



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 11 November 2015

Sixth Form in Fancy Dress

On Friday 15th November 2015, Gosford Sixth Form helped raise money for 'Children in Need' through a 'Disney Fancy Dress Day'. Members of the Sixth Form revisited their childhood, dressing up as their favourite Disney characters. This included several versions of Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella and Stitch.

The winners of the best dressed competition were Emily Young (dressed as Russell from Up! complete with her own balloons) and James Groves (who arrived in a full body Incredibles suit). Not to be outdone, the Sixth Form Tutors also showed their enthusiasm for the cause. The winner of the Best Dressed Tutor was awarded to Miss Curtis who fulfilled her dreams of becoming a princess dressed as Snow White.



Traditionally, the day was finished with an inter-form Coin Sculpture competition. In total the Sixth Form raised £339.50 for 'Children in Need'. The winning 'Jungle Book' themed coin sculpture was designed by Mr Barker's tutor group (who raised £72.61) and the form who raised the most money, with a fantastic £99.59 were CHCS. Overall it was a really fun-filled day and most importantly, the Sixth Form came together to raise money for 'Children In Need'.

Helen Dandridge - Head Girl



Learn * Lead * Inspire

6th Form Information Evening

On Wednesday 18th November, almost 100 Year 11 students and their parents visited Gosford Hill Sixth Form for our Information Evening. The evening began with a talk in the Hall, outlining the exciting opportunities available in our successful and supportive Sixth Form: Head Girl, Helen Dandridge, spoke about the academic challenge of studying A levels and Level 3 BTEC subjects; Deputy Head Boy, Calum Denver, outlined many of the enrichment and extra-curricular activities open to our students and Mr Ward spoke about the expanded subject offer for next year, which now includes Music and Philosophy and Ethics.

This was followed by a subject fair in the Sixth Form Centre, giving students their first chance to research the subjects they would like to study in the Sixth Form. There was a real sense of excitement as students got to discuss subject content and the opportunities which these subjects can open up for them after their A Level and Level 3 BTEC studies. We were fortunate to be joined by the *Adviza* careers service and Ben Pearson from Oxford Brookes University, who were also able to help guide students with Post-16 choices.

It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 11 students in attendance alongside some new faces from other local schools. The next step in the process is for students to complete their application forms and to return them to school by Friday 4th December.

Mr B Whittaker - Acting Head of Sixth Form

Girls in Coding Day



On Tuesday 10th November a group of Year 9 girls, who take Computer Science as a GCSE, travelled to Sophos to compete in an all-girls coding day. Sophos is one of the top three anti-virus companies in England.

When we arrived at Sophos we were divided into eight groups. Each group had girls from different schools and years. All groups competed against each other in four challenges in order to win an Apple watch. In our challenges we used Python to correct mistakes in a program and we also used Putty to hack into a website. At the end of the day we were all given advice for our future careers.

Anastasia Kontogianni, Ayase Rowden, Kacy Foster, Lucy Page, Eve Mundy, Amie Spicer, Olivia McKenzie and Laura Scaife – Year 9

European Visit

This week we welcomed 17 English teachers from 5 European countries. A visit to Gosford Hill School is part of their cultural activities while attending a professional development course at the Lake School of English in Oxford. They enjoyed their tour of the school followed by tea in the Learning Centre.

Mrs J Humphreys – TA Co-ordinator



Oxfordshire Book Awards 2015



Malieta, Erin, Holly, Ilana, Emily, Azizah, Rhiannan, Emma, Leah and Alex enjoy the awards with Miss Yardley.

This year's venue for the Oxfordshire Book Awards was Oxford High School in Summertown. A group of Year 10 students who took part in the early stages of the awards last January by reading the shortlisted books were invited to attend. Approximately 25 primary and secondary schools take part in the awards, reading the books and casting their votes for the overall winners in each of the primary and secondary groups. The awards were followed by a book signing, accompanied with tea and cake.

Mrs Hedges - Learning Centre Manager



Marcus Sedwick gave a pre-recorded acceptance speech as winner of the 'Best Secondary School Book' – 'She is Not Invisible'.



Local author, Jo Cotterill, accepted her award for 'Highly Commended Secondary Book' – 'Looking at the Stars'.

Bicester Bus

The dedicated Bicester to Gosford Hill School school bus is now stopping in Chesterton.

If you would like your child to trial the bus service from Chesterton, please contact Bicester.gosford.bus@gmail.com to request times and payment details.

Requests for a stop in Wendlebury can also be facilitated.

Ms P Challans - Business Manager

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

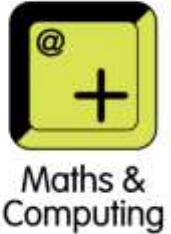
The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child(ren) in a number of curriculum areas.



GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL

Learn Lead Inspire

A Specialist College for Mathematics & Computing
Headteacher: Dr Stephen Bizley



Dear Parent/Carer

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

We currently have vacancies for Parent Governors and so must hold an election. As many of you may already know, the Governing Body has an extremely important role: it is responsible for working strategically in partnership with the Headteacher and staff to identify the most important aspects of the school that need to be improved, approving plans to achieve this and ensuring progress. Governors individually have no power but when Governors act collectively as a corporate team they are very powerful, as a corporate body not as individuals. All Governors receive training to help them carry out their role. Oxfordshire Governor Services runs special induction courses for new governors – we expect all our governors to attend this training.

Parents or anyone who has parental responsibility* for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election can stand for election**. You can nominate someone for election and can vote in the election. We also have a factsheet about becoming a governor that we can send you if you want more information.

Parent Governors, like all Governors, will be most effective if they bring relevant skills and experience, as well as the ability to work as part of a team. There are six Full Governing Body and Strategy, Performance & Governance Committee meetings that convene termly. The sub-committees are Finance & Resources, Teaching & Learning and Ethos & Community. Parent Governors will also sit on one of these three sub-committees.

All nominations should be sent in to the school Office for the attention of the Clerk, Mrs Clare Carpen, by 9am Friday December 4th, 2015. You can nominate yourself. Every nomination must be signed by the candidate, stating that they are willing to stand.

Please think about taking on the role, or suggesting someone who will do it well. We need committed parent governors to make the governing body as effective as it can be.

If you would like to know a little more about becoming a Parent Governor, please get in touch with Ms Rachel Foord (via the Clerk clare.carpen@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk) who is at present herself a Parent Governor.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher
Dr S Bizley

Chair of Governors
Ms A Moon

Gosford Hill School (the predecessor school) converted to academy status on 1 November 2012 and is an academy managed by Gosford Hill School. Gosford Hill School is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with a registered company number 8237106. The registered office of Gosford Hill School is Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT.



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***Definition of a Parent.**

(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 defines “Parent” to include):

- ◆ all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
- ◆ any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person

(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 (1), (3) and (4), read together with the Education Act 2002: Section 212(2), gives a definition of “parent”)

◆ “Parent” is defined for the purposes of the Constitution Regulations as including “any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18”.

◆ It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be to someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

** Parents who work at the school for 500 hours or more in any twelve month period – in practice this means any parent who is paid to work more than 12.5 hours per week at the school - are not eligible to be parent governors but they are eligible to vote in parent governor elections.