



ABINGDON

Prospectus

An independent day and boarding school
for children aged 4 to 18 years



Simply extraordinary

Welcome to Abingdon

Welcome to Abingdon. We are an inspirational school founded on a culture of challenge and enterprise.



We embrace change and innovation whilst respecting traditional values, and we encourage our students to think for themselves, pursue their aspirations, have confidence in their abilities and develop a spirit of independence.

Our forward thinking approach is reflected in our academic curriculum where there is breadth of choice and depth of study. Whilst academic standards are high, our commitment to students' wider personal development and wellbeing remains central to our approach. This is delivered through our formidable Other Half co-curricular provision and underpinned by our House system and strong Pastoral care - both of which ensure each individual is known and cared for.

I hope that the following pages will further endorse what makes an Abingdon education simply **extraordinary**.

Mike Windsor
Head



Move to co-education



From September 2026, Abingdon will welcome girls into our First Year and Lower Sixth Form as the first step to becoming fully co-educational.

Our key task as educators is to prepare our young people for life after school. We believe the best preparation is to educate boys and girls alongside one another in the classroom so they are ready for a world in which men and women work, study and live together side by side.

We also want to be able to offer the strength of an Abingdon education to both girls and boys. We are very proud of our educational offering with our focus on the life of the mind and developing the intellectual curiosity of our pupils. Our Other Half programme provides a huge range of co-curricular activities, each designed to promote the personal development of our pupils. Both these elements are underpinned by an outstanding pastoral system, based on our Houses, which ensures every pupil is known, valued and supported as they make their way through the school.

We look forward to welcoming the first girls to Abingdon in 2026.



Academic

Success isn't just about hard work. Success stems from passion and curiosity - which is why it is a natural outcome of an Abingdon education.



The breadth and depth of our subjects, together with our encouragement of independent thinking, mean that each student can follow their own interests and strengths to thrive and succeed.

Our academic offering combines a wide variety of traditional academic subjects with contemporary disciplines, practical classes, cultural trips and the arts - all taught by our enthusiastic, expert staff who love to spark creative thinking and passionate debate, making learning a challenging and compelling experience for every individual in the class.

This means that our young people leave Abingdon with some of the best results in the country, well equipped to continue their learning at any of the world's top universities and to enjoy fulfilling futures of exploration, discovery and accomplishment.

”

“Pupils demonstrate extensive knowledge and understanding across all subjects.”

ISI Inspection

1:9

teacher student ratio

96

tutor groups - each student is known and cared for

Pastoral



School is a place of discovery, where individuals learn about themselves and the world around them and, at its best, it is a hugely exhilarating, fun and rewarding time.

We want our young people to be emotionally and mentally healthy so they are able to fully enjoy their school experience - and to help each other do the same.

This is one of the reasons we have such a strong emphasis on community. Every student belongs to a House throughout their time at Abingdon, creating a sense of family and putting them in the care of a dedicated Head of House.

Each student also has a personal tutor, who they meet with every day. Our peer mentoring system encourages our students to look out for one another. We also have dedicated time within our timetable to think and talk about key issues including healthy living, rights and responsibilities, self-esteem and relationships.

This creates a learning environment which develops our students intellectually and emotionally, giving them a balanced perspective on life and encouraging them to grow in resilience, confidence, generosity and kindness.

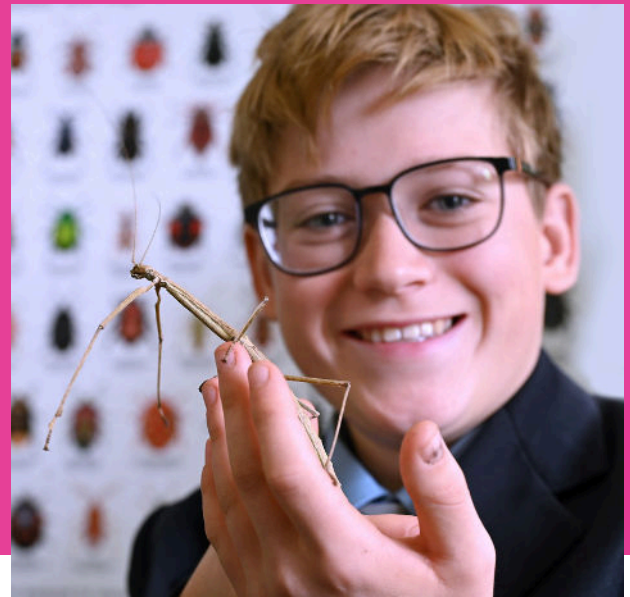
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“A strong culture of pastoral care, provided through an effective house system, which means that pupils are known by teachers.”

ISI Inspection

Other Half

At Abingdon, we believe that classroom learning should only be one half of a students' educational journey, which is why we devote so much time to our co-curricular programme, aptly named 'The Other Half'.



Time for the Other Half is allocated within the weekly timetable as well as during break times and after school to enable our students to choose a wide range of co-curricular opportunities each term from our range of over 150 activities.

They might be drawn to the excitement and camaraderie of Duke of Edinburgh, the journalistic opportunities of newspaper and magazine writing, the development of a new skill such as ceramics, debating or computer science, the mental challenges of chess or the altruistic enjoyment of volunteering in the community.

Whichever activities a pupil pursues, the two halves of an Abingdon education add up to a whole school experience that enables our students to become well-rounded, resourceful and ambitious learners.



Sport

Sport is good for both the body and mind, so from beginners to international athletes we offer every individual the opportunity to get involved and to develop in a wide range of sporting activities.



Our sports centre is equipped with an eight-lane swimming pool, squash courts, a climbing wall and a series of fitness suites, as well as a martial arts, fencing and dance studio. We also have 60 acres of sports pitches, including all-weather surfaces for hockey, football, rugby and athletics. Our boathouse is situated on the River Thames within easy reach of the School.

Both individual and team achievement is important and every student is expertly coached to reach their full potential. There are frequent opportunities to compete and our students have enjoyed great success at regional, national and international level.

We value sport for its health and fitness benefits and for the camaraderie, teamwork and self-motivation it inspires. We have a long tradition of sport at Abingdon and are proud of the dedication and good-sportsmanship of all our teams.

Over

630

students represent the School in a typical Lent weekend across nine sports

31

sports available to try



Over 60 acres of sports pitches

8-lane 25m indoor pool

Boathouse on the River Thames

Creative arts



Art and Product Design and Engineering both offer a significant opportunity for students to evaluate and express their thoughts, questions, feelings and observations.

In both timetabled lessons and Other Half activities, students are encouraged to develop their creativity and design ideas through a variety of media - from painting and printmaking to ceramics, digital design, sculpture and woodwork.

Our Art Department houses a number of large studios, with our Product Design and Engineering Department having a number of dedicated workshops with a wide range of professional standard machinery. And, our highly skilled staff strike a balance between helping the students to master key skills and techniques and encouraging them to develop their imaginations and their ability to visually communicate ideas and meaning.

Regardless of age or ability, we find that the creative arts improve self-discipline, help to develop lateral thinking skills and spark creativity and innovation across their studies.



Drama

Whether they prefer performing under the bright lights or managing them behind the scenes, our Drama programme offers all students a range of enjoyable and enriching new experiences.

Throughout their time at Abingdon, students have the opportunity to learn theatre arts such as mime, stage combat, puppetry, sound and lighting techniques and set design, as well as familiarising themselves with a wide variety of writers and genres.

To showcase these skills, we produce a bold and entertaining mix of classical plays, musical theatre and contemporary work across the school year, many staged in our 450 seat theatre.

We also have our own award winning film unit, through which students can create their own short films, under the guidance of industry professionals.

These creative endeavours not only improve confidence, cultural awareness and communication skills, but also provide a unique outlet for personal exploration and self-expression.



7

major drama
productions a year

120+

films made by the
Abingdon Film Unit

Music

Whatever the style of music and whether our students wish to pursue it as a future career or simply a hobby, the opportunities to explore and develop musical talent abound at Abingdon.



Music is a key part of both our curriculum and our Other Half programme with the philosophy of 'music for all' underpinning our offering, so that students of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to participate. That said, the standard of our music education is high, with a number of students in most years going on to take scholarships at top universities and conservatoires.

In addition to the availability of individual instrumental and vocal lessons, students can get involved with any number of orchestras, choirs and bands - from gospel to jazz, blues to classical.

We regularly stage a variety of concerts and musical theatre productions in our own impressive facilities, and many of the orchestras and choirs also have opportunities to tour and perform abroad. Wherever our students perform, the same skill, creativity and love of music shines through.



22

musical instruments
available to learn

Boarding

Full and weekly boarding is available from the age of 13 (Third Year). Our boarding houses offer a home from home environment.

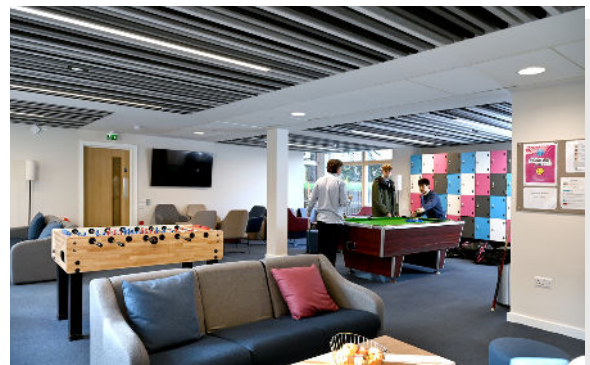


Day students also belong to our boarding houses, ensuring a good mix, and the friendships formed provide a stable and supportive environment for academic exploration and learning.

The houses encourage an active, fun and friendly community life. The recent renovation and extension of two of our boarding houses in 2023 has significantly enhanced our offering.

Bedrooms sleep between two and three boarders as standard, with sixth formers having single bedrooms. In addition to dedicated study areas and kitchenettes, our boarding community has access to a variety of communal spaces with sociable activities. We have a wonderful mix of local and international boarders, creating a vibrant and culturally diverse environment. A great variety of activities is available outside school hours including paintballing, sailing, punting, bowling, socials with other schools and a wide range of trips.

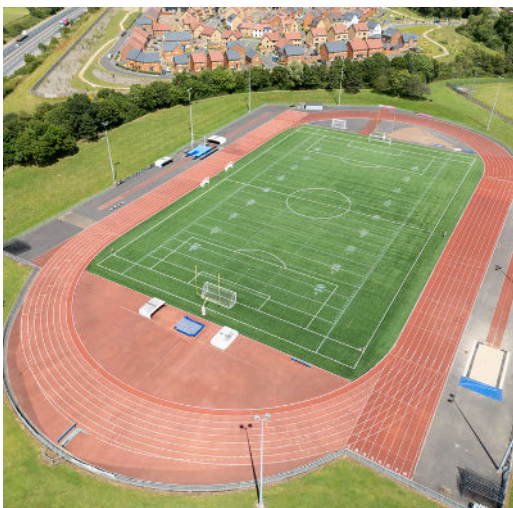
Through our Enrichment Programme, boarders get valuable experience in organising their daily lives, learning about tasks such as cooking and laundry, as well as personal administration and money management, preparing them for independent life beyond school.



Facilities

Situated on 35 acres in the heart of Abingdon, only 6 miles from the city of Oxford, Abingdon School is fortunate to have extensive facilities.

These include a 450 seat theatre, dining pavilion, a science centre housing 21 teaching laboratories, study areas, project rooms and preparatory rooms, a dedicated sixth form centre, library, arts centre, sports centre and swimming pool, humanities centre and dedicated Product Design and Engineering workshop. In addition to our main 35 acre site, we have further facilities at Tilsley Park sports and athletics ground; our boat club; and Cox's fields which is situated at our Prep school.



Abingdon School OX14 1DE
Abingdon Prep School OX13 5NX
Tilsley Park OX14 1PU
Cox's Fields OX13 6QL
Abingdon Boathouse OX14 5NP



By car:
Oxford 6 miles
Central London 60 miles



By train:
From Oxford from 52 minutes
From Didcot from 38 minutes



By plane:
London Heathrow 48 miles
London Gatwick 85 miles

Further information can be found on:
abingdon.org.uk



Newly renovated and extended
boarding accommodation



State-of-the-art
dining pavilion



Dedicated Computer Science,
Economics and Business
Studies Centre



Over 60 acres of sports pitches
with all-weather surfaces for
rugby, hockey, football, tennis
and athletics. 8-lane indoor
swimming pool.

Partnerships

The aim of Abingdon School in Partnership, ASiP, is to build relationships with the local community, and in particular our partner schools, to the benefit of and to challenge all staff and students across the town.



Through the Abingdon School in Partnership (ASiP) initiative, and as founding members of the OX14 Learning Partnership, Abingdon School plays a pivotal role in fostering community engagement and promoting civic pride. The ASiP programme provides students with a myriad of opportunities to develop their academic and co-curricular skills while actively contributing to the broader community.

These opportunities include participating in primary science workshops, engaging in creative endeavors such as film production, and collaborative projects like building and racing an electric go-kart. Beyond skill development, the ASiP initiative nurtures meaningful friendships, cultivates teamwork, and enhances leadership abilities, ensuring that all students are well-prepared to navigate the challenges of the world beyond the school. The programme thus reinforces Abingdon School's commitment to fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to the community, underscoring its positive role in shaping well-rounded and civically engaged individuals.

Community

We will build on the positive role the School plays in the local community.

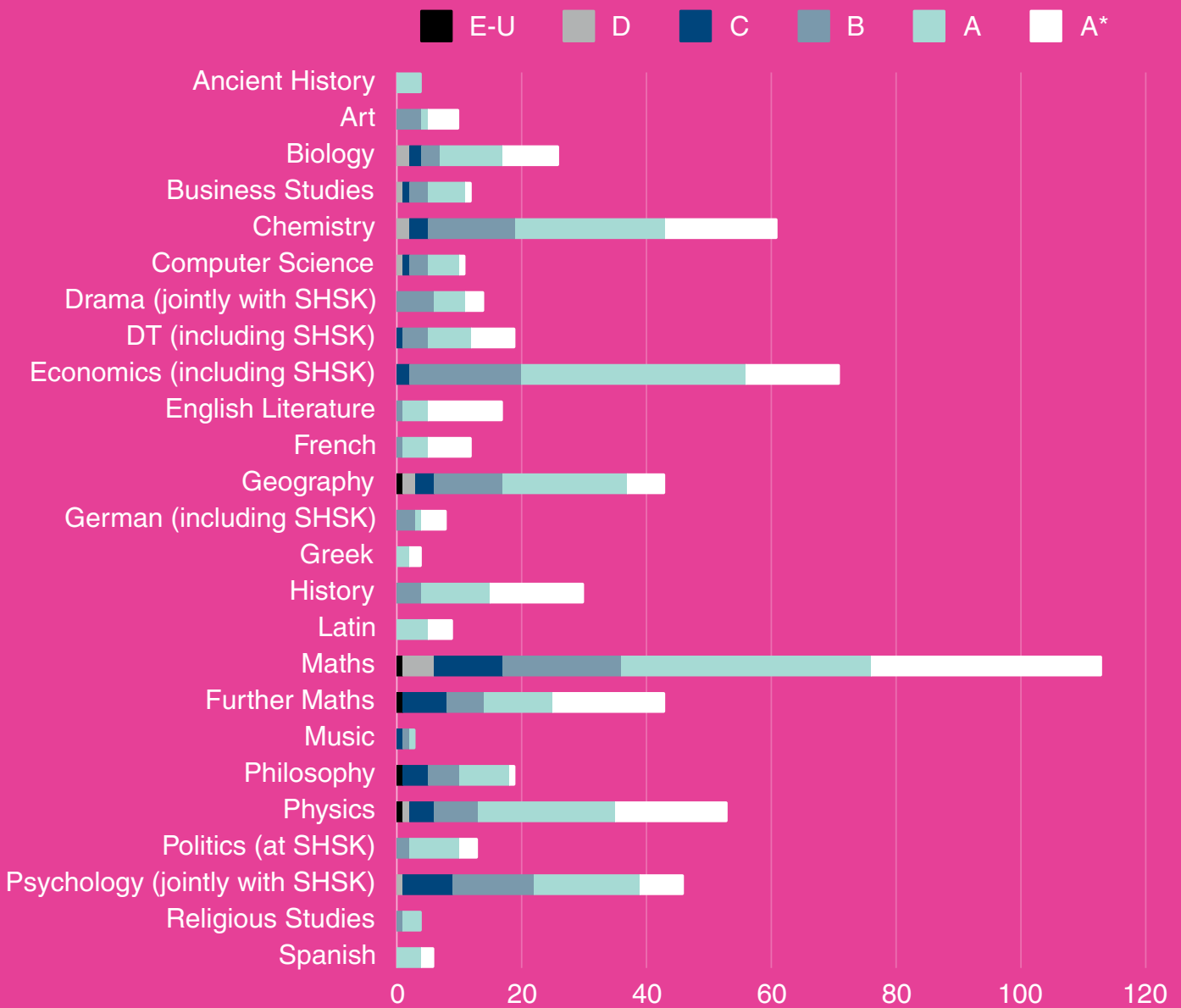
Collaboration

Students and staff collaborate effectively and positively with members of the local community.

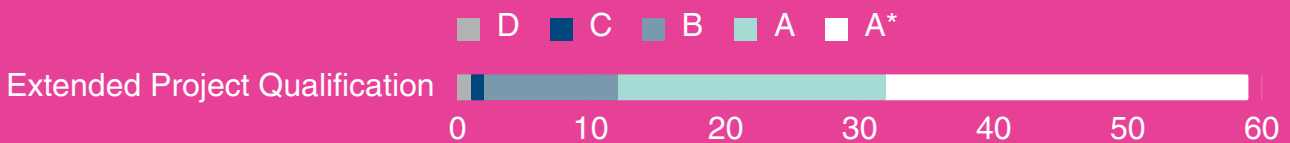
Challenge

Students and staff stretch and challenge themselves via collaboration.

A Level Results 2024



Number of Abingdon students sitting A Levels: 174
+ students from St Helen and St Katharine (SHSK)



For latest results visit abingdon.org.uk/academic/gcse-a-level-results

Leavers' Destinations

Leavers go on to attend a diverse range of courses at a wide selection of British and international universities. This list is correct as of September 2024 and refers to the university places secured by those who applied in the 2023/24 application cycle. Where a number is shown in brackets, this refers to the number of Abingdon students taking the course.

ABERDEEN

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

ABERYSTWYTH

Criminology and Criminal Psychology

BATH

Accounting and Finance

Architecture

International Management (2)

Mathematics

Mechanical Engineering

Natural Sciences (2)

Physics

Politics and International Relations

BIRMINGHAM

Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science

Economics

Economics and Politics

Environmental Science

Geography (2)

International Relations with Economics

BRIGHTON

Aerospace Engineering

BRISTOL

Accounting and Management

Biochemistry (2)

Business and Management

Computer Science

Economics and Accounting

Economics and Management

English and History

History with Innovation

Liberal Arts

Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

Modern Languages

Physics

Politics and International Relations

Zoology

BRUNEL

Economics and Business Finance

BUCKINGHAM

Medicine

CAMBRIDGE

English

Linguistics

Modern and Medieval Languages

Natural Sciences (2)

CARDIFF

Business Economics

Business Management (Marketing)

Medicine

DURHAM

Classics

Combined Honours in Social Sciences

Engineering (Aeronautical)

Engineering (Mechanical)

Geography

Health and Human Sciences

History (2)

Music

Natural Sciences (2)

EDINBURGH

Chinese and French

Economics (2)

History and Politics

Physics

Social Anthropology with Development

ESSEX

Psychology

EXETER

Accounting and Finance

Economics

Economics and Finance

Economics and Politics (2)

Finance: Investment Banking

Flexible Combined Honours

History

Law (3)

Mathematics with Economics

Mechanical Engineering

Physics

Politics and International Relations (2)

GLASGOW

Computing Science

Finance

Medicine

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Computing

Physics

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Computer Science (2)

Economics

International Relations

Natural Sciences

LEEDS

History

Medicine

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Geography

Law

LOUGHBOROUGH

Finance and Management

History

Mechanical Engineering

Product Design and Technology (2)

Psychology

Robotics, Mechatronics and Control Engineering

MANCHESTER

Mathematics

Medical Biochemistry

Modern Language and Business & Management

Pharmacology

Physics

NEWCASTLE

Chemistry (2)

Mathematics and Economics

Mathematics with Finance

NORWICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

Games Art & Design

NOTTINGHAM

International Management

Liberal Arts

Product Design and Manufacture

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Architecture

OXFORD

Classics (3)

Engineering

History

Law with German Law

OXFORD BROOKES

Geography

PLYMOUTH

Architecture

PORTSMOUTH

Psychology

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Biology

SHEFFIELD

Aerospace Engineering

Geography

Mechanical Engineering

SOUTHAMPTON

Aeronautics and Astronautics (2)

Computer Science (3)

Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Geography (2)

Marine Biology

Music

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Applied Medical Sciences

Classics and the Ancient World

Electronic and Electrical Engineering

History

Medicine

Philosophy

Psychology with Education

WARWICK

Accounting and Finance

English Literature and Creative Writing

Politics and International Studies

WEST OF ENGLAND

Automotive Engineering (2)

YORK

Molecular Cell Biology

Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance

INTERNATIONAL

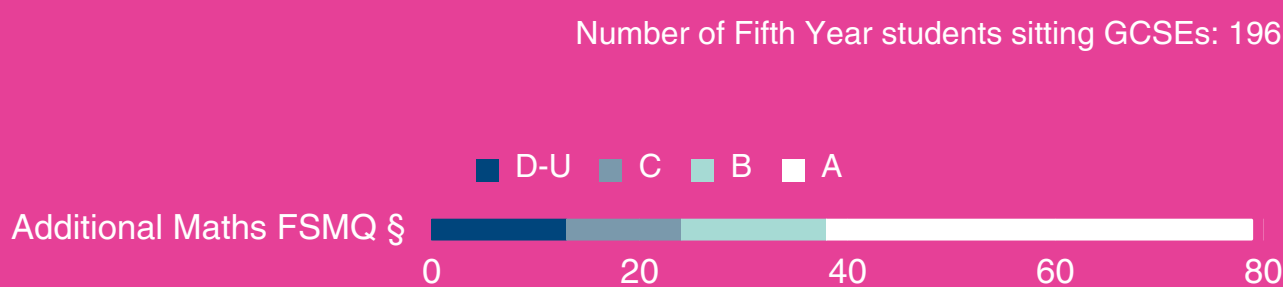
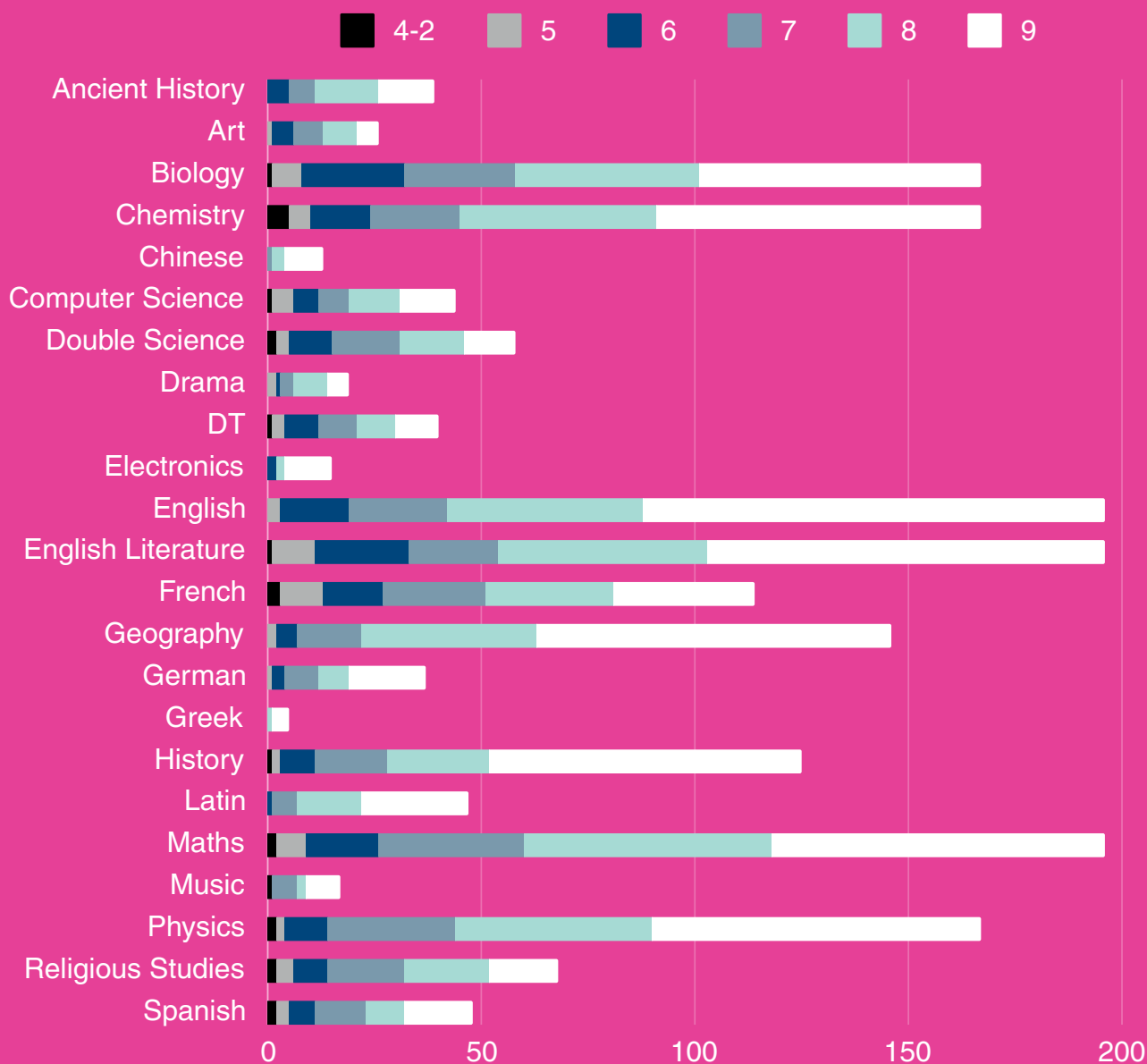
Hong Kong University (3)

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Vanderbilt University, USA

University of California at San Diego, USA

GCSE Results 2024



§ The FSMQ is a free-standing Maths Qualification and does not count as a GCSE. The A* grade is not applicable to this exam.

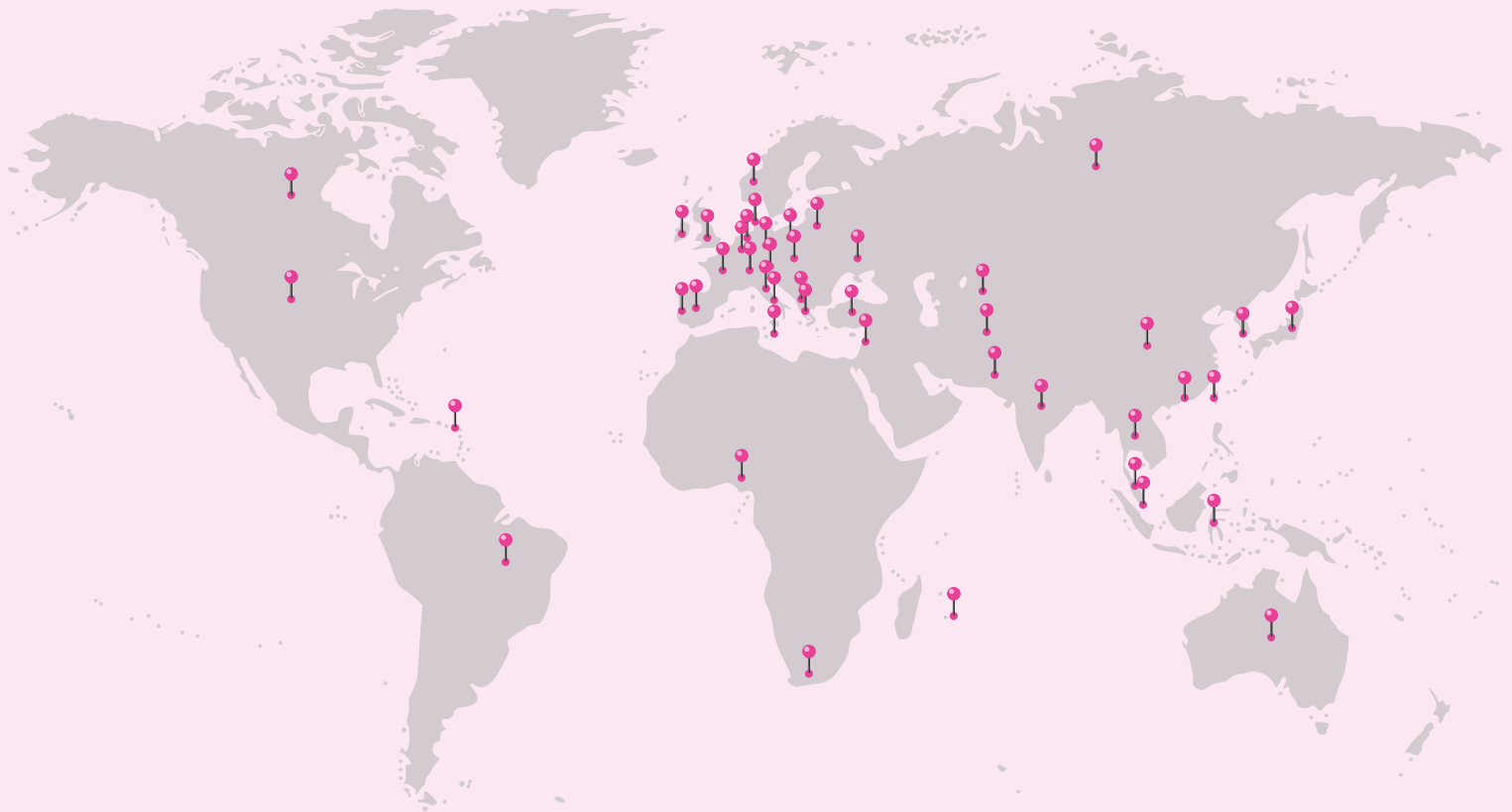
For latest results visit abingdon.org.uk/academic/gcse-a-level-results

The school day

Below is an example of timings for the school day. We shape the timetable to get the right balance. Timings do vary across year groups and from day to day.



An international perspective



We currently have students from **45** countries around the world

Our students travel the world, broadening their minds and gaining invaluable experience of cultures and countries.

There are Old Abingdonians in 60 countries

Facts

We are over
750
years old

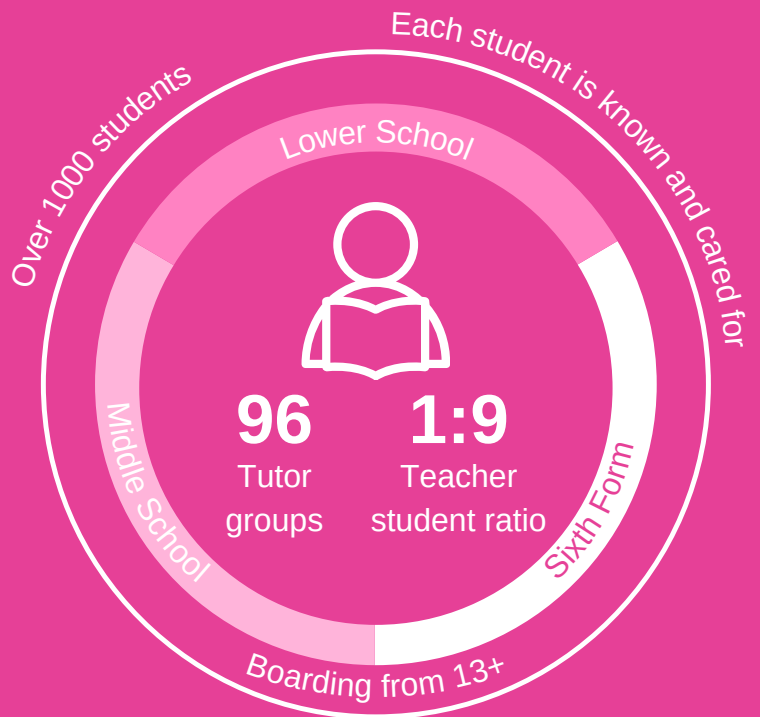


Steeped in history but with a modern approach to learning, we continually evaluate our education to ensure each student can fulfil their potential.

A Level and GCSE Results 2024:

90% of A Level passes were awarded A* to B grades

86% of GCSE passes were awarded grades 9 to 7



Alumni

Just a few of the famous names who have enjoyed success in their chosen careers

- Mike Bartlett Robin Bourne-Taylor
- Sir Kim Darroch KCMG Simon Evans
- Foals Tom Hollander Max Hutchinson
- Jonny and the Baptists Toby Jones
- Sir Nicholas Kay KCMG Ben Macintyre
- Francis Maude MP David Mitchell Huw Parmenter
- Radiohead Sir Vivian Ramsey Sir David Tanner CBE



Joining us

Admissions

Lower School (aged 11-13) Entry at age 11 is mainly from primary schools and independent schools that teach to the age of 11. Girls from September 2026.

Middle School (aged 13-16) Entry at age 13 is from a range of UK and international schools. Girls from September 2028.

Sixth Form (aged 16-18) Entry at age 16 is from a range of UK and international schools. Girls from September 2026.

Entry at other ages may be considered if places are available.

References from a student's current school, interviews and entrance examinations are required at all entry points. For the Sixth Form, admission is dependent on examinations and interviews, school references and, where appropriate, performance in GCSEs.

Scholarships and awards

There are a range of scholarships and awards available at ages 11, 13, 14 and 16.

Free and subsidised places

Abingdon also offers a number of free and subsidised places which are awarded to the highest performing candidates with the level of need determined on a case by case basis, but can be worth up to 100% of day fees. 74 students currently receive free and subsidised places.

Fees

From 1 January 2025, the fees for the Lent and Summer Terms 2025 are below. An acceptance deposit is required to secure a place.

Day (including lunch)

£8,955*

Weekly boarding

£14,900*

Full boarding

£18,260*

*including applicable VAT

What next?

Please get in touch with us to find out more. You can...



Call for further information
+44 (0)1235 849041



Browse our website
abingdon.org.uk



Book a visit at
abingdon.org.uk/admissions/visit-abingdon

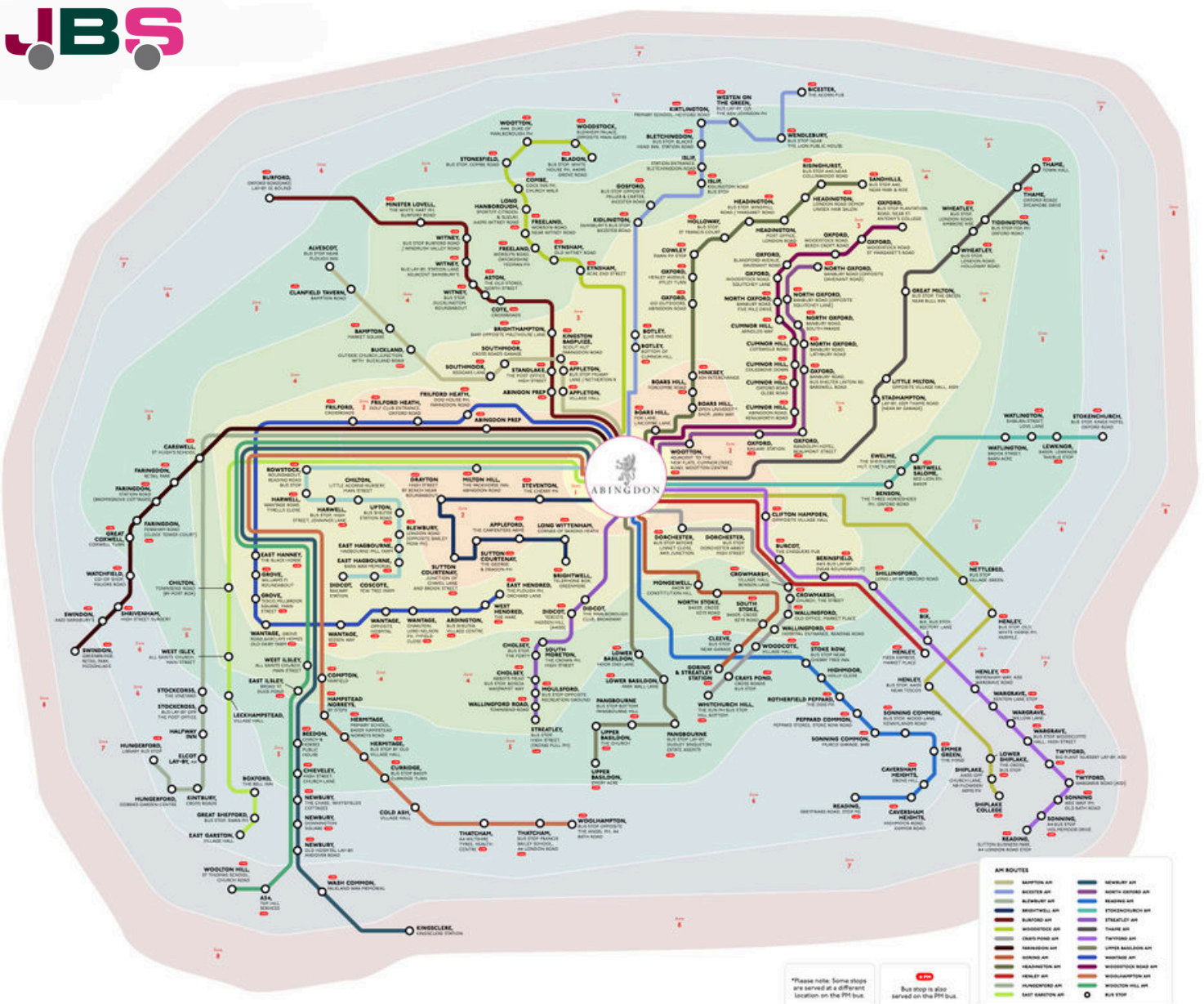


Complete the online
[registration form](#)

Bus routes

Our Joint Bus Service (JBS) is run in conjunction with St Helen and St Katharine School. It safely transports students to and from our school site. Managed by specialist school transport company, Vectare, the service offers families great flexibility, allowing travel to be booked up to midnight before the day of travel and 24/7 from any location. The map below is an example of the routes available.

For up to date routes, timings and costs, please visit jbs.vectare.co.uk





ABINGDON

Simply **extraordinary**

Abingdon School

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.

Company No. 3625063

Registered Charity No. 1071298

Registered office: Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE

The school's aims and ethos, policies and inspection reports are available on the school website.

Abingdon School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

To contact the governors, please email: heads.pa@abingdon.org.uk

abingdon.org.uk