

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 23 March 2015

The Chicken Hatching Project

Over the past two weeks, Gosford Hill hosted its first ever Chicken Hatching Club, focusing on the growth and development of chicks in their first few days of life, including the hatching process.



The Chicken Hatching Club helped several Year 7 students to engage with Biology. These students were responsible for monitoring the chicks and taking care of them for the duration of the project. This project complemented the Year 7 Science curriculum and promoted an enthusiasm for science.

"It is an exciting and fun opportunity to hold chicks and bond with them," said Abbey about the project. Jennifer said, "I was excited about this project. We got to see chickens hatch and we got to hold them. science isn't boring." Nicole said, "science isn't just about chemicals, it involves living things as well." The past two weeks were very exciting. We were sad to see the chicks go, but there is always next year!



Miss S Mack – Teacher, Science Faculty



Trip to the Battlefields

Last weekend, I was lucky enough to be chosen to go on a trip to the World War One battlefields of Belgium and France. Two students and one teacher from every school in England have the chance to do this.



We arrived in Kent on Friday and after some team building activities, which made me very muddy, we looked at some World War One artefacts and discussed them with the experts. We were then given a name to research and I soon found out that Thomas Finch was from Oxford, married and had sadly died in the fighting in Belgium. He is registered as missing.

We had a very busy programme, visiting a museum and cemetery on Saturday in Ypres, followed by the chance to watch the ceremony at the Menin Gate with the Last Post being played. Our tour also had some special visitors as the minister in charge of the programme was there with the Ambassador for Belgium. Each coach had a serving soldier to ask questions to about war today and a guide from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He gave us lots of information including some stories about some of the people in the cemeteries.

On Sunday, we travelled to France to the site of The Battle of the Somme and I learnt lots about how awful the first days of battle were for the soldiers.

On our final day, I was able to make a model of a clay soldier. It will become part of an installation for Spring 2018 to commemorate the 600,000 soldiers who lost their lives in Belgium in World War One. There will be a dog tag attached to it with my name on and the name of a soldier who died. I feel honoured to be part of this.

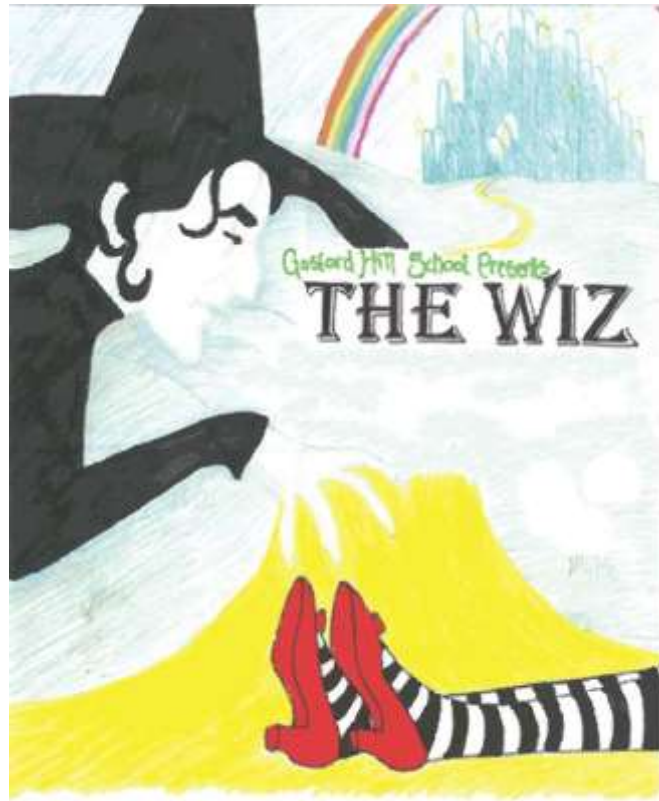


We then visited a German cemetery, which was important to me because my mother is German and it gave me the chance to understand the war from both sides. The cemetery had a very different feel and made me quite sad.

Finally, we went to the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world; it was huge: there was one last thing to do before leaving Belgium: I found the panel with the name Thomas Finch who served in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and as a mark of respect for his contribution to the war, I laid a cross underneath. I took lots of photos of the trip but until you stand there and experience the atmosphere, it is difficult to understand the importance of keeping the memory of the soldiers alive.

Martha Dodson – Year 8 Student

School Production



Thursday 19th March 2015	- Doors Open 6.30pm – Show 7.00pm
Friday 20th March 2015	- Doors Open 6.30pm – Show 7.00pm
Saturday 21st March 2015	- Doors Open 3.30pm - Show 4.00pm Doors Open 6.30pm – Show 7.00pm

Tickets are £8 and can now be purchased from the canteen and reception at break times and lunchtimes.

Mrs H Whitford – Faculty Leader, Creative Arts

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

TERM DATES – 2014-2015	
Term 5	Monday 13 April – Friday 22 May 2015
Term 6	Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2015
TERM DATES – 2015-2016	
Term 1	Wednesday 2 nd September – Friday 23 rd October 2015
Term 2	Monday 2 nd November – Friday 19 th December 2015
Term 3	Monday 4 th January – Friday 12 th February 2016
Term 4	Tuesday 23 rd February – Thursday 24 th March 2016
Term 5	Monday 11 th April – Friday 27 th May 2016
Term 6	Monday 6 th June – Tuesday 19 th July 2016
ILP Day Wednesday 2nd September 2015	
INSET DAYS: 1 st September, 9 th October, 4 th December 2015, 22 nd February 2016	

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 – gabs4889@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child(ren) in a number of curriculum areas.