



# Loserville



A 42-strong cast of Abingdon and St Helen's students performed the smash hit musical *Loserville*, written by Elliot Davis and, James Bourne, of the band Busted. With the set transformed into a giant circuit board with vibrant UV colours, this catchy rock 'n' roll musical carried the message of many an American high school story - that the geeks will triumph in the end! The cast worked incredibly hard to learn complicated dance routines and singing harmonies for what was a truly fantastic spectacle that received a rapturous reception from the audience.

## The Headmaster



Since the start of this academic year, my study has been situated next to the chapel, on the first floor of Big School, giving me a wonderful view over the school site and especially our Upper and Lower Fields. I do enjoy the opportunities I now have to cast an eye over the sports unfolding on the pitches below. It's always great to see our students, whatever their level, enjoying some fresh air and the company of their teammates and friends.

The phrase 'mens sana in corpore sano' has become over-familiar but its truth has perhaps become ever more pertinent as we recognise the dangers of today's sedentary lifestyles. The benefits of sport both to a healthy mind and to a greater

sense of well-being is a key part of life at Abingdon. We feel sport offers a really important outlet for boys' energy and we urge them to keep up their exercise regime as they undertake public exams.

Our aim is to combine the highest possible levels of participation with opportunities for the very best to excel. This is founded on a commitment to the athletic development of all our students. Mike Davies, our Head of Athletic Development, has devised plans which focus on the boys' core strength, flexibility and speed, and our gym was recently transformed to take the focus away from weights alone to make space for more varied equipment that tests the body in all sorts of ways. This is a long-term plan but we're looking forward to signs of the impact that our new approach to training will bring in the future.

We also want to provide such a wide range of opportunities that everyone can find their niche in the sporting life of the School. The Lent term is a particularly good term for student participation in teams, as we complete fixture cards against the top sporting schools in the country in both hockey and football, fielding over 30 teams across the two sports, alongside fixtures and competitions in many, many other sports. I hope you'll enjoy reading about some of the successes in this edition of *Abingdon News*.

I believe the product of our commitment to sport is healthier, happier young men and I hope that they will leave Abingdon with an appetite for exercise that will stay with them throughout their lives.

*Michael Windsor, Headmaster*



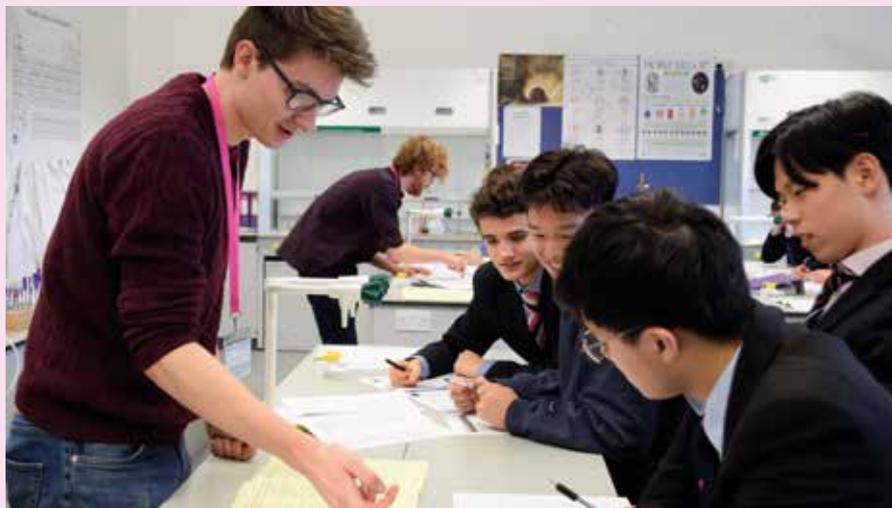
## Road Relay

After last year's relay was cancelled due to poor weather and roadworks, this year's race got off to a flying start in glorious sunshine.



# Big Physics Quiz

A group of third years took part in the annual Big Physics Quiz at Birmingham University. Competing against over 100 teams, Abingdon's top team came a very impressive second overall.



## Oxford University Chemistry Workshop

Upper sixth chemists were joined by the University of Oxford Chemistry Department, who, in association with the Royal Society of Chemistry, delivered an inspiring 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' workshop. The boys gained hands-on experience of using a state-of-the-art infra-red spectrometer to help them elucidate the structures of some unidentified samples.



## Una noche de tapas

The Abingdon and St Helen's sixth form Spanish departments joined forces in Oxford for an authentic tapas experience, complete with flamenco guitar. With more chorizo, gambas and albóndigas than they could eat, everyone enjoyed practising their Spanish with lists of weird and wonderful questions - much fun was had by all!

## Science Ambassadors at Annual Conference

Four of Abingdon Science Partnership's Senior Science Ambassadors ran an exhibit at the Association for Science Education's annual conference at the University of Birmingham. The event, attended by teachers, academics and educationalists from all over the world, is a major showcase for science education in the UK. The Ambassadors spoke to visiting delegates about the highly successful Primary Science Club which they run weekly with a large team of other Science Ambassadors in the Abingdon Science Partnership Lab.



# Government Inspector

The joint senior Abingdon and St Helen's production of *Government Inspector* fused its comedic charm with modern undertones bringing to life Nikolai Gogol's classic play. Students worked tirelessly and with roaring success as the audience enjoyed the exploits of Khlestakov, a foppish civil servant, as his identity is mistaken for a government inspector. Filled with larger than life characters and mixed with the vibrant town's people this production was a triumph!



## Mental Health Training



Paul Gooding, Katy Lee and Carrie Berry, have qualified as Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors with Mental Health First Aid England. They are training both Abingdon staff and partnership school staff in this vital area. The course is part of the government's aim to see staff equipped to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. The training helps to spot early signs and symptoms in order to direct students to the appropriate professional help. The training will be rolled out to more staff over the coming years.

## T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize

Sixth form students travelled to the Royal Festival Hall at London's Southbank Centre to visit the Poetry Library, and hear the ten poets shortlisted for the prestigious T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize read from their work.





## Boarding News

Sixty boarders took "Free Tours by Foot" as part of their recent trip to London. The walks were followed by an enjoyable few hours shopping and eating!



Boarders expanded their culinary skills preparing gourmet burgers and spicy lamb kofta kebabs. Unperturbed by the snow, or the sub-zero temperatures, these delights were cooked to perfection on the barbecue, before being devoured in homemade bread rolls along with a delicious mint and lime Greek yoghurt.



Valentine's Day saw the members of the Older and Bolder group delighted by the boarders' delicious heart-shaped homemade biscuits and some beautiful roses.



## New Facilities

Work starts at Easter on an exciting addition to the School's facilities with the construction of a new three-storey building to replace Faringdon Lodge at the north of the campus, next to the Yang Science Centre. It will be home to the Economics and Business Studies department and will also house the emerging Computer Studies department. There will be two new houserooms at first floor level with views over Waste Court field from the balcony. The Second Hand Uniform Shop will move into the ground floor, so that it's easier to find and has bright, new premises.

The building will connect to the Science Centre and provide a reception for visitors from Faringdon Road and the Coach Park.



## Maths Feast

Two teams of fourth years competed in the Maths Feast Competition against 18 other teams from different schools. They didn't come away with any prizes this time, but scored well, and team B were pleased to end up beating team A!



## Sixth form mentor primary schools

Sixth form mentors, trained by experts from the Royal Institution, have been running a series of maths masterclasses for pupils from schools in the Ogden Trust Abingdon Primary Science Partnership. Each week, one of the mentors plans and runs the activities, extending the mathematical skills of the primary children in fun and challenging ways. The masterclasses have become an established feature of Abingdon School's Partnership programme over the past three years giving all the mentors excellent opportunities to develop leadership, planning and teaching skills.



## England Bridge Selection

Congratulations to Freddie Beneat who has been selected for the England Under 16 Bridge Squad. An impressive achievement, especially as Freddie is only in the Second Year.



## Chess fever!

Chess fever has swept through Lower School this year following the creation of a new board gaming area in the refurbished houseroom. In the inter-tutor group chess tournament. Six teams of three players faced each other in a series of high intensity matches. Congratulations go to 1M and 2H, the two year group winners, who did battle in the grand final where, despite some close matches, the second years proved too strong for the younger boys and 2H were declared the champions.

## OA Drama Masterclass

Having just finished playing Malcolm in Macbeth at the Globe, actor Kit Young (OA 2013) came back to Abingdon to do a masterclass on rehearsing monologues for performance as preparation for Component 2 monologue exams in March.

## Orlando Figes talks 19th and 20th Century Russia

Sixth form history students were treated to a fascinating live web-video seminar with eminent historian Orlando Figes. Professor Figes fielded a range of questions on 19th and 20th century Russia, helping boys with their wider knowledge and understanding, as well as their course work.





## Abingdon welcomes England's National Squad

Abingdon played host to some famous sporting faces when three members of the England Six Nations squad visited the school. Owen Farrell, Manu Tuilagi and Ben Te'o were filming a promotion for their upcoming World Cup campaign in Japan in the autumn.



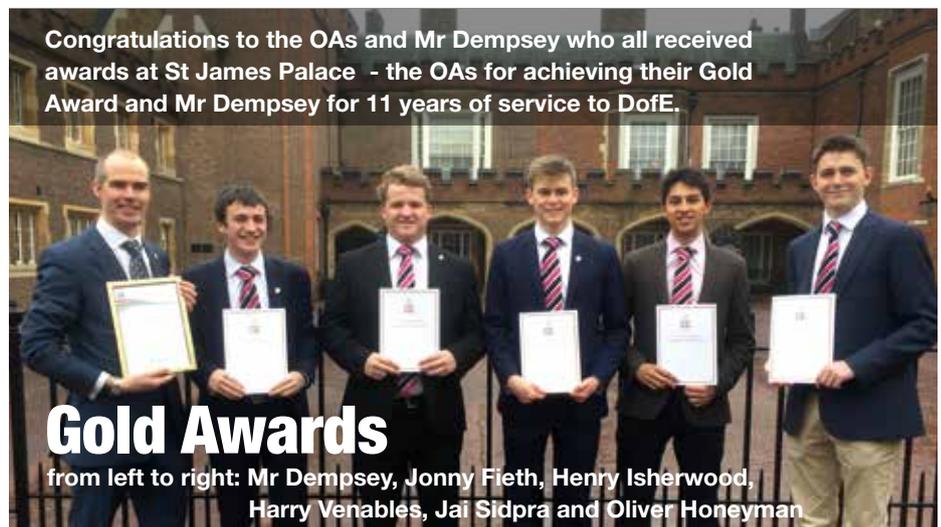
## Shanghai High School

At the start of term the School welcomed visitors from Shanghai High School, including their Principal, Mr Feng. The schools signed an agreement that paves the way for future collaboration and cooperation, including exchanges of pupils and teachers. Shanghai High is considered to be one of the leading schools in the Shanghai district.



## Lower School work exhibition

The second exhibition of the year gave the boys the chance to show a piece of work, that they are particularly proud of, to their peers and to reflect on the effort that it had taken to achieve it.



Congratulations to the OAs and Mr Dempsey who all received awards at St James Palace - the OAs for achieving their Gold Award and Mr Dempsey for 11 years of service to DofE.

## Gold Awards

from left to right: Mr Dempsey, Jonny Fieth, Henry Isherwood, Harry Venables, Jai Sidpra and Oliver Honeyman



## YE's Cowley Trade Fair

Three teams took part in one of the most important dates in the Young Enterprise calendar, the Cowley Trade Fair. All teams managed to sell a considerable amount of stock, including collapsible coffee cups, water bottles and a range of bamboo products. Particular congratulations go to team "Bamboozled" for winning the Customer Service Award.

Later in the term at the Abingdon Fair, Team Aqualapse managed to sell all their stock and had a very promising line of enquiry from a local coffee shop who thought that one of the colours of their collapsible coffee cup would complement their business.



## Top prizes in Annual Law Lecture Essay

Congratulations to sixth formers George Carver and German Baraev who won the first and second prizes in the Annual Law Lecture Essay Competition. George received £100 plus a week's work experience at Freeths solicitors and German's second prize was £100 and the opportunity to visit court with a retired judge.

The essay competition followed the annual High Sheriff's Law Lecture in October given by Michael Beloff QC and titled "Can Sport do without the Law?". Students were asked to write an essay exploring the concepts in the lecture.

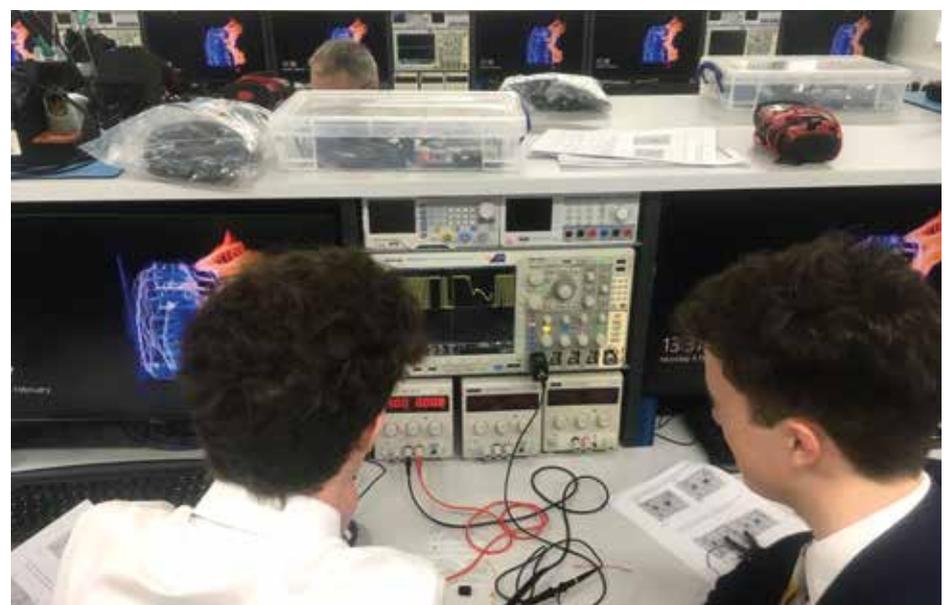


## Abingdon take on Eton at Chess

Playing away in the first round of the regional stage of the prestigious National Schools' Chess Championship, Abingdon defeated Eton 5.5-0.5. Congratulations to Abingdon's players on a fine team performance.

## A taste of Electronic Engineering

Lower sixth physicists spent the day at the University of Southampton Electronic Engineering department. Following a lecture and tour from one of the current students the boys completed a workshop building a heart rate monitor from electrical components.





## English students enjoy American Literature

Girls from St Helen's joined Abingdon sixth formers studying English to hear Dr Niall Munro (OA) give a fascinating lecture on American literature.



## Chinese New Year

Sixth form pupil Kiran Gathani gave a very impressive performance at the Chinese New Year Celebration organised by Oxford Brookes University and China Hunan TV. He read one of the most famous Chinese poems, "Farewell to Cambridge Again" by Xu Zhimo, in front of students, teachers and guests from the local area and China and Hong Kong.



## Blott Matthews Challenge Success

Since September, four teams of lower sixth students have spent two hours of their lunchtime each week working on the Blott Matthews Engineering challenge. This year's challenge was to come up with a way to transport a one-ton load from the North Pole to the South Pole without picking up or dropping off extra equipment on the way. Teams submitted a report in February and then attended the final presentation day where they were quizzed in detail. Abingdon teams were very successful with Team Apex placed third and Team Polar Reach winning the competition.



Students from the Abingdon Model United Nations took part in the annual two day MUNHIGH conference on Justice, at the Manchester High School for Girls. The event is one of the largest held in the north west with over 330 delegates from 28 schools taking part. Abingdon delegates represented Iran and Burkino Faso and debated a huge range of topics including, maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula and the issue of colonisation in space.

The boys came away with several awards including outstanding delegate awards for James Gibson and Lancelot Wilson. They also won the prestigious Outstanding Delegation award for representing Iran.



## Thinking Supper

First year students from Abingdon and St Helen's met for a Thinking Supper, and discussed articles on driverless cars and a range of related issues over dinner. The students then took it in turns to present their conclusions.

## Easter Tea Party



Around 80 guests enjoyed the Music in the Community group, delicious chocolate cupcakes, a challenging quiz and eclectic raffle prizes at this term's Easter tea party.



## French Debating Competition

Sixth formers Henry Pickess and Jimmy Strainge debated three testing motions: the banning of Western social media in China, the morality of worldwide meat consumption and the effects of the global dominance of the English language.

Both boys debated fiercely against strong opposition including Radley, Cheltenham and Downe House, winning two out of their three debates and finishing joint winners of their group.

## Gaming and Social Media Addiction



Cam Adair, an international speaker on gaming and social media addiction, gave a very thought-provoking talk to the Sixth Form. The boys found his talk hugely informative as he drew on his own personal experience to explain how many aspects of gaming and social media are designed to keep you hooked.



## Google Champion

Fifth year Freddie Nicholson is celebrating his selection as a Google Grand Prize Winner in the global tech giant's annual international competition for young coders, Google Code-in 2018. As a prize winner, Freddie will visit the Google headquarters and enjoy some Californian sunshine this summer.

Freddie faced tough competition with 3,124 students from 77 countries taking part in the contest. Only 54 Grand Prize Winners were selected. In total the UK had six Grand Prize Winners, behind India which topped the table with 18 and the US with nine.

## Team Maths Challenge

A team of second and third years competed in the Team Maths Challenge at the Oxford University Mathematical Institute, against 20 other teams from schools across Oxfordshire. The team was held to a commendable second place in a strong field, and enjoyed tackling a wide range of brainteasing puzzles and problems.



## Thought-provoking blogs from the Abingdon Community

From the Headmaster's "Confidence not Swagger" - in reply to The Times, to "Flinging wide the automatic gates - a time for partnerships?", the School Blog takes a look at the latest views and opinions from the Abingdon community. The wide-ranging contributions make for very interesting reading and are posted fortnightly during term time at:

[abingdon.org.uk/school\\_blog](http://abingdon.org.uk/school_blog)

## The Guardian talks to Classicists



Charlotte Higgins, the chief culture writer for the Guardian, gave a talk to classicists from Abingdon and other local schools, plus a few OAs, titled 'In the Labyrinth: Catullus, Ovid and Titian'.

# Taking a look at... **Abingdon Art**

Mr Paul Williamson joined Abingdon as Head of Art at the start of this academic year from the Warriner School, Bloxham. He leads a department of three full-time teachers and two technicians.

Mr Williamson couldn't resist the new facilities that occupy the top floor of the new Beech Court building. These include a kiln room, dark room, ceramics studio, exhibition space, external balcony for outside study and a dedicated sixth form studio.

## **This is only your second term at Abingdon School – what do you think?**

Abingdon has amazing opportunities and very able students. Combine that with university standard facilities and excellent teachers and you have a superb environment to achieve and encourage creativity. It's a very exciting time and I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge.



## **What have you set out to achieve with Abingdon Art?**

The potential here is huge and the department is implementing the structure and systems needed to make sure the boys achieve their very best. This ranges from, for example, giving all year groups more drawing experience to organising extra trips and events. I think we can improve the depth of student work, especially in the Lower School.



## **What exciting initiatives have you got coming up?**

We've already seen some really impressive examples of what the boys can do. One of my favourites has been the Food Art Competition for Years 1 to 3. The boys' really showed what they were capable of.



I'm also looking forward to the Year 9 'Wild Art' project which sees the boys trying a mini GCSE style project based around an animal of their choice. They are looking to other artists' style and learning how to paint and create a large final piece of work.

One of the events in the pipeline is a summer Art Festival where we will showcase the A level and GCSE work and possibly the mini GCSE third year project.

## **What do we offer in terms of art at Abingdon to all age groups?**

In the First Year boys explore a range of media – drawing, painting, printing etc and then in the Second Year we look for inspiration from industry to really capture the imagination and develop skills. In the Third Year boys take a mini GCSE course which can support their GCSE work.

At GCSE boys work independently on topics they enjoy and they have the freedom to do their own style and development but we will guide them to make sure they get the grades they deserve.

Art in the Sixth Form allows students more independence to explore their own personal direction and topics. We refine and teach processes and techniques to a higher more professional standard to prepare the students for the next stage of their creative career.



## **Is art offered through the Other Half?**

We have a range of OH activities, 13 in total, ranging from Lego Architecture to Clay Club. Boys can explore film and special effects, stop frame animation, comic book illustrations and create 3D objects and designs with the Computer Aided Design programme 'Fusion 360'. Students can also put in extra time on their course work. We're very happy to accommodate what boys want to do and our new facilities offer huge possibilities.

## **Why study art?**

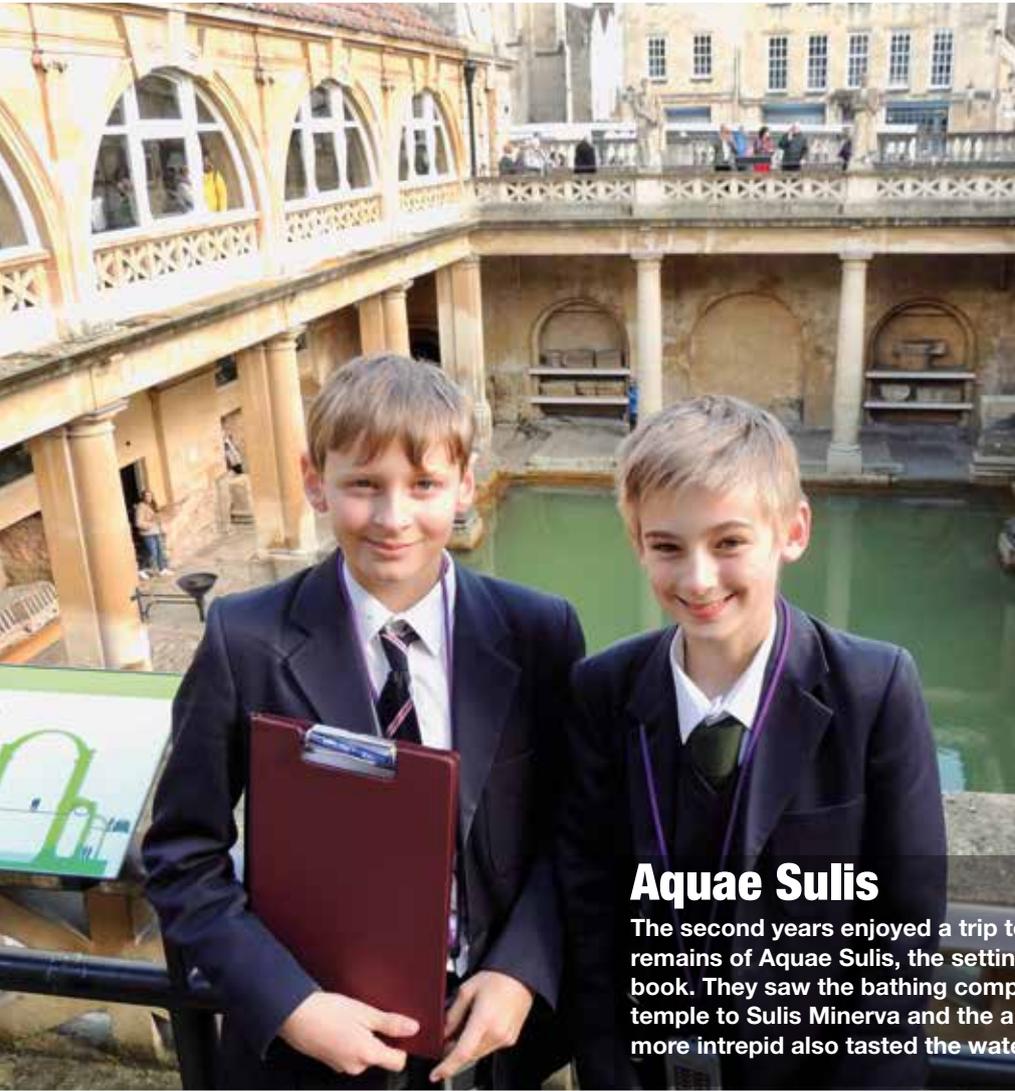
Studying art is a tremendous platform if you are thinking of a creative career. Creative thinking is vital for many jobs especially design whether it's in the advertising and product design industry, gaming, fashion/textiles, film, theatre, special effects or architecture. Basically anything that we use is creatively designed.

## **What can we offer aspiring artists?**

We will make the absolute most of everyone's potential. Abingdon boys are very bright and some will be exceptional artists and designers. Our staff are really excited about teaching art and there are so many positive changes happening around art in schools. There's a lot of scope to be creative within the framework of exams; it will be hard work but it will be well worth it!



# Out and About



## Aquae Sulis

The second years enjoyed a trip to Bath to visit the Roman remains of Aquae Sulis, the setting for their current text book. They saw the bathing complex and remains of the temple to Sulis Minerva and the ancient curse tables. The more intrepid also tasted the water from the sacred spring.

## Seville

Students were captivated by the sites, culture and of course food during the third year visit. The 30 boys enjoyed guided tours of the City's cathedral, museums, bull ring and Seville FC stadium learning much about the City's fascinating history and traditions.



## Germany

Students from Abingdon exchange partners' which, albeit starting in the absence of school uniforms, was a very enjoyable stay.



## Caerleon

Third year ancient historians enjoyed a trip to South Wales to visit the Roman sites as part of their Roman Army in Britain research project. The boys explored the Roman military site of Caerleon, Roman 'Isca', and Caerwent (Venta Silurum) which was a civitas settlement of the Welsh Silures tribe.

## Exploring Science

40 boys and staff travelled to the City's fascinating scientific centre where students learnt about the history of Switzerland in the development of forward the boundaries of modern science.

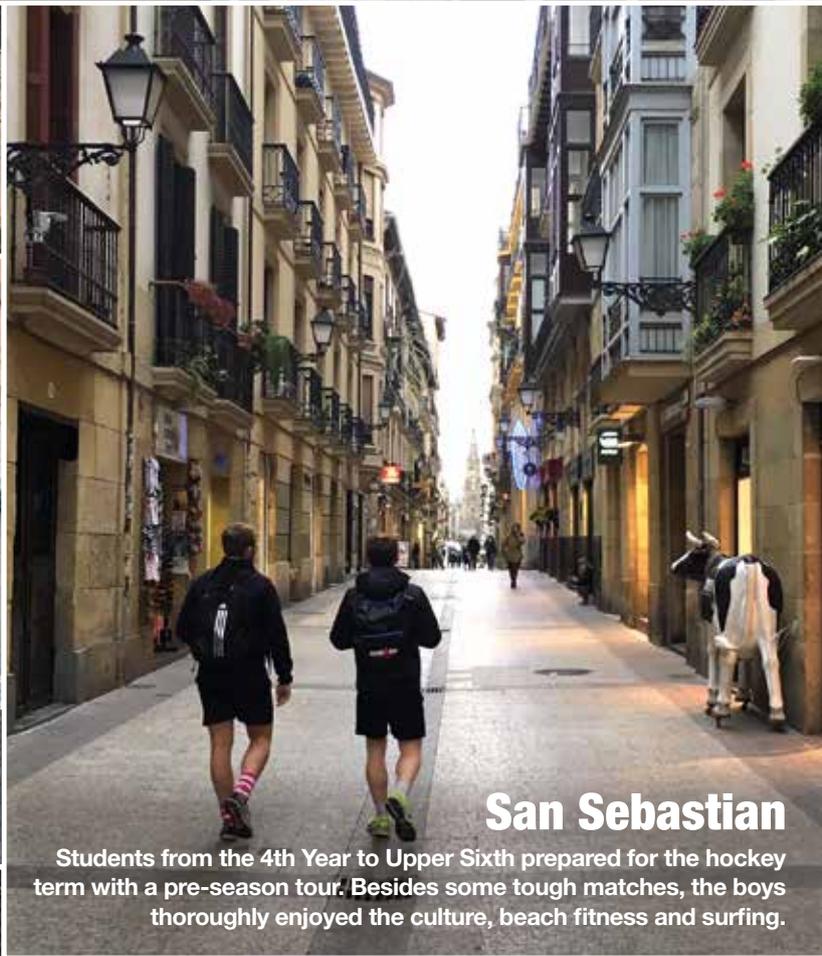




gdon and St Helen's traveled to Germany to stay with their families. They were thrilled to experience the German school day g early, finishes around 1pm and allowed much free time. The uniform, less homework, good food and lovely families made for a

## Berlin

The cultural impact of Berlin's rich history was felt by many. Highlights of the trip included tours of the GDR museum, the former Stasi HQ, the Berliner Mauer museum and TV tower. The third year group also enjoyed interactive experiences at the Technikmuseum, the Ritter Sport Schokowelt, several Christmas markets and a guided tour of the Olympic Stadium.

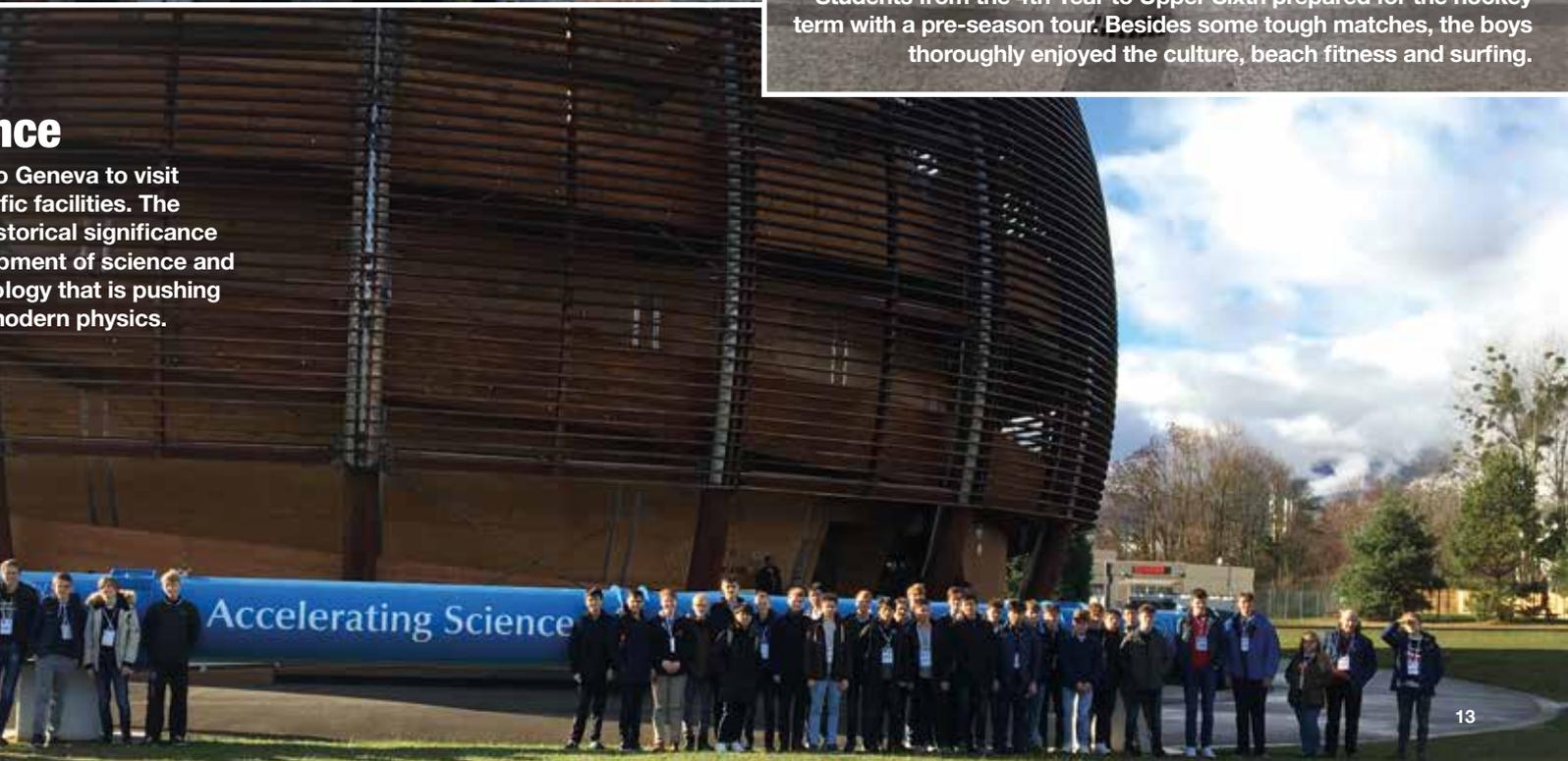


## San Sebastian

Students from the 4th Year to Upper Sixth prepared for the hockey term with a pre-season tour. Besides some tough matches, the boys thoroughly enjoyed the culture, beach fitness and surfing.

## Geneva

to Geneva to visit scientific facilities. The historical significance of science and technology that is pushing modern physics.



## Boat Club

The Club had a strong head season. Recently, the J15, J16 and Senior squads raced Hammersmith Head with the 1st VIII finding themselves in a close 6th. The J14s first major race of the season saw the As and Bs racing The Scullery, while the Cs and Ds went upriver, against Radley. Great results at The Scullery - As came 11th and the Bs 23rd. Unfortunately the Club was unable to defend its placings at Schools' Head due to high winds. Connor Brown, U6, produced some exceptional results at GB team trials, winning the long distance trial and now progresses to final selection for the Munich International Regatta for the GB Rowing Team.



## Fencing

The success continues with an undefeated fixture list for 2018/19 and team and individual trophies at the annual Public Schools Fencing Championship at Crystal Palace. Ed Scott Payne won the Junior Epee Championship and Master at Arms Trophies.



## Cross-country

Runners had a superb season with a number of individual and team victories. The junior squad are a year group to watch, taking numerous race titles including Marlborough, Radley Relays and the County Championships. Ten runners secured places in the Oxfordshire team that ran at the English Schools Championships.



## Swimming

The Club had a fantastic term competing against some of the best teams in the country. The Seniors made their impact on the national stage finishing 6th and 7th in the Bath and Otter Cup National Relays, this was on top of winning the Bromsgrove Relays and Otter Challenge Cup. Younger boys also performed superbly well finishing 2nd (U16) and 3rd (U14) at the Warwick 100s against some of the top swimming schools in the South of England. A number of school records were also broken this term.



## Golf

Abingdon beat Leighton Park in the ISGA Area Plate knockout Competition allowing the team to progress through to the regional final.



## Canoe Polo

The team won a very impressive Gold after an extremely tough series of matches in the B-League at Cardiff University's Canoe Polo Tournament.



# Hockey

An excellent season with over 180 pupils taking part in 15 teams each week. The 1st XI had a 100% win rate and the U12s were plate winners at the regional finals putting them in 5th position in the south region. Pre-season training for the older boys in San Sebastian, set the teams up to compete well in the ISHL and the U16s won their county rounds without losing a game. The 1st XI won their ISHL for the second time in three years. The Club has also set up a partnership with premier league power Reading Hockey Club, providing top level coaching.



# Basketball

The U18 team played with a tremendous amount of confidence and skill with notable victories over Radley, Stowe, D'Overbroecks and Magdalen College School. Win and Adewale have done a super job as captains this year and have led the team incredibly well.



# Sailing

Students enjoyed a demanding RYA winter match racing training weekend in Weymouth. The sailors rose to the challenge despite the wind strength being the maximum it could be without cancelling the event.



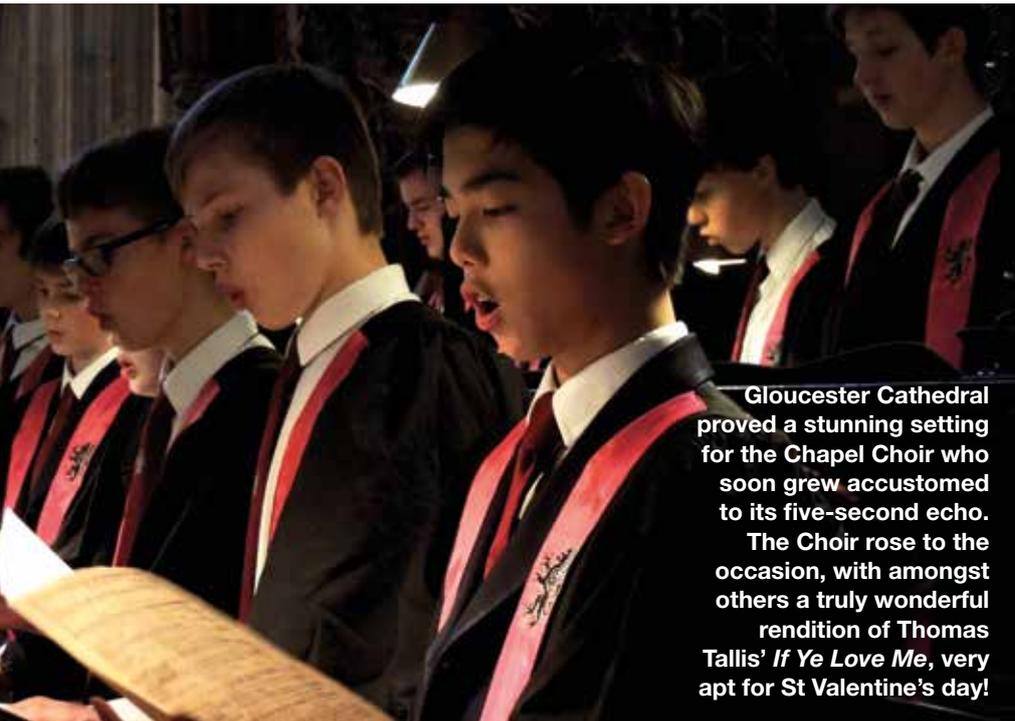
# Squash

In the national finals of the National Schools Plate Competition every boy played outstandingly well against strong opposition. Victories against Bryanston and King's Canterbury led to Exeter in the final where we were unlucky to lose by a narrow margin.

# Football

The Football Club had a good term with a number of firsts including the introduction of Futsal, the U16 As' fixture vs Oxford United and weekly Goalkeeper Clinics with Oxford United's Head of Goalkeeping, Wayne Brown. There were block wins over Radley, Haileybury and Wellingborough, with some terrific results v Hampton including the U14 As' 4-3 win. The 1st XI beat Magdalen College School 1-0 in the Friday night lights, and have won 8 and drawn 5 of the 14 games played.





Gloucester Cathedral proved a stunning setting for the Chapel Choir who soon grew accustomed to its five-second echo. The Choir rose to the occasion, with amongst others a truly wonderful rendition of Thomas Tallis' *If Ye Love Me*, very apt for St Valentine's day!



## Choral Evening

This is one of the highlights of the academic year at Abingdon, it's a time when all the choirs come together to celebrate their achievements.

## Chamber Music Workshop

Students of all ages enjoyed a coaching workshop with pianists and strings, woodwind and brass musicians benefitting from some expert tuition from the Music department. Groups included a cello ensemble playing Argentinian tangos, a clarinet ensemble playing Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a very exciting senior quartet playing Shostakovich and Dvorak's truly symphonic Piano Quartet.



## Solo Concert Platforms

The Solo Concert Platforms 3 and 4 showcased some excellent performances from our musicians across a range of solo instruments. The fifth year GCSE musicians were also able to practise their solo pieces in front of parents and peers.



## Menine Brass Quartet

The young professional brass quartet inspired our brass players at an afternoon workshop and then treated us to a lively evening recital in the Amey theatre.

The afternoon proved to be a hugely enjoyable and successful learning experience for all involved.



## Intermediate Solo Competition

Our fourth annual Intermediate Solo Competition showcased the talents of ten of the School's musicians, the criteria for entry being grades 6 to 8. The competition was of a very high standard throughout. The winner's cup went to violinist, Oliver Breach, for his lovely playing of Kodaly, 2nd place to clarinettist, Matthew Houlst and 3rd to pianist, Nicholas Raptakis.

## Katya Lebedeva's Masterclass



Prominent Russian pianist and teacher, Katya Lebedeva, led the piano masterclass with some of the School's pianists in a fantastic evening of teaching and learning. Miss Lebedeva is a highly successful performer and teaches at Trinity Laban Conservatoire and the Royal College of Music.



## Lower School Entertain

Lower school musicians had the chance to play in front of their peers in this term's Lower School lunchtime concert. As well as solo items on guitar, saxophone, and harp, the audience was treated to performances by Junior Brass, Junior Blues and the Lower School Band.

## Chamber Music Concert



The annual Chamber Music Concert took place on an unexpectedly balmy February evening. The programme included 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.

## Far East Benefit Concert



The benefit concert for this summer's Japan and Hong Kong tour was a lovely opportunity to raise both awareness and funds for our exciting 10 days in the Far East with the First Orchestra and Big Band. There were around 200 boys involved with three orchestras, three bands, two jazz ensembles and the entire Second Year in a choir.



## Singers' Platform

Eight of Abingdon's singers, aged between 13 and 18 entertained an appreciative audience with a repertoire from the 18th to 20th centuries.



## Intriguing visitors

There was much excitement as the younger boys welcomed two very special visitors to school, a pair of Humboldt penguins. The children listened in awe as their habitats, diet, lifestyle and special penguin features were explained.



## Year 7's Waxwork Museum

Year 7 used their persuasive skills to convince curators (the teachers) why different famous Victorian characters should not be melted down and replaced by another waxwork. The boys researched their characters, created collages and wrote persuasive speeches giving reasons why they should remain in the museum. The boys also dressed as their character and used a wide array of props (Mrs. Beeton's thick gingerbread was out of this world!).

## World Book Day



WG Grace, aka the Headmaster, paid a visit to the Prep School on World book Day. He welcomed pupils and staff dressed up as characters from history and their favourite books. The boys' costumes showed real imagination and spanned the centuries from Alfred the Great and many eminent Victorians to Steve Jobs.



## Sport

It's been a very busy and successful term on the football pitch with every boy in Years 3-8 representing the school in fixtures. The U13A team put in some fine performances and the U10As were unbeaten. On the hockey pitch, boys have all improved greatly as the term progressed and they spent more time with stick in hand on the Astro.

## Dragon Days



As part of their drama and music programme, Years 3 and 4 put on a lively and entertaining musical production for parents and pupils. The boys gave excellent performances in an all singing and dancing extravaganza!

## Taking on the Headmaster



Year 5 was just completing their CDT table football project when Michael Windsor, Headmaster of the Senior School, popped in to take a look. With pride at stake and a supportive crowd, the boys took on the headmaster in a tight match.



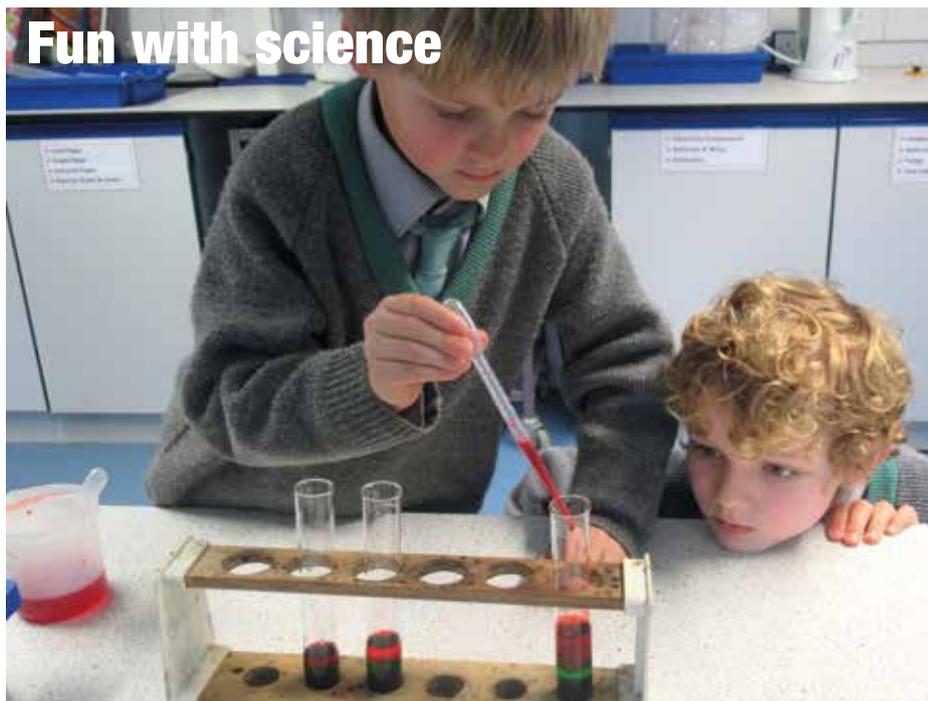
## National Prep Schools Cross-country Championships

The Prep picked up first place in the U13 individual race and third place as a team. The U11 squad also put in a good performance finishing seventh.

## Scholarships

This term saw a strong academic focus as the scholarship set took their exams for senior schools. It has been an incredibly successful year with two music scholarships and six music exhibitions, five academic scholarships, three sport and one art scholarship.

## Fun with science



All year groups had a lot of fun during science week in March with activities ranging from Reception creating green slime to Science Oxford leading workshops for the older boys. Outside of the science covered in the curriculum boys enjoyed hands on experiments in the two science clubs, offered as part of the Other Half. Amongst the activities, boys made keyrings from recycling foam cups and created rainbows in a test tube.

## House Music Festival

The festival was a two day event this year beginning with the Junior and Middle Sections and featuring 14 instrumentalists and six singers with a new addition, the Debbie Rose Singing Cup presented for the first time. All boys performed confidently and with great musicality. The second day saw the Seniors on stage. The standard was extremely high with eight of the finalists recent recipients of music awards to senior schools. The two day festival was inspiring and a testament to the wealth of musical talent we have at the Prep.



## Art in Action



As ever the creations coming out of the art studio this term were fantastic. Projects included drawing enticing homemade cakes, which were later devoured with enthusiasm, experimenting with water colours and exploring Indian and Mexican art.

The Senior Section showed talent and commitment as the boys rose to the challenge of this ambitious production.



## Animal Farm

# Pressure, Perfectionism, Performance anxiety

– a pastoral perspective

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

It is easy to forget that many people revel in pressure: going on stage after weeks of rehearsals, running out for a local derby match, hearing the auditorium swell with the solo you have dreamt of performing – all of these can be moments of real exhilaration that can be affirming and incredibly satisfying. So too with academia and school life. If you have worked hard for a test or an exam, and feel confident in your preparation, then turning over the paper and seeing your ideal question can be a very positive experience.

## How can we help?

The issue comes if you feel that there is too much riding on it, or if you feel that the task before you is overwhelming or unmanageable. It doesn't take much for your moment in the limelight to shift from a dream into a nightmare where you are exposed to public humiliation and ridicule. Desirable difficulty is something we should embrace, but with exams looming how do we help students to keep a sense of perspective and an appropriately positive attitude?

Critically, we all need to remember that pupils will feed off the approach of adults. All children know that there is a lot that is riding

on exams – as staff, and perhaps more crucially as parents, we need to make sure that we aren't underplaying their importance and being patronising about what students are feeling as exam season looms. Equally we need children to know that their worth is not dependent on an external stamp of approval. Pupils need to know their parents' love is not dependent on grades, and their value to the school isn't defined by whether they are an A\* candidate or an Oxbridge place holder.

## Enjoy the Journey

Perhaps we should take a lesson from the sports' psychologists: we need to embrace the process, rather than being too focused on the outcome. In the hurly-burly of a teenager's life it is easy for him to get so obsessed by his desired destination that he forgets to enjoy the journey. The important thing is not what the exam results are, but what has been learnt in the process. Can your child look at themselves and say that they worked as hard as they possibly could? If they can then they have done excellently, whatever appears on the results' slip; if they can't say they worked hard, it might be that they will learn more from that setback than if they had squeaked an extra grade here or there.



## In conversation with...

Jacqui Summons (left) and Karen Hope (right), Co-chairs of ASPA in their first year



### What inspired you to take on the co-chair roles?

**KH** The previous chair, Kerensa, and fortunately she still has a son at the school so is still supporting us whenever we need to be pointed in the right direction!

**JS** As my husband has taken on a lot of voluntary roles, including school parent associations, I thought it was finally my turn as we enter the last three years of having any children at school.

### How does the shared role work between you?

**KH** Jacqui and I work in a very similar way but we do try to split responsibilities, for example, Jacqui looks after the Classlist link whereas I tend to coordinate the events. The critical things are regular and prompt communication between the two of us and the fact that we get on really well!

**JS** I would agree entirely with Karen's response and the fact that we knew we both worked in quite a similar way. It is incredible how many times she will make a suggestion and I 100% agree with her view (and it works vice versa too!)

### How do you juggle the role as working mums?

**KH** Having a joint role means that we can flex the workload between us. Our main aim is to involve the rest of the committee and as many parent volunteers as possible so that many people are doing a little bit rather than responsibility falling on the shoulders of just a few.

**JS** Sharing the role makes it workable but there are peaks and troughs. I started a new job working in Leeds a week before our 80's night and Karen's support made this not quite as impossible as it might have been!

### What are your hopes for ASPA during your time as co-chair?

**KH** ASPA has been so successful at connecting Abingdon parents and supporting the school that we want to continue to achieve these aims but to move forward with new systems. For example, Classlist means parents can contact one another directly and hopefully improve our communication methods.

**JS** We're just starting to hear more about a new initiative at Abingdon School, the Partnership Programme. This looks as though it may offer some really interesting opportunities for our future events to help fund the initiative. Primarily, we exist to support social contact between parents, and fundraising is only part of our remit, but I hope that parents will really get behind the new funding opportunities that will open up.

### How can other parents get involved?

**KH** We would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved either within the committee or on an event specific basis.

**JS** One of my favourite quotes is, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." It is so often the case that those that volunteer to help at ASPA events have incredibly busy lives and we really do try to spread the load so that "every little helps".



### What would you say to a new (or current!) parent about ASPA (eg how it helps the school, helps them as parents)?

**KH** Aside from connecting parents through Classlist and social events (why let the boys have all the fun!) ASPA also supports the school by donating any profits we do make back into projects that support the boys and especially the new partnership agreements where the school is able to support the local community.

**JS** Quite often when children join secondary school, parents have established friendship groups, formed during primary school years or from work, home life etc. We have found that ASPA has helped us to forge new friendships and support during the challenging teenage years and we have had a lot of fun along the way!

### How you can help?

If you'd like to help out in any way, even as a one-off, we'd love to hear from you! And if you fancy a role on the Committee, we're also looking for a new Treasurer. Drop us a line at [aspa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:aspa@abingdon.org.uk)

# Abingdon Development

Guests were invited to join the Headmaster in the Common Room for post-dinner drinks



## Foundation Dinner

On Friday 8 March, around 130 governors, benefactors, staff and students gathered for the annual Foundation Dinner. Guests heard from Headmasters of the Abingdon Foundation, Michael Windsor and Craig Williams, as well as from the Chairman of Governors, Mike Stevens.

Our growing partnership programme was highlighted in particular, and sixth form students Lancelot Wilson, Iman Taghol and Alasdair Czaplewski spoke compellingly about their own involvement as partnership ambassadors. Each concluded that committing to partnership projects in conjunction with neighbouring schools had enabled them to build and develop confidence in life skills that are bound to serve them well in life beyond Abingdon. Special thanks to our prefects who supported the evening in welcoming our guests.

## New Legacy Society for Abingdon School

Abingdon's new legacy society aims to facilitate recognition of, and pay thanks to, future benefactors. Membership is for all those who let us know that they are intending to leave the School a legacy in their will. Legators and their partners will be invited to an annual lunch and receive priority invitations to various school events.

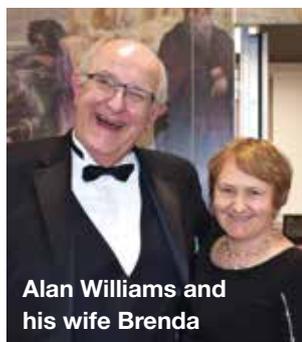
Many, many Old Abingdonians, former members of staff, governors and parents have over the centuries remembered the School in their wills – from Abbot John de Blosneville in 1256 to Hugh Leach (OA 1953) who died in 2015. Future legacies will



**Hugh Leach,**  
legator

enable the school to offer bursary places to even more boys and contribute to the School's facilities.

We are delighted that Alan Williams (OA 1965) has agreed to become the inaugural Chairman of this new society. Alan benefited from a Direct Grant place at Abingdon School before becoming an immigration judge. He believes strongly that boys from all walks of life should have the possibility of an Abingdon education, just as he did. Should you like more information about leaving a legacy, please contact Alexa Broad. [alexa.broad@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:alexa.broad@abingdon.org.uk) or tel: 01235 849117



**Alan Williams and his wife Brenda**

## Saying 'Thank You'

We are delighted to be able to host the Headmaster's garden party for the second year running in the beautiful surroundings of Lacies Court garden. This is an opportunity to thank all those who lend their time and efforts to support aspects of school life including donors, legators and volunteers. The party will be followed by the end of year concert in the Amey Theatre which this year will showcase our Abingdon musicians from First Orchestra and Big Band before they head off on tour to Japan and Hong Kong.

**Headmaster's garden party,  
Friday 28 June 2019.**



Legators will be presented with a set of Fionarea Cufflinks in recognition of their intent to contribute to Abingdon School.

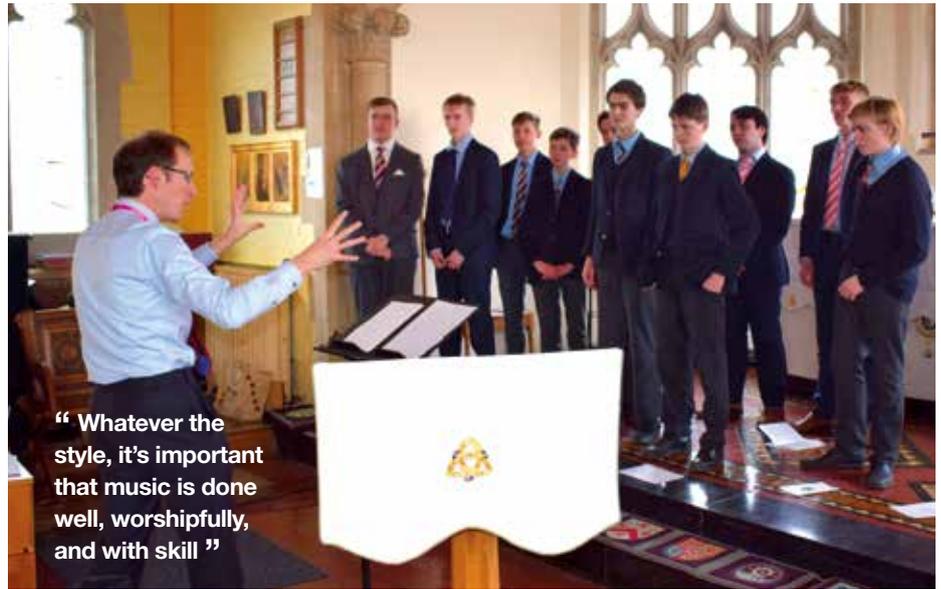


## Choral Workshop with Hugh Morris (OA 1995)

**Hugh Morris, director of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) treated our choristers to a choral workshop when he visited Abingdon on Monday 11 March.**

As CEO of this national and international charity since August 2018, the role combines the strands of music, education and the church which have threaded through his life over the last 20 years. A Cambridge degree led on to a series of posts in churches and schools, from Northumberland to the Dorset coastline, moving with his family to Derbyshire in 2015, as he took up the position of Director of Music at Derby Cathedral.

Hugh remarked: "I've taken a few bold steps into the unknown over the years, and as a musician have inevitably worked for only modest financial gain; the payback is in the great fulfilment of the work itself. I can say, with absolute certainty, that I would never have travelled the journey I have without Abingdon; it began with me joining the Chapel Choir in the First Form. When you're at a school, you perhaps don't realise how fortunate you are. I think that as pupils, we all assumed to an extent that all schools had the same amazingly rich extra-curricular life. Not so: and it is something both to celebrate and to embrace as an Abingdon pupil. Who knows where it might take you?"



**“ Whatever the style, it’s important that music is done well, worshipfully, and with skill ”**

## OA Football

OAs gathered at Tilsley Park for the annual OA football match. The play was impressively energetic, with a team of 2011, 2013 and 2017 leavers set against 2004, 2015 and 2018 leavers. The match proved to be competitive, with goals scored from both sides but the 2011, 2013 and 2017 team clinched victory finishing 5-4. The afternoon culminated with plenty of socialising over well-earned refreshments at the Tilsley Park bar.



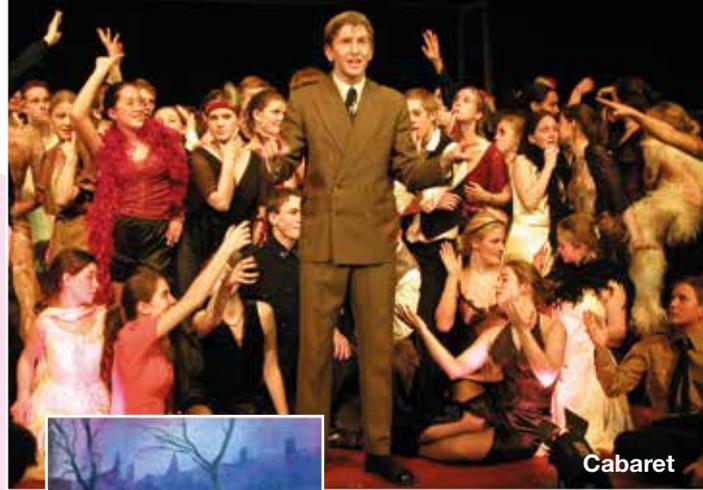
## Forthcoming OA Events:

- 50s, 60s Dinner  
Friday 10 May, Salisbury Cathedral
- OA Golf Day  
Monday 13 May, Frilford Heath Golf Club
- OA Croquet  
Saturday 15 June, Abingdon School
- Year Group Reunions - (1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009, 2017)  
Saturday 15 June, Abingdon School
- OA Cricket  
Friday 21 June, Abingdon School
- OA Tennis  
Saturday 22 June
- Henley Royal Regatta  
Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July
- OA Rugby  
Saturday 31 August, Abingdon School

# Abingdon Out of the Past

## Abingdon News Reaches its 50th Edition

The first edition of the Abingdon News was published at the beginning of the Lent term 2003. Among many other items, it reported on the demolition of the old Ingham Music School prior to the building of the Arts Centre; on the previous term's production of *Cabaret*; on the opening of the school uniform shop and on preparations for the exhibition, *Secret Art*, where anonymous postcard-sized works of art were sold for £5 to raise money for the Arts Centre.



Cabaret



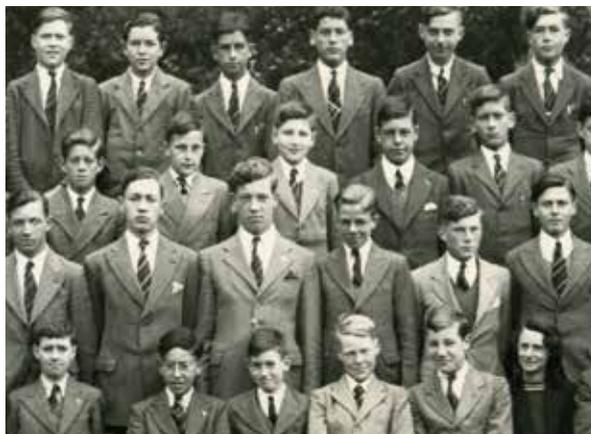
Secret Art



South Wall, Amey Theatre



Ingham Music School



School photograph 1942, **Michael Moschytz**, second row from the back, third boy from the left



School photograph 1942, **Peter Bodenstein**, second row from the front, fourth from the left

## Time Remembered

**A recent email from George Moschytz (Mosczytz) OA 1947, recalled a period in the School's history when it educated a number of Jewish boys, refugees from Hitler's Europe.**

The first to come was seventeen-year-old Wolfgang Schafer who arrived from Vienna in January 1939 under the sponsorship of Miss Tatham, an Abingdon Quaker. After university Schafer, a passionate supporter of Jewish aspirations in Palestine, joined the Israeli army and was killed in action on 26 December 1948. His father died in September 1942 in Mauthausen, an Austrian labour camp.

Michael Moschytz came in November 1939 having been at school in Baden, Germany, 1936-38; Davos, Switzerland, February-April 1939, and Buxton, Derbyshire, May-June 1939. His brother, George Moschytz came in 1944. Their mother's sister had married an Englishman who was their sponsor. Their father, Dr Norbert Moschytz, a lung specialist, spent the war in Switzerland. The family were not reunited until 1948.

Josef Taglicht came to Britain from Berlin early in 1939 under the auspices of the Kindertransport. He only spent one month at Abingdon, October 1940. Peter Bodenstein came to Britain from Czechoslovakia. He was at Abingdon for a year, 1942-3. Harry Baecker also came from Czechoslovakia. He spent seven years at the school, 1943-1950, as did Wilfred Olscher, 1942-49. Olscher had previously been at school in Vienna.

George Moschytz, emailing from Israel this January, remembered with gratitude how Abingdon and England had 'essentially saved' his family from 'the havoc and chaos that Hitler and most of Europe brought upon us and our people'.



@abingdonschool



@abingdonschool



@abingdon\_school