

March 2012 / Issue 25

## **Birmingham Symphony Hall Extravaganza**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March students and staff from GHS went to watch a Gala Concert in the Birmingham Symphony Hall. It was a real treat! The venue was very impressive, the building was modern with a lovely bright concert hall, comfortable seats and an acoustic so clear you could hear everything perfectly. The Oxfordshire Music Service entertained us all with a fantastic range of repertoire and ensembles all playing at a very high standard.



The concert opened with the Oxfordshire County Youth Wind Band performing Gabriel's Oboe from the film the Mission and a March by Berlioz. Performing from Gosford Hill School we had Samantha Groves on clarinet, Sophie Woolford playing flute and Helen Phipps playing tuba on stage. Next came the Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre group performing extracts from Evita and in the stage band was Oliver Farley (Year 13) playing classical guitar. The Oxfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra was next performing an Overture by Verdi, a piece called Fiesta and to finish the theme music from Pirates of the Caribbean. Performing in this orchestra were Nammi Eu, violin, Ruth Butt leading the flute section and Pilsun Eu in first violins leading the orchestra. Ending the first half was the Oxfordshire Massed Choir 'Oxonia' which was vast! Over two hundred voices singing together with a full symphony orchestra and an offstage brass. It was fantastic to see students from West Kidlington Primary School taking part in the exciting new composition 'Oxonia' by John Traill who also conducted the piece.

The second half was a complete change of mood with a Jazz style. The opening act was the award winning ensemble 'The Jazz Collective', guest soloist with this group was the Jazz Saxophonist Simon Bates who has performed in Ronnie Scott's and Jazz Festivals all over the world. Performing from Gosford Hill School were Oliver Farley on electric guitar and Andrew Miller on bass. The playing was fantastic and each of the players performed solo improvisation showing off their skills. After this the ensemble grew into the Oxfordshire Youth Big Band and then into the Oxfordshire Massed Big Band and again we had Charley Middleton on Trumpet and Nick Arthur on saxophone from Gosford Hill playing in the premier performance of 'Your Goose is Cooked'. All of these performances were directed by Chuck Lloyd, our Music Development Leader and Area manager of Kidlington Music School. He was also celebrating a special birthday! The final part of the concert was Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra playing 'Mars' from the Planet Suite by Holst and Elgar Cello Concerto No. 1 first movement. The finale was a rousing rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory' and we all sang and joined in. What a wonderful evening of music! It was good for students to see such high standards of musicianship played by people of their own age and many felt very inspired by what they had experienced. I would like to thank everyone who attended the concert for their outstanding behaviour and representing the school so brilliantly. Congratulations to all the students that took part in this fantastic event, it was a night to remember.

**Rhian Frankcom - Team Leader of Music**

## **Birmingham Symphony Hall - Gala Concert**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March, a concert organised by the Oxfordshire County Music Service took place in Birmingham's professional Symphony Hall. It was an excellent experience offered to performers of the Big Bands, youth Orchestras and choir: Oxonia.

The magnificent Hall holds up to 2262 people, and has world class acoustics and a stunning auditorium. In the past Symphony Hall has presented prestigious orchestras from all over the world. Around 370,000 people attend around 320 performances each year.

As part of the Oxfordshire Schools' Senior Orchestra playing flute, I took part in the amazing experience and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. To play to such a huge audience on a stage where famous musicians from all over the world had played, was a brilliant experience and opportunity for me and everyone else who took part.

One of the highlights was playing Pirates of the Caribbean, as the percussion and solos sounded beautiful in the acoustics of the hall, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The other two pieces that were played by the orchestra OSSO (Oxfordshire Schools' Senior Orchestra) were 'La Forza Del Destino' by Giuseppe Verdi and Fiesta by Matthew Curtis.

**By Ruth Butt 11EFG**



## **BTEC Music Year 9**

Year 9 students on the BTEC Music course entertained their friends and fellow musicians on Tuesday with a lunchtime concert. The theme was Films and Theatre for solo performance. The music included the 'Live and Let Die' theme played by Katie Smith on piano, The 'Thunder Birds' theme played by Helen Phipps on tuba, plus extracts from Moulin Rouge, Grease and the list goes on. Well done to all the Music students who took part.

**Rhian Frankcom - Team Leader of Music**





## YEAR 3/4 GIFTED AND TALENTED FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

We decided to hold the Year 3/4 football festival in Gosford Hill's Sports Hall this year. The children played in mixed teams with a minimum of two boys and two girls in each team at all times. Players were rolled on and off the pitch to ensure everyone had a fair share of time.

All five schools were represented and matches were very exciting with plenty of goals being scored. The children played with a Futsal ball, which does not bounce and this encouraged them to dribble and pass more accurately to each other.

The festival was played in two sections, three teams in each. Edward Feild School were the winners and North Kidlington were runners up.

Feedback from the festival revealed that our leaders were appreciated and the afternoon was a success.

**Mrs P Selby – School Sports Co-ordinator**



## Year 10 Work Experience.

It is a real pleasure to read the reports from our Year 10 work experience placement providers and the staff who made visits. Our students have been congratulated on their maturity and positive attitudes - they are a credit to themselves and their parents.

The majority of students had very successful placements with many of them returning to school with definite ideas about the type of work they want or in some cases don't want to do in the future. We hope that our students can now see the links between school and the world of work and begin to have an understanding of what they are required to do in order to move on to a career of their choice.

**Mrs E Hounsell**

**Careers and Work Experience Manager**

## Tesco Vouchers

Gosford Hill School is now collecting Tesco school vouchers. Please could students bring any vouchers you may have into the school reception where there is a collection box. Many thanks



## Year 9 Hospitality Challenge

A small group of Year 9 students have just completed a very successful two day Hospitality Challenge. They worked with students from five local schools, all members of our local Education Business Alliance, and staff from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, Blenheim Palace, Holiday Inn, Oxford Brookes School of Hospitality and The Oxford Barcelo Hotel. Each team worked with one of the organisations to research their brief, met key members of staff and put together a presentation of the package they had planned for their client. All groups found sticking to the allocated budget very challenging. The presentations were superb with all students participating.

The students developed their skills and confidence in working in teams with new people as well as a greater understanding of the huge range of career opportunities within the hospitality and leisure industry. The students were a credit to themselves and the schools involved. Our thanks go to all the organisations involved, in particular the Holiday Inn who treated us all to lunch in the restaurant.

**Mrs E Hounsell**

**Careers and Work Experience Manager**

## 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.

## Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - Year 10 March 2011

### Statement 1 - My child is happy at this school

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
24 32.43%	44 59.46%	4 5.41%	2 2.70%	74 100.00%
Percentage positive		91.89%		

### Statement 2 - My child feels safe at this school

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
25 32.47%	48 62.34%	3 3.90%	1 1.30%	77 100.00%
Percentage positive		94.81%		

### Statement 3 - My child makes good progress at this school

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
22 28.95%	53 69.74%	0 0.00%	1 1.32%	76 100.00%
Percentage positive		98.68%		

### Statement 4 - My child is well looked after at this school

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
18 23.68%	56 73.68%	1 1.32%	1 1.32%	76 100.00%
Percentage positive		97.37%		

### Statement 5 - My child is taught well at this school

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
15 20.00%	57 76.00%	2 2.67%	1 1.33%	75 100.00%
Percentage positive		96.00%		

### Statement 6 - My child receives appropriate homework for their age

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
10 13.16%	41 53.95%	22 28.95%	3 3.95%	76 100.00%
Percentage positive		67.11%		

### Statement 7 - This school ensures the students are well behaved

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
13 16.88%	52 67.53%	11 14.29%	1 1.30%	77 100.00%
Percentage positive		84.42%		

**Statement 8 - This school deals effectively with bullying**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
8 11.11%	51 70.83%	10 13.89%	3 4.17%	72 100.00%
Percentage positive		81.94%		

**Statement 9 - This school is well led and managed**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
13 16.88%	55 71.43%	8 10.39%	1 1.30%	77 100.00%
Percentage positive		88.31%		

**Statement 10 - This school responds well to any concern I raise**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
14 18.42%	51 67.11%	9 11.84%	2 2.63%	76 100.00%
Percentage positive		85.53%		

**Statement 11 - I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
14 18.42%	54 71.05%	7 9.21%	1 1.32%	76 100.00%
Percentage positive		89.47%		

**Statement 12 - I would recommend this school to another parent**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
14 19.18%	49 67.12%	9 12.33%	1 1.37%	73 100.00%
Percentage positive		86.30%		

**Statement 13 - Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
13 17.33%	52 69.33%	9 12.00%	1 1.33%	75 100.00%
Percentage positive		86.67%		

**Statement 14 - My child studies regularly at home**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
11 14.29%	39 50.65%	24 31.17%	3 3.90%	77 100.00%
Percentage positive		64.94%		