



# The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 9 - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

[www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk)



## Sixth Form Information Evening

Wednesday 22nd November  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Gosford Hill School  
Sixth Form Centre

Open to Years 10 & 11

### Prestigious Invitation - Twelfth Knight Simul with Indian Woman's Grandmaster



During October, I was invited by Chess Master Carl Portman and Mrs Hedges to play a chess Grandmaster called Tania Sachdev. A Grandmaster is the highest achievable rank in chess.

Tania, whilst visiting Britain was asked to play 12 different chess players from around Oxfordshire, who ranged from young to old and expert to rookie, at the same time!

There were 5 under eighteens, and one over ninety! I once tried playing three people at the same time and it was impossible. I can't imagine the intellect, expertise and skill required to play twelve at the same time with hardly any time to think about her moves!

The event was held on Saturday 4th November at Shutford in their newly built village hall. Out of the twelve who played her, only one emerged victorious, and that, unfortunately, wasn't me.

Despite this, we all had a great time and received prizes signed by Tania herself.

**Sidharth Panicker, 10CTTS**



## Kidlington and District Local Heroes



2018 is one hundred years since the end of the First World War.

In March, Year 8 students are going to Ypres in Belgium to visit the Tynecot Cemetery, Hill 62 trenches, and the In Flanders Fields museum.

This year, we would like to commemorate any soldiers who fought and died in WW1 with a connection to any of our students here in school. They do not have to have fought or be buried in Ypres, or Belgium, but anywhere in the conflict, although the battles of Passchendaele and Ypres, on the Ypres Salient were fought in that area

Regardless of which year your son or daughter is in, if you have any family stories about family members who fought and died in WW1 that you would be willing to share, please send this information into school either by email or with your son or daughter. If you have additional

information about their experiences, or even photographs, we would love to hear it. If you are not sure where a relative may be buried, you can find this out at the Commonwealth War Graves commission.

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

You could also look up the regiment your relative fought for to find out where they may have fought and in which battles. This information would be of interest to us, as the history department could then research these battles with year 8 students.

[www.forces-war-records.co.uk/Records](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/Records)

<http://www.researchingww1.co.uk/using-ww1-regimental-histories>

We would also be interested in any family stories from men who fought and survived, and any women who might have been involved in support services.

We would need any information in school by the end of February. Thank you.

**The History Department**

## Year 11 Practice Exam Results - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Year 11 will receive their Practice Exam Results in the second half of period 5 on Friday 1st December in the canteen.

Please note that the Science Practice Exams for Year 11 will take place during the week beginning 11th December.

Subject teachers will be giving feedback and advice about revision strategies and resources. This is an important time for students to build on and extend their knowledge and skills.

**Jackie Fairchild**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Support please - Chewing gum is banned from school

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of students having to be confronted when chewing gum in school. Please support by ensuring that all students are aware that it is banned from school

If found chewing students will serve a lunchtime isolation in the canteen (on the day if am reg lessons 1-4, next day if lesson 5/pm reg). No warnings will be given for this. Thank you for your support.

**Richard Belmont**  
Assistant Headteacher

## The Oxfordshire Book Awards 2017

On Thursday 9th November I took a small group of Year 10 students (Heidi Mummery, Sidharth Panicker, Rhianna Heaton, Lara Payne, Susannah Knowles and Adam Jenner) to attend the presentation of the Oxfordshire Book Awards 2017 in which over 40 Oxfordshire schools participated.

David Baddiel, winner of Best Primary Book for 'The Person Controller' - "I love my job as a story teller, and if you want to be a writer you have to read and should never give up writing".

Jo Cotterill, winner of Best Secondary Book for 'A Library of Lemons' - "Books are our friends, they can take us away from our worries to happy places." When Jo finds things tough and doesn't want to be challenged, she re-reads books that she loves.

The Oxfordshire Book Awards 2018 Longlist was announced at the end of the ceremony and was supported with a presentation by two of the authors on the longlist, Ellie Irving and Pam Smy.



David Baddiel and Jo Cotterill – spoons at the ready, preparing to eat cake in the Oxford High School Library.

**Mrs Hedges**  
Learning Centre Manager

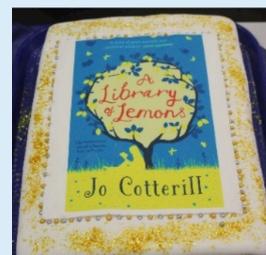
On 9th November a select group of year 10 students attended the Oxfordshire Book Awards. On arriving at the host school we were instantly shocked at its immense size. Once in the main hall, many writers spoke to us in depth about their books and their inspiration for them. The writers included the famous comedian David Baddiel. One of his books you may have heard of is 'The Parent Agency'. We also heard from the author of the award winning 'A Library of Lemons', Jo Cotterill, who was very enthusiastic as she organised a 'hug-fest', at which hundreds of children in the audience burst out of their seats trying to get as many hugs as was physically possible in the 3 minutes allowed! The awards also included some reviews written by students from participating schools.

After the awards, all of the schools were sent to the canteen where the celebration cakes were waiting for us. As some of the oldest students we had the added height advantage, which meant when it came to the colossal rush of hundreds of students pushing towards the cake, we simply asked Adam (the tallest member, with a metre's reach) to pass endless slices of cake over the heads of smaller students!

**Susannah Knowles, 10TCGT**



Authors on stage L to R – David Baddiel, Mark Thornton (MC – Mostly Books bookshop, Abingdon), Jo Cotterill, Ian Johnstone (author of The Mirror Chronicles), Ellie Irving (author of 'The Matilda Effect', 2018 OBA longlist) and Pam Smy (author and illustrator of 'Thornhill', 2018 longlist).



Fabulous 'book' celebration cakes!



At the start of 2017 a small group of Year 10 students were chosen to read 6 books that had been nominated for the secondary school OBA award. We each took a book, and once they were all read we met to discuss them and to vote for our favourite. The majority of us voted for 'A library of Lemons' by Jo Cotterill.

Last Thursday we attended the award ceremony at Oxford High School. It was very interesting to hear the authors talk about writing and what inspired their books.

**Rhianne Heaton, 10ESMI**

## 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)

<b>SCHOOL RECEPTION:</b>	Telephone: <b>01865 374971</b>
<b>SCHOOL EMAIL:</b>	<b>office.4060@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk</b>
<b>SCHOOL WEBSITE:</b>	<b>www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk</b>
<b>ABSENCE LINE:</b>	Telephone: <b>01865 855378</b> (please use this number to report absences) Email: <b>gabs4889@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk</b>

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

## TERM DATES: 2017 - 2018

### Autumn Term:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

*Half Term Break: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

### Spring Term:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Half Term Break: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

### Summer Term:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

*Half Term Break: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018*

**INSET DAYS:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018