



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 23 – March 2016

Celebration Achievement

There was an unveiling of a plaque at the school last week to celebrate the achievements of Mr Martin O'Connell who attended Gosford Hill School between 1953-1956. Mr O'Connell was a keen rugby player and was the England schoolboys rugby captain in 1956.

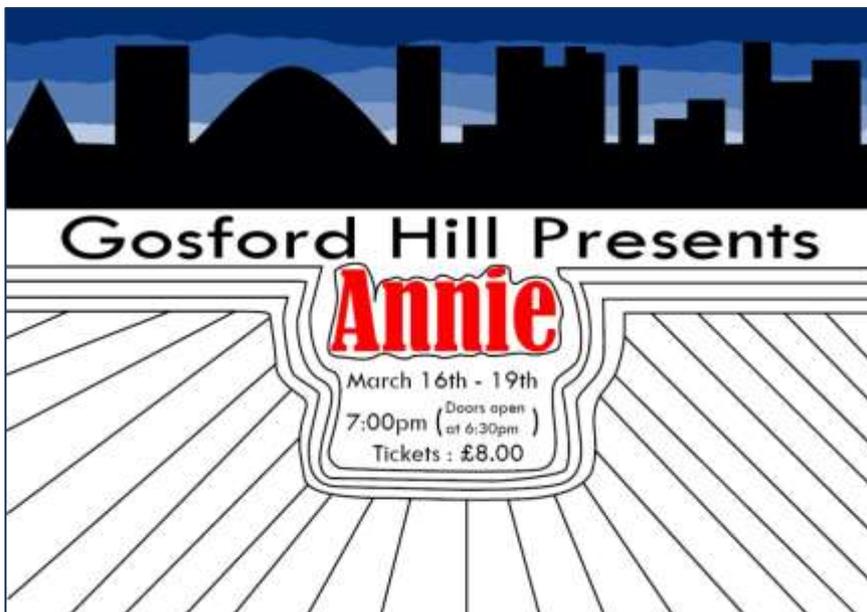
The plaque was organised by Tony Steele and David Howard who were also former students of the school. The event was attended by members of Mr O'Connell's family and the plaque was unveiled by his great nephew. His former P.E. teacher, Mr Smith, joined the celebration together with other members of the community and some present day members of the school rugby team. They were very interested to hear about Mr O'Connell's achievements and to see memorabilia of his England Captaincy days which the family had kindly brought in to show them.



Sadly Mr O'Connell was unable to attend due to ill health but it was a pleasure to see his family and friends representing him so proudly.

Dr S Bizley - Headteacher

School Production 2016



Tickets for this year's production of Annie will be on sale at break times in the canteen from Monday 7th March.

Doors open 6.30 pm
Performance starts 7.00pm
If you are able to help serve refreshments etc. at one or more of the school productions of ANNIE
Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Friday 18th Saturday 20th Please contact Liz Hounsell,
ehou2868@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk
01865 374971 ext 702

Learn * Lead * Inspire

Kidlington Family – High Five Netball



Our local primary schools, West Kidlington, St Thomas More, Edward Feild and North Kidlington came together to compete in our annual High Five Netball Festival.

The value of the day was team work – and our students excelled supporting and encouraging, giving opportunities, taking turns and working incredibly hard for each other.

The standard of the matches was very high and saw some great play from all teams who really improved as the afternoon wore on. The games were expertly umpired by Chelsea Beahan, Caitlin Brown and Ellie Matthews from Gosford Hill School who not only umpired but also gave valuable advice and guidance to the students.



Our Gosford leaders also ran activities and drills to help the students prepare for their big matches;

After a highly competitive round robin North Kidlington took first place just pipping runners up Edward Feild. St Thomas More and West Kidlington finished 3rd and 4th respectively. The games were full of exciting action and tremendous passing moves that flowed from one end to the other. Congratulations to all involved.

A big thank you to our Gosford Leaders for their help umpiring, running practice activities, timing and scoring as well as presenting certificates at the end.

With thanks to: Freya Bates, Harley Firkin, Matthew Bedwell, Sam Gauld, Joshua Pipkin, Joe Mimpres, Ben Helfrich, Max Gatehouse and Ben Martin.

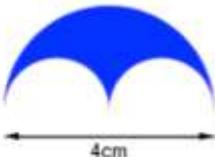


Kevin Peake – School Sports Co-ordinator

This week's Maths Puzzle

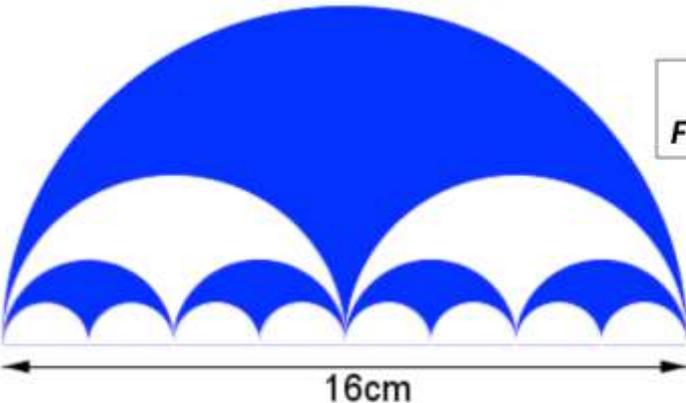
How far can you get with this next puzzle? Bring any answers along to Maths Club on Friday.
Mr N Barker – Maths Teacher

Pattern 1:



4cm

Pattern 2:



16cm

**Maths Club
Puzzle 4**

*Maths Club
Friday lunchtimes*

What would the shaded area of pattern 3 be?

**A Level Maths Clinic for Years 12 and 13
- drop in for extra help for AS, A2 and Further
Maths:
Every Wednesday after school in M5 with Mr
Williams on
C1 – C3, M1 and M2.
Every Friday P4 in M9 with Mrs Faulkner on
C1 - C4, FP1 and FP4.
All are welcome.**

What do you know about building a wind turbine?

This week a group of 60 Year 8 & 9 students found out that there are a number of factors that need to be considered when building a wind turbine.

They participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activity day with each team designing and building a model of a wind turbine. The day, sponsored by the National Grid, was run by Smallpeice Trust, an Engineering Educational Trust. www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk

Students, working in small groups, designed and built their wind turbines from a selection of materials which they had to 'buy' from the store. They built a structure, mostly from rolled paper, to elevate the turbine blades and then had to find a way of fastening the turbine blades to their tower and linking it to a mini generator. The range of designs was amazing; some more successful than others as was proven at the end of the day when each group presented their design which was tested to see how much power it could generate in the 'wind' (office fan).

The students were organised into groups of students from Years 8 & 9, some of whom they didn't know well. They rose to the challenge to get to know the rest of their team, sharing their strengths and worked well together over the day. All students gained transferable skills that will support them as they move through the school and beyond. When all the factors were taken into consideration (teamwork over the day, aesthetics, stability of the structure, power generated, costs and marketing) Team 8 were the winners, only just beating the next two teams by half a point.

Some team comments:

'It was harder than it looked and we had to make a few adjustments to ours'

'Really enjoyed making it, sad it didn't work at the end'

'Ours was best! it made most electricity' - it did but this model cost more than double the others to construct!

Winners- Team 8: Imogen Hunt and Binderiya Batsaikhan - Year 9, Aleashia Clark, Jenna Petrie and Sophie Hall – Year 8



Student Teams busy at work



Winning Design – Team 8

You Want It To Go How Fast?!?!



The Story and The Science of Bloodhound SSC



Monday 14th March 2016
1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Design – Team 8

Gosford Hill School In The Resource Centre

Come and find out about the next attempt to break the land speed record. Don't miss this exciting presentation.

Did you know that our Year 9 girls team won a place for their team name to be added to the tail fin of the Bloodhound?

To book your place, sign-up in the Learning Centre.

Mrs E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager

TERM DATES – 2016 -2017

2015-2016

Term 4

Tuesday 23rd February – Thursday 24th March 2016

Term 5

Monday 11th April – Friday 27th May 2016

Term 6

Monday 6th June – Tuesday 19th July 2016

INSET DAYS: 1st July 2016. 20th July 2016

2016-2017

Autumn Term

Thursday 1st September – Friday 16th December 2016

Half Term Break – Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October 2016

ILP DAY: Monday 5th September 2016

INSET DAYS: Thursday 1st September and Friday 2nd September 2016, 7th October
(2 more INSET days to be decided within the Spring and/or Summer terms 2017)

Spring Term

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 7th April 2017

Half Term Break – Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2017

Summer Term

Monday 24th April – Friday 21st July 2017

Half Term Break – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2017

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