



# *The Gosford Times*

*The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School*

*Issue 31 – May 2016*

## **Sporting Contributions Celebrated**

Over 80 students from Years 7-13 who have contributed to our sporting success and leadership were invited to our second celebration breakfast on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The Year 7 girls' hockey team, Year 8 girls' netball and hockey teams and the Year 9 and 10 boys' football teams were there to celebrate their success in local, district and national competitions. The swimming team were also there, as were six Sports Leaders who have completed over 15 hours each of leadership with primary sports.

Finally, we also wanted to thank 21 students for the time they give up to coach at gymnastics every Thursday. We are very proud of these young people and recognise the time and effort they give in representing Gosford Hill School. Well done for an excellent year to date and good luck to the Year 10 football team in the national cup next week!

**Miss A Driscoll – Assistant Headteacher**



**Learn \* Lead \* Inspire**

## Alderman Wise Award Evening – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The Alderman Wise evening celebrates the academic and special achievements of Year 12 and Year 13 students. The subject awards reflect the outstanding exam results, mocks and coursework achieved during the academic year.

	Year 12	Year 13
Art:	Thamyris DeSouza	Olivia Marsh
Biology:	Natalie Davis	Aaron Cripps
Business:	Georgia Andrews	Ellishia Chard
Chemistry:	Beren Wilkinson	Jamie Rolinski
Drama:	Francesca Ferguson	Heather McKendrick
English:	Jack Rolfe	Ellishia Chard
English Literature:	Antonio Pedro	Georgia Allen
Forensic Science:	Nazneen Miah	
Geography:	Andreia Vieira	Philippa Smith
German:	Emily Robinson	Rebecca Hallam
History:	Katie Taylor	Hannah Corness
Health & Social Care:	Ella Gray	Mary-Ellen McBride
ICT:	Aaron Payne	Charlotte Wray-Williams
Law:	Faye Brightmore	
Maths:	Chester Wilkinson	Jamie Rolinski
Further Maths:	Beren Wilkinson	Melissa Fry
Physics:	Daniel Curtin	Sam Butler
Physical Education:	Emily Young	Ieuan Llewellyn
Psychology:	Catherine Nobbs	George Gardner
Sociology:	Aaron Payne	Charlotte Wray-Williams

Special awards are also presented for:

- The Sport Hosier Award for regularly representing the school teams in school: [Sam Butler](#)
- The Performing Arts Award for progress in drama and contribution to whole school drama productions: [Melissa Fry](#)
- The Philip Cooper Sports Award is presented to the most outstanding sportsman above and beyond school level: [Ieuan Llewellyn](#). Thank you to Mr Cooper senior for presenting the award
- The Roger Sargent Award (Outdoor Sport) is presented to the most outstanding student in outdoor education: [Shannon O'Malley](#) was presented with the award for her achievements in horse riding
- The Ron Groves Award is for the most outstanding academic student in Year 13: [Sam Butler and Ellishia Chard](#)
- The Proprio Moto 'of one's own accord' recognises academic progress from GCSE to AS Level grades and A2 Level predicted grades: [Olivia Bockett and Charlotte Wray-Williams](#)
- The Making a Difference Award recognises community service within Gosford Hill School: [Melissa Fry](#)
- The Headteacher's Award – for their contribution to the Gosford Hill community: [Sam Butler, Calum Denver, Helen Dandridge and Georgia Allen](#)



**Melissa Fry receiving the Performing Arts Award from Mr Sellars, Headteacher**



**Sam Butler and Ellishia Chard receiving the Ron Groves Award from Mr Sellars**

The Alderman Wise Award is presented to students who have aspirations connected to public service in the community. This year the award was shared between three students: [Helen Dandridge](#), [Philippa Smith](#) and [Charlie Akers](#). Thank you to Maurice Billington for presenting the award.

A music performance of 'At Last' by Etta James was performed by Emily Young on vocals and Rhiannon Parker on piano. A drama performance called 'Open the Gate' was performed by Melissa Fry and Dean Sherlock. The evening was supported by over 150 family members and friends in a formal, yet relaxed atmosphere with candlelight, nibbles and refreshments donated by the Parish Council. Thank you to all the speakers, especially the form tutors for their reflection of the year group, the Head Girl, Helen Dandridge and Head Boy, Sam Butler for their farewell speeches, key note speaker Nigel Sellars for looking into the future for the leavers, Lisa De Bruyn for summing up the year as Head of Sixth Form, and Alison Driscoll with Maurice Billington sharing the interviews and achievements of the Alderman Wise Awards.



*Ieuan Llewellyn receiving the Philip Cooper Sports Award from Mr Cooper*

## ***How to help your child prepare for their exams***

Every week until the Whitsun break we will be publishing advice on how to help your child prepare as well as they can for their upcoming exams. While the main pressures will be felt by our older students, there are upcoming classroom examinations for all year groups and helping them develop good habits now will be very helpful for their future development. All of this good advice was originally published in the Guardian newspaper and can be found in full by using their search facility.

**Mr J O'Regan – Assistant Headteacher**

### ***Revision Tips***

**Jane Florsham was a senior teacher, and now works as an educational consultant.**

“Visual learners use flowcharts, spidergrams, charts or mnemonics. These take a large quantity of information and then present it in a simplified, but memorable, form. Put them up on the walls in your bedroom to memorise them.

### ***What do the Experts say?***

**John Wilding, cognitive psychologist specialising in student learning**

Research shows that memory is the key to exam success; it also shows that strategic learning is crucial when it comes to remembering things. So you can help your child by helping him or her devise a revision strategy. Encourage him/her to be organised, to have a plan. This is very important, and it's something you really can help with, especially at times when the enormity of the task seems overwhelming for the young person. You might not understand the details of their work, but you can help them plan it. And don't panic: it's never too late. Verdict: Help them plan

**Cont...d**



## ***Advice to give your child:***

Plan your revision timetable to follow your exam timetable. Spend 30 minutes revising, take a 10-minute break, and then test yourself on what you've just learned. Ask someone to test you, you do actually learn more by "teaching" someone else. A good revision programme should leave you time to unwind. Don't try to sleep straight after revising – your brain will be too active and stop you from getting to sleep. Never cram immediately before an exam, it will just make you anxious about all the things you don't know. Make sure you've got everything ready and have a good breakfast. Give yourself plenty of time to get there, you cannot perform at your best if you're stressed before you start.



## ***Keeping Calm***

### **Parents**

Be encouraging. Even if your child has been lazy over the past few months, now is not the time to bring it up. Don't organise family visits and days out as entertaining distractions, either.

### **Students**

Revise hard in slots of an hour or less – write rather than read – and take a 10—minute break (time yourself) in-between.



## ***Students in Year 11 & 12 Fantastic Opportunity***

### **What is NCS?**

In brief, we're a nationwide youth development programme backed by government which is available to all Year 11 and 12s in the summer holidays after exams. It's a part-residential experience that helps young people build skills for work and life, while taking on exciting challenges, making new friends, and contributing to their community with a self-directed 30-hour social action project.

National Citizen Service (NCS) is an experience you really don't want to miss. If you're 15 to 17 years-old, this is your chance to embark on exhilarating challenges, make your mark and build skills for work and life. More than 200,000 young people have already said YES to NCS. Don't. Miss. Out.

You can find out more on our website <http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/what-is-ncs>.

## Oxford Brookes University Visit

In the early morning of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Mrs Hounsell took 15 students (including myself), in the school mini-bus to represent Gosford Hill at Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus. This was for a Creative Industry day, where we got an insight into a couple of the brilliant courses on offer at the University. The courses which we experienced were music, film, architecture and the construction and built environment.



The day started by boarding the mini-bus and driving to the campus, luckily we didn't get stuck in any traffic so we had a good start to the day ahead. When we arrived at the University we were met straight away by one of their representatives, who introduced himself and took us to the main meeting area for the schools, where we each picked up a folder with the day's itinerary listed. This is when we found out which creative courses we would be finding out about, and we were put into groups for the day. Soon after we were taken to one of the many lecture theatres, where all of the schools met together and we got an introduction to the courses. After a briefing on the day, we were led by the student ambassadors to the first course, which for most of us was music. Personally, music is a large part of my life, and I found it incredibly interesting to see how a track is recorded and how studios work. Least to say we were all impressed with the drum recording by Jonah Clarke, who blew the socks off the other schools. The film course was inspiring, we learned about different camera shots and designing a specific production company. After a small introduction to the life of a film company, we were put into small groups to either practice different camera shots or design a production company logo. Each group of three or four was given a camcorder and an aim to record as many different camera shots as possible, and with that the groups went off to get recording different

scenarios. Fifteen minutes later, the groups came back and handed over the camcorders. The lady running the session plugged the camcorders in and we watched the videos on the big screen. It was really good fun to watch the recorded videos as they were a good mix of creative comedy and talent. From the film studies session we went to lunch, which was held in a large hall where all of the schools met. The hall was set out with many large round tables, and one large buffet running down the side. In my opinion the food was rather good. Soon after lunch was over, we all joined up again in the same lecture theatre where we had first met, and received a talk on the different courses which we were introduced to. We then boarded the mini-bus once more and returned to school.

In my opinion the day went really well and ran very smoothly, we made it there on time with no traffic, and returned in the same way. The course sessions were interesting and have made me to want to go to university in the future, I can see why people want to work hard now to get there as it looks like a good experience socially and academically.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Hounsell and all of the staff and representatives at Oxford Brookes University for the brilliant opportunity. It was a very organised and enjoyable trip, thank you once again.



*'The day was really helpful as it opened my eyes on the possibilities I have after school'- Summer Holbrook, Year 10*

**Molly Rogers, Year 10.**

## **TERM DATES – 2016 -2017**

### **2015-2016**

#### **Term 5**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

#### **Term 6**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**INSET DAYS:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### **2016-2017**

#### **Autumn Term**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Half Term Break – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**ILP DAY:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**INSET DAYS:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**(2 more INSET days to be decided within the Spring and/or Summer terms 2017)**

#### **Spring Term**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Half Term Break – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

#### **Summer Term**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Half Term Break – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

## **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.**