

March 2010 / Issue 6

## What have you done today to make you feel proud?



At every consultation evening Gosford Hill asks parents for views on how well we are doing as a school and areas we need to improve. The vast majority of surveys we get back are overwhelmingly positive (details inside this newsletter) apart from one area. There are perceptions that behaviour at our school is not as good as it should be. Certainly there are a small group of students who sometimes find aspects of being part of a large community difficult but most of our students are well behaved. The evidence for this is the recent judgement of 'good' by Ofsted and in the way our students responded to the earthquake in Haiti just a few weeks ago.

When the news broke about the suffering of the Haiti people our students quickly organised collections and events to raise money through our House System. There was also a 'Hearts for Haiti' campaign to tie in with Valentines Day as another way of raising money. As I write a Gosford Hill talent show is being organised to raise even further funds. This is in addition to recent children in need, fair-trade events, books for Kenya and our annual House charities. To date Gosford Hill School has raised over £500 for Haiti.

I am really proud of our school community and particularly all the students who behaved in such a mature and compassionate way. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and money so generously. Thank you also to parents who gave their children money for the appeal. This is our students showing what they do best – being pro active in a time of need to help others. The community should be proud of them! Well done everyone.

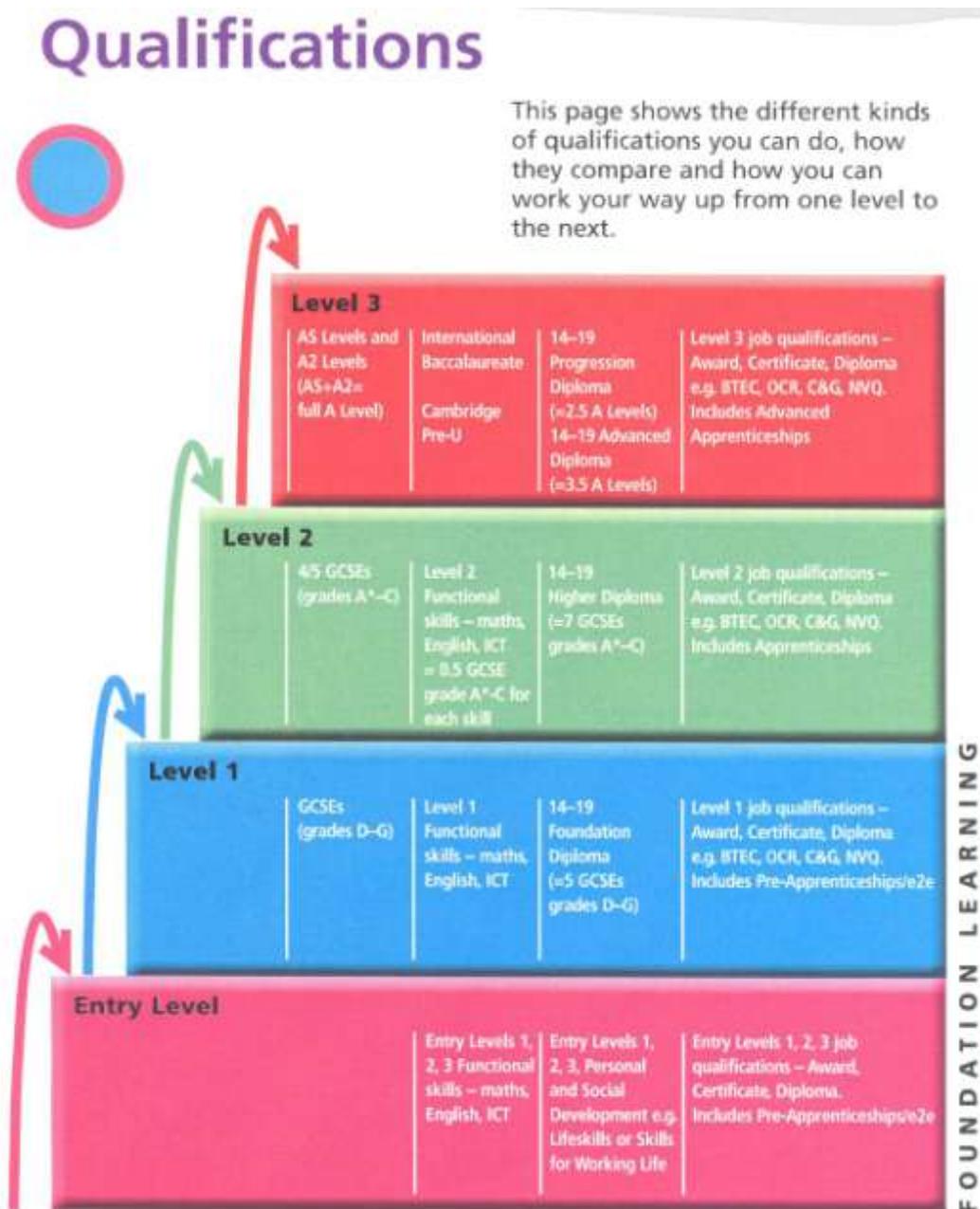
**Dr Stephen Bizley**

## Bridging the Skills Gap

Many parents have asked me to clarify the different learning routes at Key Stage 4.

Our recent KS4 Options Evening tried to explain the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 courses. In doing so some parents felt the school did not value academic routes. This is not the case and I apologise for any confusion. The school is totally committed to improving learning for all students – recognising that students learn in different ways.

The following diagram illustrates the academic rigour of each step and how different types of qualifications sit side by side at a particular level.



In brief, Level 1 and 2 qualifications are taken in Years 9-11 with both Level 2 and 3 qualifications being taken in the Sixth Form. All our qualifications look to the future. New GCSE specifications and BTEC qualifications at Level 1 and 2 aim to prepare our learners with the knowledge, skills and experience relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We continue to aim for a curriculum for everybody.

**Stephen Bizley (Headteacher)**

## Parent Survey Feedback

With a few parent consultation evenings remaining, it is important to report back to parents the key findings to date from our surveys and questionnaires answered by parents.

The following combine the different parent evenings we have held so far for different year groups. Percentage illustrates where parents agree with the statement:

	<b>At Gosford Hill School</b>	<b>%</b>
1	My child enjoys school	89
2	The school keeps my child safe	94
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	90
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	86
5	The teaching is good at this school	89
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	84
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	76
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)	87
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	87
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	82
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	77
12	The school is led and managed effectively	88
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	91

The above feedback from parents indicates that, on the whole, the large majority of parents are happy with the school (over 90%). There is always room to improve and we will use the information above to inform future planning.

Thank you to all the parents who completed our surveys. We are currently asking a cross section of students' similar questions and I will publish these when we have a complete overview.

**Stephen Bizley (Headteacher)**



## Gosford Hill School Statement on the Safeguarding of students



The vast majority of students attend Gosford Hill School every day without fear for their safety. Indeed in recent parent surveys the safety of their children is judged to be very high. However, Gosford Hill recognises its responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and ensures that safeguarding and welfare of students are promoted by focusing on:

- **Staff recruitment and selection** – ensuring that all staff (including volunteers) have been appropriately checked for their suitability through the CRB procedure.
- **Raising awareness of child protection issues** and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- **Developing and implementing procedures** for identifying and reporting cases of concern. This may involve sharing information with outside agencies.
- **Supporting children** in accordance with his/her child protection plan.
- **Establishing a safe and nurturing environment** free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

Staff in Gosford Hill School follow the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Procedures. A copy of the School's Safeguarding Policy is available on request. Please contact Richard Belmont (Designated Teacher) if any further information is required.

Thank you.

**Richard Belmont - Designated Teacher, Safeguarding**

# Maths Faculty News

## Maths Challenge 2010

On Thursday 4 February 68 students took part in a national competition organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. The Maths Challenge takes the form of 25 multiple choice questions. Sounds easy? Try this one.

*"You eat more than I do," said Tweedledee to Tweddledum.*

*"That is not true," said Tweddledum to Tweedledee.*

*"You are both wrong," said Alice, to them both.*

*"You are right," said the White Rabbit to Alice.*

*How many of the four statements were true?*

A 0    B 1    C 2    D 3    E 4

Give your answers on a postcard to the Maths Faculty. The correct answer with the clearest explanation will receive a prize.

The students performed very well with 19 students achieving a Bronze certificate, 10 a Silver certificate and four answered enough questions correctly to achieve the Gold certificate. The top four students were Matthew Gerrish, Andrew Miller, Nicholas Arthur and Rebecca Smith. Well done to all students who took part.

**Ruth Hamblin – Team Leader, Mathematics Faculty**

## When will I ever need Maths?

The Year 10 assembly on Wednesday 24 February focused on the use of maths in the work place. Students were introduced to several figures including Albert Einstein, Amy Johnson and a typical ex Gosford Hill student all of whom are using or have used Maths in their working lives. We were all salivating at a video clip of the making of chocolate ice cream which demonstrated the use of Maths in a practical situation.

During the assembly students were also introduced to staff from the Connexions Service who will start to work with them during the summer terms; advising and guiding them with their plans for post-16 education or work with training.

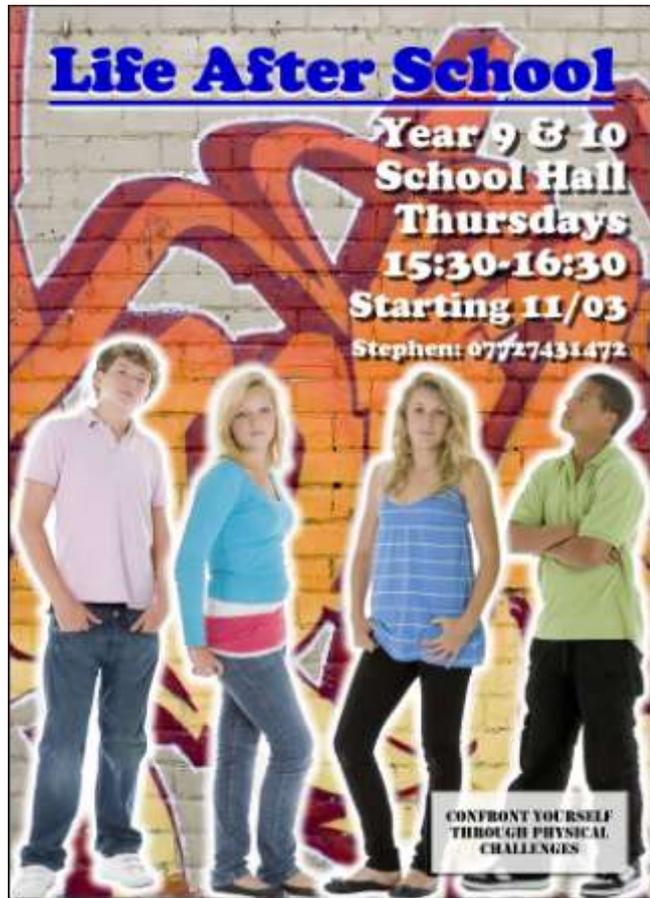
Year 10 students were then challenged to think of a job that did not require a knowledge of Maths. As yet we have been able to counter all their suggestions with ways in which Maths would be used which have ranged from a gravedigger to a fashion model!

Further interesting information about Maths at work and Maths in careers can be found at <http://www.mathscareers.org.uk> and Connexions Service information can be found at [www.connexionsoxfordshire.com](http://www.connexionsoxfordshire.com)

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

## Free After-School Club for Years 9 & 10

No need to book just turn up on  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March after school in  
the Hall



## Thames House News



Thames House has been very busy raising money for the Haiti appeal. The 'Hearts for Haiti' campaign was very popular. This event would not have been possible without the help of the Valentine's "angels" (Maria Roberts, Ellie Cripps and Anna Proffitt) who wore their best Valentine's Day outfits and delivered the cards during afternoon registration. Also I would like to say a big thank you to Marta Grabowska, Manuela Podobinska and Susanne Hill for all their help.

Miss Hamblin's form also raised money organising a hugely successful Cake sale. Philippa Smith in the same form raised some more funds by doing a sponsored silence. Overall Thames House raised just over £100. Well done Thames!

At the end of the term we will be organising an Easter event to raise more money. Watch this space!

### Rebeca Lopez – Assistant House Leader, Thames



## Hearts for Haiti



In aid of the Haiti Earthquake Appeal, Thames House Council decided to be inventive and run 'Hearts for Haiti', an anonymous Valentine card delivering service.

After advertising and making the whole school aware of our idea, we made the service available to the entire school. Anyone wishing to send a card paid £1 and picked the card design of their choice. On the afternoon of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, Ellie Cripps, Anna Proffitt and Maria Roberts (Year 11) got rather suitably dressed up in cupid-inspired outfits and delivered the cards to the lucky recipients. In total, the event raised over £40, all of which goes directly to the Haiti Appeal. All in all, a quirky idea that turned into a real success.

### Anna Proffitt - Year 11

## Holiday and Community Events

Families from Gosford Hill School and the Partnership Primaries came together at Gosford Hill School once again during the February holiday to take part in a variety of family fun activity sessions.

### Around the World with the Museums

Led by Flora Bain from Oxford University Museums, families learnt how to navigate a ship using a traverse board and a compass and then plotted their course on a map. They also learnt how speed was measured in knots, quite literally by using a piece of rope with knots tied at intervals, throwing it into the sea and then counting how many knots were visible after the length of time it took to sing a particular song!

Everyone had fun making scary 3D snapping crocodiles, by cutting and folding card and fixing the jaw with split pins, and then collaging on teeth and green tissue paper skin. They also made and decorated their very own explorer's hat – pirate themed or otherwise!

As well as all these activities, Flora brought along a variety of unusual objects from the museum for everyone to handle and guess what they were. Families had fun examining an elephant's tooth, a tiny shoe which would have been worn by a Chinese woman and parts of a whale's mouth, amongst other things!



"Really enjoyed this, it was informative and very hands on. Good fun."  
"We liked making the crocodile. I liked making the pirate hat. Great as always, thank you!"  
"Brilliant session. Great fun for all."



Examining the elephant tooth!

Plotting a course

The explorer hats!

### Build Your Own Table Football Game

This session involved lots of different skills, as well as sound football knowledge, to construct a sturdy table football game out of everyday objects. Families measured and cut the pitch to size and marked it out ready to play. The nets were made by weaving string through the cardboard box frame and scoreboards were constructed and decorated with team colours and emblems. Garden canes, fabric and electricians tape made sturdy handles, and then families had the important task of choosing players for their team, either drawing them themselves or cutting players out of magazines. Marbles were used for the football and each family took home a fabulous game. Feedback so far is that the table football games are being played at home and working well!



"We enjoyed everything and it was a great idea."  
"Ideal craft idea for boys, excellent resources."

### Fun Fitness and Football Skills

This regular favourite is always a lively session, enjoyed by adults and children alike! The session began with various warm up exercises including directional counting games, which caught out some players from time to time! They then moved on to relays involving a variety of skills such as skipping, keep ups, throwing and catching, and there was plenty of friendly competition between teams to see who could win the most points! The session ended with small sided games, first for the children, and then for the adults (with plenty of noisy encouragement from their children)!

"Fantastic. Good to see everyone taking part. No one left out, a lot of fun."  
"Really enjoyed the session. Look forward to next year!"  
"Excellent. Do we have to wait until next year?"



**Jilli Rivett – Extended Services Program Manager**

# English Faculty News

## Student of the Month

Each term the English Faculty will be nominating a 'Student of the Term' for each year group. Nominations are based upon attainment, effort in class and attitude towards learning. We are pleased to announce the following winners this term:

Year 7 – Phillipa Johnson  
Year 8 – Emily Murphy  
Year 9 – Kieran Peedall  
Year 10 – Ellen Williams  
Year 11 – Faith Oretagu  
Year 12 – David Bockett

Well done!!

## A2 Media Studies

For A2 Media, students have been researching the conventions of Music Videos. The final task was to create their own video for a piece of music they had chosen, along with an album cover and magazine article. Students have worked extremely hard, ensuring their online coursework blogs are updated and getting to grips with new editing software. One group has actually released their own single. Tom Muddle is in the band 'Circuit Chase' and has written about his experience;



"For A2 Media Studies, we've been making music videos. Instead of trawling through various Myspace sites and unsigned band directories, we thought it'd be a good idea to use our band's own song. So, in November of last year, Circuit Chase took to the studio to record our first single, 'I Can't Live Without You' – you can check it out on our Myspace page: [www.myspace.com/circuitchase](http://www.myspace.com/circuitchase). If you went to the Sixth Form Open Evening, you'll have seen a massive poster of three members of the band. This poster features in the music video, produced by members of the Gosford Hill A2 Media Studies class, which will be unveiled by the end of March."

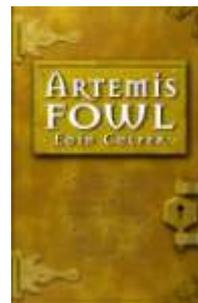
Sarah Witney – English Faculty Leader

## Year 7 Book Club

**When does the book club meet?**  
***Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 1:30!***

**Where?**  
***In the library!***

**Who can participate in this book club?**  
***Any Year 7 student!***



**Meeting times and books are announced in the daily bulletin. There is no need to sign up in advance, but if you have any questions please see Mrs. Simpson.**

## World Book Day

As World Book Day approached, the Reading Connects Committee prepared events to mark the occasion. On the day itself (Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March), we held a special reading in the library, where staff and students were able to share extracts from their favourite books. Throughout the week we encouraged parents to sponsor their child to read in form. All of the money raised will be donated to Bookaid who distribute books to libraries all over Africa. As ever, many students will have received £1 book tokens which they can spend on special World Book Day publications, or use towards the cost of a book of their choice.

Ben Whitaker – English Faculty

## **ICT Faculty News**

ICT continues to give students access to new and exciting learning opportunities. During our last Enrichment sessions, students had the opportunity to learn how to make animations using a program called Flash. Macromedia Flash is a program used to make online applications such as games, slide shows, interfaces, quizzes and movies. Flash is widely used because it takes up very little web space and loads quickly. It was a brilliant few days and both staff and students had a great time and learnt a great deal.

Gosford Hill is delighted to announce that we have launched our new website. The new website has been re-designed and moved to a new home. A big thanks must go to Community Internet Group Limited in Kidlington who hosted our site previously for free, and another big thanks must go to Rob Williams of our Tech team who designed and rebuilt the site. The new site has a much more modern look and feel to it and will allow us to do much more with it.

We've also moved to make much more material for students available to them via the new Learning Platform. Students are able to log in, select appropriate resources and download what they need. Over the next few months more and more resources will be available to them. As more resources are created, students will be able to join in online discussions, leave Blog posts and participate in wikis. The learning platform also gives students some online storage space (100 mb) – so they can access their work from home or school. This is much safer than using a pen drive.....

If you want a cheaper alternative to the expensive Microsoft Office packages (MS Word, Excel, Access, Publisher, etc.) then there are two free easy alternatives:

- 1) GoogleDocs - which is an online office suite – you can log in anywhere you're online and use it.
- 2) Open office – This is like a cut down version of the Microsoft equivalent, but does pretty much all of what you'll need (Just google: open office download). Whilst it will change your document's icons, they will go back if you uninstall via control panel. You get a Presentation package, a word processor, spreadsheet and database and you can save your work in Microsoft compatible formats.

**Chris Hall – ICT Faculty Leader**

## **Social Sciences Faculty News**

### **Religion Philosophy and Ethics – Year 7 Homework Assessment Task**

Year 7's Religion Philosophy and Ethics Assessment task was to create an outfit that represented things they believe in. There was a fantastic response to this assessment task. The students came up with original outfits (some included accessories) that included symbols to represent things that are important to them.

Students were also asked to write about their outfit and explain why these things were important to them. There were several excellent projects and below is a list of the names of students whose projects were considered to have been particularly outstanding:

Daniel Foord, Ella Gray, Gus Green, Harry Hilsdon, Helen Phipps, Jason Sallis, Katie Smith, Lora Petrova, Rebecca Hepworth and Sam Jones.

The House winners nominated as the best for their design, creativity, presentation and explanation were: 4<sup>th</sup> place Windrush – Harry Hilsdon, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Thames – Sam Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Evenlode – Rebecca Hepworth and 1<sup>st</sup> place Cherwell – Helen Phipps.

Well done to you all.

**Anne Campbell - Team Leader Religion Philosophy and Ethics**

## Creative Arts Faculty News

I am happy to inform you all that for the first time in four years, students will be able to experience working with clay in their Art lessons.

Since starting at Gosford Hill School in September 2008, I have been working hard to clear out all the old ceramic pieces, getting the ceramics area clear for working, having the kilns serviced and getting myself and arts staff trained in working the kilns. We have finally made it with our first firing this week.

I was also very fortunate in being introduced to a local ceramic sculptor, David Odwar. David originates from Uganda, and we were able to have David work with 3 groups, two year 10, GCSE groups and "A" level art students.



David was an instant hit. The students loved his style of working and his energetic personality. David uses his culture to inspire his work and he covered the art room with posters and pictures of masks from all cultures, and African animals.

The purpose of the workshops was to introduce the students to working in clay, using a quick building technique.

The students were encouraged to create, working with the materials and not to "think" about what they were doing but to respond to the material's characteristics and to manipulate it and enjoy the experience.



All the students that took part in the workshop were engaged from the start. In total, students had approximately 40 minutes to produce their masks. All students were successful and, judging from the reluctance to stop, they all enjoyed themselves.



Each mask produced was different and individual. David then stayed to carve out any large areas, so when the masks are fired they won't explode in the kiln. Once fired the masks can be decorated and displayed.



David is very interested in developing links with Gosford Hill and the Arts centre he has set up in his local village in Uganda. He has asked if any students would like to become pen pals and would like to write an introductory letter to pupils at the Arts centre. David raises money for the running of the centre through recycling old mobile phones. If any students and parents have any old mobile phones that they would like to donate, or if any students would like to become pen pals with a student in Uganda then can they please come and see me this term as David is returning to Uganda at the end of this term.



**Michele Longmore-Spillett – Creative Arts Faculty Leader**



## BOX TOPS for BOOKS from Nestlé Cereals & Dorling Kindersley

Please continue to send in your Nestlé Box Tops, the closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

We have raised £35.50 so far, many thanks for your support with this.



**Sarah Pigneguy – Learning Support Unit Manager**

## Physical Education Faculty News

### Football

The U15 boys' football team unfortunately lost out in the County Cup competition to Marlborough School. The two sides have met twice before and Gosford have always been comfortable winners. This looked to be the same pattern when the sides met at Garden City football ground in snowy conditions during February. Gosford pressed hard early in the game showing good composure in the first half and ended leading 3 – 1. The second half would see a different picture with the boys losing their discipline and straying from position, allowing Marlborough to dominate the mid-field area. In a twenty minute section the boys ended up conceding goals and finally lost the match 4-3. There were some exceptional performances with players showing excellent determination; hopefully the players can build on what they have learned from this game.



Team: Jack Self (c), Luke Sanders, Daniel Willoughby, Tom Mould, James Washington, Liam Rice, Daniel Bigden (Year 8), Julius Muraga, Cedi Carias, Mason Connelly, Marley Thomas, Ciaran Murphy, Seth Kilbee, Max Johnson, Callum Grant

### Basketball

Basketball Season is well underway for the U15 and U16 boys teams and U16 girls teams. A full report will follow at the end of the season, though the results so far are as follows:



U15 Boys played 2 games – won 1 and lost 1.

Team: Jake Townsend, Liam Rice, Julius Muraga, Cedi Carias, Marley Thomas, Luke Sanders, Kavan Reynolds, Tom Mould, Reece Dyer (injured).

U16 Boys played 3 games – won 1 and lost 2.

Team: Ali Broome, Ben Buckledee, Jake Farrow, Edward Neville-Gliddon, Tom Knox, Julius Muraga, Cedi Carias.

U16 Girls played 3 games – won all 3 games.

Team: Annette Cooper, Emily Moore, Georgie Richings, Annalise Green, Rebecca Smith, Sammy Groves, Charlie Groves (Year 8).

**David Emsdem – Head of Physical Education Faculty**

## SSCO News

### Sportshall Athletics Training

Year 10 students followed a two and a half hour course to help them lead four after school sportshall athletics sessions for Year 5/6 primary children. These children do not normally take part in activities after school. In the last session, the children took part in a mini festival putting into practice what they had learnt in the taster sessions.

In Term 4 the students will work for two sessions with gifted and talented children.



### Junior Football Organiser Award

Twenty students took part in this one day course which had a good balance of theory and practical. The award is Nationally recognised and the students will use the skills they learnt on the course to organise a primary festival in March at Garden City Football Club. Hopefully some of the students will go on to help the local football clubs and Gosford with their younger teams. Owain Prosser, Development Officer for football in Oxfordshire ran the course and was very impressed with the students. He extended an invitation to them all to attend a F.A. Day at Oxford Academy in February.



### Junior F.A. Day

Following the JFO course, 12 of the students elected to attend an Oxfordshire FA Day at Oxford Academy. They followed three courses throughout the day: leadership / team building, coaching and refereeing. The team building involved building a tower using marshmallows and spaghetti, blindfold Jenga and selecting a first eleven team using 15 photographs of animals and deciding the best positions for each one on the pitch.



Photos by Steve Wheeler

### Year 8 Dance Leader Training

The theme for the Year One Dance Festival this year is Witches and Wizards. Sarah Hastings, our Partnership Dance Teacher, led the Year 8 leaders through a magical mystery tour of movements which they will teach to the primary children.



## Badminton Club

Badminton club for Year 10 – 13 students runs every Thursday after school. The emphasis is mainly on match play but we do practise the skills of the game at the beginning of some sessions. At the end of each term we hold an intra competition. New members are always welcome. The club will run until the end of term 4. Students wishing to play badminton outside of school should consider joining Gosford Hill Colts who play at Oxford High School, Belbroughton Road, Oxford on Thursday evening. If you are interested in joining pick up a leaflet from Reception or the PE Office.



In Terms 5 and 6 Badminton Club will run for Year 7 and 8 students. This will be after school on Tuesdays and be led by Louise Gardner, our community coach.

**Pam Selby – SSCO Co-ordinator**

## Modern Foreign Languages Faculty News

The exam that all language students dread is fast approaching – the oral exam! GCSE students must take part in two role plays, both unseen, and then carry out a 7 minute conversation on two different topics. All in the foreign language. From now on, students will be practising daily, talking to themselves or the cat in French or German. Parents of Year 11 language students should not be concerned but relieved that they are taking their preparation seriously. This is an exam which can cause nerves - even in the most laid-back student - and thorough preparation is the only antidote.



Lower down the school, life is a lot less hectic and stressful. Year 7 students are just coming to the end of a topic on school which has seen them giving their opinions on school subjects, describing teachers and even filming a fashion show in order to be able to talk about their uniform. A *Languages Challenge* involving finding out information from the website of our partner school in Bonn has been set – any Year 7 students wishing to take part should collect a worksheet from L2 (prizes and credits up for grabs!)

Year 8 have also had some very active lessons: just before Christmas, they acted out a scene at a German Christmas Market, sampling Stollen, Lebkuchen and Glühwein (non-alcoholic, of course!). They also learnt a well-known German Christmas carol, which they all sang together on the day. For Valentine's Day, they listened to a tongue-in-cheek German love song and translated love poems and phone texts; they're now busy learning twenty important German verbs and using them in different grammatical contexts. And all this whilst getting to grips with their two new languages, French and Spanish!

**Jane Osborne – Acting Head of MFL**

## Ski Course – Pila/Aosta, Italy – 13<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010

The annual School ski course proved yet another fantastic experience in a long line of resounding successes. 61 year 11 and 12 students took part in this year's course along with 8 staff, once again skiing at the friendly resort of Pila in the Italian Alps.

The students gave a tremendously favourable impression of themselves to all parties. Their conduct and behaviour were exceptional. This drew favourable comments from all concerned. The bus drivers commented that it was the best school group they had witnessed in over twenty years! Interski instructors, course co-ordinator Tilly and the hotel owners also made reference to the good behaviour of the group. Without exception they were brilliant ambassadors for Gosford Hill School. The rapport amongst the students and 8 staff accompanying the course was a privilege to be part of.

The course was once again booked with the reputable travel company Interski who delivered a quality package as usual. All the groups made incredible progress in their skiing thanks to some wonderful snow conditions and weather. Only a couple of minor injuries resulted which enabled all students to get the most from the six days of skiing.

The 3 star Hotel Le Clou located in the village of Arvier about a twenty minute drive from the Pila gondola lift provided comfortable accommodation with all rooms enjoying a high standard of facilities. The food was outstanding with an evening three-course meal and a buffet breakfast arrangement. Lunch was taken at mountain restaurants using the unique Interski voucher scheme where the students, accompanied by their instructor, have a choice of a hot snack.

The whole party enjoyed a varied evening entertainment programme which comprised a quiz on the first evening followed by a pizza evening, bingo, bowling, disco, ski presentation and karaoke. James Richings won the top prize in the bingo of a pair of Salomon ski boots. There was just time to cram in some shopping in the atmospheric old Aosta town and a visit to a Nike Factory outlet on the outskirts of town.

Special mention must also go to the other seven staff that accompanied the course and worked so tirelessly on behalf of the students to make the course a success. To Mr Ward, Mr Beard, Mr Goldring, Miss Witney, Miss Rose, Mrs Britton and Mr Manthorpe my sincere thanks. Lastly to all the students themselves for making the 2010 ski course just that extra bit special.

Photographs of the course are available on the Interski snowshots website and further ones on school web site. A DVD of the course will shortly be made. The DVD will be shown in early May to all students and parents. The date is yet to be confirmed but there will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of the DVD on the evening itself.

### Some comments from the students:

'Too many highlights to remember' Chris Fennell

'An amazing experience on and off the slopes. It gave me the chance to learn a new skill, while still enjoying myself' Anon

'The whole week has been a GREAT experience! Met some amazing people, instructors and our rep (Tilly) was a good laugh. Hopefully I will return next year for another great experience' Steph Bott

'Ciao! Amazing teachers, amazing instructor, amazing skiing, amazing days, amazing nights will be coming for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time next year!!' Heather-Jade Stanley

'The best thing was recording Mr Manthorpe falling many times. Enjoyed it thoroughly and would recommend to anyone' Anon

**Paul Catling – Party Leader**



## Careers and Work Experience News

### Year 9 Hospitality Challenge

A small group of Year 9 students has just completed a very successful two day Hospitality Challenge. They worked with students from four other schools and staff from Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, Blenheim Palace, Holiday Inn and The Oxford Barcelo Hotel. They were given a client brief to plan an event to a budget. Each team worked with one of the organisations to research their brief and put together a presentation of the package going to offer their client.

Their presentations were superb. They were congratulated by a University of Brookes lecturer who commented that the standard was on a par with his undergraduate students. All the students were a credit to themselves and the schools involved; they rose to the occasion especially when eating lunch at Le Manoir!

### The Next Steps

A group of Year 11 students attended a 'Get ready 4 work' day where they worked with students from other schools and local employers developing their skills and confidence in successfully securing work or a college place. Our Year 11 students have applied for Sixth Form and many have already been interviewed and offered places on courses in local colleges. Places are filling fast and students are urged to put in applications if they have not already done so. Many students are encouraged to make an application to join the Sixth Form as well as the college. The final choice of where to study can then be made in light of the GCSE results. Our school Connexions Personal Advisers, Alison Williams and Clare Carmen, are available to meet with individual students to assist them with their plans. The Careers Library and 6th Form HE area both have a regularly updated list of local job vacancies. Financial help, Education Maintenance Allowance –EMA (up to £30 per week) is available to some students attending college or Sixth Form.

**Year 10 Work Experience** will actually take place during the first week of September 2010 in Year 11. There are some fantastic placements offered and we are taking great care to match student abilities and interests to suitable placements. We hope to have the majority of placement information distributed to students before the end of this term. Students are expected to contact their placement provider, once they have been informed and they are encouraged to attend an interview or informal meeting before the placement starts.

### Part Time Work

Any student in compulsory education, i.e. up to the end of Year 11, not just up to age 16, doing part-time paid work must have a permit to work. To work without one is illegal and more importantly could invalidate any insurance held by the employer. Application forms can be obtained from school reception. For further information about the type of work and number of hours that can be worked please look at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) search - employing children.

### Useful Websites

[www.connexionsoxfordshire.com](http://www.connexionsoxfordshire.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](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning) a range of useful information about education, training and

financial support for students and parents

### Liz Hounsell – Careers & Work Experience Manager

Careers Office: 01865 849299

Email: [careers.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:careers.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

## Governor News

The school uniform working party reported back to the last Governors' meeting with a set of recommendations which were discussed and adopted. The chosen supplier for the new badged blazer and tie is Simply Schoolwear. Over the coming months they will be in school on a number of occasions for presentations, and a sample uniform will be on display. The school tie is being designed by members of the Student Leadership Team and will be displayed once it has been approved by the Governing Body.

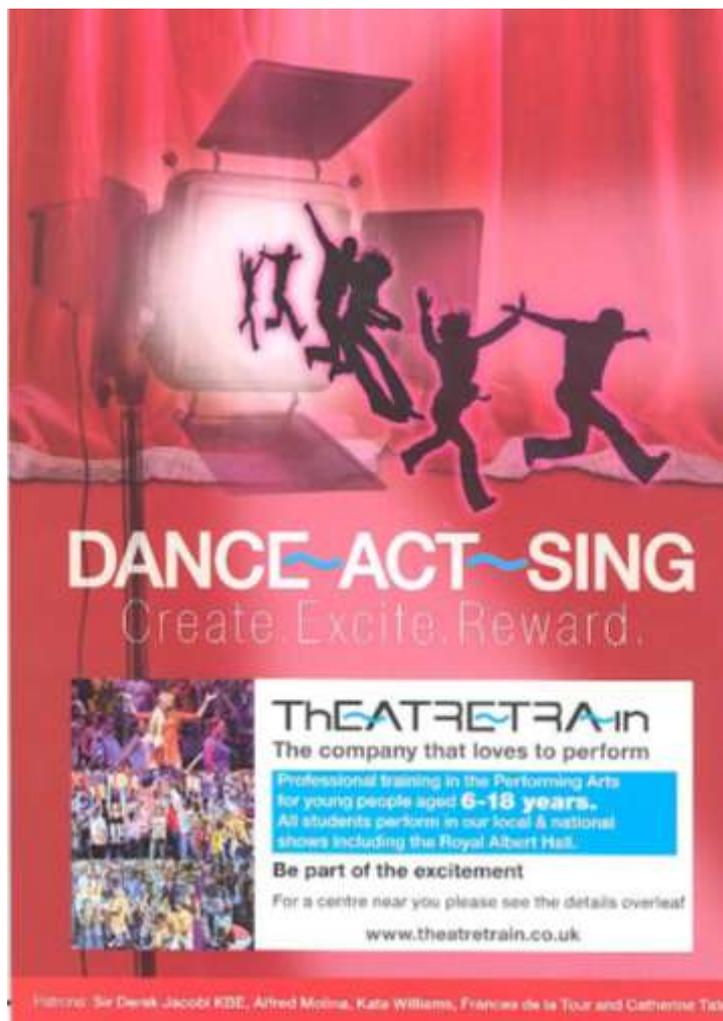
Changes to the School Uniform Policy will take effect from September 2010 for students in Years 7 – 10. The wearing of the new uniform for students in Year 11, from September, will be reviewed after proposals are put to current Year 10 students in Term 6. To ease the transition, the Governors agreed that all students in Years 7 – 10 will be given one blazer and tie at no cost to parents or carers. Families who may need financial support following changes to the school uniform will receive assistance using the criteria for Free School Meal entitlement.

I recently attended the Sixth Form Information Evening and was impressed with the wide range of courses available to prospective sixth form students. There was a large attendance from Gosford students and many students from other schools who were considering Gosford for their continuing studies. All the departments had put a lot of effort into their information stands and, judging by the interest being shown by students and parents, these were well received.

Finally, the Governors would like to echo the thanks of the Headteacher to all staff, students, parents and volunteers for their help and understanding of the difficulties faced by the school during the bad weather in January.

If you have any questions regarding the work involved in being a Parent Governor, issues you would like raised or feedback you would like to give, please do contact any of the Parent Governors; contact details are available from the school.

## Roger Smith – Parent Governor





# GHSA

# Quiz Night

Friday 19th March 2010



Gosford Hill School Hall  
7.00pm



**£30 per team of 6**

Student team £18

**Supper included**

Desserts for sale and raffle provided by  
Malawi Expedition students

**Bar**

Advance Booking Essential

For further details see: [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

For team registration contact School Reception or 01865 378727



## Food Glorious Food



See below a sample of our lunchtime menus\*:

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Meals</b>	Beef Bolognese with Pasta	Lamb Jollof Rice	Roast Beef in Gravy served with crispy roast potatoes	Thai Green Chicken Curry served with Steamed Rice	Battered Cod with Chunky Chips
	Quorn & Vegetable Tikka Masala with Rice	Cheese & Sweet Pepper Tart with Spicy Vegetable Pasta	Vegetarian Toad in the Hold served with Mashed Potato	Vegetable Lasagne served with Garlic/Herb Bread Wedge	Fresh Vegetable Frittata with Cajun Baked Potato Wedges
	Garden Peas Stir-Fry Fresh Vegetables or Seasonal Salad	Fresh Broccoli Florets Fresh Cauliflower or Seasonal Salad	Fresh Sliced Carrots Seasonal Fresh Cabbage or Seasonal Salad	Fresh Courgettes Golden Sweetcorn or Seasonal Salad	Garden Peas Baked Beans or Seasonal Salad
	Blackberry & Apple Pie with Custard	Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Chocolate & Mandarin Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Sultana Sponge with Custard	Creamy Rice Pudding with Winter Fruits
<b>Pronto</b>	Fresh Fruit Selection				
	Trattoria Pizza Selection Pasta & Toppings				
	<b>Hot</b> Jacket Potato Topped with Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato Topped with Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato Topped with Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato Topped with Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato Topped with Hot & Cold Fillings
<b>Chilled</b>	Selection of Traditional & Continental Breads with Various Fillings. Seasonal Salad Bar & Boxes. Fresh Fruit Collection, Yoghurt Pots & Cold Drinks	Selection of Traditional & Continental Breads with Various Fillings. Seasonal Salad Bar & Boxes. Fresh Fruit Collection, Yoghurt Pots & Cold Drinks	Selection of Traditional & Continental Breads with Various Fillings. Seasonal Salad Bar & Boxes. Fresh Fruit Collection, Yoghurt Pots & Cold Drinks	Selection of Traditional & Continental Breads with Various Fillings. Seasonal Salad Bar & Boxes. Fresh Fruit Collection, Yoghurt Pots & Cold Drinks	Selection of Traditional & Continental Breads with Various Fillings. Seasonal Salad Bar & Boxes. Fresh Fruit Collection, Yoghurt Pots & Cold Drinks
	<b>Baked</b> A Selection of Tasty, Fresh, Home Baked Cakes & Treats	A Selection of Tasty, Fresh, Home Baked Cakes & Treats	A Selection of Tasty, Fresh, Home Baked Cakes & Treats	A Selection of Tasty, Fresh, Home Baked Cakes & Treats	A Selection of Tasty, Fresh, Home Baked Cakes & Treats

\*Menus rotate every 3 weeks

## CALENDAR & OTHER INFORMATION

10 March	GHSA Meeting, 7.30-9.00pm - Library	2 April – 16 April	Holiday 4
17 March	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30-7.00pm	29 April	Year 11 Ball, Randolph Hotel
1 April	INSET Day	30 April	Newsletter Issued

HOLIDAY DATES 2009-2010	
<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	
HOLIDAY DATES 2010-2011	
<b>Term 1</b>	
Friday 3 September – Friday 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	
OTHER DATES 2010-2011	
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.