

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 36 June 2014

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Year 12 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group went out on their final expedition last week. They hiked 25 km over 2 days and camped overnight. They had to be completely self-sufficient and carry all their own equipment and supplies. They were assessed by an outside assessor and all received good comments. They coped with two very hot days, lots of stinging nettles, brambles and some fierce insects. Along the way the groups had to work on a project, one group took photos and then transferred their images to a white T-shirt to create a lasting memory of their expedition. The second group took photos of features along the route and then will compare the actual item to the ordnance survey symbol for that feature; this could then be used as a useful teaching aid for future groups. Well done to everyone.



Mrs N Heydon and Mr S Williams - Duke of Edinburgh Award Leaders



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
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Junior Mathematical Challenge 2014

On 1st May, students from Years 7 and 8 took part in this year's Junior Mathematical Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The intriguing multiple choice question papers are designed to stimulate interest in the subject.



Year 7 winners



Year 8 winners

Certificates were given to the following:

- Gold:** Hajun Kim (Y7) (Best in school) - Hajun scored highly enough to be invited to sit the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Marcus Tranter (Y8), George Goodgame (Y7), Alexei Hamblin (Y7), Arta Nickfarjam (Y7), Hamish Munro (Y7),
- Silver:** Isabel Hedges (Y7), Morgan Russell (Y8), Heather Ewart (Y8), Samuel Hepworth (Y8), Samuel Gauld (Y7), Max Gatehouse (Y7), Kamran Ramzan (Y7), Jack Smith (Y8), Thomas Anderson (Y8), Laura Scaife (Y7), Jonah Clarke (Y8), Joshua Redfearn-Doney (Y7), Charlotte Barnes (Y8), Chloe Antonen (Y7), Ronnel Bryne (Y7),
- Bronze:** Sylvester Howes (Y7), Aaron Wardley (Y7), Malieta Fisilau (Y8), Robert Axtell (Y8), Owen O'Malley (Y7), Emma Davies (Y8), Miranda Peers (Y7), Esah Hakimi (Y7), Oliver Hedges (Y7), Reeza Ansari (Y7), Ben Stewart (Y7), Hannah Forse (Y7), Alexandra Davies (Y8), Oscar Webb (Y8), Imogen Hunt (Y7), Suhail Jan (Y7)

THE UKMT is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people through mathematics. Further information can be found at www.ukmt.org.uk.

Mr S Williams - Team Leader, Mathematics Faculty

Year 8 Science Event

On the 17th June, all of Year 8 participated in the 'I'm a Year 8 – Get me out of here!' event as part of their Science lessons. This tested our ability to overcome challenges, face the unknown, work as a team and use a variety of our senses.

We were separated into groups, and had to volunteer to complete each of the 5 activities within our team, without knowing what each challenge was beforehand! The 5 activities all provided a different challenge. Our powers of observation and memory were tested with a series of objects the group had to memorise and record. Our sense of touch was tested by the 'feely' boxes, guessing mystery objects by touch alone (not for the squeamish!). Our engineering skills were tested by a paper aeroplane contest. Our sense of taste was put to the test on a variety of obscure flavoured crisps and yoghurts, and our courage and sense of touch was tested by racing to find a toy dinosaur in a bucket full of baked beans!

At each challenge, we competed against teams from the other Houses, earning points for the furthest paper aeroplane, the most objects memorised, or the fastest time to locate the dinosaur. Once the 5 activities had been completed, there was one final challenge to decide which House would be the overall winner. As a House, we needed volunteers to eat/drink a variety of common foods disguised as something disgusting, just like the real celebrities on 'Get me out of here!', with the fastest combined time getting maximum points. After many disgusted looks and cries of 'that's gross', eventually each House managed to overcome the horror and finish their final challenge.

Three Houses ended up level on points, but after counting back through the scores Windrush were declared the winners by virtue of having the most first place finishes through the initial 5 activities, with Evenlode in second, Thames in third and Cherwell in fourth.

All of us enjoyed working in teams that were different from our normal teaching groups, and enjoyed the challenge of trying something new!

Tobi Akinyemi – Year 8 (ETBR)

From the Science Faculty: Well done to all the students in Year 8 for participating in the 'Get me out of here' challenge. Every student took an active part, with a strong sense of team spirit and enjoyment had by all students. We look forward to running the event again.



University of Warwick Debating workshops for Year 12



On Monday 16th of June, Chenderit School hosted a Debate day for Year 12 students, led by students from the University of Warwick, to learn debating and communication skills. Four students from Gosford participated in the day

We started the day in a workshop, playing word games and warm up activities. We learnt basic debating skills and how the formal British Parliamentary system of debates work, with formal proposers, opposition and supporting teams for each side of the argument. We were able to put these practices into action as we participated in some warm-up arguments including Animal Rights, and the merits of French wine.

Then came the main competition. We were paired up and assigned one for the four roles for a formal BPS style debate; government proposer, lead opposition, second government or second opposition. We had 15 minutes to construct our arguments before we debated. The two motions for each round were “This house believes that voting should be made compulsory” and “This house believes that private health care should be abolished”. During the course of the debate, opponents were allowed to interrupt, or ask for a Point of Information. We scored points according to how well we dealt with these challenges, or made them against other teams.



Most students were willing to debate, and even got rather passionate, making the day almost exciting. This panned out into a final of the competition, allowing us to observe the students who were best at debating. I feel as if we learned how to think quickly and formulate clear and winning arguments, backed up with examples and present our argument in a structured way and overall... debate. 😊

Tori McClean and Maddy Hosking Year 12

UCAS Convention

UCAS Convention' sounds a bit daunting to 17 year olds trying to decide their post-sixth form options and university choices. The time is fast approaching to apply for our courses and we still have a lot of questions to ask.

That's where Tuesday's UCAS Convention at Bedfordshire University came in. Alongside seminars relating to student finance, the application process and certain courses, there was the rather unique opportunity to speak to representatives from, pretty much, every university in the country. In a hall and a separate marquee were stalls with prospectuses and course lists, along with patient representatives who were able to answer questions that, for me at least, hadn't been answered before. They were extremely helpful.

The seminars discussed certain courses in detail via a modular breakdown, and what one might do post-graduation – for example, career options and prospects.

Aside from the serious aspects of the day, the university provided a band which played throughout the day, and food tents. When not visiting stalls or seminars, everyone sat on the grass and enjoyed the sunshine – a good way to take our minds off the imminent decision-making.

Everyone came away with some more questions answered, a few prospectuses (or 20 in some cases) and lots of freebies. For me, at least, I now know more about my bizarre combination of Japanese and Sociology at Brookes, and Japanese at other places up and down the country. On the whole, a great event that helped to tackle the questions we're all asking ourselves about our futures.

Lucy Truman – Deputy Head Girl

North Oxfordshire Food Bank

As well known, the Evenlode house charity is the North Oxfordshire Food Bank and compared to other forms of raising money, karaoke lunchtimes and cupcakes, I not only speak for myself when I say enthusiasm didn't come easily!



Myself and many others didn't see the 'fun' in bringing a few cans of baked beans into school, to see them shipped off – "Bravo, job done – just another day at school!"

But that's where the problem lies! It sure isn't 'fun' going hungry, not being able to go to Nando's on the weekend or having a 'binge out' day with tea and biscuits every once in a while.

It's about, as a school, setting our priorities straight, and being a community of students making their best effort for a charity. What we, as a house, have done over the past

couple of weeks has been amazing!

It has been unbelievable the amount of generosity that has been shown. Just bringing in the few simple necessities like coffee, sugar, cereals, jams and spreads, can cater for a family for a week! Having the power and strong-will to provide a home with another meal on the table is just WOW!

I am not saying this easy! We can be a lazy bunch and so we needed motivation! Our house assembly helped! Over the first couple of days many people, including myself, forgot to bring in food. This is shocking! You don't forget when you're hungry do you? Or when your phone needs charging? Today's society is all too often centred around the idea of 'everyman for himself', but if we all just take a step back, it becomes clear how we can affect the lives of people around us.

Each form voted 2 food bank representatives who were responsible for reminding the form about the food drive. Simple right? They kept their form on their toes with 'lovely encouraging messages' each morning and we organised a Sainsbury's haul. As a form we collected over 30 items which contributed to the 385 items we collected as a house, including tea, pasta, rice, milk, orange juice and other food products including cans (90 alone being baked beans!).

Five of us helped Miss Clinch to pack all the items ready for collection. We borrowed a very large trolley to help load the items. We needed to do several runs! The really good news is that the charity told us that many of our items would be distributed that morning ready for the weekend.

So..... I guess we can all say we did our community proud, and hey – guess what? – it was easy after all!

René Gordon – Year 10 Student Evenlode House



P.S. The Oxford Food Bank isn't a one off complacent donation. These people eat as much as we do – we mustn't take this opportunity for granted. So keep calm and give food!

Get your reading sorted for summer!

SCHOLASTIC Half-Price Book Fair Coming to the Learning Centre
Tuesday July 1st - Tuesday July 8th
Every book is half-price



Summer Dance

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

RIENDS OF GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL INVITE YOU TO

SUMMER DANCE

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

GLASS OF PIMMS & FOOD PLATTER

LICENSED BAR

PRESTIGIOUS LIVE BAND

TICKETS
finance@gosford-hill.ocnmail.net
PHONE 01865 855373



American Themed Lunch – Wednesday 2nd July

The canteen will be serving hot dogs, burgers, chips and brownies on Wednesday 2nd July. The cost will be £2.10 for a main meal and pudding.

We look forward to seeing you!

Canteen Staff

