



ABINGDON

From Director of Rugby: Matthew Gold

9 September 2016

Dear Parent,

The rugby posts are up, the grass is cut, boots are shiny and clean. There is great anticipation here at Abingdon School ahead of the new season. Our school has a fantastic rugby tradition with well over 450 boys wearing the jersey and representing Abingdon each Saturday. Last season was another very successful year for the rugby club, but Abingdon said farewell to Peter Coke who had been Director of Rugby for seven years. We wish him and his family all the very best with his move to Sedbergh School in Cumbria as Head of PE.

After ten years as Head of PE, Head of Rugby and 1st XV Head Coach at The John Fisher School I now have the privilege and honour of being Director of Rugby at Abingdon. I must say my first two weeks here at Abingdon have been simply superb. All the staff and parents have made me extremely welcome but most important the boys have been incredible. Abingdon really is a special place with a fabulous community. One I am extremely fortunate to be a part of.

Last weekend our U15s, U16s and Seniors had successful starts to their seasons with victories over St Edward's, Oxford. Today I would like to welcome Berkhamsted School to Abingdon. Home and away there will be well over 400 pupils representing the school today. Berkhamsted have a strong and well respected reputation and rugby programme and we look forward to some excellent matches in what is our first full block fixture of the 2016 season.

We have an exciting and challenging fixture card ahead of us with Eton College, Cheltenham College and Warwick School all before half term. Sherbourne, Radley, Rugby, Marlborough and Bedford all awaiting us after half term. Best of luck to all our teams this season!

I would like to take this opportunity to promote our Touchliners. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and motivated parental committee whose sole aim is to support our rugby club. In recent years the Touchliners have made a huge difference to our boys across all teams and age groups helping to fund major projects like new 1st XV posts as well as score boards on every rugby pitch. I would like to bring to your attention the Touchliners annual 'black tie' Rugby Club dinner on Saturday 8 October. This year's 'Argentinian' themed dinner is rapidly selling out. Book now to avoid any disappointment. I would like to remind you all that Touchliners annual subscription and application forms can be found on our school website or via this link <http://www.abingdon.org.uk/touchliners>

Rugby really is the ultimate team sport. I am a big believer in rugby's core values such as team work, respect, self discipline, sportsmanship and enjoyment. Rugby at Abingdon helps enable to our boys to become leaders with aspiration and self drive to be the very best they can be as well as men we can all be proud of when leaving Abingdon School.

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I hope that you enjoy the rugby season learning and developing in this special community and we grow stronger together. I look forward to seeing you on the touch line!

Yours sincerely

Matthew Gold - Director of Rugby
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