



## Inspirational Art

Harry Wallis-Smith, A-level coursework  
Harry's A level piece focussed on the topic of 'emotion' in his coursework project, and investigated different ways in which various emotions can be depicted through employing different media and techniques. The outcome of this project was a diptych showing the same subject experiencing two contrasting emotions; despair and anger.

This term saw an exhibition of the artwork students produced for their public examinations. Parents, staff and students were invited to view the impressive standard of material on display. Talking about the exhibition, art teacher, Elizabeth Hancock, said:

***“Every year the students produce a very high standard of work and it is a lovely opportunity to be able to invite the rest of the school and parents to view their pieces. The boys should be very proud of their achievements.”***



## From the Headmaster



I remember talking early in my teaching career to a much more experienced colleague, who said that one of the real joys of teaching was being part of a community, connected not just to pupils, colleagues and parents but also to the wider neighbourhood. I have certainly relished the opportunity to join the Abingdon community during my first year in post and I am grateful to everyone who has made me and my family so welcome here.

It has been fascinating to get to know the School, to understand its ethos and to see the pupils taking advantage of the opportunities here. We are committed to the personal development of our pupils in the broadest sense, and that combines a determined focus on helping the boys achieve the best possible academic outcomes while

benefiting from the extraordinary variety of the Other Half. This is all underpinned by the powerful sense of community which was demonstrated to me by the companionship and camaraderie that characterised the events marking the departure of our upper sixth leavers.

Impressed as I am by what I have seen at Abingdon, I believe we can be better still. I very much appreciated the fact that so many parents took the time to complete the questionnaire earlier this year, as this has given me some invaluable material to reflect upon as we plan for the future. I look forward to sharing more information about the next steps for the School in the autumn and I hope that everyone in the Abingdon community had a very happy and restful break over the summer.

*Michael Windsor, Headmaster*

## British Lion guests Tour Dinner



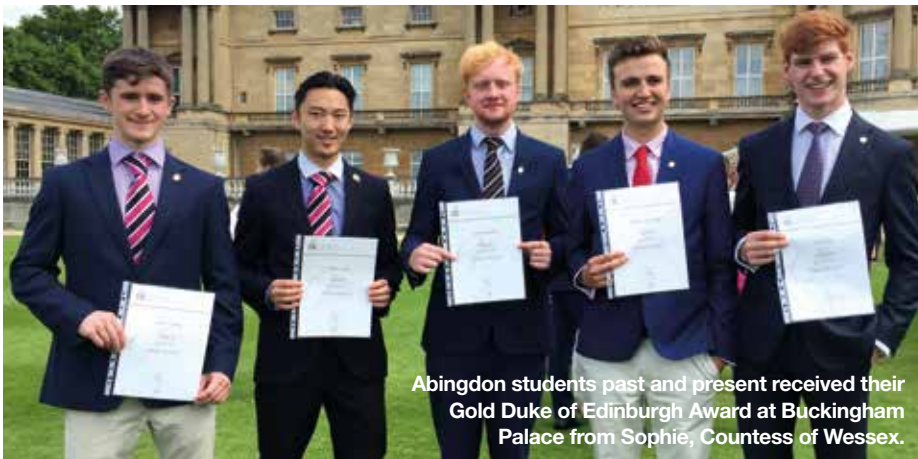
Abingdon School Rugby Club welcomed special guest Manu Tuilagi (Leicester Tigers, England, British Lions) to a black tie fundraising dinner to support the senior rugby school tour to Japan this summer.

Pictured: Tuilagi and the night's compere Jonty Hearnden (*Cash in the Attic* and *Bargain Hunt*).

## Getting to grips with Calculus



Lower sixth pupils were joined by a group from Carterton Community College for a calculus workshop run by Oxford University's Isaac Physics team, led by Dr Jenny Barnes, Isaac Physics Fellow and lecturer in the University's Physics Department. The students were led through a series of increasingly challenging questions, applying their developing calculus skills to problems often encountered in Physics. They were assisted by undergraduate and postgraduate mentors from Oxford, allowing them to really push the limits of their knowledge and abilities. The workshop ended with a very useful session on university admissions with first hand advice from five Oxford physics students and an experienced admissions tutor.



Abingdon students past and present received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace from Sophie, Countess of Wessex.

# 2017 A level and GCSE Results

## A level passes

**26.5%** at grade A\*

**63.0%** at grades A\* and A

**83.4%** at grades A\* to B

**95.1%** at grades A\* to C

**99.8%** at grades A\* to E

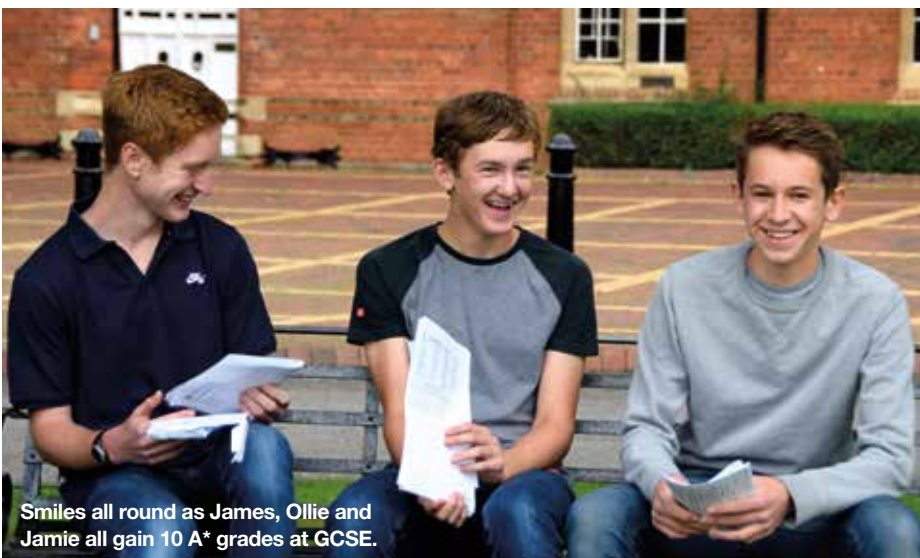
At A level almost half of the year group (81 boys) gained three or more A level passes at A\* or A grades and over a quarter of all passes were awarded the A\* grade. Students performed particularly well in English and Economics where 90% of candidates achieved A\* to B grades.



*\* A level grade equivalencies have been used for pre-U grades in the statistics above. Abingdon uses the pre-U for French, German and Spanish.*

Speaking about the A level results the Headmaster, Michael Windsor, said:

“ I would like to congratulate all our candidates who have achieved such a strong set of results, which reflect the hard work that our students have put into their studies, alongside their quite superb contribution to the wider life of the School. The results also bear testimony to the commitment and skill of the staff at Abingdon who guide our pupils with tenacity, intelligence and enthusiasm. I wish all our leavers well as they move on to the next stages in their lives. ”



Smiles all round as James, Ollie and Jamie all gain 10 A\* grades at GCSE.

## GCSE passes

**59.8%** at grade A\*

**85.5%** at grades A\* and A

**97.7%** at grades A\* to B

**99.6%** at grades A\* to C

**100 %** at grades A\* to G

Almost a third of the year group gained nine or more passes at grade A\*. 81 boys gained all their GCSE passes at A\* or A grades. Demonstrating the breadth of very high achievements across the 23 subjects on offer in Abingdon's GCSE curriculum, a wide variety of subjects reported A\*/A rates of over 85%, including English and English Literature, Physics, French, German, Spanish, Electronics, Greek, History and Latin. Almost all of the other subjects had A\*/A rates above 80%.

The Headmaster was full of praise for the boys saying:

“ This is a quite superb set of GCSE results and I am delighted that the pupils' hard work has paid off in such style. It is exciting to see very high levels of achievement across the board and this underlines the quality and commitment of the staff at Abingdon. The boys have certainly established a firm platform for continued success at A Level. ”

*A level & GCSE figures are subject to change after marking appeals*





## Be the Best

Two upper sixth formers shared their journeys to “be the best” with the Lower School. Charlie Quarterman, recently signed by the Luxembourg-based team Leopard Pro Cycling, and Magnus Gregory, pictured, winner of a Junior Sprint World silver medal in K1 canoeing in the 2016 World Championships, spoke about the effort and dedication they have put in to succeed, the need for resilience when things don’t go according to plan, and the importance of the support of friends along the way.



## National success in Engineering Challenge

The hard work and dedication of two teams of Abingdon students has paid off, quite literally, with the announcement of the winners of the Blott Matthews Engineering Challenge for 2017. The high quality of Team Interport 20’s plan for a realistic, mass-transit system, connecting five London airports to the centre of the City, led to the award of joint first prize and £1000 for James Hogge, Ben Wilson, Joe Nash, Rob MacLennan, Patrick McCubbin, Kurt Lee and Peter Wang. Competing against eight other school teams, Abingdon’s second entry, Team Daedalus, also won the third prize of £500 shared between Alex Moss, Tom Shaw, Josh Washington, Bryce Jersing and Noah Williams. In May, Richard Blott and Charles Matthews, both distinguished engineers themselves, visited the school to meet the teams and present their prizes.



## A Golden Farewell

The Bridge Club thanked 2017 leavers Connor Chippendale and Ethan Lo for their dedication to the club, presenting the boys with a pack of ‘solid’ gold cards. Connor was the longest serving member of the club, having started on the very first day of the club as a young first year. Ethan joined in the third year and has overseen the club for the last two years.



## Lego Mindstorm

Lower school boys in the Lego Mindstorms Club experimented with their first robots, programming them to carry out various tasks around the Lower School Houseroom.

## Young Enterprise

Two fourth year teams picked up prizes for: Best Business Plan, Best Use of Online Media and Best Style and Design at the Said Business School where they were the only 4th year teams competing, at county level, in a strong field of lower sixth groups.





## Scaling the heights for Moldova

Sixth formers who travelled to Moldova in July raised funds for the summer camps they organized for local children by running, cycling, rowing and climbing in the Sports Centre. One group used the climbing wall to scale 430m, the equivalent of the highest geographical point in Moldova, Balanesti Hill, while another used gym equipment to cover a total of 398km, the length of the River Dniester as it flows through Moldova. A total of over £1000 was raised.

## The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

粽子 duan wu jie



This year the Festival was celebrated in the School House kitchen with the 4th year learning about the traditions and language by preparing and sharing typical festival food “粽子 zong zi”. This is exactly how a family would celebrate the festival in China. The boys absolutely loved it!



## Shortlisted for BAFTA

Lower sixth formers Adriano Matousek and Aravind Prabhakaran were both shortlisted for the BAFTA Young Game Designers competition for the phone games they have designed and created. Although the boys were competing in the same “game making” category there is only friendly rivalry between them with both preferring to share ideas. Aravind and Adriano learnt to code in their spare time using blogs and videos, before going on to design their own games, Cosine and Evade, available from Google Play and the App Store.

## Abingdon's Got Talent

Abingdon's Got Talent returned this year with eight acts raising money for Médecins Sans Frontières.



Audiences thoroughly enjoyed the lively and often improvised entertainment with James MacLennan coming out on top and Emma Gabriel and Ana Couzens from St. Helen's coming 2nd and 3rd respectively.



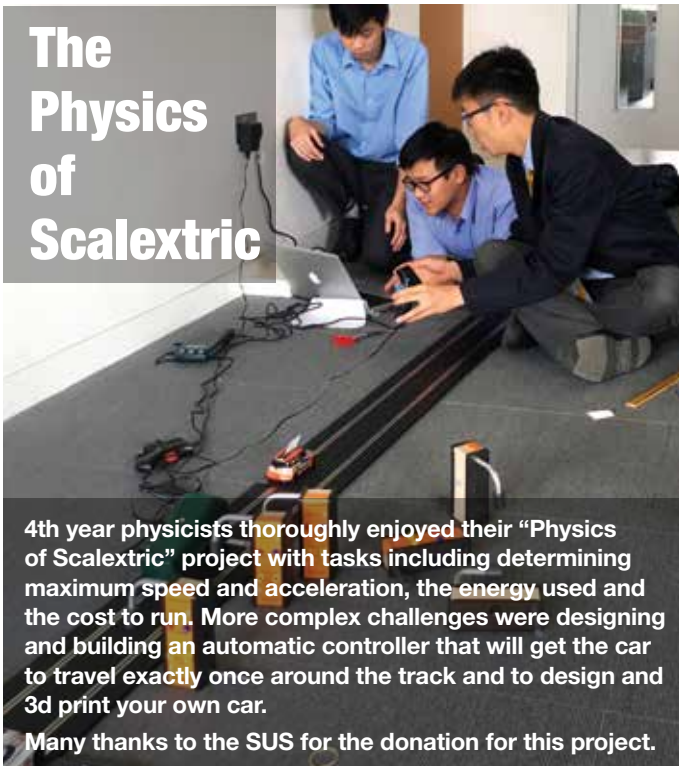


Lower school boys enjoy their new breaktime activity – Trilliards - a cross between billiards and Connect 4.



## First year DT Challenge

First years enjoyed a design challenge constructing a bridge using only uncooked spaghetti and glue. The bridges were then tested to see which could withstand a load - not all survived!



## The Physics of Scalextric

4th year physicists thoroughly enjoyed their “Physics of Scalextric” project with tasks including determining maximum speed and acceleration, the energy used and the cost to run. More complex challenges were designing and building an automatic controller that will get the car to travel exactly once around the track and to design and 3d print your own car.

Many thanks to the SUS for the donation for this project.



## Success for 'The Martlet'

The Martlet, the School's student newspaper, won the 'Best Newspaper Front Cover' category in the national Shine Media Awards with the judges commenting on the 'thoughtful and intelligent' design of the paper. It was also the Highly Commended runner-up in the 'Best Newspaper' category. It was one of 22 school publications shortlisted out of hundreds of entries and three members of the team, Blake Jones, Ben Ffrench and Ben Hutchison attended the awards ceremony.

## Geography Field Studies

Lower sixth geographers have been honing their geographical fieldwork skills and techniques in different environments in preparation for their own Independent Investigation, worth 20% of the new A level specification. Locations included Studland in Dorset, East Hanney, comparative studies of Jericho and parts of the Cowley Road in Oxford and finally a visit to Stratford in East London, the site of the London Olympics, and an area that has been transformed over the last decade.





# Passing out Parade



Following Easter Camp, the CCF Recruits and the AI Cadre had their passing out parade with Inspecting Officer, Colonel Carson. Congratulations to the following who won awards at Easter Camp: Best Recruit, Jasper Trilk, Best AI, Sinclair Pearce, Best Recruit NCO, Max Martin, Best AI NCO, Ben Hall, and Most Improved Recruit, Tom Gardener.



Abingdonians take on Radley at croquet!

## Mission to Mars



Thirty first years spent the day in the Abingdon Science Partnership lab planning a Mission to Mars. Activities included building an air-powered rocket, constructing a payload lander system and designing a Mars habitat capable of sustaining a team of astronauts on the red planet.



Ten third year students took part in the TeenTech competition, embracing the challenges of, amongst others, programming a robot for the Bank of England and cracking safe codes.





## Help in the Community

Sixth formers help tend the sensory garden at Abingdon Hospital as part of Wednesday's Community Service programme. The garden is used by the hospital's patients for recuperation and rehabilitation.



## Aspiring Authors

Nine aspiring young writers saw the publication of the opening chapters of their first books in a new anthology, *Birth of a Book*, produced by Abingdon School students with the help of author Jon Stock. Jon, who has recently released his latest novel *Find Me* and a short story *To Snare A Spy*, has been the writer-in-residence at the school for the last year, running a series of sessions with the students exploring the writing process from initial ideas through to publication.



## Sobell House

James Magé entertained patients, staff and visitors at Sobell House Hospice with a selection of music from composers including Debussy, Beethoven and Mozart. This is the fourth year James has played at Sobell House, raising over £1,300.



## Film School

Lower school boys took part in a One Day Film School under the expert guidance of two professional tutors. The boys explored the history of film making, the elements essential for a good plot and tried their hand at fight choreography with all 128 boys taking it in turns to punch each other on Upper Field!

The project was supported by the Second Hand Uniform Shop through the Annual Fund.

## Congratulations

Lower sixth form student Robert McLennan was 'commended' for his essay entry to the Peterhouse College, Cambridge 'Vellacott History Prize'. In addition to the prize winners, only 13 essays were commended. Robert's essay was on 'Why were there so many new inventions in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?'



### Abingdon School Open Day:

Saturday 30 September  
9.30am - 12.30pm

### Abingdon Prep School Open Day:

Saturday 7 October  
10.00am - 12.00pm

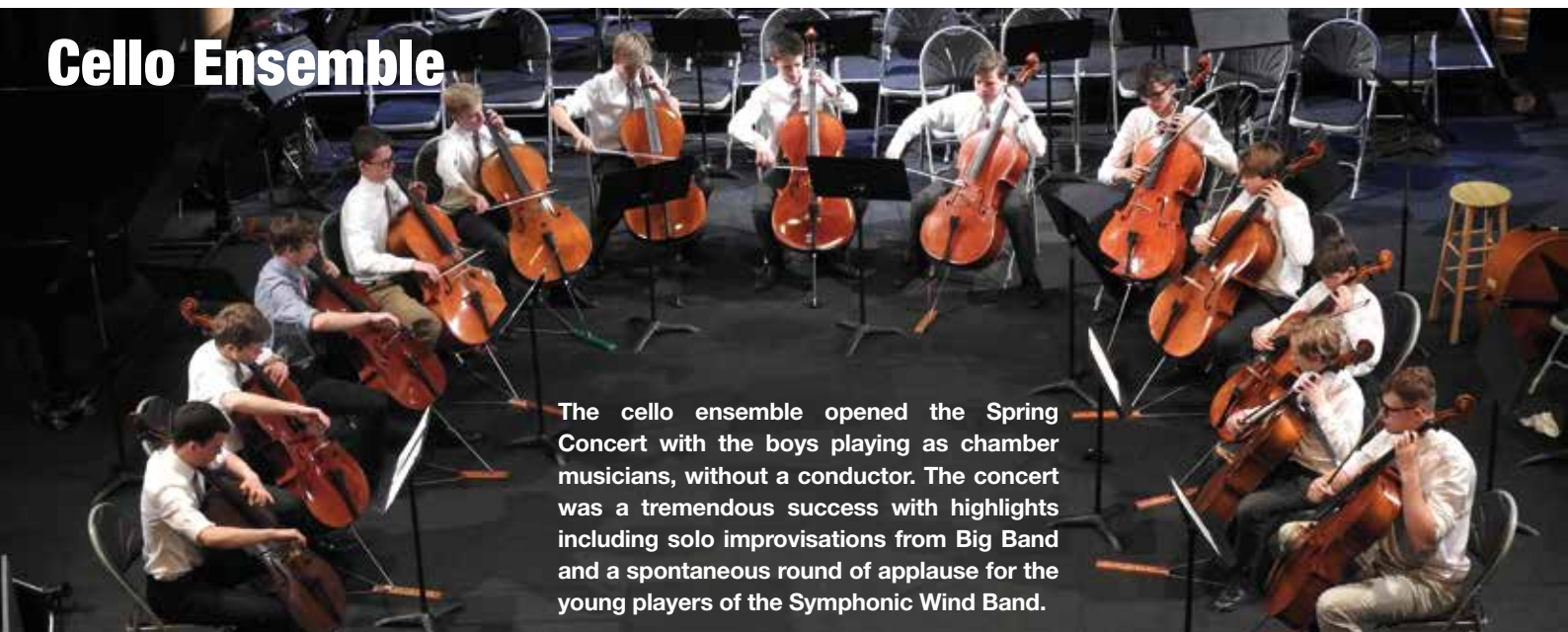


# Leavers' Day





## Cello Ensemble



The cello ensemble opened the Spring Concert with the boys playing as chamber musicians, without a conductor. The concert was a tremendous success with highlights including solo improvisations from Big Band and a spontaneous round of applause for the young players of the Symphonic Wind Band.

## Big Band



The Big Band was amongst the headline acts for this year's Abingdon's Jazz Festival alongside other boy led bands and a staff ensemble.

## Summer Concert



The last concert of the year saw a very welcome guest in the form of the Headmaster join the Chamber Orchestra as a double bassist and the Gospel Choir as a bass. The Summer Evening of Light Music, with a diverse programme performed by all the senior ensembles and vocal groups, was a fitting end to a tremendous year for the Music department.

## Junior Solo Competition



The third and final phase of the Solo Competition, the junior category, saw 12 talented performers impress the audience and judge with a range of instruments, including woodwind, brass, strings and piano. The final decision was very close. Nicholas Raptakis and Jake de Jongh came joint 3rd, Oliver Glover, 2nd and Oliver Northwood, 1st with Mendelssohn's Romance No 3.

## Junior Scholars' and Soloists' Concert



It is always encouraging, just as we say farewell to our senior musicians, to hear the musical talent coming through in the lower years. This year's Junior Music Scholars' and Soloists' Concert contained some sparkling performances, including representatives from each orchestral section alongside some outstanding pianists.



Lower sixth A Level students created four new plays for audiences in the St Helen's studio theatre. All four drew inspiration from the same starting points - an extract from OA Mike Bartlett's 2010 play, *Earthquakes in London*, and the approaches of Cornwall-based theatre company Kneehigh. Congratulations to Reuben Havelock, Archie Gittos, Arthur Musson, Joseph Salter and their St Helen's counterparts on the pieces: all four plays offered their audiences varied, thought-provoking, and hugely satisfying theatrical experiences.



## Two Truths and Lie

*Two Truths and Lie* explored the impact of a revelation on three siblings at their parents' 30th wedding anniversary.

## Plumblossom



*Plumblossom* delved beneath the apparently placid surface of village life to shine a light on tensions at the heart of a family.

## Kill Your Darlings

*Kill Your Darlings* followed a mother who found it impossible to love her child.



## Maximum Sentence



*Maximum Sentence* centred on an injustice that carried the death penalty.





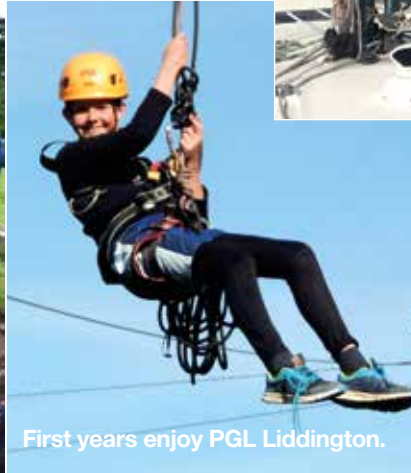
32 boys successfully completed their Gold assessed Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition on the Isle of Arran.



## Sailing in the Solent



Third year ancient historians visit Caerleon.



First years enjoy PGL Liddington.



## Chinese Trip

Third and fourth year Chinese students visited the V&A Museum where James Trapp, a Chinese Language Consultant, gave a lecture on the history of China's cultural contacts with the rest of the world and a guided tour of the Chinese galleries. The lecture was followed by dinner in China Town where the boys practised their language skills.



## WW1 Battlefields

Historians visited the First World War battlefields of Ypres, the Somme and Arras. At the Menin Gate memorial Sam Penrose found his great-uncle Robert Mowforth Penrose, who was in the Australian Army and died in the attack on the Messines Ridge in 1917.



## CCF Easter Camp

The largest ever CCF Easter Camp saw 119 cadets at the Longmoor Training Area. Everyone performed very well with particular congratulations to Jasper Trilk - Best Recruit and Sinclair Pearce - Best AI Cadre.



During the Easter break, 27 cricketers, representing a senior side and an U15 side, toured Sri Lanka in preparation for the new season.





The Silver DofE yachting practice expedition in the Solent saw students sail from Gosport to Poole followed by a complete circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight.



Third year boarders enjoyed a day out in Bristol, visiting the @Bristol Science Museum and enjoying a spot of shopping.

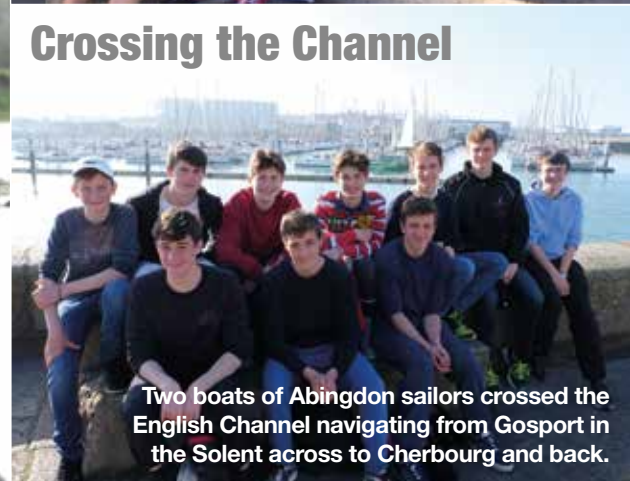


Exploring the Brecon Beacons, the Second Year hiked Pen y Fan, canoed on the River Wye, caved, climbed and gorge walked.



## Valencia

The Upper Sixth on tour in Valencia



## Crossing the Channel

Two boats of Abingdon sailors crossed the English Channel navigating from Gosport in the Solent across to Cherbourg and back.



## Sri Lanka

Visiting Colombo, Kandy, Dambulla, Bentota and Galle, the boys enjoyed some magnificent opportunities to play on fantastic grounds and sample the vast cultural experiences that Sri Lanka has to offer.



## Berlin

37 fourth year students travelled to Berlin visiting the Reichstag Building, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the DDR Museum, the Wannsee Conference House and Frederick the Great's Palace Sanssouci.



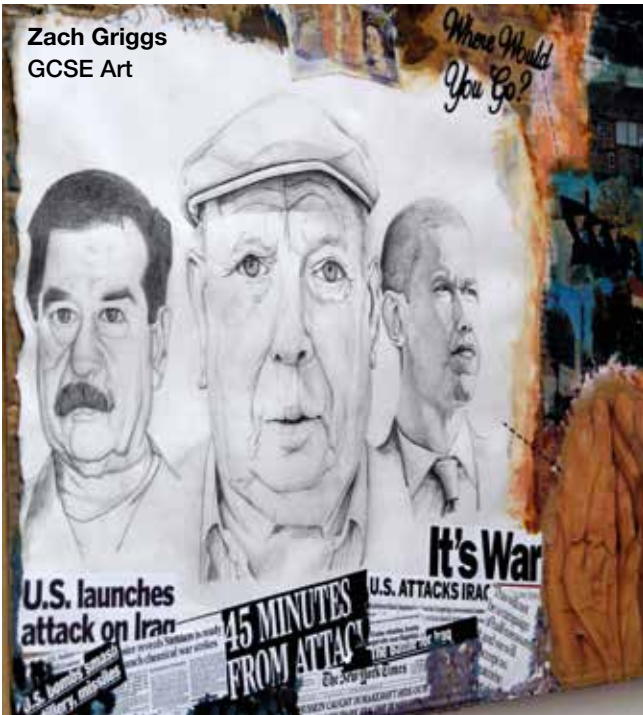
# Abingdon Art, Design and Technology



Jate Jaturanpinyo  
GCSE Art



Tom Bell  
Laminated trailer for 'Easy Rider'  
AS Product Design



Zach Griggs  
GCSE Art



Rory Patisson  
A level Art



Charlie Quaterman

Cycle accessory holder for 'Fabric'  
AS Product Design



William Lowry  
GCSE Art





**Jonathan Hall**  
A level Art



**Charlie Landells**  
Roof mounted camera mount  
A2 Product Design



**Connor Fanning**  
Desktop Storage Unit  
GCSE Design and Technology



**Ollie Singleton**  
360 degree tripod for  
'Polaroid'  
AS Product Design



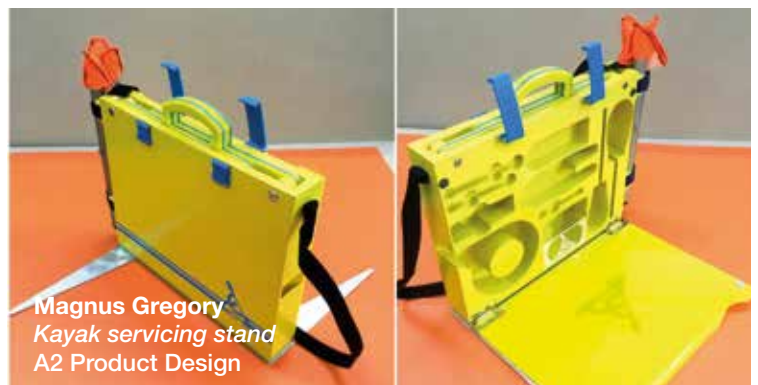
**James Chung**  
Gadget tidy unit  
GCSE Design & Technology



**James Morrell**  
Childs height  
measurement  
accessory for 'BRIO'  
AS Product Design



**Josh Perkins**  
Cycle phone holder for 'Strava'  
AS Product Design



**Magnus Gregory**  
Kayak servicing stand  
A2 Product Design



The L6th and U15 squads enjoyed a tremendous tour of Sri Lanka and returned to successful seasons, with the U15s once again making it through to the regional rounds of the national T20 Cup.



The U14As, having been crowned County Champions, enjoyed a comprehensive 10 wicket victory over MCS in the regional final and now progress to the national rounds next season. Both the U14A and U14C sides only lost the one fixture each this season in an impressive run of results.



Our top 5 tennis players have beaten Radley, MCS, Warwick School and Wolverhampton Grammar School (conceded due to illness) in the National Championships 2017, qualifying for the National Finals as one of the top 16 tennis schools in the country. A stunning achievement for Will Pearson, Tom Buckle, Max Hall, Sam Christie and Lafite Lo pictured (left to right).

At this year's annual Griffen Gala, Abingdon teamed up with swimmers from Abingdon Prep, The Manor, and St Helen's to swim against Abingdon Vale Swimming Club (AVSC). The U18s came off second best to a very strong AVSC team, whilst the U16s swam exceptionally to beat their opposition. The U14s showed another highly impressive display winning all 7 of their races. Daniel McNamara set a new school record for the 50m Butterfly and Nicholas Skelton for the 100m Individual Medley.



Winning Gold at the U18 British Fencing Championships in May, Rob MacLennan is the current U18 British Epee champion.





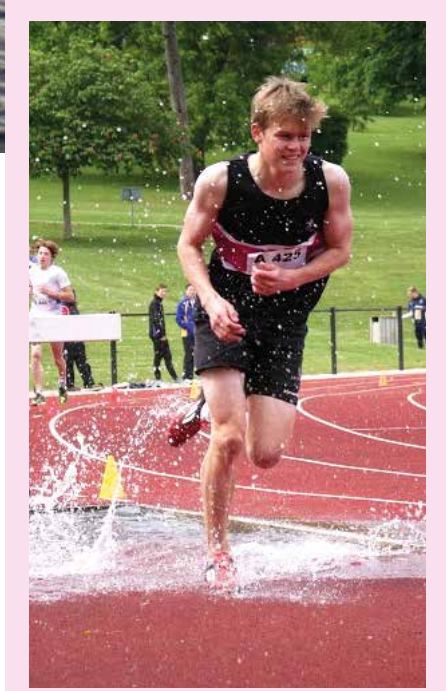
L to R  
Gabriel Dobson, James Stammers,  
Henry Muller, Charles Hall

A busy and productive summer term for the boys in the Boat Club. The 1st VIII progressed to the last 16 at Henley. The J14s to J16s showed some promising results with the J14 A and B crews making the top final at the National Schools regatta.

All of the J14s, J15s and J16s picked up pots a plenty at Bedford Star and Reading town regatta. The J16s topped off the year for their group with a Silver Medal at National Schools in the Coxless Fours event.



Max Carter Keall was selected a year early to play for the England U18 hockey squad against Germany and Belgium as a warm up for the six nations over the summer. Older brother Will Carter Keall (OA) was also selected to compete for the England U21 squad to play against Germany this summer.



Athletes from the First Year to Sixth Form tasted success this summer. Tilsley Park hosted the inaugural Lower School Multi event. Abingdon U13s came away with gold and impressive performances from Josh Broadbent, George Owen and Joshua Mensah. Third and fourth year athletes won team gold when paired with St Helen's at the Nitro Athletics meet and finished 2nd in the regional final of the ESAA Track and Field Cup. Senior athletes competed at the prestigious Achilles Relays and at Harrow, Bedford, Radley and at Marlborough, winning the invitational meet and remaining unbeaten on the track.





## A Fond Farewell

Little did Crispin know that the entire school community had been keeping a special farewell surprise a secret from him for weeks! On 13 June Crispin's work was interrupted and he was whisked away from his study to fly in a light aircraft over the school. Looking down he discovered all the boys, staff and Vice Chairman of Governors spelling out APS on the field and waving. Speaking about the unexpected treat, Crispin said, "This morning's experience came as a complete surprise. One

moment I was in my study and the next I was in the air over South Oxfordshire. To fly over our school and see the whole community gathered on the sports field was a magical sight."

It was a very happy occasion for all and a wonderful way for Abingdon Prep to give Crispin a memorable farewell as he moves on to the Headship of the Dragon School, Oxford.

## Welcome Visitors



Boys thoroughly enjoyed hosting tea and tours for over 150 of their grandparents, they also proudly demonstrated their work - much fun was had by all!



Year 7 learnt about different habitats and the adaptations of plants and animals at the Environmental Education Centre at Sutton Courtenay.



## Young Blades

Fencers took part in the Bucks, Berks and Oxon Fencing Picnic where all five boys fenced extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



The WOW factor really exploded in Pre-Prep with a visit from the creatures at Zoolab.



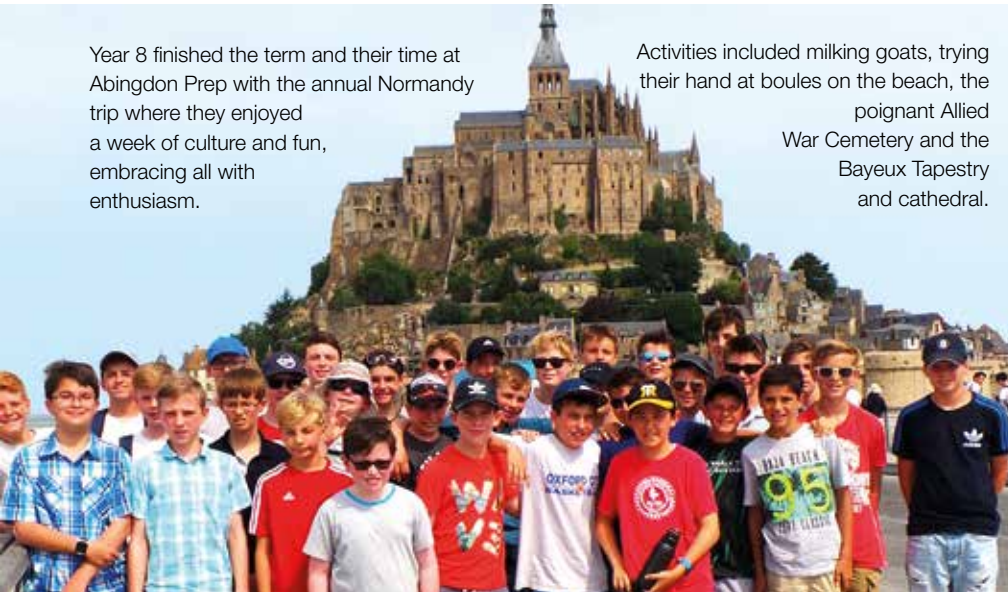
# Definitely *Not* Cricket

The annual under 11 cricket tour to the South West was hampered by rain and sadly all fixtures were cancelled. The boys were undeterred and thoroughly enjoyed themselves surfing, playing on the beach, tenpin bowling and going to the cinema.



Better weather later in the term saw the U11s secure a good win against Pinewood – leading to smiles all round!

Year 8 finished the term and their time at Abingdon Prep with the annual Normandy trip where they enjoyed a week of culture and fun, embracing all with enthusiasm.



Activities included milking goats, trying their hand at boules on the beach, the poignant Allied War Cemetery and the Bayeux Tapestry and cathedral.

## Amazing Art



## Bake Off

With exams behind them, the Year 8 boys turned their attention to perfecting the art of baking in science making pizza dough and adding tasty toppings, followed by baking celebration cupcakes - needless to say, all eaten with relish! (Not literally!)



Abingdon Prep has a fantastic reputation for art, regularly exhibiting at Young Art Oxford and at the SATIPS, annual art exhibition where eight boys from Years 6 to 8 displayed their work. In May the Prep opened its doors to Oxfordshire Artweeks showcasing a wide range of work from across the years.

## Summer Concert



The term's busy music calendar came to a grand finale with the Summer Concert in the senior school's Amey Theatre. Boys played and sang to a large, appreciative audience of parents and staff bringing a wonderful term to a superb end!



Year 5 put all their energy into their trip to PGL, building shelters and camp fires and enjoying canoeing, aero ball, the giant swing, zip wire and abseiling.

## Ancient Egypt



An excited Year 3 visited the Ashmolean Museum to explore the exhibits on ancient Egypt, which they had discussed in lessons about life and the beliefs of the ancient Egyptians. The boys held some original artefacts including an axe, a mirror and a statue base but their firm favourite had to be the mummies!



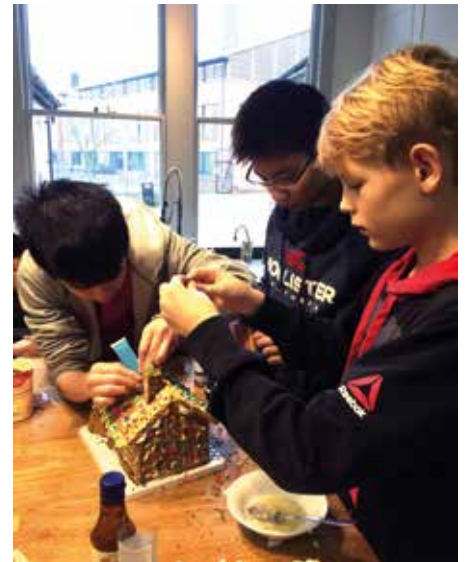


## Boarding at Abingdon

Boarding at Abingdon has a long history and, although not boarders in the modern sense of the word, the original students at the school in the 12th century would have lived and studied in close proximity to the monks at Abingdon Abbey.

Fast forward almost 900 years and boarding continues to thrive. The 138 boarders, both full and weekly, make up a significant community at Abingdon, and contribute a great deal towards the School's ethos, both in academic endeavours and in the emphasis placed on the Other Half programme which is more typical of a full boarding school than a day school.

The biggest change in boarding at Abingdon over the last 20 years has seen the School welcome a diverse range of international students. Eighteen nationalities are currently represented and boys benefit from both living and working in the UK, while enabling the British-based boarders and dayboys to interact with and experience a range of international cultures. This cultural exchange happens in both directions - it is great to see one of the new boarders from Hong Kong, Russia or Nigeria take on the delights and challenges of rugby, cricket or croquet for the first time, while the Chinese New Year Dinners, that all three boarding houses have, are one of the social highlights of the year.



Boarding continues to develop at Abingdon as we look to offer an experience that is contemporary and relevant to the 21st century. Overseas boarders get many opportunities to explore the UK and British culture, as part of the Abingdon Boarding Experience programme, including trips to London, Bristol, Portsmouth, Bath and elsewhere, as well as the many attractions of the university city of Oxford, just up the road.

Abingdon boarders are a happy and mutually supportive group of young men. When asked to describe what they felt were the biggest benefits of boarding, perhaps the most common response was the sense of community that flourishes in the boarding houses. The boarders appreciate their home away from home and Abingdon boarding looks set to prosper for many years to come.





## ASPA – a social group worth following ...

What was most remarkable about the June get together of lower sixth parents (who are now upper sixth parents) in the Abingdon School Café, was that many of this group have attended virtually every ASPA event since their first coffee morning at Lucy Fishburn's house in November 2011! So, to find out more about this sociable group, we asked them a few questions about their time at ASPA events – here are just a selection of their comments...

### Most memorable events?

- “ Pembroke College
- “ Eynsham Hall
- “ Ipsden Barn Dance
- “ Anne-Marie's pop knowledge at the ASPA Annual Quiz!

### Why would you encourage someone to attend an ASPA event?

- “ Fun evenings, a great way to keep in touch ...makes you feel very much part of the school
- “ The friends we have made have been my support network as a working mother
- “ Great friends who hopefully we will stay in touch with...one of the best things about our Abingdon experience!

### How have ASPA events impacted on your Abingdon School experience?

- “ Enabled us to feel connected in a small way to our son's experience
- “ Really helped to hear what is going on, other parents' points of view and how to guide our son

### Why have you attended every ASPA event over the past 6 years?

- “ Why wouldn't we? Always up for a good night out with lovely people!
- “ We didn't want to miss out!
- “ We've looked forward to them and will miss them when our son leaves!

## OA and ASPA Travel Awards

This year, five awards were given to boys embarking on a range of projects around the world. Awards are jointly funded by the OAs and ASPA and we're delighted to announce this year's recipients below.

- Adam Bradley** Undertaking a history project in the Kisii District of Western Kenya in an attempt to record, for the first time, the history of a Kenyan clan.
- Daniel Neild** Working within local communities and marine conservation amongst the islands of the Raja Ampat archipelago, Indonesia.
- Carl Olavesen** Volunteering in Zambia to teach science and maths at an under-resourced secondary school.
- Cameron Thomson** Ecuador – living and contributing in remote communities in the Andes, jungle, Amazon and on the Galápagos.
- Tom Woods** Practical and theoretical game reserve veterinary experience in South Africa.



Cameron Thomson receiving his award at Prize Giving



# Abingdon Old Abingdonians

## Creatures Great and Small



### Edd Knowles (OA 1998)

I am an RCVS recognised specialist in equine internal medicine, currently working at Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic, while completing my PhD at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). I studied at Cambridge University, and after graduating began work in small animal practice. Realising I wanted to work as an equine vet, I moved to Bell Equine in 2007.

I have worked as a house vet within the hospital, an ambulatory vet working from my car, and completed my specialist training through a joint program between the practice and RVC. My PhD investigates how the risk of developing laminitis differs between individual horses and ponies, such that improved prevention strategies can be developed.

Career highlights have been obtaining my European Diploma in Equine Internal Medicine which was a real milestone, and working in the veterinary teams at the London and Rio Olympics were great fun!

Abingdon fostered a real interest in biology that continues to shape my career and research. I had some great teachers and contemporaries who made Abingdon such a fun and productive place. In particular Dr King's knowledge and passion for biology were inspiring and memorable, and I'm indebted to Mr Davies who made me focus and work hard. Abingdon also taught me the value of sport and the Other Half. I'm hopeless at rugby but loved joining in and I continued rowing throughout university.

### Jonny Hughes (OA 2007)

After graduating with honours from The Royal Veterinary College London, I made the decision to work in small animal practice, completing two years at a veterinary practice, followed by a 12 month small animal clinical training scholarship at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. Here I developed an interest in veterinary diagnostic imaging. The scope of technology available for animals in 2017 is vastly increasing and has improved our ability to diagnose problems with amazing accuracy, and in the most non-invasive way possible, which is integral to animal welfare.

Having pursued training in this area, I am one of only a handful of people who are European recognised specialists, and as a result have taken up a position as Junior Clinical Vet at Queen's Veterinary School Hospital at the University of Cambridge. I carry out and interpret diagnostic images for the multiple specialist services in the hospital including surgery, medicine, oncology, orthopaedics, cardiology and the equine referral centre, while also contributing to undergraduate teaching of vet students coming through Cambridge University.



Abingdon gave me a solid academic grounding in scientific principles, anatomy, maths and logical problem solving skills that I still use today. I also feel it has made me a well-rounded down-to-earth individual equipped to deal with the emotions and stresses of the pet-owning community I provide for. Without the guidance of outstanding science teachers like Mr Middleton, I would not have achieved everything I needed to get me to where I am. He inspired me to bring the same level of diligence to my everyday work to this day.

### Laurie Barrow (OA 2009)

I initially attended Durham University studying Zoology which was great fun and I learned a lot, but I was craving something more active, so in my final year I applied for Veterinary Medicine and got a place at Nottingham University where I have just completed my course.

By far the best part of studying to be a vet is how practical and hands on it is. From day one you are learning how to use ultrasound machines, take blood samples, and perform various medical procedures. Surgery is introduced early in the course so you get a chance to put all that textbook learning into practical use. In addition, the variety of working with everything from small puppies to high-end racehorses is immensely rewarding.

Abingdon's academic strengths need not be mentioned, but something that is perhaps underrated is the competency in verbal communication achieved from an Abingdon education. I believe the high teacher to student ratio, along with approachable teachers, led me to develop effective communication skills that have certainly helped in my current course, and will continue to help throughout my employment. A grounding in a variety of sports through Abingdon's other half activities has allowed me to join many university societies, the sporting and social aspects of which are equally important and enjoyable.





## Forthcoming Events

### Michaelmas term

#### **Hong Kong Reception**

Monday 25 September  
Excelsior Hotel

#### **Abingdon School Open Day**

Saturday 30 September

#### **OA Careers Event: Finance, Law & Consultancy**

October (Date & Venue TBC)

#### **OA Squash & Badminton Fixture**

November (Date TBC)  
Sports Centre

#### **Sixth Form Careers Evening**

Friday 17 November  
Yang Science Centre

#### **OA Club London Drinks Reception**

Friday 24 November  
Venue TBC

### Lent term

#### **University Reunion – Southampton**

Friday 19 January  
Venue TBC

#### **Regional Reunion Lunch – Southampton**

Saturday 20 January  
Venue TBC

#### **University Reunion - Birmingham**

Friday 2 February  
Venue TBC

#### **Regional Reunion Lunch – Birmingham**

Saturday 3 February  
Venue TBC

#### **University Reunion – Cardiff**

Friday 2 March  
Venue TBC

#### **Regional Reunion Lunch – Cardiff**

Saturday 2 March  
Venue TBC

#### **Road Relay**

Monday 19 March  
Abingdon School

#### **OA Football & Hockey Fixtures**

Saturday 24 March  
Tilsley Park



London Drinks



OA Football Team



Road Relay winners



Badminton and Squash day



# Abingdon Out of the Past

## Remembering Their Friends

A new home has been found for the paving slabs that once graced the area known in the 1960s as The Precinct, the space between the café and what they called the Court Room before it became the Geography block (and is soon to be the new Beech Court). In 1960 the OAs of the 1920s offered to pay for paving slabs to smarten up this area. They decided that, in addition to their own initials, they would inscribe them with those of some of their friends who had been killed during the 1939-45 War. The stones were taken up before the building work started on Beech Court and have now been given a permanent home in the Jekyll Garden.



There are 16 initials on the main memorial stone; 11 of them belong to boys who appear in the 1927 photograph – 5 in the section shown: Dennis Hillier (DJWH), who served with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and was killed on 29 June 1944, 19 days after the regiment landed in Normandy; sub-mariners Harry d'Almaine (HRd'A) and Edmund Hunt (EGS) based at Valetta on the island of Malta whose submarines failed to return to port on 1 May 1941 and 8

January 1943 respectively. Lewis Godwin (LJFG), serving with the RAF and also stationed on Malta, who was killed in an air raid there on 28 February 1941, and Peter Darbshire (PO'ND) who served with Bomber Command and was missing presumed killed when his plane failed to return from a mission over Europe 15/16 December 1940.



The main memorial stone

## Curious Window



For those still wondering where the curious window is to be found (April Abingdon News) it's to the right of the front door of Park Lodge.

You can now follow Abingdon School on, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Twitter: @abingdonschool

Facebook: @abingdonschool

Instagram: @abingdon\_school



Abingdon's Head Groundsman, Paul Robson, died last year after 17 years with the School. In appreciation of his work, the new all-weather, six-lane cricket nets on War Memorial Field have been named the Robson Wickets and a bench in his memory placed overlooking Waste Court Field.

