



# The Gosford Times

*The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School*

*Issue 12 November 2015*

## *Lots to Debate about!*

### *Debate at the Oxford Union*

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Twenty Year 11 and 13 students went to a community debate at the historic Oxford Union. The motion was “it is better to spend money on looking good than doing good”. It was a very intellectual evening, where we were given the chance to listen to six eminent speakers – Professor Danny Dorling from Oxford University, a journalist from The Guardian, a plastic surgeon and the leader of the charity that supports people with facial disfigurements, among others.



We could also join in the debate and ask questions. After hearing the views from both sides the final vote decided that it is better to spend more on doing good than looking good. It was really interesting to go and see how the Oxford Union debates work. Thank you to Anna Moon, our Chair of Governors for arranging the tickets.

**Rianne Jhutti, Caitlin Brown and Chelsea Beahan - Year 11**

### *Debating Competition*



On the morning of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of November 4 members of Debate Club were on their way with Mrs. Driscoll to compete in the Cherwell District Council competition in Banbury. Afshan Chudry, Alice Bickmore, Robert Sansom and I, Mary-Ellen Mc Bride participated in the competition. When we arrived an MP called Victoria Prentis and Councillor Barry Wood introduced themselves and we were told how the day was going to run and the rules that applied when competing.

We took part in two debates: the first debate was a local issue (green belt land) and the second debate was a national issue (immigration). This was the first debating competition we had all entered and we were all very anxious about making our speeches. Unfortunately we lost both of our debates and therefore we didn't make it to the final. On the plus side, we were able to take part in Question Time with Victoria Prentis, Barry Wood and two journalists. The floor was opened up to the students from all the schools that attended to ask questions while the final two teams prepared to debate. There were some very interesting questions put forward and they made all of us think about our opinions on each issue.

The final debate commenced and the motion was based on academic intelligence. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was a great experience. Personally, it helped me become more confident and broaden my knowledge about how to debate correctly. If you asked me a year ago if I would have taken part in a debating competition, I would never have even thought of saying yes, but after taking part in my first competition I feel that I am now able to continue improving my self-confidence.

**Mary-Ellen McBride – Year 11**

**Learn \* Lead \* Inspire**

## *Sixth form students take part in the Parliament in Oxford Day*

Gosford Hill School was very lucky to receive an invite to attend the first sitting of Parliament in Oxford in 350 years. Six of our students were able to listen to lectures on the history of Parliament and current issues in democracy. We also heard a talk from a world famous human rights lawyer, Baroness Kennedy and took part in a special sitting of the Science and Technology Committee. The students chosen, Hope, Nazneen, Jay, Natasha, Faye and Ellie are all interested in pursuing careers in Law or Politics so it provided a valuable insight into those fields and has hopefully inspired our students.



**The special sitting of the Science and Technology Select Committee at the University of Oxford. Our students are in the second row.**

**Mr J O'Regan - Assistant Headteacher**

### *Kidlington Family Swimming Festival – Years 5 and 6*

Our local primary schools; West Kidlington, St Thomas More, Dr South, Edward Feild and North Kidlington battled it out in a hugely competitive and high quality Festival.

The value of the day was determination which all the students displayed throughout the event together with a vociferous support for one another.

The students competed in many different styles including, Butterfly, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Freestyle – all were performed to a very high level and terrific times were achieved.



Once the individual events concluded they then moved on to the team relay events which produced some very exciting action. They competed in both freestyle and a Medley event.

Congratulations to Edward Feild who progress through to represent the area in the Partnership finals. The results were as follows;

Boys: Edward Feild, West Kidlington, Dr South, St Thomas More and North Kidlington.

Girls: Edward Feild, St Thomas More, Dr South, West Kidlington and North Kidlington.

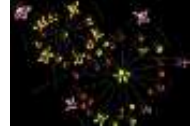
Gosford Hill Leaders organised the racers, timed the events and collated the results before handing out the Winners Certificates to the teams.

Many Thanks to: Erin Corness, Paige Cooke, Baylee Ridgeway, Luca Sykes, Harley Firkin, Emily Kyle, Matthew Bedwell, Sam Gauld, Ben Helfrich, Joshua Pipkin, Charlie Hopwood and Joe Mimpress for their outstanding work in making this event work so well for all involved.

**Mr P Green – Subject Leader, PE**



## ***Practice Exams – Years 11, 12 and 13***



**Practice Exams** for Years 11, 12 and 13 will be taking place shortly. Final timetables, together with explanatory notes for parents and students, will be distributed to students by form tutors on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Year 11 Practice Exams**

Written papers will take place between Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Year 11 students will be on study leave for this period and attend school only for written exams. Controlled Assessments in Art, French and German will take place between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, and students involved in these subjects will be withdrawn from other lessons to attend.

### **Years 12 & 13 Practice Exams**

Written papers and Art coursework will take place between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Sixth form students will be on study leave for this period and attend school only for written exams.

Advice for parents and students is attached to the final Practice Exams timetables but, if you have any questions, please contact the exams team on receipt.

**Mrs A Sumner- Examinations & Assessment Data Officer**

## ***Take Part in our Gosford Hill School Vision Survey***

Gosford Hill School's Governing Body are currently revisiting our whole school vision and we are seeking the views of parents and the wider Gosford Hill School community. We need to ensure our vision truly reflects the views of all stakeholders in Gosford Hill School and as such we are seeking the opinions of students, staff, parents and the wider community.

We would be very grateful if you could complete the survey below if you are a parent:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ghsvisionparents>

If you are not a parent but do take an active interest in the school, then please fill in this survey below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GHSvisionsurvey>

With thanks,

Mr J O'Regan, on behalf of the GHS Governing Body

## ***Free Workshop***

FREE Mini-hack: music and computing workshop for ages 11-16  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 10.00am — 1.00pm, Central Oxford. Further details from Liz Hounsell,  
14-19 Pathway Manager or <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whats-on/upcoming-events/2015/dec/mini-hack>

# December 2015 Reports

## Sixth Form Reports

For each subject, the report will contain a current grade, predicted grade, target grade and a descriptor to describe each student's attitude to learning, the extent to which they meet deadlines and their independence in learning.

## Year 11 Reports

For each subject, the report will contain a current grade, a predicted grade for the end of Year 11, a target grade for the end of Year 11, effort and a comment.

The current grade is based on the level of work currently being produced by the student. This may be higher or lower than the overall predicted grade for the subject as some students are stronger or weaker on different aspects of a course.

## Year 10 Reports

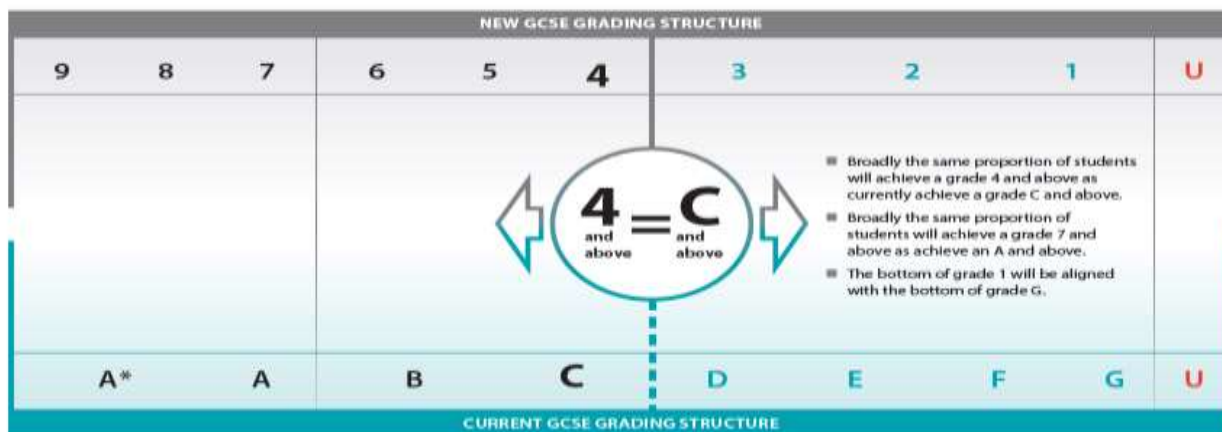
For each subject, the report will contain a current grade, a predicted grade for the end of Year 11, a target grade for the end of Year 11 and effort. For English and maths, numbers on the 9-1 scale will be reported as students will sit the new GCSEs in these subjects.

The current grade is based on the level of work currently being produced by the student. This may be higher or lower than the overall predicted grade for the subject as some students are stronger or weaker on different aspects of a course.

## Year 9 Reports

For each subject, the report will contain current grade, target for the end of Year 9 and effort. This is a settling in report at the beginning of the key stage 4 course. For maths and English, numbers on the 9-1 scale will be reported. Next year, when your son/daughter is in Year 10, other subjects will also be reported on the 9-1 scale.

*The new 9-1 Scale and how it links to GCSE grades*



## Key Stage 3 Reports

Owing to recent Government initiatives, the way Gosford Hill School assesses students at Key Stage Three has changed considerably. The National Curriculum Levels used at primary school are no longer used at Key Stage Three. Instead students are taught using a Mastery Curriculum.

Depending on the grade your son/daughter achieved in their Year 6 SATs, they will be allocated onto a flight path, as shown in the table below:

Flightpath Name	KS2 Average Level between English and Maths
Below a flight path	Below level 3
Alpha	Between 3a and 3c
Beta	Between 4a and 4c
Gamma	5b and 5c
Delta	5a or above

When students are assessed within their flight path, they will be given a Mastery Curriculum statement of Emerging, Developing, Securing or Mastering. Please see below for more information:

- Emerging (beginning to understand the knowledge and develop skills)
- Developing (have started to engage with the knowledge and develop skills)
- Securing (are secure in the knowledge and have developed the necessary skills at this time)
- Mastering (are secure in the knowledge and have developed the necessary skills for the course and will not regress in later years)

The target is for all students to be at least *securing* in each subject by the end of the year. Please be aware that English and maths will each have a separate flight path. For all other subjects, the flight path is the same, based on the average of English and maths.

Each report will give the flight path, Mastery Curriculum statement and effort for each subject.

The reports for each year group are due out just before Christmas.

If you have any queries, please contact me about reports or Mr O'Regan for queries about flight paths.

**Mrs J Fairchild – Assistant Headteacher**



## *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](mailto:office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:gabs4889@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)**

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