



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 8 October 2015

## Outdoor Skills Training

Over the weekend 44 students from Years 10 and 12 took part in an outdoor skills event in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. The first challenge was to pitch their tents, bearing in mind many had never slept in a tent before, they were by no means experts (this is why it was a training camp!). However after about an hour the camp site looked far more orderly.



Before.....  
and

After



The next task was to cook their evening meal on an expedition stove, again not all students found this easy but with help, support and encouragement everyone had a hot meal and a drink.



Alina & Jack

Maya & Rhiannon



The following morning we packed up the tents. We were then fortunate enough to meet Mr John May who is Secretary General for D of E for the whole world. He spoke to the group and wished them good luck on their journey. Mr May referred both to the hike they were setting off on, and their journey through the D of E from Bronze to Gold and hoped he would see some of them in the future gaining their gold in about 8 years time.



Everyone successfully walked the hike route to Hinksey Park, had a quick lunch and came back to school. I am sure both staff and students have gained a better insight into what the Duke of Edinburgh expedition actually entails.

My thanks go to Mr Williams, Mr Costello, Mr Buckley, Mr Clyne, Ms Chaza, Miss White and Mrs Hedges, all of whom gave up part of their weekend to support our students.

**Mrs Heydon – D of E Co-ordinator**

**Learn \* Lead \* Inspire**

## *Uniform Update*

Thank you for supporting the school uniform policy - Gosford Hill continues to get very positive feedback from visitors to the school and in the wider community.

I am writing to highlight the aspects of uniform that will be the focus for improvement at the start of term 2.

Shirts need to be tucked in order for students to look smart and take pride in their appearance.

With the prospect of wetter and colder weather, please ensure that students have a waterproof coat. It is not appropriate for students, in school, to use scarves / blankets instead of a waterproof coat. Hoodies will be confiscated.

Leggings and jeans are not allowed in school. Trousers should be tailored.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Richard Belmont - Assistant Headteacher**

## *Tag Rugby Festival - October 15<sup>th</sup> Stratfield Brake*

Students from Gosford Hill School demonstrated their leadership skills in the community again last week. Sixteen teams from our local primary schools: Dr South, St Thomas More, North Kidlington, Edward Feild and West Kidlington took part in this year's Tag Rugby Festival.

The event, hosted at the home of the Gosford All Blacks (Stratfield Brake), saw the teams compete in qualifiers and a round robin league.

The action was fast-paced and the players showed not only good team work but also real individual flair as they battled through their matches.

After the qualifiers the teams were placed into leagues. After some terrific action the winners of each league were as follows:

**League 1: *Winners***; North Kidlington 2, ***Runners Up***; Edward Feild 1 (Both qualify for the Partnership finals)

**League 2: *Winners***; West Kidlington 1, ***Runners Up***; West Kidlington 4

**League 3: *Winners***; Edward Field 4, ***Runners Up***; Dr South (Dr South qualify for the small schools final)

**League 4: *Winners***; North Kidlington 4, ***Runners Up***: Edward Feild 3

A special thank you to our four referees who did a fantastic job all afternoon refereeing and guiding our young players: Archie Devlin, Piers Walton, Oscar Webb and Morgan Russell.

Thank you as well to our leaders for their support of the teams and for helping with the organisation of the day: Paige Cooke, Emily Kyle, Matthew Bedwell, Hamish Hall, Ella Baskerville, Erin Corness, Molly Wiggins, Jamie Hudson, Malieta Fisilau, Christy Llewellyn, Luca Sykes, Harley Firkin, Emily Linford, Baylee Ridgeway.

**Mr P Green – Subject Leader, P.E.**

## *Visiting Teachers from Lakeside School, Oxford*

Yesterday we welcomed 12 teachers from 4 European Countries. The teachers are attending a professional development course at The Lake School of English.

They very much enjoyed their visit which ended with tea in the Learning Centre.



**Mrs J Humphreys – Senior TA**

## *How to get into Computer Gaming if you can't Program*



On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October approximately 50 students from Years 7-11 had the opportunity to find out 'How to get into Computer Gaming if you can't Program', and how to get your dream job.

James Schall is part of the games company SEGA, he talked about the different jobs such as design, coding, animation and how the business is run. It was an interesting lecture and we would like to attend more of them.

**Sidharth Panicker and Tony Azamfirei Year 8**



### ***Parents of Year 6 Children - Reminder***

Please note that the deadline for applying for a place at Gosford Hill School in September 2016 is 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

## *Is your child entitled to additional funding?*

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**

## **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.