



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 8 – November 2016

## Brookes University Passport Day

This week forty Year 10 students spent a day at Brookes University on a University Passport Day. The packed day included a range of activities designed to introduce students not only to university life but ideas about progression routes after GCSE. There are many different routes, all of which could eventually lead to a university course.

The students worked in small groups with Oxford Brookes Ambassadors who are current undergraduate students. Following a morning's activities and a tour of the campus, the students were given a voucher for lunch which they had in one of the many campus restaurants.

After lunch and a brief presentation about university societies the students in their small groups were tasked with designing a new society. They were given a small budget to use to get their society started. They then presented their ideas to the rest of the students and how they would spend their budget. This gave them an opportunity to develop their presentation skills, something they nearly all felt uncomfortable about when surveyed earlier in the day. There were some great ideas for societies. The winning idea was the Unicorn Society and the winning presentation was from the Animal Society.

The students were complimented by the staff and students at Brookes for their superb behaviour. Following the interest shown in universities and progression routes on this day we are inviting all Year 10 students to attend the Sixth Form Information Evening as well as Year 11 students so that they can start to think further about the options open to them after Year 11.

One of the activities the students participated in was about 'comfort zones'. Martha Dodson, Alix White, Kacy Foster and Anastasia Kontogianni report here about this and other aspects of the day.

*"We were put into six different groups. Each group was assigned to one of the Ambassadors, who lead us through the activities.*

*After a few icebreaker challenges we were given three coloured cards; red, green and amber. The ambassadors then showed us pictures of different situations eg. swimming with sharks, skydiving or presenting to a group. We then had to use our coloured cards to show how comfortable we felt being in each of these situations.*

*At the end of this activity Sonal, the presenter, chose a student from each group who had held up a red card when shown the picture of presenting to a group. Each of these students came to the front of the room. They were all given a joke each to read out and we had to listen to them all. This did help us all feel that presenting was not so scary. However the jokes were pretty feeble!"*

*'A really interesting day. It has made me realise that I could and I want to go to university in the future.'* Year 10 student

**Mrs E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager**



Students 'outside their comfort zone' reading out jokes.



Students preparing presentations

## *Friends of Gosford Hill School – Christmas Fair*



As you may have seen in previous newsletters, The Friends of Gosford Hill School are holding a Christmas Fair at the school on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 2-4pm.

We are trying to raise money for some new outside equipment for the school and as part of the fair we are holding a raffle. We have managed to secure some great prizes including £200 cash, an Annual Gym Membership, Golf for 4, Pamper Package, Luxury Hamper and many more.

This letter, along with one book of raffle tickets per family, was distributed to students this week and we are hoping that you would either buy these yourself or sell them to friends and family.

We would be most grateful if you would return the ticket stubs, payment or any unsold tickets to us via the school reception at your earliest convenience and by no later than Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

If you would like more tickets we can arrange to send them home with your child, please just let us know via the school or at [thedevlins@sky.com](mailto:thedevlins@sky.com).

Thank you so much for your support and we hope to see you at the Fair for an afternoon of festive fun!

**Friends of Gosford Hill School**

## **Apprenticeship Careers Event**

Oxfordshire Apprenticeships and local training providers will be holding a careers event on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Come along and find out how to start your career with an Apprenticeship. The event will be a joint event between local training providers and Oxfordshire Apprenticeships.

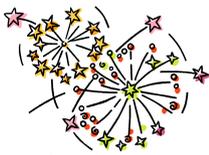
Exhibitors include:

- Oxfordshire Apprenticeships
- The Engineering Trust - Engineering Apprenticeships
- HIT Training Limited - Hospitality Apprenticeships
- Care Training Solutions - Health and Social Care
- Introtrain - Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Apprenticeships
- ACE Training - Construction Apprenticeships
- liga - Business Admin, Customer Services Apprenticeships

The event will be held at **Exeter Hall, Kidlington, OX5 1AB from 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

To reserve a space, please ring 01993 882008 or email [info@theengineeringtrust.org](mailto:info@theengineeringtrust.org)

**Mrs E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager**



## **YEAR 11 PRACTICE EXAMS RESULTS DAY WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**



Results from the recent Practice Exams will be distributed to all students on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, during Period 5. Students will be accompanied by their teachers to the Hall, and will be given individual envelopes containing their results slip.

This experience will help prepare the students for the results process in advance of their external exams in the summer. Members of staff will be available, including the Examinations team, to provide advice and assistance to the students.

If you have any questions about Practice Exams results, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Ms A Sumner - Examinations & Student Data Officer**



Oxford Road  
Kidlington  
Oxfordshire  
OX5 2NT

Tel. 01865 374971  
Fax. 01865 841029

Email: [office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Nigel Sellars BMus Hons, LGSM



Dear Parents/Carers

### Children in Need

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November to raise funds for Children in Need.

This is in response to suggestions made by students, and recognises the positive approach that students have shown at the start of a very busy school year.

Thank you for supporting the school uniform policy – particularly the request that formal/robust footwear should be worn to school.

Please note the following:

1. Students should bring a suggested contribution of £1 to morning registration on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November
2. The normal expectations of punctuality, behaviour and work rate in lessons will apply.
3. PE kit will be as normal.
4. Coloured hair will not be allowed.

Thank you very much for supporting an initiative that has come from students and raises funds for a very worthwhile cause.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Belmont  
**Senior Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)**



## Key Dates for Parents for November and December

**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

### 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](mailto:office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**: [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:gabs4889@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)

The Parent Support Site has information on supporting your child(ren) in a number of curriculum areas.