



The Gosford Times

The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Issue 14 - 21st December 2017

www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk



*Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas*



Talented percussionist Jo Sancio performs at the Royal Albert Hall



Gifted percussionist Jo Sancio, a Sixth Form student at Gosford Hill School, has been the subject of many news reports and articles recently following a tremendous performance at The Royal Albert Hall.

Once shy Jo, 18, joined fellow Oxford County Youth Orchestra musicians on the world-famous stage to mark the conclusion of a nation-wide competition.

Jo thanks her foster carer for giving her the confidence to pursue her passion. Speaking to Oxfordshire Guardian, she said:

"I was so shy when I was younger – I wouldn't have even picked up the phone to you." "My foster carer has been amazing. She kind of pushed me a bit and gave me the confidence to pursue the things that interest me."

On Tuesday 12th December, Jo and her music teacher Nick Wright were interviewed by Annie Orthen on BBC Radio Oxford. You can listen to Jo's interview in full on our school Youtube account by visiting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7FULAryyBs>

Her story will also feature as part of this evening's South Today News bulletin on BBC1 from 6:30pm. A very well done to her - what an incredible achievement!

Tommy Birchall, Marketing, Digital Media & Communications Assistant

Carol Concert at St. Nicholas' Church

The annual Gosford Hill Carol Service this year was held at St. Nicholas' Church, Islip, who were wonderfully helpful in accommodating us at the last-minute when the boiler broke at our usual venue, St. Mary's Church in Kidlington. In spite of the change a large congregation turned out to enjoy performances by Year 9, 10, 11 and 13 music students, taking us through Christmas classics such as Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas' and Elton John's 'Step Into Christmas', alongside more modern hits such as Ariana Grande's 'Santa Tell Me'.

The Senior Choir gave a superb performance of 'Deck The Halls', in addition to leading the congregation through a full programme of traditional Christmas Carols. At the end of the service all the performers joined in with an encore of 'Do They Know It's Christmas' featuring a rousing chorus sung by those on stage and in the audience alike.

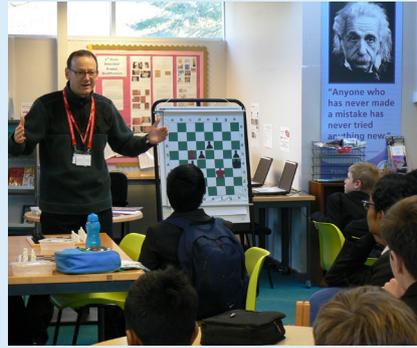
Nick Wright,
Subject Leader for Music

Delancey Tournament Tips from Chess Master Carl Portman

Chess Master Carl was invited to the Learning Centre to give students a pep talk alongside hints and tips for the forthcoming Delancey UK School Chess Challenge that starts in the New Year. The tournament will run for 7 weeks in the Learning Centre on Wednesday lunchtimes and is a continuous play tournament with students accumulating points as they go, so there are no knockouts. More information to follow in 2018.

The link to Delancey is: www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com

Mrs Hedges,
Learning Centre Manager



Carl Portman was an amazing character to meet, he explained certain moves and helped the students attending. As the students sat, he started with a chess problem which many in the room agreed was impossible not to lose. Even though it was highly doubted to be possible, Carl said that the move was possible and could end on a draw. Carl went about this with several ideas of a possible suggestions of a move from students, we finally came to the conclusion that Carl was correct. He showed us some other forms of play and provided us with the answer.

In my opinion Carl was inspirational and fun to talk to. Other students added...

'He was very inspirational' (anonymous).

'Carl is very fun to play chess with and should come again' (anonymous).

'Very informative and provided plenty of examples of how to outwit your opponent' (Rory Gauld, Year 8).

The overall view is that Carl is a great and inspirational person.

Daniel Hunt, 7TJFR

A Year 7 Christmas Carol Trip

On Tuesday 12th December 2017 some hardworking Year 7's went on a trip to The North Wall Arts Centre to see a performance of A Christmas Carol, adapted from the novella by Charles Dickens.

The actors and actresses made it seem like you were actually there in the Victorian book. They were able to create many moments which felt spooky, as well as managing to slip in a joke or two – plus some songs! Scrooge and all of the other characters costumes were incredible and it was really neat to see them all come to life right from the pages we had read in class.

It was such a memorable trip for us and we want to say a huge thank you to: Miss McCarthy, Mrs Miller and Miss Prince.

Emily Martin (7TJFR) and Jemma Hainge (7TJJK)



Oxford School's Chaplaincy Visit



The Oxford School's Chaplaincy team came into Gosford Hill this week to deliver Christmas lessons for year 7 classes in their humanities lessons. They provided 9 local volunteers from 5 different Churches in Oxford which included a trainee vicar, a student worker, a youth worker, a stay at home mum & dad and a retired physics teacher amongst others.

The lesson covered the Christmas story as recorded in the bible and involved a variety of things; a quiz, some video clips and interviews conducted by our students with the volunteers about Christmas.

Students learned the significance of the presents brought to the baby Jesus and some were surprised to learn that a donkey is not recorded in the Bible story of Jesus' birth. They had an opportunity to reflect on the Christmas story and at the end of the lesson students were able to see and smell frankincense and myrrh and also received a chocolate wrapped in gold. We are grateful to the team for their creative way of teaching what Christians believe about Christmas and hope to see them again sometime in the New Year.

Miss A Campbell,
Teacher of R.E

TERM DATES: 2017 - 2018

Autumn Term:	Wednesday 6 th September – Thursday 21 st December 2017 <i>Half Term Break: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2017</i>
Spring Term:	Monday 8 th January – Thursday 29 th March 2018 <i>Half Term Break: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2018</i>
Summer Term:	Monday 16 th April – Wednesday 25 th July 2018 <i>Half Term Break: Monday 28th May – June 1st 2018</i>
INSET DAYS:	Friday 29 th June 2018

TERM DATES: 2018 - 2019

Autumn Term:	Wednesday 5 th September – Friday 21 st December 2018 <i>Half Term Break: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October 2018</i>
Spring Term:	Monday 7 th January – Friday 5 th April 2019 <i>Half Term Break: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019</i>
Summer Term:	Monday 23 rd April – Wednesday 24 th July 2019 <i>Easter Break: Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April 2019</i>
INSET DAYS:	Tuesday 4 th September 2018, 5 th October, 26 th November, 15 th February, 29 th June

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) Email: gabs4889@gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk

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