



Our Lodge Easter Bonnets



A letter from the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

The final ten days of term have been very full of events and excitement.

The Spring Celebration and 'official opening' of our wonderful new sculpture last Friday was a great success and I know that many parents enjoyed talking to our Headmistress Elect, Kate Bailey, as well as hearing the story behind the sculpture.

Earlier in the week I attended the Lodge informal recital concert and it was lovely to see Kindergarten and Transition play and sing and support each other at the same time.

In Final Assembly yesterday we were able to celebrate sporting, musical, artistic and dramatic achievements as well as hearing a wonderful summary from Mrs Rosie Lake about all of our fundraising and charitable activities. Our assembly was wonderfully interluded by the Lodge Easter Bonnet Parade and the older girls (and staff!) really enjoyed this fantastic Godstowe tradition.

Lodge's Perris Knight Awards went very smoothly and I was so pleased to be able to present all of the cups and certificates to our younger pupils at the same time as celebrating everyone's achievements.

The Spring Concert was a wonderful way to end our term and start the Easter holiday. The standard of all the performances was very high and I congratulate all of our talented musicians and choirs.

I know that many of our families are hoping to enjoy some sunshine over the break and whatever your plans I wish you all a very Happy Easter and a fantastic break.

Our Swan Sculpture

On Friday 25th March, we held our Godstowe Spring Celebration event, welcoming parents to school to meet Headmistress Elect Kate Bailey and to see our new sculpture being unveiled.

The sculpture was inspired by a generous donation from a Godstowe family, whose daughter had been part of the Godstowe community for 10 years and Head Girl in 2020-2021.



During the evening, our current Head Girl and one of our Deputy Heads told us about the significance of the two swans that now take centre stage at the front of Godstowe.

"The emblem for Buckinghamshire is a swan, with a Duke's coronet that is attached to a heavy gold chain around its neck. This is quite confusing, as a swan is normally associated with being a free, wild bird and not one to be kept in chains. The swan can be found in many places in High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire. Some examples of these are the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, the emblem of the local library and Town Hall, and the swan even features on the badge of the Wycombe Wanderers Football Team!

Godstowe also has the swan emblem on our school crest. Often, swans are associated with grace, love and loyalty. These flying swans are a symbol of Godstowe nurturing our girls and sending them off to their next stage in life as confident, loyal and compassionate individuals. Freeing them from any stereotypes in the world and enabling them to become empowered young women."



Take Flight from Godstowe by India B

Excited to learn, fluffy and grey
Dressed in cloaks on their very first day
Their feathered skirts just touching the ground
Huddled together, wide eyes look around

As the years go by their confidence grows
Their feathers fade from grey to the colour of snow
Sleek and upright, elegant and strong,
From a fluffy grey cygnet to a graceful swan

The experience and knowledge gained along the way
Will equip these swans to flourish everyday
Friendships made, exams passed
And the end of the journey comes at last
Many tears shed as the swans leave the nest
They never will forget their Godstowe quest.



It has been a wonderful end of term at Lodge, aided by the lovely sunshine and signs of spring everywhere.

Last week, Transition and Kindergarten had their first recital concert where eighteen pupils performed on piano, violin and flute. Despite a few nerves, the children rose to the occasion and played beautifully, and as well as their peers, they were pleased to have Ms Green and Miss Bailey in the audience. We look forward to repeating this in the summer, and having the opportunity to invite parents as well. Thank you to Mr Lewin and Mrs Lake for their help with this.



Lodge also enjoyed a visit from Robyn from All Saints church, who involved the children in an assembly retelling the story of Easter. Easter has definitely been a theme running through many of our activities in the last week, and we were so impressed with the wonderful Easter bonnets that the children had made at home and wore for our parade down to Main School - fabulous! Our PK Awards were a fitting way to finish the term, to celebrate the successes of the children and to hear some of the musical items that they have been working on.

Nursery ended the term with an Easter theme and enjoyed a huge range of Easter crafts from fluffy chicks to Easter headbands. The children loved making delicious chocolate nest cakes in cookery and even placed little chicks in them. The sunshine made the outdoor area very popular this week and the children particularly enjoyed writing and drawing with chalks outside.

In Beginners this week we have been excited to learn about all the different elements of Easter. We have looked at all the signs and symbols that we see around this time of the year that remind us that nature is amazing and that plants, flowers and animals do come back to life just like the story of Jesus in the Bible. We also talked about chocolate eggs and the Easter bunny and used our own individual ideas to design and make our very own unique Easter card which we are looking forward to sharing with our families. We also spent time this week thinking about patterns - how to spot them, how to describe them and how to make them for ourselves. We learnt how to use shape and colour to create repeating patterns and we became pattern detectives in order to spot mistakes. The biggest joy of the week though had to be our first visit to the swimming pool. Both classes did an amazing job of changing, being in the water, drying themselves and dressing themselves. Just brilliant. A big well done to all of the children for being such swimming superstars. They can't wait for next term.

This week, Kindergarten went on a lovely walk around the grounds of Godstowe, searching for signs of Spring. In addition to a variety of Spring flowers, they were delighted to discover a pair of frogs and plenty of frogspawn in the pond! The children have also enjoyed taking part in a variety of art and craft activities, including an exciting collaborative collage for the Art Exhibition!

This week Transition have been learning to tell the time in their Maths lessons and have been considering the Easter story in RS. They have been very busy working on various art and craft activities, some of which have been brought home, and others are for our Art Exhibition next term. Transition were particularly pleased to be able to meet up with Form I for an Easter themed hunt on Monday, and enjoyed their chocolate egg rewards!

We hope that you all have a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Music

Melanie Martin, Director of Music

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The music department has had a busy week with 22 girls taking ABRSM practical and theory exams, fantastic performances in our student recital on Wednesday night and some wonderful solos, including Saint-Saens 'The Swan' at the Spring Celebration on Friday evening.



It is wonderful to see so many girls signing up to perform in our student recitals as well as assemblies to the whole school.



Did you know Godstowe runs 5 Music Theory classes, ranging from Beginner to Grade 5? We currently have spaces in each class for the Summer Term, please email Mrs Martin for more details.



Today girls from all year groups were included in our Spring Concert whether it was in the Lower School Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Senior Strings or the Godstowe Symphony Orchestra, everyone performed fantastically.



Weekly Awards

Artwork of the Week

Luella D Gloria I
Athena L Lucia T

Accelerated Readers

Arabella T

Boarders of the Week

Highlands Victoria P-M
Turner Charlotte S
Walker Charlotte P

Friday Badges

IC Lucille D
IH Diya R
IM Beatrix M

Sports Star of the Week

Anjolaoluwa O Marla N
Eleanor E Yolanda W
Amelia L-S Emilia P

Typing Awards

Beginner Sumaiya A
 Lily-May M
Intermediate Freya W
 Honor D
Advanced Libby S

House Points Winner this Term: Franklin



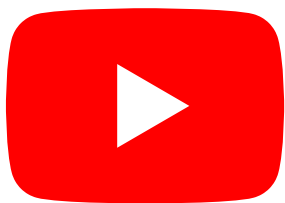
Boarders' Corner - An end of Term reflection



It feels like yesterday that our lovely boarders returned to their houses on the 4th January in the frosty, cold weather with a full term ahead of them. As I write this, we are only a day away from the departure of our girls again - but this time in the fresh spring sunshine. As usual it's been a very busy term, there's been plenty of cinema trips, ice skating, bowling, Kidzania, trampoline parks, yoga workshops, Bakeoffs and easter egg hunts. One of the highlights has to have been our trip to the Royal Albert Hall last weekend. The girls watched in awe as the musicians of the philharmonic orchestra played away at many classical classics. The real showstopper was when fire erupted from above our heads as torches went up in flames (safely) between each of the arches in the gallery. This was followed by fireworks shooting over us and into the centre of the hall. The spectacle didn't even end there! The next thing we knew, balloons were falling from the ceiling and carpeting the audience members in the stalls. I must say, we all had a chuckle as we watched them try to leave at the end of the concert!

What another busy term we have had. In January we welcomed Mrs McIlveen as Housemistress in Highlands and two new gap students Miss V and Miss Dao from McRob School in Melbourne. Recently, we also said goodbye to Miss Fantl, our graduate assistant in Turner who moves on to the next phase of her career, and welcomed Miss Bounds also from Australia to the boarding team. Unfortunately Turner House - having escaped Covid for a good two years - had to manage temporarily without Mr Scriven and Mrs Western-Kaye when they succumbed. Once again, the girls rose to the challenge, listening to staff and adapting to change at the last minute when we had to modify our weekend plans. We would like to extend a massive thank you to Miss Joyce, who looked after the Turner girls all week - we couldn't have done it without you! We all look forward to the Summer Term, where we can start fresh once more.

Next term will undoubtedly be another exciting one. As the sun is due to make more of an appearance, we have planned our activities around this, from water sports to festivals to barbecues, we're really trying to do it all next term and we look forward to sharing all our exciting adventures with you. Have a lovely holiday and see you next month!



Boarders Video

19th-20th March



Lacrosse

On Tuesday 22nd March, the U13A Lacrosse squad played at the National Tournament in Aldershot.

Despite missing players due to illness, the girls had some good games and reached the quarter-finals where they were drawing with Godolphin School until the last 5 seconds when the opposition scored a goal which meant that Godstowe was knocked out.

With the Lacrosse Tour to the USA on the horizon, the girls did well to focus on this tournament and come away with no injuries! Well Done Girls!



Netball

We welcomed Pipers Corner on Tuesday 22nd March for three netball matches in the sunshine. Each match was played in quarters and our girls showed great maturity organising their own rotations, allowing lots of them an opportunity for some exciting match play. Well Done girls, we were very impressed with how much progress they've made with their netball throughout the year.

On Friday 25th March, our U10's attended a Netball Tournament at Pipers Corner. For their last tournament of the Netball season, the girls played so well, winning all five of their games resulting in them winning the tournament.



We also held some Inter-house Netball competitions. Loweres competed on Monday and Form II took place on Wednesday and Thursday. All girls really enjoyed themselves and played some excellent Netball.



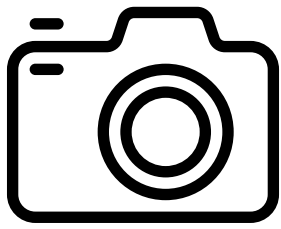
Cross Country

 Nina Sloggett, Head of Cross Country

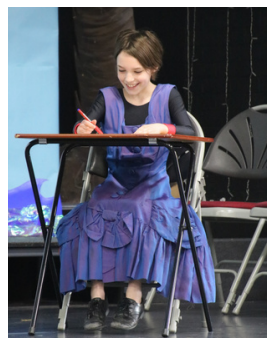
On Saturday 26th March, 12 Godstowe girls were chosen to represent Buckinghamshire in the National Cross Country Championships Leicestershire. Unfortunately some of our qualifiers were unable to run due to illness but we would like to congratulate them for qualifying in the first place.

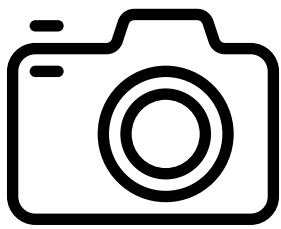
10 girls went on to race for the Bucks Swans team on Saturday. There were over 150 runners in each race from all over the country and the competition was very strong indeed. The girls all ran with perseverance and determination, despite these being very long and hard races with lots of competitors.

The Bucks Swans Team had lots of success with many excellent results. The biggest congratulations must go to Juliette M who won the year 5 race brilliantly, making her 1st in the whole country! This is a huge achievement for Juliette and she should be very proud of herself, as we are of her.



Photos of our Week





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Friends of Godstowe

On Friday 25th March, FoG held a cake sale in Lodge and Main School. Thank you to everyone who donated, we raised an amazing £745 for The Sanctuary Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who generously purchased tickets for the Easter Raffle, we raised a wonderful £302. The four lucky winners of the Easter Treat Crates, drawn at random are: James Boyle, Lubna Desoutter, Paula Prior and Sara Ramery.

Congratulations! Mrs Wiseman-Clark will be contacting you via Classlist.

