

Milton Abbey celebrates...



Claire Low
Head of Admissions

Joining Milton Abbey in September 2016, gave me an invaluable insight into the challenges facing our new pupils and their families as they too embarked upon an exciting new phase of their lives at this wonderfully stimulating school. Milton Abbey promotes individuality and nurtures the personal strengths and self-esteem of all our pupils with remarkable care, both at pastoral and academic levels.

I have witnessed first-hand how the staff at Milton Abbey inspire pride in pupils' individual work, whether in sport, academia, creative arts or outdoor and practical subjects. Our small size allows for meaningful involvement in School life and a greater opportunity for pupils to represent the School and to master their chosen subject or activity. Lasting and fulfilling friendships are forged, and everyone has the chance to get to know one another. No one is overlooked or left behind.

I am therefore delighted to have an opportunity, within the pages of this newsletter, to share some this academic year's achievements – so far! I do hope you will find the articles both interesting and informative. Perhaps they will prompt you to get in touch with us to discuss ways in which we can nurture, inspire and educate your child – if so, please don't hesitate to call me on 01258 881804 or email me at admissions@miltonabbey.co.uk

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GIRLS AT MILTON ABBEY







Milton Abbey School has been celebrating an important landmark: it is ten years since the school became co-educational. Headmaster Magnus Bashaarat said, "It is hard to think of Milton Abbey as anything other than a co-educational school; girls flourish here and are contributing at the highest level to all aspects of school life whether that is in the classroom, on the sports field, in the music or art departments or in positions of responsibility."

As part of the celebrations, Milton Abbey held a 'Girls' Fun Day' when many of our girls played host to younger girls who came along to take part in a variety of fun activities including a scavenger hunt, cupcake decorating class and drama workshop. A delicious lunch was enjoyed in the school's Abbot's Hall, which dates back to the 14th Century, followed by tea in the

Girls' House later in the afternoon. Today approximately one third of each year group is made up of girls, with numbers rising every year. Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning), Natalie Perry, said "Milton Abbey's size allows us to tailor the curriculum around our pupils' interests and talents so girls can really focus on what they excel at which builds enormous confidence."





Sixth Form Interview Morning 25 February 2017 • 9.30am to 12.30pm

Lower School Open Morning
4 March 2017 • 10.30am to 1.30pm

Taster Day (for 2017 & 2018 entrants) 17 March 2017 • 9.45am to 4.00pm



EXCELLENCE IN GCSE, A LEVEL AND BTEC RESULTS

Congratulations to all Milton Abbey pupils on their exam results earlier this year.

Milton Abbey has bucked the national trend and seen a continuation of its improved performance this year in GCSE results - the best since 2012. 10% of pupils achieved A* - A, 28% of pupils achieved A* - B %. This year's A Levels and Level 3 BTEC results were equally impressive. At A Level the pass rate was 90% and our Level 3 BTEC pupils achieved

a 100% pass rate with many achieving Merits, Distinctions and Distinction Stars.

The 2016 Leavers accepted university places across the country including courses at Russell Group universities, the University of Sussex and the University of East Anglia, as well as the Royal Agricultural University. Compared with our 2015 results this year we have seen an average UCAS points per student increase by 30 points.



OUR LOCATION 'INSPIRES & CHEERS'

We were delighted to see Milton Abbey featured in Country Life's Guide to Good Schools supplement, in an article celebrating the 16 finest looking schools in the country. The article, entitled, 'The beauty parade', highlights schools with stunning architecture and surroundings and the power a beautiful working environment has to 'inspire and cheer' pupils. Editor Geoff Heath-Taylor says of Milton Abbey, 'With the ancient abbey as the school chapel and Capability Brown's parkland as the school's grounds, the site's beauty remains undiminished due to the small size of the school...it's got a farm and a nine-hole golf course and must be one of the loveliest places in England.'



OUR 'TUBE' DESIGNS GO VIRAL

Fourth Form Design and Technology pupils have been learning about Harry Beck's iconic London Tube map and making their own versions of the design with their take on a Milton Abbey 'tube' map and signs.

Teacher James Ratcliffe had developed his own design as part of the lesson to introduce the concept of maps within a design context; his design went viral and led to a local taxi company approaching him and asking if they could use his design in their advertising. The result is currently on a 50 foot billboard in Christchurch!



BUILDING OUR NEW FACILITIES

The term has seen further exciting developments with our two main building projects.

In November we received planning permission for the first phase of the new Centre for Countryside and Equine Management. This project will see the redevelopment of our stable block to provide dedicated classroom spaces, along with changing rooms and toilets, plus new storage space and an improved tack room.



Plans are also underway to build a new Equestrian Arena next to the stable block development. This will enable horses to be trained and exercised on site so pupils will be able to spend more time working their horses without having to travel to a local arena. We are grateful to have received some generous donations which we hope will enable us to complete this project later this year.

Last March, we appointed a Principal Designer for the re-development of our Art Department. This exciting and innovative new contemporary space within our current Grade I listed building will give a huge boost to what is already a vibrant and impressive department.



UI5 RUGBY TEAM UNDEFEATED ... PLAYED 10, WON 10!

The last games of the season versus Clayesmore were always going to be important fixtures for the Milton Abbey rugby teams but none more so than for the U15s who were yet to be beaten this season. As it turned out this excellent team had another fantastic game, winning 31–22. They had done it! Played ten, won ten! Undefeated!

Coach Chris Hill said, 'Talent won the game but hard work, commitment and teamwork has brought us to this point!' Coach and Housemaster, Will Fraser said, 'It's been a pleasure to work with this determined and talented group of young men. The players understood that success would only come from hard work. I am so proud of the boys."



CROSS COUNTRY

Ben Lawes, Director of Sport, who is now in his second year at Milton Abbey, is continuing to make many significant and positive changes within our Sports Department. One of the areas he has been focusing on is our commitment to cross country running - equally popular with both girls and boys. The beauty of cross country is that it's you against not only the competition and yourself, but also Mother Nature. Many sports offer physical activity, but cross country offers the chance of adopting a lifetime hobby that builds strength, confidence, and long-term healthy habits - cross country will shape you both literally and figuratively.

At Milton Abbey we have three experienced cross country coaches - an impressive number which has really helped raise the profile of this increasingly popular sport. We run three training sessions each week at school and we also offer external training sessions at county and national level with specialist coaches. Our Elite Runners (who compete at County and National level) benefit enormously from these specialist coaching sessions. The Triathlon option within our Sports programme is becoming increasingly popular with our girls and boys. This allows them to maintain their running training whilst also honing their swimming and cycling skills.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

The girls have had an encouraging term and have displayed some excellent skills on the pitch. They have played matches against Gillingham, Clayesmore, Sexey's, Downe House, Ballard, Talbot Heath, Wells Cathedral and Hampshire Collegiate.



SHOOTING VICTORS!

Milton Abbey pupils beat 26 other schools to win the Millfield Shooting Competition. This fantastic achievement was testament to the pupils' skill and the excellent training they have received from Purbeck Shooting School, widely acknowledged to be one of the best shooting schools in the country.





LUNCHTIME SCHOLARS' RECITAL

Congratulations to our Music Scholars for a wonderful music recital on II October - part of Milton Abbey's lunchtime recital programme, set up by Director of Music Shaun Pirttijarvi. There were strong performances from all the performers - Violet, Laura, Becca, Rufus, Tom and Bertie - and nearly all age groups were represented with Fourth Formers singing or playing alongside Middle Sixth pupils. These regular recitals give our musicians the chance to gain confidence performing in front of an audience, practise their exam pieces and share their accomplishments with their peers. Some previous performances are available to view on our YouTube 'Music at Milton Abbey' channel.



OUR 'DNA' WAS 'PULSE'-ING!

We have seen some wonderful performances both from pupils studying drama and by those who just enjoy treading the boards. The term ended with the New Barn Theatre being transformed into a winter wonderland for the Junior production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'; this was a great play with some really memorable performances from the cast. Further up the School, Lower Sixth drama students put on 'Pulse' a devised piece of theatre based on the 2016 nightclub shootings in Orlando. This was an impressive, hard hitting piece of drama. In addition the drama scholars' play, 'DNA', about what happened when four friends accidentally kill their friend, was really well conceived and enjoyed by all.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

The collection at our Remembrance Day service raised a significant amount of money for the British Legion and the other fund raising events of the term, the 'Christmas Jumper' mufti day and the legendary end of term school 'fun run' have yet again proved highly successful in raising funds for Julia's House and SKRUM. We have adopted SKRUM as one of our two charities to support this year after a fantastic meeting between the charity's founder Michael Collinson, the founder, and members of the senior rugby squad earlier this term. In the course of the term we have also supported the Blandford Cares project, and many students brought in 'rucksacks' full of provisions, camping equipment and clothes for refugees in what was the Calais 'jungle'.



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