

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 7 October 2014

## Languages week 2014

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 26<sup>th</sup> September the languages team ran a series of languages lunchtimes to celebrate the diversity of languages and cultures at Gosford Hill. On Monday a group of students watched 'Le Monde de Nemo' (Finding Nemo in French) and on Tuesday students made origami animals. On Wednesday Miss Jesior-Tiffert ran a European quiz (complete with Polish prizes!). On Thursday many students came along to teach or learn a new language including Spanish, Portugese, Hungarian, Polish, Korean, Punjabi and Greek. On Friday there was a food tasting session where students brought in a range of foods from other cultures for people to try. Tasty dishes included Hungarian sausage, Spanish tortilla, paella, Polish cheesecake and German stollen. A massive thank you to all students who contributed dishes- they were thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff!

**Mrs S Key – Team Leader Languages Faculty**



***Friends of Gosford Hill School***

***Quiz Night***

***Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – 7.00pm***

***Gosford Hill School Sixth Form Centre***

***£30 per team of six (Smaller teams are welcome to join together on the night)***

***Ploughman's Supper included – Bar available***

***Call 01865 374971 or just come along tonight***



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## *Queen Elizabeth Park, Stratford, East London Year 13 Geography fieldtrip - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014*

For a third year running, the Geography department organised a visit with Year 13 students to the recently redeveloped Olympic Park (now known as Queen Elizabeth Park). After taking the train and then the underground, we reached Stratford Station and came up to the entrance of Westfield shopping mall, the biggest shopping centre in Europe.

The aim of the trip was to investigate the effects of the redevelopment of Stratford, with a hypothesis of 'London Olympics: good for the country, good for London, not so good for local people'. After a successful 2012 games, the Olympic Park, which was built in a previously industrial area in decline has been transformed once again into an area of leisure and retail and business. The development of the Olympics brought £26 billion to the area's economy and local services. The students walked around Stratford noting the contrast in the physical background by completing environmental quality surveys and ethnic background, wealth and education by completing surveys. The surveys gave them an insight on what the people who visit or live there think about the changes in the area.

### **Mrs R Lopez – Geography Faculty**



## *Year 9 Rugby Report*

The Year 9 rugby team successes over the last two years have led to more students joining the squad. The squad are now playing some fantastic rugby rather than relying on individuals and showing great progress. Last Thursday the school hosted the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership (North area) rugby tournament. The team faced Sibford, Bicester Community College and Cooper School. In the first game against Sibford they played some excellent rugby as a team and ran in some great tries finishing 21 – 5. In the second game they faced Bicester Community College and worked really hard to score three tries in the first half. This allowed key players to have a break before facing Cooper in the last game. In the final game against Cooper, Gosford lost 19-0 after a couple of breaks from an individual player. Gosford continued to play good rugby but a couple of missed tackles allowed Cooper to win the game. At the end of the tournament Cooper, Gosford and Sibford had all won two games. However, Cooper and Sibford progress to the next round of the cup competition due to losing bonus points and winning bonus points. Gosford will go forward to the plate competition and should be aiming to continue their progress and win the tournament. The team also have two more county cup games. Hopefully a few more players will go forward and join a rugby club out of school to continue progressing.

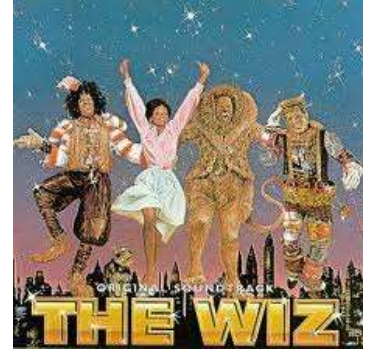


### **Mr P Green – Assistant Faculty Leader, P.E.**

## *The Next School Production*

Auditions were held this week for Gosford Hill's next school production of 'The Wiz'. We were overwhelmed with students who wanted to take part with over 100 students auditioning. The standard that is being produced is of such a high quality that even our chorus this year are exceptionally talented and capable of having leading roles in previous years.

I am delighted that our school plays are inspiring so many young people to take part and want to get involved this year.



We have had to have call backs this week also, in order to make sure that every character is the most effective it can be.

It has been such an exciting process already and I can't wait for the rehearsals to start next week. It's going to be an amazing show with more Gosford Hill students taking part than ever. Pretty soon we are going to need a bigger stage!

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

## *On-Line Learning Log – Year 7 Trial*

As part of our new Home Learning Policy students in year 7 are trialling the new **www.schoolidiary.it** learning log. Research that spending 15 minutes a day reviewing learning really helps students remember and apply what they have done in class. Year 7 students should be taking the “**20 word a day**” schoolidiary.it challenge. Ask your son or daughter to record the day's learning every night in 20 words. Experience shows they will write much more ...

**www.schoolidiary.it** shows

### **What Parents Can Do**

**School ID: 5205** **Check** your son or daughter has an account. Sign up is **FREE** – students will need their timetables. At the Setup page make sure they have put in the school ID: 5205. **Engage** with what your child has written by **asking questions** and **rewarding** the effort of doing it. As you and your child become clearer about what has been recorded, ask them to **amend** and **add** to their records. This cycle pays dividends in terms of **developing recall** and **adding depth** to conversations. The more **active** you can be the more **effective** schoolidiary.it will be.

The subject log function is a great starting point for conversations at parent consultation evenings. With it you can discuss how the learning is progressing and how it can be enhanced. The subject log is also a great starting point for revision as it can produce lists of topics covered.

Not in Year 7 and want to give it a go? Sign up is **FREE**.

**Mr J O'Regan – Assistant Headteacher**



## *'Collaboration leads the way nationally'*

At a presentation this week to Education & Business Partners in Oxfordshire, Adrian Lockwood, local businessman and Chair of Oxfordshire Skills Board, informed the audience that initiatives and developments, supported by the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Skills Board, are being closely observed at Government level. Oxfordshire is leading the way in building on and improving in many areas, although the consensus at this event was that this did not extend to alleviating traffic congestion! Of particular interest to school communities is the strengthening of education business links.

Independent research was commissioned last year to evaluate the current links and propose areas that could be further developed in order to support young people to become a well-qualified and skilled future workforce in Oxfordshire. The findings of this research were presented to the audience. Overall the findings were very positive with all schools contributing examples of positive business links such as enterprise events, mock interviews, as well as support for work experience programmes. There are also many local businesses willing to get involved. However we are all aware that there is more that can be done to strengthen these links.

Gosford Hill School is hosting its' own event to strengthen these links to which you are cordially invited.

**Mrs E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager**



## **CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP**

Please join Students, Parents, Governors, Staff and Local Business Organizations at this event looking at ways in which the School can continue to prepare its students for work in the 21st Century

Gosford Hill School  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
6 - 8.30pm

RSVP Liz Hounsell  
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hill.oxon.sch.uk



## *News from the Canteen*

# **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

The canteen will be offering a Spooky Halloween lunch on Thursday 23rd October



- Finger rolls (Hot Dog)
- Rat Burger (Beef Burger)
- Brains in sauce (Cauliflower Cheese)
- Frightening Fries (chips)
- Monster Muffins and a selection of shaped cookies (bats, Witches hats, pumpkins)