

October 2011 / Issue 6

## Parent Forum Feedback

Thank you again to all the parents and carers who attended our parent forum last week. Feedback has been very positive and a number of families have asked for a summary.

The main theme of the evening was the changes in Education coming from the coalition government. Schools up and down the country are having to adapt to changes to qualifications and to new funding demands. The presentation at the parent forum attempted to outline what we know is going to happen and what we don't yet know.



What we know is that all local authorities (including Oxfordshire) are having to make savings and this means schools will have to work together even more to ensure we keep up our high standards. Gosford Hill has already met with our primary partners to look at this.

We also know that in 2012 qualifications are likely to change. We think modular exams will end and all exams will be end of year assessments. The exact details of the qualifications are not yet known and I will keep you informed as soon as I have the full details.

There was also discussion about students staying on until they are 17 and 18. Miss Wallis (our new Head of Sixth Form) gave a very passionate presentation about her vision for post 16 education at Gosford Hill and how she is already working with our younger students so that they see our Sixth Form as the place they want to study and learn.

I also informed parents about the changes to Ofsted inspections and the way teachers are trained. There was also a very positive discussion about our curriculum and I am pleased to say that Mr Ward (our Curriculum Deputy Headteacher) is working with a group of parents in order to listen to their views which will help inform future proposals. Mr Ward explained some of the national changes that were announced during the year 2010-11. These changes were out of our control but resulted in some confusion about subject offer. This has been resolved and now we are more aware of the changes that are happening at a national level we are planning our information events for Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form much earlier in the year.

As Headteacher I found the forum very helpful and would like to say thank you again to everyone for their support. Results of the questionnaires given out at the forum will be published in next week's newsletter.

Stephen Bizley  
Headteacher

### World Challenge.

Our current World Challenge students will be heading to Ethiopia at the end of July in 2012. As a group they have raised over £60 in tea, coffee and cake sales during the Gosford Hill Year 6 Open Evening and Parents Open Evening alone. Each member has to raise £3000 each, which will cover travel, food and safety expenses. The money that they are raising as a group will go towards a fund to allow the group to give something special to the young pupils in the village they will be staying in for 3 weeks in Ethiopia.



Fundraising by our Gosford Hill Ethiopia World Challenge 2012 group, will continue throughout the year in most Open Evening, Parents Evening and various other events.

On behalf of the World Challenge group we would like to thank you for your generosity and hope to see you at our tea, coffee and cake stall soon.

**Miss C Rees**



Well done to the Under 16 girls football squad who beat Bartholomew School 5-0 in the first round of the Individual Schools Cup on Monday.

Goals came from Georgia Guy (3), Lauren Haynes (1) and Tor Rodway (1). It was a fine team performance.

The squad are now through to the next round and will meet Henry Box on Tuesday 18th October (away). Good Luck!

**Miss V Rose**

## 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.