



Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

October 2013 / Issue 9

Remembrance Assemblies

This week we remembered the 'Great Fallen' - the soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War. We also reflected on the great loss of life since then in other wars, both military and civilian casualties, as well as families affected by war around the world that we see in the news on too regular a basis.

Four Year 11 students, **Aaron Cripps, Kyle Kernstein, Ethan Stanley and Liam Weiser** helped to present the well-received assembly which included a song, written by Eric Bogle, which is known under several names ('Willy McBride', 'Green Fields of France' and / or 'No Man's Land'), and the reading of a poem by Wilfred Owen (*Dulce et decorum est*).



Next week, following Remembrance Sunday, as a school, we will observe a moment of silence at 11 a.m. on Monday 11th November.

Mr D Ward - Deputy Headteacher



Parent Forum - Wednesday 13th November - 6.00pm - 7.00pm Learning Centre (Library)

There is so much change in Education that it can be difficult to keep up with what is happening. Parents and Carers of students in Years 7 - 10 are invited to 3 short 20-minute presentations:

1. What are the key changes to Curriculum and qualifications from 2014 onwards?
2. What can I do to protect my child when they are 'on line'?
3. What are the key changes to the English and Maths exams?

All welcome.

Follow us on Twitter!

Just a reminder that you can now follow the school on Twitter! I have a Gosford Hill Headteacher Twitter account. I will use this to give brief updates and snippets of useful information about the school. It's also a great way for families to 'keep in the know' about school activities! (see example for details).

Tweets will also appear on our website but I will be unable to reply to any individual tweets. The tweets replace my Headteacher blog. The twitter account will be reviewed, and if successful, will become a permanent part of our communication system.

Kind regards and get following!

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher



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THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

Football - Dominant Year 8s Bounce Back to Winning Ways

The Year 8 team produced an excellent team performance to beat Simon De Montford Middle School 8-0 in the third round of the English Schools Cup. It was the perfect response to the disappointment of narrowly losing out in the county cup in a superb game of football versus Henry Box before half term.

During the match the Year 8s played some fantastic football built from patient play, with Ben Stewart and Hamish Hall striking an outstanding partnership on the left side of midfield. The team dominated from start to finish against a hardworking opposition and it was great to see them play with so much confidence on a difficult pitch.

The team showed excellent character to bounce back so strongly, and deserve credit for the desire shown during the match. They continue to develop as a team, and once again showed how well they can play as a group. The potential for success is very much there.

Well done to all players involved in both matches, you are a credit to the school. On behalf of the players, myself and the school a big thank you also to the parents for their support even when the game is 65km away, it is very much appreciated.

Mr L Smith – P.E. Faculty



Back Row (Left to right) - Ben Stewart, Abu Yillah, Jonah Clarke, Piers Walton, Marcus Tranter, Luca Sykes, Lewis Kimber, Harley Firkin. Front Row – Hamish Hall, Jamie Hudson, Ben Owen, Larrison Wirdnam-Crick, Archie Littlewood.

Rugby Update

Gosford Hill School's new Year 7 Rugby team have begun competitive life in committed, determined fashion with promising performances in all of their games to date.

The first challenge presented to the team was a local tournament against Cooper, Bicester Community College and Sibford, which for most of the team was their first ever experience of a competitive rugby match. With this in mind the team were extremely unlucky in the first two games to fall to narrow 1 try defeats despite competitive performances in both. It was in the third match however that Gosford showed the progress they are making with a superb 3 tries to nil victory over Sibford. An outstanding effort from all of the players, who acquitted themselves fantastically in all 3 matches.

The team then followed up this positive start with a great 15-10 victory over Wheatley Park School in a friendly match to further demonstrate the excellent progress they are making as a group.



Well done to all players who have represented the school in matches so far, it has been a pleasure to see you play with such enthusiasm and to watch you grow and improve as a team in a new sport.

Mr L Smith – P.E. Faculty

SCHOLASTIC Book Fair Coming To The Learning Centre Tuesday November 26th - Tuesday December 3rd December

What better gift for Christmas than a book. Why not pop into our book fair and browse an amazing selection of books from only £2.99.

All year groups are welcome to pop into The Learning Centre at break or lunch-time to browse and purchase their books, some may also have the opportunity to browse during an English lesson. Please remember to send your child with some money, 26th November – 3rd December, should they wish to make a purchase.

Every purchase made at the  SCHOLASTIC book fair benefits our school and helps us to earn FREE books for our library.

Mr; Hedges;
Learning Centre Manager.

To celebrate the launch of The Hunger Games; Catching Fire, released in cinemas on 21st November, **Scholastic Book Fairs** are launching a competition to win some amazing Hunger Games prizes and an ipad mini!

But, in true Hunger Games style, there's a catch... The competition details are hidden online and the only way to find the secret location is to visit the book fair.

Happy hunting and ... may the odds be ever in your favour.



Don't want your child to carry cash?
You can purchase gift vouchers online at a discounted rate and save **£££!**

Go to:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents>
for more information

Antarctic Adventures!

Matt Dickinson – author, adventurer, film-maker and motivational speaker is giving a talk to the AGT students in The Learning Centre, Thursday 21st November.



- A sea voyage by yacht to Antarctica
- Ultimate Southern Summits
- Challenges on the Antarctic Peninsula

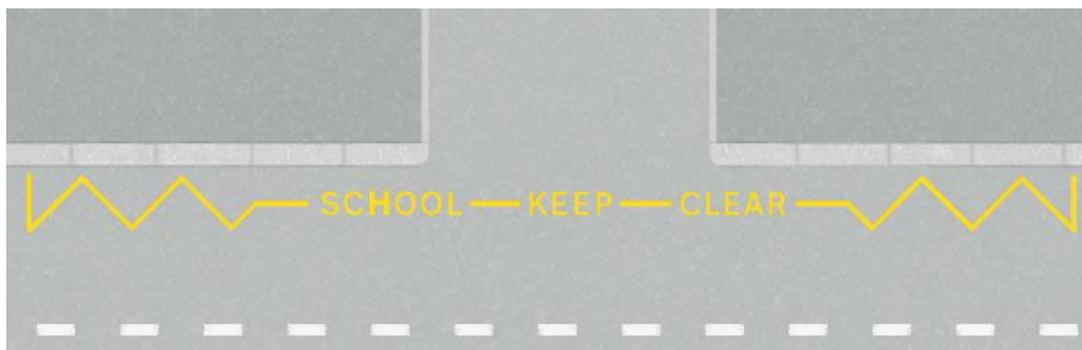


"Winter is just days away, and seven months of permanent night is about to fall across this coldest and most extreme of continents. The pressure of total isolation gradually takes its toll."

The Learning Centre

School and Student Safety

With our growing number of students in the school and with almost 1,000 students arriving and leaving the school site each day, I'm sure you will agree the importance of ensuring we do all we can to keep our children safe.



You can assist by avoiding parking or 'pulling up' on the 'yellow zig-zags' at the entrance to the school drive, it really does reduce visibility for other road users and students. I know many parents who need to drive their son / daughter to school drop them off in the nearby area rather than along the increasingly busy service road or up the school drive. We are very grateful for this as it helps to reduce congestion at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Thanking you for your understanding in this matter.

Mr D Ward (Deputy Headteacher)

CONTACTING YOUR SCHOOL

Your views are very important to us, whether they're about your child, school activities or wider community issues. For all contact details telephone School Reception.

If you have a concern about your child contact:

- **The subject teacher** - if it concerns learning in a particular subject. Contact Reception to leave a message or alternatively, if you have internet access, you can ask for their email address.
- **The Head of Faculty** - if you wish to discuss any matter in greater detail.
- **Their Form Tutor** - if it is a more general issue about your child's well-being.

Staff will endeavour to phone you back as soon as possible. All information is treated in the strictest of confidence. If you want to raise an issue or query about a more general area of school activity or a community matter contact a Parent Governor. (Telephone numbers available from School Reception)

SCHOOL RECEPTION: Telephone: 01865 374971

SCHOOL EMAIL: office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

ABSENCE LINE: Telephone: 01865 855378 (please use this number to report absences)

or

email – absence.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child(ren) in a number of curriculum areas.