

The Abingdon Anthology



On Thursday June 25, we launched *The Abingdon Anthology*, an exciting project in which nearly 40 boys and members of staff have worked Jason Hewitt, Writer in Residence, to produce a collection of short stories inspired by Abingdon School. The stories are wide-ranging: some humorous, others thrillers, there are detective and ghost stories, historical and dystopian tales plus fantasy. Some are from a child's perspective and others an adult's.

Rachel Yarrow, who is Head of English at the School said, "We began the project in February and have had an overwhelming response from all areas of the school: pupils from the First Year to Upper Sixth, teachers across many subjects including Chemistry, Economics, History, Drama, Geography, Physics and Classics and not just academic staff, we also have a writer from the School's Health Centre."

Author Jason Hewitt oversaw the project. Jason became involved with the School after a chance encounter with Rachel Yarrow when he was a guest author at Oxford's literary event, Short Stories Aloud. Jason said, "It was an opportunity that I couldn't possibly turn down, and has been a fantastic experience."

My experience at Abingdon has shown that many of the boys are not only avid readers but also very talented storytellers, which has been very reassuring. I'm not ready to hand over to the next generation of writers quite yet, but, at Abingdon at least, I'm pleased to see that the continuation of our literary heritage is in safe hands."



Copies of *The Abingdon Anthology* are £5 and can be bought from Mostly Books in Abingdon and from Rachel Yarrow (rachel.yarrow@abingdon.org.uk)