



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 14 December 2015

Awards Evening

Gosford Hill celebrated the achievements of over 60 students at a very special Awards Evening on Wednesday 2nd December. Awards were presented by the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Tom Birch-Reynardson in front of a packed hall of students, staff, parents/carers, relatives and former students.

The evening culminated with the Headteacher's Awards to Harry Whitehead and Caitlin Brown.

Mr R Belmont - Senior Assistant Headteacher, Student Support



Tom Birch-Reynardson with Helen Dandridge (Head Girl) and Sam Butler (Head Boy)



Harry Whitehead receiving his Headteacher's Award from Dr Bizley



Caitlin Brown receiving her Headteacher's Award from Dr Bizley

Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 16th December

Please support children's charities by paying a suggested £1 contribution to wear a Christmas jumper in school on Wednesday 16th December. Please note:-

- Bring the money in to your tutor on **TUESDAY 15th December**
- If you pay to wear a Christmas jumper you do not need to wear a blazer, but all other uniform must be worn as normal
- Pen, pencil and rulers in school as normal please.
- If you do not pay to wear a Christmas jumper, you must wear normal uniform including a blazer
- No coloured hair, jewellery or hats please
- PE kit will be normal Gosford Hill kit

Thank you

House Leaders



Learn * Lead * Inspire

Sporting Success

Jade O'Dowda was crowned Young Sportsperson of the Year at the Oxfordshire Sports Awards. Jade is an outstanding young athlete who gave up Irish dancing to take up athletics. The Oxford Mail reported her as talented, determined with a willingness to train. Her coach commented that she has never worked with a junior with so much talent despite working with an athlete who has competed at the Olympics. At school Jade is incredibly humble and modest about her exploits but should be proud of her latest achievement.

Caitlin Brown also stole the headlines in the Oxford Mail following her performance for Kidlington and Gosford Swimming Club. She was the club's top performer as they came 2nd in the top club competition. Caitlin won 5 out of her 6 races, came 2nd in the other race and posted three county qualifying events. It was also great to see a number of other students representing the swimming club.

The girls swimming teams have been very successful at the level 2 North Oxfordshire partnership events. The Year 7 girls won their event at the beginning of December; the team consisted of Amy Neale, Katie Parsons, Darcy Duke and Tia Hussain. The students left school at 7.45am with Mr Goldring to get to the Spiceball Leisure Centre and competed against other secondary schools in North Oxford. They now go forward to the school games finals later in the year to represent North Oxford. The boys competed well against some strong opposition and finished 5th. The Year 7 girls will be joined by the Key Stage 4 girls' team who made a great start by winning the freestyle relay. Lucy Parsons and Lucy Stowell then won the breaststroke and freestyle events with Emily Kyle and Shellie Evans both finishing 2nd in the butterfly and backstroke events. Following the strong individual performances they won the medley relay.



Jade with her award

Mr P Green – Subject Leader, P.E.

Kidlington Family Dodgeball Event

Over 50 children took part in the first ever Kidlington Primary School Dodgeball Festival.

The aim of the event was to introduce the students to this exciting sport, help them learn the rules and try out tactics and strategies to help them compete against the other teams. The event focussed on the value of honesty with the aim being that the students by the end would be able to referee themselves.

Each team was assigned a Gosford Hill leader. Each leader warmed up their team, taught them the rules and went through the key skills of catching and dodging through various practices. The leaders then helped referee each game and helped the team devise strategies for their next matches.



By the end of the up down tournament the teams were throwing together, taking catching opportunities and using codes with which to attack the other teams.

The second half of the Festival saw the teams mixed together forming new sides to take part in an exciting four-way Dodgeball competition. Here the students displayed excellent camaraderie with their new team mates working together brilliantly. As each round increased in difficulty the four teams rose to the challenge and enjoyed a hugely competitive end to the Dodgeball Festival.

Within each team one person was recognised for their excellent contribution and for displaying unwavering honesty through the competition.

With thanks to the Gosford Hill leaders who did an outstanding job: Emily Kyle, Harley Firkin, Luca Sykes, Matthew Bedwell, Baylee Ridgeway, Joshua Pipkin, Joe Mimpress, Sam Gaud, Ben Helfrich and Charlie Hopkin.

Mr P Green – Subject Leader, P.E.

Lake School Visit

On Wednesday 2nd December we welcomed the last visit this year of European teachers attending professional development courses at the Lake School of English in Oxford.

They enjoyed their tour which ended with afternoon tea and cake in the Learning Centre.

Mrs J Humphreys - TA Co-ordinator



Sharing the Success of Former Students

It is always good to hear about successes of former students. I recently received this from Mrs Tracey Birchall:-

“Twins Tommy and Gemma Birchall left Gosford Hill in 2010, going on to Oxford & Cherwell Valley College and then University.

They have recently graduated - Gemma obtaining a 1st Class Degree in Psychology at the University of Winchester and Tommy a BA (Hons) in Graphic Design from the University of Gloucestershire. I would like to thank the teachers at Gosford Hill School for their encouragement for pupils to focus, work hard and do their best during their school education; showing the opportunity to do well is there, if you work hard.”

Congratulations to them both!

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher



News from the Chair of Governors

It is with regret that I have to inform you that for personal reasons Paul Whitford, Parent Governor and Chair of the Finance and Resources sub-committee is having to step down as Governor. I would like to thank him for all his valuable contributions and we hope he will be able to rejoin the Governing Body in the future.

Anna Moon – Chair of Governors

News from the Music Faculty

What a busy term our students have had! Since half term, our regular rehearsals for singing club have continued in earnest in preparation for the Christmas Carol Service next week. The band for our musical 'Annie' started rehearsals and are already sounding very good. We have quite a few of our younger students joining us this year and they have done brilliantly, learning lots of very challenging new music. The string and keyboard lunchtime clubs are also getting very popular and students are continuing to develop their skills.

In November, we had our first Music Night in the main hall with many students from across the school taking part. We saw some amazing solos, duets and bands perform to a full hall and students came away feeling proud with their achievements and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Just last week a number of students performed in our School Awards Evening and about 80 students took part throughout the day when we spent the whole of Thursday fundraising at Sainsbury's in Kidlington with our annual Playathon. Sainsbury's have been a great support and allowed us to come into their store, entertaining the staff and customers and raising money to replace our very old PA system. This year we raised £876.48p and there are a few photos for you to see what we did. With just over a week to go we are looking forward to singing in the Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's Church next Tuesday at 7pm and to finish we will be singing in our Christmas assemblies on the last day of term.

It is at times like this when I reflect on the fantastic support of our parents and people from our local community that really encourage our students to practise and to take the plunge and perform to a hall or a shop full of people. It is lovely to hear such positive comments and feedback, even letters to say how fantastic the students have been. I do hope you can join us for the Carol Service. It is free and there will be mince pies and hot drinks afterwards and a time to share and meet others. Have a very Happy Christmas.

Mrs R Frankcom - Team Leader, Music



Music Night

On Wednesday 11th November BTEC music students, along with younger students in Years 7 and 8 performed a series of impressive performances in the Music Night. For many of the students this was the first time they have performed a solo in front of a hall full of people.

I am a member of the school choir and we performed at the start of the second half of the concert 'I'm A Believer' and 'Lean On Me'. I thought it went really well and we had a great time performing to friends and family. We should all be proud of ourselves.

The audience seemed to have a great night and they looked like they enjoyed all of the performances. People have said they liked watching the different styles of performances and got to see some very talented students. It was a great turn out with the amount of people who turned up for the concert and it was a fantastic night.

All years that performed did an incredible performance and gave it their all.

Sarah James Year 10 WHFG

Assembly arrangements for Friday 18th December

Periods 1 and 2 as normal

At the end of break, students should go to their form room

Thames and Windrush Houses have an assembly starting at 11.30am.

THAMES should enter through the gym

WINDRUSH should enter into the hall as normal.

Year 7 students please sit on the benches. Sixth formers on the chairs at the back of the hall

Evenlode and Cherwell both have an assembly starting at 11.55am. A BELL WILL SOUND TO LET STUDENTS KNOW WHEN TO MOVE

EVENLODE please enter through the gym

CHERWELL please enter into the hall as normal.

Year 7 students please sit on the benches. Sixth formers on the chairs at the back of the hall

Students will leave the site at 12.30pm.

Mr R Belmont - Senior Assistant Headteacher, Student Support

Lunchtime Arrangements – Wednesday 16th December

Please note that at lunchtime on Wednesday 16 December, the Chartwells Canteen will only be open to those that have pre-paid for a Christmas Lunch – see adverts. Students not having a Christmas Lunch will be able to eat in the Main Hall. The Chartwells Canteen will be open at morning break for the sale of baguettes, sandwiches, hot snack, fresh fruit, homemade cakes and healthy drinks.

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.