

## Headmaster's Report to MAA – June 2016

### Development/Alumni

Work is continuing to develop approaches to a target list of potential donors for the capital projects and funding is already in place to complete the first stage of the new Centre for Countryside and Equine Management Centre over the summer.

The Milton Abbey Fund was launched to current parents at the end of the Lent Term, resulting in gifts and pledges of >£5,000 to date. This is being followed up by Development Board parent members and will also be launched to the alumni during June. New shooting kit has been generously funded by a parent and an offer has been received to purchase new cricket nets. In addition, the new electronic cricket scoreboard, funded by the alumni, was also installed this term. A very generous initiative from a current parent has resulted in further donations of over £9,000 being received as gifts in lieu of parents paying for flights to Tuscany for the MASPA trip in June.

The split of the Development Board into separate parent and alumni groups has worked well and has enabled the groups to focus on different areas of fundraising: the parent group is focused on supporting the Milton Abbey Fund and the alumni group is focused on raising support for both capital projects and bursaries. Four new members have been recruited to the alumni group.

In May, we welcomed back twelve of our Life Governors, plus guests, for a lunch and a tour to see the latest developments around the site. This was greatly enjoyed by all the guests, and the lunch was followed by a letter from the Headmaster to those Life Governors who attended, encouraging them to consider making a legacy gift to the school.

### Academic

Following an excellent set of summer examination results where the A\*-A Advanced Level grade haul rose by 10% on 2014 and our Level 3 BTEC pupils achieved a 100% pass rate with many achieving Merits, Distinctions and Distinction Stars; we were delighted that the 2015 cohort accepted university places across the country including courses at the prestigious Russell Group institutions, the Royal Agricultural College and Harper Adams, as well as the Guildford School of Acting and Falmouth College of Art. A particular mention must go to Marcello Fantoni who achieved A\* grades in A Level English Literature, History and Religious Studies, and accepted a place to read Archaeology and Anthropology at St Hugh's College, Oxford University.

The academic year 2015/2016 has seen the highest ever number of Awards and Commendations recorded. 5,500 Milton Abbey Awards were given to pupils throughout the year and 32 Commendations were awarded for pieces of particularly outstanding academic work.

Two Lower Sixth pupils took part in academic master classes at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University during the Lent Term; Carla Tordoff-Gibson attended a series of Biomedical Science lectures where topics included *Bone and Mineral Metabolism in Health and Disease* and Nadia Onyeje attended a series of lectures based around Linguistics including topics such as *How to build a world: a semantics taster* by Professor Ian Roberts.

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It has been a positive year following the full Integrated ISI Inspection in 2015 where it was noted that ‘the contribution of teaching throughout the school is excellent’ and ‘the pupils have excellent attitudes towards their work’. We look forward to developing this further still in the coming Academic year.

### **Tutoring**

This academic year has seen the introduction of the new tutoring system, featuring horizontal tutoring in Lower School combined with one-to-one tutoring in the Upper School in the form of twenty to thirty minute appointments each week. Upper School tutees have been encouraged to offer their preferences as to whom they are tutored by and this has led to productive and successful relationships.

Tutors have communicated regularly with parents, both in the form of detailed tutorial notes, but also through the communication of Events such as awards, sanctions and the use of nightly Supported Prep through the Parent Portal and parents have commented on how informative they have found this approach. The tutoring system will continue on similar lines next academic year and we look forward to further enhancing this vital aspect of our pupils’ education.

### **PSHE**

September 2016 marked the launch of the new PSHE curriculum which has been delivered school wide across the year. Every pupil in every year has had an hourly session each week to tackle the complexities of life within the remit of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. We have battled gender stereotypes, explored the impact of substance abuse and challenged the war on drugs - which the Middle Sixth overwhelmingly voted against legalising all drugs by the end of their research. We have discussed different types of relationships questioned how we really stay safe in them and we’ve challenged ourselves, questioned our aspirations and embraced our values within our groups.

PSHE is still very much in its development stages and this year has been an evolution in how we see, and respond to the wider the world. Feedback from our pupils during their journey this year:

- ‘I’ve realised that I don’t pay enough attention to myself to think about what others around me are doing or thinking about me’
- ‘It makes me feel like I am wanted because most of the time I feel like just another person no-one knows or understands’
- ‘I feel reassured there are likeminded people in my class’
- ‘I enjoy having the time and space to just talk about life’

### **Round Square**

#### Internationalism

- We are running our first bi-annual Round Square international trip this summer. The idea is to run an international trip that seeks to explore some of the IDEALS in other countries and cultures. We are going to New Orleans in June 2016. This location was chosen to be able to consider the environmental impact of Hurricane Katrina and to look at the religious and cultural diversity of the American South
- We have developed an innovative Third Form curriculum course on ‘Internationalism’. This has been popular and will continue next year. All of the Third Form pupils have a one hour a lesson a week looking at international communities and issues

#### Democracy

- Pupils have had the opportunity to attend rallies by both the Remain and Leave Campaigns in the EU Referendum debate this term

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- In addition, the Heads of School and Heads of House advisory votes take place this term

#### Environmental stewardship

- The school has recently moved from an oil fueled boiler to a wood pellet biomass boiler. This £1m project will mean that the school moves to renewable energy source for its heating and hot water
- Alongside this, the school has also launched a new waste management strategy involving significantly more re-cycling throughout the school. The pupils are actively engaged with this strategy in all areas of the school

#### Adventure

- This is a strong strand for us as a school. This term we have seen the school running two Ten Tors teams with 35 mile and 45 mile teams completing the challenge. We have a Sailing Trip at the end of term and DoE Bronze and Silver training and practice expeditions at the end of term

#### Leadership

- The new Pilots and pupil leadership team is selected and
- We have run a lecture called 'Serve to lead: the paradox of leadership', an abbreviated version of which has also been presented to the whole school in an assembly.

#### Service

- This year saw us step up our Service provision by the introduction of a service afternoon. We have called this afternoon 'RS@MA' (Round Square at Milton Abbey) and all those not involved in the Cadet Force carry out some sort of service. This ranges from visiting the elderly in the local community to running after school footballs clubs to litter picking and dog walking for local residents. This has hugely increased the amount of service activity taking place on a weekly basis and is a programme upon which we are building
- We have a very active and successful charity committee that chooses two School Charities each academic year and raises money for them through a series of events. This includes everything from a summer fete, to cake sales, cabaret evenings and sponsored walks. We support one local charity and one with a wider reach. The charities come into school and present to the whole school about the charity and its work. We have raised over £50,000 in the last four years.
- The school offers logistical support and facilities to a number of organisations, not least with the use of its sports facilities. Indeed, we engage with the local primary school in this respect, collecting them to come to the school for swimming lessons provided by the school swimming coach
- The Deputy Head is a Governor for the local primary school.

### CCF

The CCF continues to make great improvements. As a result some changes have been made to how the CCF will work as of September. At present the CCF is compulsory for all Fourth Form and voluntary for the Fifth, Lower Sixth and Middle Sixth forms with a DofE programme put in place within the CCF. This has been hard to achieve with the Fourth Form forced to be in the CCF, with some not wanting to be involved, therefore causing disruption to classes and making it difficult to progress and improve the training for those that do want to be a part of the CCF. From September the Third Form must join the CCF and all other forms will be voluntary. By starting earlier they will be able to progress more quickly within the CCF syllabus enabling them to move onto a better, more exciting training offer. This should hopefully see more wanting to remain in the CCF and be mentors/role models for younger pupils.

We had a successful Biennial inspection which took place the 11 May with the current CCF showing a vast improvement in their behaviour. The day included a packed programme for the VIP and included a sailing demo by some of Milton Abbey's CCF at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy and lunch with a number of parents attending. The troops were unfazed by the very heavy rain and everyone involved made it a huge success.

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We have an Adventure training week in North Wales over the summer holiday and so far have six signed up – this will include kayaking, white ware rafting, indoor climbing, hill walking with cinema, bowling trips in the evening. More are expected to join.

Chris Adams, the SSI, has been looking into a ski trip during the Easter holidays next year and we have had positive feedback from the pupils. The CCF is able to use MoD resources and therefore the cost to pupils and the school can be reduced.

The CCF now has a good team which includes Trev Law (former Royal Marine), Chris Adams (former Coldstream Guardsman), Jordan Williams (Territorial Army background), Charlie Foxcroft (RYA Instructor) and Kevin Hurst (former Royal Marine). Also Charlotte Ogle is interested in joining as the female instructor and has past CCF past experience.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

The DofE is getting back on track and all pupils who should be are now enrolled. The current kit is in great need of updating with the small amount of good kit being held back for Ten Tors.

The Ten Tors event this year was very successful with two teams entered - one in the 35 mile route and the other in the 45 mile route. This would not have been achieved without Chris Adams and Ruth Dal- Din putting in extra time and effort with training from last October.

There will be fixed dates for the bronze and silver practise and final expeditions ideally will take place during the Lent term before the busy exam period in May and June. We are also looking at doing bronze for Fourth Form and gold when pupils turn 16 years old in the Fifth Form, giving pupils more time to achieve the award, before they leave school.

### **Hospitality**

In Hospitality the department began the summer term by visiting the Seaside Boarding House part owned by former MA pupil Nick Smallwood who was kind enough to explain his career path to the Lower Sixth pupils. They were able to find out more about how his career developed in the industry. Hard work was a recurring theme in his explanation! Toward the end of the term the Lower Sixth pupils went to London's Borough Market to purchase ingredients for their Contemporary World Food dinners. This is a unit where they prepare, cook and serve a three course dinner for invited guests. The visit enabled them all to share the experience of visiting market and work in their teams of two to select suitable ingredients.

Meanwhile pupils in the Middle Sixth have been completing their two year course and the extended diploma pupils had the chance to visit Summer Lodge Hotel. They had afternoon tea and whilst this is an obvious treat, they were able to make comparison to dishes they had created over the past three terms, commenting on flavour and presentation; an excellent way of evaluating the progress that they had made.

Fifth Form pupils participated in school events to evidence their 'working in the hospitality industry' unit with waiting at tables for the Third Form parents' dinner and others preparing, cooking and serving a cricket tea.

Fourth Form pupils also held a dinner inviting members of staff to eat a three course dinner created through a process of elimination. All the pupils contributed recipes and they then cooked, tasted and selected the three dishes to make up the menu.

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Fourth Form pupil Miesje Kovacs represented the school at the Boarding School Association 'bake off' competition where she created and decorated three different types of cupcakes. Miesje enjoyed the experience and it provided an excellent opportunity to test herself and prepare for future competitions.

The hospitality department is looking forward to beginning the cycle of practical and theory lessons in the new academic year.

### **Countryside Management**

The Countryside Management department have been busy this term rearing pheasants for the school shoot. Rearing sheds have been set up at the school farm and the pupils have been tending the incubators and young chicks daily.

On the farm, the breeding ewes and Julian, our stock ram, were shorn which has left them feeling much more comfortable in the hot weather. Five lambs were sold before half term, along with three pigs and we have restocked with four more lambs which will be sent to the abattoir at the end of term. More pigs will follow in September, ready for the new Lower Sixth to look after. Trade has been healthy with many staff and parents enjoying the meat produced. Over the summer the pheasants will be released into the wood ready for the start of the next shooting season and we will take delivery of twenty young turkeys to rear on for the Christmas market.

### **Sport**

Milton Abbey has enjoyed another exciting term of sport this summer. A large number of pupils have represented the school extremely well in wide range of fixtures and we have enjoyed some good success. The Athletics Club enjoyed a very hard-fought sports day and there were some excellent performances at fixtures. Ralph Miller and Luchino Bonaccorsi performed particularly well and represented Dorset. The cricket club has benefited from a new electronic scoreboard and all teams have shown great commitment. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI enjoyed fantastic victories over Sexey's, Hampshire Collegiate and Warminster School. Swimming continues to grow and competition within the pool has led to more success in galas. Some pupils within the swimming club have represented the school for the very first time. The Tennis club continues to be very popular and have enjoyed some very close matches, including one that when down to the very last point. The cycling programme at Milton Abbey has made strides this term with the team's first outing in a cyclo-sportive with Calum O'Neill finishing inside 4 hours. All participants of the cycling programme have made good progress with a notable mention going to Cameron Holmes for transition he has made from mountain biking to road riding and the rapid progress he has made in this discipline of the sport. We are the only school to have boats at the National Sailing Academy and the performance of our squad has been excellent. Interest within the sport continues to grow. All pupils should be extremely proud of their efforts this term in what for many is a very busy and stressful due to the examination.

### **Drama**

It has been a term of exam performances for the top three years of the school. The BTEC Performing Artists have been involved in units including Classical Theatre in Performance, Auditions for Actors and Variety Performance; with the highlight undoubtedly being Hamish Moore's interpretive mime of The Killers' song 'Human'. The AS and GCSE groups had their performance exams in May, producing both scripted and devised work. Later in the term, the final round of Trinity College Speech & Drama exams for the year took place with pupils tackling Grade 7, Grade 8 and the ATCL Diploma. At time of writing the results are not known. We also look forward to the New Barn Theatre Company's third visit to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August, performing an adaptation of Roald Dahl's 'Just So Stories' - more information and tickets can be found from [http://www.edfringe.com/event/2016JUSTSOS\\_AJX](http://www.edfringe.com/event/2016JUSTSOS_AJX)

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## Music

Music has continued to be a vitally important part of life at Milton Abbey this year with a huge breadth of activity within the Music Department itself, the wider life of the School, and the local community. In the Michaelmas Term we ran a highly-successful Prep Schools' Choral Day for 130 children from 9 local prep schools, and the Girls' Choir joined other local senior schools in the RBL Charity Concert, held in Sherborne Abbey at Remembrance time. Following this, the performance focus was on the Chamber Choir concert of *Zimbe!*. The ever-popular Friends of Milton Abbey Carol Service featured an ambitious programme of music and saw the Abbey Choir being joined by 30 pupils from Milborne St Andrew First School.

The Lent Term was perhaps the busiest in the past four years with weekly solo recitals being given by Sixth Form pupils (part of their BTEC courses), a superb Charity Cabaret evening in support of the school's charities, and a choir tour to Paris which saw 31 pupils and 4 members of staff performing in outstanding venues including Notre Dame de Paris - all of this taking place before half term! The Girls' Choir visited Knighton House to take part in a workshop led by SJP, establishing musical links there alongside those already formed with Perrott Hill and Pinewood School. In the Summer Term the public Professional Recital Series was launched with an excellent vocal recital given by Camilla Foster Mitchell, and this series will continue with a piano recital by Francis Shaw (Old Miltonian) and the Reuben James Jazz Trio in Michaelmas 2016.

Academic music uptake beyond the Third Form has increased again in 2015-2016. In the Sixth Form there are 13 pupils enrolled on either a BTEC Music course or the A Level in Music Technology (a 250% increase on last year), and there are 10 pupils on the GCSE course across the Fourth and Fifth Forms. Extra-curricular music making continues to be strong with choirs, instrumental ensembles, and other *ad hoc* groups performing regularly in lunchtime recitals, chapel services, and other school events such as the Summer Fête and the Speech Day concert. The Music Scholars have been fully involved in leading these ensembles as well as performing as their own *a capella* group in recitals and at the Lower Sixth Parents' Dinner.

## Art

The first half of the summer term was a very busy time for the Art department. GCSE and A level pupils had little time after the start of term to prepare for their final exam in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and then one further week to complete any outstanding work for their respective portfolio submissions. Fifth and Sixth Form pupils alike worked with focus and determination to produce the very best they could in the time left.

The GCSE moderator visit took place on the 7 June and the team of two were most impressed by the standard of work and the diverse nature of approaches adopted by pupils throughout the department.

On 13 June, Fourth Form art and photography pupils depart for Cornwall for 4 days. This has been a highly successful annual visit for the Fourth Form for the last 5 years; staying at the YHA in Lands' End and visiting The Eden Project, Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Garden, The Minack Theatre, The Kurt Jackson Gallery and Sennen Cove. This year there will also be artist lead workshops at the Newlyn exchange for both art and photography pupils followed by a viewing of the highly acclaimed film, **Vertigo Sea**, by John Acomfrah – it was one of the most talked about films at the Venice Biennale.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/luxury/art/97589/john-akomfrah-vertigo-sea-at-the-arnolfini-bristol-review.html>

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Lower Sixth Form artists will visit the Arts University Bournemouth Summer Degree Show and the A level exhibition at Thomas Hardy school and then will have a day in London to see the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and visit the Saatchi Gallery.

There will be displays of recent student work in the yellow corridor, the Queens room, the reception area and the tuck shop for parents to see at the end of term.

### **Entrepreneur in Residence**

I am delighted to announce that David Ross, the co-founder of The Carphone Warehouse, is to be its next Entrepreneur in Residence for 2016/17. The fact that such a high profile and successful entrepreneur has agreed to take on this role for the School is very exciting and will provide a real boost for our many entrepreneurial pupils who are either studying for qualifications in business and enterprise or who have already set up businesses of their own.

David Ross qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. He co-founded The Carphone Warehouse Group plc in 1991 and has also been involved in leading many other public and private companies. David is passionate about developing educational opportunities for young people and established the David Ross Foundation, which currently sponsors 33 academies in Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and the Humber Region. David is a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and on the Board of the British Olympic Association.

The scheme is now in its third year. David Ross will judge a school wide competition whereby pupils develop and start up their own business initiatives; finalists have a one to one business workshop with David and he will also teach some of the Entrepreneur and Enterprises classes and give a talk to the whole School. Previous Entrepreneurs in Residence include Anya Hindmarch, Cath Kidston and Johnnie Boden.

### **MASPA (Milton Abbey School Parents Association)**

Summary: Two recent overnight trips, Holkham Hall and Kentish Gardens, were well supported with large groups of parents attending - a mixture of MASPA regulars and new parents attending for the first time. We received very positive feedback from parents following the trips, new friendships have been forged and parents are already signing up for overnight events in the Michaelmas. New Lower Sixth form parents are very supportive of MASPA; the Lower Sixth form Parent Dinner the evening before Sports Day was particularly positive and upbeat. Numbers have been extended for the upcoming wine tasting trip to Tuscany at the end of June as it proved so popular; in total 33 parents are signed up and there is a waiting list. This trip has been supported by current parents - the Marchese Ludovico Antinori whose vineyards we are visiting and Peter and Anne Bond, who have donated the use of a private plane to fly the group to Grosseto in return for parents' donations. Donations amount to £8,000.00 and have been given to the Development Fund.

Events held this term:

- Lunch and private view of designer Amanda Wakeley's latest collection
- Visit to Kent Gardens in Spring: Sissinghurst, Hole Park and Great Dixter
- Middle Sixth form parents lunch in London
- Healthy cooking demonstration
- Tuscany Wine tasting trip

Upcoming events:

- Dorset and Devon Cycling Weekend 10/11 September
- Third and Sixth form parents lunch, London 13 October
- VIP Bicester Shopping 17<sup>th</sup> October

- Yoga and Meditation Retreat, Dorset, 15-17 November
- Christmas Wreath workshop, Dorset 8 December
- Christmas lunch, London 1<sup>st</sup> November
- MASPA ski weekend, Lent term

Coffee Stops continue to be popular with between 40 – 50 parents attending each time.

### HM Lectures

- 23 September: David Nixon – ‘The International Space Station’  
David Nixon, an architect and former Milton Abbey pupil, worked on the early Space Station for NASA in the 1980s. In this illustrated lecture, he will discuss the Station’s design features and construction challenges and explains why he believes it is the greatest engineering achievement of modern times
- 4 November: Ben Freeth – ‘Taking on a mafia regime in Africa - justice and human rights in Zimbabwe’
- 2 December: Toby Mann Lecture – Charlie Walker, adventurer, writer, photographer and motivational speaker. He specialises in long distance human powered expeditions

### Charity Fundraising

Total raised to date this academic year: £6,000.00. Activities have included MUFTI days, doughnut sales, pizzavan Sunday, cabaret evening, casino and disco pupil event. Remaining events this term:

- Friends of Milton Abbey Charity Summer Fete; set up a small working group to plan this with representatives from across the school
- MA’s Got Talent evening on 11 June – a charity event for pupils



**Magnus J L Bashaarat MA**  
Headmaster