

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 29 April 2015

Year 7 Stem Challenge Day

Twelve Year 7 students worked with local engineers and students from two local schools to build small battery driven cars as part of a STEM (Science Technology and Engineering) Challenge Day organised by The Smallpeice Trust and Oxfordshire County Council. Our students worked with staff from Mondelez, Banbury.

'Today we built a mini car to race at the end of the day. There were two other schools at the event. We started off planning out what we were going to build and which job each person in the team was going to do. We chose our materials and started to put the car together. We had different materials which all cost different amounts of money. We had to add up how much we had spent on our car. We had to make a circuit battery and a capacitor to drive the motor; we then attached this to our car. We enjoyed working with engineers from different local companies who helped us to build our cars. At the end of the day we presented our posters of what we had done and then raced our cars.'



The students were asked the best thing about the day –



"It was fun and I'd like to do it again!"
"It shows the opportunities to be an engineer"
"finally getting the car to work and achieving second place in the race"
"building the circuit. It didn't work at first but when it was working, I was happy"
"the engineers, they had the patience to work with us and helped us achieve our goal"

Dylan Bayliss-Ashton, Ethan Brooksbank, Thulani Dhliwayo, Skylar Feeley, Sean Gallagher, Rhianna Heaton, Jennifer Hilsdon, Adam Jenner, Lara Payne, Sidharth Rajagopal, Jacob Soper and Charlie Wren.



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

Year 7 Visual Impairment Workshop

At Gosford Hill School we support students with a range of Special Educational Needs (SEN). Several of our students have severe visual impairments. In order to help support one of our Year 7 students our colleagues from the SEN Support Service (SENS) facilitated a visual impairment workshop with some of our Year 7 students.

During the sessions the students were able to ask questions of a visual impairment advisory teacher and a visually impaired student. Additionally, students were able to try on 'simulation spectacles' to give them an impression of the impact that visual impairment can have on someone's everyday life. The students were shocked by the impact visual impairment can have, stating *'It feels like I'm in a murky fish bowl and everything else is going on outside my bowl'*.

The advisory teacher leading the session was very impressed by the behaviour and attitude of all the students involved. She said that they were well behaved, keen, fully engaged and asked very astute questions.



We hope that this session has raised awareness and will help reinforce our message about treating those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities equally, with respect and understanding.

I would take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hewett for allowing the session to take place, Mrs Heydon for supporting, and Ms Andrew for organising the session. Most importantly I would like to thank the students of 7M for their enthusiasm and hard work.

**Mr T Manthorpe -
SENCO and Intervention Co-Ordinator**

Leicester UCAS Convention

On Wednesday 22nd April, Year 12 students ventured to Leicester University to take part in a UCAS convention. Universities from all over the country were there to showcase their courses and what they had to offer students in 2016. Universities had individual stands offering prospectuses, leaflets and useful information. Some of my fellow students offered these positive comments about the day:

Rebecca Hallam "Today was an interesting and insightful day for me as I wasn't sure university was the right place for me. However, after talking to some helpful student ambassadors about different universities, it opened my eyes to a variety of courses that would suit me."

Shannon O'Malley "The Leicester trip proved useful for me, as I now know which course I want to study."

Joe Hines "This was an exciting opportunity to talk to different universities that originally I wasn't considering."

There were some very useful seminars regarding finance and personal statements. These proved beneficial to students whose older siblings or family members hadn't been to university before. It was also helpful to hear some handy tips on how to make your personal statement stand out from everyone else's, as Year 12 will start writing these in July.

Overall, the trip was a success, and the students returned to school loaded with colourful lanyards and prospectuses. The trip was worthwhile as many students who had previously ruled out universities, had broadened their minds to other exciting possibilities. It has also inspired many of us to work hard in order to meet high entry requirements in the run up to exams.

Charlotte Wray-Williams – Year 12 Student

Year 12 Parents Higher Education Information Evening

Following our successful visit to Leicester University for The UCAS Convention last week, we held our Parent Information Evening, introducing parents and students to the benefits of higher education, the application process and the all-important finances.

We were really pleased to welcome back Harriet Marshall (last year's Head Girl) who spoke about her first year at university and the opportunities it has offered her. Beckie Bartle from Oxford Brookes University spoke about student finances, giving us all a clearer understanding of loans, grants and bursaries.

There is plenty of support available in school for our students and their parents with all stages of the process, from deciding whether to apply or not, to choosing the right universities and completing an application. Information packs from the evening have been sent home to those families unable to attend.

Mrs E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2015

On Thursday 5th February, students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in this year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The intriguing multiple choice question papers are designed to stimulate interest in the subject.



Year 11 winners



Year 10 winners



Year 9 winners

Certificates were given to the following students:

Gold: Simon Hague (Y11) (Best in school), Jake Morris (Y11), Marcus Tranter (Y9), Alexandra Jung (Y9) – They all scored highly enough to be invited to sit the follow-on Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and Kangaroo rounds.

Silver: Harvey Williams (Y11), Daniel Case (Y11), Courtney Millard (Y11), Ellis Williams (Y11), Matthew Williams (Y11), Tensei Rowden (Y10), Jeremy Mbararia (Y10), Jade O'Dowda (Y10), Erin Corness (Y9),

Bronze: Arron Cook (Y11), Pierce Whitford (Y11), Ellie Hutson (Y11), Beren Wilkinson (Y11), Katie Palmer (Y10), Nithyaa Eswaran (Y10), Ellie Matthews (Y10), Caitlin Fry (Y10), Tom Keppie (Y10), Emma Davies (Y9), Jack Smith (Y9), Jonah Clarke (Y9), Alexandra Davies (Y9), Rhiannan Davies (Y9), Heather Ewart (Y9), Ajay Behal (Y9), Oscar Webb (Y9).

THE UKMT is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people through mathematics. Further information can be found at www.ukmt.org.uk.

Mr S Williams - Assistant Maths Faculty Leader

School Games County Swimming Finals

Ten girls from Years 8, 9 and 10 represented the North Oxfordshire area at the Sainsbury's County School Swimming Finals held on Thursday 16th April 2015 at The White Horse Leisure Centre in Abingdon. The venue was packed with swimmers from all the age groups creating a very electric and competitive atmosphere. The girls quickly spotted a GB tracksuit on poolside! Olympic diver Peter Waterfield was invited to present the medals.

The girls' Year 8 and 9 team (Emily Kyle, Shellie Evans, Lucy Parsons, Ellie Hughes and Lucy Stowell) acquitted themselves really well finishing in fourth place as a team with individual finishes in the top three heats. Lucy Parsons 1st in Breaststroke, Emily Kyle 2nd in Butterfly, Shellie Evans 2nd in Backstroke and Ellie Hughes 3rd in Front-Crawl. The team finished 2nd in the Freestyle Relay and 4th in the Medley Relay heats. Emily Kyle has recently qualified for Nationals, well done. A fantastic team effort!



The Year 10 team (Jess Stowell, Chloe Ridewood, Chelsea Beahan, Caitlin Brown and Joelly Alexander) competed against teams with a mixture of Year 10 and 11 students. The girls finished third as a team (a brilliant achievement) with individual 1st places in their heats for Caitlin Brown in Backstroke, Chelsea Beahan in Breaststroke, 3rd place for Joelly Alexander in Butterfly and 3rd place for Jess Stowell in Frontcrawl. The team finished 2nd in the Freestyle Relay and 1st in the Medley Relay. Outstanding team effort, well done girls!

Mr P Green – Subject Leader, P.E.

Kidlington Mini Red Tennis at North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club

Throughout this year Gosford Hill School have been working with local primary schools to provide sporting opportunities. The school has provided leaders to support the running of festivals for different age groups. Leaders are selected after completing a 6 week training programme with Mr M Baker (SSCO).

This term we begin to run summer sport festivals and the first one was at North Oxford Tennis club. After warming the children up, we had to umpire the games and keep the scores. We also had to coach them and help them to play better and understand the rules. Edward Feild teams A and B drew the competition, with St Thomas More coming in 3rd place.



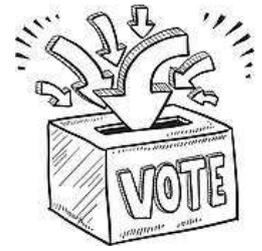
We really enjoyed working with the children and it was really rewarding watching them improve, especially on such a warm and sunny day. We enjoy being Sports Leaders because we get to lead lots of different sports, and work with children that are of different abilities. Seeing the children smile and enjoying themselves makes it worthwhile.

Erin Corness, Paige Cooke, Baylee Ridgeway and Maria Roberts – Sports Leaders

GHS student election and mock general election 2015

Yesterday, students had the opportunity to vote in two polls in school; one was to select one of three student parties whom they thought had the best ideas and

policies, the other to vote for the political party they would like to see run the country, mirroring the general election next week.



The mock election has enabled students to engage with the electoral process in the UK and reflect on their own political views. Students had to register to vote then choose to vote. If they did not register, they could not vote. Tutors have been discussing the election and what the parties stand for in tutor time.

Our student candidates have made a great impression and have been very confident in expressing their views. Marshall Taylor (Y10) stood as a Conservative, Faustine Petron and Yemi Akiyemi (Y10) formed the Unity Party, Alexi Hamblin and Hamish Munro (Y8) created the Economic Environmental Party. All the candidates presented their own original ideas as speeches in front of all house assemblies and the Sixth Form. On Monday 26th April we held a leaders' debate where the candidates faced tough questioning from the audience and challenges on policy from each other. Finally, each party made a short party election broadcast. I have been truly impressed by all the candidates' originality, thoughtfulness, confidence in speaking and ability to think on their feet in a debate. I really think we have future politicians on our hands.



The result of the election was incredibly tight with there being only 5 votes between Marshall Taylor and the Unity Party.

The winner of the GHS student election is Marshall Taylor with 39% of the votes.

The results of the mock general election as a % share of the votes by the students are Liberal Democrats 10%, Green 14%, UKIP 17%, Labour 25% and Conservative 34%. So students at this school would return a Conservative MP. Is this the prediction of what will happen next week??

Mrs A Driscoll – Faculty Leader, Humanities

Free School Meals

School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential.

If your child is eligible for free school meals it means they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals without the bills and the fuss of making packed lunches. Many students at our school are already entitled to free school meals, and your child may be able to have them too.

Also, for every student registered for a free school meal, the school receives additional money from the Government to spend on extra school resources.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Please note that you do not normally need to provide evidence of your income, only your National Insurance Number and Date of Birth.

If you think your children may be entitled to free school meals, please contact Reception for an application form or download one from our Gosford Hill School website.

Ms P Challans – Business Manager

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