



ABINGDON

From the Head: Miss OFS Lusk, B.Mus

22 April 2016

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Governors and Boys of Abingdon,

Welcome back to the summer term. I hope that everyone has had a refreshing Easter break, and that the boys about to embark on their public exams managed to clock up the required quota of dedicated time for revision.

Work continues on the refurbishment of the former Greening Wing that previously housed science and classics. Now to be renamed Greening Court, the project, when completed, will be home to 16 new classrooms for Geography, Classics and History, with a dedicated GIS lab (Geographical Information System), two new day house rooms (for James' and Cotton's), various offices and resource rooms, SUS (uniform shop) and landscaped outdoor seating areas. Religious Studies will relocate to Mercers' Court.

Although I won't be here in September to see the new facilities in action for the first time, I'm delighted that the project will come to fruition so soon after the opening of the Yang Science Centre. I'm sure that the boys and the teachers will appreciate and enjoy these wonderful new facilities when the time comes. If you would like to see the floor plans, here is the link.

This term we welcome several members of Common Room back to school: Dr Howe (Chemistry) following her maternity leave, Mr Bickerton (Physics) and Dr Wiejak (Maths) who are both covering for staff on leave. Mrs Kaye is now on maternity leave, and both Mr Dean Evans and Mr Brooks are on sabbatical this term.

My congratulations to Miss Williamson who was married during the Easter break.

We have several new members of staff this term: Miss Amy Hadden is our Compliance Officer; Ms Kate Hunter is our new Purchasing Officer; Mr Matt Cording is a supervisor and electrician in our Maintenance Department; and Mr Richard Hagar joins the Grounds team. I wish these new colleagues a happy time while at the School.

We say farewell to Mrs Lesley White from our Housekeeping team.

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

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

As I read the accounts of the trips that were out over the Easter holiday I once more marvel at the opportunities available to the boys. I fully appreciate many parents' sacrifice in order to fund these trips. The vast majority of boys appreciate how very lucky they are to have, not only the opportunity, but also staff and parents willing to facilitate the experience. Reading U15 cricket captain, Harvey Jupp's, account of the tour to Sri Lanka it's clear that this fascinating country made quite an impression on the boys. What a fantastic way to gain a glimpse of a nation with an excellent balance of sightseeing, culture and cricket - something close to every Sri Lankan's heart. In other trips, the fourth year French exchange to Aix-en-Provence proved very successful and the boys are looking forward to the return leg in May. The History department's annual trip to the battlefields was both fascinating and thought provoking for the 48 boys who took part. The boys saw where OAs are commemorated at the Pozières British Cemetery and the Arras memorial. Lower sixth historians also enjoyed a visit to Florence where they learnt about the history, art and architecture of renaissance Italy.

The Silver and Gold DofE sailors took on some tough conditions in the Solent over Easter in their qualifying expeditions, and the DofE Gold practice walking expedition also experienced inclement weather as a back drop to some stunning scenery in Snowdonia. First and second year boys thoroughly enjoyed canoeing, caving, walking and zip wires amongst a myriad of activities in the Brecon Beacons and at PGL Liddington. As an important term for rowing begins, boys were preparing during the holiday in Bordeaux. The accounts from those in the J15 squads make good reading with a healthy emphasis on the vast quantities of food needed to fuel their endeavours!

Recent successes from Abingdonians include an outstanding achievement for Joseph Kelly in the CCF who has won two top awards from the RAF, the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword winner for 2016 and the De Havilland Memorial Winner 2016. Joseph is now considered the top CCF (RAF) cadet in the country. During the Easter holidays, Ethan McLellan, James Munday, Theo Sandstrom and Patrick McCubbin achieved second place in the national final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition held at Loughborough University. This is a fiercely contested competition and an excellent result for the team.

In sport, Tom Guthrie played for England Rugby at U18 and U17 level in international matches against Italy and France over the Easter holiday. In other national team selection, many congratulations to Tom Digby and Adam Teece who will represent the Great Britain Junior Rowing team at the Munich International Regatta on 7 and 8 May. Theo Mara also gained very valuable experience playing for the Independent Schools' Football Association South Central U13 squad at the prestigious Shrewsbury Festival.

At Tilsley Park the 4G pitch has been completed and is already in use, having received FIFA and RFU accreditation. It will host a range of sporting fixtures. The new throw arena adjacent to the running track is almost complete and it is expected to be in use during May. In addition, the social facilities at Tilsley Park have

benefitted from refurbishment with the bar and social room opening by the end of April.

The summer term is already packed full with everything on offer to the boys. I hope that everyone sitting exams copes well with the demands, and that all boys find enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment in everything they undertake.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Felicity Lusk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'F'.

Felicity Lusk