Another Successful Year – Thank You!

This edition of ‘Gosford Times’ is packed with items celebrating the recent success of our school community. This has been the story throughout the year. Month after month of different students learning different skills and gaining new knowledge.

Learning Opportunities

Since the new Government took office earlier this year, the media has been full of reports about poor schools and behaviour. Personally, I feel that our schools are better than they have ever been. Teachers are better qualified, we know more about the way humans learn than ever before and students have access to a wide range of learning opportunities – the like of which, perhaps, previous generations never had. I am proud that Gosford Hill is a school that is improving and meeting the challenge of a changing world. Flick through previous editions of our newsletter to see the wide variety of learning our students have experienced. Read about how our young people have raised money for charities and supported the work of our primary partners.

Team work: it’s simple

Of course success is simple. We work together as a team to achieve the best for our community. At the time of writing we are about to hold a community vision event with over 60 people from a wide section of our community. It is by working together that we can achieve even more in the years to come. Teachers, support staff, parents, carers, employers, local public services, businesses and beyond all have a part to play in making our school the best it can be. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to make that happen this year.

Smart

We look forward to what are hopefully another good set of results in August and the return of our students in a smart new uniform. Many families have already commented on how smart their sons and daughters look now they have seen them in the blazer and tie. Thank you for all the positive comments I have received.

Finally

We wish all our leavers the very best for the future and say thank you again to everyone who has supported the school during another very successful year. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a peaceful and relaxing summer.

Dr Stephen Bizley
Celebrating Success at Gosford Hill School

Celebration assemblies provided an excellent opportunity for Gosford Hill School to celebrate success with a separate afternoon assembly for each House, organised by the House Leader and attended by students, parents, staff and governors. Awards were given across different subject areas for Leadership, Equality, Ambition, Respect and New Horizons, linking to the school’s key drivers and maxim Learn Lead Inspire.

House awards were also awarded for community, sports, leadership, attendance, arts and outstanding individuals. A new award was introduced this year named the Students’ Student Award for the student within each tutor group voted for by their peers for their positive impact on others.

Evenlode’s assembly saw the welcomed return of Matthew Jones from Harrow School to present the Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Year 11 student Rebecca Smith, an honour that he received as a Gosford Hill student himself last year. Matthew who has a scholarship for Harrow addressed students, parents and staff. He recognised the many opportunities that Harrow has afforded him over the past year but he went on to comment that ‘You will all have extraordinary opportunities in your life. It is important to embrace them, grasp them with both hands and remember … to smile!’ Matthew was delighted to accept the House Cup on behalf of Evenlode House.

Approximately 300 awards were presented, recognising the different qualities of students at the school. Students were presented with certificates, badges and medals. Year 10 student Ryan Anderson commented ‘I am really looking forward to wearing my badges on my blazer in September. I was also very honoured to get the Sam Williams award. It meant a lot to me and my family.’

Award Winners from each House

Photography: Ami Venney & Lizzie McLean

Jackie Fairchild – Assistant Headteacher (Specialist Status)
Mathematics Faculty News

Makeover for Maths GCSE
The current modular maths GCSE from AQA comprises Modules 1, 3 and 5 which are worth 18%, 27%, and 55% respectively of the total marks. Students starting Year 11 in September have already taken Modules 1 and 3 and will take Module 5 in June 2011. Students in this year group have the option to resit Module 3 on 15 November 2010.

Students entering Year 10 in September will be the first to take the new specification. The distinction between Higher and Foundation remains, with students passing Higher attaining grades A* to D and those passing Foundation attaining grades C to G. The modules are now known as Units and have been renumbered as 1, 2 and 3.

Relevant information is summarised below. Compared with the current GCSE, there is more emphasis on the earlier modules which are now worth 60% rather than 45%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Maximum Uniform Mark</th>
<th>Percentage of total GCSE</th>
<th>Exam details for students entering Year 10 in September 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Statistics and Number</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>1 Hour 9 November 2010 Calculator paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Number and Algebra</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>1 hour 15 mins 21 June 2011 Non Calculator paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Geometry and Algebra</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1 hour 30 mins June 2012 Calculator paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is increased emphasis on students being able to apply maths to new situations. Questions will be set of a less standard type where students need to think through the ideas themselves and work out what mathematics to use.

Students sitting a November exam would be best prepared if they were to do some revision over the summer holiday. All students can use MyMaths and i-progress. The past papers for the current specification can be found under the Specialism tab of the main school website which are very useful for Year 10 students going into Year 11 who think that they may need to resit module 3. For students going into Year 10 in September, revision of number work and data handling will be good preparation, using MyMaths. A combination of module 1 and module 3 papers from the school website could also be useful.

Revision guides and workbooks for the new specification can be purchased from the maths office for £2.50 each from ILP day.

NEW CHALLENGES USING REAL ROBOTS

An exciting new robotics club will be launched in September after school on Thursdays. Students will work in groups to design, build and programme Lego robots to perform different challenges. The club will attempt various missions using a LEGO MINDSTORMS robotics kit as part of an eight week research project with a Biomedical Engineering theme. This will lead to an opportunity to compete in the Oxfordshire First Lego League tournament in December.

Club starts on Thursday 9th Sept. 3.20-4.20pm in ICT3 - see Miss Wooeller (ICT) or Dr Harrington (Maths) for further details. Information on the First Lego League can be found at: http://firsthandtechnology.org.uk.
Comments from other students including Nicole Fenn, Katie Ward, Emma Uttley and Sabrina Simms:

‘The code breaking was interesting as I learnt a lot of new things.’

‘The team building got you involved with people outside your friendship group.’

‘The maths football activity was fun and competitive. I didn’t think the football would go that fast. It helps you understand the links between distance, speed and time.’

‘Street dance was active. I had never done dance before. It was a new opportunity.’

The beads and bases activity was ‘a great way to combine maths and fun.’

‘It was fun. I thought it was funny that all the boys got really into making their bracelets.’

‘It was different’
Year 10 Maths Activity Day 28th June 2010

In our first day of activities week we had a day of maths but also physical activities like swimming, streetdance and football.

Connie Sheard said ‘I thought it was fun, competitive and also funny.’

Kasini Patel also said ‘It was interesting to learn the speed I can kick a ball.’

Everyone seemed to enjoy the physical side to maths as it broke up the day and created a fun side to maths.

During the day we took part in a code breaking task which involved using different code breaking techniques to solve mathematical statements. It was a different side to maths that was interesting but made you think.

The maths department had also set up an activity called ‘beads and bases’ which involved using base numbers which correspond to certain letters and colours. We used base 3 numbers e.g. 001, 002, 010… Each base 3 number corresponded to a letter of the alphabet which meant we could spell out our names with the different bead colours. Emma Dalton said ‘It was a great activity that also gave us something to take home at the end of the session.’

It was a fantastic idea that was great fun but it also included maths and the base 3 numbers will help us in our maths course.

Overall the Maths Department set up a great day that was very enjoyable. They also managed to include everything Year 10 had requested.

Abi Connolly – 10EDEN
Mathematics Team Challenge Day
Treasure Hunts, relay races, maths crosswords and observation rounds were all attempted by students from Years 8 and 9 during enrichment week. Running totals for the teams were displayed throughout the day on a bar chart, leading to a highly competitive atmosphere and fantastic effort by most participants. Student comments included: “I thought that the challenges were well thought-out and they were fun”, (Ed), “I liked searching for the clues. I thought that it was a good idea and I felt trusted”, (Daniel), and “I enjoyed everything we did. It was so brilliant and the teachers were the best!” (Ben).

Left: Mr. Slater updates teams on their position before the final round.

Below left: the winning team from Thursday with their prizes.

Below right: Tuesday’s winning team, including Travis who said: “I like being able to get on and always have another question to work on. It has also been good working with new people.”

Jo Murray – Mathematics Faculty

Student Newsletter
Students of all ages at Gosford Hill School have been writing and creating a youth newspaper for Kidlington. The group meets after school every Monday to discuss what articles might interest our audience and who to interview. A number of the students who attend the meetings for the youth newspaper mentioned teenage stereotyping. For this topic we decided to interview Sergeant Colin Travi to find out information about teenagers on the street. Stephen Milford, the new youth worker from Kidlington Baptist Church, organised this event as well as setting up a number of youth groups including TGI Friday. The youth newsletter is due to be distributed before the end of term.

Holly Lyford (9WKSN) and Ruth Butt (9EFGE)
Problem Solving Challenge June 2010

A few weeks ago, eight Year 9 students were selected to participate in a range of problem solving challenges. Students from four schools, Wheatley Park, The Marlborough, Lord Williams (Thame) and Gosford Hill took part. This was a three day course where we met new people, learnt new skills, worked together in groups, and solved real problems/challenges in different commercial organisations/businesses.

On the first day, we arrived at Woodeaton Manor School and were introduced to participants through an ice breaker activity. Throughout the day, we were introduced to various problem solving methods and were put into our groups of four for the second day.

On day two we gathered at the Holiday Inn, assembled in our various groups and were taken to our destinations. There were eight different locations where the problems were set: Blenheim Palace, Campsfield House, Oxford Castle Unlocked, The Barceló Hotel, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, The Holiday Inn, Mid Counties Co-op, and Elsevier. The problems we were given ranged from creating a trail or quiz for the Palace and gardens to raising staff morale. To solve these issues we carried out surveys, did desk research and brainstormed our ideas as a group.

On the final day, all the students who participated in the course met at Woodeaton School to present the outcomes of day two. Representatives from the different organisations were present in the audience when we presented our findings. Beforehand we were given advice from the organisers about how to present effectively. At the end of the course we were all given a certificate that can be put in our CVs. We have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the skills we have learnt will help us in our future lives.

We were all invited to attend the East Oxfordshire Education Business Alliance Investors In Education awards ceremony at Blenheim Palace recently where we shared with an audience of local businessmen and school head teachers the activities we had been involved in at the Problem Solving Challenge.

Ruth Butt and Holly Lyford (Year 9) with ideas contributed by Scarlett Tomes and Josh Phillips.

Sharing your ICT skills

Do your grandparents or any older relatives lack the confidence you have with computers?

Would you like to help older people like them improve their ICT skills?

Then get involved in sessions at Gosford Hill School, alongside Age UK to help older people gain in confidence with using a computer.

It needs no specialist knowledge beyond what you use every day.

The program will run after school and is a great way to support the community. You will also find it very rewarding.

If interested and for more details please contact Jackie Fairchild.
Oxford Learning United – A Different Class
Last term nine Gosford Hill School lads and their dads took part in a football coaching course with a difference! Led by coaches from Oxford Learning United, the Dads and lads worked together to learn new football skills, then used technology to improve their technique!

The Dads and lads measured how fast they could shoot at the goal using a speed gun, logged the results in Microsoft Excel and then measured and recorded their speed again after a coaching session on shooting to see how much they had improved. “I really enjoyed measuring my shot speed – it was fun” and “It was good to show my dad how to use a computer”, were just two of the comments from the lads.

They learned different heading techniques and videoed each other during the training session, then played back the recording to assess their skills and find out how to improve!

They practised dribbling, ball control and turning, and then put this into practise in small sided games. After the games they interviewed each other about the match using a video camera and worked on their interview techniques, finding out the best way to both ask and answer questions!

Week 4 was match day with “dads versus lads” giving everyone a chance to show what they had learnt during the course. The dads proved to the lads that youthful energy was no match for knowledge and experience as they came out the victors in a closely fought game! “It was good – dads against kids”.

The final session took place at the Kassam with the dads and lads taking a tour of the stadium and learning about the history of the Yellows!

Oxford United used the motivational aspect of football to encourage learning, community involvement and family integration. Dads and lads, too, enjoyed spending time together playing their favourite sport, while learning “school stuff” at the same time without even realising it!

Jilli Rivett (Extended Schools Co-ordinator) and Jackie Fairchild (Assistant Headteacher, Specialist Schools)
Students from Gosford Hill School achieved a rare double in obtaining their gliding wings, as they are both Air Cadets at 1315 (Kidlington) Sqn

Flight Sergeant Gemma Beardsley, aged 17 and Corporal Nicola Beardsley, 16, completed a solo flight at Dalton Barracks, near Abingdon, in the hands of 612 Volunteer Gliding Squadron flying the Vigilant powered glider in a course of instruction over several weekends, and spent around 10 hours in the air to achieve the awards.

On completing her flight Gemma said "It was amazing to complete my solo flight as there was so much to learn during the course, the flying solo experience was awesome...!"

Squadron Leader Peter Mockeridge, Officer Commanding 612 Volunteer Gliding Squadron said “Our aim at 612 is to provide the best training possible for cadets of Thames Valley Wing. It’s great to see young people develop the confidence and skills to be able to fly solo. Gemma was our 100th Solo flight in 2009, we have further increased our solo achievements during this year, exceeding 2008 which was a previous record year”.

Other cadets that attend Gosford Hill have also achieved awards this year. Cdt Alex Holbrook and Cpl Sam Brooks have achieved their solo gliding wings, and other cadets from the Squadron have achieved awards in Radio Communications and First Aid.

1315 (Kidlington) Sqn will be holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 27th July, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and young people aged between 13 and 18 years old can join. The ATC offers many activities and qualifications, including flying, shooting, sport and adventure training, as well as opportunities to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Cadets can also go away on camps and weekend courses, and find out what it’s really like to live in RAF accommodation.

If you are interested in the many activities that the ATC has to offer, please come along to the Open Evening at Kildington Sqn, which is based at Deaforth House, Sterlings Road, Kidlington. You can also contact us by telephoning 01865 379950, or by emailing 1315@aircadets.org.
English Faculty News
On Thursday 8th July, Gosford Hill students had a fantastic time exploring the weird and wonderful world of John Townsend. The popular non-fiction author visited our school with the help of the Reading Connects prize money won in last year’s competition.

John Townsend introduced students from all years to his work, explaining how he collects strange stories to help make reading fun. Alongside his entertaining presentations, John got the students to make up stories to accompany sound effects and even had Leon Long (Year 7) eaten by a snake (see picture).

Some Year 9 students were lucky enough to meet our visiting author too. He delivered an excellent presentation (complete with sound effects!) with the focus on how he conducts research before he writes his texts. Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and took an active part, sharing stories of their own with John Townsend and each other.

The prize-winners in our John Townsend competition (open to Years 7, 8 and 9) were treated to a special lunch with John Townsend and also won a signed copy of one of his books. The winners were Philippa Smith and Charlotte Williams (Year 7), Rebecca Hinton, Jamie Cowley and Dennam Carpenter (Year 8) and Jordan Rouse, Alice Coates and Ryan Whitehead (Year 9).

During period 3 Dr. Bizley presented Hugh Nicholson with a prize for reading the most books in the school this year. Since September, Hugh has managed to read 121 titles - so many that he can’t decide which has been his favourite! Sophie Poulter was also presented with a prize for being this year’s most inspirational Reading Champion. She has attended many Reading Connects meetings, been a great reading role model in her form and come up with innovative ideas for promoting reading around the school.

Students were a credit to Gosford Hill, asking pertinent questions and taking a keen interest in what our visitor had to say. The day completed another very successful year of events aimed at getting our students reading and talking about books. Thanks to everybody who has helped out or taken part this year.

After his visit John Townsend said "It was great to be involved in a day of such enthusiastic celebration of reading, books and the important role of the library in the life of the school. Students of all abilities were actively encouraged to read and try different genres, so it was clear to me that with such a positive culture in the school, many in the audiences were already switched-on to books, so I was preaching to the converted!"

Ben Whittaker – English Faculty

English Enrichment
The English Faculty ‘stepped out of the box’ during the last enrichment week and offered a World Cup-themed day where students learnt geographical and cultural details about some of the teams involved in the tournament. Students developed all sorts of skills during this day and it was fabulous to see the creativity of many of our students. During the day students were able to develop their speaking and listening skills and had lots of fun in the process! Students made vuvuzelas; completed quizzes; created videos and then there was the all important penalty shoot-out!

The final results saw World Cup wins for Brazil and Ghana – a complete contrast to the all-European final – and we congratulate those teams for their excellent team-work.

Once again, Gosford Hill students responded with enthusiasm and positivity and the day was a real success.

Sarah Witney – Head of English Faculty
Design & Technology Faculty News

Enrichment Week in Design & Technology

Amplifiers
Groups of Year 8 and 9 students spent an intensive day building amplifiers to use with their MP3 players through a speaker. There was plenty for them to do, from designing the speaker to the final testing and ironing out of any faults. The students had a variety of new skills to learn – such as identifying electronic components and reading resistor colour codes, where a colour represents a number, when in the correct sequence. The students rose to the occasion and successfully mastered the art of soldering, with most of them completing a working amplifier by the end of the day.

Robots
The DT faculty also played host to 2 groups of intrepid students who were challenged to build and control a robot via a handset. Further development was made to modify the robot to play football, wrestle each other in a sumo ring and survive the DT ‘test circuit’. The students worked very determinedly to produce their working robots, many of them developing a high level of skill in the robot controlling!!

Catering/Hospitality
The challenge to the students from the Food department was to design and make a Picnic box and cook all the foods to go in it. There were some beautiful box designs completed, after which the students skillfully completed the making of Scotch eggs, Fruit Bars, Wraps and Fairy Cakes, all the while using team skills to work in pairs. The students exhibited incredible planning, organisational, practical and completion skills and their efforts were rewarded by being able to eat the fruits of their labours!

Textiles Enrichment
The Textiles Enrichment activities offered last week were based on making soft accessories using experimental techniques.

Students used wool fibres to make beads, fabrics and motifs from scratch and then used these to construct purses, bracelets, necklaces, brooches and keyrings.

The afternoon session introduced Colourtherm printing to the students, where they were able to experiment with Smart inks, which change colour with heat. Students then used their printed material to produce ties, headscarves, tea-towels and cushions.

The days were a great success and the students really enjoyed the activities, producing some fantastic pieces.

Examples of the work are on display on the boards outside DT2 and DT3.
Year 10 Food Fayre
During the first 2 days of Enrichment Week, Year 10 students had to do part of their GCSE Hospitality/Catering exam in the form of an event-based task. This task carries 30% of marks towards the students’ final grades so is an important piece of Coursework for them.

They had to work in teams of 3-6 people and investigate, plan, run and evaluate the event. The teams could choose what sort of stall they wanted to run and what sort of ‘Business’ they owned - e.g. Wedding Caterers, Birthday Party Caterers, or Fund-Raising Caterers etc. They then cooked appropriate foods for their business.

For the event, the D&T Faculty invited all Year 10 parents and all staff to come along, sample the foods and give the students written feedback.

The turnout for both days was amazing and the students were both excited and encouraged by the results. Some members of staff, fortunate to be able to attend both days, commented on how successful, but very different, both days were. There was a great deal of encouragement from visiting parents/carers and some grandparents, and the outside visitors learnt a feel of a Community reach project, which is one of the aims of the D&T department for the forthcoming academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families and staff for their support over the 2 days, especially in the way their attendance encouraged and inspired the students for what was a very successful event.

Fiona Gable – Assistant Head of Design & Technology

Creative Arts Faculty News
I am always pleased with the quality of work produced by students and want to be able to show the school and community this too.

Since January I have been liaising with the doctors’ surgeries within the village to exhibit the work.

Gosford Hill Medical Centre and Exeter Surgery were both very excited about exhibiting our Year 9 student’s work and found it very difficult to choose from the photos which piece to display.

I was able to exhibit the work in both surgeries this spring and was proud to be able to do so.

The AS/A2 Fine Art and Photography Exhibition was Thursday 24th June. We had had the moderator which had been very successful, and in the afternoon we allowed students to bring their parents and friends to see their work exhibited. The students were very proud of their achievements.
In Enrichment Week, 28th June – 2nd July, the Art Department was able to have the ceramist sculptor David Odward back to do a whole day’s workshop with the students. The workshop was open to Year 8 students who have opted to study Art in Year 9, or Year 9 students who have already opted to take art as a GCSE. The skills they were taught, students can develop as they progress through the GCSE course.

David, as always, was an instant hit with the students. The focus of the day was for the students to learn skills working with clay and to develop their drawing skills with proportion and the figure.

All students produced a ceramic figure, with an African feel to their sculpture.

**Michele Longmore-Spillet – Head of Creative Arts Faculty**
Music Note News
With so many talented students at Gosford Hill, I have to let you know what some of our students are doing out and about in the county.

On Saturday 10th July, Andy Miller and Oliver Farley are playing with the Oxford Youth Jazz Combo in Birmingham. The group has been selected from across the country to take part in the National Music for Youth Festival in Birmingham.

Closely following, on Monday 12th July, the Oxford Youth Jazz Combo is playing again in the Banbury Youth Festival backing a 200 strong primary children’s choir.

Later in the month Mr. Richard Munrow, Head of Cultural and Adult Learning Services from Oxfordshire County Council is retiring. There is going to be a big celebration and he is having a party in the Woodstock Museum. Oli and Andy have been asked to perform at this event too.

Talent Oxford
In May this year, auditions were held to find new, up and coming talent in Oxfordshire from the age of 5 to 18. Gosford Hill School is the only school in the county that has two finalists in the top 16! The talented students who were selected to go through are Ebony Webster in Year 8 and Ryan Anderson in Year 9. Both students have been working very hard and they are currently being coached by a top choreographer and voice coach. They are also going to be making a DVD of their performance with a professional film company. The Grand Final is taking place in The Theatre Headington on 2nd October 2010. I hope lots of you can come along to support our young stars and cheer them on!

GHSA Barbeque
On Thursday 1st July, the GHSA organised a BBQ and invited the Music Department to provide the entertainment! Many students came along and willingly took part, performing a wide range of music. The String Ensemble played Mozart’s Einer Kleiner Nacht Musik, the Year 9 & 10 BTEC performing arts students performed lots of popular songs and the award winning White Space which are Oliver Farley, Jake Milburn and Will Mason completed the evening with a set of original songs they had written themselves. I should also mention the special guest appearances of Mr Ben Whitaker on guitar and banjo, Mr Robin Fellerman, who did an inspired performance of John Lennon’s Imagine and the gorgeous Mrs. Sarah Muller singing Lady Ga Ga. Even our very own Dr. Bizley performed a Jo Jackson song! A thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Vocal Workshop
In Enrichment Week, I invited Louise Woodgate, a professional singer, to come in and take a vocal workshop with the Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts students. It was great fun and students learnt about ‘zinging’ and ‘inging’; they are currently working on a medley from the musical Les Miserables and they were marching around the room singing their hearts out. A fun way to learn how to sing and perform and they can use this great experience as part of their coursework.

A Musical Night Out
Forty six Music and Performing Arts students came along to see the fabulous musical ‘Sister Act’ in the West End, London. Being familiar with the film does not prepare you for the amazing sets, revolving stage, wonderful acting and singing. I should also mention that Sheila Hancock performed the role of mother superior brilliantly. The live band, exciting special effects and lighting enthralled the students throughout. They responded with a standing ovation at the end of the show! A very successful and educational experience that I know they will remember for a long time to come.

Rhian Frankcom – Team Leader, Music
Oxfordshire County Music Service Exams – Trinity School of Music

Students take exams throughout the year but I would like to celebrate the successes of our students who have worked very hard and achieved such excellent standards this term. Congratulations to them all.

Flute exam results:
Charlie Groves grade 5 - merit
Celia Tezel grade 5 - merit
Finn McCormick grade 5 - pass
Suzanne Hill grade 5 - merit
Alice Coates grade 5 – pass

Clarinet and Saxophone results:
Alex Christodoulou grade 3 - Merit
Sammy Groves grade 5 - Merit
Nick Arthur grade 5 – Distinction
Max Bensley grade 5 – Distinction
James Clack grade 7 - Pass

Violin exam results:
Keeley Barnes Grade 3 – Pass
Karen Fung Grade 4 – Pass
Louise House Grade 6 - Pass
Stephanie Bott Grade 6 - Pass
Ross Christodoulou Grade 6 – Pass
Jennifer Arthur Grade 6 - Merit
Nammi Eu Grade 6 – Merit
Pilsun Eu Grade 6 – Distinction
Robert Pierce-Higgins Grade 7 – Merit

Viola exam results:
Malena Villegas Grade 8 – Pass

Keyboard exam results:
Tommy Birchall grade 4 – Merit

Piano exam results:
Chloe Pierce-Higgins grade 1 – Pass

Guitar exam results:
Ben Dudgeon grade 3 - pass

Music Department Staff
I would like to thank all of the instrumental teachers for their hard work this year. We are very lucky at Gosford Hill to have such a fantastic and dedicated team. Sadly, we have to say goodbye to our flute teacher Miss Sally Quintrell, our brass teacher Mr. Chris Bower, who is returning to Derbyshire and our piano teacher Mrs. Elizabeth McArgyle who is emigrating to Australia. We send them our best wishes for the future.

On a more positive note we are going to be welcoming a number of new staff in September. Mr. Ian Fawcett will take over teaching flute and Mrs. Sheila Henderson will be teaching piano. I am very excited to announce that we will be starting singing lessons in September with our new voice coach Miss Louise Woodgate.

If students are interested in starting music lessons then please contact me for more information.

Rhian Frankcom – Team Leader, Music
Geography Faculty News

This year has seen a number of opportunities for students at Key Stages 4 and 5 to engage with and learn about environments quite different from their own. In line with Ofsted’s key recommendations in ‘Geography in Schools: Changing Practice’ (2008) and ‘Learning Outside the classroom’ (2008) a priority area for the Geography department is to place a high value on the importance of enquiry, with fieldwork and outdoor learning (now compulsory) being an essential element of this. In May we opened up our Geography excursion to the Cevennes National Park in France to our Year 10 students for the first time. Our Year 12 students went further afield and ventured out of Europe to Morocco, a repeat of an excursion that has taken place in the past but that was re-launched more recently by the Geography Department in 2008-9.

Year 10 Fieldwork, France

This year, plenty of excitement was witnessed as our Year 10 students not only experienced mountain scenery but also freak winter blizzards to go with it! The Eagles Nest, our much visited residential field centre in Southern France was hit by severe weather very late on in the season, bringing 40cm of snow in one night and cutting the students off at the centre for 36 hours.

A regular part of Geography’s calendar at GHS for Sixth Form, we decided to throw open the opportunity to our Year 10 students this year and they did not let us down. Once there our students benefited from a week’s expert tuition in fieldwork skills and techniques where they were able to collect essential data for controlled assessment projects. Students also experience physical and human Geography and in so doing greatly enhance their knowledge for the module work ahead. As usual a great time was had and, despite the freak weather, plenty of opportunities also arose for cultural enrichment and team building. As per usual the staff at the Eagle’s Nest were very accommodating and provided great food.

Given the weather conditions Year 10 did us proud and were complimented on their conduct. Samantha Hillcox, the field centre’s manager said of them: “it was a challenging week for us all in which the mountains dealt us some unseasonal weather. The students handled themselves extremely well, worked hard and behaved sensibly. From team building to collecting data, the students conducted themselves in a manner which I have rarely seen in groups of this age. Without exception, the students were mutually supportive and kind to each other, and worked hard in their academic studies”
Year 12/13 Fieldwork: Morocco

Our A level field studies course once again took place in North Africa and was another resounding success. Like our Year 10 students, the students need to be highly commended for their sensible and mature conduct in what is not an easy country to travel in at times.

The students spent 10 days at three centres, firstly visiting the city of Marrakech. Here the experience of a city that could be politely termed 'less developed' provides healthy insights for the Year 13 module on 'World Cities'. The High Atlas Mountains was an excellent data collection site for the Year 13 fieldwork Investigation (unit 4a) and provided the perfect backdrop within which to develop ideas for their plate-tectonics unit. Students also learnt about patterns of rural and urban land use in developing countries and the impact of the tourist industry on local communities, how mountain landscapes form and the problems faced by villages in the desert owing to climate change.

Students also got to experience a rather bumpy camel ride and camping out in the Sahara Desert in a traditional Berber tent. Although not always comfortable, this excursion is truly enriching in every way and I hope the memories last for a long time to come.

Stuart Hartley – Team Leader, Geography Faculty
Science Faculty News

Fantastic turnout on the Science of Magic Evening!

On Tuesday 13th July, we held a Science of Magic Open Evening, which over 200 parents, family and students attended.

It was a fabulous event with explosions and magic, together with a display of the excellent work that Year 7 had produced for their homework project.

Congratulations to the 4 people who received prizes for their Homework Projects. They were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Aisha Lowndes</td>
<td>Windrush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Rachel O'Mahoney</td>
<td>Cherwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Lauren Jacques</td>
<td>Evenlode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Sam Jones</td>
<td>Thames</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miss Reynolds then presented medals to the winning students and Highly Commended certificates for the runners up. Congratulations to all the medal winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katie Smith</td>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillippa Smith</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Jones</td>
<td>BRONZE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellishia Chard</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Hilsdon</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Holley</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aisha Lowndes</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Lyford</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather McKendrick</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callum Rice</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Sallis</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Winfield</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next homework project is due to start on Monday 29 September for all Year 8 students. The deadline is Monday 1 November. The homework is based on research about a job that someone working in science might do.

It was, by far, the best evening event that the Science Faculty have put on and we are ‘extremely’ grateful to all those who attended!
Particular thanks to Richard Young, our magician, for a fantastic display of very entertaining magic. Find out more about him at http://www.richardyoungmagic.com/

Some quotes from those who attended:

“Very enjoyable, well organised with something for everyone. The magic show was brilliant!” Ben, Year 9

“I had really good fun and had fun getting my hands on fire”, Cameron, Year 6

“Very enjoyable, the magician was very clever – how he got the card in the orange?!” Matthew, Year 7

“Great fun – all children ages 5, 9 and 12 entertained”, Parent

Thanks to all the Science teachers, Mr Slater and technicians who gave up their time to make the event successful, to Mrs Fairchild for her excellent photography and Dr Bizley for taking the lead in getting his hands set on fire.

**Helen Reynolds – Head of Science Faculty**
Windrush House News
The Windrush Assembly was a fantastic way to end the academic year.

For me, there were two highlights - firstly, each tutor group voted for the student who they felt was the friendliest/most helpful/most reliable. Those who were chosen were awarded the Students’ Student award and these came as a genuine surprise to the students.

The second highlight was the Sam Williams Memorial Award for Drama, which was awarded to Ryan Anderson. Sam Williams was a student at Gosford Hill School who died from a brain tumour. He was incredibly talented at drama, and was still making videos while undergoing intensive treatment at the John Radcliffe Hospital. His parents and sister have donated the cup in memory of Sam. Ryan Anderson won the cup, which he thoroughly deserves as he takes part in many dance and drama productions inside and outside school. Ryan and Louise Cunningham also won the highest number of awards from faculties which is a credit to all the hard work they have put in over this academic year.

All the students who received an award were given a certificate, a badge and a medal, all with Windrush’s green theme. I look forward to seeing all those Windrushers wearing their tie pins on their green ties in September! I’d also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the parents who came to the assembly and all of you who have been so supportive of those in Windrush House this year.

Helen Stephens – Windrush House Leader

Thames House News
Thames House has had a year full of events and successes. Our charity events raised much needed money for Haiti and our local charity ROSY.

Many of our students have had academic, sporting and personal successes. During a week of House Celebration Assemblies, many of our students were awarded subject specific prizes. After Thames tutors voted, the following students were awarded House prizes: Erin Mahoney (Sports Award), Alice Coates (Leadership Award), Ellis Pearson (Arts Award), Edward Keppie (Outstanding Individual Award). All students who received an award were given a certificate, a badge and a medal with the Thames House Red theme. Dr Hartley’s form was awarded the certificate for the best attendance. Well done Thames students! Have a great Summer!

Rebeca Lopez – Assistant Thames House Leader

Gosford Hill School – Summer Celebration 2010
On Thursday 1 July this second summer event was held to celebrate talent within school. The weather was fine and there was a lively, happy atmosphere throughout the evening.

A superb BBQ was provided by Woodlands Quality Butchers of Kidlington and everyone enjoyed the delicious food – just the right fare for a warm summer evening!

Live music was provided by student bands, singers and musical groups, plus there were some surprise staff guest appearances! The variety and standard of music performed was of a high standard and very much appreciated by those present.

I would like to thank all those GHSA Committee members and their families who helped with the preparations and also on the evening itself. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the student and staff musicians and especially to Mrs. Rhian Frankcom for organising the performers and music for the event.

Michael Ling – Chair of GHSA
SSCO News

**Young Leaders Course at Edward Feild School**
All Year 5 students at Edward Feild School followed the Young Leaders course in June. Hopefully several of the Leaders will decide to work with the younger children in the playground during their lunchtimes for the rest of this term and when they are in Year 6.

**Year 6 Leadership in West Kidlington School**
Forty-two Year 2 children from West Kidlington were put through their paces by a group of twenty two Year 6 Young Leaders during National Sports Week. In the morning the Leaders learned about balance, coordination and agility and planned a warm up and multi skill activity based on these fundamentals. In the afternoon the children rotated between the various activities the Leaders had planned for them.

**North Kidlington Sports Day**
Year 8 girls and Year 9 boys from Gosford Hill did an excellent job in helping to run North Kidlington’s sports day organised by Zoey Ward.

The leaders and children were allocated a team colour to wear for the day. In the morning the children followed a circuit of multi skill activities and each team was accompanied by their leader who encouraged and helped their team as well as assisting the teachers with each event.

In the afternoon traditional races such as skipping and egg and spoon took place on their running track. Everyone enjoyed the day.
Gifted and Talented Year 3/4 Athletics Festival
Four primary schools took part in the 2010 Year 3/4 athletics festival which was held at Gosford Hill School during National Sports Week. Schools were invited to bring a team of up to eight girls and eight boys, each child taking part in one track event, one field event and one relay.

There were some very good results in the field events, which involved the vortex throw, standing long jump and speed bounce. Similarly, in spite of the warm afternoon, there were equally good closely fought races in the 600M, 200M and 50M. The winners were West Kidlington School with North Kidlington, St Thomas More and Edward Field following closely behind.

Year 9 students from Gosford Hill School followed a training session in the morning and then officiated throughout the afternoon. Lloyds Bank sponsor National Sports week and a representative, Neil, from the Kidlington Branch gave out the certificates and stickers at the end of the festival.

Edward Feild School’s Intra Festival at North Oxford
All schools in Kidlington have benefited this year from after school tennis clubs running in their schools. To round off these sessions Chris Hampton, coach from North Oxford Tennis Club, invited the children to attend a session at the Club. Edward Feild was the only school free on that date and so we decided to make it an intra festival for them. Leaders from Gosford worked with Chris and Mark Burgess to put on an afternoon of competitive tennis as well as some fun games. The children played really well and had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Pam Selby SSCO for Kidlington
Modern Foreign Languages Faculty News

Alternative Guide to Oxford
Over the course of two days in Enrichment Week language students from Years 7 and 9 produced Alternative Guides to Oxford in French, German and Spanish. The first day of the project was spent in Oxford. After ordering their breakfast in Café Rouge in French, our students completed a Photo and Information Hunt in French, German or Spanish, the results of which were used in school on the second day to produce their Alternative Guides. The MFL teachers were delighted with the standard of work produced and you can see the results for yourself on the school website. Well done to all of our students!

Prizes went to:
Alex Higgs, Jenny Lord, Connor Whitford (Best written French/German)
Scarlett Tomes, Josh Phillips, Declan Walsh, Will Thompson (Best Photos)
Millie Gills, Alice Masih, Jessica Kumar (Best Overall Presentation)
Zack Oretagu, Matheus Pinto, Nathan Adsett (Best Teamwork)
And a special prize went to Zack Oretag for speaking the most French in Café Rouge!

Theresa McGarrick – MFL Faculty
Staff News

At Easter we said goodbye to Mr Tom Hollis (Assistant Headteacher) Mr Jon Gray (Team Leader Science) and Mrs Lauri Craven (Team Leader – Dance & Drama).

This summer we say farewell to the following members of teaching staff…

Mrs Lesley Reeves  Mrs Jane Osborne  Mrs Jill Keane
Mrs Susan Richards  Mrs Susan Eglinton  Mrs Catherine Smith
Mrs Fiona Johnston  Miss Jennifer Kinrade  Dr Emma Regardsoe
Mrs Ruth Batchelar  Dr Jo Murray  Mrs Sara Muller
Ms Olivia Dallison  Mr Robin Fellerman  Mr Simon James
Miss Mariam Phillips  Mrs Rebecca Hammond  Miss Laura Kardashinski
Miss Sue Morgan  Mrs Elizabeth Lawler  Mrs Keren Mayo

Mrs Rebeca Lopez leaves us to go on maternity leave.

We also say goodbye to the following members of our support team…

Mrs Alison Thompson, Mrs Celia Orr, Miss Sarah Miles, Miss Lynn Sweeney, Mrs Tamara Cuthbert, and to Michelle Litchfield who left us in May

Our thanks to all of the above colleagues for their valued contribution to learning at Gosford Hill School, and our very best wishes to each of them for the future.

In Term 5/6 we welcomed: Miss Jenny Bushell (Teacher of Science). Miss Angela Benstead (Teacher of Geography) and Miss Jo Brimble (Teacher of Drama) came to cover short term vacancies. Thanks to them for their support over the summer term. We also welcomed the return of Mrs Sandy Williams, Mrs Zeljka Adami-Robbins, Mrs Jessica Richmond, and (later this month) Mrs Meghann Hewett from maternity leave. We were also joined by Mr Jean Wooller who joined the Finance team.

In September we will welcome the following new appointees….

Mrs Leonie Court (Team Leader - Languages), Mrs Hannah Green (SEN and Intervention Co-ordinator), Miss Anna Horner (SEN Teacher), Mr Steve Williams (Teacher of Mathematics), Ms Eileen Doherty (Teacher of Mathematics), Miss Joanna Hamilton (Teacher of Mathematics), Mr David Finch (Teacher of Science), Miss Ellen Keen (Teacher of Science), Mr Merlin Llewelyn-Pratt (Teacher of Science), Mr Tom Harris (Teacher of English), Mrs Hayley Whitford (Team Leader – Dance & Drama), Miss Jemma Tibble (Teacher of D & T), Miss Jo Hayles (Teacher of D & T), Miss Catrin Rees (Teacher of Geography), Mrs Laura Foster (Finance Assistant), Mr Phillip Stocks, (Learning Centre Manager), Miss Charlotte Blake (Learning Centre Assistant)
Careers & Work Experience News

Many of our students are looking forward to receiving their GCSE and A level results this summer. We hope all our students are successful in achieving the grades required for them to move on to the next stage of their career or further study. The Careers Library will be open at School over the A Level and GCSE results days to assist students with making or amending their final choice. The Connexions Service will also be available throughout the summer holidays. Please check the website for details.

The Connexions Service can be contacted at Minton Place, Victoria Road, Bicester, OX26 6QB
01865 328470 or 0845 6029298

Year 10 students will be taking part in our work experience programme at the beginning of September in Year 11. Placements start on 6th September for one week. Students have all received information about their placements. It is important that they make contact with their placements urgently if they have not already done so. As a parent you can support your son or daughter with work experience by encouraging them to stick at the placement for the week. It is an exciting, challenging and tiring week from which all students will learn a great deal about themselves and the demands of the world of work.

Part Time Work

Any student in compulsory education, i.e. up to the end of Year 11, not just up to age 16, carrying out part-time paid work with the exception of babysitting 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 reception. For further information about the type of work and number of hours that can be worked please look at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk search ‘employing children’.

Liz Hounsell - Careers & Work Experience Manager
01865 849299

Investors in Education

On a beautiful sunny morning with Blenheim Palace as a stunning backdrop, we celebrated with local business organisations the Investors in Education Awards. This year the East Oxfordshire Education Business Alliance presented thirteen awards to business organisations nominated by Gosford Hill School. These business organisations continue to offer support to our school in a variety of ways, supporting our work experience programme both with ‘block’ placements and extended one day a week placements; sharing their expertise for our Maths and ICT At Work Day and supporting our Construction Challenge and Problem Solving Challenge. Their involvement in the school makes a noticeable difference to our students’ understanding of themselves and the world of work.

This year awards were presented on behalf of Gosford Hill School to: Bicester Resource Centre, Dorothy Perkins at Bicester, JSC4kids, Jesus College, Lloyds Pharmacy, Oxford Brookes School of Life Sciences, Oxford District Probate Registry, Oxford Learning United, Oxfordshire County Council ICT Services, Premier Soccer Centres, Polo Ralph Lauren at Bicester Village, Woodstock Boarding Cattery and Wolfson College Day Nursery.

Liz Hounsell - Careers & Work Experience Manager
Year 12 News

‘Creating your own future’ Business course at Northampton University, Wednesday 30th June

On Wednesday 30th June, 54 Year 12 students attended a ‘Create your own future’ Business course at Northampton University. With four other schools in attendance none of us knew quite what to expect but we were all in for a surprise and, following an intensive day, a very happy band of students left for home.

The day was introduced by businessman Mike Skidmore who gave a graphic account of his life story detailing his many successes but also failures. The group were then introduced to session musician Rob Harris who is lead guitarist for Jamiroquai. Rob detailed his career to date and invited questions from the audience. After discussion about how a business is started, the students formed teams of approximately nine and were given a music related area and charged with the task of creating a new business opportunity. Each project had a University facilitator to help the students and some wild and wacky ideas were made. Each project was then judged over lunch and a short list of three ventures made it through to the final where they presented their idea to the whole group and judges.

Gosford had one of the three finalists with a project called ‘Crescendo’ which was an idea based on increasing the number of young people playing musical instruments. Their business proposition was based on a travelling band of music teachers and range of instruments that went into schools to save parents cost of buying expensive instruments and lessons.

Following the three presentations, a judging panel agreed that Crescendo had not only the best business proposition but also the best presentation. As a result, they won a cup which is in the trophy cabinet in reception. Well done to all.

The winning Crescendo team were: Hazel Irving, Tahima Rahman, Sinead Harrop, Karan Kumar, Samantha Thornton, Shelley Crawford and Anna Foley

The winning ‘Crescendo’ team with trophy and Rob Harris of Jamiraquai

Paul Catling – Head of Sixth Form
GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Gosford Hill School places great emphasis on being part of a community – one where students learn and are proud to belong to the School and their House. Governors and teachers believe that a smart uniform is central to the school ethos where every learner is encouraged to be their best to LEARN LEAD INSPIRE.

Students are expected to take responsibility for wearing the correct school uniform and comply with this policy at all times in school and on journeys to and from school. Students who are inappropriately dressed will face sanctions in accordance with the school behaviour policy. This school is a learning environment; this is reflected in the dress code.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys’ Uniform</th>
<th>Girls’ Uniform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Uniform</strong></td>
<td><strong>Basic Uniform</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black blazer with school badge</td>
<td>Black blazer with school badge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain white Shirt with collar</td>
<td>Plain white shirt with collar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clip-on School Tie with House Colours</td>
<td>Clip-on School Tie with House Colours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black tailored trousers²</td>
<td>Black Tailored trousers²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks will be black</td>
<td>Socks will be black if worn with trousers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Black shoes suitable for all weather and black laces if appropriate. No trainers.³</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

1. Shirts may be short or long sleeved and will be tucked into the trousers at all times. Top buttons will always be done up, unless the hot-weather policy applies.
2. Trousers will NOT be denim, linen, corduroy or pin-stripe; they will NOT be low-waisted, skin-tight, excessively loose, long, short or deliberately torn.
3. Shoes will be in a sensible style. Shoes with a coloured or white logo or white soles are NOT permitted. Boots are NOT permitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JEWELLERY</th>
<th>JEWELLERY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ONLY permitted items are a watch and one pair of one-plain-stud earrings. (One earring per ear)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other body piercing, including ‘clear’ studs, space-making rings, large, circular or ‘dangly’ earrings of any description are NOT permitted even if covered by a plaster. Nose, tongue or face studs, or any kind of facial piercing are NOT allowed</td>
<td>Any other body piercing, including ‘clear’ studs, space-making rings, large, circular or ‘dangly’ earrings of any description are NOT permitted even if covered by a plaster. Nose, tongue or face studs, or any kind of facial piercing are NOT allowed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HAIR**

Hair will be a single natural colour and must be of a length and style that is practical and safe in a school environment.
Patterns cut into hair are NOT permitted

Hair will be a single natural colour and must be of a length and style that is practical and safe in a school environment.
Hair ribbons or hair bands, if worn, will be black.
Patterns cut into hair are NOT permitted
**GENERAL**

A belt, if worn, will be plain black with plain buckle and will not be excessively wide.

A sleeveless ‘V’ necked black pullover from the uniform suppliers may be worn in addition to, not in replacement of, the blazer. Any other pullover or sweater is NOT permitted.

Hoodies, denim jackets and any other inappropriate or non-weatherproof coats are NOT permitted. Outdoor clothing (coats, gloves, scarves etc.) will be taken off in form rooms, classrooms and assemblies. Hats will not be worn indoors. Caps are not permitted.

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**PE KIT**

### Indoors
- Sky blue polo shirt with school badge
- Navy blue shorts
- White socks and training shoes

### Outdoors
- Blue/gold rugby shirt
- Navy blue shorts
- Royal blue football socks
- Football boots

### Swimming
- Swimming trunks and swimming hat

### Optional Items
- Navy blue plain top in cold weather
- Navy blue tracksuit in cold weather
- Gum shield
- Astro trainers
- Cricket whites

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- A “boot bank” for soccer and rugby boots is run by the P.E. Department
- Students can exchange small boots for larger ones quite cheaply
- Any contribution to the “boot bank” is much appreciated

Blazers will display the school badge; school ties will be clip-on and will reflect the students’ House; skirts will be approximately knee-length, sky blue PE polo shirt will display the school badge. **These items can only be purchased from Simply Schoolwear.**

All other items of uniform, including plain white shirts and black trousers can be purchased from Simply Schoolwear; these can also be purchased from many retail outlets throughout the area.

Families who may have difficulty financing the purchase of uniform clothing are encouraged to contact the school to seek advice

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**EQUIPMENT**

Students will bring a black pen, pencil and ruler to school in a bag large enough to hold an A4 folder in addition to subject specific equipment/books and their planner.
HOT WEATHER POLICY
In the event of exceptionally hot weather, it will be the decision of the Headteacher to implement the hot weather policy.

The policy may be implemented for any period of time and may be rescinded if the exceptionally hot weather ceases. It is not expected that normal Summer temperatures would cause the implementation of this policy.

This policy will state whether blazers and/or ties and/or tights have to be worn to, from or in school.

SNOW
If heavy snow settles on the ground, appropriate boots would be permitted.

BREAK AND LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS
All students are expected to wear full school uniform at break and lunchtime unless the hot weather policy applies. If involved in active games on the all weather pitch, the Science/Art playground or field, students may remove their blazer and tie and put on trainers, but must put on full school uniform (including shoes) when the warning bell sounds.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM AT PARENTS’ EVENINGS, ILP DAY AND FORMAL SCHOOL EVENTS. THIS INCLUDES TRIPS UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE MEMBER OF STAFF IN CHARGE (unless the hot weather policy applies).

MOBILE PHONES
To assist student safety, mobile phones may be brought on to the school site but must be switched off and stored out of sight at all times (this includes break, lunchtime, before and after school). Use outside of this policy will result in confiscation of the phone. If there is a need to contact parents, students need to go to reception to ask for help.

Should a student’s phone be lost, stolen or damaged whilst at school, or on the journey to and from home to school, the school will be limited in any litigation that may ensue. In the event of a lost or stolen phone, the school will be limited in the actions it is expected to take to recover the phone.

All clothing and property should be clearly marked with the owner’s name. Labelled property will be returned to its owner. Unlabelled property will be placed in the Lost Property store and disposed of in accordance with policy in place at that time.
GHS Uniform from September 2010

Update and Frequently Asked Questions

The new Uniform policy being implemented from the start of September 2010 states that: ‘Skirts will be approximately knee-length (above or below); they will NOT be lycra, tight-fit, linen, denim, corduroy or pin-stripe; they will NOT be low-waisted. They must be tailored, and may be pleated or plain’. Despite this quite detailed instruction, queries have been raised about the type and length of skirt. With the recent hot weather, it is obvious that some students are trying to contravene the current policy, which does not bode well for the future. To ensure that a common standard of skirt is employed across the school, a decision has been made that all skirts must be bought from Simply Schoolwear. Any parent/student who has already purchased a skirt for next year, prior to today, may be allowed to wear that skirt subject to compliance with the new policy, dated proof of purchase and agreement from the Head Teacher. There have been other questions regarding the new Uniform Policy; the most frequently asked, together with a response from the Uniform Committee, can be found below:

FAQs.

These FAQs are for guidance only. Any Uniform issues that cannot be resolved by House Leaders will be referred to the Head Teacher for a final, binding decision.

“I don't know what is meant by 'approximately knee-length' for a skirt”

All skirts must be purchased from our supplier Simply Schoolwear, to ensure a standard type of skirt is worn. Accepting that not everybody is the same shape, a general rule of thumb is the hem must not be more than two inches above the top of the kneecap, or longer than the bottom of the kneecap.

“Can I choose whether to wear short or long sleeved shirts?”

The choice of short- or long-sleeved shirts is a personal one. The only stipulation is that the shirts must be formal, i.e. the sort you would expect to wear with a tie. Any soft-collared shirts such as polo shirts, rugby shirts etc. will not be allowed.

“As a Year 11 Student can I purchase a blazer to wear over my current uniform of sweatshirt and polo shirt?”

Year 11 students were given an exemption from wearing the new uniform because of the fact that it would only be worn for one year. If students wish to wear the new uniform, they may do so, but it must be all new uniform, not a mixture of old and new.

“Can you give more detail about the type of shoes that can be worn?”

(Remember that shoes must be all black, without white or coloured logos or white soles). Trainers, pumps, canvas footwear of any kind, boots, “dolly shoes" or high heels will not be allowed. School is a working environment and Health and Safety legislation can apply in certain circumstances. Shoes must provide some form of support and be able to give some waterproof protection for the feet. As a general guide, shoes that would be classed as ‘formal’ will be the most appropriate.

“What sort of bag can I bring to school?”

The bag must be big enough to hold an A4 folder, books and the planner. It does not have to be black and may be coloured, but it must be as plain as possible and definitely not multi-coloured. It must not have an excessive number of buckles, clips, zips or fastenings. It must be made of robust material and suitable for daily use.
CALENDAR & OTHER INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 July</td>
<td>Sports Day</td>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>ILP Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Term 6 Ends 12.30pm</td>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Term 1 begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20 August</td>
<td>Year 6 Summer School</td>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>Years 7, 10 &amp; 12 Individual Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>AS/A2 Results</td>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>Open Evening – School closes at 1.20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 August</td>
<td>GCSE Results</td>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>Open Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>INSET Day</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOLIDAY DATES 2010-2011

Term 1
Friday 3 September – Friday 22 October

Term 2
Monday 1 November – Friday 17 December

Term 3
Wednesday 5 January – Friday 18 February

Term 4
Monday 28 February – Friday 8 April

Term 5
Tuesday 26 April – Friday 27 May (Monday 2 May – Bank Holiday)

Term 6
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
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.