



Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

January 2014 / Issue 16

New Year Message from The Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas and have had a positive start to 2014.



Term 3 is well underway, Sixth Form exams and 'A Level' taster sessions for our Year 11s have been taking place this week. Students have settled back into learning quickly and I am very pleased with the way term has started.

This newsletter gives me a great opportunity to share with you one of our latest developments and also to outline how you too can help our school. Finally, it gives me an opportunity to say thank you.

Gosford Hill School has an excellent reputation within Oxfordshire and this is because parents and carers are helping us by ensuring students arrive to school with the correct uniform, books and equipment. We know of our good reputation because we are helping colleagues from other schools become better teachers. Our own staff are running the **Outstanding Teacher Programme** where teachers from all over Oxfordshire come to us to receive high quality training. This is something I am very proud of.

The school can continue to improve even further with your help. Please encourage your son or daughter to read as much as possible. Our Learning Centre has lots of books if students need help with choosing **reading** material. Numbers are also important. Please take every opportunity to ask your children about Maths or encourage them to help you around the home – **measuring** for that room you are decorating, or ingredients for the delicious cake you are baking! It sounds obvious but it all helps!

The school is a lovely place to work and that is a great reflection on our community. Thank you for your support.

Dr S Bizley
Headteacher



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Well Done Gosford Hill School Swimmers

On Monday 16th December, three teams from Gosford left school at 8.00am for a swimming gala. The Gala was hosted at the Spice Ball Leisure Centre in Banbury. Gosford were competing against a variety of schools at this gala such as Warriner, Cooper, Banbury and five other teams. Gosford entered 2 girls teams, A and B, with the boys just entering one team. The gala was very competitive and this was a testimony to the great effort invested from all schools.

The girls A team finished in 2nd place, whilst the B team finished just behind in 3rd place. Obviously occupying 2nd and 3rd positions in the standings was a fantastic achievement for these girls, which then led to the girls A team progressing to represent Gosford at the County Finals! The main highlight from the girls' performance was the teamwork displayed in the relays by both teams showing preparation had paid off! Stephi Bourliakas had this to say: "The gala was great fun for everyone taking part, with close results. Everyone tried their best and had a great time."

The boys showed great determination and effort despite being put against very strong opponents. The boys finished 4th which was a respectable finish against tough competition. However, there were several key highlights from the boys' performance with Marshall Taylor winning the 50m freestyle by an excellent 5 seconds and Jeremy Agha demonstrating his own swimming abilities with a phenomenal performance in his 50m fly. Overall from a boy's perspective, we can consider this an amazing placement given that 3 out of the 4 boys competing did not swim for a club competitively.

Overall the gala was great fun and all schools and teams did really well. This opportunity wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for Mrs L De Bruyn, so everyone who went there says a massive thank you! The teams were as follows:

Boys Team: Jeremy Agha, Ryan Cripps, Edward Phipps, Marshall Taylor

Girls Team: Stephi Bourliakas, Caitlin Brown, Chloe Ridewood, Chelsea Beahan, Joelly Alexander, Jessica Stowell, Ellie Hughes, Lucy Parsons, Shellie Evans, Emily Kyle

Marshall Taylor – Year 9 Student

Christmas Fun!

This year's annual festive Christmas lunch took place on the 18th December - the last Wednesday of term. As with every year, the Sixth Form Committee waited on tables, delivering a starter of soup, a full Christmas dinner, and a choice of desserts.

A particular highlight of the lunch was seeing some of our senior members of staff dressed as elves, and our very own Dr. Bizley dressed as Santa himself! I was lucky enough to get a photo!

Due to the overwhelming number of students and staff taking part in the lunch, the committee had to work hard to ensure everyone was served in the allocated time. Some lucky students who were finishing their meal had the opportunity to watch a Sixth Form pantomime taking place in the common room

Overall, the lunch was a great success – a chance for students and staff to share the Christmas spirit and get into the festive mood, ready for a well-deserved Christmas break!

Lucy Truman - Year 12
Senior Prefect
Evenlode House





GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL

Learn Lead Inspire

A Specialist College for Mathematics & Computing

Headteacher: Dr Stephen Bizley



Maths &
Computing

Dear Parents and Carers

Pupil premium for pupils who are adopted from care or with Special Guardianship / Residence Orders

You may be aware that the school is given extra funding through the pupil premium grant for some groups of children. The Department for Education announced in October 2013 that from 1 April 2014, this extra money will be extended to pupils adopted from care, those who left care to Special Guardianship Orders or left care to Residence Orders will become eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant.

The additional funding the school will receive per child will be £1,900. This is a significant sum which we can use to support the progress of a pupil who may previously have experienced barriers to learning to being really successful in school.

The family legal status of every child is a confidential matter and we want you to be aware that this is being handled with great sensitivity. If your child is in one of the three groups above, we need a letter from you before **16 January 2014**. You will need to provide supporting evidence, for example, the Adoption (Court) Order in time for the school to record the child's status on the School Census.

Please do not hesitate to contact me personally if you want to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Belmont
Assistant Headteacher – Student Support