



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 30 – May 2017

## Crowning Glory for Chess Champs



After an incredibly well played out, local chess challenge within Gosford Hill school, where brother met brother head-on to decide the title, the students were rewarded with a visit from County Chess Master Carl Portman for a Simultaneous Chess Demonstration (students play black and Carl plays all students simultaneously on white). Carl proceeded to do the honours and present our proud, joint winners, Advait Panicker and Tony Azamfirei, with their trophies.

**Mrs Hedges – Learning Centre Manager**

This spring, children all around the UK participated in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge Competition which is the world's biggest chess championship with a participation of over 40,000 students from 1400 schools. From Gosford Hill school, students from all years competed to not only qualify for the Megafinal, but also to be crowned the school champion.

After several intense games, I got 19 out of 21 points to tie for the first place with Tony Azamfirei. We proudly received a trophy and a signed chess book each from County Chess Master Carl Portman.

From the Megafinals I am one among the final 1,000 players out of 40,000 to qualify for the Giga final. From Gosford Hill, Tony Azamfirei (Y9), Suleyman Agha (Y7) and my brother, Sidharth Panicker (Y9), missed the Giga final qualification by just half a point in this highly competitive Oxford Megafinal. Congratulations to them all for their strong performance.

**Advait Panicker - 7WMMH**



## 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.

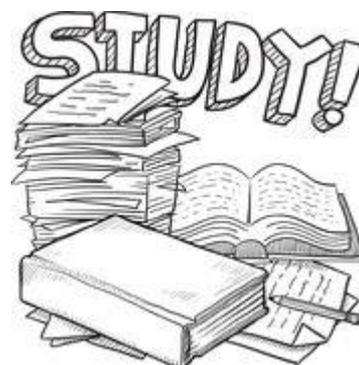
### *What do the Experts say?*

**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

### *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.

### *Don't Forget...*

You can view and/or purchase photos of our High School Musical production by clicking on the following link

<http://bit.ly/2mJFlyX>

If you experience any problems please email Cereta Drewett on [info@ceretadrewettphotography.co.uk](mailto:info@ceretadrewettphotography.co.uk)

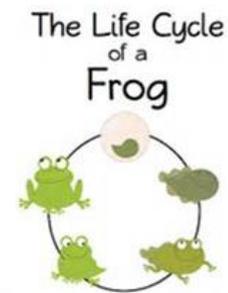
## Frog Spawn Part 5

Time to say goodbye!

Our frogs are all grown up and ready to go back to the pond.

My group of year 7 students, Kayley Mummery, Lana Brooksbank and Nikola Rodzik, have been releasing them back to the school pond.

It has been great to see them develop and then be released.



**Mrs K Williams – Science Faculty**

### *Slime*

There have been a number of incidents where students have been making 'slime' at home and bringing it into school. Parents are advised that some of the ingredients used to make slime such as Borax (which derives from Boric acid) can be harmful to health. Side effects can include respiratory irritation, serious eye damage and it could be harmful if swallowed. Boric acid has also been known to damage fertility and could harm an unborn child.



Parents are advised to encourage good hygiene practices at home if their child is making slime, washing hands after use is recommended to avoid irritation to the hands (dermatitis).

Slime has been banned from school and any student found to be using slime at school will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

**Mrs R Beadman – Health & Safety Officer**

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# School Uniform Order Deadline!

## Friday 11th August 2017

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Place your order by  
Friday 11th August  
2017 for back to  
school delivery.

**DON'T LEAVE  
IT TOO LATE!**

**ACT NOW  
BEAT THE  
RUSH!**

Visit your local store  
or order online at:

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**pmgschoolwear.co.uk**

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**Avoid disappointment!** Order your son/daughter's uniform online or visit the store **NOW!** Do NOT leave it until the last moment. Remember after 11th August 2017 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!



### 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.