



# Francis Holland School Newsletter December 2015



## From the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

It is with a heavy heart – and slight disbelief! – that I find myself writing my final newsletter column. At the annual Quondam lunch for alumnae in November, I said that my time here has been “golden years” of my life.

It seems hard to believe that when I took up post in September 2004, social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, were yet to arrive in the UK. I shall miss everyone enormously, but thanks to our digital world, will not lose touch! My thanks to so many of you for sending me emails and messages of support in recent weeks, which I have very much valued.

During October half term, there were three school trips. The choir tour to Belgium, led by Mr Robert Patterson, Director of Music, and six teachers, was highly successful. During the tour, the school choir performed several concerts and also sang at mass in Antwerp Cathedral. The choir was invited to participate in the daily ceremony at dusk at the Menin Gate.

Ms Julie Laytham, Ms Victoria Greenhalgh and Miss Williams led a very successful Classics trip to Greece, visiting classical sites in Athens, Delphi, Olympia and Epidauros. Ms Tucker and Ms Mahieu accompanied a Sixth Form trip to Sri Lanka. During this trip, Sixth Formers undertook voluntary work at the Rainbow Centre, which is a UK-registered charity that educates children living in extreme poverty in the south west of the island. ([rainbowcentresrilanka.com](http://rainbowcentresrilanka.com)).



*Christmas puddings (Jessie and Claudia) en route to Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Fair, Saturday 21st November*

As this goes to press, the school Hall has reverted to a less tinselled version of itself, having been converted into a festive wonderland for the Parents' Association Christmas Fair, which was held on Saturday 21st November. Huge thanks to those of you who helped make this Saturday afternoon such a happy and enjoyable afternoon in aid of three designated charities. Thanks above all to everyone on the indefatigable Parents' Association Committee, led by Mrs Laurel Rafter.

*Parenting People* was the theme of the parents' evening hosted by Parents' Association Committee, following the AGM, in early November. Mrs Judith Reith gave a memorable presentation to a large audience, who have daughters in all year groups of the school. Many thanks to the P.A. Committee, for organising such a valuable and enjoyable evening.

Rehearsals are going well for the main school play this term, which is being produced and directed by Mrs Kate

Oakley. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed in the Hall on Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th December starting at 7pm, preceded by drinks in the library from 6:30pm. Tickets are currently on sale via the school office.

This year's Carol Service will again be held in St. Marylebone Church at 3pm on Monday 14th December. Friends and family are most welcome to attend – but you are advised to arrive early to be sure of a seat!

I hope to see many of you at my final farewell school party for parents on Wednesday 9th December. Thank you for all your support over the years. I shall remember with immense affection every aspect of this very special school.

With all best wishes for the festive season,

Mrs V M Durham

## Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Ms Julie Ann Hilton to the school. Ms Hilton will be working in the Religious Studies Department on a maternity cover.



*Ms Julie Ann Hilton*

Congratulations to Miss Kristina Lewis who has been appointed as a school governor at Clerkenwell Primary School.



*Ms Kristina Lewis*

Congratulations to Ms Jo Hallett who will be Acting Head of Thirds whilst Mr Mark Chiverton is on additional paternity leave.



*Ms Jo Hallett*

Congratulations to Mrs Anna Hillier and her husband Nick on the birth of their baby daughter Josephine who was born on Thursday 15th October.



*Josephine Hillier*

Congratulations to Ms Georgie Hogarth (PA to Headmistress) and her husband Pete who were married on Saturday 19th September at Castle Acre, Norfolk.



*Ms Georgie Hogarth with her husband Pete*

Congratulations to Ms Annabel Thwaite (piano teacher) and her husband Matt who celebrated the birth of their second child, Toby, on 24th November 2015.



*Ms Annabel Thwaite with her husband, Matt, and their baby, Toby*

## FHS takes on the World (tour)!

Several girls in the Lower Fifth Tennis team and GCSE PE class were lucky enough to get tickets to the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 this November. A good spot by Hannah Barlay chanced a photo with the elusive Andy Murray. A great time was had by all!

Ms Jane Tucker

Head of Physical Education Department



*Smiles all round as the Lower Fifth girls bump into Andy Murray!*

## UK Senior Maths Challenge

The results for the UK Senior Mathematical challenges are as follows:

In the Lower Sixth, the following girls get a Bronze Certificate:

Chiara Argenti · Zinnia Silver  
Elysee Bhatte · Yael Levine

Aditi Bhandari gets a Bronze Certificate as well as the Certificate for Best in Year.

In the Upper Sixth, the following girls get a Bronze Certificate:

Rosie Ling · Vida Fatemi  
Jessica Tuli · Hannah McDonald  
Ambre de Tourniel · Serena Ashdown

Madeleine Oglaza gets a Silver Certificate. Over and above all, Xiusi Li obtains a Gold Certificate as well as the Certificate for Best in Year and the Certificate for Best in School for the Senior UK Maths Challenge. Her excellent result has qualified her to sit the British Mathematical Olympiad, which is an excellent achievement.

Very well done, girls!

Miss Neermala Murugan  
Mathematics Department



## Animal Club



A huge thank you to parents and pupils who have kindly brought their pets in for animal club this term. It has proven to be a very popular club!

Ms Clare MacDonnell  
Director of Extra-curricular Activities

## Congratulations!

Scarlett Brandman took part in the Farnham Competitive Music festival held at Frensham Heights School in Farnham, and won the 11 years and under competitive piano class receiving first prize and an outstanding adjudication in her class category. Scarlett also played at the Woking Music Festival for the Croft Shield against two other competitors and won first prize.



Scarlett with the Croft Shield

Alicia Regis is one of the top sprinters nationally for her age group and will be competing with her running club early next term.



Alicia at Sports Day in Regent's Park 2015

Ms Clare MacDonnell  
Director of Extra-curricular Activities

## Durham Bursary Fund



Mrs Vivienne Durham opens her present from Quondam at the annual lunch on Saturday 7th November

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank sincerely all those who have contributed to the Durham Bursary Fund and made this appeal such a success.

At the time of going to print we had raised nearly £70k which will all go towards supporting the provision of an Entry Bursary (awarded at Year 7) for an academically-gifted pupil who would otherwise not be able to afford full fees.

The Durham Bursary will be awarded to a pupil joining us in September 2016 and will offer a full subsidy of fees for seven years.

Thank you once again to all those who have supported this important campaign; I know that it reflects the appreciation that you have for the way Vivienne Durham has led the School over the past twelve years.

There is still time to contribute to the Durham Fund or the wider bursary programme at Francis Holland School, Regent's Park. Please contact [development@fhst.org.uk](mailto:development@fhst.org.uk) for more information or visit [www.fhs-nw1.org.uk/durhambursaryfund](http://www.fhs-nw1.org.uk/durhambursaryfund).

Mrs Marie Winckler  
Chair of the FHST Governing Council



# Harvest Festival at St Cyprian's Church

FHS celebrated the annual Harvest Festival with a traditional thanksgiving service at St Cyprian's Church on Wednesday 30th September 2015. We thank Father Beauchamp for his inspiring sermon.

We were so impressed with the girls' spirit, enthusiasm and creativity in decorating their boxes. More importantly, the girls' sentiment in thinking about those less fortunate than themselves filled the church with a spectacular display of tinned and dried food. All donations were sent to North London Action for the Homeless.

Miss Binny Shah  
Head of Charity Help Fund



*Collecting food and goods for the Harvest Festival*



*FHS Chef Mos and Miss Shah display the harvest bread*



*St Cyprian's Service for the Harvest Festival*



# Rainbow Centre Teaching Visit, Sri Lanka



*The Rainbow Centre farewell*

Exceptional people do exceptional things, and the Sixth Form at Francis Holland fit squarely into this category. Thirteen students gave up a week of their October half term holiday to go to Sri Lanka to teach at the Rainbow Centre in Bentota. In the many months leading up to the trip, the girls completed a programme of work experience in local primary schools, fund-raised for the Centre, researched educational resources and created lesson plans to deliver to the Rainbow Centre.

The Rainbow Centre was established after the Tsunami of 2004, for the many children living in the surrounding area of Bentota. These children live in extreme poverty – no running water, no electricity and often, no food for dinner. The Rainbow Centre is a safe haven for these children, offering nutrition, medical support and education to over one hundred impoverished and beautiful children.

The week at the Rainbow Centre was extremely challenging and Sixth Formers were faced with many difficulties and new experiences – language and cultural barriers, weather conditions and teaching for the first time ever, to name but a few! The girls were absolutely brilliant teachers during the time – which was a true credit to themselves and to FHS. And I know for a fact that the children of the Rainbow Centre cherished the time they had with our Sixth Form.

Ms Jane Tucker  
Head of Physical Education Department



*Jess teaching further maths*



*Face painting at the farewell party*



*Millennium Elephant Sanctuary*



*Eden teaching*



*Eden and Eve organising outdoor games*



# Sixth Form Art Drawing Workshop

On Saturday 10th October, Sixth Form Art students, and some very keen Upper Fifth, participated in an inspiring workshop run by the renowned artist Jeanette Barnes. She has taught and exhibited extensively, and certainly put the girls through their paces with a series of challenging exercises which will provide a valuable addition to their portfolio.

Ms Jane Orr  
Head of Art Department



*Isabelle and Jeanette Barnes reflect on different styles of drawing*



*Sixth Form and Upper Fifth Art students experiment with charcoal on paper*

## Thirds Art Trip to the Tate Britain

On Monday 9th November, all of the Third year set off by coach to visit Tate Britain in Pimlico. Touring from the historical through 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



*Catrin, Tatiana and Scarlett examine art at the Tate Britain*



# Half term Classics Trip to Athens and Greece

In the second week of the October half term, nineteen students, as well as Ms Laytham, Ms Williams and Ms Greenhalgh set off for Athens on the 2015 Classics trip. Everyone was excited in anticipation of seeing some of antiquity's most famous sites.

The first stop was Athens. It is safe to say that you do not need to be a Classics enthusiast to be absolutely enthralled by a first sighting of the Acropolis looming over the city. Lit up at night, this is an unbeatable view. Nobody could wait to visit this magnificent sanctuary and so we got up early the next morning and made our way up the steep slope, taking in the Theatre of Dionysus on the way. Upon entering through the Propylaea, it was clear to the girls – and the teachers – why this ancient site draws in thousands of tourists a year. The students were lucky enough not only to wander around the immense Parthenon ruins, but also to be given a tour of the Acropolis Museum, which houses an impressive life-size sculptural reconstruction of the Parthenon.



Walking in the steps of the ancient athletes!



West Pediment, Temple of Zeus, Olympia

One of the most moving experiences of Olympia was viewing Praxiteles' 'Hermes with the baby Dionysus'. We all felt privileged to be in such close proximity to such a great work of art. Of course, the most momentous occasion of the day was the Francis Holland Olympic Foot Race in the ancient Olympic Stadium; heroes were born.

On the day we left, we saw the Theatre of Epidauros. It was amazing to see the world's best preserved Ancient Greek Theatre and even try out some of its famous acoustic ingenuity. Exhausted and inspired, we made our way back to Athens to catch our flight. Ms Laytham and the Classics Department would like to thank all of our budding Classicists for being so well-informed, inquisitive, good-humoured and well-behaved throughout the whole trip.

Ms Vicky Greenhalgh  
Classics Department



The Francis Holland Olympic Games



# Sponsored Charity Walk in Regent's Park

We were so lucky to have the sun shining on Friday 2nd October 2015, as the whole school went to Regent's Park for our annual sponsored walk. We were impressed with the girls' enthusiasm and creativity in designing their costumes, and as you can see from the photographs there was quite a display of childhood characters! All girls and staff were in

high spirits, as they walked laps around the park in aid of St Mark's Hospital Foundation. On behalf of the charity, we would like to thank parents for your support and donations.

Miss Binny Shah  
Head of Charity Help Fund



Even Crayolas were seen marking the paths!



The Wild West aka LIVJ strike a pose for the camera



Laughter in the sunshine as Thirds enjoy their first sponsored walk



Congratulations to Ria! Her dog Betty won the cutest dog competition



FHS girls illuminate Regent's Park with a glittering array of fancy dress costumes



# The best charity Christmas Fair ever?!



Chocolate is piled high for the Chocolate Tombola!

The minutes of early morning snow on Saturday brought with it extra Christmas spirit for the Fair. The school was filled all afternoon with plenty of shopping and Christmas activities.

There were many new vendors this year, along with our favourite array of beautifully decorated Christmas Cakes by Steve. The Lower School Choir and many participants sang carols and added to the festive mood. There were so many activities planned by pupils including a Christmas card delivery service and guess the number of sweets in the jar. Downstairs in the Christmas Grotto, along with Father Christmas and Plum Pudding assistants, a competition was held to see how long it was possible to stay on the wobbling snowboard!



Festive wreaths and flowers scented the Hall



Parents' Association Committee member, Paul Turner

The cafe was busy serving homemade cakes and sandwiches, and mulled wine. There was an added bonus this year of a Silent Auction for X Factor Final Tickets too! There are now FHS tea towels, bags and note cards to purchase all year round.

Thank you to everyone involved with the Fair: students; the entire staff; parent vendors and shoppers. We raised a considerable sum for this year's three designated charities which are FHS Summer Camp, Rainbow Centre in Sri Lanka and Swiss Cottage School. Many thanks – particularly to all the senior staff, especially Ms Clare MacDonnell and Mrs Kath Whiteman and also Ms Angharad Langley, the Parents' Association Representative.

On behalf of the Parents' Association, I wish you all a very Happy Holiday and Happy Healthy New Year.

Laurel Rafter  
Chair of Parents' Association  
Committee



Even Santa made a jolly appearance!



Sweets galore!



A packed school hall full of holiday shoppers



# 2015 Prize-giving at Cadogan Hall



This year's School annual Prize-giving was held on Wednesday 14th October at Cadogan Hall. Mrs Durham hosted this event and was joined by Mrs Marie Winckler, the Chair of the Francis Holland Schools Trust Governing Council. Mr Charles Fillingham also attended. Mrs Durham began the evening with some reflections on her career as Headmistress and her 'many golden memories' of life at FHS.

The evening not only celebrated the pupils' individual achievements and excellent examination results but also gave the

audience of parents, pupils, Governors and Prep School Heads the opportunity to experience the outstanding music and drama talent at FHS as we celebrated an extraordinary range of achievement. There was a stunning recorder solo by Sophie McMeikan, and an entertaining excerpt from *Split Down the Middle* by David Campton performed by Abigail Howard-Yam and Isabella Jackson, followed by The 15 singing *Laudate Dominum* by Mozart, and then the School Choir with *Blest Pair of Sirens*, a prelude to the choir tour of Belgium.

The pupils concluded the evening with an extract read by the Third Form Essay Competition Winner, Ruby Reynolds, who was introduced by the Head Girl, Jemima Sam Russell, this was followed by a rousing rendition of the school hymn.

Congratulations to the very worthy prize-winners and thank you to all the talented performers who made the evening such a delight.

Ms Clare MacDonnell  
Director of Extra-Curricular Activities



Sophie McMeikan performs a recorder solo



Chair of the Governing Council, Mrs Marie Winckler, presents Ruby MacGregor with a certificate for outstanding GCSE results



Imani Strangeway Al Sayigh was awarded the Addinall Prize for Independent Thinking



Isabella and Abigail perform an excerpt from their speech and drama exam, *Split Down the Middle* by David Campton



Lucy Minderides was awarded the Charlotte Green Prize for all-round progress in the Upper Fifth



Amanda Martins was awarded the Julia Champion Prize for academic excellence in the Upper Fourth





The Choir singing pieces by Vaughan Williams



The girls lighting votive candles at Antwerp Cathedral



Mr Patterson conducting the Choir



The Choir singing Schubert's Mass in G

## October Choir Tour to Belgium

Forty-four girls and six staff met on the morning of 17th October to board a coach bound for Belgium. Following a slight delay at Folkestone, we were soon in Antwerp where we had the first of many fine Flemish feasts, before checking into a lovely hotel. We were all up early on the following morning as the choir were engaged to sing in the main cathedral service. Singing Schubert's *Mass in G* (with a fine solo from Isabella Roberts) as well as some Vaughan Williams pieces, the clergy and congregation alike were much impressed with the choir's singing. The rest of the day was free to explore Antwerp before a return to the hotel for more rehearsals.

On the Monday, the day was spent first exploring Ghent and then the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres. In the evening the choir led the daily service of remembrance at the Menin Gate in front of many hundreds of people and had dozens of compliments from the visiting public who were deeply moved by the singing of *Thou knowest Lord* by Purcell and *We will remember them* by Elgar. Isabel Ritchotte and Sarah Bithell laid a wreath. On the last full day, the choir went to Bruges and gave an hour-long concert in Bruges Cathedral featuring various choral pieces and a diverse range of solos from the Sixth Form. Returning home on the Wednesday, we bade farewell to our fantastic courier, Johan, and our coach driver, Simon, and we were back at FHS over an hour early! After such a successful trip, plans are already appearing for another overseas choir tour in 2017.

Mr Robert Patterson  
Director of Music Department



A moving performance by the Choir at Menin Gate



## Upper Sixth History of Art trip to the National Gallery

Last month the Upper Sixth Art Historians ventured to the National Gallery to see some of the paintings that they are currently studying for A Level. It was touch and go with the strikes, but luckily fortune was in their favour and the various rooms they needed were open!

It was a great opportunity to learn about so many of their 16th Century A Level case studies on site: Leonardo's *Virgin of the Rocks*; Sebastiano del Piombo's *Raising of Lazarus* and Titian's *Bacchus and Ariadne*.

The real highlight for the girls, though, was seeing Raphael's pivotal portrait of Pope Julius II first hand, and their whoops of delight rippled through the gallery.

Another high point was Alex Murphy, an independent art historian, teaching Leonardo da Vinci's painting to the rest of the class!

Ms Alice Lindsay  
History of Art Department



Upper Sixth Art Historians at the National Gallery

## Lower Sixth Politics trip to the Houses of Parliament

On Tuesday 6th October 2015, fourteen AS Politics students, Ms Lewis and Mr Chiverton, headed off to Westminster for a tour of the Houses of Parliament. It was a wonderful opportunity to be shown around both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Our tour guide walked us around the rich and extravagant décor and artwork on display, and we were shown the exact spots where Charles I, Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama had once stood to make speeches. We also enjoyed hearing about some of the peculiar traditions that govern the House of Commons such as the convention of dragging the Speaker of the House of Commons to his chair!

As well as the educational tours, we also participated in our own lively debate during a workshop about law-making. It was a fascinating experience for the girls, and definitely developed their understanding and insight into the workings of the British political system.

Ms Kristina Lewis  
History and Politics Department  
Leader of the Extended Project Qualification



Lower Sixth Politics students pose next to a statue of Emmeline Pankhurst



# Academic Enrichment lecture on the *Mona Lisa*

A number of students and staff attended the most interesting and informative lecture given by Ms Clare MacDonnell (Director of Extra-Curricular Activities and Head of History of Art) on Thursday 12th November. Ms MacDonnell spoke on the subject 'Why is the Mona Lisa so famous?' She highlighted two key reasons for the fame of the painting: its uniqueness compared with contemporary portraits of Renaissance women and its impact on other artists of the time, and also the role of the early 20th century press in ensuring that the theft of the painting was known worldwide. The talk was very well received and generated some probing questions.

The last lecture this term is: *Just a Phase? Mods, rockers and other 20th century youth cultures* Tuesday 8th December 2015  
Ms Flora Barton  
(History Department)

All students in the Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Sixth Form are strongly encouraged to attend these enrichment lectures.

Ms Jacqui Zugg  
Academic Deputy Head



## Scholars' Music Concert

All the school's music scholars gave a highly impressive concert on Tuesday 6th October.

Featuring both Classical repertoire and some jazz numbers, the audience much enjoyed the event. It was particularly poignant to hear both Miranda Soskin and Reimi Takagi as it was their last scholars' concert.

Mr Robert Patterson  
Director of Music Department

## Piano Concert

Twelve piano students from across the school gave an intimate piano concert on Wednesday 11th November in the School Hall. With pieces by Bach, Brahms and Chopin to name just a few, some beautiful musical colours were shaped expressively and effectively. This annual event is much enjoyed by all.

Mr Robert Patterson  
Director of Music Department



Lucy Morris performs Golliwog's Cakewalk by Debussy

Rosie, Swathy, Mathilda and Hannah prepare their sheet music



# A Level English and Theatre studies trip to see *Measure for Measure* at the Young Vic Theatre

On Monday 13th October a group of Sixth Form girls went to see Joe Hill-Gibbons's exciting new production of William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. The director's modern approach makes for a surprising and energetic interpretation of this darkly comic problem play. From the attention-grabbing start, it holds the audience all the way through. The seething mass of bodies simulating an orgy behind a gauze turn out to be plastic dolls, effectively symbolising the corruption and vice which dominate Vienna, the play's setting. The dolls can be slowly pushed away by the purer characters or thrown dramatically about the stage, as are the city's morals by both its warped authority figures and cynical low-lifers who profit from prostitution.

The use of filming is another technique which makes this a very inventive production. Emulating the live video which director Hill-Gibbons used successfully in his production of Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* at the National, here the filming of action in a separate 'off-stage' room, accessed through a door from the main stage, provides an intriguing theatrical extension area. Live video from this second room allowed a full screen close-up of Duke Vincentio's face as he explained to the Friar his reasons for quitting Vienna and transferring power to a deputy, giving the audience a sense of being privy to the Duke in a confession box and enabling him to show anxious guilt. Furthermore the stark lighting and prison-like appearance of the off-stage room invokes comparison with contemporary war zones and torture cells, all of which brought out the menace and hypocrisy of power at the heart of this play.

When the appointed deputy Angelo exerts his desire to seduce the novice Isabella, who is begging his mercy to save the life of her brother, his shocking exploitation of her situation is made all the more bare by the lines of cells on the stage. This accentuated Isabella's isolation and helplessness as a woman who would not be believed even if she publically denounced Angelo. The subsequent dupe scene was eye-catchingly vivid: a photo-screen projection of the lush and leafy garden.

The production's bold direction is matched by peerless acting. Romola Garai is an outstanding Isabella; her resonant and impassioned voice cuts



through the moral mess like a sword of truth. Her outstretched arms are a powerful gesture that sets her apart. Marianne, another woman wronged by Angelo, sits passively at the side of the stage for the first two acts, neatly exemplifying her line 'I have sat here all day'. Exuberantly played by Cath Whitefield, she explodes from her imprisoned silence into a fireball of loud music and manic dancing.

Raw and vivid moments such as these charge the production with high-voltage energy alongside the welcome humour and irreverent honesty of the Bronx and Geordie pimps and brothel keepers. The Young Vic has succeeded with an illuminating and accessible staging of this troubling play.

Mrs Anna Phillips  
English and Drama Department

## FHS girls plant Cherry Trees in Regent's Park

The Royal Parks Foundation have launched a campaign to 'bring back the blossom' on Chester Road, Regent's Park, in order to lift the spirits of the general public. One hundred trees will be planted on either side of the road and as a result of a school donation to the Royal Parks Foundation, we were invited to plant cherry trees on Tuesday 10th November.

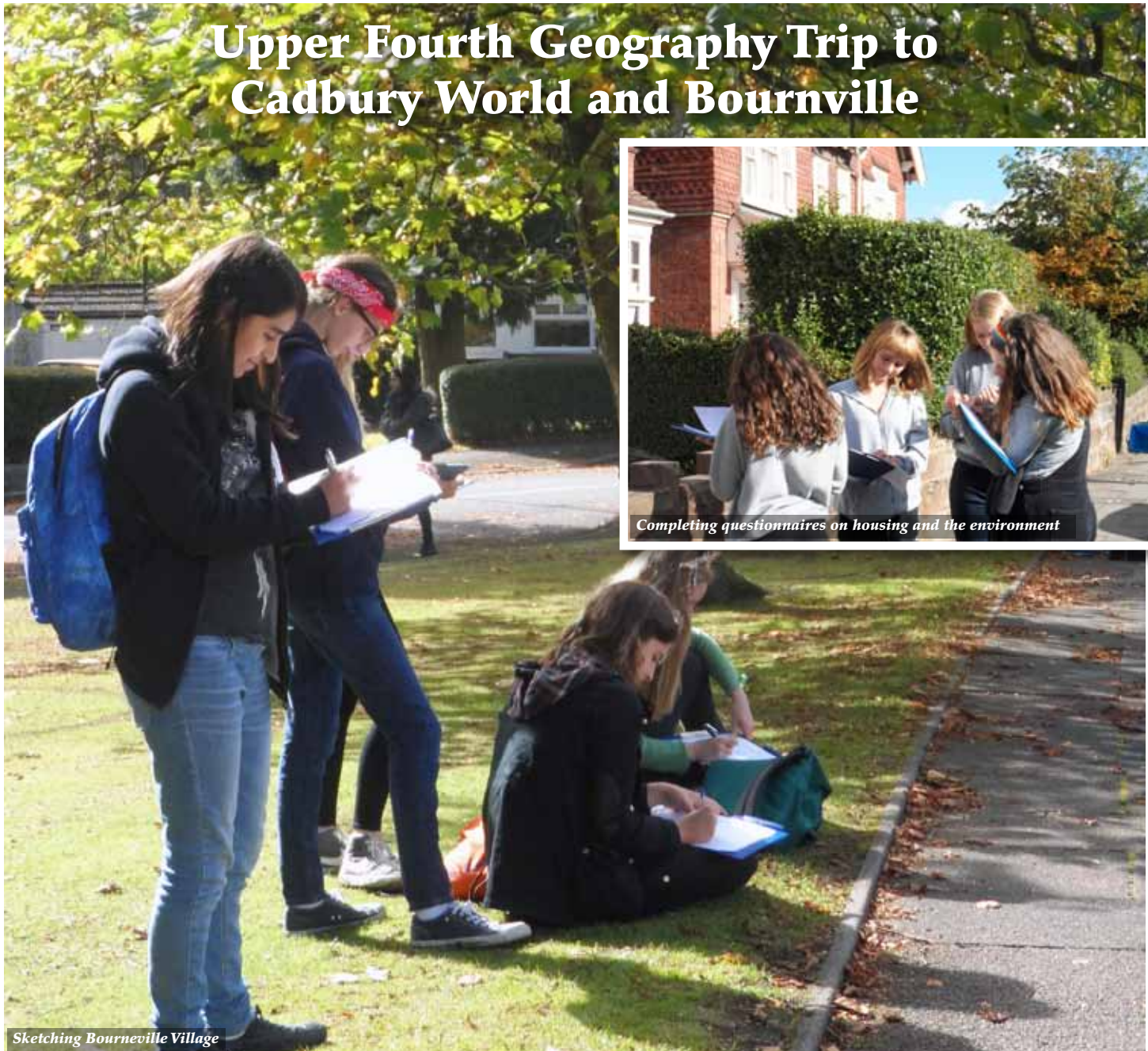
We were given a tour around the allotment and the girls were fascinated by many of the different crops being grown. We then went to the site where the trees were stored and were amazed by the size of each tree! Finally, we were able to visit Chester Road and see some of the trees that have already been planted. We are looking forward to going back in spring 2016, when the trees will blossom in pink and slowly turn vibrant red in summer.

Miss Binny Shah  
Head of Charity Help Fund





# Upper Fourth Geography Trip to Cadbury World and Bournville



Sketching Bourneville Village



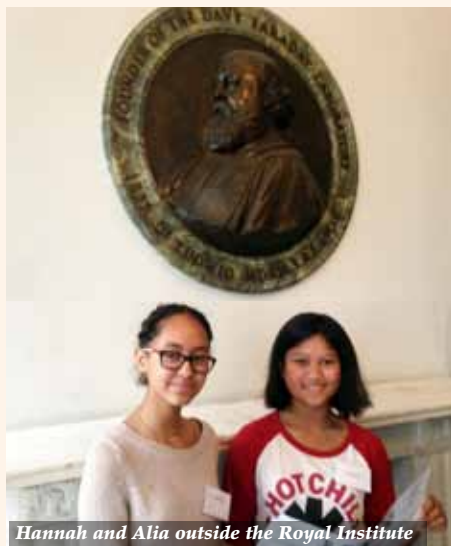
Completing questionnaires on housing and the environment

## Budding mathematicians selected to attend the Royal Institute

We are very proud of Alia Azman and Hannah Unwin who were selected to attend the Royal Institute Mathematics master classes this year. They are currently going to the iconic Mayfair building every Saturday morning for ten weeks.

Pictured are the girls examining symmetries in one, two and three dimensions, a very interesting classification when it comes to designing patterns on textiles and wallpapers, not to mention the array of atoms in crystals.

Mrs Anjali Martin  
Head of Mathematics Department



Hannah and Alia outside the Royal Institute

On Thursday 8th October, the Geography Department took the Upper Fourth to Cadbury World and Bournville. We were very lucky that the sun shone all day! Our first stop was Mary Vale Road, to look at the terraced housing that most factory workers would have lived in. We then compared this to the well-planned housing that George and Richard Cadbury built for their workforce in Bournville.

Having looked at the housing and the village of Bournville, the Upper Fourth enjoyed 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.

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

Mrs Penny Freeley  
Geography Department





# The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



*En route through the fields of Harlow*

Congratulations to all the Bronze participants who have completed and passed their practice and assessment expedition weekends during the first half term. The girls should be proud of their efforts!

The girls should now be focussing on completing a project about one element of their expeditions; this should then be handed in to Miss Hallett by the end of November. Girls must also upload all evidence onto the 'e DofE' website including any pictures taken over the expedition weekends.

If your daughter needs any help at all with an online aspect of the award then please encourage her to come along to the online clinic which is run by Ms Laytham and takes place every Thursday at short break in the ICT suite. Any girl in the current Lower Fifth who is thinking of carrying on with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, and progressing onto the Silver Award, must complete three out of the four sections of her Bronze award before January 2016.

Mrs Kirsty Lombard  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator

## Annual Quondam Lunch for Alumnae

It was wonderful to welcome over 80 polished corners to the increasingly popular Quondam lunch on Saturday 7th November. It was good to see so many reminiscing about their time at FHS whilst enjoying a delicious lunch provided by our Chef Steve King.

The day started with a volleyball match in the gym, as unfortunately rain prevented the annual netball match from going ahead. We were then treated to a most interesting talk by Rhiannon Adam, who left in 2003, about her three-month trip to the Pitcairn Islands.

The day marked the occasion of the launching of the new FHS history book which was commissioned to celebrate 100 years on the present site and author Dr Pamela Hartshorne signed numerous copies of the book. Finally, Alison Edelshain paid tribute to Mrs Durham in her last term as Headmistress, thanking her for 12 years of outstanding service; and on behalf of all the quondam members presented her with a beautiful engraved glass bowl.

Felicity Forde  
Head of Learning and Enhancement



*Dr Pamela Hartshorne signs copies of the FHS history book*



*Catching up with old friends*



*Guests included Rhiannon Adam who spoke about her time on the Pitcairn Islands*



*The FHS history book captivates guests*



# Winter Term: FHS Sports Report



Where has the term gone again? In a massive flurry of lessons, trials, training, fixtures and fun, the term has moved past us in the blink of an eye. Wins and losses have ensued and healthy degree of class and team spirit has been left in the wake. Congratulations to our u14, 15, 16 and Senior Netball squads, who have represented the school very well at the Middlesex Netball tournament. We have also had our whole school launch for the FHS Olympics! Every form will take on the persona of a competing country in the Olympics, with lots of fun and dressing up to be had—watch this space for some crazy photos! I have also been very happy to announce that our next Hockey and Netball Sports tour will be going to South Africa in the October half term of 2016. Current Lower Fourth to Lower Sixth team players are invited to apply for the trip; deposits are due at the start of January.

The new spring fixtures list can now be found online via the school website. Please do come along to the matches and cheer as loudly as you like! The Spring term is packed with many PE extra-curricular events; please make a note of them in your diaries.

Ms Jane Tucker  
Head of Physical Education Department

## Spring dates to note:

- Wednesday 13th January  
Second Hand Uniform sale, Gym
- Wednesday 27th January  
Thirds & Lower Fourth Dance Workshop, FHS (in lessons)
- Monday 1st February  
February Fitness Fortnight begins, FHS (in lessons)
- Sunday 7th February  
Middlesex Gymnastics Competition, LEH School
- Thursdays ongoing  
FHS Olympics 3-a-side Soccer, School Playground
- Friday 4th March  
Gym and Dance Display 5pm, FHS Hall
- Friday 11th March  
FHS Olympics Mini Marathon, Regent's Park
- Tuesday 15th March  
u12 & u13 Middlesex Netball Tournament, LEH School
- Tuesday 14th March  
Summer Sports Trials begin, Regent's Park  
(continue in the Summer term)
- Monday 21st March  
FHS Olympics Inter-form Netball Competition, Regent's Park

## FHS OLYMPICS 2016



To coincide with the Rio 2016 Olympics, Francis Holland School (Regent's Park) will be running a full year of FHS Olympic events – Hockey, Netball, Football, Mini Marathon, Sports Day, Rounders and Swimming!

For the year-long competition, each Form will take on the persona of a competing Country in the Olympics e.g. LV AL will be representing Australia. The staff, of course, will be representing our home nation of Great Britain. At each competition, forms will be allowed to dress in their nation's colours to take part and bonus points can be won for inspiring acts of patriotism – fair dinkum!

Points will be tallied over the course of the year from each of the events to contribute to a Form's overall total. Each class will be vying for Olympic Form glory!

More information about the FHS Olympics will be available as the events progress. Our first event...the Inter-form Hockey tournament!

## Sports Tour to South Africa



Parents' Information Evening  
Tuesday 8th December at 5:30pm  
in the School Hall

Open to all girls in the current Lower Fourth

## Olympic Teams

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Mexico ~ IIIJ       | USA ~ LVH             |
| Ireland ~ IIIM      | Jamaica ~ LVL         |
| South Africa ~ IIIS | France ~ UVC          |
| Brasil ~ LIVJ       | New Zealand ~ UVP     |
| Greece ~ LIVM       | Turkey ~ UVT          |
| Germany ~ LIVS      | China ~ VIAM/KH       |
| Spain ~ UIVJ        | Holland ~ VIFB/NG     |
| Japan ~ UIVM        | Italy ~ VIHP/RP       |
| Kenya ~ UIVS        | India ~ VIML/RLR      |
| Australia ~ LVAL    | Great Britain ~ Staff |



## Parents' Prayer Group Breakfast

Friday 4th December from 9-10am

Several times a year parents meet to hold a prayer group. They are friendly, informal sessions where any FHS parent is most welcome to attend. No need to book! Please sign in at the school reception on arrival.

For further information please contact  
Clare MacDonnell at [clare.macdonnell@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:clare.macdonnell@fhs-nw1.org.uk)

## FHS Carol Service

in Marylebone Church,  
17 Marylebone Road,  
London NW1 5LT

Monday 14th December at 3pm

All friends and family  
are welcome to attend.

Francis Holland School,  
Regent's Park

Weds 2nd, Thurs 3rd and  
Fri 4th December 2015 at 7pm

Tickets: £5 adults, £3 children,  
available from the school office

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

## Spring Term 2016 Sixth Form Monday Lectures

11th January

Hilary Stonefrost,  
*Law and Careers – women in law*

18th January

James Neal  
*Law and Languages*

25th January

Serena Khemaney & Arisa Loomba,  
*Learning from Auschwitz programme*

1st February

Natalie Perrier  
*Women in Banking*

8th February

Professor Rob Horne,  
*Behavioural Science*

7th March

John Hare  
*Wildlife conservation*

14th March

Dr Sarah Bohndiek,  
*Women in Science*

Ms Emma Williams  
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

## Extended Project Qualification

Six students in the Upper Sixth will be presenting 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 will explain their experiences and the outcomes of their extended projects to an audience, including mentors, who will all have the opportunity to ask questions for them to respond to. This is the final part of their assessment process. The schedule for the presentations is given below.

**Extended Project Presentations Monday 30th November 2015**

3:30–3:50pm Arisa Loomba: *What is the main factor involved with female resistance to slavery in the Antebellum South? (using Morrison's "Beloved" and Jacobs' "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" as key texts)*

3:55–4:15pm Amalia White: *How did differing world views shape the relations between the Lakota Nation and the American settlers during the 19th century?*

SHORT BREAK

4:30–4:50pm Alfie Watt: *To what extent can neuroplasticity be used as an alternative to standard treatments for stroke recovery, Parkinson's disease, and chronic pain?*

4:55–5:15pm Eliza Scott: *How reliant are the modernist artists Braque, Picasso, Eliot and H.D., on past movements of art?*

5:20–5:40pm Seran Aksoy: *"Father of the Fatherland" or "a most fickle deserter": to what extent did Cicero defend the Roman Republic from 66 to 43 BC?*

5:45–6:05pm Vida Fatemi: *How significant was the role of Zionism in relation to events occurring in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the late 19th century to 1948?*

Ms Kristina Lewis  
Leader of the Extended Project Qualification

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes have now begun and are being led by Mrs Sharon Bexon, Acting Head of Religious Studies Department.

Anyone wishing further information please email Mrs Bexon on [sharon.bexon@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:sharon.bexon@fhs-nw1.org.uk). The confirmation service will be taking place later this year.

## Future Dates for your Diary

Tue 1st Dec	Lower Fourth Parents' Evening <i>LIVS to LIVM (Jacobson-Woolf)</i>	5:30pm
Wed 2nd Dec	Pre-performance drinks for parents in the Library .....	6:30pm
	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> in the Hall .....	7pm
Thu 3rd Dec	Pre-performance drinks for parents in the Library .....	6:30pm
	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> in the Hall .....	7pm
Fri 4th Dec	Pre-performance drinks for parents in the Library .....	6:30pm
	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> in the Hall .....	7pm
Mon 7th Dec	Sixth Form carol singing at local underground station in aid of designated charities .....	3:25pm
Fri 11th Dec	Upper Fifth Charity Event in aid of the Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka in the Hall .....	1:30pm
	Whole School Mufti Day in aid of the Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka	
Wed 6th Dec	Beginning of Spring Term for all students .....	8:25pm
Fri 15th Dec	11+ Examination Day (no students required in school unless requested)	