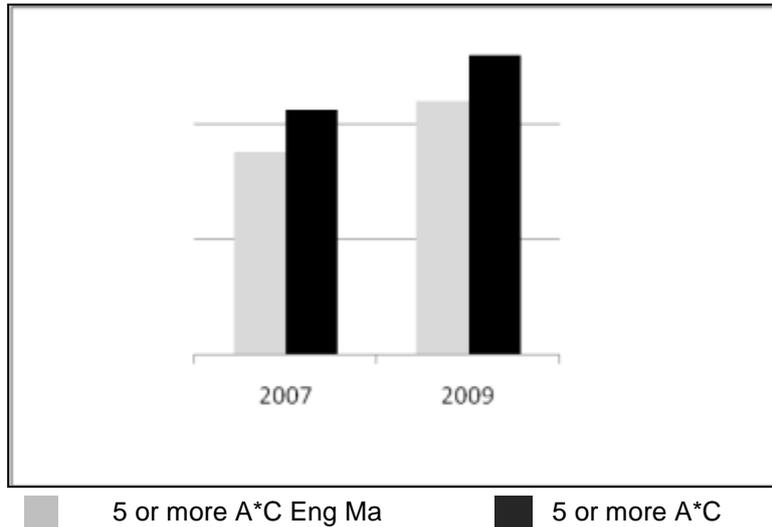


January 2010 / Issue 5

## Results update – improvement over two years

The recently published Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) examination data show our 2009 results were better than those we published in September. Students achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades rose to 65% and those including English and Maths rose to 53%. This means that over the last two years there has been measurable progress.



Our task now is to continue our work with improving standards and to all have high expectations of our young people. Thank you to all the parents and carers who help us to achieve this by ensuring students come to school ready for learning.

## Snow Joke

I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents for their understanding of the very difficult situation we faced when the snow came down at the beginning of January. We did our best in very difficult circumstances and hopefully kept everyone informed via our website of the reasons behind the decision to close the school. I will always try and keep the school open but considerations of health and safety of the school community are paramount. My thanks to all those who helped clear the school drive.



**Dr Stephen Bizley**

## **ILP Day Cancellation**

By now parents/carers should have received the information that our Individual Learning Planning Day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January has been cancelled and will now be used for timetabled lessons. This will act as some compensation for the days lost to bad weather.

Parents/carers and students will be receiving the latest academic progress check shortly – this will include the latest attendance figure for each student. If there are any concerns raised by the progress check, please contact the form tutor in the first instance.

Thank you very much for your understanding and continued support.

**Richard Belmont – Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)**

## **Flu Information**

Please do not send children with any flu like symptoms to school. If a child is taken ill during the day, their parents will be called to collect them. Please encourage children to be aware of their personal hygiene which will help to reduce the transmission of all viruses. This includes:

- Washing hands frequently
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully

**Martin Horton – Business Manager**

## **Geography Faculty News**

### **Geography Students of the Term (Term 2)**

Key Stage 3: Connor Beecham (8TSWR)

Key Stage 4: Lizzie Lord (11CDBD)

Key Stage 5: Sarah Crockett (13WKDE)

Students will receive a Certificate of Achievement for their efforts in Assembly.

**Rebecca Lopez – Geography Faculty**



## **Business Studies Faculty News**

Year 13 Business Studies students have worked really hard this term to prepare for their January modular retake examinations.

Most of Year 11 students have either completed or almost finished their Business Studies coursework. This means that they can now focus on preparing for their summer examination and practising the seen case study provided by the exam board.

Year 8 students really enjoyed our taster sessions and most of them hope to choose Business studies as one of their options.

Year 9 students have had the opportunity of working in groups and were very creative with the enrichment tasks.

**Sadia Webb – Team Leader, Business Studies**

## Maths Faculty News

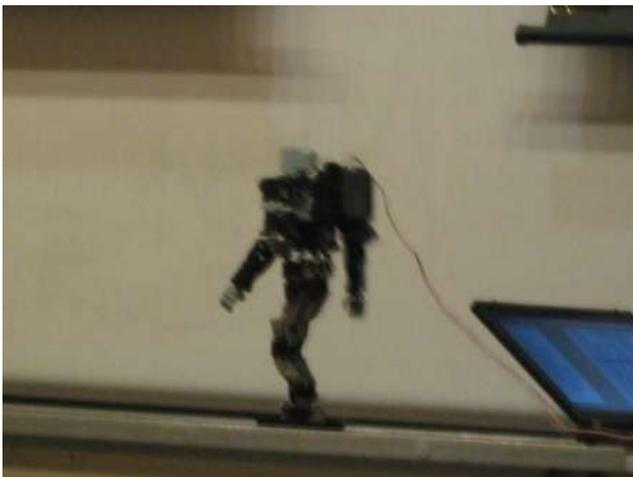
### Year 9 Visit to Oxford University Christmas Lecture

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Mrs Fairchild gave fifteen Year 9 students the unique opportunity to go to the Oxford University Christmas lecture at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

We set off around 9am and had a 15 minute journey to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History; we went into the magnificent place and up to the upper gallery and entered the Lecture Theatre where we sat down. The lecture started around 10am and it was about a subject that may seem boring but in fact quite interesting: 'robots and the technology surrounding them', as well as the 'Robot Soccer League' and the 'Super Challenge'.

The Super Challenge is a challenge to be completed by 2050. The challenge is to revolutionise robot technology and was set in 1995. Its main goal is to create and program a team of robots to beat a human football team.

There were different examples of various types of robots such as two-legged, two- and four-wheeled robots and caterpillar tracks to name but a few. There are other organisations such as FIRA working on this challenge. Inside the main group FIRA, there are three sub-groups which are 'Soccer Robots Senior', 'Soccer Robots Junior' and 'Soccer Robots Rescue'.



Putting a robot through its paces

After the lecture, we went for refreshments and did a quiz around the magnificent museum. During the quiz, there were staff letting people handle 'Madagascan hissing cockroaches'.

We got back to school at about 12.30.

A brilliant trip enjoyed by all.

**Ryan Whitehead – 9WBWR**

Soccer Robots Senior work on technology to go inside robots to help elderly people's lives; Soccer Robots Junior is about getting the new generation of robot enthusiasts, while the aim of Robot Soccer Rescue is to make robots to rescue people in disaster zones.



Gosford Hill Year 9 students Suzanne and Benito handle Madagascan hissing cockroaches

## Students devise *smooth* designs

For Enrichment Window 2 in January 2010, Year 8 students used their maths skills and creativity to research and design smoothies for Breeze Corporations. The Bowland Maths task allows students to use their maths knowledge in a practical scenario akin to the popular TV series 'The Apprentice', working in teams to create a viable and edgy 'product' to capture customers' attention.

### Phase One

Students gathered and analysed marketing data to establish what price, packaging and flavours would sell best. Some felt they could improve on the questionnaire provided and had a go at thinking about how they could gather better information in order to design their smoothies.

*"It was a bit different to normal Maths: we enjoyed working with different people."* -Lucy Cross



Beth Hawtin and Lucy Cross refine their questionnaire

### Phase Two

Having gathered and analysed market-related data, students used what they discovered to design healthy drinks using a list of ingredients in the flavours their interviewees liked best. However, this wasn't as easy as it seemed! Smoothies were required to have fewer than 60 calories per 100g and accurate nutritional information had to be provided on the smoothie carton! Information about protein, fat and carbohydrate was to be listed on the packaging, and decisions related back to the data the students gathered about what people were looking for in their drinks.

*"I liked the mix of Maths and design"* -Joe Birchall

Of course, flavour too was paramount, as students grappled with percentages and ratios to get the balance between taste and nutrition just right.



Amy Church and Emily Murphy put the finishing touches to their label designs



Some of the 3D packaging and 2D nets designed by the students

### Phase Three

Finally, the CEO of Breeze Corporations ordered that fabulous packaging be designed in order to make the product sell off the shelf. Students had to design a 2-dimensional net of their packaging shape as it would be printed, as well as a 3-dimensional mock-up of their package including branding and logos, by using their marketing research from Phase One to help them decide how to design their smoothie cartons. The nutritional information labels from Phase Two were then added to the cartons to complete the design.

Despite the snow and the cold, the students tackled the task with great enthusiasm and discovered how maths can help to solve almost any challenge. Well done Year 8!

**Sara Muller – Mathematics Faculty**

## Oxford Learning United – A Different Class

Oxford United joined forces with Gosford Hill School to provide a unique learning opportunity for some Year 8 lads and their Dads. On the face of it, it looked like a traditional football coaching course, with OUFU providing coaching sessions at the school. However there were two key differences.

Firstly, the Year 8 boys who took part had to bring their Dads, learning new footie skills alongside them, and taking part in some highly energetic and competitive games! However, there was a second and more cunning element. Oxford Learning United is an education centre based at the Kassam Stadium, and at each coaching session, staff from OLU snuck along, and added in ICT, Numeracy and Literacy elements to the coaching sessions.

Speed guns were used to see how hard the dads and lads could shoot, and the results were then processed in Microsoft Excel. Post match interviews were practised and recorded in front of genuine sponsored interview boards, and Flip video cameras were used to allow the learners to assess their own football skills – exactly as the top premiership sides do!! By adding in these tasks alongside playing their favourite sport, many of the lads learned loads of traditional school stuff, without even realising they were doing so.

The last session of the course was spent at the Kassam Stadium, where the group underwent a strenuous fitness session in the players' gym, and then made a comic, describing their experience. They were all also given tickets to come and watch the Yellows play.

Oxford United is the only professional sports club in Oxfordshire, and is committed to using the motivational aspect of football to encourage learning, community involvement and family integration. We strongly feel that the Dads and Lads course at Gosford Hill achieved all three!!

**Ed Duckham – Oxford Learning United & Jackie Fairchild – Assistant Headteacher (Specialist Schools)**



## News from the Science Faculty



### Reports on the Enrichment Week Chemistry in Action Conference for Year 12/13

Here are the student reports:

#### What does Chemistry have to do with Gene Therapy?

In this Lecture the chair of the event brought together chemistry and biology in a modern approach. The lecture focused on how genetic disorders can not only be treated but in some respects cured through the use of retroviruses. This technique can in the future be more commonly used to cure aggressive genetic disorders such as Cystic Fibrosis. This lecture gave us all an insight into the current advances in uses of gene therapy and the basics of how it's done. Although this lecture was incredibly fascinating, as chemists some of us did not relate to the biological side of the lecture.



#### The Secret Chemistry of the Mobile Phone

This lecture was led by two enthusiastic professors who were keen to relate chemistry to everyday and teenage life, and promote chemistry as a 'cool' and prospective career. They showed the history of the battery and how it has been developed to become more efficient and has decreased in size through the change in chemical reactions within them. They also talked about the development of the LCD screen from its initial commission for military use into the future of flexible OLED screens that can be developed into roll up laptops with alcohol fuelled batteries that can be refilled to provide on the go energy and constant use.

#### The Science of Scent: Capturing New Smells

This lecture was very fashion based and contained a few subtle promotions for the companies they work for. It was very much an audience participation filled lecture where they not only explained how they can capture the smell of certain things, such as the sea and cinnamon. But they also showed how synthetic fragrances can be created from analyzing the head space of the product and by looking at the 3 areas of the perfume – high notes, heart notes and base notes, to create a good likeness.



#### Gods, Devils and Alcohol: Their Influence on Chemistry

This Lecturer gave a racy talk on the history of the Nomenclature of metals and how their names and symbols are connected to the 7 Heavenly bodies. And then showed us how many chemicals are in products we use everyday such as shampoo, by showing us a clip of the film, *evolution*, relating elements in the periodic table to everyday products.

#### Saturday Night Science

A very entertaining performance was given by the Lecturer in a white 70's costume, on the chemistry of Alcopops and whether chemistry can help you pull. It was another lecture full of Audience participation and a lot of laughs, but only a small insight into the Chemistry side of it all.

Ruth Batchelar – Science Faculty

## Year 12/13 Physics Trip to the Institute of Education

Last November the Sixth Form Physicists attended their annual Study Day at the Institute of Education in London. This was an opportunity to hear about some of the latest developments in Physics from experts in their fields. As ever, it did not disappoint.

Our first talk was about the most recent advances in medical imaging, and its applications in the study of autism and how the brain works.



Then we were treated to the world's first, and only, quantum physics game show that explained the weird and wonderful world beyond classical mechanics.

A professor from the University of Exeter came along to explain 'Natural Photonics', or how nature uses light and colour. This is being used to develop amazing new materials based on the microscopic structure of living things.

The day ended with an entertaining insight into how new software can be used to study sound, and in particular, people's reaction to it. This involved using the world's largest whoopee cushion!

## Jon Gray – Head of Physics

### Year 8 Homework Project – Winners

We were very impressed with the work that Year 8 did for their homework projects. They have completed the work to the same high standard that they achieved for their homework projects last year. You can see what they had to do at <http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/subjects/science/year8info.php#homework>

We invited those students who have completed the homework to a very high standard to a presentation ceremony on the evening of the **Year 8 Parents Evening**.



The winners in each Science group were:

**Cherwell:** Jasmine Cripps, Tor Rodway, Alex Christodoulou, Lauren Cook, Natalie Morris, Josh Joseph, Abi Daley

**Evenlode:** Madeleine Hosking, Celia Tezel, Lucy Truman, Lucy Cross, Mark Asman, Dan Bolam, Megan Phillips, Kieran Kerry

**Thames:** Emily Hurdley, Martha Cook, Rebecca Hinton, Philippa Johnson, Bethanie Dunbar, Georgia Elliston, Kyle Bonner

**Windrush:** Lucy Langston, Josh Robinson, Louise Cunningham, Richard Davies, Sofia Franklin, Freya Paterson

Miss Reynolds interviewed the 10 students who scored the highest marks in the homework project and, based on their answers to questions about why they had chosen the topic, what they had learned and what they had enjoyed, medals were awarded to:

Gold medal: **Celia Tezel**

Silver medal: **Lucy Langston**

Bronze medal: **Alex Christodoulou.**

All winners were awarded certificates and a small prize. Congratulations to all the winners.



## Rachel Evans wins an Oxfordshire School Biologist of the Year Award, November 11th 2009



Thirty winners from schools throughout Oxfordshire received prizes for the Sixth Form Biologist of 2009 at a ceremony at Oxford University Museum of Natural History in Oxford.

State and independent schools were represented at the event, hosted by the Oxfordshire Independent and State School Partnership (OISSP) and the University of Oxford.

Students were given a tour of the museum and then joined parents and teachers for a lecture given by the broadcaster and presenter, Dr George McGavin. Dr McGavin talked about the fascinating insects he had discovered while making his recent wildlife TV programmes. The award winners were then presented with certificates and book tokens.

The OISSP Project Director Tom Kempton, said: 'This event is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the outstanding effort being made by students and their teachers in all schools across Oxfordshire. We are particular short of students opting to take sciences at A level and this award recognises the efforts being put in by outstanding students. We hope that by recognising their efforts, they will be encouraged to continue biology-related courses at university.'

### Off to Oxford University...

Congratulations to **Natalie Fung** who recently heard that she has gained a place at Oxford to read **Physics** in October 2010. Well done!

### Helen Reynolds – Science Faculty Leader

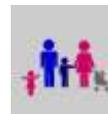
### Design & Technology – Catering

The 11th & 12th January saw Hospitality and Catering GCSE students taking a 1st practical exam. This will count towards their final grade. All students approached the exam with a very level head. Lots of preparation went on to begin with, followed by very logical, highly skilled cooking and finishing off. The students were very calm throughout and produced very colourful and very tasty results. Ms Gable and Mrs Kirk agreed that the students deserve high praise for their efforts!!! Well done everyone.



Photos of the results can be seen from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January onwards on the board outside DT2.

### Fiona Gable – Assistant Faculty Leader



## Fair Trade Project Dec 2009



Year 9 once again excelled themselves and ran some very successful and original Fair Trade awareness projects. This is the third time we have run a fair trade project, but this year we added a business management focus. Students had studied how businesses are run and the different roles that people take within businesses. They were then set the challenge of a small business project to raise the profile of Fair Trade in some way.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December saw many groups holding cake or smoothie or chocolate marshmallow stalls at our Christmas Fair trade bazaar, accompanied on the piano by Mr Belmont. The event was a lot of fun and students worked hard in preparation, at the event and clearing up afterwards. Thanks to all the many people who helped on the day.



In addition to this one group of students, Alison Brodie, Kevin Njoroge and Megan Greenway went to the Kidlington Fair Trade bazaar on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November to interview stall holders and write an article, which you can read overleaf.

Aishah Jan, Kelly Godfrey, Cheidza Dzumbuna and Katy Pancott raised over £60 by doing a sponsored 1 mile run and Fair Trade quiz competition. Well done girls on a fantastic project.

## AS Options

Social Sciences offer 4 AS and A2 levels. All of our A levels develop skills in critical thinking, analysis and essay writing and so are well respected by universities and employers for giving a good grounding of skills needed in whatever subsequent course or career students may follow.

History AS follows a theme of Revolutions, looking at the 1960s' Social Revolution and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Religious Reformation. You do not have to have taken GCSE History to study AS History. The subject is useful if you want to understand historical context of the content of Art, Performing Arts, Music and English Lit AS levels. It also complements Law, Government & Politics, Media Studies and Business. Careers followed by former students of History at GHS include Business Marketing, Journalism, Broadcasting and Accountancy

Philosophy and Ethics is not "RE" A level, but a critical look at moral and ethical issues. It is a well respected AS level and supports Science A levels and Science, Medicine or Maths degrees well, as it develops students' critical thinking abilities. Other subjects complemented by Philosophy and Ethics are Media Studies, Law, Psychology, Business, History, Government & Politics and Sociology

Government and Politics is for anyone interested in political issues, or a career in journalism, broadcasting or public services. It is complemented by Media Studies, Law, Psychology, Business, History, Philosophy & Ethics and Sociology, Public Services BTEC, Health and Social Care.

Sociology is the study of society and people. It is useful for those interested in Care and Public Services BTECs, as well as Media Studies, Law, Psychology and Business (for marketing, as it is about understanding people), History, Philosophy & Ethics, Government & Politics.

If students are interested in any of these subjects then come and speak to any member of the Social Science team, come to the Open Evening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February or look at the KS5 prospectus.

## Upcoming Events

We look forward to hearing about the Year 8 field visit to Belgium in the snow in the next newsletter. Year 9 will be working on another wellbeing project on the issues of difference and diversity during terms 3 and 4.

Year 7 will be completing their History project in February as a culmination of the first topic of study on “Monarchy” and we will be able to let parents know who submitted the best RPE projects from December.

## Alison Driscoll – Social Sciences Faculty Leader

### Yes Minister?

On Tuesday 5th January (the first non-snow day of the enrichment timetable) Thames and Windrush Houses had a day to revise for their RPE (Religion Philosophy and Ethics) GCSE mock exam. The RPE exam tests the ability to explain your own point of view as well as a Christian point of view for various topics. To help their understanding of different Christian points of view students had the opportunity to pose questions to three local ministers.

The three willing volunteers were: Graham Sinden, Senior Minister of the Baptist Church, Stephen Milford, an ordained minister working with young people in Kidlington and soon to start a programme in Gosford Hill School and Cliff Wishart, who is the minister for a Church that meets in Gosford Hill School Hall. Mr. Wishart told students that he had been healed by God when he was an atheist teenager.

Each minister was grilled by our students for 20 minutes at a time but despite being in the hot spot they all agreed that they had enjoyed the experience and were impressed with the genuine interest the students had shown.

## Anne Campbell – Assistant Head of Social Sciences Faculty

### “Fairtrade Just Shows How Far the Scheme Has Come”

On Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> November in Exeter Hall Kidlington, a Fairtrade meeting was held from 11am to 4pm. Reporter Alison Brodie and journalist Megan Greenway attended the meeting at 1pm to interview and discuss matters about Fairtrade. They interviewed a stall holder and asked several questions such as:

“Why are you involved for this Fairtrade fair?” and the stall holder quoted:

***“I think that Fairtrade is a good way in helping develop the new world and helping trade to be fair on all products.”***

Then Alison went on to ask “do you think this event will raise awareness of Fairtrade?” and she replied “Yes definitely, people who buy and sell goods here will benefit Fairtrade. Megan Greenway asked “do you think this Fairtrade will influence the lives of people?” Thinking of the question carefully the stall holder said “yes I hope it will. I also hope it will show how many Fairtrade products there are and raise awareness of that”. Later, Alison Brodie kicked in a question saying “why is Fairtrade important to you?” The stall holder had no hesitation of answering this one addressing “I’ve been involved in Fairtrade for 30 years. It’s really encouraging to see fairs like these happening, I mean when I was in school we would learn and do nothing about Fairtrade, but now with schools raising awareness for Fairtrade, it just shows how far the scheme has come, and I also buy my own sorts of fair trade goods, like food, blankets and sometimes clothes” and finally Megan shoots in “what’s your favourite thing about fair trade? And stall holder honestly says “It’s not just about giving people Fairtrade opportunities, but it’s also about giving clean water to people who need it and giving people a better living.”

At 2pm the interviewers left with a good taste left on the tongue of Fairtrade chocolate.

If you would like to be a member of the Fairtrade team then please call 0800 00 10 66 or go to [www.fairtradeteam.com](http://www.fairtradeteam.com)

## Kevin Njoroge – 9TSDX

## Thames House News



The Student conference held last term was attended by Thames House representatives with lots of positive feedback about their involvement and achievements.

Thames House is planning lots of exciting fundraising events. The House Council is planning some events for February. We will also be running our second Easter Eggstravaganza at the end of March. Watch this space!

**Rebecca Lopez - Assistant House Leader, Thames**

## Windrush House News

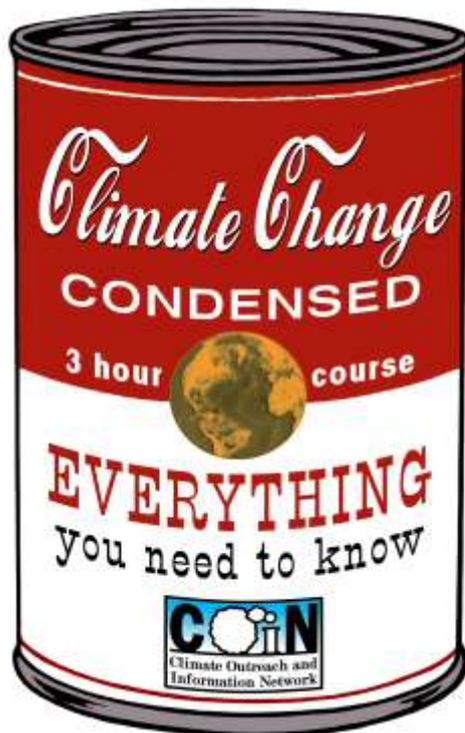
### Oxfam Appeal for Victims of the Haiti Earthquake

I am sure you are all very well aware of the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday 12th January. There have been many horrific images on our TV screens, in the newspapers and on the internet showing the devastation that the people of Haiti are experiencing.

I am sure, like me, you have been moved to donate money to the many organisations who are sending help across the Atlantic to Haiti. Windrush's nominated charity is Oxfam and on Tuesday the whole House had an assembly about the earthquake and what we can do as a community to help. Before Christmas, all the tutor groups in Windrush had been thinking about how they could raise money for Oxfam and Mr Whittaker's tutor group were the first off the mark by raising £17. This £17 will buy 6 buckets. In the weeks to come these special buckets, that have a cover so are hygienic and secure, will be crucial for people to get fresh water without spilling a drop not only to drink but also for washing - personal hygiene is going to be of utmost importance to help prevent diseases spreading in Haiti.

Please do support your son or daughter and their tutor group to raise money. I would like every tutor group to have raised money by half term so that it can get to Oxfam as soon as possible. If you would like to donate money now to the disaster fund you can do this through the Disasters Emergency Committee at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk). Thank you in advance for your help and support.

**Helen Stephens – Windrush House Leader**



## A Crash Course on Climate Change

*All you ever wanted to know about global warming but were too afraid to ask*

**If the science is so certain, why do so many people remain unconvinced? How will climate change affect the UK and the rest of the world? Can it be stopped and who should do it?**

All answered with a recipe mixing expert knowledge, group discussion and pair work. Leave feeling inspired and confident with a personal strategy for tackling climate change.

**For enquiries & bookings** please contact **Kidlington vs Climate Change**  
Email: [kidlingtonvsclimatechange@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kidlingtonvsclimatechange@yahoo.co.uk)  
or phone Steve on **01865 379913**  
Website: [www.climatex.org/kidlington](http://www.climatex.org/kidlington)  
Organised by **Kidlington vs Climate Change** in partnership with **COIN** ([www.COINet.org.uk](http://www.COINet.org.uk))

**Climate Change Condensed**  
**on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010**  
**9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**at Gosford Hill School**

**Places are limited so please book soon:**  
£10 for individuals (conc.s available)  
£24 charities and local authorities  
£35 businesses



## Careers and Work Experience

The School, along with the Connexions service, is working with students to ensure that they are well prepared for their next steps, whether it be Sixth Form, college or employment with training. Our school Connexions Personal Advisers, Clare Carmen and Alison Williams, have been meeting individual students to assist them with their plans. Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 can also self refer to Connexions.

There is a Student and Parent **Sixth Form Information Evening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. All students in Year 11 who are considering studying in the Sixth Form should attend, as well as those students who are undecided about their next steps; it will assist them to make an informed decision about what is right for them after GCSEs. Other open evenings are shown on the [www.oxfordshireprospectus.com](http://www.oxfordshireprospectus.com) as are details of all local post-16 courses.

Many of our Year 13 students have already been successful in their applications to university and have received several offers. Applications can now be made for financial support for students starting this autumn through the direct.gov website. <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm>

### **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 7.15pm - 8.30pm Isis Training Engineers and Technicians Apprenticeship Event. To book 01993 882008 [www.isistraining.co.uk](http://www.isistraining.co.uk)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm - 8.30pm Gosford Hill School Sixth Form

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am - 12.30pm Oxford & Cherwell Valley College Oxford & Banbury Campus

### **Useful websites**

[www.spired.com](http://www.spired.com)

local information, including Connexions, from Oxfordshire Youth Support Services

[www.connexions.com/parentcarer](http://www.connexions.com/parentcarer)

information for parents about choices for 14-19 yr olds.

[www.oxfordshireprospectus.com](http://www.oxfordshireprospectus.com)

Oxfordshire course directory for 14-19 yr olds. Also gives access to same directories for other areas.

[www.ucas.ac.uk/parents/](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/parents/)

information for parents about university applications

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm) a range of useful information about education, training and financial support for students and parents

### **Liz Hounsell – Careers and Work Experience Manager**



**GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL**  
Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2NT

**LEAD LEARN INSPIRE**

The Governors, Staff and Students of Gosford Hill School invite you to our

### **SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING**

for prospective Sixth Form students and their parents on

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

There will be two sessions of formal talks:

6.00pm for Cherwell & Evenlode Houses

7.00pm for Thames & Windrush Houses

followed by opportunities to consult teachers & see displays in faculty areas and our Sixth Form Centre

Tel: 01865 374971

Fax: 01865 841029

Website: <http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk>

## CALENDAR & OTHER INFORMATION

|                |  |                |  |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 3 February     | Year 11 Parent's Consultation Evening – Main Hall, 4.30-7.00pm | 15-19 February | Holiday 3  |
| 10 February    | Post-16 Information Evening                                    | 22 February    | Term 4 Starts  |
| 12 February    | End of Term 3  | 3 March        | Year 10 Parent's Consultation Evening – Main Hall, 4.30 – 7.00pm |
| 13-21 February | Ski Course – Aosta, Italy                                      | 5 March        | Newsletter Issued  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>HOLIDAY DATES 2009-2010</b>                                 |
| <b>Term 3</b>  |
| Tuesday 5 January – Friday 12 February                         |
| <b>Term 4</b>  |
| Monday 22 February – Wednesday 31 March                        |
| <b>Thursday 1 April – INSET Day</b>                            |
| <b>Term 5</b>  |
| Monday 19 April – Friday 28 May                                |
| <b>Term 6</b>  |
| Monday 7 June – Wednesday 21 July                              |
| <b>HOLIDAY DATES 2010-2011</b>                                 |
| <b>Term 1</b>  |
| Friday 3 September - 22 October                                |
| <b>Term 2</b>  |
| Monday 1 November – Friday 17 December                         |
| <b>Term 3</b>  |
| Wednesday 5 January – Friday 18 February                       |
| <b>Term 4</b>  |
| Monday 28 February – Friday 8 April                            |
| <b>Term 5</b>  |
| Tuesday 26 April – Friday 27 May (Monday 2 May – Bank Holiday) |
| <b>Term 6</b>  |
| Monday 6 June – Thursday 21 July                               |
| <b>OTHER DATES 2010-2011</b>                                   |
| Wednesday 1 September – INSET Day                              |
| Thursday 2 September – ILP Day                                 |
| Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 September – INSET Days                  |
| Tuesday 4 January 2011 – INSET Day                             |

### 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](mailto:office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:absence.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

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

# Gosford Hill School February 2010

## Holiday and Community Events

Gosford Hill School will once again be hosting a variety of family activity sessions for all the Kidlington Partnership schools during the February holiday as part of our work with the community as a specialist status mathematics and computing school. Come along and have fun as a family; try a new activity or take advantage of the chance to do something you already know you enjoy!

**Please note children must be accompanied as all the activities are for adults and children to take part in together.**

Please return the attached booking form to reception at Gosford Hill School by **Friday 5 February** at the latest. Places are limited so it is advisable to book early to avoid disappointment.

You will be contacted to confirm that a place has been reserved for your family – please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for this purpose. If you have any queries about the sessions or if you have not received a reply by Wednesday 10 February please contact Jillie Rivett via Gosford Hill School or e-mail [jillie.rivett@btopenworld.com](mailto:jillie.rivett@btopenworld.com) to check that your form has been received.

### **Around the World with the Museums Free**



Tuesday 16 February, 10:00 to 12:00 at Gosford Hill School, in the hall.  
Suitable for accompanied children aged 5+, maximum 2 per adult.

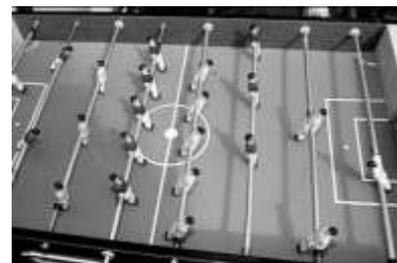
- ❖ Create your own explorers hat to wear when you voyage to far flung lands!
- ❖ Navigate your way on the high seas, using a compass and map to find your way.
- ❖ Make a snapping crocodile glove puppet.
- ❖ See real objects from around the world.

**NEW!!** Limited number of **crèche places available** for children aged 0 - 5 to accompany this session. The crèche will be run by Kaleidoscope Children's Centre and held in the Learning Support Unit on the Gosford Hill site.

### **Build Your Own Table Football Game Free**

Tuesday 16 February, 1:00 to 2:30 at Gosford Hill School, in the hall.  
Suitable for accompanied children aged 5+.

Have fun constructing a table football game out of everyday household items, then mark out the pitch, weave the nets, make the scoreboards and choose the players to make your very own dream teams! Collage on the name of your stadium or team, then take it home to play with your friends and family.



In order to make this activity accessible to as many families as possible we are not specifying an adult : child ratio, however please be aware that young children will need adult help throughout the session and may not enjoy it if the number of young children in your family is high.

### **Fun Fitness & Football Skills Free**



Thursday 18 February, 10:30 to 12:00 at Gosford Hill School, in the school gym.  
Suitable for accompanied children aged 6+.

This session is a regular favourite! Take part in a fun based family fitness and football session, suitable for all ages and abilities, led by Oxford United's Football in the Community officer, Peter Rhoades-Brown.

## Gosford Hill School Family Learning Booking Form February 2010

Please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope** with this form so that we can confirm you have a place at the session. All sessions are free of charge.

| Activity                                    | Adult's name(s) followed by child(ren)'s name(s) and age(s) |
|---|---|
| Around the world with the museums           |   |
| Around the world with the museums<br>crèche | Name and age of child requiring crèche place:               |
| Build your own table football game          |   |
| Fun fitness and football skills             |   |

Oldest Child's Name.....

Year ..... Tutor group .....

Name of Parent(s) or Carer(s) who will be attending.....

Home Address.....

.....

Tel No (**essential** in case we need to contact you about the session)

.....

Photographs may be taken during the sessions to be used in school displays, records and publicity.

If you are booking a place for the "Around the world with the museums" session please indicate whether you also agree for yourself and your child(ren) to appear in photographs shared with Oxford University Museums for use in their records, displays and publicity. YES / NO

Signed ..... (Parent / Carer)

Print name.....