



# CORNERS

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



NYC Alumnae Reunion, 138th Birthday, Inter-Form Drama, Concerts, Ski Trip, Lectures, Conferences, World Book Day, Gym & Dance Display, Sport and much more...

## From the Headmaster

As I hope you will see from the pages of this newsletter, we have enjoyed a busy and successful term at Francis Holland, Regent's Park.

For me, this first term has provided the opportunity to "take the temperature" of the school and, to this end, I have enjoyed speaking with pupils, parents and members of staff. I find that, like me, the other members of the school community enjoy life at Francis Holland. This is a wonderful school. Most recently, parents have been completing an online questionnaire on their opinions and this, together with other evidence, will help shape future developments at the school.

Those parents who met me at the beginning of term will remember that my four areas of particular interest are: to continuously develop the quality of teaching and learning and the classroom experience for your daughters; to make the most of all the benefits of living in London; to nurture and grow a spirit of internationalism amongst the pupils and staff; and for the school to become increasingly outward-looking by building links and seizing opportunities which prepare our girls for life beyond the school gates.

You might be interested to hear that our international links are already multiplying. Last week I approved two school trips for 2017, one to China and one to Russia. In the same week the Modern Foreign Languages department joined a research project with the Women's University of Kobe, Japan and in the week before half term our



good friends from Francis Holland, Sloane Square were over in New York establishing relationships with three academic girls' schools in Manhattan. I am hoping that our pupils will be able to take part in pupil exchanges with The Big Apple.

This is an exciting time for your daughter to be at Francis Holland, Regent's Park. The school is in good heart; the girls and the staff are working very hard and there is a wealth of experiences available to the pupils here. I hope that your daughter is seizing opportunities as they arise.

With very best wishes for Easter.

Yours sincerely,



MR CHARLES FILLINGHAM



## Durham Bursary Fund



We have been thrilled with the response to the School appeal for the Durham Bursary Fund. The generosity of parents, staff, governors and students, both past and present, has now enabled us to offer a full 11+ bursary place to a girl who would not normally have the opportunity to join Francis Holland. Thank you so much to all those who so kindly contributed. We continue to encourage donations to the Francis Holland Bursary Fund to ensure these opportunities can be made available for future generations of talented girls. If you have any questions about the Durham Bursary Fund please do not hesitate to contact our Development Manager, Louise Richmond at [development@fhst-org.uk](mailto:development@fhst-org.uk).

**Mrs Marie Winckler**  
CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

### Form Captains

Lola Edsberg	<b>IIIJ</b>	Alexandra Edge
Alysha Murjani	<b>IIIM</b>	Georgina Harrison
Hina Kodama	<b>IIIS</b>	Parissa Meader-Zand
Talia Ghel	<b>LIVJ</b>	Amelia Hills
Ellie Valentine	<b>LIVM</b>	Anna Boeckman
Aemelia Chivers	<b>LIVS</b>	Jessica Perkins
Cleopatra Coleman	<b>UIVJ</b>	Maia Von Malaise
Kate Gill-Boniaszczuk	<b>UIVM</b>	Isabella Jackson
Amy Cash	<b>UIVS</b>	Lily Allen
Alice Bartholomew	<b>LVAL</b>	Melissa Symonds
Connie Sodano	<b>LVL</b>	Fatma Hamad
Jessica Phillips	<b>LVT</b>	Rosie Holt
Helena McBurney	<b>UVC</b>	Clarice Willis
Eva Gimpel-Oxinalde	<b>UVP</b>	Aisling Sheehan
Tabitha Dickson	<b>UVT</b>	Rae Farrow

### Games Captains

## First FHS Alumnae Reunion in NYC!

On Monday 8th February 2016 Francis Holland hosted its first ever Alumnae Reunion for former FHS pupils now living in and around New York City. Over 20 alumnae from both Francis Holland Schools braved the cold in Manhattan, including Victoria Rosamond (née Burton) and classmates Amber Gordon (with her dog Milo!) and Anita Baumann (née Shaa) from FHS Regent's Park. Our alumnae were delighted to see the new history book 'Polished Corners' (some of whom are pictured in it) and receive exclusive chocolate boxes as a reminder of FHS! The reception was held at the Marriott Marquis which coincided with the Global Forum on Girls' Education attended by the Director of Communications for the Francis Holland Schools Trust, Mrs Vanessa McKinley, and the Headmistress of our sister school in Sloane Square, Mrs Lucy Elphinstone. Over 900 delegates gathered from all parts of the globe to listen to key speakers such as Gloria Steinem, Arianna Huffington and Baroness Sue Campbell, all of whom delivered powerful messages on feminist issues affecting the way we educate girls today.

**Mrs Vanessa McKinley**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS





## 138<sup>th</sup> School Birthday



Friday 5th February 2016 was the school's 138th birthday. To celebrate, the whole school enjoyed a service at St. Cyprian's Church, where we reflected on the school's history and what has changed since it opened in 1878.

Afterwards, all students and staff congregated in the School Hall to light the candle on the Birthday Cake, made

by our talented school chef Steve King, and to sing happy birthday. After enjoying a slice of cake, the audience prepared for the much anticipated Inter-form Drama Competition where each year group performed plays that they directed themselves.

**Well done to everyone involved and Happy Birthday FHS Regent's Park!**



## Parents' Association News

The generosity of parents and girls in supporting the various PA events throughout the year is always heartwarming because it enables the FHSPA Trust to support in a meaningful way charities like the Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka and Swiss Cottage School, Hampstead.

The monies raised last year bought a new tuk tuk for The Rainbow Centre which will be used to take Rainbow children living in remote areas not only to and from home and school, but also to hospital and doctors' appointments; also to deliver food, supplies and transport for local meetings. As Alison Nagel, founder of The Rainbow Centre, enthused *"the new tuk tuk is a godsend"*.

**"The new tuk tuk is a godsend! Thank you..."**

ALISON, ARUNI AND ALL THE 98 CHILDREN AT THE RAINBOW CENTRE

### Continuous friendship...

In addition, the PA were able to donate to the after-school clubs and school trips initiative run by Swiss Cottage School. Public funding is scarce so the donation will help support students access these learning opportunities.

Thank you for your generosity; it is always appreciated!

**Mrs Laurel Rafter**  
CHAIR OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



### Father Gerald Collation

In January, at a service attended by numerous VIP guests and conducted by the Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres, Lord Bishop of London, our local vicar, Father Gerald Beauchamp, was collated as the vicar of the Annunciation, Marble Arch.

Revd Beauchamp, who is also the minister with oversight of St Cyprian's Church, immediately opposite the school, was praised by the Bishop for his work at the Annunciation. Over the past few years the congregation has grown enormously with both adults and children well represented. Congratulations to Father Gerald!

**Mr Charles Fillingham**  
HEADMASTER



## Mosaic Presentation

On Monday 29th February, Francis Holland School celebrated the completion of a mosaic commission for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Mosaic Club meet in the Gloucester Room once a week for tea and mosaic making, and the Art department along with a group of Lower Sixth students have been working on a commission for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for the last 18 months. The piece is made up of 18 individual sections and measures 2 metres by 1 metre. The Mosaic will be installed later this month in the day room in the Lord Wigram Ward.

**Miss Rose Oloumi**  
MOSAIC CLUB CO-ORDINATOR



## Art Instagram Account

Following the launch of the brand new school website in January, which I hope you have all had a chance to look at, we have now launched an Instagram account exclusively to showcase our talented artists. The FHS Art Department now regularly post images of fantastic artwork by girls in all year groups. If you are a keen artist, or just wish to appreciate the talent offered by our FHS pupils, then please do follow us @franchisland\_art

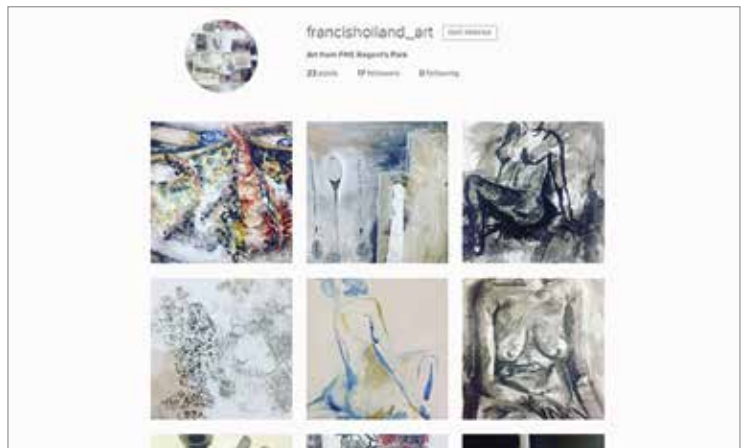
We have some way to go before we match our Twitter following @FHSRegentsPark (as we now have an incredible 1,100 followers!) but we are in no doubt that our Art Instagram account will prove very popular. Thank you very much to Miss Ros Thomson and the rest of the Art Department for making this possible.

**Mrs Vanessa McKinley**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

@franchisland\_art

@FHSRegentsPark

facebook.com/FHSRegentsPark



## Academic Enrichment Lecture



Miss Ann Marie Conway, Head of Economics Department, presented an outstanding lecture on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, titled '**Measuring Happiness: can we use Economics to quantify happiness?**' which looked at how we objectively measure the subjective notion of happiness and whether money really makes us happy.

Miss Victoria Greenhalgh in the Classics Department gave an entertaining and informative lecture on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, titled **Women behaving badly in**

**Ancient Greece: did it pay to push the boundaries?'** focusing on three women, Aspasia, Neaera and Phryne, who were thought to have transgressed the social norms of ancient Greek culture.

Both academic enrichment lectures were well attended by girls from a range of year groups from LIV upwards and enabled girls to ask thought-provoking questions.

**Ms Jacqui Zugg**  
ACADEMIC DEPUTY HEAD



## Women of Influence Lecture Series

Rachel Campbell-Johnson, author and *The Times* newspaper's chief art critic was our first speaker in the 'Women of Influence Lecture Series'. She enthused her audience with a general discussion on writing and in particular the inspiration for her book *The Child's Elephant*, which was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in 2014.

Subsequently we have heard from Her Honour Judge Amakye who talked to the whole school about her role as a judge and advocacy

and then Ann Mroz, Editor of TES who returned to the theme of writing and her role as a journalist and editor.

Please do consult the programme, located on the school website, for forthcoming talks.

**Ms Clare MacDonnell**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



## National Classics Conference

The annual FHS Classics Conference, this year, on AS Latin Literature was a great success. 130 Classics students and teachers from 25 different schools attended on 29th January, including St Paul's Boys School and Camden School for Girls, with groups coming from as far as Edinburgh and Belfast. All of them were eager to learn more about this year's AS Latin set texts – Ovid *Metamorphoses III* and Cicero *de Imperio*.

Professor Matthew Leigh from St Anne's College, Oxford and Dr Elena Giusti from St John's College, Oxford gave two talks each, one on each of the set texts, throughout the day. As they are both specialists on the set authors, it was a useful opportunity for our seven Lower Sixth Latinists to consolidate what they had been studying over the course of the year.

The lecturers sought to place the texts within their original historic, social

and literary contexts, and the students were presented with a breadth of information that stretched far beyond the AS syllabus. As well as raising the intellectual bar with which our girls viewed the texts, the academic depth of the four lectures also gave them a taste of university study, particularly Oxbridge. It was an inspiring day for all who attended.

**Mrs Hana Packford**  
HEAD OF CLASSICS DEPARTMENT



## Model United Nations

Some of the LVI led by Mr Harry Clayton attended the LEH annual Model United Nations Conference which was held over three days from Friday 29th to Sunday, 31st January. The girls represented Italy and over the weekend debated on a range of topics from the question of aging populations, to the use of child soldiers in armed conflict, and the issue of the humanitarian crises in Syria. Many congratulations to the girls who took part.

**Ms Clare MacDonnell**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



## Inter-form Drama Competition

This year's Inter-form Drama Competition took place on the school's 138th birthday, Friday 5th February 2016. The judges had worked hard to pick a selection that captured both the range and the impressive talent of this year's entries and the final line-up was very exciting. Our external judge this year was Mrs Bachle-Morris, FHS's very own teacher of English and Drama who left us last year to devote time to her family and two children, soon to be three! She was "extremely impressed and genuinely delighted" to judge the final selection of plays and to attend the special day.

First we were treated to LVAL's interpretation of "The Lady Vanishes", a very polished period piece which captured the contextual mood and

also featured one of the best comic turns of the day by Courtney McNeil. IIS followed with their highly original version of "Modern Cinderella", a crowd-pleaser cleverly executed by a lively cast. The infectious comedy continued with UIVS' "The Wizard of Oz", an ensemble piece which impressed Mrs Bachle-Morris with its authenticity and charm. The morning ended with a hilarious rendition of "Charlie & The Chocolate Factory" by LIVS, highly popular, not least because it started to rain sweets in the Hall!

After lunch the drama continued with a highly accomplished period piece, a scene from "Jane Eyre" performed by a very confident LVT. UIVM followed with an original script entitled "The Night of The Storm", an atmospheric murder

mystery which had the whole school enthralled and in silence awaiting the outcome. That LIVM managed to break the mood and take the audience with them was testament to the skills of the cast. "Peter Pan" managed to be funny, moving and heart-breaking in fifteen minutes! UVC then rounded off our afternoon of drama with their version of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound", a wonderfully funny end to a highly impressive day's theatre. If that were not enough, accomplished old hands at drama, upper sixth-formers Vida Fatemi and Millie Williams performed Woody Allen's "Death" to a delighted crowd as the judging took place. Excellent work everyone!

**Dr Francesca de Bono**  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT







## Inter-form Drama Prize Winners

🏆 Winner  
👍 Runner-up

### IIS: Modern Cinderella

🏆 Best Programme:  
*Yasmeen Siddiqui & Zoe Haering*

### LIVM: Peter Pan

🏆 Best Ensemble  
🏆 Best Lighting:  
*Ella Nassiri & Ellie Valentine*

### LIVS: Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

🏆 Best Props:  
*Annie Harrison*

### UIVM: The Night of the Storm

🏆 Best Original Piece:  
*Emma Radcliffe*  
👍 Best Supporting Actress:  
*Issy Jackson*

### UIVS: The Wizard of Oz

👍 Best Comedy Performance:  
*Ria Rawla*  
🏆 Most Convincing Characterisation:  
*Amy Cash*

### LVAL: The Lady Vanishes

🏆 Best Costumes  
🏆 Best Comedy Performance:  
*Courtney McNeil*  
🏆 Best Comic Double Act:  
*Alice Bartholomew & Ellie du Bois*

### LVT: Jane Eyre

🏆 Best Script Adaptation:  
*Ella Sprosta*  
🏆 Best Actress:  
*Scarlett Field-Green*

### UVC: The Real Inspector Hound

🏆 Best Directors:  
*Minnie Kilgour & Helena McBurney*  
🏆 Best Play  
🏆 Best Supporting Actress:



## String Concert

Many girls performed in the String Concert on Tuesday 9th February with a wide selection of solos on the violin, cello and guitar and numerous ensembles also appearing. The audience delighted in seeing how many talented string players there are in the school!

**Mr Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## IGCSE Musician's Performance Concert

Girls from the IGCSE Music set gathered together to present a programme of performances and compositions on Tuesday 19th January. As well as the school's piano trio performing some Fauré, there were solos on the harp, trombone, saxophone, voice and violin. The audience also heard some original compositions and were particularly delighted by Aisling Sheehan's "Added Chords" composition.

**Mr Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## Wind and Brass Concert

Around 20 girls gathered to present the first ever Wind and Brass concert in the School Hall on Tuesday 26th January. Featuring a wide variety of solos, duets, trios and ensembles programme delighted the audience. This event will now take place every year.

**Mr Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## A Midsummer Night's Dream Workshop



The Young Shakespeare Company gave the Thirds an exuberant rendition of this favourite play. If the girls didn't already know the plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, having seen the school's own production last term, they certainly did after this exciting and lively workshop. Led through the play's confusions and mischief by a calm and clear narrator, the girls soon found themselves fully involved.

They were first introduced to a "who's who" of the court of Athens before playing the four young lovers expelled into the wood. They were fooled by

a put-upon Puck who darted around the hall faster than the "Leviathan". Oberon, the King of the fairies, dominated from a great height—played as a gravelly-voiced, aging rock star, with flowing coat and hair, guitar swinging from his shoulder. His feisty fairy 'Rock Queen' Titania gave as good as she got and the pair brought to life the lovers' quarrel with electrifying power. The girls had an enjoyable afternoon discovering the pitfalls of fairy magic and misplaced affection.

**Mrs Anna Phillips**  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## Lower Fourth Macbeth Workshop

Macbeth and Duncan as flouncing restoration actors or as red-haired Scotsmen with very strong regional accents or as hoodied, 21st century gangsters; the witches as gossiping mothers at the school gate, as withered old crones or as zombies returned from the dead - what is the best way to interpret Shakespeare's characters?

These were some of the alternatives that the actors from The Young Shakespeare Company presented to year 8 when they came



in to act their one hour performance of "Macbeth". Their interpretation of the key scenes of the play gave rise to many questions, both to the actors after the session, and to the teachers in subsequent classes. Everybody had an educational and thought-provoking afternoon!

**Ms Nicky Foy**  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



## Romeo and Juliet Workshop

The workshop on Romeo and Juliet for the Upper Fourth was a superb introduction to performing Shakespeare as well as an enlightening interpretation of the play. The afternoon started with a clear illustration of the choices to be made in deciding how to speak Shakespearean language. The actors presented extreme contrasts in verse-speaking, from a gangland hoodlum whose 'bad-man' delivery caused much laughter, to another who spoke the lines

as an Italian Godfather straight from the Verona mafia. The actors demonstrated how a middle approach can make the language sound both modern and intelligible, while still appreciating its beauty and imagery.

The Young Shakespeare Company led an extremely imaginative, engaging and stimulating afternoon.

**Mrs Anna Phillips**  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



## A Level Chemistry Live!

On Monday 7th March, thirteen Sixth Form chemists, along with Ms Hotchkiss, attended the A Level Chemistry Live! event in central London. The day began with an intriguing lecture from Professor Andrea Sella on the chemistry of the Lanthanides, which included their strange Chemistry and the history of their discovery. Next was an insight into the peculiar properties of water, a substance we so often take for granted. A short session on exam success before lunch was followed by a lecture on the Chemistry of carbon,

and its different structures, properties and applications in its various forms; from diamond and graphite to graphene and carbon nanotubes. Finally,

Professor Peter Wothers touched upon the tip of the analytical iceberg that is Spectroscopy, a technique which manipulates all regions of the electromagnetic spectrum to elucidate the structures of compounds, gives rise to magnetic resonance imaging and tells us about the make-up of the most distant reaches of our universe. They day was insightful and thought-provoking, and enjoyed by all.



**Ms Kay Hotchkiss**  
HEAD OF CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

## GCSE Science Live!

On Friday 26th February, 23 girls in the Upper Fifth attended the GCSE Science Live! event at the Apollo Theatre in Victoria, accompanied by Mr Ward and Miss Shah.

The day consisted of a variety of talks given by leading scientists, as well as some handy hints and tips for technique and success in GCSE Science examinations. The speakers included Professor Andrea Sella, a chemist at UCL, who gave insight into the significance of equilibria in nature;

a concept which underpins the existence of spots and stripes in animals. Professor Jim Al-Khalili spoke of theories surrounding our universe and the Big Bang Theory, while Lord Professor Robert Winston gave an inspiring talk on his research into fertility treatments. Whether biologist, physicist or chemist there was something for everyone, and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils and teachers.

**Ms Kay Hotchkiss**  
HEAD OF CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT



## A Level Biology Live!

Ten biologists from the Sixth Form enjoyed the chance to hear more about different directions the study of Biology can take you at the A Level Biology Live! lecture day at the Apollo Theatre.

They enjoyed hearing about recent developments in fertility issues from Lord Professor Robert Winston as well as learning about the evolutionary and behavioural origins of laughter from Professor Sophie Scott.

**Mrs Magda Lockwood**  
HEAD OF BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



## Geography trip to National History Museum



On Monday 22nd February all the Thirds had an enjoyable afternoon at the Natural History Museum's 'Earth Gallery'. They learnt about the structure of the earth, how tectonic plates move and their resultant hazards. They experienced what it is like to be in an

earthquake and learnt how to deal with the after-effects of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. They looked at the impacts of the Japanese tsunami which the girls are currently learning about in their classroom lessons.

A great time was had by all and the girls' behaviour was excellent. Many thanks to my colleagues who gave up their afternoon to accompany us.

**Ms Sarah Hack**  
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

## Upper Sixth English Literature Revision Conference on *King Lear*

On Wednesday 2nd March, the fifteen Upper Sixth English Literature students, along with Dr de Bono and Ms Williams, travelled to a very chilly City Temple church in Farringdon to attend a revision conference on their set Shakespeare play, *King Lear*. Four different university lecturers gave four very different and useful lectures on the play. The first, given by the ever-entertaining Professor John McRae from Nottingham University, considered relevant social and historical contexts relating to Shakespeare's world. The second lecture considered the themes of age, death and survival in the play.

The next lecture, given by the excellent Dr Pamela Mason, considered the role of the three female characters in the play and the girls took copious notes. Finally, the last lecture was given by Robert Smallwood, from the Shakespeare Institute, who discussed the vast topic of different kinds of madness in the play. This conference was perfectly timed after the mock examinations for the girls to revisit the play and to consolidate their understanding, which will stand them in good stead for the summer examination.

**Ms Emma Williams**  
HEAD OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA  
DEPUTY HEAD OF SIXTH FORM





## History & Politics Trip, Berlin



The History Department took thirty-two girls from the Lower and Upper Fifth to Berlin over half-term. We had a fantastic time, packing museums, walking tours and sites related to Second World War and Cold War into four days of non-stop history! Highlights included: a tour of the Reichstag, with its spectacular central glass dome and graffiti left by Soviet soldiers in 1945; a walking tour of the Berlin Wall; and a visit to the famous Checkpoint Charlie Museum, full of fascinating artefacts and stories related to the numerous escapes from East Berlin; a day's trip

to see both the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and Wannsee Villa, places of horror that will always remain with us. We had fun travelling around the city on the underground system and we loved the numerous coffees and hot chocolates to stave off the chilly wind. We came to know Berlin really well during our short visit and learned a great deal about its eventful, yet tragic, history.

**Mr Harry Clayton**  
HEAD OF HISTORY DEPARTMENT



## European Work Experience: Berlin 2016

I am very pleased to report about this unique and exciting programme, which was opened to our Lower Sixth girls again this year. This exclusive exchange provided our girls with the invaluable opportunity to live and work in the German capital, while immersing themselves in the German culture and language by staying with a host family.

This distinctive programme is the result of a long-standing partnership between Latymer Upper and the Godolphin and Latymer schools in London and Canisius Kolleg in Berlin – the city's most prestigious private school—as well as the invaluable support of Francis Holland.

Through a lot of dedication and good-

will from all sides we managed to have yet another very successful experience this year. Our sixth-formers, Niku Hessabi and Natalia Ruhe, took full advantage of their experience and were lucky to have been given placements which closely matched their interests, and challenged both their linguistic and inter-personal skills.

Niku was working at Stauffenberg-Projekte, a high-end architectural firm which specialises in restoring historical buildings, located just around the corner from "Checkpoint Charlie", the city's best-known Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War.

In a similarly exciting location for being in a creative quarter of Berlin, Natalia Ruhe, who is an art student at FHS had the chance to work at "Siebdruck 1x2", a quirky, silk-printing atelier with a lot of character and exciting outdoor projects too.

Living with a German family for a week and working at meaningful work placements while using their German is surely a remarkable achievement. We now look forward to hosting the German students here in London from the 12-19 March, so watch this space!! Gut gemacht Mädels; I am very proud of your achievement!!!

**Ms Frau Iksilara**  
HEAD OF GERMAN DEPARTMENT





## Ski Trip to Tonale, Italy

The ski trip to Tonale, Italy involved 32 students of varying ages and abilities and five members of staff. We were lucky to have excellent snow conditions and were also graced with a few days of sunshine, which was fantastic. All students made great progress during the course of the week and we all arrived home with smiles on our faces and thighs of steel.

**Ms Rona Grant**  
SKI TRIP CO-ORDINATOR





## World Book Day

Students and staff celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March with Rachel Campbell-Johnston, author and chief art critic for *The Times* newspaper. Rachel was the first of our speakers in our new lecture series titled 'Women of Influence'. A lunchtime audience of over forty students was captivated by her inspirational stories and imaginative tips on how to think like a writer.

Budding FHS writers were enthralled by her experience of living in the Amazon rainforest. Her first children's novel *The Child's Elephant*, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in 2014, was in part, inspired by her time there. It was an incredibly influential lecture that resulted in many girls asking intelligent questions.

A number of other bookish activities took place on World Book Day;

including a delicious cake sale organised by IIMM. They raised over £225 for the charity Book Aid International. The World Book Day quiz, titled 'Match the Selfie to the Shelfie' was also a big hit, with hundreds of girls taking part. Many thanks go to our wonderful catering team who created an inspired World Book Day lunch!

**Mrs Emily Aves**  
LIBRARIAN



## Lower Fourth Charity Disco

On Friday 5th February the school hall was transformed into a dance floor for the night in aid of The British Heart Foundation. The girls really seemed to enjoy themselves, as did the staff and all the 6th Form helpers! A huge thank you to the LIV prefects and 6th Form helpers, to the staff and to all the LIV girls who attended! Over £800 was raised, which has gone towards The British Heart Foundation. A great evening and a great achievement!

**Miss Maria Merrigan**  
HEAD OF LOWER FOURTH





## London Region Gymnastics Championships

On Sunday 7th February, nine of our Gymnasts took part in the London Region Gymnastics Championships held at The Lady Eleanor Holles School.

The U14 team consisted of Siena Hunt, Roberta Tan, Eliza Harding, Isabella Jackson & Abigail Howard-Yam. The U19 Team were Anna Clayton, Inês Cocco, Rosie Holt and Georgia Glick.

The U19s were the first to vault, all achieving consistent results, with Inês Cocco achieving the top score in the group. Inspired by this, the U14's set their stalls even higher with each of

them scoring at least 15 out of 16. Eliza Harding produced a fantastic score of 15.6 out of 16.

After a long wait before they could compete on the floor, Siena Hunt gave the team a fantastic start with a really inspiring performance of her individual routine. Each performer gave her all, with Eliza Harding rounding off the floor section with a fantastic execution of her routine!

After all the scores were added, Francis Holland U19s finished in third position in their B section and the U14s finished in first place! This is an excellent achievement and the first time a Francis Holland team has medalled at this important competition. Congratulations to all the girls involved—we are very proud of them!

**Miss Maria Merrigan**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## Hockey News

As the hockey season draws to a close, Francis Holland have had a successful year with teams competing in matches in every age group. There have been some great performances and some fantastic results. The senior girls in the 1st XI remain undefeated all year, which is a great achievement. At the

other end of the school, the U12 Team show great promise, recently defeating Highgate School 5-0! Well done to all players who have taken part and represented their teams so well this season.

**Miss Maria Merrigan**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## Gymnastic Success!

Congratulations to Siena Hunt who, having competed in six National competitions over the last three years, has just returned from the 2016 Quatro Cup Competition in Liverpool, where she won Silver in the Bars, Beam, Floor and Vault Categories. This placed her eighth in the Individual All-Around in National Grade 4, which is a fantastic achievement! Siena started Artistic gymnastics when she was five years old and she currently trains five days a week in the Elite Squad with the fifth-ranked team in Britain, the City of London Gymnastics Academy.

Her next competition will be National Qualifiers at Heathrow in April. She is also looking forward to returning to Malta this summer, where her City of London squad holds their annual training camp and where she will compete in the 22nd Women's Artistic International Competition. We wish her the very best for these competitions! Well done, Siena.

**Miss Maria Merrigan**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT





# Gym and Dance Display 2016

The 2016 FHS Gym and Dance Display was an absolute triumph to all who took part. From Cheerleading to Dance to Gymnastics, the display encapsulated the diverse range of talent at FHS. The girls were well prepared, professional and executed their pieces to perfection, all to a very appreciative audience. Well done!

The evening 'kicked off' with an energetic routine of tumbling, leaping and shaking (of pom poms) by the FHS Cheerleading Squad. The Dancers then commanded centre stage to wow the crowd and add some culture and class to the PE Department—Clara Stirling (Irish Traditional), Helena McBurney (Hungarian Contemporary), FHS Dance Crew (Street dance), Jessica Spanier (Ballet) and Swathy Suresan (Southern Indian Traditional).

Our Gym Training Squad then took to the mats with a gripping group performance, which was precisely executed and delightful to watch. The Gymnastics Squad then took over in a spectacular array of individual, duo and group performances. Our Juniors shone brightly, but our Seniors stole our hearts as we farewelled three of our Upper Sixth gymnasts – Ambre de Tourniel, Tilly Holt and Sasha Vanger.

Unashamedly, the Gym and Dance Display is touted as 'The Best Night of the Year' at FHS—and not without reason, as the capacity of the crowd testified! Put the 2017 Gym and Dance Display in your diaries early, as it will surely be the highlight of the next academic year too!

Congratulations and thank you to all girls and staff involved in a sensational 2016 FHS Gym and Dance Display—especially to the tireless efforts of Mrs Lombard, Miss Laytham, Miss Mahieu, Miss Merrigan and Miss Anjeza Ahmagjoka, who put together the whole production.

**Ms Jane Tucker**  
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



# Spring Term Sports Report

I feel like we have just been hit by a tsunami of sport this term – fantastic! African and Indian Dance Workshops for the Thirds and Lower Fourths, February Fitness Fortnight for the Thirds to the Lower Fifth, The Gym and Dance Display, The FHS Olympics Mini Marathon, Summer Sports Trials, Fixtures (Netball, Hockey and Swimming), Middlesex Netball Tournaments, Gymnastics Competitions and let's not forget the FHS Olympics Inter-form Football finals – a touch

of 'crazy' on a Thursday lunch time in the playground! Seven UIV's also got the opportunity to watch the England Netballers take on the Australians at the Copper Box. And with a summer of sport to look forward to, who wouldn't want to be at FHS?!

I am happy to report that training for our Sports Tour to South Africa is running very smoothly and the girls are gaining in strength, skill and fitness. Also, our Swimming Tour to Malta will

depart with 15 students in the May half term – they are sure to make a splash!

Summer sports trials will continue at the start of next term, so make sure you are trying out for a team and getting involved. Please note that Sports Day is this year on Friday 1st July – time to break out the picnic blankets!

**Ms Jane Tucker**

HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## SUMMER TERM SPORT DATES

Tuesday	14/04	<b>Summer Sports Trials (cont.)</b>	Regent's Park
Thursdays	<i>ongoing</i>	<b>FHS Olympics Football Tournament</b>	School Playground
Friday	22/04	<b>Official Pool Opening</b>	School Pool
Tuesday	26/04	<b>Summer Fixtures begin</b>	Various
Friday	01/07	<b>Sports Day</b>	Regent's Park Hub
Monday	04/07	<b>Sports Day (back up day)</b>	Regent's Park Hub
Tuesday	05/07	<b>Inter-form Swimming Gala</b>	School Pool



## APRIL 2016

### MONDAY 4 APRIL

- >> Art and Spanish Trip to Barcelona departs (returns Friday 8)
- >> Sixth Form History of Art Trip to Rome and Florence departs (returns Friday 8)

### TUESDAY 12 APRIL

- >> Staff INSET day (no pupils required in school)
- 9am-6:30pm** Visit to Black Ven Farm, East Sussex
- 9:30am** Lower Fifth Geography field trip to Castle Head, Lake District departs (returns Friday 15)

### WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL

- 8:25am** Spring Term begins
- >> Upper Fifth MFL controlled assessments begin

### THURSDAY 14 APRIL

- 6pm** Pre-concert drinks in the Library
- 6:30pm** Senior Vocal Concert

### FRIDAY 15 APRIL

- 9-10am** Parents' Prayer Group Breakfast meeting in the Gloucester Room

### MONDAY 18 APRIL

- 2:30-9pm (approx)** Young Enterprise, North London Area Company of the Year Awards
- 6pm** Pre-lecture drinks in the Library
- 6:30pm** Parents' PSHE lecture given by Dr Aric Sigman on *Social Media* in the Hall

### WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

- 6.30 for 7pm** Parents' Association Supper Quiz in the Hall

### THURSDAY 21 APRIL

- >> Lower Sixth Art Examination
- 8:30-4pm** Lower Fourth students to Salters Chemistry Festival, UCL

### FRIDAY 22 APRIL

- >> Lower Sixth Art Examination
- >> Upper Fifth Modern Foreign Languages controlled assessments end
- 11am-1pm** Official Opening of the Swimming Pool

### TUESDAY 26 APRIL

- 1-1:40pm** History and Politics Lecture by Giles Milton, Historian *The Russian Revolution* in the Lecture Theatre
- 5:30pm** Upper Fourth Parents' Meeting for Knapp House visit in the Hall

### WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

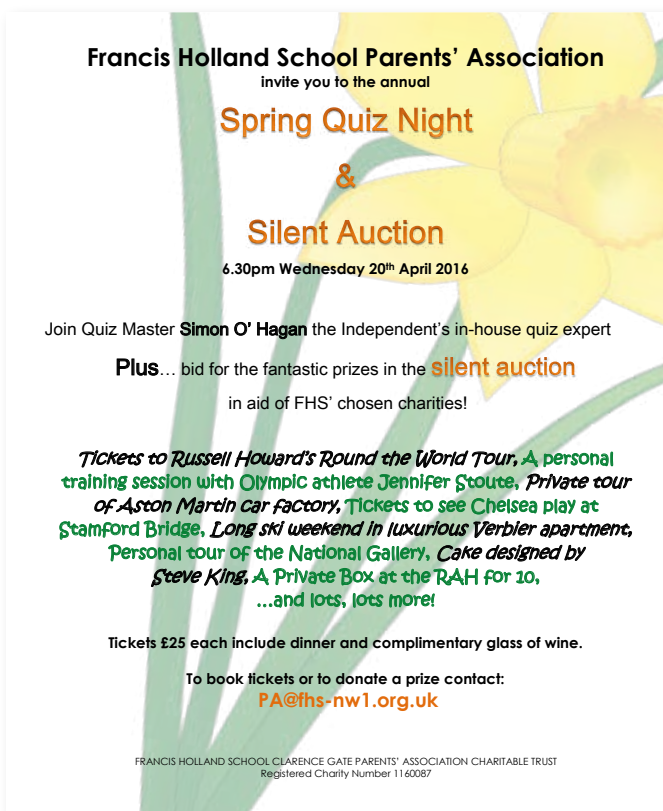
- 1:25pm** Junior Drama Club charity performance of *Narnia* in the Hall
- 7pm** Summer Concert in St Cyprian's Church

### THURSDAY 28 APRIL

- >> UK Junior Maths Challenge

### SATURDAY 30 APRIL

- >> Duke of Edinburgh Silver practice expedition to Chelmsford departs



**Francis Holland School Parents' Association**  
invite you to the annual

## Spring Quiz Night & Silent Auction

**6.30pm Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Join Quiz Master **Simon O' Hagan** the Independent's in-house quiz expert

**Plus...** bid for the fantastic prizes in the **silent auction** in aid of FHS' chosen charities!

*Tickets to Russell Howard's Round the World Tour, A personal training session with Olympic athlete Jennifer Stoute, Private tour of Aston Martin car factory, Tickets to see Chelsea play at Stamford Bridge, Long ski weekend in luxurious Verbier apartment, Personal tour of the National Gallery, Cake designed by Steve King, A Private Box at the RAH for 10, ...and lots, lots more!*

Tickets £25 each include dinner and complimentary glass of wine.

To book tickets or to donate a prize contact:  
[PA@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:PA@fhs-nw1.org.uk)

FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL CLARENCE GATE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST  
Registered Charity Number 1160087

## Coming Soon...

The Drama department is delighted to announce the following forthcoming productions:

**"Narnia"** adapted from C.S Lewis' novel by Kate Gabriel and Anya Bentwood, performed by the Junior Drama Club on Wednesday April 27th at 1.25pm. This informal student-led production costs 50p to see, and all proceeds will go to St Mark's Hospital Foundation. Lunch passes are available from Mrs Phillips.

**"Step by Wicked Step"** adapted from her own novel by Anne Fine and directed by Mrs Oakley, with help from Mrs Phillips. This is the Junior Drama production 2016 and there will be two performances on Thursday June 23rd and Friday June 24th, both at 6.00pm. Auditions are open to all girls in the Illrds and Lower IVths and are being held at lunchtimes in the last two weeks of the Spring Term, and girls can sign up and find out more about the production on the Drama Noticeboard.

**"The Sound of Music"** will be the next major musical production in conjunction with the Music Department, directed by Mrs Oakley and Mr Patterson. There will be three performances on Weds, Thurs and Fri, Nov 30 – Dec 2nd 2016, each starting at 7.00pm. Auditions are open to all girls who will be in Upper IV–Upper VI in September, and are being held at lunchtimes at the start of the Summer Term, between Thurs April 14th and Tuesday April 19th. The cast will be expected at work on their roles, learning music and lines during the summer break, and rehearsals will start as soon as we return in September. This is the second Oakley-Patterson project, and we are very excited about it. Our previous joint show "Guys and Dolls" in 2014 sold out on all three nights, so put the date in your diary now! Tickets will go on sale after half term.

## FHS POST

Since the beginning of March, we have been using "FH Post" every Friday. This means that we email letters to you once a week, on a Friday, rather than sending home photocopied papers via your daughter. Attached to the message are the letters which are relevant to pupils in your daughter's year group and below that are calendar dates for the coming week. Hopefully, this has already meant that you have only received bulk mailings

from us on Friday and that your inbox is less cluttered. Where reply slips are required, please print the letter and sign it by hand – in time this, too, may be able to become electronic.

It is usually our school secretary, Ms Lynn Bosch, who sends the "FH Post" and if you would like to add further recipients or if you need to change your contact details please email her directly on [lynn.bosch@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:lynn.bosch@fhs-nw1.org.uk)

### SIXTH FORM MONDAY LECTURES SUMMER TERM 2016

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | <b>18 April:</b><br><b>Lesley Williams</b><br><b>'Sex Education'</b>                         |  | <b>20 June:</b><br><b>Shirdon Barthelmy</b><br><b>'Sex Education'</b> |
|  | <b>25 April:</b><br><b>Amina Gillani</b><br><b>'Children's rights and counter-terrorism'</b> |  | <b>27 June:</b><br><b>Shirdon Barthelmy</b><br><b>'Sex Education'</b> |
|  | <b>9 May:</b><br><b>Jac Bastian</b><br><b>'CND - Peace Education'</b>                        |  | <b>4 July:</b><br><b>Amelia Slocombe</b><br><b>'UCAS lecture'</b>     |



**FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL**  
**REGENT'S PARK**

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