



## Drama Raises the Roof



*Fiddler on the Roof* was one of three joint St Helen's and Abingdon senior productions this term. The large company not only acted and sang with gusto but also mastered some highly impressive choreography by St Helen's sixth form student Charlotte King. This superb production featured wonderful songs and spectacle, with Ben Adams in the leading role, supported by Reuben Havelock and a very talented crew of fifth and sixth form actors.





Although snow at the beginning of March disrupted the school day everywhere looked spectacular!

## Being confident in your own skin

A big debate in education at the moment is whether or not you can teach resilience. Is it something that can be cracked in lessons – like calculus or Shakespeare – or is it something innate? Is it transferable – someone might be very resilient on the sports field or when learning Bach, but crumble when faced with a tricky chemistry conundrum or a fiendish piece of French?

*Pastorally, how do we support pupils so that they have the inner drive to face the problems that life will throw at them?*

At Abingdon we recognise that there is no one-size-fits-all panacea to life's vagaries – there isn't a simple answer to any of the questions above. Life isn't black and white, but (thank goodness) is instead a myriad of different colours, pink included – but sometimes the colours clash.

Resilience is a word that can mean lots of different things, but whatever the context, at Abingdon we feel strongly that the key element to long term fulfilment is being confident within your own skin. Getting the pupils to know themselves is the aim of all we do – pastorally, in the classroom, and through the Other Half. We want the boys to gain confidence from what they do



well, but equally we want to teach them to be self-reflective and not to shy away from the areas that they find tricky. Often it is having confidence to admit to the areas that one finds hard that enables you to face difficulties as a challenge, rather than as something to be feared.

We aim to manage this in lots of ways – the Other Half, small tutor groups, a staff

to pupil ratio of 1:9, making sure all staff are involved in pastoral care, curriculum PSHCE lessons, the House system, and through lots of peer support and peer leadership. Most importantly, we encourage pupils to be individuals and to enjoy and celebrate differences, rather than aiming for an identikit Abingdonian.

**Mark Hindley**, Deputy Head (Pastoral)



*A Matter of Life and Death* - Senior Production  
with St Helen and St Katharine



**Drama is an important part of life at Abingdon.**



This has been a particularly rich term for drama. The three senior productions with St Helen's offered great variety. Two were based on film-scripts and the third a much-loved musical - and all reflected a real spirit of ambition. In each of the productions I enjoyed the intensity with which cast and crew took on the challenge and the superb

results that followed. These encompassed the poignancy of the two-hander *Before Sunrise*, the experimentation of *A Matter of Life and Death*, and the choreography and verve of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Drama offers extraordinary opportunities for personal development. The ability to work with your fellow cast members who are relying upon you, the requirement for creativity in preparing a piece or understanding a role, the confidence required to command the gaze of an audience, the commitment to inhabit a character fully, the skill to initiate sound and lighting changes, the camaraderie that comes with pushing a challenging project through to its conclusion; the theatre offers all these while allowing performers and crew alike to create memories that will stay with them for good.

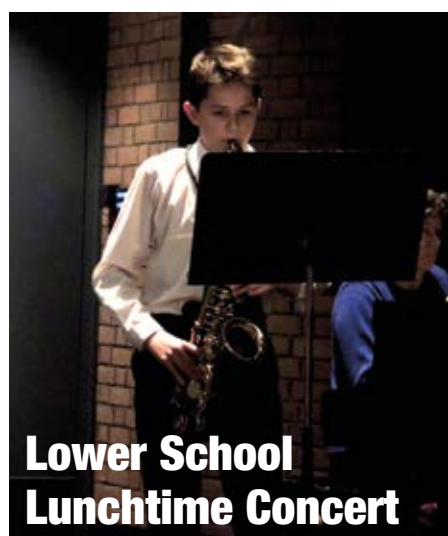
The senior productions have all been significant events in the life of the School this term but of course they reflect just one strand in our busy lives together, which you will be able to read about in these pages. We are fortunate to have such a committed and enthusiastic staff who make all these achievements possible as well as pupils who are always up for the challenge. There's also information in this publication about the latest Annual Fund, which seeks to support projects going beyond our day-to-day offering; I hope you enjoy reading about the proposed projects and the activities and events of the Lent term.

Michael Windsor, *Headmaster*



# Investigating Space

As part of British Science Week the second years visited the Satellite Applications Catapult (SAC) at Harwell, one of several business and innovation catapults linked to high tech research and industry around the UK. Students heard about the range of careers and entrepreneurial opportunities linked to the space industry, learnt about the role of the European Space Agency and the design of space telescopes, as well as engaging in practical activities. They investigated the properties of chocolate bars to simulate sampling of rock types on different planets and practised origami to understand how deployable structures are designed for satellite applications. One of the favourite activities was building a cube sat from scratch and using it to take and transmit a 'selfie' to a ground station computer. The afternoon included an incredible presentation in the SAC Operations Centre where satellite applications were demonstrated on huge, interactive screens.



## Lower School Lunchtime Concert

A fine selection of solo and ensemble items were enjoyed by an appreciative audience at this term's Lower School Lunchtime Concert. Junior Strings made the Lower School Housemaster particularly happy by playing the theme from Star Wars, while the Lower School String Quartet gave a rousing rendition of a piece by Mozart.



## Senlac Hill re-enacted

First years studying the Battle of Hastings took advantage of a sunny afternoon to re-enact the key moments in the battle such as the formation of the Saxon shield wall on Senlac Hill and the death of King Harold and the crowning of King William.



## Regional Winners of UKMT Maths Challenge

Four students from the Second and Third Years took first place against tough opposition at the UKMT Team Maths Challenge Regional Final held at the Mathematical Institute in Oxford. They enjoyed a day of mathematical games and puzzles as well as showing excellent team skills, including scoring full marks on the crossnumber round. The next stage is the National Final held in London in June.

## Rocket cars in action



First years relished racing their rocket cars in the coach park in the 'Race for the line' competition which is linked to the Bloodhound SSC project. The national winning team will watch Bloodhound attempt to break the land speed record in South Africa. Last term, boys learnt about forces and aerodynamics in Science, studied speed-time graphs in Maths and designed and built the cars in DT. The cars were completed this term and the qualifying race held with two rocketeers from RAF Brize Norton, Flt Lt Rob Wellock and FS Richard Stevens supervising the race day. 15 teams from the First Year entered and enjoyed the spectacle of their foam bodied cars being propelled up the track by a rocket motor. The fastest time was posted by Team Italia despite their car losing a wheel about halfway along its run! The top three teams progress to the regional stage at RAF Brize Norton on 4th May.





## Cracking the Code

Sixth former, James Hogge, celebrated winning the £1000 first prize, sponsored by GCHQ, in a national code-breaking competition. The National Cipher Challenge is run by Southampton University and this year over 8000 people took part from across the UK, some competing in teams and others, like James, as individuals. This was the third year that James has entered the competition and, having been runner-up twice, he was delighted to pick up the top prize this time.



## Blott Matthews Engineering Challenge 2018

25 lower sixth physicists have been grappling with this year's Blott Matthews Engineering Challenge - E4E or Energy for Everything. The brief was to design the energy and transport infrastructure required for a city of 2 million people covering the Southampton and Portsmouth area. The difficulty was to ensure that it was carbon neutral and that only technology that would be available within the next 10 years could be used. The design was to be fully costed. Reports were submitted at the end of February and posters detailing design highlights presented in March. The boys put in an outstanding performance. Charles Matthews wrote, "the boys produced some excellent work, presented themselves well and are a credit to the school". Electri.City gained third prize of £300 and Wattever and Team Millet both received Merit Awards of £100 each.

## Exploring paint

Lower sixth artists explored paint processes referencing the work of contemporary abstract painters, such as Day Bowman and Cy Twombly. Students developed layers of techniques onto their canvas and each layer was experimented with and annotated in sketchbooks to reference later in the course.



## Space Rockets and Giant Pterosaurs

**There was no missing the Abingdon ATOM Festival of Science and Technology 2018 even without the arrival of a space rocket and a life-sized, nine metre wingspan pterosaur cross-section at the Amey Theatre. The impact on inspiring interest in STEM subjects and raising awareness of our very special, local opportunities to work at the cutting edge of science and technology has been immeasurable.**



The School played a huge part in the success of the ATOM Festival. Around 400 primary school children from the Ogden Trust Abingdon Primary Science Partnership attended the ATOM Primary Science Fair and nearly 550 members of the public visited the Family Science Fair at the Yang Science Centre.







## Atlas Moth

Boys from the Entomology Club were excited to find one of the Attacus atlas moths that formed their cocoons six weeks ago had emerged.

Lower school boys enjoyed an inspiring talk from serial adventurer James Ketchell who became the first and only person to have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, successfully summited Mount Everest and cycled 18,000 miles around the world, a feat that was dubbed "The Ultimate Triathlon" by the media.



## The Ultimate Triathlete



## History Society Victors

Congratulations to Alex Mannix, Greg Davies, Kofo Braithwaite and Iwan Stone for picking up first place in the annual quiz chaired by Dr Zawadski. After fierce competition between teams from eight different teaching sets they emerged as clear winners.

## Pottery Throwdown

A group of 20 primary school pupils joined the Art department to have a go at pottery. They learnt about the properties of clay and made their own pots and containers which will be fired and returned to the pupils for them to paint and decorate.

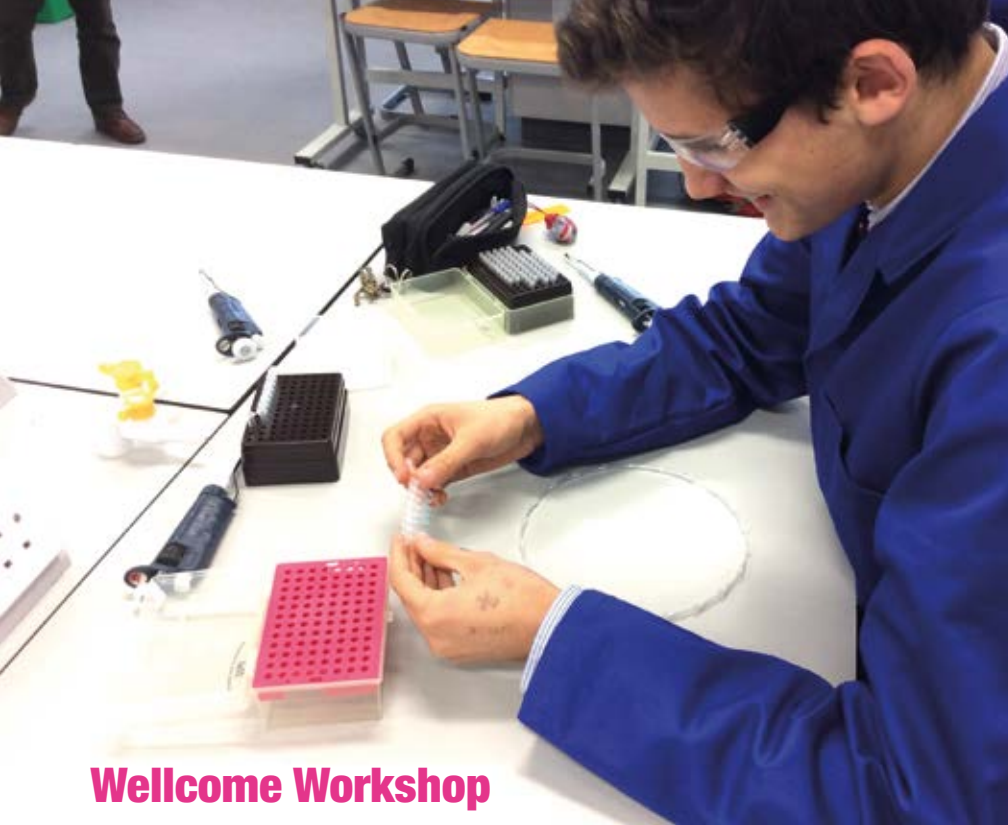


## Iris Festival of Imagined Worlds

A group of lower school boys travelled to Cheney School in Oxford to visit the Iris Festival of Imagined Worlds. As well as hearing talks from best-selling children's authors Alan Gibbons and Angie Sage, they had time to visit a range of stalls connected with the worlds of J K Rowling, where they were put into houses by the Sorting Hat, and J R R Tolkien, where they could learn more about the real history that inspired The Lord of the Rings.







### Wellcome Workshop

Lower sixth biologists spent the day working with scientists from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics on the second trial of a workshop for A-level students. The scientists explained some of the roles they play within their research teams and then explained the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technique which is used to replicate small amounts of DNA from a sample. This can then be compared with databases to identify the source of the DNA and has many applications in areas from disease control to forensics. The sixth formers were able to try the technique for themselves and learn about its applications from real experts in the field.



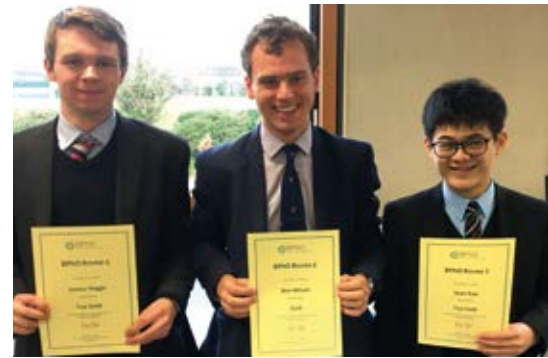
### Joint Lower School Quiz Night

Lower school pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's gathered in mixed teams to answer questions on a range of topics including Geography, sport and literature, and also to solve some tricky tangram puzzles, with a break in the middle for a curry dinner. The winners by the narrowest of margins were The Twinless Twins!



### Lower School Work Exhibition

The exhibition gave the boys the chance to show their peers a piece of recent work that they are particularly proud of. A wide range of pieces were displayed from classics projects on gladiators to 100 word versions of Shakespeare plays.



### Top marks!

Congratulations to James Hogge and Sean Kao for gaining one of the top 50 marks in the country in the British Physics Olympiad competition and to Ben Wilson for achieving a gold certificate.



### Abingdon Prep delves into Senior Science

Forty-four boys from Year 5 at Abingdon Prep explored mixtures and microscopes at a science skills workshop held at the Senior School.







## A level Science Live

Lower sixth chemists were able to expand on ideas covered in the Chemistry course at the A level Science Live day at Birmingham University. The boys heard leaders in their field lecture on topics including the true nature of the atomic orbital, ozone and pollution, atmospheric chemistry and the study of mercury. The event also gave handy advice for preparing for exams in the Upper Sixth.

15 boys also attended GCSE Science Live at the New Theatre, Oxford. Speakers included Professor Dave Cliff from the University of Bristol who spoke about computer science, Professor Robert Winston who gave a lecture on fertility and the development of embryos and fetuses and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock who gave a talk on the history and future of space travel.



## Last remaining Oxfordshire school in Chess Championship

Strong newcomers Ross Tselos and Oliver Yau, both in the Third Year, helped Abingdon's first team reach the regional final of the prestigious National Schools' Championship for the second year running. Having defeated ACS Egham International School and then Reading Blue Coat School, Abingdon was again Oxfordshire's last remaining representative in the tournament. The regional final was lost in a very tough match against last year's national champions Reading School.

## Best of luck!

It's an exciting and sometimes apprehensive time for the Upper Sixth as students decide on what they will do and where they will go after Abingdon. The vast majority move on to Russell Group universities and this year we have 22 students holding offers from Oxford and Cambridge. We wish the Upper Sixth and the Fifth Year the best of luck in their forthcoming public exams.



## Senior Team Maths Challenge National Final

A team of senior mathematicians (Joe Nash, Sean Kao, Harris Ma and Jonathan Lee) achieved an impressive 17th out of 1300 UK teams in this year's challenge. Competing in London the students successfully designed a poster on the mathematics of bellringing and completed crossnumber, group, shuttle and relay rounds.



## YE Cowley Trade Fair

All four Young Enterprise teams took part in the trade fair at Templar Square, Oxford and all made significant sales despite the post-Christmas lull. The teams were complimented on their stands, the quality of their products and their engaging sales approach with Team XYLO picking up the award for best trade stall.





## Chinese New Year



Students from Abingdon and St Helen's spent a memorable evening at a Chinese restaurant in Oxford, practising Chinese and enjoying a quiz. Discussion was varied with students keen to hear about Chinese culture, history and current affairs.

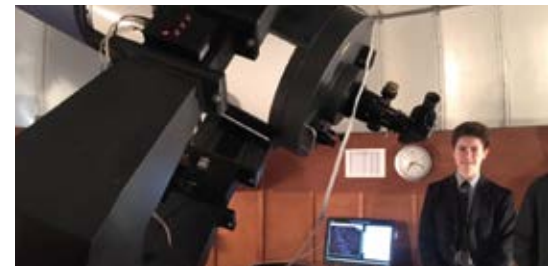
## Big Physics Quiz

Abingdon's team of 12 students joined schools from across the UK at Birmingham University to answer questions on topics including thermodynamics, quantum physics and waves. The boys, who picked up a spot prize at the end of the third round, also enjoyed a tour of the campus and a lecture on particle physics.



## Institute of Engineering & Technology's Faraday Challenge

Four second years competed in the Challenge planning, designing and evaluating a new attraction for Thorpe Park, before presenting it to the other competitors. It had to appeal to all, not just thrill seekers. They decided on a rollercoaster, which could run at three different speeds to suit different people and built a 3-speed gear box to make it work.



## Model United Nations

25 boys attended a weekend conference at Magdalen College School with over 200 delegates from schools across the South East. The standard of debate and discussion was high, with topics including the civil wars in Syria and Yemen, Cyberwarfare and the US withdrawal from the Paris agreement. The students came away with numerous awards and commendations in particular China who won the overall best delegation, an outstanding achievement. Later in the term at the Haileybury conference the boys were again very impressive with four distinguished delegate awards and a distinguished delegation award for Japan.

## T.S. Eliot Prize

Sixth form students travelled to the Southbank Centre to hear the ten poets shortlisted for the annual prize awarded for the best poetry collection in 2017.



## Old Station House

Third and fourth years have been very popular visitors to Old Station House residential home this term. They have run a wide selection of quizzes, memory games and rounds of dominoes.

## Studying the Stars

The Physics department joined forces with the Abingdon Science Partnership's GCSE Astronomy group for a Telescope Open Evening at the University of Oxford presented by post-graduates, post-doctoral engineers and astrophysicists. The skies were clear and the 20 pupils were able to view the Moon, the Pleiades star cluster, the white dwarf star Sirius and the planet Uranus. The students learnt about the structure of the universe and how to use spectroscopy to find out about the composition of stars, galaxies and the atmospheres of exo-planets.





## Spotlight on OA Performance Success

Abingdon's best-known theatrical alumni emerged after the building of the 450-seat Amey Theatre in the 1980s. The theatre's impact was immediate, allowing a generation of talented youngsters to tread the boards for the first time, including actors Tom Hollander and Toby Jones, theatre producer Julius Green, comedian David Mitchell and the members of the band *Radiohead*.

The 1990s saw the introduction of drama as part of the school's core curriculum. Among the first to benefit from GCSE and A Level drama courses - the latter also including girls from St Helen's - was playwright Mike Bartlett, author of TV drama *Dr Foster*. Theatre director Simon Evans followed, alongside actors Max Hutchinson, Alex Mugnaioni, Huw

Parmenter and Eddie Eyre; comedians Jonny Donahoe, Paddy Gervers and Fin Taylor and musicians Tom Richards, Joe Wilson and Walter Gervers (*Foals*). Today, a steady stream of drama students commits to futures in the creative industries. For example, actor Kit Young, who left Abingdon in 2013 and graduated from RADA last summer, is appearing in Nick Hytner's production of *Julius Caesar* at the Bridge Theatre in London, while his contemporary Toby Marlow has two new musicals in the West End.

Current pupils can study drama throughout the school, but they do not have to in order to take part in extra-curricular productions designed to provide opportunities for all age groups

and build confidence and self-esteem. This year there are seven shows, including two specially commissioned plays, a Shakespeare, two junior productions, Year 9 and Year 10 plays and three senior productions with girls from St Helen's. Although the aim is to provide a breadth of experiences during a pupil's time at school, Abingdon has certainly acquired a reputation for staging exciting contemporary pieces such as Bartlett's *Earthquakes in London* and Alecky Blythe's verbatim musical *London Road*.

The addition of a purpose-built drama studio in 2003 saw the formation of the Abingdon Film Unit. Now in its fifteenth year, the AFU allows pupils aged 13-18 to make their own films with guidance from a team of London-based film professionals. AFU members have now produced more than 150 films, many of which have won awards and screened at cinemas throughout the world, establishing the AFU's reputation as a training ground for directors, cinematographers, editors and sound designers such as Sam Johnson, Will McDowell, Tom Wakeling and Alex Ingham Brooke (directors), Tom Swarbrick and Tom Bateman (broadcast journalists) and Matt Copson (artist).

**Jeremy Taylor**  
*Director of Drama and AFU*

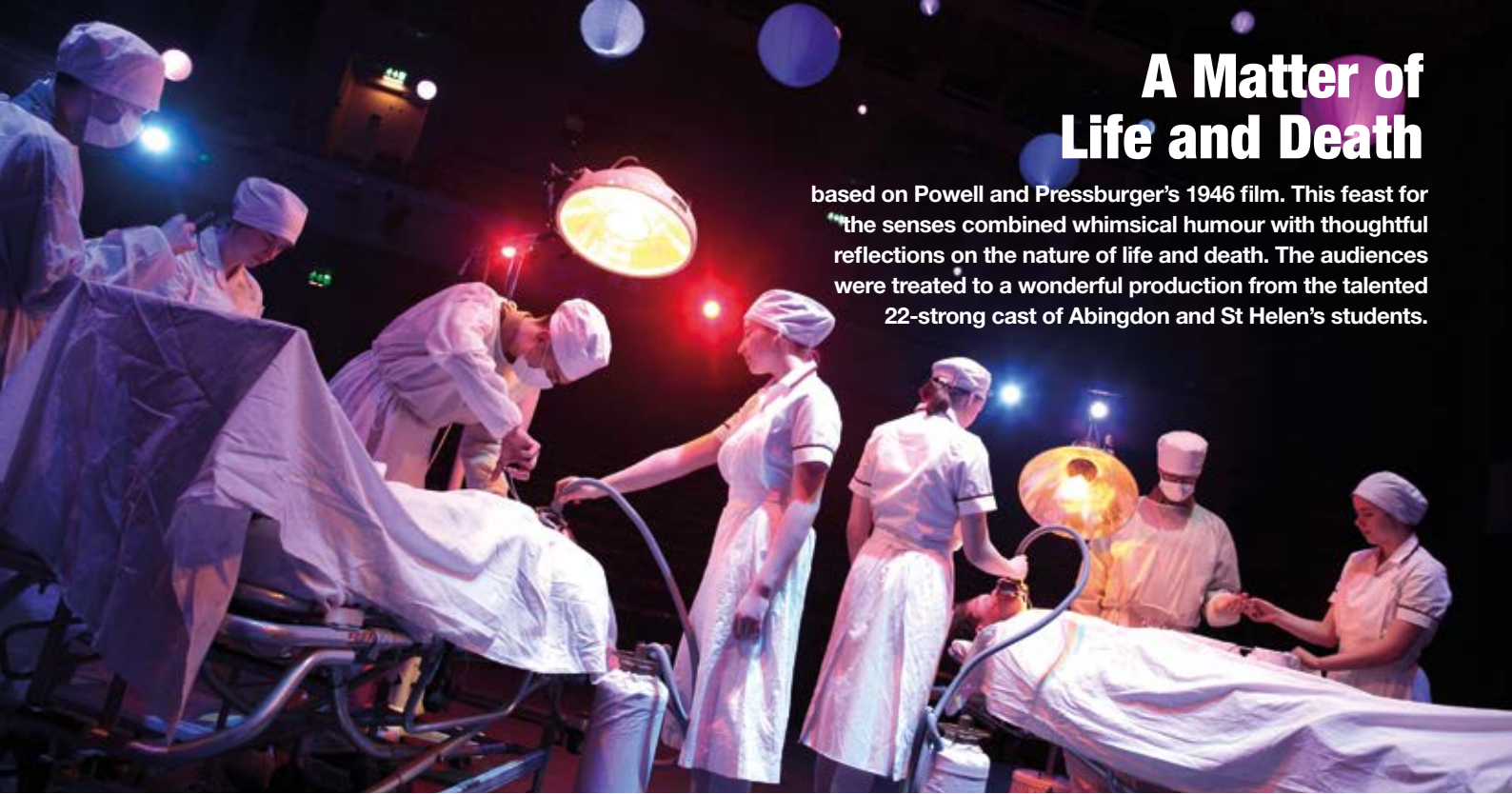
## Fiddler on the Roof

Tom Mills, as Mordcha, the Innkeeper, performing a virtuoso bottle balancing act whilst high-stepping his way through a Cossack dance routine.



# A Matter of Life and Death

based on Powell and Pressburger's 1946 film. This feast for the senses combined whimsical humour with thoughtful reflections on the nature of life and death. The audiences were treated to a wonderful production from the talented 22-strong cast of Abingdon and St Helen's students.



## It may look like a police line-up,

but in fact it's a set of mugshots that were taken as part of the new GCSE Drama performance exam that took place in the Drama Studio this term. Under the new rules, students need to perform two extracts from the same play. We were treated to works by a host of brilliant playwrights including Bartlett, Bean, Godber, Miller, Pinter, Reza, Soans, Sondheim, Wade and many more. Best of luck for results in August.



## Before Sunrise

a 1995 Richard Linklater film. Adapted for the stage and directed with great skill by OA Ash Verjee, this was a thoroughly charming production staged at the St Helen's Studio Theatre.



Upper sixth student Bede Lunn played Jesse with a delightful English reserve that was the perfect foil for Alek Auton's playful Celine.

## AFU Tutors win BAFTA

Congratulations to AFU tutors Colin O'Toole and Jonas Mortensen who won the BAFTA for best short film - the most coveted award in British film.

Pictured: AFU tutors Colin O'Toole (left) and Jonas Mortensen (right) at the Albert Hall with Sam Spruell, (centre), star of their BAFTA-winning film "Cowboy Dave"





# Out and About



## Barcelona

Sixth formers studying Spanish Pre-U spent the weekend in the City, exploring the many beautiful sites, discussing the recent political upheaval, sampling local cuisine and honing dance moves.



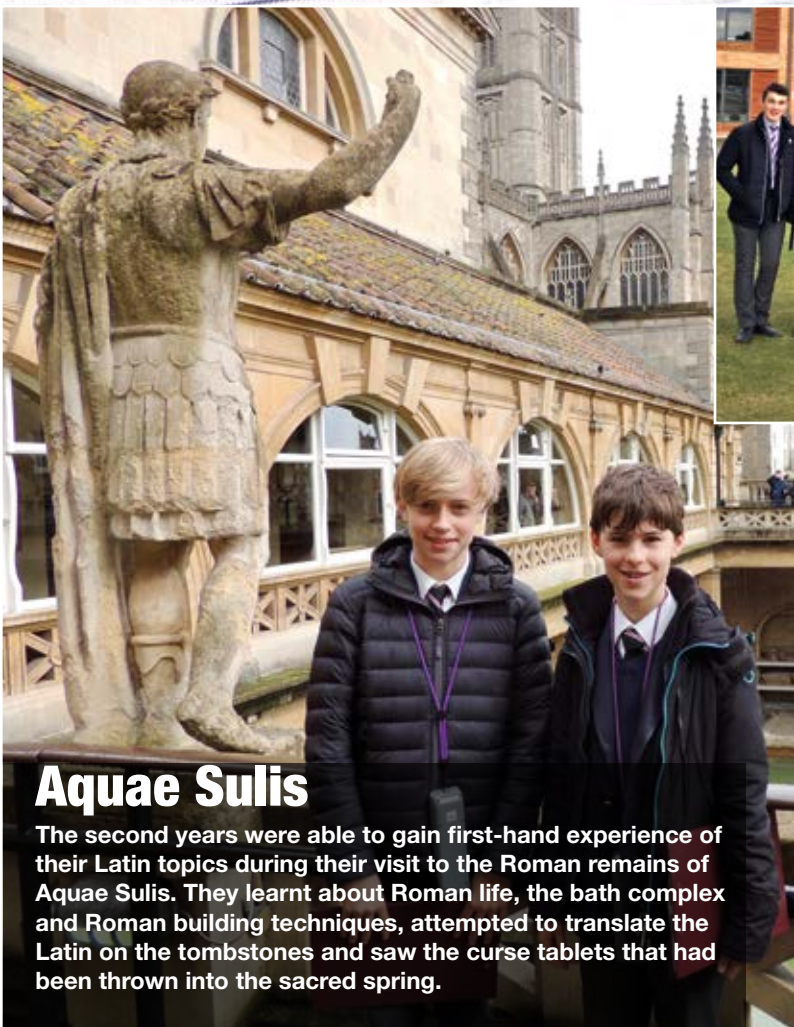
## Valencia

The senior football squad took time away from Christmas festivities to train and compete in Villarreal before the season got underway.



## German Exchange

29 students from Abingdon and St Helen's took part in the return leg of the German exchange to Bielefeld. As well as immersing themselves in the culture and language, students enjoyed the National Football Museum, Hamelin (of Pied Piper fame), ice-skating, a behind-the-scenes tour of the local theatre, and large amounts of pizza and pudding after the visit to Dr Oetker World. The boys emerged victorious in the traditional England vs Germany football match, much to the delight of their supporters on the sidelines.



## Aquae Sulis

The second years were able to gain first-hand experience of their Latin topics during their visit to the Roman remains of Aquae Sulis. They learnt about Roman life, the bath complex and Roman building techniques, attempted to translate the Latin on the tombstones and saw the curse tablets that had been thrown into the sacred spring.



## Half term in Saint Gervais

43 students and 5 staff made the most of one of the best ski seasons for many years.



## Austin House goes Skiing

23 students from Austin House took to the slopes of Northern Italy at the start of the Christmas Holidays, enjoying the wonderful snow conditions, empty slopes and clear blue skies.



## Spanish Exchange



The students from Santiago de Compostela enjoyed Abingdon School life and sight-seeing in Oxford, Bath and Windsor.

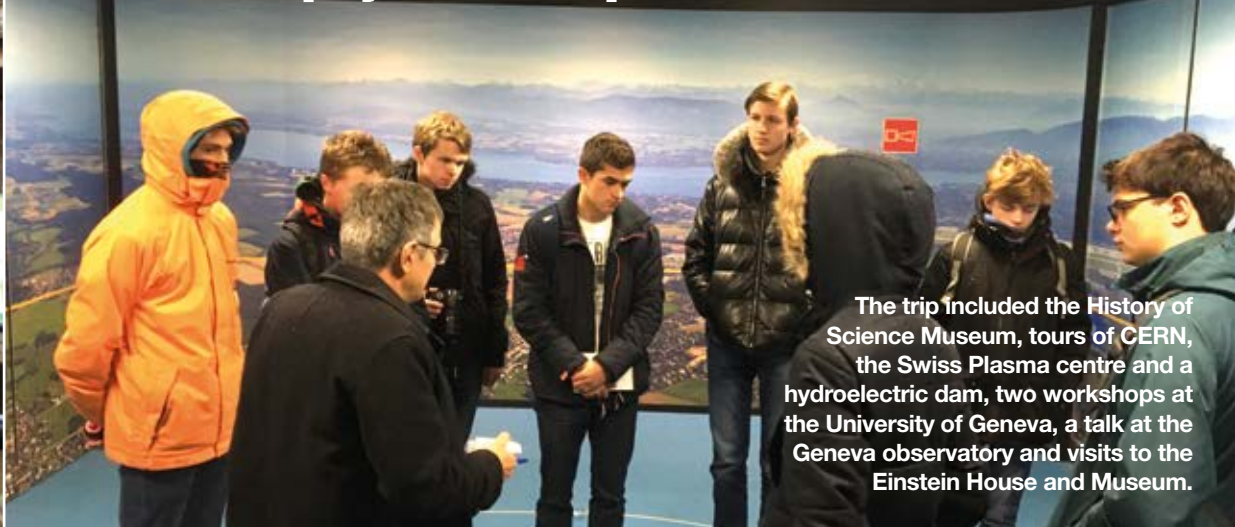


## Third Years in Seville

Students enjoyed five days in Seville sampling the culture, sights and copious amounts of food. Boys appreciated cathedrals, churches, gardens, a Roman settlement and museums and had time to relax and explore the shops and many wonderful restaurants.



## Sixth form physicists explore Geneva



The trip included the History of Science Museum, tours of CERN, the Swiss Plasma centre and a hydroelectric dam, two workshops at the University of Geneva, a talk at the Geneva observatory and visits to the Einstein House and Museum.





The Annual Chamber Evening presented an impressive cross-section of chamber music from a number of different ensembles – woodwind, brass, strings and piano, and from musicians in all seven year groups of the school.

## Fitzroy Quartet Masterclass



Members of the young award-winning Fitzroy String Quartet coached some of the School's chamber groups – quartets, quintets and cello and clarinet ensembles, before giving a concert in the Amey Theatre.

## Singers' Platform

This year the Singers' Platform focused on the work of seven of Abingdon's talented singers aged between 13 and 18. The students presented a range of repertoire from the 16th to 21st centuries with Andrew Yeats, the School's singing teacher, accompanying and directing from the piano.



Chapel Choir sing Choral Evensong at Dorchester Abbey



## Prize-winning Concert Pianist

It was a pleasure to welcome back Ben Schoeman to coach our senior pianists. Having listened to and advised the students individually, Ben gave an inspiring performance of Sibelius' Romance.



## Intermediate Solo Instrumental Competition

The competition showcased the talents of 8 of the school's intermediate musicians and was of a phenomenally high standard, impressing adjudicator, Dr Tom Edwards, Director of Music at Rendcomb College. 1st place and the winner's cup went to pianist Tong Tong for his lovely playing of Chopin, joint second place to cellist, Hugo Payton and violist, Fergal Marsh, and third to oboist, Oliver Glover.

## New Year Charity Concert



Around 200 boys entertained an appreciative audience in the Amey Theatre for the New Year Charity Concert. All four of the School's bands, a Jazz ensemble, the entire Second Year in a choir and our two orchestras played a wide range of music. The benefiting charity was Home Start Oxford which offers support to local families facing challenging circumstances.



# Boarders' Snow Day



Friday 2nd March 2018 heralded the arrival of the 'Beast from the East' as snow covered the School and much of the rest of the country. With roads and travel potentially dangerous, the decision was made that there would be no school bus service and no lessons!

The boarders were as excited as everybody else about the snow day, although those from warmer climes were somewhat bemused by the minus 5 degree temperatures in what is technically spring. A lie-in and leisurely, late breakfast provided a relaxed start to the day, after which the boys had the opportunity to take part in numerous activities. The Sports Hall remained open and well-used throughout the day, the Amey Theatre was repurposed as

a cinema in the afternoon to show Star Wars: Rogue One, and boarders also had the chance to go swimming and do baking in the Houses. Some brave souls even attempted igloo building, and football in the snow, as well as the obligatory snowball fights.

The school library was also a hot-bed of activity, with boys using the time to catch up on their studies. Some were grumbling that, thanks to teachers being able to set work remotely through Firefly, they had even more work to do than they usually would!

By Saturday, the temperature was warming up, and by Sunday the snow was gone, just in time for a Boarders' Trip to London to go on the London Eye and visit the Tate Modern.



Enjoying the London Eye and the South Bank



Third year boarders made and decorated chocolate Easter eggs.



Homemade Valentine's shortbread shared with the ladies at Older and Bolder.



Third years master culinary skills with pancakes



Getting to know Crescent House guinea pigs



**The Hockey Club** had a wonderful season with over 180 pupils playing each week in the Independent Schools Hockey League. The U15s won their ISHL league for the second consecutive year and the U13s and U16s reached the regional finals.



The 1st XI finished in the top 10 of St Georges 6s and 26 boys across all age groups gained county selection. A special mention goes to Max Carter Keall who has played his last season at Abingdon and who represented England U16/U18 during his time here.



**Rugby Sevens** at Abingdon goes from strength to strength with over 20 competitions entered across all age groups. Highlights were U12-U16 participation at Warwick School, U14 & U16 VIs competing against top schools at Wellington College, U13s taking part in Berkhamsted 7s and the Lower School performing well at Caldicott Prep. The U16s and U18s put in a strong performance at the Rosslyn Park National 7s and at the Sedbergh Super 10s we reached the semi finals of the Plate.



**The Swimming Club** qualified for the finals of both the Freestyle Relay and Medley Relay at the Bath & Otter Cup at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Pool finishing 9th in the country, whilst also consistently placing top 3 at the annual Abingdon Sprints event.



Congratulations to Toby Rock who won Gold at the Taekwondo English Open in the U18 final.



**The Cross-country Club** braved the elements to produce some impressive performances this term. Team results: 2nd Wellington Relays, 3rd Radley Relays, 7th King Henry VIII Relays. 7 pupils were selected to race at the English Schools National Championships in Leeds. Congratulations to Calum Steer (Captain), Fergus Mitchell, David Bunn, Henry Barlow, Matthew Kunov, Alex Pennington and Rowan Miell-Ingram.



# Abingdon Sport

## Canoe Polo

The team competed in the third round of the British Canoeing Southwest tournament, winning 4 out of 5 games.



**The Boat Club** brought the winter head racing season to a successful climax with 120 boys travelling to London to race in the two big national events, the Schools' Head of the River and the National Sculling Head. The 1st VIII came 4th in the country in the Championship 8s event, with the 2nd VIII coming 8th in their category. All the boys can be really proud of the way they rose to the occasion and produced their best. And now it's back to regular training to prepare the engine for sprint season.

## Squash Club



Abingdon hosted the last round of the Squash Nationals in a triple header against King Edward's Birmingham and Wycliffe School. Having won against KES, the Abingdon team played extremely well and fought hard against the Wycliffe Squash Academy, the eventual winners, and the top squash school in the country. The last match of the term saw a thrilling victory against Radley, a fitting end to a very successful season.



**The Football Club** has grown in strength this year with the U15 Bs unbeaten and all U14 sides winning against Reading. The Club secured its best ever block win over Hampton with the U16 As winning 2-1, whilst the 2nd XI beat St Edward's 1st XI 2-0. The 1sts were victorious over Berkhamsted, Haileybury and Radley to name only 3, in what has been an excellent season for the Club.

**The Fencing Club** produced a stunning performance at the Public Schools Fencing Championship with Harry Baston-Hall winning the Junior Epee Championship and Captain Rob MacLennan, picking up silver in the Senior Epee Championship. Jacob Drew won bronze medals for both the Epee and Foil Championships for his age group. Ed Scott-Payne was presented with the Mount Haes Champion at Arms Trophy for his points across the competition and earned a silver medal in the U15 Foil Championship. Additionally, the strength in depth of the squad resulted in four team trophies.



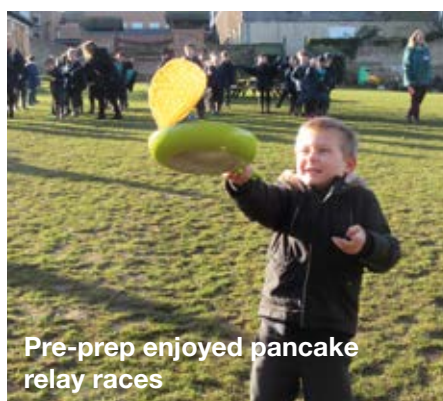
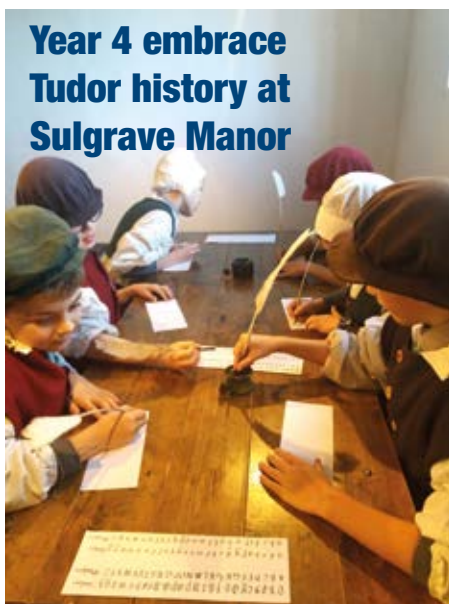


## Smike



**Smike** was an inspired and brave choice for the senior production, blending the original novel, a witty script, a brilliant mix of pathos and rumbustious 'attitude' in the 20 low-whispered to big high-tempo numbers and even a tricky time-shift, the whole working for children and adults alike, to their delight.

## Year 4 embrace Tudor history at Sulgrave Manor



Pre-prep enjoyed pancake relay races

## Celebrating St Frideswide



Year 6 travelled to Christ Church Cathedral to perform **St Frideswide**, a cantata with words and music by Debbie Rose, Director of Music at Abingdon Prep.



Year 8 improved immensely as the hockey season progressed securing a 4-2 win against St Hugh's.



## Thinking of Oscar

Last year the Prep School charity was Thinking of Oscar and the boys helped raise over £10,000 to buy a floor projector for the Children's unit at the JR. The interactive games help distract children in hospital.

## Grandparents' afternoon

Pre-Prep and their grandparents spent an entertaining afternoon playing with toys and games from a bygone era, followed by afternoon tea. There wasn't a screen in sight as both generations tried their hand at Jenga, pick-up-sticks, knuckles, bagatelle, spinning tops, skittles, jigsaws, dominoes, snakes and ladders...and much, much more.







## The Oratory School Greyhound Run

The Year 7s retained the team trophy for the third consecutive year with Abingdon Prep boys placed 1st to 5th in a very impressive performance. The Year 6s came a close 2nd in their team competition.



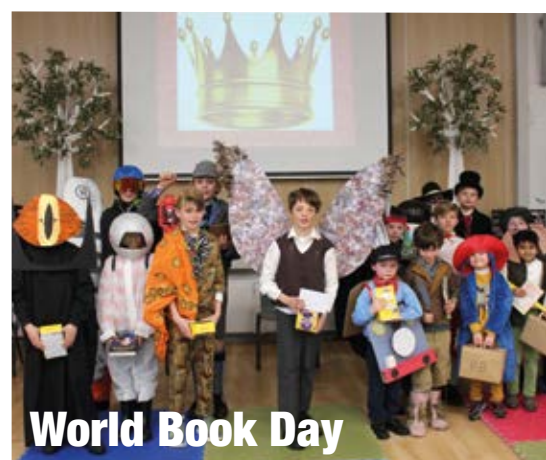
## Science at Abingdon

Year 5 had an exciting time at the Senior School's Science Centre exploring plant biology with starch and sugar tests, using microscopes to study the structure of algae and investigating filtration and evaporation.



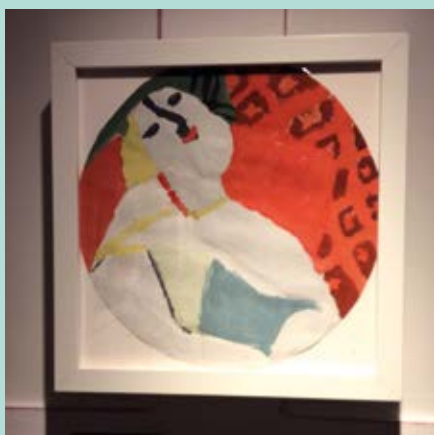
## Daniel and the Lions' Den

A roaring success from the Junior Section



## World Book Day

Heroes and villains from books and comics came to school to celebrate. Skellig from the book by David Almond was the overall winner with runner-up Thomas the Tank Engine.



Year 6 worked tirelessly to create some astounding pieces based on the paintings and clay creations of Pablo Picasso. Not only did each boy work in Picasso's signature style to create an observational study in gouache of one of his plates, they then designed and built a clay plate detailing particular insights into their own identity using pictures.

The boys were offered the opportunity to exhibit their Picasso inspired creations at the prestigious Aiden Mellor Gallery in Oxford for their own private view evening. Special congratulations to William and Henry for gaining runner-up certificates and to Archie for his winner's trophy!



## Beech Court

# New Sixth Form Centre, Art Department and Library for September 2018

Excitement is growing as the school - and sixth formers and artists in particular - look forward to the unveiling of Beech Court. The building is taking shape in the centre of the campus, between Greening Court and the café and Jekyll garden. The three-storey development will house a new Sixth Form Centre, the Art department and library. It's an ambitious project promising to be a modern, spacious environment designed to inspire creativity and assist learning.



### Library

The new library will be quite a contrast to our existing library which is housed in the original Victorian school room. The bright, open plan first floor of Beech Court will be an exciting space to explore with areas for reading for pleasure, quiet group work and silent study all acoustically designed and with sound baffling, modern, ergonomic furniture. WiFi will be fully integrated throughout the building so there's no need for specific ICT spaces and the light, airy surroundings will create a calm atmosphere, conducive to learning.

The library team will be easily accessible as will the careers office and the design is aimed to maximise student-friendly space and to encourage independent learning.



### Art

Artists will welcome a range of fantastic new facilities in a huge expansion of the School's art space. The top floor will be home to a new kiln room, dark room, ceramics studio, sixth form studio, exhibition space, external balcony for outside study and purpose built art rooms. The facilities will be an inspiration for artists and we are really looking forward to seeing creativity flourish.

Beech Court will enable improved facilities for Modern Foreign Languages, English, Music, Drama, DT, Maths, Religious Studies and Economics and Business. Lower School will also benefit from increased and refurbished space including new, light and airy social and games rooms. The Headmaster's office will be relocated into Big School from Mercers' Court.

### Sixth Form Centre

Placed at the heart of the school, the Sixth Form Centre occupies the ground floor of Beech Court with open plan learning spaces, relaxed seating, social and private study areas, a collaborative working area, meeting room, outside seating and an "innovation room" to encourage 'free-thinking'. The space is dynamic and can be adapted to students' needs. The careers office, UCAS facilities and sixth form staff will all be based in Beech Court and the building's design and layout provides easy access to these and the library. The Centre is also in close proximity to the café, sports centre, science block and drama facilities.

The new Centre is designed to mark the transition from Middle School to Sixth Form where students have more independence, take on further responsibility for their own learning and enjoy a relationship with the school and staff that more closely resembles university education.

*Interior designs are impressions only, final designs may vary.*





## Ground-breaking initiatives supported by ASPA and SUS

In support of Abingdon School's Annual Fund, ASPA and SUS (Second-hand Uniform Shop) are delighted to be contributing towards a number of exciting school-wide projects enhancing the academic, extra-curricular and pastoral activities and opportunities for students.

Pictured below is Marilyn Moore of SUS with James Golding and Abingdon students with the Merlyn Bowling Machine. This is a ground-breaking training machine (fully funded by SUS) which helps young cricket players develop their batting skills and confidence against spin bowlers, and is the same as those used by England and international cricket players.



The projects benefiting from ASPA and SUS this year are:

- **Merlyn Bowling Machine (cricket)**
- **Virtual Reality 'Open Casket' Computer (GCSE Computing, Computing Club, Design & Technology Activity Groups)**
- **Developing Resilience and Wellbeing through Sport (whole school)**
- **2 x Tensile Testing Rigs (Physics)**
- **1 x Analog Film Enlarger (Art department & Photography Club)**
- **SLA Technology 'formlab' 3D Printer (Design & Technology)**

## Joint ASPA and St Helen's Burns Night and Ceilidh

In January the parent associations of both Abingdon and St Helen and St Katharine (SHSK) co-hosted their first event together at the beautiful grade 2 listed Lains Barn near Wantage. 177 parents enjoyed a festive evening packed with Burns Night entertainment and a Ceilidh.

Parents were piped into the dining room by Jamie Miller, fourth year parent at Abingdon, followed by the Selkirk Grace given by Tom Hunnings of SHSK. The dramatic arrival of the haggis piped in by Jamie prefaced an Oscar worthy Toast to the Haggis delivered by Ken Welby (Abingdon and SHSK).

Dinner was followed by the Toast to the Lassies (Ken Welby) and the pithy reply from Sharon Cooper Watson, Chair of the PA at SHSK. The evening ended with Ceilidh band Bowreed and the Silent Auction which raised £3000 which will be donated to the Annual Fund at Abingdon School. Thank you to all involved for a truly wonderful evening.





# Abingdon Development

## Mercers' Lunch



On Wednesday 28 February Michael Windsor spoke to supporters of the School at Mercers' Hall in the City of London. Abingdon has been affiliated with the livery company since its re-endowment by Mercer John Roysse in 1563, and in recent years has benefitted from their generous support of projects such as Mercers' Court and the Yang Science Centre. Those who braved the snow and blizzards to reach Mercers' Hall heard the Headmaster share his vision for the Foundation, in which he reminded everyone that even successful organisations need to constantly evolve and improve, and that we are a School that looks "both up and out". Our growing partnerships work and increased focus on widening access to Abingdon School through pupil bursaries is testament to this.

## Annual Fund 2018 – Spring Update



Merlyn Spin Bowling Machine

Thanks to the generous support of ASPA and the SUS and donations from the Abingdon community, we have already fully funded two of this year's Annual Fund projects: the Merlyn spin bowling machine and Virtual Reality 'openasket' computer.

The computer, once cleverly assembled by pupils and the Design

Technology and Computing teams, will be displayed in the Yang Science Centre and integrated with educational Virtual Reality software for the whole School to use. As a lunchtime and Other Half activity pupils will be able to try their hand at virtual painting, virtual dissection and even walk about the world in street view, all whilst their peers look on via an accompanying plasma screen. This project will open pupils' minds to the power and possibilities of technology, and greatly enhance cross-curricular learning across all ages.

We hope that members of the Abingdon community will help us to continue this success by supporting our other Annual Fund projects, which cover the sciences, arts and sport and which stretch and challenge our pupils whilst promoting wellbeing.

Please visit [www.abingdon.org.uk/annual\\_fund](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund) to find out more about these projects and to see our progress to date.



Virtual Reality



## Foundation Dinner

On Friday 9 March around 130 governors, benefactors, staff and pupils joined together to celebrate 'A Spirit of Adventure' at the School. Guests heard from both Headmasters of the Abingdon Foundation, Michael Windsor and Craig Williams, who reflected on the pupils' myriad achievements over the past year, as well as from the Chairman of Governors, Mike Stevens. Special thanks also go to sixth form students Jack Johnson, Reuben Havelock and Joseph O'Shea, who excellently expressed how their respective experiences of CCF, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award have helped to ignite their own adventurous spirits whilst at the School.

## GDPR

In May 2018 the laws about privacy are changing (GDPR), and Abingdon will need to demonstrate that we have your permission to stay in touch with you about news and events happening at School. So far we have asked all of our OAs to confirm their communications preferences and the response has been fantastic, with 97% of OA respondents indicating that they would like to continue receiving emails from the School. If you are an OA and are yet to reply to the email we sent to you on 22 February, we urge you to respond to this directly or get in touch with us so that we can help. Please contact Gary Baiden or Alexa Broad in the OA Club office on [oldabingdonian@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:oldabingdonian@abingdon.org.uk) or call +44 (0)1235 849117.







## Lt Col Tom Perkins MBE – The Royal Scots

In January Lt Col Tom Perkins MBE (OA 1989) returned to Abingdon to visit the CCF Headquarters, where his own involvement with the military began. Tom delivered a fascinating presentation to the cadets about his unique experiences training at Sandhurst and serving within the Infantry, and also spoke of his love of completing extreme marathons across the world. He has already raced on Mount Everest, through the Gobi Desert and in the Volcano Marathon in the Atacama Desert, Chile, and now hopes to conquer the North Pole Marathon this May.

## Damian Sutcliffe – Former CIO and Partner at Goldman Sachs



In February more than 60 fifth year and sixth form students grasped the valuable opportunity to hear from OA Damian Sutcliffe (1987), a senior technology executive with vast experience running complex, global organisations and delivering large-scale digital transformation initiatives. Damian, whose family background is in science, worked as a consultant for Accenture before spending 23 years at Goldman

Sachs in various roles that have taken him to Asia, New York City and London. Pupils were thoroughly engaged by his presentation about the technological revolution in financial services, and the many career opportunities that this continues to bring.

## Sir Kim Darroch KCMG – British Ambassador to the United States

The OA Club was delighted to receive this photograph from the British Embassy in Washington, DC of Ambassador Sir Kim Darroch KCMG (OA 1972). The Ambassador was presented with an OA tie by Emily Oliver, Senior Education Research Manager at the British Red Cross, after he kindly hosted a dinner for Red Cross volunteer delegates.

Emily, a St Helen and St Katharine alumna and sister of Tam Richmond (OA 1990), commented afterwards that “Abingdon School can be proud of the Ambassador who spoke fondly of his time there, and also demonstrated strong regard for the humanitarian purposes of the Red Cross Movement”.



# Abingdon OA Club



## Dr Richard Wilson OBE – CEO of TIGA

Following a strong tradition of OAs being recognised in New Year's Honours Lists, Dr Richard Wilson (OA 1986) was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) this year for his services to the UK video games industry.

In 2008 Richard became CEO of TIGA, a non-profit trade association that represents and champions the games development and digital publishing sector and its members. Since taking on this role Richard has been instrumental in fuelling TIGA's expansion and making the UK video games sector the largest in Europe, having won 25 awards and commendations over the years for industry best practice.



## Gap Year Talk

Many thanks go to OAs Sam Dent (2008), Joshua Ogle (2008), Michael Shortis (2012), Michael Chilcott (2004) and Felix Newman (2012) for speaking with fifth year and sixth form students and parents at a special careers event about gap years. The OAs spoke about their own gap year experiences and how they have influenced and contributed to their subsequent careers and lives as a whole.

### Forthcoming OA Events:

Tuesday 15 May – OA Golf

Friday 18 May – OA 50s/60s Dinner

Saturday 9 June – Class of 76 Reunion Lunch

Saturday 16 June – OA Croquet

Saturday 16 June – OA Club Committee Meeting

Saturday 16 June – Year Group Reunions:

48, 58, 68, 78, 88, 98, 08, 16

Friday 22 June – OA Tennis and OA Twenty20 Cricket

Friday 6 July – HRR Strawberries and Pimm's



# Abingdon Out of the Past



## The Road Relay is 50 Years Old

At the start in Park Crescent



Towards  
the end!

The Road Relay was born fifty years ago this year when Governor Aubrey Smart, keen to stimulate competitive running, presented the school with a handsome silver cup to be awarded to the fastest school team. The first race was held on 22 January 1968. Boys make up the majority of the competitors but staff teams also compete, as occasionally do groups of OAs. Some teams are seriously competitive, seeking to challenge the team record of 34.04 minutes, others take the whole thing far less seriously using it as an occasion to dress up and have fun. The Smart Trophy went walkabout a few years ago but is now back in the School's possession, ready to be awarded to the winners of the 50th race – which will have to be held next year as extensive gas works in Albert Park made it impossible to use the course this year.

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

Twitter: @abingdonschool

Facebook: @abingdonschool

Instagram: @abingdon\_school



## The Old Abingdonian Club is 125 Years Old

One of the Revd Thomas Layng's first moves when he became Headmaster in 1893 was to form the Old Abingdonian Club. Its objective was to: "promote union and good fellowship among Old Abingdonians and to further the interests and prosperity of the School, to supply an organization for the OA cricket and football matches and such other occasions as may arise, to ensure that the Abingdonian and all School notices be sent without fail to members of the Club and to hold an annual dinner".

An annual drinks reception in London has replaced the annual dinner but in all other respects the Club continues to fulfil its original objectives – and hopes to be able to do so even after the introduction of GDPR this May.

As in 1893 so in 2018, being able to keep in touch is very important for the Club since it is the "medium for keeping unbroken the continuity of school life, and it is on this continuity that the prosperity of every school depends". [Abingdonian July 1893]

### Prominent OAs Today

Among the OA Club's more than 7,000 members, Sir Kim Darroch (1972) is UK Ambassador to the United States of America; Tom Hollander (1984) and Toby Jones (1985) appear regularly on stage and screen, as do comedian, actor and writer David Mitchell (1992), and author and journalist Ben Macintyre (1982). Radiohead – Thom Yorke (1982), Phil Selway (1985), Colin Greenwood (1987), Johnny Greenwood (1990) and Ed O'Brien (1986) – remain superstars in the world of music. Russell Taylor (1978) continues to amuse as one of the creators of the Daily Telegraph's Alex cartoon. Sir David Tanner (1966) is the recently retired Performance Director of British Rowing whilst international rower Robin Bourne-Taylor (1999) holds a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for 'gallant and distinguished services' in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, businessman Tim Parker (1973) is currently Chairman of the National Trust.



The 1894 OA Cricket team



OA Club London Dinner 1953



Sir Kim Darroch