

February 2013 / Issue 21

GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL SKI COURSE - PILA/AOSTA, ITALY 9th - 17th FEBRUARY 2013

The annual School ski course proved yet another fantastic experience in a long line of resounding successes. 65 Year 11 and 12 students took part in this year's course along with 8 staff. A total party of 73.

The students gave a tremendously favourable impression of themselves to all parties. They drew extremely positive comments from all Interski staff, instructors, hotel staff and coach drivers. They were brilliant ambassadors for Gosford Hill School. The rapport amongst the students and 8 staff accompanying the course was a privilege to be part of.

The course was once again booked with the reputable travel company Interski who delivered a quality package as usual. All the groups made incredible progress in their skiing thanks to some wonderful snow conditions, instruction and weather. Only a few fairly minor injuries resulted which enabled all students to get the most from the six days of skiing. Charlie Groves became the first Gosford Hill student to ever be nominated for the Interski Scholarship scheme. She was filmed and will now wait to see if she makes the shortlist for this prestigious course.

The 3 star Hotel St Nicolas located in a spectacular position high up on the mountainside a half hour coach ride away from the main Pila gondola lift provided comfortable accommodation with all rooms enjoying good standards of facilities. The food was excellent with an evening three-course meal and a buffet breakfast arrangement. Lunch was taken at mountain restaurants using the unique Interski voucher scheme where the students, accompanied by their instructor, have a choice of a hot snack.

The whole party enjoyed a varied evening entertainment programme which comprised of a quiz on the first evening followed by a pizza evening, bingo, disco, ski presentation and ice cream visit. Maddy Hosking won the top prize in the bingo of a pair of Lange ski boots. There was just time to cram in some shopping in the atmospheric old Aosta town and a visit to a Nike Factory outlet on the outskirts of town.

The conduct and behaviour of the group as already mentioned was excellent. Special mention must also go to the other staff that accompanied the course and worked so tirelessly on behalf of the students to make the course a success. To Mr Ward, Mr Manthorpe, Mr Goldring, Miss Witney, Miss Jones, Mrs De Bruyn and Mr Smith my sincere thanks. Lastly to all the students themselves for making the 2013 ski course another great success.



Photographs of the course will shortly be on the school website and a DVD of the course will also be made. The DVD will be shown in late April to all students and parents. The date is yet to be confirmed but there will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of the DVD on the evening itself.

Mr P Catling - Party Leader

Some comments from the students:

'One of the best weeks of my life. Far better than than I could ever have expected. Will come back next year!'

Lucy Truman

'Thank you for an amazing trip, I have really enjoyed everything and I am sad to have to leave!' **Celia Tezel**

'This week has been the best..... I have friends in the lower school and I would really recommend the trip as it has been a great experience. I've made new friends and learnt a new sport' **Andreya Teasdale**

'This has definitely been the best school trip by far' **Tom Anstice**

'We both had a lush week, so many funny memories with the students and teachers. A wicked week! **Ellie Johnson and Freya Paterson**



'Thank you for such a memorable trip and thank you for the extra hours skiing which was amazing'

Jake Gonella

'Skiing was an experience I will never forget' **Jasmine Cripps**

'Best memory was..... all of it. Best week we have ever had. Will never forget it'

Zara Baker and Sophia Franklin

Safety First for Young Drivers

On Friday 1st February, Kidlington Firefighters came into school to present Year 11 students with safety information about driving. As a driver, we make choices all the time and the fire officers emphasised the potentially deadly consequences of making the wrong choices, such as speeding, using a mobile phone, drinking and driving, not wearing a seat-belt, taking too many passengers.

It was a hard-hitting presentation, but helped the students realise the responsibility that goes with learning to drive. Students also got to see the rescue truck and some of the equipment used to rescue trapped drivers from the many collisions on Oxfordshire's roads.



Mrs A Driscoll – Faculty Leader, Social Science

What is happening in ICT?

Making Magic

Year 7 and 8 are turning lumps of plasticine and bits of plastic into wonderful adventures. Using new stop motion software Zu3d installed on the network and a web cam they are creating tales of adventure, daring and sometimes gore as bright red plasticine is used to good effect. Watch out Wallace and Gromit! Coming soon to the GHS website.



Back to the future

The ICT department has gone back to the future, coding its websites instead of using application software such as Dreamweaver. Miss Wooller believes this will give students a far deeper understanding of how websites work and far greater tools, not dependant on application changes, to create software for the web. Check them out on the GHS website.

<http://students.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/>



Kodu

It's great fun and you can do it at home with your Xbox or PC. Make multi-player games to run from your keyboard or your Xbox controller. It uses pictorial coding to create environments, actions and consequences. It's a great introduction to coding for computers.

Return of the Robots

Many a discarded toy has had its internals ripped out and mutated into something new. Remember Sid's room in Toy story? Much like Sid we have been wiring our discarded toys to the Control boxes on our computers and writing code for them to follow. If you have any radio or remote control toys you would like to sacrifice – I mean donate, why not come along to robot club and introduce them to 12volts.

Toys

If you have any Lego or other figures you do not want anymore, please bring them into ICT for Stop Motion resources. Similarly, any radio or remote control toys can live again when connected to our control boxes. Rather than leave them gathering dust, bring them in to robot club.

Mr C Hall – Subject Leader for ICT Faculty



Readathon launch at Gosford Hill School

“At the heart of every child, new born, is a unique genius and personality. What we should be doing is to allow the spark of that genius to catch fire, burn brightly and shine.”

Michael Morpurgo

Readathon is a national campaign designed to encourage more young people to do 3 things: reading for pleasure, reading to fundraise, reading to help seriously ill children. Our school will get involved in this campaign and we need your help! Students get a sponsorship card and they choose what they want to read (books, e-books, comics, magazines, etc.). They will get sponsored to read by family, friends, neighbours and the money collected will be going towards helping seriously ill children.



Why Readathon? Three great reasons!

1. Kids love it, and it gets them reading.
2. It really makes a difference to seriously ill children.
3. We'll get free books for our school.

For more information visit: <http://www.readathon.org/> or see Miss Marin in E7 or Mrs Hedges in the Library! Let's get reading everyone!

Miss C Marin – Assistant Faculty Leader for English and Languages

Able Gifted & Talented News

This Term:

Last month several students completed a Science Gifted and Talented project. These students are all gifted and talented in science. The aim of the project was to help them expand their knowledge of science and the World around us. The topic in which the students had to find out about was the science behind the London 2012 Olympic Games. With this information, all students were given possible research topics from the science teachers. Each student could pick what aspect of the Games they wanted to research and present it in any way that they wanted.

We received excellent projects, all displaying the unique qualities and outstanding abilities of our students here at Gosford. It was a hard decision, but it was decided that the first prize should be rewarded to Katherine Hill for her outstanding efforts and individual technique.

Last Term:

As part of our 'Step Up' project some students who are gifted in Maths, English and Science had an opportunity to take part in a Year 9 lesson in the subjects they are gifted in. They learnt new topics that they found "exciting" and "different". It pushed the students to achieve and understand more challenging topics than in their usual lessons allowing them to understand topics such as Pythagoras Theorem in Maths, Limestone quarries in Science, and analysing characters to understand the story better in English. The students found it beneficial and said "it gives you something to look forward to" and "it has made me more determined to do well".

Club: Students in Able, Gifted and Talented meet in H3 with Miss Rees on Wednesday lunchtimes to work on projects throughout the year

Possible Research Topics

Chose a story and either rewrite a scene or create a sequel chapter.

Chose an art piece to recreate using whatever media and techniques you chose.

Create a model explaining or showing a scientific process.

Science Gifted & Talented Competition

1st
Place

3rd
Place

2nd
Place

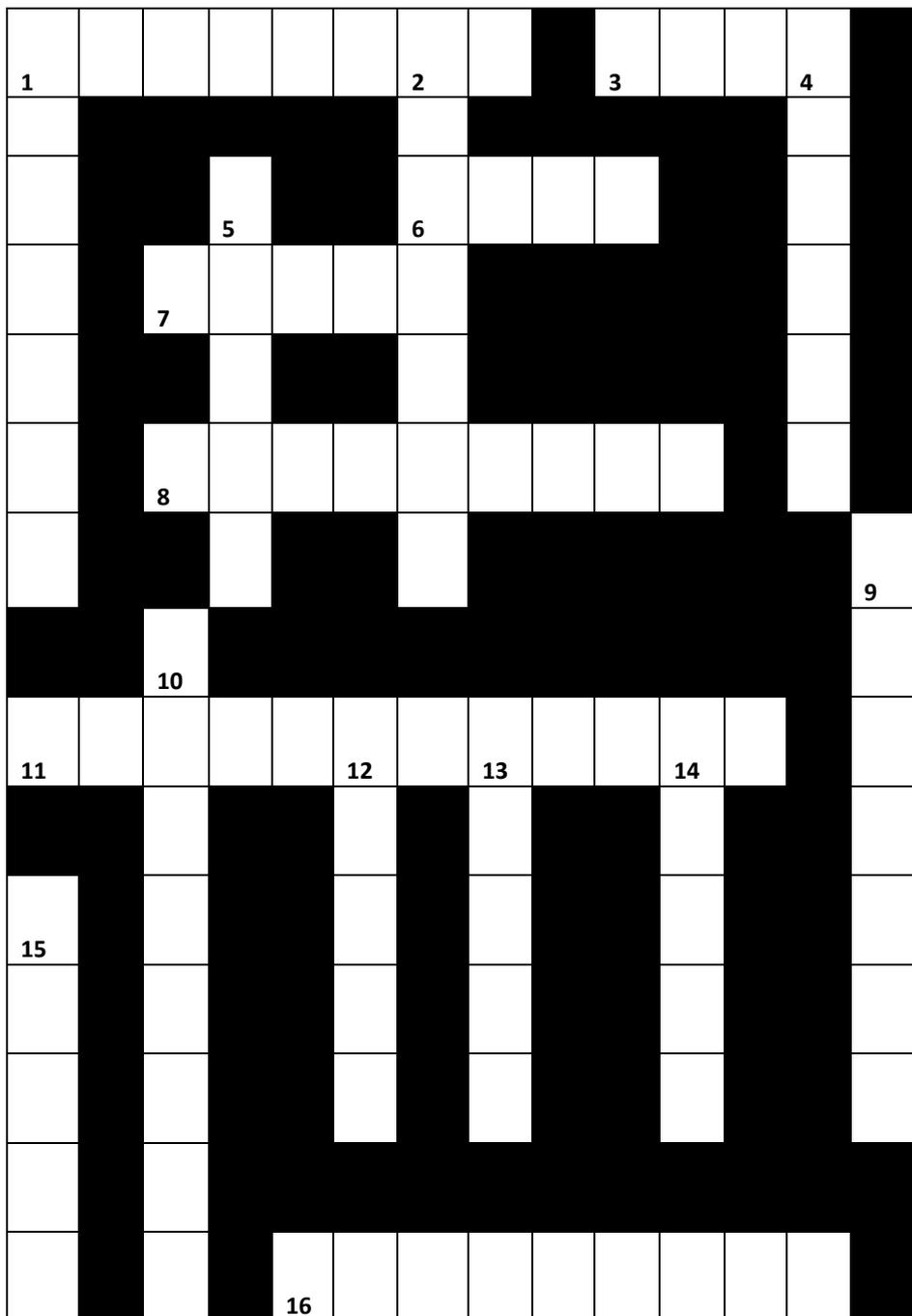
Some of our competitors
with Mr Baker.

Huge congratulations to
everyone who took part.
The work was outstanding.

Miss C Rees – Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator

G&T Olympic Crossword

To be handed in to Miss Rees in H3 once completed for a prize.



DOWN

- 1) Won sports personality of the year for 2012
- 2) Is a long distance runner and has recently become a father to twins
- 4) A heavy disk thrown by an athlete
- 5) The number of medals Brazil won
- 9) _____ Adlington, an Olympic swimmer
- 10) _____ Pendleton, an Olympic cyclist and performed on strictly come dancing
- 12) Tom _____, an Olympic diver and teacher on 'SPLASH'
- 13) Where was Great Britain on the medal table after the 2012 Olympics
- 14) _____ Simmonds, a Paralympic swimmer
- 15) This travelled on 70 routes for 70 days and ended up at the Olympic stadium

ACROSS

- 1) Serena _____, won women's singles tennis gold
- 3) First place medal
- 6) Number of events in a modern pentathlon
- 7) In second place on the medal table
- 8) Number of events in a heptathlon
- 11) The country that won the most medals overall
- 16) The location of the Olympic Village (and is also the home of William Shakespeare -upon Avon)

Produced by Philippa Smith (Year 10 G&T)

Year 10 soap box

We are Year 10 students from Gosford Hill School. On the 14th July we will be participating in a soap box competition which we came 5th overall and 1st in the junior section last year. We are hoping to improve on our result this year. To do so we will require donations of parts or money as we are on a low budget. We would be interested in tyres, brakes, steering systems and safety equipment.

Many Thanks

Gosford Hill School Engineering Students.



Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - Year 11 February 2013

Statement 1 - My child is happy at this school

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| 15 | 27 | 2 | 4 | 48 |
| 31.25% | 56.25% | 4.17% | 8.33% | 100.00% |
| % positive | | 87.50% | | |

Statement 2 - My child feels safe at this school

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| 19 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 47 |
| 40.43% | 51.06% | 8.51% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| % positive | | 91.49% | | |

Statement 3 - My child makes good progress at this school

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| 19 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 48 |
| 39.58% | 56.25% | 4.17% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| % positive | | 95.83% | | |

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

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| 16 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 48 |
| 33.33% | 54.17% | 10.42% | 2.08% | 100.00% |
| % positive | | 87.50% | | |

Statement 5 - My child is taught well at this school

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 12 25.53% | 32 68.09% | 3 6.38% | 0 0.00% | 47 100.00% |
| % positive | | 93.62% | | |

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

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 14 29.17% | 28 58.33% | 6 12.50% | 0 0.00% | 48 100.00% |
| % positive | | 87.50% | | |

Statement 7 - This school ensures the students are well behaved

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 10 20.83% | 31 64.58% | 5 10.42% | 2 4.17% | 48 100.00% |
| % positive | | 85.42% | | |

Statement 8 - This school deals effectively with bullying

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 11 26.19% | 27 64.29% | 2 4.76% | 2 4.76% | 42 100.00% |
| % positive | | 90.48% | | |

Statement 9 - This school is well led and managed

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 15 31.91% | 27 57.45% | 3 6.38% | 2 4.26% | 47 100.00% |
| % positive | | 89.36% | | |

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

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 11 24.44% | 27 60.00% | 4 8.89% | 3 6.67% | 45 100.00% |
| % positive | | 84.44% | | |

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

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 18 37.50% | 21 43.75% | 6 12.50% | 3 6.25% | 48 100.00% |
| % positive | | 81.25% | | |

Statement 12 - I would recommend this school to another parent

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 12 25.53% | 27 57.45% | 4 8.51% | 4 8.51% | 47 100.00% |
| % positive | | 82.98% | | |

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

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 12 25.00% | 28 58.33% | 4 8.33% | 4 8.33% | 48 100.00% |
| % positive | | 83.33% | | |

Statement 14 - My Child Studies regularly at home

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 25 52.08% | 15 31.25% | 6 12.50% | 2 4.17% | 48 100.00% |
| % positive | | 83.33% | | |