



Dear Parents

September is of course all about welcoming new students and staff and I am delighted to say that everyone seems to have settled in really well.

We are also now in the process of analysing the summer's exam results in detail. We are delighted to have another set of really good results. This year 80% of students have achieved the benchmark of passing both English and mathematics at grade 4 (- the new equivalent of C). 57% achieved a strong pass (grade 5) in both English and mathematics, against a national average for this figure of 40%. An impressive 37% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate, against a national average of 21% (2017). Most importantly, **our progress 8 score is 0.36, meaning students achieved over a third of a grade better in each of their GCSEs** than they were expected to, based on their performance in their end of KS2 tests. This result is significantly above the average for all schools (- average is 0) and I think will place us for the sixth year running in the top 25% of schools, based on student progress.

Such consistency in outcomes is impressive and the consequence of the hard work and dedication of all our staff, day in, day out. You can see the provisional data for 2018 at <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137921>. More data will be added over the coming weeks.

Over recent years, we have seen a marked and consistent improvement in results at Gillotts and we are delighted to have maintained this trend. These results confirm us as one of the consistently best performing schools in Oxfordshire. I am very proud of all that the students have achieved and would also like to recognise all the support that students have received from their families. These results come about through successful collaboration between student, teachers and parents.

One important focus this term has been our Open Evening and Open Day. The school was very busy on both occasions and it was great to welcome visitors both from our partner primary schools in Henley and Shiplake and also from schools further afield. The Year 5 and 6 pupils, along with their parents, seemed very impressed by both the displays and the lessons. As ever, it was our own students who were our best ambassadors, talking with confidence to the visitors and providing comprehensive guided tours. It is always great to see how proud students are of our school and how they convey the strength of our community ethos, as well as our commitment to learning. We also this year sought to welcome visitors whose children might be wishing to transfer to Gillotts other than in Year 7. Vacancies do from time to time arise and interested parents are welcome to contact us to discuss the possibilities further.

We have been working very hard this term to make sure students are well equipped for lessons. Inevitably items do get worn out or lost over the term so it would really support us if, over the holiday, you could check your child's bag and make sure s/he has the following:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Coloured pencils
- Glue
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Compasses

Exercise books should also be brought to school in a file – many student find a concertina file works well. Thank you for your support in this.

An important date for your diaries is Tuesday 4 December, the Governors' Annual Meeting for Parents. The Governors' Annual Report to Parents will be available on our website a week in advance and there will be an opportunity to ask questions about this, or indeed any aspect of school life. The event begins at 7pm in A4 (next to Reception) and we do urge you to attend – it really is a good opportunity to be engaged in the way the school is moving forward.

With best wishes for a well deserved break over the half term.



Catharine Darnton
Headteacher

Reminder - dropping off and collecting students from Gillotts

As some of you will have found, dropping your child off at the start of the day and collecting them at the end can be a hectic experience. However, if all parents and visitors to the school drive carefully and park considerately, the situation can be improved considerably.

Here are a few points to bear in mind:

The best places to drop your child off/ collect them by car are:

Makins Road – there is a network of footpaths that give access to the site. Please however do not park on the pavements or block residents' driveways; please also remind your children to respect residents' property as they walk in.

Leisure Centre car park – a one way system operates around the car park to ease the process. Please note that there is a 'give way' line as you leave the car park, giving priority to vehicles leaving or entering the school.

Please do not use the bus bay, any area of the school site beyond the turning into the Leisure Centre car park or Gillotts Lane.

The bus bay – we have a large number of buses and coaches, some of which need to reverse to get in or out. Please do not use the bus bay, the school cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may arise. Additionally, apart from the obvious danger this poses to all students, it is likely that your insurance will be invalidated if the clear signage is ignored. Teachers are on duty at the end of the day to ensure students who are waiting for the buses remain behind the barriers. Please do not drop off/ collect or park in the bus bay.

The school site – because there is limited space for turning on the site, and because of the number of students walking in or out of school, please do not bring your car onto site at the beginning or end of the day

Gillotts Lane – parents waiting by the kerb on Gillotts Lane effectively reduce the road to single track and this can lead to grid lock. Please avoid parking in this area if you can.

We do understand that there are some difficulties because of the location of the school but if all parents follow the above advice, previous experience indicates that all will go smoothly.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation.

Catharine Darnton
Headteacher

Holidays in term time

You should be of Government to the regulations concerning pupil attendance at school. Headteachers do have the discretion to grant leave, but they should only do so in exceptional circumstances. If a headteacher grants a leave request, it is for them to determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. This leave is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

Whilst we have always refused requests for leave in term time if we felt the reason for the request for not sufficiently strong, this means that granting leave in term time will really only be in exceptional cases.

Parent View

Parent View is an online questionnaire for parents and carers to feed back to Ofsted on their child's school. It is now the main mechanism that Ofsted use to gather parents' views at the time of an inspection. There are just 12 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as happiness, safety, progress, quality of teaching, behaviour and school leadership. The final question asks if you would recommend the school to another parent. Everyone's responses are put together and are available to view on the Parent View website. In order to minimise the risk of abuse, you are required to register and create a password. We would be very pleased to have your ongoing feedback of what you think of the school – please visit <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

DARWIN NEWS

Tutee of the Term

DABY Enzo Cheesman	DPJY Jake Bell
DJAS Jedd Paine	DROM/DGB Daniel Flowers
DFD Beatrice Fraser	DCHA Erin Jacques
DFMW Noa Zilberberg	DGLW Reuben Rose
DHJR/ DSEF Tom Francis	DJLG Lottie Baker
DREW Ben Horner	DGS Amelia Butler



ORWELL NEWS

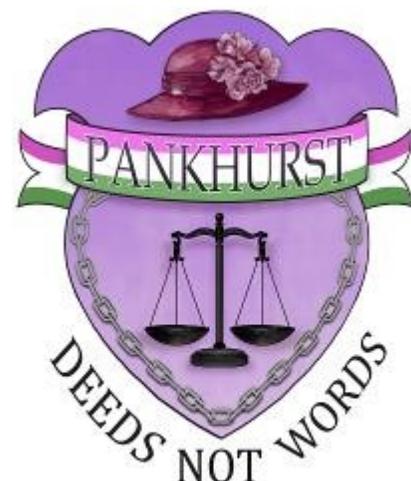
Tutee of the Term

OPCM / LSS Evie Warner-Starr	OEJB Nonnie Luke
OBEG Rebecca Tinsley	OTWN Caitlin Tinsley
OCLV Lucy Tucker	OGMO Skye Fisher
OJDG Ruby Connell	OCH Gabriel Gierczyk
OJSK Ed Hanman-Killick	OACM Luc Jones
OAB / CST Isla Tompkins	OGDL/ ELD Ryan Davidson

PANKHURST NEWS

Tutee of the Term

PKLO George Weller	PCAD/NFD tbc
PHJ / JJB Naia Charman Vazquez	PREE tbc
PGDM Marie Guthrie	PCD/ LS tbc
PSMS / HLM Charlotte Green	PSH/ HJS tbc
PTAG Ruby Thomas	PCMR tbc
PSJW Leoni San Juliano	PACF tbc



Parents Association Update:

Hi from everyone in the PA Team,

It was really lovely to meet so many new parents at the staff room drinks in September. It was good to hear everyone was finding their feet & that most people could find what they needed from their child's planner or the school website! www.gillotts.org.uk

Fundraising got off to a fantastic start following the generous donation of two VIP tickets to see Michael Buble at the O2 in September which raised £500 for the School Fund. Thanks to everyone who took part & a special thanks to donor & lucky winner!

We are currently gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year -

The Parents Association Quiz Night!

Saturday 10th November in the School Hall. Door 6pm, Quiz starts at 6:30pm

It's always a really fun evening for parents and as the teachers are reigning champions some pride is at stake this year! Tickets cost £10 per person and teams are 8-10 people. Don't worry if you're not part of a big group, we can make up tables of parents from your year group. Email gillottspa@gmail.com to book your tickets/table.

Over the past two years the Quiz night has raised around £3000 from fundraising on the night through a Lucky Dip and Silent Auction.

This year, following the success of the Michael Buble tickets auction, we are going to open a limited number of the Silent Auction prizes to all parents ahead of the Quiz, so even if you can't make it, you can still bid!

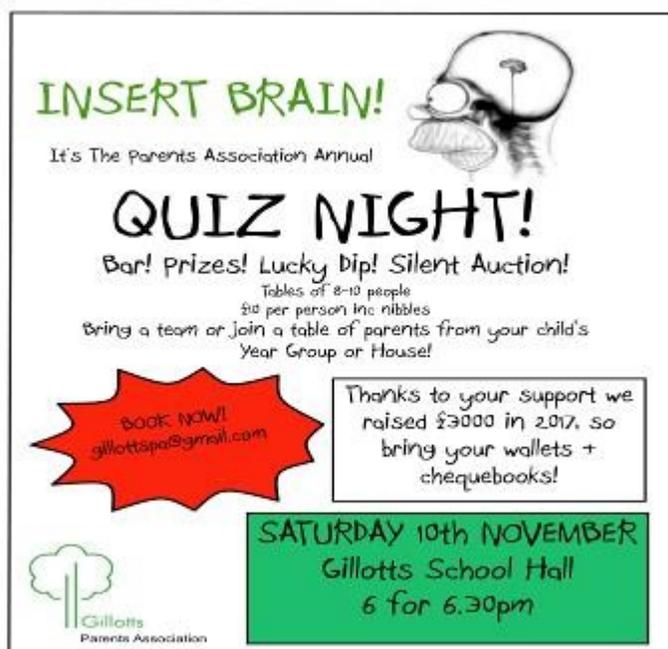
There will still be some great Lucky Dip prizes, so if you're coming along think about having a bit extra in your back pocket!

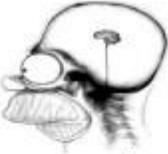
What can you do?

Organise a table for the Quiz or book a couple of tickets? Book at gillottspa@gmail.com

Could you or your company donate something to the Silent Auction? Tickets to an event? An experience? Email gillottspa@gmail.com

Could you or your company donate a prize for the Lucky Dip? Email gillottspa@gmail.com



INSERT BRAIN! 

It's The Parents Association Annual

QUIZ NIGHT!

Bar! Prizes! Lucky Dip! Silent Auction!

Tables of 8-10 people
£10 per person inc nibbles

Bring a team or join a table of parents from your child's Year Group or House!

BOOK NOW!
gillottspa@gmail.com

Thanks to your support we raised £3000 in 2017, so bring your wallets + chequebooks!

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER
Gillotts School Hall
6 for 6.30pm



Careers Night - Careers Hot Desk!

This year the Parents Association are organising a 'Careers Hot Desk' at the Careers event on Thursday 8th November in the School Hall. Over 20 parents, from a wide range of industries, have volunteered to sit in the hot seat - we have a solicitor, a vet, a software engineer, a lettings agent and a nurse, to name but a few.

Targeted at year 7, 8 & 9, the aim of the 'Hot Desk' is to get students to explore what *real people* do on a day-to-day basis in their jobs, as well as to find out about different types of work. Running a bit like speed-dating, small groups of students have 5 minutes to find out as much as they can about each person's job. They move from desk to desk and get to interview everyone! The sessions should take about 45 minutes and are scheduled to start at 6:15pm and 7:15pm.

What can you do?

- 1. Put the date in your diary!**
- 2. Students should be hearing about the event any day now - encourage them to sign up, think up some great questions & come along!**
- 3. Think about volunteering next year! Email: gillottspa@gmail.com**

Amazon Smile

Finally, the Gillotts Parents Association are a charity who can benefit from the Amazon Smile scheme, which makes a small donation for every purchase made. If you ever make purchases from Amazon please consider signing up to the Smile programme (it's really easy) and nominating us, so we can benefit from Amazon's generosity! Details can be found on the Parents Association page on the Gillotts website.

Finally, as ever, thanks for your generosity and support over the past year. We really value your support and the more everyone helps out, the easier it is & the more the school benefits. The committee has always been small but mighty; however things are becoming a bit critical which both the Chair and Treasurer leaving at the end of this school year, as their children move on. If you think you could help in anyway, please drop us a line at gillottspa@gmail.com

Enjoy the run up to Christmas & we hope to see you at Quiz Night!

The PA Team

Golds for ex Gillotts student

Natasha Harris-White won two gold medals for the GB Universities rowing team in the World University Rowing Championships in Shanghai. She started rowing for Upper Thames Rowing Club while she was at Gillotts and after completing her degree in Biology at Newcastle University, is now rowing for the Leander Club.



Connor works with Academy Award winners

Gillotts Year 8 student Connor Botha was thrilled to be invited to work with Academy Award winners Sir Tim Rice and Alan Menken on a music video to raise funds and awareness for the Tyler Foundation and Shine On! Kids! charity who help children with cancer. Connor created the music video called the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever over the summer. Connor said, 'I am so thankful to Sir Tim Rice for this amazing opportunity and for being so funny and cooperative to work with. It was so much fun and the video has now got over 9000 views.'

The photo shows Connor working with Sir Tim Rice.



Jack Cummings with Gillotts Year 8



As part of their PSHE day about discrimination, Year 8 received a visit from Invictus Games medal winner, Jack Cummings. Jack was serving with the army in Afghanistan in 2010 when he suffered life changing injuries, including the loss of both legs. Refusing to give up his active life, he went on to win a bronze medal in swimming at the 2017 Invictus Games, established by Prince Harry for injured servicemen and women. Jack's inspiring talk gave students an insight into how he has coped with discrimination that he has faced, and how sport helped him to discover a new passion in life. Jack was particularly impressed by the thoughtful and mature questions the Year 8s were asking. It will certainly make us all more aware of issues surrounding discrimination.

Year 11 Berlin Trip

For the tenth year running, Year 11 Germanists from Gillotts School have spent 4 days exploring Berlin. They soaked in the atmosphere of both East and West Berlin and visited a lot of the major sights. The picture shows the 23 students standing by the river Spree with Berlin Cathedral behind them.

On Sunday we saw the thousands of runners heading for the start of the Berlin Marathon. It all added to the variety of an amazing city. The students will hopefully have memories of the trip which will last a lifetime.

Many thanks to the students, who were fantastic and to Mrs Sadler who accompanied me

Catharine Davidson



'Not by ourselves alone'



This year we have embarked on a new programme being delivered through tutor time, assemblies and the wider school community called 'Not by ourselves alone' which is a translation of our school motto 'Non Nobis Solum'. The programme has a focus on helping students develop their character by focusing on three key values: Respect, Kindness, and Living without harm.

The focus for this term has been on 'kindness' with tutor time helping to educate students in the importance and relevance of being kind and doing kind things. After Christmas, the focus will move to respect.

It has been wonderful to see some of the values being played out across the school community in various ways:

- Discussions in tutor time
- Assemblies delivered by house captains on kindness
- 'Act of kindness' achievement points being awarded
- Teachers receiving thank you notes from students
- Students collecting food parcels for local food banks
- Training Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to support the values

Please keep up to date with what we are doing for the programme by following our school Twitter account [@gillottshenley](https://twitter.com/gillottshenley) where we are posting all the great things going on in school. Below are some of the examples of what has happened this term:



Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Oct 8

Awesome stuff from Mrs Jansen's and Mrs Burt-Matthew's tutor group who have been putting together a food package for our local food bank as part of our @pixclub 'Not by ourselves alone' programme. #actsofkindness #helpingothers #communityspirit



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Sep 25

Focus for House assemblies this week is about making 'being kind' a habit and not a chore. Assemblies are being expertly led and delivered by our Year 11 student leaders! #amindtobekind #habitnotchore #Orwellhouse



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Sep 21

Some of the displays appearing for our @pixlclub inspired 'Not by ourselves alone' programme around the school site...kindness, respect and living without harm #actofkindness #corevalues #buildingcharacter #schoolculture



1 6



Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Sep 12

Outstanding community spirit shown by Monty and Matias in Year 8, who found a substantial amount of money on the school field yesterday, and handed it in, hoping it can get returned to its owner. Truly living up to our key values and motto #notbyourselvesalone #actofkindness





Interested in teaching? We can help get you started

Gillotts School was delighted to be designated as a **National Teaching School** in June 2017 in recognition of its work in teacher training, supporting other local schools and continued professional development for its staff and local networks. Introduced in 2011, Teaching Schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide high quality school-led initial teacher training (ITT) and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career. As part of the Teaching School role, we work alongside Oxfordshire Teacher Training (OTT - based at The Cherwell School) in training potential teachers at primary and secondary level. Excitingly, this year, we will be training associate teachers in three bases - in the centre of the county in Oxford, in Banbury in the North and in the South at **Gillotts School**.

If you are interested in training to teach or know anybody who might be, please contact/encourage them to contact us at teachingschool@gillotts.org.uk for more information.

If you are interested in teaching but would like more information/experience, please keep an eye on our website as we will be hosting some **Get Into Teaching** evenings this year alongside more of our **Pre-application Workshops** which aim to support people in making successful applications to ITT providers. In addition to that, at Gillotts, we coordinate an **Oxfordshire School Experience Programme (SEP)** which makes it easy for potential applicants to get into schools and get the experiences they need to decide whether teaching might be right for them and then apply for ITT.

Take a look at our website to find out more of what Gillotts as a Teaching School is offering: <http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-school/teaching-school-overview/>



Term dates for 2018 - 2019

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2018.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	04 September - 19 October	34
October half term	22 October - 26 October	
Autumn Term	29 October - 21 December	40
Christmas holiday	24 December - 04 January	
Spring Term	07 January - 15 February	30
Spring half term	18 February - 22 February	
Spring Term	25 February - 05 April	30
Easter Holiday	08 April - 22 April	
Summer Term	23 April - 24 May	23
Late Spring half term	27 May - 31 May	
Summer Term	03 June - 24 July	38
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Tuesday 4 September 2018

Friday 28 September 2018

Monday 22 July 2019

Tuesday 23 July 2019

Wednesday 24 July 2019

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 5 September 2018. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 6 September 2018.

6 May 2019 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 27 September 2018

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Friday 21 December 2018

Friday 19 July 2019

Term dates for 2019 - 2020

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2019.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	02 September - 25 October	40
October half term	28 October - 01 November	
Autumn Term	4 November - 19 December	34
Christmas holiday	20 December - 03 January	
Spring Term	06 January - 14 February	30
Spring half term	17 February - 21 February	
Spring Term	24 February - 03 April	30
Easter Holiday	06 April - 17 April	
Summer Term	20 April - 22 May	24
Late Spring half term	25 May - 29 May	
Summer Term	01 June - 21 July	37
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 2 September 2019

Friday 27 September 2019

Friday 3 July 2020

Monday 20 July 2020

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 3 September 2019. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 4 September 2018.

4 May 2020 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 26 September 2019

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Thursday 19 December 2019

Friday 17 July 2020