



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 29 – April 2016

Autcraft Club



Friday 22nd April saw the launch of the **world's first Autcraft club** for KS3 students on the autistic spectrum and associated learning difficulties (such as Sensory Processing Disorder and ADHD with autistic traits). Autcraft is a dedicated whitelist Minecraft server, which is fully moderated voluntarily by parents of autistic children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it an autism-friendly and safe online place. A small group of students gathered for the first meeting where we joined via Skype by Stuart Duncan, the founder of Autcraft, all the way from Ontario, Canada. Stuart, aka AutismFather, answered the students' questions about the server and told them about all the exciting new features that are coming soon, such as the update to the newest version of Minecraft which will allow players to glide over the world with a new piece of armour. The students were delighted to visit the server and discover a tardis (which was built by Stuart) and to start planning where they are going to build their base.

The group was visited by our new Headteacher, Mr Sellars, where he heard a presentation by Robbie Watson (TJKK) about Autcraft. It is Robbie's excellent experiences on the server which have prompted us setting up the club.

All involved would like to thank Mr Butterfield for his help and support in setting up the group.

The above photo shows Stuart chatting with Robbie about the new features coming up soon. To find out more about Autcraft, please visit www.autcraft.com. If any parents are interested in their children joining the club, please e-mail Mrs Watson at jwatson@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Watson - HLTA, Intervention Faculty

Learn * Lead * Inspire

New Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

The Sixth Form Leadership team has just completed the selection of the New Head Boy and Girl, along with their deputies.

These students will play a very important role in our student council as it continues the challenge of developing the Student Voice. Our Head Boy and Girl will represent the school at open events and run our Student Council. The Deputy Head Boy and Girls will work alongside the Head Boy and Girl, deputising as appropriate and running the Sixth Form Committee.

Once again there was an extremely strong field with candidates demonstrating a stunning array of talent, extra-curricular activities and community involvement.

Universally, candidates spoke eloquently and thoughtfully, showing drive, passion and maturity. Each of them is a credit to the school and their families. There was a particularly strong field of girls applying that we have made the decision to appoint two deputies. We are delighted to announce that we have appointed the following team:

Head Girl

Faye Brightmore

Head Boy

Matthew Boyle

Deputy Head Girl

Rhiannon Parker and Emily Young

Deputy Head Boy

Simon Hague



Simon, Rhiannon, Faye, Matthew and Emily

Help your child improve their literacy

The Intervention faculty is currently running a literacy intervention with a small group of Year 7 students called Premier League Reading Stars. It is an innovative literacy programme created by the National Literacy Trust and the Premier League. More details can be found at: <http://plrs.literacytrust.org.uk/>. One of the elements of the intervention is an online area where students can take part in literacy challenges and get rewards for participating.

We have an unlimited number of logins for this, so if you would like your child to improve their literacy by engaging with their love of football, please e-mail Mrs Watson at jwatson@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk with your child's name and form group, or ask your child to visit Intervention during break, and she will give your child a letter containing their login details. There will be a prize for the first student who completes all the online challenges first!

Mrs Watson – Intervention Faculty

Meet the New Headteacher Evenings for Parents- Feedback

It was fantastic to welcome so many parents to the three evenings that I held over the course of the last fortnight for parents to come and meet me, hear about the vision for the school, my educational philosophy and the way forward following the recent Ofsted inspection.

As the questions from parents each evening were varied, and for the benefit of those parents who were unable to attend, I thought I'd summarise the key things that parents raised, and give you some feedback on how we'll follow up your concerns or questions raised.

Question / Concern Raised	Follow Up
Staffing, triple lessons in a day and continuity of staffing.	We will advertise nationally when recruiting to ensure that we have the best possible field of candidates. We are improving the way that we market our school to prospective candidates, and we will focus on developing, nurturing, and retaining quality staff and through improving staff morale. Two or three lessons in the same day is a product of part timism amongst our teaching staff. We will continue to review our flexible working policy on an annual basis.
Clashes of subject clinics when they are on the same night.	Our staff lead so many opportunities outside of the timetabled day for students but we will look at how we can avoid clashes for students to minimise the impact.
Inconsistent use of Show my Homework. Insufficient homework set.	We will improve the consistency of homework setting using Show My Homework as a tool. As parents, you play a vital role in supporting your child in their home learning.
Inconsistent use of the Behaviour Policy	We continue to reinforce our high expectations of students across the schools and will work to improve the consistency of our approach.
How is intervention working?	We are currently reviewing roles and responsibilities within the intervention team in order that we provide the highest quality provision for our students.
What do students do whilst in detention?	They complete the Behaviour Reflections Sheet which encourages them to think about why they are in detention, the impact that their actions had on themselves and others, and what they need to do to move forward.
The tone of detention letters sent home with "categories" of behaviour	The categories are generated through our School Information Management System. We are currently reviewing this system and will endeavour to provide greater detail for parents on the reasons for a detention.
Colour coding on Reports produced this year. Consistency of <i>Working At</i> grades introduced on reports this year – what do these mean / represent? Need a consistent meaning across faculties if parents are to make sense of these grades on a report. There is too much information on the current reports. Consistency across faculties and teachers with reporting information has been an issue.	Reports were adapted a few years ago in response to parent and governor working groups. Since the introduction of a new national system of grades at GCSE (9-1 instead of A*-G) and the removal of KS3 Levels we are reviewing a new system that was introduced for data and reporting at the beginning of this academic year. We have already changed some of the colour coding on the reports.
Science teaching – want strategies to help catch up with work for current Year 10 students.	We already have plans in place to give more teaching time to Science in Year 9 next year. The Science department are looking at how best to support students who would like more support with their learning.
The school environment	We are looking at how we can improve the school environment by embarking on a programme of painting. If you have an idea of how we can get together large numbers of volunteers, please let us know.

I was really heartened to know that parents are so supportive of the school and want to work in partnership with us, so that together, we can make our school outstanding for our young people.

I want to continue to foster an open dialogue with parents as you are a vital part of our school. If anyone is interested in joining the Friends of Gosford Hill School, please email the school office. Similarly, if you have an idea on how we can improve the school, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support over the past three weeks as I've got to know the school.

Nigel Sellars
Headteacher

Alex Danson Great Britain Hockey Player gives a Master Class to Year 7 and 8 hockey teams.



On Thursday 21st April 2016 Alex Danson who plays hockey for the Great Britain team talked about her training and playing for Great Britain and then led a masterclass in hockey for the Year 7 and 8 girls' hockey teams.

The questions from the students found out how you can make your sport into a full time job, Alex loved all sports and only specialised in hockey at the age of 14. You train up to five hours a day often going back to bed for 30 minutes in the day, you travel all over the world and you can achieve a degree through Open University even though it took ten years. In London 2012 the GB team came third. This year their aim is to go one better in Rio 2016. The skills session taught the students how to keep possession of the ball with really advanced skills as well as having the competitive edge in tackling.

The students had a fantastic experience with Alex Danson and hope to take their hockey to a higher level next season.



Harriet Symes with Alex Danson



Hannah Mackenzie with Alex Danson

Miss Green - PE Teacher

Useful GCSE Maths Revision Resources

Edexcel Past papers

Available online, with mark schemes, worked solutions and videos from the mrbarton website. No logins needed.

<http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/gcsepapers.htm>

Revision Guides

GCSE revision guide/workbook available from the school learning centre.

Useful Websites/Apps

Mymaths website - Booster packs & online worksheets. Choose by grade or topic.

(login = gosford, password = inspire)

<http://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

Mrbartonmaths website – exam questions by topic and grade with full written & video solutions. No logins needed.

<http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/gcsetakeaway.htm>

PiXL maths app – revision by grade and topic with therapy videos.

(School login = GF3165, username & password = SURNAME followed by the first 3 letters of your first name (no spaces))

<http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/PMA.swf> on your desktop or as a free app for your phone or tablet.

Diagnostic questions website – 2 GCSE multiple choice GCSE revision questions per day. (Login details as given to you by your teacher)

<https://www.diagnosticquestions.com/>

BBC Bitesize – on line revision with flashcards and questions (with answers) by topic. Choose pre-2015. No logins needed.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z6pfb9q> or as a free app for your phone or tablet.

Great Opportunity for Year 11/12 Students interested in Engineering

Hurry! The deadline for this year's Renishaw Engineering Experience application is 3rd May. This is a truly unique opportunity. It provides a fantastic springboard for 16 and 17 year olds getting serious about engineering careers!

The Renishaw Engineering Experience is an incredible opportunity for UK students to gain an insight into the world of engineering. It is a five day tour of innovative and topical engineering achievements. In 2015, visits included: The Royal Mint, Aardman Studios, Laing O'Rourke, Siemens Rail Automation, Bloodhound SSC Technical Centre, The National Composite Centre and culminated in a visit to Renishaw's award winning state of the art factory. Fully subsidised, we will give six students a unique opportunity to get close to the organisations and people behind some of the most amazing engineering feats and the products that have an impact on all our daily lives. Timeline: Apply by 3rd May: Selection Process: 5th-10th May, Event date: Early July.

Full details and application form:

<https://www.youngeng.org.uk/members/individual-students/engineering-experience/>

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2016

On 4th February, students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in this year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The intriguing multiple choice question papers are designed to stimulate interest in the subject.



Year 11 winners



Year 10 winners



Year 9 winners

Certificates were given to the following:

Gold: Marcus Tranter (Y10) (Best in school), Thomas Anderson (Y10).

Silver: Katie Palmer (Y11), Tensei Otani (Y11), Royston Thorndycraft (Y11), Thomas Madden (Y11), Alex Jung (Y10), Jack Smith (Y10), Jonah Clarke (Y10), Frazer Day (Y10), Morgan Russell (Y10), Esah Hakimi (Y9), Arta Nickfarjam (Y9), George Goodgame (Y9), Georgia Johnson (Y9), Max Gatehouse (Y9), Hamish Munro (Y9), James Bateman (Y9), Philip Roberts (Y9), Reeza Ansari (Y9), Roy Ruci (Y9).

Bronze: Marshall Taylor (Y11), Jeremy Mbararia (Y11), Anna Heaven (Y11), Ricardo Dines (Y11), Isobel Lamb (Y11), Nithyaa Eswaran (Y11), Alex Davies (Y10), Emma Davies (Y10), Rhiannan Davies (Y10), Hollie Winstone (Y10), Heather Ewart (Y10), Javier Perez (Y9), Kamran Ramzan (Y9), Joshua Redfearn (Y9), Samuel Gauld (Y9), Aaron Wardley (Y9), Elly Byrne (Y9), Jago Edwards (Y9), Laura Scaife (Y9).

THE UKMT is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people through mathematics. Further information can be found at www.ukmt.org.uk.

Steve Williams - Assistant Maths Faculty Leader



SCHOOL LEAVER TASTER DAY
Weds 1st June 1000-1500

THINKING ABOUT LIFE AFTER GCSEs?

Stay in full-time education by starting one of our pre-Apprenticeship construction courses. On our Taster Day, you can see our training facilities and have a go at Carpentry & Joinery and Brickwork.

You can talk to tutors about finding the right course for you, and the opportunities to progress onto other course or an Apprenticeship.

CALL OR EMAIL TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!



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