



# CORNERS

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



GCSE and A Level Art Exhibitions, Highlights from *Sweeney Todd*, Head Girl's Team 2017-18, Italian Cookery Masterclass, Biology & Geography Norfolk Trip, *Woyzeck*, Duke of Edinburgh, Quondam Prize Winners... and much more



## From the Headmaster

There have been multiple recent research studies published in educational journals bemoaning the trend away from reading amongst our young people. Ms Slocombe, who will be the school's new Senior Deputy Head in September, passed me a news story from the BBC earlier this month saying that 83% of girls aged eight to eleven enjoyed reading, but that this dropped back to 53% at ages fourteen to sixteen.

The president of the National Literacy Trust, Jonathan Douglas, says that the love for reading declines steadily from the day young people leave primary school, and he goes on to say, "This is a trend we must reverse." The survey, published this year, canvassed the views of 41,334 children and found that boys had lower levels of interest in reading than girls. The research has also revealed differences along the lines of ethnicity, with fewer pupils from white backgrounds enjoying reading compared with pupils from mixed or black ethnic backgrounds. Pupils from Asian backgrounds were most likely to say that they enjoyed reading.

Francis Holland School is not, of course, typical of the nation as a whole and the pupils here are not representative of the nation's children. I am pleased to reassure you that the habit of reading for pleasure is alive and well here. Our pupils are supported by a well-stocked library and a helpful librarian. There are

regular author visits and two literary circles. Multiple copies of the Booker Prize winner and the Carnegie Medal winner are purchased every year. Visits to the London Library, on St James's Square, and the British Library, on the Euston Road, are organised annually.

You may have heard me saying before that my son's school, a highly academic independent school in Surrey, challenged him to read just two books over the summer holiday last year. In response last year, I challenged your daughters to read two books per week!

This summer, I am once again throwing down the gauntlet to your daughter to read sixteen books. To support her, every form tutor will be distributing a Francis Holland School 2017 Reading Challenge bookmark. We have a choice of designs on the front of the bookmark, and on the reverse are sixteen numbered spaces for her to write the titles of the books that she reads. We are starting a new tradition at the school which will see your daughter receive a bookmark every summer from now on. The intention is not just to encourage reading, but also to create lasting souvenirs. How wonderful it will be in years to come when the Polished Corners of the future are able to show their own daughters the bookmarks that they used each summer when they were at Francis Holland School. How delightful it will be when girls stumble across the

bookmarks and remember the stories which shaped their childhood and teenage years.

As a rider, it is worth me saying that no girl is compelled to read books over the summer; this is a challenge, not a requirement. Indeed, when I set myself the same challenge last summer, I only managed fifteen books. I did not get into trouble last September and neither will your daughter this year. We are not a school of "book bullies", but this is an institution that encourages both reading for pleasure as well as studious academic reading and research.

An American media commentator, Jim Steyer, has encouraged parents to buy books or take them out of the library for their children and to set aside time in their child's daily routine for reading. What is more, he has also claimed that children with parents who read are the ones who tend to read the most. With this in mind, if you would like to receive a Francis Holland School 2017 Reading Challenge bookmark of your own so that you can accompany your daughter on her literary odyssey over the next couple of months, please feel free to collect one from the school library.

Yours sincerely,



MR CHARLES FILLINGHAM



## A combined 63 years of outstanding service to the school...



### Mrs Felicity Forde

Mrs Felicity Forde (née Dennis) joined Francis Holland in September 1974 and she has served the school faithfully ever since. This remarkable 43-year

tenure has been celebrated with a party offered to her by the governing body to which every old girl who has left the school since 1975 was invited. I am delighted to say that hundreds of guests attended and Mrs Forde received a very fitting send-off.

Young Miss Dennis arrived as a teacher of Physical Education at a time when the headmistress was Miss Holt and the Head of PE was Miss Harley. During her time at Francis Holland Mrs Forde, who married in 1978, has served as a teacher of PE, the Head of PE, the Third Mistress, the Senior Mistress and, more recently, Head of Learning Enhancement. She has worked for four headmistresses: Miss Holt, Mrs Parsonson, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Durham and one headmaster.

On a personal note, for me as a relatively new Headmaster joining just eighteen months ago, I have found Mrs Forde to be an incredible asset to the school. Her loyalty to the institution is

beyond question and her knowledge of not just how, but also sometimes why this wonderful school operates the way that it does is invaluable. Mrs Forde remembers how traditions have been formed and she can explain how they have changed over time. I have regularly sought out her advice and I am delighted that she is joining the Quondam Committee and will continue to work with the school.

Back in 1996, Mrs Parsonson wrote a note to Mrs Forde praising her dedication and saying she “simply thought of everything – thank you a hundred times”. This is as true now as it was then.

Mrs Forde will be much missed at Francis Holland School. She has thoroughly earned her retirement. I know that she will be abroad, travelling, in September and I wish her “bon voyage”!

**Mr Charles Fillingham**



### Mrs Sandy Bailey

Mrs Sandy Bailey is also leaving at the end of this academic year. She has served the school as registrar since 1998 and in that time has admitted over 1500 pupils, including every girl who currently attends the school. Mrs Bailey has worked here as PA to the Headmistress and as Office Manager.

She joined Francis Holland from St Marylebone High School where she had previously held a similar post. It would be fair to say, therefore, that she is an experienced admissions registrar!

It is in her role as the registrar that she has been the most influential. She is the very personification of calmness under pressure and patience. Every year she deals with delighted and disappointed families in equal measure and with equal kindness. Her tiny office near the front door is decorated with innumerable thank you cards from parents who have appreciated her wise counsel and her serenity during the sometimes gruelling 11+ application process. Mrs Bailey runs a complicated electronic database and she handles floods of paper forms, cheques, letters and prospectuses. The mother of two grown-up daughters, Mrs Bailey will be greatly missed and she leaves Francis Holland to take up a well-deserved retirement with her husband. Rumour has it that she is considering getting a dog!

**Mr Charles Fillingham**

### Farewell Ms Flora Barton



Our warmest wishes to Ms Flora Barton who is also leaving at the end of the academic year. Ms Barton has taught History

since 2011 and in that time has taken on responsibility for teaching Oxbridge candidates, leading the Russian history course at A level and generally been a fantastic teacher throughout the school. She was head of Senior Debate for many years and increased attendance from the odd individual to a regular crowd of 70 or 80 girls. Flora will be continuing her teaching career in the History Department at Godolphin and Latymer School and we wish her every success.

**Mr Harry Clayton**  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT



## Mrs Vivienne Durham



***We are delighted that Mrs Vivienne Durham has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Girls' Schools Association.***

From September 2004 until December 2015, Vivienne was Head of Francis Holland School Regent's Park, overseeing an expansion in the school's roll and considerable improvements to its site and facilities. Vivienne is currently Director of Schools Advisory for Enjoy Education, a London-based consultancy. In this role, she has been responsible for leading their schools advisory service, offering counsel to parents about schooling options across the age and ability range in both day and boarding schools.

**Speaking on behalf of the Appointment Panel, GSA President Charlotte Avery said:**

*"We are delighted to have appointed Vivienne Durham as our new Chief Executive. She offers insightful knowledge of the education of girls – as a teacher and senior leader with both academic and*

*pastoral responsibilities, in addition to having been a highly successful Head. We believe that we have found an excellent advocate for the Association who will uphold and enhance the GSA's ethos of excellence in girls' education, and who will both support and inspire our members and their students to even greater success."*

**Commenting on her appointment, Vivienne said:**

*"GSA has been at the heart of my professional life since I qualified as a teacher in 1983, and I am delighted at the prospect of becoming its Chief Executive. The GSA has inspired the achievement of so many young women and it will be a privilege to work with all GSA members to ensure that young women of the future are confident to embrace and relish the opportunities and challenges that life presents to them. I am proud of the GSA's unapologetic commitment to excellence in girls' education and look forward to representing the association within the independent sector and beyond."*

## Head Girl's Team 2017-2018



On Tuesday 13th June, 20 Lower Sixth girls gave superb speeches as part of their application to be on the Head Girl's Team. This was in addition to their written applications. Staff and students then had the opportunity to vote and we are delighted to announce the new team members for 2017-2018:

**Head Girl**

Tabitha Dickson

**Senior Prefect**

Helena McBurney

**President of the Help Fund**

Selen Demirel

**Sixth Form Delegate**

Maria Lemos

**School Sports Captain**

Dani Dunkley

Congratulations to the new team and to all the girls who applied and for representing FHS so brilliantly.

**Mrs Alex Francisco**

JOINT HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



# A Level and GCSE Art Exhibitions

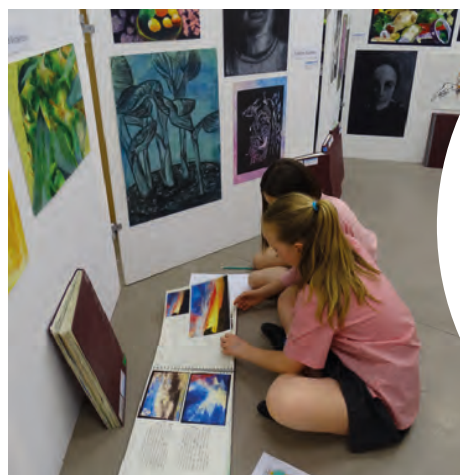
# ART



## A Level Exhibition

The scale and diversity of the work in this year's A level exhibition on Monday 26th June reflects the ambition of this particularly large body of students, many of whom are intending to pursue a career in art following a busy period preparing their portfolios for

art foundation application. Enormous drawings and paintings stood next to delicate paper structures, prints and films. Students brought friends and family to see their achievements and celebrate their successful graduation from the FHS art department.



## GCSE Exhibition

Another year brings a new show by this year's GCSE students, whose work in the exhibition on Monday 12th June included prints, paintings, collages, ceramics and mixed media, all of which demonstrated their skill and confidence in exploring their ideas creatively. Small wonder that many of these girls will go on to study the subject at A level. The show was well attended by students, friends and proud family members.

**Ms Jane Orr**  
HEAD OF ART DEPARTMENT



### Art in the Lower School

We have new artwork ready to go up around the school after a whirlwind of a half term, with Thirds studying Thiebaud's cake paintings, Lower Fourths working on some gorgeous Hockney inspired self-portraits and the Upper Fourth exploring shoes through Lisa Milroy and Van Gogh.

**Miss Heather Holden**  
ART TECHNICIAN





## Lower Fourth trip to the Thames Barrier

On Friday 9th June, the Geography department took the Lower Fourth girls to the Thames Barrier and Crystal Building. The girls started their day with a trip, by boat, along the Thames from Westminster Pier to the Thames Barrier. Along the way they enjoyed seeing lots of famous landmarks, and marking them off on their maps. Once at the Barrier we visited the Information Centre where we looked at the effects of climate change, and the increasing need for the barrier. The girls spent time looking at the long profile of the Thames, specifically the scale and changing height and shape from source to mouth. The girls then enjoyed a trip across the river, going as high as 3,600 ft in the Emirates Cable Car. Once we'd arrived safely back on ground, the girls visited the Crystal Building, where they explored sustainability through interactive exhibits. My thanks go to the girls for their excellent behaviour and to the members of staff who accompanied me on the trip.

**Miss Emily O'Neill**  
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT





As is now the tradition at FHS, a group of Upper Fourth Italian students attended a cookery masterclass at La Cucina Caldesi on Monday 5th June. The group had learnt about food, Italian cuisine and eating habits as part of their syllabus so this was an excellent educational, as well as rewarding, experience to conclude the current

academic year. The chef Stefano demonstrated how to make pizza first, then the girls had a go at it. We discovered some real talent ... especially at eating it! What a delicious way of starting the new half term.

**Nick Gridelli**  
HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES







The Lower Sixth geographers and biologists enjoyed a very hot and sunny weekend field trip to Norfolk. The geographers collected data from five river sites for their Paper 4 Pre-U Examination, whilst the biologists successfully investigated how invertebrate numbers changed along a river transect. Both groups improved important analytical skills during their ICT follow up sessions in the labs. The geographers worked using GIS

to produce graphs located on a base map. The biologists created scientific drawings of fresh water shrimps. My thanks to the girls for their excellent effort and behaviour (especially on our interesting journey home!), and to Miss O'Neill, and Miss Till for their valuable work.

**Ms Sarah Hack**  
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY











## Upper Sixth present 'Highlights from Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*'

A dozen or so members of the Upper Sixth gathered to present 'highlights from Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*' in the school Hall. Terrific singing, acting and costumes ensured the final musical event after seven years at Francis Holland was truly spectacular. Well done, all!

**Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC







The Upper Sixth Theatre Studies group saw an inspiring production of George Buchner's play, *Woyzeck*, at the Old Vic Theatre on May 16th, in preparation for their A Level examination. Set in Berlin, West Germany before the Berlin wall came down, it imaginatively brought out the personal trauma behind the emotional problems and gradual breakdown of the eponymous hero. Subject to controlling military personnel, medical exploitation, class differences, discrimination and betrayal, *Woyzeck*'s descent into madness was powerfully revisited and brought up to date. The main part was played by John Boydega of Star Trek - a very compelling and believable performance.

**Mrs Anna Phillips**  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## Quondam Writing Prize

Congratulations to Larissa Isaacs (UIV) and Alice Ward (LVI) who have been selected as the winners of the Junior and Senior categories for this year's Quondam Writing Prize. The theme was

*Image* and we were delighted to receive 39 entries from across the school. Creative poems and essays explored the theme, touching upon social media, art history and even philosophy, giving the judges a difficult decision when selecting their overall winners.

Next year's theme is *Independence*. Please see the website for full details

including the closing date visit: [fhs-nw1.org.uk/support-us/quondam/writing-prize](https://fhs-nw1.org.uk/support-us/quondam/writing-prize).

We look forward to reading your entries!

**Alistair Brown**  
ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER

Extract from

### ***The Other Girl Looking in the Mirror*** by Larissa Isaacs (UIV)

When I look in the mirror you would expect to see me,  
And all the great things a person could be,  
A smile like no other,  
With shining eyes that match your mother.

*She takes a pair of sharp scissors to her black curly hair*

When I look in the mirror you would expect to see me,  
And all the great things a person could be,  
Happy, funny and pretty too,  
With expensive clothes and a pretty hairdo,

*And wipes her blood red lipstick off without any care.*

Extract from

### ***This Distorted Image*** by Alice Ward (LVI)

On no account, look with a photographer's eye,  
Seeing only the best light,  
The best angle, or tone.  
You cannot fit a soul in a frame.

Nor should you look with an embroiderer's thread,  
Fixing the mistake with the sharp  
Stab of a needle.  
This only unravels what you have already done.

All you will become  
Is impossible to view  
If you use the hands, minds and hearts of others.



## German Network Event

On Saturday 25th March we had the pleasure of hosting our first ever German Network Event at FHS, organised by our own school network for German teaching and learning. The purpose of it was for our girls and guests to have fun using the language and learning more about the culture.

About forty students from several schools across London were involved and spent a day immersed in the language, meeting other Germanists and taking part in an animation and a drama workshop in the target language. This event was a major success.

**Ms Rose Iksilara**

HEAD OF GERMAN DEPARTMENT



## UK Junior Mathematics Challenge

Here are the results for the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge 2017 which took place in April.

A Gold Certificate is awarded to Jessica Hales, who receives the Certificate for Best in Year and the Certificate for Best in School. Jessica has also qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad which she is sitting in June.

Well done girls!

**Ms Neermala Murugan**  
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

### THIRDS

#### BRONZE CERTIFICATES

Evelyn Snizek, Sofia Helmy, Sophie Andreae, Charlotte Brown, Isabella Portes Kerr, Alice Mitcheson, Sophia Reznik, Charlotte Rhodes, Margherita Zatta, Saskia Teeger, Olivia Lomnitzer, Lucia Jacobson, Nevis Dickson, Chiara Manji, Ella Newell, Laila Naini

#### SILVER CERTIFICATES

Eloise Lamble, Beatrice Barbe

#### BEST IN YEAR

Beatrice Barbe

### LOWER FOURTH

#### BRONZE CERTIFICATES

Amina Lahham, Julie Perrier, Maria Knight, Ana Philippa-Gradillas, Siena

Hunt, Sitara Vaswani, Amber Mided, Isabella Boparan, Parissa Meader-Zand, Chiamaka George-Amadi, Jia Lim, Juliette Hassenforder, Katie Wheeler, Alysha Murjani, Francesca Wilkins, Scarlett Brandman, Emilia Crawley, Janna Yoong, Jasmina Charap, Olivia Brown, Romane Gouilliard, Ruth Kirby

#### SILVER CERTIFICATES

Violet Reed, Lauren Ajayi, Catrin Jones, Camille Brown, Mya Shah, Maria Landon, Amelia Mitford, Stella Petti, Katerina Quacquarelli, Lorna Breadin

#### GOLD CERTIFICATE

Jessica Hales

#### BEST IN YEAR

Jessica Hales

#### BEST IN SCHOOL

Jessica Hales



# UCAS Day for Lower Sixth students

## EVENTS



On Monday 12th June we welcomed back the whole of the Lower Sixth girls after their examinations for our annual FHS UCAS Day. The girls enjoyed a series of informative talks by outside speakers from: Imperial College, London, Nottingham University and Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.

There was a strong focus on choosing university courses and the art of writing a brilliant personal statement. This helpful external lecture programme kick starts the university application process for the girls, who will be heading off this time next year into higher education

and the world beyond secondary school! Our UCAS Day came shortly after a day of talks and workshops which took place on Saturday 10th June led by 'Oxbridge Applications', which was open to anyone in the Lower Sixth who is considering applying to a highly selective university.

We wish all of our Lower Sixth girls luck with writing their personal statements and attending university open days over the next few months.

**Ms Amelia Slocombe**  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION



## Lower Fourth Educational Visits

The Lower Fourth have had a great year of Educational Visits. Averaging one trip every three weeks, the girls have visited the London Zoo, the Foundling Museum, The British Library, Le Cordon Bleu for a cookery class, Handel & Hendrix House, Shakespeare's Globe, the National Portrait Gallery, The Royal Institute and Faraday

Museum and St Paul's Cathedral, as well as taking day trips to the Thames Barrier and Fishbourne Palace. It has been a great opportunity to take in some of London's most interesting sites and the girls have really enjoyed the time out of school.

**Ms Jane Tucker**  
EDUCATIONAL VISITS CO-ORDINATOR





## Duke of Edinburgh Award

### GOLD AWARD

Good luck to all 14 girls from UV and LVI who will participate in both the practice and assessment expeditions over the summer holidays for their Gold award. Both of these expeditions are for 5 days and 4 nights, with the practice expedition in The Peak District and the assessment expedition taking place in North Wales. We wish them the best of luck.

### SILVER AWARD

The 14 girls involved in the Silver award this year completed their three-day assessment expedition during the May half term break. The girls enjoyed a fantastic weekend and had the opportunity to take in some fresh air and soak up the beautiful surroundings after completing their summer examinations. The expedition leaders from Mountainwise were very impressed with the skills and enthusiasm of all involved – well done girls! Girls should not forget to log in on the online system to your 'eDofE' account and complete the other sections in order to get your Silver DofE award signed off soon!

### BRONZE AWARD

The last of the expedition training sessions involving the Bronze participants will take place on Saturday 9th September. They will then be off on their expeditions to put their skills to the test. A reminder that these will take place on 23rd–24th September in Harlow for the practice expedition, and 7th–8th October in Chelmsford for the assessment expedition. Girls should not forget that meeting these dates is compulsory in order to complete your award! Good luck to all participants!

**Miss Natalia Lamas**  
DUKE OF EDINBURGH COORDINATOR





## Sports Report

Our fixtures have been going well, with plenty of wins to brag about. I will report back on Sports Day and the Inter-form Swimming Gala at the start of next year, as well as about our winners of the FHS Olympics competition! Congratulations to all girls who have earned their Sports Commendations this term – it is so hard to decide with so many of you doing so well.

Looking forward, the autumn trials and fixtures are available on the school website, so all girls should plan ahead to trial for a sports team come September.

The summer holidays should be a time to top up on outgrown PE kit or replenish stocks! Please go online to [www.schoolblazer.com](http://www.schoolblazer.com) for all of your PE kit orders.

Have a wonderful and active summer break, and I hope to see everyone (parents included) raring to go in the autumn term.

**Ms Jane Tucker**  
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Middlesex Hockey

We are very proud of Anika Patel who has played for the u14 Middlesex Hockey Team this year. The last two matches, Middlesex beat Berkshire 6 - 0 and Hampshire 4 - 2, rounding off a very successful County season.

**Ms Jane Tucker**  
HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## JULY

### SATURDAY 1 JULY

- » **TS Eliot event with Rowan Williams. Lower School Choir singing Evensong in St Cyprian's Church.**

### MONDAY 3 JULY

- 5:30pm** Lower Fourth Science Fair in the Hall (parents welcome)

### TUESDAY 4 JULY

- 6pm** Pre-concert drinks in the library
- 6:30pm** Lower School vocal performance concert

## AUGUST

### THURSDAY 10 AUGUST

- » **Cambridge IGCSE results will be available on the CIE website via students' own login and password (results will not be emailed)**

### THURSDAY 17 AUGUST

- » **A/AS Level results will be emailed to students**

### THURSDAY 24 AUGUST

- » **GCSE results will be emailed to students**

## SEPTEMBER

### MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

- » **Induction day for all Thirds, Lower Fifth, and Lower and Upper Sixth**

### TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

- 8:25am** Autumn Term begins

## OCTOBER

### THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

- » **Prize-giving at Cadogan Hall**

## Monday Lectures Autumn 2017

11/09/2017

### Careers

**GEORDIE GREIG**

*Editor of The Mail of Sunday*

18/09/2017

### Drugs and Alcohol Education

**BARRY EVANS**

*McLellan Practice*

25/09/2017

### Inspirational

**ANNA MCNUFF**

*Great Britain athlete turned global adventurer*

02/10/2017

### Motivational

**FLO HASTINGS**

*Former FHS pupil*

09/10/2017

### Venice – Marine City

**CHARLIE HALL**

*Arts educator, lecturer and guide.  
Director of the John Hall Venice Course*

30/10/2017

### Careers and Performance Poetry

**HARRY BAKER**

*World Slam Poetry Champion*

06/11/2017

### Careers

**CLAIRE VALOTI**

*Former FHS pupil and General Manager of Snapchat Inc. in the UK*

13/11/2017

### Charity in the Community

**SPEAKER TBC**

*A representative from the charity 'Canine Partners'*

20/11/2017

### Careers/Inspiration

**RACHEL FINDLER**

*McLellan Practice*

27/11/2017

### Peer Presentations by Sixth Form Students

**EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION**

11/12/2017

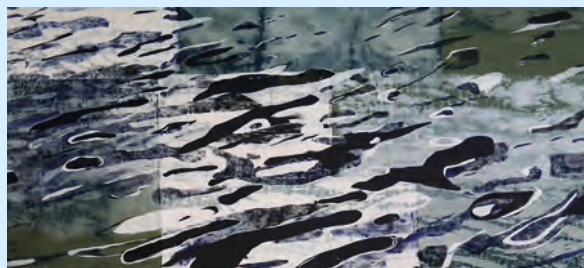
### Careers

**JODIE LEIGH**

*Former FHS pupil, professional dancer and director of Blink Models*

## Artistic Achievement

Many congratulations to Tabi Hull in the Upper Sixth who has been selected from over 2,400 submissions for the Royal Academy A Level Exhibition online. Having work chosen to appear in the A-level Summer Exhibition is a great achievement and we are extremely proud of Tabi!



### 'Capturing Transitory Mediums'

*A wall hanging inspired by the performance art of Ragnar Kjartansson and ideas of repetition along with movement that further sparked an interest in transitory mediums, most significantly water. I was seeking to capture the movement of water while alluding to the next, with the final wall-hanging combination a series of panels that have been stitched together.*

➡ Visit the exhibition at [www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/a-level-exhibition-online-2017](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/a-level-exhibition-online-2017)



**FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL  
REGENT'S PARK**

Ivor Place, London NW1 6XR

020 7723 0176 | [admin@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:admin@fhs-nw1.org.uk) | [www.fhs-nw1.org.uk](http://www.fhs-nw1.org.uk)

