



ABINGDON

From the Head: Miss OFS Lusk, B.Mus

22 May 2015

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

Half term is upon us and public examinations are well underway. The Upper Sixth leave us today to begin their study leave.

Mrs Glynne Butt has been appointed as the Christ's Hospital representative on our Board of Governors. She replaces Mr Andrew Douglas whom I thank warmly for his period of office. Mrs Butt was Headmistress of Our Lady's Abingdon in the late 90s. She has been a governor at Cokethorpe and at Leighton Park, chairing the education committees at both schools, was an inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate and did some educational consultancy work. I look forward to working with Mrs Butt.

I also welcome the following new staff to Abingdon: Mr Oliver Pemberton, teacher of Mathematics; Miss Kate Wylie, teacher of Chemistry, and Mrs Helen Whitworth, Boarding House Matron. I wish these new colleagues a happy and stimulating time in their positions at the school.

We said farewell to the following colleagues this month: Mrs Elena Kruglyakov, Biology technician, who is relocating to Brisbane, Australia, and Ms Georgina Redman, teacher of Classics who worked with us during Mr Franklin's sabbatical. Good luck to these colleagues in their future positions.

My congratulations to John and Anne Cotton on the birth of a daughter earlier this week. My thanks to Miss Hancock who will be covering Cotton's House during Mr Cotton's paternity leave after half term.

The 1st XI cricket match against St Edward's on Saturday has been the highlight of the season so far with a superb piece of fielding from Alex Davies, securing victory with the last ball of the game. It was a tremendous match. The season as a whole has been mixed; the weather put paid to all the fixtures against Stowe, and against Cheltenham College there were narrow defeats for the 1st and 2nd XI and some good wins in the younger teams. Many congratulations to Leo Bethell, who recently made his debut for the Sussex 2nd XI. In another keenly fought fixture, the Croquet Club enjoyed their victory against Winchester, reversing the fortunes of last year in what is a rapidly growing sport at Abingdon!

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

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

The swimming season came to an end with the Griffen Gala where Abingdon and St Helen's joined forces against the Abingdon Vale Swimming Club in a fiercely contested finale.

Rowing saw 95 boys compete at the Bedford Regatta with the J16s performing particularly well and the A crew winning their first regatta. Many congratulations to Tom Digby who won a Bronze medal at the Munich International Regatta as part of the Great Britain Junior VIII. In other national achievements Ethan Moody has become the U15 5.8m windsurfing champion with a convincing win in all four races at the national championships. Charlie Quarterman has had another cycling success with first place in the Isle of Man Junior Men's tour.

The Chess Club finished the Oxford and District Chess League in second place in Division 4, completing a season of 12 wins and only 2 losses so an excellent result and they have a chance of promotion. Four players, Edward Reynolds, Ray Ren, Joseph Truran and Richard Oh have also won through to the Southern Gigafinal of the UK Chess Challenge.

Two of the Young Enterprise teams won awards at the Oxfordshire County Final with Be.spoke picking up the Oxford Instruments Award for Innovation and Flame winning the JSP Award for Manufacturing. Very well done.

With much of the senior school taking or preparing for exams, the younger pupils have been making the news recently. The audiences and cast thoroughly enjoyed the Lower School Drama Club's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream... or sort of." Great enthusiasm and much talent on show. Congratulations also to the eight boys, whose work was selected for display, from 3200 entries, at Young Art Oxford at the beginning of May.

We had excellent representation from 23 boys, including four from the Prep School, in the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra's performance at the Sheldonian Theatre. In other news from the Music department, the Chapel Choir sang Choral Evening Prayer at Magdalen College on May Day - a rare privilege as the College seldom permits visiting choirs to sing in Chapel.

Over the last Bank Holiday, young classicists enjoyed a fascinating trip to Hadrian's Wall and the boarders embraced a range of activities including rock climbing, caving and canoeing on a three-day adventure trip to Wales.

Recently Mrs Wenham and 12 members of her tutor group took part in the 'Live below the Line' schools challenge to raise money for UNICEF. The group had to eat and drink for a day for just £1- the UK equivalent of the extreme poverty line. A thought provoking day for all involved. Equally thought provoking was the VE Day celebration at Bridge House where the community service volunteers, who run a weekly quiz, joined residents to celebrate the anniversary.

At Tilsley Park, planning permission has been submitted for an all weather, 3G football/rugby pitch which will be a fantastic addition to the facilities, and with

consent, will be completed in the summer. We welcome the opportunity to improve Tilsley Park not just for the School but for the local Abingdon Community in which we are very much a part. I was therefore disappointed to see the inaccurate reports in the local press that an Abingdon primary school had been prevented from using Tilsley Park due to price increases. This is absolutely not the case. We value being part of the local Abingdon Community and we welcome the opportunity to improve education facilities for all whenever possible.

Over half term we have rowers competing in the National Schools' Regatta and the Metropolitan Regatta, canoeists on the River Medway for Bronze DofE and a History department trip to Munich and Nuremberg.

Today we said goodbye to our Upper Sixth. It's a special day as teachers and the boys celebrated this milestone with a graduation ceremony. The day began with tutor time and the distribution of year books and bacon rolls. David Allison (OA Club President) presented each leaver with their OA tie and Peter Rowe (OA 2005) was guest speaker. The last Chapel was a moving occasion and the singing of the hymn tremendous. The ice cream vans visited and the morning ended with a BBQ lunch.

Our leavers shortly embark on their A levels. I wish them all the very best for the exam period, lots of stamina and a sense of calm as they tackle their exams. I very much look forward to welcoming them back for Leavers' Day and Prize Giving on Saturday 27 June.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely

Felicity Lusk