



# CORNERS

NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2019



*Oliver!*, Photography Competition, Inter-house Hockey, Christmas Fair, Poetry Competition, Autumn Concert, Holly Bourne's Visit, Ski and Snowboarding Championships, GCSE Art, Jujiro: Architecture...and much more





## From the Headmaster

I attended an excellent lecture at the Nuffield Institute in London's Bedford Square last month. The title of the event was 'Social Mobility and Education in Britain' and it was a book launch for a new publication of the same name by two academics from the University of Oxford.

It seems that absolute social mobility in Great Britain has stagnated over the last thirty years and that a child who is born into the highest socioeconomic class is now twenty times more likely to find a top-class job in adulthood than someone who is born into the lower socioeconomic group. This may not come as much of a surprise, but it also seems that increasing numbers of young people these days must face a future of downward social mobility than might have been the case in the past.

Parents are not keen on the prospect of their children falling down social rankings and there is an increasing national trend, for those who can afford it, to support their child educationally through private tutoring. In some London boroughs as many as twenty percent of parents also opt for independent schooling in order to maximise chances for their children. Francis Holland School has been an independent school for 141 years and it is serving its pupils excellently.

Naturally, schools of all types aim to offer an education to children which gives them every option to decide their own future. Adults who can boast an impressive list of academic qualifications are more likely to be able to make their own career decisions, rather than having choices made for them. Beyond the academics, it is noteworthy that interpersonal skills, leadership skills and teamwork skills are key measures of employability. This latter set of qualifications have been and are continuing to be highlighted to our pupils by this term's guest speakers as part of the annual 'Women of Influence' lecture series.

At the start of term, I shared a catchphrase with the girls: "Great Minds Meet Many Minds". If your daughter wants to be known as the proud possessor of a great mind then she must be prepared to meet with, to listen to and to consider the reflections of a great many other people. Some of our guests this term are controversial and some of them will challenge your daughter's worldview – I consider this to be an essential element of the education which we offer at Francis Holland School. We strive to provide here an environment where pupils learn to come to their own informed decisions. Whilst we always listen respectfully to what our guests have to say, this must not be a place where we accept all opinions unquestioningly, nor one where we rush to judgement. Francis Holland girls are being equipped to think independently.

I have been impressed by the girls' response to our guests so far and I will continue to enjoy the series throughout this term.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES FILLINGHAM

## WOMEN OF INFLUENCE SERIES 2019



**FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL**  
REGENT'S PARK

**Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin**  
Chaplain to the Queen  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018



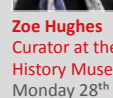
**Mishal Husain**  
BBC Radio Presenter  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019



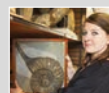
**Dr Alison Smith**  
Chief Curator of the National  
Portrait Gallery  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019



**Emma Dent Coad MP**  
MP for Kensington and  
Chelsea  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019



**Zoe Hughes**  
Curator at the Natural  
History Museum  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019



**Philippa O'Sullivan**  
Round the World  
Yachtswoman  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019



**Helen Pankhurst**  
Campaigner  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019



**Dr Heidi Hales**  
Clinical Psychologist  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019



**Ann Furedi**  
CEO British Pregnancy  
Advisory Service  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019



**The Rt Hon Claire Perry MP**  
Energy Minister  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019



**Tori Cadogan**  
Editor Tatler Schools Guide  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019



**Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE**  
Bishop of London  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019





## Goodbye Hannah

This Christmas we were sad to say farewell to our second Gap Year student from New Zealand's Wellington Girls' College, Hannah Creamer. Her duties were incredibly varied, from helping in the office to being a life guard in the pool to helping with clubs and the 11+ admissions process. She supported the Director of Drama back stage in all productions and she accompanied several residential trips during her time at Francis

Holland. She was greatly appreciated by staff and girls alike during the year she spent with us. Hannah continues her adventures in the United States where she will be working in a sports camp, teaching children of all ages a variety of sporting activities. We wish Hannah all the best for an exciting future ahead!

**Mrs Amelia Slocombe**  
DEPUTY HEAD



## Extended Project Qualifications

On Monday 26th November, girls in the Upper Sixth gave their EPQ Presentations.

The audience of parents and peers were treated to an exciting variety of topics from the impact of synthetic diamonds to the representation

of food in literature and how the Seven Body Chakras are related to Bharatanatyam dance.

Congratulations to all the students on their excellent presentations.

**Mrs Anna Phillips**  
EPQ CO-ORDINATOR



## Welcome Frances

This term we welcome our new Gap Year Intern, Frances Wright. She will be supporting the Drama and PE Departments, accompanying trips and helping with school admin, amongst other things. We are delighted to have her join the team and hope she will find her time here rewarding.

## New Baby Arrival

Congratulations to Miss Emily O'Neill on the birth of her son Monty. We wish them both all the best.





House spirit continued to flourish over the second half of the Autumn Term. There were a number of competitions in which students could pick up well-deserved points including our inaugural Photography Competition, our annual Poetry Competition, the competitive Inter-house Hockey, and fun weekly maths challenges. The next few articles will tell you about some of the particulars of these events, but most importantly as we entered the Christmas break the scores looked something like this:



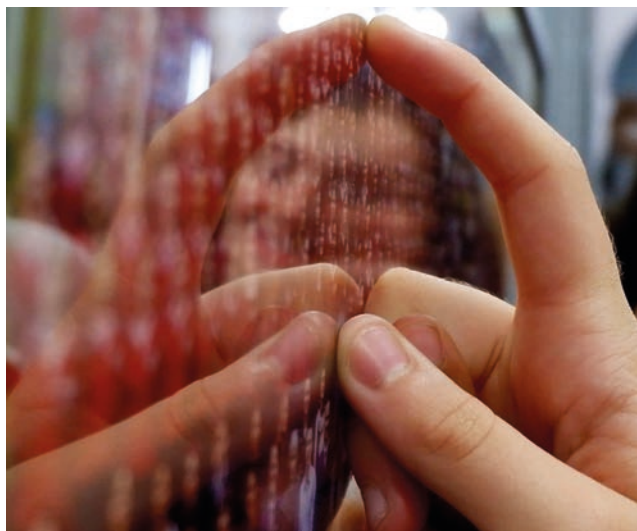
242pts



272pts



289pts



People Category Winner: **Olivia Gearson (Jupiter)**



Environment Category Winner: **India Pymble (Saturn)**

## Photography Competition

This year the Art Department launched the first FHS Inter-house Photography Competition entitled 'Extract the Magic'.

Students were asked to select one of three categories for their submission: People, Environments or Objects. Our aspiring photographers were then free to take a snapshot of something special, perhaps something which is ordinarily overlooked, and challenged to consider innovative ways of transforming their subjects through photography. Many entries were highly commended by the judging panel, but there could only be three winners, and they are featured here. Congratulations girls!

**Miss Niamh Carew**  
HEAD OF ART



Objects Category Winner: **Huaiyu Wu (Saturn)**

# Poetry Competition

# HOUSE

The theme for this year's Poetry Competition was 'Change' – mirroring that of the National Poetry Day in October.

The girls were shown images and quotes which represented different kinds of change, including the transition of ice to steam, metamorphosis, aging and war-torn landscapes, before being set the task of writing a poem over the October half-term.

The English Department were impressed with the high standard of thoughtful poetry produced by all the participants, and the five finalists had the opportunity to read their work in assembly. They were: Kiera Nash (Saturn) from the Thirds who wrote about loss; Venice Gainfort-Head (Saturn) from Lower Fourth with a poem about kindness; Isabel Dagtoglou (Mars) from Upper Fourth who tackled the topic of adverts; Ruby Reed (Jupiter) from the Lower Fifth whose poem 'The Nightingale' tracked the haunting path of the bird as it sang; and Cora Boller-Smith (Saturn) from Upper Fourth who was the overall winner. Here is an extract from her poem 'Change':

In her prime, *she* would take her owner for a walk around Regent's Park.

Only one came back panting, and it was never Laika!

Her bound was as fast as the rabbits she chased.

Her flight as quick as the pigeons she terrorised.

But life now moved fast and Laika didn't.

She stayed longer at the top of the stairs,

Even when the postman rang.

Laika once barked at anyone wearing a high-vis jacket.

Now she could barely see them. [...]

But some things didn't change, like her love for food, chicken and cheese especially.

And change had made her devious,

Smart too...

She never leapt on the table

But methodically sniffed out anything under it.

She slept by the radiator but crept into bed mischievously,

In the early hours,

Where the white curl of hair was patted gently.

(Extract from *Change*, Cora Boller-Smith)



## Inter-house Hockey

In December we had another fantastic Inter-house Hockey competition! Congratulations to all who took part. The matches were very competitive, but played with great sportsmanship. House spirit was in evidence in each year group and congratulations must go to this year's overall winners - Jupiter!

**Miss Maria Merrigan**  
TEACHER OF PE

### YEAR GROUP WINNERS

III - Mars

LIV - Jupiter

UIV - Jupiter

LV - Saturn

UV - Jupiter

**6TH FORM** -  
*to be played at  
a later date*

### PLAYERS OF THE TOURNAMENT

*awarded for performance  
and sportsmanship*

III -  
Stella McKay  
& Charlotte Bird

LIV -  
Maya Pilkington  
& Saffron Jones

UIV -  
Simone Yanez  
& Charlotte Gishen

LV -  
Juliette Hassenforder  
& Parissa Meader Zand

UV -  
Charlotte Hassenforder  
& Marina Jacobsen



## Parents' Association Christmas Fair

On Saturday 17th November, Francis Holland School, Regent's Park kicked off the festive season with the annual Parents' Association Christmas Fair, drawing in hundreds of parents, pupils, alumni and members of the local community.

Highlights of this year's fair included a greeting by reindeer and the opportunity to hold an owl, followed by an array of stalls with magnificent offerings displayed across the hall. From FHS branded chocolate caviar and advent calendars, to crafts and vintage clothing. Activities such as a bungee run



and a photo booth entertained all, and built up the appetite for the marvellous spread available in the dining room (which was lit with fairy lights and beautifully decorated by our team). Reindeer cakes and mince pies were on sale too.

All proceeds from the fair went to support our chosen charities:

Swiss Cottage School, Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka as well as our own charitable cause, the FHS Summer Camp. We would like to thank all the many individuals and companies who so generously supported our charitable giving.

**Parents' Association**

## Lower Fourth German Christmas Presentation

On Wednesday 12th December all the Lower Fourth students had an opportunity to take part in an interactive Christmas presentation by Herr Diesel. They were made aware of how Christmas is celebrated in other European cities and other cultural facts, such as the history behind some decoration pieces on display. The presentation focused

mainly on German traditions and the pupils were very impressed with the figurines. It was very interesting and very informative. All the students were very excited and received nice treats at the end of the presentation.

**Mrs Natalia Estima**  
HEAD OF MFL





# Jujiro: Architecture, Building, Construction and Housing

## EVENTS



FHS hosted its second Jujiro Careers panel on Tuesday 11th December, which focused on the world of architecture and housing. The event was moderated by Aaron Taylor, an architect and registered RIBA Client Adviser, who was joined by guest architects George Woodrow, Eirini

Garoufalia and Belén Francos-Taylor, all of whom were able to provide great insights into this industry from their range of experiences.

After hearing from the panel, girls and parents had the opportunity to ask questions from the floor including,

“When should I start thinking about pursuing a career in architecture?”; the girls were encouraged to start engaging with buildings through hobbies such as photography, and to reflect on the purpose or concept behind them. The importance of gaining experience was also highlighted and our guests offered opportunities for the students to undertake work experience with their firms.

We would like to thank all our guests, including our moderator, for visiting us here at Francis Holland – they certainly left us inspired!

**Mr Jason Bossé**  
DIRECTOR OF CAREERS



## #KindnessisContagious

On Friday 18th January members of the Lower Fifth had the opportunity to hear from renowned YA author Holly Bourne, whose new book *Are We All Lemmings and Snowflakes?* hit the shelves last August. It follows the story of Olive – a girl who is convinced she is bad – and tackles the theme of mental health.

Holly spoke about the psychology she had researched when writing the book and reminded the girls that when they

face struggles they are not alone, that it is important to find friends who make you feel it's fine to be you, and that it is important to be kind to yourself because kindness is contagious. She also spoke about the positive impact that reading for pleasure can have on your mental health, as well as exercise, meditation and sleep.

Holly then answered questions from the girls including a number about the

creative writing process, before signing copies of her latest novel. Many thanks to Holly for her visit and for speaking to us on such an important subject.

**Miss Sarah Lawrence**  
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



# Oliver!



On the evenings of 28th, 29th and 30th November, an ensemble cast of twenty-six students from the upper school put on a spectacular performance of Lionel Bart's well-loved musical *Oliver!*.

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, the story took the audience on a journey through the orphanages and criminal underbelly of Victorian London to its respectable streets and the home of Mr Brownlow. Clara Read was our Oliver, with Charlotte Rhodes as her understudy, and she played the role with energy and

sensitivity. Other principals included Scarlett Field Green as The Artful Dodger, Emma Monnickendam as Nancy, Maya von Malaise as Fagin and Charlotte McBurney as the terrifying Bill Sykes. But all the cast should be commended on what was an outstanding performance with plenty of toe-tapping tunes, heart-wrenching ballads and honed choreography. Bravo!

**Mrs Helen Simmons**  
HEAD OF DRAMA





# DRAMA





## Autumn Concert

Pupils from all year groups gathered in St Cyprian's Church for the Autumn Concert, fittingly on St Cecilia's Day, St Cecilia being the patron saint of music. All the main ensembles performed and the string playing under the direction of the new music teacher, Miss Zarina, was particularly inspired. Thanks go to all the pupils for their continued hard work.

**Mr Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## Wind, Brass and Percussion Concert

The Woodwind, Brass and Percussion concert was a very successful event on Tuesday 4th December, with pieces ranging from the Baroque and Classical eras to The Beatles and Coldplay.

Several girls made their first appearance in a concert at FHS: congratulations to Grace Taylor on flute, Edie Claydon on drums, Vivienne Acton on bassoon, Dominique Perusset on oboe, Hana Sall on Clarinet, and Valentine Traissac on saxophone.

**Mr Adrian Smith**  
TEACHER OF MUSIC



## Carol Service

St Marylebone Parish Church was once again filled with a congregation of staff, girls and parents who gathered for our annual carol service. Featuring an uplifting mix of hymns and carols from all year groups, together with some beautifully orated readings, the service marked the end of term after a busy and fruitful few weeks. A wonderful sense of community was felt by all and it allowed the girls to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**Mr Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

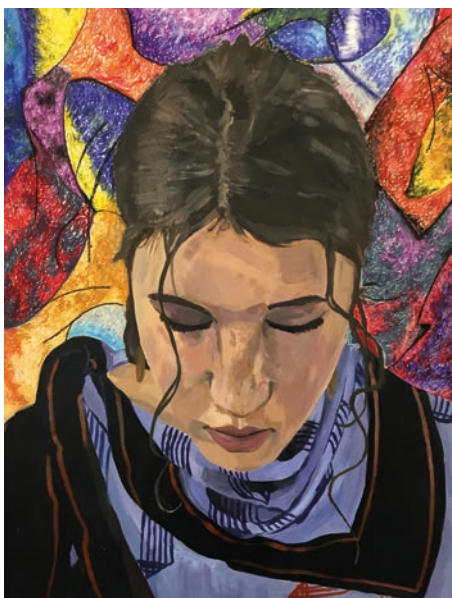


# Heather's Highlights

# ART



Amelia Hills



Isabel Brown



Eleni Papanayotou



Isabella Fisher Turner



Annelise Maynard



Paloma Baygual Nespatti



Charlotte Zeyssolff



Isabella Fisher Turner

How could I choose anything other than the Upper Fifth mock for Heather's Highlights at this time of the year! We often have themes running through our students work as they influence each other, and this year was no exception, as portraits continued to be a firm favourite. With such a challenging subject to conquer, we are so proud of the work they produced.

It was difficult to pick which pieces to share with you, so here is a small selection.

**Mrs Heather Maund**  
ART TECHNICIAN



## Onatti Theatre Performances

On Wednesday 14th November, a Spanish play was held for students. The play, *El Viejo Saloon*, took us back in time and made us head out west in America in 1882 – the Wild West. It was a western story about a saloon that was suddenly being robbed. The Old Saloon needed to make some money and fast, so the owner's daughter organised a talent show. The dusty old town sure had some weird folk and definitely no talent! This made us all laugh. It was an interesting and entertaining play.

On Wednesday 21st November, Upper Fourth, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth students of French watched *La Salle des Énigmes*. This was a fully-immersive real-life game in which small groups of players were locked inside a room and given a series of riddles, puzzles and clues which they had to solve to eventually unlock the door and escape from the room. They only had one hour in which to complete all the puzzles. All escape rooms were different and were styled with a particular theme. The themes for this escape room were Tutankhamun's tomb and Howard Carter's Tent.

**Mrs Natalia Estima**  
HEAD OF MFL



## Upper Fifth Lip Sync Event

The Upper Fifth presented their annual charity event in aid of the Rainbow Centre in Sri Lanka.

Each form danced to a song from a West End musical. Each of the four Third Forms bravely took to the stage, but the standard was clearly raised by all the Lower Fifth *Grease* dances; lots of time had clearly gone into costumes and choreography, and the results were stunning. However, the Upper Fifth stole

the show with two performances from *Hairspray*, closely followed by a fabulous Upper Sixth interpretation of 'Money Money' from *Mamma Mia!* The less said about the staff's 'We will Rock You', the better. A wonderful time was had by all, and a superb £820 was raised in the process. Congratulations to all those who took part!

**Mr Harry Clayton**  
HEAD OF LOWER AND UPPER FIFTH





# Ski and Snowboarding Championships

The inaugural FHS ski team headed to Les Deux Alps at the end of the Christmas term for an exciting and challenging week of ski training and racing. We joined 350 participants from schools all over the UK, competing in the annual Independent Schools Ski and Snowboarding Championships. We had

lots of snow, some sun, lots of laughter, three days of skiing on wonderfully empty slopes and two days of racing – a great start to the ski season and to Christmas!

**Miss Clare MacDonnell**  
TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

## TRIPS



## RS Conference

On Friday 30th November the Sixth Form RS group attended the annual RS conference at Bloomsbury Baptist Church entitled 'Faith'. The key speaker was Dr Peter Vardy, who gave several very detailed lectures on key topics such as the ontological argument, religious language, the omniscience of God, and conscience and sexual ethics. This was

useful revision for the current mock exams and challenged the girls to think synoptically, drawing links across topics. The day was very intense but the girls gained valuable information on essay planning and application of knowledge. We had some very avid note takers, but the conference notes also provided some excellent extension materials.

**Mrs Sharon Bexon**  
TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



## Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition

On Tuesday 13th November Francis Holland took part in the Chilterns and Middlesex Regional Round of this Royal Society of Chemistry Competition for the first time. It was held at St. Benedict's School in Ealing and fifteen teams of four pupils from across the region competed for the honour of representing the section at the National Finals. Ella Bloch, Saskia Teeger, Zainab Ahmed and Rose McGowan formed our team and they performed admirably on



nine rounds of questions testing their general knowledge of Chemistry as well as some very specific areas of the GCSE curriculum and beyond. Although we did not finish first, we finished close to the eventual winners, Queen Elizabeth's

Boys' School in Barnet, and will be looking to close the gap next year!

**Mr Paul Tiley**  
HEAD OF CHEMISTRY



## UK Senior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 6th November, girls from the Sixth Form had the opportunity to sit this year's Senior Maths Challenge.

### Lower Sixth

#### BRONZE CERTIFICATE

Minnie Moss  
Ines Cocco  
Manrica Dodgson  
Clementine Mitford  
Letizia Filippi  
Aleesa Edmunds

#### BEST IN YEAR

Aleesa Edmunds

### Upper Sixth

#### BRONZE CERTIFICATE

Hannah Kaufmann Wolfe  
Laura Phasoulitis

#### SILVER CERTIFICATE

Ana-Maria Chiriac  
Francesca Gnodde  
Emily Lamont

#### GOLD CERTIFICATE

Peisu Wang

#### BEST IN YEAR

Peisu Wang

#### BEST IN SCHOOL

Peisu Wang

Peisu's result qualified her for the Kangaroo Senior Maths Challenge, which is an excellent achievement.

Very well done girls!

**Miss Neermala Murugan**  
TEACHER OF MATHS



## Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to Deia Leykind, Juri Katsuru, Lola Mayo, Iona, Sarah Bithell, and Lauren Kanter who received the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award in December.

**Miss Hermione Williams**  
DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD CO-ORDINATOR





## Swimming

On Monday the 19th November, a group of twenty swimmers from the FHS Swim Team experienced swimming at the Olympic Pool at the London Aquatics Centre. It was a great opportunity for the girls to put their endurance and stamina to the test and they all had an enjoyable time!

**Mrs Kirsty Lombard**  
TEACHER OF PE

## New Sport Website!

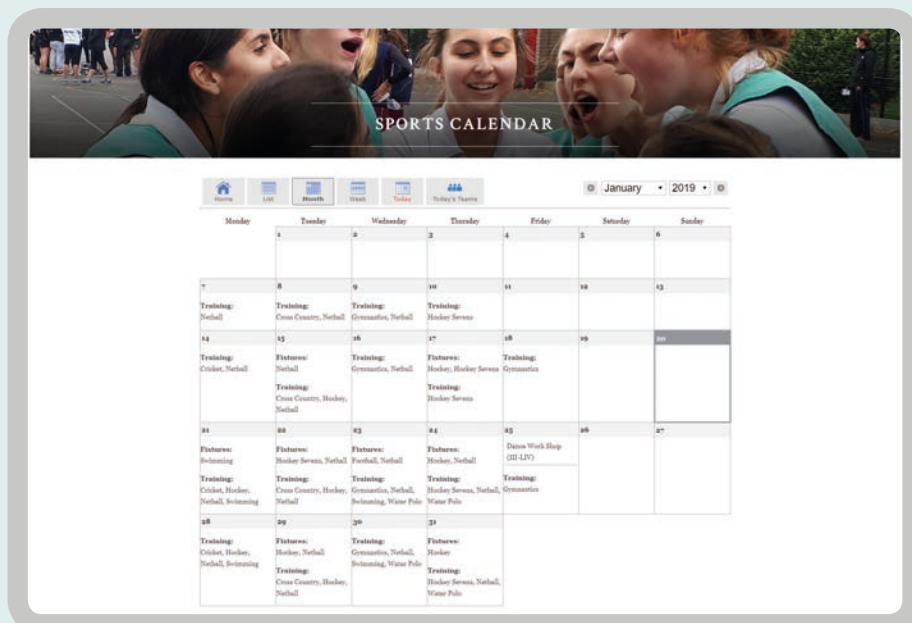
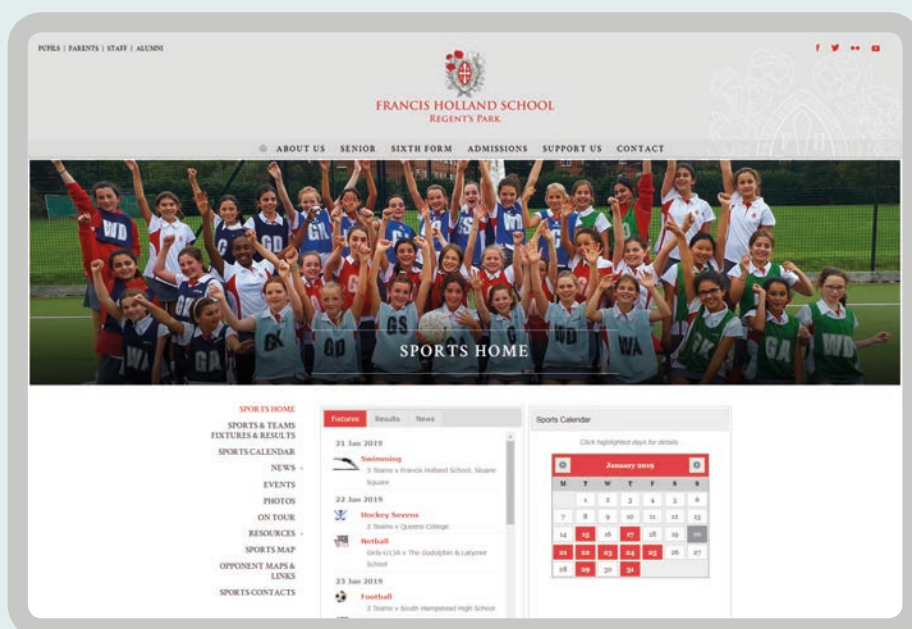
Over the last few months the Francis Holland PE Department have been developing an exciting new website. The aim of the website is to improve communication and make it easier for parents and pupils to see results, fixture information, pictures and match reports.

There are many options available on the website. For example, you can navigate to our sports calendar via the main menu, then select the day you are interested in and see all the activities on that day.

You will be able to download all team fixtures and sync these to your personal calendar on your PC or mobile device. If you need to quickly find the location of an away venue, you can either choose the map link directly from a fixture, (available via the 'Details' button) or you can select 'Opponent Maps & Links' from the main menu. The website will also allow the PE department to edit times after fixtures, should there be any delays. Full instructions on how to get the most out of the website can be found online.

Sports Website:  
[www.fhssport.org.uk](http://www.fhssport.org.uk)

**Miss Laura Burroughs**  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT





# DIARY

## Gym and Dance Display

Friday 1st March, 5:00pm  
in the Hall

Pre-performance  
drinks in  
the library  
at 4:30pm



## Upcoming Jujiro Panels

- Tuesday 5th February, 5:15pm:  
**Medicine, Medical research,  
Health and Social Services**
- Thursday 28th March, 5:15pm:  
**Business, Entrepreneurship  
and Management**
- Wednesday 1st May, 5:00pm:  
**Cultural and Creative Industries**



## PHSE Parents' Event



We warmly invite parents from all years to come to the school Hall on Wednesday 13th February to hear an excellent talk from Kate Daniels on Relationships and Sex Education for teenagers. Did you know that RSE lessons are now a statutory requirement in all secondary schools in England? Would you like more advice on the best way to approach this subject with your daughter? Would you like to know how the

topic is being taught? Would you like to know what the most pressing issues and concerns are with modern teenagers? If you are interested in hearing more about this important topic please do come along for 6:30pm drinks in the library, followed by the talk at 6:45pm. Please register your interest by emailing Miss Merrigan at - [maria.merrigan@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:maria.merrigan@fhs-nw1.org.uk)

## Musical Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th February  
**Joint Evensong with FHS  
Sloane Square at St Paul's  
Cathedral (5:00pm)**

Thursday 14th February  
**Joint Pupil, Parent, Alumnae  
and Staff Choral Concert at  
St Cyprian's Church (7:00pm)**



**£50**  
prize  
per category

## QUONDAM WRITING PRIZE 2019

All pupils are invited to enter. Entries may be submitted as an essay or poem on the following theme:

**AI: Artificial Intelligence**

Word count: maximum of 1,000 words

Junior category: III, LIV and UIV forms

Senior category: LV, UV, LVI and UVI forms

Closing date: 21st March 2019

### TO ENTER

Full details and downloadable entry form: [fhs-nw1.org.uk/support-us/quondam/writing-prize](https://fhs-nw1.org.uk/support-us/quondam/writing-prize)  
Email entries: [alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk)



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REGENT'S PARK**

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