



Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

We have finally reached the end of another hectic, enjoyable and successful year – and just when we thought we were in the home straight, Ofsted finally made the call we had been expecting since April 2022. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the parent survey which formed an important part of Ofsted's evidence. As well as student and staff surveys, the inspectors carried out many activities in school - observing lessons, meeting staff, meeting groups of students (about 72 in total) and reviewing many documents. The outcome and the report are now subject to extensive quality assurance by Ofsted. We expect the report to be published in about six working weeks which, because of the summer holidays, means about the middle of September. We will of course share it with parents as soon as we can. We are very proud of what the inspectors saw of the school - our young people as ever did us proud.



This term is all about hellos and goodbyes. Year 11 certainly went out in style at their Prom, which we held again at Badgemore Golf Club. The elegance of the surroundings was certainly appreciated by the students and added significantly to the sense of celebration. 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. We look forward to seeing you all again on GCSE Results Day, Thursday 24 August.

The Key Stage 3 Celebration of Success evening was a lovely way to mark the varied successes of our students, and the way they contribute to the school. Year 9 are now 60% of their way through Gillotts and it felt a fitting moment to reflect on what they have achieved so far and look forward to what is to come. With awards as diverse as subject contribution, attendance, house points and modelling the school's values, we were able to acknowledge a range of skills and talents, including perseverance, resilience and dedication.

We have run five very successful Pioneer experiences 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 joined us at the Parents' Association BBQ – the perfect weather made the Mansion block lawn the perfect setting, and we had an impressive turnout. The PA raised about £1000 for the school that night – my thanks to them for all the fundraising throughout the year, particularly the new addition of the very popular second-hand uniform sales.

Year 7 had a wonderful weekend at Skern Lodge and, as I write, some of Year 9 are making their regular visit to Woodlands, with 48 students taking part in gorge walking, caving, canoeing and climbing. As ever, we have done incredibly well in all the Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire inter-school sport competitions. Sports Day is still to come and I hear that the desire to support your House is as great as ever – there has been lots of preparation and trialling going on in advance! We

are looking forward to the last events of term - 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 5 September and all other students on Wednesday 6 September.

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

Best wishes
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/>

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.



Why do we need your support?

Unlike many schools, Gillotts has not had a tradition of regular individual donations to support the school. However, as you will have seen from media coverage, the financial climate for all schools has become increasingly difficult in recent years. School funding is still below 2010 levels in real terms - 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.

How much would we like you to contribute?

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

If you give £10 per month, this would give us £120 per year – with Gift Aid, that is £150!

If you give £1 per day, this would give us £365 per year – with Gift Aid, that's over £450 per year!

How does this work with the support provided by the Parents' Association?

The Parents' Association has provided invaluable support to Gillotts for many years. The Association fully endorses this request for individual regular contributions. However payments will be through the school, to preserve parents' anonymity.

“The PA 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.”

What will we spend the funds on?

We will spend the funds on ensuring all curriculum subjects are well resourced, including with the additional new online resources that we know students and their parents value so much. This will enable us to support students to continue to make the outstanding progress that has become the norm in recent years.

Please give whatever you can – fill in and return the form attached – thank you for your support.

House Update

As always, it has been another action-packed year of House activity at Gillotts School, culminating with Sports Day last week, which is always a joyous occasion, full of colour, enthusiasm and passion for respective Houses.

Throughout the year, students have been working towards collecting points for their House, through their actions and commitment to learning every day (classwork, homework, punctuality, attendance), their engagement in the wider school community (open evening, tours of the school, helping the local community), and taking part in the myriad of House competitions that go on across the school over the course of the year (sports competition, film poster re-creation, House quizzes, Maths challenges, World Cup sweepstakes, eco-committee competitions etc).

We continue to view House competition as a vitally important part of our school community, and our student voice body regularly request for us to run even more competitions! We love to offer such a wide range of opportunities for students to be involved in, making positive contributions to our school community, and building that sense of working towards a common goal.

At the end of the year, Ms Darnton was able to award the House Cup to the House with the most points, which this year was Darwin with 51,453 points! In second were Pankhurst with 48,707 points, and third were Orwell with 43,666 points.

Well done Team Darwin!

Over the next year, we hope to further develop and enhance our opportunities for House competitions, building that community spirit further, along with a little bit of friendly rivalry!

Message from our Head Students

We hope you're all doing well and enjoying your summer! As Head Students, one of our ideas for the upcoming year is to re-use learning resources within the school. In particular, we would really appreciate it if any of your children would be willing to donate any learning resources that they no longer need. For example, revision guides and workbooks, stationery, revision cards or anything else that you think would help students work towards their upcoming GCSEs.

If you have any of these resources and would like to donate them to this worthy cause, please drop them off at school over the summer period. Although the site is closed, there will be a box outside reception that you can drop the items off in. This will be checked and emptied during the week, but not at weekends. If your child also attends for GCSE results day, we would also be grateful to receive them then. There is also a bin outside Reception for you to donate uniform items to the Parents' Association. They sell them at about 20% of the cost of new and donate the funds to the school. This year, they have been fundraising to renew the stage lighting in the Hall.

Thank you very much for your time; we really hope to save some money for parents who want to support their children with their education!

Flo, Nuala and Cam (Head Students for 2023/24)

Darwin News

Tutee of the Term

DROM/HJR: Quinn Gordon

DLLF: Eldon Swift

DAPM: Ava Douglas

DSUS: Johnny Whitbread

DPJY: Lorelei Southwell

DFMW: Harry Rechner

DHK: Harry Leath

DJLG: Olivia Samyui-Adama

DADT: Alice McNeill

DDI: Max Miller

DRD/NFD: Michael Bowles



Orwell News

Tutee of the Term



OGMO: Cayden Brennan

OJJ: Ariana Nieduszynska

OJSK: Bertie Pentecost

OHRW: Ed Tavinor

OJKL: Penny White

OTWN/CST: Didi Richardson

OACM: Scarlett Sissons

ONMW: Zoe Schafer

OAD/AB: Angelika Gwiazda

OBJB/ELD: Lottie Alvey

OCG: Freya Wall

Pankhurst News

Tutee of the Term

PFLP: Alfie Blyton

PJDS: Liviya Davies

PLS/LJA: Freya Woodhouse

PSJW: Finley Smith

PNJK: Olivia Dew

PESS: Jamie Taylor

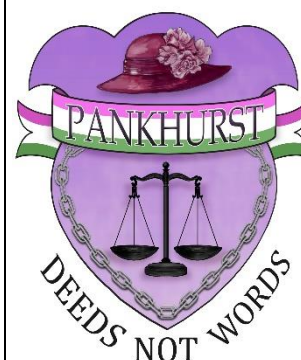
PWJH: Rebekah Beverley

PKLO/NM: Asha Beagin

PJTP/CEC: Oscar Woodward Sweet

PGDM: Charlotte Oswald

PSMS/HLM: Jemima Buttwerworth



Year 10 River Pang Trip

As part of their GCSE, the geography team took the Year 10 students on three half day fieldtrips to the River Pang in early June. These trips followed in the footsteps of the whole of Year 7 who were taken on this trip in March.

The students spent time learning about the River Pang and its surrounding area. They also participated in data collection, focusing on how the width, depth and velocity of the river change along its course. They will use this information, as well as the understanding of river processes which they developed, in their Geographical Applications paper next summer.

The students worked really well together in their groups and showed real promise as practical geographers!

Dr Newbold

Year 9 Woodlands Trip

The annual Year 9 trip to the Woodlands Outdoor Activity Centre just outside the Brecon Beacons took place towards the end of this term. This has been an annual trip since the late 1960s and it is now our third visit since the global pandemic.

The students participated in a range of challenging activities over five days. These included caving, canoeing, gorge walking, high ropes and mountain walking. The weather was rather changeable with driving rain and winds on the last day spent walking up Hay Bluff. Although the views were not spectacular there was a real sense of achievement once we had completed this walk.

The students had a fantastic time and the staff were really impressed by how they developed their leadership and team skills over the week. A huge thank you to Mr Laugher, Mrs Michael and Mr Spruyt for accompanying us on the trip.

Dr Newbold



Year 8 Lulworth Cove Trip

After a long journey on the coach we arrived at Lulworth Cove. To start the trip, we completed a few tasks in the booklet to review and get a good look at the area. We then went for a walk round stair hole and to the cove, where we drew a labelled diagram, stopped for a snack and took some photos. As we kept walking by the natural sites and breath-taking views, we noted down some activities and views that tourists might be attracted to at Lulworth Cove. We kept walking when we reached some more beautiful sites where we could see the sea from high above. Eventually we reached the last stop, Durdle Door; we walked down and took some photos, studied the eroded stones that the beach was made of and then finished our booklet with a second bipolar matrix to describe the physical features of the area. Overall it was very peaceful with attractive scenery and lots of information. After a fun day we got some amazing ice cream (which was very refreshing after the walks in the sun) and headed back.

Mia Year 8



Key Stage 3 Celebration of Success Evening

The evening saw 95 students receive an award for their contribution to Gillotts. The awards ranged from subject specific awards to a variety of House awards.

Darwin Students of the Year: Ruby and Will

Orwell Students of the Year: Mathilde and Charlie

Pankhurst Students of the Year: Annabelle and Kiernan

Stevens' Resilience Award: Thom

KS3 Student of the Year: Lucy

Congratulations to all Key Stage 3 Students that won an award this year.

DofE Bronze and Silver Award 2022-23

Many congratulations to the Silver students who successfully completed their assessed expedition over a very hot long weekend in June. Now this is completed, they are well on their way to achieving the award; they need to submit assessor reports for their other sections. We hope to be able to give certificates for all those who have finished by Christmas once the verification process has been carried out.

The Bronze expedition was postponed and has been rescheduled for 16/17 September 2023 which gives Bronze award students time to complete their other sections so that passing the assessed expedition will be a real celebration as they complete the award.

Students have been making a valuable contribution to local organisations again this year, for example charities, after school clubs and sports clubs and we would like to thank everyone involved supporting our students to complete their award.



To all those who have started the award, it is never too late to complete sections so keep up the good work and do come and see Mrs Michael in S3 if you are stuck for ideas or how to manage your eDofE account.

Silver Award 2023-24

We hope that many students will go on to take Silver award next year and it is possible to start DofE at the Silver level. Students should speak to Mrs Michael if they are considering this. Take a look at the DofE website to look at the timescales involved. Many have asked if the delay to the Bronze assessed expedition will affect them starting Silver. Even if registering for Silver is delayed, activities can be back dated up to 3 months, so students can get started on these in September and add evidence as soon as they are registered.

Bronze Award 2023-24

Year 8 students were introduced to DofE in a recent assembly and they were encouraged to take a look at what is involved and speak to people they know who are already doing it over the holidays. The [DofE website](#) has lots of information, a FAQ section and videos and the [Gillotts DofE website](#) has links and details of local organisations that support students doing their volunteering section. A letter will go out in September giving details of parent information meeting and how to register students for the award.

Contact DofE@gillotts.org.uk if you have any queries about doing the award at Gillotts.

Eco Committee - Exciting News!

This has been a busy year for Eco committee members. The committee has been meeting regularly and worked on activities involving many students in school in environmental issues. They are grateful to all who took part entering the competitions and in particular, by completing the Green week survey.

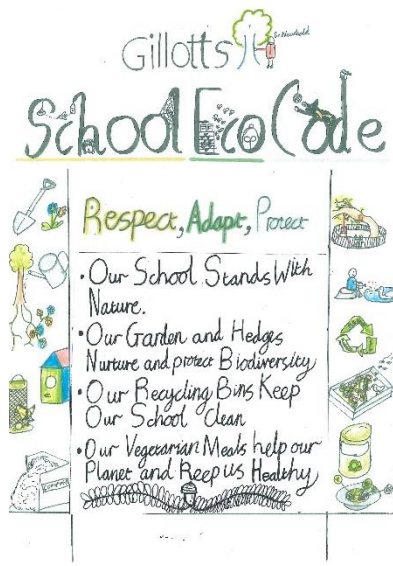
Actions were completed as part of the Eco schools programme and Gillotts has been awarded the **Green flag award** for the work done this year. Harry, Year 9, said that he felt it a real privilege to be involved in making this possible, Mathilde, Year 9, said it showed that as a school we are aware of the issues and are making a difference. For Isaac, Year 8, it represents a successful first step on the school's environmental journey.

The Eco schools programme allows students to consider issues such as climate change, biodiversity-loss and plastic pollution and it empowers them to make a difference in school and in the community while communicating what we can all do to lead more sustainable lives. Clearly the committee are determined to carry on the work to retain the award next year.

Students voted on which topics to focus on this year and chose Litter, Biodiversity and Waste and very quickly saw the new recycling bins installed around the site, kindly donated by the Rotary club in Henley. The bug house competition and bird and bat boxes that were made with the help of Mr Bland in DT department and science club members will encourage more wildlife. Further hedging plants are being nurtured to replace some that were lost in the hot, dry summer we had last year. Each tutor group was given seeds and a plant pot to grow tomatoes and hopefully these are now bearing fruit!



Next year Eco club will be running again each week and Eco committee will be working on new topic areas to increase the school's sustainability in even more areas. We would welcome new members to the committee and need students to be involved sharing ideas and completing actions, even if they do not feel able to commit to meeting regularly as part of the committee.



Speak to Mrs Michael in the new term if you are interested in supporting the work of the committee.

The Eco code was developed by the committee and the poster design was by Isaac, Year 8.

Robotics EV3 Programming & Robotics Animation Lab

Highlights from the clubs this term! Huge thanks again to Mr. Howard and Mr. Pentecost for their time and support this year with all the club sessions. We look forward to continuing these clubs in September.

Mrs Wakefield

More amazing work created tonight using another new animation camera. This camera has been given to the school by Clapham Road Studios in London - Huge thanks to them and well done all!

Attachments



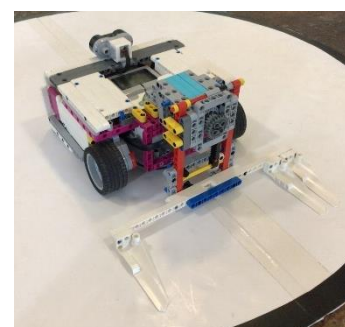
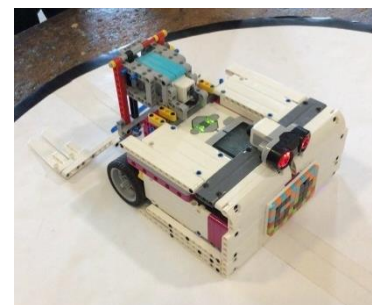
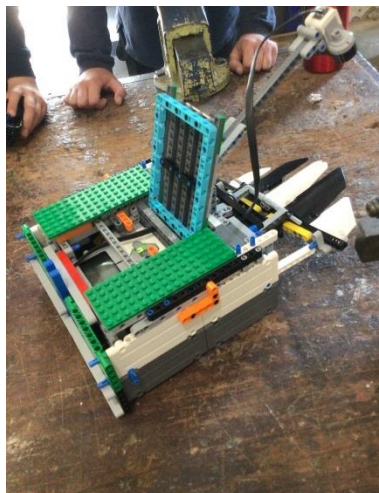
Tonight we have a special visitor from the animation world - Stuart Galloway - who is motion control operator of amazing proportions! He did the motion control on the Muppet Christmas Carol and Isle of Dogs. He is teaching students how to operate our new camera using motion control. Huge thanks to Stuart!

Attachments



Amazing robot designs and programming tonight for the sumo bot challenges! Well done to all students!

Attachments

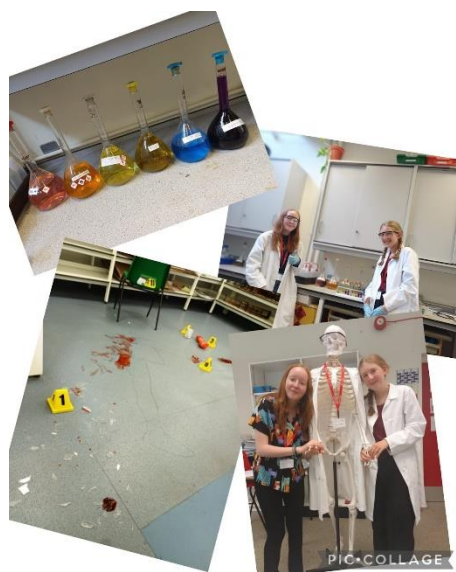


Year 10 Work Experience

During the first week in May, all of our Year 10 students undertook a week's work experience. The students were tasked with finding their own placements and found a variety of placements ranging from building garden rooms, to reporting for The Henley Herald, marketing for a start-up business and to architecture.

The venues ranged from airfields to offices and yacht clubs from as far afield as Brighton, Henley and London. The students gained a real insight into the work environment and the feedback from the placements was very complimentary for each individual. We are, of course, grateful to any parents who were involved in this fantastic experience. See a few of our Year 10 students at work.

Mrs Parmenter



NHS 75th Anniversary

Between Monday 3rd and Thursday 6th July, Gillotts celebrated 75 years of the NHS. The week involved a talk by a physiotherapist, Emma Garratt, to our Year 10 cohort as well as all years watching personalised videos from an A and E nurse and registrar on their careers and tips for studying medicine. Students and teachers shared their NHS stories and discussed how the NHS has helped them. Students competed in an inter-house quiz based on the NHS (- well done Darwin for winning!) and read posters around the science department on the range of careers offered.

Ms Tristem



NHS Career Insight: Inside the life of an A and E nurse
Sister Rianne Elliot



NHS Career Insight: Inside the career of an A and E doctor
Dr Sean Mckean (registrar)



Y7 Flamenco Lessons

These are some pictures of Year 7s doing Flamenco dancing with Danielle Yglesias in their Spanish lessons:



Year 11 Prom

The Year 11s celebrated the end of their 5 years at Gillotts and the end of their GCSE exams with a fabulous evening at Badgemore Park. It was a lovely way to say 'thanks' and 'good luck' to our 2023 leavers as they begin their next journey. We wish them all the best for the future and hope they go on to achieve great things!



PE Update

We started the summer term taking 135 Year7s away on our annual outdoor activities trip to Skern Lodge in Devon. Despite the weather being very wet the weekend was a great success and all the students had a great time.



Rounders

We haven't had as many rounders games this year as we normally do - however we have still had a successful season with some good results in the area tournaments.

Year 7 came 3rd, Year 8 came 2nd, Year 9 came 4th and Year 10 are still to play as theirs was postponed due to bad weather.

Cricket

In the area cricket tournaments our Year 10 team came 2nd, our Year 8 team are due to play next Tuesday and we are waiting for the Year 7 one to be rescheduled due to it being on a strike day. The Year 9s were unable to go to their tournament due to it being on a day they had end of year exams.

We have also been fortunate enough to have Henley CC coaches coming in again during lesson time working with girls in Year 8.

Athletics

In Athletics we did really well in the South Oxfordshire Area Athletics, which took place at Tilsley Park in Abingdon on Thursday 18th May - it was a very successful day, the students were excellent and many of them were chosen to compete in the county athletics event on Sunday 9th June. The results were as follows:

U13 Girls – 1st

U13 Boys – 3rd

U15 Girls – 1st

U15 Boys – 2nd (missing out on 1st by just 3 points)

U17 Girls – 2nd (missing out on 1st by just 3 points)

U17 Boys – 2nd



Overall winners!

Every single student did their bit whether they came first, last or somewhere in the middle and **once again** we were the only school to enter 2 students into **every single** event in **every year group** – totalling 132 entries. It was a very successful day and all the students did themselves and Gillotts

proud. Their behaviour was impeccable and their support for each other, their willingness to participate in any event if needed and their drive to do well for the school was great to see – the students were brilliant.

Following on from Tilsley Park, 11 students qualified for the County Schools Athletics Competition and following on from this, three students, Adam H, Annabelle V-H and Bisan M qualified for the English Schools' Competition. An outstanding achievement from them all.

We also competed in the area quadkids and super 6s for Years 7, 8 and 9 and 10 from which we qualified for the County event in year 8 - we also won the year 9 event - but unfortunately they don't go through to county in this year group.

Year Group	Against	Result
Year 7 Quadkids	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 2nd Boys - 4th Team - 2rd
Year 8 Quadkids	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 1st Boys - 2nd Team - 1st
Year 9 Super 6s	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 1st Boys - 1st Team - 1st
Year 10 Super 6s	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 3rd Boys - 2nd Team - 2nd



Sports Day

The summer sports were finished off with our own school's sports day - the field events were held on Tuesday 18th July and the track events were held on the afternoon of Wednesday 19th July. All the houses have been out trialling for events and there was a real buzz about it this year with all the students being really excited - especially as Pankhurst won for the first time last year - so Darwin were wanting to win it back and Orwell were wanting to take it from both houses.

The year group results were as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1st	Orwell	Darwin	Pankhurst	Pankhurst
2nd	Darwin	Orwell	Darwin	Darwin
2rd	Pankhurst	Pankhurst	Orwell	Orwell



Overall Winners

	House
1st	Darwin
2nd	Pankhurst
3rd	Orwell



Sports Day Awards:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Isabella S	Ethan M	Matilda M	Elsa B
Jack C	Bisan M	Dylan H	Henry F
Kiki O		Sophie W	Elliott D



So, all in all another excellent summer term of sport - so many successes from all year groups with over 200 students being involved in one if not more of the sports events that took place.

Now after a summer off, the PE department will be looking to replicate this success in the autumn term with Hockey, Rugby, Cross country and triathlon competitions taking place.

Hayley Rogers
Head of PE

Food Technology Update



Year 7 – Jam Tarts
Shortening



Year 8 – Stir Fry
Eating 5 a day



Year 8 – Tagliatelle Pasta & Ragu



Year 8 – Pizza



Year 9 – Key Lime Pie



Year 9 - Ravioli



Year 10 – Iced Buns
Biological Raising Agents



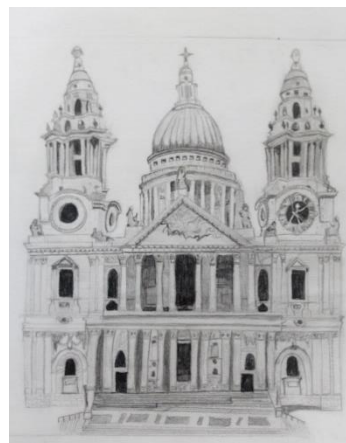
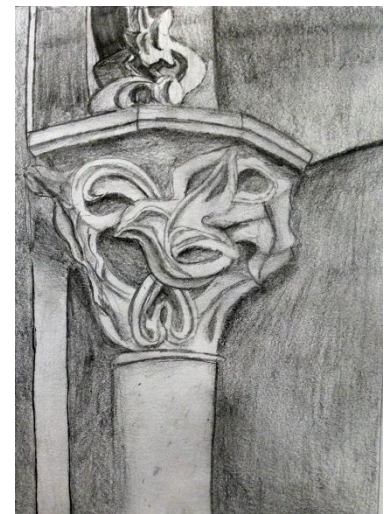
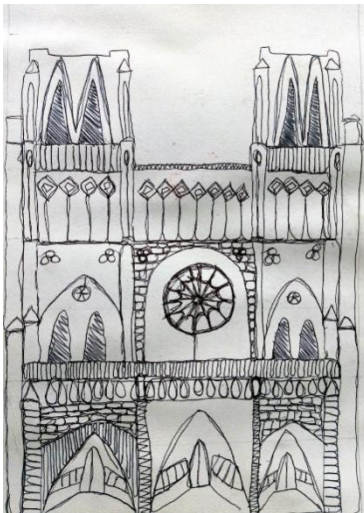
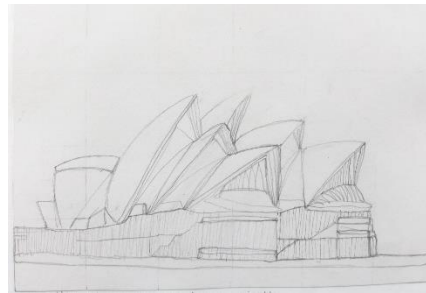
Year 10 – Chutney Preserving



Year 10 – Scones
British Cuisine

Year 9 Art - Architecture

This term, Year 9 students have been working on the theme of architecture. They have improved their drawing skills by looking at small details and full buildings. They have produced work inspired by artist Ian Murphy, who works on textured papers and Ruth Allen who does continuous line drawings. Pattern making skills have been developed through designing our own stained-glass windows. Here are some of their fabulous drawings -



Library News Summer 2023

Carnegie Illustrated Book Award

The Carnegie Award is the most prestigious book award for a children's book in the UK. There is a novel strand and an illustrated strand. At Gillotts we shadow the illustrated list. These are books that we can share and read together, as they are generally shorter than the novels. This term Library Club members have read some of the books and created reviews and artwork based on them. The list of books is as follows:

Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear

Rescuing Titanic

Alte Zachen

The Visible Sounds

The Comet

The Worlds we leave behind



More information can be found about all of the books on the website: <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/the-2023-winners/>

We read all of the books from cover to cover apart from 'The Worlds we leave behind' which is a much longer book. However, several students read and rated it highly. For 'Saving Sorya' we talked about Sun Bears and other endangered bears and created bunting and poetry. For 'Alte Zachen' I read the story aloud whilst students tried some home-made babka, a type of Jewish bread. We talked about the Jewish tradition of Friday night dinner and the importance of eating family meals together. For 'The Comet' we talked about moving house and enjoying new experiences but also loneliness and isolation. We also created our own comet on the blackboard, which you can see in one of the pictures.



Mrs Waelend's Year 7 class read the books too and chose one to study in small groups. In June the groups presented their books to the rest of the class. The group studying Alte Zachen brought in some home-made babka for others to try! Their enjoyment and exploration of the books and the power of illustration was a joy to see. You can see just a snapshot of their work in the pictures.



Library Club

Apart from reading the Carnegie books, as mentioned above, we have been playing games such as Jenga and doing a great deal of arts and crafts including book crafting. We have made flowers and butterflies for our Eco Tree. As part of Great Big Green Week, members have written 'Letters to Tomorrow' which have been put on the website along with hundreds of others. You can see them here: <https://www.letterstomorrow.com/view-letters/?search=rg9+1ps> We have the hard copies of the letters (all written by hand) on display in the library.



Library club members also enjoyed making some of the Pop Art style graphics for our display, mentioned later on.

Here is some feedback on Library Club from two of our members:

Penny Year 8

There are so many good things about Library Club that it would take a while to list them all. This year I've enjoyed plenty of activities in the club, from group reads, to arts and crafts - there's something for everyone. In particular, I've enjoyed writing poems and drawing pictures based on the books that we have read. I think Library Club is so brilliant because it gives lots of opportunities for making friends, reading and being creative. I will definitely be continuing with the club next year and hopefully for the next few years to come too.

Tilly Year 10

I really enjoy Library club and have been attending ever since I was in Year 7, back when it was book club! The activities we do are always varied and interesting, and there is always something for everyone. It is really enjoyable and I go every week when I can make it! We do a lot of work on the blackboards and on making displays alongside drawing and colouring on top of looking at the shortlisted books from the book awards.

Great Big Green Week

Eco Committee members Isaac, Harry and Mathilde helped on the stall in Henley on Saturday 10th June. Mrs Michael, who runs the Eco Committee, was there all day. Mrs Seddon was there for part of the day. We had an activity matching species in the garden with their diet and habitat. Passersby were also invited to write 'Letters to Tomorrow' and try some completely organic and additive-free sourdough bread. All of the students were brilliant representatives of Gillotts and did us proud. We were featured in the Henley Herald as part of the local news coverage.

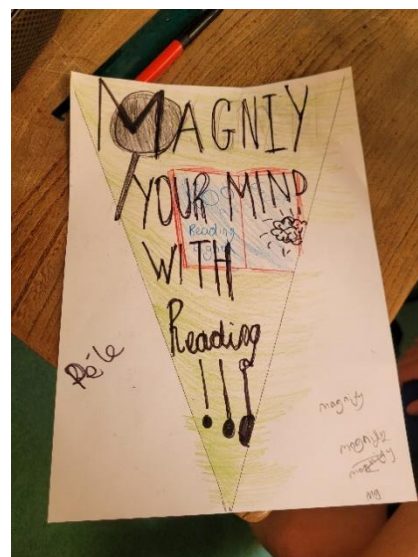


Eco Art Workshop

Students had the chance to try some arts and crafts using recycled materials such as books, sheet music and old greetings cards. Some of this art was on display on the GBGW stall. Mrs Best and Mrs Seddon hope to repeat the eco art workshop regularly and it is always open to students from all year groups.

Pioneers in the Library

It has been a real pleasure to welcome children from the local primary schools and show them our wonderful school library. Children have a chance to look round the library, talk about their favourite authors and listen to a story. They also have an introduction to the online library catalogue and google site with themed reading lists and curriculum-related websites. They have all made a piece of book-themed bunting for the library and taken away a bingo card of reading and writing activities to do over the summer holidays.



Graphic Books

Owen and Ben in Year 9 put much time and effort into creating our new graphic books display. This was part of their volunteering for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This one is so brilliant that it will be a long-term display and used to showcase all of the graphic books we have in the library. The main part of the display is a complete book taken apart and pinned onto the board – it was a proof copy; these are not permitted to be lent or sold but sometimes turn up as sample copies for promotion. The Pop Art style lettering was made from old books and magazines. I had the opportunity to supplement our graphic books collection recently. It includes some non-fiction and classics. Mrs Collyer's Year 9 Library class had a workshop lesson based on the graphic book format recently.



Book Recommendations and Useful Links

All students can access the Library Catalogue via the online planner. The link is here as a reminder: <https://uk.accessit.online/gli00/#!/dashboard> There is a tab at the top for 'Quick Lists.' Here students can find some suggested curriculum and reading for pleasure lists. These are being edited and added to all the time, so are not static lists of books.

Other useful links for Books

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/>

<https://childrensbooksequels.co.uk/>

For Year 9 and upwards: <https://www.virago.co.uk/imprint/lbbg/virago/page/virago-modern-classics/>

Finally, we have a special deal with First News over the holidays. All students and parents can access the news and website for free over the holidays. Please see the attachment for full instructions and code.

Mrs Seddon

Teaching and Learning

Just as we expect our students to be constantly learning, so teachers at Gillotts are always striving to get better and better.

This year, we have been focused on managing students' cognitive load in lessons. Have you ever been trying to leave the house for a holiday and had to go back two or three times for the things you forgot? Or maybe you turn down the radio in the car so that you can concentrate at a new busy junction? Just like a juggler who drops all the balls when trying to deal with one too many, these are examples of when the capacity of our working memory is at its limit; our cognitive load is too great.



Students can experience the same thing in lessons and so we have been working on managing their cognitive load so they can focus on the learning.

We have focused on explaining ideas clearly and giving the students examples of what we expect them to do to help them understand. We have also worked on purposeful practice, and helping students to remember things they have already learnt.

Next academic year we will embed our practice. In addition, to manage students' cognitive load from the very beginning of lessons, students will complete calm, silent starter activities in lessons to set up a routine for purposeful deep thinking.

Interested in digging deeper into cognitive load theory? You can access recommended readings on our [teaching and learning website](#).

Teaching and Learning Working Group

This year, a group of teachers from across the school have come together to consider how we can improve the inclusivity of our teaching. Having drawn upon the research from the Education Endowment Fund, we have audited our practice and identified metacognition as an area we would like to develop further.

What is metacognition?

Metacognition describes the processes involved when learners plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning and make changes to their own learning behaviours.

Whether we are familiar with the term, or not, we all do it to some extent. When any of us is faced with a task, we will, consciously or subconsciously, consider similar tasks we have carried out before and use this experience to **plan** how to approach the task in hand. As we work through the task, we will **monitor** our progress, considering whether our work looks like we are expecting it to and whether we are on track to meet the deadline. Finally, after completing the task we will **evaluate** how well we did and whether, if met with a similar task again, we would approach it in the same way

or whether we will allow more time, use a different technique or keep ourselves on track by breaking the task down into smaller chunks and setting shorter-term deadlines.

Why is it important?

Metacognition is important because it demystifies the learning process, helping learners become increasingly aware of their own thought processes. Self-aware learners realise that they are 'learning' rather than simply 'completing' tasks. They begin to appreciate the learning process and their agency within it. They feel more confident in approaching new tasks because they understand they can draw upon previous learning and select carefully an approach which is likely to be helpful. When they don't perform as well on a task as they would like to, rather than feeling helpless, they are more likely to consider how they might adapt the approach they took to the task.

How are we supporting students to use metacognition?

As a group, we have focused on making the learning process more explicit to our learners, in real time, in lessons, by modelling the process of planning, monitoring and evaluating. For example, as an English teacher, I might model for the class how I would plan a writing task.

Before beginning the task, I might ask myself the following planning questions:

'Who is the intended audience?'

'What is the purpose of the writing?'

'How long do I have?'

'What is the topic? What do I already know about the subject?'

'Have I written something like this before? How did I do it?'

As an expert learner, making my thinking process visible, allows me to demonstrate to novice learners how I make decisions about the way I choose to approach my writing.

During the writing process, I might monitor my progress by asking myself:

How am I doing for time? Do I need to speed up?

Is my writing matching the intended purpose and audience?

Am I keeping on topic?

Is there something I need to change?

Again, making this process explicit supports learners to be more aware of their own agency. If I realise part-way through the writing that I have forgotten to use a formal register, I still have the opportunity to address the issue and keep my work on track.

After completing the task, I might evaluate my progress by asking myself:

Did my writing match the intended purpose and audience?

How could I improve my writing next time?

Did I manage my time well?

This final reflection is crucial in deciding which strategies have served me well and will be useful in the future and which areas might need a different or modified approach.

How can parents support metacognition?

It's really about talking about learning - engaging children and young people in conversations not only about **what** they're learning and **what** the homework is but **how** they approach their learning. Much like the questions and prompts we've been using in lessons, parents can support their children by asking planning, monitoring and evaluating questions.

Planning

Have you completed a task like this before?

What method did you use?

How successful was it?

What would a good example of this task look like?

Is there anything in your exercise book which could help?

Monitoring

How are you doing for time?

Is your chosen method working?

What else could you try?

Evaluating

What went well?

Did you have enough time? Should you have started earlier or broken the task into chunks?

What would you change next time?

By prompting our students and children to engage in metacognitive thinking, we can work together we can support repeated practice so that this way of working becomes embedded as a process, equipping Gillotts students to face new challenges with confidence.

Parents' Association Update

It's been a much busier year for the Parents Association this school year, which has seen the return of our usual events following the COVID pause. It's been amazing to see and meet so many people at the events. The quiz back at the start of the year was a great success, with record numbers attending. Fun was had by all. We've also held a number of bars at school events and most recently we held our annual summer BBQ. The BBQ was well attended and a huge amount of fun was had by all. The BBQ itself was a sell out and a quick dash was made to a local supermarket for more burgers.



All money raised this year has been put towards the new lighting rig for the hall and other items that aid the students' learning or add to the school environment for the students. Details of next year's events will be announced in the new school year.

We are always looking for more people to join the Parents Association committee. If you would like to join us please email gillottspa@gmail.com or come along to the AGM which will be held in September.



Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer break and hope to see you at future events

The Parents' Association



Canteen Update

WHAT'S COOKING AT GILLOTTS SCHOOL

Enjoy

We're proud to introduce you to a new dining destination concept. Our aim is to deliver a captivating and innovative new dining experience at Gillotts that will delight your tastebuds and leave a lasting impression. Get ready to embark on a culinary journey like no other, where extraordinary flavours,

impeccable service converge. Welcome to your new dining experience. We use the freshest ingredients to create inspired, destination dishes from around the globe. This gives students a choice of up to six main meal choices, and up to nine sides a day.

FEATURING 2 OF OUR 6 DESTINATIONS EVERY DAY:



MEXICAN



INDIAN



ASIAN



AFRO-CARIBBEAN



ITALIAN



GREAT BRITISH CLASSICS

1 CHOOSE IT
MEAT, FISH
VEGGIE OR VEGAN

MEAL DEAL
£2.60

+ ANY TWO SIDES

+ FREE VEG OR SALAD & FRUIT

WITH EVERY MEAL DEAL

Students select their meat, fish, vegan or vegetarian main and add two sides of their choice. For example, from our Mexican destination, choose Chilli Beef and then add Rice and Nachos or from our Asian destination, choose Teriyaki Chicken and then add Rice Noodles and Asian Slaw.

From our Great British Classics destination, choose

Beetroot, Rocket & Rosemary Tart and then add New Potatoes & Roasted Vegetables. For everyone that chooses our hot meal deal, they can still select free vegetables or free salad, and a piece of whole fruit to complement their meal.

We look forward to launching our simplified main meal tariff from the beginning of the Autumn term.

We are also keen to continue to reduce the use of disposables in school, so we will be asking students to use the metal cutlery provided for them.

SEE WHAT'S ON THE MENU



<https://bit.ly/gillotts-menu>

Term dates for 2023 - 2024

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2023.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	04 September - 20 October	35
October half term	23 October - 27 October	
Autumn Term	30 October - 21 December	39
Christmas holiday	22 December - 05 January	
Spring Term	08 January - 9 February	25
Spring half term	12 February - 16 February	
Spring Term	19 February - 28 March	29
Easter Holiday	29 March - 12 April	
Summer Term	15 April - 24 May	29
Late Spring half term	27 May - 31 May	
Summer Term	03 June - 24 July	38
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 4 September 2023

Friday 29 September 2023

Monday 22 July 2024

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Wednesday 24 July 2024

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2023. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

Monday 6 May 2024 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2023

Thursday 21 December 2023

Friday 19 July 2024

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Term dates for 2024 - 2025

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2024.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	02 September - 25 October	40
October half term	28 October - 1 November	
Autumn Term	4 November - 20 December	35
Christmas holiday	23 December - 03 January	
Spring Term	06 January - 14 February	30
Spring half term	17 February - 21 February	
Spring Term	24 February - 04 April	30
Easter Holiday	07 April - 21 April	
Summer Term	22 April - 23 May	23
Late Spring half term	26 May - 30 May	
Summer Term	02 June - 22 July	37
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 2 September 2024

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Friday 27 September 2024

Monday 21 July 2025

Tuesday 22 July 2025

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 4 September 2024. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 5 September 2024.

Monday 5 May 2025 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 26 September 2024

Friday 20 December 2024

Friday 18 July 2025

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening