

Children's Author visits Gosford

The Learning Centre gave a warm welcome to children's author Steve Bowkett on Tuesday 5th March who came to deliver literacy workshops to the whole of Year 7. Steve gave a humorous introduction followed by a story-telling session which captivated the students' imagination.



The first workshop focused on a story grid relating to a particular genre, introducing the students to a visual way of linking ideas to create an interesting story. The second group viewed a monochrome picture and were asked to use their senses to imagine what colours, sounds and smells they would add to the image to help develop their descriptive writing.

At lunch-time, several students came to meet the author, ask questions and purchase signed copies of Steve's books. In addition, two of Gosford Hill School's Year 11 BBC Reporters, Tori McLean and Tom Brown, were given the opportunity to interview Steve about his life as an author. The Oxford Mail was also invited to take photographs of the event. Look out for the edition.



Mrs A Hedges - Learning Centre Manager.

Congratulations to Pilsun Eu

It was lovely to receive a letter from Tony Mealings (Head of Oxfordshire County Music Service) outlining a prestigious concert - The Youth Concerto Competition. Pilsun from our Year 11 was one of many students from different schools who performed to judges and a very appreciative audience. Congratulations Pilsun!

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher



Year 7 Maths Event

Earlier this month several Year 7 classes enjoyed a maths competition in the Hall. Teams of four completed mathematical relays, a group round and logic puzzles. In the final round, students could choose between different questions for high marks. There was a close finish between the two top teams, and a great atmosphere of friendly competition. Student comments included: *"It was really exciting to share our maths knowledge to crack these puzzles"*; *"More maths competitions, please!"*.

The winning teams hard at work and with their prizes



from left: Jamie, Jonah, Archie, Tom, Jinan



from left: Marcus, Fraser, Jack and Oscar



Paige's team capture the spirit of the day.

Dr. Murray - Team Leader, Maths

Dance Festival Training

On Tuesday 12th March the Annual Dance Festival will take place in our sports hall. The festival will be led by Sarah Hastings, Dance Co-ordinator for the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, and is based on the musical *Mathilda*.

Last Monday Sarah taught the routine to twenty-eight Year 8 girls to ensure that they would be able to teach it to the children on the day of the festival. Sarah was very impressed with our leaders and said they were the best group she had trained so far this year!! Well done to all.



Mrs P Selby – School Sports Co-ordinator

MY TRIP TO THE ENGLISH SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCUS TRANTER



On Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd of March, I participated in the Under 13's National English Squash Championships in Wimbledon. It was a 32 draw and the winners of the 1st round would have 5 games and the losers would play a plate knock-out.

In my 1st round I played Matthew Carr who should have been ranked 28th. He is the 2nd best player for Northumberland. To start off with I was a bit nervous and just hit it as hard as I could the whole time, which was a big mistake, resulting in my loss of the first two games, 11-9 and 11-7. After those two games I used a bit more variety and won the next two 11-8 and 11-5. So it all came down to the final game. Who would emerge victorious? Sadly, it wasn't me. I lost the last game by the closest of margins, 11-9 (you have to win the game by two points.) In total the match lasted for 33 minutes. If I won my next game then I would come at least 24th. If I lost my next game then I would be knocked out of the whole competition...

In my next game (the second round) my opponent was Max Exelby, the No.1 for Surrey and ranked 24th in England I was also seeded to win this game, and I started a lot better, using more

placement instead of power winning the first game, 11-7.

I continued doing this and won the next two just as comfortably 11-6 and 11-7 in 17 minutes. In my third round I would have to play Ben Cross, one of the best players in the country...

Ben is ranked 8th in the country and is the best player in Durham and Cleveland. He is also over a year older than me, so I wasn't expecting to win, so I enjoyed it more and played even more freely than I had done previously. Surprisingly I won the first game easily 11-2, but then he came back stronger. He won the next two 11-4, 11-8, so I was 2-1 down. I needed to win the next game to stay in the match, and because I was playing brilliantly, I did, 11-5, so again it came down to the last game in this tiring match, and again I just lost by the narrowest possible margin, 11-9 in the last game! It lasted for a whopping 31 minutes. But I was extremely happy with the way I played in that match so I wasn't too disappointed.



Overall it was a great experience. I came 24th, exactly the same position as I came in the British Closed Under 13's, and was generally pleased with the way I had played. I will still be in age next year and hope to better my ninth position finish from last year in the English Under 11 Championships. Also I would like to say thank you for letting me have the Friday off.

Marcus Tranter – Year 7 Student

Marcus is now ranked 8 in England for U13s (and effectively 3 for U12s) and has been selected to represent the South of England next month for the third year running.

Awesome Year 7 footballers through to County Cup Semi-finals

Gosford Hill School 3 v John Mason School 1

Having already safely secured their place in the North Oxford League semi-finals, Piers Walton scored a hat-trick as Gosford's Year 7 footballers produced an outstanding display against a talented John Mason team to progress to the county cup semi-finals for the first time of asking. Despite the opposition team featuring several players from football academies; a combination of spirit, desire and ability on Gosford's behalf ensured they edged an exciting game of football. Great football was played by both sides as the game flowed from end to end but the commitment and work rate displayed by the Gosford players ensured that they deservedly progressed to the semi-finals. It was a great game to watch and the performance by all of the team was a privilege to watch and proved that hard work earns rewards. Well done to all players who have featured in games so far, you have all contributed to the amazing achievement of helping the team reach 2 semi-finals.

The remarkable journey that the Year 7 team are on has so far seen them win 8 out of 10 matches since joining the school and they can now look forward to the memorable challenge that both semi-finals will present. If the boys can maintain the same high standards they have so far set, then anything is possible.

Mr L Smith – P.E. Faculty



HEINEKEN CUP QUARTER FINAL SARACENS V ULSTER TWICKENHAM STADIUM KO: 18.30

Saracens will play Ulster at Twickenham on Saturday 6th April, kick-off 18h30. Four Heineken Cup quarter-finals will be played over the same weekend, and the Saracens match has been awarded the prime slot.

As supporters of Saracens, you will have become familiar with our big days out watching entertaining rugby at premier stadiums. We would like to offer all pupils, staff, family and friends a discounted price for tickets to our next exciting big rugby game:-

Tickets are priced from only £20 for adults and £5 for U16's

Saracens RBS 6 Nations internationals Owen Farrell, Brad Barritt, Chris Ashton, Alex Goode, David Strettle, Mako Vunipolo and Kelly Brown will return to Twickenham for this Heineken Cup clash against last year's European Cup finalists Ulster.

Take advantage of this great promotional price booking online at www.ticketmaster.co.uk/saracenscommunity and use the password: **Groups**

Alternatively, get a group together and make a booking for 10 people or more on **0844 844 2121** quoting **Saracens Groups in The Ring Fenced Allocation**.

The seats are all in the lower tier and are allocated as first come first served – so don't delay to secure the best seats available.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information: theresabouchier@saracens.net

We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards

Theresa Bouchier