

The Gosford Times



Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School
Learn Lead Inspire

Issue 32 May 2015

PE Department News

It has been a busy term in the PE Department at Gosford Hill School. This term's main focus has been on Rounders, Cricket and Athletics and Years 7-10 have been working hard during training sessions and fixtures to achieve many successes. The girls' rounders teams have performed superbly at county tournaments and the Year 7, 10 & 8 cricket teams all started their campaigns with excellent wins over Henry Box, Wood Green and Lord Williams respectively. It has been a pleasure to see our students continue to produce impressive performances and with extra-curricular numbers continuing to increase across many sports, the future continues to look bright!

Here are a few further highlights...

Gosford in Action at North Oxford Athletics Trials

On Tuesday 12th May, 44 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 represented Gosford Hill School in the North Oxon Athletics trials at Horspath athletics track. The students competed in a wide range of events in both track and field with a few examples being triple jump, javelin, hurdles, 100m and 1500m. With the chance to qualify for the County Championship trials at stake, the standard of competition was high with around 15 local schools attending and both the public and private sector represented. Many of the athletes in attendance compete at club level and above and despite this all of our students gave a superb account of themselves and competed admirably in all events. We were by far the best attended school and the behaviour, support of one another and the quality of performance from all of our students was a real pleasure to observe. Well done to all involved but particular mention must go to the outstanding results achieved by our girl athletes – well done girls!

Some excellent results were recorded by our students, with highlights including:

- 1st 3000m – Chloe Ridewood**
- 1st 100m – Amberley Vircavs**
- 1st High Jump – Jade O'Dowda**
- 1st Long Jump – Lisia Fisilau**
- 2nd 200m – Abi Haynes**
- 2nd long Jump – Amberley Vircavs**
- 2nd Long Jump – Piers Walton**
- 2nd Discus – Marcus Tranter**
- 2nd Jeremy Mbararia**
- 3rd 800m – Caitlin Brown**
- 3rd 300m - Abu Yillah**
- 3rd 100m – Harry Whitehead**
- 3rd High Jump – Ben Stewart**
- 3rd Shot Put – Ricardo Dines**
- 3rd High Jump – James Bryant**



Amazingly 17 of the students who attended have qualified to represent the North Oxford team at the county athletics championships on 14th June. This is an outstanding achievement and we are very proud of all of our students!



Breaking News - Year 9 Defend North Oxford League Cup Championship!!!

Gosford Hill's Year 9 football team retained their North Oxford League Championship by beating Chenderit School 2-1. On a glorious day Gosford started the game extremely well, playing some exceptional football and creating several early chances. After 10 minutes Jamie Hudson opened the scoring after reacting well to a good save by the opposition keeper. Gosford continued to dominate and midway through the half scored their second goal, as Ben Stewart hit the crossbar only for the ball to spin back into his path allowing him to head home. Half-time 2-0.

The second half was a very different story with Chenderit keen to battle their way back into the match. The away side were causing lots of problems and Gosford were having to defend resolutely to keep them out, whilst still looking threatening on the break. 5 minutes from the end however Chenderit did make a deserved breakthrough and reduced the score to 2-1, with a finely taken strike from just inside the box. The final 5 minutes were extremely tense and Gosford had a huge let-off with the final kick of the match as the ball rattled the crossbar and went behind for a goal kick! Full time 2-1 GHS.

A really hard fought match and at the final whistle the Year 9s celebrated their wonderful achievement of being crowned North Oxford champions for the second year in a row. It has been a fantastic effort by the whole squad, with a wonderful spirit, commitment and desire shown by all. The team have really stepped up again this year and are continuing to develop the quality of football that they play.

On a further note the side also came within 30 seconds of reaching the county cup final, before ultimately losing 3-1 AET away to Henry Box. Gosford put in an outstanding effort and were desperately unlucky not to progress. However Henry Box are an excellent side and they went on to win the cup beating Cherwell 1-0 in the final. This shows how close our Year 9 team are to being the best in the county! It has been a fantastic season and I am sure next year will bring yet more success. Well done all!

Thanks also once again for the magnificent support provided by parents and grandparents who turned out in force to support the team.



Mr L. Smith - PE Faculty

Year 9 Problem Solving Challenge

A small group of Year 9 students participated in this year's Problem Solving Challenge. They were challenged with real life problems for the organisations they worked with and then presented some amazing solutions which the business have taken back with them to put into practice.

Over two days last week, a group of eight Year 9s joined students from three other schools (Lord William's, Marlborough, and Wheatley Park) on a problem solving in the workplace course. We spent the first morning in our school Learning Centre, learning problem solving methods and meeting the other students. In the afternoon, we were split into groups of 5 or 6 students from different schools and given the business we would be visiting; Oxford Castle, The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford Natural History Museum, University Computing Science, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police. Each group spent two and a half hours at their assigned organisation learning about the problem they were asked to solve, finding out more, interviewing staff and the public and discussing possible solutions.



On day two, we spent the morning learning how to be confident in the delivery of a presentation and preparing our presentations to show the rest of the group and representatives from each organisation. We each wrote a script and created pages for a flipchart and then rehearsed several times before lunch. After everyone had eaten and the representatives had arrived, each group presented their potential solutions and received certificates for taking part.



"I found it really interesting to find out what Computer Science is. We interviewed students and staff to help us find ways of encouraging more girls to study Computer Science"

"I liked it because we got to work with new people and I helped them do a good job"

"I learnt how to present my work with confidence"

Special thanks to Oxfordshire Business Education Alliance for making these two days possible and Melanie Green, Inspire Transformations, Kidlington who gave up two days of her time to support this activity.

Alexandra Davies, Emma Davies, Rhiannan Davies, Chloe Haynes, Emily Launchbury, Abigail Pegden, Isabel Powell and Maria Roberts



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

The new Three Weekly Menu from Chartwells - our school caters - is now available on our website.

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