Parents' Newsletter

Dear Parents

Sitting down to write my last ever newsletter to you after nearly 19 years in post is not an easy thing to do! Young people who were being born in my first year of Headship are about to take their A levels - this makes it seem like an incredible length of time but, in many ways, I can't see where the time has gone. I suspect this is largely because school life is always so busy, constantly moving from one thing to the next. There are of course highlights - in particular having our strengths and successes recognised in our Ofsted inspection 2023 - which stick in the memory. Equally, the incredible things that were asked of schools during COVID will always stay with me. Probably one of the most precious moments for me was when in 2019 Ofsted opened their report with the words, 'This is a school where pupils and staff thrive.' A Headteacher could want no more for their community than that.

I would like to thank you as parents, who give us so much support and encouragement, in the good times and the bad. We talk often about the triangle of relationships between students, parents and school staff and that we need all three relationships to be working for a student to thrive. I am so grateful to all of you who have worked with us so closely to address issues and solve problems. That has been invaluable.

I am delighted that Mark Bedford will be succeeding me as Headteacher. I have no doubt that Gillotts will continue to thrive under his leadership. We have been working together closely since his appointment and he's been in school to work with the Leadership Team and meet staff and students during break duties and assemblies. He will be joining us later this week to see 'Mary Poppins' - what a great introduction to the brilliant things that happen when we work together as a community - non nobis solum! I would like to thank everyone for the hard work that is going into it - the cast, the tech team and, especially the team of staff, led by the Performing Arts Team, without whom none of this would be possible.

At this time of year, it is Year 11 who are at the front of our minds, as they enter the last few weeks of preparation for their GCSEs, and approach the end of their time with us. Over the holidays, it's important students stick to their revision timetables. We are recommending 3 hours per day, 6 days per week, as a minimum. There is no doubt that the six weeks of exams place incredible demands on students - their tutors and teachers are ready to support. We do look forward to celebrating with them at the Prom.

Turning to this term's events, we were very grateful to the Henley Youth Festival for bringing in a theatre company, the Globe Players, for performances of 'An Inspector Calls', one of the GCSE set texts, for Years 10 and 11. Their energetic, thought-provoking and professional production brought the play to life with tension and excellent character work. A thoughtful and insightful question-and-answer session afterwards allowed students to explore the characters and ideas further, with the talented actors helping to connect the themes of Priestley's play to issues in our modern world. Also in school, Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a Science Dome Chemistry Show. You will find in this newsletter much other evidence of the rich diversity of school life – I do hope you will enjoy reading about all that has been going on.

Please could I also remind parents of the importance of students being properly equipped for school? However well organised they were in September, a number of students are now arriving without the basics – pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, calculator, coloured pencils, glue, whiteboard, whiteboard pen – which slows down the start of lessons and hence progress. Getting the basics sorted for the start of the new term is essential!

I end with my very best wishes to you all, but particularly our students, for happiness and fulfilment in the years to come. It has been a privilege to lead a school as remarkable as Gillotts.

Catharine Darnton
Headteacher

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 the lobe of each ear.

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

Anti-social behaviour from students on the way home and out-and-about

We are sorry to have to share that we have had an increasing number of complaints about anti-social behaviour from our students, when not on the school site, some of which have led to police reports. As you will be aware, students' behaviour off the school site is the responsibility of their parents. We would be very grateful if parents would talk to students about expectations for kind and respectful behaviour, wherever they are.

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 10 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as happiness, safety, behaviour and school communication. 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 https://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 Award Update

Gillotts House/Not By Ourselves Alone update – March 2026

Our school motto, *Non Nobis Solum*, guides everything we do, reminding us to uphold our three core values: kindness, respect, and avoiding harm to others. Providing students with opportunities to show these values in action—and recognising them when they do—is a vital part of school life. It also helps foster a strong sense of belonging across the entire school community.

From a House perspective, the spring term offers plenty of opportunities to get involved in a wide range of activities.

This term, Houses have taken part in:

- Sports competitions
- Gillotts Countdown competition
- Nomad Mother's Day collection
- Whole-school paper aeroplane championships
- World Book Day
- And much more!

Students also earn points for their house through their accomplishments in school, strong effort and attendance, as well as by showing kindness and a sense of community throughout the school.

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

The easiest way to keep up with everything else happening is by following our school's social media accounts on Instagram and X:

www.instagram.com/gillottshenley

www.twitter.com/gillottshenley

We are always pleased to hear about students' achievements beyond school as well, so if you have any news or stories to share, please do let us know!

WINNER
CERTIFICATE
2026
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9

WINNERS
CERTIFICATE
2026
Paper Aeroplane
Champ 2026!

Darwin News Tutee of the Term

DGS: Josh Drummond

DHLS: Tess Coward

DJLG: Teddy Denison

DROM/BJB: Vihaan Sable

DCHA: Fran Reed

DTWN: Julia Karnacewicz

DHLK: Emily Robinson

DPJY: Belle Clark

DNMM/AD: Sam Harris

DFMW: Anya McGinn

DAPM: Erin Dixon

DSGG: Bella Fooks

Orwell News Tutee of the Term

OHJS/SEL: Duru Aslan

OPCM: Stanley Bayly-Torreiro

OCM: Baris Bilgen

OGMO/JWW: Sarah Babariya

OJJ/AB: Ariane Oliver

OHRW: Zachary Jones

OTL/NFD: Mohid Zaman

OJRE: Jaz Mackinnon

OCG: Aaron Torres Martin

OADT: Ferelle Frailfeld

OACM: Finley Fryer

OCST/DR: Theo Khoury

Pankhurst News Tutee of the Term

PSC: Ayanna Gupta

PFLP: Skye Strmen Ogden

PJH: Eliza Morris

PLS/LJA: William Hall

PJDS: Olive Winders

PKLO/CF: Ally Hughes

PWJH: Evangeline Bowley & Rosie Elson

PGDM: Rhyliee Green

PSMS/ELD: Angus Smith

PKAP: Freddie Williams

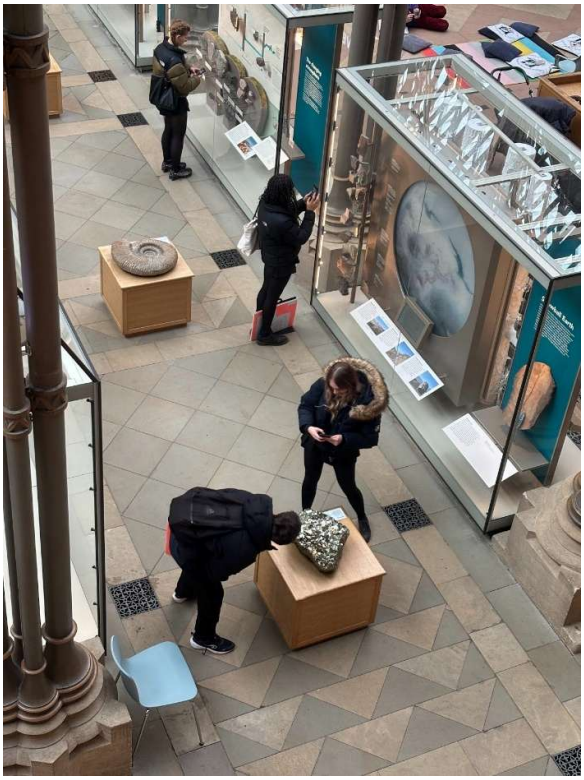
PCEG: Harry Venn

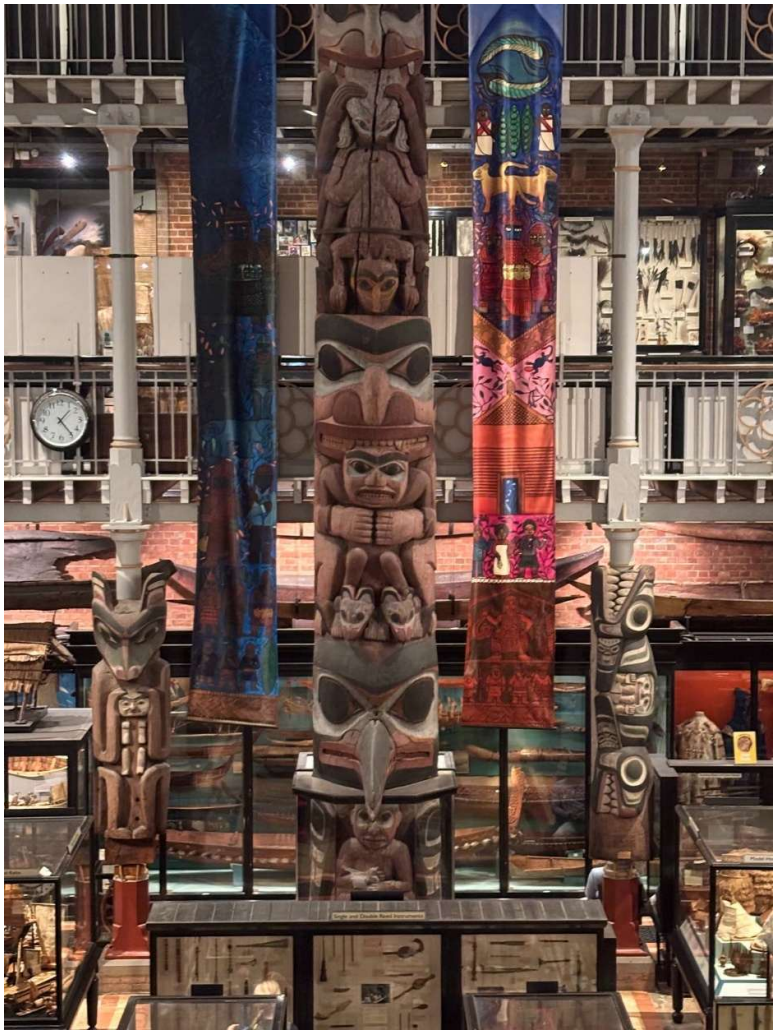
PCJW: Cesar Worth

Art

Year 10 Art trip to Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum

In February, Year 10 Art students headed to Oxford to get inspired for their new GCSE Art project. They had a very productive day taking photos and sketching from the amazing collection of natural objects and artefacts from around the world. I can't wait to see the amazing artwork they create from this trip.





Science

Science Sparks Curiosity: Year 7 & 8 Enjoy "Explorer Dome"

Earlier this month, our Year 7 and 8 students swapped their traditional lab benches for a front-row seat at a truly "explosive" event. On Thursday, 12th March, the school welcomed the renowned **Explorer Dome** for a series of high-energy "Science Tricks" shows that left our junior scientists buzzing with excitement.

This fantastic opportunity was made possible through the generous support and organization of the **Henley Youth Festival**, working in close partnership with our dedicated Science department.

More Than Just Fireworks

While the flashes and bangs were certainly a highlight, the core of the show was centered on deep thinking. Students were presented with a collection of counter-intuitive experiments—phenomena that didn't quite behave the way they expected. This encouraged everyone to ask the three most important questions in science:

- **"What if...?"**
- **"Why?"**
- **"What happens next?"**

Bringing the Curriculum to Life

The Explorer Dome visit wasn't just a break from the norm; it was a powerful educational tool designed to bridge the gap between textbook theory and real-world wonder. The sessions were specifically designed to:

- **Promote active skills:** Strengthening students' abilities in observation, prediction, and exploration.
- **Ignite the mind:** Encouraging imagination alongside creative and critical thinking.
- **Support the classroom:** Enhancing the Science curriculum while showing how these principles apply across many different subject areas.

Library News

We're excited to share updates about new books, upcoming events, helpful resources, and ways students can make the most of our wonderful space here at Gillotts. This is in part written by students. Featuring a brand new selection of Manga graphic novels, which we discuss at our weekly Book club held on Thursday lunchtimes in the Library, the library is an exciting space for staff and students to work in. Check out our latest new books:

On Mondays, the Library Helpers session includes those volunteering as part of the **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze or Silver Award**. Certificates were awarded during last week of term.

Eco- Club - every Friday lunchtime in the Library. This term we have created bird seed feeders and hung them on the trees near the Lodge, and planted sunflowers in the school borders. We have also been checking on the Quad planters and doing some pruning activity, as well as identifying some bird song and plants and collecting leaves and pine cones.

On cold/wet days, we have an informal group discussion in the library about the environment and recycling, whilst making eco decorations for display. One week, students were enjoying some of the inspiring eco books in the library and creating posters based on the books.

Games - Chess and other board games always available at lunchtimes for student use (- *Chess Club takes place Friday lunchtimes*).

Upcoming author visit - **Luke Palmer**, award winning YA fiction writer and poet who lives locally, will be hosting a brilliant workshop for Years 8-10 in October this year.

BOOK AWARDS

The **Berkshire Book Award** is the first of its kind and is unique because young people both nominate the titles and select the winner. Thousands of young people from over 70 Berkshire schools have taken part. Gillotts, whilst being in Oxfordshire, still participates in the Award as its Founder has strong links to the school.

Some Gillotts Year 7 students visited Reading Boys school on 4th February for the Shortlist ceremony in the historic Great Hall. We had an incredible afternoon, meeting the Award winning author Mark Illis, and doing a creative writing workshop with the author based on the characters from his book, 'Running Away For Beginners'.

The author Mark Illis talking to Book Award students.

Year 7 Gillotts student has a book signed by author Mark Illlis.

Gillotts and Berkshire schools participated in the Award ceremony at Reading school.

Excelsior Award
For the first time this year, Gillotts are running the Excelsior Book Award:
https://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day on 5th March was a really fun and exciting day at school. On the day itself we had a variety of staff and students dressing up and entering into the festive spirit of the day. The cake sale, which Year 11 Head Students and their friends helped to organise, was extremely popular at break-time.

Altogether we raised over £160 for the Book Aid charity, which is really brilliant. Students not dressed up were invited to borrow a hat, wig or other accessory which Ms Stonard had brought with her on the day.

We had many wacky and wild costumes including the Head herself dressed as Mary Poppins! Some photos here:

STATE
PRISON

Book Aid International

Thank you so much for choosing to donate £165.90 to Book Aid International today. Please find the details of your donation below.

Around the world poverty, displacement and discrimination mean that millions of people don't have the books they need. At Book Aid International, we work for a world where everyone has the opportunity to read. Every year, with the help of generous people like you, we work with our partners to provide over one million brand-new books to more than 20 million readers worldwide.

It costs just £2 to send a book, and each of those books can be read again and again – so your donation will make a real and lasting impact for children like Thandizolanga.

"Books help me focus on what I want to be when I grow up, I want to be a doctor because I want to help fight diseases. I also want to help elderly people like my grandmother who has been sick for a while now." Thandizolanga, 11, Malawi.

Thank you once more for your donation. By sending brand-new books around the world you are helping more people read and change their own lives for the better.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Rawlinson

Performing Arts

Mrs Alder, Ms King, Mrs Jansen and Mr Grice are incredibly proud of the hard work our students put into the production of Mary Poppins Jr. at the end of this term. Months of hard work paid off and the show was a great success. Well done everyone involved.

Food Technology

This term has been busy; we have made curry and flatbreads, undertaken a potato challenge with amazing winners, and organised Ready, Steady Cook with Year 9, which is always a fun time. Year 7 and 8 have swapped rotation so we start the skill building all over again with knife skills in Year 7 and burger patties to start with in Year 8 - leading up to the Gillotts' favourite, the brownies. Year 10 has been busy and the most recent chef of the lesson goes to Lucas James for his beautifully made caramel decorative nest and Cayden Brennan for his beautifully piped meringues. Some really fantastic skills are starting to be built up with the Year 10s! Year 11 have had a fantastic run of exams with some amazing dishes and display; I look forward to seeing their coursework being finished at the end of this week. Well done everyone - it has been another great term in the kitchen as part of the food preparation and nutrition curriculum!

Caramel nest made by Lucas James

Meringues made by Cayden Brennan

Henley Youth Festival

The Globe Players visited Gillotts to perform 'An Inspector Calls' for our Year 10 and 11 students. Their energetic, thought-provoking and professional production brought the play to life with tension and excellent character work. Students were highly engaged throughout the performance. A thoughtful and insightful question-and-answer session afterwards allowed students to explore the characters and ideas further, with the talented actors helping to connect the themes of Priestley's play to issues in our modern world.

Duke of Edinburgh

There are over 100 Year 9 students taking part in Bronze award this year and 20 Year 10 working towards Silver award.

Congratulations to those students who have completed sections and have asked their assessors to complete their assessor reports. It is good to see all the great things Gillotts students are taking part in for their awards and the difference their volunteering is making in the community. Instructions about what information an assessor needs to write a report can be found on Google classroom and on the Gillotts DofE website.

A reminder of the expedition dates:

Silver award

Practice 27th - 29th March

Assessed expedition 10th - 12th July

Bronze

Practice 9th - 10th May

Assessed expedition 20th - 21st June

It is a good idea for students to do some long walks in the run up to their expeditions, to practise navigating, to break in their walking boots and get used to walking longer distances. They will be carrying their packs which will be heavy so preparation will help them manage this over the weekend for Bronze and 3 days for Silver. BXM expeditions is our expedition provider and their website has useful information about kit students need and suitable food to bring.

Please try to arrange lift shares to the expedition drop off location to reduce the number of cars turning up and please check for car parking charges.

Location details will be sent out to families and will be posted on Google classroom in good time.

It is not too late for students from previous years to complete their awards. Students can come to drop-ins Tuesday Break times in S3 for support with their eDofE accounts (for example, finding username) or with assessor reports.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those in the community who are running clubs and activities and acting as assessors for our students.

Any questions do please email DofE@gillotts.org

Careers

Students have been very busy this term with careers related activities. We celebrated both National Apprenticeships Week in February and National Careers Week in March during tutor time and there have also been 2 PSHE days since January for Years 8 and 10 - more information below.

Careers Advisor

Year 11, and now Year 10 students, have continued to receive one to one appointments with Charlotte, our independent Careers Advisor.

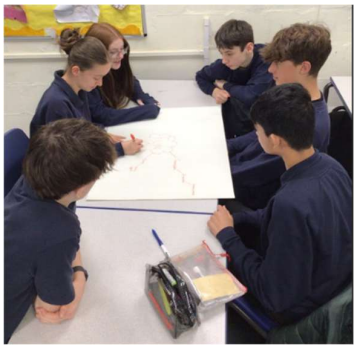
A reminder that Charlotte runs a drop in, no appointment needed, Careers Clinic every Tuesday from 12:35-13:05 in the Careers Office (located in Mansion Block). All students *from any year* are welcome to come and speak to her. She has a wealth of knowledge and can help with anything from advice for Work Experience to choosing post 16 subjects for future career paths.

Year 8 PSHE day

On Tuesday 27th January, Year 8 students spent a dedicated PSHE day focused on self-discovery and career aspirations. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to begin connecting their personal strengths to the world of work.

They looked at the difference between skills (learned abilities) and qualities (natural traits) and by auditing their own strengths, they learned how personal traits translate into professional success. They also went on to consider Post-16 Pathways: Life After Gillotts, exploring the options available after Year 11, including A-Levels, Vocational T-Levels, and Apprenticeships. The day concluded with a guest speaker, Georgina Bradley, who delivered a thought-provoking talk on overcoming gender stereotypes and adversity in the workplace.

Year 10 Career Development Workshops



This term has seen 3 further workshops with Year 10 students delivered by Rhian from Aspire2Be. The sessions have aimed to support the PSHE programme with a session on CV writing and another on interview skills. Students have been asking some great questions in these discussion-based sessions and they have been thinking creatively about careers.

Thames Water Apprenticeship Talk

On 12th February, during National Apprenticeship Week, we welcomed 2 employees from Thames Water to school to talk about their Apprenticeships. Students heard how both Faris and Erin had found out about and applied for their respective apprenticeships and they explained to students that there are different levels of Degree Apprenticeship.

Year 10 PSHE day: Mock Interview Day

On Wednesday 11th March, students in Year 10 had a chance to experience a mock interview with volunteer employers. In preparation for the day students had to write a CV and reflect on their own strengths and skills. On the day, interviews lasted approx 8 minutes with 2-3 minutes of verbal feedback followed by a written feedback form which students received later in the day. The employers were so impressed with the conduct of the students and the feedback was really positive. Thank you to the 32 employers who kindly gave their time to support the process; it is greatly appreciated.

Year 11 Piggott Interviews

On Thursday 12th March, over a hundred of our Year 11 students had their Piggott Sixth Form Interview. All of the students were well prepared, polite and enthusiastic about their post-16 choices. Piggott staff were very impressed by our students and look forward to seeing many of them in September.

Year 9 Oxford Workshop

On Monday 16th March 52 Year 9 students participated in a workshop run by an outreach coordinator, Innocent Ottunu, from the University of Oxford. The main take-aways were the importance of choosing the correct course for you and she also reinforced the idea of 'super curriculars' (for example reading, podcasts or other activities linked to a subject you enjoy driven by the student).

Trinity College are currently offering a course of enrichment programmes, more information can be found here https://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/trinity-enrichment-programme-2026

Easter Holiday Lloyds Banking Group (LBG)Virtual Work Experience

Charlotte, our Careers Advisor, has shared this amazing opportunity for Year 10/11 students interested in pursuing a career within the baking and finance industry. There are 2 dates available, Monday 30th March or Tuesday 7th April, 10am - 2pm.

What to expect:

- Introduction to LBG
- How to evolve presentation skills

- Business related challenges
- Commercial awareness and building essential skills workshops
- Learning more about banking, finance and digital technology
- Learn about a SWOT analysis and putting it into practice

Please use the link below to sign up for free.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG_VWEX_MAR

Thank you to those parents who have signed up to volunteer to deliver a careers talk / help at an event at Gillotts. If you would like to volunteer to come into school, please do contact Laura Allen lallen@gillotts.org

Robotics Club

The Gillotts team performed brilliantly in the First Lego League robotics tournament on Tuesday 13th January at Oxford Brookes University. They were placed 4th in the tournament - their best result to date. The team were such a credit to the school and had a great time. It was a valuable experience for the students to visit the brand new £180 million pound Oxford Brookes Engineering building and be shown around all the robotics labs and F1 labs. Many thanks to Mr Howard for coaching the team every Monday evening and Mrs Jones for driving them in the school minibus.

PE update

This has felt like a really short term to get fixtures in especially with the light being an issue in term 3.

This year there wasn't a league for **Netball** so schools organised their own games. The tournaments have continued to be held at Wallingford School. Overall however it has been a really good season with our Year 7 and Year 9 teams both winning their area tournaments.

So far in the Netball league the results are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Any other additional comments
7A	9	0	0	0	A team won the area tournament
7B	5	0	4	0	
8A	9	0	0	1	The A team continue to be unbeaten this year and won the area tournament
8B	5	0	3	1	
9A	8	0	2	1	We only have 1 year 9 team - but made up a B team from extra year 8s to play an A and B fixture
9B	1	0	0	1	
10A	2	0	0	2	Most schools only have 1 team in year 10 so we haven't had many B games - however we still continue to get over 20 girls out to practise every week and we are currently running an interhouse tournament for them all with the year 11s
10B	1	0	0	1	
11A	2	0	0	2	Like the year 10s most schools only have 1 team in year 11 so we haven't had any B games - however we still continue to get over 20 girls out to practice every week and we are currently running an interhouse tournament for them all with the year 10s Unfortunately the year 11 tournament was cancelled due to bad weather and has not been rearranged

The **Football** league has continued to run the same as last year. In Football the results so far are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Any other additional comments
7	A - 8 B - 4		B - 1	1	
8	1	0	3	1	
9	3	0	2	1	
10	1	0	1	Icknield have cancelled one	
11	1	0	0	3	

We continue to have healthy numbers regularly coming out to train:
Year 7 - 35 boys and 10 girls
Year 8 - 25 students
Year 9 - 25 students

South Oxfordshire Indoor Athletics

In the Year 7/8 Indoor athletics competition on Monday 23rd March, both teams came 4th but we came 3rd overall.

We also sent 3 students to the **County Cross Country** event at Cokethorpe School - two of the students involved qualified for the English Schools cross country which is a fantastic achievement.

We have also entered an **U14 Hockey tournament** which was on Tuesday 17th March - this was a great opportunity for the students to experience playing matches on an astroturf - last year we won the event beating Borlase in the final which was a fantastic achievement especially as their whole team was made up of Year 9s and we had a mixture of Years 7, 8 and 9 in our team. This year again we took students from Year 7 and 8 and made it into the semi-finals - which went to penalty shuffles where we were narrowly beaten by Borlase who had a strong Year 9 team.

The Year 8 Rugby team are playing in the **Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s Festival**. This is the largest schools' rugby event in England.

Moving on from there the department will look forward to the summer term and Cricket, Rounders and Athletics fixtures.

Parents' Association

Fundraiser Update & Cycle to Paris 2026

On 12th June a group of over 40 parents and grandparents will set off from Henley on a big fundraising cycle ride to Paris. The group will head south to Newhaven before boarding the ferry to Dieppe, having already covered around 140km in several tough stages.

After a few hours' sleep on the ferry, they'll roll into France at sunrise and begin the long ride to Paris. With beautiful Normandy scenery, a number of refuelling stops, and one final push, they'll complete the journey with another 190km in the legs.

It's a huge physical and mental challenge so your support will make every kilometre count.

The Henley to Paris Cycle is supporting **Gillotts School, Trinity School, and the Chiltern Centre**.

Funds raised for Gillotts School from 'Cycle to Paris' and the other fundraisers through 2026 will go towards the school's green initiatives and improving our students' outdoor spaces and learning environments. We will also continue to support the school with smaller projects to enhance our children's learning;

- Wildflower meadow
- Mansion Block Pond
- Canopy for quad
- Outdoor classroom

To find out more and to donate, please visit the Gillotts PA website. You will find the information under 'events'. Or click here: https://www.gillottspa.co.uk/events-page

All donations are very much welcomed.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Gillotts PA

Term dates for 2025 - 2026

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2025.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	01 September – 24 October	40
October half term	27 October - 31 October	
Autumn Term	03 November - 19 December	35
Christmas holiday	22 December - 02 January	
Spring Term	05 January - 13 February	30
Spring half term	16 February - 20 February	
Spring Term	23 February - 27 March	25
Easter Holiday	30 March - 10 April	
Summer Term	13 April - 22 May	29
Late Spring half term	25 May – 29 June	
Summer Term	01 June - 20 July	36
Total		195

INSET days
The school will be closed to students on:
Monday 1 September 2025
Friday 26 September 2025
Thursday 23 October 2025
Friday 24 October 2025
Monday 5 January 2026
Monday 20 July 2026
Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 2 September 2025. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 3 September 2025.

Monday 4 May 2026 is the May Day Bank Holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)
Thursday 25 September 2025 Staff and students preparation for Open Evening
Friday 19 December 2025
Friday 17 July 2026

Term dates for 2026 - 2027

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2026.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	01 September - 23 October	39
October half term	26 October - 30 October	
Autumn Term	02 November - 18 December	35
Christmas holiday	21 December - 01 January	
Spring Term	04 January - 12 February	30
Spring half term	15 February - 19 February	
Spring Term	22 February - 25 March	24
Easter Holiday	26 March - 9 April	
Summer Term	12 April - 28 May	34
Late Spring half term	31 May – 4 June	
Summer Term	07 June - 21 July	33
Total		195

INSET days
The school will be closed to students on:
Tuesday 1 September 2026
Friday 25 September 2026
Monday 19 July 2027
Tuesday 20 July 2027
Wednesday 21 July 2027
Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 2 September 2026. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 3 September 2026.

Monday 3 May 2027 is the May Day Bank Holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)
Thursday 24 September 2026 Staff and students preparation for Open Evening
Friday 18 December 2026
Friday 16 July 2027

Term dates for 2027 - 2028

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2027.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	02 September - 22 October	37
October half term	25 October - 01 November	
Autumn Term	02 November - 21 December	36
Christmas holiday	22 December - 04 January	
Spring Term	05 January - 11 February	28
Spring half term	14 February - 18 February	
Spring Term	21 February - 7 April	35
Easter Holiday	10 April - 21 April	
Summer Term	24 April - 26 May	24
Late Spring half term	29 May - 2 June	
Summer Term	05 June - 21 July	35
Total		195

INSET days
The school will be closed to students on:
Thursday 2 September 2027
Friday 3 September 2027
Friday 1 October 2027
Monday 20 December 2027
Tuesday 21 December 2027
Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Monday 6 September 2027. The remainder of the school returns on Tuesday 7 September 2027.

Monday 1 May 2028 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)
Thursday 30 September 2027 Staff and students preparation for Open Evening
Friday 17 December 2027
Friday 21 July 2028