historians visited Munich and Nuremberg to learn more about the rise of the Nazis.





Third year boarders from School House and Crescent took a trip up the Thames to Oxford in an assault boat and a Royal Navy workboat. They travelled through Sandford Lock, stopping for lunch, and on up to Iffley.



Lower sixth formers studied the history, art and architecture of renaissance Italy during their visit to Florence.



Silver and Gold DofE sailors took on some tough conditions in The Solent over Easter in their qualifying expeditions.



First and second year boys thoroughly enjoyed canoeing, caving, walking and zip wires amongst a myriad of activities in the Brecon Beacons and at PGL Liddington.



The annual trip to the battlefields was both fascinating and thought provoking for the 48 boys who took part. The boys saw where OAs are commemorated at the Pozières British Cemetery and the Arras memorial.



The Spanish exchange combined lessons and culture with everything from tapas to salsa during their trip to Salamanca.



# Abingdon Drama

Avery Trotter (5th from left and inset) with the cast of *Romeo and Juliet*



## Theatrical Abingdonians

Teachers love seeing students do well, whether at school or beyond, so I was especially chipper as I embarked on a recent trip to London for a day of theatre involving current and former Abingdonians.

The day began at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse on Bankside. Situated in the shadow of Shakespeare's Globe, this beautiful indoor venue was the stage for Southwark Youth Theatre's *Romeo and Juliet* featuring 1st year pupil **Avery Trotter**. The cast of 37 performed with gusto and imagination on a bare stage under simple lighting, Avery featuring prominently as the larger-than-life character of the Nurse in what was one of several bold 'reverse gender' castings. I wonder where this talented young man will end up.

Much the same thought followed my first meeting in 1997 with **Simon Evans** (OA). Like Avery, Simon was a young man blessed with talent, energy and determination. He studied at Cambridge before embarking on a career as a director. As I headed to the Southwark Playhouse for the matinee of his production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I enjoyed a keen sense of symmetry; Simon's first theatrical outing at Abingdon had been in the same play. This was his fourth London production in as many months - each one lauded with four and five star reviews. His version of the *Dream* featured another former Theatre Studies pupil - Lucy Eaton - who was one of the early pioneers of Abingdon's successful theatrical collaboration with St Helen's.

The day ended at the Hampstead Theatre with the first public preview of *Wild*, the latest piece by award-winning playwright **Mike Bartlett** (OA). Mike was in Abingdon's first mixed A-Level Theatre Studies class. He originally wanted to be a director, but began writing plays instead. His breakthrough came in 2007 with *My Child* at the Royal Court. Since then, he's produced no fewer than 13 plays and television dramas, including *King Charles III* and *Doctor Foster*. Like all his plays, *Wild* is strikingly thoughtful, entertaining and inventive. At least one stage direction defies the bounds of science and imagination by requiring a character to "burst" like a balloon.

What connects these three theatrical Abingdonians beyond their shared school heritage? Perhaps a capacity for bold action. Just as successful drama requires characters who do things, so, it seems to me, Abingdonians who thrive are those with a determination to act on their enthusiasms. Long may they and their active impulses flourish.

Jeremy Taylor - Director of Drama

Cast of *Midsummer Night's Dream*



Lucy Eaton in *Midsummer Night's Dream*



Simon Evans



*Midsummer Night's Dream* photos: Harry Grindrod





## Lower School Gala Concert

A large audience enjoyed a wide range of solo items featuring piano, strings, woodwind and brass, as well as some solo vocalists and a piece composed by first year Oskar Muller in Music Technology lessons. The concert got off to an energetic start with a rendition of *Happy* by the entire Lower School. Junior Strings, Junior Blues and the Lower School Band were in great form, as was the 5-man strong bassoon ensemble. The future of music at Abingdon is certainly in safe hands!



## Chapel Choir

The Choir sang Choral Evensong at the beautiful Winchester Cathedral.



## Solo Competition – Junior Category

The third and final phase of the new solo competition, the junior category, saw 14 performances adjudicated by Richard Poyser, the Director of Music at New College School. Woodwind, brass, strings and piano were all represented by both seasoned and new players from the first to the third year.

The final decision was very tight:

Hugo Wade - 3rd

Raffy Armon-Jones - 2nd

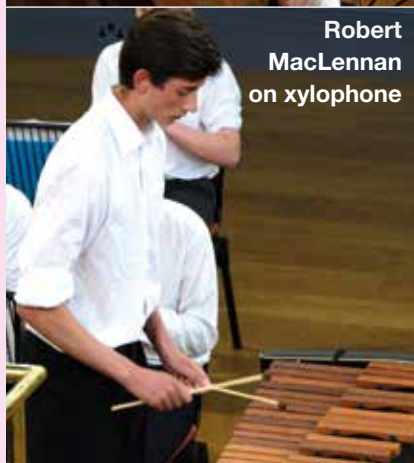
David Bicarregui - the winner.



## Sheldonian Concert

First Orchestra

Robert  
MacLennan  
on xylophone



The finale to the musical year was held at the Sheldonian Theatre at the end of June. The concert gave us the perfect opportunity to celebrate the contribution and achievements of a particularly gifted upper sixth year group. It brought together all the senior school ensembles and the repertoire chosen gave a platform to spotlight several of our senior soloists, James Anderson-Besant (harpichord), Leon Wu (piano) and, from the Fifth Year, Robert MacLennan (xylophone).

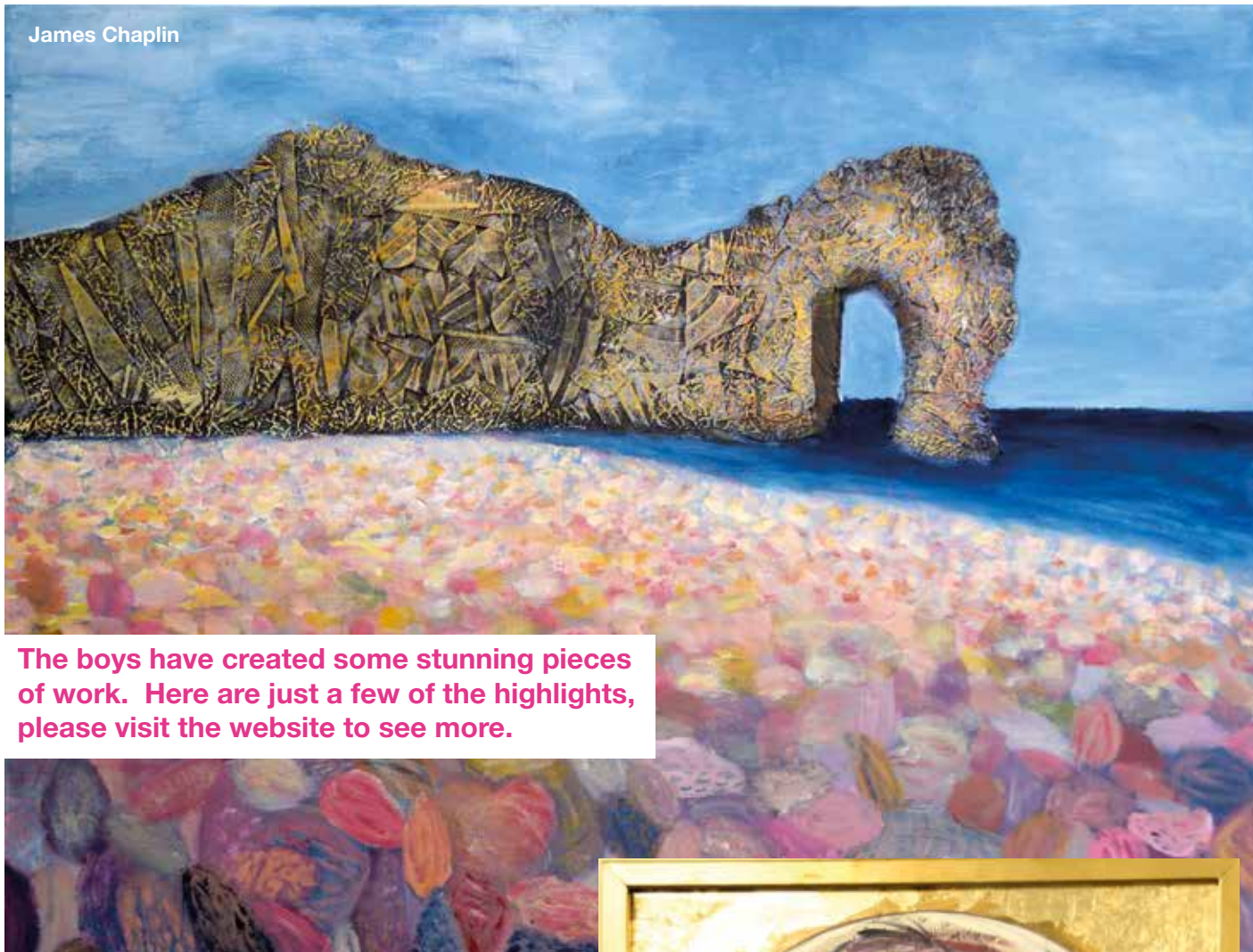


## Junior Music Scholars' Concert

Woodwind, brass, strings and piano were all very ably represented. Our young musicians show much talent and will continue to impress as they move up the school.



James Chaplin



The boys have created some stunning pieces of work. Here are just a few of the highlights, please visit the website to see more.



James Day  
Seating with Storage



Micah Hayns



Edward Green



Dmitry Muravyev  
Gadget Tidy



Simon Chester  
Stylish Storage



Arman Gamroudi



Isaac Morrow  
Multimedia Organiser



Alexander McShane  
Gadget Charging Hub



Ben Hutchison





The Athletics Club had a successful year with over 70 boys representing the School. Highlights include 2nd place in both Junior and Intermediate competitions at Marlborough and our lower school team winning the MCS invitational meet. Club Captain Nat Jones and Vice Captain Jonty De La Harpe showed exemplary leadership and congratulations to Matthew Johnson who qualified for the English Schools' Finals.





Magnus Gregory (right) continues to impress on the international kayaking circuit and was selected to race in the World Cup Series in Duisburg.



## Cricket



The weather has led to a frustrating term with loss of fixtures. The 1st XI had a year of rebuilding and young players have benefitted from the opportunity to play at a high level. The U15s were crowned county champions and went on to the regional final where they defeated Reading School. Progressing to the last 16, they then lost to Millfield. This is the furthest an Abingdon U15 team has gone in the competition. The U14s also reached the final of the County Cup. A large number of boys represent age group counties and districts teams and there is much promise to look forward to.

## Tennis



Some good wins against St Edward's, MCS in the National Cup, Stowe, Moultsford, Oratory and Marlborough. U13 and U15 teams won all their fixtures in the county stage of the Aegon competition. Ethan McLellan played well in the HSBC Road to Wimbledon, the biggest junior tournament in British tennis.

## Tom Guthrie

played for England Rugby at U18 and U17 level in international matches against Italy and France.



Abingdon's most successful squash team to date under the expert guidance of captain Seb Hickman.

The Swimming Club ended the season with a convincing win in all 3 categories of the Griffen Gala against Abingdon Vale Swimming Club. Second year Daniel McNamara set four new U14 school records, two individual and two relays.



# Abingdon Preparatory School



## New Transfer Process to Abingdon School

Almost two decades after Abingdon Prep joined with Abingdon School to form the Abingdon Foundation, the Prep and Senior Schools are now so closely aligned that we are streamlining the process whereby boys transfer from the Prep to the Senior School. This change is a reflection of the excellent continuous education we can offer across the Abingdon Foundation. The majority of pupils at the Prep School will now receive an offer of a place for Year 9 at Abingdon School at the end of Year 5 at Abingdon Prep. For these pupils there will be no pre-test and the offer is not dependent on performance at Common Entrance, hence an end to the double testing that was previously in place and that is still a requirement for boys from other prep schools. This offer will be based on the continuous assessment of each pupil and is conditional on the pupil maintaining his profile of achievement in Years 6 to 8 at Abingdon Prep.



## Grandparents Tea Party

In June the boys had great pleasure playing host to over 160 of their grandparents.

## Musical Highlights

Musical highlights this term included the Year 5 Musical Soiree, where parents brought picnics and pizzas and were entertained by their sons who sang, gave recitals and performed magic acts! The term's musical grand finale was the end of year concert held in the Amey Theatre at Abingdon.

## Common Entrance Success

I should like to congratulate all the boys on their Common Entrance successes and to thank staff and parents for their guidance and support.

*Crispin Hyde-Dunn, Headmaster.*

## Young Artists

Boys of all ages worked throughout the year to get ready for Oxfordshire Artweeks in May. The School looked amazing with a vast array of stunning Art and CDT displays. In clubs, lessons and at home the boys created pieces from materials including clay, acrylic, wood and textiles. The boys in Year 5 were particularly proud of their ceramic cakes, which could easily be mistaken for the real thing.

Twenty-five of the School's young artists also exhibited their work at the Ashmolean Museum as part of the county's Young Art Oxford schools competition.

Galleries of the boys' artwork can be seen on the website.



## Happy Birthday Abingdon Prep



Local artist, Linda Benton, turned 66 themes from the Prep School into a captivating picture commissioned to celebrate the School's 60th birthday.





## Cricketers on the Crest of a Wave



The Under 11A cricket team embraced their annual tour to Devon and Cornwall with enthusiasm. Despite poor weather, leading to the loss of a fixture, the boys enjoyed a win against Mount Kelly Prep School and had a fantastic day surfing at Polzeath. The boys finished the season unbeaten.

## Brexit or Remain?

The Prep held its own mini-referendum in June with boys campaigning for both sides of the debate. Opposing teams visited each class from Year 3 to Year 8 to state their case. The School Hall turned into the polling station and the vote went strongly in favour of the Remain campaign, gaining 69% to 31% for Brexit.

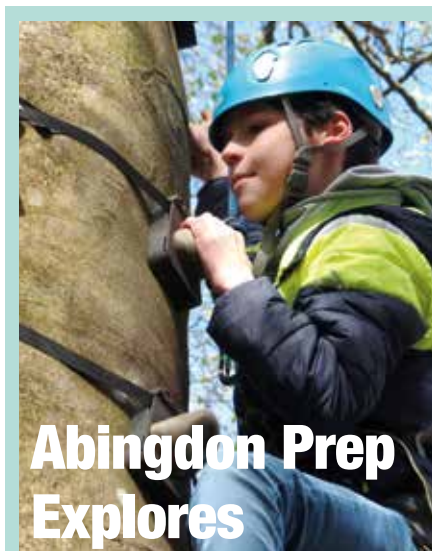


## Vikings Visit

As part of an architecture workshop, Year 6 designed and built a 3D Viking longboat. Using large pieces of dowel and rubber bands only, tetrahedrons, trusses and masts were erected, and the two classes rowed the giant ship to the beat of a drum.

## International Day in Pre-prep

The children in Pre-prep joined the Junior Section for international day, travelling three continents, passports in hand, to find out about food, music, games and clothes.



## Abingdon Prep Explores

This term boys have enjoyed residential trips to PGL Liddington and The Forest of Dean. Following their CE exam week, Year 8 explored Normandy and there have been numerous trips to mosques, museums, environmental reserves and galleries.





Old Abingdonians return to school to offer career advice to sixth form students.

## Career Guidance

Abingdon School aspires to help every pupil think carefully about, and take practical steps towards realising, his future career. Towards this end, Abingdon has taken the bold step of creating a new, full-time career guidance role, recently appointing Michael Triff as Head of Career Guidance and Alumni Relations.

Mr Triff has designed and will now lead the implementation of an exciting and expansive Career Guidance Programme which will take pupils aged 12-18 (Year 2 to U6) on a journey of self-discovery, helping them to identify potential careers to which they are well suited, understand and experience the world of work, make educational choices informed by careers planning and learn key skills needed to gain future employment.

The Programme will combine online and printed career information; timetabled career lessons; employability skills workshops and mentoring; one-to-one career advice meetings; tutor group career activities; and a wide range of events and activities including speaker lunches, advice evenings, trips to career fairs and conferences and work experience schemes.

Every year group will enjoy a set of bespoke activities designed for its step in this journey, with one year's activities smoothly transitioning into that of the next year. This design will ensure coherence from year to year and put pupils in the best position possible to make informed educational choices at the end of each key stage in their education: GSCE, A-Level, and all post-18 options, including Higher Education.

Supporting the delivery of this Programme are teachers, tutors, parents and Old Abingdonians as well as carefully selected suppliers of career education, information, advice and guidance.

For more information, contact Mr Triff on [careerguidance@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:careerguidance@abingdon.org.uk).



## Philanthropy

**£223,000 raised during 2015-16 for bursaries and special projects for pupils**

Thanks to the generosity of parents, Old Abingdonians, the Abingdon School Parents' Association (ASPA), the Josca's Parents' Association and the Second-Hand Uniform Shop, a total of £223,000 was donated to Abingdon School during 2015-16. £173,000 was donated for bursaries, while £50,000 was donated for a range of special projects for pupils. In addition, the School also received legacies from two Old Abingdonians and one former teacher totalling £26,000.



## Pretty in pink!

In May we held our annual end of year ASPA bash in a transformed Abingdon School dining room. Everything and everyone looked absolutely stunning and the pink ties and tiaras added an extra touch of sparkle.

The night began with pink Prosecco, and 130 parents were entertained by Take 4, a jazz quartet of senior boys: Hugh Franklin (Trumpet, U6th), James Anderson-Besant (Piano, U6th), Nat Jones (U6th) and Rob MacLennan (drums, 5th).



A delicious dinner was followed by the grand auction presided over by auctioneer and OA, Garth Lewis. Lots for racing, rugby, Wimbledon and others flew by in quick succession. A last minute donation from Colin Greenwood of Radiohead of a special edition vinyl signed by the band was also hotly contested.

Our thanks go to parent donors; Jessica Mannix, Sue Wallis and Simon Jarvis, as

well as to Premier Tennis and some great external friends of ASPA for their generous donations. After the auctions had closed, the dance floor opened with *Let's Dance* by David Bowie and the dance off got underway.

Huge appreciation to all in the catering team, to Michael Man in U6th for his photography and to Take 4 for their great sounds on the night.

## ASPA donations helping to support School life



Music Technology equipment made possible by APSA donations

ASPA is delighted to have made donations to the School totaling nearly £9,000 so far this year, including:

- New Sails for Keelboats
- Timeline Magazine
- Podcasting
- Debating Workshop
- Lego Clock
- Guest Speaker for Modern Languages
- Polyglot Magazine

We were also extremely pleased to have been able to donate £500 to the charity, Blue Skye Thinking, through the sale of pink bow ties for the ASPA Pink Tie & Tiara event.



## Join 'the social network' for parents

As you may know from coming along to our events, or using one of the schemes we run such as SUS, ASPA is run by parents, for parents to provide networking, social and fundraising opportunities.

If you're interested in being on the Committee as a future Chair or one of our other roles, even a Year Group rep, we'd love to hear from you! It's a great way to get to know other parents, to bring your passion or skills to something a bit different, or just to help out at events and have some fun. Drop us an email by contacting Anne-Marie Nugent, Vice Chair at [aspa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:aspa@abingdon.org.uk).

[www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa)



## OAs in the emergency services

Several OAs have careers in the emergency services, in the UK and internationally.

Here are three snapshots into the lives of OAs in the fire, police and ambulance services.



### Paul Coleman (1991)

From planning and providing Police Air Support to the London 2012 Olympics to supporting families through bereavement as a Roads Policing Officer, Thames Valley Police has provided me with a challenging and rewarding career.

Now, as an Inspector, I lead a team of 30 officers providing policing to Oxford City. As a senior Police Officer, I find myself making decisions that can make a real difference to people's lives. Abingdon provided me with the academic qualifications required to join, but it was the Other Half activities that provided me with the leadership qualities to progress.

### Tom Hewes (1997)

After leaving Abingdon, I did a BSc in Sports and Exercise Sciences. In 2002, I joined the Welsh Ambulance Service as a Paramedic. In 2011, I became a Clinical Team Leader for Wales' only Hazardous Area Response Team.

I continued studying, and have received a PGCE and MSc. Now, I am still a Paramedic, but work full time at Swansea University lecturing in Paramedic Sciences. My most valuable advice from Abingdon came from my music teacher, Mr Elliot: "Go to University, even if it is to study flipping tiddlywinks!" – I owe him and the other staff a lot.



### Philip Aiken (1994)



I'm a Watch Commander in the fire service training department, having joined in 2004 after trying various careers, including teaching, demolition and scuba instructing. The work ethic and learning environment at Abingdon has undoubtedly helped me to thrive in an extremely dynamic job.

Learning to adjust to an ever-changing environment has been a challenge, as the service has undergone huge changes recently. My greatest reward has been the personal satisfaction gained from helping people in their time of need. I'd recommend the fire service for anyone with a strong community spirit and a calm head under pressure.



## Upcoming Events

### Hong Kong Reception

Monday 19 September

Old Abingdonians, parents and friends of Abingdon School are invited to our annual Hong Kong Reception at the Excelsior Hotel. Check online for details and booking.

### School Open Day

Saturday 1 October

OAs and their families are invited to this informal opportunity to visit Abingdon School, from 11.30am on School Open Day. There will be a BBQ in the Jekyll Garden for OAs and staff from 1.00pm.



### OA Badminton and Squash Day

Saturday 5 November

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Badminton Day, OAs are invited to School for a joint Badminton and Squash Day. Check online for details.



### Sixth Form Careers Evening

Friday 18 November

We need the help of approximately 20 – 25 early- to mid-career OAs to provide careers advice at the ever-expanding Sixth Form Careers Evening. Please contact Alice Crouch for more information at [alice.crouch@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:alice.crouch@abingdon.org.uk).



### London Drinks: Save the Date

Wednesday 23 November

The annual London Drinks Reception will be held at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Look out for more details.

## Year Group Reunions

Over 100 OAs, joined by current and former staff, visited Abingdon School on Saturday 11 June for the Year Group Reunions, enjoying a drinks reception, tours of the School and a buffet dinner. It was a fantastic event – look out for when yours will be held!



## University Reunions

Friday 20 January - Bristol / Bath

Friday 3 February - Newcastle / Durham

Friday 3 March - Nottingham / Leicester / Loughborough

Look out for details online.

## Regional Reunions

Saturday 21 January - Bristol / Bath

Saturday 4 February - Scotland

Saturday 4 March - South Peak District

Look out for details online.



# Abingdon Out of the Past

## Forty Years On

Forty years ago this September, with no fanfare and no ceremony, the School began one of the most momentous changes in its history: there was no new intake of Direct Grant pupils that term. This may not sound very dramatic but it meant that the School had begun its journey towards full independence. Forty years ago the School was a very different place as these photographs show.



'Health and safety' didn't exist; here the boys practise abseiling from the roof of the Science Block.



The Court Room was still the venue for plays, concerts and exams because there was no Sports Hall and no Amey Theatre

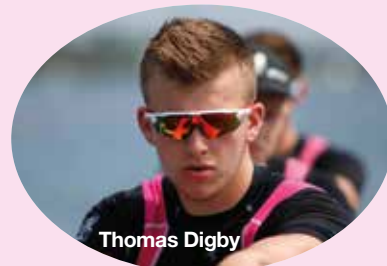


There were no female members of Common Room – or at least not in this 1975 MCR photograph



The Dining Hall was brand new – with significant differences in the serving arrangements!

## Keeping it in the Family!



Thomas Digby

Last year's Head of Boats, Thomas Digby, was following in the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather, Hugh Mountjoy Digby, who held the post at Abingdon School one hundred and thirty four years ago. Thomas won a silver medal in the GB Four at the World Rowing Junior Championship in Rio de Janeiro last year to add to the one he won at Hamburg in 2014. The family connection came to light when Thomas's father, Nick Digby, Chair of the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club, began research on his fascinating and detailed *The Story of Abingdon School Boat Club*, which was published in June.

Copies of the book can be bought from [fasbc@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:fasbc@abingdon.org.uk) price £25 plus £4 p&p.

