

## Gosford Hill wins Prestigious Award



**Steve Bizley (Headteacher) Doreen Rose (Chair of Governors) and Celia Tezel (Year 11) accept the award on behalf of the school community**

I am delighted to report that we were one of only six secondary schools in the county to gain an Excellence in Oxfordshire Award.

The special event was held at the Kassam Stadium earlier this week and the award was in recognition of our Ofsted report and outstanding progress as a school. The certificate was presented by the leader of Oxfordshire County Council Ian Hudspeth and Councillor Melinda Tilley.

I am very proud of the award but it is a reflection of the whole staff and community rather than one individual. Thank you to every one who made this happen.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**

### Parent Forum – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Many thanks to the parents and students who attended our Parent Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> November. We considered the implications of **Raising Participation Age (R.P.A.)** and the **Post 16 opportunities** for our Young People. I very much appreciate the positive feedback received and we are grateful for the suggestions for future meetings. Information from the evening (presentation, leaflets and guidance booklet from Mrs. Hounsell) can be found on the school website.

**Mr D Ward - Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum**

## **Key Note Speech to be Delivered by Nicola Blackwood (MP)**



Gosford Hill School is delighted to welcome Nicola Blackwood to our second annual Awards Evening on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. She will be making the key note speech and presenting awards as we celebrate the ambition and success of our students. Nicola Blackwood is the current Member of Parliament for Oxford West and Abingdon having been elected in 2010. She has been actively involved in the Conservative Party's Human Rights Commission and has contributed to a wide variety of Parliamentary debates. Nicola was elected to serve on the Home Affairs Select Committee in July 2010 and is also the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Women, Peace and Security.

Nicola has a busy constituency workload, a keen interest in public services countryside issues, and is committed to fighting to improve and protect the communities she serves. She considers herself to be a civil libertarian and sees giving the responsibility back to the frontline professionals as the key to reform in the public services. We look forward to welcoming her to our awards evening.

**Mr C Hall - Assistant Headteacher**



## **Parent User Guide for 'Show My Homework'**

### **How Do I Register?**

**Step 1 – <https://gosfordhill.showmyhomework.co.uk>**

*Use the link: Are you are parent? Click here to register*

**Step 2 – Complete parent registration form**

**Step 3 – Enter your child's email address**

*If your son/daughter has not created an account with Show My Homework, they will need to do so first. Once you have entered in their email address, either your child or the school will need to approve the account.*

### **Watch the Video Tutorials**

*Go to [showmyhomework.zendesk.com](http://showmyhomework.zendesk.com) where we have lots of short video tutorials to help you along the way.*

### **Need Help?**

*We are right behind you. Either call on 020 8133 4560 or send an email to [help@showmyhomework.co.uk](mailto:help@showmyhomework.co.uk)*

## Gosford Hill success at district competitions

If you haven't been following the PE Department Twitter feed (@SportGHS) you might not be aware of the recent success in district competitions.

### Year 7 Rugby Cup Final v Warriner School



The Year 7 rugby team reached the final of the district cup competition and faced an experienced Warriner team at Banbury Rugby Club. Warriner fielded a team with 13 members of Banbury Rugby Club. After excellent results in the group stage against Sibford (private school) and Cooper School, Gosford finished top of the group. In the semi-final they had a very close match against Blessed George Napier winning in the final play of the game. In the final the experience of Warriner and their club players proved too much. The Gosford students continued to work hard and support each other throughout the game and Archie Devlin was man of the match. A fantastic effort from a group of students with a great team

ethic promises plenty of success in the future. The PE Department hope the students continue to enjoy their rugby and consider joining the Gosford All Blacks Rugby team on Sunday mornings (10am-12am) at Stratfield Brake.

### Year 8 Rugby Plate Final v Blessed George Napier

The Year 8 team qualified for the plate final. They finished third in their group and opponents in the semi-final conceded before the fixture. Improvement in a friendly game against Wheatley Park and dedication to training meant the team were confident before the final. In the final they beat Blessed George Napier 30-20. Excellent rucking and work at the breakdown helped Gosford to victory. Men of the match were Ben Druce and Rico Dines. The PE Department hope the students continue to enjoy their rugby and consider joining the Gosford All Blacks Rugby team on Sunday mornings (10am-12am) at Stratfield Brake.



### District Cross Country

On Wednesday a team of 16 athletes competed in the district cross country championships at Warriner School.



The Year 7 girls cross country team performed very well and finished with 97 points.

Highest finisher was Paige Cooke in 12<sup>th</sup> place and all girls finished in the top 30. As a team they finished in sixth place.



**Year 7 Team: Paige**

**Cooke, Paige Jordan, Chelsea Jacques, Ilena Kneafsey**



In the Year 7 boys team a fantastic individual effort from Ben Stewart saw him take individual victory. He was well supported by the rest of the team who finished in the top 30. The team finished with 70 points and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall.

**Year 7 Team: Ben Stewart, Levi Sollis, Alex Toma, Marcus Tranter.**

In the Year 8/9 girls team Gosford had another individual success through Chloe Ridewood winning despite being a year younger. She was well supported by the rest of the team who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 36 points. Special mention must go to Chelsea who ran an incredible second lap to finish in 22<sup>nd</sup> position.

**Year 8/9 Team: Chloe Ridewood, Emily Young, Chelsea Beahan, Chloe Woodward**



In the Year 8/9 boys team all students performed well and the team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place with 158 points. Highest finisher was Simon Hague in 34<sup>th</sup> place. All boys enjoyed the experience but recognised they were competing against some good runners who train very hard.

**Year 8/9 Boys Team: Simon Hague, James Groves, Will Smy and Dan Stevens**

### **Revision guides available**

GCSE History and Geography revision guides are available to purchase from the Learning Centre every break, costing £3. Now is an ideal time for students to get one as in a few weeks Year 11 and Year 10 students have practice exams. By getting a revision guide now, students can learn one page every night, spending about 30 minutes on it, so that they will be confident and secure in their knowledge.

We will be assessing students' ability to use knowledge accurately as well as their skills, and we expect them to have completed learning and revising of facts before the exams. Reading notes is not always the best way to revise. Students can productively use the 30 minutes time to make a mind map of the information, or make a chart or table of dates and events or geographical processes. In the revision guides there are also quick questions that they can answer, or parents/siblings can test them on.

In addition, there is also SAM learning and BBC Bitesize which are also helpful for revision.

Both History and Geography follow AQA syllabuses. The details are on the school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for more information.

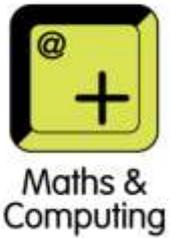
**Mrs A Driscoll - Head of Humanities**



# GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL

Learn Lead Inspire

A Specialist College for Mathematics & Computing  
Headteacher: Dr Stephen Bizley



15<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Extra Staff Training Day: Important Information Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

As many of you may be aware schools are facing unprecedented changes to the exam and qualification structure. These reforms are likely to affect the future of our exam system and it is essential that teachers have a full understanding of these changes.

The new reforms are unfolding at a very fast pace and it is important for us to respond sooner rather than later. The Governors have consequently agreed to give Gosford Hill staff an extra training day in order for us to be fully up to date with the implications of the exam and qualification reforms. **The school will therefore be closed to all students on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

We will use this day to plan information sessions for parents – particularly those parents with students in Years 7 and 8. Mr Ward (Deputy Headteacher Curriculum) will be writing shortly to all Year 8 parents regarding a very important information evening about the new exams system to link in with our Key Stage 4 preference event and later in the year we will invite all parents and carers of year 7 students to another information evening. The impact on students in Years 9 to 11 is less significant as these students are already on existing exam courses.

Both Governors and I feel this is such an important change to the education system that in order to advise our students and families our own staff need to be trained and updated with the latest information.

Thank you for your continued support and positive comments about our school.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Stephen Bizley**  
Headteacher

## Exams and Study Leave Years 10-13

Internal Exams Dec 2012 – Feb 2013 for years 10-13			
Year group	Time period	Study Leave during school time	Additional Information
10	w/b 17 Dec	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams are sat in the hall/gym/PE1 and are run by invigilators.</li> <li>Most exams take place during scheduled lesson time for that subject.</li> <li>Class teachers will give feedback on practice exam results in January.</li> <li>Results feed into Progress Check 1 (early Feb)*.</li> </ul>
11	w/b 10 Dec	w/b 10 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students only come in for exams between Monday 10 Dec and Friday 14 Dec.</li> <li>Art and orals w/b 17 Dec – students will be withdrawn from lessons.</li> <li>Class teachers will give feedback on practice exam results in January.</li> <li>Results feed into Progress Check 2 (early Feb)*.</li> </ul>
12	w/b 18 Feb	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for exams can take place up to and during the school holiday w/b 11 Feb.</li> <li>Students attend school as usual, week beginning 18 Feb and only miss lessons when they have an exam.</li> <li>**Art mocks cannot take place during the main exam week and will take place on 11, 12 Dec 2012.</li> </ul>
13	Art 11, 12 Dec**	No	

\* Please note that the Progress Check predicted grade is a prediction for the final exam. It is informed by the practice exam result.

**For Sixth Form external January exams**, students may take the morning of the exam day to revise for an afternoon exam or the afternoon before the exam day to revise for a morning exam. However, students may still wish to come in for revision at these times, especially when they have a number of exams close together.