

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 27 April 2015

Swearing-In and 'Getting Court'!

Oxford Crown Court is an unusual place to find two Sixth form students on a Tuesday evening!

We were both surprised and delighted to be invited to accompany Miss Clinch to the Swearing-In of Tom Reynardson as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. We did not know what to expect so we did a little research prior to the evening. The office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office in the country outside the monarchy. Today, the former very extensive powers which the office enjoyed have gone and the role is voluntary, unfunded and non-political.

The ceremony itself was held in Court 1. Mr Justice Barling was presiding with District and Circuit Judges in attendance. We listened to the order of proceedings which included speeches from the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, John Harwood DL; the outgoing High Sheriff, Tony Stratton DL and the High Sheriff elect, Tom Birch Reynardson.



The High Sherriff's Shield which will be hung in the Crown Court

In contrast to the formality of the ceremony, the reception afterwards was an opportunity to meet some of the judges face-to-face when they were less formally dressed. It was quite incredible to be able to converse with the High Sherriff and many other Oxfordshire dignitaries in the Judges' dining room. For us, it was surreal, fascinating and inspiring.

We both aspire to engage in law and politics at university and having had first-hand experience of such an important, traditional British ceremony has enthused us further. It was clear that this was such an ancient tradition that few people get to witness and we feel very privileged.

All of the staff at the Crown Court were very welcoming, answering our questions and even allowing us to sit in the Judge's chair!

We would like to thank Tom Birch Reynardson for his generous invitation, we are grateful for such an incredible opportunity, a unique experience and a wonderful memory. Thank you also to our Chair of Governors Anna Moon for the original contact.

As a school, we will be working with the newly appointed High Sheriff on a project, 'Getting Court'. It will give students an insight into how the Courts work. We will provide you all with regular updates about the things we learn about the criminal justice system and the people we meet along the way.

Magnus Taylor and Harrison Lee – Year 13 Students
(Miss S Clinch – Evenlode House Leader)



Chess Champs Through to Next Round



After a gruelling seven rounds and 217 matches, the Delancey Schools Chess Challenge 2015 culminated in a well-deserved celebration of the tournament. Students gathered for a presentation of certificates, awards and refreshments followed by a friendly chess match.

Students who accrued 15 or more points in the challenge or are leading scorers in their year, as long as they have played at least 5 out of the 7 rounds, have earned a place in the Delancey Chess Megafinals at Oxford Spire Academy on Saturday 2nd May 2015 (these students have been given letters for parents/carers to complete). All Megafinal players scoring 4/6 will qualify for the Southern Gigafinal in July at The Rivermead Leisure Complex, Reading. In the Gigafinal players will compete in 24 sections for the title of Ultimo and Ultima. Each Gigafinal winner secures a trophy and £100. They then go on to the Terafinal at Loughborough Grammar School in August with a top prize of £2,000. Gosford Hill has an impressive 18 students who have qualified for the Megafinals in May. Our overall tournament winner with an impressive 7 wins out of 7 matches is Sidharth Rajagopal 7CMFE who wins the tournament trophy. "What impresses me most is not that I won, but we all had fun."

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS SIDHARTH!

Delancey players and chess club students were treated for all their hard work with a visit from Chess Master Carl Portman who gave an adrenalin-surging, brain-invigorating simultaneous chess display. Carl was also given the honour of presenting the trophy to our Delancey winner, Sidharth (pictured below centre).



Peer Reading and Maths Intervention

Within a few weeks of coming to Gosford Hill every Year 7 student is encouraged to read to ascertain their reading and spelling age and to be tested for their Maths level. Many readers are then given a 'buddy' from Year 9 and 10 who help them with extra reading and Maths during PM registrations 4 times a week over a twelve week period in the Learning Centre. During reading sessions students also discuss characters and settings as well as context and prediction. On Fridays students form small groups to read short plays. The older students support Year 7s with areas of their Maths. This is done via Year 9s and 10s knowledge (most of the 'buddies' are Most Able students), revision guides/workbooks and a variety of visual Maths games. The reading ages increase by an average of 12 months and the Maths by an average of 2 sub-levels/25% per student.



Mrs A Hedges – Learning Centre Manager

Year 13 Chemists Celebrate Success in the Olympiad



This year, the A2 Chemistry students competed in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad. The competition is designed to test the most able Chemistry students across the country and round 1 consisted of a two hour paper with high level questions. Josh Robinson, Pilsun Eu, Bilal Jan and James McKendrick competed, with James and Pilsun winning a silver award in the competition placing them in the top 30% of entrants nationally. The Olympiad is an excellent opportunity for students to practise Chemistry at the highest level. Congratulations to all involved.

Mr A James - Chemistry Teacher

To all Year 13 students, parents and carers
You are invited to join the Sixth Form staff at the
Alderman Wise Presentation Evening
Wednesday 6th May 2015 from 6.30 until 8.00pm
The Main Hall, Gosford Hill School

Special Guests
Josh Mair and Larisa Vircavs, First Head Boy and Head Girl

RSVP: Wendy Hunt, 14-19 Pathway Assistant, Gosford Hill School, by 1st May 2015
Tel: 01865 374971 ext. 702 or Email: sixthform@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk
Please note maximum of two guests per student please
Refreshments kindly provided by Kidlington Parish Council

YEAR 12 PARENTS AND STUDENTS
HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 22nd April - 6.00PM – 7.00PM
IN
SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM

Healthy eating

Chartwells, who provide our school catering services, are re-launching their food offering on Tuesday 5th May 2015.

The new catering offering will include: a wider range of baguettes and sandwiches, burritos, pancakes and a salad bar. This is in addition to the current offering of daily hot meals and snacks, Pasta Pots, fresh fruit, a selection of desserts, homemade cakes and healthy drinks. Weekly menus are displayed in the canteen area so that students can see in advance the daily food offering. The canteen style will also change to bring more of a retail feel to it.

Chartwells ensure that the food provided to students is nutritious and of a high quality and that all their recipes and snacks comply with the current food based requirements for schools.

Ms P Challans – Business Manager

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



GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF BIG BAND MUSIC

ON WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2015

7.00pm

MAIN HALL

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

TICKETS
£3.00 (Adults)
£2.00 Children/Concessions
Tel: 01865 374971

Refreshments Available

Doors Open 6.30pm

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 well being.

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.