



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 35 – June 2017

Online Safety – An Update

There are a number of extremely concerning games, apps and social media sites that have recently emerged. Many of these present serious safeguarding risks to our children, so please check your son or daughters' devices to ensure they are not making use of them. Please also speak with your son or daughter about the dangers of using these sites.

Blue Whale: This is a game played via many social media platforms. Players are given a 'master' who controls them for fifty days. Each day they are given a task to complete and these tasks increase in intensity over the course of the fifty day period. One task, for example, might be to scratch a blue whale somewhere on their body. On the fiftieth day the masters behind the game instruct the young people to commit suicide. It is shocking but true that several young people are known to have committed suicide as a result of playing this game. World-wide the number of suicides attributed to this app is around 130.

Sayat.me: This public website allows users and others to leave anonymous posts about other people. We would recommend in the strongest terms that none of our students use this social media platform to request feedback about themselves or to post anything unkind about someone else. While this site is currently 'down for maintenance' there will surely be others, and parents are encouraged to discuss the issues of cyber bullying, how to report it and the consequences with their children.

Pickle: This app is very clearly aimed at young people, it encourages users to participate in, and film, a dare for which they will receive payment. Dares are posted anonymously. It suggests that it is, an easy way to 'make money' and there are several cases where young people have participated in sexual activity as a result of using this app.

Yellow: This is an app where under-eighteens can post profile pictures to engage in liking and dating and other conversations of a sexual nature. The app can be linked to Snapchat accounts and there have been many concerns about requests from users of this app for inappropriate pictures. This app is especially concerning, as we know that a number of our young people have Snapchat, and therefore have potential access to this app.

Snapchat Streaks: We have been recently made aware that some students in other local schools are giving out their passwords to their accounts to friends in order that friends might continue their 'snapchat streaks', when they themselves cannot be on snapchat. It seems reasonable to be concerned that young people here may be doing the same thing. Please could you check your son or daughters' passwords for all their social media accounts and reinforce to them the importance of keeping these confidential.

Instagram: We have recently been made aware that there are some sites on Instagram with taglines relating to local schools, requesting that students send in 'mugshots' of themselves. No student should send or post a 'mugshot' of themselves (or of another student) to these sites and no student should make any comments on these sites. It goes without saying that no student should be attempting to create such sites on Instagram or any other social media platform.

13 Reasons Why: This is a Netflix programme, adapted from the book, which discusses many serious issues, including suicide, depression and self-harm. This programme appears to be popular with young people and we wanted to make you aware that several mental health charities have expressed their concerns over the programme – the content of which is, in places, quite graphic. Following many public concerns Netflix have announced that they will add an on screen warning to the programme.

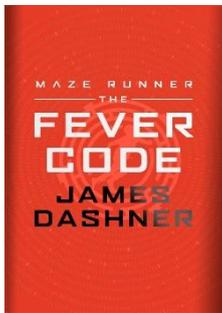
Mr C Hall - Head of Computing, Business and Languages



Book Fair Coming to the Learning Centre

Tuesday 27th June - Tuesday 4th July 2017

☺ Pop into the book fair and browse our amazing selection of books ☺



Competition!

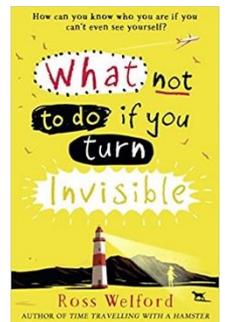
WIN A COMPLETE SET OF PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS, A CAMP HALF-BLOOD T-SHIRT AND A KINDLE FIRE!

In his adventures, Percy meets all sorts of magical and legendary beings from Greek mythology, including Centaurs, a Chimera, Sirens and even a Minotaur!

Now it's your turn to design a fearsome mythical creature. What powers does it have? What are its strengths? How would Percy Jackson defeat it?

For more information and to download the entry form visit:

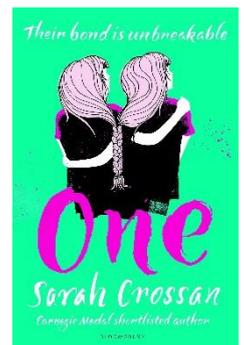
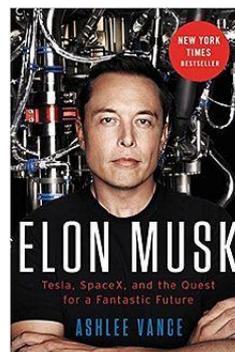
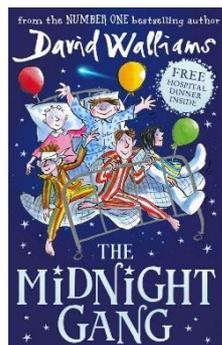
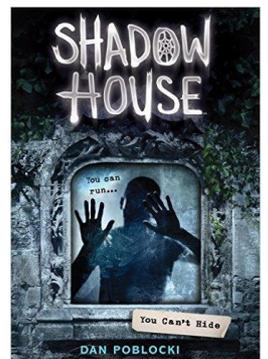
www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/percy



All year groups are welcome to pop into The Learning Centre before school, at break/lunch time or after school to browse and purchase books. Some may also have the opportunity to browse during their English/Accelerated Reader lesson.

Please remember to bring some money, 27th June – 4th July if you would like to purchase a book.

Every purchase made at the **SCHOLASTIC** book fair benefits our school and helps us to earn FREE books for our library. Mrs Hedges, Learning Centre Manager.



Parent Governor: Ros Avery



Can you tell us about your current job role? *I am the Finance Director of a group of charities that work with homeless people in the UK and overseas.*

How do your skills assist you in your role as a Parent Governor? *At work, I help organisations to ensure their governance is sound and support them to run their charities better. This in turn gives them more resources and time to focus on the outcomes of their clients. In the same way, I hope as governors we can support and challenge the senior management team to focus on the needs of pupils and staff.*

What are your favourite weekend activities? *As it seems with most parents, we spend weekends transporting our children to sport and drama activities. I enjoy meeting with friends at a monthly book club – yes I read for fun! And on Sunday nights you'll find me joining in with crazy games and discussions as a volunteer leader of a youth group in Kidlington.*

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

Our eldest son had special needs and many of you will know the challenges that entails. On the work side, I used to work for Oxfam and was part of the team sent out to humanitarian disasters. I joined local staff to help set up Oxfam's initial aid response with refugees from Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia and Azerbaijan. It was both the best and worse job I've ever done. We worked 24/7 with little respite but it was the most fulfilling.

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

It has been a positive experience to better understand the teachers' vision and aspirations for the school and its pupils.

Summer routine updates

As the weather is set to be warmer, students can now choose whether to wear a blazer to school or not. Shirts will be tucked in and ties worn unless a subject teacher allows them to be taken off during a lesson.

Please note the following to ensure that the school runs smoothly;

- Students must bring a pen, pencil and ruler to school. These are often kept in blazers. Failure to bring equipment will be a Friday detention
- It is important to remain hydrated. Water fountains can be used before school, at break and lunch. Students will not be let out of lessons/form to use water fountains, or use them in between lessons
- If students are late to lessons, they will serve penalty time
- Students must move from the field/astro at the end of lunch. If they do not they will be restricted to the canteen at lunchtimes
- The whole school site will be clear of litter at all times if the field is to be open at lunchtimes

Thank you for your support

Mr R Belmont - Assistant Headteacher, Student Support

11

**School Uniform
Order Deadline!**

**Friday 11th
August 2017**

12

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:

pmgschoolwear.co.uk

18

19

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!

PMGSchoolwear
...AND SO MUCH MORE

Year 12 Practice Exams – Monday 26 June to Thursday 29 June

As you now, Practice Exams for written papers will take place next week from Monday 26th to Thursday 29th June for Year 12. A copy of the final timetable is attached.

Students in these year groups will be on study leave for those 4 days, and attend school only for written exams.

Final individual candidate timetables, together with explanatory notes for students and parents/carers were distributed last term.

Due to the INSET day on Friday 30th June, normal lessons for Year 12 will resume on Monday 3rd July.

If you have any questions about both internal and external exams, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms A Sumner - Examinations & Assessment Data Officer



GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL YEAR 12 PRACTICE EXAMINATIONS JUNE 2017



PLEASE READ IMPORTANT NOTES ATTACHED

MAIN VENUE: Gym

DATE WEEK B	SESSION 1 - 9AM Arrive 8:45	DURATION	START/ FINISH	SESSION 2 - 11:30AM Arrive 11:20	DURATION	START/ FINISH	SESSION 3 - 2PM Arrive 1:45	DURATION	START/ FINISH
Mon 26 June	Y12 English Lit Y12 Chemistry 1	2hrs 30 1hr 30	9am-11:30 9am-10:30	Y12 Ethics 1	1hr 15	12noon-1:15	Y12 Biology 1 Y12 BTEC Forensic Science	1hr 30 1hr	2pm-3:30 2pm-3pm
Tue 27 June	Y12 History 1 Y12 English Lang/Lit Y12 Physics 1	2hrs 30 2hrs 1hr 30	9am-11:30 9am-11am 9am-10:30	Y12 Geography 1	1hr 30	11:30-1pm	Y12 Psychology 1 Y12 Chemistry 2 Y12 French Speaking	2hrs 1hr 30 1hr	2pm-4pm 2pm-3:30 2pm-3pm
Wed 28 June	Y12 Sociology 1 Y12 Physical Education	2hrs 2hrs	9am-11am 9am-11am	Y12 Psychology 2 Y12 French (L/R/W)	2hrs 1hr 30	11:30-1:30 11:30-1pm	Y12 Business Y12 Geography 2 Y12 Drama	1hr 30 1hr 30 1hr	2pm-3:30 2pm-3:30 2pm-3pm
Thur 29 June	Y12 History 2 Y12 Music (C8)	2hrs 30 2hrs	9am-11:30 9am-11am	Y12 Ethics 2	1hr 15	12noon-1:15	Y12 Biology 2 Y12 Physics 2 Y12 Sociology 2	1hr 30 1hr 30 1hr	2pm-3:30 2pm-3:30 2pm-3pm
Fri 30 June INSET									

FOR FRENCH SPEAKING ASSESSMENTS, PLEASE NOTE YOUR INDIVIDUAL DATE/TIME BELOW:

DATE:	TIME:	ROOM:	MFL OFFICE
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FOR BTEC MUSIC PRACTICALS, PLEASE NOTE YOUR INDIVIDUAL TIME BELOW:

TIME:	ROOM: C8
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22/06/2017
Final Version v.7