

SOUTH EAST

Bedford School



PUBLIC

South East

ABINGDON SCHOOL ●

*Park Road, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire OX14 1DE*

Website abingdon.org.uk

*Head Michael Windsor, MA, since
2016; previously Head of Reading
Blue Coat School Pupils 1,064*

boys: 925 day, 139 boarding Ages

11–18 Term Fees Day: £7,200;

boarding: £14,690 Oxbridge 10%

Admission School's own exam

*Alumni The band Radiohead, actor
and comedian David Mitchell*

PREP Head Craig Williams

Pupils 245 day boys Ages 4–13

Term Fees £5,995

Abingdon is one of the oldest schools in England, first mentioned in 1256 when John de Blosneville, Abbot of Abingdon, left a bequest in his will for the support of 13 poor scholars. Whilst the spirit of tradition runs strong, so too does the spirit of innovation. Keen economists and computer scientists are reaping the benefits of fantastic new tech facilities, which follow the opening of a new Sixth Form Centre, library and art school. The environment is clearly stimulating: despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2020 A-level results saw 35

per cent of grades coming in at A*. Sport is particularly strong: at the last count, the school boasted 12 international sportsmen, and one of Abingdon's 2020 leavers, Charlie Atkinson, joined the England U20 rugby squad for 2021. A focus on music comes from the very top: the Head, Michael Windsor, is reportedly an accomplished double bass player who has been known to improvise jazz solos and drop in on music lessons from time to time. Abingdon's greatest strength is that it 'provides a highly rounded, progressive education whilst retaining the "traditional" academic spectrum, and it balances out the value and kudos of academia with the extracurricular focus,' comments one contented parent. 'It is not in any way a snobbish school, but it retains a sense of the traditional.'