



ABINGDON



# The Abingdon Foundation

Donations, Volunteering and Partnerships:  
The Impact of Giving



# The Impact of Giving 2017–2019



## A warm welcome from the Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors

“I am delighted to be able to contribute to Abingdon’s first Impact Report. Abingdon is such an exciting place to work and study. It is hugely rewarding to see students flourish in an environment of challenge, endeavour and ambition. Behind each success that we celebrate there are powerful individual stories which highlight the support and commitment of the wider community.

What I particularly enjoy about Abingdon is the fact that there are so many different opportunities both in academic life and in our formidable extra-curricular programme (the Other Half). This allows boys of wide-ranging talents and aptitudes to thrive and prosper so that they can become the best version of themselves. Underpinning our ethos is a strong sense of service to the local and wider community. I hope that we equip our students for life after Abingdon and prepare them to do what they can to make the world a better place.

The achievements of the Foundation are built upon the hard work and commitment of our enthusiastic and dedicated staff but we also benefit enormously from an array of volunteer support behind the scenes. In this report we endeavour to reflect the breadth and depth of the commitment that comes from our volunteers and to express our gratitude.

We also want to widen access to the opportunities of Abingdon by growing the reach of our programme of bursaries and partnerships. The support of our community is vital in allowing us to achieve these goals and there is much more that we want to do.

Whether you are a current or former member of staff or parent from our Preparatory or Senior School, an OA, Governor or friend of our extraordinary community, your support is fundamental to our future success and, on behalf of the Abingdon Foundation, I thank you. I hope you enjoy reading the following pages and that we can continue to rely on your support.

**Mike Windsor, Headmaster**







Abingdon School has thrived for over 750 years and, combined with Abingdon Prep School within the Abingdon Foundation, we now educate over 1250 boys aged 4–19 years old across our two sites. We combine our long and rich history with a progressive outlook, always looking forward and remaining ever mindful that we not only carry the highest responsibility for the education of our pupils, but also to ensure that the Foundation remains a force for good in our local community and the wider world.

We want to ensure that the young men who leave Abingdon each year carry with them a sense that they are the best that they can be: in academic achievement, in sport, music, community service, the arts and in the social relationships so important in all spheres of their interest and endeavour. We owe this not only to the extraordinary ability of all our staff who, in whatever capacity, serve to provide the broadest and best education we can offer, but also to the considerable contributions, seen and unseen, made by parents, governors, alumni and all other friends of the Foundation.

Our alumni should be justifiably proud of all that they gained from their time at Abingdon and will, we hope, recognise that by sharing insights into what they have achieved since leaving the School, they can inspire and stimulate the current generation of boys in their choices for the future.

We recognise the excellence of our facilities, and the qualities of our staff and our boys and have seen how, in contributing to our rapidly expanding partnership programme, this ensures that Abingdon can share with and learn from colleagues and peers in the many other schools with which we now have relationships.

We particularly recognise that there are other boys of great ability who could gain so much from an Abingdon education but whose family circumstances do not permit this without assistance from our bursary programme. We want to expand such opportunities to broaden and encourage diversity amongst our community.

This, our first Impact Report, provides much more for you to learn about all that it means to be Abingdon. I hope it interests you and that you will feel encouraged to support and develop our plans for the future in any way you can.

**Professor Mike Stevens, *Chairman of Governors*, (OA 1968)**



# Giving in Action



The abolition of Direct Grant Schools in 1976, and of the Assisted Place Scheme that replaced it between 1980 and 1997, removed the possibility of boys being able to come to Abingdon with fee assistance from the state. Since 1997 the School has sought to continue offering assisted places to boys wanting an education at Abingdon.

Today, thanks to the generosity of OAs, parents, Governors, staff and friends of the Foundation, we currently support 58 boys through our bursary fund. Many OAs who benefitted from free places contribute to this bursary fund as they feel it is important that boys like themselves are still able to benefit in the way they once did. We have committed to increase the funds available so that we can support more pupils in the future.

## Widening access through bursaries

Gill Bowen, parent of James Bowen (OA 2019)

**An increasing number of Abingdon parents are joining us in making an Abingdon education possible for others. Gill Bowen explains why she has chosen to give to bursaries at Abingdon.** “The amazing quality of teaching, facilities and opportunities offered should be made available to a wider group of pupils who may be less able to fund a place but are equally deserving of an Abingdon education due to their talent, skills and motivation. If the school community as a whole joins together to give more financial support to assist this group in accessing this opportunity, then I believe that the pupils and School would benefit enormously.”

## Passionate about supporting music

David Allen (OA 1967)

**Some of our supporters choose to give to specific areas of School life.** David’s passion for music led him to give a generous donation to the music department so that Abingdon pupils could have the opportunity to learn the harp. We have been able to invest in two small sized harps which has enabled two boys to take up the instrument. The School will soon be investing in a Japanese Student Lever Harp so that the students can practise at home. We hope to be able to purchase a full concert harp for use in lessons and orchestral rehearsals once the boys have reached the required standard. We are delighted to be able to offer such specialist music provision and without David’s support, this would not be possible.



# Why Bursaries Matter

## Accessible to all

Thanks to a bursary I was able to attend Abingdon School. I believe this education provided me with three main benefits:

First, the inspiring, down to earth and supportive ethos of the School, which filters down to the individual teachers.

Secondly, access to amazing sporting facilities, highly qualified coaching staff and opportunities for consistent participation and leadership in a variety of sports.

Lastly, and most importantly, the house system and the Other Half at Abingdon gave me lifelong friends.

I would definitely encourage anyone considering supporting Abingdon's bursary programme. Without bursaries being available at Abingdon there will be many capable and talented boys from the local area that will not be able to access all that Abingdon has to offer.

**Sam Murrell** (OA 2011)

## A life-changing bursary

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 arrived at Abingdon as a bursary pupil from a small primary school and benefitted from the amazing opportunities on offer.

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 went on to read Classics at New College, Oxford, 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** (OA 2016)

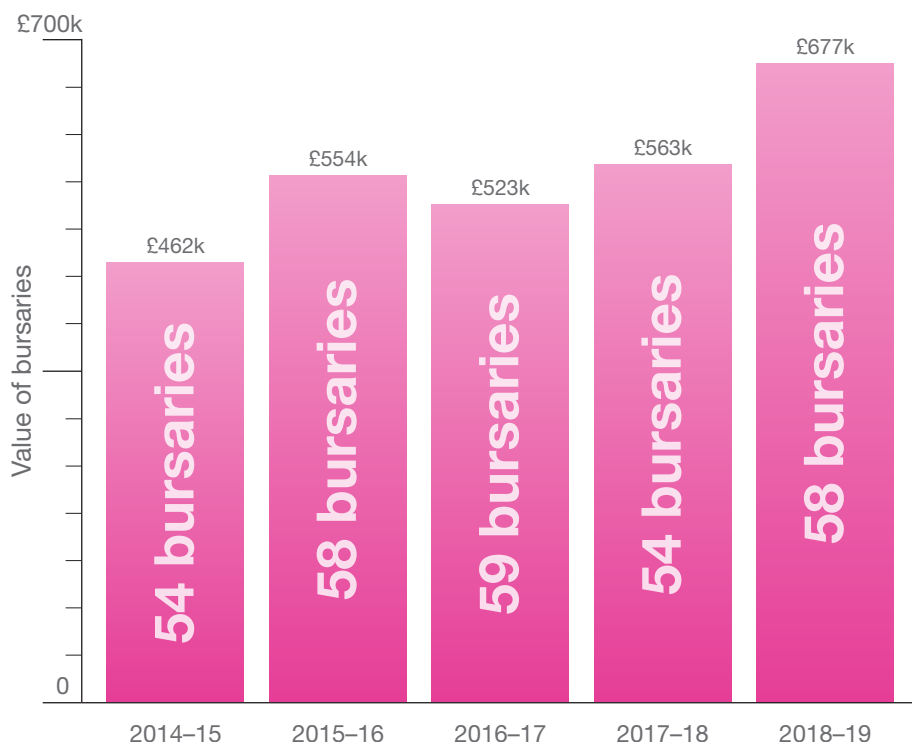


# Why Bursaries Matter

If you would like to know more about supporting bursaries at Abingdon, we would be delighted to talk to you.







Abingdon School is receiving an increasing number of applications for higher level bursary awards. This graph shows the greater cost to the Foundation of awarding these bursaries.

**58 boys**  
on bursaries in 2018-19

**Abingdon Foundation Bursary Spend 2014-2019**



I came to Roysse's, as Abingdon School was then known, in 1952 as a beneficiary of a direct grant place. At that time grants called scholarships were available to children who passed the 11+ or 13+ examinations. A scholarship to boys in the Abingdon area allowed them to attend Roysse's as day boys with their tuition fees being paid by the local authority.

I, and many of my friends, benefitted from this arrangement. I have no doubt that my time at the School contributed substantially to being able to offer my bursary to a pupil today. I am happy to be able to give back and allow another boy to benefit from the education that I too had as a child.

I made a will a few years ago leaving a bursary to cover the tuition fees throughout his school career for a boy from a local Abingdon primary school. Sometime after I had made my will I decided that, as I was able to do so, I would donate my bursary during my lifetime so that I could meet the recipient and follow his progress throughout his School career.

I have met the successful applicant and his parents. He is a very good pupil having just completed his first year and his reports are outstanding which brings great joy to me. I hope those OAs who are able to do so will follow my example.

**Peter Kandiah (OA 1959)**

**“I have provided a bursary for a boy from a local Abingdon primary school.**



# Abingdon School Parent-led Associations

We are grateful to all parents who contribute so much to School life through our parent-led groups. Thanks to their time, commitment and fundraising efforts, the pupil experience has been enriched in so many ways.

## Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club

FASBC was established to support the School Boat Club in every sense of the word. The membership is made up mainly of parents but also OAs and former parents.

## Abingdon School Music Society

ASMS is the parent body established to support the musical life of the School. The income comes from subscriptions and fundraising; this is then used for, amongst other things, the purchase of specialised instruments, supporting music tours and funding master classes for the boys.

## Abingdon Touchliners

This is the parent group for rugby at Abingdon School. They fundraise and support rugby for all pupils who wish to enjoy this core sport at Abingdon.

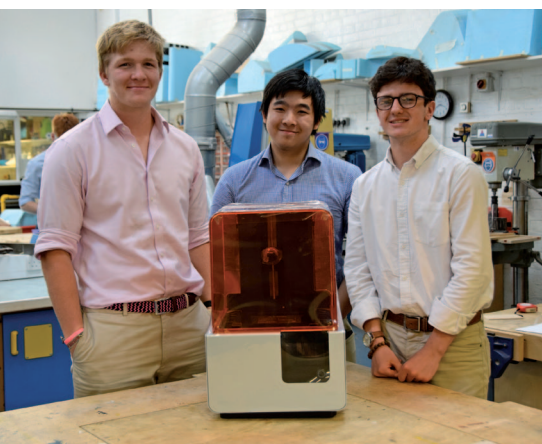
## Abingdon School Parents' Association

All parents are automatically members of ASPA. They focus on organising social events for parents and raise funds which are donated back into the School. Donations have recently been made to the virtual reality open casket computer, the sporting community, tensile testing rigs for the Physics Department, an analog film enlarger for the Art Department and Photography Club and the SLA Formlabs 3D printer for Design and Technology.

## Second-hand Uniform Shop

The SUS provides a means for parents to buy good condition second-hand Abingdon School uniform. The shop is run by a team of volunteers. From the profits made, the SUS purchased the Cricket Merlyn Bowling Machine and contributed to the Resilience and Wellbeing through sport workshop as well as the Abingdon School Partnership programme.

*Right:* Touchliners – school rugby  
*Below left to right:* 3D printer, Cricket Merlyn Bowling Machine purchased by SUS;  
Abingdon School Music Society; Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club







## Money raised for the benefit of the School



**Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club**  
2017–19      **£26,086**



**Abingdon School Music Society**  
2017–19      **£11,863**



**Abingdon Touchliners**  
2017–19      **£18,306**



**Abingdon School Parents' Association**  
2017–19      **£49,723**



**Second-hand Uniform Shop**  
2017–19      **£20,695**

# Abingdon School in Partnership

## Community

For Abingdon School to build on the positive role it plays within the local community

## Collaboration

For Abingdon pupils and staff to collaborate effectively and positively with members of the local community

## Challenge

For Abingdon pupils and staff to stretch and challenge themselves via collaboration



# 291

Number of events

**The vision is to create a sustainable and balanced partnership between Abingdon School, local primary and secondary schools as well as organisations across the whole town and wider area, to provide opportunities for all.**

Cross-sector mutually beneficial partnerships are a contemporary way of ensuring Abingdon continues to support the broader educational lives of pupils across the town. We are delighted that the Partnership Programme has grown significantly over the past few years and continues to grow, benefitting our pupils and staff as well as the wider community.

Abingdon School in Partnership (ASiP) runs many activities and events throughout the year, including Performing Arts Partnerships, Sports Partnerships, the Abingdon Science Partnership, Developing Leaders, Primary School Liaison and other partnership activities, including a Futures Fair and extra GCSE classes.

# 2,300

Number of staff hours

# 571

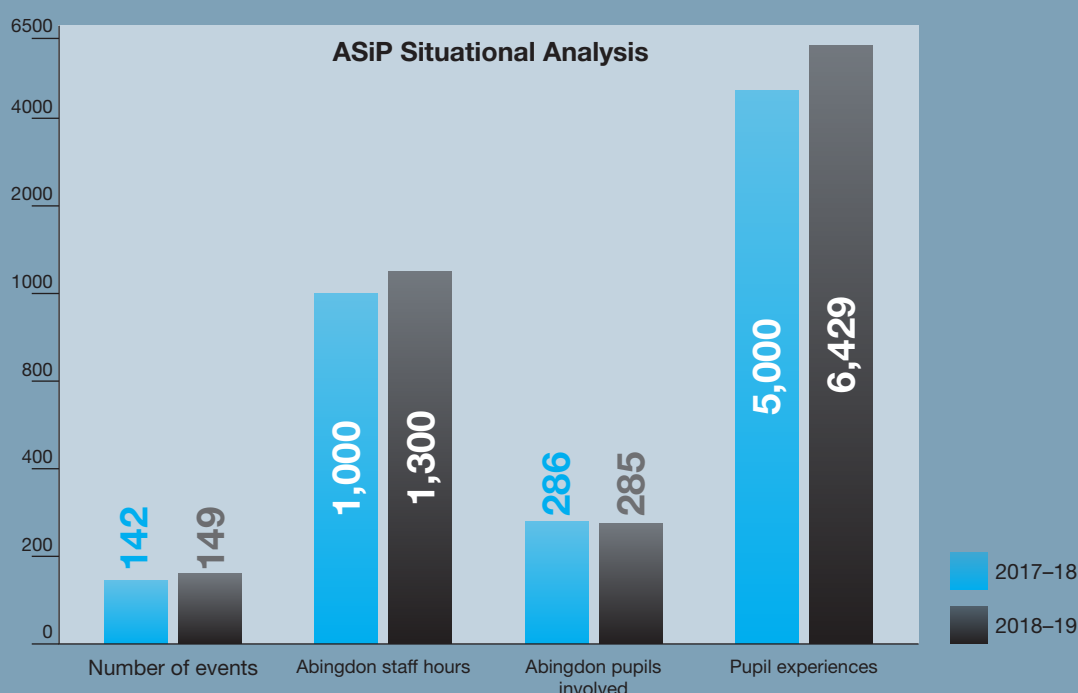
Abingdon pupils involved

“Thank you for the fantastic solids, liquids and gases session that you provided for my class. The children were so engaged. They really enjoyed having the opportunity to use the Bunsen burners and other equipment and this gave them a practical experience of the topic, bringing some of the concepts we had learned about in the classroom into a practical context. It was a brilliant way to end our unit of work.

*Local primary school teacher*

# 11,429

Pupil experiences





# Abingdon Science Partnership

Abingdon Science Partnership (ASP) is a driving force behind ASiP and it continues to grow. ASP has existed in its current form since January 2016, although it had already run activities, such as CREST Star awards in primary schools and GCSE extension classes, for a year or so before that.



Total ASP experiences for 2017–2019 were **11,429**, of which:  
**7,614** – primary school pupils  
**514** – secondary school pupils  
**2,911** – the public/families  
**390** – adults e.g. CPD events

**50** primary school partners  
**26** secondary school partners  
Over **30** partner organisations



The growth in scope and opportunities offered by ASP has benefitted Abingdon School's pupils enormously, as well as increasing collaboration with other partners. Our Science Ambassadors (pupils from Abingdon School) have formed a weekly Primary Science Club, planned and run by them, offering an excellent opportunity for leadership development and Duke of Edinburgh volunteering. They also assist at monthly Science Oxford Saturday Science Clubs, learning to interact with 5-9 year old children and their parents in an informal but educational setting.



All of these opportunities are invaluable in developing additional skills, such as planning, teamwork and leadership, that will serve them well in later life. In addition, staff who have been involved in ASP activities, now numbering up to 15 in the science department, have widened their own range of teaching skills. We are beginning to see the development of true partnership in some of these activities, with older pupils from other schools joining us as mentors and Science Ambassadors, a key target for further development in the next academic year and beyond.



*From top to bottom:*

Royal Society wildlife monitoring project; Science Buskers at the ATOM Festival;  
Pond dipping at Primary Science Club; Primary Science Fair project



# Career Guidance Programme

Since 2017 our dedicated career guidance programme has grown. Our community of OAs, parents and friends have volunteered over 1,000 hours through insight talks, interview preparation, advice and expert knowledge. We are grateful to everyone for supporting Abingdon pupils in this way.



## 2017–2019 61 work placements and 45 OA hosts

**Placements include:** Accounting | Architecture | Building Construction | Business Operations  
Business Retail | Education | Engineering | Estate Agency | Financial Services | Historic Site  
HR Recruitment | Insurance | Law | Marketing (SME) | Medical Research | Medicine  
Meteorology Research | Property | Public Relations | Retail | Strategy Consultancy



My son was strongly persuaded by the School to complete a week of work experience. Although he was apprehensive, he returned buzzing from the excitement of an office environment and a field trip. Work experience taught him so much from being courageous, to resilience, to increased confidence to improved life and people skills. I am so pleased Abingdon School prioritises this programme.

Parent of 5th Year Pupil

If you would be interested in finding out about how you can support Careers at Abingdon please contact:

**Michael Triff, Head of Career Guidance**  
[michael.triff@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:michael.triff@abingdon.org.uk)



# Abingdon Prep School



## 2017–2018

**£2,977**

Donated to the School charity  
Thinking of Oscar

**£720**

Donated to The Nasio Trust

**£3,443**

For School projects and trips  
including Roves Farm, theatre  
trips, outdoor table tennis, night  
camera for forest school, learning  
support and games for wet breaks

## 2018–2019

**£2,669**

Donated to the School charity  
The Air Ambulance

**£720**

Donated to The Nasio Trust

**£3,382**

For School projects and trips  
including a theatre trip, pre-prep  
Christmas presents and funding  
towards the School bench design  
project.

**£2,000**

Facilitated the rolling loan to allow  
the Gifts for Grown Ups event.

The Parents' Association (JPA), staff and pupils are actively involved in raising funds for charities and the School. The team of parents has worked tirelessly throughout the last two years to raise money for their chosen charities, projects and equipment to benefit the School and their pupils. Thank you to everyone for your time and effort and to those who made donations.





# Student-led Fundraising



Over 1,000 pupils and staff took part in the School's 10 mile Biennial Sponsored Walk. Pupils were encouraged to make the challenge their own with some choosing to run, canoe or row the route. The causes chosen by pupils to be supported by the walk in September 2018 were Mary's Meals, which aims to ensure that every child in the world is able to get a school lunch, and Crisis, which is a national charity that works to end homelessness within the UK.



# Fundraising in 2018–19

**Christmas Jumper Day** raised money for **The Magic Breakfast**



**£626**

Lower Sixth using cycling, running and rowing machines in the gym travelled a total of 398km! They raised money for Agape, our charity in Moldova.

**£1,023**

Sixth Form Production for Crisis & Mary's Meals

**£73**



**Lower School Charities Football | £220**  
Meningitis Research

**Confirmation Service | £216**  
ODBF Admin Fund

**Tutor Group Donation | £20**  
Comic Relief

**Football Tournament | £154**  
Mary's Meals & Crisis

**56 back packs completed for Mary's Meals**



**Sponsored Walk**

**supported Mary's Meals and Crisis raising**

**£31,023**



**THREE HOME CLOTHES DAYS**

Unicef Indonesian Tsunami | Dementia Oxfordshire | Save the Children | Variety – the Children's Charity | The Abingdon Bridge | My Name's Doddie Foundation | Mary's Meals

**£5,593**

**Total raised for charity in one year**  
**£42,708**



**£500**

COG Blue Skye Thinking at JR Hospital

**£1,929**

CCF Event raised money for Parkinson's UK



**Lower School Christmas Quiz & Raffle for Agape**  
**£125**



**Food Collection for Abingdon Emergency Foodbank**



**two minibus loads!**



**Cake Sales, Tuck Shop and Charity Marathon for**

Crisis | Mary's Meals Oxfordshire Search and Rescue | Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

**£1,206**



# Community Service

## Service and Citizenship

Over 60 pupils and 7 members of staff each term visit local residents in their care homes, the community hospital, provide support in the Oxfam shop and visit many of our local primary schools. Through this programme our pupils gain a greater appreciation of the lives of those around them. They also build lasting memories and friendships with the people they visit. The pupils host a very popular tea party at School each term for the elderly residents they meet through their volunteering.

## Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Abingdon's CCF is highly regarded for its excellent standards with a number of cadets joining the armed forces as commissioned officers. Training for cadets does much to prepare them for a highly demanding modern world. It emphasises and develops leadership qualities, resilience, stretch and challenge, teamwork and responsibility.

Tony Edwards (OA 1962) was instrumental in helping to set up the RAF section of Abingdon's CCF whilst a pupil here. He went on to enjoy a highly successful aviation and engineering business career but never lost sight of how his cadet experience helped to prepare him for life ahead. Tony wanted to give back to this valuable area of School life. His donations have enabled the CCF to invest in three state-of-the-art flight simulators, five training drones and two MTa construction learning kits. This equipment puts Abingdon CCF at the forefront of cadet training nationally and local cadet groups are encouraged to make good use of these facilities whenever possible.

Tony's support has helped to take our cadet offering to another level. CCF membership has grown to over 160 cadets, who can access outstanding training opportunities beyond the scope of other CCF organisations.



*Above: Community Tea Party*

*Far left: Combined Cadet Force*

*Below centre: Tony Edwards (OA 1962)*

*Below bottom: Inspecting the flight simulator*

*Right: Legators' Lunch, September 2019*





Over the centuries, generous individuals have made the decision to include Abingdon School in their wills. Legacies contribute to our future and are essential in enabling us to expand the opportunities and excellence we have to offer.

In 2019 the 1563 Society was established, in order that Abingdon might thank and recognise those who have pledged a legacy. Since its launch in April, membership has grown by more than 35% to nearly 50 legators. Society membership is open to anyone who has decided to remember Abingdon in their will.

Members are invited to events throughout the year and kept updated on the life of the School. The first annual 1563 Society event took place on 14 September 2019 which would have been Sir James Cobban's 109th birthday (Headmaster from 1947–1970). Cobban, who was a driving force for educational achievement, led Abingdon during its days as a direct grant school, ensuring many were able to benefit from an Abingdon education regardless of their financial circumstances. Members and their guests were treated to lunch overlooking the Jekyll Garden and heard from the Chairman of the 1563 Society, Alan Williams, as well as the Headmaster.

“This is a cause very close to my heart.

**Alan Williams** (OA 1965)

Alan is passionate about helping us to create more opportunities for pupils from the local area to benefit from all that Abingdon has to offer. “This is a cause very close to my heart since I benefitted from the Direct Grant Scheme. As a result of our work the School will be able to continue increasing the number of bursary places it can offer.”





# 2017–2019 in numbers

# 48

LEGACY PLEDGES

MORE THAN



# £50,000

RAISED FOR CHARITY DURING  
2018–19 BY PUPILS AND STAFF

more than

# 1,000



hours of volunteering for  
careers guidance events

over

# £323,000

in individual donations

# 12

MEMBERS OF STAFF  
VOLUNTEER AS  
SCHOOL GOVERNORS



# 11,000

pupil experiences

Currently Abingdon supports

# 58 boys

on bursaries

Including

# twelve

FULL BURSARIES





We hope you have enjoyed reading about all that it means to be part of the Abingdon Foundation. Your support is never taken for granted and, together with the collective efforts of our staff and pupils, ensures that we continue to be an organisation connected to the community in which we live and work, looking outwards and forwards in all that we do, never losing sight of the founding values that guide us.

**Our fundraising priorities are:**

- **Bursaries** – to continue to broaden access to an Abingdon education through our growing bursary provision.
- **Partnerships** – to enable the continued growth of Abingdon School in Partnership for the benefit of staff and students both within our School and across the community.
- **Buildings** – facilities and surroundings matter to the education we provide and we are preparing for a major boarding refurbishment project.

Together with your help we are making a positive investment in society for the future. Thank you.

**Alexa Broad, *Director of Development and Alumni Relations***





**Find out more about how you  
can support the Abingdon Foundation:**

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