



Gosford Hill School Parent Bulletin

No. 8 – Friday 24th October 2025

www.gosfordhillschool.org

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

25th October - 2nd November	Autumn Half Term Break
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Next Week (A)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 3rd November		
Tues 4th November	Year 9 History Trip to the Imperial War Museum and Old Operating Theatre, London (EHL, HFG + MGN)	7:30am - 4:30pm
	Bring a Grown Up! Textiles Workshop	4:00pm - 5:00pm
Weds 5th November		
Thurs 6th November		
Fri 7th November	Oxford Bach Choir Autumn Workshop at Greyfriars School	10:45am - 2:10pm

Following Week (B)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 10th November	Year 13 Mock Exams Week Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week Parents CAN Meeting (TR1)	9:15am - 10:45am
Tues 11th November	Remembrance Ceremony	
Weds 12th November	Oxfordshire Book Awards at Magdalen College, Oxford	12:00pm - 4:30pm
Thurs 13th November		
Fri 14th November	Sixth Form Mock Interview Event	8:30am - 11:30am

Bicycle Safety and Responsibility

ALL

Students are reminded to use their bicycles safely and responsibly at all times. Please ensure you wear a helmet, follow traffic rules, and remain alert to your surroundings. Safe cycling protects not only you but also those around you. Let's work together to keep our school community safe and set a positive example on the roads. Some helpful tips and guidance for cyclists can be read [here](#).

Posted by – Mr Bateman

Looking After Your Chromebook

ALL

A polite reminder that student's Chromebooks **must** be kept in their protective sleeves when not in use. We are seeing an increase in the number of devices just being put in bags without the protective sleeve. The sleeve does help ensure the device is better protected and less likely to be broken. Additionally, if a Chromebook is not transported in the sleeve, it will invalidate any insurance claim. Thank you for your co-operation.

Posted by the IT Support Team

Parents CAN (Connect and Natter) Meeting – Monday 10th November 2025



ALL

In response to feedback from parents, we've set up a new parent support group, called Parents CAN, which stands for Connect and Natter.

The idea behind it is that it is run by parents for parents, with the school providing the venue, and is an opportunity for parents to meet up and chat informally about anything that might be on their mind in relation to parenting and supporting their child/ren, over light refreshments. You can read more about Parents CAN on the school website [here](#).

The next session will take place on Monday 10th November 2025, from 9:15am - 10:45am in the Training Room (former RLT Offices). This session will focus on EBSM, which stands for emotional-based school avoidance. All are parents and carers are welcome.

Posted on behalf of Parents CAN

The Circus is in town!

ALL

Circus Ginnett is thrilled to be visiting Parkhill Recreation ground, Kidlington, OX5 2DB until Sunday 26th October. Join us for an unforgettable experience filled with breathtaking performances, acrobatics, and magical moments that will leave your students and their families in awe.

To make this wonderful event more accessible, we are pleased to offer you an exclusive discount code: **SCHOOL**. This code provides 20% off bookings for families purchasing tickets online, by telephone 07562 450045 or on site. Simply quote **SCHOOL** or type it on the discount box online to claim your discount. For ticket purchases and more information, please visit [our website](#).

Posted by on behalf of Circus Ginnett

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Examinations Timetables – November 2025

Year
11&13

November Mock Exam Timetables for Year 11 and Year 13 students be viewed on/downloaded from the school website through the following links:

[Year 11 Mock Examinations Timetable](#)

[Year 13 Mock Examinations Timetable](#)

Posted by – Mrs Gillingham

Launching Soon – Board Game Workshop

ALL

After the October half-term, I am launching a Board Game Workshop that will run every Tuesday from 3:15 pm to 4:00pm. The workshop will give students a chance to relax, socialise, and develop strategic thinking and teamwork skills through classic and modern board games.

I am currently looking for donations of any unwanted board games. If you have any in good condition that you'd be happy to pass on, please bring them to the Reception. Thank you for your support.

Posted by – Mr Lee

An appeal for card games and board games!

ALL

The Peer Active Listeners of the school are looking for card games or board games that are in good condition to use for our drop in sessions. We especially welcome quiet games. Please drop any game donations at Reception. Thank you so much in advance, we really appreciate your help!

Posted by the PALs Team

WOSCP Careers Fair – Wednesday 3rd December at 5:00pm (Abingdon & Witney College)

**Year
10-13**

Save the date! Gosford Hill School is part of the school partnership WOSCP which organises careers events. Our next careers fair is on Wednesday 3rd December at Abingdon & Witney College (Witney campus) at 5pm, which is about current opportunities available for the students. This is really useful for students to talk to employers, universities and colleges on pathways and options and even potentially secure work experience, to inspire and increase their awareness of what they could do after school. 45+ organisations in attendance; letter to follow.

Posted by – Mrs Zajac

Importance of attending open days as a pre-step to applications

**Year
10&11**

Year 11 students should be applying for college places now to ensure they secure the courses they want, either as a plan A or back up to an apprenticeship or potentially Sixth Form. The students have had assembly talks from both the main college options, which are on Google Classrooms as a recap. The next Open Days are 5th November (Abingdon campus) and 12th November (Witney campus and The Leys College).

Year 10 students will also benefit from attending college Open Days as helps to develop ideas and awareness of options so in better position to make informed decisions when they have to choose next year.

Posted by – Mrs Zajac

LIVE Careers Infosheet

ALL

A reminder that we recently released [a LIVE Careers Infosheet](#). This document is filled with careers activities and information that we post for students on Google Classroom but may not otherwise reach you. Please encourage your child to sign up to activities relevant to them. The document is continuously updated, so please bookmark and refresh periodically. These include work experience opportunities, insight days, guides and support, in short, a wealth of opportunities to help your child with their next steps after school.

Posted by – Mrs Zajac

Bring a Grown Up! – FREE Family Learning Workshops at Gosford Hill School

Throughout the academic year, Gosford Hill School hosts a series of fun family-oriented learning sessions, during which we invite **primary school-aged children in Years 4-6** to 'Bring a Grown Up!' and try something new!

This Autumn term, come and create your own computer character, join us for a textiles workshop, learn all about Christmas traditions in France or have fun solving some Maths puzzles and quizzes, at one of our free family learning workshops.

ALL

Textiles Workshop – Tuesday 4th November

Maths Workshop – Tuesday 2nd December

French Workshop – Monday 8th December

[Please click here](#) to learn more or to book. Places are limited so please book sooner than later to avoid disappointment. All sessions start promptly at 4pm and run for an hour.

Please note that only one ticket is required to be booked to enable participation for one child and one accompanying parent. Should you need help with ticket booking, please give us a call on 01865 374971.

Posted by – Mr Birchall

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



The poster features a photograph of five students in school uniforms sitting on a stone wall. Below this, the school crest is displayed next to the text 'Gosford Hill School Admissions Open for students joining us in September 2026'. Two smaller inset photos show students in a classroom setting. To the right of these photos is a list of bullet points. At the bottom, there is a call to action to apply online now, followed by the school's website and full address.

Gosford Hill School
Admissions Open
for students joining us in September 2026

- 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
Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT

edventures **STEM**
play. explore. innovate.

Two Day Coding Camp

Ages 11-14



28 - 29 October
9 - 1 pm

Kidlington Methodist Church OX5 2BP
Cost: £50 per day

- Game-based learning with Codecombat™
- Get to **code a drone!**
- Bonus session on **Ethical Hacking!**

Run by Qualified Computer Science Teachers

Email: info@edventures.uk

FUN >>> FUTURE READY SKILLS

Half-Term Theatre & Creativity Workshops

You'll work with theatre professionals who'll teach you new theatrical & creative skills, whilst having lots of fun along the way!

Mon 27th Oct Puppets & Puppetry, ages 7-11
Theatre Design, ages 11-16

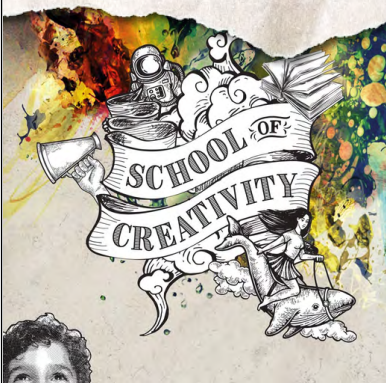
Tues 28th Oct Creative Writing, ages 7-11
Puppets & Puppetry, ages 11-16

Wed 29th Oct Stop Motion Animation, ages 7-11
Introduction to Physical Theatre & Devising, ages 11-16

Thurs 30th Oct Make a Film in a Day, ages 7-11
Introduction to Stage Combat, ages 11-16

Fri 31st Oct Make a Play in a Day:
Halloween Spectacular, ages 7-11 & 11-16

Mon-Thurs at St Andrew's Church Linton Rd, OX2 6UG
Fri at Summertown United Reformed Church, OX2 7HN




Enrol now
creationtheatre.co.uk/school-of-creativity
01865766266

FIND OUT MORE

CLIMATARIAN KITCHEN PRESENTS

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED BREAKFAST

Cheer for the start of the BBC Radio Oxford three legged walk at 7:30 am, and meet Pudsy Bear!

NUTRITIOUS COMMUNITY BREAKFAST TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CAUSE!



WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
WISH, 4 The Parade, Kidlington OX5 1EE

Fire Station Halloween Fright Night



£10 ENTRY PER PERSON, UNDER 4YRS FREE

HAUNTED HOUSE - BLUELIGHT SIMULATOR - FLOATING GHOSTLY PLATFORM - FACEPAINTING FOOD & DRINK - PLUS MORE

OCT 30 **REWLEY ROAD FIRE STATION, OX1 2EH**
FROM 7:00PM UNTIL 10:00PM

ALL MONEY GOES TO THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY 



365 DAYS of FOLK

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - 6PM

Oli Steadman (Stornoway, Count Drachma)

will perform a rare solo set of traditional folk arrangements from his **365 days of folk** song collection.

Picture: Ian Wallman, 2015

St Mary's Church Street, Kidlington OX5 2BA

Tickets £20 - discounts available
Booking - fosmk.org.uk or Eventbrite



Entirely and forever yours

- a love lasting 250 years

The passionate correspondence of
John and Maria Constable.

Presented by James Hamilton,
author of the acclaimed biography
Constable - A Portrait with Katharine
Eustace and Shirley Steventon and
with Philip Towler on the organ.

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER - 6PM



St Mary's Church Street, Kidlington OX5 2BA

Tickets £20 - discounts available
Booking - fosmk.org.uk or Eventbrite



North Oxford Tennis Club Junior Coaching Academy 2025



Day	Time	Group	Age (guidance only)
Monday	4.15 – 5.15pm	9u Orange Ball	Ages 7 – 9
Monday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Yellow Ball 11+	Ages 11 – 14
Tuesday	4.15 – 5.15pm	9u Orange Ball	Ages 7 – 9
Tuesday	4.15 – 5.15pm	Red Ball 8&u	Ages 5 – 8
Tuesday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 11 – 14
Wednesday	4.15 – 5.15pm	Green Ball	Ages 9 – 10
Wednesday	4.15 – 5.15pm	Red Ball 8&u	Ages 5 – 8
Wednesday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 14 – 18
Thursday	4.15 – 5.15pm	9u Orange Ball	Ages 7 – 9
Thursday	4.15 – 5.15pm	Red Ball 8&u	Ages 5 – 8
Thursday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Yellow Ball GIRLS ONLY	Ages 13 – 16
Thursday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 13 – 16
Friday	4.15 – 5.30pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 11 – 14
Friday	5.30 – 7.00pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 13 – 16
Saturday	9.00 – 10.00am	Red Ball 8&u	Ages 4 – 8
Saturday	10.00 – 11.00am	9u Orange Ball	Ages 7 – 9
Saturday	10.00 – 11.00am	Green Ball	Ages 9 – 10
Saturday	11.00am – 12.00pm	Yellow Ball GIRLS ONLY	Ages 13 – 16
Saturday	11.00am – 12.00pm	Yellow Ball	Ages 11 – 13 & 14 – 18

Low noise and environmentally friendly

KIDLINGTON FIREWORKS & LASER SHOW

Wednesday 5 November 2025
At Stratfield Brake



Gates open from 6pm

Freestyle fire show by Arron - before the display

No Parking Available

£1 discount for tickets bought in advance from
Exeter Hall and local businesses

Organised by Kidlington Parish Council

Kidlington Christmas Lights

Switch on!
2025



Thursday 27 November
Fun begins at 5pm, switch on 6pm
The High Street

Organised by
Kidlington Parish Council



Gosford Hill School

Christmas Fair

**Saturday 6th
December 2025**

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

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

Free entry!



Gosford Hill School

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10th December

Menu

Traditional Christmas Turkey & Festive Stuffing
or

Vegetarian Parcel (V)

or

Gluten Free Vegetarian Tortilla (V)

Served with Roast Potatoes,
Carrots Batons & Brussels Sprouts

Followed by
Chocolate Christmas Cupcake or a Clementine

Cost: £2.60

Please order via ParentPay by 27th November.





Bring a Grown Up!

FREE Family Learning Workshops at Gosford Hill School 2025 - 2026

Suitable for children in Years 4-6

Autumn Term		
Computing	Weds 15th October	Explore the fascinating world of MicroBits
Textiles	Tues 4th November	Join Mrs North for a creative workshop in the Textiles Room
Maths	Tues 2nd December	Test your brain with some Christmas-themed Maths puzzles
French	Mon 8th December	Come and explore French language and culture
Spring Term		
Art	Weds 4th February	Get creative during this Valentine's Day themed workshop
German	Tues 24th March	Put your linguistic skills to the test to find hidden Easter eggs
Science	Weds 25th March	Use Science to help the Easter bunny solve problems!
Geography	Weds 22nd April	Come and learn about our planet on World Earth Day!
Food	Weds 13th May	Discover the power of teamwork in the kitchen
Summer Term		
English	Thursday 11th June	We all have an inner poet! A creative writing workshop
PE	Thursday 18th June	Enjoy tennis and rounders on our amazing all-weather pitch
History	Tuesday 23rd June	Have a go at solving a historical mystery with Miss Hall
Health & Social Care	Thursday 16th July	How healthy is your food? Find out with Miss Barnes...

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these **FREE** workshops.

Scan the QR code today to book your place, or visit:
www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/community/bring-a-grown-up
Alternatively, you can give us a call on 01865 374971



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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