

The School House Cups

This year as ever there has been intense competition between the houses for the School Cups. There are 7 cups in total. The winners are:-

The House Cup	Cherwell
House events cup	Cherwell
House Cumece cup	Thames
House Sports Trophy	Cherwell
Tutor group attendance cup	Thames
House attendance Cup	Cherwell
Reading connects cup	Thames

Congratulations must go to all the houses for their effort, and in particular to Thames and Cherwell.
Mr C Hall – Assistant Headteacher



Mr R Goldring – House Leader for Cherwell
Winners of the House Cup



Year 7 Marlow Camp 16th – 18th July 2013

It seems that the weather in Marlow this year will be very different to last! Please can parents ensure that students have the following **essential items** to avoid sun burn/heat stroke:

- A hat
- Sun cream (at least F25)
- A bottle for water

Please discuss the importance of using the above with your son/daughter so we can all enjoy the good weather and have a positive experience at camp. Thank you,

Miss R Jones and Mr T Manthorpe

Catering Provision - Chartwells

We continually strive to offer our customers value for money and in doing so have implemented a tariff increase to offset retail food inflation, particularly for milk, meats, cheese and potatoes. This also reflects any increased costs in compliance required by the food standards guidelines.

It is important that we continue with using fresh produce and offering healthy choices. The tariff will be increasing by 5% overall from September. The value of a free school meal will also be increasing to £2.60.

Area Manager



Sixth Form Leavers Ball



The annual Year 13 Leavers ball was held on Friday 5th July at the Cherwell Boathouse Oxford. About 100 Year 12 and 13 students, along with staff, enjoyed a lovely evening in a fabulous location next to the River Cherwell. For once the weather was kind and students and staff mingled inside and outside the marquee before enjoying a lovely buffet style barbeque. Afterwards everyone enjoyed music until late before heading off in their different ways.

Many thanks to the Sixth form committee for organising the event. The students all looked fantastic and it was a fitting way to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 students after 7 years at Gosford

Hill School. We wish them all every success in the future and hope that their examination results in August will enable them to proceed to the next stage in their lives.

There will be an annual reunion in December for them which is already eagerly anticipated.

Mrs L De Bruyn/Mr P Catling/Mr B Whittaker - Sixth Form Leadership team



Year 5 and Year 6 Transfer events

It has been a very busy week for transfer events.

On Wednesday 3rd July we welcomed 180 Year 6 students for their transfer day where they experienced English, maths, ICT, drama, RPE, art and PE lessons. After the talk with their house leaders, they were greeted by Year 10 students who then introduced them to their tutor groups.

On the evening of Thursday 4th July the Year 6 students returned with their parents/carers for an information evening, including a talk by Max Jones and Harriet Marshall (our new Head Boy and Head Girl) followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Friends of Gosford Hill. Both Year 6 events were attended by the Year 10 students who have come through a tough round of interviews and will work at the ever popular summer school in August.

180 Year 5 students attended the taster morning on Friday 5th July. After a welcome assembly the students then experienced a science lesson that involved investigating a crime using forensic techniques. This was the fourth point of contact we have had with our Year 5 students following the visit to Buggy, our welcome event for students and parents/carers in June and visits to primary schools by Gosford Hill staff.

Mr R Belmont - Assistant Headteacher

Congratulations to.....

Emma Seward and Michael Timms, former students of Gosford Hill School, who have both been awarded a First Class Honours Degree by the University of Plymouth. Emma's degree is in Marketing with Psychology and Michael's is in Business Studies.

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher

Year 12 Psychology Trip to Oxford University 1st July

On Monday 1st July 18 Year 12 psychology students visited the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at the University of Oxford. We were welcomed by Dr James Groves who is a post-doctoral research in molecular degeneration and gene therapy. Dr Groves talked to the group about his career and how he reached the position he is in now, including studying psychology, biology and chemistry for A-Levels. He then talked about his current research and issues arising from this such as the ethics of testing on animals and getting his work published. The lecture was given in a 100 year old dissecting lecture theatre!

After this inspiring talk students were taken on a tour of the various laboratories and shown the equipment that is used. The students found it really interesting to see people doing real science and working on cures for diseases.

The students will use what they learnt and saw when they learn about research methods in their A2 course next year.

Mrs M Hewett and Miss C Campbell – Teachers of Psychology



Tall Ships Challenge



Ten of our Year 9 students participated in a Tall Ships Challenge along with 3 other schools. The weather conditions were absolutely fantastic and the students really enjoyed the trip. They gained a great deal from the experience. Activities included preparing the yacht for sailing, navigating the boat, following compass headings, hoisting and lowering the sails and doing their own cooking and washing up.

Kane Harris won the 'most improved student of the week' which was a great achievement. All the students completed their 'Competent Cruise' certificate and more importantly they all learnt to work as a team.

Well done to all the students involved in the trip. They were a real credit to the school.

Mrs P Drinkwater – Trip Leader

News from the Bungalow

Last week a group of Year 8 students were selected to attend the Phoenix project, a collaboration delivery between the Early Intervention Service and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The project gives the participants an insight into the roles and responsibilities of a fire fighter; activities include suiting up in the fire Service uniforms, running drills with hoses and ladders, exploring the dangers of fire and rescue and much more. There is also a focus on encouragement for team work, discipline and positive learning.

On the last day all parents and representatives from the school were invited to attend the passing out parade where the participants demonstrated some of what they had learned and were presented with a certificate for all their achievements. The display of skills that Mrs Kelly and I felt privileged to watch was impressive as were the students' commitment and attention to details.

The students really enjoyed their week there. Here are some of their highlights:

"I liked it all. I learned how fire-fighters have to take their work seriously. They need to be really organised" (Tayyib Jan)

"I learned how to role the hose out and climb up a ladder properly. You have to do the same hand and the same foot" (Scott Petrie)

"I learned that I need to communicate to work well in a team and be self-disciplined" (Craig Carias)

"My favourite part of the course was to learn how to climb the ladder properly" (Kane Kuhne)

"I liked the ladder climbing to go up the tower and how to tie knots. You need to consider others to work well in a team" (Wade Hollow)

"I have learned the commands for the ladder, how to role the hoses and spray a building. I really liked team work and I am thinking of making it a career for myself" (Bradley Towe)

"I liked learning how to climb the ladder to the tower. I worked well with the team" (Ethan Eldridge)



Mrs F Soleilhac – Deputy SENCO

Interski BASI Scholarship Scheme

Congratulations to Charlie Groves who following her assessment day at Manchester's Chillfactor Ski Centre on Friday 5th July has gained selection for the Interski BASI Scholarship Scheme for 2013-14. From over 1500 candidates which was whittled down to a shortlist of 30 for the final assessment Charlie has gained a life changing opportunity as one of ten students picked across the nation to receive an all expenses paid training programme to become a Level 2 Ski instructor.

This is an amazing achievement by Charlie and she can look forward to the exciting schedule detailed below (Oh, and just time to squeeze in a trip with the school too in February 2014!!)

- A BASI Level 1 instructor course in Italy in December 2013 with a national trainer.
- A further two weeks BASI Level 2 course in Italy at Easter 2014 with a national trainer, at the end of which she hopefully will have achieved BASI Level 2 status and be qualified to teach on reaching her 18th birthday.
- Transport to and from Italy.
- Three weeks half board hotel accommodation and lunches on the mountain.
- Lift passes and professional supervision... all with the compliments of Interski.



Paul Catling - Ski Party Leader

Summer Dance Success

On Friday 5th July, Friends of Gosford Hill School held a fundraising summer dance. Many from the local community gathered at Gosford Hill School to dance the night away to ex-teachers band Jonnie and The Jivetones. The evening was a great success – the band was excellent and the dance floor was full for most of the evening. The dance raised £756 and The Friends of Gosford Hill School would like to thank everyone involved.



The next event will be the live performance of "Double Booked" by Ginny Davis on Tuesday 1st October at 7.30pm at Gosford Hill School. "Double Booked" is a hilarious and witty show about family life for "Ruth Rich" who is a middle aged mum of three battling with mischievous teenagers, a bewildered granny, a surgically enhanced friend and a luscious school teacher.

Tickets £5 each, available from reception at Gosford Hill School or from Barclays bank in Kidlington.

Super Summer Swimmer

On Monday after school I swam 150 lengths in Gosford Sports Centre swimming pool. I decided to do this to raise money for our school Learning Centre. It took me 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete the 150 lengths, which is just over 2 miles. I have raised £186.00 in sponsor money so far and I hope to get something really nice for our Learning Centre. I would like to thank my mum and Mrs Hedges for their support and encouragement on the day. And also thanks to Gosford Sports Centre for letting me use their pool and for everyone who has sponsored me.



Emily Kyle Year 7WHSS



Half-Price Summer Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair has been a tremendous success. Thanks go to our Year 8 volunteers who have been on hand at break and lunch times taking orders and dealing with the book sales, they are: Katie Palmer, Lauren Hawkins, Ella Cook, Isobel Lamb, Ellie

Matthews, Katherine Hill, Jasmin Sims, Faustine Petron, Yemi Akinyemi and Joelly Alexander. Keep up your brilliant reading throughout the summer holidays!

iChapter Competition

Following the presentation from our recent visiting author Matt Dickinson, it was decided to launch a competition based on one of his ideas. The students were set a challenge to write their own action-packed, adventure chapter in just 68 words with some amazing prizes. There were an incredible number of entries ranging from holiday adventures to disasters on board ship and terrified people on a bus to monstrous creatures. The winners of a signed copy of one of Matt's books and a £15 iTunes voucher are: Stephanie Bourliakas, Maya Hurst and Laura Rushby; the winners of a £5 summer book fair voucher are: Katherine Hill, Chloe Hurdley, Jordan Tucker, Rhiannon Tomes and Abigail Pegden. Many congratulations to all of you on your concise entries.



Anyone for chess?

The final student event of the year in The Learning Centre culminated with another amazing display from Chess Master Carl Portman. The students took up a board each to play one joint game with Carl. Players took turns to make their own moves following on a huge magnetic display board. All students used their planning, prediction and tactical thinking skills to the max.



Mrs Hedges - Learning Centre Manager



Science of the Extremes

On Wednesday 10th June the Science Department held their annual Science evening. This year the theme was "Science of the Extremes". Past, present and future students came in large numbers to enjoy Jungle Jonathan's extreme animals, walking on custard, the extreme physics show, the extreme chemistry show, setting their hands on fire and lots of hands on activities.



We ended the evening with awards for the Year 7 Homework Projects and a Science raffle.

A big thank you has to go to everyone that came: our guest Jungle Jonathan, the Science Team and the student helpers.



Miss E Keen – Team Leader, Science Faculty

Attendance Policy from 1st September 2013

The Coalition Government have changed the regulations relating to attendance and has issued the Education (Pupil Registration) (Education) Regulations 2013.

The main change is that permission will no longer be given for holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed to by the Headteacher. This applies to students in all year groups. Gosford Hill School Governors have updated the attendance policy from 1st September 2013 to reflect these changes. Other factors contributing to this change of policy include:

- Successful national trials of the policy that have led to increased attendance and a reduction of unauthorised absence
- The conclusion of comprehensive studies that emphasise the strong link between high attendance and educational achievement

The attendance figures for Gosford Hill have shown a marked improvement over the past five years from 91.7% in 2006/7 to 94.6% in 2011/12.

A copy of the updated policy is available on request.

Richard Belmont - Assistant Headteacher Student Support

GHS Summer Enrichment Arrangements for Year 7-10 Students not on Residential Trips 2013

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Date	Activities			
Tuesday 16th July		Personal and social development workshops, including First Aid , practical team building activities and Geocaching. Leader: Mrs H Fuglesang Geocaching led by Ms R Lopez Morning registration: Lecture theatre	Yr9 House Sport Challenge / Bowling (9:45 am – 12:30 pm) Leader: Mr P Green Morning registration: Canteen In school team challenge for those not bowling. House Challenge continues in school for those not bowling. Leader Miss S Clinch	Leader: Mrs P Davys/ Miss C Stanley Maths and Science Skills day Navy activities in school and practical skill building for controlled assessment or BTEC coursework in science. (2hrs – 9 – 11am - 60 students. Morning registration : Hall
Wednesday 17th July	Students not going to Marlow meet in the Bungalow each morning. Leader: Mrs Soleilhac	History and Maths Code-breaking Day rotating with Theatre ADAD. Leaders,: Mrs J Murray/ Mrs H Fuglesang Morning registration: Lecture theatre	Day trip to London by coach - London Eye & Thames River Cruise Leader: Mr P Green Morning registration: Canteen 7:45 am. Coaches leave at 8am and return approx. 4:30 pm. Team Challenge for those remaining. Leader: Mrs H Fuglesang Students not on the trip report to E5	Stretch Mini challenge in school led by GHS staff. Leader: Mrs S Webb Morning registration : Hall
Thursday 18th July		Visit to Thinktank in Birmingham by coach. Leader: Mr A James Morning registration: Lecture theatre 8:00am Students meet in the Lecture Theatre and then coaches leave at 8:15am and return approx. 4:30pm. Students not on the trip register in ICT3 . Leader: Miss S Wooller	Hospitality challenge in school led by GHS staff. Leader Mrs T Twomey Morning registration: Canteen	Coach trip to Thorpe Park Leaders: Ms F Gable Morning registration: Hall 8:15 am Students meet in the hall and then coaches leave at 8:30 am and return approx. 4pm. Students not on the trip report to E7 . Leaders: Ms K Cooper/ Miss A Campbell

School day timings for students not on trips: 9am to 3pm, Break: 11am as usual, Lunch 12:30pm-1:15pm .

Students do **not** go to their form rooms for registration at the beginning or end of the day.