



Gosford Hill School Parent Bulletin

No. 9 – Friday 7th November 2025

www.gosfordhillschool.org

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Next 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

Following Week (A)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 17th November	Year 11 Mock Exams (All Week)	
Tues 18th November		
Weds 19th November	UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Ski Trip Information Evening in the Hall	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Thurs 20th November		
Fri 21st November	Non-school uniform day for Children in Need	(Details to follow)

Anti-Bullying Week Starts Monday: Join us for Odd Socks Day!

ALL

On Monday 10th November we are taking part in Odd Socks Day to kick off Anti-Bullying Week! This is a fun, light-hearted way to celebrate what makes us all unique and special. We encourage all staff and students to wear their wackiest, most mismatched socks to show their support for kindness and inclusion.

While participation is free, you can optionally donate £1 to the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) to support their vital work in coordinating the week's events and providing resources. Donations can be made via the [Anti-Bullying Alliance website here](https://www.aballiance.org/).

Posted by – Mr Ogilvie



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

EET Support Service – Oxme.info

ALL

The website oxme.info is Oxfordshire County Council's website for young people and includes information about opportunities, activities and services for children and young people in Oxfordshire.

The EET Support Service provides one-to-one support for young people aged 16-18 Not in Employment, Education or Training who need extra help to re-engage with learning.

For more information, please visit: <https://oxme.info/NEET>

Posted on behalf of Oxme.info

LIVE Careers Infosheet

ALL

Please [click here](#) to access our LIVE Careers Infosheet. This useful document is regularly updated with the latest work experience opportunities, insight days, guides and support.

Posted by – Mrs Zajac

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 and put them in a strong position to make applications. 45+ organisations in attendance; letter to follow, see poster attached.

[Abingdon and Witney College's Witney Campus](#) is having its Open Evening on Weds 12th Nov (3.30-7pm). I encourage Year 11 students to go along to then be able to make college applications, whether it's your plan A or B, as popular courses get snapped up. It's also very useful for Year 10s to go too - having a longer time to think about post-16 options makes for informed choices!

Posted by – Mrs Zajac



Christmas Fair – Saturday 6th December – 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Saturday 6th December 2025 2:00pm to 4:00pm Gosford Hill School Hall

Join us for our traditional Christmas Fair, a joyful afternoon filled with festive fun for all ages! Enjoy a wonderful variety of stalls, games, live music, and seasonal treats to get you into the holiday spirit.

ALL

🌟 Tombola · Craft Stalls · Games · Live Music · Refreshments 🌟

We'd love to see you there as we come together to celebrate this special time of year!

Once again, we're inviting local small craft businesses to host a stall at the fair. Stalls cost £10 each, with all proceeds going to support the school.

If you – or someone you know – would like to take part, please contact the school office for more details.

Festive Afternoon Tea for Local Elderly Residents – Friday 5th December

We're delighted to once again host our Festive Afternoon Tea for elderly residents in our local community on Friday 5th December, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Guests can enjoy tea, coffee, and a delicious selection of cakes and sandwiches, along with a fun game of bingo and a festive quiz!

ALL

If you know someone who would enjoy joining us for this special occasion, please contact Mr. Bateman via the school office email by Monday 1st December: office@gosfordhillschool.org.

Posted by – Mr Bateman

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 10th December 2025

The canteen will be offering a special **Christmas lunch** to students and colleagues on **Wednesday 10th December**. This is a joyous event in the school calendar where we can all get together and celebrate this special time of year.

ALL

The cost is **£2.60** for students and colleagues. To order a Christmas lunch, please purchase this item via ParentPay and confirm menu choices. **The canteen will only cater for those who have pre-ordered.** The deadline for ordering a Christmas Lunch is Thursday 27th November and no orders will be taken after this date.

Please note that no other lunch options will be served on that day, but a range of food will be available at break food as normal.

Parents of children entitled to Free School Meals are asked to please make their choices on ParentPay but will not be asked for payment. Should you have any queries, please contact: finance@gosfordhillschool.org.

Posted by The Finance Team

Christmas Carol Concert – Thursday 11th December – 7:00pm

You're warmly invited to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St. Mary's Church, Kidlington, on Thursday 11th December, from 7:00pm.

ALL

Enjoy a delightful evening filled with festive performances from our talented students, featuring a mix of timeless classics and modern favourites.

Admission is free – come share in the joy and spirit of the season with us! We can't wait to celebrate with you. 🌟🎵🎶

Posted by – Mr Purtell

Kidlington Christmas Lights Switch On – Thursday 27th November – 5:00pm to 8:00pm

ALL

This year's **Christmas Light Switch On** will be on **Thursday 27th November**, in the High Street, from 5:00-8:00pm. Come along for lots of festive entertainment including local Christmas stalls, fun fair rides, local school choirs and more. Gosford Hill School's Soul Band will also be performing from approximately 7:00pm.

Posted on behalf of Kidlington Parish Council

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

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

Maths Workshop – Tuesday 2nd December – **Only 5 tickets remaining!**

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

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

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

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** we are holding

ODD SOCKS DAY on

MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025

**Odd
Socks
Day** 

Come to school
wearing your odd
socks to celebrate
what makes us all
unique!

**#OddSocksDay
#AntiBullyingWeek
#PowerForGood**

If you're worried about bullying
you can speak to Mr Ogilvie
(Anti-Bullying Champion) or one
of our Anti-Bullying
Ambassadors





KIDLINGTON

CAM BRANNAGAN FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Fridays
Kidlington Leisure Centre
OX5 2NU
5-6 p.m. (6-9 years)
6-7 p.m. (10-14 years)

- Professional Coaching
- Comprehensive Curriculum
- Positive Environment
- Fun and Engaging

For more information, please email: cbrannaganfootball@hotmail.com

www.cambrannaganfootball.com  [cambrannaganfootball](https://www.instagram.com/cambrannaganfootball)

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.

ORGANISED BY THE WEST OXFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS CAREERS PARTNERSHIP



CAREERS FAIR

STANDS: EMPLOYERS | UNIVERSITIES | APPRENTICESHIPS | COLLEGES

Wednesday 3rd
December 2025
5:00 – 7:30pm

POST 16 AND
DEGREE-LEVEL
OPTIONS

HOSTED BY ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE
HOLLOWAY ROAD | WITNEY | OX28 6NE

Driving? Please use the Marriots Walk
public car park **OX28 6GW**



ORGANISED BY THE WEST OXFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS CAREERS PARTNERSHIP

ABINGDON
& WITNEY
COLLEGE

BARTHOLOMEW
SCHOOL

BURFORD
SCHOOL

CHIPPING
NORTON
SCHOOL

GOSFORD
HILL
SCHOOL

HENRY
BOX
SCHOOL

MARLBOROUGH
SCHOOL

WOOD
GREEN
SCHOOL

Scan the QR code
to book you place

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



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