



# Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

There has been a lot to celebrate at Gillotts this term. The publication of our Ofsted report was a very big moment for us. Not only was the school rated Outstanding overall, but also in all four key judgements - Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, and Leadership and Management. Of course, Ofsted is not everything, and the high stakes nature of school accountability can be very challenging, but nevertheless it was good to have the hard work of so many people over so many years recognised in this way.



Although it seems like a long time ago now, it was a pleasure to celebrate the GCSE results of last year's Year 11 with them on results day at the end of August. And there was such a lot to be proud of. Our Progress 8 score, which is the key measure Ofsted use, was +0.66 - second best only to last year's of +0.73. This means that on average students achieved almost two thirds of a grade better in each of their GCSEs than would be expected based on their prior attainment. We are so proud of the success of our students, especially when you consider that the pandemic impacted on them in Years 8 and 9. They have shown incredible resilience.

If you have missed the Parents' Association Quiz, worry not as it has just been postponed until Saturday 3 February - put the date in your diary! I would also like to express my thanks to the many parents who are so generously giving to our School Fund. We have been very touched by the gifts and the supportive messages that so often come with them. I continue to work with Headteachers across the country to achieve fairer funding for education.

Special thanks this year are due to Jenna Topham in Year 11 who took the initiative to secure for us the donation of a real Christmas tree from Jacky Biddle at Playhatch Garden Centre. Jenna, with some help from friends and family, got the tree up and decorated ready for our 'Christmas jumper day' on Friday 8 December. It is in a great location to be seen by all, in the foyer of the Hall and Canteen. It really has added some welcome cheer and sparkle to the darkest days on the year. When term finishes, the tree will move on to a homeless shelter, to be further enjoyed - thank you so much Jenna!

After the usual exceptionally busy term, it has been good over the last week or so to feel that Christmas is in sight. As I write, we still have The Carol Service at St Mary's to look forward to on Tuesday and, with ever growing popularity of music at Gillotts, I know it will be better than ever. The whole school will then get an opportunity to hear some of the highlights in final assembly on Thursday - always a lovely way to end the term.

I do hope that the holidays will allow for some precious time with family and friends and some much needed rest and relaxation.

See you all again in 2024.

Catharine Darnton, Headteacher, Gillotts

## Uniform

Our uniform at Gillotts is designed to be functional but also appropriate for school. When it is worn as intended, students do look well presented and their appearance is consistent. Unfortunately when students try to modify the uniform, its impact is reduced. Here are a few key reminders.

**Skirts** - please make sure skirts are the best size to achieve a good fit and that all the fastenings are in place and can be done up. The skirt should be worn as designed - please support us by making clear that it is not to be 'rolled'. It is important all students learn to make choices about what they wear, appropriate to context.

**Jewellery** - No jewellery should be worn except a light chain with a religious symbol, and a maximum of one stud earring in each ear.

**Hair styles** - No extreme hairstyles, or non-natural colours (or combination of colours that are stark in contrast).

## Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass reports to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, Catharine Darnton, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and find this extremely beneficial for all those involved.

## Head lice

We have had a number of cases this term. You can find information from the NHS on this website: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/). The school nurse highlights that the complete treatment takes 2 weeks and it is necessary that everyone in the house is treated at the same time even if they don't think they have headlice. Wet combing is needed on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. You should check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

If you complete treatment and the headlice are still present, you should consult your GP.

## 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.

## EduLink App



### **EduLink One Parental Engagement App**

You will probably be aware that we have recently launched a new parental and student engagement app called EduLink One. The app/browser version allows parents and students to view lots of key information, including:

- Achievement points
- Behaviour points
- Timetable
- Homework
- Attendance information, including reporting absences for parents
- Detentions
- Exam dates
- Reports

The app also has further functionality that we will activate and inform you of over the coming months, including Parents Evening video appointments.

We have been delighted with the positive response from parents regarding the software, so thank you very much to all who have already logged in/downloaded the app and are using it routinely to support their child's academic monitoring. Although we haven't fully launched to students yet (- this will happen after Christmas), we know that many are already using it, and taking a keen interest in seeing where and what they are receiving achievement and behaviour points for!

Please can we ask all parents to download the app to their personal devices if you have not done so already. It is a key piece of software that supports our communication and allows you to see a lot of information, meaning there is less need for you to contact the school directly to ask. We will resend usernames and passwords to any parents that have not yet logged in, but should you require them at any other point, please do email the school to ask. You can access the software and any information directly from any website browser using the web address below:

**Web Browser address**

[www.edulinkone.com](http://www.edulinkone.com)

**Apple App Store**

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/edulink-one/id1188809029?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

**Android Google Play**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.overnetdata.edulinkone&hl=en>

The app allows users to see contact information for their child, including home addresses of parent and child. It is therefore vitally important that we ensure all personal information available for viewing through the app is allowed to be shared with respective parents.

If there is any reason why your child's home address **should not** be visible to another parent e.g. split parents where a court order may be in place, please can you complete the Google Form below to alert us. We are then able to make the required changes on your child's account on the app to ensure it meets requirements.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGiNbkpf63cI5evfdoOReOrOa9COTSDDEW2getsLhA6PWq0g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGiNbkpf63cI5evfdoOReOrOa9COTSDDEW2getsLhA6PWq0g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

As mentioned previously, communication regarding detentions will still come to students and parents via the email address on our system, but may come with an 'Edulink' heading. Please do look out for this. Please also allow 'push notifications' on the app as well, as detentions can also be communicated in this way. We will NOT use push notifications on the app for anything else.

We are currently in the process of creating a short 'tips' guide to help you navigate certain parts of the app/software, which we will forward on to parents in due course.

## House Update – Not by Ourselves Alone



The Autumn term has undoubtedly been a very busy one at Gillotts. Our school motto of Non Nobis Solum is always at the forefront of trying to ensure the school community upholds our three key values of Kindness, Respect and Not Doing Harm. Giving students the opportunity to demonstrate these values and celebrating them when they do is an important part of school life.

From a House perspective, the autumn term gives the opportunity for lots of activities to get involved in, as new Year 7s get settled, Inter House sports competitions kick off, and we enjoy all the fun activities, fundraising and community initiatives around Christmas.

So far this term, Houses have participated in:

- Inter House Rugby
- Inter House Hockey
- Fortnightly House Quizzes in Tutor Time
- Nomad Food Bank collections (Biggest collection, Best decorated boxes)
- RS Inter Faith Decoration competition
- And much more!

Students also continue to accumulate points for their house through their achievements in school, excellent efforts and attendance, and displaying acts of kindness and community spirit around the school site. For Darwin house, there is a change in personnel with Minke Koorts (House Administrator) leaving for pastures new after around 10 years' service at Gillotts. In Orwell, Mr Laughter has joined as Assistant Head of House. We would like to thank Minke for her commitment and dedication to the school and Darwin House, and wish her all the very best for the future. We will be welcoming Diana Brooks in January, who has taken over the role of House Administrator for Darwin house.

The updated House points score will be revealed at the start of term in tutor time, and also posted on our social media!

The best place to see everything else that is going on is through our school social media pages on Instagram and Twitter:

[www.instagram.com/gillottshenley](http://www.instagram.com/gillottshenley)

[www.twitter.com/gillottshenley](http://www.twitter.com/gillottshenley)

We are always keen to also hear of achievements and exploits outside of school as well, so if you have any newsworthy stories, please do let us know!



## Darwin News Tutee of the Term

DGS: Mya Brooks

DHLS: Sahara Green

DAPM: Ruby Ellery

DLLF: Sinan Girgin

DROM/CAG:

DCHA: Lucio Lo Monaco

DSGG: Monty Norman

DHLK: Harry Rainbow

DJLG: Mimi Wilder

DFMW: Martha Hart

DDI: Max Miller

DADT: Alix Maxwell

DRD/NFD: Freddie Wigmore



## Orwell News Tutee of the Term



OHJS/SEL: Irving Paviour

OPCM: Louie Andrews

OJSK: Rebecca Parker

OGMO: Eva Stammers

OJJ: Katie Davidson

OHRW: Flick Mahoney

OCG: Alexandre Khory

OTWN/CST: Clara Luscombe

OTL: Joy Kemboi

OACM: Nathan Robinson

ONMW: Ewan Aiken

OBJB/ELD: Chloe Govett

OAD/AB: Bea Primrose

## Pankhurst News Tutee of the Term

PHJ: Ben Freeman

PTAG: Matthew Osman

PLJA/LS: Darcy Kenny

PFLP: Shayla Combridge

PJDS: Zac Carson

PNGK: Sophie Cole

PSJW: Freddie Williams

PESS: Alfie Lawrence

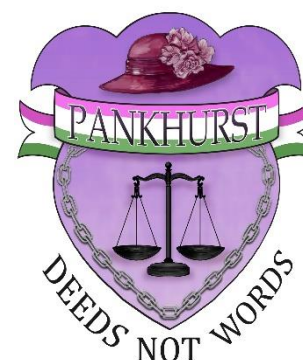
PKLO/CLF: Poppy Feeney

PWJH: Livy Robinson

PJTP/CEC: Kalila Combridge

PSMS: Izzy Herbert

PGDM: Millie Goodall





## Letter from Emma Hunt - Chair of Governors

December 2023

Dear all

This is my first communication to you as Chair of Governors at Gillotts School, a role I was elected to at the end of November 2023, and I wanted to write and introduce myself, and explain the role of governance in a little more detail.

My name is Emma Hunt and I have been a Community Governor for four years. I live just outside Frieth, Buckinghamshire, and have been married to Jim for 20 years. We have two daughters, who both attended Gillotts but have now completed their time at the school. Our family business is based in High Wycombe and operates in the joinery sector. As a family, we are keen supporters within the wider community, and I undertake other volunteer roles within both Henley Rowing Club and Wallingford Netball Club. In my (limited) spare time, I enjoy both indoor rowing and playing tennis, and also play the piano.

I have a keen interest in education, with particular regard for challenging disadvantage, and improving social mobility and SEND opportunities, as I believe these are vital to 'closing the gap' to ensure a first-class education for all students, and to improve their outcomes in life. To add to these, the teaching both my daughters received, and the personal development and GCSE results they achieved, during their time at Gillotts was first class. This was supported by incredible pastoral care, not only for them as pupils, but for us as parents. And it is an honour to be elected Chair of Governors for such a thriving environment.

In terms of governance, there is a large area on the school website with links to many documents and information about the team and their work. In short, school governance covers many areas:

- Strategic Leadership – contributing to the board by developing a vision, fostering culture, and setting strategy;
- Accountability and Assurance - overseeing financial performance and ensuring the school's money is well spent, whilst holding the school and leaders to account to ensure every pupil has the best possible educational outcome;
- Engagement – strategic oversight of relationships with pupils, staff, parents and the extended community to ensure decision-making is supported by understanding their views;
- Legal and Statutory – directing how the charitable company is managed and run, ensuring the school complies with all legal and statutory requirements.

Governors are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school, and operational matters remain firmly in the remit of the school leadership. But as governors, we are the employers of the leaders of the school. We currently have 17 governors in post from various stakeholder groups including parents, staff, local businesses, other educational establishments, and the wider community of Henley. It is our job not only to scrutinise and challenge the school leaders on their running of the school, but to support them wherever and whenever possible.

As I move into my chairmanship, I am taking over the role from David Gorsuch who has been a governor since 2012, and Chair since 2014. David is hugely knowledgeable about the school, its history during that time, and how it runs. During his 10 years at the helm of our Governing Body, he

has watched the school develop under the care of its outstanding leadership team. But he has also been instrumental in guiding and supporting that team to achieve significant results and improvements. To have my own family's personal view and experience confirmed by the recent Ofsted rating moving from Good to Outstanding, and the celebrated Progress 8 results over many years (in the top 25% of schools nationally for since 2013) only goes to show what an exceptional school Gillotts is, and how effective our leadership and governance really are.

David – thank you for everything you have done for the school. This small comment feels insignificant for 14 years of service (and counting!), but your time, commitment, dedication and enthusiasm are qualities I wish to emulate, and I look forward to continuing my work with you as you step back into a community governor role and assist with my transition to an effective chair over the next 12 months. I have big shoes to fill, and an impressive legacy to maintain. I only hope I can serve our school community as effectively.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to wish all our pupils, staff, governors, and parents a magical Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Emma Hunt  
Chair of Governors  
Gillotts School

## Year 11 Presentation Evening

It was a huge pleasure to welcome back many of last year's Year 11 students, along with their parents, to Gillotts on Wednesday 6 December for a Presentation Evening to celebrate their many achievements.

Staff were asked to nominate three students in each of two categories to receive a certificate – firstly for the excellence of results within their subject area and secondly in recognition of the personal effort of students whose results had surpassed expectations.

The guest speaker this year was Holly Rosier, a former Head Girl of Gillotts. She spoke about how she has been able to realise her dream of being a zoologist, first as a safari field guide in South Africa, then as a conservationist in Mozambique, and now on the Nettlebed Estate.

Students Ren Reay and Manouka Vogel were presented with the overall Outstanding Achievement award for achieving extraordinary grades in eleven GCSE exams and the overall Contribution to the School award went to Evie Decardi-Nelson, who was one of last year's Head Students.

Following the presentation of certificates, a vote of thanks was given by Emma Hunt, the new Chair of Governors.



## Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze and Silver

Many congratulations to the students who have completed their Bronze and Silver awards since the summer and will be receiving their certificates soon.

Over 100 year 9 students have started Bronze award this year and have got off to a great start on their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. A reminder that students must have started two of the sections by the expedition training day, Saturday 20th January 2024, which will be in school. Details for this will be on Google classroom and will be emailed home after the Christmas break.

Good luck to the students continuing their DofE journey with Silver award. It is inspiring to hear that some are looking into alternative ways of completing their expedition rather than hiking.

Regular DofE drop-in sessions for students are on Tuesday break time in S3 and the [Gillotts DofE website](#) and [DofE.org](#) have details and links to go to for help and advice - or email [DofE@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:DofE@gillotts.org.uk).

## Year 11 Geography Trip to Bristol



In September, the Geography team took the three Year 11 GCSE geography classes to Bristol on a field trip to help them prepare for their final exams. This involved studying regeneration around the Bristol Docks and the wider city. We were a bit tight for time owing to traffic problems on the journey but we managed to fit in a lot while we were there.

The students spent time looking around the Temple Meads regeneration area, completing environmental quality surveys to examine the impact of regeneration on this area. They also asked members of the public to complete a questionnaire to get their perspectives on the impact of regeneration in this area. It was interesting to note that there were far fewer people around when we visited this time in comparison with when we last visited Bristol in 2018. The Temple Meads area has lots of office developments and we concluded that the move to home-working has had a significant impact on 'footfall'.

The students also went on a fascinating boat trip around the Bristol Docks. This was accompanied by a very informative commentary which is aimed at GCSE students. This took us through the history of the docks and their impact on Bristol as well as the decline and subsequent regeneration of this area. It was interesting to hear that in the 1970s planners were intending to fill in the main dock basin and build an urban motorway! Luckily this plan was abandoned.

Looking ahead to the rest of the fieldwork year, the Geography team are in the middle of taking the whole of Year 9 on a series of trips to the Natural History and Science Museums in London. We are then going to be taking all of Year 7 to a local river (the River Pang) in March and the whole of Year 8 to Lulworth Cove in Dorset in May. Finally, next September we will be taking the current Year 10 GCSE students on their weekend residential trip to Weymouth.

While it is worth noting that fieldwork is a required part of the geography curriculum, we also believe that the experiences the students have on these trips will stay as memories for many years to come. The students also develop teamwork skills and an appreciation of the wider environment – as well as applying what they have learnt in class to the outside world.

Dr Newbold

## Year 9 Geography/Science Trip to London Museums

The Geography and Science teams launched a new whole year group trip for Year 9 students this year. This involved taking almost all the students out on a series of day trips to the Natural History and Science museums in London. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the students to visit these world-class museums. While a significant number of the students had visited them before, in many cases this was when they were much younger. For a number of students this was their first visit.

Each of the trips involved a morning spent at the Earth Science section of the Natural History Museum. They got to spend time visiting the four galleries and reinforcing their knowledge and understanding of the Natural Hazards topic they have been studying in school this year. There were many spectacular and informative displays with all sorts of information which will be useful for them both in Year 9 but also if they go on to study Geography at GCSE and beyond.

In the afternoon we transferred across to the Science Museum site. Luckily these galleries were a little bit less busy and the groups spent time in each section of the museum. The displays varied from large 18th Century steam engines, to space rockets and back to 18th and 19th Century medical equipment. The students also learnt about careers in science.

The students behaved impeccably and received a number of compliments from other school group leaders regarding their behaviour and politeness. We would also like to thank all the staff who helped supervise the students - making sure that they all came home safely!

Mrs Michael and Dr Newbold





## Performing Arts News

### Senior Musical Theatre Club

At the time of writing, Senior Musical Theatre are busy rehearsing not only for the Carol Service on 19th December, but they have also been asked to take part in a community event to be held at the Kenton Theatre on 11th December. They will be performing two songs ('Adiemus' by Karl Jenkins and 'Stars' from Les Miserables) followed by a finale of another two songs together with schools from the local area.

### The Carol Service

Choir and Orchestra have been practising hard for the Carol Service and are looking forward to performing a selection of pieces including leading the congregation singing Christmas carols, a pop song and a medley of Christmas music.

### Year 7 and 8 Singing Competitions

After the success of the Year 7 event last year, this year we were delighted to repeat the Year 7 event and then run a Year 8 event too. Each Year 7 class sang a song as a class and our guest judges were very impressed with everyone. The Year 8 classes each presented their rendition of Wonderwall by Oasis, complete with instruments, as a culmination of the work done in lessons. With thanks to our guest judges for these events, Sasha Steventon, Emma Hunt and Jackie Stoffels.

### Aladdin Jr.

Preparations are underway for our first whole school musical in March. We can't wait to share with you the wonderful work that is being done.

### Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

Year 7, 8 & 9 students are also working hard at rehearsals for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which takes to the stage in early February.

### Clubs and Extra-Curricular

As if all that wasn't enough, Orchestra, Senior Musical Theatre, Choir, Jazz band, Rock band, Guitar and Ukulele Club, Year 7 & 8 Drama club and the Year 9 performers group are still running as usual!

A reminder that various instrumental teachers operate at the school - please contact Charlotte Alder for more details. [calder@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:calder@gillotts.org.uk)

## Careers

### Year 9 PSHE day: Career Bites

On Wednesday 27th September, Year 9 were lucky enough to receive talks from a range of careers; the police, NHS, cybersecurity, marketing, law and photography. Thank you to those parents that gave up their time to come and talk to our students; it was so great to bring careers 'alive' in the classroom.





### Year 11 Post-16 Evening

On Thursday 11th October, Year 11 students and their parents were invited to a post-16 information and revision evening. Following the talks, parents and students were able to explore 15 post-16 provider marketing stalls including Piggott, Borlase, Reading College and AWE Aldermaston.



### **An Evening with Sir Steve Redgrave**

On Thursday 2nd November, we were extremely privileged to have the opportunity to listen to Sir Steve Redgrave. Over 200 parents and students attended the evening.

Sir Steve, a five-time Olympic gold rower, took us on a journey through his life; a journey of true resilience and grit - we were left inspired and in awe. We were even lucky enough to hold one of his gold Olympic medals. Sir Steve kindly allowed for photos and autographs at the end of his talk. A special thank you to two of our Head Students, Cameron and Flo, who presented Sir Steve with a gesture of our gratitude.



### **Year 11 PSHE day: Henley College**

On Thursday 9th November, Year 11 travelled to Henley College as part of their school partnership day. Students attended subject taster sessions, chosen beforehand, to gain an insight into A-levels and vocational diplomas. Students enjoyed their day and left feeling more confident about their post-16 choices.

### **Reading College and BCA Assemblies**

Throughout this term, Activate Learning (through Reading College) and BCA (Berkshire School of Agriculture) have delivered assemblies to many year groups. These focussed on the range of options available when students leave Gillotts as well as giving students something to aspire to.



### Author Visit: Joffre White

On Tuesday 21st November, we were very lucky to have the inspirational author, Joffre White, at Gillotts. He delivered a motivational talk to the whole of Year 9 and then ran workshops for selected Year 7 and 8 students. Students were able to buy his books and get them signed at break and lunch.



Year 9 were really inspired by Joffre's talk. Some comments and feedback from Mrs Buckley's class included the following:

Joffre White's speech and what I'll take with me:

Be someone's hero by being kind and encourage resilience.

Don't regret anything you do in life; always follow your dreams

Try staying together with your friends so you don't lose that important connection.

Always read and keep up your imagination especially when you get older.

(Tijen)

Joffre's speech was inspirational. I learnt about what he's gone through to become an author.

I'd love to listen to him again.

(Anon)

Joffre White's talk was engaging and funny. I learnt a lot about how I can achieve my goals. It really motivated me to fulfil my dreams.

(Anon)

It was very inspiring.

(Alf)

His son is his hero and encouraged him to start writing books out of the stories he would make up.

(Leah)

Joffre White showed me how many times your path can change in life and to always follow your dreams.

(Martha)

Year 7 were treated to a Question and Answer session. I have to say that I have never been involved in an author session in which practically every student has taken up the opportunity to ask a question.

There were about 35 students present and some even asked more than one question. A group of about 35 Year 8 students also attended a cut down version of his talk to Year 9, with some brain storming and creative writing opportunities. At break and lunch-time many students came to have an informal chat with Joffre and buy one of his books. *Aura Boy*, his most recent book, has been particularly popular and our library copies are being regularly borrowed.



Sarah Seddon

### **Ex-students Assembly**

On Monday 4th December, Elsa Horne, an ex-Gillotts student, gave a talk to Year 11s. Elsa is in her second year at Oxford University studying law. She discussed her choices post-16 and gave exam tips for success. Unfortunately, Will Sheard, another ex-student was unable to attend but sent his slides to be shown. Will studied a vocational diploma in engineering and now works for a special effects company working on films such as *Fast and Furious 10*. Student feedback was that 'this was the best assembly we have had' and 'it was inspiring to hear what past students have done'.

### **Year 10: Apprenticeship Assembly and Workshop**

On Tuesday 5th December, ASK delivered an apprenticeship awareness assembly to Year 10. This was an amazing opportunity for students to hear about the range of apprenticeships that exist and how to apply. Interested students participated in a workshop after this, focussing on the application process and CV writing.



Thank you to those parents who have signed up to volunteer to deliver a careers talk/ event at Gillotts.

Please follow the Gillotts Careers Department on LinkedIn for regular updates on events:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/gillotts-school-careers-department>

Mrs Chloe Tristem – [ctristem@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:ctristem@gillotts.org.uk)

## PE Update

This year we have again been involved in the South Oxfordshire league for both Hockey and Rugby. We have had many schools pull out of the Rugby games which has been disappointing - however all of our students have continued to be really committed to practices and matches.

In the **area hockey tournaments and fixtures** the results are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Any other additional comments
<b>7A</b>	3	0	0	2	
<b>7B</b>	3	0	0	2	
<b>8A</b>	4	0	0	1	
<b>8B</b>	4	0	0	1	
<b>9</b>	2	0	1	2	
<b>10</b>	3	0	0	1	
<b>11</b>	0	0	0	3	Unfortunately all the Year 11's games have been cancelled

In **Rugby** results are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Any other additional comments
<b>7</b>	3	0	0	1	St Birinus - could not attend
<b>8</b>	4	0	0	1	Langtree game cancelled. All other games won very comfortably
<b>9</b>	4	0	0	1	Langtree cancelled
<b>10</b>	2	0	3	1	
<b>11</b>	1	0	0	4	Frustrating that so many schools cancelled. Excellent game v Langtree

### **Duathlon**

We also did really well in the Duathlon (consisting of a 2km ergo row and a 2km run) held at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School on November 3rd

U14 Girls - 1st - this consisted of 3 year girls who are all competing a 'year young' - they did exceptionally well winning as a team but also coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd individually too

Gold - Julia Karnacewicz, Silver - Isabella Stobie, Bronze - Lena Karnacewicz

U14 Boys - 2nd - with Alf Monsen taking individual bronze

U16 Girls - 1st - with Jemima Butterworth taking individual Gold

U16 Boys - 2nd - with Matthew O'Connor taking individual Bronze

This was a great result for Gillotts -all the students tried so hard and did us and themselves proud.

### **South Oxfordshire Area Cross Country**

In the South Oxfordshire Cross country which was held at Gillotts the following week we had a mixed set of results:

Year 7 Girls - 1st - with Zara Tate taking individual Gold

Year 7 Boys - 2nd - with Irving Paviour taking individual Silver

Year 8/9 Girls - 1st - all 5 of our girls coming in the top 10

Year 8/9 Boys - 4th

Year 10/11 Girls - 1st - with Jemima Butterworth taking individual bronze

Year 10/11 Boys - 2nd - with Josh Hatt taking individual Gold (running against Year 11 boys)

They all did so well - as always behaviour and attitude was excellent - always so proud of our Gillotts students in that way. Cross country is not easy and they tried so hard for themselves, their teammates and the school - again they did Gillotts proud.

So overall a successful season so far and we are looking forward to Netball and Football starting in January

Hayley Rogers

Head of PE



## GCSE Art - Alison Pink Workshop



This term, the Art department was visited by ceramic artist Alison Pink. She delivered a series of workshops for Y11 GCSE Art students, teaching them how to make a wall mounted dog's head. The sessions were generously funded by The Henley Arts Trust. Here is a selection of the heads. Well done Y11 and thank you Alison and The Henley Arts Trust.



# Food Technology Update



**Year 9**  
Calzone



**Year 9**  
World cuisine homework



**Year 10**  
Flatbreads



**Year 10**  
Colored pasta making



**Year 10**  
Chicken kiev, stuffed breast  
Fried legs



Chicken jointing



**Year 10**  
Mille Feuille  
Puff pastry



**Year 7** jam tarts  
Shortening - fats practical



**Year 7**  
'All things eggy Homework'



**Year 7** knife skills



**Year 7** bread making



**Year 8** homemade  
tagliatelle and ragu sauce



**Year 8**  
Victoria sponge Homework'



**Year 8**  
Burgers



## Library News

### Eco Club

This term we planted a metre squared for wildlife with the support of Greener Henley. We were featured, along with other local schools, in the Henley Standard. Our regular members are from Years 7, 9 and 10. This term we spend some sessions indoors when it is too cold and wet for gardening. We are developing a google site to share information with the rest of the school.

With the expertise of Mrs Michael, we have cleaned and replenished our bird feeders and taken some cuttings of lavender to plant in the school grounds.

Mrs Seddon has painted the planters in the Quad, which we plan to plant up with more bulbs for all year-round colour and interest. We have been doing some recycling and crafting projects too.



### Library Club

The aim of library club is to provide a quiet space for arts, crafts and games. We make useful items such as bookmarks from old books and make seasonal decorations for our Eco Tree as well as keeping the blackboard displays fresh and interesting. Members are from all year groups, showing that even older students need some quiet relaxation and mindful time away from the stresses of school work.



Some of the Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers come along to library club to help; some of the items we create are used in displays to promote new books. This term we have been using old CDs and DVDs for making book recommendations. Some of the parents and children visiting for Open Evening in September enjoyed trying their hand at these.

Recently we have been making Christmas decorations, including building a tree out of some of the lesser used books in the library!



## 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/gll00/#!/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/>

Mrs Seddon

## Teaching and Learning

This academic year we are focusing on inclusive teaching for deep thinking -ensuring that every one of our students can access and find challenge in lessons. In part we are doing this through continuing our work 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 and 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.



Since September, to manage students' cognitive load from the very beginning of lessons, students have completed calm, silent starter activities in lessons. We have developed more consistent, ordered ends to lessons too. This helps students to focus on the ideas we want them to learn and to remove distractions.

Thank you for supporting our work ensuring that students have the correct equipment in school. This has already made a real difference, with fewer students coming to lessons without the required equipment. As mentioned in the recent Schoolcomms message, replacement equipment items can be ordered via ScoPay, and then collected from Student Services by students.

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

## Parents' Association Update



**SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024**

# Save the date!

We are pleased to announce the date for the much loved annual Quiz Night! An evening of light-hearted competitive fun expertly hosted by our Quiz Master.

More details including how to book, will be announced in the new year, but for now, please save the date! We would love to see as many of you there as possible. This fundraiser is always an enjoyable event and tickets sell quickly. If you haven't attended one before, I can highly recommend giving it a go!

Do start forming your dream teams over the Christmas holiday (8-10 people) in readiness! If you are a smaller group or couple, we can help make up teams of parents. It promises to be a fun packed evening which also raises much needed funds for our school.

### ***Have you ever considered joining the PA but wondered what was involved?***

We recognise that you may have questions, or just want to know more about what we do before you decide if you can help!

We are considering hosting an informal meeting in the new year so you can meet us and ask any questions you have. We can also share how the PA operates and discuss how you could get involved.

If you would like an invite, please email [gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com)

We would also LOVE to hear from anyone whose company could potentially fund match one of our events.

Warm Regards  
Your PA



## 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>

**pabulummm**  
HEALTHY DINING FOOD

## 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
<b>Autumn Term</b>	04 September - 20 October	35
October half term	23 October - 27 October	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	30 October - 21 December	39
Christmas holiday	22 December - 05 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	08 January - 9 February	25
Spring half term	12 February - 16 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	19 February - 28 March	29
Easter Holiday	29 March - 12 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	15 April - 24 May	29
Late Spring half term	27 May - 31 May	
<b>Summer Term</b>	03 June - 24 July	38
<b>Total</b>		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
<b>Autumn Term</b>	02 September - 25 October	40
October half term	28 October - 1 November	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	4 November - 20 December	35
Christmas holiday	23 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 - 04 April	30
Easter Holiday	07 April - 21 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	22 April - 23 May	23
Late Spring half term	26 May - 30 May	
<b>Summer Term</b>	02 June - 22 July	37
<b>Total</b>		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