



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 36 June 2015

Reflection of the Week

Speech is Silver – Silence is Golden

Year 10 Apprenticeship Launchpad trip

Apprenticeship Launchpad is a series of events organised by Oxfordshire County Council and the Smallpiece Trust to introduce students to a range of science and engineering organisations that recruit apprentices.

The Apprenticeship Launchpad group visited Oxford Physics University. We joined many other groups from different schools and we were split into two groups, taking it in turns to go on a tour of the workplace and to compete in an engineering challenge! On the tour we saw what went on behind the scenes of the manufacturing of many wares and were astounded by the huge machines involved in the making, each with a very specific job (although rather loud!). Then the two groups swapped around.

The challenge was fun and exciting, with an atmosphere of friendly rivalry between teams. Each of us was paired up with people from other schools, so the experience developed our ability to communicate and work well with unfamiliar people under pressure. The actual task was to construct a sound, stable structure with the ability to hold a 1kg weight without breaking under the pressure. Structures would be rated on height and stability, as well as performance. This was to be completed under deadline and the only equipment we were given was paper, masking tape, pins, a hole-puncher and a wooden shaft allowing us to roll the paper into tubes as necessary.

We constructed paper tubes and fixed them together with the tape and pins, designs for structures were highly inventive and everyone worked exceedingly well together. Each group came up with a different idea and every structure could hold the weight. The prize was chocolate... and my team won! Altogether we had an amazing time, learning a lot about what an apprenticeship entails. We developed fundamental teamwork skills along the way and it was an educational and enjoyable experience for all.

Stephanie Bourliakas – 10WJCX



Learn * Lead * Inspire

Year 7 Adventure Landscapes Geography talk

On the 18th June 2015 Tim, an outdoor instructor, came in to Gosford Hill School and talked about what he does for a living.

Tim talked about rural and urban landscapes and also about what activities he does. He said you can do parkour, kayaking, rock climbing and lots of other thrilling activities. Tim also talked about the consequences of doing these activities. For example, the rock can crumble and fall apart. But he talked about solutions - for the rock climbing incident they use nuts so they don't make the rock crumble.

Tim also showed some equipment that he uses when he does these activities. Some students put the equipment on. It looked pretty fun. Tim said to us 'Once, I fell while rock climbing and the littlest nut held me up'. How amazing is that! Some students said they loved the talk and their favourite part was trying the equipment on.

Tim also mentioned about how technology has changed since he started doing the activities. He can now record himself doing the activities.



In my opinion, it was very educational and has inspired me to do more activities outside. It also taught me to take more risks because when you do some activities you need to take some risks.

Charlotte Parsons – 7TJJK

European Teachers' Visit

This month we welcomed teachers from Finland, Slovakia, Italy and Turkey. The teachers are attending classes at the Lake School of English in Oxford as part of their professional development. They were particularly impressed by our Learning Centre.

Mrs J Humphries – T.A. Co-ordinator



Sports Day

The Annual Gosford Hill Sports Day takes place on Tuesday 30th June. On this day we ask students to wear PE kit to school and to maximise their participation in the events.

Please can we also encourage students to bring plenty of water and non-fizzy drinks, sun cream and sun hats. Cherwell have won for the last four years - can they continue their sporting dominance?



Mr P Green – Subject Leader PE

House Leader Update

Congratulations to Mr Gannon who will be acting House Leader for Windrush. We welcome back Mr Goldring who will be acting House Leader for Thames and thanks to Mr Hall for his hard work during the year. Together with Miss Clinch for Evenlode and Miss Brimble for Cherwell this will make an exciting team for September 2015.

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher

Parent Forum

E-Safety – Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Wednesday 1st July 2015

6.00pm – 7.00pm in the Learning Centre

Sixth Form Induction Day

On Thursday and Friday last week, we welcomed our new Year 12 students into the Sixth Form. The two days gave them a chance to engage in a range of A level lessons, encouraging them to consider carefully their AS level subject choices. Students were able to ask questions about course specifications and experience typical activities in their chosen areas. They were also introduced to our expectations of a Sixth Form student at Gosford Hill and the range of ways in which we aim to help them enrich their learning experience in Year 12.

On the Thursday afternoon, the students also took part in a trip to the Oxford Ice Rink. This was a really enjoyable event and we were all treated to an ice skating masterclass from Mrs De Bruyn and Mr Barrett. It was fantastic to see our students beginning to experience the strong community atmosphere which makes our Sixth Form so special. The Sixth Form team is now looking forward to working alongside these students when they return in September.

Mr B Whittaker – Assistant Head of Sixth Form



Bicester Bus Update

Over the past few months GHS (with the support of some Bicester parents), have been investigating the possibility of providing a school bus from Bicester. At a recent Governors' meeting, the Executive approved the trial of a Bicester service for Term 1 of the 2015/16 Academic Year. This trial will run from September to December 2015 and, if successful, will continue into Term 2.

The proposed route for the bus service is to start at Langford Village shops with stops at Bure Park shops, Shakespeare Drive - outside Tesco, Bicester Rugby Club and then continue on A34 to Kidlington. The school day starts at 8:50am and the first pick up at the Langford shops would be at 07:40am to arrive at GHS by approximately 8:30am. Since school finishes at 15.20pm, the return journey would depart for Bicester at approximately 15:30pm.

The cost per student for the service, for a whole academic year would be £665. Similar to the current public bus service, the cost will be split into three, and would be consistent with the three main school terms. The trial in Term 1 would be £225 and if successful, Terms 2 and 3 would cost £220 per term.

We are currently working through how the administration process will work, from the collection of monies to the issuing of bus passes.

As the end of the school year is fast approaching, we are keen to understand interest and commitment from our Bicester students to use the dedicated school bus from September. At this stage we need confirmed interest to be submitted by Friday the 3rd July, with a firm financial commitment of £225 for the autumn term by Friday 10th July. Please note there will be no refunds or discounts, unless there isn't sufficient interest and the Bicester Bus is not implemented.

Please register your interest by Friday 3rd July via the following email address Bicester.gosford.bus@gmail.com or by contacting Elaine Millard on 01869 320496 or Jennie Boulton on 07785 525359.

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

Healthy eating

Chartwells, who provide our school catering services relaunched their food offering in May.

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 has also changed 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.

County Youth Theatre Auditions

Debbie Rose is our singer teacher at school and also the director for the Oxfordshire Youth Theatre group. They are holding auditions on Monday 29th June for next year's production. I want to encourage as many of our students as possible, especially boys, to audition. It is open to anyone in Year 9 and above. All of the details are here and on their website. If any student needs help or would like more information please see me. I hope some of you take up the challenge! Break a leg!

Mrs R Frankcom -Team Leader of Music

Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre

AUDITIONS

2015-2016 Season

Monday 29th June 2015

Calling all enthusiastic and talented singers, actors, dancers who will be in Year 10 and above by September 2015...



Want to work with a professional production team to produce a show?

We aim to encourage the highest standards in Music Theatre. During the rehearsal period, we work as a company with professional directors, set and lighting designers.

OYMT rehears at the Centre for Music, Oxford on Monday evenings.

Auditions will be held on Monday 29th June 2015 at the Centre for Music.

We are also keen to hear from students interested in any aspects of stage management.

Email music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

TERM DATES – 2015 -2016

Term 6

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July 2015 (early closure – 12.30pm)

Term 1

Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 23rd October 2015

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2015

Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February 2016

Term 4

Tuesday 23rd February – Thursday 24th March 2016

Term 5

Monday 11th April – Friday 27th May 2016

Term 6

Monday 6th June – Wednesday 20th July 2016

ILP Day Wednesday 2nd September 2015

INSET DAYS: 1st September, 9th October, 4th December 2015, 22nd February, 1st July 2016

CONTACTING YOUR SCHOOL

Your views are very important to us, whether they are about your child, school activities or wider community issues. For all matters please telephone the School Reception.

If you have a concern about your child contact:

- **The Subject Teacher** - if it concerns learning in a particular subject. Contact School Reception to leave a message or alternatively, if you have internet access, you can ask for a Teacher's email address.
- **The Head of Faculty** - if you wish to discuss any matter in greater detail.
- **The 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 please contact a Parent Governor via the School Reception.

SCHOOL RECEPTION: Telephone: 01865 374971

SCHOOL EMAIL: office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk. The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child (ren) in a number of curriculum areas.

ABSENCE LINE: Telephone: 01865 855378 (please use this number to report absences)