



CORNERS

NEWSLETTER MAR/APR 2019



Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, Inter-House Drama Competition, Women of Influence Series, Gym and Dance Display, Education Exchange Trip to New York, Mathematics and Careers Trip to Singapore, Ski Trip, Upper Fourth Trip to Ypres, String Concert ...and much more



From the Headmaster

Francis Holland School is academic and kind. This has been a well-known maxim since Mrs Durham became the Headmistress fifteen years ago and it is a description which I have been pleased to continue to use. We sometimes walk a tightrope in our desire to push hard for academic success and yet still value each girl as an individual and allow her to thrive and grow in a caring environment. Whilst this may not be an easy path to tread, it is the right one. Indeed, the pupils at Francis Holland achieve measurable outcomes well in excess of statistical predictions and I would put their success down to the culture of the school. This is a place where the girls support each other and where they celebrate the achievements of their classmates. My feeling is that the pupils here are in competition *with* each other rather than against each other.

Earlier this term, and with this backdrop of an established description of the school, I asked the staff to consider the values of the school. I have likened the purpose of values to a nautical view of the stars. As a confirmed landlubber, I hope that parents who are familiar with the sea will forgive any inaccuracies, but it seems to my understanding that sailors make use of the stars to plot their route. These lodestars are never-changing so you can set your course by the light which they shine

upon your direction of travel. With this metaphor in mind, the staff and I have drawn together four 'lodestar nouns' to illuminate the journey of the good ship FHS.

These are the values by which we will set our course in the 21st Century; Knowledge, Compassion, Spirit and Perseverance. When new initiatives are planned and when existing provisions come up for evaluation, it is against these four values which they should be judged. I have asked members of the Senior Leadership Team to use four assemblies at the start of the Summer Term to explain their understanding of our lodestar nouns, each of which is rich and deep in meaning and interpretation. In this way, I hope to develop a shared vision for the school. I have also made a single sheet flyer which sets our four new nouns in the context of the school's motto and aim, which you will find on the right.

I look forward to being able to speak about these values in greater depth when I see you in person. The school is in good heart.

Best wishes,

CHARLES FILLINGHAM



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL
REGENT'S PARK

OUR MOTTO

"That our daughters may be as the polished corners of the Temple"

Psalm 144

OUR AIM

Francis Holland School, Regent's Park, aims to provide an excellent, balanced education within a supportive, friendly and happy community.

OUR VALUES

- KNOWLEDGE
- COMPASSION
- SPIRIT
- PERSEVERANCE

OUR KEY STRATEGIC VISION

To maintain and enhance our position as a leading academic day school. At Francis Holland School learning, teaching and pastoral care are of the highest quality.

WHAT DOES OUR VISION MEAN FOR FRANCIS HOLLAND?

- We are a **community** committed to working together, consistently evaluating and re-evaluating progress, celebrating success, developing leadership and setting new targets for improvement.
- We have **exceptional pastoral care**, ensuring pupils learn in a safe and inclusive environment. Each pupil is treated as an individual, their strengths are nurtured and they are equipped to thrive in the world of today and tomorrow.
- We are **outward-looking**; we engage in activities whole-heartedly with a sense of enjoyment and passion; we work to support those who are less fortunate than ourselves both locally and further afield.
- Our **excellent academic provision** encourages self-knowledge, resilience and determination, equipping the school community with a lifelong love of learning.
- Our **co-curricular programme** offers both breadth and quality of opportunity, to develop individual strengths and talents.
- We make informed and relevant use of **technology for learning**, encouraging thoughtful decisions and a healthy relationship with the online world.
- We have **ambitious plans** for the buildings; developing high quality new facilities, exemplary learning spaces and a programme of investment in the existing accommodation.

Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral



On Monday 4th February, we rounded off our 140th birthday celebrations with Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. Not even the dreary weather could dampen our spirits on such a momentous occasion, as students, parents, alumni, staff, governors and friends of Francis Holland School came together for this special service. A new setting to music of Psalm 144 – which inspired the school motto – had been commissioned for the occasion and was sung beautifully by the joint choir from Regent's Park and Sloane Square, who were accompanied by our own Mr Patterson on the organ.

Evensong was followed by a reception at Stationers' Hall, during which our Headmaster gave a spirited speech to guests, highlighting the Annual Fund initiative that will help support the School for the next 140 years and beyond. The Annual Fund provides for items on our teachers' 'wish list', ranging from special science equipment to multi-sided maths dice; linoleum block cutters for art to costumes for the Mythical Monsters Greek play. So whatever your daughter is interested in, there is an additional extra you can contribute to which will benefit her and her friends directly.

You can either pay for part of an item or donate the full cost – in which case it will be bought and put into the classroom within weeks of your gift. Any donation will make a difference and your generosity is much appreciated. Please do contact our Development Office if you have any questions about the Annual Fund at development@fhst.org.uk.

Mrs Holly Mumford
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

141st School Birthday Assembly

Ten days after our trip to St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 14th February, we celebrated the school's 141st birthday. The morning began with an assembly in St Cyprian's Church, where Mr Fillingham addressed both staff and students before the Head Girl, Mariam Mohammed, took to the pulpit to deliver her speech 'In Praise of Reverend Canon Francis Holland'.

As is tradition, the birthday cake was then cut by the Head Girl, and the youngest and oldest girls; afterwards we all headed back to the classroom to enjoy a slice. Celebrations continued throughout the day with the Inter-House Drama Competition and a concert in the evening.

Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



Inter-House Drama Competition

The School Birthday just isn't complete without the annual Drama Competition, but this year, for the first time, it was an inter-house event. Guest judges Tessa Peake-Jones and Rafaela Elliston, who starred in FHS's 2009 production of *The Merchant of Venice* among others, joined our Head of Drama to oversee proceedings. The girls put on a wonderful show with plays ranging from the mystery of *An Inspector Calls* to the magic of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Mrs Helen Simmons
HEAD OF DRAMA



Results

Best play:
An Inspector Calls UIVM

Best ensemble:
Little Red LVS

Best actor:
Saskia Teeger

Best supporting actor:
Alice Mitcheson and
Cara Bossom

Best comedy performance:
Stella McKay and
Selin Mucen

Best lighting/sound:
Grimm Tales (IIS, J and M)

Best director:
Maddie Cheattle,
Black Mirror

Best costume/make up:
Blake Adler LVJ

Best props:
Hermione Mattimore
and Uma Iyer

Best programme:
Heathers LVM





House News

We've come up to the half-way mark in this year's House Competition and the points are tight at the top. The tension is palpable as we enter the final months of competition; anything could happen in this summer's myriad of sport events, making all the difference to those final scores. Could there be a late surge from Jupiter? Or will Mars pip Saturn to the post for first place?

For now, after Maths quizzes and the Inter-house Drama Competition the results stand as follows:



JUPITER

287
points



MARS

377
points



SATURN

399
points

World Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 29th January the Thirds and Lower Fourth had an exciting morning of African and Bollywood dancing. They learnt a variety of traditional movements and danced the morning away in style. It was great fun!

Miss Laura Burroughs
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Salsa and Flamenco Workshop

On Monday 4th February, the dancing continued as the Spanish Department invited the Canela Fina Company to do a workshop on traditional dances. Spanish students and members of the Upper Fourth had the opportunity to hear about the

origins of Salsa and Flamenco, before being given the chance to learn some of the steps from each dance. It was a very enthusiastic lunchtime and the girls seemed to enjoy the Latin moves.

Mrs Natalia Estima
HEAD OF MFL



Jujiro: Medical Career Panel

The first Jujiro career panel of 2019 was held on Tuesday 5th February, bringing

together a wide variety of professional expertise from across the worlds of medicine, research and healthcare. We were delighted to welcome alumnae Sophia Anderton, Head of Publishing and Digital Learning at the British Institute of Radiology, and Diana Goldin,

an occupational therapist and family and systemic psychotherapist. They were joined by parents Dr Quentin Lloyd-Harris, a biotechnology venture capitalist, and Dr Tanya Thirkell, Consultant Psychiatrist at Northwick Park Hospital.

The four panellists discussed their careers to date in front of an attentive audience of pupils and parents. With their diverse range of expertise, they were able to impart some invaluable advice, discussing education, key skills, career pathways and the future of medicine and research. Despite their varied careers, all agreed that strong communication skills and resilience were necessary to navigate the often tough worlds of medicine and the healthcare professions.

Mr Jason Bossé
DIRECTOR OF CAREERS

Women of Influence Series

Every year we welcome Women of Influence from a range of industries and professions to our morning assemblies. In their talks they inspire the girls to take risks, follow their passions and engage with the world around them.

Many of our speakers were kind enough to stay after their assembly to talk to

girls with a particular interest in their field, allowing them the opportunity to ask questions and explore the topics further.

We still have four speakers left in the series and are looking forward to hearing from **Ann Furedi**, CEO of British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Energy

Minister **Rt Hon Claire Perry, Tori Cadogan**, Editor at the Tatler Schools Guide, and the Bishop of London **Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally**. We are very grateful to them all.

Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

So far this year...

Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin led our end of term service in December and reminded us of the responsibility we all have to reflect God's love to the world around us.



Award-winning BBC broadcaster **Mishal Husain** provided advice to those who may be contemplating a path in journalism and touched upon the importance of channelling nerves and picking yourself up when things go wrong.



Dr Alison Smith talked about her life as Chief Curator at the National Portrait Gallery and mentioned some worthwhile exhibitions currently on display.



Zoe Hughes, Curator of Fossil Invertebrates at the Natural History Museum, spoke passionately about her work caring for the Cephalopod and Brachiopod collections and her fieldwork in the UK, Morocco and China.

Dr Sabrina Bajwah, Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation at King's College London, reminded us that our class or background shouldn't define our ambitions and encouraged us to find a role model to look up to.



Philippa O'Sullivan told us of her adventures on the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. She encouraged

our girls to challenge themselves, break the mould and be amazing.



Dr Helen Pankhurst, author and great-granddaughter of suffrage leader Emmeline Pankhurst, discussed a number of topical issues including gender pay, women in politics and the sexualisation and exploitation of women in the media.



Dr Heidi Hales discussed her role as a consultant adolescent forensic psychologist, touching on topical issues such as the gender pay gap and the various socioeconomic differences that influence well-being, education and health among young people.



Engineering and Mathematics Masterclasses

On Saturdays during the Spring Term, six of our Upper Fourth students have been attending masterclasses at local universities; three are attending Mathematics Masterclasses at the Royal Institution of Great Britain and three Engineering Masterclasses at King's College London.

The Royal Institution's Mathematics Masterclasses are hands-on and interactive extracurricular sessions led by top experts from academia and industry for talented young people all around the UK. On Saturday 2nd February, for example, the girls visited the statue of Michael Faraday and studied the mathematics behind the concrete piles which support Westminster tube station.

Meanwhile at the King's College London's Masterclasses, our girls have been exploring the theme of Biomedical



Engineering. They have had an introduction to brain imaging in surgery, visited a hospital, and even had the chance to make their own bionic hand after hearing how an engineer from Newcastle University had made hers.

We look forward to seeing what they'll get up to next!

Mrs Carol Thornhill
HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



UK Maths Challenge Results

The UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge took place in February. Many congratulations to all the girls on their results!

Upper Fourth

BRONZE

Ella Bloch, Saskia Teeger, Chiara Abдини, Maya Haruni, Zainab Ahmed, Anna Claire Breuss-Burgess, Sienna Girod, Susanna Filippi.

BEST IN YEAR

Susanna Filippi

Lower Fifth

BRONZE

Julie Perrier, Charlotte Marks, Katie Wheeler, Janna Yoong, Juliette Hassenforder, Scarlett Brandman, Lorna Breadin

SILVER

Mya Shah

GOLD

Jessica Hales

BEST IN YEAR

Jessica Hales

BEST IN SCHOOL

Jessica Hales

Upper Fifth

BRONZE

Rose McGowan

SILVER

Clara Stirling

BEST IN YEAR

Clara Stirling

Jessica Hales also qualified for the Hamilton Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad, which is an excellent achievement.

Miss Neermala Murugan
TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Shakespeare Workshops



On Tuesday 11th February the Lower Fourth were treated to a workshop and production of *Macbeth* by the Young Shakespeare Company. The production was big, bold and totally engaging. As well as the superb acting, the girls were enthralled by the costumes and the stage fighting. The girls enjoyed the carefully crafted staging and the singing which helped put the play into context.



The Company returned on Thursday 28th to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Thirds. We were transported to Athens by four energetic and inspiring actors. The production was highly comical and the girls particularly loved the interactive elements of the performance, which helped them to engage with the story in a fresh way.

Girls from both years agreed that their understanding of the plot, themes and characters was strengthened by both the workshops and the performances.

Mrs Helen Simmons
HEAD OF DRAMA

Climate Change Protest

Friday 15th February saw students from Francis Holland come together outside the school building to protest climate change. Organiser Jazzy Charap said:

"I originally wanted to organise the climate change protest because I was aware of the march taking place in Parliament Square that same day. When I found out that leaving lessons would not be permitted, I decided that if I wasn't allowed to go to the protest then I would bring it to me.

I feel that climate change is such an important issue. It is no longer something that will affect us after we die, but a current crisis. Indeed, it is such a pressing issue that it seems the little efforts the government is making



are not doing enough. Sustainable and respectful treatment of the planet is what I believe in, and something must be done to ensure this happens."

The protest began quietly, but as word spread amongst the student body, more and more people joined in. Passing traffic showed their

support of the gathering by honking their horns as they passed. Jazzy hopes that they will have provoked many to think further on the issue of climate change.

Mrs Jo Dawes
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

Gym and Dance Display



On Friday 1st March, Junior and Senior girls performed in the annual Gym and Dance Display. This year's theme was 'A Night at the Movies'.

There was a plethora of imaginative performances on display, including cheerleading to *High School Musical*, a group dance to the soundtrack of *Dream Girls*, and a *Happy Feet* themed gymnastics routine. The night concluded with a *Tomb Raider* themed gymnastic extravaganza. Our girls showed courage, talent and teamwork at this year's performance.

The many hours of practice paid off and we can all agree that our girls put on a wonderful show which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Mrs Brogan Percy
TEACHER OF PE



Piano Concert

On Thursday 7th February, students from the Thirds to the Upper Sixth gathered in the school hall to play in the annual Piano Concert. Featuring a range of repertoire from grade 1 pieces through to diploma level, there was a particular focus on the music of Chopin. This concert is now complemented by the Piano Concerto concert that occurs in late September.



String Concert

On Wednesday 27th February, girls from every year group came together to present the annual String Concert in the school hall. Expertly overseen by Miss Zarina, there was a wonderful array of solos and ensembles featuring a typically eclectic range of repertoire. The string playing at Francis Holland is definitely on the up!



Parent, Pupil and Alumnae Concert

On Thursday 14th February, parents, pupils and alumnae gathered to

perform a concert of the music of Vaughan Williams to celebrate the school's 141st birthday.

Leora and Olivia ranked equally alongside their professional colleagues in a stunning performance of *Riders to the Sea*, followed by the combined choir performing 'Linden Lea' and the

Five Mystical Songs with Sam Queen as the baritone soloist. Plans are already in place for a celebration of Vivaldi and Bach next year.

Mr Robert Patterson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Exchange Trip to New York



On Wednesday 13th February, seven Lower Fifth students, accompanied by Mr Tiley and Mrs Francisco, flew to New York for the annual Educational Exchange with The Chapin School in Manhattan.

Our girls had been in touch with their 9th Grade buddies for a number of months beforehand and so there was great excitement when they met for the first time.

Students spent two days attending lessons with their partners and gaining a real USA 'High School' experience. School finished early on the Friday as it was Presidents' Day, so the girls and their buddies took the opportunity to go ice-skating at the Wollman Rink in Central Park.

The remainder of the visit involved lots of sight-seeing and cultural activities in this iconic city. We visited The Whitney Museum and studied the Andy Warhol Exhibition *From A to B and back again*, went to MoMA, the Rockefeller Center, and the Empire State Building, walked across Brooklyn Bridge and visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

On the overnight flight back everyone was tired but happy; they had had an action-packed few days, met lots of new people and created some life-long memories.

Mr Paul Tiley
NEW YORK TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

Mathematics and Careers Trip to Singapore

Back in January, ten girls from FHS left the cold climate of England for a week in the glorious climes of Singapore. They went to visit St. Margaret's Secondary School and learnt about school life by attending classes with their buddies, including mathematics, chemistry and PE.

The girls also had a chance to visit many of the horticultural wonders of Singapore including the Botanical Gardens, Gardens by the Bay and the Merlion Park.

Mr Jason Bossé
DIRECTOR OF CAREERS





TRIPS

Ski Trip to Tonale

Over the February half term thirty-six students and five staff went skiing in Tonale, Italy. The sun shone for the whole week and the snow conditions were great. All the girls made great progress from the Beginners to the Advanced skiers. It was a fantastic, energetic week.

Mrs Rona Grant
SKI TRIP CO-ORDINATOR



Work Experience in Germany

Three Lower Sixth students went to Berlin over half term, where they joined students from Latymer Upper for a week's work experience and stayed with families from Canisius College. In March, their exchange partners will stay with them and work in London. The group bonded

over the week and our girls learnt a lot about living and working in Germany. This is an ongoing cultural exchange with huge benefits for all involved.

Mrs Emma Warner
TEACHER OF GERMAN

French Trip to the Wallace Collection

TRIPS



On Monday 4th and 11th February, two separate groups of Upper Fifth French students visited the Wallace Collection for a workshop aimed at GCSE students. Among the collection's treasures are an outstanding array of 18th century art pieces that our girls could explore and talk about, in French,

under the expert guidance of a French-speaking art specialist. This was a wonderful experience that both students and staff greatly enjoyed.

Ms Alessandra Spera
HEAD OF FRENCH

An Evening with Tim Marshall

On Tuesday 15th January, the Lower Sixth geographers went to a talk at Wimbledon High School given by Tim Marshall, a renowned British journalist and author of the acclaimed *Prisoners of Geography*. In his talk, he discussed his new book *Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls*, which considers the current global trend to build literal and metaphorical walls as nationalism and identity politics grow. The talk was incredibly insightful as it touched upon global current affairs, crucially highlighting how these prominent divides will affect our generation in the future and how the importance of perceiving divisions, both past and present, is essential to understanding much of what's going on in the world today, encompassing not only geography, politics, and science but an analysis of our future societies. This made for an incredibly perceptive and interesting talk. Thank you to Miss Voth for taking us.

Olivia Commander
LVI GEOGRAPHY STUDENT





History Trip to Ypres

On Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th March, seventy-five Upper Fourth students participated in a History and Politics trip to Ypres, Belgium. The girls were asked to reflect on the different patterns of remembrance as they visited British and German World War I cemeteries, the Passchendaele museum, and the Menin Gate for the Last Post.

Miss Laura Quick
TEACHER OF HISTORY



Thirde's trip to the Natural History Museum

On Monday 12th February, the Thirde's enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum. During their trip to the earthquake and volcano exhibition, students collected lots of information and experienced a 7.3 magnitude earthquake in an earthquake simulator.

Miss Katharina Voth
TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

Theatre Trips

TRIPS



Over the past few months a number of theatre trips have taken place.

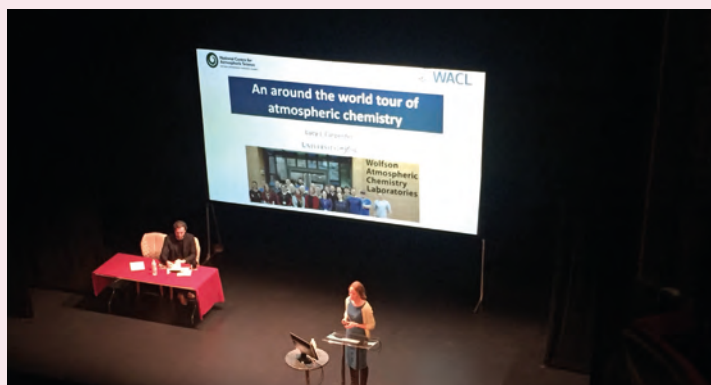
On Thursday 24th January, Upper Fifth students had a chance to relax after their mocks when they went to the West End to see *Matilda: the Musical*. This was soon followed by a trip led by the English Department on Wednesday 30th January to see *A View from the Bridge*.

The Spanish Department took their A level students to see a performance of *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Lorca on Tuesday 5th February. Seeing their

set text on stage helped the girls to understand the plot and characters in more depth.

A level students also went to see *The Animals and Children Took to the Streets* at the Lyric Theatre on Thursday 28th February, this time with the Drama Department. It was a new production by 1927 produced to look like a graphic novel burst into life with stunning film and animation.

Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



Science Live: A level Chemistry

On Friday 16th November, the Lower Sixth Chemists attended the A level Chemistry Live event in London. Doctor Suze Kundu gave an interesting lecture about the amazing properties and applications of nanoscale materials, such as in our phones, food, sport and health. We were then challenged by a fascinating talk about the balance

between energy and entropy from Professor Peter Atkins. Professor Lucy Carpenter presented a timeline of the major challenges of atmospheric chemistry and its relationship with climate, more specifically about the adverse effects of changes in ozone. The fourth lecture was delivered by Doctor Peter Wothers, who spoke about the discovery of the Periodic Table. Finally, Professor Andrea Sella spoke of his experiences and research with the element Mercury, which has been used in weather forecasting and steam engines. He also explained how

this element has contributed to global pollution, threatening fish, wildlife and ourselves. The day also involved two short sessions on examination success.

Overall, the day was thought-provoking and gave the Lower Sixth Chemists an insight into how Chemistry and Science can lead to interesting, varied and fulfilling careers.

Miss Binny Shah
TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY



Heather's Highlights

The Art Department this term were very proud of the Lower Fifth. They worked really hard leading up to their art exam, and it was lovely to see each girl's personality come out

through their projects. I'm sure you'll agree they've produced some great artwork.

Mrs Heather Maund
ART TECHNICIAN



Emilia Crawley



Parissa Meader-Zand



Charlotte Marks



Emilia Crawley



Anika Patel



Katerina Quacquarelli



Robin Laurenson-Clark



Sadie Atherton



Swimming

On Thursday 7th February, twenty girls from the FHS Swimming Team competed at the Westminster Games at the Queen Mother Sports Centre. All girls swam brilliantly and a total of sixteen medals were won. The U12 girls performed particularly well and congratulations to Dominique Perusset for attaining two gold medals for butterfly and the medley relay. Well done girls!

Mrs Kirsty Lombard
TEACHER OF PE

Netball

On Monday 11th February, our U12 netball team were victorious at the Westminster Games. Our girls faced fierce competition from secondary schools in the Westminster area. They played exceptionally well, ultimately winning the competition. Our girls now will go onto the County Finals in March. A very well done to all the pupils that took part.

Miss Laura Burroughs
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Hockey

Early in February the U12 Hockey squad took part in the inaugural FHS Sloane Square Hockey Tournament where both the A and B team played superbly. The A team managed to win every single match, ensuring they won their first ever tournament! This prepared them well for the Middlesex County Tournament which took place on 28th February. After narrowly losing their first match despite dominating much of the play, they went on to win the next two and missed out on qualifying for the final by goal difference only. This was very disappointing considering how well they had all played, but the experience has certainly motivated them to train even harder in readiness for next year.

The A team have only lost one game all season and the whole U12 squad needs to be congratulated on an outstanding first season of hockey at FHS!

Miss Maria Merrigan
TEACHER OF PE



DIARY



Final Jujiro Panel of 2018/19:

Cultural and Creative Industries

Wednesday 1st May, 5:00pm



Musical Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th March, 7.30pm:
School Choir performs Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius' with Harrow School in the Harrow School Speech Room

Tuesday 2nd April, 7pm:
Spring Concert in St Cyprian's Church

Thursday 2nd May, 6:30pm:
Senior Vocal Concert in the Hall

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Silver Practice:
4th-6th May
Chelmsford

Gold Practice:
8th-12th July
Peak District

Silver Assessed:
25th-27th May
Chesham

Gold Assessed:
19th – 23rd August
North Wales



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