

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 82% of students have achieved the benchmark of passing both English and mathematics at grade 4 (- the new equivalent of C). For the first time the concept of a strong pass (grade 5) has been introduced. 67% achieved a strong pass in both English and mathematics, against a national average for this figure of 42%. A stunning 48% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate, against a national average of 21%. An impressive 31% of students left with five or more A*/A grades (or equivalent). You can see the provisional data for 2017 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.



This is a consequence of the commitment and hard work of the students and staff. 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 5 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

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 - Lauren Leach-
Scrivens

DCHA - Lexie Searstone

DFD - Wojciech Krupa

DFMW - Millie Hill

DGS - Oli Warren

DHJR - Harry Ayers

DJAS - Darcy Coates

DJLG - Charlie James

DLN - Gaia De Gaspari

DPJY - Elliot Fielder

DROM/GB - Maisie Farr

DYF - Fran Whittle



ORWELL NEWS

Tutee of the Term

OAB/ELD - Oliver George

OACM - Geno Green

OCH - Ivo Dickason

OCLV - Freya Meeks

OFH - John Yolland

OGMO - Karolina

Kaczorowska

OJAW - Vicky Macdonagh

OJDG - Aleks Rinta-Suski

OJJD - Christina Berry

OJWZ - Dan James

OLUH - Max Fletcher

OTWN - Sol Wallis-

Robinson

PANKHURST NEWS

Tutee of the Term:

PCAD/ND - Mathilde Williams

PCD - Miko Billurcu

PCMR - Lio Mantica

PGDM - Cameron Osbourne

PHRW - Luke Davies

PHS/CW - Daniel Fannan

PLOS - Sebastian Edwards

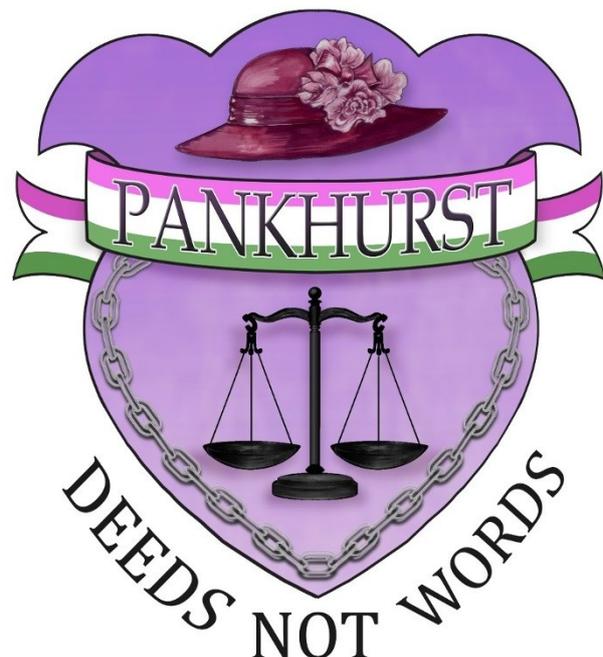
PLSS - Charles Washbourne

PKLO - Naomi Hahn

PKJS - Poppy Skidmore

PSC - Desmond Malatt

PSJW - Amelia Jacob





World Challenge 2017

In July/August 2017 Gillotts School took 14 Year 11 students to Morocco for their World Challenge Expedition. The trip entailed of a project phase, trek phase and an R&R phase.

During the project phase, the students lived within the local community and supported the skilled workers within the local Primary School to complete the volleyball court and toilets for the students. The students worked really hard to get all the work completed over the three days and they did this by working as a team and taking on advice from the local workforce.

The trek phase took students completely out of their comfort zone. They spent 4 days walking 40 kms up and down the mountain. They got to experience the sunset in the mountains and how the local community go about their lives living in the mountains.

The R&R phase took us back to Marrakech to experience the atmosphere of the souks and getting to grips with the bartering. This allowed the students to unwind and reflect on the trip.

The students were a great credit to the school and have taken home life long memories.



Berlin Trip 2017

A group of 23 Year 11 students studying German flew to Berlin last Thursday for 4 days. They had a wonderful experience visiting the sights of the city using Berlin's wonderful public transport network. There was a sombre visit to the 'Gedenkstätte Berlin Hohen-schönhausen', the memorial for the victims of the Stasi, the former East German police force but also lighter moments bowling on the Alexanderplatz, eating ice-creams admiring the wonderful roof of the Sony Centre on Potsdamer Platz but also being the backing group to a singer on the Hackescher Markt!



Year 9 Geography and Mathematics Trip to the River Pang

Year 9 students spent the last few days before half term on a combined geography and mathematics trip to the River Pang. They have gone out for half a day in each of their maths classes for a whistle-stop tour along the length of the river. The data collected from these trips will then be analysed and presented using a range of data presentation techniques in their mathematics lessons. Further investigation and interpretation will then be completed in geography.



The aim of the trips (apart from having fun!) has been to investigate how the river changes along its course from its source in the Berkshire Downs near Compton to near where it joins the River Thames at Pangbourne. While we had planned to collect data at two sites along the river's course this was made somewhat more difficult by the fact that someone appeared to have 'pulled the plug out' at the first site. While there had been over a foot of water at the same site a few weeks before, when we did the same trip with Year 11, the 18 month long drought which we have been experiencing meant that the water had finally disappeared.



However, we managed to recover from this surprise and turned it to our own advantage as it raised some really interesting questions and discussions about where the water had gone – and what had happened to all the fish?

At the last site, further downstream, we did find some water and the students were able to collect data including river depth, width, wetted

perimeters and velocity. The analysis back in the classroom will help to compare the River Pang with the 'textbook' rivers learnt about in class.

The students have certainly enjoyed themselves and have learnt a lot about fieldwork techniques and the extent to which 'real life' doesn't always quite match up to what they learn in class. This has raised interesting questions about why things are different 'out in the field'. They have also worked well in their groups and developed their team work and organisational skills. These will come in handy for when many of them go on to take geography at GCSE. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we have some wet weather over the next 12 months so that when we go back this time next year there is a bit more water to measure.

Dr Newbold



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.

The role of the School Health Nurse

School Health Nurses work in partnership with school staff to deliver the Healthy Child Programme. All School Nurses employed by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust are qualified nurses who have a special interest in working with young people, and have undergone additional specialist training to support children and young people in a school setting. School Health Nurses work closely with teaching staff and pastoral staff to provide support and guidance to students, to help them make healthy lifestyle choices. Based in secondary schools they are ideally placed to offer a range of services with the aim of improving long term health outcomes for young people.

We offer a wide range of services which include; Immunisations in accordance with the UK schedule, support at transitional points in school life, drop In access & individual support , small group work, managing emergency medication within school, supporting the school PSHE curriculum, themed health promotions activities for all school students, referrals and signposting to specialist services and sexual health services for some students.

This is a confidential service, available to all students. Our priority is to safeguard the health and well-being of young people at all times so information will be shared if it is felt the young person, or somebody else is unsafe or at risk of harm.

Further information about the School Health Nurse team can be found on our website:
<http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people/oxon/school-health-nursing/>

Oxford School Health Nurses are now on Facebook

The page has been running since the beginning of the summer holidays and to date has been viewed by nearly a thousand people! The social media team who manage the page have created a lively and dynamic information set that can inform parents and young people on the services available. We use videos, links to other sites and also create our own media. www.facebook.com/oxschoolnurses



As well as nationwide public health messages, the page contains local information on events and services parents, carers and young people can access. Our SHN team can see at a 'click' who has seen the page, whether they 'like it' and monitor any responses.

New HPV Schedule Information

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination is part of the NHS school based Immunisation programme in the UK. All girls in Year 8 are offered the immunisation to protect against cervical cancer.



The HPV vaccine consists of two injections given into the upper arm at an interval of between six and twenty four months. In Oxfordshire we are delivering the programme with an interval of 12 months, in line with Public Health England's recommendation. This means that girls will receive one immunisation when they are in Year 8 and a second one when they are in Year 9. Both immunisations need to be given to achieve the best protection. Girls unable to receive their immunisation at the initial school session, due to absence or other reasons, will be invited to a catch up session in school or a local venue. Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/hpv

Childline have launched an app designed by young people for young people. It covers all aspects of mental health issues experienced by children and young people. It provides information on topics such as self-harm, risky behaviors, bullying and many more. In addition to this, it gives you an opportunity to speak to a counsellor online or via a helpline number. <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/for-me>



It is secure, as you have to provide a password before a counsellor speaks directly to you. It also provides written information and self-help tools on all aspects of mental health. The feedback from the young people who have used it has been positive.

Taking Time Off?

Absence from school is sometimes unavoidable, but frequent absences for minor illnesses may contribute to pupils getting behind with their work, finding friendships difficult to maintain and losing their confidence

in the classroom. When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school, consider:

Is your child well enough to manage school activities? Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If your child is too ill to attend school, ensure you're following the school absence policy, and help them get back to school as soon as they are well.

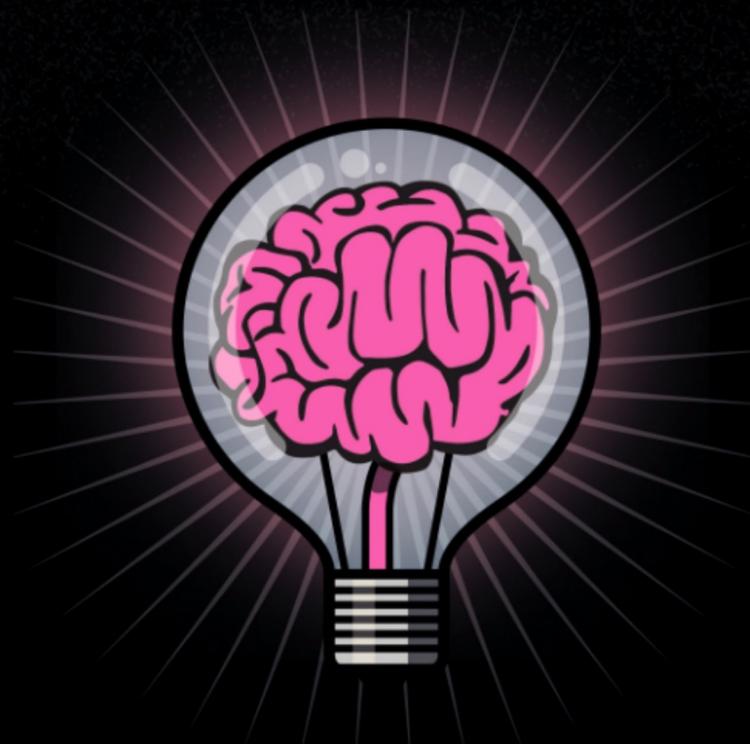
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/absence-due-sickness-school>

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



Gillotts Parents Association

QUIZ NIGHT

Gillotts School Hall

Saturday 11th November

7pm for 7.30 start

Bar!

Prizes!

Prestige!

£10 per person inc nibbles

TO BOOK NOW

email gillottspa@gmail.com

Tables of 8-10. Bring a team or join a table of parents from your year group

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 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

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 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.

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



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

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
October holiday	22 October – 26 October 2018	
Autumn Term	29 October – 21 December 2018	40
Christmas holiday	20 December 2017 – 3 January 2019	
Spring Term	7 January – 15 February 2019	30
Spring half term	18 February – 22 February 2019	
Spring Term	25 February – 5 April 2019	30
Easter holiday	8 April – 22 April 2019	
Summer Term	23 April – 24 May 2019	23
Late Summer half term	27 May - 31 May 2019	
Summer Term	3 June - 24 July 2019	38
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Tuesday 4 September 2018

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Wednesday 24 July 2019

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 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