



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 3 September 2015

Marlow Summer Camp 2015

In July's flexible learning week Year 7 embarked on their summer camp at the Longridge site, near Marlow. 117 Year 7s spent the 3 days being challenged with teambuilding, bell-boating, climbing, kayaking and hiking. This year the weather was kind to us with only some slight showers on the second day but not enough to hinder any sense fun or adventure.

The enrichment of taking part in these other activities will leave lasting memories for all the students; be it making long lasting friendships, sharing messy tents, getting soaked through on the river or overcoming a personal challenge.



One student stated that they loved how far they went up the river in the kayaks, another is quoted as saying "I loved the climbing wall, it was the best bit. You don't get to do things like this very often." Others remarked on enjoying the camping experience and sharing the tents with their friends.

Our thanks and gratitude go to the Year 10 and 12 helpers and all the staff that came to make the summer camp a memorable experience.

A collection of photos will be on the school website.



Mr S Williams – Trip Leader

Learn * Lead * Inspire

Last week we welcomed 7 teachers and their tutor for a tour of our school. The teachers are in Oxford for a week as part of their professional development. They enjoyed their afternoon visit which ended with tea in the Learning Centre.

Mrs J Humphreys – Senior TA



Swimming Success

Congratulations to Emily Kyle (WHFG) who over the summer holidays competed in the Welsh Nationals participating in both the 100m Backstroke and the 50m freestyle events. In both these events Emily achieved personal bests of 1:17 (Backstroke) and 29:7 (freestyle). Emily has also been selected for the Regional Potential Youth Squad which is the second highest level in Oxford City. A fantastic achievement!

Congratulations Emily!

Mr M Gannon – House Leader for Windrush



Music - Instrumental Lessons are Starting Soon!

Learning an instrument is fun and has so many benefits; my aim is to get more students learning and playing music this year than ever before! On Tuesday afternoon our Year 7 students all came together with the Hit Squad! These are the amazing teachers from the Oxfordshire Music Service who came in to show our newest students the fantastic opportunities available to them. Did you know that we have eleven visiting music teachers each week coming to Gosford Hill? Did you also know that students can learn any of nineteen different instruments in school? The fun starts when students try out a new instrument and start to get new skills. Students are able have lessons on the following:



Strings	Violin Viola Cello Double bass
Woodwind	Flute Clarinet Saxophone
Brass	Cornet Trumpet French Horn Trombone Tuba
Percussion	Drums (private teacher
Piano	Piano (private teacher) keyboard
Voice	Singing lessons
Guitar	Acoustic guitar Electric guitar Bass guitar

Having Music Lessons in School

Instrumental lessons are taught within the school day to groups of four for 30 minutes (individual and paired lessons are available). Lessons are rotated with a new time each week for minimum impact on the timetable. To sign up for County music lessons you simply enrol online at the webpage below.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicintorest

If you would like drum or piano lessons then please contact the teachers directly.

Drum lessons – Darren Hasson-Davis Tel: 07765224245 email: darren@masterrhythm.co.uk

Piano lessons – Sheila Henderson Tel: 07787764589 email: sheila3keyboard@hotmail.com

Kidlington Music Centre

On Saturday mornings 9.00-10.30am, students come to the Music Department in Gosford Hill School from surrounding primary and secondary schools to play in ensembles. Run by the Oxfordshire Music Service, students can play in string group, orchestra and jazz band catering for students of any age from first access to grade 5. The first session starts on Saturday 12th September and you can enrol at the centre.

We have a great depth and breadth of musical talent at Gosford Hill School, for this musical tradition to continue, I would encourage your child to take up a musical instrument! Any questions please email fra1190@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs R Frankcom - Team Leader of Music

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 caterers - is now available on our website.

TERM DATES – 2015 -2016

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