

# The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School  
*Learn Lead Inspire*

Issue 22 February 2015

## **GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL SKI COURSE**

PILA/AOSTA, ITALY  
14<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

The annual school ski course proved yet another fantastic experience in a long line of resounding successes. 38 Year 11 and 12 students took part in this year's course along with 7 staff and adults. A total party of 45.

The students gave a tremendously favourable impression of themselves to all parties. They drew extremely positive comments from all Interski staff, instructors, hotel staff and coach drivers. They were brilliant ambassadors for Gosford Hill School. As one instructor commented 'They (the students) are a credit to you and your school'. The rapport amongst the students and 7 staff accompanying the course was a privilege to be part of.

The course was once again booked with the reputable travel company Interski who delivered a quality package as usual. All the groups made incredible progress in their skiing thanks to some wonderful snow conditions and weather. With no injuries to speak of, this resulted in all students getting the most from the six days of skiing.

The 3 star Lodge Hotel located within walking distance of the lovely centre of Aosta and a short 5 minute coach ride to the main Pila gondola lift provided comfortable accommodation with all rooms enjoying good standard of facilities. The food was good with an evening three-course meal and a buffet breakfast arrangement. Lunch was taken at mountain restaurants using the unique Interski voucher scheme where the students and their instructor have a choice of a hot snack.



The whole party enjoyed a varied evening entertainment programme which comprised of a quiz on the first evening followed by a pizza evening, bingo, bowling, disco, ski presentation and snow tubing. Emily Robinson won the top prize in the bingo of a pair of Oakley sunglasses. There was just time to cram in some shopping in the atmospheric old Aosta town and a visit to a Nike Factory outlet on the outskirts of town.

The conduct and behaviour of the group as already mentioned was excellent. Special mention must also go to the staff that accompanied the course and worked so tirelessly on behalf of the students to make the course a success. To Mr Gannon, Mr Manthorpe, Mr Goldring, Miss Witney, Mrs Whitford and Mr Smith my sincere thanks. Lastly to all the students themselves for making the 2015 ski course another great success.

Photographs of the course are now on the school web site and a DVD of the course will shortly be made. The DVD will be shown in early May to all students and parents. The date is yet to be confirmed but there will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of the DVD and also photographs from the trip on the evening itself.

**Paul Catling - Party Leader**



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Some comments from the students:

*'Amazing holiday! Robert was best instructor ever!'* Vicky Bailey

*'I don't have a special memory – they're all amazing'* Faye Brightmore

*'Generally awesome week, Gavin (instructor) was a legend and I learnt a lot'* James Groves

*'I also enjoyed the friendliness between staff and students'* Simon Hague

*'The skiing was outstanding and the instructors were amazing – extremely helpful as well as patient. The teachers were so laid back and enjoyed the banter. The evening activities were entertaining. The location of the hotel was perfect because of the scenery and the Interski staff were very kind and helpful'* Dan Case and Charlotte Smith

*'The skiing was awesome, we progressed so much from where we started at Hemel, being unable to turn to now going down red slopes. Although it was tiring the skiing was definitely worth it!'* Anon

*'Best part was making new friends and going to a nice place'* Anon

*'We progressed massively through the week. The instructor was very helpful. The runs were fun and I enjoyed every one of them. 10/10 best holiday'* Anon

*'Skiing was a brilliant experience'* Anon

*'I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the skiing trip! It has to be the best trip Gosford can offer. I'd like to thank each teacher as the trip wouldn't have been as amazing as it was without them!'* Megan Rayment



## **Year 9 Hospitality Challenge**

A small group of Year 9 students have just completed a very successful two day Hospitality Challenge. They worked with students from four local schools, all members of our local Education Business Alliance, and staff from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, Blenheim Palace, Holiday Inn, The Belfrey Hotel, Eynsham Hall and The Oxford Hotel. After a morning of ice breaker activities, each team worked with one of the organisations to research their brief, met key members of staff and put together a presentation of the package they had planned for their client. The groups were tasked with planning a wedding, a children's party or a prize giving dinner with a range of budgets. The students managed to successfully plan their events in the limited time available, sticking to the allocated budget. They certainly made quite formidable event planners. The presentations were superb with all students participating.

The students developed their skills and confidence in working in teams with new people as well as a greater understanding of the huge range of career opportunities within the hospitality and leisure industry. The students were a credit to themselves and the schools involved. Our thanks go to all the organisations involved, in particular The Oxford Hotel who hosted the first morning and the Holiday Inn who treated us all to lunch in their restaurant on day two.

"It was much better than I expected it to be" "I was nervous at first but soon made friends with the rest of the group" "planning a wedding is a big job" Student feedback

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





## Friends of Gosford Hill School

### **Quiz Night**

**Friday 6 March 2015**

**7pm Gosford Hill School Hall**

**Ploughman's Supper included**

Tickets £5 per person



**Advanced booking essential**

Please register by Monday 2 March

Emailing: [gfin3209@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:gfin3209@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

Phone: 01865 855373

#### **Child Benefit**

Parents of students in Year 11 may have had a letter about Child benefit, requesting information as to what your son or daughter intends to do from September 2015. If they remain in education or approved training you can still claim benefit up to age 20. You will need to return the form otherwise the benefit will cease in September.

Further information at <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/overview>

#### **Are you looking for space for a meeting, activity or function?**

Ideally located close to Oxford and A34, we can offer a number of our school spaces for hire by private individuals, community groups or corporate clients to use for functions.

From dance classes, martial arts, gym clubs to concerts, drama productions or meetings and conferences, we have a wide variety of rooms of different sizes and functions to choose from. For example, our gym, hall, dining room, lecture theatre, drama studio, classrooms or meeting rooms may meet your needs. Many of these spaces are double height with plenty of natural light. Catering can also be provided in certain circumstances.

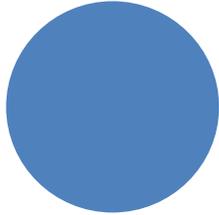
Viewing is by appointment only. If you are interested in visiting us, in the first instance please contact Steve Bolam, Site Manager, on 01865 855376.

**Ms P Challans – Business Manager**

## Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening Survey

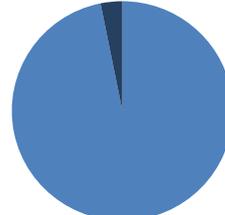
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February was the Gosford Hill School Parent Evening for Year 11.  
Below are highlights from the parents and carers survey:

### My child feels safe at this school



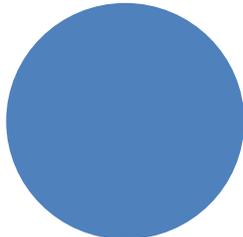
■ Agree or strongly agree (100%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (0%)

### This school ensures the students are well behaved



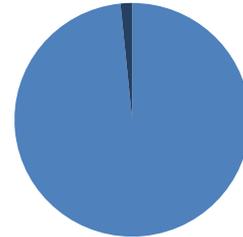
■ Agree or strongly agree (96.8%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (3.2%)

### My child is taught well at this school



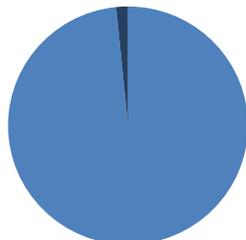
■ Agree or strongly agree (100%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (0%)

### I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress



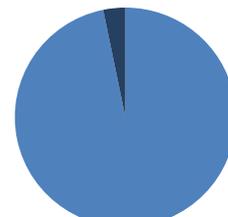
■ Agree or strongly agree (98.4%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (1.60%)

### This school is well led and managed



■ Agree or strongly agree (98.4%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (1.6%)

### I would recommend this school to another parent



■ Agree or strongly agree (96.80%)  
■ Disagree or strongly disagree (3.2%)

**Mr C. Hall - Assistant Headteacher**