



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 20 - February 2016

Gosford Hill Students Excel at Recent Public Events

We are very proud of our students when they go to public events, able to speak well to or in front of others, showing off their skills and ideas. Recently, students in Years 11 and 13 have done just this.

“Getting Court” Gosford Hill Student speaks at ceremony

Miss Clinch and a group of Year 11 students have been participating in the first Getting Court initiative that enables young people to understand the criminal justice system, by meeting the professionals involved in it. At the final presentation evening, one Year 11 student, Hannah, was asked to speak in front of a large audience.

To read the full story, see the Oxford Mail at

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14225086.Students_get_first_hand_knowledge_of_the_criminal_justice_system_in_action/



Hannah, with Ian Pringle QC, Resident Judge of Oxford, Tom Birch Reynardson, High Sheriff of Oxford and Miss Clinch

Public speaking competition, Wychwood School

For the first time GHS Sixth Formers participated in the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, being the only state school in the area to do so. Afshan, Najiha and Mary-Ellen were the speaker, chairperson and vote of thanks respectively. In front of an audience of about 200 and against 4 other experienced teams, the girls spoke confidently. Afshan’s speech, entitled “Am I Feminazi?” drew much praise for tackling a still-important issue. For many people, speaking in public is their greatest fear, but our students overcame this and performed well.



Mrs A Driscoll – Assistant Headteacher

Learn * Lead * Inspire

Year 10 Football update

The Year 10 boys' football team continued their progress in the national cup competition beating Six Valleys Academy from Chichester. As this was the quarter final the game was played at Kidlington Football Club and huge thanks must go to the club for making it a great occasion for the students and spectators.

Gosford started the first half much the stronger team and enjoyed the majority of possession and territory but could not convert any of the chances. Six Valleys scored with their first attack through a breakaway move and it looked like it just wouldn't be Gosford's day. However Ben Stewart equalised towards the end of the first half to balance the score.

At the start of the second half Six Valleys again took the lead and Gosford mounted huge pressure on the away team but again with no success. The game appeared to be out of reach for Gosford despite playing the better football and having the majority of possession. In the last few minutes Piers Walton found space to score and take the game into extra time.

Despite the big pitch Gosford continued to battle and showed great character to take the lead in the first half of extra time again through Piers Walton. Much credit must be given to the back four who showed great maturity and understanding throughout the game and the midfield who worked tirelessly on a big pitch.



Squad: B. Owen, A. Littlewood, A. Jhutti, A. Yillah, P. Walton, L. Wirdnam-Crick, B. Stewart, H. Firkin, J. Clarke, J. Hudson, W. Baker, O. Birchall, H. Hall, L. Kimber, L. Sykes, J. Keighery, J. Cowlshaw, K. Grossman

Mr P Green – Subject Leader, PE

UK Atomic Energy Authority

CULHAM SCHEME

THE UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY
CULHAM ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Recruitment Open Day Event
Tuesday 16th February 2016

Register to attend, to find out more about a career in Engineering with the UK Atomic Energy Authority
Meet the staff and talk to the apprentices who will be exhibiting their work.

Tours of A&E included.

Various Timeslots available: 3:00pm, 4:30pm and 6:00pm

Please visit our website to register for a place:
<http://www.culhamapprenticeshipscheme.com/news.html>

Don't just engineer your own future, engineer a future for everyone.

IEE The Institution of Engineers and Technicians

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

IP

OP16/16/16



Starting soon

Science STEM Club

Dissecting DNA - The Science of DNA and Genetics

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is found in every cell in your body. It contains vital genetic information that is passed on from generation to generation.

- In biomedical science, learning more about our genetic information could lead to more understanding of and finding cures for many genetic diseases.
- In forensics, the presence or absence of DNA evidence at a crime scene can completely alter the verdict and outcome of an investigation.
- DNA can also lead the way towards cloning; from one cell you can gather enough DNA to clone an animal, a plant or even a person.

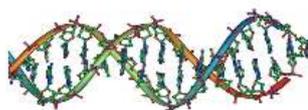
Through a series of investigations over 7 weeks, you will;

- Extract DNA
- Make DNA models
- Run an electrophoresis experiment
- Look at our own genetic traits
- Investigate genetics in evolution and natural selection

This club will run weekly on **Tuesday** afternoons from **3:30 – 4:15** in science lab S2 with Mr Moss (Science Teacher) and Mr Micklem (STEM Ambassador) and is open to all **year 7** and **year 8** students. To confirm the level of interest, please complete the slip below and return to Mr Moss by **Monday 8th February**.

_____ (Student's Name) of (Tutor Group) _____ is interested in participating in the Science STEM Club - Dissecting DNA after school on Tuesdays.

Signed _____ (Parent/Carer)



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.

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.

Supporting young people online

Information and advice for parents and carers



The internet – an inspiring and positive place

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online.

Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities. We have grouped potential online risks into these 4 categories.



Conduct:

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.



Content:

Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias. Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content, without seeking the author's permission.



Contact:

It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk). If your child is the victim of cyberbullying, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.



Commercialism:

Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within applications. Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms.

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

1 Ask your children to tell you about the websites and apps they like to use and what they enjoy doing online.

2 Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

3 Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

4 Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

5 Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

What can I do right now?

- Maintain an open dialogue with your child and encourage them to talk to you about their internet use: for example who they're talking to, services they're using, and any issues they may be experiencing.
- Create a family agreement to establish your children's boundaries, and your expectations, when on the internet.
- Give your child strategies to deal with any online content that they are not comfortable with – such as turning off the screen, telling an adult they trust and using online reporting facilities.
- Consider using filtering software to block unwanted content. In addition to filtering, remember that discussion with your child, and involvement in their internet use, are both effective ways to educate them about the internet.
- Encourage your children to 'think before you post.' Online actions can impact not only yourself but the lives of others. Content posted privately online can be publicly shared by others, and may remain online forever.
- Understand the law. Some online behaviour may break the law, for example when downloading or sharing content with others. Be able to recommend legal services.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy settings and reporting features available on popular sites and services.
- If your child is being bullied online, save all available evidence and know where to report the incident, for example to the school, service provider, or the police if the law has been broken.
- Familiarise yourself with the age ratings for games and apps which can help to indicate the level and suitability of the content. Also see if online reviews are available from other parents as these may be helpful.
- Set up a family email address that your children can use when signing up to new games and websites online.
- Encourage your children to use nicknames (where possible) instead of their full name online, to protect their personal information, and create strong passwords for every account.
- Set up a PIN or password on devices to help protect personal information.

Sign up to our Childnet newsletter at www.childnet.com.

Help make sure that your children know how to stay safe online, by using our SMART Rules for primary aged children, or 5 Tips for Teens.

5 SMART Rules for primary aged children:

S **Safe:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

M **Meet:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

A **Accepting:** Accepting emails, messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R **Reliable:** Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information by looking at other websites, in books, or with someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family.

T **Tell:** Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

5 Tips for Teens:

1 **Protect your online reputation:** use the tools provided by online services to manage your digital footprints and 'think before you post.' Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.

2 **Know where to find help:** understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone.

3 **Don't give in to pressure:** if you lose your inhibitions you've lost control; once you've pressed send you can't take it back.

4 **Respect the law:** use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want.

5 **Acknowledge your sources:** use trustworthy content and remember to give credit when using other people's work/ideas.

Further advice and resources:

www.childnet.com
www.saferinternet.org.uk



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