

September 2011 / Issue 4

## Parent Forum – The Importance of Teaching

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm we are holding the first of our Parent Forum's for the academic year 2011-12. There will be three main speakers with additional information from David Wilkins (one of our Parent Governors). We will be sharing what we know about the publication of the Government paper – 'The Importance of Teaching' and how this may change the ways schools are run.



Our meeting will outline what we know about the changes schools are facing, how our curriculum works and our plans for the future. This meeting is open for all parents and will be of particular interest to students in years 10 and 11 considering Sixth Form study.

In order to help us plan for this event please complete the slip on the reverse of this newsletter.

Thank you.  
Stephen Bizley  
Headteacher

## World Challenge Expedition to India

This summer, a group of nine students travelled to Kerala, in Southern India, on a World Challenge Expedition. This trip was the culmination of two years hard work of planning and fund-raising; not only did the students raise enough to pay for their expedition, they also raised a considerable amount for their group fund, which was spent on the project phase. Special mention should also go to Abbie Gardner, who secured sponsorship from the company Hangar 8 in Kidlington.

The team had two days of acclimatisation in Fort Cochin before heading off on the trekking phase of their expedition. Trekking for four days across the Western Ghats was quite an experience! We visited the highest tea plantation in the world, saw how a tea factory works, visited a tribal village, and were lucky enough to spot a lone tusker elephant in the wild (though, thankfully, we were far enough away not to have to run!) The views were spectacular, and the terrain varied; we walked through monsoons and also in scorching heat. It was tough at times, but exciting as much as tiring, and accompanied by knowledgeable and friendly guides.

Walking into the tribal school on the first day of the project phase, we were mobbed by the children, desperate to interact with us! One particularly touching time was when they all ran off to bring us flowers they had picked from the around the school grounds. The team decided to spend the group fund on building a basketball court on which the children could train, and painting the school nursery. It was lovely to see the children's reaction to the changes in their school; one asked their teacher whether they had won the lottery!

To end the trip, we spent time on the beach, cruising the Backwaters on a houseboat, and visiting friends in Fort Cochin; we were lucky enough to be invited to the homes of three of our trekking guides, and were moved by their hospitality. All round, an unforgettable trip, described by Jordan Cooke as 'inspirational'  
**Charlotte Evans**



## Apology from Simply Schoolwear

Simply Schoolwear have asked us to pass on the following apology to our parents and students.

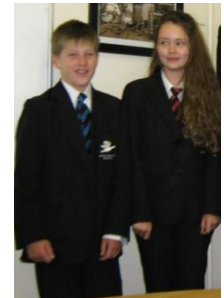
'Dear Customer

I write to you after a very busy peak season for Simply Schoolwear.

I know that some of you have experienced difficulty contacting us and delays in getting your order on time: I would like to start by saying sorry if you have not received the level of service you expect and deserve.

Our discount promotion worked so well in June and July that we have been playing 'catch up' ever since. We also saw a late surge of orders in the last week before back to school – again, more than we had planned for. Consequently, we didn't have enough people running our shop and taking calls.

We need to do better.



Please be assured that everyone here is working very hard to ensure your children look the part and that you get a great service.

I can promise you that we will look very seriously at how we can improve going forward - but for now, our focus is on doing everything we can to get every remaining order sent out and to keep our lines of communication open.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Stockton

Managing Director'

### ..SPORTS TEAM RESULTS..



The Year 9 Hockey Squad beat North Oxfordshire Academy 1-0 (at home) with a goal from Keeley Barnes.

Players of the match were Brioney Moss and Lauren Jacques

### CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Charlie Groves (Year 10) who has been selected to represent the County in women's Rugby

### School football update

U16 N. Oxon Gold Cup Gosford lost to Magdalen College Brackley 7-0. Ollie Hazel was outstanding.

U14 ESFA Cup Gosford lost to Oxford Academy 6-0

U12 ESFA Cup Gosford beat Oxford Spires School 13-0 Goals from Matthew Walker (4), Harry Whitehead (3), Zac Farrow (2), Lloyd Thomas, Ethan John, Taylor Southam, Ryan Hughes

Congratulations to BRADLEY SINGH who has been selected to play for the County Schools U14 football team.

Congratulations to OLLIE HAZELL who has been selected to play for the County U16 football team.

Forthcoming games in a busy schedule  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Oct County Cup U13 V Banbury  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Oct County Cup U16 V Icknield  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Oct ESFA Cup U18 V Cherwell  
Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Oct ESFA Cup U15 V Marlborough  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct ESFA Cup U16 V Oxford Academy  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct ESFA Cup U12 V Oxford Academy  
Good luck to all our teams



**Paul Catling**

### Parent Forum Wednesday 5th October 2011 6.30pm Main Hall

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending Parent Forum

Please return Slip to reception by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October