



Parents' Newsletter



Dear parents

We have finally reached the end of another hectic, enjoyable and successful year. As ever, this term is all about hellos and goodbyes. Year 11 certainly went out in style at their Prom, which we held for the first time this year at Badgemore Golf Club. The elegance of the surroundings certainly added a little extra. It was a lovely occasion for both staff and students, and we were all very proud to see how grown up they have become! They were a pleasure to celebrate with and it was lovely to have

so many of you with us to see their arrival in the many and varied forms of transport! Once again, we have run five very successful Pioneer weeks for all Year 6 students joining us in September. Feedback from the students on the weeks was very positive. Favourite things included using Bunsen burners in Science, and of course the choice in the canteen and the space on the field. At the end of the week, parents told us that the worries had been allayed and their children 'couldn't wait' for September! It was lovely that many of our Pioneers and their parents then joined us at the Parents' Association Summer Party – the perfect weather made the Mansion block lawn the perfect setting, and we had a record turnout.

There have been many other excitements this term. Year 9 made their regular visit to Woodlands, with 60 students taking part in gorge walking, caving, canoeing and climbing. Our Germanists also enjoyed their trip to the Mosel valley. As ever, we have done incredibly well in all the Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire inter-school sport competitions. We are looking forward to the last events of term - sports day, a music concert on the last night, and then our final assembly, including academic prizes, on the last day.

Inevitably there are some staff goodbyes too. All those who are leaving us will be much missed and we thank them heartily for the way they have contributed to the overall success of the school.

We look forward to welcoming back Year 7 and Year 10 on Tuesday 3 September and all other students on Wednesday 4 September.

Please note that the Government has changed the date of the **early May Bank Holiday** from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all the support you give the school and wish you all a very happy and refreshing holiday.

Best wishes

Catharine Darnton
Headteacher

Giving through School Fund

Our School Fund is an opportunity for parents to support the quality of education for their children through making regular voluntary contributions to be used directly to provide resources for use in the classroom and at home.

We are incredibly grateful to parents who have this year given the wonderful sum of £35,080.

Unlike many schools, until recently, Gillotts had not had a tradition of regular individual donations to support the school. However, as you will have seen from recent media coverage, the financial climate for all schools is becoming increasingly difficult. School funding in cash terms has hardly increased since 2010 in spite of steadily rising costs so in real terms, our income is falling. This is making it harder for the school to deliver the excellent teaching and learning we aspire to.

There is no obligation or pressure to donate but, if you would like to, we will be grateful for whatever you can afford.

The Parents' Association fully supports the school in striving to maintain a high standard of education for our children in the face of reduced income. Donating to the School Fund will be a way of trying to ensure that our children continue to receive the excellent standard of education that Gillotts at present provides. The School Fund is also a way for parents/ carers who do not have time to help with the PA to be involved with the school.

The Flier sent out with this newsletter gives you all the information you need to set up regular contribution. Thank you.

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/>

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**.

We also have a clear **no trainer** policy. Please take care when buying shoes for school as many manufacturers advertise their products as school shoes even though they are clearly black trainers. There is further guidance on the Parent area of our school website but if in doubt, email us a picture of what you are intending to buy and we will advise.

One further issue that we can have problems with in September is students who acquire **unusual hair styles/ colours** or who have **visible piercings** just before the return to school in September. These are not acceptable and students will be sent home to remedy any uniform issues at the start of the new school year.

Not by ourselves alone July 2019 update



This year we have focused closely on our 'Not By Ourselves Alone' programme during our tutor times, assemblies and wider school activities. It has been great to see the level of engagement from students across the year groups, building on our key values of Kindness, Respect and Living without harm. Students have had wide ranging opportunities to develop these key life skills and attributes, and have demonstrated them consistently across the school community.

During term 1, the focus was on Kindness and we saw lots of charitable donations, fundraising schemes, thank you notes to teachers, surprise cakes for staff, presents for the elderly at the local care home among many other lovely gestures.

Term 2 saw a focus on Respect which filtered down through all aspects of our day to day interactions with each other, and making students think about how we can contribute positively to the school community. We saw our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors running assemblies and creating online videos, the creation of a Debate club, and recognition of celebrating difference and diversity within the community.

During Term 3, we have focused on living without harm, with a particular emphasis on the harm we do to the local, wider and global community. This has been led by our Recycling Competition, linked to Terracycle UK, where we have been collecting hard to recycle products (crisp packets, bread bags, oral care products). We have collected over 15kg of products which is a fantastic achievement. Further to this, we have also recognised School Diversity Week during the first week in July.

The success of the programme has been very pleasing, and we will continue to educate students on the importance of these values next year, hopefully adding and building to the success of it so far. Please do speak to your children about these key values, look out for the logo, and keep up to date with the programme through our school Twitter account [@gillottshenley](https://twitter.com/gillottshenley)

House Competition



It has been a closely fought House competition this year across the school. Points are on offer for a range of positive contributions being made to the school community; achievement points, acts of kindness, attendance, punctuality, inter-house sports, recycling, recipe competitions, and PiXL Edge activities among other things. At the time of writing, Darwin are narrowly in the lead, but there is still the small matter of Sports Day results to add in to the mix! Please do ask your child which House were the overall House Cup winners for 2019, as it is being announced in final assembly!!!

Attendance update

Do you know your child's attendance?

Attendance %	Short term impact	Days missed per year	Learning hours missed per year	Learning lost in a school career
100	Full attendance	0	0	0
95	Half a day off per fortnight	10	50	10 weeks
90	A day off a fortnight	19	100	Half a year
85	A day and a half off per fortnight	29	150	Equivalent to missing most of Year 11
80	A day off per week	38	200	A full year

If your child is absent it is their responsibility to catch up on work missed. They should do this by emailing their class teachers directly for the work while they are off, or if they are too unwell to do this, speak to their teachers on returning to school.

If your child is off for a period of more than 5 days we will require medical evidence in order to authorise the absence period. This should be in the form of an appointment card, provided to you by your child's Housebase (see below for relevant email address), which should be stamped by your doctors surgery reception.

Darwin Housebase - Nicolette Wilson - darwinstudentsupport@gillotts.org.uk

Orwell Housebase - Sarah Brittain - orwellhousebase@gillotts.org.uk

Pankhurst Housebase - Tracy Millard - pankhursthousebase@gillotts.org.uk

Please click on the following to view guidance from Oxfordshire County Council on:

[A parent's guide to managing sickness absence from school](#); and
[Lateness, authorised and unauthorised absence at school](#)

Well done to all students who have achieved an attendance of over 96% this year, which is our minimum expectation. An added congratulations to all students who have 100% attendance for the year. Students with 100% attendance should have received a certificate, which they should be rightly proud of.

In September, all parents will receive communication from the school, under guidance from the Oxfordshire County Council Attendance Team. This communication will be a Penalty Notice Warning Letter that will be issued to all parents. The content of this letter will warn of the potential of a fine being issued to parents who take unauthorised holiday during the remainder of the academic year.

Oxfordshire Parent & Carers Forum

Oxfordshire Parent & Carers Forum have set up a couple of amazing things for you to access:

Please take a look at Oxfordshire Family Support Network's website for information on the services they provide. They provide Family Support Workers and Advocates to families in Oxfordshire whom have children and adults with learning disabilities. Please see link below:

www.oxfsn.org.uk

SHIFT is an informal support group in Abingdon but they have a Facebook support group families can join for support too. Please see link below:

www.shift-abingdon.org.uk

Twitter update Summer 2019

Please follow us at @gillottshenley



Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · May 10

Year 11 Leavers Day today...smiles, tears, hugs, shirt signing, decorations, final assembly, embarrassing photos...all in one day! #henley #emotional #seeyoumondayforexams



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · May 2

Delighted to be recognised by @OxfordshireCC with a Silver Award as an Equality Champion School, focused on our #LGBTQ support. #antibullying is high on our agenda. Striving for gold next! @stonewalluk @AntiBullyingPro @ABAonline #henley #equality #NBOA



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Gilotts School @GilottsHenley · May 1

Delighted to announce the winner of our Recipe competition last term, who won a @FitbitUK and a signed @ChefTomKerridge recipe book! The winning recipe will go on sale in the canteen from next week! 🍴👩🍳👨🍳 #henley #talent #cancookwillcook



Gilotts School @GilottsHenley · May 17

Some recognition of #IDAHOBIT2019 around school today, promoting our sense of community, and helping make our environment a place where all can flourish #henley #schoolcommunities #NBCA #respectkindnesslivingwithoutharm



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Gillotts School
@GillottsHenley



We are currently in the middle of our @TerraCycleUK recycling house competition...some decent levels of recycling in evidence, but there is still plenty of time to add to the collections! Keep donating!
[#henley](#) [#NBOA](#) [#environment](#)
[#livingwithoutharm](#) [#recycle](#)



Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jul 6



We have been recognising #SDW19 using resources from @JustLikeUsUK across assemblies, tutor time and the wider school community this week. Lots of great things happening, including flags and question boxes! [#Henley](#) [#education](#) [#schoolcommunity](#)





Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · May 17

Well done to our Year 9s involved in the [@river_rowing](#) William Morris Young Creator's project. They planned their own campaign as part of their [@OxfordshireDofE](#) award, which is now on display at the Museum! Well done! 🍌🍌
#henley #DofE #youngtalent



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jun 26

Having a catch up from last week's events, here is an image of our Silver #DofE students out on expedition over the weekend [@DofESouthEast](#) #henley #lifeskills #resilience #leadership



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jun 21

Year 8s have been exploring Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door all week as part of their Geography curriculum. It's been a great few days, and students have been super! #henley #geography #coastal



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jun 24

Many thanks to Team Maths who took around 120 Y7 students to @bletchleypark on Friday for the day. A great time was had by all! #henley #codebreaking #teammaths



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jun 26

A group shot from the Y11 Prom at @Badgemore_Park on Friday night! Don't they look great! More pics available on the @henleyherald page #henley #smileforthecamera



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Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jul 3

Our Year 8 German students are having a great time out in Traben Trarbach, with visits to Axel Emery vineyard for grape juice testing, a boat trip to Kues and a visit to their market square! 🇩🇪 #Henley #Germantrip #makingmemories



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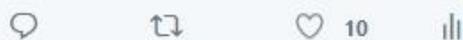
Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jul 6

Huge congratulations to @GillottsPE and the Year 7 @QuadKidsUK team who ran out County Champions at the Oxfordshire School Games on Friday! An awesome achievement, winning by 6 points! 🏆 🏃 🏊 #Henley #sportingstars #onestowatch



Gillotts School @GillottsHenley · Jul 8

Huge congratulations to Josie, Natalie and Daisy who have been chosen to represent @BritishRowing this weekend in Nottingham. Fantastic achievement, and good luck! 🏊 🏊 🏊 #Henley #sportingexcellence



Summer Party 2019

The Summer Party was the perfect way to celebrate the end of another school year, the arrival of summer sunshine and to welcome next year's new students and their families to Gillotts. Almost 250 people joined us on the lawn for a BBQ, drinks & fun on the inflatable obstacle course.

We are proud that we eliminated single-use plastics this year & would also like to thank Rebellion, The Thames Lido, Shiplake Butchers, Lawlors bakery and Sonning Common Butchers for their support. Over £1000 was raised for the school.

These events don't work without the generosity of those who give their time & energy to volunteer, so an extra special thanks to those members of staff, students and parents who helped out.



Gillotts students turn spy at Bletchley Park

120 Gillotts Year 7 students were lucky to tour Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes in June and had a hands-on experience of what life was like living and working at a top secret site in the Second World War.

Whilst at Bletchley Park students took part in a 2 hour code breaking workshop designed to recreate the job of those working at Bletchley during World War 2. Students explored mathematical encryption and coding techniques that were used throughout history and tackled complex puzzles to solve a codebreaking challenge. The workshop included a unique opportunity to see a genuine Enigma machine and they were introduced to its design and role in the war. This was a really fascinating trip that was enjoyed by all the students; they would like to thank Miss Stoffels for organising it.



Year 8 Trip to Lulworth Cove – June, 2019

On a warm cloudless day in late June, the Yr 8s experienced a very different classroom - the breath taking coastline of Lulworth Cove, Dorset.

Once we had arrived we started immediately on one of the numerous activities planned for the day, ranging from sketching maps to labelling rock formations. Sitting on a grassy paddock overlooking the cove and the ornate village our group began filling in our bipolar matrices.

Then we began the steep climb to the world famous Durdle Door - a towering arch of rock jutting out from the serene beach. Once on the crest of the hill we stopped for lunch before beginning the descent to Durdle Door. On the trek down we stopped occasionally to observe how the constant battering of waves and the restless gnawing of the weather had eroded the coastline to form the unique shapes we saw. On arrival at the pebbled beach we filled out a second bipolar matrix which hugely contrasted the bustling atmosphere of the tourist centre and car park. After sketching the jagged arch itself our group reclined on the beach, enjoying the warm weather.

Finally we were treated to ice creams at the small sea front shop after the long hike back to the car park. Tired but happy we piled back onto the coach after an amazing trip to an unforgettable place - certainly better than any classroom!

Ella Wood, 8Y2.



Mosel Valley 2019

42 Year 8 students spent a wonderful week in the beautiful Mosel Valley during the first week of July. They visited the local sights and mixed in the youth hostel with the two German schools staying there at the same time.

Although the weather was still very hot, we missed fortunately the heat wave of the week before.

Many thanks to Mr Horton, Mr Benyon and Mrs Shipton for accompanying the trip.





PA Quiz Night 2019 – Saturday 9th November

Put the date in your diary - it'll be November before you know it! Last year the parents re-took the Quiz Champions title from the teachers, so round up your team and come along this year and enjoy a brilliant night out with our Quiz Master & former parent Steven Galvin! It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, providing in the region of £3-£4,000, enabling us to replace all the picnic benches which were in desperate need of repair.

Together for Education In Henley March – Saturday 7th September, Market Place, 10am

We know, like us, many Gillotts' parents are deeply concerned about school funding, or lack of. A group of concerned parents, carers, community members & Councillors have established a local campaign group and they are holding a public protest march on September 7th. We would urge all interested to join the 'Together For Education In Henley' Facebook group to get involved & join the protest to raise awareness about this critical issue - our kids only get one education.

The PA's work this year...

Through fundraising events like the Quiz, running bars at school events like the Arts Spectacular and by supporting community initiatives like the Living Advent Calendar, the PA raises thousands of pounds each year for the school. This year we also harnessed 'parent power' to add an extra element to Careers Night, giving students the opportunity to speak to parents about their jobs & careers. Don't forget to sign-up to AmazonSmile (see the PA page on the school website) - it's raising a couple of hundred pounds a year already, so the more people who nominate us, the more we raise!

We are a small, but dedicated team of working parents who give up a little of our free time to help fill some of the gaps left by school funding. I'd like to thank everyone who has given up their time to help us and to thank everyone who has supported us at an event or fundraiser. If you think you could help in any way, please contact us at gillottspa@gmail.com. Both Janette Mooney-Nyangati (treasurer) and I will sadly be ending our time at Gillotts this year & some new volunteers for the committee would be very welcome!

This year's total raised has been significantly enhanced by some amazing auction prizes donated by parents - the Michael Buble tickets & the Madness Christmas party tickets - so a massive thanks to them for thinking of us and a big thank you to all companies & individuals who have donated prizes.

The way the PA tends to work is by making donations to the school based on their priorities & projects. This year, in addition to the refurbishment of benches for students around the site, we have also funded coach travel for PE events, two portable basketball nets, instruments for the music department, prizes for student initiatives and a durable floor covering that will be installed around the table tennis tables to make this a year-round social area for students.

We still aspire to an open-air performance space/classroom behind the English block & an Astro pitch for sports - there is always room to grow the work of the PA!

Once again, thanks for your support this year & have a great summer!

Denise Williams
Chair, Gillotts Parents Association



It seems incredible that our Teaching School activity only began in earnest in January 2018 with the appointment of our Teaching School Director.

We have set-up and coordinated School Experience Placements across the county and now have schools available in every week of the school year to ensure people interested in teaching can get the experiences they need to apply to train. In addition, we have developed an Application Support Workshop to support candidates in preparing for their recruitment days. These ran as a pilot at Gillotts School in 2018 and in 2019 at two other partnership schools located in the centre and the north of the county. Finally, we are in our second year of running the DfE funded internship for undergraduates eligible to teach Maths and Physics with the aim of increasing the number of subject specialists teaching these subjects in our schools. One quarter of the cohort who we trained last year have been accepted onto initial teacher training (ITT) courses for September 2019 and we have increased the number of interns on the course this summer by 50%.

The truly exciting development for 2019 is that Gillotts is now the 'Southern Hub' for Oxfordshire Teacher Training (OTT). In total, 18 associate teachers (ATs or 'trainees') will be based at Gillotts for their central training over the coming year, although most will be undertaking their teaching practice in other schools. For those on the salaried route, their intensive five week summer term training programme is already underway and the ATs are thoroughly enjoying their programme. We have also secured funding to offer the subject-specialist training for the Maths Associate Teachers across the county.

Darwin News

Tutee of the Term

DABY Sami Morgan	DREW Abbey Brooks
DJAS George Acock	DGS Carrie Lyden
DFD Emily Hatton	DPJY Harly Hutchings
DFMW Charlie Douglas	DROM/DGB Hannah Leach Scrivens
DHJR/DSEL Jay Bowler	DCHA Lydia MacDonald
DJLG Charlie James	DGLW Josie Sawbridge



Orwell News

Tutee of the Term

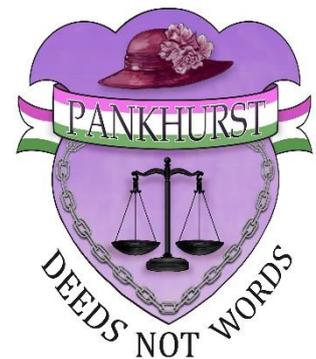


OPCM/EJB Daisy Green	OCG Marina Salas Lopez de Haro
OBEG Ryece Kennedy-Major	OTWN Elliott Rowberry
OLEP (OCLV) Dan Loumont	OGMO Lucas Wilson
OJDG Nancy Ferreira	OCH Trilby Keegan
OJSK JoJo Barry	OACM Louie Bassinder
OHRW/CST Amelie Waller	OGDL/ELD Leo Bassinder

Pankhurst News

Tutee of the Term

PKLO – Cameron Macdonald	PCAD/ND – Nicole Bielinski
PHJ/JJB – Lexi Cronin	PCLD/LS – Jack D’Cruz
PGDM – Natasha Peter	PACF – Abi Botterill
PSMS/HLM – Ruby Weatherley	PFH/HJS – Megan Forrest
PTAG – Sonia Sonawala	PREA – Roman Meredith
PSJW – Thomas Young	PCMR – Dexter Hampton



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 2019.

Friday 8 May 2020 is the May Day bank holiday. (Note this has been changed from Monday 4 May.)

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 26 September 2019

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Thursday 19 December 2019

Friday 17 July 2020