

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 25 March 2015

Visit to the Battlefields *as reported in the Oxford Mail on Tuesday 17th March 2015*

Secondary school pupils returned home with their views of the world changed forever after a First World War history trip to Belgium and France.

The students from Gosford Hill School, Kidlington, Bartholomew School, Eynsham and the North Oxfordshire Academy and Chenderit School, Banbury embarked on the trip from Friday February 27th to Monday March 2nd, as part of a government-funded initiative.

The First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme runs until 2019 and aims to send two pupils from each state school on a tour of the Western Front. Forty-eight schools across Oxfordshire are eligible, with 11 signed up so far.

Participants had an “acclimatisation session” in Kent with other schools from Slough and Twickenham, in which they were given the names of local soldiers and instructed to research them. The pupils spent a day at memorials around Ypres in Belgium and also travelled to battlefields in France.

Martha Dodson, 13, from Kidlington, a student from Gosford Hill School, managed to track down a former Summertown soldier. Private Thomas Finch's name appears on a memorial in the Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium.



RESEARCH: Gosford Hill pupil Martha Dodson, 13, with English teacher Kathryn Cooper

The former bricklayer was born at 18 Thames Street, St Aldate's in 1883, one of twelve children. He married Emily Hine in November 1907 and they moved to Osberton Road, Summertown. It is believed he joined the army in 1915, fighting for the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry 1st Battalion, and was recorded missing at the Battle of Passchendaele in August 1917. Martha said: “We found that he had a wife as well, and it was really overwhelming. It made me really understand it all and how the soldiers did it out of fear”.

English teacher Kathryn Cooper, who also attended, said: “We found out he was missing and his body was never found, but Martha was really interested to research a local soldier and find his name. She said that ‘you can take as many pictures as you want but it’s being here that gives you the feeling’. I think that is really astute for a 13-year-old girl.” Martha competed with 50 other students to win a place on the trip. As part of the application process she wrote a letter explaining that her mixed English and German heritage compelled her to get both sides’ perspectives.



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
The Schools Network™

Parent Forum

All parents/carers and students Year 9 and 10

The New Exam System: What it means for your child's future

Wednesday 25th March 6.00pm-7.00pm
Learning Centre

Relevant for students in Year 9 and Year 10 but all other families welcome



Raising Money for Comic Relief

For last week's Comic Relief, the Sixth Form Committee organised another teacher vs. student sports event – this year it was netball. Three student teams took on the teachers and it got pretty competitive, with illegal tackles, moving with the ball and a lot of challenging the umpire – from both sides. However, despite the Sixth Formers' best efforts, and some truly excellent play from everyone involved, the teachers won 8-6. Honestly, we gave them their first ever win out of generosity.

We managed to raise an amazing £79 for Comic Relief, another fantastic addition to our fundraising events this year at Gosford Hill. Thanks to everyone who took part, teachers and students alike, the Sixth Form Committee for organising the event, and to the students throughout the school that came to watch, and donated to a great cause.



Staff v Student

Lucy Truman – Deputy Head Girl

Begbroke Science Park Visit

On 12th March 16 Year 9 students visited Begbroke Science Park to take part in a Dragon's Den style competition and to have a tour of the facilities.

Team A consisted of Emily Launchbury, Chloe Haynes, Paige Cooke, Jack Smith, Ilana Kneafsey, Jasmine Lallis, Marcus Tranter and Tobi Akinyemi. Team B was Emily Linford, Thomas Casey, Elise Chaundy, Niamh Buckle, Charlotte Bastow, Ettie-Jane Pearce, Selina Hagan and Aman Mohammad.

Competing against several other schools, who provided tough opponents, Team A came out on top, winning with their innovative design of a self-charging mobile phone case winning a £10 Amazon voucher each, a certificate and a beautiful trophy. The judges, consisting of members of the Begbroke staff, were very impressed with both teams.

Mr M Culkeen – Faculty Leader, Science



The trophy

Overseas Teachers visit Gosford Hill School

I had the exciting opportunity to join Mrs Humphreys in showing two teachers around Gosford Hill School. The teachers were from Finland. It was really interesting to hear the differences between schools in Finland and England. I found out that Finnish schools were almost triple the size of Gosford Hill School. They were very surprised to see fewer than 40 students in a class! Both teachers were impressed by the facilities, especially the Learning Centre.

Celia Tezel – 13ESWS



This month we also welcomed 8 teachers from five European Countries. The teachers are attending classes at the Lake School of English as part of their professional development. They very much enjoyed their afternoon visiting classes and looking at displays.

Mrs J Humphreys – TA Co-ordinator

Bicester Bus

Governors met early this week. A letter will be sent to all those parents who responded to a recent survey.
Thank you.

Finance Committee



GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF BIG BAND MUSIC

ON THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 2015

7.00pm

MAIN HALL

**Featuring Oxfordshire Youth Big Band,
Gosford Hill Musicians and Singers with West
Kidlington Primary School Music Group**

TICKETS

£3.00 (Adults)

£2.00 Children/Concessions

Tel: 01865 374971

Refreshments Available

Doors Open 6.30pm

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