



ABINGDON

From the Head: Miss OFS Lusk, B.Mus

10 June 2016

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

We said goodbye to the Upper Sixth in what was a lovely day on the Friday before half term. It is always a very moving event, marking an end to an era that has seen the boys grow into young men. I wish them the very best with their exams and much happiness in whatever path they take beyond Abingdon. I would also like to thank them for their contribution to our school. I look forward to seeing them return in fine spirits for Prize Giving and the Griffen Ball at the end of term.

I am delighted to welcome Mr Kieran Henderson to Abingdon as Commercial Director. Kieran has significant leisure and sports industry experience, in both the public and private sector and will focus on bringing additional income to the School from commercial activities such as the letting of Tilsley Park, the Amey Theatre and the Sports Centre.

Congratulations to sixth former George Jeffreys who was the joint winner of Oxford University's French Film competition. The Lower School Languages Club has also been dabbling in French, creating a language activity for primary school children about France and French culture. The game will be entered into the Arsenal Double Club competition, which is being held to coincide with the European Championships. Our Abingdon Science Partnership ambassadors have begun a pilot project to help students studying in Uganda carry out virtual science practicals. They are filming science experiments for use at Kikaaya College near Kampala.

Over half term, fourth year historians visited Munich and Nuremberg to learn more about the rise of the Nazis in what sounds like a fascinating trip. Biologists enjoyed their fieldtrip to Orierton in Pembrokeshire and DofE kayakers successfully completed their bronze expedition. Prior to half term, third year boarders enjoyed a trip up the Thames to Oxford in a Royal Marines' Assault boat and a Royal Navy workboat, negotiating locks and learning the basics of boat handling.

Chapel Choir has been out and about singing Choral Evensong at the beautiful Winchester Cathedral. We also had the pleasure of the Junior Music Scholars' concert where woodwind, brass, strings and piano were all very ably represented. Our young musicians show much talent and I am sure will continue to impress as they move up the school. I am very much looking forward to the Sheldonian Concert on Wednesday 29 June; it promises to be a fantastic evening. It marks the end of many of our senior musicians' time at Abingdon and I would like to thank them for the immense pleasure they have given us over their time here.

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

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

We hope for a better half term – weather wise – for cricket. Last half term rain disrupted all but the U15s' fixtures against Bradfield but the U15Bs and Cs were successful and the Cs remain unbeaten. The 1st XI was in a strong position before the match was abandoned. The Lower School teams all won against Cokethorpe before half term, with the U12Bs having a thrilling one-run victory.

At the Harrow meet the Athletics Club finished a very good third out of eight strong independent school teams with excellent individual performances and good team camaraderie. The lower school athletes enjoyed a successful day of competition at the Roger Bannister Stadium and congratulations to the Abingdon B team that won the event against some stiff opposition. Abingdon Swimming Club brought their 2015-16 competitive season to a close with the annual Griffen Gala, where they teamed up with the swimmers from St Helen's to take on the challenge of Abingdon Vale Swimming Club. On what was a highly enjoyable and competitive evening of swimming, all three of the Abingdon age groups beat their opposition from Abingdon Vale.

After a long recovery from injury, Michael Fabes has qualified to represent Great Britain in the Triathlon World Championships in Mexico in September after a very impressive performance at Dorney Lake. Congratulations to Michael and also to Ethan McLellan who has succeeded to the next round of the HSBC Road to Wimbledon, the biggest junior tournament in British tennis.

100 rowers made the trip to the Olympic Course at Dorney for the National Schools' Regatta. Racing in a new format the boys all rowed well and learnt a lot about racing at the top level. Among the many highlights, there were excellent performances from the J14s, the 1st VIII who were second in the B final and for the 2nd VIII who were fourth in the A final.

Over the last year, people have been asking what I will do after leaving this wonderful school. When I wrote to you many months ago to let you know that I intended to retire, I indicated that I might take on a new challenge. Although I will certainly miss this superb school, I am not ready to leave education altogether and I will be taking up a new position with GEMS Education as Vice President Education, based in Dubai. It is a very exciting opportunity and I am looking forward to taking on a different role as part of this global organisation, where I will be supporting the strategic direction and performance of a group of schools.

In the meantime, I am thoroughly enjoying my remaining weeks at Abingdon and appreciating everything that the boys and my colleagues do to create such a dynamic atmosphere each and every day here.

Yours sincerely



Felicity Lusk