



Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Welcome Back – Important Reminders

As we conclude our first week, thank you to the school community for an excellent start to term. Attendance has been strong, the school has felt calm and purposeful. Assemblies have focused on our value of respect, exploring the value and importance of showing politeness and warmth to each other every day: students have responded extremely well, and achievement points are accumulating rapidly! Below are key reminders as we strive for continuous improvement.

Vehicle access on site

Due to ongoing rebuilding work, site vehicle access is strictly limited. Please do not drive onto the school grounds before or after school. If driving your child, drop them off and collect them at an appropriate point away from school so they can walk the final distance.

Uniform

Uniform standards have been strong overall; thank you for your support. Please note the following key rules:

- Students should be wearing their school shirts, tucked in, along with their ties and blazer or jumper.
- Plain black trousers, skirts, or tailored shorts.
- Footwear must be all black with no visible markings or fabric upper.
- Only one pair of stud earrings and a watch (not a smartwatch) or bracelet are allowed to be worn. These must be removed for PE lessons.
- Hooped earrings, nose or facial piercings, and varnished, fake or acrylic nails are not allowed in school due to the health and safety implications across practical subjects. Students will be issued a Uniform C2 for infringements of this expectation.

Our uniform policy around jewellery and piercings in practical lessons has been based on guidance from the Association of Physical Education (AfPE) to ensure that we take every reasonable precaution to ensure that students are safe. The advice from the AfPE is outlined below:

A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.



Linked to uniform, a reminder that students should bring their own equipment to school daily, with a list of necessary equipment displayed on our [school website](#).

Mobile phones

Gosford Hill School is a phone-free environment, in line with Department for Education guidance. **Phones must be turned off and kept in bags at all times on site** (from entry at the driveway until exit at end of day). This rule also applies to headphones, smartwatches, and associated devices.

If seen or heard, devices will be confiscated. Refusal to hand over a device results in a minimum of one day in the Reset Room. Repeated non-compliance will lead to further sanctions, including daily device hand-ins or requiring parent/carer retrieval.

Attendance to school

Attendance and punctuality to school is a crucial indicator of potential success for young people, both in terms of academic outcomes and their confidence and competence as increasingly mature young adults.

Gosford Hill School is committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education to best prepare them for the next stage of their life. Each school day is carefully planned, and each lesson informs a wider programme of learning. Therefore, every lesson really does count. Your child is a valued member of our school community and every day missed is a day lost without them.

Should a child be unavoidably absent from school, it is crucial that parents contact us, preferably via the absence form on our [school website](#). Absences should be reported as early as possible on the first day, and every subsequent day. Our website also contains guidance about minor ailments and illnesses, as well as our first aid provisions. Please do take some time to check this.

It is the default policy of this school not to authorise absence for holidays during term-time. While advance permission can be given in exceptional circumstances, this is rare and can only be granted by the Headteacher. Any such request should be addressed to me in writing before the holiday is taken and you should not assume that permission will be granted.

If a term-time holiday is taken without permission, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and a referral may be made to the County Attendance Team. This may result in the issue of an Education Penalty Notice under section 444A Education Act 1996 in respect of each absent child, to each parent/carer. Penalty notices are intended as an alternative to prosecution.

The first Penalty Notice is a charge of £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, increasing to £160 if paid between day 21 and day 28. Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the first notice, the second notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. If the penalty is not paid in full within 28 days, the usual



consequence is a Magistrates' Court prosecution for the underlying section 444(1) Education Act 1996 offence of failure to secure regular school attendance. A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the first notice, and so in cases where the national threshold is met for a third or subsequent time another action will be taken instead, which may include the local authority considering prosecution.

If further instances of unauthorised absence occur despite a penalty notice having previously been issued, or if the child's attendance is a wider matter of concern, the local authority may consider prosecution in any event.

Further information regarding Oxfordshire County Council's approach to Penalty Notices for School Attendance can be found [here](#).

Friends of Gosford Hill School

Our first 'Friends of Gosford Hill' meeting will take place next Friday at 6:00pm in the school library. All parents, carers, and relatives are welcome to help support fundraising and school feedback. Where possible, please notify us of your attendance at office@gosfordhillschool.org.

We also encourage families to sign up for [EasyFundraising](#) and the [Parent Lottery](#) (details attached) to help raise funds for new furniture and resources ahead of our new buildings opening in February 2028.

Thank you once again for your support at the start of the year. We look forward to seeing many of you at events in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T Boulter
Headteacher

Mr C Bateman
Deputy Headteacher

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prices are exactly
the same!

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a % of your spend
to easyfundraising



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it on to us
:)

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Exclusive retailer offers



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A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone



GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

The parents' lottery

Support your school with every ticket

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jackpot!**

**Support
our school**



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QR code and
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name to join The
Parents Lottery

26

5

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26



How does it work?

There will be **guaranteed prizes** up for grabs each week including the chance to win the **£25,000 jackpot!** Keep your eyes on the Friday weekly draw to find out if you'll be a winner this week.

Choose us
on The Parents
Lottery list

£1 ticket entry
into each
weekly draw

Play with
up to six
tickets

Prize draw
every Friday

Each ticket
supports our
school

The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (PEL Company no :3884281), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind. It is run under our remote operating licence (Licence no: 057904). The Parents Lottery is strictly 18+ only. Playing a lottery is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133.

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The parents'
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