

School Life

be...

# be aspirational

Focused and ambitious, Abingdonians  
have the drive to succeed

School Life



# be quizzical

Passionate and perceptive, Abingdonians  
are curious about the world

School Life





# be gutsy

Bold and determined, Abingdonians  
are not afraid of a challenge

School Life



Bright and open-minded, Abingdonians  
are independent thinkers

School Life

be sharp





# be thoughtful

Generous and considerate, Abingdonians think about their place in the world and support one another

School Life



# be you



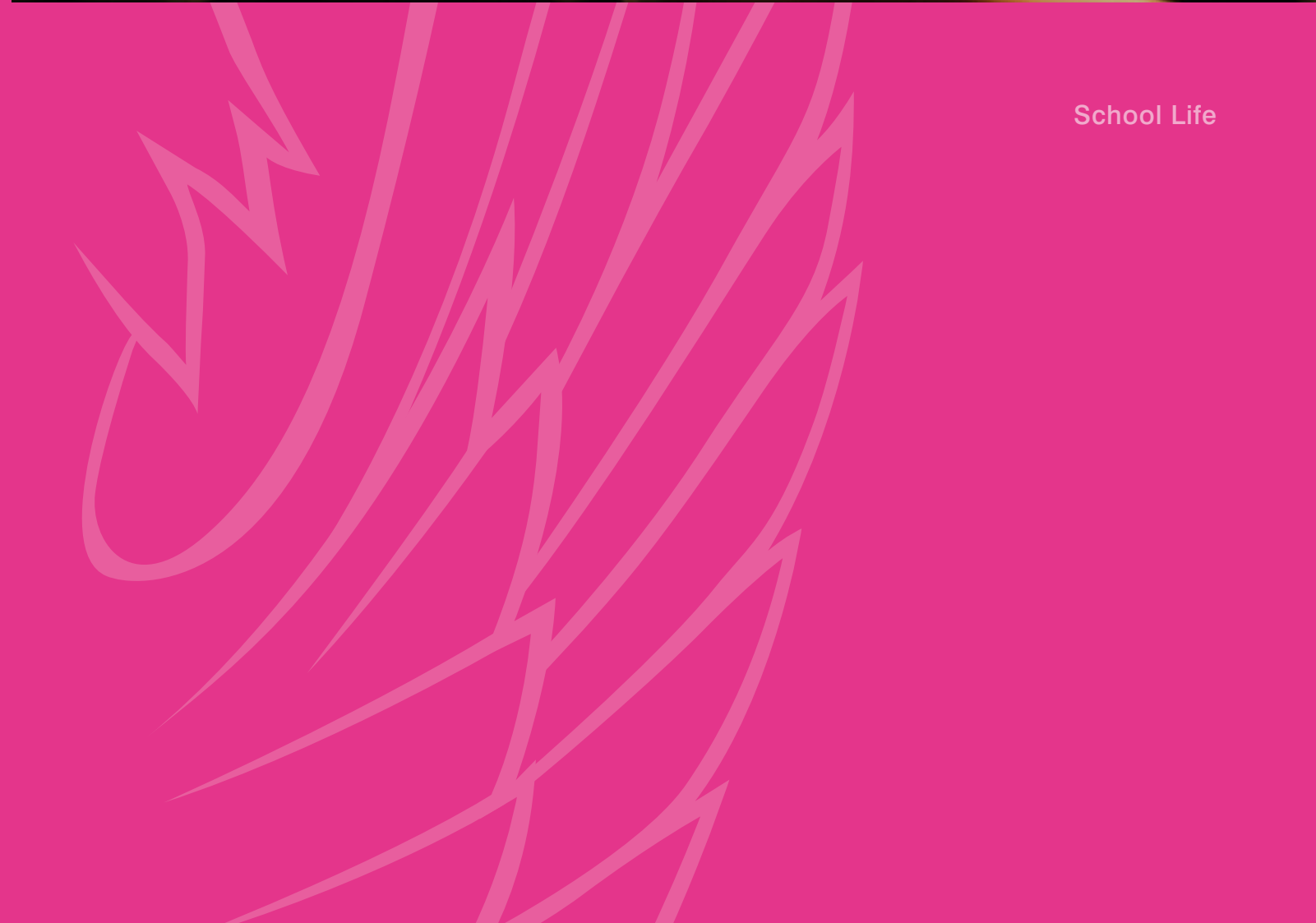
Although Abingdon is based on long traditions of scholarship and learning, it's also a school that embraces innovation and fresh thinking. Our pupils are remarkable young people with exciting futures, and we encourage them to think for

themselves and to develop a spirit of independence that will enable them to thrive in a rapidly-changing world. And while educating young people is a great responsibility that we take very seriously, our school is also a place of laughter, fun and discovery – a place where open-minded, confident and well-rounded young men are formed.

Mike Windsor,  
Headmaster











“The pupils are proud of their school and there is a true sense of belonging.”

ISI Inspection

## Academic

**Success isn't just about hard work. Success stems from passion and curiosity – which is why it's a natural outcome of an Abingdon education.**

The breadth and depth of our subjects, together with our encouragement of independent thinking, mean that each boy can follow his own interests and strengths – not filling an Abingdon mould, but thriving and succeeding in a unique way. We combine a wide variety of traditional academic subjects with contemporary disciplines, practical classes, cultural trips and the arts – all taught by our enthusiastic, expert staff who love to spark creative thinking and passionate debate, making learning a challenging and compelling experience for every boy in the class.

This means that students leave Abingdon with some of the best results in the country, well-equipped to continue their learning at any of the world's top universities and to enjoy fulfilling futures of exploration, discovery and accomplishment.





## The Other Half

We believe that classroom learning should only be one half of the reason for coming to school and only one half of what will be important to boys as they mature – which is why we devote so much time to our Other Half programme.

With dedicated space in the weekly timetable as well as after lessons, boys are free to choose a number of extra-curricular opportunities each term from our range of over 120 activities. They might be drawn to the excitement and camaraderie of the Combined Cadet Force or DofE, the mental challenges of chess or board-gaming, the journalistic opportunities of newspaper and magazine writing, the altruistic enjoyment of volunteering in the community, or the development of a new skill such as computer programming, debating, or robotics.

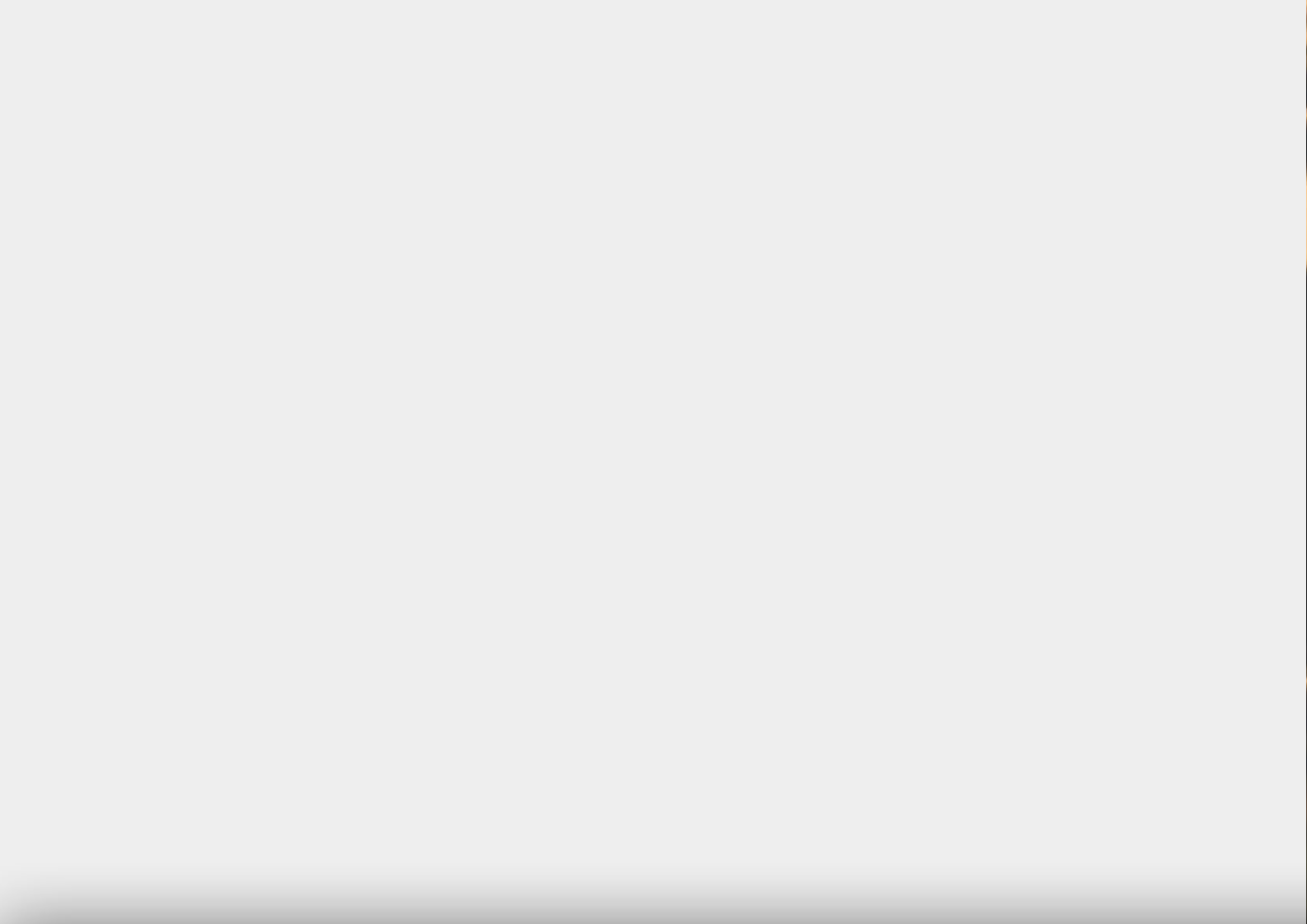
Whichever activities a boy pursues, the two halves of an Abingdon education add up to a whole school experience that enables our students to become well-rounded, resourceful and ambitious learners.



“There’s a great range of activities to do and a lovely atmosphere.”

Owen





“It’s great being all together in one house. It’s a proper community.”  
Josh

## Pastoral

School is a place of discovery, where boys learn about themselves and the world around them, and at its best this is a hugely exhilarating, fun and rewarding time. We want to make sure that all our boys are emotionally and mentally healthy so that they are able to enjoy their school experience – and to help each other to do the same.

That is why we have a strong emphasis on community. Every student belongs to a house throughout their time at Abingdon, creating a sense of family and putting them in the care of a dedicated housemaster. Each boy also has a personal tutor, who he meets with every day, as well as being a part of our peer-mentoring system, which encourages the boys to look out for one another. We also dedicate space in the timetable to think and talk about issues like healthy living, rights and responsibilities, self-esteem and relationships.

As a result we have a learning environment that develops our boys both intellectually and emotionally, giving them a balanced perspective on life and encouraging them to grow in resilience, confidence, generosity and kindness.





## Sport

**Sport is good for both the body and the mind, so from beginners to international athletes we offer every boy the opportunity to get involved and to develop in a wide range of sporting activities.**

Our Sports Centre is equipped with an eight-lane swimming pool, squash courts, a climbing wall and a series of fitness suites, as well as a martial arts and fencing studio. We also have 60 acres of sports pitches, including all-weather surfaces for hockey, football, rugby and athletics, and have a boathouse on the River Thames within easy reach of the school.

Both individual and team achievement is important and every boy is expertly coached to reach his full potential. There are frequent opportunities to compete and our boys have enjoyed great success at regional, national and international levels.

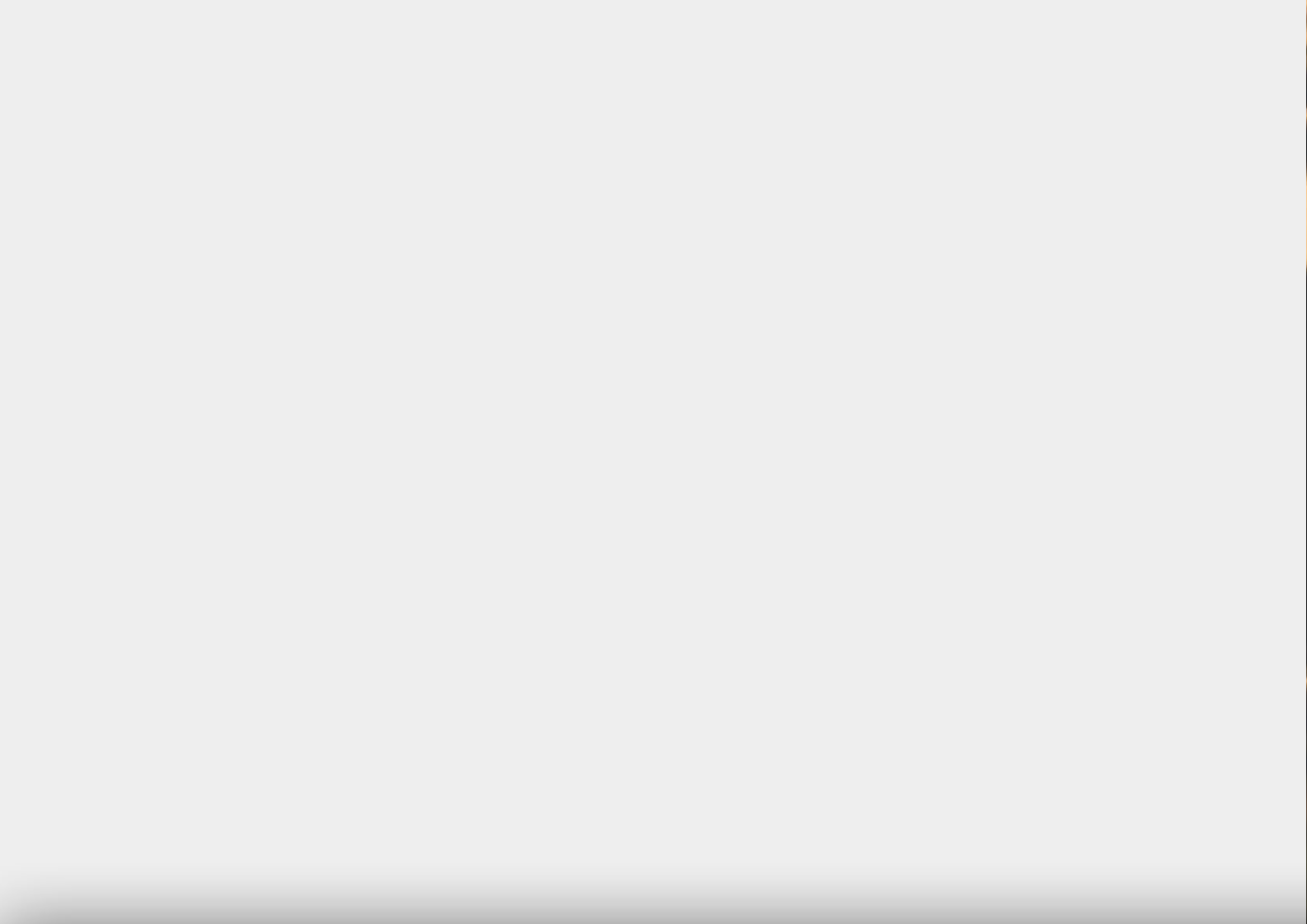
We value sport not only for its health and fitness benefits but also for the camaraderie, teamwork and self-motivation it inspires, and we're proud of the renowned dedication and good-sportsmanship of all our Abingdon teams.



“Rowing at Abingdon gave me a huge amount... it's an honour to be representing the School in the Boat Race. While I will be wearing dark blue, I will have my heart beating pink.”

*Ollie Cook, World Championship Rowing Gold Medallist*





## Creative Arts

During a formative time of exploration and discovery, **Art, Design and Technology** offers a significant opportunity for students to evaluate and express their thoughts, questions, feelings and observations.

In both timetabled lessons and Other Half activities, boys are encouraged to develop their creativity and design ideas through a variety of media – from painting and printmaking to ceramics, digital design, sculpture and woodwork. Our Art department houses a number of large studios, workshops and classrooms, each equipped for general Art, Design and Technology but also with specialist facilities, including a wide range of professional-standard machinery. And our highly-skilled staff – practising artists in their own right – strike a balance between helping the boys to master key skills and techniques and encouraging them to develop their imaginations and their ability to visually communicate ideas and meaning.

Regardless of age or ability, we find that the creative arts improve our boys' self-discipline, develop their lateral thinking skills and spark creativity and innovation across their studies.





## Drama

Whether boys prefer performing under the bright lights or managing them from behind the scenes, our Drama programme offers everyone a range of enjoyable and enriching new experiences.

Throughout their time at Abingdon, boys have the opportunity to learn theatre arts such as mime, stage combat, puppetry, sound and lighting techniques and set design, as well as familiarising themselves with a wide variety of writers and genres. To showcase these skills we produce a bold and entertaining mix of classical plays, musical theatre and contemporary work across the school year, many staged in our own 450-seat theatre and often in partnership with neighbouring girls' school St Helen and St Katharine. We also have our own award-winning Abingdon Film Unit, through which the boys can create their own short films under the guidance of a team of film-industry professionals.

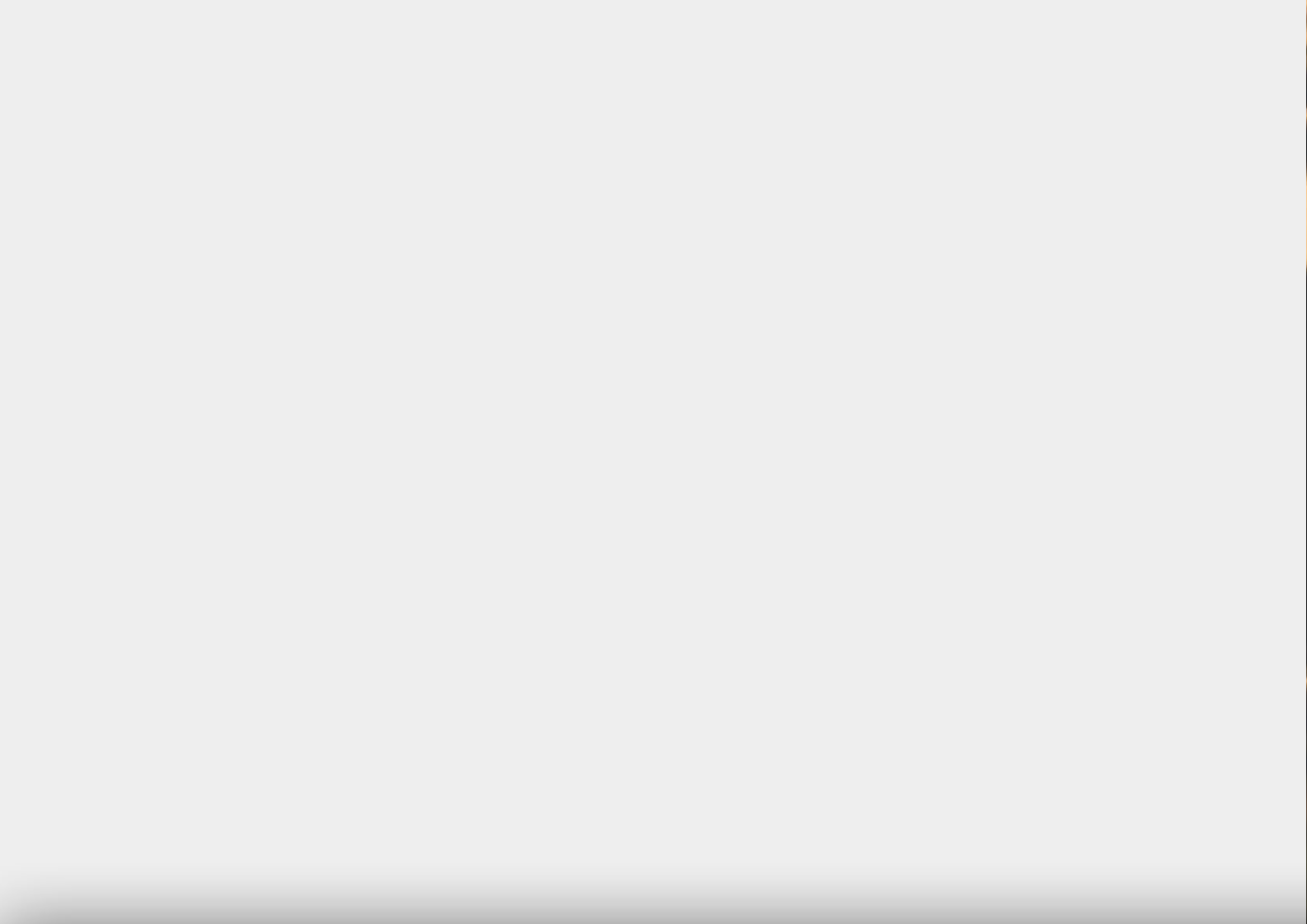
These creative endeavours not only improve the boys' confidence, cultural awareness and communication skills, but also give them a unique outlet for personal exploration and self-expression.



“We know the school, teachers and overall education, relationships and care at Abingdon is fantastic, the boys are proud and love their school.”

*A parent*





## Music

**Whatever style of music a boy prefers, and whether he wants to make it a career or enjoy it as a hobby, he'll find opportunities to explore and develop his musical interests at Abingdon.**

Music is a key part of both our curriculum and Other Half programme and the standard of our music education is high, with a number of students in most years going on to take Scholarships at top Oxbridge colleges and conservatoires. Yet we also make sure music is enjoyable for boys of all ages and

abilities. In addition to the availability of individual instrumental and vocal lessons, students can get involved with any number of orchestras, choirs and bands – from gospel to jazz, blues to classical.

We regularly stage a variety of concerts and musical theatre productions in our own impressive facilities, and many of the orchestras and choirs also have opportunities to tour and perform abroad. Wherever Abingdon boys perform, the same skill, creativity and love of music shines through.





## Boarding

Boarding houses are familiar second homes to boys, shared with the same students, housemaster and resident tutors throughout their time at the school. Day boys also belong to boarding houses, ensuring a good mix, and the friendships formed provide a stable and supportive foundation for academic exploration and learning.

The houses themselves encourage an active, fun and friendly community life – in addition to bedrooms and study areas, the boys have a variety of communal spaces with sociable activities like table-tennis, pool, computers and TV. We have a wonderful mix of local and international boarders, creating a vibrant and culturally diverse environment. A great variety of activities is available to the boys in non-school hours, including paintballing, sailing, punting, bowling, socials with girls' schools, and a wide-range of trips.

Our boarders also learn to take responsibility for organising their daily lives, engaging with simple tasks such as cooking and laundry as well as personal admin and money management, preparing them for independent life beyond school.



“The quality of boarding is excellent and parents are highly appreciative of the outcomes for boarders, the provision and care, and the leadership of boarding.”

*ISI Inspection*









## Facilities

We occupy an extensive site in the centre of Abingdon, six miles south of Oxford. Abingdon Prep School is on a separate site ten minutes away. Our facilities range from beautiful Victorian and Edwardian buildings to the hugely impressive Science Centre. The School is fortunate to possess a theatre and Arts Centre plus extensive sports facilities. A comprehensive building programme has seen the recent additions of a new Sixth Form Centre, library and art space and further new academic facilities and houserooms are due to open in autumn 2020.

Abingdon School OX14 1DE

Abingdon Prep School OX13 5NX  
10 minutes by car

### Additional Sports Facilities:

Tilsley Park OX14 1PU

Cox's Field OX13 6QL

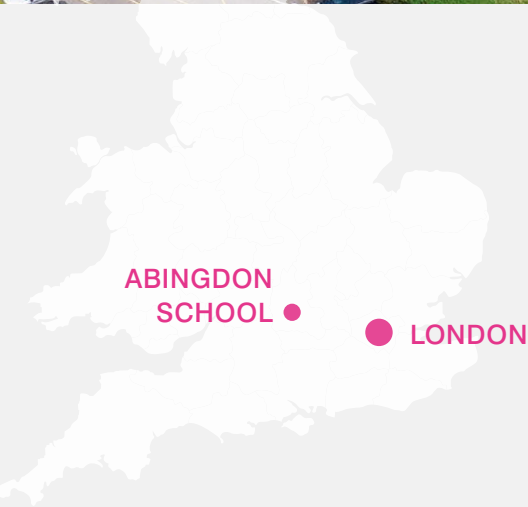
Abingdon School Boathouse OX14 5NP

**By Car** Oxford 15 minutes,  
central London 80 minutes  
(traffic dependent)

**By Train** Nearest rail stations  
Oxford and Didcot Parkway

**By Plane** London Heathrow  
Airport 60 minutes away by car

For further information on how  
to find us please visit  
[abingdon.org.uk](http://abingdon.org.uk)





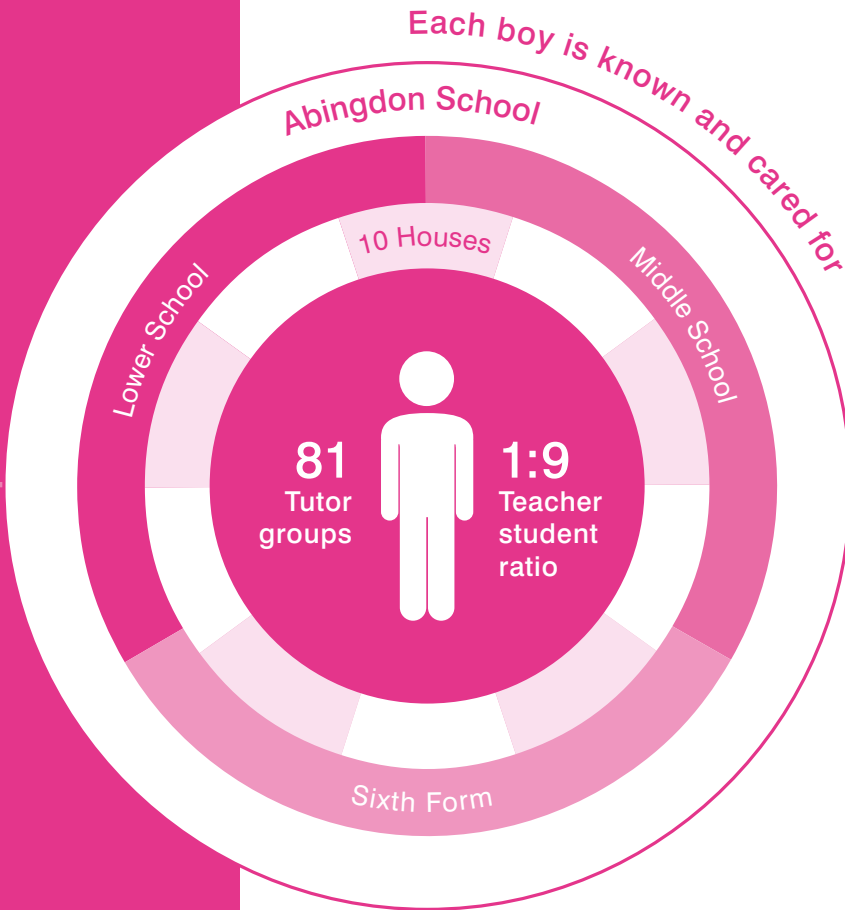
Facts

Some facts about  
Abingdon School

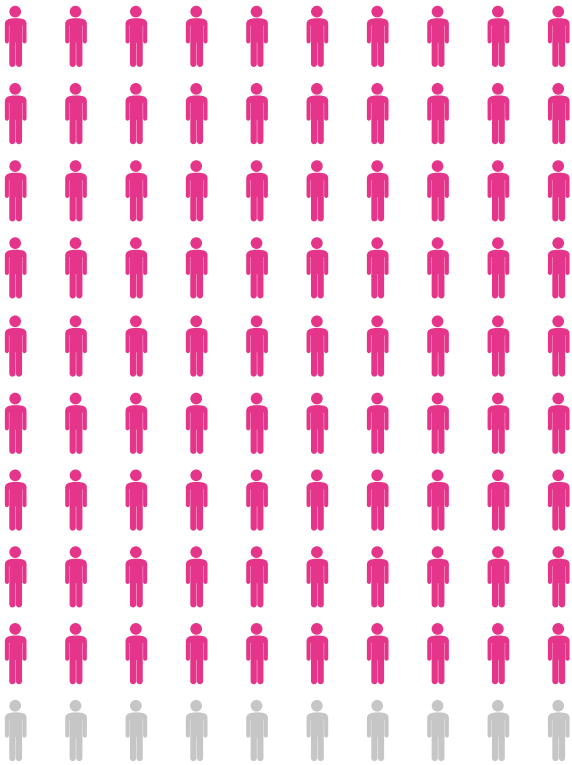
we are over  
**750**  
years old



Steeped in history but with a modern approach to learning, we continually evaluate our education to ensure each student can fulfil his potential.



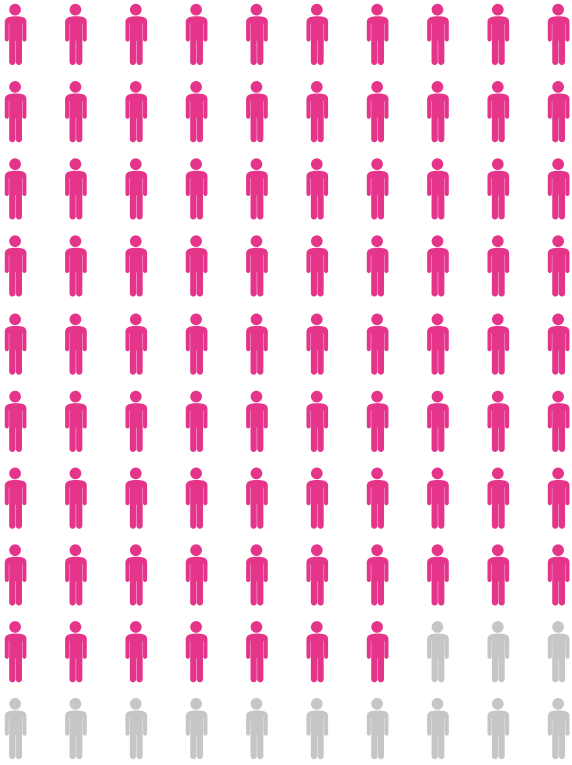
A level results 2019



90% of passes were awarded A\* to B grades

The results speak  
for themselves

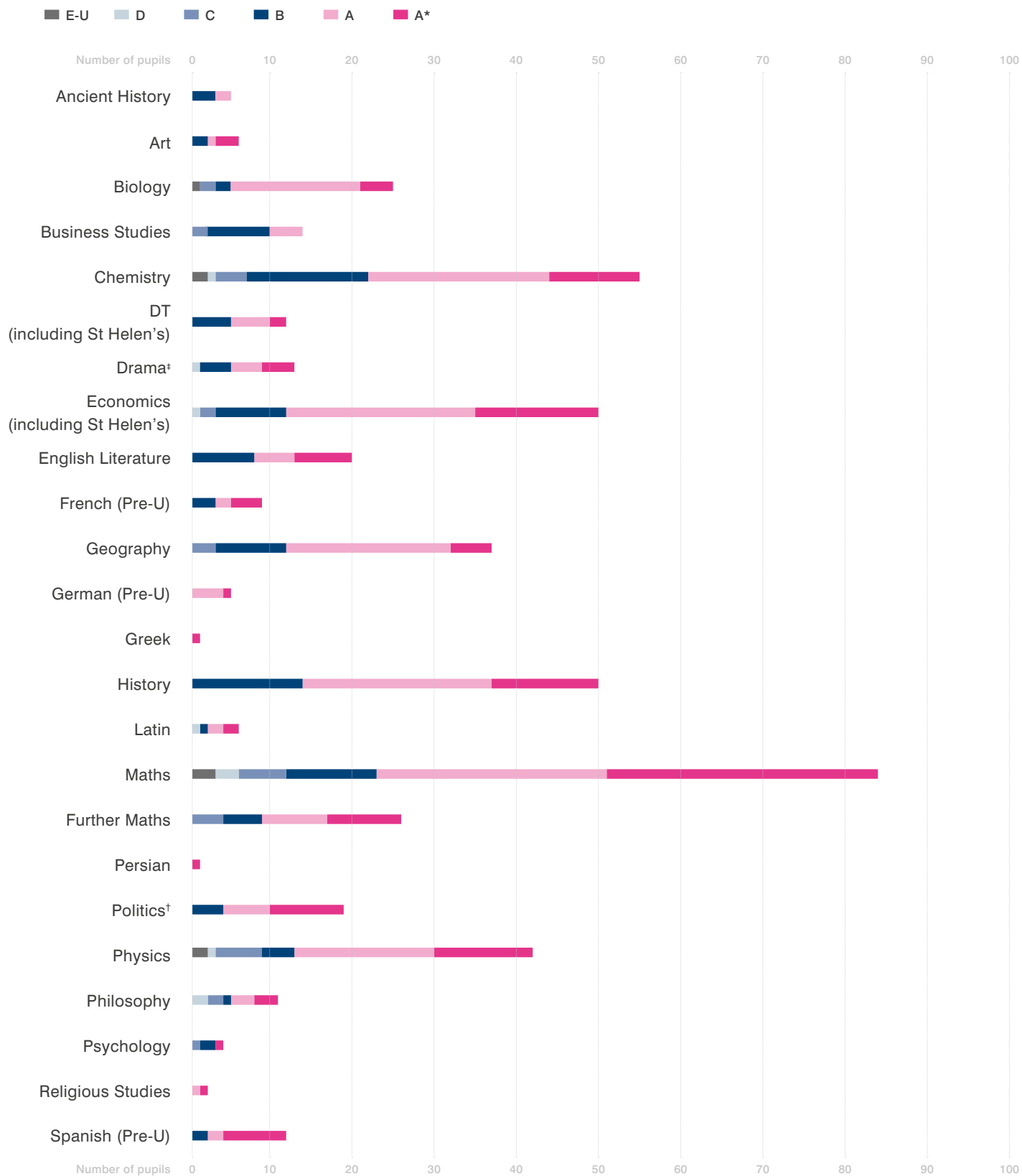
GCSE results 2019



87% of passes were awarded 9-7 or A\*-A grades



A level Results 2019

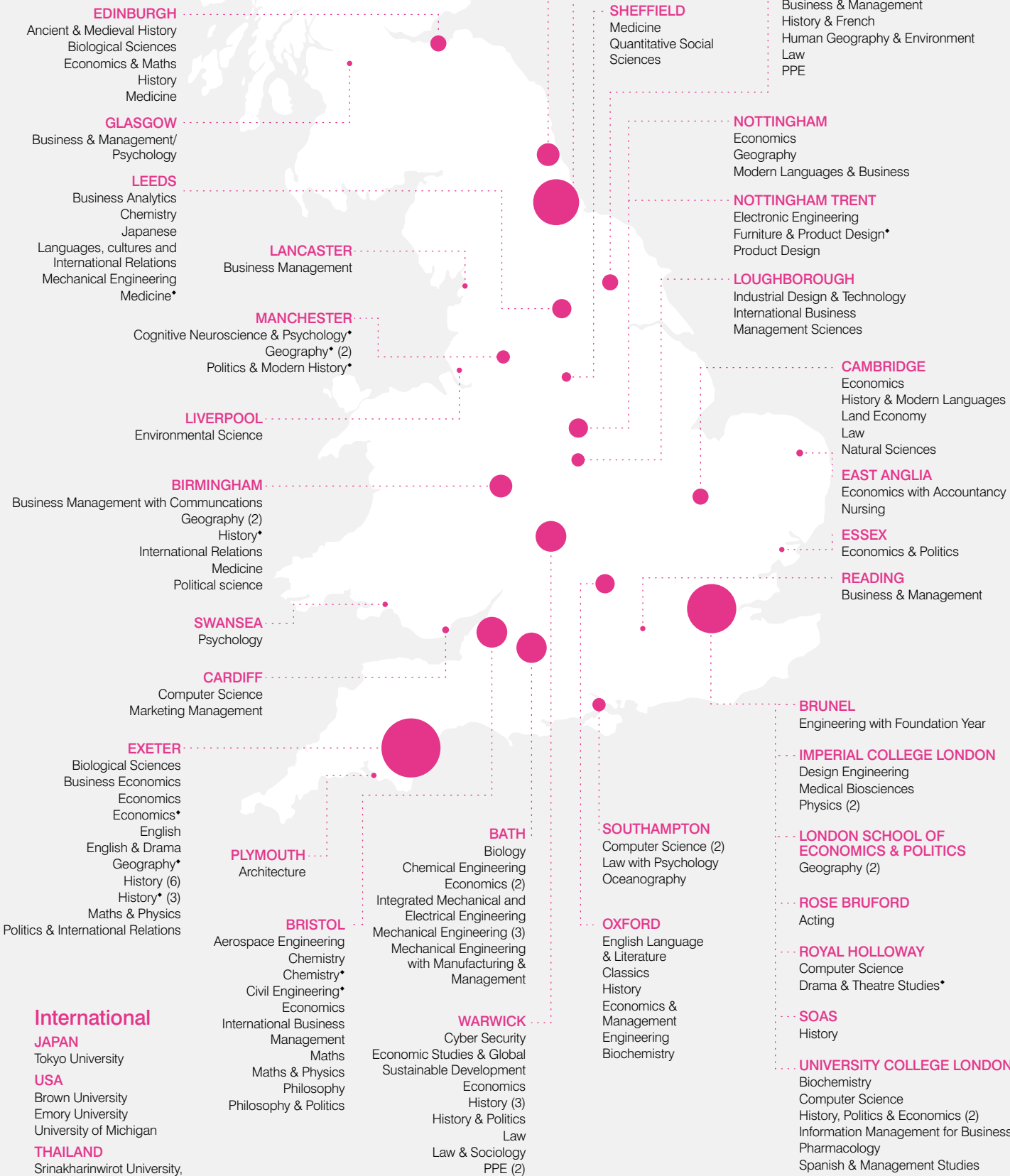


† taught at St Helen's   ‡ taught jointly with St Helen's   A level and GCSE statistics are pre-appeal totals.  
A level grade equivalencies have been used for Pre-U grades in the statistics above. Abingdon uses the Pre-U for French, German and Spanish.

Leavers' Destinations 2019

The list of university destinations is correct as of the end of August 2019: it refers to university places secured by those who applied in the 2018-19 UCAS application cycle. Where known, we have also included places won outside the UCAS system. We hope the list demonstrates the range of universities and courses for which Abingdon pupils are accepted. The number in brackets refers to the number of boys taking that course if more than one.

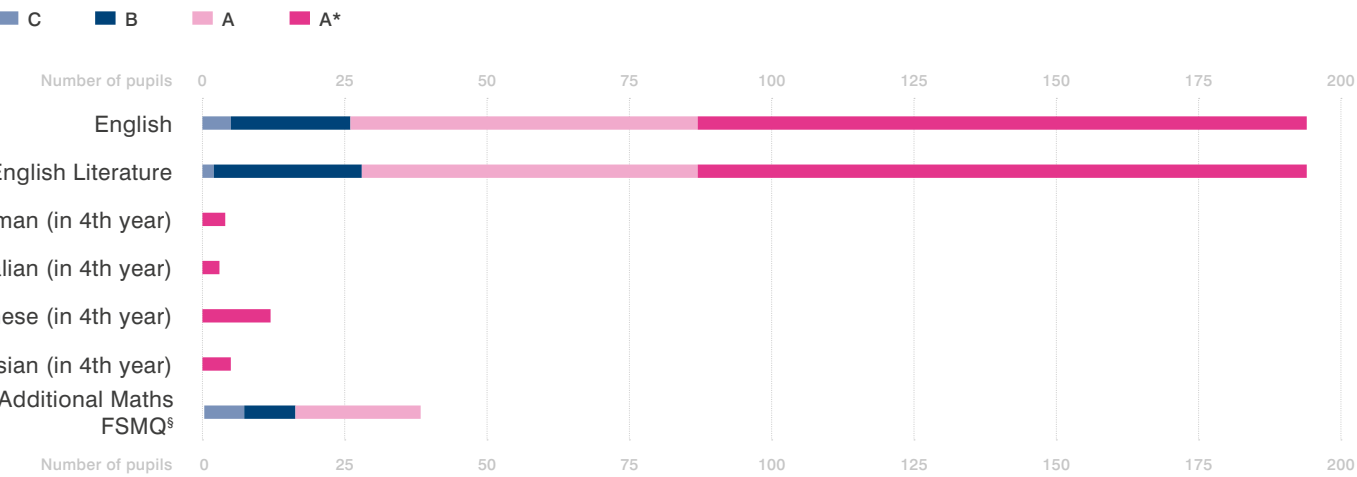
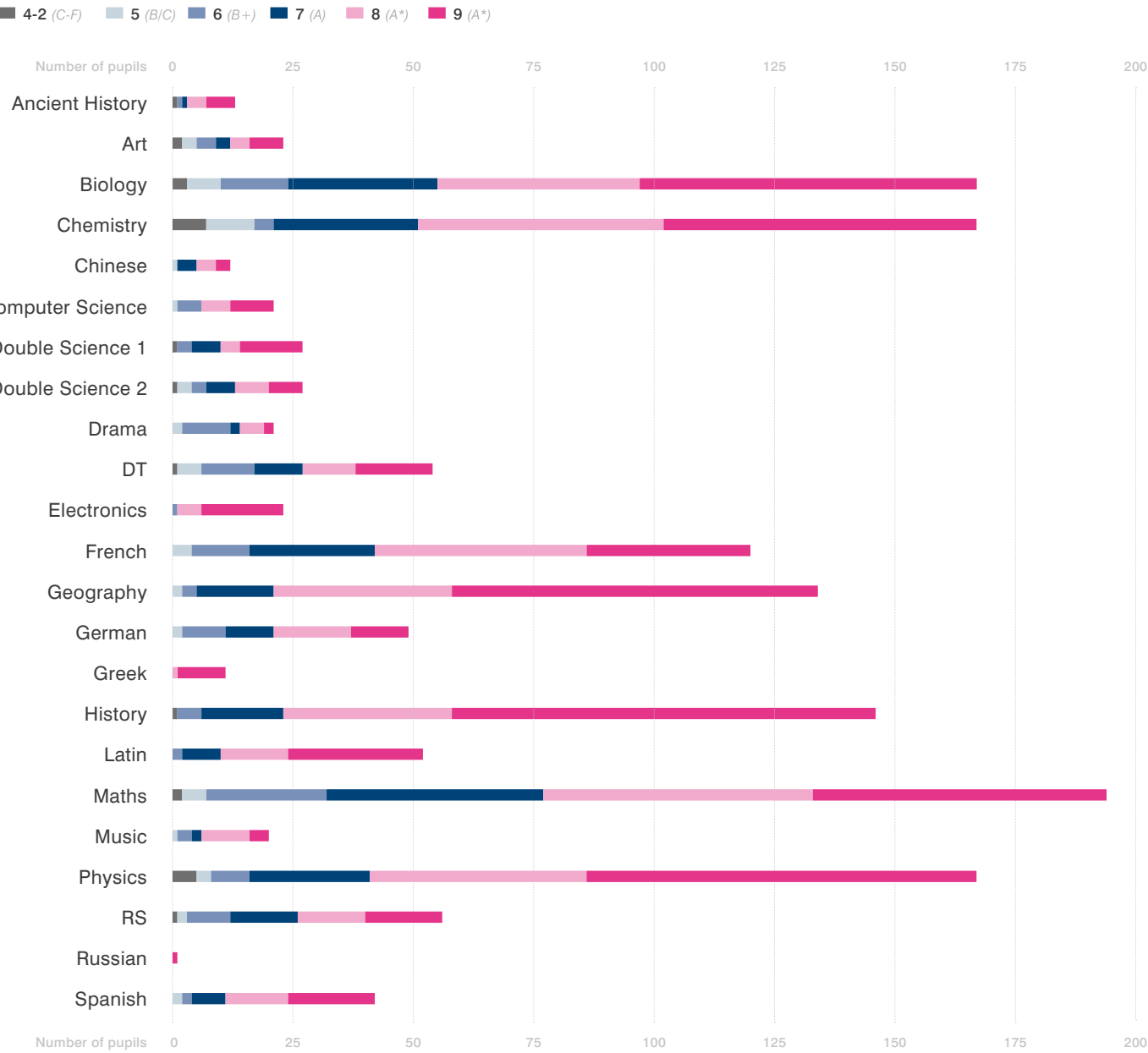
\*(place deferred to 2020)



50  
Oxbridge  
places over  
the last  
three years



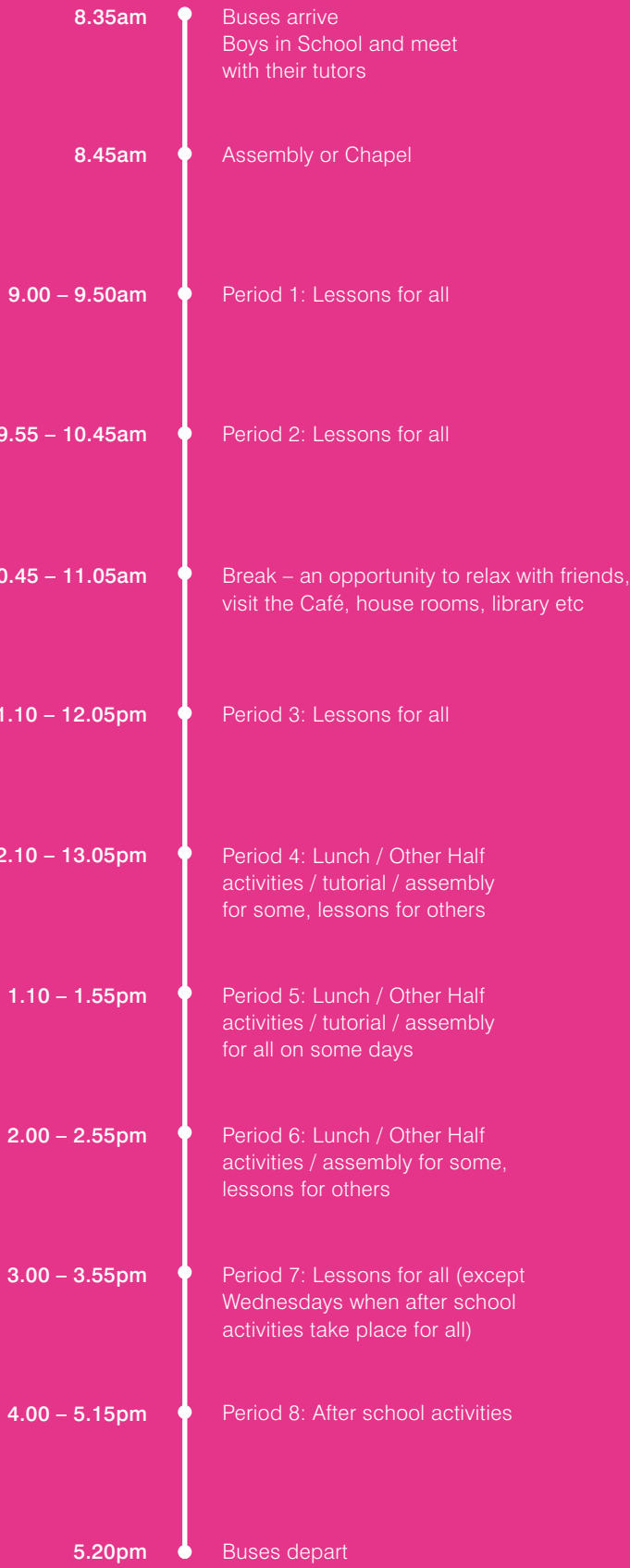
GCSE Results 2019



§ The FSMQ is a free-standing Maths Qualification and does not count as a GCSE.  
The FSMQ stats also include four D, one E and three U grades. The A\* grade is not applicable to this exam.

The School day

We shape the timetable to get the right balance.  
Timings do vary across year groups and from day to day.





Abingdon has  
an international  
perspective

Our students have  
visited more than

18

countries in  
the last 2 years



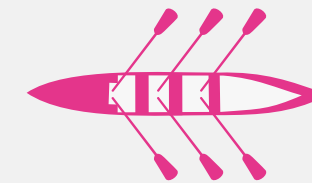
## Our facilities



21 Science labs



450 Seat theatre



Boathouse



8-lane 25m indoor  
swimming pool



Over 60 acres of sports pitches with  
all-weather surfaces for rugby, hockey,  
football, tennis and athletics

We currently  
have students  
from

18


countries  
around  
the world

There are  
Old Abingdonians  
in 63 countries

Autumn  
2020

New facilities for Economics &  
Business Studies and Computer  
Science plus two new dayboy  
houserooms





# Music


# 425

boys play musical instruments



45

Post-grade 8 and diploma standard musicians



3

Choral and Organ Scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge in the last three years



31

Chamber Ensemble Groups

# Drama



7 major productions a year

# Sport

# 11

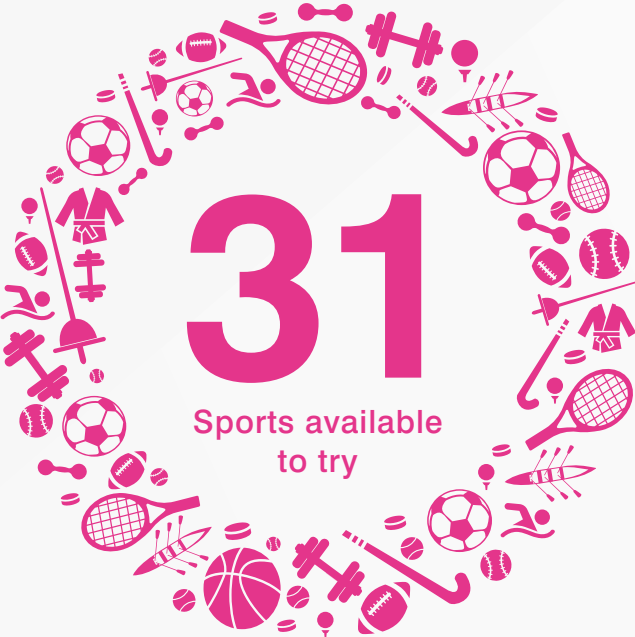
# International Sportsmen

plus more than 35 regional and 80 county representatives

Over

# 630

boys represent the School in a typical Lent weekend across nine sports



# 31

Sports available to try

Over

# 6500

Old Abingdonians stay in touch with the School

Just a few of the famous names who have enjoyed success in their chosen careers

- Mike Bartlett Robin Bourne-Taylor
- Sir Kim Darroch KCMG Simon Evans
- Foals Tom Hollander Max Hutchinson
- Jonny and the Baptists Toby Jones
- Sir Nicholas Kay KCMG Ben Macintyre
- Francis Maude MP David Mitchell Huw Parmenter
- Radiohead Sir Vivian Ramsey Sir David Tanner CBE



# Joining us

FULL DETAILS ON THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

## Admissions

**Lower School (aged 11-13)** Entry at age 11 is mainly from primary schools and independent schools that teach to the age of 11.

**Middle School (aged 13-16)** Entry at age 13 is predominantly from prep schools and international schools.

**Upper School or Sixth Form (aged 16-18)** Entry at age 16 is from a range of schools in the UK and abroad.

Entry at other ages may be considered if places are available.

References from a boy's current school, interviews and entrance examinations are required at all entry points. For the Sixth Form, admission is dependent on examinations and interviews, school references and where appropriate performance in GCSEs.

## Scholarships and bursaries

There is a range of scholarships and awards at ages 11, 13 and 16. The School also offers a number of means-tested bursaries up to 100% of fees.

57 boys currently receive bursaries

## What next?

Please get in touch with us to find out more. You can...

Call for further information  
+44 (0)1235 849041

Browse our website  
abingdon.org.uk

Book a visit at  
abingdon.org.uk/  
visit\_abingdon

Complete the  
online registration  
form

## Fees

Fees per term for the academic year 2019-2020. An acceptance deposit is required to secure a place.

Day (Including Lunch)  
£6,885

Weekly Boarding  
£11,460

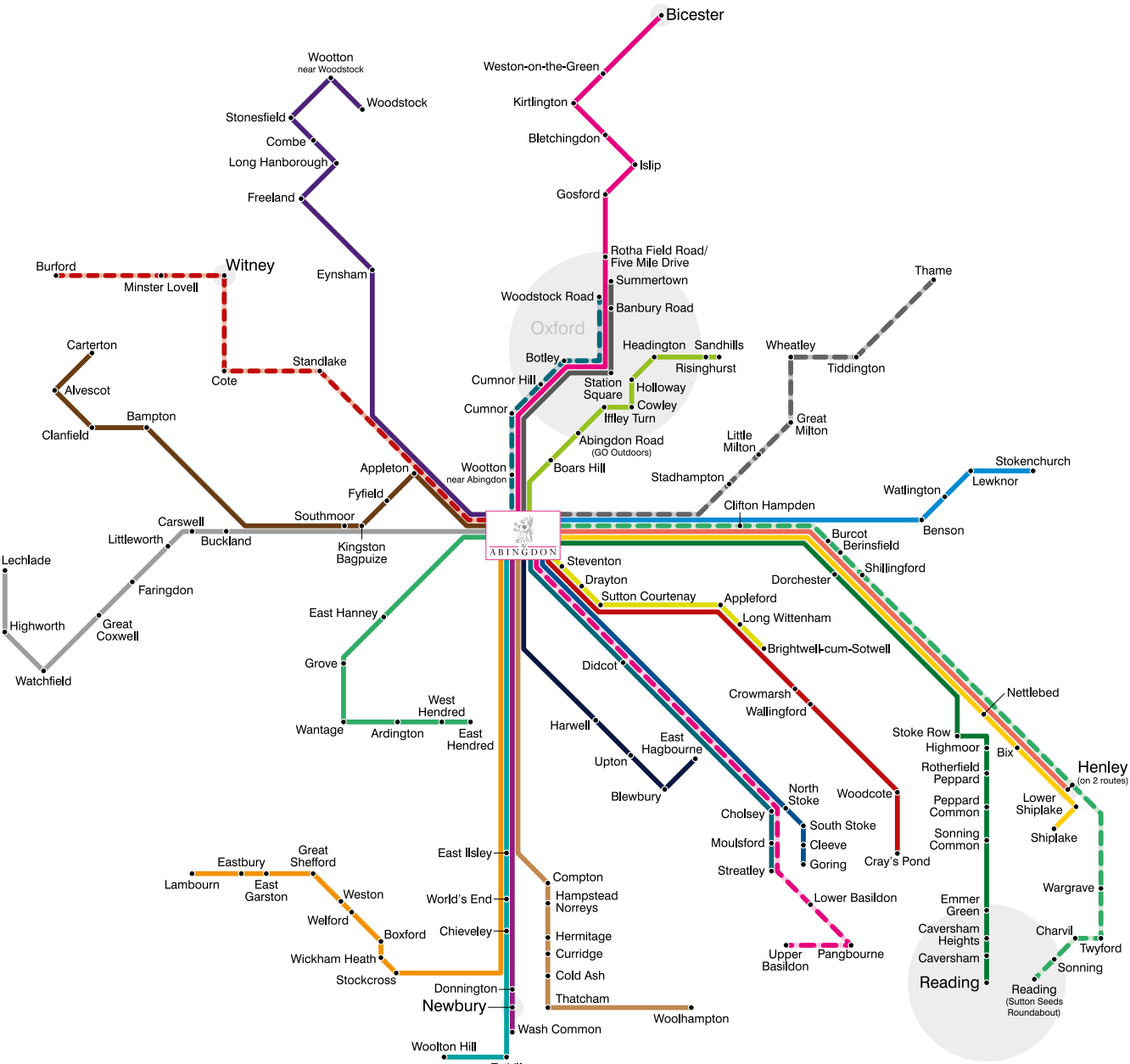
Full Boarding  
£13,715

Registration Fee  
£150  
(Including overseas)

# Bus routes



An extensive joint bus service with St Helen and St Katharine School and The Manor Preparatory School operates throughout Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Bus routes are revised annually and are subject to change. For timings and costs please visit the website.



Bus routes 2019/20

Bampton	Lambourn	Tothill
Bicester	Lechlade	Twyford
Blewbury	North Oxford	Upper Basildon
Brightwell	Reading	Wantage
Burford	Shiplake	Wash Common
Cray's Pond	Stokenchurch	Woodstock
Goring	Streatley	Woodstock Road
Headington	Thame	
Henley	Thatcham	

The Prep School has its own separate minibus service.





ABINGDON

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

**Headmaster:**  
Michael Windsor

Park Road, Abingdon  
Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

+44 (0)1235 849041  
[admissions@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:admissions@abingdon.org.uk)

To contact the governors of the school  
email: [heads.pa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:heads.pa@abingdon.org.uk)

[abingdon.org.uk](http://abingdon.org.uk)

The School's Aims and Ethos, Policies and Inspection reports are available on the school website.

Abingdon School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

**Abingdon School**

A company limited by guarantee,  
registered in England and Wales.

Company No. 3625063  
Registered Charity No. 1071298

Registered Office:  
Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE