

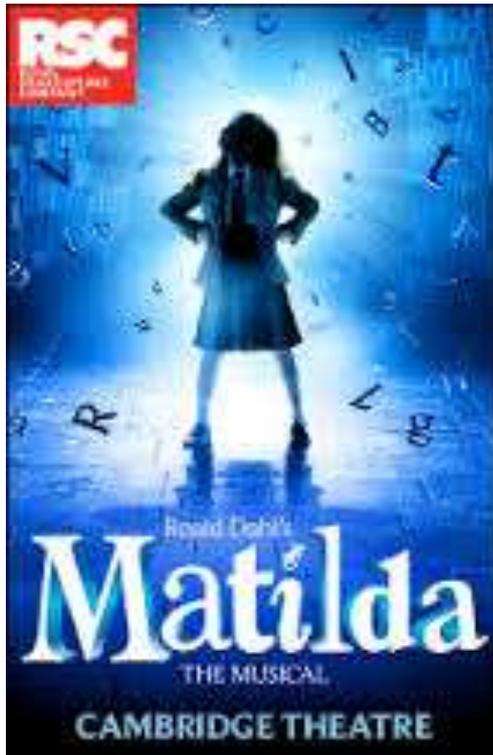
The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 35 June 2014

Year 8 trip to See *Matilda*



Ilana Kneafsy plays 'Alice' in Matilda



On Wednesday 11th June, Year 8 went to see the theatre production of 'Matilda' at the Cambridge theatre in London.

As we quickly took our seats with excitement, we were astounded by the staging. Letters all around in many different colours, lights began to shine in our faces and everyone was chatting. The production soon began and many objects came out of the ground, for example, the desks the characters were using rose from beneath the stage, the special effects were incredible and the staging was extraordinary!

We were especially excited to see Ilana Kneafsy who was playing Alice in the production. Of course she made us all proud and very honoured to be there watching our friend. Her acting and singing was astonishing, we could not believe how amazing Ilana really was. As the production came to an end, Ilana walked back on stage with all the other cast to accept her applause, the whole of Year 8, that had the privilege to attend, stood on their seats and shouted a massive roar of cheers across the theatre to Ilana expressing how excited and proud we were of her.

Overall, we had such an amazing trip where we all had a good laugh and a fun day with all the teachers and thanks to Ilana for making us all proud with a theatre trip never to be forgotten!

By Hollie Winstone and Hannah Deacon



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

Year 11 Final Assembly

On the afternoon of Friday 13th June, Gosford Hill held the traditional Year 11 final assembly with students, parents and families to mark the end of the GCSE examinations. It was a lovely occasion.

Following Dr Bizley's welcome, students were presented with their Record of Achievement by our Chair of Governors Doreen Rose.

Each House Leader spoke to acknowledge the skills, qualities and the fantastic contribution that Year 11 have made to the school over the past five years.

The contrast between the photographs of the students when they were at the Year 7 Marlow camp and arriving at the Randolph hotel for their prom was another highlight.

**Mr R Belmont – Assistant Headteacher,
Student Support**

Year 5 Welcome Event

370 students and parents/carers attended the Year 5 welcome event on Thursday 12th June - an incredible response.

This event has been run for the past five years and creates important opportunities for Year 5 students and their families to meet students and staff from Gosford Hill and find out about the transfer process and aspects of school life.

After a welcome drink served by students on the Languages lawn, our guests heard speeches from current Year 7 students regarding transfer, the House system, academic achievement and extra-curricular activities. This was followed by the key note address from Dr Bizley.

Thank you to the Year 7 students who helped run this important event.

**Mr R Belmont – Assistant Headteacher,
Student Support**

Creative Talent

As an English teacher, I have the privilege of being given frequent insights into the creative talents of our students. On Tuesday, I was impressed by a piece of writing produced by Benedict Keates, a Year 6 student from St Thomas More School. Benedict was one of twenty pupils visiting Gosford Hill in preparation for joining Year 7 in September. In our English class we thought about the differences the students had noticed between Gosford Hill and their primary schools, and discussed the ways in which new things and experiences can be puzzling or strange. We then read Craig Raine's 'A Martian Sends a Postcard Home', which imagines what it would be like for an alien to visit earth and what they would make of our strange objects. Using Raine's techniques, Benedict wrote the following piece (in 15 minutes!), perfectly demonstrating the use of form, metaphor, alliteration and precise word choice in poetry. Can you guess what the alien is writing home about?



Stone encased in a wooden tube that, when grasped, can create words.

Different depths of darkness shall make pictures.

Red or white, blue or green, colours vary, you can choose.

A swift flourish can leave you stunned or scared without being real.

Its produce costs, when printed on white slabs of wood.

Well done Benedict. We're looking forward to reading more of your work in Year 7.

Mr B Whittaker – Teacher of English

The Learning Centre

As One Chapter Ends...

Year 6 students have attended taster sessions in the Learning Centre over the past three weeks. A total of 86 children from Edward Feild, North Kidlington and West Kidlington Primary Schools visited the Learning Centre, as part of their transition into secondary school, to hear a talk about all of the exciting things that take place here and how they can utilise the space in September. The talk emphasised the importance of ensuring that every student has a safe and welcoming area that they can relax in, complete homework, play board games, meet friends, read and be part of exciting events. The talk was followed by a quiz to familiarise the students with the different library zones. They were then able to explore the Learning Centre by reading books and magazines, playing board games and challenging each other to a quick game of chess.

The Learning Centre is open 08:15–16:30 (Mon, Tue, Thu); 08:15-17:00 (Weds-Filmclub) and 08:15-16:00 (Fri).

I look forward to welcoming all Year 7s in September.

Mrs Hedges - Learning Centre Manager.

Edward Feild



North Kidlington



West Kidlington



Chess Players Earn a Treat!

After fantastic year of chess tournaments, national challenges and chess ladders it was decided that the dedicated players needed a treat. Chess Master Carl Portman was invited to give the students a demonstration of a game on his giant, magnetic chess board. Carl went through the moves of a match he had recently played and added, 'it was a game I had planned on playing for the last two years'. The students each had their own boards to duplicate the game and were encouraged to offer advice on the next appropriate move/s throughout the match. Contributions from the students were fast and well thought out with some interesting theories on where the next few moves would take the game to.



Half-Price Book Fair Coming to the Learning Centre Tuesday July 1st - Tuesday July 8th

Need something to read during the summer holidays?

Buy a book at the half-price book fair!

See competition details to win Hunger Games
merchandise in your form trays



 SCHOLASTIC

World Cup 2014 – Competition Time

Look out for an amazing literacy competition to win:

- A replica World Cup 2014 football
- An England Jacket with Brazil 2014 logo
- Brazil 2014 gym bag
- Brazil 2014 baseball cap
- Brazil 2014 mug with all nations flags

Details will be put in form trays.



Year 9 Patron of Reading Event 25th June

If you are a parent/carer of Year 9 student that has been invited to our Patron of Reading event with author Ben Davis and you would like to attend this amazing launch event, please return your acceptance slip to reception. Thank you.



Mrs Hedges, Learning
Centre Manager

The Learning
Centre

Summer Dance

Don't miss this year's fabulous summer dance event on July 4th; tickets on sale now:



The poster is framed with a decorative border. At the top, it reads 'FRIENDS OF GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL INVITE YOU TO A' in blue, followed by 'SUMMER DANCE' in large red letters. The date and time are 'FRIDAY 4TH JULY AT GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL 7.30 PM TO 11.30 PM' in green, and the price is '£10 PER TICKET' in blue. A red line of text states 'GLASS OF PIMMS & FOOD PLATTER INCLUDED'. In the center is an illustration of a four-piece band. To the left is 'LICENSED BAR' and to the right is 'PRESTIGIOUS LIVE BAND' and 'JOHNNIE AND THE JIVETONES'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS' with the email 'finance@gosford-hill.ocnmail.net' and phone 'PHONE 01865 855373'. There are also small illustrations of people dancing at the bottom corners.

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

PHONE 01865 855373

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 wellbeing.

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.