



HEADLINES

July 2022

Heads Up! July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well and that you have been able to enjoy this recent hot weather.

Thankfully, this year has been much more like a normal school year, with many of the extra-curricular and personal development activities returning and taking place. Over this last term alone, and in addition to the below, we held our Year 7 Summer party, Sixth Form taster days, Year 11 and 13 proms, our Summer concert and a Parents Forum on Key Stage 3 Assessment. We also hosted our very successful year 6 Transition Day. It was wonderful to meet our rising year 7s. Great fun was had by all, with the free ice creams being a particular favourite.

Homework

Thank you for your patience while we have transitioned to Bromcom and for your feedback on the recording of homework. From September we will be using Bromcom to inform students of any homework set for them. Students will be able to access this through their student portal and parents through MCAS.

Welsh Farm

After a two year absence, our Welsh Farm residential resumed again. This year we took tutor groups from both years 8 and 9 to Troedrhiwgellifawr in Wales. Students took part in orienteering, river walks, and bog jumping and learnt about mining at the Doloaucothi gold mines. There were some very happy but exhausted students by the end.

Sports Leadership and Sports Day

We have been really proud of our sports leaders this year. Sixty four students were trained how to officiate and run sporting events like track, vortex, long jump, speed bounce, and obstacle races. They attended Rush Common and Radley Primary School's Sports Day, The Vale Primary School Years 3 - 6 Quad kids and The Abingdon School Quad Kids. They learnt many new skills and were true ambassadors of the school.

Carbon Neutral Event

This term some of our students from the Geographical Society went to the Guildhall in Abingdon to showcase the carbon initiatives they have been involved in.

These included planting trees in the back field, the use of Ecosia as a search engine, plans for the allotment, our litter picking rota and our patchwork rainforest fundraising.

Our Sixth form group also presented their design for a sustainable community development for Abingdon project, which won a national competition run by MEMF (My Environment, My Future).

They really did JMS proud, with members of the public commenting on how amazing their presentation skills were on the day.

Confidence in Stem

On 13th and 14th July, Abingdon School hosted their Confidence in Science Practical Workshops for a group of our year 9 and 10 students. Students took part in osmosis, specific heat capacity and making a salt practicals from across the three science GCSEs. This gave students the opportunity to work in small class sizes and receive tailored instruction whilst they worked independently in their investigations. Students also enjoyed a valuable session on the growth mind-set from motivational speaker, Junior Saunders, in which many students were pushed out of their comfort zone and embraced the challenge of publicly speaking about themselves in front of their peers.

Staffing

As the academic year ends we say farewell to a number of staff. We would like to thank the following for all their hard work and support during their time here:

Mr Byron (TA), Mr Miles (Cover Supervisor), Mr Reed (Maths), Ms Marcus and Ms Phippen (English and Media), Ms King (Humanities), Ms Godfrey (SENCO), and Mr Borja (PE).

I am pleased to inform you we are fully staffed for the year ahead.

Have a good Summer, and we look forward to seeing most of you again next year.

Adrian Rees



Head of School

A message from Sarah Brinkley, Executive Headteacher

I am writing to let you know of some changes that will be in place from September in our secondary schools.

Firstly, my role as Executive Headteacher is changing to Director of Secondary Education. This role has been a 'behind the scenes' one for me, supporting school leaders, working with Abingdon Learning Trust Executive Team as the Trust has grown, and quality assurance in school activity. Next year I will be focusing on all the things that impact our pupils; behaviour, attendance, and the quality of education. I will be supporting schools as they continue to do the best for the children in our care and look forward to being in schools more regularly.

This will mean that both Mr. Speke and Mr. Rees now become Headteachers, rather than Heads of School. Over the last few years, these excellent leaders have steered their communities through incredibly difficult times. I don't think any of us knew what was about to happen when we moved into new roles in April 2020! This year it has been a delight to see the resumption of trips, music concerts, sports competitions, and drama productions, as well as the variety of Duke of Edinburgh and Welsh Farm visits, where our children learn so much about themselves and their friends. Both schools continue to strive for the best quality teaching and learning, so that our pupils have the best life chances when they leave.

Thankyou for your continued support of our schools and I wish you a safe and happy summer break.

Sarah Brinkley
