



Maths & Computing

Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Learn Lead Inspire

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Do you know...

...that if you or your partner receive:

- Income Support • ESA (IR)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) & have a family income below £16,190 you may be eligible for a **FREE school meal?**



Is your child missing out?

If your child is eligible they will receive a tasty, nutritious school lunch free every day of the school year. Once registered, your school will also receive additional funding which will help your child. May we stress that the provision of a free school lunch is discreet and anonymous in the dining room.

Simply pick up a form from your school admin office and your child may be enjoying a great school lunch within the next few days

Your school will receive extra funding too

Working for you

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

The School's main aim is to ensure that families receive the financial support to which they are entitled. Therefore we would encourage families to claim free school meals, even if your child does not want to take them up, as this would benefit the school through additional funding we would receive.

Please note that you do not normally need to provide evidence of your income, only your date of birth and National Insurance Number.

If you think you are entitled or need any further information, please contact the Admin Team on 01865 374971 ext 180.



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

Good News...

It was nice to hear about a former student of Gosford Hill School – David Rodigan, who was awarded the MBE in the recent New Year Honours List. David was a student at the school in the 1960's and after winning a place at the Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama he went on to work in repertory theatre and also appeared in several television productions. In 1978 he began his radio broadcasting career on BBC Radio London and currently presents a Reggae show every Sunday evening on Kiss 100. It's good to know that his 30 years of dedication to the business has been recognised.



It would have been a great honour to have been Headteacher during David's time at Gosford Hill. He sets a first class example to our students about what can be achieved. Read more about David's story at www.rodigan.com/bio/.

Dr Stephen Bizley – Headteacher



RYAN WHITEHEAD



On 9th December 2011 the Annual Oxfordshire Sports Awards was held at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford. Over 300 guests attended the Dinner and the evening was hosted by Jerome Sale from BBC Oxford.

Ryan was one of three shortlisted for the Oxfordshire Volunteer of the Year Award. He did not win and the award was given to a cricket coach from West Oxfordshire but it was an honour for him to be short-listed. He continues to be a dedicated Sports Leader in school and the community. He is very well organised, enthusiastic and his commitment and reliability are faultless.

Many congratulations to him.

Pam Selby - School Sports Co-ordinator

**Parent Forum
Wednesday 25th January
6.30pm-7.30pm**

'Let's hear it for the Boys'

Mr Beard and Mr Manthorpe will lead a session on boys' achievement followed by a discussion on how parents and carers can work with the school to help boys learn.

All welcome.

We look forward to seeing you.
(Read the Headteacher's Blog for further details).





Launch of the Jubilee Fund for Oxfordshire

On Wednesday 11th January I had the great pleasure of attending the launch of the Jubilee Fund for Oxfordshire. The fund is being set up by the Oxfordshire Community Foundation (www.oxfordshire.org) who do a great deal to support many local charity groups.

The event took place at the Oxford Hub at the corner of Market Street and Turl Street. The fund was launched by HRH Prince Edward who unveiled the plaque and made the keynote speech. In attendance were local dignitaries (including Sir Roger Bannister), heads of local businesses and educational establishments and supporters of the Community Foundation.

This is no doubt going to be a very successful campaign for the Community Foundation. Watch this space.

Chris Hall
Assistant Headteacher
Community and Systems



Year 8 students / parents - Key Stage 4 Information Evening

Further to my letter to you before Christmas I wish to remind you of the Key Stage 4 Information Evening next Wednesday 18th January (6-8 p.m.) for Year 8 parents and students. There will be a short talk at 6 p.m. in the main hall followed by the opportunity to visit Faculty areas to discuss subject preferences for next year. KS4 Information booklets are being sent home today, via students.

Please note that Year 8 Students need to attend the evening in uniform.

A small number of students in Year 8 have been invited to join the Foundation Learner Pathway next year. House Leaders are currently contacting parents of these students. There will be a separate meeting for our Foundation Learners and parents, on Wednesday 25th January at 5 p.m. (until 6 p.m.) and an invitation letter with more details will follow shortly.

Dom Ward – Deputy Headteacher

Safeguarding Our Children

We do realise from time to time that students forget PE kit, cooking ingredients, dinner money etc. and parents are contacted by their son or daughter to request the item(s) are brought into school for them. Can I please ask that if this happens that **parents bring the items to reception and do not make arrangements to meet their son / daughter, informally, in the school or sports centre car parks.**

These areas are out of bounds anyway to students during the school day but you will also appreciate that when staff see cars arriving into the car park and students talking to the occupants of cars or getting into cars, they are naturally concerned for the safety of the student. Please therefore contact your son / daughter via the school reception.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Dom Ward – Deputy Headteacher

Sixth Form applications

We are very pleased to announce that applications for our Sixth Form are significantly higher than last year. Year 11 students who have applied (and their parents) will shortly receive an invite to an interview. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 1st February between 4 – 6 p.m.

Dom Ward – Deputy Headteacher & Lisa Wallis – Head of Sixth Form

CONTACTING YOUR SCHOOL

Your views are very important to us, whether they're about your child, school activities or wider community issues. For all contact details telephone School Reception.

If you have a concern about your child contact:

- **The subject teacher** - if it concerns learning in a particular subject. Contact Reception to leave a message or alternatively, if you have internet access, you can ask for their email address.
- **The Head of Faculty** - if you wish to discuss any matter in greater detail.
- **Their Form Tutor** - if it is a more general issue about your child's well being.

Staff will endeavour to phone you back as soon as possible. All information is treated in the strictest of confidence. If you want to raise an issue or query about a more general area of school activity or a community matter contact a Parent Governor. (Telephone numbers available from School Reception)

SCHOOL RECEPTION: Telephone: 01865 374971

SCHOOL EMAIL: office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

ABSENCE LINE: Telephone: 01865 855378 (please use this number to report absences)

or

email – absence.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child(ren) in a number of curriculum areas.