

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 37 July 2014

## Home Learning

There will be some changes to how we set homework this year. It will now be known as 'home learning'. The name change is designed to reflect the fact that learning is not confined to school but is a constant in all of our lives. We are asking you as parents and carers to become even more involved in your child's learning. The main differences to the policy are:



- Students are expected to **read for 15 minutes every day**.
- Students are expected to **complete a 'learning log'** where they reflect on what they have learnt during the day and what they might need to do next. There will be an 'online log' available soon or students can use their planners or a notebook.
- Home learning tasks will be set in advance and students will have a choice over what tasks they complete, with guidance being given by their teacher. You will be able to see the tasks by logging into Show My Homework (the link is on our website).
- The tasks aim to stretch student thinking and encourage independence and creativity, developing vital skills for the future.
- We are setting up a 'Study Support Session' on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Learning Centre. If students are not completing home learning tasks, they will be asked to attend a study support session, where they can access help for their homework. The study support sessions will also be open to all students.

Please encourage your son/daughter to complete the tasks as it will really help them become better learners and improve their chances of realising their potential.

**Mr J O'Regan - Assistant Head, Learning and Teaching**



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THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

## Year 9 Girls STEM day



On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a group of Year 9 girls went on a STEM day to Birmingham University. When we arrived we had a 45 minute lecture from Dr Ceri Brennan who works at the laser site in Oxfordshire. She talked about atoms and molecules and how they formed. She encouraged us to consider working in science.

Then we went to our first activity. It was a civil engineering task, BRIDGE BUILDING! We had to measure and place the side wires in order to keep the bridge up. Once it was finished we crossed the bridge, one by one.



After that we went to our second activity. It was all about computer science: building an app. We sat in pairs at a computer with an android phone, and were given instructions. We first of all had to make a talking button which when we pressed it the phone spoke to us. Then we had to programme it to speak when we shook the phone. We were all successful at making the apps.



After lunch we had a tour of the university site. There were lots of different types of buildings in different stones and bricks. We found out that the main clock tower (known as Old Joe) is taller than Big Ben. We then left to come home.

'It was a great experience and the university was massive with lots of departments to help with all kinds of subjects.' Emily, Cherwell House.

'My overall view of the whole day was magnificent. Birmingham University changed my mind about going to university. Paige, Windrush House.

### Emily Launchbury and Paige Cooke Year 9



### Sixth Form Icebreaker Social Event

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September saw the annual Sixth Form Ice Breaker event, organised by the Sixth Form Committee. Each year a different theme is chosen for fancy dress and this year we saw many clever, innovative film theme ideas including the Hot Fuzz sergeants, Cat woman, Futurama and Star Wars inspired costumes. And perhaps best of all, Mrs De Bruyn as Baby from Dirty Dancing – the resemblance was uncanny once a curly blonde wig had been applied! Professional lighting and a bubble machine accompanied the music and karaoke, and there were some great, as well as some... rather questionable vocal covers (these in particular made for a great night).

The party had a relaxed atmosphere and any initial inhibitions with regards to stupid dancing were soon eased when Aaron and Pilsun made their way to the dance floor. There was definitely a lot of ice broken between the years and this following week, I think the whole of Sixth Form feels a little more united. Hopefully upcoming events like the Christmas party will further this.

If you didn't make it to this social, Sixth Formers, then we expect to see you at the next one! It will be bigger and better and will definitely still involve some terrible dancing.

**Lucy Truman – Deputy Head Girl**



## ***Open Events Success***

We have been overwhelmed by the huge number of people who attended our Open Events this week. Nearly 400 people came to our Open Evening and many visited our school during Open Morning. Thank you to all the families who attended. It was a very proud moment to stand in front of so many people to share with them the success of our school.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**



**GOSFORD ALL BLACKS RFC**



**OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Stratfield Brake, Kidlington**

**11 AM onwards**

[www.gosfordrugby.com](http://www.gosfordrugby.com)

### **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

## 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.