



ABINGDON

# ~~im~~possible

Seven years to  
change a life

OUR VISION FOR BURSARIES

# Our vision for bursaries



When I arrived as Headmaster of Abingdon in 2016, I was keenly aware of the vital place that free and assisted places had always had in the proud history of Abingdon School. The commitment to make an Abingdon education financially accessible to boys with potential is embedded in our culture, perhaps most notably under the leadership of Sir James Cobban whilst a Direct Grant school, then during the years of the Assisted Places Scheme.

**“Abingdon pupils journey through Abingdon experiencing and engaging with different perspectives, reflective of the world they will encounter beyond school and university.”**



Today, the School not only understands its responsibility to widen access to an Abingdon education but it believes that by doing so, it remains true to its history and continues to make a positive investment in society for the future. Abingdon pupils benefit from a network of peers from many different backgrounds. They journey through Abingdon experiencing and engaging with different perspectives, reflective of the world they will encounter beyond school and university.

I hope that you may choose to join us on our journey to make it possible for any boy with the potential and determination, regardless of their financial circumstances, to accept a place at Abingdon.

**Mike Windsor, Headmaster**



A photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, building a stone wall. The boy is on the left, looking down at the stones, and the girl is on the right, smiling. They are both wearing dark jackets. The background is a blurred street scene with buildings and a car. The entire image has a magenta color overlay.

~~Un~~achievable



## Widening access and unlocking potential

**Abingdon has always been, and continues to be, a school rooted in its community. We particularly recognise that there are boys of great potential in the surrounding area who would benefit from all that an Abingdon education offers but whose family circumstances do not permit this without assistance from our bursary programme.**

The average level of bursary support for a pupil at Abingdon is 50% of fees. For some families a lower level of bursary support makes it possible for their son to accept a place here, for others 80-100% of fee remission is required.

We have set ourselves the ambitious target of increasing the number of bursaries we can offer from 70 to 110 places by the end of 2025. This will mean that 10% of our pupils can benefit from means-tested bursary support.

We are asking our community to support us.

A photograph of three young men in business suits sitting at a desk with laptops. The image is covered with a semi-transparent pink overlay. The man on the left is looking towards the camera, while the other two are looking at their laptops. The word 'Potentially' is written in large white letters across the center, with a small black rectangular mark over the 'y'.

# Potentially

## Inspiring the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow



**Dashiell Hathaway (OA 2021) benefited from a bursary. He explains what coming to Abingdon meant to him.**

"A bursary has allowed me to attend Abingdon for the past seven years and I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here. From the beginning I've been **encouraged** in all areas of school life.

I've met many very good friends both in and out of my subject interests as well as through the Other Half (Abingdon's extensive extra-curricular programme). Being taught at Abingdon has **continually stretched** me to my fullest academic **potential** which has allowed me to obtain competitive grades for university entry.

In addition, attending Abingdon opened up a large number of opportunities in the Other Half – I was able to follow my existing passions such as chess, music and sailing, while also trying new activities such as bridge, fencing and shooting. I had a great time beyond my academics and was given the chance to represent the school in chess, cricket, cross country, music and sailing. The inclusion of these at Abingdon meant that there were always a variety of interests that I could explore and this helped me realise I had a **talent** for many things. This ultimately gave me the confidence to choose a Natural Sciences course at Imperial College so that I have multiple directions I could choose to go in the future."

# What a bursary meant to me



The bursary which enabled me to study at Abingdon has underwritten the work and career I have been able to pursue ever since graduating in 2017.

Abingdon offered me incredible teachers who pushed me to follow my passions and generate novel ideas, ultimately leading me to study natural science for my bachelor's degree and driving me to pursue a career in scientific research. I am now about to begin a doctoral degree in evolutionary biology – something which I would not have predicted during my time at Abingdon, but a path for which my time at Abingdon has prepared me.

Alongside this, Abingdon provided me with friendships and a support network which I still make the most of to this day. Its collaborative and supportive ethos has stuck with me, and continues to influence my professional and personal life.

Supporting a bursary is an investment in the future. Your support will have a lifelong impact, and never be taken for granted by the people it affects.

**Jonah Walker (OA 2017)**



My bursary place gave me the opportunity to study at Abingdon for my entire secondary school period. Its history and character meant that the School always felt welcoming and friendly throughout my years. The sense of community, whether within the houses, the tutor groups, classes, or in the many clubs available, created places where I made lasting friendships. I was taught by teachers who had a love for their subject and cared for their students.

Abingdon's Other Half offered me the time and space to try almost anything, whether arts, sports or general interests, and has made me positive, well-rounded and excited to challenge myself in new ways as an adult. Most importantly the school helped nurture my talents and passions into something that will last a lifetime – especially music. Despite the financial background I had, the support and opportunities I was given by the Music Department were one of a kind and this is what I feel I am most thankful for in terms of what Abingdon provided. As a music scholar I was given free lessons to continue my violin studies and I performed in chamber groups and recitals as well as touring to the USA and Spain with the First Orchestra.

I found my interest in computing at A Level and with the guidance of my teachers I felt confident in pursuing it further at the University of Sheffield where I received an MEng in Digital Electronics. I'm truly grateful for the bursary I received and fully believe I wouldn't be the person I am today if not for Abingdon and the generosity of those who made it possible.

**David Chung (OA 2016)**





# Impossible

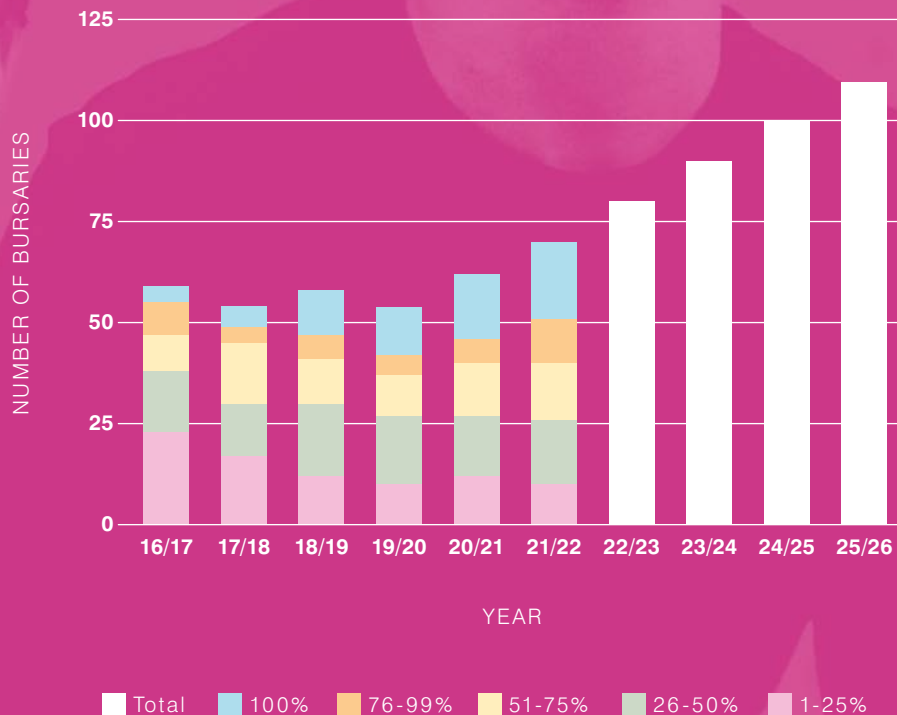
*We feel very fortunate to be in a position to have been able to make decisions concerning our children's education. We didn't always believe that we would be in a situation to be able to make this choice. We continue to feel grateful and appreciative of the vast experiences and opportunities our children have by being part of the Abingdon community. It is for this reason that we feel it is hugely important to support the bursary programme, to give as many children as possible the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of resources, opportunities and support that Abingdon has to offer, regardless of their financial circumstance.*

Alice Day, Third Year parent

# Making the impossible possible – Your role in changing lives

## Our vision for bursaries

We are committed to widening access to an Abingdon education through the growth of our bursary programme; by 2025/26 it is our ambition that 110 of our pupils will benefit. We receive an increasing number of bursary applications every year and the graph below shows the number of places supported at Abingdon since 2016, as well as our planned growth. We want to ensure that every boy who is offered a place at Abingdon is able to take up their place irrespective of financial circumstances.



Help a future Abingdonian achieve his full potential...

# Investing in society for the future



“Roysses” (as it was usually known then) was a Direct Grant school when I arrived as a ten-year-old boarder in 1954. Even then, I valued the inclusivity of that funding model: the fact that the great majority of my fellow pupils

were from the local area and had got there on merit. Admittedly, inclusivity didn’t include those strange things called girls but, by the standards of the day, I felt I was at a normal, non-elitist school, albeit an exceptionally good one. It is with this ethos in mind that I am delighted to be contributing towards a bursary at Abingdon to help a boy achieve his full potential. From the School’s perspective, too, such bursary schemes are set to be vital in satisfying ever-growing demand for greater social inclusivity in the independent school sector.

*Andrew King (OA 1962)*



**Our son was offered a place at Abingdon and it seemed important, as we are in a position to afford to pay the fees, that we help in some way to open the opportunity to others. I benefited from similar generosity during my time at school in Yorkshire and it was life changing.**

*Gayle Bell, First Year parent*

**I decided to donate because since my son has been at the school I have been genuinely impressed by the quality of teaching and pastoral care. I feel that my son has been very lucky and would like to feel that someone else can benefit from the same opportunities.**

**Michelle Hobbs, former parent**

**Education transformed my life chances. I am impressed by the opportunities available to my son at Abingdon. The bursary programme will mean that more boys can take advantage of these excellent opportunities.**

*David Evans, Second Year parent*

**The opportunities that Abingdon offers are transformative, and stay with you for life. I was incredibly fortunate to receive a bursary during my time at Abingdon, which allowed me to access an incredible range of extracurricular activities, as well as a first-class education. I am greatly impressed by the School's commitment to growing the bursary programme, and it is a pleasure to feel that I can help future generations to benefit in the same way that I did.**

**Henry Carter (OA 2006)**

**As a teacher, it is a pleasure to work with students from all backgrounds and witness them flourish as they move up the school. Inclusivity is a key aspect of school life and students who take up a place on the bursary programme develop into confident Abingdonians in the same manner as any other student in the school.**

*Ben Simmons, Head of Physics and Electronics*

Your questions answered

# Seven years to change a life

## Why seven years?

Commitments of support for seven years will enable the School to offer more bursaries to boys for the duration of their education at Abingdon. Any commitment you make will make a difference to those who would like to come to Abingdon but don't have the financial means to do so.

## When will my funds be allocated to a pupil?

All pledges to our bursary fund will be directed to bursaries offered for September 2022 onwards.

## Are bursaries allocated to local Abingdon boys?

There are currently 16 bursary recipients at Abingdon who live in the OX13 and OX14 postcodes. Due to our extensive school bus service pupils are able to attend Abingdon from up to an hour's drive from the School.

## I want to donate £20 a month – how will this make an impact?

Eight people contributing £20 a month for seven years equates to a 10% bursary place. All donations count. The more people who get involved, the more bursaries we can offer.

## Is Abingdon raising funds for an endowment to guarantee long-term bursary support?

Whilst an endowment in the future will enable us to fund bursaries in the long-term, we want to change lives now. Individual major gifts and legacies will help us to build an endowment.



### What does a seven-year pledge look like?

The table below is indicative of what a seven-year commitment to support one pupil for their Abingdon education is expected to be; this is subject to actual annual fee increases. Gift Aid illustrations are shown based on current HMRC rules and could change during the seven-year period should the basic level of income tax or Gift Aid regulations change.

The Abingdon Foundation takes the financial management of the School’s resources extremely seriously and we work with *Rathbones* to invest gifts over £100,000.

Any donor who pledges to support a boy on a 10% bursary place or above automatically becomes a member of the 110 Club. All of our benefactors are recognised by name in our impact report and other Abingdon literature unless anonymity is requested.

Level of fee support	Monthly donation over seven years before Gift Aid	Net donor contribution before Gift Aid	Gift Aid claimed by Abingdon	Total value of donation
10%	£160	£13,443	£3,361	£16,804
25%	£400	£33,607	£8,402	£42,009
50%	£800	£67,214	£16,804	£84,018
75%	£1,200	£100,821	£25,205	£126,026
100%	£1,600	£134,428	£33,607	£168,035

“My gift was a little appreciation for all the joy I had while at Abingdon. I hope those receiving a bursary will get as much pleasure as I did.

Stewart Womar (OA 1959)

# 110 Club

The 110 Club has been created to recognise anyone who commits to support a pupil for a period of seven years at a level that provides at least 10% of the cost of a bursary place. We would be pleased to discuss with you how you would prefer to make your gift. This could, for example, be a single gift of £13,443 (£16,804 without Gift Aid) or a monthly donation of £160 plus Gift Aid.

110 Club members receive an anonymised annual update on the progress of the pupil they support, which provides an insight into the impact of their gift. All members are invited to an annual reception hosted by the Chair of Governors.



# 110 CLUB

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I believe that an education at Abingdon should be more widely available to boys who could benefit from all it has to offer. The start Abingdon gave me during the Direct Grant era allows me to support bursaries as a member of the 110 Club; would you consider making the same commitment if your financial circumstances permit?

**Mike Stevens (OA 1968),  
Chair of Governors**



# Other ways you can support bursaries

## Remember Abingdon in your will

The 1563 Society recognises and thanks all those who have pledged a legacy to Abingdon. Legacies are fundamental to our future and enable us to expand the opportunities and excellence we have to offer. An annual 1563 Society lunch is held at Abingdon for members with their partners or guests. Invitations are offered to members for other School events over the year.

Members of the 1563 Society enjoy the chance to reconnect with old friends and make new connections with others who share the desire to make a difference to future generations of Abingdonians. We are truly grateful to all those who make this commitment.

For more information on the 1563 Society please contact the Development Office or visit [www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/legacies](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/legacies)

## Endowment

If you would like to discuss making an individual donation towards an endowment at Abingdon please contact the Development Office for a confidential discussion.

## Help us to spread the word

You can help us in achieving our ambition to grow our bursary programme to support 110 pupils just by sharing what you've read and experienced with others. We always welcome more ambassadors to help inspire others to support the work we do. We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to become involved in supporting our bursary work in any way.





# Someone

*Our own sons have really enjoyed, and benefited from, their years at Abingdon and we wanted to do something to help someone else have the same opportunity.*

*Catherine Gathani, former parent*

# Will you join us in unlocking another child's potential by supporting a bursary?

If you would like to donate to our bursary fund you can do this in several ways.



## Single gift or regular donation

Scan the QR code or visit our website  
[www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/donate-online/](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/donate-online/)

**1563**

## Join the 1563 Society by pledging a legacy gift

[www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/legacies/](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/support-us/legacies/)



## Endowment

Contact the Development Office for a private discussion

For more information about our bursary programme and how you can support us please contact the Development Office:

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*“They all had a first class education at the School but it is the affection with which they recall their schooldays and how they love to meet up at OA events to meet their teachers and exchange news that I find particularly moving. It proves to me that Abingdon is a very special place where achievement is properly applauded but most importantly everyone is given ample opportunity to excel in a wide range of after school activities and build strong friendships that stay with them after they leave. If only everyone in this country had the same opportunity. That would be wonderful.”*

*Linda Forrester, former parent*



independent day and boarding school  
for boys aged 11 to 18

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

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