



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 18 – January 2017

Oxfordshire Sports Awards

The night before Oxford United's 3-0 thrashing of Newcastle United, there was an extra special event at the Kassam Stadium: the annual Oxfordshire Sports Awards.

Following our triumph at the Madjeski Stadium last May, becoming national champions, Gosford Hill School under 15s football team had been shortlisted for Junior Team of the Year - an award recognising consistent success at a high level and significant improvement of a team whilst demonstrating fair play and a good sporting attitude. One by one the men and women in suits and dresses rolled up down the red carpet, to the reception amongst whom were Aaron Jhutti, Archie Littlewood, Ben Owen, Ben Stewart, Jamie Hudson, Piers Walton, Luca Sykes and myself with some parents, as well as Mr Green, Mr Goldring and Mr Clyne. There was almost a sense that we didn't belong at such a prestigious evening alongside Olympic Gold Medallists and Professional Athletes, but we soon settled down when we found a table tennis table in the corner! Those of us from Gosford filled two and a half tables as we ate a 3 course meal before the awards ceremony! When it came to our award, we came runners up to the Under 17s County Cricket Team who also won their national competition going 11 games undefeated.

As the night drew to a close and the suits and ties filed out I realised what an incredible occasion it had been and how much of a huge honour it was that this event was just as much about us 7 students from Gosford Hill as it was for Olympic Gold Medallists and Professional Footballers! It just confirmed how our successes as a team have been a truly unique and amazing once in a lifetime experience! This was definitely one to tell the grandchildren about!

Jonah Clarke – Year 11 Student



Introducing our Vice Chair of Governors



Dr David Hopkin

Can you tell us about your current job role?

I'm a lecturer at the University of Oxford and a tutor at Hertford College (the one with the bridge) where I teach and research on European history since 1750. I've written a number of books, mostly on French and German history, and lecture in Europe quite often. So as well as history I'm keen on languages (my favourite statistic – a language degree on average improves your lifetime earnings by a third!). I'm currently writing a book on the history of lacemakers in Britain, France, Flanders and Italy.

How do your skills assist you in your role as a Parent Governor?

Naturally I'm interested in what's being taught in the humanities subjects, and how. In addition, I've been involved in university admissions for decades now, so I hope I have a good understanding of what universities are looking for, and how schools can best prepare students going on to higher education. Hence I've been the Sixth form Link Governor. I've also been involved in fundraising and alumni relations for the College, which is something I think Gosford might want to develop. The governance of Oxford Colleges is a bit like an Academy Trust, so experience of one should help me to make the other work.

What are you favourite weekend activities?

Like most parents, my weekends are not my own but are spent ferrying kids here and there. I do like all the small theatres in Oxford like the North Wall and the Burton Taylor where prices are not too steep and there are always odd (as in interesting) things on. I try to go out cycling but it doesn't always happen.

What is the biggest challenge you've faced and overcome?

I once walked from Genoa to Brussels in 30 days. History lovers might recognise that this was the route of the armies of Philip II of Spain on their way to put down the Revolt of the Low Countries in 1567. I was following the itinerary laid down by the Duke of Alba, Philip's commander, and which is still called 'The Spanish Road' in places.

What do you most enjoy about your role as school Governor?

I've done quite a lot of mock university interviews and Sixth Form open days. The best thing is hearing about what students' ambitions are.

KS3 Challenge Day – Magnetism

Last Friday, eleven Year 7 and 8 students had the amazing opportunity to visit Oxford University's Department for Education, for a challenge day on "Magnetism". There were quite a few other schools there, and we spent the day taking part in three activities, all sticking to the theme.

First, we had to look at magnetic fields. We used little compasses to help us with it, and drew a diagram of the magnetic fields around a magnet. Then we made a speaker out of sellotape, card, a box, copper wire and a magnet. When we put our ear to it, it made a kind of loud thudding sound when it was connected to a power pack.

The second activity was called "The Circus", and we had eight minutes on each table, where we had to find out as much as we could on magnetic fields from Physics PhD students at Oxford University. This was really interesting, and we learnt a lot!

Then we had lunch, followed by the best part of the day: making magnets levitate! We had a talk from a PhD student, and then learnt about superconductors. Superconductors can only be a magnet at their critical temperatures, most are in the minus hundreds, so we cooled ours down to -269 degrees with liquid nitrogen, which allowed it to become magnetic and let our magnets levitate.

Unfortunately, we didn't win the competition against the other schools, but all in all we had a great day!

Tim Millard (EAHY) and David Willis (EPGN)



Are you in Year 11 or 12?

Are you thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge?

Come to a free seminar and the experts will give you their insight:
Is Oxbridge for me? Tips on the selection process. Advice about the interviews.
All given by representatives from both universities.

Friday 24th February 2017, 5.00pm – 7.00pm.
St Helen and St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1BE

Please see Mrs Hounsell for more booking details.