



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 39 – July 2016

Celebration Assemblies 2016

These important end of year celebration events saw an overwhelming response from parents and families. Thank you very much indeed for the highly valued support.

It was lovely to bring the school community together to celebrate the achievements of students at Gosford Hill and enjoy the many fine musical performances.

Thank you to the Governors who also attended and awarded prizes.

It has become a tradition to gather the prize winners for a group photo after each assembly.

M R Belmont - Senior Assistant Headteacher



Learn * Lead * Inspire

From the Headteacher

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

Mr Neil Barker (Maths), Mrs Tamim Choudhury (Science), Mrs Helena Cox (Faculty Leader, English), Mr Conor Clyne (English), Mr Michael Corion (Maths), Mrs Joanne Cox (Faculty Leader DT), Mrs Lisa De Bruyn (Head of Sixth Form), Mr Martin Forde (Maths), Mrs Meghann Hewett (Humanities), Mrs Sarah Key (MFL), Mr Merlin Llewellyn-Pratt (IT/Science), Ms Charlotte Loveland (DT), Miss Caley Nihill (DT), Mrs Tiffany Simmons (Science), Mr Ben Whittaker (Acting Head of Sixth Form).

We also say goodbye to the following members of our support staff team:

Mrs Debbie James (Senior Science Technician), Mrs Joanne Watson (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

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 September we welcome the following new appointees:-

Miss Gillian Barnes (Psychology/Sociology), Miss Nicola Barrie (P.E), Miss Linzi Clifton (English), Miss Amber Donachie (ICT), Mr Andrew Heaver (Science), Mr Johnny Lee (Faculty Leader, English), Ms Elizabeth McCarthy (English), Ms Michelle MacDonagh (Maths), Ms Victoria Miller (Higher Learning Teaching Assistant), Mrs Cameron Nicolle (DT), Ms Kathryn Pittaway (Science), Mrs Tamara Thomas (Maths), Miss Arian Parkinson (DT), Mr Lee Smith (P.E.), Mrs Kay Usher (Maths).

Congratulations to Steve Williams (currently Assistant Head of Maths Faculty) who has been appointed as our new Head of Sixth Form from September.

I'd also like to congratulate two colleagues, Peter Green (Head of PE) and Chris Hall (Head of CBL Faculty), who will be seconded to the Leadership Team for the coming academic year. They will join the team as School Improvement Leaders with Peter leading on developing the work ethic, attitudes and aspirations of boys in KS4, and Chris leading development of our ICT Strategy.

During our whole school assembly on Tuesday, I will be talking to students about the summer holiday being an opportunity to relax, and have fun, whilst learning new things in a different context. These experiences might range from experiencing a new language whilst on holiday in a foreign country, visiting one of the free museums on our doorstep in Oxford, learning a new skill such as baking at home, or simply taking time to read a new book.

I'd like to finish by thanking students, staff, parents and Governors for their support during my first term as Headteacher and wish you all a happy, and relaxing summer holiday. We of course look forward to celebrating the A Level and GCSE results with students in August, and recognising the work and commitment that students have put into their studies.

Mr N Sellars - Headteacher

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

A huge thank you to all parents and students who collected Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers on behalf of the school. We have collected almost 8,000 vouchers which will make a huge contribution to our sports and cooking resources for our students.

Mrs P Challans – Business Manager



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Gosford Hill School had seven groups of young people from Years 10 and 12 who completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition recently. They all managed create their own routes in North Oxfordshire and camped at Horley. Some had better map reading skills than others! They coped with rain, wind, sunshine, dehydrated food, loose cattle, a long horn bull, blisters and outside assessors.



I am pleased to say everyone has successfully passed this section, and we look forward to some fully completed awards in the autumn.

Mrs Heydon – HLTA - Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Visit to Chelsea Football Club - Premier League Reading Stars

Over the past term, I have been working with a group of Year 7 pupils on a reading intervention from the National Literacy Trust and the Premier League called Premier League Reading Stars. It is an innovative programme which helps younger students with their reading by engaging their love of football. We followed the ten lesson plan, read football-themed fiction and poetry, learned about famous footballers and also played a short game of football at the end of each lesson. While the boys certainly did achieve its aim in encouraging them to read for pleasure, our main benefit was social; the boys made good friends and helped two students in particular to break down barriers. I was delighted that we were offered a visit as a part of the programme to Chelsea Football Club. Along with Miss Clinch, Mrs Andrew, Mr Gannon and Mr Green, a group of 20 boys and I went to Chelsea for a 'behind the scenes' stadium visit and then to take part in two literacy workshops with football fiction authors. John Candler (7 WACA) also received a special prize from Chelsea FC for his wonderful letter to John Terry and Frank Lampard.

We all had a fantastic day and it was a lovely way to celebrate the boys' learning and friendship.

Mrs J Watson - HLTA, Intervention



Tales and Teapots Fundraising Event

On Monday 18th July in The Learning Centre at lunchtime our Year 9 ASDAN girls are organising a fundraising event for the National Literacy Trust which they will be hosting in the Learning Centre next Monday lunchtime. More information on Tales and Teapots can be found here:

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/support/fundraising_and_events/tales-and-teapots

They would be very grateful if you could please donate cakes, biscuits and any old second hand books which they could resell.

Please make sure that students have enough change with them on Monday so they can indulge in cake and a book.

Mrs J Watson - HLTA, Intervention

Visitors from the Lake School

This week Teachers of English from 12 European Countries visited our school. They are attending professional development courses at The Lake School of English in Oxford.

This summer there are a total of 200 teachers attending the course and staying with host families in and around Oxford.

We finished the tour of the school with tea and biscuits in the Learning Centre.

Mrs J Humphries – Senior TA, Intervention



Aquathon

On Thursday 7th July the Year 7 & 9 team qualified for the Oxfordshire School Games. This was being held at the very prestigious Radley College in Abingdon. The event consisted of swimming 100m and then running a mile around a cross country track. There were 8 teams that had qualified for this event from the four quarters of Oxfordshire. The Year 7 team went first against a very strong field and we came 4th, which was a fantastic effort. The Year 9 team followed and we were up against a strong field of schools from around the county. The team finished 6th in their competition which was also a fantastic effort. The team had a great day out and thoroughly enjoyed their experience of the Aquathon. We can't wait to compete in it again next year!

Year 7 team – Tom Evans, Tom Scaife, Amy Neale & Katie Parsons.

Year 9 team – Ella Littlewood, Lucy Stowell, Jago Edwards & Arta Nickfarjam.

Mr R Goldring – Teacher of PE and Thames House Leader

Links to Photographs

Please note that photographs for the school production 'Annie' and the Year 11 Ball can be purchased from the following links

Annie: <http://bit.ly/1U1BWuw>

Year 11 Ball: <http://bit.ly/20Q8dnY>

Pokemon Go – At last a game that gets children outside?

Pokemon Go is a new 'Field Trip' virtual reality game for mobile phones in which players have to collect Pokemon (virtual game characters) from around the outside world. It is becoming hugely popular across the world. There have been reports that it is possible to buy 'Pokemon lures', and thus potentially lure and entrap game players. There have also been concerns about players not paying attention to traffic dangers when playing.

If your children want to play this game, I would recommend:

- Discussing the possible dangers.
- Ensuring your child plays in groups.
- Knowing where your child is planning to be when playing the game.

Mr C Hall - Head of Computing, Business and Languages

Uniform advice for September 2016

Thank you for supporting the uniform policy of the school. Gosford Hill continues to get very positive feedback from visitors to the school, from the local community and from organisations that host events involving our students.

Please bear in mind the following when buying uniform for September.

1. **Footwear** – A reminder that any shoes that are canvas, have a sporting logo, are Vans (or similar) are not allowed in school.

From September only medical notes will be accepted for alternative footwear. Students wearing incorrect footwear will be given plain black shoes to wear.

Please ensure that footwear is robust enough to cope with wet/cold weather.

2. **Trousers** – Please note that jeans are not permitted, and that ankles should not be visible.
3. **Skirts** – Please only buy skirts that have the same features as the official supplier, e.g. knee length and have a lining.

Thank you for your support

Mr R Belmont - Senior Assistant Headteacher

14 **School Uniform Order Deadline!** 15
Friday 12th August 2016

Place your order by Friday 12th August 2016 for back to school delivery.
DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!
ACT NOW BEAT THE RUSH!
Visit your local store or order online at:
pmgschoolwear.co.uk

21 22

Avoid disappointment! Order your son/daughter's uniform online or visit the store **NOW!** Do NOT leave it until the last moment. Remember after 12th August 2016 we cannot guarantee to have stock in time for when your child goes back to school. We don't want to let you down so help us to help you!

PMG Schoolwear
...AND SO MUCH MORE

TERM DATES – 2016 -2017

2015-2016

Term 6

Monday 6th June – Tuesday 19th July 2016

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

2016-2017

Autumn Term

Monday 5th 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 2016, 2nd December 2016, 30th June 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

Please note that School will finish at 12.30pm on Tuesday 19th July

