



CORNERS

NEWSLETTER SEPT/OCT 2018



Biology Lab Grand Opening, New House System, *The Railway Children*, Summer Camp, Trip to Venice, Sports Day ...and much more



From the Headmaster

The new academic year has begun and the school is in good heart as it continues to celebrate its 140th year.

This summer's GCSE results were terrific and I enjoyed congratulating the girls in assembly at the start of term. In particular, I was pleased with the tumultuous round of applause that the rest of the school offered to the new Sixth Formers. I cautioned that they might need to remember that sound of clapping and that they might need to remember that they are strongly supported, because over the next two years their A levels will challenge them to their limits of endurance. The vast majority of our own pupils continued into the Sixth Form here at Francis Holland and there were a number of new joiners too.

The A levels which came in the middle of August were also exceptionally strong. Reflecting the hard work of the pupils and the staff, nearly a quarter of all grades are at A* – our highest proportion ever. The success of this performance is borne out by the university places which Francis Holland girls secured: four to Oxford and Cambridge, two to the USA, two for pre-medical school training, two

to Central St Martin's and most of the rest to Russell Group destinations. Full details are on the school website.

On Monday 1st October, it was 140 years to the day that Canon Francis Holland opened the doors of his school on Baker Street. The girls had a special assembly from The Woodland Trust and we were presented with a certificate to show that 140 trees have been planted on our behalf. Later, the Deputy Chairman of Governors ceremonially planted our anniversary tree in front of the school.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a write-up of Sports Day which was tremendous fun; and I hope that you will give your attention to the article about the Summer Camp. For over a decade, staff and pupils from Francis Holland have offered a week's holiday at Sayers Croft in Surrey to children in care from our own City of Westminster. This is a fine tradition and it speaks volumes of the culture of generosity and kindness which runs up and down the school.

Over the summer holidays we made some extensive refurbishments and building works in school. Your daughter

will certainly have noticed the brand new science laboratory on the ground floor and the fresh decoration on the first floor. We have also invested heavily in laptops, iPads and new wifi routers. The core IT network will be upgraded from 1GB to 10 GB over the October half-term.

This is a school which is riding the crest of a wave. This is a school which is both academic and kind, and it is a school where girls can thrive across an enormous range of taught disciplines as well as a spectacular range of clubs and societies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Fillingham'.

CHARLES FILLINGHAM



We would like to warmly welcome several new colleagues who have joined FHS this September.



Back row (left to right): Dr John Rodgers, Psychology Teacher; Mr Olanrewaju Bello, Mathematics Teacher; Mrs Brogan Percy, PE Teacher; Miss Katherina Voth, Geography Teacher. **Middle row:** Ms Aishah Kadodia, Head of Biology; Miss Zoë Cannell, Classics Teacher; Miss Liva Zarina, Music Teacher. **Front row:** Ms Charlotte Sivvery, RS Teacher; Miss Niamh Carew, Head of Art; Ms Eleanor Simons, Acting Head of Classics; Mrs Helen Simmons, Head of Drama; Mrs Tonica Hay Comon, Mathematics Teacher.

Births and Marriages



Many congratulations to Mrs Estima and her husband who married during the Summer break.



Congratulations to Mrs Packford and her husband on the birth of their daughter Tamara, who was born on Friday 13th July.



And congratulations to Mr Carew Hunt and his wife Sarah on the birth of their son Frederick.

Internal Appointments

Dr Francesca de Bono
DEPUTY HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Mr Jason Bossé
DIRECTOR OF CAREERS

Mr Harry Clayton
HEAD OF LOWER FIFTH AND UPPER FIFTH

Mrs Natalia Estima
ACTING HEAD OF MFL

Mrs Alex Francisco
ASSISTANT HEAD (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

Mr Nicola Gridelli
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Miss Majorie Gustave
DEPUTY HEAD OF LOWER FIFTH AND UPPER FIFTH

Ms Sarah Hack
ASSISTANT HEAD (OPERATIONS)

Mrs Fran Whitehead
ADMISSIONS REGISTRAR



The all new House System

This academic year we have re-introduced the House System to Francis Holland in the shape of our three houses: Jupiter, Mars and Saturn. There is previous evidence of such a house system which is set out in the history of our school. The following is an extract from *Polished Corners: A history of Francis Holland School, Regent's Park*:

"In 1966, the House System for games was reorganised. Each House had a different colour swimming cap, red for Mars, yellow for Jupiter and blue for Mercury. The following year, Mrs Brigstocke expanded the use of the House System to encourage leadership in the senior students and to help girls of all ages to communicate more easily with each other." (p. 124)

We believe that Baroness Brigstocke's reasons are still just as valid in 2018 as we embark upon our new school year. Our new House System aims to encourage leadership and help girls of all ages communicate with each other which in turn furthers our sense of belonging to our house and our school. We hope it will also develop our spirit of participation and a sense of healthy competition.

There is a House Captain and Deputy for each house selected from our Sixth Form. Congratulations go to this year's inaugural House Captains.

New roles have also been secured by some of our teacher as our new Heads of House: Miss Clydesdale-Huch for Jupiter, Mrs Lombard for Mars and Miss Evans for Saturn.

It is of particular interest that a House Singing Competition has been introduced to run alongside our pre-existing Sports and Drama competitions, amongst others.

The entire Francis Holland community looks forward to a year of competition and fun.

Mrs Amelia Slocombe
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Jupiter

Captain Scarlett Field-Green
Deputy Alice Emlyn Jones



Mars

Captain Lily Abel
Deputy Anna Brown



Saturn

Captain Emilia Franco
Deputy Kitty Gilbey





Exam Results

Many congratulations to our Upper Sixth leavers on achieving some incredible results. 22.5% of the results were in fact A* grade, a record for our school. 18 students achieved straight A* or A grades with 5 students gaining the top

grade in all their subjects. And there were many more success stories that show our leavers' tenacity, hard work, ability and ambition. We wish them all the best as they embark on a new chapter at a range of top universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, UCL, Bath, Leeds, Exeter and Central St. Martin's just to mention a few.

Congratulations too to last year's Upper Fifth students, who achieved outstanding success at GCSE. We are looking forward to seeing them go from strength to strength in the Sixth Form. Well done!

Nick Gridelli
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Biology Lab Grand Opening

On Tuesday 18th September, FHS was delighted to host the grand opening of the brand new Biology laboratory. Ms Kadodia, the newly appointed Head

of Biology, led a range of experiments with the assistance of other teachers and Sixth Form students. They wowed the guests with dissections, flame

tests and cell building tasks, illustrating their passion for such interesting and important subjects. We were so pleased to welcome a variety of parents, old and new, to join us in celebrating the renovation and development of the school. Mr Fillingham gave a warm and welcoming speech thanking our guests and staff for coming, reminding us how strong the uptake of the science subjects are at A Level.

We were honoured to have alumna Sarah Mohammed, who left FHS in 2014, cut the big red ribbon and officially open the lab. Sarah is in her fifth year at Imperial College London, studying medicine. She is looking forward to more practical work in her course and is considering neurology and paediatrics as her specialising subjects. We wish Sarah the very best with her final few years and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for our young scientists!

Derek Ward
HEAD OF SCIENCE





Upper Sixth Leavers' Evening

After the demanding examination season, on Wednesday 27th June our Upper Sixth students were welcomed back for the annual Leavers' Evening. This is an evening event for the girls and their parents to celebrate the girls' many accomplishments during their time in the Sixth Form. After the Headmaster's welcome and Ms Williams's heartfelt introduction, the eight form tutors gave a valedictory presentation about each of their tutees, who then walked across the stage to shake Mr Fillingham's hand. The event continued with the awarding of the generous Parents' Association Prize, the All-Round Academic Excellence Prize, the Parsonson Prize for Personal Progress, the Prize for Outstanding Commitment to the School and many other subject-specific academic prizes. This was followed by an emotional speech from our outstanding departing Head Girl, Tabitha Dickson, and the announcement of the recipient of the most coveted Polished Corner Cup, which this year was awarded to Holly Anness Bradshaw. The evening ended with a lovely reception in the school courtyard where teachers, pupils and their parents shared fond school memories and hopes for the future. An unforgettable night to wish our leavers the very best for a happy and successful future.

Nick Gridelli
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Lower Fourth Science Fair



On Monday 2nd July, parents, staff and members of the Lower Fourth attended the final presentations for the annual Science Fair.

All members of the Lower Fourth worked extremely hard to complete a project on a current area of amazing science research. The hall was packed to the rafters and the quality of the girls' presentations were excellent. Our judges Sarah Mohammed and Dr Mansi Patel, recent Polished Corners who have gone on to study medical science subjects at two of the country's top universities, were very impressed with the girls' investigative skills and the eloquence with which they presented their findings. Both have fond memories of their time at Francis Holland, including taking part in the Science Fair many years ago!

The overall winners were Ilayda Basak and Saskia Teeger in LIVJM with a project titled 'ANTibiotics'. The runners-up were Zainab Ahmed and Clementine Lewis, also in LIVM, whose project was 'Growing plants in space'.

Well done to all participants; your hard work made it a really successful Science Fair.

Derek Ward
HEAD OF SCIENCE

Heather's Highlights – News from the Art Department

Two weeks into the year and our drying racks are already full with UV printing. All three of our GCSE art groups enthusiastically tackled structure and architecture through lino printing, woodblock printing and screen printing to produce some really exciting work. It was great to see each class use a different medium to produce such varied, creative outcomes.

Mrs Heather Maund
ART TECHNICIAN



GCSE Lino Prints

- Left: Stella Jones
- Below-left: Amalie Atfield
- Below: Mya Andrews





She Hangs! : A level Devised Drama

“It’s one of the worst crimes this country has ever done – to punish, to hang a women who clearly wasn’t well at the time.”

– Muriel Jakubait, Ruth Ellis’ sister

Inspired by Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*, last year’s Lower Sixth Drama students decided to explore the injustices faced by women (especially in the courts) throughout history in their devised A level piece.

The girls paralleled the story of Ruth Ellis – the last woman to be executed in the UK – with that of the women in Miller’s play, interspersing the two narratives with statistics from the 21st century to illustrate the violence and injustice that women still experience today. Informed by the Stanislavski method, their performance on Wednesday 4th July featured some profoundly raw moments that hooked the audience and helped them to emotionally engage with the characters’ stories. There were also some amazing moments of synchronisation and that had clearly been polished in the rehearsal room.

I was stunned by their performance and continue to reflect upon this thoughtful and creative production. Bravo!

Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



Take Your Daughter to Work Day

On Thursday 14th June, the Upper Fourth completed a day long work placement as part of Take Your Daughter to Work Day. After their day at work, the girls produced an individual project reflecting on various aspects of the experience including on what they learned. I was very pleased with the quality and originality of the projects submitted. Thank you to all the Upper Fourth parents for providing such fantastic opportunities. It was clear your daughters truly benefited and enjoyed the day!

Jason Bossé
DIRECTOR OF CAREERS





Lower School Vocal Concert

The Lower School Vocal Concert, held on Monday 25th June, was a tremendous success! The students demonstrated their bravery by singing in front of a large group, and some even arranged their own versions of popular songs. There was a great deal of variety,

and the enthusiastic audience ensured that the students were well-received. It was an evening they will each remember.

Jonathan Ingham
MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Piano Concerto!

Yet another first for FHS occurred on Tuesday 18th September: a piano concerto concert, whereby a few advanced pianists gave performances of some very technically demanding repertoire.

Maria Knight gave a poised and polished account of some Scarlatti, Susanna Filippi played Bach with energy and vitality and Caroline Schottelius beautifully shaped some Mozart.

The evening finished with Scarlett Brandman wowing the audience with the first movement of the Grieg piano concerto. This will be the first of many Piano Concerto! concerts in future years.

Robert Patterson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Coming Soon: Future Music Events

Date and Time	Music Event	Place
Sunday 11 th November, 7.45pm	The 15 perform Duruflé's Requiem	<i>Harrow School Chapel</i>
Thursday 22 nd November, 7pm	Autumn Concert	<i>St Cyprian's Church</i>
Weds 28 th – Fri 30 th November, 7pm	Oliver!	<i>School Hall</i>
Tuesday 4 th December, 6.30pm	Wind, Brass and Percussion Concert	<i>School Hall</i>
Thursday 13 th December, 3pm	School Carol Service	<i>Marylebone Parish Church</i>

Junior play: *The Railway Children*



When their father mysteriously goes away, the Waterbury children – Bobbie (Olivia Baird), Phyllis (Clara Read) and Peter (Anna Claire Breuss-Burgess) – and their mother move from London to a small village in Yorkshire. Here they learn to adapt to a new way of life, make many new yet unlikely friends, and become obsessed with the railway; but will they ever see their father again?

Twenty-five enthusiastic and talented young actors from the Thirds and

Lower Fourth did a wonderful job of performing this iconic story. There were many amazing individual performances, not least from the three leads, but my favourite moments were the group scenes; the arrival of the refugee and the creative use of desk chairs to create the train to name two. Congratulations to all the girls who performed and to Mrs Oakley, for whom this was her final production at FHS.

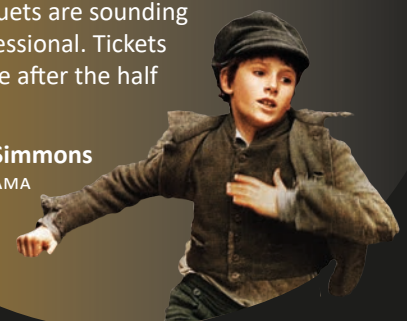
Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



FHS presents *Oliver!*

Rehearsals are already underway for the next FHS production *Oliver!* A cast of twenty-eight girls will take to the stage on 28th, 29th and 30th of November for what promises to be a fabulous show. The big ensemble pieces looking very strong, and the solos and duets are sounding extremely professional. Tickets will be available after the half term break.

Mrs Helen Simmons
HEAD OF DRAMA





Geography Trip to Norfolk

On Friday 15th June, the Lower Sixth geographers went to Cromer in Norfolk, as part of their fieldwork for the Pre U course. They studied the microclimate of sand dunes, conducting a variety of tests to assess whether the weather conditions change as you move further inland from embryo to grey dunes. Alongside class work, the girls also enjoyed a laser tag session in the woods, as well as the beautiful ground of Overstrand House. All groups were extremely efficient throughout the trip, collecting data in the field with speed and precision, as well as analysing their results effectively back in the classrooms. Miss O'Neill and I thank you for your excellent behaviour and a great trip!

Mrs Jo Dawes
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY



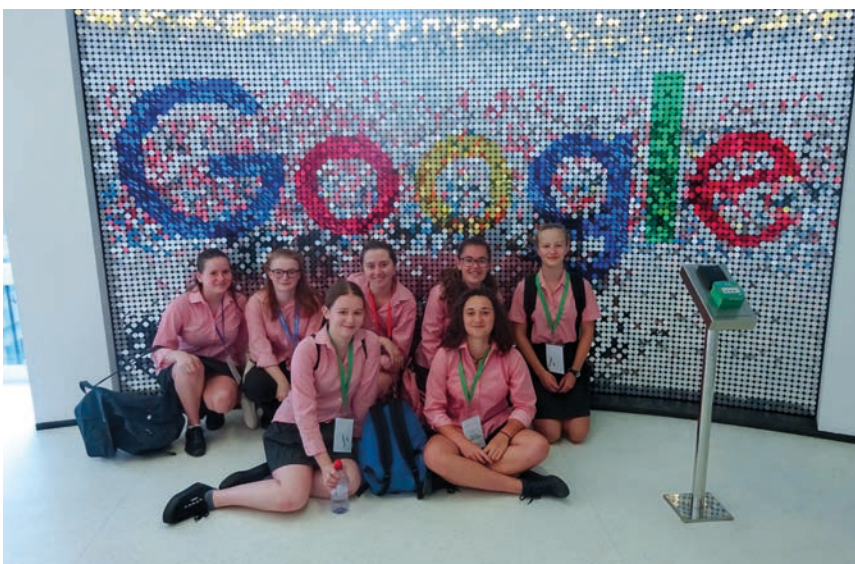
Classics Trip to Fishbourne

On Wednesday 20th June, the Lower Fourth enjoyed a glorious summer day out discovering the Classical sites in the Sussex countryside. We spent the morning exploring a series of reconstructed pre-Roman roundhouses and a typical Roman villa at Butser Ancient Farm, a unique experimental archaeology site. The girls were given an opportunity to imagine what life would have been like in the Iron Age and in



Roman Britain by partaking in activities such as spinning and clay pottery making. We then went on to have lunch in the gardens of Fishbourne Roman Palace, before exploring the ruins of the palace itself and learning about how to handle ancient artefacts in an archaeological workshop. The trip was enjoyable and informative for all, and complemented all the work that the girls had done on Roman Britain and Fishbourne earlier in the year.

Mrs Hana Packford
HEAD OF CLASSICS



Computer Science Visit to Google

The LV GCSE Computer Science girls were given an incredible opportunity to spend the morning at Google on Tuesday 3rd July. The morning consisted of an introduction to Computer Science, a hands-on coding session and a Q&A. The girls had an amazing time and were able to see how coding is used in the real world. One of the groups of our girls also won the coding challenge. Well done!

Miss Viviana Rusu
HEAD OF ICT & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Upper Fourth Trip to Knapp House



The Upper Fourth had another fantastic week at the end of Summer Term, exploring the North Devon coastline, surfing, water-skiing and rock-climbing. It was a great opportunity for the students to get out of London and experience the outdoors. Mr Fillingham, of course, paid a visit and excelled in the tunnels. We were lucky with the weather and the girls enjoyed a week away from their mobile telephones in the countryside.

Mrs Victoria Randle
HEAD OF UPPER FOURTH

Lower Fifth Visits to Oxbridge

At the end of last year students from the Lower Fifth had the opportunity to visit either Oxford or Cambridge University on one of two trips led by Mr Bryson. These trips were a chance for girls to explore the different colleges that these two prestigious universities have to offer, see the historic sights of the cities and talk to current students about their course and experiences. They also had the benefit of being accompanied by Oxbridge alumnae Miss Dobell and Mrs Wood, who could provide insider knowledge and tales.

It proved to be a valuable experience for the girls; broadening their appreciation and understanding of university life in general and study at Oxbridge in particular.

Miss Sarah Lawrence
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN





Summer Camp 2018 was another brilliant success, with eight senior pupils working alongside Looked-After Children to give the youngsters a wonderful holiday in the Surrey countryside at Sayers Croft.

This was the twelfth year of Summer Camp; FHS pupils have now helped well over one hundred children to learn new skills and to be challenged by a variety of activities. These include rock climbing, caving, pond dipping and orienteering. Our pupils were superb, and they deserve individual mention: well done to Letizia, Nula, Lucy, Issy, Maia, Ria, Devina, and Caelo.

Adrian Smith
SUMMER CAMP CO-ORDINATOR



Italian Trip to Venice



At the beginning of the summer break twenty-six girls from Lower Fourth, Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth travelled to Venice on a school trip accompanied by Mrs Boschi, Mr Gridelli and Miss Soyer.

The girls attended language lessons at the start of the week, and went on to put what they had learnt to good use at its end. Not only were the girls able to practise their Italian conversation skills, they were also able to appreciate the local culture, rich and varied gastronomy and the breath-taking architecture.



They were taken for a guided tour of the island of Murano – where they attended a glass-making demonstration – and the picturesque island of Burano. They visited Verona, the setting of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*; they also visited Padua where they were captivated by the relics in the 13th century Basilica of St. Anthony; and they enjoyed half a day on the beach in Lido di Jesolo, getting some free time in the buzzy narrow Venetian streets with yet again another ice cream in their hands.



Simply the best start to the summer break!!

Nick Gridelli
HEAD OF ITALIAN



A Day of Art: Hastings



Our new A Level artists ventured to the British seaside town of Hastings to explore ideas and gain inspiration for their project entitled *Journeys*. After an early Saturday start at London Bridge on 15th September, we took the train to the coast and were rewarded with beautiful blue skies and autumnal sunshine. An unusually sandy beach was revealed at low tide and we had the good fortune to explore the impressive space under the famous Stirling Prize winning Hastings Pier before the tide raced us away.

Our FHS artists observed natural textures, dramatic structural shapes and contrasting shapes taking photographs and film footage. A stroll along the beach to the boat yard encouraged the collection of beach debris and found objects that we plan to transform into assemblage sculptures back at the art studios. A vigorous post-lunch hike to the East Hill lookout provided impressive views and an opportunity for some drawing. Finally, we attempted cyanotypes on the beach before strolling back through the historic town to make our return by train to London. A huge thank you to Miss Evans and Miss Gardner who organised the day. We look forward to seeing the creative endeavours of our Lower Sixth artists in the coming months.

Miss Niamh Carew
HEAD OF ART



The Inter-form Swimming Gala was held on Tuesday 26th June. Girls swimming in the open races produced some very impressive times and it was great to see so many girls participating in individual races and relays or supporting their forms on poolside. Inter-form water polo and volleyball matches followed for girls in the Upper Fourth and Lower Fifth. Fierce competition and enjoyment were had by all! We look forward to this year's Gala when our new Houses go to battle!

Mrs Kirsty Lombard
PE DEPARTMENT

Inter-form Swimming Gala



Autumn Term Sports Report

"Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there."
- Bo Jackson

Francis Holland sport has made a fantastic start to the school year with sports trials, fixtures and bags of enthusiasm. The PE Department has been very impressed with the number of pupils attending trials and it has been exceptionally hard this year to choose squad teams. As ever, this is a fantastic sign of the level of commitment and can-do attitude of the Francis Holland pupils. Well done to all those who made the squads, and for those of you that did not we would love to see you at all the other clubs we have on offer. Make sure to look at the PE board that has lots of information on all the sports clubs.

Information about results and fixtures can be found on the school website, so be sure to check it for updates and future opportunities.

Good luck to all our girls playing in the upcoming Middlesex Hockey and Netball tournaments. Your commitment to those early morning practices has been rewarded by some excellent progress.

Miss Laura Burroughs
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Sporting Results

JUNIOR SWIMMING GALA

50m Freestyle
Lucy Hiscox

50m Breaststroke
Tiya Thornton

50m Butterfly
Selin Mucen

50m Backstroke
Matilda Winder

SENIOR SWIMMING GALA

50m Freestyle
Zoe Haering

50m Breaststroke
Annelise Maynard

50m Butterfly
Charlotte Hassenforder

50m Backstroke
Charlotte-Rose Allan

OPEN CUPS

Palariet Cup
Julia Murphy

Speed Cup
Roisin Horan

Rosamund Leach Cup
Jasmina Charap

Individual Medley Cup
Jasmina Charap

Volleyball Cup –
UIV S Player of the Tournament:
Larissa Isaacs

Water Polo Cup –
LV H Player of the Tournament:
Eleni Papanayotou

Sports Day 2018

SPORT



The Francis Holland Sports Day 2018 was excellent and everyone really enjoyed themselves. The girls had been working exceptionally hard in lessons and it was wonderful to see them in action. There was a high standard of Rounders and Athletics throughout the day and this year we had some new

events – I have to say the High Jump was a real highlight.

The Staff vs Sixth Form Rounders match was exceptionally close, but somehow the Staff lost. Very well done to the Sixth Form on a well-deserved win.

A special thank you to all the PE Department, Teachers, Site Staff, and Catering Staff (not forgetting the girls themselves) for making the day such a huge success!

Miss Laura Burroughs
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



140th Birthday Gala Picnic

On Friday 29th June, the School Birthday celebrations continued with a Gala Picnic during Sports Day. The girls were treated to entertainment from a magician, professional hula hoop artists, contortionists and a street theatre act, as they enjoyed a picnic lunch with their parents and staff in the sunshine at Regent's Park.





DIARY

Jujiro: Careers Events for your Diary, 2018-19

- Weds 10th October: **High Technology Industry**
- Weds 7th November: **Careers Evening**
- Tues 11th December: **Architecture, building, construction and housing**
- Tues 5th February: **Medicine, Medical research, Health and social services**
- Thurs 28th March: **Business, Entrepreneurship and Management**
- Weds 1st May: **Cultural and creative industries**



Parents' Association Annual General Meeting

This 2018 Parents' Association AGM will be held on **Tuesday 13th November** in the School Hall at 6.30pm. Our guest speaker will be **Natasha Devon MBE**, and all parents are invited to join us to hear her speak about:

“Crossed wires - Communicating about Mental Health across the Generational Divide.”

Natasha's talk will explore the role of language, what to do when someone won't open up, and if there's any wisdom in the idea that boys and girls respond to different words and tactics. Tickets are £10 and include a drink, canapes and stimulating discussions. RSVP to PA@fhs-nw1.org.uk or purchase your ticket directly from Eventbrite.

Parents' Association Annual Christmas Fair

Join us on **Saturday 19th November** from 1.30-3.30pm for an afternoon of fun and festivities! Stalls will include; external vendors, The magic Christmas Tree, Chocolate tombola, food galore and stalls from every year group (vintage clothing, games room, Christmas Jars, nail bar and braiding, young enterprise to name but a few...). It is one of the highlights of the FHS Christmas calendar, the girls have



such fun and it is not to be missed. Please put the date in your diary and do let us know if anyone is either interested in helping or would like to run a stall of their own at the fair. If so, please contact us on PA@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Confirmation Classes

We will be running a confirmation course again this year starting just before half term. Classes will run one evening a week from 4.15-5pm, for approximately 10 weeks, with a view to holding a confirmation service early in May. These classes are open to girls from any year group. Letters were sent out with the summer reports, but if you would like to discuss this further please contact Mrs Bexon at Sharon.Bexon@fhs-nw1.org.uk



Photo credit: The Careers Interview, 11th June 2013 by cdtargett, CC BY-ND 3.0.



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