

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 15 December 2014

## Senior Mathematical Challenge 2014

In November, sixteen of our Sixth Form mathematicians took part in this year's Senior Mathematical Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The intriguing multiple choice question papers are designed to stimulate interest in the subject.



Our prize winners were:

Silver: James McKendrick (best in school), John Crockett, Pilsun Eu, Bilal Jan, Pawel Salasa.

Bronze: Daniel Bigden, Aaron Cawte, Edward Hopkin, Martin Price, Deepak Jindal, Charlie Groves, Melissa Fry, Samuel Butler.

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is designed for Years 9, 10 and 11 in UK schools and will be held on 5 February 2015 and the Junior Mathematical Challenge for Years 7 and 8 will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. We plan to enter our top set in each year group. However, if your son or daughter from any maths set would particularly like to sit this exam, please let me know. Further information can be found at [www.ukmt.org.uk](http://www.ukmt.org.uk).

Please contact me if you have any queries.

**Mr S Williams – Assistant Faculty Leader, Maths**

### *End of Year message from the Headteacher*

Thank you for all your support during 2014. Your feedback from parent surveys has been really helpful and it tells me the vast majority of parents are very happy with Gosford Hill. I would encourage you to use Parent View (link available on our website) to share the positive news about our school. As we approach 2015 your support is as vital as ever. Ensuring your child is ready for learning, completing homework and reading outside of the classroom really helps in preparing them for the all-important examinations they will take throughout their school career.



May I take this opportunity of wishing you a peaceful and restful holiday and a prosperous New Year. Thank you again for your invaluable support.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
The Schools Network™



EBOLA FUNDRAISING EVENT – IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH BRITARTAN  
A YOUNG ENTERPRISE COMPANY  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014



The Young Enterprise group successfully organised a fundraising event to raise funds for their product and the ebola virus currently affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. To generate substantial interest in the event, the group showed a short film capturing the current ebola crises, during house assemblies. Gautama Lee one of our Year 13 students, produced the film, with the finished product looking highly professional. To encapsulate the festive season, the group decided on a Christmas theme for the event. This included Christmas karaoke songs, and the sale of freshly baked ginger bread men with the support of Bob, the school canteen manager. With the spirit of goodwill, both staff and students were brave enough to sing their favourite Christmas songs in front of a crowd of students in the main school hall.

Mrs De Bruyn and some superb Sixth Form girls with Mr Manthorpe being the prize, opened the event with the all-time favourite, All I want for Christmas by Mariah Carey

Mrs Driscoll and Miss Campbell in true gospel fashion sang, Merry Christmas everyone by Shaking Stevens.

Mrs Webb, Magnus Taylor and Alex Stewart just about managed to murder the timeless classic, 'Last Christmas' by Wham.

Mr Ward, Dr Bizley, Dean Sherlock and Aaron Cripps in full season spirit sang, 'Lonely This Christmas' by Mud.

Mrs Frankcom and the School Choir closed the event in true vocals with 'Band Aid' by various artists.

The group raised just over £400 from the event, with half of the funds going to the Disaster Emergency Committee for the ebola appeal. If you missed the event you can catch the highlights on Britartan's facebook page: [facebook.com/Britartan](https://www.facebook.com/Britartan).

A huge thank you to all staff and students for their support, and Britartan for executing such a professional fundraising event within a short space of time.

**Mrs S Webb**  
**Team Leader Business and Link Teacher - Young Enterprise Company Programme**



Dr Bizley and Mr Ward in full character singing, Lonely this Christmas by Mud



Members of Britartan (Jamie Rolinski, Charlotte Wray-Williams, Niamh Brewer and Olivia Mash) icing and showing their freshly baked ginger bread men



### ***Visit from Indonesian RE teachers***

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics faculty hosted a visit of three RE teachers from Indonesia. The Indonesian government is looking at different ways of delivering RE in Indonesia to try and tackle issues of Islamic fundamentalism and are really excited about the RE teaching that they have seen in England. As a result, they have sent a group of 40 RE teachers to Oxford to work with the University of Oxford's Department for Education and local Oxfordshire schools.



Three teachers joined us for the day on Tuesday, along with a translator. They spent time in Year 7, 8 and 10 lessons and saw a range of topics and activities. They were particularly excited to see Year 8 carrying out an investigation into what happened to Jesus' body and Year 10 doing a hot seating activity to understand more about Christian views of euthanasia. In the afternoon they were "interviewed" by Year 13 Sociology students who study religious fundamentalism as part of their course.

Thank you to my colleagues, Mr O'Regan and Miss Campbell for helping host the visit and to all the students who showed off what brilliant RPE students we have at Gosford Hill.

**Mrs M Hewett - Teacher of RPE.**

### ***Playathon Day in Sainsbury's***

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, students from Gosford Hill School took part in a Musical Playathon at the Sainsbury's store in Kidlington to raise money to replace the PA system that is now nearly 20 years old. Groups of musicians serenaded the customers throughout the day as they did their shopping with singing and playing a wide range of instruments. Customers were very complimentary and generous, donating an amazing £1,003.86 in just one day! Thank you to the students who took part in this event, the parents and carers, grandparents, neighbours, ex-students and many more who came along and gave us lots of support and encouragement throughout the day. Thanks should also go to the staff of Sainsbury's for allowing us to take up residence for the whole day and all of their help and support with this event.



**Mr R Frankcom - Team Leader of Music**



### ***Tins for D&T***

Please can you bring in any Christmas sweet, biscuit or cracker tins that are no longer used (e.g. Celebration and Rose's tins). We recycle them and use them in Design Technology. Please bring any containers to Miss Butcher in D2.

Many thanks and have a lovely Christmas.

Miss L Butcher – Subject Leader, D&T Faculty





## ***Celebrating the Christmas Spirit***

The school choir performed in our annual Christmas celebration at St. Mary's Church, Kidlington on Tuesday evening with traditional carols and readings.

This year the choir performed a range of gospel songs celebrating the story of the birth of Jesus with biblical readings by staff and students. Special mention must go to Anna Heaven and Lizzie Knowles who both performed solos and for Maya Hurst who performed One Little Christmas Tree by Stevie Wonder. Afterwards parents, students and ex-students, governors and staff came together to enjoy a mince pie and warm drinks and share their news. A great start to the Christmas holidays.

Many thanks to Sainsburys of Kidlington for supplying the mince pies and to Friends of Gosford Hill School for supporting this event.

**Mrs R Frankcom - Team Leader of Music**

## ***Getting a good night's sleep***

Getting enough good quality sleep is more important for our health and wellbeing than most people realise. Students have been learning about the importance of sleep, and how to make sure they sleep well. Some students simply go to bed too late, play computer games or stay on social media too late to get enough good quality sleep to keep their metabolism balanced, their immunity system protected and their energy levels high enough to fully participate in school life. These are benefits of a good night's sleep, as well as sleep reducing stress and raising engagement in lessons.

Some of the ideas to sleep better are well known, such as not eating too late, keeping the bedroom at only 18 or 19 degrees or having a calming drink before bed. However, for many of our students, advice about not using computers or social media for an hour or so before bed is one that as parents you could help reinforce. Ideas from the Sleep Foundation include having all smart devices kept downstairs, or turning the Wifi off at 9.30 pm. Our students will now be aware of the benefits of a good night's sleep so ask them what they know!

Have a look at the National Sleep Foundation website for ideas on how to improve quality of sleep. There is also an online sleep diary where you can track how much you sleep and whether you have sleep problems - <http://sleepfoundation.org/>

Have a restful Christmas

**Mrs A Driscoll - Head of Humanities**

## ***Staff News***

This term we say farewell to the following members of support staff :-

Ms Catherine Bech (School Counsellor),  
Mr Martin Horton (Business Manager) and  
Ms Sarah Kelly (Learning Mentor).

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 January we welcome the following appointees :-

Mr Martin Culkeen (Faculty Leader Science) and Ms Penny Challans (Business Manager)

**Nicola Cooke - Headteacher's PA**

## *Christmas Jumper Day*

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Sixth Form got into the Christmas Spirit. Firstly, the Sixth Form Committee had arranged to take part in the national 'Christmas Jumper Day' event organised by Save The Children, and almost everyone in Sixth Form took part. There were some pretty impressive jumpers with bells, lights and even some that played songs. We rounded the day off with photos and have also counted up which form raised the most – Miss Green's form with £41.50, followed by Miss Driscoll's form with £31.10. In total, we raised £183.23, a fantastic amount that can be put to good use, helping others over the Christmas season.



Secondly was the annual Christmas Party held in the common room also arranged by the Committee. Complete with professional music and light systems, a snow machine and a bouncy castle, the night was a great success. Again we saw an interesting display of dance moves and some even more questionable karaoke singing. However it was a lot of fun and everybody seemed to have a great time. A special thanks goes to Aaron Cawte who surprised us all with his flawless DJ-ing, and gave us the perfect selection of music. Overall we had a fantastic evening – roll on the Summer Ball!

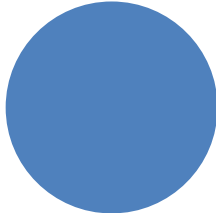


**Lucy Truman – Deputy Head Girl**

## Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening Survey

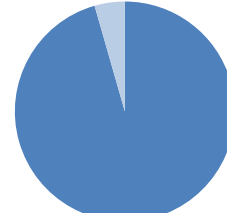
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 was the Gosford Hill School Parent Evening for Year 10. Below are key points from the parents and carers survey:

**My child feels safe at this school**



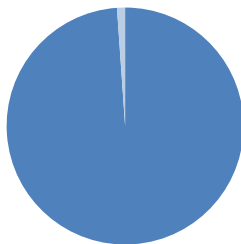
■ Agree or strongly agree (100%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (0%)

**My child makes good progress at this school**



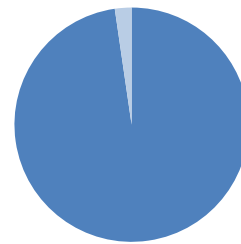
■ Agree or strongly agree (95.6%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (4.4%)

**My child is taught well at this school**



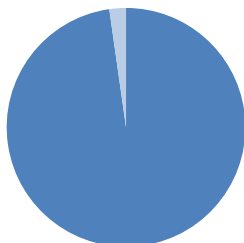
■ Agree or strongly agree (98.9%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (1.1%)

**This school responds well to any concern I raise**



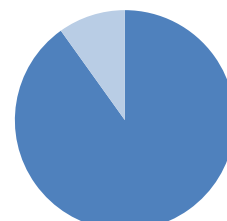
■ Agree or strongly agree (97.70%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (2.3%)

**I would recommend this school to another parent**



■ Agree or strongly agree (97.75%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (2.25%)

**My child studies regularly at home**



■ Agree or strongly agree (90.11%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (9.89%)

**Mr C Hall – Assistant Headteacher**