



AbingdonNews



Abingdon Creativity

Gianluca Cau Tait created this fine example of hand crafted cut work as the final piece for his A level portfolio. "I've been exploring the theme of incomplete buildings in my work over the past couple of years. I started off with very pristine and precise paper-cuts, which then developed as I brought in other media such as charcoal and pen. I took a range of photographs on the theme and visited both Rome and Minster Lovell Hall to collect imagery. The final piece is inspired by a range of artists that I have picked up over the past couple of years but is heavily influenced by my own ways of working and techniques."

The A Level and GCSE exam work has been of a very high standard. Five of the six A-level pupils are going on to study Art and we will watch their progress with interest. There will be an exhibition of the sixth form work when the new art facilities open in Beech Court in September and a book has been created that is also available online.

The fifth year students created a diverse range of stunning pieces in response to this year's exam question, 'Fragments'. The pupils going on to take A-level Art will thoroughly enjoy all the new equipment to develop experimental processes in the new facilities.

Message from the Headmaster



A couple of years ago, Abingdon took the decision that if careers education were to be effective, it needed someone to focus on it full-time. Michael Triff has now completed his second year in post and he has given great thought to constructing a programme that is relevant and attractive and that can help our pupils make informed choices as they move through the school.

One of the highlights of the programme is a session for fourth year pupils in the summer term entitled 'Truths and Myths about Careers'. Like a number of other elements of careers at Abingdon, this event relies upon OAs and current and former parents who come into school to talk to pupils to explode myths and emphasise truths. Our pupils are very fortunate to be able to benefit from such collective wisdom that can shape their thinking about the paths they might

take after school - and the best way to prepare for the rapidly evolving world of work.

Another myth that needs banishing is that the route to academic success depends on relentless and endless hours of revision; the key, of course, is a healthy balance between study and recreation. The exam season, especially for pupils facing GCSEs or A Levels, is a busy time and undoubtedly brings its stresses but I was heartened to see boys offsetting their study with involvement in the Other Half, be it with the Film Unit, preparing for concerts or taking part in sport.

This has meant that there has been much to enjoy over the course of the summer term. I hope you enjoy reading all about it in this edition of Abingdon News.

Michael Windsor, Headmaster



Working with Parents

My mother claims that dishwashers have made bringing up sons an even harder task. She is adamant that it was always over the washing up that my brother and I would tell her what was really going on in our lives, and what was on our minds. Whether this is true or not, one of the things that we would always advise parents to optimise is the time

spent shoulder to shoulder with your son - it might be in the car, walking the dog, casually doing a chore together, but boys are much more likely to reveal their emotions and thoughts side by side than if sat down face to face.

Sharing advice like this with parents is something we feel is very important at Abingdon, as we know how vital it is that parents and staff are working together to provide the right support structure, and it has to be a two-way process so that the school is also listening to parents

about what they have found that works. Indeed, at our latest pastoral meeting, it was a parent who told us about OurPact, an awesome app that lets parents and children work together to control social media usage.

Teenage life is complicated – and getting more so. If schools and parents are going to engage with their teenagers, we know we need to engage with each other as well.

Mark Hindley, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

2018 A level and GCSE Results

A levels

Grade	A level passes
A*	28.3%
A* and A	62.2%
A* to B	86.5%
A* to C	96.3%
A* to E	99.5%

NB: A Level grade equivalencies have been used for pre-U grades in the statistics. Abingdon uses the pre-U for French, German and Spanish.

Ten boys achieved four or more A* grades and nearly half the year group gained three or more passes at A* or A.

Students have achieved particularly well in:

History with 80% A*/A and 98% A*/B (40 candidates)

Chemistry with 65% A*/A and 92% A*/B (66 candidates)

Maths with 65% A*/A and 84% A*/B (110 candidates)

Economics with 59% A*/A and 89% A*/B (46 candidates)

Physics with 57% A*/A and 89% A*/B (44 candidates)

Amongst subjects that have smaller numbers of candidates but still perform very strongly, we have:

English with 55% A*/A and 90% A*/B (20 candidates)

Latin with 87% A*/A and 100% A*/B (15 candidates).

Also, in the pre-U, there were no grades below a D3 (the equivalent of 100% A*/A).

Students also did very well in the increasingly popular **EPQ**. This year over 40% of the cohort achieved the top (A*) grade and over 70% achieved A*/A.

A full breakdown of the A level and GCSE results by subject is available on the website.

“ The Headmaster, Michael Windsor, said:

I would like to congratulate our candidates on this superb set of results. Students and staff have risen ably to the challenge of the new A Level specifications. The results show strength across the board with boys achieving particularly well in History, gaining a remarkable 80% A*/A, alongside great success in STEM subjects and English, Economics and Latin.

These young men are very well-placed to embrace the challenge and excitement of life after school and I wish them all the best for the future. ”



GCSE Results

Speaking about the 2018 GCSE results, the Headmaster, Michael Windsor, said:

“ This is another excellent set of results with half of the year group gaining all their GCSE passes at grade A* or A, or the equivalent grades 7-9. Many congratulations to all the boys and staff.

Particularly pleasing is the breadth of subjects in which the boys performed well. English Language passes were at 92% A*/A and English Literature at 87% A*/A, and Maths passes at grades 7-9 (A*/A equivalent) were 87%.

Chemistry, Physics and Mandarin all recorded over 90% A*/A with Electronics a very strong 100% A*/A. All those taking Greek also gained 100% passes at grades 8/9 (A* equivalent).

These results represent a lot of hard work from boys and their teachers, they are very well deserved and an excellent foundation for further study. ”



CCF Biennial Inspection



Inspecting Officer
Lt Col Tom Perkins (OA) MBE,
The Royal Scots

The cadets were praised by both the Inspecting Officer at the Biennial Inspection and by the servicemen of Dalton Barracks where they competed in a timed run, 25m range live shoot, first aid stand and close combat trainer shoot.



Sixth Former represents UK in IBO

Sixth former Patrick McCubbin was selected from 8000 students from 630 schools to represent the UK in the four-person team to compete in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) in Iran this July. Patrick placed 16th internationally out of 261 competitors, earning a gold medal. As a team the UK broke the record for the best performance of a UK team at an IBO.

The IBO brings together the most gifted young biology talents from around the world with more than 60 countries taking part. The competition aims to challenge the next generation of aspiring scientists through a series of theory and practical biological problems, testing inventiveness, creativity and perseverance as well as knowledge of Biology.



Abingdon Science Partnership Tes award nomination

Congratulations to the ASP who were nominated in the Community and Collaboration category of the prestigious Tes awards 2018. A fantastic achievement.

Rowing, running and cycling the Dniester

The lower sixth boys who took part in this year's Moldova Project raised around £2,130 for the charity Agape by undertaking a sponsored cycle, row and run of 398km, the length of the River Dniester which flows through Moldova. This means that the grand total raised for Agape by Abingdon since our partnership began in 2000 has now exceeded £80,000.



Inspiration from the Marathon des Sables

Visiting speaker Andy Ibbott beat the odds to come back from a massive stroke in 2011 to compete in the Marathon des Sables in the Sahara Desert. Speaking to the second years as part of their "Be the best you can be" programme, Andy told how from being unable to speak, walk or move his entire right-hand side, he gradually built up his strength to the point where he took on this immense challenge. Inspiration indeed.



Pygott's

In May, Richard Pygott took over as Housemaster from Robin Southwell-Sander who took up his new position as Director of Partnerships at the beginning of September 2018.

Richard studied Geography at Cambridge University and graduated in 2006. Despite the rest of his family being teachers, he left university to work for four years in international marketing as a graduate at Kingspan. A career in teaching was inevitable, however, and after a PGCE and Masters at Oxford, he worked at Hereford Cathedral School before spending the last four years at Magdalen College School, latterly as a Head of Year.



Chess Megafinal

Twelve boys played in the West Berkshire "Megafinal," a county stage of the UK Chess Challenge. After six rounds of rapidplay, with 20 minutes on each clock plus a ten second increment, Abingdon had won five trophies as well as three second-place medals.

Section winners and players on more than 3 points qualified for the Southern "Gigafinal" in July. Ross Tselos had already qualified for the Southern Gigafinal by winning the U14 trophy at the Oxfordshire Megafinal in April, heading the combined U14-U18 section there, so all in all it has been a highly successful year for Abingdon School Chess Club in the UK Chess Challenge tournament.



Experimenting with Virtual Reality

Abingdon's VR computer rig is set up and ready to go. Ben Broadbent and Freddie Nicholson ordered, built and installed the computer as part of their Other Half activities. Amongst the first to experiment were the Headmaster and tutors and all enjoyed the experience. From September the VR rig will be installed in the Science Centre. Many thanks to ASPA for their donation as part of the Annual Fund 2018.



Race for the Line Regional Finals

Four lower school teams, Mavericks, Team Italia, Vroom Vroom and TALA Engineering, took part in the rocket car regional finals at RAF Brize Norton. The teams first had to test their engineering skills building their cars in the allotted 1.5 hours. The cars were then raced against the 27 teams competing. The Abingdon teams did really well but did not make the top three positions which go on to the next stage.

Abingdon School Open Day
Saturday 29 September
9:30am – 12.30pm

Biology's new arrival



This Nosy Mitsio Panther Chameleon, *Furcifer pardalis*, joined the Biology department this term. Chromer, currently 7 months old should grow to about 30cm in length.

Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet



Congratulations to sixth former Max Martin who has been appointed a Lord-Lieutenant's cadet. Following a tough selection process involving nomination from the Contingent Commander, an interview, inspection and a presentation on the future of the armed forces to a panel of senior officers, Max takes up his position this September. Max's role will be to assist the Lord-Lieutenant as required – often on parade for royal visits – and to act as an ambassador for young people in Oxfordshire.



15th Abingdon Carnegie Forum

Ten lower school students took part in the 15th annual Abingdon Carnegie Forum, which brought together more than 70 students from Abingdon School, St Helen's, Larkmead, John Mason and Fitzharrys. The Forum followed three months reading, discussing and reviewing the eight books shortlisted for the 2018 Carnegie Medal, the UK's most prestigious award for children's literature.

This year, the Abingdon winner, by a small margin, was *The Hate u Give* by Angie Thomas, the powerful story of a fight for justice in the face of violence, oppression and racism. According to one Abingdon student, it has "a plot that just makes you want to read on." Prizes were presented by the Mayor of Abingdon.



Victory in RSC Chemistry Challenge

A team of four fourth year boys won the regional final of the RSC Chemistry Challenge at the University of Greenwich. The boys answered a series of questions on general knowledge and the GCSE course, and undertook two challenging practical tasks. The boys did really well, receiving particular praise for the way they collaborated with one another in all four tasks.



Physicists at the Lords

Five lower sixth physicists enjoyed the All Party Parliamentary Engineering Group lunch at the House of Lords this term. Louis Brosnan, Jasper Dale, Simon Maddison, Kai Miles and Tristan Tsoi, were all keenly involved in at-table conversations (with lords, baronesses, MPs, industry leaders and fellow students). After lunch the question and answer session tackled 2018 - *The Year of Engineering*. Topics ranged from routes into engineering, through jet engines, to AI and quantum computing.



Boarders

Amongst countless other activities, boarders went to the cinema to see *Avengers: Infinity War*, tested their skill and endurance go-karting, and relished the challenge of completing the Big Five at Thorpe Park - Nemesis Inferno, Colossus, The Swarm, Saw, and Stealth!

The annual third year boarders' water fight saw School House victorious. A more sedate evening followed toasting marshmallows around the camp fire.

Third year students Will Jenkinson and Freddie Coode finished their art project in the art garden. The model of a spaceship crashing on to a utopian house was part of a buildings project that the third years have been working on this term.



Paul Gooding - Head of Wellbeing

“In our fast-paced world I believe schools are in an ideal position to make a difference.”

This September Mr Gooding has moved from Middle Master to his new role of Head of Wellbeing. He will oversee the School's programme of Personal Development which includes the PSHCE curriculum and the Mindsets programme in the Sixth Form. Paul will champion wellbeing - in the broadest sense - for all members of the school community.

Writing about his new role, Mr Gooding says:

The Government's recent Green Paper "Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision" has, rightly, placed wellbeing and adolescent mental health well into the educational spotlight. If wellbeing is the canvas upon which we learn it is a fundamental starting point to enable a teenager to flourish, both in school life and beyond.

At Abingdon, we want to encourage all boys, and staff, to excel in this area and develop healthy habits that last a lifetime. In our fast-paced world I believe schools are in an ideal position to make a difference; to give boys the tools, help and guidance to become flourishing, resilient and happy individuals.

We want to encourage our school community to develop positive mental health to:

- maintain good sleeping habits
- make time for regular exercise and head space
- eat healthily
- take time to relax
- equip boys to face the tough times of life with resilience and courage.

We want to build on a culture which says "it is ok not to be ok", for we all face setbacks from time to time. We want to continue to encourage our boys to see that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness and that it is vital, in life, to maintain a sense of humour and to try to keep things in perspective.

We also want to equip the boys to see the importance of establishing firm boundaries and to give themselves permission to get lost in a book from time to time - for this is when we have the chance to recharge our batteries. I look forward to working with colleagues to build upon the work that we have already been doing in this important area of self-care.



At the YE County Final, Team XYLO picked up the award for the best use of online media and for the best trade stand. Team Woodworx won the JSP award for the best manufactured product.



Mini-Olympics

Eight local primary schools competed in this year's Mini-Olympics with relays, an obstacle course, the climbing wall and ergo machines. Thameside Primary School went home the victors.



Summer afternoon tea

Community service volunteers organised afternoon tea for Abingdon residents with entertainment from the Gospel Choir, a flower quiz and delicious strawberries and cakes.

Leavers' Day

Friday 18 May marked the end of an era for this year's Upper Sixth.

The milestone was commemorated with a day of celebrations beginning with breakfast and yearbooks in houses followed by the graduation ceremony in the Arney Theatre. OA Club President, David Lindgren (1993), welcomed the boys to the OA Club and encouraged them to reach out to the wider OA community as they embark on life after Abingdon.

David handed over to Dylan Clive (OA 2008), who gave an excellent and very amusing insight into making the most of university, including his top tips compiled from OAs over the last ten years. Dylan left the boys with a few thoughts: "take risks, be stubborn, be happy, be yourself."

The boys then donned their new OA ties.

Big School provided the perfect backdrop in the glorious sunshine as the boys gathered on Upper Field for a year group photo, before the hugely popular ice cream van arrived.



**“ take risks,
be stubborn,
be happy,
be yourself. ”**



An exuberant chapel service followed, bringing the boys together for a final time. Their collective voice raised the roof with the three hymns chosen from their time at Abingdon: *Guide me O thou great Redeemer*, *I vow to thee my country* and *Jerusalem*.

The day of mixed emotions concluded with a BBQ on Austin House lawn.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back as Old Abingdonians and wish them the best of luck for the future.





First years explore Abingdon's history

The first years spent an afternoon getting to know Abingdon town's historical connections to the School. They saw the tomb of John Roysse, who refounded the School in 1563, visited St Nicolas' Church and the site of Abingdon Abbey. A highlight was the roof top view of Abingdon from the museum.



Abingdon welcomes Oxford United

The Football Club had the pleasure of hosting Oxford United's 1st team and U 23 squads for their pre-season training. Abingdon's senior goalkeeper, Henry Steinsberg, was given a fantastic opportunity to train alongside the United goalkeepers, and to be put through his paces by Head Goalkeeper Coach, Wayne Brown.

Economists visit the City and LSE

Students from the Lower Sixth enjoyed a walking tour of the City, including the London Stock Exchange, the new Bloomberg building and the Bank of England. In the afternoon, the boys were hosted at the LSE by Professor Sir John Hills (OA) who gave a highly illuminating talk on inequality.



Prize-giving

The guest of honour at this year's prize-giving was Mr John Beyer, OA, former UK Ambassador to Moldova. Mr Beyer spoke engagingly to boys, staff and parents and the occasion marked the formal farewell to our upper sixth leavers.

Virtual visit to CERN



A live virtual link to CERN in Geneva saw two young scientists at

CERN spend an hour speaking to and answering questions from pupils at four local schools, Oxford High School, the European School, Fitzharrys and Abingdon. These students were joined by the Physics Society at Sir William Borlase Grammar School, Marlow via a parallel link.



Studying meteorology

A group of fourth year boys visited the University of Reading's Department of Meteorology for a day of hands on activities. They learnt how physics and maths are applied in understanding and forecasting weather and climate.



Abingdon Music



435

Boys play musical instruments



45

Post-grade 8 and diploma standard musicians



5

Choral and organ scholarships to Oxbridge in the last 3 years



27

Chamber ensemble groups

Junior Solo Competition



The third and final phase of this year's solo competition, the junior category, saw seven performances in front of our visiting adjudicator, Tim Bennett OA, the Director of Music at Cheam Preparatory School near

Newbury. Woodwind, brass, strings and piano all featured with performers ranging from 1st to 4th years.

The final decision was very close. Luke Prior came 3rd with *If I Were a Rich Man*, Luc Tucker, 2nd, with Vivaldi's Sonata No 5 and Oliver Northwood, 1st, with Kozeluch's Clarinet Concerto (slow movement).

Solo Concert Platform No 5

The concert featured impressive solos from all year groups on a range of instruments including the cello, bassoon and tuba. The piano dominated the second half with 12 out of the 15 performances.



The Summer term plays out

Our Summer Concert was this academic year's final coming together for Abingdon's musicians, and an opportunity to celebrate and thank many of our musical leavers. Gospel Choir, the Brass, Symphonic Wind and Big Bands, plus First, Second and Chamber Orchestra, played an entertaining and diverse range of music.

The evening saw a conducting debut for sixth former Mohsen Ansari, and fine solos from 2018 leavers, Reuben Havelock and Robert MacLennan.



Performing with the Oxford Studio Orchestra

Year 10 student, Ashwin Tennant, gave a stunning performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor with the Oxford Studio Orchestra at the St Michael and All Angel's Church in Oxford.

Steaming down the Thames

Parents, musicians and staff enjoyed a sunny summer's evening cruising down the Thames aboard a Salter's steamer. Musical accompaniment included close harmony singing from the Abingdon Academics, chamber music from the Fourth Year String Quartet, a staff ensemble of six hands at the piano and Bach oboe solos from Mr Stinton.

Lower School impress



Our Lower School Gala Concert presented an array of talent from the 120 boys who performed from the younger years. The concert gave parents, teachers and boys a chance to hear some of the wonderfully promising musicians that we are so lucky to have.

Out and About

- students have visited 19 countries in the last two years for culture, language, adventure, academic enrichment, field trips and sport.



Spanish language exchange

Sixth formers' cultural immersion included Spanish cookery in their trip to Málaga.



The Boat Club training in Bordeaux



DofE Gold Practice Expedition

26 lower sixth boys completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expedition in the Rhinog mountains in Snowdonia.



Cricket tour to Barbados

The squad of U15s and U17s played 10 fixtures in a very successful pre-season tour.



Second years explore Plas Pencelli

Caving, canoeing, kayaking and climbing Pen y Fan, were just some of the activities the second years explored at Plas Pencelli in the Brecon Beacons.



Fourth year French exchange

Stunning scenery provided the back drop to a very successful second leg of the 4th year French exchange when students from Abingdon and St Helen's spent a week in Aix-en-Provence.



GCF Easter Camp

107 cadets were put through their paces at Longmoor.



First years at PGL

52 first years spent the first week of the Easter break at PGL Liddington enjoying, amongst the many activities, abseiling, canoeing, climbing, raft building, and the zip wire.



Two teams completed their Silver qualifying expedition sailing around the south coast from Plymouth to Fowey and Salcombe in two 34ft Bavaria yachts.

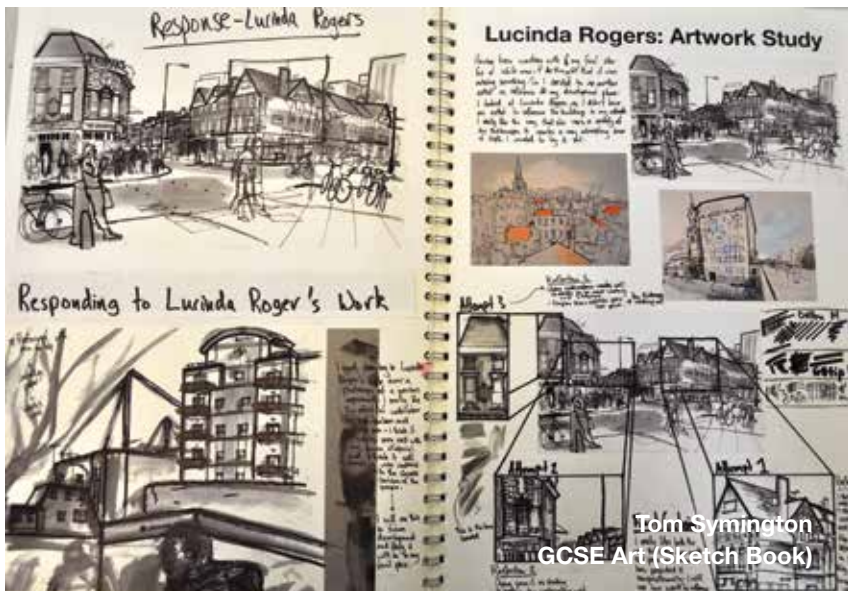


Biology field trip

16 lower sixth formers spent 3 days in Wales at the Oriulton Field Studies Centre sampling and collecting data for their Biology A level.

Abingdon Art, Design and Technology

Jason Lai
GCSE Art



Ed Gill
GCSE Art

Jack Bevan, A level Art





Brodie Marshall
A level Art



Joe Lilley
A level Art



Lloyd Langley
Bedroom storage unit
GCSE Resistant Materials



Garfield Zhang
Adjustable LED desk light
GCSE Resistant Materials



Isaac Morrow
Multi-fuel camping stove
AS Product Design



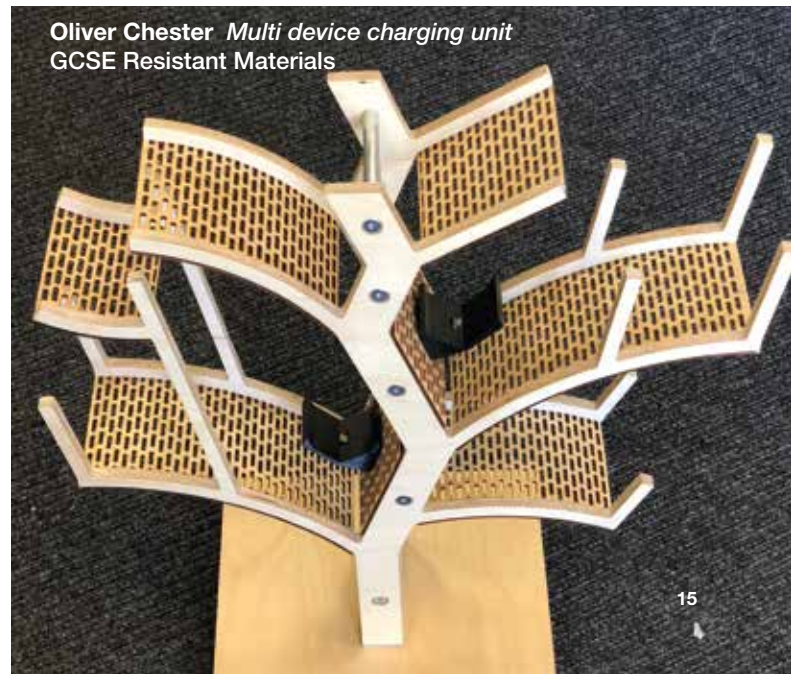
Harry Venables
Solar Charger for Victorinox
AS Product Design



Matthew Bell, Gadget tidy
GCSE Resistant Materials



Ethan Moody
Stylish Storage
GCSE Resistant Materials



Oliver Chester *Multi device charging unit*
GCSE Resistant Materials

Cricket

Following a successful tour of Barbados for the U15 and U17 cricketers, the Cricket Club had a busy term across all age groups. The team of the year has been the U14Bs, who played exciting cricket all season, losing just the one game to a strong Bradfield side. The 1st XI found some good form in the latter half of term against the MCC and Winchester College in particular. In the final week, we hosted Brentwood, Cheadle Hulme and St John's, Leatherhead in the annual cricket festival, which was a great success.



U15 County Champions

Abingdon U15As beat Shiplake by 72 runs.



Tennis

The Club reached the LTA regional finals for the second time in 2 years, beating Radley and MCS along the way. The Club also won the Radlingdon event, and were runners up and won the plate! The future looks promising for the U15s and U13s who reached the Aegon finals. Outstanding performances throughout the season from: Sam Christie, Max Hall, Jimmy Strainge, Ethan McLellan, Felix Breach, Seb Muller and Max Struthers.

Rowing



A strong summer for the Boat Club saw wins for the 1st VIII and J16 A at Wallingford. All A and B crews qualified for the A/top finals at National Schools to show real strength in depth, with the 1st VIII winning the B final and medals for J15 B (Silver), J16 A (Bronze). In June there were wins for J14 and J15s in Octuples, and Vllls and Quads at Bedford Star regatta. The 1st VIII won at Henley against King's Canterbury but were beaten by St Paul's who went on to win the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup.

Athletics

The Athletics Club had a fantastic season. The juniors enjoyed a very successful English Schools Track and Field Cup, narrowly missing out on a place at the National Final. The intermediates represented Abingdon superbly, travelling to Harrow, Bedford and Marlborough to compete against strong schools. The senior squad dominated the track, winning the Radley Relays and with many individual wins throughout the season. Special mention goes to James Connelly for his selection to run the 100m for Oxfordshire at the National Championships.



Golf Championships

Abingdon fielded two teams at this year's Oxfordshire Schools' Golf Championships, and on a blustery and challenging day the boys played very well. Abingdon's A team came 3rd and the B team 2nd - just two points away from qualifying nationally.



Rifle Club visit Stade

The Rifle Club took a team to Stade, Germany, for the biennial tour and competition. As always, the hospitality was fantastic and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all despite a narrow loss in the competition.



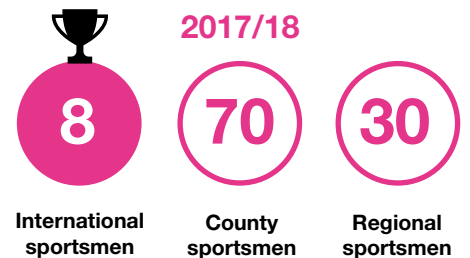
Croquet

The Croquet Club enjoyed a win against Portsmouth Grammar but lost to Radley and Winchester.

Windsurfing Championships



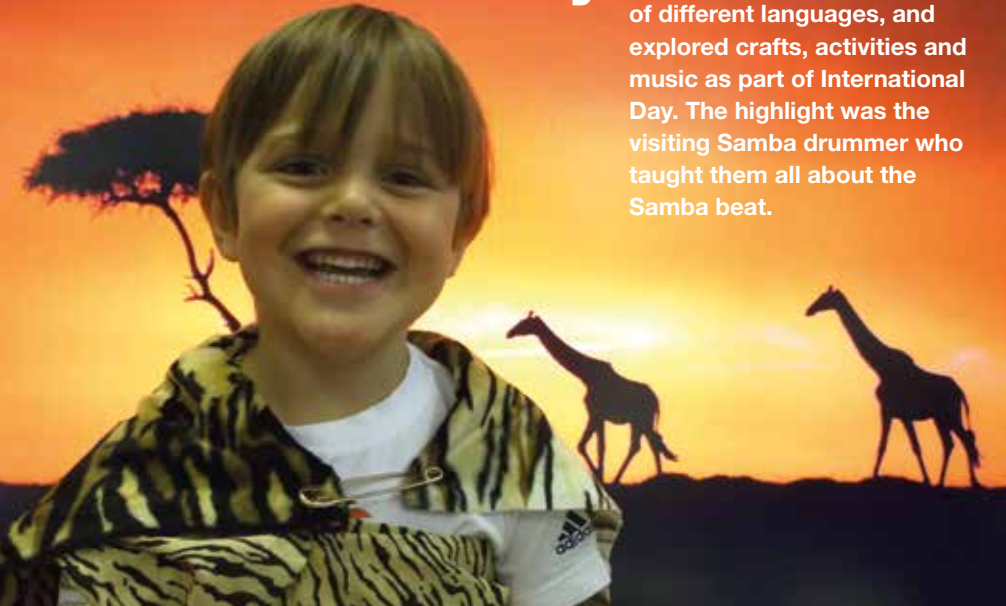
Fifth year pupil Ethan Moody competed in the Techno Plus European Championships in Mondello, Sicily, coming 19th in a strong field of competitors.



Boys representing the school across **9 sports** on a typical Lent weekend **600**

35 Sports available to try

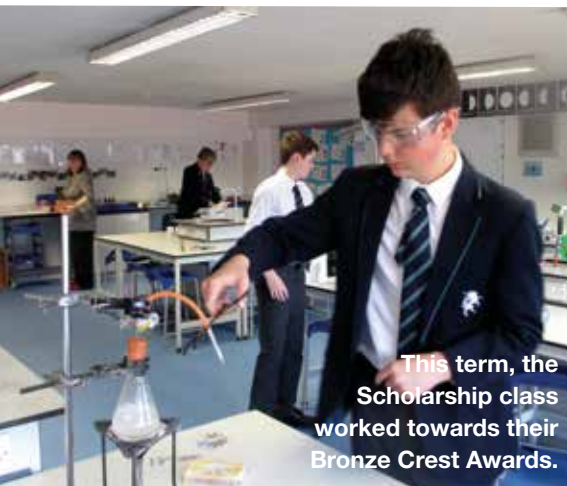
International Day



Pre-Prep dressed in traditional costumes, learnt a few words of different languages, and explored crafts, activities and music as part of International Day. The highlight was the visiting Samba drummer who taught them all about the Samba beat.



This year's design challenge was to upcycle plastic bottles to make something useful or creative. The results were fantastic!



This term, the Scholarship class worked towards their Bronze Crest Awards.



Warhammer

Five Year 8 boys represented the school at the Warhammer schools' league semi-finals against 19 other teams. They had a thoroughly enjoyable day and acquitted themselves very well, winning 7 out of their 12 games.



Exploring Greek Art

Year 4 explored Greek art and architecture as a part of their summer art project. They created some beautiful card masks using only glue and scissors to give their mask a personality.



Impressive Art

The CDT and Art departments opened their doors to the public, exhibiting a diverse array of art and design work made by students from Reception to Year 8. Boys also exhibited their work at the Ashmolean for Young Art Oxford.



Year 5 visited Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and HMS Victory as part of their history study of Nelson's Navy.

Year 5 at PGL



Year 6 visit the Central Oxford Mosque



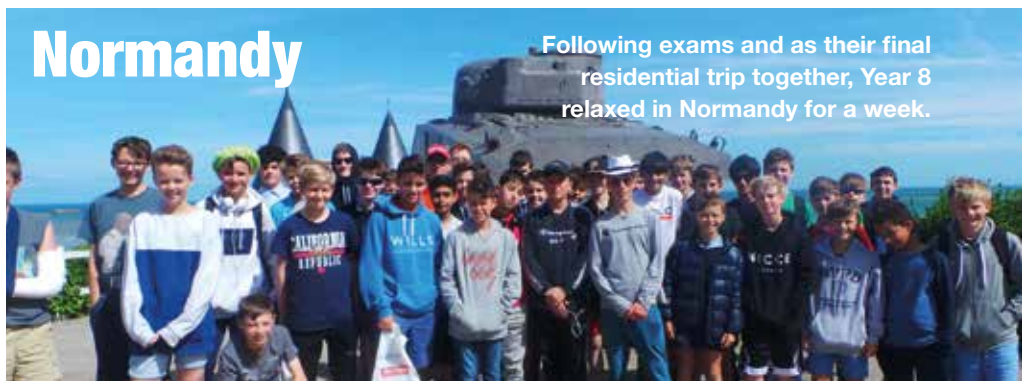
Grandparents' Tea

Over 120 grandparents enjoyed afternoon tea with their grandsons.



Young musicians entertained proud parents on numerous occasions, with the finale, the Summer Concert, taking place in the Amey Theatre.

Normandy



Following exams and as their final residential trip together, Year 8 relaxed in Normandy for a week.

U11s tour the West Country



The Under 11 cricketers enjoyed two matches and learnt to surf on their tour of Devon and Cornwall.

Aeroball was a big hit for the Year 7s at Whitmead Residential



Beech Court Update

At the time we went to print everyone was working hard to get Beech Court ready for the start of term. Here's a sneak preview of the work in progress



Sixth Form Centre



Art space



Library





Many Thanks to the ASPA Committee

Each summer term, the ASPA Committee convenes to recognise another successful series of events and fund raising activities. This year's supper was also a celebration and farewell to a number of members who are leaving either because their sons have reached the Upper Sixth or because they are stepping down after a long tenure.

We said a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to the following committee members:

Sian Walsh – Upper 6th Rep
Suzanne Mara – Events Co-ordinator
Anne-Marie Nugent – Vice Chair
Kerensa Butler – Chair

We now have a few vacancies for the 18/19 School Year:

1st Year Rep
3rd Year House Reps
5th Year Rep
Upper 6th Rep

All of these roles can be shared with another parent; we already have three pairs in place on the Committee and it's a great way to share the responsibilities and ideas.

Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved:

aspa@abingdon.org.uk

Quiz Night

Another great quiz night was had in April, with reigning champions for two consecutive years – The Questionables – still the firm favourites. They nearly did it for a third year, but a tie break clincher gave the victory to the Quizzzy Rascals (Year 7) who prevailed by answering a tricky Eurovision question. Congratulations to the winners and the runners up!



Fish and Chips

Parents also enjoyed a fish & chip supper which was a first for an ASPA event and it was a big success. The catering team pulled out all the stops and a huge thanks to John, Clive, Emma and the rest of the team, as well as to Nicola, Jay and Kathy from ASPA for running the event and the bar.

Abingdon Development

First Orchestra and Big Band Tour to Japan and Hong Kong 30 June - 10 July 2019

Next summer Abingdon School's First Orchestra and Big Band are undertaking an exciting and ambitious tour to Japan and Hong Kong. The last time our Orchestra travelled to Hong Kong was in 2006, so now a new generation of Abingdon School musicians will be able to experience this unforgettable musical and cultural exchange. The opportunity to forge new friendships whilst polishing musical, technical and performance skills is hugely valuable to our young musicians, many of whom will only experience such a tour once in their lives.



We hope to bring our entire First Orchestra and Big Band on the tour, which would involve taking up to 70 boys and accompanying instruments. In order to enable as many boys as possible to come along, we want to keep the cost of pupil places as low as we can. If you feel able to support the tour, please do use our online donation form at www.abingdon.org.uk/donation to make your gift. All donations will help us to subsidise places for boys who would otherwise be unable to take up this unique opportunity.

Annual Fund 2018 – Update

Thanks to donations from Abingdon School parents, governors, OAs, staff, volunteers and friends, we have already seen a number of our 2018 Annual Fund projects spring to life and benefit pupils across all year groups.

The Merlyn Spin Bowling Machine, for instance, has accelerated the development of our batsmen's techniques against even the trickiest of bowled balls, while the School's very first computer with Virtual Reality software has now been cleverly constructed and enthusiastically trialled. Even the Headmaster could not resist the opportunity to test its impressive capabilities! The race|result timing system is recording our young runners' races to a tee at Tilsley Park, and the Formlabs 3D printer is already helping to enhance and hone the CAD and CAM skills of our future engineers and creatives.

We are only a short way off our goal of £34,000. To see which projects need support and to make your mark, please visit www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund. We are ever grateful to those who give.

Summer Garden Party at Lacies Court

Whether they have given a gift or their time, there are many members of the Abingdon community who have shown a huge amount of support for the School in recent years. On Thursday 28 June they were thanked for their dedication in person by the Headmaster and his wife at a special drinks reception in the beautiful garden of Lacies Court. Thank you again to all those who choose to support Abingdon School.



Supporting Croquet at Abingdon

In 2012, croquet started at Abingdon with three pupils who played only on a Wednesday. Now, around 60 pupils play up to five times a week – but such growth means heightened demand for equipment that fits players' needs.



Increased play had taken its toll on the basic wooden mallets used by the boys, so we were delighted to assist Mrs McRae in purchasing nine new carbon fibre mallets of greater quality and durability. With pupils now playing fiercely competitive fixtures against top croquet schools such as Winchester College, and taking part in the National School and Junior Championships this September, professional mallets will help our croquet players to excel.

Year Group Reunions



Class of 2008



Class of 1978

On Saturday 16 June more than 120 OAs journeyed back to School for their Year Group Reunions – some returning for the first time since their final day as a pupil. OAs from the Classes of 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2016 grasped the opportunity to relive their school years with a chapel service, tour of the main site and buffet dinner in the Dining Hall. A drinks reception and spirited set of addresses from the OA Club Chairman, Ken Welby (OA 1984), and the Headmaster also added to the occasion.

OA Summer of Sport

The summer months saw several OAs take part in a range of casual and competitive OA sporting fixtures. David Blomley (OA 1976) once again organised a wonderful golfing occasion at Frilford Heath Golf Club in May, while OAs, pupils and parents alike took to the lawns of Whitefield for the annual OA Croquet fixture in June. This was swiftly followed by the OA Tennis and OA Twenty20 Cricket matches, where yet more active OAs returned to the School to face current First Team pupils, with others coming back to spectate.



Abingdon OA Club

Kit Young (OA 2013)

Kit continues to impress with his onstage performances. In 2018 these have included the role of Octavius in the National Theatre's production of *Julius Caesar* – which was screened live at the Amey Theatre – and the role of the Journalist in the new adaptation of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.



OA Expertise at UCAS2

Many thanks to all OAs who contributed to the UCAS2 event in the Yang Science Centre at the end of Summer Term. 25 OAs who are current students or recent graduates of courses ranging from Chinese to Aerospace Engineering – at universities spanning Plymouth to St Andrews – assembled to pass on valuable knowledge to lower sixth pupils about all aspects of study and life at university. OAs' guidance at these events continues to be greatly appreciated by pupils, parents and staff.

Forthcoming OA Events: Michaelmas Term

OA and Pupil Golf Day -

September (date and venue TBC)

Hong Kong Reception -

Monday 24 September,
Excelsior Hotel

OA Careers Event:

Property and Construction -

October (date and venue TBC)

OA Badminton and Squash Day -

November (date TBC), Sports Centre

Sixth Form Careers Evening -

Friday 16 November,

Yang Science Centre

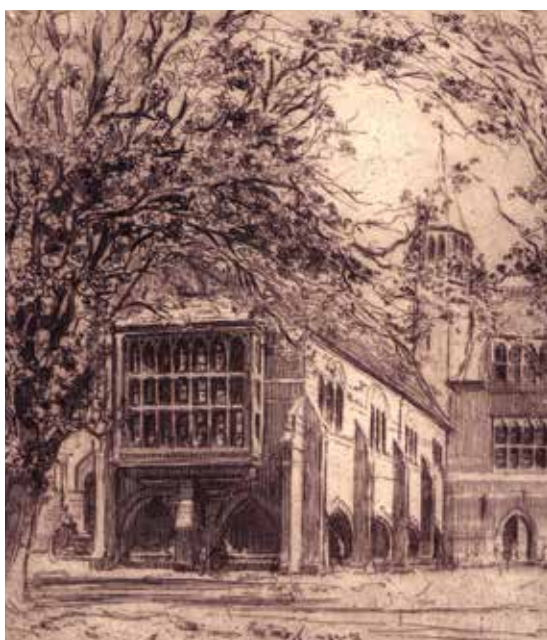
OA Club London Drinks Reception -

November (date and venue TBC)

Abingdon Out of the Past

A New Art Room

In November 1904 the School opened its new art room; the Abingdonian proudly boasting of the 'blinds that you pull down upwards and blackboards made of green glass and visible daylight from the north' before adding its assurances that 'it is already successfully incubating a large litter of prospective RAs'. The room is now a Modern Language classroom.



The second photograph shows an art class in action – not that there's much action about it. Each boy has a piece of paper on a board, a container of water shared with his neighbour and a paint box similarly shared. Around the walls are plaster casts of ears, leaves and shells for the boys to study and copy.

The art master, Mr Charles Octavius Wright, can be seen at the back in the photograph.

This pen and ink sketch is one of several drawings Octavius Wright made of the School. In addition to art, Wright also taught gymnastics and maths.



Arthur Davenport July 1914
in Abingdon cricket 1st XI

To the End

On 8 August 1918 the Allies launched a surprise attack along the Western Front, which began to turn the tide of war; 95 days later the war was over. By August 1918, the School had already lost 56 members of its community but there were still 15 more deaths to come.

One of these was Arthur Davenport who left school in the summer of 1915 with an open scholarship to read Maths at St John's College, Oxford. However, he took a commission in the Rifle Brigade instead. Wounded in August 1916, he was out of action until July 1917 when he joined the Tank Corps, serving with the 11th Battalion. Just over a year later, on 23 August, his tank was put out of action at Boyelles and he was killed.

Some years ago the archives received a photograph of Davenport and his tank crew. There can be no more than four years between this and the photograph showing him in the 1914 1st XI yet he looks like a different man.



Lieutenant Arthur Davenport
(seated centre) with the
crew of his tank.

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