



Gosford Hill School Parent Bulletin

No. 3 – Friday 20th September 2024

www.gosfordhillschool.org

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Next 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		

Following Week (A)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 30th September	Open Morning	9:15am - 10:15am
Tues 1st October	Open Morning UKMT Senior Maths Challenge	9:15am - 10:15am
Weds 2nd October	Open Morning Year 10 Parents Information Evening Year 11 Parents Information Evening	9:15am - 10:15am 4:30pm - 5:30pm 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Thurs 3rd October		
Fri 4th October	Non-school uniform day (Details to follow) Year 11 Art and Photography Trip to Blenheim Palace	9:00am - 2:00pm

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

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

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

Helpers for Open Evening next week

ALL

If your child would like to support the school during our Open Evening next week, please ask them to collect a letter from Student Services and return the slip attached to it.

Posted by – Mr Bateman

School Meals – Fish & Chip Thursday

ALL

As there is an INSET day on Thursday (26th September), 'Fish & Chip Thursday' will be on Tuesday instead next week. We thought we'd inform you, as we know how popular it is!

Posted by the Kitchen Team

Smartphone Free Childhood

ALL

'Smartphone Free Childhood' is a grassroots movement of parents who believe that childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone. We're on a mission to:

- Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones in childhood
- Empower parents to take collective action in their local communities - agreeing to delay giving their children smartphones until at least 14
- Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website by [clicking here](#).

Posted on behalf of Smartphone Free Childhood

Careers – OxLEP Skills – Picks of the Week

ALL

Please [click here](#) to access this week's round-up from the Oxfordshire Careers Hub, which contains information about various upcoming careers events that are taking place across Oxfordshire.

Posted by – Mrs Zajac

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

Safeguarding

ALL

Please remember that 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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

FREE TRIAL

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14>

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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



GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

Gosford Hill School Open Events

for prospective parents and their
children in Year 5 and Year 6

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

Kidlington Concert Brass

Presents

GARNIVAL

A Family Concert



Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Sunday 29th September

at 2pm

ADULTS: £5

UNDER 16: FREE

www.kidlingtonconcertbrass.org.uk



SEP/OCT TIMETABLE

Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm £24 each
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FREE SESSIONS Supporting Kids with School Anxiety Introduction to Facing Defiance	26 SEP 24 OCT
Understanding Anger	23 SEP
Supporting a Child with ADHD	24 SEP
Understanding the Teenage Brain	7 OCT
Raising Self-Esteem	8 OCT
Decreasing Depression	15 OCT
Anxiety Explained	17 OCT
Understanding Anger	21 OCT
Drug Awareness for Parents	22 OCT
Autism: Improving Communication	28 OCT
Introduction to OCD	29 OCT
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	31 OCT
Improving Family Communication	4 NOV
Raising Self-Esteem	5 NOV

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help

Tuesday 24th Sept (7pm to 9pm) £24

Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk

