

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 37 July 2014

## Enrichment Week

This week was Gosford Hill School's enrichment week. There have been a huge range of activities to enable students to learn in very different ways.

Many of our Year 7 students have been away camping at the annual Marlow camp. They have enjoyed trekking, water sports and other outdoor activities. Those remaining have had a series of trips and activities including a lovely trip to the Oxford Castle and the Bird Sanctuary at Otmoor.

For Year 8 there have been two days of Humanities activities based around the theme of WW1 and WW2. There have been classes which have cooked rations, animations have been made of WW1 & WW2 scenes. In DT & Art, commemorative tiles have been made for a large mural and in RPE students considered the issues raised by conscientious objectors. On Wednesday they went to the Thinktank in Birmingham. This was a great day giving our students the opportunity to appreciate science in the real world.



War Animation



Commemorative Tiles

Year 9 have had a varied programme. On Monday many of them went bowling and participated in team challenges. On Tuesday there was the London Eye and Thames River Cruise trip. The students thoroughly enjoyed the view from the London Eye and had an excellent cruise down the Thames. On Wednesday the students participated in a Design & Technology challenge day working in groups to create and design Superheroes. Students needed to use their knowledge of Science and Design Technology to create a hero with smart materials. Students then solved a variety of tasks that the hero would have to solve in their daily lives. The best idea from each group was presented in the afternoon to Mrs Fairchild.



Superhero Challenge



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust  
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

On Monday Year 10 participated in the Science and Maths challenge day. This was based around the idea of a one way trip to Mars. Students fired air-powered water rockets, designed a biosphere model, partook in a space quiz and steered a remote-controlled buggy around a track. On Tuesday the stretch mini challenge returned. Year 10 worked with volunteer business advisors from the community to produce a pitch relating to their 'stretch mini' business. Our partners at BMW very kindly lent us their custom-built mini which gave a real life context for the day. On Thursday all year groups participated in challenges and activities relating to the themes and trips of the week.



**Martian Biosphere**

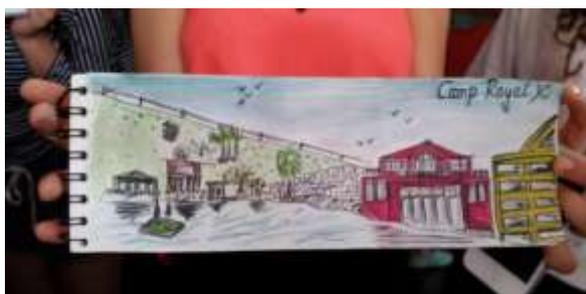


**Stretch Mini Challenge**



**Launching Rockets**

There has also been an amazing Creative Arts trip to Austria. Students have participated in Art, Drama and Music workshops as well as having the opportunity to immerse themselves in Austrian history and culture.



**Students art on the Austrian Trip**



**View from the Funicular in Salzburg**

This has been a hugely rewarding and enjoyable week for staff and students alike.

Some quotes from the students who have been participating:-

*'We are using our creative skills to create superheros'*

*'We used science to make something creative'*

*'I enjoyed the Design a Superhero task because I could be creative'*

*'We enjoyed working as a team'*

**Mr C Hall – Assistant Headteacher**

## Austria Trip

Wow!! Another amazing Creative Arts trip returns safely. 102 drama, art and music students went to Seeboden in Austria for a week of performing, sightseeing and team building activities.

I have to say that I have never been more proud to be a teacher at Gosford Hill School. The students were exemplary in their behaviour and the mature manner in which they represented themselves and the school.



The workshops culminated in some fantastic performances that will help develop their skills for their GCSEs and the art students have begun to collate and enhance their themes and ideas for their GCSE coursework pieces.

Salzburg was a magical day and we were mesmerised by the landscape and architecture of the city. The students ate lunch in a variety of restaurants and stretched their German skills by ordering and conversing in German. We all experienced the Austrian cuisine and loved the schnitzel and strudel.

Thank you to staff and students for a wonderful trip.

To see a complete timeline of our visit please see the twitter feed available at [http://www.twitter.com/ghs\\_austria](http://www.twitter.com/ghs_austria)

**Mrs H Whitford – Faculty Leader, Creative Arts**

## Adventure Experience

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July Tim, an adventure enthusiast spent the morning with Year 7 students to give a talk about extreme sports. He talked about his extreme sport hobbies which were rock climbing, abseiling, kayaking, caving and much much more. Tim also brought in equipment he uses for the activities which we were able to look at after the talk.

What Tim showed us was very interesting and he showed us amazing photos of everyday people doing many extreme activities in amazing places. It was fascinating to see what we could achieve by testing out these activities and looking at what we could do in different areas.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Tim for spending his time to come and talk to us about his amazing experiences. All the Year 7 students who came to watch Tim talk about extreme sports really enjoyed it and would like to see it again.



**Luanna Dias, Caitlin Bramley, Debra Ondondo, Ella Blake, Hannah Jones and Hatty Knight**

Some quotes from students:

*"I liked the adventure talk because viewing the adventure equipment was fun and interesting"* – Freya Bates

*"I liked the talk because it was interesting to learn about extreme sports – I enjoyed it very much!"* – Georgia Dabney

*"It was really fun and interesting and I really enjoyed it because he explained things well and it was something different to learn. Overall it was an exciting hour of the day!"* – Aaron Masih

**Mrs R Lopez – Geography Teacher**

### European Teachers Visit

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 we welcomed 12 European teachers of English who are on a professional development course at The Lake School of English in Oxford. As Gosford Hill School is part way through enrichment week there were various activities taking place. These included stop animation in the IT department, painting World War I images onto plaques to form an impressive display and a World War I activity to inform students about the War in preparation for cross-curricular activities in the new academic year. The visitors were impressed with the diversity of subjects studied at our school, the IT suite, the Learning Centre and the vertical tutoring system.

**Mrs J Humpheys, TA co-ordinator.**



### Learning Centre

#### Ben Davis Blog

Our Patron of Reading, Ben Davis, has set up a blog for Gosford Hill School so that parents/carers and students can keep in touch during the summer break.

<http://bendavisauthor.blogspot.co.uk/2014/07/patron-of-reading.html>



### World Cup 2014 Competition Winners

A stunning description of the Amazon Rainforest, pitiful cruelty associated with Macaw bird-trapping, contrasts between the World Cup stadium in Brazil and poverty, ecstatic scenes at the Natal stadium formed the winning entries. Congratulations to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Emily Kyle – 8WHFG wins an England 2014 jacket
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Gauld – 7CSNN wins a replica 2014 World Cup football
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jessie Hicks – Jessie Hicks 8CHKU wins a World Cup 2014 mug, gym bag and cap

**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

**Mr R Belmont – Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)**

## *Celebration Assemblies*

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July the Celebration Assemblies for Evenlode and Cherwell Houses took place. Here are the photos of the prize winners and their certificates.



**Evenlode Prize Winners**



**Cherwell Prize Winners**

**A huge congratulations to all our prize winners in all houses!**

## Birmingham University visits

This week a group of Year 10s travelled to Birmingham University to attend the Year 10 Life and Environmental Sciences Discovery Day. We were introduced to students attending the university, who told us about the subjects they took at 'A' level and explained their course in detail.

After arriving at the university, we were offered free tea, coffee and biscuits before being led into a seminar. Here, we were lectured by Dr Julia Myatt about advances in modern technology and how we can use them to study the behaviour of animals. She showed us how motion sensors in gadgets such as smartphones and Wii remotes can be used to study the movement of leopards and lions in the wild, and how results can be used to pinpoint the action of an animal.

We then attended a seminar on Respiratory Physiology led by Dr George Balanos, who performed an ultrasound on a student's chest to demonstrate how blood is pumped around the heart. He explained to us how ultrasound could not only be used to observe development during pregnancy, but could also be used to observe the flow of blood in veins, arteries and through the chambers of the heart.

Following this, we attended a demonstration by Dr Balanos, who explained the mechanical properties of muscle. In order to do this, he fired pulses of electricity through his bicep which contracted the muscle and moved his arm. He did this repeatedly to show how frequent bursts of electricity from the brain are used to move our limbs by making our muscles contract. Our final seminar of the morning was led by Dr Andy Soundy, who told us about the recommended level of exercise per week. We learned that there is no maximum limit for the amount of exercise a person can do in a week, however, the minimum can vary, depending on the mental state, age and weight of the person. For example, a person who suffers from a mental illness, such as schizophrenia, should do less strenuous activity.

Before lunch, we were taken on a walk around the university campus and shown the different departments for education on site. We were shown the planned site for a new library, sports centre and where different societies met around campus.

After lunch we had another seminar given by Dr John Catling about the study of Psychology. We were all tricked by a video we were asked to watch, demonstrating how the brain works and how unobservant we all were!

The visit to Birmingham University allowed us to think about our futures, whether it be medicine or environmental sciences, we all benefited from the trip. It also inspired us to work harder, as seeing the end product made the painful years at school more worth it!

**Rhiannon Parker - Year 10 Student**

Here are some of the comments made by students:

*"The tour of campus was interesting, because it gave us a taster of the university" Natalie and Mo*

*"It was fun and helped me to think about my options in the future" Hope*



Students at the entrance to the Great Hall Birmingham University

*"It was helpful to find out the required grades for psychology and it also helped me to think about what I want to do at university" Ellie, Emily & Phoebe*



## Other Choices

In addition to the Year 10 Life and Environmental Sciences Discovery Day two other groups of students attended the Engineering, Maths and Physical Sciences Discovery Day and Arts Law and Humanities Discovery Day. The format of the days were very similar with student attending interactive seminars and workshops which introduced them to university courses.

Jack Smy concentrating on driving the 'Formula Student' racing car simulator Engineering, Maths and Physical Sciences Discovery Day

## **Staff News**

This summer we say farewell to the following members of teaching staff :-

Miss Kathryn Bevis, Mr Mathew Black, Mrs Cara Hagmann – Smith, Mr Simon Howells, Miss Rebecca Jones and Miss Antonia Osborne.

Miss Colleen Gowlett has left to go on maternity leave.

Mr Richard Goldring will be stepping down as Cherwell House Leader for personal reasons and will be replaced by Miss Joanne Brimble.

Mr Tom Manthorpe will be Special Educational Needs and Intervention Coordinator from September 2014 and Mr Chris Hall will take over as Thames House Leader.

We also say goodbye to the following members of our support staff team.

Mrs Julie Britton, Mrs Jayne Mundy, Mrs Cherrill Seward and Mrs Francoise Soleilhac.

Our thanks to all of the above colleagues for their valued contribution to learning at Gosford Hill School and our very best wishes to each of them for the future.

In September we welcome the following new appointees :-

Ms Michelle Aylott (Team Leader – Art), Ms Anne Chaza (MFL) Mrs Maggie Hollings (Art), Miss Sheridan Mack (Science) Mr Joseph Barrett (Student Manager), Mrs Lynda Tyrrell (Deputy Student Manager) and Mrs Catherine Snow (Central Administration Assistant)

Mrs Nicola Cooke – Headteacher's P.A.

## **End of Term Message from the Headteacher**

It has been a year of immense change in the world of education - with new qualifications, new accountability measures and an overhaul of the schemes of work on the curriculum to name but a few. Teaching staff and support staff at Gosford Hill School have once again worked incredibly hard to keep on top of the changes while still finding time to lead visits and trips. They are an amazing group of people and I thank them for their dedication and commitment.



I would also like to thank you - the families, carers and friends of the school for all your support. In changing times it is important to work together to help all our young people in an ever changing world. I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**

## 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.

## TERM DATES - 2013-2014

### Term 6

Monday 2 June – Friday 18 July

## TERM DATES – 2014-2015

### Term 1

Thursday 4 September – Friday 24 October 2014 (ILP DAY Wed 3 September)

### Term 2

Monday 3 November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### Term 3

Monday 5 January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### Term 4

Monday 23 February – Friday 27 March 2015

### Term 5

Monday 13 April – Friday 22 May 2015

### Term 6

Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2015

**INSET DAYS:** 1 & 2 September, 10 October, 5 December 2014

**Bank Holiday:** 4 May 2015