



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 4 – September 2016

Girls Hockey and Netball Fixtures v Heyford Park School

The girls had a fantastic start to the season playing six matches of hockey and netball, winning five games and drawing one game. There were 57 girls from Year 7 through to Year 11 playing, coaching and umpiring. The new PE kit certainly made the teams look smart. Thank you to all the support from parents and grandparents. Next fixture Cooper School at home on Wednesday 4th October. The results were:

Year 7 Hockey Drew 2-2 Goals from Poppy Whitford and Ellie Sanderson. Player of the match Poppy.

Year 8A Hockey Won 1-0 Goal from Jessica Soares she was also player of the match.

Year 8B Hockey Won 7-2. All 7 goals from Holly Baker who was also player of the match.

Year 9 Netball Won 25-6. Player of the match Lizzie Sulley

Year 10 Netball Won 10-1. Player of the match Lily Cowlshaw

Year 9/10 Netball Won 8-7. Player of the match Libby Giles

Miss Green and Miss Barrie - PE Department



Year 7 Hockey Team in the 'new' PE kit:

Lea Hague, Isabel Thacker, Lucy Hayes, Anna Josephs, Ellie Sanderson,
Faith Toon, Poppy Whitford, Chloe Upellini, Millie Mackenzie

Learn * Lead * Inspire

Year 3 Team Building & Multi-skills Event – Thursday 22nd September 2016

146 students and 2 primary leaders from Edward Feild, West Kidlington, North Kidlington & St Thomas Moore Primary Schools took part in the Kidlington Partnership Year 3 Team Building & Multi Skills Festival.

From the 4 schools there were a total of 20 teams who competed across the stations, with each team being named after a country who have recently competed at the Rio Olympics and Paralympics. The festival focused on our school games value of 'Teamwork' and the students worked in teams of 7 across 12 different activity stations. They tackled some exciting and challenging multi-skills stations such as 'tennis ball relay', 'bench ball relay', 'target hoops' and 'agility ladder challenge', as well as many team building stations such as 'mat rescue', 'code breaker', 'the human knot' and many more. The students performed amazingly and the teamwork skills on show were a credit to all students involved and all accompanying staff.

A big thank you must go to the 27 Gosford Hill School Sports Leaders, as well as the 2 Edward Feild School Sports Leaders, who expertly guided the pupils around the stations and ensured that the event ran as smoothly as possible.

A big thanks to all that took part and congratulations to St Thomas More (Sweden) who were the winners of our first festival.

Thank you to the staff and primary schools of North Kidlington, Edward Feild, St Thomas Moore and West Kidlington for attending and performing so well at this event.

And to our Gosford Hill Leaders who did such a terrific job: Harley Firkin, Paige Cooke, Emily Kyle, Matthew Bedwell, Hamish Hall, Ella Baskerville, Jamie Hudson, Malieta Fisilau, Christy Llewellyn, Luca Sykes, Karl Grossman, Owen O'Malley, Ben Helfrich, Lucas Sharp, Josh Pipkin, Louis Strauther, Joe Mimpres, Jamie Clack, Charlie Hopwood, Hannah Forse, Jacob Orton, Olly Hedges, Sam Gauld, Yousef El-Badry, Archie Littlewood, Danielle Glover and Ewan Smith.

Mr L Smith - Teacher of PE, SSCO & PE Mentor

Safeguarding

You may have heard on the national news about the abduction and assault of a girl in Summertown whilst walking to school on Wednesday morning.

Tutors discussed this with students on Thursday morning and raised the following points.

- Police advice is to travel in groups with mobile phones switched on. Please switch them off once on the school site
- If a student feels threatened or sees another student being threatened, they should ring 999
- Pass any information on to staff
- If waiting for parents to pick up after school, students should use the Learning Centre which is supervised by staff
- These events are extremely rare, but students need to be vigilant

Thank you for your support

Mr R Belmont – Senior Assistant Headteacher, Student Support

Dates for CATs

Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) – Wednesday 5th October.

The tests will take place on Wednesday 5th October. Our Intervention Faculty Leader, Ms Jesior-Tiffert, has written home to all parents/carers about the CATs process.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms A Sumner - Examinations & Assessment Data Officer

Year 11 Practice Exams coming up: 10th-14th October 2016

We are running the Year 11 Practice exams during the week commencing 10th October, so please remember that **Year 11 students will be on 'Study Leave' at that time.** Students have been issued with an exam timetable and notes for students and parents/carers, and will only need to be in school for their actual exams. We will make provision for students who need to stay at school before, between or after exams if that is required. Students will be required to attend their exams in full school uniform.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms A Sumner – Examinations & Assessment Data Officer

We need people like YOU to become School Governors

Gosford Hill School, Kidlington

The Governing Body at Gosford Hill School is looking to appoint new Governors with immediate start. The Governing Body needs a mix of skills and experience to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school and its students. This could be your chance to make a real difference.

What exactly do Governors do?

Governors play a vital role in shaping the education of young people by helping set the Ethos, Vision and Strategy for the school.

The Governing Body comprises people drawn from the school's community: parents, school staff and the community as a whole. The Governing Body act corporately and are collectively responsible for decisions.

Why do people become school Governors?

- A great way to make a positive impact on young people's lives and to contribute to issues that you feel passionately about.
- A great opportunity to use and develop your skills in a unique environment that will benefit you personally and professionally.
- Contribute to the community.
- Make an impact on Gosford Hill School's students' lives.
- An outstanding learning and development opportunity to acquire board-level leadership, strategy and team working skills.

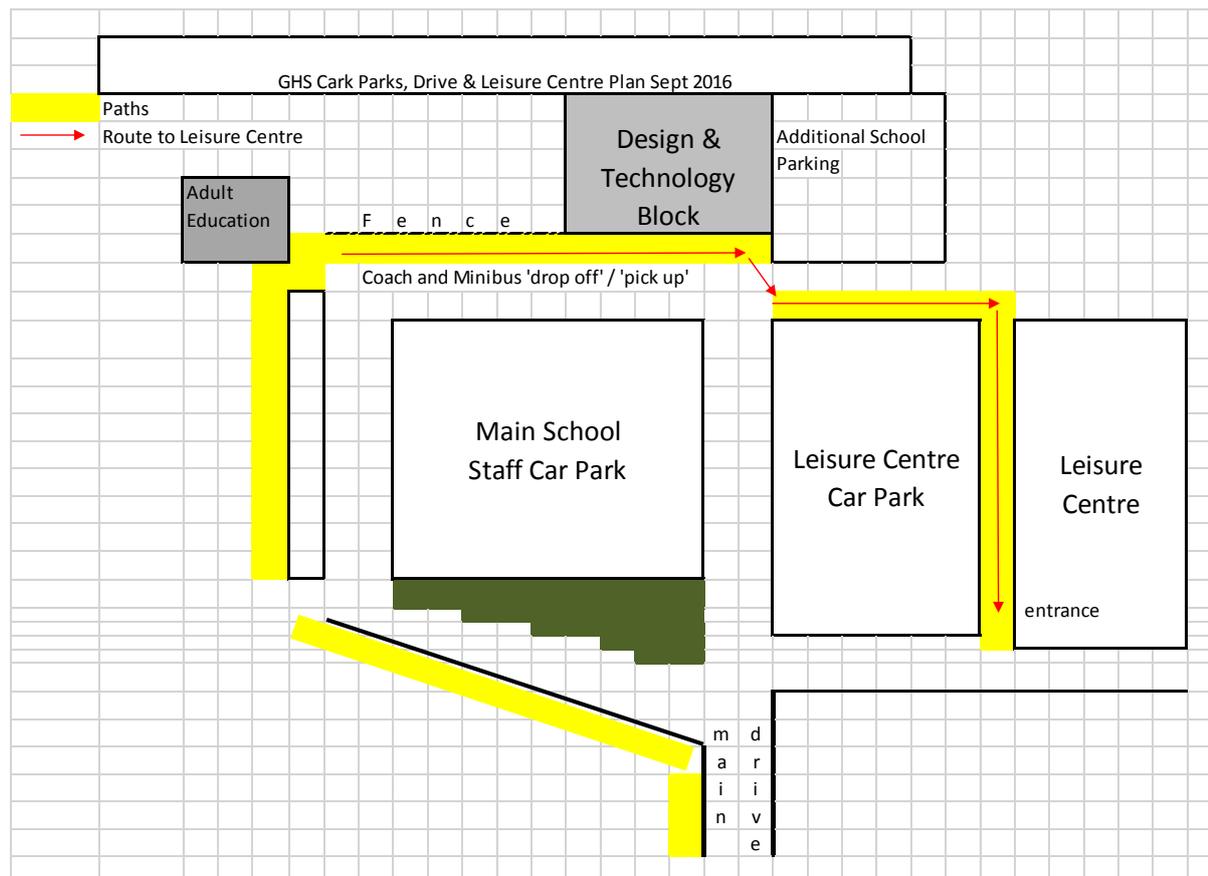
I'm interested! What do I do now?

If you can commit to approximately two evenings per term and occasional events and would like to find out more about the role, then please contact **Clare Carpen, Clerk to arrange an information session with one of our current Governors on 01865 374971 or clare.carpen@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk**

School and Student Safety

As our popularity as a school, and our student numbers, continue to grow we have over 900 students arriving and leaving the school site each day. Since many students are travelling from further afield there has been a noticeable rise in the number of parents dropping off and collecting their son(s) / daughter(s) by car and coming onto the school site. With our narrow school drive, which serves both the school and the Leisure centre, the drive and school car parks are becoming very congested at the beginning and end of the school day and this is compromising student and staff safety. We also have a number of coaches that need to access the school site which need to take priority, so we ask that, if parents are dropping off or collecting their children, they do this in the local area and do not enter the school site along the main drive.

We are also aware that many students use the Leisure centre for activities at the end of school. If this is the case it is important that students use the paths and the route indicated below (→) to access the Leisure centre rather than cutting across the car parks, which is unsafe.



I know you will agree that the safety of our children must be considered of the highest importance and thank you in anticipation for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Mr D Ward – Deputy Headteacher

Year 12 Parent Workshop

In a fast paced 'lesson style' quiz Mr Steve Williams, our new Head of Sixth Form, challenged teams of parents about their knowledge of Sixth Form routines and expectations. The light-hearted quiz was part of a parent workshop for parents of students starting Year 12 this year.

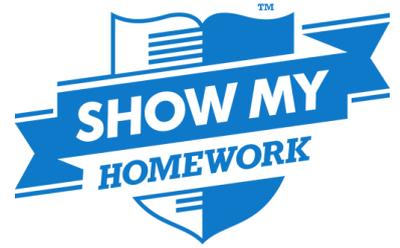
Topics covered included, the reality of stepping up to A levels and the national changes to A Level programmes, the school's expectations of Sixth form students, an introduction to the process of applying to university and post 18 career options. Our Head Boy, Matthew Boyle and Deputy Head Boy, Simon Hague gave the student perspective of studying and what they wished they had known at the start of Year 12. All Parents will receive an overview of the information disseminated at the event.

Ms E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager

Using Show My Homework to keep track of your child's home learning

Gosford Hill School uses Show My Homework to set home learning for your child. It is a web based tool that can also be downloaded as an app to your smartphone. It allows you to monitor what home learning is being set, when it is due and it gives you extra resources which might be useful such as websites or videos.

It is accessible from the Gosford Hill School home page by clicking on the link on the top of the page. Year Seven students were issued with letters this week giving you the information you need to help you log on. If you are new to the school and in an older year group the letter is on its way. Please do log in and use the service and encourage your child to do the same. They might say they don't need to or they cannot remember their log in, but you can access their login or they can ask their tutor. It is much better if they log in as it will give them reminders and help them generally be more organised.



We also ask that all students read for 15 minutes a day and we strongly encourage students to make notes on what they have learned that day. Studies show time and time again that reading for pleasure makes a significant difference to students' performance in exams but also their aspirations and personal qualities. We also know that if students spend some time recalling and discussing what they have learned in school they are much more likely to remember it in the long term.

If you do not know your pin for logging in or have any other questions about Show My Homework please email the school at office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk or call on 01865 374971. Your query can then be passed on to the relevant person.

Mr J O'Regan - Assistant Headteacher

Uniform Update

Thank you very much indeed to the overwhelming majority of students and parents/carers who have supported the school uniform policy - particularly in ensuring that students wear footwear formal and robust enough for school throughout the winter months.

As the weather turns cooler and wetter, it is important that students keep warm by wearing an outdoor waterproof coat for school. Please note that hoodies/tracksuit tops/denim jackets are not appropriate. Some students have also been wrapping themselves in blankets to keep warm instead of wearing a coat. These are not to be brought to school. Students can wear a scarf and / or hat in addition to an outdoor coat.

Mr R Belmont – Senior Assistant Headteacher, Student Support



Christmas Fair Saturday 26th November 2016

The Friends of Gosford Hill have been working hard to gather some fantastic raffle prizes for the draw being held at the Christmas Fair, but we need more!! If you can offer a prize or work somewhere that can, please let us know! Prizes so far include a year's gym membership, restaurant vouchers and much more.

Email Sarah Ewart at mail@sarahewart.co.uk or contact the school directly.

Key Dates for Parents 2016-2017

Below are listed the key dates for Parent Consultation Evenings, Assessment and Exam windows, Report dates and school term dates and INSET days.

October	Year 7 CATS (Wed 5 Oct) INSET Day (School Closed) Fri 7 Oct Year 11 Practice Exams (Mon 10 – Fri 14 Oct) Year 12/13 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 19 Oct) Autumn Half Term Break (Mon 24 – Fri 28 Oct)
November	Report 1, Year 11, 12 & 13 Home (Fri 18 Nov) Year 11 Practice Exam results issued to students (Wed 9 Nov) Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 23 Nov)
December	INSET Day (School closed) Fri 2 Dec Year 12 & 13 Practice Exams (Mon 5 – Fri 9 Dec) Year 11 Art Practical (Tues 6 – Wed 7 Dec) Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 7 Dec) Year 12 & 13 Art Practical (Tues 13 – Thu 15) Autumn term ends on Fri 16 Dec at 12.30pm
January	Spring term begins on Tues 3 Jan Report 1, Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Home (Fri 20 Jan) Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 25 Jan)
February	Spring Half Term Break (Mon 13 Feb – Fri 17 Feb) Year 10 Practice Exams (Mon 20 – Fri 24 Feb)
March	Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 1 Mar) Report 2, Years 11, 12 & 13 Home (Fri 3 Mar) Year 11 Core (English, Maths and Science) Practice Exams (Mon 13 – Fri 17 Mar) Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 22 Mar)
April	Spring term ends on Fri 7 April Summer term begins on Mon 24 April Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening for selected students (26 April)
May	Report 2, Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Home (Fri 5 May) Year 12/13 Parent Consultation Evening (Wed 10 May) External Exams begin (Mon 15 May – Fri 23 Jun) Summer Half Term Break (Mon 29 May – Fri 2 June)
June	Year 7, 8 & 9 Assessment Weeks (12 – 23 Jun) Year 12 Exams (Mon 26 – Thurs 29 Jun) INSET Day (School closed) Fri 30 Jun
July	Report 3, Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Home (Fri 14 July) Summer Term ends on Fri 21 July at 12.30pm

Please note the school will be closed Friday 7th October for inset day