



# GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

## GOSDEN NEWS

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements—big and small—of every pupil at Gosden. This term has been full of growth, courage, and joyful learning, and I am incredibly proud of each pupil.

Across the school, pupils have shown remarkable resilience, curiosity, and kindness. Whether mastering new skills, tackling challenging tasks, building friendships, or finding confidence in their own unique ways of learning, every step forward has mattered. In Gosden's Got Talent, I saw a level of confidence that was simply remarkable. Everyone who took part shone and shared some very unique talents. The audience supported with enthusiasm and joy. We have also had the Year 8 Spring Fair, the buzz around the playground was infectious and despite being very cold and wet, it was an afternoon of fun and laughter and showcased everything that Gosden House is about.

I would also like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to the staff team. Their unwavering commitment to the well being of our pupils makes all the difference to the learning experience of each pupil.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, ready for new challenges, new adventures, and even more opportunities to shine. Until then, may I wish all our families a peaceful, happy, and refreshing break. Together, we continue to learn, grow, and succeed.

**Thank you for an amazing term.**

*Mrs Smale, Headteacher*



## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – INSET Day

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April** – First day of Summer term

**27<sup>th</sup> April** – 2 weeks – Year 11 Maths and English exams

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May** – Sports Day

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** – 9.30am - PTA Coffee Morning

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – Half term

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – Woodpeckers Residential

**w/c 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Focus Week – Wild Learning

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – Whole School Event – Circus

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Whole School Sponsored Walk

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 11 Leavers Assembly

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 11 Prom

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 11 Last Day

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 7 Picnic for parents and carers of current Year 6's staying at Gosden for Secondary

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Year 7 Transition Day and Whole School Moving Up day

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** – GOSFEST and Meet the Teacher

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 6 Leavers Assembly

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – Last day of Summer term, 1.30pm finish

## **RECENT PARENTMAILS**

End of Term @ 1.30pm today

New Assessment System - Arbor

Guildford Shakespeare Company Drama Club

SEND Careers Fair – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Meningitis and Meningococcal Disease - Information

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

Parent Voice – Autism Review online session

## **CURRENT VACANCIES**

We are currently recruiting for a Pastoral Assistant, Site Assistant and Learning Assistants. Please visit the school's website for full job description and person specification.

[Current Vacancies - Gosden House School](#)



# F O X E S

The Foxes have had a truly fantastic and engaging term, filled with excitement, curiosity, and wonderful progress across all areas of learning. One of the highlights of the term has been our cookery sessions. The children have thoroughly enjoyed preparing and tasting a variety of delicious foods, including fresh salads, scones, sandwiches, egg on toast, omelettes and banana bread. We also embraced the seasonal spirit by making special Easter picnic treats such as brie and cranberry tartlets, cream cheese and cucumber sandwiches, and of course, beautifully decorated Easter basket cupcakes. Alongside this, the children have developed a wide range of practical skills including slicing, grating, rolling, icing, weighing ingredients, whisking, boiling, timing, and even de-shelling eggs. It has been wonderful to see them using their **learning together**, **creative** and **exploring habits**.



We have also loved spending time outdoors on the primary site, where the children have taken great pride in helping to care for the animals. They have enjoyed feeding and learning how to look after the goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and, of course, the ever-popular pigs. These experiences have helped the children develop a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

In Art, the children have explored the use of watercolours, learning how and when to use them effectively to create a range of beautiful effects. They experimented with mixing colours and discovered how adding different amounts of water can change shades and tones, producing some truly creative and expressive artwork.



# FOXES

Our Literacy learning has been equally exciting. The children have written imaginative pieces such as diary entries from the perspective of characters like Goldilocks and the Big Bad Wolf. We even created our own music and songs to retell the story of Goldilocks, which the children thoroughly enjoyed performing.

This term has also included some very special experiences. We were lucky to enjoy a visit from the Royal Shakespeare Company, which inspired and delighted the children. We also celebrated the Hindu Festival of Light with a special visitor, who introduced us to Indian foods and taught us some traditional dance routines, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all.

As the term comes to a close, we would like to wish you all a wonderful and restful Easter break. We hope you enjoy spending time together, relaxing, and of course, eating plenty of chocolate! We look forward to welcoming the children back for their final—and hopefully sunniest—term of the year.



On Sunday Zoe took part in the Guildford Parkrun with her friends from Stepping Stones DS. Zoe did brilliantly... with a few stops along the way, she made it round in 24 minutes. What an achievement.... Foxes are very proud of Zoe!

parkrun



# Y E A R 9 H

In Year 9H this half term we have had a real focus on life skills and being independent for the future. We have loved being in the life skills flat and the new Bakehouse. We learnt how to make and change a bed, iron our clothes, Hoover and use the washing machine. We also learnt what the different washing symbols on our clothes meant and how important it is to follow these carefully. We used our getting ready and learning together muscles.



9H have also done some basic car maintenance. We learnt how to wash a car and rinse it and learnt that this is very important to keep the car visible on the road and to stop the car rusting. A few of our budding mechanics also practiced opening a car bonnet, learnt how to add screen wash and how to check the oil.



In the bake house we made a delicious range of treats including chips made from scratch. The chefs learnt how to hold a knife carefully and the best way to hold the potatoes to make sure they didn't slide away. We also made flapjacks, pancakes, pesto pasta, pitta bread pizzas, bread rolls and scones.

Well, 9W have been very busy! There has been lots of demonstrating of our class values and collecting lots of our Gosden Life Tools.

In Literacy, we have been studying Macbeth by William Shakespeare. We have explored the different characters, their characteristics and their choices. We discussed the consequences and impact of the character's choices and how many of their choices were influenced by the witches. We have thoroughly enjoyed the dark storyline of the play!

In Maths, we have been building on our knowledge of fractions and decimals. We have explored how to add and subtract fractions as well as partitioning whole numbers into tenths. There has been lots of dedication and commitment to our Maths work this term, which has been fantastic to see!



We have also worked hard on improving our problem solving and team building skills during Personal Development. Our whole class will agree that we all LOVE taking part in our class scavenger hunts. We are placed in teams and have to complete various challenges around the school site to win a prize! The adults are just as competitive as the learners!



## Our 3rd Annual Gosden Careers Fair - A "Buzz" in the Air



On Monday, our school hall was transformed into a hub of inspiration and aspirations for our 3rd annual Careers Fair to celebrate National Careers week last week. This year wasn't just our biggest yet—it was our best!

With 15 different tables hosted by local employers and businesses, there was truly something for everyone. Our learners had the chance to explore a vast range of career paths, chatting with professionals from Lush Cosmetics (bringing some wonderful scents to the hall!), The British Army, local businesses including a professional dog walker and a local coffee shop, The Forge.

What made the afternoon truly special was the incredible engagement from our learners. From our Year 6s getting their first taste of career planning to our senior secondary students, everyone rose to the occasion.

It can be daunting to approach a stranger and ask about their job, but our students showed immense bravery and curiosity. They stepped well out of their comfort zones to ask questions and gather information

The feedback from our visiting employers was glowing. They were really impressed by the "buzz" in the room and said how much they enjoyed engaging with such polite and interested young people.

A massive thank you to all the businesses who gave up their time to support our students and well done to all our learners for representing the school so brilliantly. We are already looking forward to year four!



## College Open Events



- Guildford College – Wednesday 22nd April 4.30-7.00pm
- Brooklands College of Technology – Wednesday 29th April 4.30-7.00pm
- Merrist Wood – Wednesday 6th May 4.30-7.00pm
- Nescot College – Wednesday 13th May – 4.30-7.00pm
- Farnborough College of Technology – FAMILY FUN DAY – more information to come

### **New Brick Laying Course Level 1 at Guildford College**

This qualification is for students wanting to learn the basic skills and knowledge involved in bricklaying. The course will allow students to develop and practice the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for a career in the construction industry

All 16-19-year olds on full-time study programmes will be required to retake GCSE English and Maths, if they have not already attained the equivalent of a GCSE grade 4 in these subjects.

Tutors from the industry with vast experience as Bricklayers.

Well-equipped industry-standard workshops supported by a team of technicians.

Follow this hyperlink to find out more: [Bricklaying Level 1 - Guildford College](#)





# E-SAFETY



## Online Gaming

With the Easter holidays coming up, many of our young people will be spending more time gaming online or using virtual-reality (VR) headsets. We know how popular online gaming is, and that a number of our students regularly play games with friends—it's a big part of their social life and something they really enjoy. Online gaming can be great fun and a way for children to relax and connect with others, but it's also important to be aware that these platforms can allow children to talk to people they don't know.

The Risks of online gaming	Games Where Children Can Meet Strangers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chat with strangers through text or voice</li><li>• Receive friend requests from unknown people</li><li>• Join public game rooms with adults</li><li>• Move conversations to private chats or apps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roblox</li><li>• Fortnite</li><li>• Minecraft (public servers)</li><li>• VRChat</li><li>• Rec Room</li><li>• Among Us</li><li>• Call of Duty</li></ul>

## How Parents Can Help

1. Check the settings together  
Turn off chat, restrict who can add or message your child, and use “friends only” modes.
2. Keep devices in shared family spaces  
Being nearby can prevent unsafe interactions.
3. Talk regularly about gaming  
Encourage children to tell you who they've been playing with and if anything made them uncomfortable.
4. Use parental controls  
Manage privacy, chat, spending, and screen time.
5. Watch for signs something isn't right  
Secrecy, sudden mood changes, or messages from strangers can be warning signs.

We know online gaming is a big part of many children's lives, and we want them to enjoy it safely this Easter. With a few simple steps at home, you can help ensure that their gaming stays fun, positive, and safe.

If you ever feel unsure or worried, the Breck Foundation offers helpful advice and support for families or you can talk to our school Safeguarding Team. You can find their resources here: <https://www.breckfoundation.org/breck-resources>

# PTA Coffee Mornings 2026



Please join us from 9.30-11am on the below dates. On arrival please sign in at reception and wait to be taken across to the Bakehouse.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

## 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.

