



ABINGDON



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL





Friendships that last
a lifetime start here!



Be yourself - there is no
typical Abingdon pupil

Welcome to the Middle School

The middle school years are a very exciting time at Abingdon. There are so many opportunities not only in terms of the breadth of the curriculum with the chance to learn new subjects but also the wealth and variety of Other Half activities on offer. The Middle School is led by Mr Andrew Crisp, the Middle Master.

During their time in Middle School, students mature and become more independent learners. We encourage them to try new things, to go beyond their comfort zone and to explore in a safe environment. We foster a friendly, approachable and stimulating atmosphere where pupils grow in confidence and are not afraid to make mistakes.

The Middle School consists of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Years, equivalent to Years 9, 10 and 11 in the state sector. Students join us mainly in the Third Year although occasionally students join the Fourth Year if spaces become available.

Pupils come from a wide range of prep schools, including our own Abingdon Prep School, and from schools overseas. Occasionally pupils join us from state schools, although the main intake from state schools is into our First Year. The new intake of pupils join students from the Lower School at Abingdon who have already been with us for two years. The Middle School has both boarders and dayboys and they are fully integrated within each year group.

Click on any of the pink links on the following pages for further information.



A caring environment

Moving to senior school is a big step and often daunting but at Abingdon we have many years of experience in helping children to settle and they quickly feel that they belong. Induction days before students start at school ensure that everyone knows a familiar face and they can find their way around campus, even before term starts.

Year groups are split into houses and tutor groups with a ratio of between 10 to 12 boys per tutor. There are nine houses, three of which have both boarders and dayboys. Each house has a houseroom where students go to relax, enjoy each other's company or to do quiet study.

Every student is known and cared for. The tutor has daily contact with tutees and is the main link between school and home. Tutors quickly get to know the children and we have specialist tutors for the Third Year who are well-versed in helping children who are new to the school. Older students also act as mentors, helping younger pupils from an insider's point of view!

Find out more:

- **Pastoral care**



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The ability to be self-reflective and ambitious is a constant for pupils throughout their time at the school, as they aspire to develop skills of integrity, compassion and resilience.

ISI INSPECTION

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1:9 teacher student ratio



96 tutor groups - each pupil is known and cared for

Teaching

Pupils joining in the Third Year study a core of subjects which comprises English, Maths, Science (taught separately as Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Humanities (History, Geography, Philosophy & Theology), Art, DT, Computing and either French or German. In addition to this core, boys choose two options from Latin, Ancient History, Ancient Greek, Drama, Music, ab initio French/German/Spanish/Mandarin. Alongside these subjects, boys follow PE, Sports, Career Guidance and PSHCE programmes.

In the Fourth Year students choose their GCSE options and follow the GCSE syllabus for two years, taking their public exams, usually in ten subjects, at the end of the Fifth Year. Part of each pupil's development in the Middle School is to establish good habits, learning to work more independently and to improve organisational skills. However, we do not expect this to happen overnight and there is plenty of help along the way!

Class sizes are capped at 24 pupils, except for the top set in maths, but numbers are often much smaller than this. We do have setting in some subjects but it is not widespread across the curriculum.

Homework is an important part of the learning process at Abingdon and we have guidelines as to what we expect pupils to undertake. We keep the work expected outside of class to a manageable level. In the Middle School, students might expect to start with around 15 hours per fortnight in the Third Year, moving up to approximately 20 hours per fortnight in the Fifth Year.

Find out more:

- The Middle School [curriculum](#) and [subjects](#)
- Homework, setting and class sizes follow this [link](#)





The Other Half

The Other Half is the term used at Abingdon to refer to the extra-curricular side of school life. It is given equal importance to academic studies and is integrated into the school timetable. Students are encouraged to try a range of sporting and non-sporting activities and to follow at least three activities every half term. There are over 150 activities to try and so there really is something for everybody. We reward enthusiasm and we are keen that students develop their existing skills but we also like them to try new things and to challenge themselves.

Trips are an important part of school life at Abingdon whether it is to improve language skills, volunteer overseas, search for adventure or tour with fellow musicians or sports teams. We have a wealth of opportunities and we encourage students to broaden their horizons and to give something back through our Service and Citizenship Scheme, working with our partnership schools or through the CCF.

“The programme of extra-curricular activities is outstanding.”

- ISI Inspection

Find out more:

- An introduction to the **Other Half**.
- **Other Half activities**
- **Video snippets**



31 chamber
ensemble groups



7 major drama
productions a year



31 sports to try



Boarding at Abingdon

Boarding is an integral part of school life at Abingdon and is available from the Third Year at age 13. We have around 140 full and weekly boarders from the UK and overseas. Our vibrant boarding community enjoys an enhanced activity programme and makes the most of the School's impressive facilities. It is a very happy and relaxed community, cared for by a dedicated team of housemasters, tutors and matrons - a true home from home.

More about **boarding**.

Into the Sixth Form

Fifth year students are well prepared for their move to the Sixth Form. As they progress through the Middle School the teacher-student relationship matures in preparation for the more university-style approach of the Sixth Form. Taster lessons in A Level subjects are available to try and we have an 'Into the Sixth' evening where academic departments discuss their subjects.

Our students go on to study at leading UK and international universities and each year we publish a list of **leavers' destinations**. Students benefit from our specialist team of career advisors who mentor the Sixth Form on university applications, including studying abroad.

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The quality of boarding is excellent and parents are highly appreciative of the outcomes for boarders, the provision and care, and the leadership of boarding

ISI INSPECTION

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40 Oxbridge places in the last 3 years



A guide to the School day

8.35am - 9am Morning tutor period.

9am - 4pm Academic lessons - five lessons of 50-55 minutes. (Only four lessons on a Wednesday as there is additional Other Half.)

4pm - 5pm Other Half activities.

Each day includes lunch and mid-morning breaks. Some Other Half activities take place at lunchtime and on Wednesday afternoons.

Homework Middle school pupils might expect to start with c.15 hours per fortnight in the Third Year, moving up to c.20 hours per fortnight in the Fifth Year.



A culture of consideration
and kindness







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The excellent quality of teaching fulfils the aim of the school to provide a first-class education and is successful in promoting pupils' excellent achievements.

ISI INSPECTION

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Help with Fees

Free and subsidised places are available at Abingdon through means-tested bursaries. Further information is available [here](#).

Scholarships

There are a number of [scholarships](#) awarded for entry into the Middle School for academic excellence, art, design & technology, drama, music and sport. Scholarships entitle the holder to a nominal fee remission of £300 per annum. All scholarship award holders are also eligible for a means-tested bursary.

Admissions

If you are interested in joining Abingdon, all our [admissions information](#) is available on the website or if you would like to speak to our admissions team call +44(0)1235 849041 or email: admissions@abingdon.org.uk

Useful Information

We hope that the website has all the information you need to find out about Abingdon. Listed below are links to pages that you may find of particular interest. If you have any questions about the Middle School then please feel free to email: common.room@abingdon.org.uk

- [Academic results](#)
- Take a [virtual tour](#)
- [Bring Your Own Device](#) - laptops in school
- [Bus service](#) - JBS
- [Uniform](#)



ABINGDON

**independent day and boarding school
for boys aged 4 to 18 years**

**+44 (0)1235 849041
admissions@abingdon.org.uk**

abingdon.org.uk