

Francis Holland School, Regent's Park: A Schooling for Life, in London and Beyond

By Independent School Parent | Mon 11th Sep 2023



Francis Holland School, Regent's Park - Sports Day in Finsbury Park

Francis Holland School, Regent's Park, is delighted to have been named finalist for London Independent School of the Year 2023, alongside four other top London independent schools

It's great to be recognised for our holistic educational offering and the way students and staff make the most of our unique setting, steeped in nearly 145 years of history and tradition, in the heart of central London. This location offers [Francis Holland School, Regent's Park](#) many incredible opportunities to enhance and enrich our educational offering, allowing us to give pupils the best possible preparation for a rapidly changing world.

Our close proximity to Regent's Park, often described as the school's 'back garden', means students enjoy the beautiful park every day during our lunchtime 'walk in the park'. At our annual Sponsored Walk, pupils walk laps around the park in fancy dress to raise money for charity – over £16,000 last October! Students in all year groups enjoy regular visits around London, including to the halls of Westminster Abbey, the Wallace Collection, and the Bank of England. Moreover, our relationship with St Marylebone Parish Church enables us to host our annual Prize-Giving and concerts there, including a spectacular recent joint [choral concert](#) with the boys from Harrow School.

Regent's Park is where many sporting activities take place, including the recent netball and badminton masterclasses with Camilla Buchanan, netball super league title winner, and Gail Emms, Olympic silver-medallist badminton player. Pupils also enjoy the use of Finsbury Park Athletics Track for Sports Day and Paddington Recreation Ground for elite football coaching with Chelsea F.C. coaches.

Our central location means partner schools can enjoy many of our joint academic enrichment initiatives, which are a fundamental element of the "schooling for life" we offer. For example, we've welcomed an amazing line up of speakers including Baroness Lady Hale, Gina Martin, Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon, Dr Hannah Dawson and Amanda Pritchard, CEO of NHS England, to our Hale Lecture Series, launched in September 2022. In collaboration with our partners, pupils lead conversations and Q&A with our guest speakers; a far more personal, warm and actively engaging approach than the traditional format of an extended lecture.

Our annual Classics Symposium, attended by students from all over London and the South East, includes inspiring talks delivered by Cambridge University Professors Robin Osborne and Carrie Vout— about life, art and culture in the ancient world.

Being so close to some of the most selective [universities](#) in the world allows our annual Higher Education Evening to boast impressive tutors from LSE and Imperial College. Most recently, we welcomed three Data Scientists from JP Morgan who delivered a [workshop on AI](#), leading to a thought-provoking ethical discussion. Pupils also partake in many national competitions hosted in London; for example five year eight pupils recently ventured to Farringdon for the finals of PA Consulting's Raspberry Pi [STEM](#) competition and won an innovation award for their invention: a 'Room Environment Monitoring Infobot'!

We are also committed to celebrating the diversity and inclusivity of our school and local communities. For example, our Eid celebrations in Spring Term 2023 included Muslim and Arab students coming together to share their cultural heritage with the rest of the school. We have regular assembly food exchanges where students learn more about each other's cultures and traditions and our EDIB Ambassador promotes a culture of inclusivity and belonging by offering a voice to all students and raising awareness of important issues. We recently hosted an anti-racism guidance event for prep schools, in collaboration with ACEN, Highgate School and Wimbledon High Junior School.

Thank you so much to Independent School Parent for recognising us, and to every member of our busy, happy and vibrant school community who has contributed to us being named finalist for this prestigious award. We look forward to the winners being announced on 10th October.

For more information, please visit fhs-nw1.org.uk or facebook.com/FHSRegentsPark or Twitter and Instagram @FHSRegentsPark

To register for an upcoming 11+ or 16+ open event, please visit fhs-nw1.org.uk/admissions/open-events