

Abingdon News



Exploring Iceland



Twenty-eight boys explored Iceland during a geography field trip. The boys encountered rare geysers, Skogafoss 'the rainbow waterfall' and the famous Eyjafjallajokull volcano which last erupted in 2010.

A range of geographic topics was covered and highlights included white water rafting, glacier walking on Solheimajokull and a trip to the stunning Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa.

Leavers' Destinations 2017

In addition to the UK destinations, there were nine places won to study overseas at:

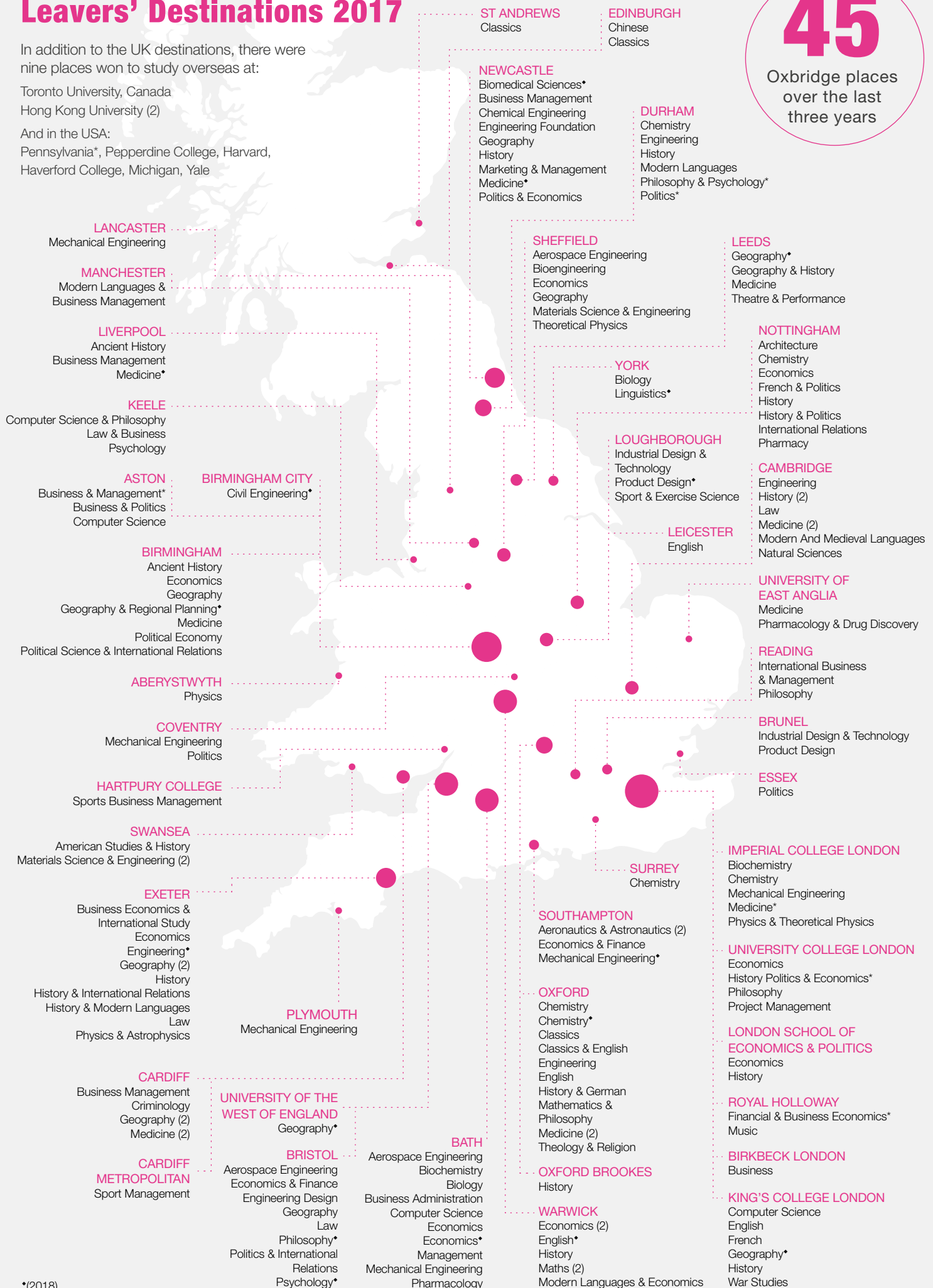
Toronto University, Canada
Hong Kong University (2)

And in the USA:

Pennsylvania*, Pepperdine College, Harvard,
Haverford College, Michigan, Yale

45

Oxbridge places
over the last
three years



University Entries

The university applications cycle 2016-2017 was highly successful for Abingdon. We submitted over 185 applications to UCAS, 165 of which were in the Upper Sixth and the rest were OAs. Most students applied to the ever-popular (and ever competitive) Russell Group universities, with Bath University being a very popular choice too. There were 19 Oxbridge places won (11 to Oxford, 8 to Cambridge).

Many Abingdonians gravitate to London (Imperial, LSE, KCL and UCL) or to the South West (Exeter, Bristol, Bath) however we saw a number of applications to York, Keele, Swansea, Surrey, Lancaster and Aston. Engineering in its many guises, Medicine (12 places in 2017), Economics, Sciences and the Humanities remain favoured choices for study, with a significant rise in International Relations and Politics courses being selected.



On results day, we found a considerable number of universities had softened their offer by a grade, however the most popular courses at the Russell Group universities stuck to their guns.

Clearing is evolving as a true marketplace with students offering actual (not predicted) grades and universities offering actual spaces on courses. Indeed it has been known for some universities to 'hold back' some places to capture the students that go through Adjustment, the process by which

a student can reject current offers having received better grades than expected.

The other interesting change in recent years has been the Apprenticeship Degrees which are making a big splash in the UK and are extremely popular, however their appeal is yet to filter through to Abingdonians. Certainly some lower sixth boys are making noises about considering this degree route, but we are yet to see a commitment in this exciting direction.

Nicky King, Director of University Admissions

Message from the Headmaster



One of the many highlights of this term was hearing upper sixth students reflecting on the time they had spent in Moldova over the summer. They were the latest to visit this small and relatively unknown country in eastern Europe, continuing a tradition first established over ten years ago in collaboration with the charity Agape.

The students had clearly had an unforgettable time, and they had relished the opportunities to learn more about Moldova and to experience the culture there. They had formed powerful friendships with the children that they



Abingdon students ran summer camps for children in Moldova

had been teaching and they had learned a great deal from seeing children with so little enjoying life so much and making the most of their opportunities. Finally it was apparent that our students had grown as a result of their experiences and that they had gained a new perspective on their life back in the UK.

A strong sense of service is at the heart of Abingdon life. Be it through the third year Community Service programme, the work of our Science Ambassadors at Saturday Science Clubs or regular visits to local old people's homes, Abingdon pupils are

often out and about sharing their time and enthusiasm with the wider community. The benefits are palpable, providing our pupils with broader perspectives and keeping them grounded but also ensuring that the school as a whole feels firmly rooted in our neighbourhood.

I hope you might pick up a sense of this as you read this latest edition of Abingdon News and also that you will enjoy reading about the other events of an exciting and productive term.

Michael Windsor, Headmaster



Oxford Varsity Squad Training

Oxford University's Varsity squad came into school for their final team training session before the Varsity Match. The University's Head Coach, James Wade, was appointed the School's Forwards Coach this summer. The University used the new fitness suite, the hospitality suite for team analysis, and the Waste Court pitch for their final preparation. Abingdon's 1st XV had a real treat, taking part in a non-contact training session running in phases of attack and defence. The day culminated in the University players giving the Abingdon boys some one to one training sessions.

Marathon Paddle



Third year Max Kidd-May completed a charity stand up paddleboard from Surrey to Fulham covering 36.5km over a period of 9 hours.



National Poetry Day

Tutor time turned into poetry reading for National Poetry Day alongside poetry related activities and a school-wide competition for boys and staff. The open mic session in the afternoon showcased a wonderful selection of boys' and staff's own work as well as their favourite poems. Aahaan Sharma (pictured), a Year 7 pupil, read a poem he wrote called "Freedom Inside Me". Aahaan was inspired by his grandmother who is a writer and a poet.

The Headmaster recited a German poem called Wanderers Nachtlied by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and a poem by Clive James called Leçons de Ténèbres.

Exploring ATLAS with Minecraft

Abingdon School students joined a group of UK teenagers to create an interactive museum of one of the world's most famous science experiments – the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider – in the virtual land of Minecraft.



Taking on the House

Cameron Butcher and Scott Elkington took on their Lordships as part of the English Bridge Union's annual bridge event at the House of Lords. The boys enjoyed a guided tour, followed by duplicate bridge and afternoon tea on the terrace. Cameron partnered Lord Harrison of Chester and Scott, Lord Skelmersdale.



Brave and Poor v Cowardly and Rich

The first joint Lower School event of the year took place at St Helen's in the form of a dinner debate. The girls argued for the motion that 'This house would rather be brave and poor than cowardly and rich', with a group from Abingdon opposing. The motion was narrowly defeated by a mere two votes.

A scratch balloon debate followed with speakers representing different professions arguing for why they should be the ones to stay in the hot air balloon - in a somewhat surprising move it was decided that the rappers were more deserving of the final place than those representing teachers, scientists, and nurses! The evening concluded with further discussion over pizza and ice cream.



Physics in Action

Lower sixth physicists attended a Physics in Action day at Warwick University and were treated to a stimulating series of lectures. Demonstrations included beach balls used to show acceleration by radio frequencies in particle accelerators and how a phone torch can be used to look at oxygenated blood in our veins.

Third Years explore Haptics



For the past two years Abingdon has been working with Reading University and King's College London on a research project investigating haptics in science education. Haptics is the science of touch, but more recently it has been applied to computer interfaces that can 'display' shape and permit manipulation.

Professor William Harwin from Reading brought in haptic devices and virtual reality headsets for a group of third year boys to trial. Prior to donning the VR headsets, the boys were quizzed on their knowledge of cell biology and carried out fine dexterity tests. The boys were very engrossed in the VR section of the trial and enjoyed moving molecules around their virtual cell. Following this they were quizzed again to see how their knowledge of cell biology had changed after using the haptics. Initial feedback from the boys was overwhelmingly positive with one overheard to say "I would even come in on a Saturday to learn with haptics".



African Moon Moths

Biology volunteers met the Entomology Society's latest project - breeding African moon moths, *Argema mimosae*.



Remembrance Day

The CCF led the School in remembering those who gave their lives for their country, including the members of the Abingdon School community.



Lands End to John O'Groats

The CCF took to the gym to run the 874 miles in an impressive 14 hours with Cdt Cpl Will Franklin and Cdt Cpl Toby Rock running full marathons and everyone showing huge determination to complete the challenge. Cdt Sjt Joseph O'Shea organised the event which raised over £1,000 pounds for the Jon Egging Trust.



Seventeen members of the Lower Sixth attended the Annual Presentation for Sixth Formers on Asian Affairs organised by the RSAA and SOAS. The line-up of speakers was impressive including the current Ambassador of South Korea and the former Managing Editor of BBC documentaries. Topics varied widely from, *The British Empire in India, a good or bad thing?*, *The challenges and opportunities of collating and managing Tibetan Buddhist Monastery art* and a fairly chilling account relating to IS and Security in the Middle East.



Problem Solved

The Cartwright Problem Solving group made up of top mathematicians from the Middle School had their solution to one of Cambridge University's NRich puzzles published online alongside others from all over the world. The solution can be viewed at: <https://nrich.maths.org/7385/solution>



Lower School *Be the Best* Launch

This year's "Be the Best You Can Be" programme was launched in fine style by guest speaker Toby Garbett, double world gold medal-winning rower and triathlon champion. Toby had boys and staff working together on partnered squats and triathlon changeovers. He talked to the boys about the hard work and dedication that were required for him to achieve his goals and also explained the importance of having an "I can do it" attitude.



Debating

Abingdon's entrants to the prestigious Schools' Mace debating competition, organised nationally by the English Speaking Union, have successfully passed through the first regional round. Alasdair Czapiewski and Louis Brosnan, both in the Lower Sixth, opposed Bradfield School's motion that "This house believes that Members of Parliament should be paid the median wage".



e-Sports

Lower sixth former Sam Baker represented Europe as part of a team of eight who defeated the world and current champions from Russia 4-1 in an e-sports competition in Minsk.



Joint MFL Society

The annual dinner of the Joint Modern Foreign Languages Sixth Form Society saw students from Abingdon and St Helen's enjoy an informative talk by Jenny Burns from Warwick University. Jenny discussed the role of research and teaching in Modern Languages in a contemporary, globalised context and the need to study and work multilingually. Supper was, as always, excellent, many thanks to the girls and staff at St Helen's.



Abingdon Science Partnership

Abingdon Science Partnership (ASP) is heavily involved in many exciting, local and national projects to engage schools and the community with science. Ten local primary schools are now part of the Ogden Trust Abingdon Primary Science Partnership and around 60 primary school teachers have received science training from the Ogden Trust in the Science Partnership Laboratory at Abingdon School in recent months. ASP is also officially supporting primary schools in

Bicester, Botley, Newbury and Swindon, that are part of the nationally funded Polar Explorer Programme. This is designed to highlight the future polar science missions of the Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough, due for launch in 2018. Secondary schools in the area are benefitting from ASP's status as a hub for the Institute for Research in Schools. Sixth form pupils from five schools in Abingdon are taking part in the Wellcome Trust's Genome Decoders project and

Abingdon School pupils are presenting research results at the recent CERN@School Symposium at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Preparations are now well underway for a number of school and family events at Abingdon's ATOM Festival of Science and Technology 2018, such as the 'Amazing Earth from Space' primary science fair project, recently launched in the Science Partnership Lab by Chris Duff of the Satellite Applications Catapult, part of the Harwell Campus.



Community Service Tea Party

More than 80 Abingdon residents came to our Christmas tea party. The brass band and gospel choir created a festive mood and everyone enjoyed the seasonal quiz and raffle.



Abingdon does battle with St Helen's

Despite a 4-1 defeat to St Helen's in the annual lacrosse match, the boys were determined in opposition.



Talk Physics

Fifth year physicists visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Harwell for a Talk Physics lecture on "Pressing FIRE on the most powerful laser in the world!". Dr Ceri Brenner from RAL spoke about future research projects and current research on utilising lasers for different applications including nuclear fusion.



First Years' First Week

These are just a few of the comments we received from the first year boys at the end of their first week at Abingdon:

“

Before my first day, I felt nervous and found the whole prospect of secondary school a bit daunting. After this first week, all my worries have evaporated!

“

Although I'm one of the smallest fish in the sea, I now feel quite confident because I've learnt where each classroom is and what time to be there.

“

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw how many activities we could choose from in the Other Half.

“

My favourite lesson so far has been Geography because I was constantly laughing my head off!

“

There are so many activities in sports and I loved my PE lessons! I am really looking forward to doing drama in the AMAZING Amey Theatre! I am also excited for DT with all the new equipment to use. The science block is AMAZING.

Princeton Maths Challenge – superb performance!

Congratulations to our team of mathematicians who came 3rd out of all postal entries worldwide and 11th overall in the Princeton University Maths Challenge 'Power Round': a set of undergraduate level mathematics problems set by the students of Princeton University, this year on Lie Algebras. Abingdon's team was organised and led by Ben Wilson with James Hogge, Sean Kao and Hayden Ramm.

For H^n , a vector space with basis λ_i , we see that $\{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2, \lambda_2 - \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{n-1} - \lambda_n, \lambda_n\}$ is a base, which we can use to build a Dynkin diagram. Computation gives that

$$\langle \lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1}, \lambda_j - \lambda_{j+1} \rangle = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = j \\ 1 & \text{if } |i - j| = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\langle \lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1}, \lambda_n \rangle = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \text{if } i = n - 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

A very small part of the solution!

School Notices™

MEMBER SCHOOL

Abingdon has joined the new digital market place for parents. *School Notices* enables parents to communicate, advertise and trade between themselves and parents at other independent schools, whilst also benefiting some of our school causes through the sharing of advertising income. Further details: www.schoolnotices.co.uk and register at: schoolnotices.co.uk/abingdon-school



The first years studied Roman theatre in their Latin lessons and designed masks inspired by characters from a play by Plautus.

Ben Kane visits Abingdon

The Classics department welcomed best-selling novelist and expert on Roman warfare, Ben Kane, to Abingdon. Ben has written several books set in the ancient world, including a series about Hannibal. Ben talked to the Lower School about what life was like for a Roman soldier and then to middle school ancient historians on the Punic Wars, explaining to the latter how he has recently cycled the route through the Alps possibly followed by Hannibal and his elephants!



The Big Draw 2017

The theme for this year's Big Draw Festival was 'Living Lines' and the collaborative artwork at the Senior and Prep Schools was a Living Lines Tree. Pupils, parents and staff created whatever they wanted on an individual luggage tag, these were then collated to float around on a tree, extending the idea of 'living lines', referencing 'wish trees'. There were some stunning individual pieces and we thank the over 400 artists who took part.

Young Enterprise looks promising

This year's teams are off to a flying start with products selling out at some trade fairs. Sales turnover has been high, thanks to good preparation and engaging sales talk. Products include stress balls, up-cycled hockey sticks as coat hangers, notebooks, cookbooks, snoods and hats.



Abingdon Drama

Black River Bridge

Written for our lower school boys by Andy Cargill and directed by Joe McDonnell, the play told the stories of child soldiers during the American Civil War of 1861-1865. It was a beautifully staged production with the experiences of the young soldiers engagingly represented.

B12

The Third Year took to the stage in a new play from OA, Ed Rowett, called B12: a school story - commissioned and directed by Ben Phillips. It drew inspiration from archivist Sarah Wearne's fabulous History of Abingdon School in 63 objects. www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects.

Set in room B12 - one of the oldest rooms in the school - the play was an episodic piece, in which each of the five scenes explored a different period in the School's recent history. All featured brilliant comic writing that demanded great skill from the cast in mastering the art of timing punchlines. However, the final scene was a delightfully unexpected contrast that required a different set of skills as we were transported back to September 1915 and the gravity of a farewell encounter between a master and a recent pupil, now in uniform and about to leave for the front.



Abingdon Film Unit

Michael Grigsby Young Filmmaker Awards

Winners Harry Buchan (right), for his film about the Winstanley Estate, and Joe Bradley (left) for a film about his great, great grandfather's missionary work in China.



Inspirational Young Filmmakers

From Morris Men to a premiership referee, the subjects for the 14th annual screening of new films by members of the Abingdon Film Unit (AFU) were as diverse as they were fascinating. The screening of 11 new films took place at the end of September and reflected a bumper year in terms of the range of projects undertaken by the Unit and its alumni. Many of the films took their inspiration from the local community including a touching portrait of the Abingdon Morris Men, a look at the quirky atmosphere of a board games café in Oxford and an uplifting account of Abingdon resident Graham Scott's progress from youth team goalie to top Premiership football referee. A particularly thought-provoking piece was a film made by three Abingdon School students in support of Sobell House, a facility for terminally ill patients based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford.



Tristan Mann Powter and Jonathan Ferry



Larry Bush



Fraser Scott and Liam Deegan

The AFU filmmakers also looked beyond their immediate environments for stories that engaged with the wider world. These included a strikingly topical look at the anxieties of residents on the Winstanley Estate in Battersea as they face a period of regeneration driven by architects and town planners, and a hand-drawn animation that tackled Brexit via the unlikely setting of a flower bed and a municipal park bench. The final film of the evening told the epic story of one Abingdon School student's great, great grandfather Arthur Bonsey and his brave work as a missionary in China at the end of the 19th century.

Japan

After months of planning, fund raising and fitness training the senior rugby squad took off to tour Japan. The trip combined some excellent rugby with some incredible cultural experiences. The hosts could not have been more friendly, welcoming and eager to please.

The climate was very hot and the food was a huge change for our tourists, but the boys all threw themselves into exploring the host country and fully appreciated everything it had to offer.

Nicaragua

Preparation is underway for the three week expedition to Nicaragua in July 2018 with students undergoing camping, cooking, team building, hiking and emergency rescue practice during a training weekend on the Ridgeway.

Rowing

During half term the senior squad and the J16s trained in the idyllic setting of Banyoles in Spain.

Five lower sixth physics students attended an All Party Parliamentary Engineering Group debate on "Hacking - can huge data breaches be prevented?" followed by lunch at the House of Lords.

Moldova

This year's Moldova Project saw 14 sixth formers and 3 members of staff travel to Eastern Europe to organise a series of children's summer camps with Agape, our partner charity.



The Abingdon team also travelled to Lacu Rosu in Romania to stay with a group of 30 Moldovan children in a cabin in the Carpathian Mountains.



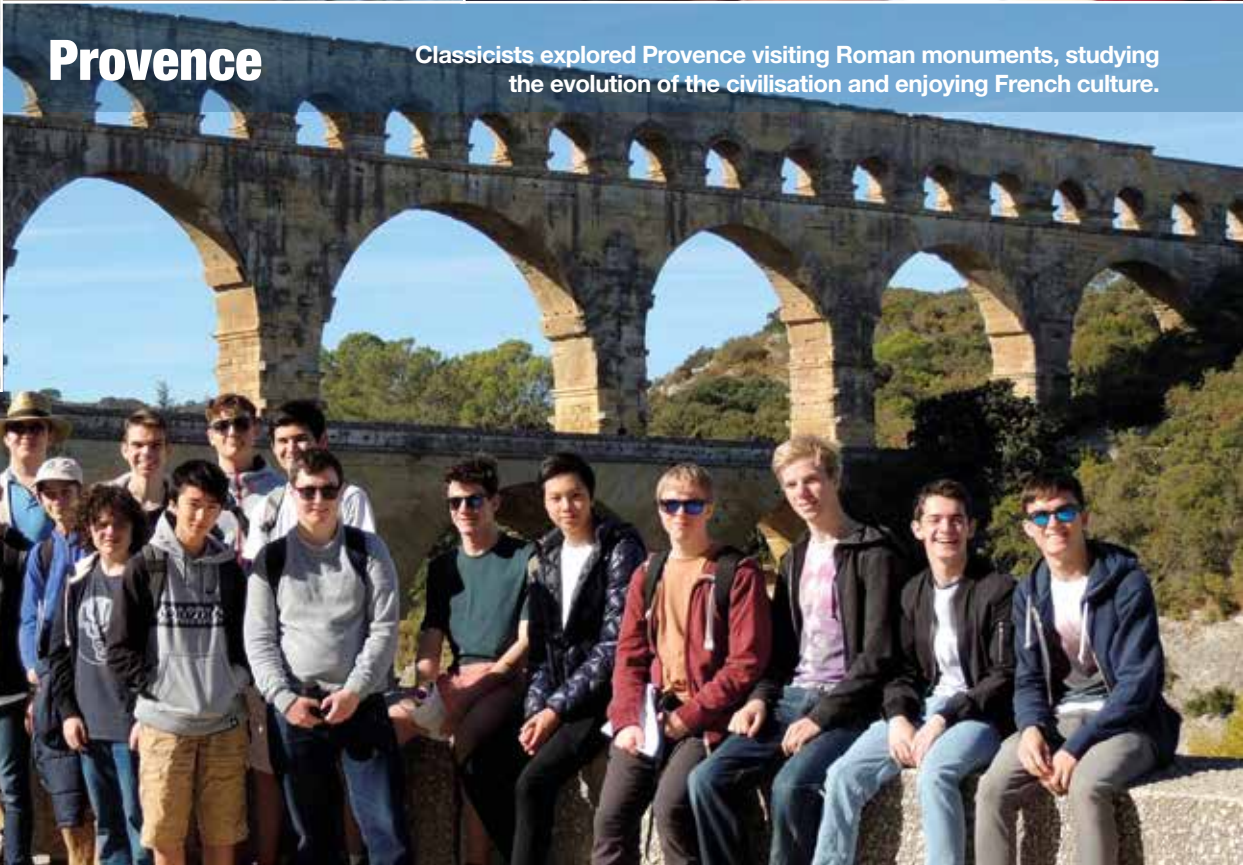
Santiago de Compostela

The Fifth Years from Abingdon and St Helen's enjoyed Spanish lessons, sightseeing and getting to know each other and their Spanish exchanges during their visit in October.



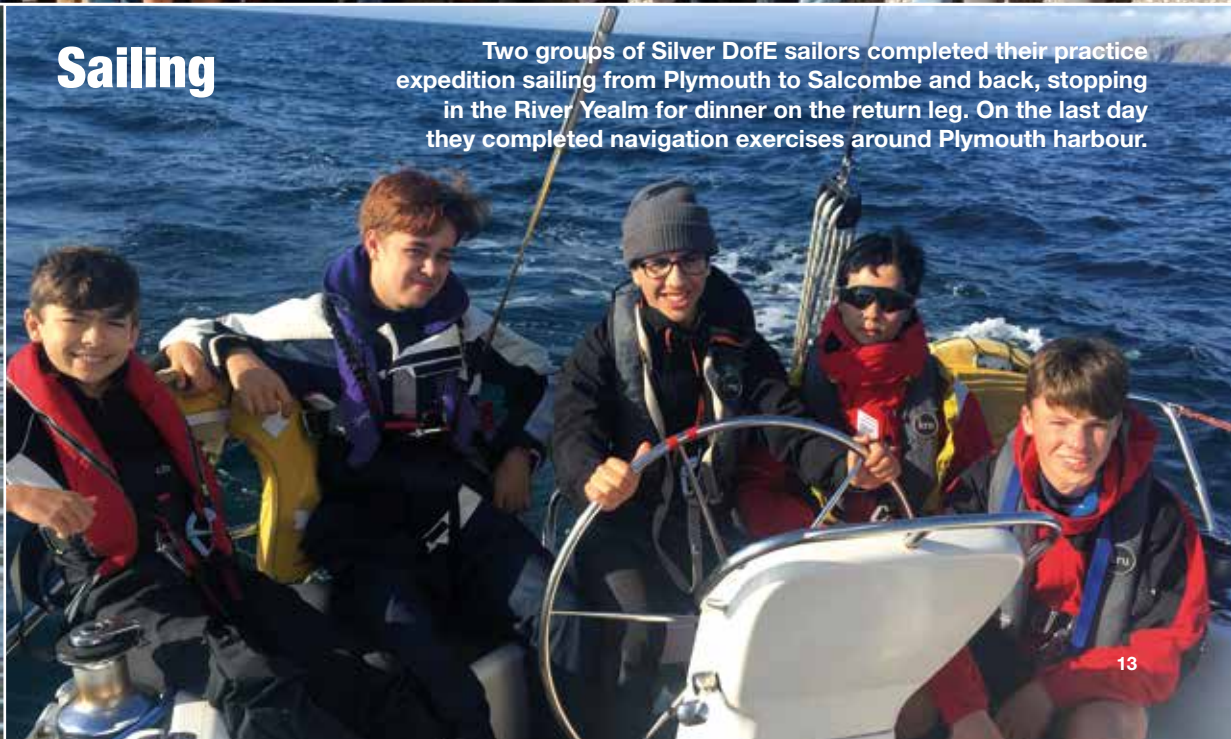
Provence

Classicists explored Provence visiting Roman monuments, studying the evolution of the civilisation and enjoying French culture.



Sailing

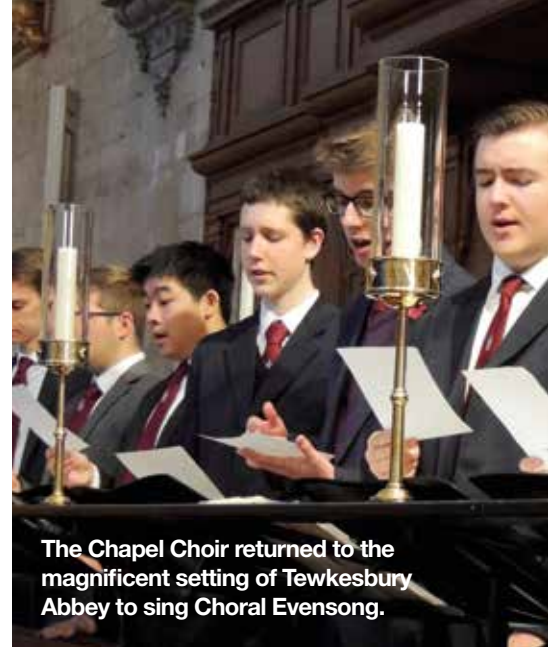
Two groups of Silver DofE sailors completed their practice expedition sailing from Plymouth to Salcombe and back, stopping in the River Yealm for dinner on the return leg. On the last day they completed navigation exercises around Plymouth harbour.



Abingdon Boys embrace the Harp



The soothing sound of the harp can be heard in the corridors of Abingdon School for the first time. With the help of local harp teacher Jenny Hill the boys have been enthusiastically taking the first steps toward playing this challenging instrument.



The Chapel Choir returned to the magnificent setting of Tewkesbury Abbey to sing Choral Evensong.



The Solo Concert Platforms gave students the opportunity to play before a supportive audience of parents, staff and fellow performers.



This year's Senior Solo Competition was characterised by some stunning performances from ten of Abingdon's most accomplished musicians. The standard was extremely high with participants having a minimum of a distinction at grade 8 and at least four of the musicians having performing diplomas with distinction to their credit. Congratulations to all who took part and in particular, in joint 3rd place, to Joe Bradley and Ashwin Tennant, 2nd place Didier Delgorge and the winner William Lam for his Chaminade Flute Concertino.

Big Band welcomes Special Guests

Internationally acclaimed musicians joined Abingdon School's Big Band for a concert in aid of The Abingdon Bridge, a charity that supports local young people. Special guest soloists, Tom Richards (OA 1999) - saxophonist and keyboard player for Jamie Cullum - and singer, pianist and songwriter, Joe Stilgoe, played to a capacity house at the School's Amey Theatre raising £4500 for the charity.





House Singing Competition

Over 1000 participants took to the Amey Theatre stage for the annual House Singing Competition. Congratulations to O'Doherty's who this year raised the cup with their rendition of Imagine Dragon's *Fallen*.



Joint Choral Society

Talented voices and musicians from St Helen's and Abingdon joined forces for the annual Joint Choral Society concert to sing two contrasting works: Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Rutter's *Gloria*.



This term's Lower School Concert took place during assembly giving several boys the chance to perform in front of their peers. As well as solo items on violin, cello, piano, bassoon and clarinet, there was a rousing performance of *The Drunken Sailor* by Junior Strings.



Christmas Concerts



The Christmas concerts played to packed houses over two nights in the Amey Theatre. Nine of the School's choirs, bands and orchestras performed a varied programme which was thoroughly enjoyed by the appreciative audience.

The tenth Independent Schools' Bagpipe Competition took place at Radley College with upper sixth former, Bryce Jersing, taking part in two events. Bryce was awarded second place in both the 18 and under Quick March and in the Dixie Ingram Challenge Cup (March, Strathspey & Reel). Many congratulations!



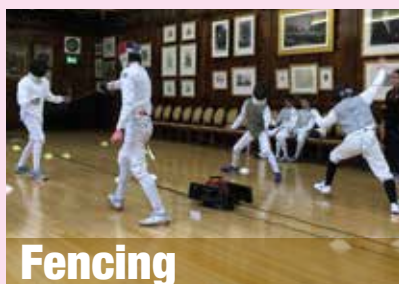
Bryce Jersing (2nd from right)



Rugby

Photo: Simon Hipwell

The Rugby Club had a very strong term with huge numbers of boys representing the school, terrific performances, massive improvements and some wonderful results. Over 20 teams competed against other top rugby playing schools each week. James Wade (Oxford University Head Coach) has had a big impact since joining this summer and guest coaches included a former England and British Lion. The Seniors had a very successful tour of Japan, followed by a good season which included the 1st XV training with the Oxford team prior to the Varsity match. Lower School enjoyed a trip to England v Samoa, the U14s had a successful tour of the South West and the U15s performed well at the national festival at Langley School. Many congratulations to the U16 As who were undefeated.



Fencing

The Club has had an unbroken season of successes since September. Highlights of the term were a return to Eton after several years, fencing in the Waterloo Hall at Wellington College and fielding a victorious sabre team in our match against RGS High Wycombe. The team are looking forward to our return matches, and to the Public Schools' Fencing Championship, next term.

Edward Scott Payne was selected to fence epee for Great Britain at a cadet tournament in Austria. He has been invited to join British Fencing's talent performance programme.



Cross-country

The Club has experienced impressive early season performances at both school and national level. Captain, Calum Steer, has led by example finishing second at Harrow and running an impressive 1hr 18mins at the Oxford Half Marathon putting him 40th/8326 and the 1st U20 runner. Rowan Miell-Ingram shows great potential, helping the senior squad finish 5th in a field of extremely strong schools at the St Albans relays, despite only being in the 3rd Year. The intermediate squad have had a fantastic start, winning the Harrow meet and narrowly missing out on a place at the National Cross-country Final. The Junior squad secured their place in the National Final and finished as the 26th fastest school in the country. Freddie Cunningham (4th) and Henry Barlow (L6) also represented Abingdon on a national level at the British Modern Biathlon Championships.



On the Water



11 students competed as part of the Oxfordshire team at the annual summer regatta where all students raced well with Arthur Bruce coming second in the laser radial fleet. Three students gained their powerboat driving licences and competed in the Honda rib challenge at Farmoor. During the last week of the summer, 38 students took part in sailing courses at Farmoor, ranging from complete beginner to advanced sailing and powerboat driving.



British Orienteering

David Bunn has been selected for the British M18 Orienteering Junior Talent Squad.

David spent much of the summer competing in orienteering events in Finland and Scotland.

GB Windsurfing



Ethan Moody represented Great Britain at the Techno European Championships, finishing 22nd in a field of over 160 of the world's top windsurfers. Ethan was also selected to represent GB at the Techno Worlds, the GB squad for the Youth Olympics and the RS:X UK National Youth Squad.

Swimming

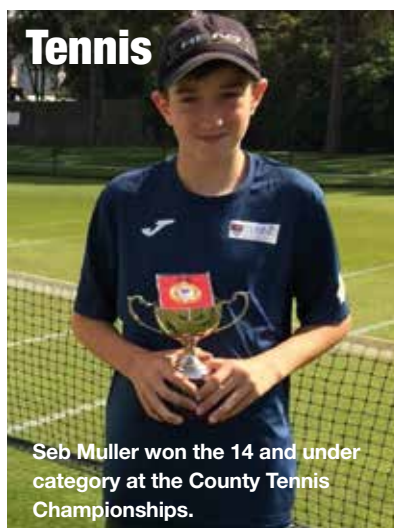
Both the U15s and U18s qualified in the top 30 schools in the country for the ESSA National Relays Finals. The U15 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team, Daniel McNamara, Josh Roche, Nick Skelton and Rory King, went on to finish 8th in the country. On their first outing, the lower school team finished 3rd against strong opposition at the Warwick 50s, before the team, 27 members strong, secured a convincing fixture win over Warwick.



National Success

Nicholas Skelton competed in six events at the British Summer Championships. His strength in the backstroke saw him claim two silver medals in the 50m and 100m and a gold in the 200m, placing him at the top of his age group in the country.

Tennis



Seb Muller won the 14 and under category at the County Tennis Championships.



Squash

This has been a brilliant term for Abingdon squash. Our squad is the strongest the school has ever had, and they have qualified for the last stages of the Nationals at the top of their group. Well done to Nikhil Vyas, Will Pearson, Hector Chambers, Will Taylor, Ben Goriely-McDonald, Ed Pettitt and Felix Loeffen.

Canoe Club

Five sixth form boys attended a Canoe Polo selection event in Liverpool and all five secured places in the GB U21 development academy.



Remembering the Fallen



The whole school gathered just before 11am for a short Remembrance Ceremony. The Headmaster read a verse from Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* and a trumpeter from Year 7 played the *Last Post* before staff and boys observed two minutes silence. The Cavalry Reveille signalled the end of the service. Our 'Field of Poppies' gradually filled up as pupils planted their poppies. Boys also leant about relatives and Old Abingdonians who served in wartime.

Artistic Superheroes



The lunch club artists from Years 3 and 4, ably supported by our Young Art Leaders, showed off their creative talents with imaginary superheroes, exploring colour, shape and teamwork. Lots of 'superpower' discussion led to some fantastic first designs of 'evil peas', 'super squids' and 'super cute' super animal characters. 'Super fun' was had by all!

A Grand Finale



Paul Wentworth, a Prep parent and pyrotechnician, and his team treated families and friends to a superb fireworks display. One of the highlights of a tremendous show was the four huge flaming metal effigies of the Prep School's houses, Dragon, Griffin, Phoenix and Unicorn, shooting fireworks at each other and spouting flames to the delighted cheers of the boys. Our thanks to Paul, on this his last display at Abingdon Prep, for all his hard work over the years.

Natural History Museum



Year 8 visited the Natural History Museum in Oxford for a day of art and science. Topics covered included classification, evolution and natural selection using examples of arthropods and barnacles and, for the brave, an opportunity to handle live giant hissing cockroaches. Art studies looked at the building itself where every pillar has a different carved pedestal featuring plants and animals, and the ceiling echoes the ribs of a dinosaur skeleton. The boys were given the task of sketching some of the museum's features and details of architectural embellishments using different drawing materials and techniques.

Biathlon



At the Abingdon Vale Biathlon Time Trial, 12 Abingdon Prep boys competed with six finishing in the top 3 in their age groups. A tremendous achievement!

Concert Platform Entertains

The appreciative audience at the November Concert Platform heard 20 pupils from Years 2 to 8 perform a varied programme.

Pieces included *My Girl* played on bass ukulele, *Une Larme* by Rossini on double bass, *Return Flight* on saxophone and a choral performance of *Home on the Range* and *Camptown Races*.



Fencing



Five boys took part in the Bucks, Berks and Oxon County Age Group Foil competition at Moultsford School. They all fenced extremely well picking up bronze and gold medals.

Nativity



The Nativity play *A Miracle in Town* was enjoyed by all as Pre-Prep entertained parents, staff and friends.

Investigating Forces



Year 6 spent a fascinating day with Science Oxford, learning all about gravity, friction, air resistance and magnetism and how engineers work with forces to build bridges.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed the range of experiments from skateboarding and a tug of war to breaking eggs and standing on a bridge which holds itself up.

Magdalen College School U10 Rugby Festival



Abingdon Prep grew stronger as the festival continued. After losing their first match, they went on to win the next three, playing with great heart and determination.

Abingdon Prep Open Morning

Tuesday 27 February at 9:30am

All welcome



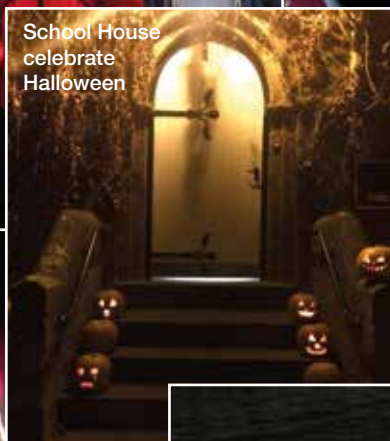
Trying their hand at bread making



Bowling at the Kassam Stadium

Exploring naval history at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard ...

... from Henry VIII's favourite warship to the newest addition to the British fleet



School House celebrate Halloween



Crescent boarders getting ready for Christmas

Boarding News

Thirty-three new boarders from near and far joined at the start of term. After a busy first week of induction, making new friends and beginning their academic studies, they helped celebrate the start of the year with a Boarders' welcome chapel and dinner. This was followed by dragon boating and orienteering over the weekend. Later in the term boarders explored Oxford on an orientation trip, visiting Pembroke and Christchurch Colleges, the Radcliffe Camera, and Carfax Tower, before using some free time to explore the city.



To remember remember the 5th of November!



Dragon Boat racing

Lower Sixth Mindsets Programme



It doesn't matter whether you are an Olympic athlete, a Nobel Laureate, or a teenager struggling to make sense of the world - things not going according to plan is an unavoidable fact of life. At Abingdon we recognise this, and try to help the boys embrace these moments: as Einstein put it, "failure is success in progress". The important thing is not the curve balls that life throws at us, but the mindset that we have in approaching Kipling's two imposters, Triumph and Disaster.

That is why we have timetabled sessions on mindsets in the Sixth Form. This enables us to carve out a pastoral "lesson" to give the boys space to think critically about the way that they

approach life whether that be their work habits, their relationships, their eating and sleeping patterns, or their work life balance. Given the additional levels of stress inflicted on teenagers by social media, the fallout from Brexit, or their fears about what sort of world they will graduate into, being reflective about the ups and downs of life is even more important.

At Abingdon, our goal is clear: be proactive and seek to grow from life's experiences, sometimes that involves being magnanimous in success, more pertinently it involves bouncing back from tough experiences.

Mark Hindley, Deputy Head Pastoral

ASPA events – a recipe for success!

Last term, the 4th year parents stepped back to the 80s for a fantastic evening of neon, white suits, sunglasses and back-combed hair!

But what does it take to create such a masterpiece? We asked the ASPA 4th year reps what their recipe for success was for organising an ASPA event.



Top 10 ingredients

1. **Volunteers** - you can't have too many and they help to spread the load and ensure that everyone involved gets to relax and enjoy the event too.
2. **Catering** – meeting with the caterers well ahead of time to plan the menu and get their help in taking care of things which they do brilliantly.
3. **Creativity** – embrace the flair of others to help bring the room to life.
4. **Drinks** – make sure you have welcome drinks and good quality wine – always makes for a good party.
5. **Photographer** – having someone dedicated to capturing the event means the memories live on.
6. **Music** – a well-constructed, themed play list makes a lot of difference to the atmosphere.
7. **Fun activity** – including a trivia quiz or similar activity is a great ice-breaker.
8. **Clear up** – make sure you have plenty of volunteers for this too so that the room is returned to School for the next day.
9. **Surprises** – you have to embrace the unexpected.
10. **And finally**, for these occasions, remember that the boys have very different views of events, so listen to the parents most of all.



Abingdon Development

Abingdon School Annual Fund Projects 2018

Now in its 11th year, the latest Annual Fund projects have been revealed and are now open for donations! We are working on raising funds for these exciting school-wide projects enhancing the academic, extra-curricular and pastoral activities and opportunities for students.



Inspirational Speaker for Lower School

Benefits: Lower School and wider school community **Cost:** £1500

Kicking off the next Lower School student enrichment course with a day with inspirational guest speaker James Ketchell who has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, reached the summit of Mount Everest, and cycled 18,000 miles around the world.

Developing Resilience and Wellbeing Through Sport

Benefits: Entire school community **Cost:** £3000

A bespoke lecture programme promoting a healthy balanced lifestyle covering diet and nutrition, physical activity and sports psychology. Specific topics will include how boys can apply 'match fit' psychology to their academic lives and use growth mindset strategies to achieve their potential.



Mobile Soundproof Booths

Benefits: Podcasting Club **Cost:** £4810

Podcasting Club is popular with boys from Second Year to Upper Sixth. These mobile soundproof tents will enable the Club's podcasts to reach new levels of recording clarity and quality.



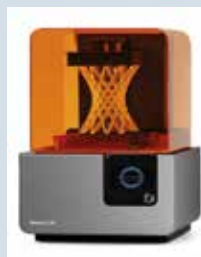
Merlyn Bowling Machine

(as used by England and international players)

Benefits: School cricket **Cost:** £6000

This ground-breaking training machine helps young players develop their batting skills and confidence in playing spin bowlers. It will deliver immediate improvements to player development.

Formlabs SLA Technology 3D Printer



Benefits: Design & Technology students **Cost:** £3500

This new style, industrial quality 3D printer allows students to realise their CAD models in

3D quickly and with a commercial level of finish, and will be a timely addition to the D&T department facilities.

Tensile Testing Rigs

Benefits: Physics A Level students and partnership schools

Cost: £624 each (£3744 total)

These testing rigs will allow students to undertake deeper analysis of aspects of the A Level curriculum, advancing up to university standard investigations into materials properties.

Race / Result Timing System

Benefits: Multiple school sport groups and events **Cost:** £4000

This state-of-the-art electronic timing system will be available for use by cross country running, cycling, triathlon and athletics groups across the Foundation, including timing the 600+ participants in the annual Abingdon School Road Relay.



Three Analog Film Enlargers

Benefits: Art Department & Photography Club **Cost:** £1250 each (£3750 total)

This equipment will be based in the School's new darkroom allowing students to develop film and create high quality black and white prints using experimental techniques.



Virtual Reality 'Open Casket' Computer

Benefits: GCSE Computing students, Computing Club and D&T activity groups (at build stage) **Cost:** £3500

Building a Computer Science centrepiece for the Yang Science Centre, the end result will be a glass-topped 'Open Casket' computer with cross-curricular virtual reality applications in Art, Biology, Geography and more.

Full details of the projects can be found at:

www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund

where you can also choose to support one or more of the projects. If you are a current parent, your donation can be placed on your termly school bill, too. If you would like to discuss different ways of supporting Abingdon School please contact Alexa Broad, Director of Development & Alumni Relations on 01235 849117 or via email at alexa.broad@abingdon.org.uk



www.abingdon.org.uk/donation

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

Sixth Form Careers



OAs returned to School to give students advice at the Sixth Form Careers Evening.

OA Rugby



Following the success of the 2017 fixture, and listening to feedback from attendees, September's event will have an additional touch rugby element to widen participation.

OA Club London Drinks



Old Abingdonians spanning years 1947 to 2017 attended the annual OA Club London Drinks reception, held at the Royal Geographical Society.

OA Careers



The OA Club hosted OA to OA career networking in London as an opportunity for alumni working in Law, Finance and Consultancy to meet and gain connections.

OA Football



OA Football returns on Saturday 24 March at Tilsley Park, KO 12 noon. Get involved in the match out on the 3G pitch, followed by lunch for all attending OAs – spectators welcome!

OA Instagram



Search 'oldabingdonians' for pictures from around the school site and at OA events.

Erratum:

Jonny Hughes (2007) was incorrectly referred to as a European recognised specialist in the field of veterinary diagnostic imaging in the previous issue of Abingdon News. Jonny's current role of Senior Clinical Training Scholar in Diagnostic Imaging at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital at the University of Cambridge places him on the pathway to becoming a qualified specialist in the coming years, which we have no doubt he will achieve and look forward to watching his progress.



Abingdon Out of the Past

Words of Wisdom

Two hundred and seventy-five years ago the Abingdon School library was refurbished as part of a scheme to 'repair and beautify' the old schoolroom. The new library took the form of a handsome gallery, fitted with bookcases and embellished with a Greek inscription from Isocrates – *ἐὰν ᾖς φιλομαθής, ἔσῃ πολυμαθής* – the best way to become learned is to love learning. This was Erasmus's advice when asked whether there was a short cut to acquiring knowledge. No, he said, you just have to work hard but you can help yourself by trying to take pleasure in the learning process. Erasmus's words are as true today as they were when he wrote them in 1529, and when they were painted onto the library gallery in the old schoolroom in 1743.



In 2006, Isocrates' Greek inscription was painted onto a bookcase in the Grundy Library using the spelling *ἔσῃ* for 'you will be', as Isocrates would have done, rather than *ἔσῃ* which would have been more familiar to the eighteenth-century schoolboy.

The schoolroom received another gift in 1743: "The Revd Mr Woods gave ye clock". Thomas Woods was the Headmaster and the clock is still in the School's possession. It too has an inscription, this time from the Roman poet Martial – *Pereunt et Imputantur* – the hours pass but are charged to our account. The message to the boys was and is: whether you use the passing minutes wisely or you waste them, they are still gone forever.



You can now follow Abingdon School on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

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Facebook: @abingdonschool



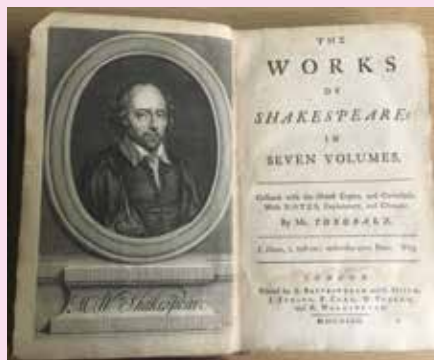
Instagram: @abingdon_school



Library Gallery with the Greek inscription from an 1840 print of the old schoolroom

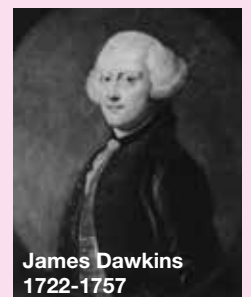


From the Eighteenth-Century Library



that had been made to it by linguistic misinterpretation and literary fashion. Not every pupil seems to have appreciated this scholarly addition to the School's collection: one boy has scrawled 'imposition' all over the front cover of Volume Three, probably in revenge for being made to copy out passages from the book as an imposition, an old word for a punishment.

By the eighteenth century it had become the custom for former pupils to donate books to the School. Some of these remain in the School's possession, including five volumes of *The Works of Shakespeare in Seven Volumes* edited by Lewis Theobald in 1733 and donated by James Dawkins in 1740. Theobald was the first scholar to attempt the recovery of Shakespeare's original text from the alterations



James Dawkins
1722-1757

Changing the Map of Europe



The school library appears to have acquired a collection of maps over the centuries too. Among them is one showing the postal routes across Germany in 1805, reflecting the changes to the map of Europe that followed Napoleon's victories at Marengo and Hohenlinden in 1801, but predating those that followed his victories at Ulm and Austerlitz in 1805.