



Gosford Hill School Parent Bulletin

No. 2 – Friday 13th September 2024

www.gosfordhillschool.org

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Next Week (A)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 16th September		
Tues 17th September		
Weds 18th September		
Thurs 19th September	A Level Art Trip to Oxford City Centre	All day
Fri 20th September	School photographs for Years 7, 10 & 12 Year 11 Interform Competition	8:30am - 10:15am

Following Week (B)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 23rd September	Year 11 Photography Mock Exam	All day
Tues 24th September		
Weds 25th September	Early closure for Open Evening Open Evening	1:15pm 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Thurs 26th September	INSET DAY	All day
Fri 27th September		

Early Closure for Open Evening – Wednesday 25th September

ALL

The school will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 25th September for our Open Evening. Buses and taxis will collect students at 1:15pm.

Posted by – Mr Birchall

INSET Day – Thursday 26th September

ALL

An advanced reminder that there will be no school for students on Thursday 26th September as this is an INSET Day.

Posted by – Mr Birchall

School Social Media Feeds

ALL

A reminder that the school has three social media feeds for regular news updates, alerts and reminders about upcoming events. You can follow these by clicking on the links below:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GosfordHill1 X (Formerly Twitter): www.x.com/GosfordHill

Instagram: www.instagram.com/gosford_hill

Posted by – Mr Birchall

Uniform

ALL

Thank you to all students and their parents/carers for their support with making a positive start to the year with uniform. We are particularly pleased to be seeing so many students come through our gates ready for learning in the correct uniform. As we approach 100% perfection of school uniform there are three persistent patterns which we would appreciate your support with:

- Students wearing trousers must **ensure that they are not leggings or any other form of trouser**. For clarity, a pair of trousers will have at least two of functioning pockets, fastening buttons or zip, or belt loops. Trousers must not be skin tight at the ankle.
- Skirts, if worn, should be **black pleated** skirts.
- Students may only wear **one pair of stud earrings**. All other piercings are not acceptable, even if covered by a plaster. This is for the purposes of health and safety.

We are working with a small number of families to resolve these barriers to perfect uniform.

Posted by – Mr Bateman

Detentions

ALL

Students, and their parents/carers, receive an email at 5:00pm on the day of the incident, if they receive a detention. All detentions last for 20 minutes and take place in the old Library at the start of lunchtime. This means that students should go directly to the detention room, as they have time to get lunch from the canteen at the end.

Failure to attend (or successfully complete) a detention will escalate to an Internal Suspension, beginning directly after lunchtime and ending one hour after the end of the school day. This will take place on the same day as the detention.

Posted by – Mr Bateman

Learning a Musical Instrument at Gosford Hill School

ALL

We have a team of instrumental teachers teaching a variety of instruments at Gosford Hill. If your child would like to start having lessons in woodwind, brass, strings, keyboard, drum kit, guitar (electric or acoustic) or singing this academic year, please sign up at the link below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest>

Or if your child would be interested in learning piano, please ask them to speak to Mr Purtell (Head of Music) directly for our piano teacher's details. Students in receipt of Free School Meals can apply for reduced fees.

Posted by – Mr Purtell

New Term, New Start – Give It A Go! – Saturday 21st September 2024

ALL

Kidlington Parish Council have organised an 'Exercise Day' on Saturday 21st September at Exeter Hall in Kidlington from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Throughout the day, there will be several 45-minute classes, all of which are free for everyone to try. Please see the attached poster for details.

If you want to reserve your place on a fitness class, please contact Sarah by emailing: office@kidlington-pc.gov.uk. We advise that you do this to avoid disappointment, especially the spinning bikes, as these are limited.

Please come and join us for a great day of fun and laughter!

Posted on behalf of Kidlington Parish Council

Girls Basketball – Free Taster Session this Sunday (15th September)

Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club are passionate about promoting girls in our sport.

We are running a free taster session on Sunday 15th September for girls to discover basketball, make new friends and be a part of a team. The session will consist of ball handling, passing and shooting drills, teamwork all involving light hearted fun and games.

Lots of skills from other sports can be applied to basketball. Players do not need to have any previous experience and those with basketball experience of course are also welcome to attend.

We would love to see you there. For more information, please [click here](#).

Posted on behalf of Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club

Date of Terms for the next academic year (2025-26)

Please find below a list of confirmed INSET Days for the next academic year (2025-26).

Please note: We have done our best to ensure that these dates are correct, but they ARE subject to change.

INSET Days 2025-26

Monday 1st September 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	INSET Day
Wednesday 3rd September 2025	First day of term for Year 7 and 12
Thursday 4th September 2025	All students return
Thursday 25th September 2025	INSET Day
Friday 1st May 2026	INSET Day
Monday 20th July 2026	INSET Day

Dates of terms as set by Oxfordshire County Council for the next academic year (2025-26) are as follows.

Date of Terms for 2025-26

Term	Dates
Autumn Term	3rd September 2025 – 19th December 2025
October Half Term	27th October 2025 – 31st October 2025
Christmas Holiday	20th December 2025 – 4th January 2026

Term	Dates
Spring Term	5th January 2026 – 27th March 2026
Spring Half Term	16th February 2026 – 20th February 2026
Easter Holiday	28th March 2026 – 12th April 2026

Term	Dates
Summer Term	13th April 2026 – 17th July 2026
Summer Half Term	25th May 2026 – 29th May 2026

Extra-curricular Clubs & Activities – Autumn Term

ALL

Distributed with this bulletin are lists of extra-curricular clubs and activities available to students through the Autumn Term.

Posted by – Mr Birchall

School Health Nurse Newsletter – Term 1

ALL

Please [click here](#) to read the latest SHN newsletter, which is now in 'Microsoft Sway' format.

You can find further information regarding the services of your School Health Nurse on the school website [here](#).

Posted on behalf of the School Health Nurse

PSHE Outline – Term 1

ALL

I would like to make you aware of this term's PSHE curriculum outline, which is now available on the school website here: <https://gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/pshce/>

This gives you an overview of the upcoming topics that will be covered in our weekly PSHE lessons for each year group.

Posted by – Mr Darvell

Safeguarding

ALL

If you have a safeguarding concern within school hours, please send a message to the following email address: safeguarding@gosfordhillschool.org

If you have any safeguarding concerns outside of school hours please contact our local MASH Team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **0345 050 7666**.

Posted by – Mr La Porte

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.09.2024




Gosford Hill School
for prospective parents and their children in Year 5 and Year 6

Open Events

Open Evening
Wednesday 25th September
(6:00pm to 8:00pm)

Open Mornings
Monday 30th September
Tuesday 1st October
Wednesday 2nd October
(9:15am to 10:15am)




Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT
www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/open-events 01865 374971

**FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S KIDLINGTON**





PHILIP PULLMAN TALK

world-famous author of his fantasy trilogy
His Dark Materials & Northern Lights

Saturday 21st September, 6pm
St Mary's Church,
Church Street, Kidlington, OX5 2AZ

Booking essential:
see fosmk.org.uk/philip-pullman-talk or order through Eventbrite

Further talks in our Storytelling programme:
Prue Leith 19th October,
Debbie Dance 16th November




The North Wall Arts Centre

Weekly Drama Sessions

Make new friends, build confidence and develop your drama skills!
Learn about character, devising, improvising and more.
Work towards performing in a Summer Showcase at The North Wall.

NW Inventors
Ages 8-11

Wednesdays | 5pm - 6pm
Cutteslowe Community Centre

Wednesdays | 5pm - 6pm
St John's Church, Kidlington

YouthLab
Ages 12-17

Wednesdays | 6pm - 7pm
Cutteslowe Community Centre

Wednesdays | 6pm - 7pm
St John's Church, Kidlington

£80 per term. Full bursary places available.

Book Online:
thenorthwall.com



The North Wall Arts Centre

Holiday Workshops

Did you know that we run creative workshops for 8 - 17 year olds during the school holidays?

Have a go at everything from songwriting, improv and kathak dance, to directing, devising and photography.

Scan this QR code to see what we've got coming up:



Theatre Club for Young Carers

For anyone aged 13 - 18 who identifies as a young carer

We meet every month to have dinner, play some games and watch a show.

Free with transport support available.

For more information email Abie:
waltona@thenorthwall.com




Book Online:
thenorthwall.com

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH DOCTOR JO

A FREE WEBINAR TO SUPPORT PARENTS & EDUCATORS OF NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN



Making school a safe place



Building a strong teacher-parent-pupil relationship



Tips for managing after-school overwhelm



Question & Answer with a Clinical Psychologist

Date: Wednesday 11th September 2024

Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm

Tickets available at www.doctor-jo.com/workshops or search Eventbrite



At Kidlington Exeter Hall
Saturday 21 September
9.00—4.00pm

Free Exercise Day



To reserve your spaces onto Classes
email: office@kidlington-pc.gov.uk

Main Hall			Small Hall			Outside		
Time	Activity	Instructor	Time	Activity	Instructor	Time	Activity	Instructor
09.30 - 10.15	Pilates	Marieta	09.30 - 10.15	Bio Intensity - Weights/Bands	Mirela	09.30 - 10.15		
10.30 - 11.15	Spinning Bikes	Mirela	10.30 - 11.15	Over 50's Chair Yoga	Marieta Fitness	10.30 - 11.15	Boxercise	Ben Scurr
11.30 - 12.15	Stretch & Tone Yoga Style	Mirela	11.30 - 12.15	Postural Exercises	Nora	11.30 - 12.15		
12.30 - 13.15	Zumba	Nora	12.30 - 13.15	Strength Body Weight	Pierce	12.30 - 13.15		
13.30 - 14.15	Zumba	Geore	13.30 - 14.15	Yoga	Colin Berryman	13.30 - 14.15		
14.30 - 15.15	Broadway Fitness	Boni	14.30 - 15.15	Aerobics	Laura	14.30 - 15.15		

<https://www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk>

SCHOOL SKI TRIP

Year 10 & Year 12

Last 2 Places available



DATE:

14 - 22 Febraury 2025

RESORT:

Italy - Passo Tonale

TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE SEE:

Mr Smith