



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 13 December 2015

## Human Library

The well-known saying 'never judge a book by its cover' was used more than once last Wednesday morning when 50 Year 8 students visited the 'Human Library'. Students, working in small groups, were invited to borrow a 'human' from the library.

They quizzed their human about their working lives, discovering what a wide variety of jobs the humans represented as well as the training they had undertaken and some of the 'hidden' perks of their jobs. During the hour each group was able to borrow up to six humans.

Students and 'humans' really enjoyed the experience; the only disappointment being that there was not enough time for them to be able to speak with everyone. The 'humans' were amazed by the searching questions the students asked, how well they were treated and carefully returned to the 'shelf' each time.

The 'humans' were drawn from a number of local business organisations, Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities.

If you are willing to share your experiences with our students please contact me. This activity only requires about 90 minutes of your time first thing in the morning.

**Mrs L Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager**



*Ben Pearson – Brookes University*



*Ex-Gosford Hill School Student – Chris Rea*

**Learn \* Lead \* Inspire**

## ***GCSE Maths Day at Warwick University***

A group of Year 11 students attended a series of mini lectures at Warwick University. The first lecture was on Fermat's Last theorem given by broadcaster and author Simon Singh. He discussed how it took over 250 years to solve and how Professor Andrew Wiles managed to solve it after working on it in secret for 7 years.

The next lecture was on Pascal's patterns given by Professor Emma McCoy from Imperial College London. She explored how Pascal's patterns could be used to work out problems involving probability. After our break, Dr James Grimes spoke about codebreaking and even gave a demonstration of a real Enigma machine captured during WW2. The Allied intelligence services worked to crack the Enigma code which the Germans were using to send secret messages.

The author Alex Bellos then went on to talk about the world's favourite number (7) and how this is due to psychological responses within the brain. Magician and mathematician Matt Pritchard showed us how we could always win at games such as 'Guess Who?' and 'Rock, Paper, Scissors'. These games are all based on mathematical strategy and this was our last lecture of the day. Thank you to Mrs Davys, Mr Williams and Mrs Hounsell for taking us on this trip, it gave us an insight into some of the more difficult mathematical theories.

### **Caitlin Fry - Year 11**



*Learning how to win at 'Rock, Paper, Scissors'*



*The Enigma Machine*

## ***Gosford Hill School Vision Survey***

The Full Governing Body has been discussing a new vision statement for the school. We want it to be future oriented and at the same time provide a guiding light for the day-to-day work of the school.

To enable us to do this we need feedback from parents and carers as key stakeholders in the school. I attach a link to the questionnaire:

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

We want you to be honest and upfront with your feedback.

We want our vision to provide direction. It should be aspirational, inspirational and motivational.

Thank you to those who have completed the survey already, and we look forward to receiving some more responses.

Best wishes

**Anna Moon - Chair of Governors**

**Please note:** As we are taking an INSET day (a 6<sup>th</sup> one agreed by Governors to support curriculum change) this year, we will therefore break up on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12.30pm (not Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>).

## **TERM DATES – 2015 -2016**

### **Term 2**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

### **Term 3**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### **Term 4**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### **Term 5**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### **Term 6**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**INSET DAYS:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016



**GOSFORD HILL  
SCHOOL**

**CAROL SERVICE**

You are warmly invited to join  
us for our annual Carol Service

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH,  
KIDLINGTON  
TUESDAY  
15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015  
7.00pm**

AFTER THE SERVICE WE HOPE  
THAT GUESTS, PARENTS, STAFF  
AND STUDENTS WILL JOIN US  
FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN  
THE REFECTORY

## *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.