



# Gosford Hill School Parent Bulletin

No. 8 – Friday 25th October 2024

[www.gosfordhillschool.org](http://www.gosfordhillschool.org)

## Key Dates and Upcoming Events

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 26th October - 3rd November | Autumn Half Term Break |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|

| Next Week (A)      |                                                                                    |                                     |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Date               | Event                                                                              | Time                                |
| Mon 4th November   |                                                                                    |                                     |
| Tues 5th November  |                                                                                    |                                     |
| Weds 6th November  |                                                                                    |                                     |
| Thurs 7th November | Year 11 Mock Exams begin<br>Oxfordshire Book Awards Trip<br>AirBus Awards Ceremony | 12:15pm - 4:00pm<br>2:20pm - 5:00pm |
| Fri 8th November   | Remembrance Ceremony                                                               |                                     |

| Following Week (B)  |                                                                |      |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Date                | Event                                                          | Time |
| Mon 11th November   | Year 11 Mock Exams continue                                    |      |
| Tues 12th November  |                                                                |      |
| Weds 13th November  | Sixth Form Drama Trip to The Swan Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon |      |
| Thurs 14th November |                                                                |      |
| Fri 15th November   | Non-school uniform day for Children in Need                    |      |

### Remembrance Day Ceremony – Friday 8th November

**ALL**

On the Friday after we return from the half term break (Friday 8th November), we will be holding our annual Remembrance Ceremony. Students who belong to any uniformed organisation (such as Scouts, Guides, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Fire Cadets, Boys Brigade, St John's Ambulance Cadets) are invited to wear their official uniform to school on that day.

### An appeal for pre-loved board games!

**ALL**

If you have any board games that are in good condition and you no longer use, please consider donating them to us, as they will go to very good use! Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please bring any donations to Reception, where we will collect them and take them to counselling. Thank you!

*Posted by – The PALs Team*

### 'Perfect Week' and 'Perfect Term'

We have begun recording 'perfect weeks' on the Bromcom/My Child At School platform. These records reward students who have been in school for 100% of the time and have been issued 0 negative points. We are delighted that as of Wednesday 23rd October:

- Just over 60% of our students have achieved at least one of these perfect weeks.
- Just over 15% of our community have achieved a perfect week every week since September, achieving a perfect term. That means not a single day off, or negative behaviour point.

**ALL**

We recognise that achieving a perfect term is an ambitious target, understanding that sometimes an unavoidable event on the way into school means that a student may be late once, or students sometimes make poor choices and learn from this. Therefore, we recognise that over 50% of our school community have exceeded our school attendance target of 96% and received less than one minor behaviour point per week.

Finally, the fact that we have issued over 16,000 achievement points since September demonstrates that the vast majority of our students are respectful and responsible all the time, and are resilient by learning from mistakes. Thank you for demonstrating our school values.

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### Uniform

A reminder for parents and carers shopping over the half term break for any new uniform items that students must wear:

- Black trousers or skirt. Trousers must not be skintight and should have at least two of; functioning pockets; fastening buttons; a zip; or belt loops. Trousers must not be leggings, or skin tight. If a skirt is worn this must be a pleated skirt.
- A shirt with their school tie and school blazer.
- As the winter months approach we encourage students to ensure that they have an adequate coat for getting to and from school.
- After half term 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.

**ALL**

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to all those students and parents who are working really hard to attend school every day, on time. Whilst we recognise that there are sometimes genuine reasons why a student may not be able to be in school, we are incredibly proud of the 302 students who have achieved 100% attendance this term, as well as all those who are achieving or exceeding our school target of 96%.

**ALL**

However, we still have work to do to support students every day. In particular, we have noticed that lateness to school has increased. As such, please ensure that you support us by helping your child in the morning arrive on site and in their tutor rooms before Student Development Time begins at 8:30am. If you drive your child to school, please be particularly mindful that the traffic in the local area has increased and leave plenty of time in the morning to get your child to school on time.

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### Toilets

ALL

Thank you for the positive feedback that we have received from students and families telling us that the adaptations we have made to the way we use toilets in school has helped them to feel safer, and ensured greater, more efficient access to our facilities. A reminder that we work really hard to keep students in lessons during learning time and for this reason encourage students to use the toilets at break and lunch.

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### Detention processes

ALL

A reminder that when detentions are set for students, these are always logged on Bromcom and an email is sent at 5:00pm on the day of the incident to both parent and student. The detention will also appear on the student's timetable for the day of detentions.

- Detentions always begin 5 minutes after the start of lunch (13:20 Mon-Thu, 12:35 Fri).
- Students must be seated in their seat at the start of detention and follow the expectations and instructions they are given by staff leading the detention.
- Students have access to the school canteen and time to eat food after detentions on a Monday-Thursday. On a Friday, students may bring a packed lunch to eat during the detention given the shorter lunchtime. Students who are free school meals can request a school packed lunch be delivered to the detention for them on Friday.
- The door to the detention room is closed when the register is taken at 13:20. Students who arrive after this time, fail to attend, or do not successfully complete their detention will be expected to spend same afternoon in Internal Suspension, up until one hour after the end of the school day (16:15 Mon-Thu, 14:00 Fri).

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### Christmas Fair (if it isn't too early to mention that word!)

ALL

As we return from school after the half term break we will soon be moving quickly towards Christmas. Our Christmas Fair is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th December. If any parents would like to volunteer to support (or potentially help coordinate) this event, please contact Mr Bateman.

*Posted by – Mr Bateman*

### 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](mailto: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*





**Gosford Hill School**  
**Admissions Open**  
 for students joining us in September 2025



It's an exciting time to join Gosford Hill School...

- Rated Good by Ofsted.
- Excellent GCSE and A Level results.
- We are the first school in Oxfordshire to be part of the Department for Education's Schools Rebuilding programme.



Apply online now:  
[www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/admissions](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/admissions)  
 Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT

**KIDLINGTON FIREWORKS**  
 Tuesday 5 November 2024  
 At Stratfield Brake



Fireworks 7pm Prompt - Gates open from 6pm  
**Freestyle fire show by Arron - before the display**  
 No Parking Available  
 Low noise and more environmentally friendly

**Gosford All Blacks BBQ and Bar**  
**Fun Fair rides and stalls**  
 (£1 discount for tickets bought in advance from Exeter Hall)

Organised by Kidlington Parish Council



Grace Church Kidlington  
**International Cafe**

Practise English.  
 Make new friends.

**Every Tuesday**  
**7pm - 8pm**

The Village Cafe  
 8 Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AA  
[luke@gck.org.uk](mailto:luke@gck.org.uk)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



Are you passionate about the big issues affecting children today, and building their resilience for the challenges of tomorrow?

The Oxfordshire's Youth Justice and Exploitation Service (YJES) works with young people aged between 10 - 18 who are going through the criminal justice system.

We're keen to recruit people who can represent the diverse ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds of the young people we work with.

"Getting to help children and families when they are at their most vulnerable, knowing that your input may inspire a change is something so rewarding in life."  
 KENNEDY, YJES VOLUNTEER

**If THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, THEN GET IN TOUCH!**  
 For more information, please contact  
[YJSVolunteers@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:YJSVolunteers@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01865 816500.





# October Half-Term

**26 October - 3 November 2024**

Join us this October half-term for a fun-filled family-friendly week of arts and crafts topped off with a spooky family Halloween day on Saturday.

Discover more at [discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org) or scan the QR code



For more  
event details,  
charges and to  
book please scan  
the QR code  
or visit  
[discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org)

**26 October - 3 November**

- Explore our sensory dark den
- Add to our Halloween mural in our Tudor room
- Spot the ten Halloween monsters hidden in the museum

**Monday 28 October – Modroc Mummies (5-11yrs)**

**Tuesday 29 October – Spooky Science (5-11yrs)**

**Wednesday 30 October – Let's Celebrate: Diwali Diyas (5-11yrs)**

**Thursday 31 October – Trick or treat in the oldest building in Aylesbury! Don't forget to dress to impress! (3-11yrs)**

**Friday 1 November – Young Creatives: Halloween Writing (7-13yrs) & Autumn Collage (3-11yrs)**

**Saturday 2 November – Spooky Stories & Crafts (3-11yrs)**

Show off your best Halloween costumes, enjoy spooky stories and get crafty with our seasonal crafts.

**Prices range from £3 - £5 per participant.**

**Make a day of it and visit the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery and the rest of the Museum including the *May The Toys Be With You* exhibition while you're here. We're now open Sundays 12pm - 4pm as well.**



**May The Toys Be With You on until 3 November 2024**  
From a galaxy far, far away comes a stellar exhibition of vintage Star Wars toys and original movie posters. A must-see for Star Wars fans of all ages.

Discover Bucks Museum  
Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
01296 331441  
[discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org)



Online events especially for parents & carers interested in finding out more about university in general and the University of Oxford



The Access Team at Trinity College, University of Oxford, are offering two online sessions for parents and carers in July 2024. Please feel free to book tickets to attend one or both of the following sessions:

**Session 1 For Families - a guide to university**  
**Monday the 4 November 6 - 7:15pm with live Q&A until 7:30pm**

This session will be of interest to parents and carers of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and will be particularly useful for those who did not attend university themselves or who feel they would appreciate updated university information and guidance.

In the session, we will focus on effective ways parents and carers can support their child's progression to higher education. We aim to build confidence and knowledge about what a parent and carer's role is in the process of a university application and to clarify the benefits and costs of going to university. We will also touch on some aspects of the University of Oxford.

There will also be a live Q&A with some current undergraduate students who'll share some of their own experiences and answer any questions parents and carers may like to ask.

**Session 2 For Families - a guide to the University of Oxford and the application process**  
**Thursday the 7 November at 6 - 7:15pm with optional live Q&A until 7:30pm**

This session will be of interest to parents and carers of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and is particularly useful for those wanting to hear specifically about the University of Oxford and the application process.

In this session, we will also focus on effective ways parents and carers can support their child, should they decide to apply to the University of Oxford in the future. We aim to build confidence and knowledge about what a parent and carer's role is in the process of a university application and to clarify the benefits and costs of going to the University of Oxford.

There will also be a live Q&A with some current undergraduate students who'll share some of their own experiences and answer any questions parents and carers may like to ask.

Please go to our registration form to book both or your preferred option – click [HERE](#)

\* Please note this exclusive event is intended for parents/carers of children in state secondary schools only.

\*\*Bookings accepted up to 5pm, two days prior to each event

## A Short Course for Parents of Children and Young People with SEND Support Needs

We will be exploring how to look after our own wellbeing, whilst supporting our child with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities

This four-week course is running at The Kidlington Keystone Hub, each Tuesday between 10.00-13.00.  
From the 5th - to the 26th Nov

Please note we are unable to provide childcare facilities

A 30 min Options Appointment with a wellbeing worker, is needed **before** you book onto the Course

Contact our information team:

To book an Options appointment and request a place on the course.

Call: 01865 247788 – 9.30-4.30 Mon-Thurs / 9.30-4pm Fri

Email: [info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk)

Text: 07451 277973



[oxfordshiremind.org.uk](https://oxfordshiremind.org.uk)  
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