



## Dear Parents

Many of you will have seen the 'league tables' published in the newspapers, showing Gillotts in the top few schools in Oxfordshire, achieving a Progress 8 score of 0.37. This means that students on average achieved over a third of a grade better in each of their GCSEs than expected. We are obviously absolutely delighted to have maintained this very high performance. Success like this is not easy to achieve and takes hard work, day in, day out, year in, year out. What also matters to us is that, whilst we may not be quite top every year, we have consistently now, over many years, maintained our position amongst the very best schools in Oxfordshire. This is a wonderful testament to everyone's hard work, particularly all the teachers and support staff here, but also to all our young people, who work with such dedication, and to you as parents, who work with us every step of the way. Thank you.

You can find the tables at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>  
You can choose Oxfordshire in the drop down for the LA, to see our results in comparison with other local schools.

This pressure is now on this year's Year 11 to meet their potential. I know that they, and you, are conscious of the very difficult employment situation for young people at present and the cost of university education. The message we have been sharing with

them is that it is important that they achieve their personal best, and do not settle for 'just enough' to get them onto the next stage. When we return from half term, we will be into the last 44 school days until GCSE examinations start in earnest and it is critical that the students maximise the impact of the time left. In particular, achieving grade 4 and above passes in English and maths is of critical importance – students are not funded to study post-16 unless they have these passes, or are resitting. We think it is much better to go for it first time! Also, now there are almost no AS levels, universities will be making their offers based on GCSE grades – so if you are looking at the best universities, the number of passes at grade 7 and above is crucial.

Year 9 have just been taking their first steps in the Key Stage 4 journey as they make decisions about routes and courses, with the support of their form tutors, Heads of House and subject teachers. I have been impressed by how maturely they have been engaging with the decision making – they certainly have lots to look forward to.

We know this is a time of year when some parents consider a different school for their child, usually grammar or independent schools. Whilst we completely respect parents' rights to choose the best school for their child, we know that all students, including those with high prior attainment, achieve well at Gillotts. The results of our highest performers at GCSE every year are testament to this – students could not do any better. Students who have left us often return to tell us that both the quality of teaching and learning and of relationships with staff at Gillotts far exceed anything they have gone on to experience. There are also huge advantages in being educated in your community, with all the potential for connections in-school to be deepened by taking part in extracurricular activities in the town such as sport, music, drama and cadets.

Gillotts is an inclusive school and our students learn to interact positively with their peers of all backgrounds and abilities, including those with significant difficulties. These early experiences put them at huge advantage when entering the world of work. Of course that means they do have some more challenging experiences, but life isn't smooth or simple and building resilience in our young people is crucial. All our sixth form providers tell us how very well prepared our students are for post 16 study - in their maturity, independence and all-round readiness for the next stage of their lives. Just because a child could go to a grammar school, that does not mean that it is automatically the right choice; if a child is thriving at Gillotts, there is no reason for them to leave. If you are considering a move and want to discuss, please do speak to your child's Head of House or any of the Leadership Team.

As I write, we are looking forward to this week's performances of our KS3 school play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Students have been working hard with Mrs Alder to put this show on – I am sure it will be a great success!

We wish all the students and staff on the ski trip a great week. Whatever you are doing, we hope you all have a good break.



Catharine Darnton  
Headteacher

## 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 Chloe Catt	DREW Charlie Upsher
DJAS Suhana Kalirai	DGS Georgia Hunter
DFD Oly Deacon	DPJY Luca Emmanuel
DFMW Oliver Saunders	DROM / DGB Eddie Handley
DHJR/ DSEL Bailey Stowell	DCHA Ben Roberts
DJLG Ben Palmer	DGLW Vanessa Rosado



## Orwell News

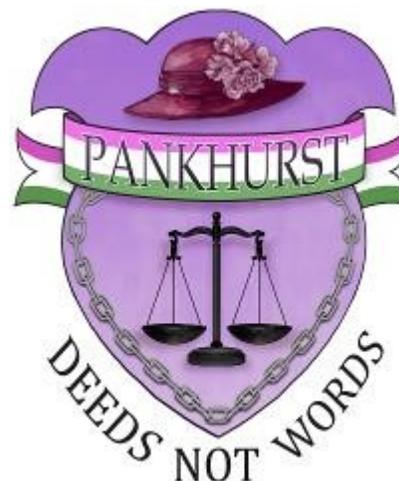
### Tutee of the Term

OAB / CST Ceri Ann Isaac	OGMO William Sheard
OACM Annabel Griffin	OJDG George Partridge
OBEG Finlay Topham	OJSK Imogen Galloway
OCG Jake Davidson	OLEP Gabriel Andlauer – Turner
OCH Cody Presley	OPCM / Matthew Wheeler
OGDL / ELD Beccy Barry	OTWN Ted Woodisse

## Pankhurst News

### Tutee of the Term

PKLO Elise Russell	PCAD / ND Harry Hester
PHJ / JJB Sophia Kent	PCD / LS Miko Billurcu
PGDM Gwennie Hunter	PACF Sarah Stevens
PSMS / HLM Eleena Lee	PFH/ HJS Hannah Moat
PTAG Rodrigo Haivaz	PREAMaddie Wakefield
PSJW Archie Fulbrook	PCRM Poppy Barker



## 'Not by ourselves alone'



The focus for this term has been the value of 'Respect', and through our tutor programme and assemblies, we have been helping students to think carefully about how 'Respect' can be demonstrated and shown within their day-to-day interactions.

Respect is an incredibly important life skill for everyone to develop and uphold, and it has been lovely to see the range of opportunities students have had to demonstrate the value. Of course, we also continue to promote the idea of 'Kindness' and have had around another 150 achievement points added for 'Acts of kindness' this term! Well done all.

Here are some of the things that have been going on this term linked to our 'Not by ourselves alone' programme, all available to view at our school Twitter account [@gillottshenley](https://twitter.com/gillottshenley)



**Gillotts Library**  
@GillottsGLC

Following

We let one of Mrs McKisack's Year 7 pupils take the English/Library lesson today. It was all about New Year and making resolutions.



11:02 AM - 8 Jan 2019



**Gillotts School**  
@GillottsHenley

Just before Christmas we were delighted to have ex-student Frances [@lifeasitisnoww](https://twitter.com/lifeasitisnoww) in to talk to Year 8, 10 and 11 about [#MentalHealthAwareness](https://twitter.com/mentalhealthawareness) and [#eatingdisorderawareness](https://twitter.com/eatingdisorderawareness). A personal experience for Frances, and much appreciated by [#Gillotts](https://twitter.com/gillotts). Thank you. [#henley](https://twitter.com/henley)



12:36 PM - 8 Jan 2019

1 Retweet 5 Likes





Awesome presentation this morning to all teachers by a student on how he has overcome difficulties. We are so proud of him! 🙌🙌 #henley #proud #resilience #pixl #LORIC



9:58 AM - 9 Jan 2019

10 Likes



Some really engaging and insightful discussions on Brexit and other topics at Debating club today! A great new activity in school, really building into the value of #respect which we are concentrating on this term! #henley #nboa #pixl #debating #futureleaders #LORIC



1:57 PM - 22 Jan 2019



Year 10 assembly focused on resilience being an important life skill, demonstrated perfectly by using @JoshBoggi9 as our focus. Hoping he can visit in person through @Blesma soon! #LORIC #pixl #resilience #henley #makinggenerationR

Josh Boggi – an example of Resilience



*"I'm still here. I'm still the same person as I was before; i've just got a few limbs missing. Yes I did want to be a soldier. But now, I'll settle for just being me."*

5:05 PM - 16 Jan 2019

2 Retweets 5 Likes



Continuing our theme of #respect, Year 11 student leaders running house assemblies on respecting differences this week. Also, we're encouraging nominations for #RandomActOfKindness seen around school. Students nominating each other with a kindness card! #henley #pixl #nboa



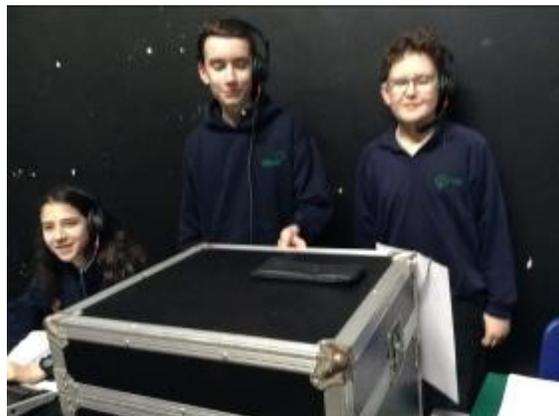
9:56 AM - 24 Jan 2019

3 Retweets 9 Likes

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Wednesday 13th February saw Gillotts transported to Athens as we dozed our way into a A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students have been working incredibly hard for the 5 months leading to the performance and they didn't disappoint. Outstanding performances from all.





## Year 10 Knife Skills

### Portioning a chicken

Barry Wagner from Gabriel Machin in Henley came to demonstrate to the students and kindly provided the chickens.



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

### Bronze Award

On Saturday 2nd February, this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award students completed their training day, making it in despite the snow. The picture shows students hard at work planning their route for their expedition in May. They had training in navigation, first aid, packing their equipment and meal planning, all the important skills needed on their expedition. The trainers commended all 80 students on their great attitude and focus on this important day.

### Silver Award

12 Year 10 students completed their training day at Gillotts on 9th February in preparation for their 3-day hikes in May and June. It will be tough carrying enough supplies for all 3 days but they are looking forward to the challenge. We wish them good weather and few blisters.



## Henley Youth Festival

The Henley Youth Festival is a unique opportunity available to all youngsters who either live in or around Henley, or go to school here, to take part in the creative arts and showcase their wonderful talents.

This year the dates are 4-17 March, and all entry forms and details are on [www.hyf.org.uk](http://www.hyf.org.uk)

There are many ways for our Gillotts pupils to get involved - they can sing, dance, play an instrument or perform an entertaining act, on their own or in a group on the Kenton Theatre stage, benefiting from a real and appreciative audience.

They could also get involved back stage, or with sound and lighting, or presenting.

Solo musicians, bands and DJs in years 9-13 can perform at Lovibonds on 9 March, or just come along and enjoy the music.

Other competitions include writing, art and film, and entries can be brought to school (student services) if they like, for me to submit for them.

Those interested in journalism can enter the Young Reporter competition and win a chance to cover a HYF event, work with the Henley Standard editorial team, and have their report published in the Henley Standard.

The cross country fun run will be held at the Rugby Club this year, and is organised by Physiologic. It's open to all students in years 6-11.

You can like our Facebook page, check the website [www.hyf.org.uk](http://www.hyf.org.uk) or email me [siobhan-pratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siobhan-pratt@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.

We hope you will encourage your children to get involved in any areas that appeal to them, whether its on stage, backstage or entering a competition or the fun run. And do get in touch if you would like to volunteer yourself, or join as a Friend.

Thank you





## Year 9 immunisation information

**Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio (TDP) and Meningitis ACWY** – All Year 9 students were offered these vaccinations in school on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. Any students who were unwell or absent from school on this day will have the opportunity to have the immunisations on **9th May** in school.

Students who also require a **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)** vaccine will be given this on **9th May**.

If your child has not brought a consent form home for you to sign but you would like them to have these immunisations please ask them to collect a spare form from student services and then return it once completed to student services, FAO Emma Merchant, School Health Nurse.

**HPV 2 vaccination** – The second and final HPV vaccine for **Year 9 girls** will be offered in school on 20th March. If your daughter did not have her first vaccine last academic year and you would like her to join the programme this year please email me on [emma.merchant@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.merchant@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

## Gillotts/Henley College internship programme

We have just begun a new project in conjunction with Henley College, aimed at those interested in working in education in the future. The programme is designed to provide work experience within Gillotts for students currently at Henley College, but also to provide them with opportunities to observe lessons and to discuss with the teachers why they have structured their lessons and tasks in a particular way. This will help them prepare for their future careers, but also mean that over the week they are in school we are training up several extra pairs of hand to assist in our departments and allow them to provide support to many of our current students.

The first students will be arriving after half term, but we are always looking for more - for this year or next. Any interested students currently in Year 12 or Year 13 at Henley College should contact [jgadsden@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:jgadsden@gillotts.org.uk) and any current Year 11 interested in coming back next year should speak to Mr Gadsden.

## Parents Association Update

£250 worth of PE equipment is up for grabs! Let's make sure it's headed to Gillotts!!

HYF Run - Saturday 16th March - 10:30am to 12:30pm, Henley Rugby Club

If Gillotts have the most secondary school students participating in the Henley Youth Festival fun run this year, the PE Department will receive £250 of much needed equipment, courtesy of Physiologic, event sponsors.

There are medals for all runners, and prizes for category winners.

10:45 Year 7/8 (approx 2km)

11:00 Year 9/10 (approx 2.5km)

11:20 Year 11 (approx 3km)

More details can be found on the Youth Festival website [www.hyf.org.uk](http://www.hyf.org.uk) and registration is via the link below

Sign up now!

<https://www.physiolistic.co.uk/hyf-run>

See you there!

Best wishes,

The PA Team  
[gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com)



## Paid Internship Programme for Teaching

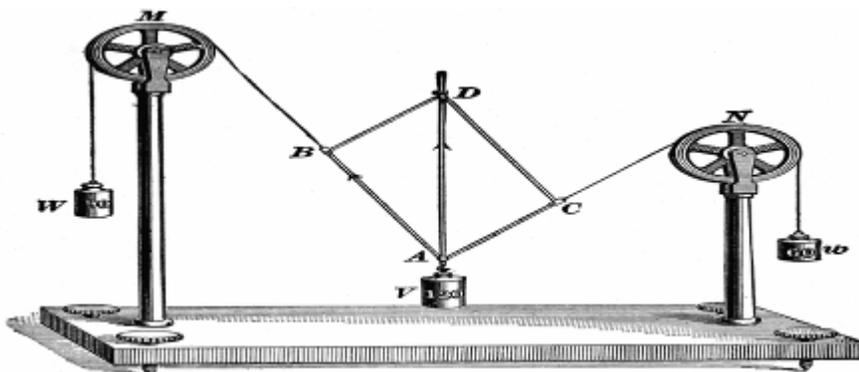
Are you in your **penultimate year** of study of a STEM degree? If yes then we have a paid work-experience programme that might be just right for you!

We have won a DFE grant to offer teaching internships running from the 24<sup>th</sup> June-19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in state secondary schools across Oxfordshire. Interns will receive a bursary of £300/week.

The programme is designed to give you a realistic picture of what teaching maths or physics would be like and includes the chance to be involved in:

- structured training, shadowing and lesson observation, opportunities to jointly plan and deliver lessons
- running science projects, offering support for children who are struggling, and helping with experiments
- one to one mentoring sessions with experts in their field

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/>





## OTSA School Experience Programme (SEP)

Teaching is more than just a job; it is a vocation but it is not for everyone. The best way to decide whether or not teaching might be the right career for you is to get some classroom experience. Sign up for the OTSA School Experience Programme [here](#).

We work with schools across Oxfordshire to offer interested applicants a chance to get into state schools and see what life in the classroom is really like. We run this programme because we want to make getting experience in schools as easy as possible. If you would like us to we'll guide you on every step on the journey from these early observation experiences, through preparing you for interview, onto a training course and throughout your career.

Placements are typically one or two days long with the majority of the time being spent in the classroom in lessons. On the first day, there will be some time to think about how to observe lessons effectively as well as some information on the different training routes. After that you will be able to watch a range of subject lessons taught to different age groups, observe tutor time (part of the pastoral programme) and talk to teachers about their experiences of day-to-day life in school. As well as giving invaluable insight into whether or not teaching might be right for you, these placements also provide relevant school experience to support an application for teacher training.

I have been teaching for fifteen years in Oxfordshire state schools and despite the undeniable pressures of the job, I know I wouldn't do anything else!

### **Sarah McHugh**

Teaching School Director



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

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

### 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 2019.

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