



ABINGDON

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

13 May 2016

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, almost two decades after Abingdon Prep joined with Abingdon School to form the Abingdon Foundation, the Prep and Senior Schools are now so closely aligned that we can streamline the process whereby boys transfer from the Prep to the Senior School. The majority of pupils at the Prep School will now receive an offer of a place for Year 9 at Abingdon School at the end of Year 5 at Abingdon Prep. For these pupils there will be no pre-test and the offer is not dependent on performance at Common Entrance, hence an end to the double testing that was previously in place and that is still a requirement for boys from other prep schools. This offer will be based on the continuous assessment of each pupil and is conditional on the pupil maintaining his profile of achievement in Years 6 to 8 at Abingdon Prep. This change is a most welcome development and a reflection of the excellent continuous education we can offer across the Foundation.

I am pleased to welcome Mr Niki Dinsey to Abingdon as he takes up his post of Information Systems Manager. I wish him well for his time at the School.

Two Abingdon families welcomed new arrivals during April: congratulations to Mr and Mrs Andrew Kaye on the safe arrival of their daughter Harriet June, and to Mrs Maris Elmore and Mr Richard Pygott on the arrival of a son, Edward John Islwyn.

At the end of April we said goodbye to the Fifth Year, wishing them the very best of luck with their forthcoming exams. We look forward to seeing them return to School as sixth formers in September.

Three of our Young Enterprise teams took part in this year's area final. 'Wabi-Sabi' picked up two awards for their impressive cook book and went through to the next round which was held last week. The team were again successful and have qualified for the South Central Regional Final to be held in June. This is the furthest an Abingdon YE team has reached in the competition, very well done.

The Chess Club put in a strong performance at the Eton Repechage and competed in the county stage of the UK Chess Challenge where five boys qualified for the southern "Gigafinal" in July. Boys were also successful in the semi-final of the

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Warhammer 40,000 school league, coming third and qualifying for the national final on the 28 June. Congratulations also to second year Sam Penrose whose art was on display as part of the Henley Arts Trail where he was the youngest exhibitor.

A group of sixth formers took part in the Student Robotics 2016 Competition. Having built their robot the boys used the competition weekend to improve its performance and gain valuable experience. Fourth year boarders have also been constructive, building a go-kart and thoroughly enjoying testing it.

Third year classicists spent the Bank Holiday weekend exploring Hadrian's Wall. The boys combined ancient and modern, visiting the fascinating Roman sites and enjoying a Roman falconry display whilst also embracing a trip to the cinema to see the latest Captain America. The Rifle Club has been on tour to Lower Saxony, getting to know Hamburg and relishing the opportunity to compete in the German Club's impressive facilities. This week we welcomed our French exchange students from Aix-en-Provence. It is our pleasure to return the very generous hospitality the boys received over the Easter holidays.

The CCF's Passing Out parade, which marked the end of Easter Camp, went very well as did the biennial inspection, which took place recently. The discipline and professionalism is very impressive; many thanks to all those involved.

The Abingdon Science Partnership, ASP, which works alongside organisations promoting science in the local community, has been busy with a wide range of interesting and varied initiatives. These include hosting Oxford Geology Society's "Rock Club" for young people, holding a Science Writing Workshop, promoting the Crest Awards and a very popular Saturday Science Club, where nearly 70 children and parents came to the "Amazing Animals" workshop. The ASP has also been working alongside Abingdon town's Brownies and Beaver groups as well as local schools. ASP, together with the School and ISSET, organised a fascinating visit from former NASA astronaut, Michael Foale. Mike was an inspiration to all those who came to his seminars and presentations.

Summer term sports are well underway. There were mixed results for the cricketers against MCS and Stowe and rain prevented the 1<sup>st</sup> XI playing at Cheltenham College last Saturday. The 1<sup>st</sup> tennis team has beaten MCS to progress to the next round of the National Championships that will be against Warwick School. The Athletics Club had a successful first fixture at the Harrow Match beating local rivals St Edward's and Radley and also good performances at the Achilles Relays, the Radley Medley Relays, where the intermediate age group competed particularly well, and at Marlborough College. Our squash team has been the most successful to date, under the excellent guidance of captain Seb Hickman. Magnus Gregory continues to impress on the international kayaking circuit and has been selected to race in the World Cup Series in Duisburg. Ethan Moody is also competing for national selection, performing well in his class at the UK Windsurfing Association National Championships with the aim of representing GB at the European Championships this summer.

The Boat Club has had three regattas so far this term and some excellent results ahead of the National Schools' Regatta. Tom Digby and Adam Teece were competing for Great Britain at the Munich Junior International regatta last weekend, putting in excellent performances and thoroughly deserving their GB vests.

I hope that boys and staff are enjoying the many activities associated with the summer term. Certainly, it's good to see the boys making the most of getting outside and enjoying warmer weather.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Felicity Lusk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.

Felicity Lusk