

England rugby stars inspire next generation

Abingdon School, Oxfordshire, sixth former and England Rugby Under 18 Fly Half, Charlie Atkinson, was among the Abingdon School boys and students from other local schools, who welcomed the England team to Abingdon School last month (February) to train ahead of their remaining Six Nations' matches.

Speaking about meeting the players who have inspired him, Charlie, who also plays Fly Half for Wasps Academy, said,

"Having the opportunity to watch England train up close at my own school was extremely inspiring and motivating for myself and other pupils. It also showed me the step up required in skills and game management for me to reach a similar level and I hope to meet them again in the future."

Charlie joined Abingdon at age 11 and has progressed through the pathway the School has in place for talented players. This



pathway, working together with club academies, has produced several successful professional and national team rugby players in recent years.

Headmaster, Michael Windsor, met England Head Coach, Eddie Jones, and thanked him for the time his squad took to talk to spectators after their training. Mr Windsor said, "It was a great privilege and a pleasure to be able to welcome the England team to Abingdon. Many students took the opportunity to come out and see the team train and I am sure they will have been inspired by the focus, skill and commitment that was on display today. I very much enjoyed meeting Eddie Jones, who is such a dynamic and charismatic leader".



Pictured: (top right) Fly Halves - George Ford (England) & Charlie Atkinson (England U18 & Abingdon School) and (above) Headmaster Michael Windsor meets Eddie Jones

Megan started to realise what an amazing achievement it was for her to win."

Finally, Megan and her two teachers went to the tea-room where they were treated to a delicious afternoon tea and were able to have informal discussions about the award, the House of Lords, and the day in general.

Mrs Flint added: "Everyone made us feel very welcome and we all left feeling extremely privileged. Well done Megan!"

Kingsley Headmaster, Mr Pete Last (pictured with Megan) said:

"We are absolutely delighted for Megan and very proud of her."



MP's masterclass

Barnard Castle School students have received a political masterclass by their newly elected MP, during a visit to the school.

Dehenna Davison, MP for Bishop Auckland, observed a Politics lesson at Barnard Castle School and was invited to speak to Sixth Form students who are studying the subject at A Level. Ms Davison also met with Headmaster, Tony Jackson and was given a tour of the school.

Following her successful election campaign in December 2019, when she was overwhelmingly elected as the first Conservative Party Member of Parliament for Bishop Auckland, Ms Davison became one of the youngest MPs, and was recently selected as a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Ms Davison said: "It was such a pleasure to visit Barney school and meet so many enthusiastic

students. They certainly asked some difficult questions, but showed brilliant insight into some of the challenges facing young people today.

"Barnard Castle School is so important to the town, not only as the second biggest employer, but also as valued members of the community. I look forward to working with them more closely in the years ahead."

Headmaster Tony Jackson added: "Our students took a great deal away from the experience, finding Ms Davison's fresh and contemporary approach to her role both engaging and inspiring. I hope Ms Davison will become a regular visitor to Barney and I'd like to wish her all the very best in her new position on the Home Affairs Select Committee and as our Member of Parliament."

Pictured: Dehenna Davison MP with Tony Jackson, Headmaster at Barnard Castle School

Lexden winner

Wendy Flint, Head of Sixth Form at Kingsley School, Devon, and Kathryn Makepeace, Head of English travelled to London for the presentation of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Lexden Prize to Head Girl Megan Wray.

The Lexden prize celebrates the achievement of sixth formers; achievement and education are considered in the broadest sense, definitely not just academic.

The entry process has three parts: a short nomination from the ISA Member, a personal statement by

the nominee and a sample piece of assessed written work.

Megan was greeted at the House of Lords by Neil Roskilly (ISA CEO) and Lord Lexden and was given a tour of the building.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Wendy Flint said: "We were then treated to a seat in the gallery above the Chambers where the Peers were debating various questions. We all agreed that this was absolutely fascinating! After this, we moved to a private room where the official presentation took place. I think it was at this stage that