



## Dear Parents

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

After the usual exceptionally busy term, it has been good over the last week or so to feel that Christmas is in sight. We still have The Carol Service at St Mary's to look forward to and with larger numbers taking part, I know it will be better than ever. Gillotts Voices have had a very busy couple of weeks. We raised over £100 for charity by singing at the Henley Christmas Festival on 1 December and were also delighted, for the third year running, to be invited to help lead the singing of the carols following the big switch on of the Christmas tree lights. They then entertained the Mayor's guests at her Christmas party for the over-65s on Tuesday 5 December before being behind the door of the Living Advent Calendar at the Kenton Theatre on Wednesday 6 December. At our final assembly this term, there will an opportunity for the whole school to share some of the performances.

As you know, our Sports teams always enjoy enviable success but this term we have a great achievement than usual. Our Year 10s have won the Rugby County Cup Vase. They beat Mathew Arnold School 56-24 in the final at Chipping Norton RFC. Nine tries were scored and all 22 players played their part in the victory. Some fantastic performances from particular players allowed some great team tries to be scored. We are very proud indeed of them.

The Department for Education has recently published to schools its analysis of the 2017 exam results, which importantly includes measures of the progress made by students from their entry to the school in year 7, to their GCSE grades in year 11. Their analysis is that the progress our students make is 'above average' which is a great endorsement of the quality of teaching and learning for all students in the school. We have the seventh best progress score of secondary schools in Oxfordshire, which puts us in the top 20%. On actual achievement, we are in the top three schools in the county. We are committed to providing all our students with a high quality curriculum that supports their progression, whatever route they want to take, and we have worked hard every year to improve the quality of teaching and learning. These outcomes come about because of the day in, day out hard work of all our staff, and I want to record my thanks for their dedication. We also could not do it without the support of all our parents, and the hard work of the students themselves.

Further thanks are due to the Parents' Association who held another very successful quiz night in November. This event was even more successful than usual with over £3,000 raised. There is no doubt this is down to the dedication of the team of volunteers, who excelled themselves in selling tickets and achieving some amazing prizes for the silent auction. We are so grateful to all of you who helped us reach this total in any way.

I would also like to express my thanks to the many parents who are so generously giving to our School Fund. We have been very touched by the gifts and the supportive messages that so often come with them. I continue to work with Headteachers across the country to achieve fairer funding for students in all Oxfordshire's schools.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful holiday, with plenty of time for family and friends. We look forward to welcoming students back for the New Year on Thursday 4 January.



Catharine Darnton  
Headteacher



## Other Uniform Reminders

As you know, we have a pleated skirt for girls as part of the uniform. This term, one or two girls have been wearing similar but not identical styles. Please note that the pleated skirt must be purchased from the school. We still allow girls to wear their choice of style of tailored trouser. Suitable trousers tend to have a waistband and zip and not be made of high stretch fabric.

Leggings and trousers with a skin tight appearance are not suitable. Please note, for both boys and girls, jeans or jeans-style trousers are also not permitted.

## Holidays in term time

You should be aware of Government 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 - Katie Fort

DCHA - Matiss Cases

Falque

DFD - Lola Morrison

DFMW - Iqra Manwar

DGS - Alessandra Plewman

DHJR - Reagan Huntley

DJAS - Emma Francis

DJLG - Olivia Atkinson

DLN - Whole tutor group

DPJY - Anna De'Souza

DROM/GB - Ella Wood

DYF - Gracie Newbold



## ORWELL NEWS

### Tutee of the Term

OAB/ELD - Grace Erbetta

OACM - Rosie Halett

OCH - Lottie Woods

OCLV - Rosie Lock

OFH - Rebecca Tinsley

OGMO - Piers De Jode

OJAW - Bronte Pye

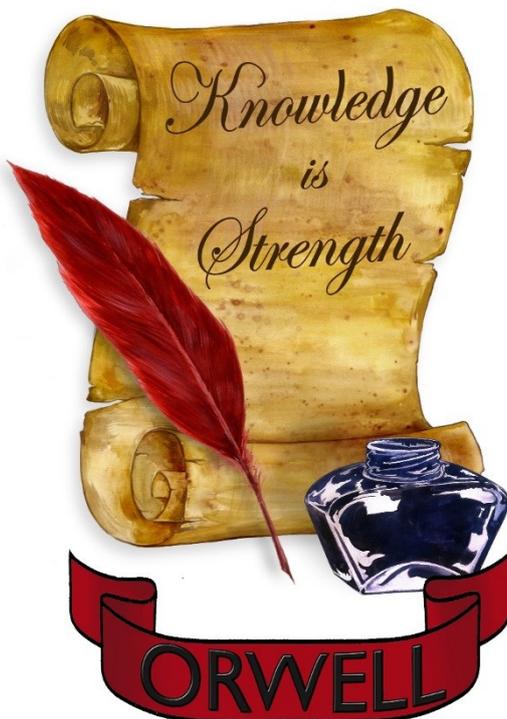
OJDG - Della Luke

OJJD - Kai Larkin

OJWZ - Elana Heilbuth

OLUH - Lois Powell

OTWN - Genna Schafer



## PANKHURST NEWS

### Tutee of the Term:

PCAD/ND - Daisy Feeney

PCD - Poppy Stevens

PCMR - Lauren Perks

PGDM - Daisy Stevens

PHRW - David Wallace

PHS/CW - Gianna Smith

PLOS - Beau Edwards

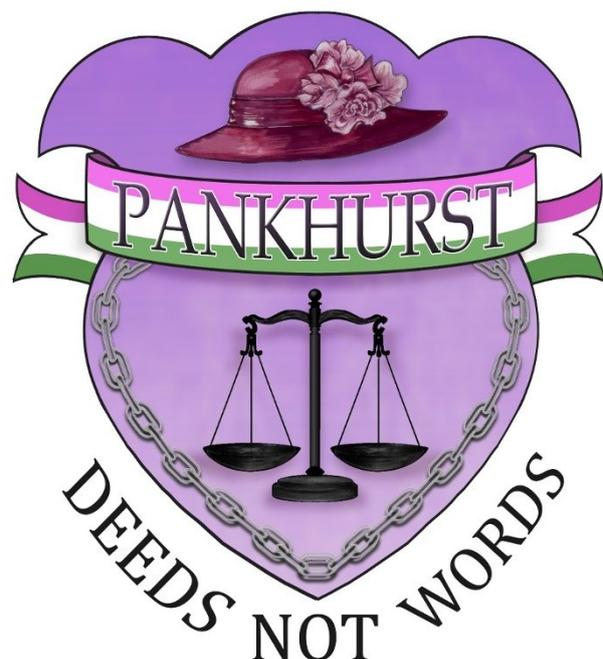
PLSS - Katy Shaw

PKLO - Kyra Hannibal

PKJS - Kala Green

PSC - Josie Thatcher

PSJW - Corey Walton



## Gillotts Voices

The festive season is always a very busy time for the Music Department here at Gillotts and we have been booked up rather well!

On Friday 1st December Gillotts students took to the streets of Henley and did our annual (now traditional) carol singing as part of the Christmas Festival. A lot of fun was had by all and a number of students arrived on the evening and spontaneously joined us to sing along too. We were raising money for this year's school charity - The Nasio Trust. I am pleased to

announce that we raised a record £108.20p!

We also helped lead the carols to the public of Henley with the Mayor at the Town Hall. We had a very fun, if cold(!) evening and we were so pleased to see such a good turn out.

On Tuesday 5th December we had almost the whole of Gillotts Voices down to the Town Hall to attend the Mayor's annual over 65s Christmas Party. 18 of our students expertly served food and drinks to the guests and worked tirelessly for over an hour tending to their needs and requests. We then performed songs at the end of the afternoon which featured a solo from Martha Golledge singing 'Riptide' and also a festive favourite; 'The 12 Days of Christmas' complete with visual aids. We had some lovely comments from the elderly in attendance and I know a great time was had by all. Our students so enjoyed being part of the afternoon and getting the chance to chat with the older generation. The Mayor Kellie Hinton said: "The Gillotts Voices were amazing at serving and providing entertainment. This has definitely been one of the highlights of my mayoral year so far." Another guest said: "...Thank-you to the schoolchildren who have been so lovely."



No time to rest as the very next night, Wednesday 6th December, had Gillotts Voices performing at the Kenton Theatre as part of the Living Advent Calendar. We performed as a group again and this time solos were performed by Martha Golledge ('Riptide') and Isobel Young ('Count on Me'), as well as Hannah Leach-Scrivens performing her original song; Eternal Love. It was a lovely environment to perform in and there was a sizeable crowd there for our audience which was lovely.

## Gillotts Voices (Continued)



Our final and main event came in the form of our annual Carol Service on Wednesday 13th December. Despite the disruption of the two snow days at the start of the week, we rallied together and had more than 60 students down at St Mary's Church for the whole day to rehearse and prepare for the evening. Although we had had less time to prepare than we would have liked, the evening ran smoothly and there were fantastic performances by the Gillotts Voices, Chamber Group and Drama Clubs. The evening was started with Maddie Bourne and Ella Davies (Music Captains) singing a beautiful duet of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' to accompany our candlelit procession. The evening was a great success with many comments that it was 'the best ever'.

A huge well done and thank you to our students, particularly those who have been part of all four events this month. There has been a great deal of time and effort put in to produce these performances and without the commitment and dedication of students and staff alike, they certainly would not have been as successful as they were.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at our next performances in the new year.

Frances David - Subject Leader for Music

## Design Ventura 2017

Well done and thanks to all Year 9 CT Resistant Materials students for their hard work when taking part in the Design Ventura 2017 competition this term. This is a national design and enterprise challenge for students, supported by industry professionals and run by the Design Museum. The students were challenged to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop with the winning product manufactured and sold at the shop. Although our students weren't shortlisted, they were commended for their work and will be receiving certificates in the new year from the Design Museum. Congratulations to Grace Erbetta, Elsa Horne, Tabby Lusted, Amelia Galloway, Olivia Berrie and Sophie Tompkins for submitting their entry (as shown in the picture) and representing the school. The Design Museum is looking forward to Gillotts students again taking part in this competition in 2018.

Mrs Wakefield

**Design Ventura 2017**



Our Final Design:

We decided to choose the infinity cube because it is a toy which can not only help children who like to fidget but also be fun for the whole family to use together or as house decor. This multi-purpose cube is perfect for the whole family. It has many different landmarks on it that include the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben which can help the kids learn the world.

We checked our brief and decided that our product fitted into it therefore we started to develop our product.

Cost:

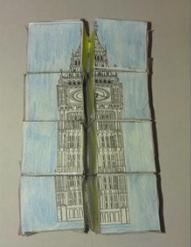
To make our product it would cost £6.50 to make one. The products that we need are:

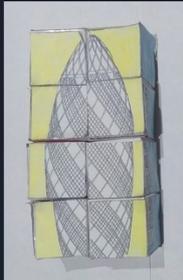
- Chipboard (3x24x24) - for the main parts of the infinity cube -£2
- Very thin layers of plastic - to attach the wood together -£1
- Ink - to print the design onto -£3.50

To make a profit from our product we suggest to sell it at £9.

The product:





## Year 7 Trip to Winchester Science Centre

On Wednesday 6th December, 44 year 7 students and 5 members of staff visited the Winchester Science Centre.

In our first activity, we learnt about rockets and how forces allow them to go into space. At first our leader demonstrated forces to us and showed us some awesome experiments. She set a balloon (filled with hydrogen) on fire and then ignited methanol inside a giant bottle. We had the opportunity to make our own rockets using plastic bottles, water and a bike tyre pump. We tested these outside (the teacher's rocket won).

After lunch, we were allowed to explore all the exhibits - they were very good. There was a wheelchair basketball area, a reaction time/speed test and lots of other things to do with forces and motion. Finally, we went into the planetarium where we had a tour of our Solar System and a look at the milky way and our local cluster of galaxies.

Happy Christmas from Team Science

Follow us on twitter: @gillotts\_sci



## Secondary School Health Nurse Team Newsletter Term 1

*This newsletter aims to provide families and young people with some useful tips for keeping healthy. Childhood is an important time to instill healthy habits and learn crucial life skills. Establishing these habits early on will help to improve your child's quality of life in the future and enable them to reach their full potential educationally.*

### **Immunisations at Secondary School**

Students in Year 9 will be offered immunisations at all Oxfordshire schools from January 2018, as part of the school based national childhood immunisation programme. The immunisations will protect against **Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio** and **Meningitis strains ACWY**.

Your child will be given a letter, consent form, and an information leaflet before the immunisation date agreed with their school. Please discuss the immunisations with your child and return the completed consent form to your child's school as soon as possible. Every student needs to return a consent form whether or not they need the immunisation. If your child is absent on

the day of immunisation, a follow up visit will be made to your child's school when they will have a second opportunity to receive the immunisation. If you have any questions, please contact your School Health-Nurse, contact details overleaf. Further information is available from [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)

### **Managing Allergies in School**

An allergy is a reaction the body has to a particular food or substance. Allergies are very common; it is thought to affect more than one in four people in the UK at some point in their [lives. www.nhs.uk/conditions/Allergies/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Allergies/)

People can be allergic to almost anything, for example, food particularly nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs and cow's milk, medicine, latex, insect stings, pollen and animal dander. Most of the time mild allergies can be dealt with by avoiding the substances that cause the allergic reaction called allergens or triggers, help can be sought from your GP to manage your child's allergies. Children at risk of a severe allergic reaction, which are potentially life threatening, are assessed at an allergy clinic. If they are at risk of an anaphylactic (life threatening) reaction they will be required to have emergency treatment available at all times - an **adrenaline auto injector**, which could be an Epipen, Jext or Emerade device, which are all easy and safe to use.

**School staff should be informed of all children at risk of a SEVERE allergy with auto injectors. Further information on known allergens and management plans need to be shared with school and updated annually.**

School staff are offered training each year by the school health nurse team, so school staff can safely care for children and administer adrenaline in an emergency if required. An Allergy Action Plan is written in conjunction with the Allergy Clinic. The Allergy Action Plan should be reviewed annually and we ask that all parents contact their local school health nurse team, to report any changes and to ensure their child's Allergy Action Plan is up to date.



## Supporting Teenagers to understand their emotions

It can be hard to know where to start to get teenagers to open up about their feelings, and talk openly about what's bothering them.

Anger may be an issue for your child if they:

- Hit or physically hurt other people
- Shout at people
- Break things
- Lose control
- Wind people up
- Spend time with people who you they know will get them into trouble



Other signs may be:

- Eating problems
- Feeling low
- Putting ourselves in danger
- Refusing to go to school
- Not talking to anyone
- Harming themselves

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/anger>

### Learning to control angry emotions

Anger is a normal emotion, but it can become a problem for young people if they find it difficult to keep under control. The good news is that they can learn to control their emotions with your support. Encourage your child to recognize signs they are getting angry; their heart will beat faster and they will breathe more quickly, they may feel tension in their shoulders or clenching of their fists. **If they notice these signs, encourage them to get out of the situation, before they lose control.**

Ideas to reduce angry emotions in young people include:

- **Count to 10**, this gives time to think, and resist the impulse to act without thinking
- **Breathe slowly**, breathing out for longer than you breathe in, helps you relax and think more clearly
- **Regular exercise**, can reduce stress levels, which may reduce angry outbursts
- **Looking after yourself**, getting a good nights sleep, avoiding drugs and alcohol, and eating healthily can all make it easier to control emotions and increase feelings of well being
- **Getting creative**, drawing, writing down feelings, listening to music can all help improve emotions
- **Talking to someone about your feelings**

*The School Nurse for Gillotts is Emma Moorhouse who is usually available 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday. If you would*



*like to speak to your school nurse please contact:*

**Tel: 07917555428 Email: [emma.moorhouse@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.moorhouse@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)**



Give the gift that keeps on giving this year.

The recommended new books for each year are on the website under the parent tab, under 'students' reading lists'.

I can be reached at [gclarke@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:gclarke@gillotts.org.uk) or on 01491 636827 if you want more suggestions.

### **School Uniform**

As I am sure most parents are aware, Brian Rosier (trading as No Sweat) supplies and manages both our regulation uniform as well as other items of uniform and even marker pens so parents can name their child's clothing. Brian works hard to always source the best combination of value and quality for our uniform so that we can keep prices as affordable as possible – this is why you may notice the manufacturer of certain items sometimes changes. As well as supporting the school in this way, Brian also supplies sports kits for many local clubs, branded corporate merchandise and promotional products.

If you need anything for a club, business or event and you are not sure where to source your requirements, why not give Brian a call or contact him by email. Brian has kindly committed to donate 5% of any orders made by new customers introduced to No Sweat by Gillotts' parents. The school has been very happy with his service and we feel confident any new customers will be as well. What's more, the school might benefit from any donations.

Call Brian : 01189 724005 or 07973 391665  
Email Brian : [no-sweat1000@hotmail.com](mailto:no-sweat1000@hotmail.com)

# **pabulummm**

HONESTLY GOOD FOOD

**Pabulum currently have a new vacancy for  
CATERING ASSISTANT  
at Gillotts School**

You would help prepare and cook a range of delicious food from fresh, seasonal ingredients, serve our great customers, and clear and clean up after service. Experience in a catering environment would be great and we will also support further training for the right person. A satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure will be required (which Pabulum will pay for) and you get a lovely uniform to wear.

Monday-Friday, 25 hours per week, term-time only!

**For further information please contact:  
GillottsSchoolGIL241@pabulum-catering.co.uk**  
*We are an equal opportunities employer.*

## **Letting the School Know about Absences**

Any attendance related issues (ie: medical appointments, absence requests, sickness) are dealt with by the attendance administrator. You can let her know of any issues via [attendance@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:attendance@gillotts.org.uk) or by leaving her an answer phone message on 01491 636 812.

**Gillotts School PE is now on twitter. Please follow @gillottsPE for fixtures/results and achievements**



## Advice and Guidance

### Oxcentric

[www.oxme.info/opportunities](http://www.oxme.info/opportunities)

This website is regularly updated with opportunities around Oxfordshire. It is suitable for young people looking for work, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and much more.

Webchat: you can contact The Opportunities Team on 01865 328460, by email [opportunities@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:opportunities@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or online. You can chat to the team about jobs, opportunities and other issues go to the Oxcentric homepage and find the icon on the right of the page.

Resources and tips: download worksheet on interview techniques, CV writing and much more from your first job (put into search bar) section of Oxcentric.

### National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> - this offers information and professional advice about education, training and work to people of all ages. The website, helpline and web chat offers confidential and impartial advice supported by qualified careers advisers. The telephone number is 0800 100 900

### National Apprenticeship Service

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/> - this supports, funds and co-ordinates the delivery of Apprenticeships throughout England.

### Adviza

Adviza is offering a **Parent Adviza** service. Their careers advisers are able to work through a range of concerns with parents to help them support their son or daughter. Appointments are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. The cost is £49-00 per session. For further information and to book go to [www.adviza.org.uk/shop](http://www.adviza.org.uk/shop).

Adviza is also offering a **Graduate Adviza** service which is designed to help those students who have graduated in the last five years, and those about to graduate, to take their next step. Sessions are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. The cost is £49-00 per session. For further information and to book go to [www.adviza.org.uk/shop](http://www.adviza.org.uk/shop)



### eCLIPS

eCLIPS is an easy-to-use online careers resource that provides regular updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers.

Log in: GILLSCH96 (no password required)



## Term dates for 2017 - 2018

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2017.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	4 September – 20 October 2017	35
<b>October holiday</b>	23 October – 27 October 2017	
Autumn Term	30 October – 19 December 2017	37
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	20 December 2017 – 3 January 2018	
Spring Term	4 January – 9 February 2018	27
<b>Spring half term</b>	12 February – 16 February 2018	
Spring Term	19 February – 29 March 2018	29
<b>Easter holiday</b>	30 March – 13 April 2018	
Summer Term	16 April – 25 May 2018	29
<b>Late Summer half term</b>	28 May - 1 June 2018	
Summer Term	4 June - 25 July 2018	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 4 September 2017

Friday 29 September 2017

Monday 23 July 2018

Tuesday 24 July 2018

Wednesday 25 July 2018

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2017. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

7 May 2018 is the May Day bank holiday.

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2017

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Tuesday 19 December 2017

Friday 20 July 2018

## 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	4 September – 19 October 2018	34
<b>October holiday</b>	22 October – 26 October 2018	
Autumn Term	29 October – 21 December 2018	40
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	20 December 2018 – 3 January 2019	
Spring Term	7 January – 15 February 2019	30
<b>Spring half term</b>	18 February – 22 February 2019	
Spring Term	25 February – 5 April 2019	30
<b>Easter holiday</b>	8 April – 22 April 2019	
Summer Term	23 April – 24 May 2019	23
<b>Late Summer half term</b>	27 May - 31 May 2019	
Summer Term	3 June - 24 July 2019	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>

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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