



ABINGDON

FROM ONE
GENERATION
TO THE NEXT

Leaving a legacy

From the Headmaster

Over the centuries, generous individuals have made the decision to include Abingdon in their wills. The impact of these bequests has been huge: land, buildings, bursaries... we would not be the school we are today without this tradition of generosity.

Now we would like to invite you to become part of this tradition. Legacies contribute to our future and enable us to expand the opportunities and excellence we have to offer.

Mike Windsor, Headmaster



'Legacies will enable us to expand the opportunities and excellence we have to offer.'





Whether you decide to direct your support to bursaries, as I have, or whether you are happy for it to be used as an unrestricted gift, you can contribute to the future of this inspirational school.

And, during your lifetime you can stay in closer touch with Abingdon through the 1563 Society (see pages 10-11) and gain a growing understanding of the good your legacy will do.

*Alan Williams (1965)
Chairman, The 1563 Society*

*'...you can contribute to
the future of this
inspirational school.'*

Legacies: fundamental from the start

The earliest document relating to the existence of what became Abingdon School dates from 1256 when John de Blosneville, Abbot of Abingdon Abbey, left a bequest for the support of thirteen poor scholars. Just over 300 years later, in 1563, John Roysse re-endowed the School as a new foundation following the dissolution of the Abbey under Henry

VIII. Roysse's endowment included property in the City of London, the income from which helped finance the School for the next 300 years. Sold in 1868, the proceeds underpinned the funding of the present school.

However, our benefactors are by no means only historic: Richard Cox

(1934), Hugh Leach (1953) and Nigel Hammond (1957), have all left substantial bequests to the School in recent years. Like many others before and since, they wanted to acknowledge the benefit they received from an Abingdon education and by so doing contribute to its future.



There are currently 63 pupils at the school whose places were made possible by means-tested bursaries funded in part by legacy gifts, with 11 of these pupils receiving a full bursary.

Legacies: the impact now



I vividly remember my first visit to Abingdon. I was eleven. From the road, the Chapel and the old school buildings made a big impression on me. Looking round, I knew I wanted to learn here.

I came to Abingdon as a bursary pupil from a small primary school. If I had gone on to my local secondary school, I simply would not have benefited from the opportunities I received at Abingdon. I took piano to diploma level and cello to grade 8. By GCSEs, I was doing something musical every evening. Abingdon's 'Other Half' made this possible.

I felt intellectually stretched. I look back with gratitude at my teachers,

who were willing to put the extra time in and to encourage me. And when the time came to apply for a place at Oxford, they gave me wonderful guidance.

Now I am in my third year at New College, Oxford, reading Classics, a subject I love and would not have discovered were it not for Abingdon. I was grateful for my bursary from the moment I arrived at Abingdon. I will continue to be grateful all my life.

Anthony Bracey (2016)

'I will continue to be grateful all my life.'

Abingdon changed my life. The teachers invested in me and helped me gain confidence academically. Sport taught me teamwork and responsibility, and the house system gave me friends for life. All of this added up to an outstanding education.

Now I am a leader in the NHS mental health system – a position I could not have reached without Abingdon. My journey here started with the offer of a bursary. I needed help; the School gave it.

The need is there. I know there are many capable and talented young guys from the local area whose families could not possibly afford an

Abingdon education without the sort of financial help I received. I also believe the whole School benefits from the different perspectives these pupils can bring.

I realise that a long tradition of legacies and giving makes it possible for the School to be more generous with bursaries and I am so grateful to those who plan to continue this tradition. I will be joining them.

Sam Murrell (2011)

*'I needed help;
the School gave it.'*



Legacies: future impact

Looking ahead over the next few decades, our key areas for support will be these:

Bursaries

Many boys in the past came to Abingdon on free places either under the Direct Grant or the Assisted Place schemes. Since the demise of these schemes, the School has expanded its own bursary provision and aims to expand it further.

Typically, our transformational bursaries are 90 - 100% of school fees. This means a boy will be supported for his full career at

Abingdon School – not just his fees, but additional costs such as curriculum trips, or a suit and laptop for sixth formers. This often makes the essential difference for our families. Those who benefit bring fresh perspectives, motivation and inspiration to the whole school.

Partnerships


We are also providing a wide range of opportunities to children from local schools. From science lessons for local primary schools, to hockey coaching and film-making, our Partnership Programme is already a firm feature of school life and an inspiring example for other

independent schools. But we can do more.

Buildings

We will continue to develop our campus because facilities and surroundings matter to the education we provide.

Whether you choose to leave a bequest to the School as a whole or to a specific area of school life, this is an important decision. If you would like to discuss it with us, please get in touch.



Partnerships: Abingdon pupils share their enthusiasm for science with local primary schoolchildren.

The 1563 Society

The 1563 Society is one important way in which Abingdon shows gratitude to those who have pledged a legacy.

We hold an annual 1563 Society lunch at Abingdon for members and their partners or guests. We also invite members to other school events over the year, and we keep them informed of developments. In short, membership of the 1563 Society provides the opportunity to develop a close relationship with the Abingdon of today.

In recognition of membership of the 1563 Society, we give members a set of bespoke cufflinks or, if preferred, a pendant of the same design.

We are proud of the close ties we have with those who support us and we are always happy to welcome 1563 Society members to the School at anytime.



*John Roysse, 1500 – 1571
A benefactor at a key moment in the
School's history.*

When you decide to include Abingdon in your will you join a growing community who share a deep interest in Abingdon's future.

David Allen (1967)
David Bosley (1989)
Adrian Burn (1963)
John Carter (1953)
Bryan Costin (1955)
John Cullen (Former Staff)
Graham Gingell (1956)
Jonathan Grosvenor (1979)
Simon Hills (1975)*
Justin Hodges (1989)
Martin Iredale (1956)
Tony Leathem (1962)
Terence Libby (1961)*
Bruce Mackay (1964)
Michael Matthews (1952)
Christopher Pickup (1960)*

Olga Senior (Governor)
Kevin Senior (Friend)
Brian Smith (1957)
Anne Smithson (Former Staff)
Mike Stevens (1968, Chairman of Governors)*
Richard Stone (1992)
David Treacher (1950)
John Walker (1969)*
Christopher Webb (1961)
Simon Wilden (1982)
Peter Willerton (Former Staff)
Alan Williams (1965, Chairman of the 1563 Society)*
Harold Williams (1954)
Martin Woodgett (Former Staff)
Cyril Woodruff (1956)
Anonymous (1965)
Anonymous (1952)
Anonymous (1967)
Anonymous (Former Parent)

**Members of the
1563 Society Committee*



A natural decision

Abingdon has provided a top-quality education for thousands of boys down the generations and has always promoted the belief that those educated here have a role to play in society.

I was lucky enough to benefit from the Direct Grant scheme. That scheme has long been abolished but Abingdon has established a bursary programme that enables help to be given to able boys who, without that help, would not be so fortunate.

I have no doubt that Abingdon stretched and challenged me.

Good teaching, numerous extra-curricular activities including sport, drama, music, debating and the CCF, together with a truly inspiring Headmaster, held me in good stead for the rest of my life.

Having gained so much from Abingdon, I firmly believe that generations into the future should have access to the sort of education I enjoyed. Including Abingdon in my will is an obvious and natural way to contribute to this.

Alan Williams (1965)



A point in life

I enjoyed my time at school. It gave me a great start and it is still very much part of my 'brand'.

I benefited from the Direct Grant Scheme, as did many of my contemporaries. Then the School was a positive force for social mobility and I want it to remain so. I feel strongly about access to quality education for all, so the decision to include Abingdon in my will came naturally.

I am happy that when the time comes Abingdon will use my legacy to give other boys the opportunities I experienced more than forty years ago.

Simon Hills (1975)

'... the School was a positive force for social mobility in my time. It will continue to be so into the future.'



An important word about tax

Abingdon School is a registered charity (1071298), so all legacies made to the School are exempt from UK Inheritance and Capital Gains Taxes.

Under current rules, if you leave 10% or more of your chargeable net estate to charity, the Inheritance Tax rate on the whole of your taxable estate is reduced from 40% to 36%.

Choosing the right type of legacy

Pecuniary

You leave a specific sum. Over time, the value will decrease with inflation, so it makes sense to index-link your sum to preserve its current value.

Residuary

You give the remainder of your estate (or a percentage) after all other bequests to friends and family have been distributed and all outgoings have been dealt with. This is the generally the most valuable type of legacy to Abingdon.

Reversionary

You leave your assets to trustees so that family members or other beneficiaries can enjoy the income during their lifetime, with all or a

portion of the capital going to Abingdon after their death.

Conditional

If none of your named dependants survive you, your estate passes to other named beneficiaries and charities, e.g. Abingdon.

Specific, or non-money

Allows you to make a bequest in the form of shares, property or valuables, such as works of art.

Advice

Making a will is an important and often complex task. So, we recommend that you seek independent legal advice.

Each November, you can use a local solicitor who has signed up to Will Aid to make your will and, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, you can donate to one of nine leading charities. The suggested donation is £95 for a basic will or £150 for a pair of basic mirror wills.




Next steps

If you have already included Abingdon in your will, or intend to do so, please tell us by completing the enclosed Legacy Pledge Form. Alternatively, you can complete your legacy pledge online.

www.abingdon.org.uk/legacies

Do get in touch directly. We would be happy to discuss your ideas and plans with you.



*'The greatest and last
social blunder is for
anyone over the age
of 21 to die without
making a will.'*

Sir James Cobban, Headmaster
of Abingdon School 1947-1970

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