



ABINGDON

From the Head: Miss O.F.S. Lusk, B.Mus

5 September 2014

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

The boys have returned for the new academic year and Abingdon is once again a vibrant and dynamic place full of pupils in new uniform with recently cut hair and bags of energy! We welcome in particular 192 new boys.

It is an exciting time at Abingdon. On Monday we took over the management of the all-weather football and hockey pitches and the athletics track at the Tilsley Park Sports Centre and we have plans to develop the site further. Tilsley is a tremendous addition to the sports facilities we already have on the school campus. Our new science centre is also progressing well and is on track to be ready next autumn. The first phase of the theatre refurbishment began over the summer and a new café for pupils opens on Monday.

Well done to all boys and their teachers on the public exam results. A level and GCSE results were very impressive with nearly a third of all A level passes being awarded a grade A* which is the highest ever at Abingdon. GCSEs saw almost 80% of all passes awarded an A* or A grade and across a wide-range of subjects.

I welcome a number of new staff to the School this September: Mr Elliot Birkbeck, Sports Assistant; Miss Christie Bridle, Secretary to Admissions Dept; Mr Alistair Brown, Senior Rowing Coach; Mrs Maud Cottrell, MFL Teacher; Mr George Draganov, Chemistry Teacher; Mrs Regina Engel-Hart, MFL Teacher; Miss Marion Fourrier, French Assistant; Mr Graham Gardner, Librarian; Mr Stephen Gibbens, Porter; Mr James Golding, PE Teacher and Director of Cricket; Mrs Chunlian Greenfield, Head of Mandarin; Mrs Sarah Hicks, School Receptionist; Ms Laura Lopez Camison, Spanish Assistant; Miss Nezete Onen, German Assistant; Mr Matthew Poynter, Geography Teacher; Mr Stephen Prior, Maintenance Technician; Mr Daniel Sears, Porter; Mr Martin Strong, Porter; Mrs Helen Wenham, History Teacher; Miss Alix Weyd, French Assistant. I wish these colleagues well in their new jobs here at Abingdon.

We said farewell to a number of colleagues over the summer. Miss Tammy Barrett has been a crucial member of our Estates Department since April 2008, and has become Assistant Estates Manager at the Dragon School. Mr Simon Whalley, who taught in the Music School for 10 years and directed various choral groups,

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

including the Academicals, has left to pursue other interests. Ms Julie Craven, visiting Music teacher, is leaving to concentrate on other musical commitments. We wish these colleagues well as they move on from Abingdon.

I welcome back Mr Alexis Christodoulou who has returned from sabbatical and also Mr David Bickerton (once more!) who is covering a period of maternity leave in the Physics department. My congratulations to Miss Maris Elmore who got married over the summer.

Congratulations to the Reverend George Moody who has been ordained Deacon in the Church of England.

Congratulations also to those who are to receive long service awards: for 25 years' service, Mrs Denise Thornhill, Housekeeping; for 20 years' service, Mrs Sandra Hendy, Housekeeping, and Mr Andy Bush, Peripatetic Music Teacher.

It was with great sadness that I attended the funeral of Ken Kerby, following a long illness, during the summer holidays. It was a great tribute to Ken to see just how many members of the School, both past and present, were there to pay their respects. Ken and his wife Shirley have lived and worked here for 20 years. Ken has been a committed member of our maintenance team and has acted as caretaker for many of those 20 years, attending to the every need of our community in so many different roles, as caretaker, decorator, general handyman, flood control specialist, late night watchman, driver, stand in porter, and Father Christmas. Ken will be remembered with great fondness as a fun-loving, hard-working, dedicated and loyal member of the Abingdon School family. Shirley continues to work here as a receptionist and I extend to her our deepest sympathy.

It is particularly sad when a young child dies and the impact of the death of Skye Hall, aged 5, son of Andrew and Sally Hall, is widely felt within our community. Skye was a most remarkable child and we all remember his courage and joyfulness. We will have the opportunity to support Skye's charity "Blue Skye Thinking" which is raising funds to support research into childhood cancer, as one of three charities the School will support when we do the sponsored walk later this month. I extend to Andrew, Sally and Jesse our thoughts, sympathy and support. Blue Skye Thinking is a charity which supports research so that all children diagnosed with brain tumours will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post treatment. The charity is run by volunteers and all money donated goes directly to the forefront of research and treatment.

I was very sad to hear of the death of Colonel John Peacock. Colonel Peacock was Bursar at the School from 1984 to 1986. My condolences go to his widow Sheila and his family.

Our aim at Abingdon is to achieve the highest academic standards alongside a broad and stimulating education experience. Many of the boys have spent some of the holidays with the school, exploring different countries and cultures. The music tour to Barcelona was excellent with the boys embracing some stunning venues

including the Sagrada Familia and Tarragona and Barcelona cathedrals. The Moldova partnership saw 15 sixth formers organise two summer camps in Moldova with the charity Agape. The boys ran activities for 70 local children. Ten boys went to China for a summer study camp looking at Chinese culture and learning Mandarin. The camp was at the Northeast Yucai School, Shenyang, which accommodates over 8000 students. We also had a geography trip to India visiting Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Mumbai; the 16 lower sixth formers were looking at globalisation.

There were Silver and Gold DofE canoeing and walking expeditions in some stunning UK locations including the Brecon Beacons, the Lake District and on the River Wye. The CCF was also out in force joining the Oxford University Officers' Training Corps at summer camp in Okehampton. A group of third year boys undertook an introduction to sailing course at Farmoor and there were very impressive pre-season rugby results for the 1st XV and the U16 teams.

The 1st VIII reached the semi-final at Henley Royal Regatta back in July, narrowly losing to Eton who went on to win. The two crews had been battling all summer with Abingdon defeating Eton at the National Schools; this time Eton got the better of us but nevertheless a superb effort.

Individual achievements over the summer include a very successful Linguistics Olympiad in Beijing for Oliver Sayeed, John Cheung won second prize in the Robert Walker Prize for Essays in Law from Trinity College Cambridge and Theo Brophy Clews toured South Africa with the England U18 rugby squad and made his debut for the London Irish Senior Seven's team. Tom Digby and Henry Lambe were selected to represent GB at the World Junior Rowing Championships in Germany and Jack Walsh raced for England at the Home Counties Regatta. Christian Von Eitzen also competed at the English Schools' Track and Field Championships. Magnus Gregory has represented GB in V18 Sprint and Marathon kayaking and he is off shortly to the Marathon World Championships in Oklahoma. Congratulations to Callum Russell, Alex Davies, Adam Spears, James Fitzjohn, Leo Bethell and Max Mannering who were in the Oxfordshire county cricket team that won the national U17 finals on Sunday, a tremendous achievement.

Many of these summer holiday activities feature in the School's newsletter, Abingdon News, which will be with you shortly. This is the last edition to be edited by Sarah Wearne. Sarah has done a tremendous job over 36 publications of the newsletter and we are very grateful to her. Sarah, who is the School Archivist, is continuing with her project to digitalise the school archives.

Congratulations to our new Heads of School George Hale and Tommy Nicholson and to the recently elected prefects: Nathan Allaby, James Beazley, Leo Bethell, Jake Buffery, Jamie Blackwell, Milo Bussell, William Cater-Keall, Max Finch, Alexander Foster, Liam Frahm, John Francis, Jeffrey Hang, Tom Harkness, William Johnson, Adrian Lei, Kees Luteijn, Henry Papworth, Adam Pearson, Henry Tipple, William Tong, Max Townley, Jack Walsh, George Wilder, Justin Wilson, Archie Wimborne, and James Wooding.

Our team of eighteen lower sixth pupils have begun their year of office as lower school assistants: Joe Blanch, Bertie Boyd-Gorst, Nathan Byrne, Samuel Foster, Charlie Herold, Jack Holford, Nat Jones, Daniel Katzer, Jeffrey Leung, Dominic MacLachlan, Charlie Macpherson, Joseph McNamara, Harry Parker, Matthew Rogers, Aadam Samiullah, Joe Sandall, Harry Templeman, William Whitworth.

Congratulations also to our new scholars, exhibitioners and other award holders. I look forward to presenting scholars with their ties at a special ceremony.

Scholarships and Awards for 2014

Academic

First Year Awards:

John Roysse

Luke Ffrench, St. Nicolas CE Primary School
Charles Franklin, St. Mary and St. John's CE Primary School
Dashiell Hathaway, St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School
Toby Hindley, Chandlings Manor
Nicholas Pearson, St. Laurence CE Primary School
Max Williams, St. Piran's School

Griffen All-Rounder

Adam Coombs, Stanford-in-the-Vale CE Primary School
Daniel McNamara, St. Andrew's Prep School

Third Year Scholarships:

Mercers'

Gleb Kuznetsov, Abingdon Prep School

Abbot de Blosneville

David Bunn, Abingdon School
Alasdair Czaplewski, Abingdon School
Howard Hawkes, Pinewood School

Blacknall

Alexander Hann, Abingdon School

Lady Wantage

Oliver Breach, Moulsoford Prep School
Francesco Cipriani, Christ Church Cathedral School
Will Diver, Abingdon Prep School

Young and Summers

James Ashby, Moulsoford Prep School
Yazan Odeh, Abingdon School
Dominic Oraee, Abingdon Prep School

Frederick Stone, Abingdon Prep School

Coulbeck All-Rounder Award

Samuel Christie, Oratory Prep School

Sixth Form Scholarship:

Churk Yean Chung, Abingdon School

Michael Jiang, Abingdon School

Michael Man, Abingdon School

Art Scholarship

Third Year:

Boxall

Joseph Hornblow, Abingdon Prep School

William Lowry, Christ Church Cathedral School

Art Exhibition

Louis Davies Exhibition

Angus Blomfield, Abingdon School

Zach Griggs, Oratory Prep School

Drama Scholarship

Third Year:

Connor Brown, Dolphin School

Callum Ravden, Abingdon School

Fourth Year:

Joseph Salter, Abingdon School

Drama Exhibition

Third Year:

Charlie Ball, Abingdon School

Jacob Henney, Abingdon School

Fourth Year

Michael Sutton, Abingdon School

Reuben Havelock, Abingdon

Music

First Year Music Award

Hugo Wade, Dolphin School

Dashiell Hathaway, St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Third Year Music Scholarship

Oliver Breach, Moulsoford Prep School
Chanka Pathinayake, Moulsoford Prep School

Third Year Music Exhibitions

Ben Adams, Abingdon School
Mayibongwe Chivizhe, Abingdon School
Didier Delgorge, Abingdon School
Jake Elwin, New College School
Charles Hall, Ashfold School
Andrew Kang, New College School
William Lam, Abingdon School
Jude Stanley, Abingdon School
Graham Suttie, Thorngrove School

Sports Scholarships

Third Year

Samuel Christie, Oratory Prep School
Ray Prince, Abingdon School
Ethan Webb, Abingdon School

Sixth Form

Dominic MacLachlan, Abingdon School

I wish everyone a happy and busy Michaelmas term.

Yours sincerely



Felicity Lusk