

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 2 September 2014

World Challenge trip to Swaziland 2014

On Tuesday 15th July 2014 eight students from Gosford Hill School teamed up with four students from John Mason School in Abingdon to embark on an exciting trip to Swaziland. The twelve students were accompanied by two members of staff, Sarah-Ellen Wooller (GHS School Leader) and Tina Herringshaw (Teacher at JMS) and a World Challenge Leader, Allen Shaw. The two-week trip consisted of three phases: a trekking phase, project phase and rest and relaxation phase.

Trekking Phase



The trekking phase of the expedition was based on an exploration of the Ngwempisi Gorge – an impressive 500m deep rugged granite gorge in southern Swaziland. Students camped wild for the first night and then trekked to Rock Lodge which is a spectacularly located lodge perched high above the gorge with incredible panoramic views.

After the trek students visited the Malolotja Nature Reserve where they had the chance to take part in the Canopy Tour followed by a night camping in the reserve.

Project phase



During the project phase students immersed themselves in Swazi culture and discovered how the local people live. The World Challenge team were based at a Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP). There are 180,000 AIDS orphans in Swaziland, and NCPs have been built to support these orphans. They are places where children can come together and access various services, receive care and support, a meal for the day and some form of education. The World Challenge team raised money in the UK for the project and used the funds

to buy materials to paint the church, build a 6ft wire fence to protect the young children from roaming animals and to purchase education and food supplies for the project.



Rest & Relaxation phase



Students were based at Sondzela Backpackers Lodge and visited the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. They explored this beautiful and tranquil game reserve by horseback and a sunset safari tour. They came across zebras, warthogs, lots of antelope species, hippos, crocodiles and birds. On their last night they chose to camp under the stars with just a mosquito net, camp pad and sleeping bag and woke up to an amazing sunrise, the sounds of cormorants and monkeys in the trees with warthogs running around the campsite.

Miss S Wooller – Expedition Leader



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
The Schools Network™

Do you want to play an instrument?

The County Music Service came to see our Year 7 students on Tuesday afternoon in the Music Department to share the fantastic opportunities available for our students through the new Oxfordshire Music Hub. For example did you know that we have eleven visiting music teachers each week? Did you also know that students can learn any of nineteen different instruments in school?

The band, made up of music teachers and students, performed a number of songs. The fun really started when students volunteered to try out a new instrument and joined the band as they performed 'price tag' by Jessie J. The students were able to have a go on a French horn, a baritone horn, a cornet, a trombone, a clarinet, a flute, violins and we were all singing, clapping and joining in with the fun.

Instrumental lessons are taught within the school day to groups of four but there are individual lessons available. These lessons are on a rota which means the time changes each week for minimum impact to students' learning of a particular subject.



Did you know that Gosford Hill School is a Centre for Music on Saturday mornings? This takes place from 9.00am – 10.30am in the Music Department and it caters for students of any age who have either just started playing an instrument, right up to grade 5 standard. After this students can progress to the Central Music Centre to join the County Wind Band, Jazz Band and Brass Band. They can also play in the Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra, Oxfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra and Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra and much more.

If you would like to find out about music lessons, please contact me at school or look on the school website which will be updated shortly with up-to-date information about costs and further links to the music service. We

have so much talent at Gosford Hill School; I want this musical tradition to continue for many years to come and would encourage every student to take up a musical instrument!



Mrs R Frankcom - Team Leader of Music

Advance Notice

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSING AT 1.20pm ON WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE OPEN EVENING



Gosford Hill School

invites you to our

Open Events for September 2015 intake



Maths &
Computing

Open Evening: Wednesday 17th September 6.00-8.00pm

Open Morning: Thursday 18th September 9.15-10.45am



Year 6 Transfer Day



Year 7 Marlow Camp



Raising money for Children in Need



Developing learners

Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NT
01865-374971 www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk



Gosford All Blacks RFC



Gosford All Blacks RFC
'First Choice for Oxfordshire Community Rugby'

Mini, Junior, & Youth Rugby from ages 4* and up



New Players Always Welcome!

Training Sundays 10am - 12pm
Stratfield Brake Sports Ground, Frieze Way, Kidlington

If you would like to know more about Rugby in advance of the Rugby World Cup 2015 in England, or if your child would just like to try the game without any commitment, come along and join one of our training sessions throughout September

email markgardner@gosfordrugby.com for further information

NB: Children under 5 years old can play as long as they are in Reception Class.

www.gosfordrugby.com

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.