

PUBLIC

*Ardingly College*

**ABINGDON SCHOOL ●**

*Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1DE*

*Website [abingdon.org.uk](http://abingdon.org.uk)*

*Head Michael Windsor, MA, since 2016; previously Head of Reading*

*Blue Coat School Pupils 1,188*

*boys: 1,050 day, 138 boarding*

*Ages 11–18 Term Fees Day:*

*£6,885; boarding: £13,715*

*Oxbridge 7% Admission School's*

*own exam Alumni All members of*

*the rock band Radiohead, actor*

*and comedian David Mitchell*

*PREP Head Craig Williams*

*Pupils 250 day boys Ages 4–13*

*Term Fees £5,735*

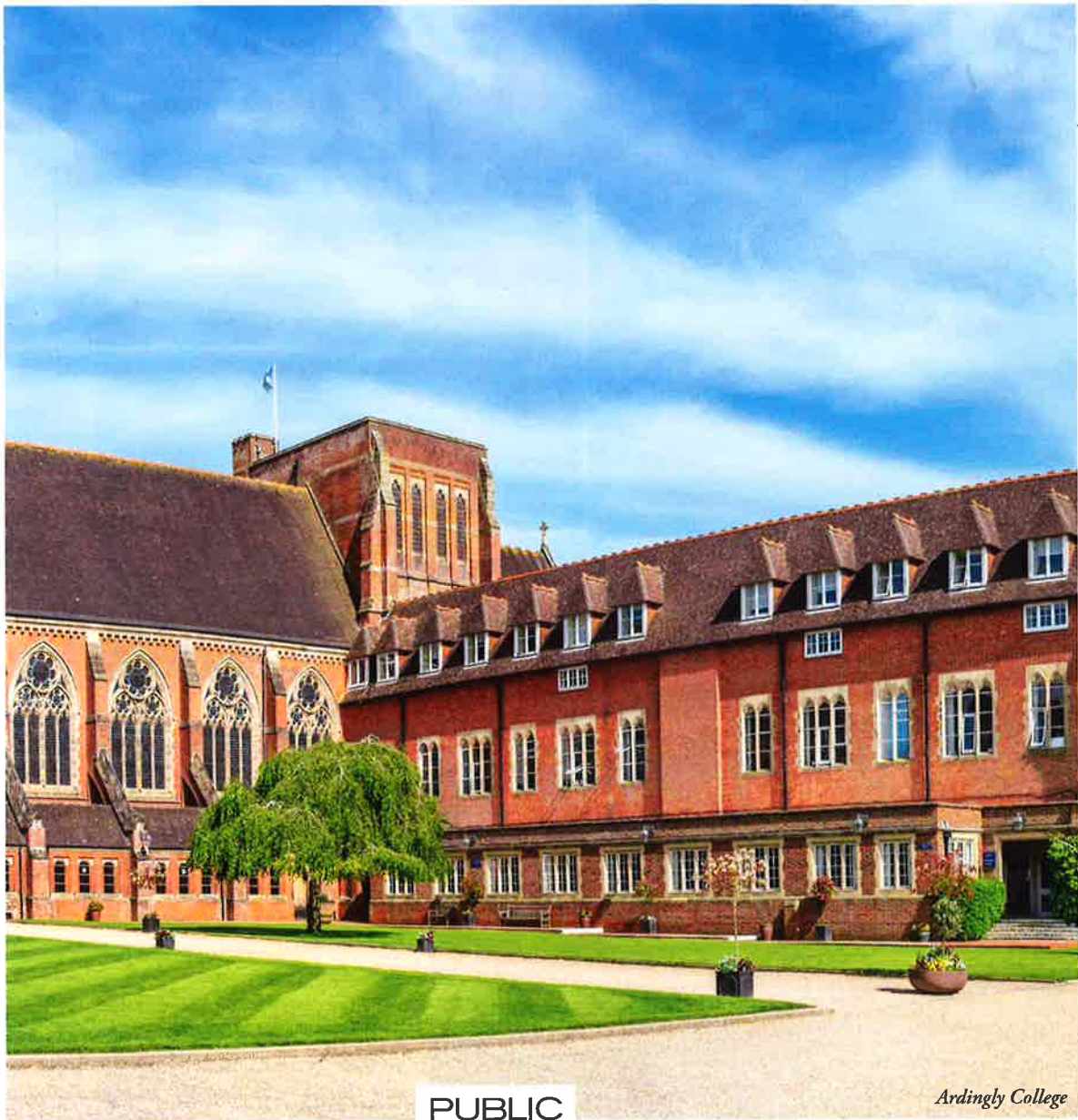
One of the oldest schools in England, Abingdon prides itself on rejecting 'the flashy, the false and the arrogant'. Perhaps that's why it struck a recent visitor as a school that's 'comfortable with itself' and 'more straightforward

# South East

than some of its competitors'. That's not to say it's resting on its laurels. This year in the art department, boys have been drawing in virtual reality. 'I painted stars, flames and lights. Being able to walk through my own work was spectacular,' said one Fifth Year student. Exciting resources like this show the value the school places on creativity, although it's not only art in which students are reaching for the stars. In another stellar year at this highly selective, strongly academic school, 87 per cent of the 2019 cohort achieved 9–7 grades at GCSE and almost a third achieved a clean sweep of A\*s at A-level. 'It's the best I've ever

seen it,' one sixth former recently confided. It's difficult to disagree. With a staff to pupil ratio of one to nine and more than 150 clubs – from composing to canoeing; Pilates to podcasting – that are mostly run by staff, there's plenty of time for communication. And the facilities are world-class, with a charming boathouse on the river, a competition-standard 25-metre indoor pool and pitches to suit any sporting whim. While the coronavirus lockdown meant the closure of these facilities, staff volunteered to look after the children of key workers and the industrious design and technology department made much-needed protective visors.





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