



CORNERS

NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 2016



South Africa Sports Tour, Prize-giving, Harvest Festival, Sayers Croft, Montpellier and Croatia Trips, Sponsored Charity Walk, Cadbury World, Annual Quondam Lunch, and more...



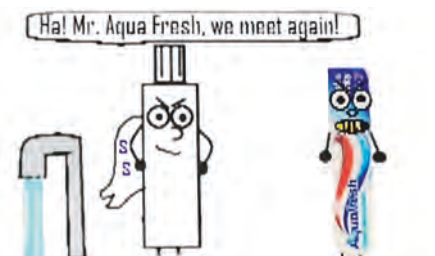
From the Headmaster

If you were able to join me at the wonderful Prize-giving ceremony at Cadogan Hall last month, you will have heard me coining a new word on behalf of the school – “outwardlookingness”. Whilst scarcely worthy of an entry in the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, this is a useful word to describe our ambition to become an increasingly outward-looking school.

Francis Holland, Regent’s Park is a confident school, which is performing strongly academically, and what is more this is a school which is well-known for its pastoral care, its kindness and for the warmth of the welcome. At this point of our long and illustrious history we want to increase the number of links that we have beyond the school gates. A long-standing example of “outwardlookingness”, amongst many others, is the annual Classics conference hosted at Francis Holland, Regent’s Park in the Spring Term. Every year two professors, one from the University of Oxford and one from University College, London, come to talk to our A-Level Latinists and others from around the country who are following the same course – the day benefits both our own pupils and also those from the other schools. This is a model which we seek to replicate.

Our school is surrounded by elite universities, successful businesses both big and small, as well as influential, creative and inspirational people. Let us reach out to bring more of this rich life into school for the benefit of your daughter’s education both in terms of the taught curriculum and the wider skills and knowledge that young women need as they navigate their way through life.

The latest initiative along these lines has been the highly successful “Entrepreneurship Fortnight”, which ran in mid-November. Every girl in the school heard about entrepreneurs who ranged from tiny start-ups in Kenya to large-scale projects here in London. All girls were invited to take part in a competition to demonstrate their emerging business acumen, in particular marketing and branding, and the winning team designed an advert for a new toothpaste called “Super Shine” (*pictured, above right*). Over the course of the two weeks, we learned that all of us need to harness the qualities of an entrepreneur and apply them in our own lives. A successful, self-made woman demonstrates determination, creativity, persistence and tenacity. The path towards a spirit of entrepreneurship can begin at school, as we have seen through our own Young Enterprise teams, and it is



developed through our approach to simple daily tasks such as homework, chores and even what we decide to do with the toys that we have outgrown.

Our recent guests challenged and inspired your daughters to discover their inner entrepreneur and they chimed in with the key message that is coming out via assemblies, PHSE and classroom teaching – if you have a dream, an ambition or a goal, then take some positive action to move yourself closer towards it. At Francis Holland, Regent’s Park, your daughter can always approach the staff to ask for support and guidance; it will be gladly given. That said, she should not be afraid to seize the initiative herself in order to be the best that she can be.

Yours sincerely,

MR CHARLES FILLINGHAM



A Fond Farewell to Mrs Whiteman

Mrs Whiteman, has been an inspiration in the classroom, on the stage delivering one of her powerful assemblies and in the day to day running of the school. Danah Cred and Olivia Turner (class of 2015) best summed up Mrs Whiteman as 'the underlying heartbeat of the school' and that is still the case today. It is hard to believe that Mrs Whiteman has only been at the school for three and a half years, such is the huge impact she has had on the FHS community and I know the girls will miss her enormously but we all wish her, from the bottom of our hearts, a wonderful new adventure and life with her family in Monmouth.

On behalf of the staff, it has been an honour and a privilege working with Kath and we have all become better professionals as a result.



Miss Colette Mahieu
PASTORAL DEPUTY HEAD

Our warmest wishes extend to the following colleagues who are also leaving FHS at the end of term:

Mrs Cara Bain, *Physical Education teacher*, is enviably returning to the wonderful land of Oz; **Ms Kay Hotchkiss**, *Science Department*, will be continuing her career as Head of Chemistry at City of London School for Girls; **Miss Tayyabah Ahmed**, *Science Department*, is off to Canada and **Mrs Georgie Harries**, *PA to Headmaster*, has taken maternity leave.

We thank them all for their tremendous contributions to FHS over the years and wish them all the best with their next steps.



Student Successes

Congratulations to Alice Ward in the Lower Sixth who completed work experience with *The Daily Telegraph* this summer. As well as shadowing journalists, she wrote articles and managed to get one of them published. Apparently, she is now an expert commentator on property prices in South West London.

Mr Charles Fillingham
HEADMASTER

The Foyle Young Poets Competition

Helena McBurney, a Lower Sixth gifted English student sent one of her poems, entitled 'The Birthday Present' to The Foyle Young Poets Competition. This is for 11-17 year olds. Each year, from around 10,000 entries, 100 winners (85 commended and 15 winners) are chosen by a panel of high profile judges. Helena's poem was one of the 85 commended and she was invited to the celebratory awards ceremony at the South Bank, on National Poetry Day on Thursday 6th October.

Ms Emma Williams
HEAD OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA



The Birthday Present

by Helena McBurney

On her 16th birthday, they cut out her brain. They said it was diseased – and so they replaced it. A regular brain, assured the doctor, like everyone else.

It came the next day, special delivery, in a cardboard box. Inside the box was a jar and inside the jar was a brain. There was nothing inside the brain, but it was the latest model.

And so she tried to wear it, although it hurt a bit. Dreaming wasn't as easy and her thoughts spilled down her dress in a grey sludge. At least she looked like everyone else.

After a while, she got used to the brain – used to the dull ache of the space where her wishes once lived. Next year, she's going back to the hospital. They're going to cut out her heart.

Academic Enrichment Lectures

We were privileged to hear some excellent Academic Enrichment lectures, given by FHS staff this term. Mrs Philips, (English Department) spoke on “The Importance of Place in Literature” on Thursday 29th September, exploring the idea of ‘place’ – not only as a physical location, but also as a symbol. Writers from a variety of eras were mentioned; Chaucer, Shakespeare, Wordsworth and Hardy. For many of these artists, the countryside represented the ideal – a place of natural beauty, meant for rest and contemplation, or more recently, a digital detox!

On Thursday 10th November, Mrs Wood (Head of Classics) gave a fascinating whistle-stop tour of the history of language, beginning in 3500 BC with Proto-Indo European languages and travelling at a sprightly pace all the way through to 2016. This was a scholarly roller-coaster ride with frequent historical stops, such as the Fall of Rome, the Norman Conquest and Chaucer’s Middle English,



and highlighted the effect that class divisions have had on the language we use today.

We are looking forward to the final Academic Enrichment lecture of the term by Mr Jason Bossé (Head of

Biology) on the electromagnetism of sharks. This will take place on Wednesday 7th December. More lectures are scheduled for the Spring and Summer Terms.

Miss Jacqueline Zugg
ACADEMIC DEPUTY HEAD

Extended Project Qualification

Five students in the Upper Sixth presented their independent research conducted as part of the Extended Project Qualification, a stand-alone qualification which is the equivalent of half an A2 subject. During the presentations the girls explained their experiences and the outcomes of their extended projects to an audience, including their supervisors, who all had the opportunity to ask questions at the end. This formed the final part of their assessment process.

Mrs Anna Phillips
HEAD OF THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The titles for each of the five presentations were:

Willow Hellier Watts

Can you use Python and Pygame to program a basic one-level game?

Nadia Muccio

Is it possible to know when someone is lying, and if so, how?

Georgina Miller

To what extent do the environmental impacts of the desiccation of the Aral Sea outweigh the resulting socio-economic issues?

Alice Haine

To what extent have women been consistently underrepresented within the pop music industry since the millennium?

Annelise Appen

The power of Eros in Antiquity - a solely negative force?



Careers Evening

On Wednesday 28th September, we held our Careers Evening.

We welcomed 500 students, parents, alumnae and staff, from both Francis Holland, Regent's Park and Francis Holland, Sloane Square. Over 45 guest speakers attended to talk about their various professions, be it in a presentation, an individual consultation or a small group setting. These included Victoria Broackes, Exhibition Curator at the V&A, and Dan Isaacs, Deputy Editor for World Service News Programmes at the BBC, amongst many others. The professions represented ranged from architects, criminal barristers and curators to film and TV producers, anaesthetists, bankers and artists, just to name a few.

One Lower Fifth student commented, *'I've learnt so much about professions (some of which I didn't even know existed)!'*

It was a wonderful evening which gave the girls a fantastic insight into each career. A huge thank you to all our speakers. If you are interested in speaking at our next event, please email jason.bosse@fhs-nw1.org.uk.

Mr Jason Bossé
CAREERS DEPARTMENT



Young Enterprise

A real spirit of entrepreneurship is flourishing in the Lower Sixth, with three Young Enterprise companies all hoping for strong sales at the Christmas Fair to really kick start their year in business. We wish them every success!

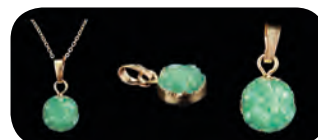
Miss Ann-Marie Conway
HEAD OF ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Kyro have produced their own branded Hoodies, available in a range of sizes which can be pre ordered at the Christmas Fair.



Each colour comes in Small + Medium + Large

Clarity will be selling pendants in a variety of colours which are emblematic of particular therapeutic qualities.
[@clarity.jewellery](mailto:clarityyegroup@gmail.com)
clarityyegroup@gmail.com



Exposure Clothing have a range of photographic image T-shirts, priced at £8.
[@exposureclothing_uk](https://www.instagram.com/exposureclothing_uk)





The Merchant of Venice Cinema Trip

On Thursday 3rd November, the whole of the Upper Fifth went to the Everyman Cinema in Baker Street to see a film of the current Globe production of *The Merchant of Venice*, starring Jonathan Pryce as Shylock, with his own daughter, Phoebe Pryce, playing his daughter Jessica in the play.

We all agreed that it was a fantastic production. The lines were delivered with such clarity and expression that we forgot that it was Elizabethan English we were hearing, and as we had just finished reading the play together in class it was a fantastic revision lesson for us all. One of the most interesting things about the interpretation of the play was that by the addition of two short visual scenes (one at the beginning and one at the end) the audience came away convinced that the play was a tragedy and not the comedy it is always classified as being. Seeing Antonio spit on Shylock as he passes him in the streets of Venice before the play properly starts and then seeing the baptism of Shylock at the end of the play, after the comedic ring/disguise plot has been unravelled, emphasized the racism inherent in the 16th century Venice and the extreme prejudice that Jews suffered at the hands of Christians, in a way that a modern audience finds hard to stomach; yet it is a salutary reminder that this kind of thing is still happening, albeit in different contexts, in many parts of the world today.

Ms Nicky Foy
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Harvest Festival

FHS once again celebrated Harvest Festival with a traditional thanksgiving service at St. Cyprian's Church led by Father Beachamp. The Harvest Loaf was presented and as part of the service a group of our students read Psalm 8 in Hebrew.

The altar was decorated by an amazing array of boxes, creatively designed and packed with tinned and dried food which was all donated to North London Action for the Homeless. Through this charity the donations of the girls and

staff have been given out to the homeless and vulnerable people who come and use the drop-in centre, as well as providing the centre with enough food to help with the cooking for many meals. Mike Tomes, the manager particularly commented on how much effort the girls had put into the packaging and the little messages that were sent with the food and gifts. Many thanks to all.

Ms Clare MacDonald
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

Thirds Activity Day at Sayers Croft



With a programme of climbing, high ropes, team challenges, orienteering, a blindfold trail and a maze, the Thirds were guaranteed to have a fantastic day at Sayers Croft – and so it proved! The sun shone and the girls got stuck into all their activities. Excess energy was burned at lunchtime with cartwheels, somersaults and headstands. Thanks to the form tutors for all their support and hard work.

Mr Adrian Smith
HEAD OF THIRDS



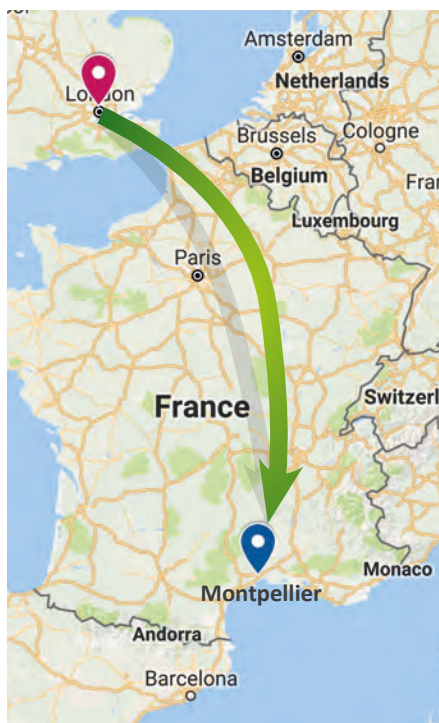


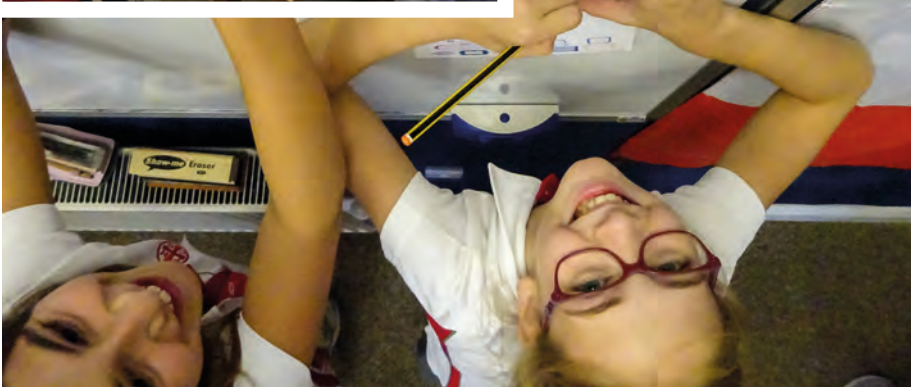
Montpellier Trip

During the first week of the October Half Term, Mr Gridelli, Mme Lamas and I took 22 Upper Fourth, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth girls to Montpellier, in the South of France. Students, in pairs, spent 6 days with host families and attended language lessons in the morning. In the afternoon, we did a variety of activities ranging from a guided tour of the historic centre of Montpellier, a photo competition, a visit to the Roman centre of Nîmes, and a cooking lesson with a Michelin-starred chef.

The week represented a wonderful opportunity for them to have fun while practising their language skills and experiencing a different culture. It was a real privilege to witness their excitement and to receive the families' compliments about the girls' impeccable behaviour and their ability to speak French. We all had an amazing time and are already planning our next adventure in France!

Mme Alessandra Spera
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT





European Day of Languages and Eurovision

Every year on the 26th September we celebrate the European Day of Languages everywhere in Europe. We have always joined in at Francis Holland School with educational assemblies, fun activities and linguistic challenges and this year we decided to celebrate it in even bigger style. For the first time we extended the celebration from one day to the whole week which terminated with a BOOM!! On Friday 30th September we “put up” a show in aid of Picaflor House, a centre that provides education to underprivileged kids in Peru. We held “FHS does the Eurovision Song Contest”. Students across different year groups sang in foreign languages and “reps” from different countries awarded points to crown this year’s winner – Germany. The show was presented in French. The audience participation helped us make this event simply magical. We would like to thank you and the IT Department for their technical help and support.

Mr Nick Gridelli
HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Holly Bourne visits FHS

For many girls the arrival of Holly Bourne, author of *The Normal Series*, titled *Am I Normal Yet?*, *How Hard Can Love Be?* and *What's A Girl Gotta Do?* was the highlight of the autumn term, with as many as 60 girls signing up to listen to her speak after school in the library.

We were treated to an engaging and at times hilarious talk which addressed the stigma of mental health, women's rights and feminism; all of which are themes within her novels. With an audience of beaming smiles and nodding heads it was clear that the issues Holly spoke at length about resonated with the girls.

Holly also took the time to share stories about her career as a writer and claimed that her best-kept treasure was her teenage diary as she was able to draw upon some of the content whilst writing *The Normal Series*. She also shed light on the highs and lows of the publishing industry and gave us a sneak preview on the theme of her forthcoming book, launching next autumn.

Holly has asked to return to FHS in the future as she was so impressed by the girls and their passion on the topics she discussed.

Mrs Emily Aves
LIBRARIAN

Prize-giving Evening at Cadogan Hall



This year's annual Prize-giving was held on Thursday 13th October at Cadogan Hall. Mr Fillingham hosted this event and was joined by Mrs Marie Winckler, the Chair of the Francis Holland Schools Trust Governing Council. Mr Fillingham began the evening by reflecting on the past year at FHS and the incredible opportunities afforded to the girls, and emphasised the importance of giving back to the community. Prizes were then presented and it was wonderful to hear of the individual achievements and effort of so many of our pupils.

The evening not only commended the pupils' individual achievements and excellent examination results but also gave the audience of parents, pupils,

Governors and guests the opportunity to experience the outstanding music and drama talent at FHS as we celebrated an extraordinary range of achievement. There were stunning performances from our Jazz ensemble the Pink Ladies, from the Choir and The Fifteen, as well as outstanding solo performances from Elle Bogle on the piano and Siena Hunt on the violin. We were also captivated by Emma Monnickendam's rendition of *The Hero* by Siegfried Sassoon, and Izzy Fisher Turner's joyful performance of Violet M Methley's *Freckles*.

Lucy Morris, our Head Girl, concluded the evening with an extract from Maya Haruni's winning essay, which was

followed by a rousing rendition of the school hymn.

Congratulations to all the very worthy prize-winners and thank you to all the talented performers who made this such a delightful evening. We would also like to thank Mrs Marie Winckler, Mr Robert Saunders, member of the Parents' Association Committee, and Mrs Alison Edelshain, Chair of Quondam for presenting the Longworth Leadership Prize, the Parents' Association Prize, the Quondam Essay Prizes and the Quondam Prize.

Ms Clare MacDonald
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

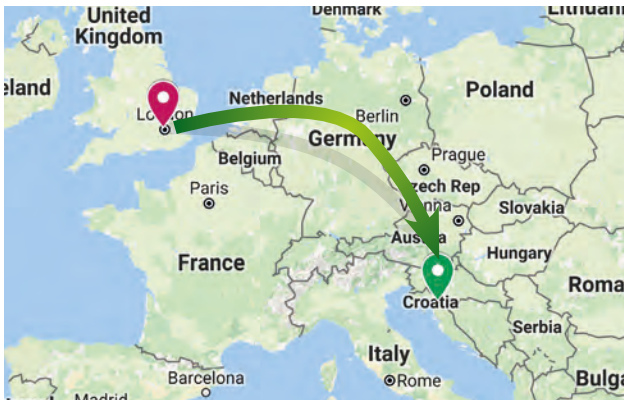




Geography Trip to Croatia

At the start of October half term, 31 girls went on a Geography department trip to Croatia accompanied by Ms Hack, Mrs Freeley, Ms Barton and Miss O'Neill. We enjoyed a mixture of fun-packed activities, including white-water rafting and adventure caving as well as learning about the Geography of Croatia, notably the limestone formations that have created some outstanding physical features. The girls were excellent and we all had a fantastic time.

Ms Sarah Hack
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY





The Sponsored Charity Walk

What a fantastic start to the autumn as the sun shone again on the annual sponsored charity walk in Regent's Park, one of all our favourite events! Once again we were swept along by the creativity and enthusiasm of the girls as they completed laps of the park in aid of Nav Jyoti School for mentally handicapped children in Jodhpur, India, and the FHS Summer Camp. This charitable school was suggested by one

of our pupils, Aditi Bhandari who has first-hand knowledge of the school and who spent part of her summer holidays as a volunteer there. Her assembly certainly inspired us all. FHS Summer Camp celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer and we wish it many happy years to come.

Ms Clare MacDonald
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

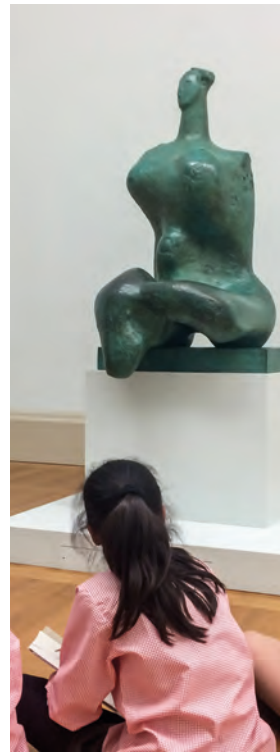




Thirde Trip to the Tate Britain

On Monday 7th November, all of the Thirde set off by coach to visit Tate Britain in Pimlico. Touring through the historical to the 21st century galleries and pausing to make drawings from Henry Moore's sculptures, the girls were able to compare traditional with more contemporary trends, with a focus upon the role of women as subject and as artist. It was a packed, busy and very stimulating day!

Ms Jane Orr
HEAD OF ART DEPARTMENT



Drawing Workshop

On Saturday 8th October, Sixth Form artists in our school were joined by Queen's College students to participate in an inspiring drawing workshop, led by Royal Academy artist Charlotte Steele. They were put through their paces with some challenging exercises which enriched their portfolios!

Ms Jane Orr
HEAD OF ART DEPARTMENT



Geography Trip to Cadbury World and Bournville

On Thursday 6th October, Upper Fourth visited Cadbury World and Bournville, to complete some Geography fieldwork. They compared the terraced housing that most of the factory workers would have lived in with the houses in Bournville, built by George and Richard Cadbury for their workers. Some fantastic field sketches of the housing were completed and we discussed the quality of the environment in each location.

The highlight of the day for most of Upper Fourth was a trip around the

Cadbury factory where they learnt about the chocolate-making process, from the cocoa beans being grown in Ghana to the chocolate bars we buy in the shops. The day was completed with a quick visit to the world's biggest Cadbury shop.

Many thanks to my colleagues who accompanied us and to the Upper Fourth who behaved well and worked hard!

Mrs Penny Freeley
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



Scholars' and Exhibitioners' Concert

The music scholars and exhibitioners gathered to present their annual musical showcase in the Hall. With a typically eclectic mix of musical styles, the concert amazed the audience by the high standards attained. The three Upper Sixth students, Lulu Renney, Connie Polydor and Elle Bogle ended the programme as it was their last scholars' and exhibitioners' concert.

Mr Robert Patterson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Annual Quondam Lunch



We were pleased to welcome over 70 alumnae back to school for the annual Quondam Lunch on Saturday 5th November. Those attending included former staff and pupils, all eager to catch up with each other's news and share memories of their time at Francis Holland. Many had booked to sit together, creating the perfect atmosphere for a reunion between friends, both new and old.

and meticulous presentation of the classrooms.

During the lunch a number of gifts were presented, including to the oldest alumna in attendance who celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year. The whole hall delighted in hearing extracts from her report card and the progress she made throughout school, presented by Quondam Chair Alison Edelshain who also hosted the afternoon.



The morning began with an energetic netball match between Old Girls, including guest star Mr Fillingham at Goal Defence! After an exciting hour of friendly play, the game concluded in a draw, with everyone claiming a gold medal.

Following the lunch, Mr Fillingham interviewed alumna Katie Taylor on stage about her time working at the BBC. Highlights included hearing about her role on Strictly Come Dancing as well as her insightful advice to younger alumni on succeeding in business.



Meanwhile, other guests enjoyed a drinks reception at school and loved being taken on tours by a group of Sixth Form volunteers. For some, this was their first visit back to school for over twenty years and so they marvelled at seeing the changes that have occurred. They were all very impressed with the new building works, modern facilities

With alumnae representing every decade from the 1940s right up to 2013, this was a wonderful afternoon demonstrating the continued strength of the Old Girls' community.

Mr Alistair Brown
ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER



Lower Fourth Educational Visits

New this year to the Lower Fourth is an exciting programme of Central London Educational Visits that are linked to our department curricula and offer extensive learning beyond the classroom. During our first term, each Lower Fourth form has individually visited the London Zoo for an interesting talk on Adaptations, a trip to the Foundling Museum to learn about King's Cross

history through the artwork of William Hogarth and charity of Thomas Coram and an in-depth look at the British Library by our very own Librarian, Emily Aves. The last visit for this term to Le Cordon Bleu School in December has all of the ingredients to be a winner also!

Ms Jane Tucker
EDUCATIONAL VISITS CO-ORDINATOR



Sports Report

SPORTS



It's hard to believe Christmas is already here – there's hardly been enough time to be bad, let alone good this term! Not with all of our practices, fixtures and clubs going on, we have been packed full of sports fun. Well done to our Netball and Hockey girls who have represented the school at the Middlesex tournaments this term. Congratulations to our Netball and Hockey girls who have had a brilliant tour to South Africa at the end of October. We will also be having our annual Inter-form Hockey tournament this December, please do look on the website for further details and come along to support if you're free! Congratulations again to Charlotte Hassenforder and Hannah Barlay who were awarded the Junior and Senior 'All-Rounder' Cups at this year's Prize-giving ceremony.

Retrials will happen for the junior Netball and Hockey teams in the first two weeks of January, so if you missed out on the first pick – come along and see if you've improved over the term. More information on the PE noticeboard outside the staffroom.

The new spring fixtures list can now be found online via the school website. Once again, please do come along to the matches and cheer as loudly as you like! You will also find online a detailed destinations list for our fixtures – so now there's no excuse for not coming. The spring term is packed with many PE extra-curricular events; please make note of them in your diaries.

Ms Jane Tucker
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

County Hockey Selection

We would like to congratulate Ella Sprosta and Alice Ward for being selected to represent the Middlesex U17 County Hockey Squad! Alice was selected for the second year in a row after an impressive debut season for Middlesex last year. Ella in the Upper Fifth had impressed the selectors with her goal keeping skills throughout the trials and has been selected for the first time. We wish them both the very best of luck!

Miss Maria Merrigan
PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Middlesex Hockey



FHS entered two teams to take part in the U14 and U18 (pictured) Middlesex County Tournaments for the first time ever. We knew this foray into top level hockey would be challenging, but both teams acquitted themselves incredibly well right from the first whistle.

There were some outstanding performances throughout which resulted in a 6th place finish for the U14s and a fantastic 3rd place finish for the U18s. Well done to all of the girls who took part and played with incredible commitment and determination. Congratulations to Anika Patel who has also been selected for the U13s. A terrific achievement!

Miss Maria Merrigan
PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Middlesex Netball

Well done to our u14, u15, u16 and Senior Netball teams for representing Francis Holland so well at the Senior and Intermediate Middlesex Netball tournaments this term. Four fantastic competitions against the top Middlesex schools in less than ideal weather!

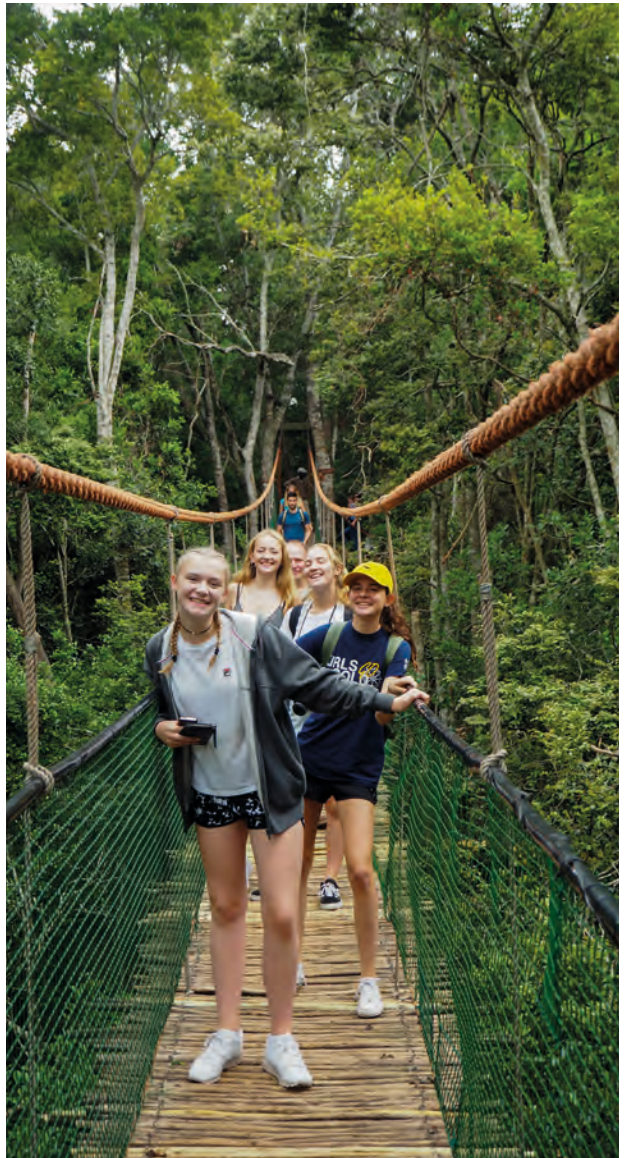
Ms Jane Tucker
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Spring dates to note:

- » **Wednesday** 18/01/17
2nd Hand Uniform sale
Gym (1–2pm)
- » **Wednesday** 25/01/17
III & LIV Dance Workshop
FHS (in lessons)
- » **Thursdays** ongoing
3-a-side Soccer Tournament
School Playground

- » **Monday** 30/01/17
February Fitness Fortnight begins
FHS (in lessons)
- » **Saturday** 4/02/17
LSGA Regional Gym Competition
Streatham & Clapham High
- » **Friday** 10/03/17
Gym and Dance Display 5pm
FHS Hall
- » **Tuesday** 14/03/17
U12/U13 Middlesex Netball Tourn.
LEH School

- » **Friday** 17/03/17
FHS Mini Marathon
Regent's Park
- » **Tuesday** 20/03/17
Summer Sports Trials begin
(continue in the Summer term)
Regent's Park
- » **Tuesday** 28/03/17
Inter-form Netball Competition
Regent's Park





South Africa Sports Tour – *the trip of a lifetime*

Thirty-nine brave Francis Holland girls faced a barrage of top South African Netballers and Hockey Players in a tour that pushed our sporting prowess to the limit. Over the October half term we made friends and we made enemies. We had tears of joy, pain, excitement and most certainly tears of exhaustion. We had some wins and we had a whole lot of losses, but most of all, we made progress and grew into a fantastic team unit by the end of the tour. By the time the post-match teas came about, results and on-field battles were forgotten – and our girls chatted merrily into the evening with their new South African friends. I couldn't have asked for anything more.

Aside from the sport, it was twelve days packed full of some of the most wonderful sights and animals on earth to ever exist. Of particular note was the formidable ascent to the top of Table Mountain, the breath-taking descent to

the bottom of Cape Point and fabulous mountains and coastline of the stunning Garden Route. Our hand-in-hand experience walking an elephant was certainly surreal, mischievous monkeys tried to cause havoc at every turn (where did Miss Merrigan's sunglasses go..), the penguins of Boulder's Beach were amazing and so too were the seals smothering Seal Island. We now have six fully trained Ostrich riders and a number of trainee game rangers in the school from our brilliant game drive through the Kariega Game Reserve. Certainly the visit to Robben Island and the history of its inhabitants including Nelson Mandela was a much cherished experience.

Without doubt, the visit to the Kayamandi Township and Christine Revell Orphanage was the highlight of the non-sporting moments in time. Our students were deeply moved by the hardships faced by the community

members and children in care. They also saw first-hand where the £6900 our girls' raised was being spent, which brought the experience an even more special meaning. It was also fun to become 'teachers' for an hour and pass on our netball and hockey skills to a spattering of children from the township.

It therefore pains me to report that South Africa is undoubtedly the 'Ultimate Sporting Destination of 2016' (*runner up must surely be Australia though!*) and the benchmark for all future tours to aspire to. I thank wholeheartedly the girls that came on the trip for being fantastic ambassadors of the school. I also thank the tireless efforts of the PE staff to make the tour run smoothly – Miss Bain, Miss Evans, Miss Merrigan and Miss Slattery!

Ms Jane Tucker
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2016

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER

6:30pm Piano Concert in the Hall
(Pre drinks in the library 6pm)

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER

» **Whole school Mufti Day in aid of Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka**

1:30pm Upper Fifth Charity Event in aid of Rainbow Centre

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER

3:25pm Sixth Form Carol Singing at local underground stations in aid of designated charities

JANUARY 2017

MONDAY 9 JANUARY

8:25am Beginning of Spring term for all students

FRIDAY 13 JANUARY

» **11+ Entrance Examination Day (no students required in school unless requested)**

Sixth Form Lectures – Spring Term 2017 Programme

- 9th January** **Tara Mei**
Former pupil and founder of 'Kitchen Table Projects' and mentor for Business students at Imperial College
- 16th January** **Amy Currell**
Former pupil and director of her own photography business
- 23rd January** **Upper Sixth pupils, Lulu Renney and Ella Barker**
Learning from Auschwitz programme
- 30th January** **Peta Cornish**
Former pupil and founder of PITCH, a company specialising in communication and presentation skills
- 6th February** **Andy Fowler**
Creative Director of Brothers and Sisters Advertising Agency
- 27th February** **David Castle**
Personal Safety Training Consultant
- 6th March** **CoppaFeel! Breast Cancer Charity Representatives**
Breast Awareness Session
- 13th March** **Alex Cheatle**
CEO of Ten Group, Lifestyle and Home Management Service
- 20th March** **Ben Heason**
Professional rock-climber and motivational speaker
- 27th March** **Lizzie Peck**
Economist at the Bank of England

Oxford German Olympiad 2017: Calling all Germanists!!

This is an annual competition by Oxford University aimed at students of German of all ages. This year, the theme is "Deutsch(e) jenseits von Deutschland - German(s) beyond Germany!" and it looks to explore German peoples, language and culture beyond Germany's borders. Entries can be submitted individually or in small groups of 2 to 4 people, depending on the chosen task.

Tasks and guidelines for each age group can be found online under: www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/oxford-german-olympiad-2017
Deadline: **17th March 2017!**

Check the website, get inspired and submit your entry; you have nothing to lose and a lot to learn from this opportunity. It's a win-win situation, girls!

Viel Glück!

Frau Iksilara
GERMAN DEPARTMENT



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