

Among the Top Performing Schools in England - It's Official!

I have just received a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

He has written to me as follows:



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

From the Deputy Prime Minister

7 March 2013

Dear Dr Bizley

Celebrating the Pupil Premium – the 2013 Pupil Premium Awards

'I am writing to congratulate you and your colleagues on the improvements that you have made to the results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium.

The most recent available Key Stage results show that you are among the top performing schools in England for boosting performance of disadvantaged pupils since the premium was introduced. This is a real testament to the hard work of staff, pupils, parents and Governors. I would like to congratulate you on your results and your proven commitment to making sure all children can succeed, whatever their background.'

The letter was a genuine surprise and is a great tribute to everyone connected with the school. We should all feel very proud of our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher

Bugsy

Gosford Hill School is now in the final stages of putting together this year's production of Bugsy Malone. Rehearsals have been busy and all students have been busy learning their lines and practising their dance steps.

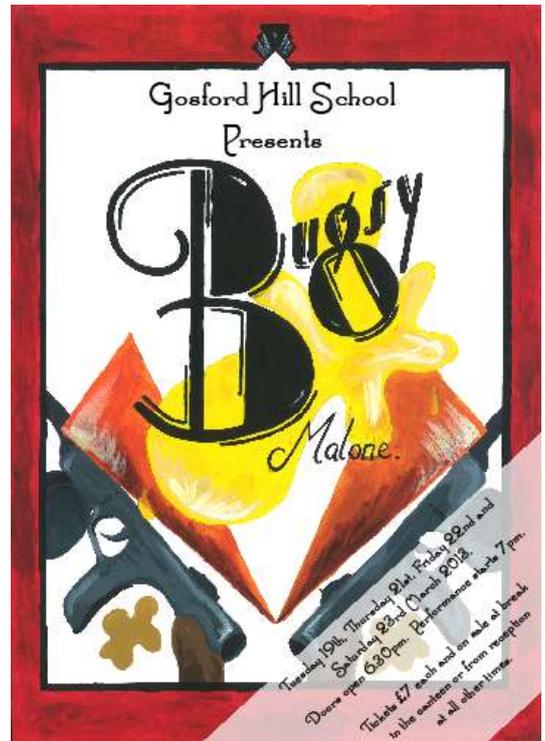
We have performed in assemblies this week to give everyone a flavour of our little show and they have gone down very well.

This year's Bugsy has seen a record number of students taking part, 63! Not only have we been able to get more students involved this year but a majority of them are from Year 7 and 8. This is an amazing treat as it means I will have their talents in productions to come.

It's not too late to get tickets for this event, tickets are on sale at break time in the canteen and are also available from reception. Performance dates are Tuesday 19th March, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March at 7pm.

The show this year is set in 1920's Chicago so all students have mastered an American accent which is a skill in itself. The production is action packed with battles, comedy and even a little romance so make sure you come and get your tickets!

Mrs H Whitford – Faculty Leader, Creative Arts



A Call for Support!

The engineers in Year 10 are in need of bike parts to help them make their gravity racer. Please read the students' plea below.

Thank you!

Jo Cox – Team Leader, D&T Faculty

"We are currently still looking for parts and sponsorship which you may know can be very hard to find in this day and age. We will gladly receive any items that you may be willing to donate such as: bmx tyres, scrap metal, bike parts. We are currently unable to continue with creating as we have no parts to use.

Thank you for any help you can give!"

Year 10 Engineers



Self Harm Awareness Day

Friday 1st March was International Self Harm Awareness day, and we wanted to write a small piece to help explain some of the misconceptions of the topic. Over the years, self harm has been stereotyped as something 'emo' or to 'get attention' or even something to joke about. Self harm is not a joke, it's an addiction.

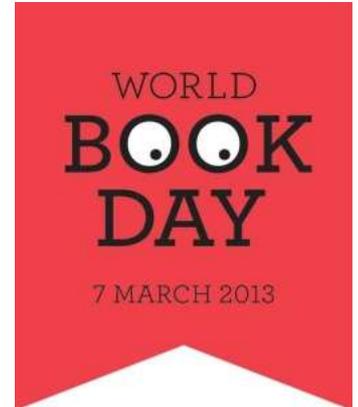
Did you know one in twelve British teens are battling self harm compulsion? On average, each classroom contains three students suffering with self injury and the majority of the time you wouldn't even know they're doing it. The aim for International Self Harm Awareness day was to show support to those experiencing it, but it is important to realise this needs continued support throughout the year.

If you are worried about someone you know that might be self harming, or if you are experiencing these problems yourself, don't ever feel like you are alone. There are many sources of support out there, including: Samaritans, you can e-mail them- jo@samaritans.org or phone their 24 hour number on 08457 90 90 90. You can contact Childline, you can phone them on 0800 1111. In addition, there are a couple of inspirational Youtube channels which you might find useful, check them out: Laura Lejeune and idranktheseawater. You are not alone!

Maddy Lloyd-Jones and Megan East – Year 11 Students



Thursday 7th March was World Book Day. Spring arrived early in The Learning Centre when student representatives from each form brought new book reviews in the form of leaves to adorn our Reading Tree. The Year 7s were keen and on hand to attach the new foliage.



An Extreme Reading Competition (reading a book in an unusual place) saw many weird and wacky entries including: students reading on the spiral staircase in the art block, under a pile of bean bags, on top of a filing cabinet and sitting on the loo! The overall winner is Tom Cross, Sixth Form CCDT, with his 'Sinks into a Book', sitting feet first in the art room sink reading Banksy.
Mrs A Hedges - Learning Centre Manager.



Year 1 Dance Festival

Over one hundred and forty Year 1 children from the four Kidlington primary schools took part in this year's Dance Festival held in Gosford Leisure Centre on Tuesday 12th March. Sarah Hastings the Dance Co-ordinator for the NOSSP guided the children through the morning with the help of twenty - seven Year 8 leaders from Gosford Hill School.

The children arrived full of anticipation and excitement dressed in either red or yellow depending on whether they were Team Chatbag or Team Babblement. The leaders began the festival by showing the children the dance they were about to learn based on the story, *Matilda*, by Roald Dahl. The music was from *Matilda the Musical* which is currently on at The Cambridge Theatre in London; Teachers were asked to introduce the story to their children prior to the festival.

Comments on the evaluation forms included 'thank you for another fantastic festival' and 'another enjoyable event for the children who were very well engaged, enthused and enjoyed themselves.'

Our leaders from Gosford were brilliant and a real credit to the school.
Mrs P Selby – School Sports Co-ordinator



Year 11 German Students



Don't forget to purchase your revision workbook from the Learning Centre for only £2.00! The questions are graded G-A* so you can choose questions aimed towards and around your target grade. There are a variety of reading activities and an online link to sound files for listening practice too. You can even self-correct using the answer section located at the back of the book!

Make sure you keep a log of any vocabulary you have looked up so that you are well prepared for your exam on Wednesday 22nd May.

Miss Normington (Team Leader MFL)

Asdan Certificate in Personal Effectiveness

Students in Year 9 are working towards achieving the ASDAN award for a Certificate in Personal Effectiveness. Some students will achieve this at level two which is equivalent to a GCSE B grade.

One of the modules asks students to think about their own beliefs and values. In recent weeks students have worked as part of a group to raise money for a charity of their choice.

They have spent time researching their charity and thinking of fundraising ideas. On Wednesday they held a small event in the hall and managed to raise a total of £60 in just half an hour! The money will be donated to their chosen charities; SSNAP, Comic relief, OXFAM and Great Ormond Street Children's hospital.



On Monday students also visited the Oxford Jewish Synagogue to learn about the beliefs and values of members of the Jewish community. They were warmly welcomed by Sarah Montagu and spent the afternoon developing their understanding of different aspects Judaism.



Miss B Jones –SENCo