

# The Gosford Times

The Termly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School

Term 1 – October 2025

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

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## Year 7 Learn Essential Life-Saving Skills

Year 7 students had the privilege of learning essential life-saving skills on Thursday 16th October with the help of an incredible team from South Central Ambulance Service. During the session, students listened carefully as they were taught how to perform CPR correctly in an emergency situation.

The event was part of 'Restart a Heart', a national initiative organised by the Resuscitation Council UK and the British Heart Foundation, which aims to raise

awareness about cardiac arrest and equip people with CPR skills. With around 80% of cardiac arrests occurring at home, this training could make a crucial difference – giving someone experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest the best possible chance of survival. A huge thank you to Russell and Erik, who generously volunteer their time to support this inspiring programme.



## Tricks, Treats and Terrific Costumes at Ghost-ford Hill School!

What a 'fang-tastic' night we had at our Ghost-ford Hill School Halloween event on Tuesday 21st October! With cobwebs dangling and lights flickering, our daring adventurers in Year 4, 5 and 6 crept down the corridors, knocking on classroom doors for tricks, treats, and the occasional spooky surprise! Thank you to everyone who came along – your energy and costumes made the night so enjoyable.

A special shout-out to our amazing staff and Sixth Form students for their help, and to Mr and Mrs La Porte for conjuring up such a wickedly wonderful event!

You can see more photos on our social media feeds!



## News from the Library

For the first time this year, Gosford Hill School has taken part in the Bookbuzz scheme for our Year 7 students. This is a programme developed by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. Designed in collaboration with teachers and librarians, Bookbuzz gives students the chance to choose and keep a book they'll love from a collection of 16 titles.



Each Year 7 tutor group had a Bookbuzz lesson, where they were shown a video with the authors involved pitching for their title. Students were then able to look at the books and finally make a decision as to which one they would like to have. Books will be supplied to the students during next term and all the titles will be available in the Library once choices have been made. This is a very exciting scheme to be involved in and Year 7 enjoyed the chance to make their own selection.

**Mrs Hall**, Librarian

## Year 11 visit to Trinity College, Oxford



Thirteen lucky Year 11 students had an inspiring visit to Trinity College, Oxford on Thursday 2nd October to learn about university life, what studying at Oxford is really like and some helpful tips to increase your chances of getting into competitive universities. The day featured a talk on University and Oxford life followed by a lively Q&A with an undergraduate, where the students asked lots of questions about university life. Lunch was a definite highlight in the grand college hall; all enjoyed the delicious food.

Students toured the campus and attended a fascinating "taster lecture" on History, giving them a real feel for university-level study. Even though few of our students were currently thinking of studying this subject further, they noted how engaging it was and commented how it was very different from a lesson at school! The trip was a valuable experience to motivate our students to aim high, whilst giving them an insight into higher education. Thank you Trinity College!

**Mrs Zajac**, Careers Lead



## This Summer's GCSE Results

We were pleased to report some exceptional achievements by our Year 11 students in their GCSE examinations this summer. Of particular note, we want to highlight the results of Flora M, achieving 10 qualifications, with 9 at a grade 9. Seb M achieved 8 grades at grade 9 or equivalent. Will G achieved an impressive 4 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s. Matthew H achieved 3 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s. Rio M achieved 6 grade 9s, despite joining us midway through Year 11. Ruben M achieved 5 grade 9s and 3 grade 8s. Olga achieved 9 qualifications above a grade 8, including 4 grade 9s in her 11 subjects. Margot H achieved 8 grade 8s and Lois-May G achieved 6 grade 8s and a grade 9. We are incredibly proud of these achievements as well as those of all of our students.



There was much to celebrate across all of our subjects, with nearly 90% of students in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieving a strong pass (Grade 5+). The subjects with the highest percentages of standard passes (Grade 4+) were achieved in Drama, Food, French, German, Maths and English Language.

Like many schools across the country, Gosford Hill School is working hard to support improving attendance, and our Year 11 results confirm that students who are in school routinely have achieved excellent results, with many of these students achieving qualifications that place them in the top 20% of the country. Combined with our strong A Level Results this summer, this demonstrates the potential for future students joining us.



## Dates For Your Diary

| Date                                     | Event                                             |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 4th November (7:30am - 4:30pm)   | Year 9 Imperial War Museum Trip                   |
| Tuesday 4th November (4pm - 5pm)         | Bring a Grown Up! Textiles Workshop               |
| 10th - 14th November                     | Year 13 Mock Exams                                |
| Monday 10th November (Details to follow) | Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week              |
| Monday 10th November (9:15am - 10:15am)  | Parents CAN Meeting (Training Room)               |
| Wednesday 12th November                  | Oxfordshire Book Awards Trip                      |
| 17th - 28th November                     | Year 11 Mock Exams                                |
| Friday 14th November (8:30am - 11:30am)  | Sixth Form Mock Interview Event                   |
| Wednesday 19th November (6pm - 7pm)      | Ski Trip Information Evening in the Hall          |
| Friday 21st November (Details to follow) | Non-school uniform day for Children in Need       |
| Wednesday 26th Nov (4:00pm - 6:30pm)     | Year 8 Parents Evening                            |
| Thursday 27th November                   | Soul Band at Kidlington Christmas Lights          |
| Tuesday 2nd December (4pm - 5pm)         | Bring a Grown Up! Maths Workshop                  |
| Wednesday 3rd Dec (9am - 12:30pm)        | Year 10 and 11 Drama Trip 'The Nutcracker'        |
| Wednesday 3rd Dec (5:30pm - 10:15pm)     | Year 12 and 13 Drama Trip 'The BFG'               |
| Friday 5th December (1:30pm - 3:30pm)    | Festive Afternoon Tea for Local Elderly Residents |
| Saturday 6th December (2:00pm - 4:00pm)  | Gosford Hill School Christmas Fair in the Hall    |
| Monday 8th December (4pm - 5pm)          | Bring a Grown Up! French Workshop                 |
| Wednesday 10th Dec (Details to follow)   | Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch          |
| Wednesday 10th Dec (4:00pm - 6:30pm)     | Year 13 Parents Evening                           |
| Thursday 11th December (7:00pm)          | Christmas Carol Concert at St. Mary's Church      |

# Sixth Form News

## A Level Results 2025

Sixth Form students at Gosford Hill School were celebrating their A Level results after two years of hard work and dedication to their studies. This cohort of students have shown incredible levels of ambition and determination, which has resulted in some outstanding results with nearly a quarter of all grades at A\*-A, over half of all grades were at A\*-B and over three quarters of grades at A\*-C. In addition 98.3% of all grades were at the pass rate of A\*-E.



Aidan and Giorgio compare their results success

We are very proud of all of our students and commend each one of them for their resilience and achievements. There are some particularly impressive individual success stories, including two students who completed an EPQ alongside four A Levels: Aidan P achieved four A\* grades and one A grade, Giorgio B-S achieved an A\*, three A grades and a B grade. Aidan will be studying Physics at Imperial College London and Giorgio is going to University of St Andrews to study Mathematics.



Shreya reflects on her achievements with her Dad

**The path to your future starts here...**

Sixth Form Centre



**Sixth Form Open Evening**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**5:30pm to 7:30pm**

 **GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL**



|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Dedicated Sixth Form facilities</b> | <br><b>Bespoke pastoral support</b> | <br><b>Consistently outstanding grades</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

 [www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/sixth-form](http://www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/sixth-form)  01865 374971

Kiet L, Shreya K and Islay M also achieved particularly impressive results of three A Levels at a grade A or A\*. Other notable results include Jake S and Joshua C who both achieved two grade As at A Level. James W also achieved an A grade and a Distinction\* in CTECH IT and will be going to University of Birmingham to study Computer Science.

Overall, the average grade for each student is higher compared to the last three years, with a particular jump in grades at A\*-B. Further Maths performed exceptionally well at the top end with 60% of students achieving A\*-A. The other strongest performing subjects across the board were: Art, Drama, Health & Social Care and Physical Education. In addition, 100% of students achieved A\*-C (or equivalent) grades in Art, Drama and CTECH IT.

Our students were naturally delighted and are extremely grateful to their teachers for both their academic and pastoral support. We are very proud of our students' achievements and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

This summer's celebrations are reflective of our thriving and growing Sixth Form at Gosford Hill School. Students who are looking for Sixth Form plans for September 2026 and beyond are encouraged to join us for the next Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 14th January 2026 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

## Sixth Form Icebreaker

Gosford Hill Sixth Form well and truly 'broke the ice' on Wednesday 8th October when the Senior Students (led by Jack M, Daniel M and Nicole W) hosted a lively and interactive event filled with entertaining games and challenges for mixed teams of Year 12 and Year 13 students.

Activities ranged from group flag-making and bean bag throwing to uncovering the hidden 'Traitor' within each team. The evening concluded with a hilarious round of staff charades, where Mr Smith proved to be a natural performer! It was a fantastic night all round, and the funds raised will go towards the Annual Sixth Form Summer Ball.



## World Mental Health Day

Thank you to everybody who supported our fundraising efforts this term. The Sixth Form PALs Team organised a non-school uniform day on Friday 10th October to mark World Mental Health Awareness Day and to collect donations for YoungMinds – a superb charity which supports young people and their parents. All of our students were encouraged to wear something yellow to demonstrate their support for YoungMinds' 'Hello Yellow' campaign. The PALs students hosted a bake sale at lunchtime, selling a selection of sweet treats, which was well-attended, as ever! Thank you to everybody involved. We raised £827.56 for YoungMinds in total, which is absolutely superb!



## PALs Team 2025-26



We are excited to introduce our PALs (Peer Active Listeners) for this academic year. This team of dedicated Sixth Form students will be working closely with our school counsellor to make sure every student at Gosford Hill School has access to support for their wellbeing and mental health.

The PALs will be running a weekly drop-in session every Wednesday lunchtime in the Counselling Room (located at the bottom of the Computing Block), where students are welcome to come and talk about any concerns or worries they may have.

## Year 13 Geographers Explore Wytham Woods



As part of their OCR A Level Geography course, Year 13 students complete four fieldwork days, designed to bring their classroom learning to life through hands-on investigation. On Tuesday, the group visited Wytham Woods, one of the most studied woodland ecosystems in the world. Under the expert guidance of Dr Kim Polgreen, Honorary Norham Fellow at the University of Oxford's Department of Education, students explored how much carbon is stored in the woodland's trees. Using a clinometer and tape measure, they calculated tree heights and trunk diameters to estimate carbon storage – gaining a practical understanding of how forests contribute to global carbon cycles and climate change mitigation.



In addition to measuring trees, students carried out water infiltration experiments in different areas of the woodland, to compare how soil type and vegetation cover affect the rate at which water soaks into the ground. These investigations offered valuable insight into how natural landscapes respond to environmental pressures and changing weather patterns. The day provided a rich opportunity for students to develop their fieldwork and analytical skills, while deepening their understanding of geography's crucial role in tackling the challenges of climate change.

**Mrs Black**, Subject Leader – Geography

**Gosford Hill School**

# Christmas Fair

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**2pm to 4pm  
in the Hall**

**Games • Craft Stalls  
Tombola • Live Music  
Refreshments**

**Free entry!**



*We warmly welcome  
older residents in our local  
community to a special*

# Festive Afternoon Tea

*at Gosford Hill School  
Oxford Road, Kidlington*

.....

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>on</i>                    | <i>from</i>      |
| <i>Friday 5<sup>th</sup></i> | <i>1:30pm to</i> |
| <i>December 2025</i>         | <i>3:30pm</i>    |

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*Please RSVP by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November*  
*Email: [office@gosfordhillschool.org](mailto:office@gosfordhillschool.org)*  
*Telephone: 01865 374971*

## Film Festival Reviews

During student enrichment, just before the end of the Summer term, Mr. Ogilvie ran a Film Festival for Years 8 to 10. Students watched two films and wrote reviews after reading examples from newspapers and magazines. The films included 'All About My Mother', 'Atonement', 'Pinocchio', 'The Goonies', 'Super 8', 'Argo' and 'Little Miss Sunshine'. Below are a few highlights from the reviews composed by students:

*Argo: 'Ben Affleck creates a well-planned political thriller and nail-biting drama movie ; it is guaranteed to leave you on the edge of your seat till the very last minute.'*

- Amy H [Yr 10]

*Little Miss Sunshine: 'The shift from excitement to sadness to humour throughout the film is very effective towards building engagement that left me captivated from beginning to end.'*

- Ruben M [Yr 10]

*Little Miss Sunshine: '...It is truly a one of a kind movie; you will feel everything from happiness to sadness, from hope to sorrow in this exploration of the lives of a dysfunctional yet united family unit.'*

- Elliot R [Yr 10]

*Argo: 'It is a compelling thriller that evokes strong emotions in the viewer. The characters were nicely fleshed out and had me both anxious and frightened...I strongly recommend this movie to those who appreciate the fear and anticipation provided by true story movies.'*

- Teddy B-S [Yr 10]

*All About My Mother: 'The colloquial language keeps those watching hooked, as there is comedic relief set against raw, difficult emotions.'*

- Ella S-H [Yr 10]

## Drama Department Trip – 'Moments' at The North Wall Theatre, Summertown

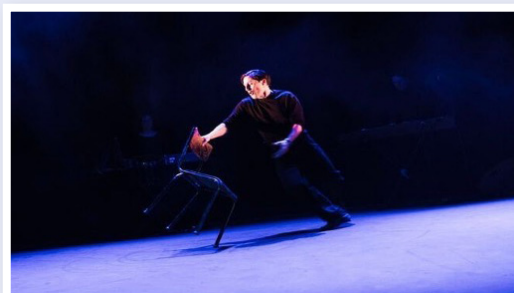
On Wednesday 24th September, the Drama department arranged a trip for Year 11, 12 and 13 students studying Drama to see 'Moments' at The North Wall Theatre, Summertown. The show was performed by Theatre Re, an internationally acclaimed ensemble who produce thought-provoking and innovative performances. Below is an extract from a review written by Scott N-C (Year 13). You can read his full review [here](#).

**Miss Brimble**, Subject Leader – Drama

*"On the final Wednesday of the first academic month, the drama team took students from Year 11, 12 and 13 to The North Wall Theatre in Summertown to see the fantastic production 'Moments' created by internationally acclaimed devisers Theatre Re.*

*What Miss Brimble planned to be an affordable, local theatre experience to assist students with written exams and influence for their own performances actually turned out to be the most enjoyable and inspiring theatre experience a lot of students have ever watched.*

*A moving, meaningful and magical production with incredible physicality and design elements followed by a Q and A with the designers and performer themselves made for an invaluable experience both educationally and personally. The true definition of worth it."*



## FREE Family Learning Workshops at Gosford Hill School

Following a successful programme last academic year, we are pleased to be offering more free family learning workshops for 2025 to 2026. These are fun-filled sessions where we invite primary school-aged children in Years 4-6 to 'Bring a Grown Up!' and try something new. For more information or to book your place, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7xrpx9> or give us a call on 01865 374971.



| Autumn Term |                        |                                                                   |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Textiles    | Tuesday 4th November   | Join Mrs North for a creative workshop in the Textiles Room       |
| Maths       | Tuesday 2nd December   | Test your brain with some Christmas-themed Maths puzzles          |
| French      | Monday 8th December    | Come and explore French language and culture                      |
| Spring Term |                        |                                                                   |
| Art         | Wednesday 4th February | Get creative during this Valentine's Day themed workshop          |
| German      | Tuesday 24th March     | Put your linguistic skills to the test to find hidden Easter eggs |
| Science     | Wednesday 25th March   | Use Science to help the Easter bunny solve problems!              |
| Geography   | Wednesday 22nd April   | Come and learn about our planet on World Earth Day!               |
| Food        | Wednesday 13th May     | Discover the power of teamwork in the kitchen                     |

## Dates of Terms: 2025 - 2026

|                   |                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Autumn Term       | Wednesday 3rd September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025 |
| Half Term         | Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025      |
| Christmas Holiday | Saturday 20th December 2025 – Sunday 4th January 2026    |
| Spring Term       | Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026         |
| Half Term         | Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026    |
| Easter Holiday    | Saturday 28th March 2026 – Sunday 12th April 2026        |
| Summer Term       | Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026           |
| Half Term         | Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026              |

### INSET Days

Monday 1st September 2025, Tuesday 2nd September 2025, Thursday 25th September 2025, Friday 1st May 2026, Monday 20th July 2026.

## Contacting Your School

**School Reception:**

Telephone: **01865 374971**

**School Email:**

**office@gosfordhillschool.org**

**School Website:**

**www.gosfordhillschool.org**

**Absence Line:**

Telephone: **01865 855378** (Please use this number to report absences)

Email: **attendance@gosfordhillschool.org**