



Francis Holland School Newsletter September 2015



From the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

As you know, the Governing Council has announced the appointment of Mr Charles Fillingham, currently a Deputy Head at City of London School, as Headmaster from January 2016. Mr Fillingham will be attending our school Prize-giving Evening in the Cadogan Hall on October 14th. The success of Sixth Formers in public examination results this summer will be one of the many achievements to be celebrated at this year's Prize-giving. Almost 20% of the Upper Sixth achieved A* grades at A level and 90.2% were awarded grades A* and B. These results are a tremendous achievement and we congratulate the Upper Sixth on securing some of the most competitive university places in this country and the USA. Congratulations also to our current Lower Sixth, who achieved some of the best GCSE results in the country: 96.6% were awarded A*, A or B, and a significant number of girls achieved exclusively A and A* GCSE grades. Such tremendous public examination results are a testament to the hard work and talent of both the girls and their teachers.

During the summer holidays, Mme Spera and Mme Gustave led a most successful French trip to Montpellier. Also in the holidays, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions were successfully completed in the Peak District and Snowdonia by several girls in the Sixth Form. Many thanks to Mrs Lombard (D of E co-ordinator) for overseeing these two trips.

FHS Summer Camp will celebrate its tenth year in 2016 — a remarkable achievement! Since its inception by Mr Chiverton (Head of Thirds), this

Welcome to Mr Fillingham



On Monday 21st September staff met with Mr Charles Fillingham who has been appointed Headmaster with effect from January 2016. Mr Fillingham said he was delighted to be joining the school and excited by the new challenges ahead.

residential holiday week for children in "looked after care" has become one of the most important aspects of the school's many charitable activities. At the end of July, a team of FHS Sixth Formers plus members of staff, voluntarily give time in their summer holidays to lead a memorable activity holiday in rural Surrey. Huge thanks to all those involved this year, especially Mr Chiverton, Ms Barton, Ms Hotchkiss and Mr Smith.

Miss Shah (Chemistry Department) has been promoted to Head of the Help Fund, which oversees and co-ordinates all FHS/RP charitable events. Proceeds from our annual sponsored walk in Regent's Park on Friday 2nd October will go to the oncology research department of St Mark's Hospital in Northwick Park.

Three exciting school trips will take place during October half term. Miss Tucker (Head of PE) will lead an educational trip to Sri Lanka. Thirteen girls from the Sixth Form will be working with, and teaching a variety of subjects to children and young adults age 1-18 years. Also during half term, there will be a Classics trip to Greece, led by Ms Laytham, Ms Greenhalgh

and Ms Williams: we hope they enjoy an inspiring visit to some of the finest classical sites in the world. Forty girls will take part in the Choir Tour to Belgium. Led by the Director of Music, Mr Patterson, the tour will include a series of concerts. My thanks to all colleagues who will be accompanying school trips during October half term.

The Parents' Association Committee will be holding a Christmas Fair in school on Saturday 21st November from 1:30pm. Huge thanks to Mrs Laurel Rafter, Chair of the Parents' Association Committee for leading the organisation of this annual event — and to all those parents who have kindly offered to help.

I look forward to seeing you at the various school events, particularly at the Parents' Association AGM, with guest speaker Judith Reid on Wednesday 4th November and the Autumn Concert in St Cyprian's Church on Thursday 26th November.

Mrs V M Durham

Staff News



*Miss Emily Wainwright
with her husband Edmund*

We offer our congratulations to Miss Emily Wainwright who married Edmund on Saturday the 15th August 2015. She will be known as Mrs Aves.



Miss Binny Shah

Congratulations to Miss Binny Shah who is Head of the Help Fund. The Help Fund is the FHS title for the many charitable activities undertaken throughout the year.



Mrs Sharon Bexon

Mrs Sharon Bexon will be acting Head of Religious Studies from November 2015 while Ms Jodie Farthing is on maternity leave.



Mrs Marie Vanderloo

Mrs Marie Vanderloo retired on Friday 18th September after 24 years of outstanding service at FHS. Lunchtime will never be the same again. To mark the final day — and her Sixty-Sixth birthday! — staff held a celebratory tea party in honour of Marie at 4pm.

To kick-start her retirement holiday in New York, Marie was given a surprise ticket for a helicopter flight over the city.



Mrs Sally Kenyon with Harriet Peggy Kenyon

Congratulations to Mrs Sally Kenyon and her husband James on the birth of their baby daughter Harriet who was born on Saturday 11th July. Sally was a member of the Music department last year.



Ojashvi Shah

Congratulations to Mrs Mahima Shah and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter Ojashvi who was born on Tuesday 28th July.



Mrs Alice Montgomery and Florence Posy

Congratulations to Mrs Alice Montgomery and her husband Nick on the birth of their baby daughter Florence who was born on Saturday 12th September.

Exceeding Expectations!



Congratulations to all our Upper Sixth leavers on their excellent A level results. Francis Holland students achieved an impressive number of A* grades this summer and secured a record 61.4% A and A* grades. Over a third of our students achieved at least three A grades with nine gaining two or more A* grades. We are very proud of their achievements, which are a tribute to their dedication to their studies, and we wish them the very best for the future.

We are also delighted with the exceptional Extended Project Qualification results achieved by this year group. All our entries

gained A or above with 80% A* grades, a tribute to the hard work of these students and the dedication of Miss Lewis and her team of supervisors.

Congratulations also to last year's Upper Fifth students, who achieved some of our best ever GCSE and IGCSE results. Almost a third of the year group achieved straight As and A*s and top grades were secured in 77% of examinations.

Ms Jacqueline Zugg
Academic Deputy Head

Lower Fourth Science Fair July 2015



Dr Jenny Cook with Abigail and Tilly



Dr Jenny Cook and Ms Hotchkiss present awards to Lower Fourth girls

The theme for this year's event was *Amazing Science* and focused on current science research that may have a significant effect on our lives in the future. There was a fascinating array of projects ranging from how immunotherapy can cure cancer to how astronauts can live on Mars. The finalists presented their research to an audience of over 200 people consisting of Lower Fourth parents, pupils and staff.

The event was judged by Dr Jenny Cook, a research associate at King's College London. The winners were Abigail Howard-Yam and Tilly Sykes with a project titled *Can we live forever?* Two groups were chosen as runners up: Amelia Carney and Devina Loomba with their project *Controlling Dreams* along with Amy Cash and Isabel Ritchotte who researched *Optogenetics: a cure for amnesia*.

The packed audience were given excellent presentations and maybe in the future a number of the Lower Fourth pupils will pursue scientific careers and ensure these research areas enhance and improve our lives.

Mr Derek Ward
Head of Science Department

Lower Fifth visits to Oxford and Cambridge University

Oxford University

On Wednesday 1st July 2015 fifteen Lower Fifth girls went on an open day visit to Oxford University. They were accompanied by Miss Lamas, Mr Chiverton and me.

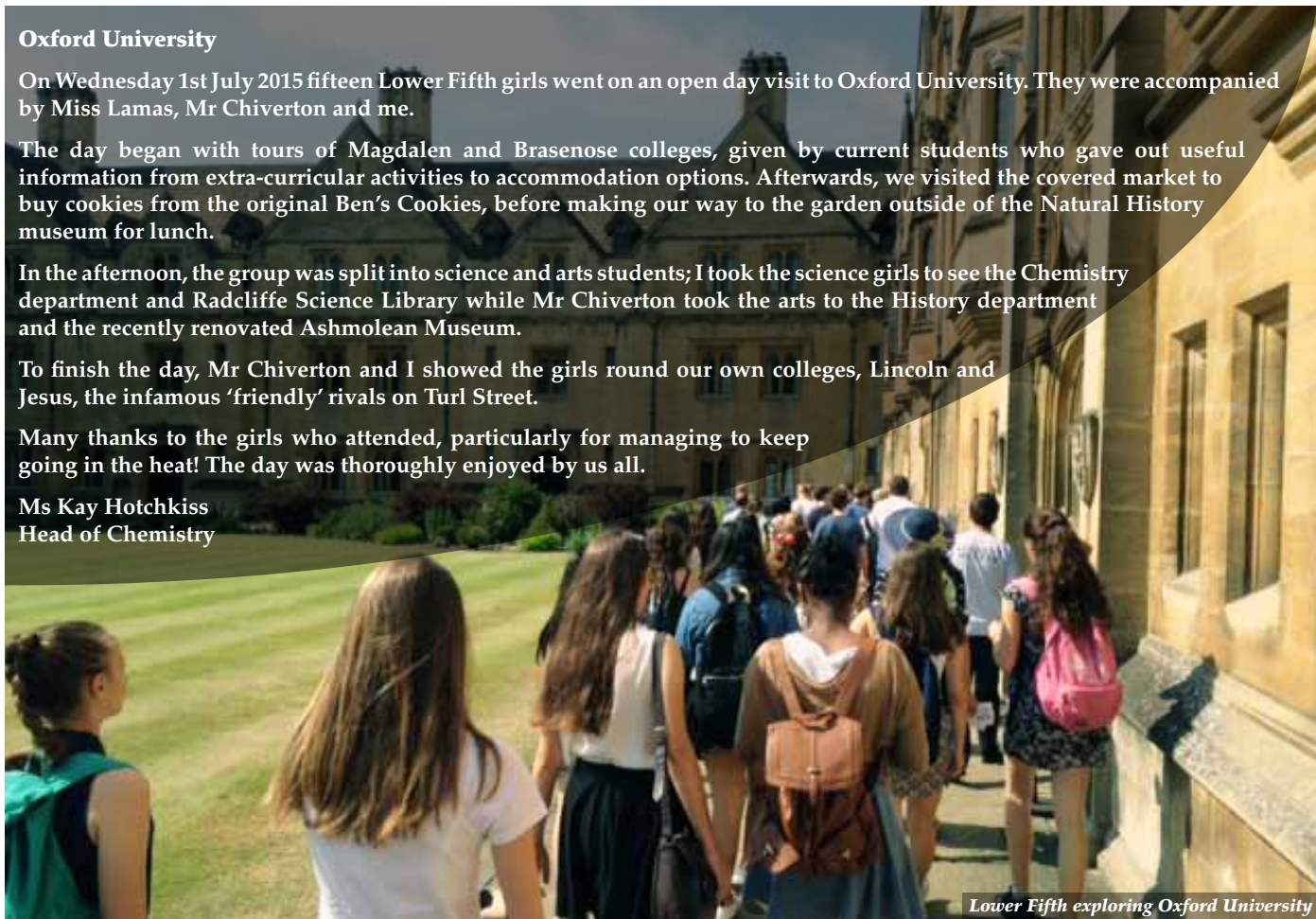
The day began with tours of Magdalen and Brasenose colleges, given by current students who gave out useful information from extra-curricular activities to accommodation options. Afterwards, we visited the covered market to buy cookies from the original Ben's Cookies, before making our way to the garden outside of the Natural History museum for lunch.

In the afternoon, the group was split into science and arts students; I took the science girls to see the Chemistry department and Radcliffe Science Library while Mr Chiverton took the arts to the History department and the recently renovated Ashmolean Museum.

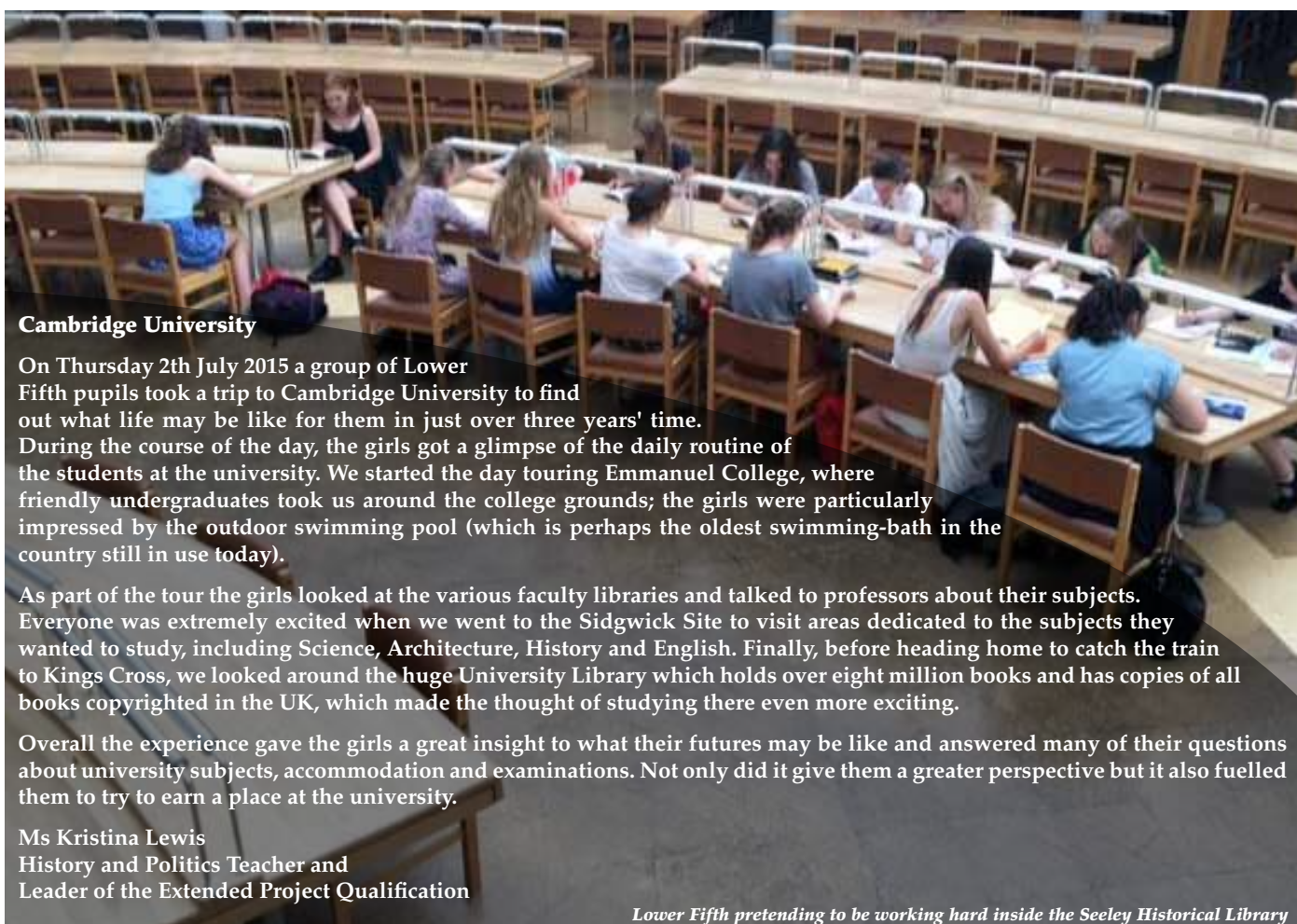
To finish the day, Mr Chiverton and I showed the girls round our own colleges, Lincoln and Jesus, the infamous 'friendly' rivals on Turl Street.

Many thanks to the girls who attended, particularly for managing to keep going in the heat! The day was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

Ms Kay Hotchkiss
Head of Chemistry



Lower Fifth exploring Oxford University



Cambridge University

On Thursday 2nd July 2015 a group of Lower Fifth pupils took a trip to Cambridge University to find out what life may be like for them in just over three years' time.

During the course of the day, the girls got a glimpse of the daily routine of the students at the university. We started the day touring Emmanuel College, where friendly undergraduates took us around the college grounds; the girls were particularly impressed by the outdoor swimming pool (which is perhaps the oldest swimming-bath in the country still in use today).

As part of the tour the girls looked at the various faculty libraries and talked to professors about their subjects. Everyone was extremely excited when we went to the Sidgwick Site to visit areas dedicated to the subjects they wanted to study, including Science, Architecture, History and English. Finally, before heading home to catch the train to Kings Cross, we looked around the huge University Library which holds over eight million books and has copies of all books copyrighted in the UK, which made the thought of studying there even more exciting.

Overall the experience gave the girls a great insight to what their futures may be like and answered many of their questions about university subjects, accommodation and examinations. Not only did it give them a greater perspective but it also fuelled them to try to earn a place at the university.

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

Lower Fifth pretending to be working hard inside the Seeley Historical Library

FHS pupil becomes the world's youngest Primary Coach for the McGuire Programme

Over the next few months I will be attending an intensive training course with the McGuire Programme to become a primary speech coach in order to help those who stutter. I myself have suffered from a stutter since childhood and joined the McGuire Programme in year eight when I was thirteen.

The McGuire Programme, founded in 1994 by Dave McGuire, is an international organisation run and attended by people who stutter. At this life-changing course I learnt both how to physically control my breathing with a new method of breathing and began to face the psychological barriers built up over many years.

Moreover, since my first course I have had to take on challenges myself every day, taking full responsibility of my condition which was difficult to do as a young child. The core of the McGuire techniques I have learnt are to assertively accept my disorder by disclosing to people about my stammer. Over the last five years I have slowly progressed onto my road to eloquence; I returned to courses both to help my own recovery and coach other new students. In doing this, I took sessions, lecturing up to a hundred people, guiding and telling them about my own experiences.

In November I will be attending a staff training course where I must take an examination and be evaluated over a certain number of days to become an official speech coach. Although I have come a very long way since my first course, stammering is still a major part of life, allowing me to learn from my mistakes and enjoy successes. I would like to appeal to anyone who either knows someone who suffers from this debilitating disability or has a stutter themselves, the McGuire Programme is, in my opinion, the only way to get true control over stuttering and make yourself into a stronger, more eloquent version of who you truly are.

If you would like to find out more about the McGuire Programme please visit www.mcguireprogramme.com

Caroline Turner
Sixth Form FHS student



Caroline Turner

Student of the Year Award 2015

Most of us know of Xiusi Li and her amazing achievements in the Mathematical Olympiad, Hans Woyda and her extraordinary examination results.

This summer, Xiusi Li has surpassed herself by sitting the Sixth Term Entrance paper STEP 1, the extra qualification beyond both the Mathematics & Further Mathematics A level that the very top universities use to filter candidates applying for their Mathematics degrees.

Xiusi sat the STEP paper a year early. She achieved Level 1 which would enable her to gain university entrance now. However we are delighted she will continue in the Upper Sixth to inspire us further.

Mrs Anjali Martin
Head of Mathematics



Xiusi Li

The 2015 National Student of the Year Awards have been instigated by Tim Lawrence MBE (the man who won the first series in *The Apprentice* with Sir Alan Sugar).

Mrs Vivienne Durham was asked to be one of the national judges for this award in September.

Many congratulations to Xiusi Li in the Upper Sixth who was shortlisted for the National Student of the Year Award and won highly commended for Mathematics.

Ms Amelia Slocombe
Acting Head of Sixth Form

French trip to Montpellier

On the 9th July, the day after we broke up for the summer holidays, Mme Gustave and I took fifteen Upper Fourth, Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth students to Montpellier, in the South of France. Students, in pairs, spent six 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 visit to Aigues Mortes and a cooking lesson with a Michelin-starred cook. On the Sunday, the girls spent the entire day with their host families and therefore were able to experience different aspects of French lifestyle.

The week represented a wonderful opportunity for the girls to practise their language skills and to experience a different culture and environment. It was a real privilege to witness the students' excitement and enthusiasm about their ability to communicate in French. We were very proud of the girls' achievement and behaviour during the trip; a sign of its success is that several girls seem determined to move to the South of France.

Mme Alessandra Spera
Head of French Department

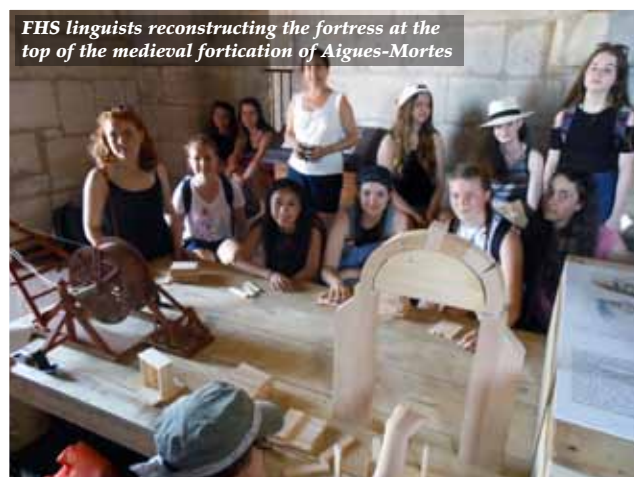


Under the watchful eye of a Michelin star chef, the girls prepare 'une tombée de poireaux'

Basking in the sunshine of Montpellier



FHS linguists reconstructing the fortress at the top of the medieval fortification of Aigues-Mortes





Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

During the summer holidays, girls from the Sixth Form took to the hills of the Peak District and Snowdonia to complete their Gold expeditions.

They battled the elements and must be congratulated for doing so in challenging conditions.

The girls remained enthusiastic and also demonstrated excellent navigational skills and team work. Well done to all girls involved!

Bronze expeditions take place this September and October and we wish all girls in the current Lower Fifth the very best for these.

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



Willow, Caitlin, Lucy and Poppy all set and ready for the challenge

Rowing Achievement!



Lily Wolfson and her rowing partner Freya

Congratulations to Lily Wolfson who qualified for the British National Junior Rowing Championships which took place in Strathclyde during the summer holidays. Lily and her partner, Freya, came fourth in the Women's J14 double sculls. This was an exciting result and represented the top position achieved by her Club, Rob Roy, in Cambridge.

We wish Lily every success in the year ahead as she participates in a busy racing schedule and a number of National Competitions.

Ms Clare MacDonnell
Director of Extra-Curricular Activities

At the end of July this year, 15 girls from the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth joined nine young children from Westminster for our ninth annual FHS Summer Camp at Sayers Croft in the beautiful Surrey countryside. They were joined as ever, by a number of dedicated FHS staff (Ms Barton, Ms Hotchkiss and Mr Smith) and a team of Westminster social workers.

From its very beginning back in 2007, the aim of FHS Summer Camp has been to forge closer links between Francis Holland and our community, as well as to provide a fun and exciting experience for children in foster care, whose life experiences, so far, have often been more challenging than most.

The week away is an exhilarating mix of new experiences and exciting challenges, both for the looked-after children and the FHS girls who act as mentors, friends, buddies, and leaders during the course of the week.

As Georgina Miller, one of this year's team wrote about her experience, "I was really looking forward to spending a week on summer camp and it definitely lived up to my expectations. Although it was tiring at some points from the constant running races and piggy backs, it was lovely to spend a week outdoors with the kids doing all sorts of activities ranging from clay modelling to tunnelling ... Summer Camp was a highly rewarding experience. Most of the kids were telling us that they didn't want to go home because they were enjoying it so much. In the evenings the children had to fill in diaries; it was lovely to do this with the kids because they wrote such nice things about what they had done, that they made it all worthwhile."

A big and heartfelt thank you to all of the girls and to my colleagues for their hard work, energy and dedication in making this year's camp a real success. Planning is now under way for next year's Summer Camp, when we look forward to celebrating our tenth year.

Mr Mark Chiverton
Head of Thirds

FHS Summer Camp Student Team 2015

- Jessie Clayton UVP
- Maya Emberton UVP
- Kate Gabriel UVP
- Annelise Appen UVP
- Zinnia Silver UVP
- Lucy Morris UVB
- Lara Shiels UVH
- Natasha Rhodes UVH
- Martha Barron UVB
- Sophie McMeikan UVB
- Alice Haine UVB
- Georgina Miller UVP
- Madeleine Harding UVH
- Rosie Roberts LVING
- Isabelle Shirley LVIRP



The July 2015 Summer Camp student team



Raft building



Pond dipping



The blindfold trail!



Summer camp is a haven for butterflies



Mounting the wall with a helping hand

Lower Fifth Art trip to Tate Britain

During the afternoon of Friday 17th September, the Lower Fifth GCSE Art students visited Tate Britain for a special introductory talk, followed by a tour looking at specific works within the gallery collection and some practical tasks which challenged their creative powers. This was an inspiring start to the girls' coursework this term.

Ms Jane Orr
Head of Art Department



The girls consider Antony Gormley's Bread Bed

Lower Sixth Art A level day in Margate

On Saturday 19th September, the Lower Sixth Art students took the train to Margate for the first leg of their coursework project, *Journeys*. The town is of particular interest, home of the Turner Contemporary and Tracey Emin, as well as many distinctive seaside features including the newly re-furbished vintage fairground, *Dreamland*. The girls gathered a rich source of ideas and visual imagery for their practical work, as well as enjoying the bracing sea air!

Ms Jane Orr
Head of Art Department



Enjoying the open air studio on Margate coast



Budding FHS artists hard at work

Thirds Activity Day at Sayers Croft

Friday 18th September saw all of the Thirds and their form tutors headed into the Surrey countryside for our annual Activity Day at Sayers Croft. The girls enjoyed a variety of activities including archery and rock climbing, but the most popular proved to be the raft building and stream walk, both of which involved getting absolutely soaked! While torrential rain fell in central London, we were lucky

enough to enjoy sunny spells for most of the day. Aimed at helping the Thirds to forge friendships by working together in groups, the day proved to be a great success, both in terms of the girls' enjoyment and in building a sense of camaraderie across the three Thirds forms.

Mr Mark Chiverton
Head of Thirds



The Thirds get wet and muddy while stream walking

Aiming for the Gold during target archery

Grace and Alexandra master the art of raft building

Lower Sixth Theatre Trip to *Jane Eyre* at The National Theatre



The company of Jane Eyre

On Friday 11th September the students of A Level English Literature and Theatre Studies, accompanied by their teachers, went to see the new production of Brontë's masterpiece that has just opened at the National Theatre. This production originally shown at the Bristol Old Vic last year offered a new and vibrant interpretation of the novel. The students were intrigued by the set — a permanent square tilted on different levels, with ladders and slopes, wrapped around a band of live musicians. As we followed Jane on her journey, locomotion was suggested by the actors running on the spot, accompanied by rhythmic drumming and repetition of the place names the imaginary coach passed; and locations were suggested by objects descending from the ceiling, such as framed family portraits, aproned Lowood smocks and crystal chandelier bulbs to suggest the grandeur of Mr Rochester's home Thornfield.

The company of nine actors and musicians played all the roles with enormous energy. Bertha Mason's presence was suggested by laughs and melodies, hauntingly provided by a fabulous singer in flame red taffeta. Jane, by contrast wiry and heavy-booted, was played brilliantly by Madeleine Worrall. The production was fertile ground for our A Level Theatre Studies students who were enthralled by the range of non-naturalistic presentational techniques, and for the A Level English Literature students the rare opportunity of seeing an adaptation of one of their set examination texts provided a superb start to the A Level course, offering a powerfully feminist reading of the text and much food for thought.

Ms Emma Williams
Head of English and Drama Department



Maggie Tagney, Madeleine Worrall, Craig Edwards and Laura Elphinstone

Academic Enrichment Lectures

After a successful series of Academic Enrichment Lectures last academic year we are delighted to continue this series with three exciting talks this term. Last year's lectures were on a wide range of topics including ancient Greek geometry, medical physics, Google translation and medieval history.

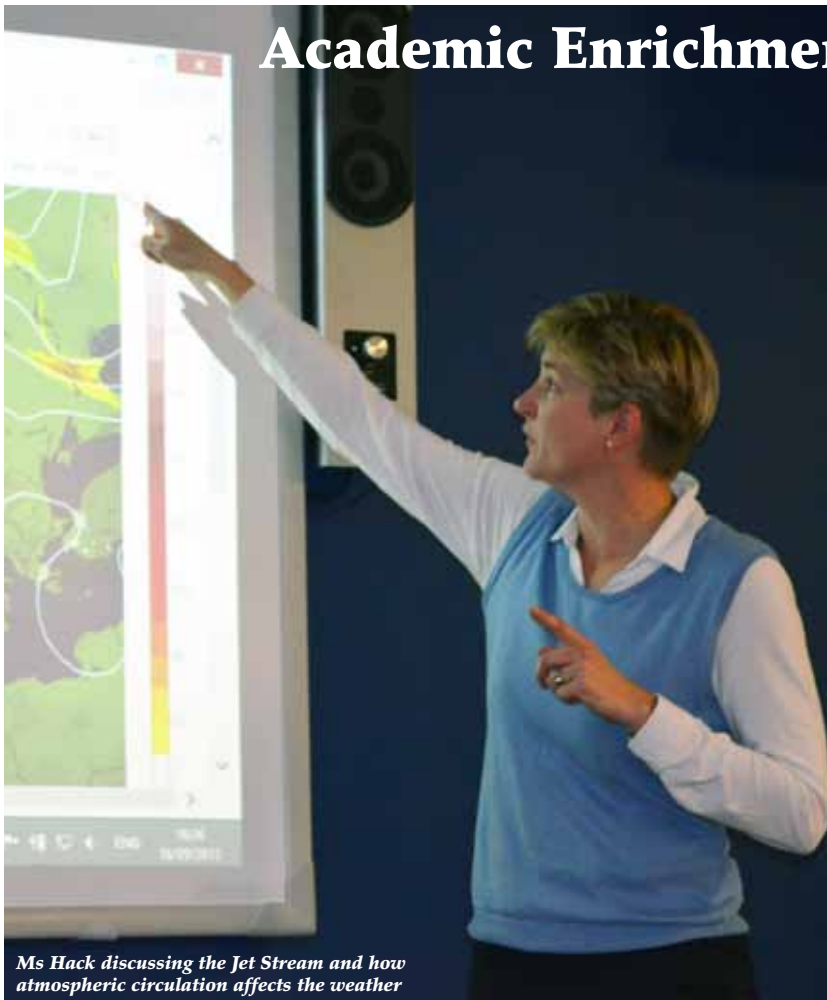
The first lecture of the 2015-2016 series was an informative and inspiring presentation on Wednesday 16th September by Ms Sarah Hack, Head of Geography. Ms Hack spoke to a large audience of pupils and staff on the Jet Stream and how atmospheric circulation affects the weather, explaining the reasons for the floods of February 2014 and our "unsettled" summer weather.

The other lectures this term are:
Why is the Mona Lisa so famous?
 Thursday 12th November 2015
 Ms Clare MacDonnell (Director of Extra-Curricular Activities and Head of History of Art)

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 Jacqueline Zugg
 Academic Deputy Head



Ms Hack discussing the Jet Stream and how atmospheric circulation affects the weather

The Maths Society Lecture

Dr Matt Pritchard came to FHS RP on Tuesday 22nd September for the Maths Society talk. He performed his new show *Something About Nothing* that explored the theme of nothing. Nothing is notoriously hard to grasp but the subject was philosophically and scientifically fascinating.

Mrs Anjali Martin
 Head of Mathematics Department



Dr Matt Pritchard performs his show *Something About Nothing*



AUTUMN TERM 2015

FORM CAPTAINS

Zoe Milton
 Iona Geidt
 Annie Harrison
 Jessica Jones
 Rita Broberg
 Mattie Owencroft
 Emilia Franco
 Riana Modi
 Amanda Martins
 Helena McBurney
 Daniella Tavrovsky
 Emily Evangelou

GAMES CAPTAINS

Ella Von Hammerstein
 Mollie Chapman
 Scarlet Heyes
 Maya Thomas
 Anki Stick
 Minnie Moss
 Hannah Barlay
 Alice Emlyn Jones
 Kitty Gilbey
 Maria Lemos
 Ruby Lowsley-Williams
 Alice Ward

Sports Day in Regent's Park 2015

I think I might be little bit biased, but I've consulted the rest of the PE department and we unanimously agree: Sports Day is definitely the best day of the school year — hands down! Regent's Park comes alive with sunshine, laughter, cheers, tears, winning embraces and steely resolve for revenge. It's the girls that make the day special, but the staff have just as much fun. It is always fantastic to see so many parents coming out to enjoy the day too.

Champions were crowned in all of the track and field disciplines, and quite a few records fell — a testament to the sporting talent we have at FHS at the moment. Inter-form Rounders contests were fiercely battled as these precious cups are much coveted. The Sixth Form were once again disappointed as they

challenged the mighty Staff to their own Rounders match and left empty-handed.

Special thanks to the PE staff: Mrs Lombard; Miss Merrigan; Mrs Drummond; Miss Mahieu and Mrs Forde, plus the entirety of the school teaching, catering, office and caretaking staff — it's a massive team effort!

There are not too many days in the school calendar when the whole school comes together in spirit and in voice — just another reason why Sports Day is so special. See you there for Sports Day 2016!

Miss Jane Tucker
Head of PE Department



Bella, Maria and Jessie sprint to the finish line

FHS September Sports Report

What a cracking start to the year! Trials completed, fixtures in full flow and tournaments about to begin; full steam ahead! A comprehensive fixture list can be found on the school website, so come along and watch your daughters whenever you can grab a moment — supporters are always well received.

Looking ahead, the new Thirds should keep an eye out for the Hockey trials sign-up sheet, which will start in the week before the half term — all welcome. And it will not be long before the Inter-form Hockey competition week starts up in December at the Paddington Recreational Ground; spectators are most welcome.

Miss Jane Tucker
Head of PE Department



On your marks!



Miss Tucker shows how it's done!

Summer Term Cups

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Junior Rounders | Charlotte Hassenforder |
| Senior Rounders | Ruby Lowsley-Williams |
| Junior Swimming | Julia Murphy |
| Senior Swimming | Kitty Gilbey |
| Most Improved Swimmer: | Eleanor Moss |
| Junior Tennis | Charlotte Hassenforder |
| Intermediate Tennis | Olivia Muccio |
| Senior Tennis | Saffron Taylor |
| Volleyball | Emily Jerjian |
| Junior Fencing Cup | Rita Broberg |
| Senior Fencing Cup | Courtney McNeil |
| Contribution to Sport | Danielle Dunkley |

London Youth Games: Hockey tournament

Well done to Alice Emlyn Jones, Ella Sprosta, Kitty Gilbey, Nula Kenzie and Serena Nayak who represented Westminster in the summer London Youth Games. It was a fantastic day and a very successful tournament.

Miss Jane Tucker
Head of PE Department



Staff celebrate victory in the Sixth Form vs Staff rounders match



Eliza and Mya share a celebratory hug



The FHS hockey team in action



Annual FHS Christmas Fair

Please join us on Saturday 21st November
1:30-3:30pm at the Christmas Fair which will include
The Magic Christmas Tree and Chocolate Tombola
Please contact Mrs Laurel Rafter at
PA@fhs-nw1.org.uk for more information

Annual sponsored walk in aid of St Mark's Hospital Foundation

1:30pm-4pm · Friday 2nd October 2015

This year our sponsored walk will be raising funds for St Mark's Hospital Foundation. St Mark's Hospital is a specialist centre for bowel health care, and with the help of sponsorship they are able to research new medicines and surgical techniques to treat patients. For more information about the charity, please visit their website: www.stmarksfoundation.org.

We encourage all pupils to raise as much as they can, and thank you in advance for the support you give.

Miss Binny Shah
Head of the Charity Help Fund
binny.shah@fhs-nw1.org.uk



Advance Publicity for A Midsummer Night's Dream PETER QUINCE: *And I hope here is a play fitted*

The cast is finalised, stage crews are taking shape and rehearsals are proceeding apace for this term's major production, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As is always the case, I am continually amazed by the talent and commitment of Francis Holland's actors, not to mention their capacity for laughing at Shakespeare's jokes. This is the most fantastic way of de-mystifying Shakespeare for teenagers: perform it and enjoy watching it.

The three performances take place on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December, each starting at 7pm. Tickets go on sale in early November, priced at £5 each or just £3 for FHS girls and their friends under the age of 18. Look out for the posters after half term, for details of how to reserve tickets for your family.

Mrs Kate Oakley
English and Drama Teacher

Autumn term Sixth Form Lectures

September

- 14th** Addiction and Recovery, Government Drugs Policy, **Chip Somers**
- 21st** Olympic Sprinter, **Jennifer Stoute**
- 28th** Brazilian Amazon and its indigenous tribal people, **Sue Cunningham**

October

- 5th** Veterinary Science, **Brian Jacobs**
- 12th** Cosmetics Industry, **Nina Keykind**

November

- 2nd** Development of popular music, **Mike Hurst**
- 9th** Careers in science, **Erin Laferty**
- 16th** Careers in writing, **Rachel Cusk**
- 23rd** The European Union, **CIVITAS**
- 30th** Extended Project Qualification Presentations

December

- 7th** Charity Carol Singing at local tube stations:
- 14th** Carol Service, Marylebone Church



Confirmation Lessons

We shall be starting confirmation lessons this term. If any of your daughters are interested in taking confirmation lessons please contact Mrs Sharon Bexon, Acting Head of Religious Education on sharon.bexon@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is a time to give thanks for the crops that have been grown. To commemorate this tradition we will be having a Thanksgiving service at St Cyprian's Church on Wednesday 30th September. Each year group has been allocated a specific collection, which will be sent to North London Action for the Homeless.

- Thirds: Tinned fish and meat
- Lower Fourth: Tinned vegetables (*including beans and spaghetti*)
- Upper Fourth: Tinned fruit
- Lower Fifth: Pasta
- Upper Fifth: Rice
- Sixth Form and teaching staff: Men's socks and toiletries.

Parents' Prayer Group

Friday 4th December
in the Gloucester Room
9-10am

All welcome

For further information please
contact Clare MacDonnell at
clare.macdonnell@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Future Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Sat 7th Nov | Quondam birthday lunch | 12:30pm |
| Mon 9th Nov | Thirds Art trip to Tate Britain | 12:15-4:30pm |
| Wed 11th Nov | Piano Concert in the Hall | 6:30pm |
| Thur 26th Nov | Autumn Concert at St Cyprian's Church | 7pm |
| | (preceded by drinks for parents in the Library) | 6:30pm |
| Fri 27th Nov | Joint INSET day with FHS Sloane Square | 9am |
| | (Pupil Reading Day: no students required in school unless requested for <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> rehearsal in the Hall) | |
| | Make-up calls in the Gloucester Room | 10am |
| | Technical Dress Rehearsal in the Hall | 1:30pm-approx 7:30pm |
| | (Lunch is provided for all involved in the production) | |