

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 37 July 2014

## Transfer Day

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the Year 7 students transferring to Gosford in September spent the day in school.

The day was led by the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Team and was funded by Oxfordshire County Council. The students were given practical and exciting challenges, including building an egg parachute and building a car, that encouraged team building and developed core skills.

Each group was accompanied by the Year 10 students who were successful in the interviews to be employed at the summer school in August.



The students also met their House Leaders and were taken to meet their new forms by the senior Year 10 students in the house.

The following evening the students returned with parents/carers and family for the Transfer evening that included presentations from Dr Bizley, Mr Manthorpe (Summer School), Archie Coyne (Deputy Head Boy) and Lucy Truman (Deputy Head Girl).

The evening concluded with refreshments supplied by the Friends of Gosford Hill.

**Helen Johnson came to observe from Oxfordshire County Council – “It has been a fantastic day – Brilliant engagement!”**

**“It is a fun and good school. The teachers are lovely and the Year 10 students are very helpful. It was easy to make friends.” – Katie Archer, Laura Bateman, Milly Butler (Five Acres School)**

**“The activities were awesome. I can’t wait for summer school and when I start in September”  
“It is fun making rockets and working with people you have never met before.” – Bernard McBride (Charlton on Otmoor Primary School) and William Hawkins (Chesterton C of E Primary School).**

Mr R Belmont – Assistant Headteacher



## Sports Day

An excellent time was had by all on Tuesday at the annual sports day. The field events took place in the morning alongside the hurdles and the 1200m. The PE department were assisted by the sports leaders who have been trained all year by Mr Baker (SSCO) and been helping at primary festivals. In the afternoon the whole school witnessed some great races in a great atmosphere. Students' behaviour was outstanding and the level of support to all athletes inspired great performances and 15 school records were broken.

Results for each year group and gender can be found on the PE noticeboard. The overall winners were Cherwell for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Students can find pictures from the day on the shared drive (courtesy of Miss Green). The event finished with the staff relay and a strong performance by the staff of Thames saw them cross the line just in front of Evenlode.

Given the beautiful weather we were extremely thankful to Sainsbury's of Kidlington for providing all finishers with squash and water to keep them hydrated throughout the day. Many thanks to all staff and students who helped make the day so memorable but special mention to the site staff for helping with the setting up, Mrs Frankcom for providing a great soundtrack and Mr Manthorpe for his enthusiasm and commentary.

Mr P Green – Subject Leader, P.E.





## Patron of Reading Ben Davis

### Visits Year 9s

Author Ben Davis visited a group of forty-five Year 9 students in the Learning Centre at the launch event to celebrate Ben's role as Gosford Hill's new Patron of Reading. A Patron of Reading is a school's special, designated children's author with whom the school forms a personal attachment. Ben will work with Gosford Hill School to raise the profile of reading for pleasure with pupils, parents and staff. This event was the first in a range of initiatives the school will be hosting in Term 6 and during the next academic year.

Ben, who's also an accomplished comedian, discussed his experiences as an author and what inspired his reading and writing while growing up. This was followed by Ben reading a hilarious extract from his book, 'The Private Blog of Joe Cowley', which had the students cringing and roaring with laughter. The year 9s were then split into 4 groups and asked to come up with specific ideas for the outline of a story such as characters, setting, genre... The group's ideas were then brought together to form a brief story outline from which a competition has been set to win a Nook e-reader and copies of Ben's book. (Details of the competition have been put in form trays for each student who attended).

Parents and carers of the Year 9 students were welcomed to the event and given a short presentation by our Literacy Co-ordinator, Ms Marin and myself to discuss the Patron of Reading scheme and the benefits of reading for pleasure. This was followed by an informal reception and buffet where students and parents could meet Ben, buy a signed copy of his book and browse/borrow books from the Learning Centre. Each student was presented with a recommended reading list, an 'Ideas for Reading at Home with your Child' leaflet for their parents/carers and were allowed to choose a book from a complimentary selection to take home. If you would like to follow Ben's blog or tweets visit: <http://www.bendavisauthor.com/>  
Mrs Hedges, Learning Centre Manager.

The Learning Centre



## School Uniform update.

In addition to the school uniform policy, below is clarification of footwear for September 2014. The school receives very positive feedback about the standard of uniform - particularly from visitors to the school. This reflects the clarity of the uniform expectations and the high level of support from students and parents/carers. Thank you.

Please note the following regarding footwear. By communicating now it gives families time to ensure that footwear bought for September complies with the following;

- Is substantial, supportive, comfortable and warm
- Is suitable for prolonged wet/cold conditions
- Please note that canvas shoes or of any type are not allowed in school
- Please note that any shoe with a sporting logo (eg Adidas, Nike, Reebok, Puma etc. are not allowed in school even if the logo is black.

Thank you

Richard Belmont



**WARNING ALL PARENTS!**  
**August 15th 2014**  
Is the last date to order  
your child's uniform online  
or from our shops  
**DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!**

**ACT NOW!** We have your school's  
uniform in stock NOW - but we can never  
predict when we will sell out.

**Avoid disappointment!** Order your son/daughter's uniform online or visit the store NOW! Do NOT leave it until the last moment. Remember **after 15th August 2014 we cannot guarantee to have stock in time for when your child goes back to school.** We don't want to let you down so Help us to help you!

[pmgschoolwear.co.uk](http://pmgschoolwear.co.uk)

  
**PMGSchoolwear**  
...AND SO MUCH MORE

## Enrichment week

For enrichment week we are re-enacting WWI and WWII battles in Stop Motion. If you have any models or figures at home you no longer want - please bring them in to school. Thank you.

Mr S Marinari – ICT Teacher



## Debating Club

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Gosford Hill Sixth Form hosted the return leg of the highly anticipated debate against students from the Cooper School. This was another opportunity for all students to develop their public speaking and pose clear and coherent arguments to the teams. The two debates at this fixture were 'The United States and other world powers should stop meddling in the Middle East' and the controversial topic of 'extending the school day can only be a good thing'.

First up to debate the matter of world powers intervening in the Middle East were Harrison and Ollie. After an informative opening speech that consisted of statistics regarding death tolls, statements from government officials and the uprising of 'ISIS', Harrison handed over to the opposition before welcoming questions from the floor. There were an array of questions, all of which were thorough, and different perspectives arose as a result. Some of the questions asked included whether or not we are protecting the United States oil reserves for both our benefits, while others questioned whether or not we would intervene militarily in locations such as South America and China. After the questions and answers were complete, Ollie began with his closing summary speech and focused on the uprising of 'ISIS' and the acts of terror already seen in the United States and United Kingdom in recent years.

Following a short refreshment break courtesy of Mrs Driscoll, we resumed to topical matters which many students and teachers for that matter oppose. Laura opened the batting for Gosford and delivered a passionate speech opposing Mr Gove's reformation plans for the school day in state schools. Included in her speech were the proposed plans of the Education Secretary as well as her own experiences when she attended school in Germany. Similar to before, the Cooper School



also gave their stance on the topic before welcoming questions from the audience. Questions asked during the open format included the alternatives to competing against the leading academic countries across Asia, in addition to the children's welfare. Celia closed off the final debate in a professional manner through the use of statistics and research from a leading professor from Oxford University to support her team's argument.

Sadly this was the final debating event of the academic year, but it was by far the best yet. Everybody spoke and delivered exceptional speeches whether they were on the floor or in the audience. This year has been an exciting time for the Sixth Form's debating club, having attended a handful of events already. Next year will be bigger and better for sure! And last but by no means least, a big thank you goes to Mrs Driscoll and Mr Catling for organising all of the events for us this year.

**Harrison Lee – Year 12 Student**

## 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.

<b>TERM DATES - 2013-2014</b>
<b>Term 6</b>
Monday 2 June – Friday 18 July
<b>TERM DATES – 2014-2015</b>
<b>Term 1</b>
Thursday 4 September – Friday 24 October 2014 (ILP DAY Wed 3 September)
<b>Term 2</b>
Monday 3 November – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
<b>Term 3</b>
Monday 5 January – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
<b>Term 4</b>
Monday 23 February – Friday 27 March 2015
<b>Term 5</b>
Monday 13 April – Friday 22 May 2015
<b>Term 6</b>
Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2015
<b>INSET DAYS:</b> 1 & 2 September, 10 October, 5 December 2014
<b>Bank Holiday:</b> 4 May 2015