



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 15 December 2015

## Senior Mathematical Challenge 2015

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, ten of our Sixth Form mathematicians took part in this year's Senior Mathematical Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The intriguing multiple choice question papers are designed to stimulate interest in the subject.



Our prize winners were:

**Gold:** Simon Hague in Year 12 (Best in school). Simon scored highly enough to be invited to sit the Mathematical Olympiad.

**Silver:** Philippa Smith in Year 13.

**Bronze:** Sam Butler, Melissa Fry and Pawel Salasa in Year 13. Emily Robinson and Beren Wilkinson in Year 12.

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is designed for Years 9, 10 and 11 in UK schools and will be held on 4 February 2016 and the Junior Mathematical Challenge for Years 7 and 8 will be held on 28 April 2016. We plan to enter our top set in each year group. However, if your son or daughter from any maths set would particularly like to sit this exam, please let me know. Further information can be found at [www.ukmt.org.uk](http://www.ukmt.org.uk).

Please contact me if you have any queries.

**Mr S Williams - Assistant Faculty Leader – Maths**

### Message from the Headteacher

I would like to thank you for all the kind messages I have received since announcing my departure in April and would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents, staff and students a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Dr S Bizley - Headteacher**



Learn \* Lead \* Inspire

## ***Skiing 2016***

Gosford Hill School students have successfully undertaken their first sessions on the snow. There have been a series of trips to The Snow Centre at Hemel Hempstead where 50 students have had their first ski lessons in preparation for our upcoming trip to Italy in February.

I must say I have been very impressed so far and everyone has taken to the snow like polar bears - at this rate all students will be well on their way to snow ploughing and turning before we hit the mountains. There have been no incidents and everyone is excited about the trip.

Long may that continue!

Another round of lessons follows on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of January so have a great Christmas and the countdown to Pila begins.

**Mrs H Whitford – Trip Leader**



## ***A Busy Pre-Christmas for Kidlington Actress – Marie Hamilton***

It's a busy pre-Christmas for Kidlington actress Marie Hamilton.



Marie, pictured above, is playing the lead role of Beauty in a brand new production of *Beauty and the Beast* at Woolwich Tramshed a young people's theatre in South London.

Marie went to Gosford Hill School before professional training at the prestigious Ecole Philippe Gaulier theatre school in Paris – alumni include Emma Thompson and Helena Bonham Carter.

"In this version Beauty starts off as a spoilt brat, self-absorbed, image obsessed and really horrid, but makes a huge journey throughout the show," Marie tells me, "Beauty has to learn that image doesn't matter."

And how is the show going down with audiences?

"We've had some adorable cards written by the kids, and I was even stopped in the street outside the theatre by a little boy who said: 'You was the Beauty!!' Not sure how I feel about the past tense, but very sweet none the less!"

**Taken from the 'Kidlington Voice'**

## *Student and Staff Christmas Lunch*

On 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Students and Staff, and our Community Visitors from Glebe House, enjoyed a traditional Christmas Lunch, prepared by Chartwells our Caterers.

On the menu was Traditional Roast Turkey with pigs in blankets, sage and onion stuffing with all the trimmings or Goat's cheese and caramelized red onion tart with all the trimmings followed by homemade mincemeat slice or Christmas Tree Ice cream!



The students were given the option of wearing a Christmas-themed jumper, for a small donation to our chosen charity of Save the Children. Our Sixth Form provided the hosting service for all our guests, students and staff.

**Ms P Challans – Business Manager**

### *Christmas time at Gosford Hill*

We have a lovely tradition at Gosford Hill School when each year we visit Saint Mary's Church, Kidlington for our annual carol service. Students, staff, parents and friends come together for this event to sing Christmas carols, listen to readings telling the story of the birth of Jesus and the school choir perform many Christmas songs. The service starts with 'Once in Royal David's City', the first verse is a solo and this year Shohini Banerji in Year 8 sang unaccompanied with a very pure and clear tone. Anna Heaven sang a beautiful version of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' and the choir sang four part harmonies in all their songs, performing some new songs this year including 'The King is Coming Soon' and 'A New Day is Dawning'. After the service, everyone gathered in the refectory for mince pies and cups of tea, a time of sharing and catching up.

I would like to thank the students and staff for the hard work and commitment to all the rehearsals this term. Thank you to Mr Neil Barker and Mrs Pam Davys for accompanying and helping with choir rehearsals.

Finally, I would like to wish you all very Happy Christmas.

**Rhian Frankcom -Team Leader of Music**

### Staff News

This Christmas we say farewell to the following members of teaching staff:-

Mr Allan Clare, Ms Sarah Holmes, Mrs Fiona Moody, Ms Katherine Pate and Miss Sarah Wooller.

We also say goodbye to the following member of our support staff team: Mrs Becky Sharp.

Our thanks to all of the above colleagues for their valued contribution to learning at Gosford Hill School and our very best wishes to each of them for the future.

In January we welcome the following new appointees:-

Mr James Tracey-Bower (D&T), Mr Merlin Llewellyn-Pratt (ICT)

**Mrs Nicola Cooke – Headteacher's P.A.**

Dear Parent(s) / Carer

**RE: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

You may be aware that our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) has been absent from school for some time. We heard very recently that Ms. Moody (SENCO) will be leaving us at Christmas for personal reasons.

I am pleased to inform you that Ms. Jesior-Tiffert has been appointed as SENCO, assisted by Ms. Clinch as Head of Alternative Provision. This arrangement will be until further notice.

Whilst some SEN reviews have been completed in Ms. Moody's absence, the remainder will be completed in the New Year.

Thanking you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Can I take this opportunity to wish yourselves and your family a restful and enjoyable festive season.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Ward  
Deputy 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**