

ABINGDON



# sixth form





## What are you looking for from Sixth Form?

**Career advice? Extensive choice of A level and Pre-U subjects? Expert help with university admissions?**

Sixth Form represents a transition from school to further education and at Abingdon we encourage boys to take on responsibility and independence and to enjoy a relationship with the school and staff that more closely resembles university education.

Our Sixth Form has a co-educational feel with some joint lessons with the girls from St Helen and St Katharine and there is plenty of social life whether it's the Griffen Ball at the end of the year or less formal occasions such as Abingdon's Got Talent.

[Click on any of the pink links on the following pages for further information.](#)



## Here's what Abingdon offers

### A level choices and curriculum

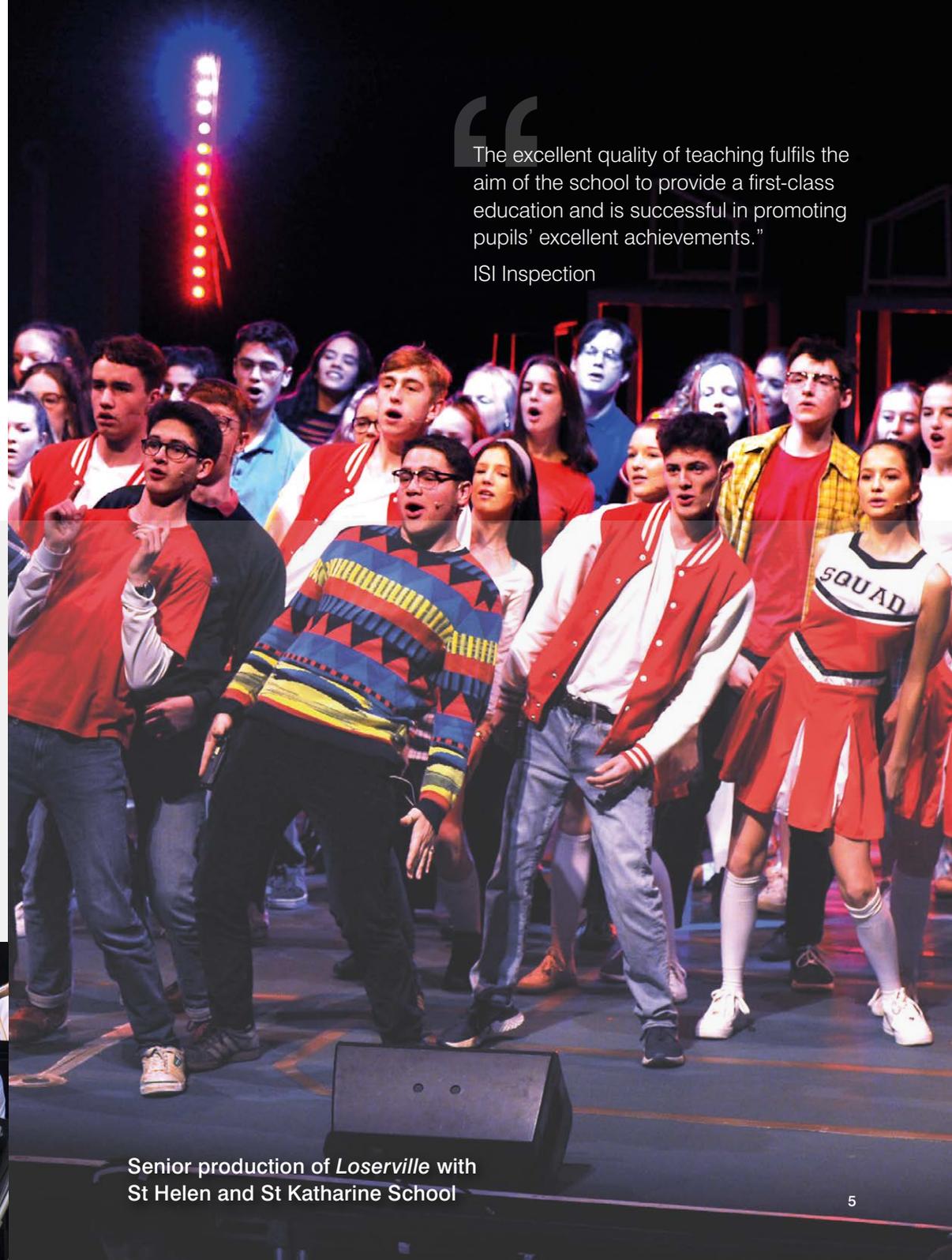
At Abingdon we are able to accommodate almost all of the nearly 150 combinations of A level subjects that our students request. We fit our timetable around the subjects our students want to take and not vice versa.

In most years we teach 24 A level and Pre-U subjects. Drama, DT, Government and Politics and Economics are currently taught jointly with the girls from St Helen's.

### Sixth Form Centre

Placed at the heart of the school, the Sixth Form Centre occupies the ground floor of Beech Court with open plan social learning spaces, social and private study areas, a collaborative working area, meeting rooms, outside seating and an "innovation room" to encourage 'free-thinking'.

The careers office, UCAS facilities and sixth form staff are all 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 excellent quality of teaching fulfils the aim of the school to provide a first-class education and is successful in promoting pupils' excellent achievements.”

ISI Inspection

Senior production of *Loserville* with St Helen and St Katharine School

## Here's what Abingdon offers

Alongside the main curriculum, we offer a number of academic extension opportunities including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Usually, it's also possible to offer GCSE languages (German and Spanish) as well as a Creative Writing qualification.

Those seeking higher level study in specific subjects (particularly those aiming for an Oxbridge or medical application) will find that departments provide academic extension in the form of additional classes, support for competition entries and writing opportunities.

### Further information:

- Students initially study four subjects in the Lower Sixth, with the option to focus on three from the Lent term of the Lower Sixth.
- There is provision for those students wishing to pursue four subjects to A level or five subjects if studying Further Maths.
- Class sizes range from 5 to 16, averaging around 12 or 13
- A level [results by subject](#)
- Details of [sixth form curriculum](#)





### Applying to university

In the last two school inspections the ISI **commented** on how impressed they were both with the quality of the advice given to and the **university destinations** of our students. We have a specialist **team of advisors** who guide boys (and their parents) through the admissions process whether it's in the UK or abroad.

The majority of students are offered places at their first or second choice of university, mostly Russell Group institutions, with 10-15% receiving offers from Oxford and Cambridge each year. The range of subjects they study reflects the very diverse nature of our Sixth Form and the boys within it.

We have a full time Career Guidance service and a wide range of initiatives to help students decide what the next few years will involve, whether it's a gap year or even a move straight into employment.

Sixth formers benefit from the active Old Abingdonian Club which provides, alongside our parent organisation, bespoke career advice, work experience, and networking opportunities plus awards for sixth formers who are looking to travel in the summer holidays or during a gap year.

## Personal Development

We appreciate that maturity doesn't happen overnight and some boys need more supervision than others; tutors and teachers get to know students well and understand what suits each individual. Students remain with the same **tutor** throughout the Sixth Form and this tutor is the principal link between home and school.

Our Personal Development Education (PDE) programme covers the two years in the Sixth Form.

In the Lower Sixth the programme consists of 'Mindsets' with around six lectures per year looking at academic and personal issues specific to sixth form life.

In the Upper Sixth, this becomes a series of roundabout sessions delivered by staff on subjects related to moving on into adult life. The Upper Sixth also attend the Mindsets lectures.





## Activities

With over 120 **Other Half** activities on offer and as wide-ranging as journalism, film-making, product design, composing and Model United Nations, there is plenty to do wherever your interests lie.

**Drama**, **Music** and **Sport** feature strongly throughout the Sixth Form. There are individual and team sports from rugby and rowing to basketball, cross-country, fencing and shooting and whether you are aiming to represent your country or tour Scotland with the third XV, there is something for everyone.

Many Abingdonians go on to make a career on the stage, David Mitchell, Toby Jones and Tom Hollander to name a few. We are also one of only a handful of schools with an award-winning **Film Unit**. Much of the sixth form drama takes place with the girls from St Helen's – take a look at our most recent productions **Government Inspector** and **Loserville**.

As well-known for musicians as actors and sportsmen, Old Abingdonians include all five members of Radiohead and many classical musicians. There are regular opportunities to perform at Abingdon, in venues across the UK and on overseas tours. Further information on **Music** at Abingdon.

There are numerous opportunities to travel and explore with kayaking, canoeing, sailing and walking expeditions through **The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**. Recent overseas trips have included trekking in Vietnam, field trips in Madagascar and Iceland, rowing in the USA, music in Japan, rugby in South America, cosmonaut training in Russia and volunteering in Moldova.

## Boarding

Weekly and full boarding are popular options at Abingdon and almost half of our boarders are sixth formers. Boarders benefit from the School's superb facilities and from a full activity programme. With no commute to and from school, there's plenty of time to study and to enjoy boarding life.

## The School Day

- 9am – 4pm** Lessons and study periods – usually four lessons of 50 or 55 minutes. These include academic lessons, enrichment activities, extensions lessons and core sport.
- 4pm – 5pm** Other Half activities.
- Each day includes lunch and mid-morning breaks. Some Other Half activities take place at lunchtime and on Wednesday afternoons.
- Homework** A minimum of 4 hours per week per subject.



## Entry Requirements

If you would like to know more about how to join our Sixth Form please see the [sixth form admissions information](#).

If you have any questions you would like to ask our Head of Sixth Form please email: [nick.odoherty@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:nick.odoherty@abingdon.org.uk)



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ABINGDON

independent day and boarding school  
for boys aged 4 to 18 years

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