



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

11 September 2015

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

We return to school after a very enjoyable summer break and welcome 189 new boys to Abingdon. Although the first few days can seem a little daunting, we have a very successful programme that helps boys to settle. It has been a pleasure to meet new parents as well as new boys this week and I am sure you will all enjoy your association with Abingdon. We also welcome a host of new faces to the academic and support staff. A full list of all the new staff appointments can be found at the end of this letter. I hope everyone's time here will be very happy.

Last month we congratulated our A level and GCSE students on excellent sets of results. 62% of A level passes were awarded an A\* or A grade and an impressive 67 boys achieved three or more passes at A\* or A. The vast majority of leavers secured their first choice for further education including Choral and Organ Scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge, the study of composition at the Royal Academy of Music, a wealth of places at Russell Group universities and prestigious U.S. colleges and other impressive institutions. At GCSE the boys achieved the best ever results at Abingdon with 60% of passes awarded the top A\* grade. 32 boys gained a very impressive 10 or more A\* grades and 95 students, over half of the year group, were awarded all A\* or A grades. If you would like to take a look, our website shows the list of this year's leavers' destinations as well as further details on our A Level and GCSE results.

It is with a great sense of anticipation that we look forward to this term, in particular the opening of our new Science Centre in October. I must say it is absolutely stunning, overlooking the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby pitch, which also looks very impressive, manicured and ready to go! The senior rugby squad had a very successful three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand in August, an incredible experience and one that will stay with the boys long after they have left Abingdon.

Over the summer Abingdon boys have recorded a number of outstanding achievements. Sixth former Anthony Bracey was part of the UK's team of four who won the International Linguistic Olympiad in Bulgaria at the end of July. This was the first ever win for the UK, competing against 170 competitors from 79 countries. Sixth former Sebastian Hickman was among 14 Abingdon boys who took part in the extremely rigorous Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Seb recorded a fantastic score

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and secured the top Roentgenium award level. Seb was invited to the university for a three day Chemistry course and to an awards ceremony in November at the Wellcome Trust. Jack Dawson scored the highest overall mark nationally in A level History with the OCR exam board and has been recommended by OCR to the Royal Historical Society who award a prize to the top scoring candidate in History each year.

The summer holiday saw sixth formers running summer camps for children in Moldova, performing at The Fringe, taking part in field trips to India and Honduras and CCF summer camp at RAF Waddington. Our sportsmen competed or trained in Rio, France, Greece, Slovenia and in the UK at Cowes. In the international arena, four Abingdon rowers represented Great Britain and England and an Abingdon pupil won the U18 Marathon Kayak Junior European Championships for Great Britain. Footballers, Aaron Mara, William Lebeau and Theo Zamani, were selected for the U13 South Central Independent Schools Development Squad at the Gothia Cup in Sweden where 75 nations competed. Ben Schneider, representing England, won the individual epee at the Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championships, in Cape Town, South Africa. I congratulate all the boys on these marvellous achievements.

I look forward to the term ahead knowing that life for an Abingdon boy will bring many diverse experiences, achievements, challenges and fun. I hope that everyone, boys and staff, enjoys this Michaelmas term.

Yours sincerely



Felicity Lusk

## **New Staff September 2015**

### **Mr Justin Hodges – Director of Finance and Operations**

Justin joins us from Vodafone where he has worked for the last 12 years in various roles including Head of Financial Planning & Analysis at Vodafone UK, Southern Europe Financial Controller for Vodafone Group, Head of Strategy at Vodafone Italy and Director of Vodafone Ventures. Prior to Vodafone, he worked for Goldman Sachs investment bank in London and San Francisco. Justin graduated from Oxford University with a MEng in Engineering, Economics & Management, and a MSc in Management Studies.

### **Teaching Staff:**

#### **Mr Andrew Chim, Teacher of Chemistry**

Andrew was a teacher of Chemistry at Cokethorpe School, having previously worked in Japan on the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme.

**Mrs Samantha Coull, Head of Mathematics**

Samantha was Head of Mathematics at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe and previously worked at Reading School where she was a Head of House and Second in the Mathematics department.

**Mr James Green, Teacher of Art**

James was a teacher at Wycombe Abbey, and before that Fitzharrys School in Abingdon. He was previously at Oxford Brookes.

**Mr Richard Jackson, Teacher of History**

Richard joins us after spending fourteen years in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Royal Navy. Educated at Brasenose College, University of Oxford, Richard is new to teaching as a profession but has had several years of experience instructing cadets in the Combined Cadet Force (RN) at Radley College.

**Mrs Nicola King, Teacher of Economics and Geography**

Nicola has been Head of Economics at Radley College for the last 8 years.

**Miss Charlotte McCutcheon, Teacher of Biology**

Charlotte was a Biology teacher at Latymer Upper School before coming to Abingdon. She studied Biological Sciences at Pembroke College, University of Oxford.

**Miss Amanda Moore, Teacher of Classics**

Amanda worked for several archaeological projects, in the UK and overseas, before beginning her teaching career at Reading School. She studied English and Classics at the University of Bristol, has an MA in Archaeology at the University of Reading and a PGCE in Latin with Classics at Homerton College, Cambridge.

**Miss Sarah-Jane Poole, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages**

Sarah-Jane is currently completing her PGCE at the University of Oxford, having completed her undergraduate degree in French and German at Aston University, Birmingham.

**Mr Jason Preece, Teacher of Music Composition**

Jason is currently taking a DPhil in Composition at Worcester College, Oxford. He has held a number of teaching positions within the Music Faculty at Oxford and was a founding member of the Oxford Laptop Orchestra.

**Mrs Henrietta Preiss-Chapman, Learning Support Teacher**

Henrietta joins us from Glyn Boys' School in Epsom, Surrey where she taught French and German and was Head of House and Deputy Head of Year 10 before heading overseas and working in industry.

**Dr Mark Simpson, Teacher of Chemistry**

Mark joins us from Deutsche Bank AG where he was a Director following various roles in the fixed derivatives division. He has an MA in Chemistry from Lady Margaret Hall.

**Mr Alexander Stuart, Teacher of Mathematics**

Alexander comes to Abingdon from Cokethorpe School where he taught Mathematics.

**Ms Joanna Willis-Bund, Teacher of English**

Joanna is with us on a temporary part-time basis.

**Ms Gao Zhang, Teacher of Mandarin**

Gao is with us on a temporary basis covering maternity leave.

**Language Assistants:**

Miss Ana Blanco Lopez - Spanish

Mr Temana Lai Mink - French

Miss Laure Navas - French

Mrs Hongmei Wang - Chinese

**Support Staff:**

We welcome the following support staff:

Mr Gary Baiden, Database Administrator in Philanthropy; Miss Katherine Bond, Drama and Theatre Assistant; Miss Emma Dougall, HR Advisor; Mr Lee Edwards, School Staff Instructor; Mr Giray Ketenci, Sports Centre Supervisor; Mr George Killick, Assistant Theatre Technical Manager; Mr Raymond Lovell, Sports Centre Supervisor; Miss Helen North, Housekeeping; Mr Daley Walton, Art Department Technician.