



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

GOSDEN NEWS

16th January 2026

As we begin a new term at Gosden, the wet and wintry weather hasn't dampened our spirits, with plenty of exciting developments already underway. We're delighted to announce that work on the new soft play area will commence next week. This is being built on site next to the Bakehouse and promises to be a fantastic addition for our pupils.

This term has also seen the Bakehouse in full swing – our very own on-site hot drink and baked goods shop – giving staff the opportunity to enjoy delicious items prepared and made by our talented Year 10 and 11 students.

Looking ahead, Year 11 students will soon be embarking on two weeks of work experience, offering them invaluable, hands-on opportunities to develop practical skills, confidence and insight into the world of work. While our Year 9s are eagerly anticipating their upcoming residential trip. There is a lot to look forward to as the term unfolds!

Mrs Smale, Headteacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 6th January – Spring term starts
Monday 2nd February – Number Day (Dress up for Digits - £1 donation for NSPCC)
Monday 2nd – Friday 13th February – Year 11 Work experience
Wednesday 11th – Friday 13th February – Year 9 Residential
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – Half term
Wednesday 11th March – Parent Consultations
Friday 27th March – Last day of Spring term, 1.30pm finish
Tuesday 14th April – First day of Summer term

RECENT PARENTMAILS

Number Day
Year 9 Sayers Croft Residential
Asthma care Plans
Guildford Shakespeare Company – Extra Curricular Club
Year 9 DTP and MenACWY Vaccinations – E-consent form
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations – E consent form
Lunch orders/payments

AMAZON WISH LIST

A big thank you to the parents and carers who have purchased items from our Amazon wish list so far. We have just updated it with some wonderful new items so please take a look.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/guest-view/HLH16NVYVLGU>

LOST PROPERTY

Please remember to name all your children's items of clothing, water bottles and bags. We cannot return items that are unnamed. Thank you!

The weather might be dull and gloomy, but inside Woodpecker's classroom it has been filled with lots of fun and exciting learning!



W O O D P E C K E R S



Over the past few weeks, Woodpeckers have been busy using our 'Exploring' and 'Explaining' learning habits during science lessons. At the end of last term, we learnt about electricity: what electricity is, how to keep safe and how to make our own electrical circuits. This term, we are exploring the amazing human body. We are looking forward to carrying out lots of experiments to investigate our bodies and discovering the best ways of keeping our bodies fit and healthy.



W O O D P E C K E R S



In literacy, we have enjoyed becoming poets. Last term, we were visited by the poet Kimba, who taught us about using words in imaginative ways. We have continued to think about Kimba's advice and have been inspired to write poems about different types of food. Last week we focused on 'spaghetti'. We used our senses to explore this food and created some amazing poetry using similes. I wonder what food will be next!



In our maths lessons, we have been using our 'Problem Solving' learning habit when learning about number bonds. We have also been playing lots of fun games to develop our use of positional and directional language. At times this was very tricky, but Woodpeckers love a challenge!





Gosden House School

Bramley, Guildford

Super Draw

Win a Luxury City Break, or £1,000 cash!

3

About our cause

Welcome to Gosden House School lottery. This lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children!

It's a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children – we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extracurricular activities such as music, art and sport.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!

Yours sincerely

Your PTA TEAM

£395.20 of £1,040.00 target

19 tickets of 50 ticket goal

[Buy tickets](#)

Share our lottery



Next draw prizes

£25,000 jackpot

£5.70 guaranteed prize (this will go up as tickets are sold)

Next draw

1d 8h 51m

Sat 5 April 2025

Support Gosden House School when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery

RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL

Year 7 have started 2026 by being very busy in their learning!

We have begun our music lessons with Miss Chandler and have started with 'chocolate rhythms' to learn different notes and the sounds they make. Just ask us what sound a double decker, a kit kat and a twix make! We have been using drumsticks to consolidate our understanding of rhythm and at the end of the lesson, we have a go at playing the drums.



Miss Chandler has been teaching us the ukulele and the song 'My dog has fleas...' We are all turning into mini rock stars and using our **Being Brave** learning muscle when we are trying new challenges. Next week, we will be doing some chocolate music bingo. All this talk of chocolate is making us feel very hungry!

For our Healthy Relationship toolkit and as part of our Citizenship learning, we have been looking after the animals. We are working as team in class by volunteering to feed the animals.



This week, Finley and Jessica offered their services. Their first job was to check if there was enough food to give to all of the animals. Afterwards, they made the rounds of feeding the guinea pigs, rabbits, goats and pigs. When feeding we check they have enough water and make sure they have clean homes. All of the year 7s really enjoy visiting the animals and do an excellent job of looking after them. We are hoping one of us will become an Animal Ambassador for the school.

Year 11 is getting very excited about their Work Experience which starts on 2nd February and runs for 2 weeks. Students will be experiencing what it is like to work in shops, cafes and with animals in animal rescue venues. This is such valuable experience to gain before moving on in their progression pathways in September 2026.



As part of their ASDAN Community Action project, Year 11 students also held a Christmas Chocolate Hamper raffle before Christmas and raised £70 for Shooting Star Chase, a local hospice for Children based in Artington.

They will be following this up with an Easter-Egg hamper raffle and the chosen charity is 'Healing Hearts and Minds with Horses', a charity that helps people with mental health using horses in a therapeutic way. Class-members each chose their preferred charity and created a presentation which they delivered to the class. Class-members then voted on which charity they preferred to support. Start saving those pennies for a chance to win a mammoth hamper of Easter Eggs. (Donations towards the hamper are also very welcome, please pass to Year 11 staff members, many thanks.)



UPCOMING COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

All of these events must be organised online.



Farnborough College
of Technology

Year 10 and 11s College Open Event – 11th February

11 February @ 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm



Discover your options for studying with us and experience student life for the evening!

Choosing a course and a place to study can be difficult, so we've tailored this event to give you all the key information that we know people want on a visit. This includes the chance to:

- Get the inside scoop on all our courses from current students
- Meet our teachers for a closer look at your course
- View examples of student work and assignments
- Explore our facilities on a campus tour
- Collect an informative prospectus and newsletter to review at home
- Learn how we support our students, including travel discounts, health and wellbeing, additional learning support, and careers
- Ask those burning questions courses and student life



BROOKLANDS
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Brooklands Technical College

13/01/26 – 1.30 – 3.30pm

04/02/26 - 4.30 - 7.00pm

29/04/26 - 4.30 - 7.00pm

Please contact
isupport@brooklands.ac.uk if you have any questions about the tours.

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E-SAFETY



Being Kind Online

Technology can be brilliant at helping our learners stay connected to their friends, but it can also cause problems. We have seen issues in group chats where messages have been unkind or misunderstood. Many young people find managing group chats difficult, and this is a challenge in all schools—not just ours. For our learners, who already find socialising and communication harder, this can be even more upsetting.

Online words can hurt just like spoken ones. Misunderstandings happen easily on screens.

Tips for Parents and Carers:

- Check in: Look at group chats and talk to your child about what's happening online.
- Remind them: Words matter—even online. Encourage kindness and respect.
- Talk regularly about online behaviour and kindness.
- Set clear rules for group chats and social media use.
- Encourage your child to take a break if they feel upset online.
- Remind them to tell an adult if something worries them.

Together, through the support and learning opportunities we also provide in school we can help our learners use technology in positive and caring ways.

Useful Wellbeing Links:

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Parentkind Online Safety Toolkit – Practical advice for parents: parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit

WELL DONE!

Congratulations to the following students for completing their 'Gosden Toolbox' and successfully collecting 10 'Life Tools'.

Developing these 'Life Tools' will help them now and also prepare them for their exciting future pathways.





**FAMILY
LEARNING**



**Sensory Routines to
Support
Your Child
with ASD, ADHD and other**

Join us for a **FREE** online course or workshop
designed for parents!

You'll work with an experienced tutor and
other parents to:

- ✓ Identify your child's sensory needs
- ✓ Discover how our brains and sensory systems work—and why we're all different
- ✓ Learn practical skills and strategies to help your child manage their sensory needs and self-regulate

Why attend?

- Gain confidence in supporting your child
- Understand sensory processing differences
- Build a toolkit of strategies for everyday life

[To book your place please click on this link](#)
[or scan the QR code](#)



SCAN ME



Web : www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning

Email : family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk

Tel : 0300 200 1044



Anxiety around ADHD

Free online workshop for parents and carers

The workshop can help you navigate:

- Understanding ADHD
- The links between ADHD and anxiety
- Strategies to help support you and your child
- Other support that is available

Tuesday 27 January 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am

Thursday 29 January 2026, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

*Please indicate which session you would like
to attend.*

To book your place:

- Call Lesley on **020 4522 8701**
- Email **services@familylives.org.uk**
- Scan the QR code for our referral form

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk



SCAN HERE

Event Info

- 📅 Sunday 8th February 2026
- ⏰ 1030 Doors open | 1100 Show | 1200 refreshments and raffle
- 📍 Edgeborough School, Frensham, Farnham, GU10 3AH
- 🎫 Tickets £15 | Babes in arms (U18m) £7.50
- ➡ [www.tinyurl.com/SSDS-Sing](https://tinyurl.com/SSDS-Sing)

Don't miss this chance to see Singing Hands on the doorstep. Book your tickets today and join the fun – spaces are limited, so reserve your seats now. Bookings will be open to SSDS family and friends for a limited time before being opened to the public.

11AM
SUNDAY
8
FEB '26

Makaton signed nursery rhymes and pop songs performed by the amazing Singing Hands.



Stepping Stones DS
presents...

Singing Hands

LIVE IN SURREY!

EDGEBOROUGH SCHOOL, GU10 3AH

Sponsored by . . .

£15 *General admission
£7.50 *Under 18 months

Book now:
<https://tinyurl.com/SSDS-Sing>

*Booking fee applies

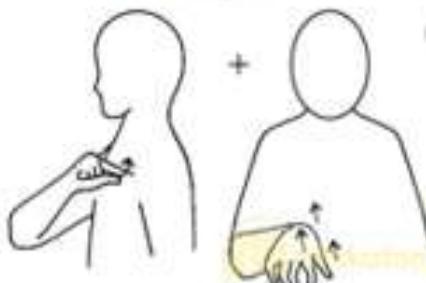



Speech & Language Therapy Team**★Makaton Champions★**

Signs of the week w/c 19th January 2026

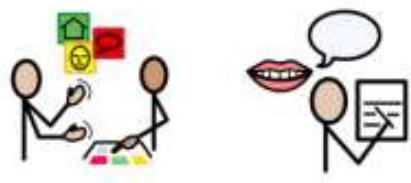
This week's champions are:

★ **Elaina – Year 10 and Tia – Year 11** ★



Speech and Language Therapy

*Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
Schools*



SPECH & LANGUAGE

Speech and Language Therapy is provided onsite at Gosden House School and funded by Surrey County Council. We are an integral part of the school team.



Ruth Binns
Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Days on-site: Wednesday, alt. Thursdays

Email: salt@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk



Sophie Baker
Speech and Language Therapist

Days on-site: Tuesday, Thursday

Email: salt@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk



Nicole Elliott
Speech and Language Therapist

Days on-site: Wednesday

Email: salt@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk



Jenny Glaister
Senior Speech and Language Therapy Assistant (SLTA)

Days on-site: Wednesday, Thursday

Email: salt@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk



Anita Coughlan
Speech and Language Therapy Assistant (SLTA)

Days on-site: Wednesday, Thursday

Email: salt@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

The therapy team collaborate with school staff to embed communication strategies in lessons and social activities. We spend time in classes with students and staff, offer training, work with the leadership team, and problem solve to make sure all students have an effective way of communicating, and reasons to communicate.



Universal & Targeted Support

We help schools create an environment with high quality communication support, using a total communication approach.

We offer advice, resources, modelling and coaching for school-run intervention groups targeting language and social communication skills.



We offer further support at school's request e.g. classroom audits, training and advice for staff, attendance at parent's evenings and supporting staff to set communication targets.

Universal and targeted support ensures that your child's speech, language and communication support is embedded into the school's curriculum and throughout the learning day.

For many children and young people in MLD schools, this is the right level of support for their age and stage of development.

Whilst the SLT team may not be directly involved in working with your child at this level, they will support school staff in using a range of strategies e.g.

- Staff using developmentally appropriate language to deliver the curriculum
- Staff modelling appropriate language and communication throughout the school day e.g. simplifying language, high levels of repetition, breaking down instructions
- Using visual aids to support understanding, recall and use of language
- Staff providing specific opportunities for social interaction within the classroom environment, and supporting interactions throughout the day where necessary
- SLT working with the Senior Leadership Team in order to identify areas for staff training



Our team adopt a **neurodiversity affirming approach** within our support.

Specialist Support

When pupils need more support from our team, we offer individual, paired, or small group sessions, in and out of class. Support in class may involve modelling activities and approaches to school staff who can then use these within the classroom. We monitor and review progress of pupils receiving Specialist Support, and contribute to the Annual Review for all pupils receiving specialist input.



Dysphagia

If pupils have difficulties with eating, drinking and swallowing, we can refer them to the Dysphagia SLT team within our service for advice and/or assessment. The Dysphagia team can provide training and advice to school staff and their aim is to promote safe, efficient and enjoyable mealtimes. Some students will need assessment, and for key adults to receive advice and specific training on implementing recommendations to support them with their eating and drinking.



If you have any concerns about your child's speech, language, communication or feeding skills, please contact your child's class teacher/form tutor or the school SENCO in the first instance.

AMAZON WISH LIST



Gosden House School

Gosden House Wish List

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/guest-view/HLH16NVYVLGU>

If you would like to make a donation to the school you can do so via the Gosden Children First charity page by clicking on this link

<https://wonderful.org/charities/1049925>

You are able to donate directly or to a particular fundraising page that you would like to support.

