

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 32 May 2014

## North Oxfordshire Athletics Trials

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May Gosford Hill School competed at the North Oxfordshire Schools athletics trials with successful students being selected to represent the district at the finals at Tilsley Park, Abingdon in June. Due to exams the school could only enter junior boys' and girls' teams, however, Gosford had the biggest representation of the state schools in the area. It was particularly pleasing that a number of students were representing the school for the first time. Several students also had personal success finishing in the top three:

Amberley Vircavs – 100m 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Long Jump 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Chloe Ridewood – 1500m 1<sup>st</sup> place

Jade O'Dowda – High Jump 1<sup>st</sup> place, Hurdles 1<sup>st</sup> place

Harry Whitehead – 300m 1<sup>st</sup> place, Hurdles 1<sup>st</sup> place

Piers Walton – 300m 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Zak Farrow – Triple Jump 3<sup>rd</sup> place

The team were also pleased to witness Jade O'Dowda break the competition high jump record and set a new personal best of 1.67m.

Well done to all involved in the competition and thank you to the staff for giving up their time.



(Jade O'Dowda in action during her triumph in the hurdles) (Students supporting each other during the day)



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
THE SCHOLA NETWORK™

## Bag Packing Fundraising at Sainsbury's, Kidlington

Once again ten students from Gosford Hill School have been invited to take part in a Tall Ships Challenge in June. In order to raise funds for this event they have recently been bag packing at Sainsbury's, Kidlington.

This is an excellent way of raising funds and the students would like to say a big thank you to Sue Coyle at Sainsbury's for allowing them to have this opportunity. They'll be back doing more packing this Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May between 2.00pm and 6.00pm.

Thanks once again to Sainsbury's Kidlington for their help and continued support for the school.

**Mrs P Drinkwater – Tall Ships Challenge Leader**



 FRIENDS OF GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL INVITE YOU TO A 

**SUMMER DANCE**

FRIDAY 4TH JULY  
AT GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL 7.30 PM TO 11.30 PM  
£10 PER TICKET

GLASS OF PIMMS & FOOD PLATTER INCLUDED

LICENSED BAR

PRESTIGIOUS LIVE BAND  
JOHNNIE AND THE JIVETONES



TICKETS

[finance@gosford-hill.ocnmail.net](mailto:finance@gosford-hill.ocnmail.net)

PHONE 01865 855373

## ***Parent Forum***

The next Parent Forum  
**'Launch of the New Home Learning  
Policy'**

will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
June 2014 at 6.00pm

Everyone welcome!

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**

## ***Do Beehave...***

Last Friday the school had some unexpected visitors. A very large swarm of bees collected in one of the trees behind a Maths classroom. Bees swarm around this time every year. It happens when the bee colonies grow rapidly and produce new queens. Once the young queens emerge from their cells they go



on their mating flight and return to the hive to muster a swarm. Sometimes a hive will throw off several swarms.

During the few hours they were here some of our bees explored parts of the school looking for a new site for the colony. For a while the Sixth Form Centre was looking like a likely spot. A nifty application of some insect repellent put them off that idea and a local bee keeper was called. The area around the swarm was cordoned off and the bee-keeper prepared to move in after the students had finished school. As luck would have it this was precisely the time that the bees moved off presumably to a home more suitable than our Sixth Form Centre.

**Mr C Hall - Assistant Headteacher**

## ***Travel Consultation***

OCC have just launched a 2 week consultation on post-16 travel. The main point is that students living under 3 miles from school can apply for concessionary bus passes at a cost of £290.40 and those over 3 miles away at a cost of £541.20 per school year.

Parents can access this consultation via the following link

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/transportfe14/consultationHome>

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**

## News from the Learning Centre

# Author Event!

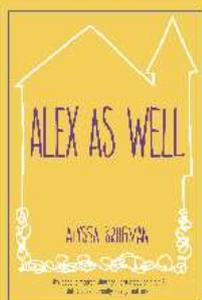
For all teenagers / parents / librarians / readers in and around Oxford

Blackwell's Oxford, Oxford Children's Book Group and Oxford School Library Association are proud to invite you to meet Australian author

## ALYSSA BRUGMAN

Alyssa is in the UK to celebrate publication of her YA novel, *ALEX AS WELL*, a tender, funny and powerful novel about questioning identity, discovering sexuality, navigating friendships and finding a place to belong.

An un-miss-able and exclusive chance to meet a breakthrough voice in the books world.



**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

Blackwell's Oxford, 51 Broad St, Oxford OX1 3BQ

This is Alyssa's only bookshop event in the UK.  
No charge - free to attend.  
Refreshments provided.  
Books available for purchase and signing.  
Reserve your place by calling 01865 792792

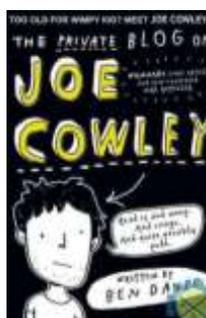
### Blackwell's Event

World famous bookshop Blackwell's invites you to attend a fantastic FREE author event. Please see poster (left) for details.

Blackwell's also run a teen fiction reading group in the bookshop. If any eager readers would like to know more about the group, all about Blackwell's and how to join, go to:

[www.blackwellsteenfictionreadinggroup.wordpress.com](http://www.blackwellsteenfictionreadinggroup.wordpress.com)

Other titles by Alyssa Brugman available in the Learning Centre:



Ben Davis, shows off his book

### Forthcoming Events in The Learning Centre

**Patron of Reading** – I am pleased to announce that Gosford Hill School has a Patron of Reading. **Ben Davis** is a newly published author with Oxford University Press. His book, *The Private Blog of Joe Cowley*, tells the typical teenage antics of Joe and his weird mates who are seen as the social outcasts in school. Joe and his group are picked on by the school thug 'Gav' and his entourage, with comical consequences...

A Patron of Reading works hand-in-hand with the school to support students with their reading in a variety of ways, while the school promotes the author and their work. Details of the event are to be confirmed. For more information about Ben go to: [www.bendavisauthor.com](http://www.bendavisauthor.com)

**Chess Master** - Carl Portman is returning to The Learning Centre on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June to play an interactive match with the students on a giant, magnetic, demonstration chess board.

**Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair** – Buy your half-price books and get ready for summer reading, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>-Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.



Mrs Hedges, Learning Centre Manager

