



You are warmly invited to join us for our annual Carol Service

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
KIDLINGTON
TUESDAY 18TH
DECEMBER 2012
At 7.00pm**

After the service we hope that Guests, Parents, Staff and Students will join us for light refreshments in the refectory.



Year 12 Charity Car pull

During a Year 12 Enrichment lesson on Wednesday 28th November there was a Charity car pull contest to support Road Safety organised jointly by Admiral and Red Driving School. The event consisted of each House nominating a road safety charity. Windrush chose 356Alive, Cherwell CARS (Campaign for Road Safety Awareness), Evenlode Brake charity and Thames opted for Roadpeace. Each House nominated three boys and three girls to pull a Red Driving School Corsa car over a distance of 50 metres and the fastest time earned not only £200 for their registered charity but also £200 worth of driving lesson vouchers.

The winning team was Windrush who completed the course in 17.76 seconds narrowly edging out Thames who were second.



Windrush, therefore, earned £200 for their charity 365Alive. The contest was preceded by a short talk on Road Safety aimed at Young drivers by Instructor Michael Horwood-Smith.

The event attracted media recognition with the Oxford Mail attending and reports being also sent to the Oxford Journal. An article appeared in the Oxford Mail on Saturday 1st December.

The victorious Windrush team was Malcolm Marecki, Ollie Hazell, Tom Dale, Georgia Guy, Shannon Gray and Harriet Marshall. All Year 12 students from Windrush House were then entered into a draw to win one of four £50 driving lesson vouchers and the lucky names out of the hat were Tom Dale, Georgia Guy, Eilish McGuckin and Toby

Richards.

Paul Catling – Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Gosford rises to the Regional Senior Maths Team Challenge

A team of four sixth-former students represented GHS in the Oxfordshire heat of the UK Mathematics Trust Senior Team Challenge which was held at St. Edwards School on 19th November. Twenty-four teams from the region competed to win the right to represent the county in the National final. The GHS team finished in a creditable 10th place with Magdalen College School taking first prize.



Team from left: Charlie Nutt, Travis Gordon, Matt Kerby and Bong-Hwan Kim with the local organiser from Oxford University.

Three hours of maths passed very quickly and the team enjoyed tackling mathematical crosswords, relay races and group challenges. Comments from the team included “*It really made us think and we are looking forward to competing next year*”, Travis. “*Working without a calculator forces you to think about numbers in a different way*”, Matt.

Prize Competition

Try this question from the challenge and win a prize (team members excluded from entering).

How many integers between 100 and 1000 cannot be formed by adding a series of consecutive positive integers?

For example you can make 35 by finding the sum of $5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9$, or make 21 by finding the sum of $6 + 7 + 8$. The answer to this question does not require any maths beyond GCSE.

Entries with justification to Dr. Murray in M2 before Christmas.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that I report the death of one of our members of staff. Mrs Adami - Robbins, one of our ICT teachers, died last weekend after a long illness. Mrs Adami - Robbins has been absent from school for some time. She was a very popular colleague and a lovely teacher who always thought of the students. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts at this time are with her husband, children and close family and friends.

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher

Advanced Information: Inclement Weather - How We Will Set Work

Should the weather take a turn for the worse (i.e. snow prevents us from opening), all teachers will endeavour to set work for their lessons that day via **Show My Homework**.

Please ensure that your son/daughter has signed up. Details and quick login via the school website.

Ms W Hemmingsley - Deputy Headteacher Learning and Teaching



1st XV Rugby Result D'Overbroeck's College 5 Gosford Hill 7

The 1st XV rugby team put up a superb display against a strong D'Overbroeck's College team at Wadham College Sports ground to record a fine 7-5 win in a close encounter. A mixture of Year 11,12,13 and 14 students played with great pride, tenacity and skill to defeat a very accomplished opposition team.

D'Overbroeck's dominated the opening phase of the game denying Gosford any meaningful possession of the ball but courageous defence and tackling kept their opponents at bay. Gosford rarely threatened at this stage and when D'Overbroeck's finally breached the Gosford line it looked like the floodgates would open. However, Gosford led by skipper Will Brett- Harding Gosford slowly started to get into. In a rare skirmish into the D'Overbroeck's half Gosford forwards rampaged towards the line and Malcolm Marecki touched down between the posts. Jake Townsend duly slotted over the conversion to give Gosford a surprise 7-5 lead at half time.



In the second half Gosford's powerful forwards led by Callum Lake started to dominate the opposition. Gosford were now creating chances to extend their lead but couldn't quite finish. Tim Price enjoyed an influential game at full back and with Sam Milburn at scrum half enjoying an easier time with the forwards in ascendancy he was able to provide Jake Townsend with a good ball to use with the three quarters. Travis Gordon and Will Brett-Harding both threatened the line as well as Dan Jones being held up after crossing the line from another marauding forward move. To their credit D'Overbroeck's launched a furious final assault on the Gosford line and only desperate defence protected the flimsy lead. Finally, the referee blew for full time and Gosford deservedly earned their narrow victory. Well done everyone!

Team: Tim Price, James Prothero, Travis Gordon, Ed Keppie, Will Brett-Harding (Capt), Jake Townsend, Sam Milburn, Dan Kerby, Dan Jones, Reece Gonella, Callum Lake, Max Herbert, Malcolm Marecki, Luke Newton, James Heydon Sub: Will Pitts

Mr P Catling – P.E. Faculty



National Center Parcs KS3 Badminton Championships Round One School Games Level 2 (Inter School Competition)

Gosford entered a girls' and a boys' team in this year's badminton competition held at Cooper School on Wednesday 12th December. Seven of the eight Partnership Schools took part and both the boys' and the girls' competition was played in two sections.



Harry Whitehead, Arron Cook, Dan Stevens, Reuben Tyndall

The boys beat Cooper School and North Oxford Academy in their section and Sibford School in the final. They won convincingly and did not concede a match all evening. They will go though to represent North Oxfordshire in the second round in February.



Chloe Woodward, Emily Young, Rosalind Chaston, Talia Coffey

The girls played well and came third in their section.

Mrs P Selby – School Sports Co-ordinator



What are your loved ones eating this Christmas?



Not planned your festive munchies yet? Why not compare the price of your favourite Christmas food on the **Easyfundraising** website



<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/price-comparison/chocolate>

*On the twelfth day of EasyFundraising, I found I'd raised the most
I won a voucher and Champagne for the Christmas toast*

Gravity Racer Awards

Six Year 11 students representing the BTEC Engineering award winning Gravity Racer Team 2012 visited BMW Mini Plant Oxford recently. The team's success as 2012 Junior Champions at the Richards Castle Soap Box Derby was acknowledged by the presentation of a trophy incorporating a large speedo dial, made by BMW Mini Plant Oxford apprentices. Our students then visited the new BMW apprenticeship facility, learning about apprenticeships offered and viewing the newly equipped workshops.

BMW announced at the awards presentation that they would be supporting next year's gravity racer teams too. It is our intention to build another racer with some of our Year 10 Engineering students. To complete the racer will be quite a challenge and we will be pleased to accept support from friends and parents with engineering and welding skills. In addition we will require more bits for the racer particularly bike forks and wheels, so if you are disposing of bikes especially BMX type bikes we would really like to have the forks and wheels from them please.

Mrs E Hounsell – Careers and Work Experience Manager



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students will be taking part in our work experience programme next year for one week from 11th March. This year it has been an extremely challenging job to secure sufficient placements for our students. We consider that work experience is an important week, assisting students to develop their skills for the world of work. We are still seeking a large number of placements in a wide variety of areas. If you are able to offer a placement to one of our students in your place of work please contact us.

Where students have been placed they will receive their information shortly. 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.

Liz.hounsell@gosford-hill.ocnmail.net Careers Office 01865 849299

Sixth form Debating and Public Speaking Club

The Jacobsthal Speaking Competition

On the 6th December the Gosford Debate team set out for Oxford Spires Academy, excited that they were entering the Jacobsthal speaking competition for a second time - with the hope that they'd exceed last year's result of second place. Schools from around the area take part, including Stowe, Chenderit, Magdalen College and Cooper school

The team were (from left to right) Connor Boyle, questioner, Harriet Marshall, questioner, Tom Cross, speaker and Tiam Pari-Nejad, Chairperson

With prospect of being up against more schools than the previous year (12) there were a wider range of topics: Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Information, Intellectual Property, Security and Defamation - All interests being known to be very controversial.

After much thought the debate team had settled on Freedom of the Press, however it appeared that the other schools had the same idea - which worked in Gosford's favour as our speaker was up last, this gave the team an opportunity to analyse the other school's speeches and perspectives.

While the speaker is an essential part of the debate team there was also the chair - an individual who must act as host and control the questioners who inquire about the speaker's speech. The Chair's job, however, is far from easy, having to introduce the speaker who is not from their own school. They must also be charismatic and differentiate themselves from the other chairs to stand out and gain more points for their team.

The last part of the debate team are the questioners, who are there to find holes in a speaker's speech - another opportunity to gain more points for the team. The questioners have to be well read on all the topics in order to put forward an argument towards the speaker.

At long last the Gosford speaker put forward his speech, successful as it contained elements of humour and a new perspective that the other speakers had failed to state.

Although the team fought valiantly the cost of going last perhaps caused the audience to lose interest, putting us out of the competition. However the team went down fighting with two notifications of a brilliant speech and having the best questioners.

We will most certainly be back next year, ready to take first place!

Harriet Marshall – questioner



Humanities Homework

December is the month for Humanities homework for Year 7. Geography, History and RPE homework has been set and is on **Show My Homework**.

Mrs A Driscoll – Head of Humanities Faculty

Letter from Simply Schoolwear

School Uniform

Firstly, I would like to apologise to anyone who experienced any order delays during our peak season. We experienced severe stock supply issues, which unfortunately had an impact on some of our customer orders. This is something that I am personally very sorry for so to gain a true understanding of our customer concerns, we sent out a simple but enlightening survey.

The feedback was tremendous, with over 2,200 customer responses for which I am very grateful as this has now allowed me to focus on actions for improvement with confidence that this is what your parents want. The key points raised were as follows:

Delivery of orders and possible delays communicated

Some of our customers experienced unacceptable delays during the peak season and they quite rightly told us so! But over 93% stated that when discussed with a member of our Customer Service team, they were greeted with a friendly and helpful service. They just wanted to be informed of these delays in advance if possible.

So our focus is clear. I want Simply Schoolwear to deliver orders on time, but to let our customers know if their order is incomplete or delayed *before* it is due. To achieve this at peak times as well as the quieter months, we will be introducing a number of improvements to our service.

- **No stock interruptions** – If a piece of uniform is not available from the manufacturer, then an alternative product of equal quality will be provided. These will be agreed in advance with the school.
- **Automated updates** – an automated email sent to any customers affected by any manufacturer delays, with 'in-stock' dates if possible.
- **Click and Collect** - order online, or by phone and pick it up from our Faringdon shop.
- **Nominated 'Safe Place'** – a nominated place for a customer's delivery to be left, if they are out.
- **Tracked delivery service** – 88% of our customers want a 'trackable' delivery service that they can trust. This is now a standard for the majority of mail order services and will be our standard service for all orders placed from January.
- **Single packs not Twin packs** – Where possible, we will offer 'plain' uniform to be bought as a single item, ie one plain PE T-shirt, instead of a standard twin pack.

I hope that you can appreciate that we have listened and that everyone at Simply Schoolwear is working continuously to ensure that the constructive feedback we have received from customers and schools, are put into action or maintained.

On a personal note, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paula Stockton
Managing Director
Simply Schoolwear