



# Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

October 2013 / Issue 5

## Results update!

Good news! After receiving several re-marked exam papers it looks like our overall 5+A\*-C results including English and Maths have increased to an amazing 63%!

**Dr S Bizley – Headteacher**

# 63%

### Community Laughter

It was a real pleasure to see 'Double Booked' – a play performed by Ginny Davis.

An enthusiastic audience of family, friends and Sixth Form students laughed out loud at the antics of mum Ruth Rich and her family.

Playing all the characters, Ginny Davis entertained the crowd, who in return clapped and cheered at the end of a highly hilarious evening.

Thank you to the Friends of Gosford Hill School for organising the event.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**

### Friends of Gosford Hill School

'Friends of Gosford Hill School' is a social, fund-raising group of parents and staff supporting students' educational experience and the excellent work of our school.

The FoGHS is run by a small committee that meets informally at least once a term (around six times a year) and holds an A.G.M. every November. In addition we have a group of about 20 that are available for helping out at specific events.

Details of meetings and events are on the FoGHS's website page; [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk), click on the 'Students & Parents' tab and then 'Friends of Gosford Hill School'.

Alternatively contact Kay Usher or Laura Foster in the finance office at GHS on 01865 374971 or email [finance@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:finance@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk).

### **PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

Every parent or carer should, by now, have received a ballot form for the Parent Governor Election. Ballot forms, in sealed envelopes, were given to students to take home on Wednesday 2 October 2013, so please ask for your form if you have not already received it!

If your child was absent from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, your ballot form will be posted. Nominations have been received from two candidates for the vacancy and information regarding each nominee is given on the ballot form. The ballot is secret; you can post the ballot paper back in a sealed envelope, or place it in the ballot box at Reception. All the votes must be received by 3p.m. on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and they will be counted on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The results will be published in the newsletter sent out on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### **Mrs D Rose - Chair of Governors**



## Student Conference – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Gosford Hill has just held a very successful student conference. The day was divided into 5 sessions. During session one students gave their feedback on their priorities for improving the school even further.

During session two students looked at the role of the student representatives. Between them they prioritised the qualities and responsibilities that went with representing other students. Good listening, being open minded and proactive were key. During the House Leaders session they met with their House Leaders. They discussed fund raising activities for their House charities and how they would communicate with the students in their Houses. The students then participated in a training session where they experienced different types of coaching and mentoring.

During session four the House teams brainstormed ways in which students could participate in improving learning. In the final session the council elected a Student Leadership Team made up of Natasha Owen, Jess Hay, Chloe Pearce-Higgins and Dom James. The Student Leadership Team will begin its work this week and will be discussing the suggestions made at the council.

**Mr C Hall - Assistant Headteacher, School Community & Systems**



A warm welcome back to the Learning Centre to all students and especially Year 7 who have settled in brilliantly and made themselves at home with the various activities this flexible space has to offer.

## Roald Dahl Birthday Celebration – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Students tested their knowledge with some whizzpopping, Dahl-icious quizzes relating to Dahl's incredible publications: The much-loved Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, Esio Trot, Danny Champion of the World, Fantastic Mr Fox and many more.

A competition was also set for the Year 7s, based on Dahl's book George's Marvellous Medicine. The students designed posters to advertise their own 'Marvellous Medicine', describing the repulsive ingredients and their putrefying effects.



The winner of Roald Dahl's book Mischief and Mayhem is Lilly French-Dyer and Hamish Munro wins a £5.00 book token. Congratulations!

## Forthcoming events in the Learning Centre

### National Poetry Day

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.  
Water-themed poems written by students tied onto helium-filled balloons and released from the Learning centre at lunch-time.



### Oxfordshire Book Awards

A small group of Year 9 students will be attending these prestigious awards in the company of special guests including the winning authors at Abingdon School on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Matt Dickinson – The author and adventurer will be re-visiting Gosford Hill, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November to give one of his amazing presentations.

Delancey Schools Chess Challenge - Students are signing up to take part in this amazing national tournament which begins every Spring Term, and continues over four stages and eight months. For more information go to:

<http://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/>

**Mrs Hedges - Learning Centre Manager**

## **Year 11 Public Services Expedition to the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire 26 September 2013**

The Year 11 Public Services class recently went on a trip to the famous Malvern Hills. We were accompanied by two members of staff, Mr. Ward and Mr. Smith. The plan of action was to set out on different routes to venture up the hills and enjoy the views. There were three groups of four which started at different points but all of the routes led to the same location on the top of the hills. The climb up was very steep and we needed to concentrate hard on where we were going. We ate our lunch on the top and rested before venturing back down on another route to find an end point. We were finally collected by minibus.

The expedition was a good experience for the group as it sharpened our practical skills and gave us more knowledge about the outdoors, how to use equipment correctly and plan an expedition.

**(Callum Gibbons 11TCGT)**



On North Hill for lunch – equipped for the elements:  
Thomas Hogg; Calum Gibbons; Lewis Beane; Mr. Ward; Aaron Cripps; Brad Singh; Callum Rice; Jacob Murray; Jack Leach; Gang He; Alex Brain; Harry Bockett (*lying down*)



After drifting off-course and re-taking a bearing with map and compass, Brad, Callum and Jacob (*off camera*), closely pursued by Mr. Ward, make it to the top – Worcestershire Beacon, the highest point in the Malvern Hills.

I was very impressed with the way the group conducted themselves. The 'end points' were not easy to find and all groups navigated to within 100 metres of their final destination after walking approximately 6 km and climbing to over 400 metres above sea level. The boys were a credit to themselves and their families. Thank you to Mr. Smith for assisting on the expedition.

**Mr D Ward – Deputy Headteacher / Public Services Teacher**

### **Internal exams and assessments for Years 11 to 13, 21 – 25 October**

In order to support students with revision, there will be internal exams / assessments in normal lessons during the week beginning 21 October. There will be earlier internal exams in maths and English for Year 11 students sitting November exams. Results and feedback will be given to students by 22 November. Subject teachers will inform students of the lessons involved and of suitable exam preparation.

Please contact the subject teacher or me if you have any queries.

**Jackie Fairchild - Assistant Headteacher**

### **Thursday 17th October 2013 – Potential Union Action**

A letter in regard to the above date will be sent home via students early next week with details also available on our website.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**



# GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL

Learn Lead Inspire

A Specialist College for Mathematics & Computing  
Headteacher: Dr Stephen Bizley



Maths &  
Computing

30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

## Advanced Information regarding Educational Visits

Every year we run a number of trips and activities for students which are focused on curriculum content and greatly enrich students' learning.

In order to give you and your child/children as much time and information as possible to help with planning and budgeting, we have put together an overview of the events we currently have in place for this academic year.

Please note, costs and details are as accurate as possible at this time, however they are subject to variation as circumstances can change during the course of the year. In the event that this should happen, we will update you as soon as possible. In addition to those below, there are also a number of other trips, for example theatre visits which mainly take place after school. Prior to each trip, you will be sent a letter detailing the visit content, the dates and times, transport/meal arrangements, and the cost or payments required.

Please note that there is a wide variety of trips available to students in Year 10 and Year 12. **We would strongly recommend that you encourage your child to participate in the controlled assessment trips in preference to all others trips, as controlled assessments are mandatory for geography, history and biology and contribute to the final mark awarded to each student.**

Yours faithfully

Dr Stephen Bizley  
Headteacher



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Maths & Computing

## School Activity/Trip Overview

Year 7				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
July 2014	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Flexible learning window Longridge (Marlow)	£85	Deposit £40 31.1.13
	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>			Balance £45 30.4.13
	Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>			

Year 8				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
April 2014	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Day trip to Ypres	£75	Deposit £40 4.11.13 Balance £35 28.2.14
July 2014	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Flexible learning window		
	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>			
	Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>	Think Tank	£21	Due Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June

Year 9				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
July 2014	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bowling	£6	Due Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> June
	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	London (EYE/river cruise)		To be confirmed.
	Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>			
July 2014	Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Creative Arts trip. To be confirmed.	£450	

Year 10				
Month	Dates	Details	Est. cost	Payment details
Oct 2013	Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Geography Controlled Assessment Amersham Field Centre	£30	Due Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Nov 2013	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	History Controlled Assessment Oxford Castle	£10	Due Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
July 2014	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Flexible learning window		
	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>			
	Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thorpe Park	£32	Due Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
July 2014	Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Creative Arts trip. To be confirmed.	£450	

PTO



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Maths & Computing

Year 11				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
Sep 2013	Weds 26 <sup>th</sup>	History assessment trip Oxford Castle	£9	Due by 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Nov 2013	Thurs 14th	NEC Birmingham Skills trip	£8	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Nov 2013	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds	£25	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Feb 2014	Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	SKI 2014 Aosta italy	£859	Total payment due by Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November

Year 12				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
Feb 2014	Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Geography Field Trip (Leeson House, Dorset)	£250	Deposit £100 15 <sup>th</sup> November Second instalment £150 3 <sup>rd</sup> February

Year 13				
Month	Dates	Details	Estimated cost	Payment details
Feb 2014	Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Biology Field Trip (Leeson house, Dorset)	£250	Deposit £100 15 <sup>th</sup> November Second instalment £150 3 <sup>rd</sup> February