



# CORNERS

MAY/JUN 2018





## From the Headmaster

Earlier this year, the Varkey Foundation, a global education group which is chaired in an honorary capacity by Bill Clinton and counts Bertie Ahern amongst its trustees, published a report on global attitudes towards education. The survey of 27,000 parents across 29 countries sought out cultural differences in attitudes and priorities across the globe. Some of the findings are very revealing and cast a light on the British outlook and the British school system in general.

For example, the Varkey survey showed that parents in Great Britain prioritise the importance of examination results more than any other nation. Secondly, the British parents surveyed were considerably more worried than the international average about their children growing up too early as a result of peer pressure. The third area which concerned parents here much more than others overseas was the mental wellbeing of their child. Conversely, in the area of physical health, British parents who took part in the study were less worried about the physical health of their offspring than parents in any of the other 28 countries.

Francis Holland is a wonderful school where parent satisfaction is high, as evidenced by the recent ISI inspection survey where all categories had approval ratings of well over 90%. Nevertheless, I see some of these anxieties in my role as headmaster both through my interactions with girls and with parents. As a school, we are determinedly academic and this mirrors

the national priority for examination success. As a school, we are also determinedly kind and we prioritise wellbeing of our pupils. To be known as both academic and kind can be, at times, something of a tightrope to tread, but it is the right way to be and this is one of the areas where Francis Holland distinguishes itself within its peer group of schools.

Interestingly, British parents set very little priority on schools to improving their IT and computing facilities. This may be because British schools are already generally well-equipped or it may be because British school children tend to have access to digital technologies at home. Be that as it may, I hope that parents at Francis Holland School will not be disappointed if we steer a path which continues to invest in IT. Throughout this year, teachers have been receiving training in how to make good use of technology in the classroom and all members of staff have been equipped with laptop computers. Just before Easter, we installed a new 2GB broadband connection to the school and over the summer holidays, we will upgrade our Wi-Fi provision throughout the building. At the same time we will purchase an additional set of laptop computers for use in lessons and we will take delivery of our first set of iPads, which will be available as a bookable resource for the classroom.

The strengths of this school are many, including boundless creativity, drama, music, sport, literature, practical science, studies of classics

and more. Indeed, great education seldom requires young people to sit in front of a screen all day long, but where technology can help our girls to thrive and learn, and where it boosts their love of a subject and their understanding of concepts, this is where we must put IT and computers to work.

Interestingly, the Varkey study also revealed that UK parents on average spend less time helping and guiding their children with homework than is the case in almost any other nation. Although what is striking about this fact is that British parents are amongst the strongest in their belief that they offer the "right amount of time". As students at Francis Holland head towards public exams or the internal exams week, I encourage you to support them where you can, but not to overplay your role. If you sit and do all the revision with your daughter then you are not preparing her to be an independent learner. The role of a parent in her daughter's exam preparation is to provide a calm working environment, to tolerate a certain degree of grumpiness and to allow her to power forwards under her own steam.

Best wishes for exam season,

CHARLES FILLINGHAM





During the Spring Term we were joined in our morning assemblies by nine inspiring and interesting women, some of whom were Polished Corners, as part of our 'Women of Influence' series.

**Sue Kyd**, an actress and Polished Corner who has performed numerous roles in film, theatre and television, most recently in *My Fair Lady*, highlighted the importance of continued learning, resilience and perseverance.

**Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin** spoke to us about her journey from a girl, growing up in Montego Bay, Jamaica, to her current role in the Church of England, describing all the challenges she had faced and overcome in the process.

**Poppy Sebag-Montefiore**, a freelance journalist and co-founder of Never Again International, shared five things she didn't fully understand whilst at Francis Holland, including how important feminism would still be today.

**Councillor Nikkie Aiken**, Conservative Leader of Westminster City Council,

talked passionately about the council's work and wider issues affecting London residents, such as housing and air pollution. She also encouraged the girls to consider a career in politics.

**Dr Bev Jacobson**, Chief Executive of Kisharon, inspired us by recounting her many adventures taking part in endurance races, including a marathon in Antarctica.

**Rachel Lindley**, Programme Manager for Five Talents, told us the stories of women her organisation has worked alongside in order to help them establish successful businesses.

**Hannah Harley-Young**, a Polished Corner who is one of the foremost female photographers in the UK, and has worked with a vast range of celebrities from HRH the Prince of Wales to Snoop Dog.

**Diane Abbott**, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington and Shadow Home Secretary, spoke about her experience in British politics and "the importance of supporting and speaking up for other women".

**Dr Kaili Rimfeld** from King's College London shared with us her latest research comparing the genetics of twins and how they interplay with their environment to discover how human traits are (or are not) affected by differing factors.

Thank you to all of our speakers for their time and energy in bringing us such fascinating and inspirational presentations.

**Sarah Lawrence**  
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



## Careers Champions

We are delighted to announce a new initiative involving our professional alumni community, which will enhance the careers support already being offered to Francis Holland students by our parents.

Over 50 alumni – our ‘Careers Champions’ – have volunteered to take part in many career-related activities, including: one-to-one mentoring, work experience placements, speakers at assemblies or careers events, and interview and CV advice. Our alumni cover a wide range of industries, everything from medicine, law, architecture, fashion, marketing, hospitality, retail, engineering, journalism, politics, education, sport and philanthropy and we hope to grow this valuable resource of volunteers over the coming months. They have a huge wealth of shared experience which will be vital for the next generation of Polished Corners as they navigate their working life!



Clockwise from top-left:

**Aysem Monaco Imison**  
Class of 1998  
Director of Marketing Communications & Careers Champion



**Chanelle Ho**  
Class of 2012  
Beauty Journalist & Careers Champion



**Eleni Kyriacou**  
Class of 1998  
Costume Designer & Careers Champion



**Zoe Silkstone**  
Class of 2013  
Graduate Consultant & Careers Champion

The Careers Champions will also be available to support other alumni who may be interested in developing a career in their field, so we are looking forward to being able to support as many pupils and alumni as possible to achieve their career dreams!

If you are an alum, or you have a daughter/sibling who is a former pupil of the school and would love to volunteer or find out more, please ask

them to contact [alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk) for further details.

We are grateful to those parents who gave up their time to conduct mock interviews with our Lower Sixth students recently. They have greatly benefited from this experience.

**Alistair Brown**  
ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER  
**Jason Bossé**  
HEAD OF CAREERS



## French Guiana Students' Visit

On Tuesday 17th April a group of 22 students, from Collège La Canopée in French Guiana, accompanied by their teachers, spent the morning at Francis Holland. Paired with girls of a similar age from the Lower Fifth they went to various lessons. Some of them joined a group of Lower Sixth and Upper

Sixth students and gave presentations on various cultural aspects of French Guiana.

The Lead teacher, Madame Balias-Constantin, also gave a presentation on the French and European space centre in Kourou (French Guiana),

highlighting that its proximity to the Equator means it has a record of successful launches. The French Guianan students were very impressed by the welcome they received and by the facilities at Francis Holland School.

**Miss Marjorie Gustave**  
VISIT CO-ORDINATOR



# Marathon Success



Marathon fever has taken over the staffroom at FHS this term as two members of our team have taken part in this April's events.

Maths teacher Miss Hannah Blazewicz competed in the Brighton Marathon on Saturday 14th April. She completed the course in 4:20:43 with an average pace of 9.71km/h.

Our Director of Sport, Miss Laura Burroughs, took on the challenge of running the London Marathon on behalf of the NSPCC. She completed the course in 3:56:51 and raised £2,126 (at time of publication).

Many congratulations Miss Burroughs and Miss Blazewicz!



## Welcome Back!

This term we welcomed back Mrs Alex Francisco from maternity leave. She will be resuming her role in the History of Art Department and on the Senior Leadership Team. We're excited to have her back!



## Lower Fifth Charity Event



On Friday 16th March the Lower Fifth hosted an FHS talent show to raise money for Swiss Cottage School. The audience were treated to an eclectic mix of talents, from a cheerleading ensemble to an A-Z rap. It was wonderful to see such a diverse range of talents and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done to Charlotte-Rose Allan and Luise Schottelius for winning the contest with their impressive singing and beatboxing skills!

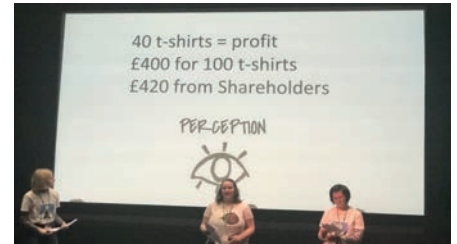
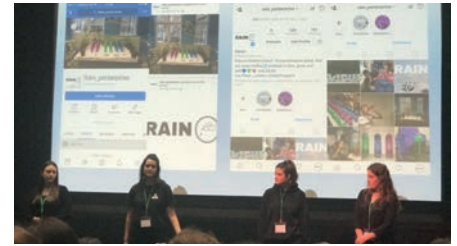
**Mrs Angharad Packer**  
ACTING HEAD OF LOWER FIFTH

## UKMT Team Maths Challenge Regional Finals

On Wednesday 21st February, the four of us went to Preston Manor High School to take part in the UKMT Maths Competition. We were all very excited. The competition consisted of four rounds and each had a limited amount of time. We tried to get most of our questions right, but we also wanted to keep ahead

of the time. At the end of the lively competition we received a small piece of card. We had placed 7th out of 27 schools! We all enjoyed participating in this competition and it was definitely an experience which I won't forget.

**Ashley Wu, III**  
MATHS COMPETITION COMPETITOR



Four companies, Nova, Perception, Rain and Sweet Water, survived the perils of a year in business and competed in the Central North London Area Finals on Monday 19th March.

Rain and Sweet Water were motivated by the current environmental plight of excessive plastic waste in our oceans. This dictated both companies' objectives.

Sweet Water produced black cotton bags with a uniquely designed logo to substitute plastic bags and thus help to reduce the use of the default plastic alternative. They also produced small multi-use zipped bags and made a total profit of £498.15. They made it through

to the next round of the competition, which was held on Thursday, 26th April at the International Law Firm BLP.

Rain produced reusable water bottles. Their final product was attractive and functional and sales were strong, helping to generate a profit of £412.70. Rain won the award for Best Business Report!

Perception produced a range of T-shirts with their own designs and showed a real flair for marketing – decorating the assembly Hall with advertising bunting. They made a total profit of £210.

Nova produced a series of necklaces with four pendants to represent the

different elements: Fire, Earth, Air and Water. They had some serious problems with their Chinese supplier which meant that their stock arrived late, but thanks to the support and patience of the FHS community they should be able to overcome this and expect to make enough revenue from sales to cover their costs of production.

Congratulations to all four companies who gave outstanding and highly professional business pitches at the Central London Area Finals!

**Miss Ann-Marie Conway**  
HEAD OF ECONOMICS

## Cheese Club

New this academic year, Cheese Club got off to a fantastic start. Girls ranging from Thirds to Upper Sixth come together to taste and evaluate cheese from selected areas of the globe. So far, Cheese Club has focused on British and French cheeses, rating the cheese on taste, appearance, smell, texture, and overall feel. Although a clear divide exists between girls who have a

taste for the strong blues and those who prefer a creamier, lighter brie, the overall favourite this year is the Napoleon – a hard sheep milk cheese originating from the Pyrénées. My thanks go to all girls who enthusiastically join in with the tasting!

**Miss Emily O'Neil**  
CHEESE CLUB CO-ORDINATOR





# Sixth Form Lectures Spring Term

# EVENTS



During the Spring Term the Sixth Form were treated to a number of excellent and intriguing lectures.

Setting a high bar for our 2018 Sixth Form lectures, Will Evans gave an informative and thought-provoking presentation about Entrepreneurship. He was followed by Emma Coles from Positive Voice for HIV Education who shared with us her personal story; Zaki Cooper, Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen from 2009 to 2012 on the Diamond Jubilee, who talked about the role of the monarchy as well as his

experience of working with the Royal Family; Caterina Cedolini, a volunteer with Animal Aid whose presentation explored our relationship with other (non-human) animals; and Deana, co-founder of the RAP Project, which aims to raise awareness and prepare young people for life after school, particularly with regard to personal safety issues. Finally, Rt Hon Gisela Stuart, former Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, Chair of the 'Vote Leave' campaign and currently Chair of Change Britain, joined us to discuss the EU and explore Britain's relationship to it.

On each occasion the Sixth Form had the opportunity to engage the speakers and asked many thoughtful and insightful questions.

We are particularly thankful to these interesting people who take the time to talk to our Sixth Form and we are looking forward to hearing all the exciting talks lined up for the final term of the year.

**Nicola Gridelli**  
ACTING HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

## PHSE Talk for Parents by the RAP Project

On Wednesday 18th April we welcomed the RAP Project to FHS to present to parents. We enjoyed a fascinating talk on the potential pressures and dangers that teenage girls may face. The RAP Project have already presented to three different year groups at FHS this year to help ensure that our girls know how to respond

to any 'crunch' moments which may present themselves in future. Thank you to all those parents who attended and we look forward to announcing our next parental PSHE speaker in the near future!

**Miss Maria Merrigan**  
HEAD OF PSHE





## Onatti Theatre Company Performances

During the Spring Term the Onatti Theatre Company visited Francis Holland School on two occasions.

On Thursday 1st March, they performed their play *Hausarrest* for students of German. We enjoyed the humour of their story about a boy whose mother grounds him for poor school work, and who proceeds to invite two girlfriends round to his house, leading to misunderstandings and fun. Tati, Eve and Alice were invited to give performances in German, gaining a well-earned round of applause.



On Wednesday 21st March they came to perform *Le Château*, a French play, for the Thirds and Lower Fourth. Set in 1540, the story focused on the adventures of a young English knight who has been sent to France by King Henry to find a suitable lady for the king to marry. His limited skills in speaking French lead to all sorts of misunderstandings and difficulties. The play was entertaining and a good reminder of how useful and important speaking languages is.



Our girls loved both performances and we look forward to future Onatti productions.

**Miss Alessandra Spera**  
ACTING HEAD OF MFL

## Academic Enrichment Lecture by Jane Orr



Jane Orr, our Head of Art, gave a thought-provoking talk 'Seeing Before Words : an appreciation of John Berger's life and work' as our most recent Academic Lecture. Drawing on a variety of sources, including film, photograph and text, Jane made us

aware of the breadth of Berger's work, from his humanitarian concerns for the dignity of those seeking a better life, through to his seminal book *Ways of Seeing*. Woven throughout was a deep sense of admiration for Berger and the profound influence he had. The

talk succeeded in its aim, and we were persuaded that "more so than ever, we need people like John Berger to keep us creatively, intellectually and spiritually on the case".

**Miss Clare MacDonnell**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



## Professor Tom Wynn's Visit

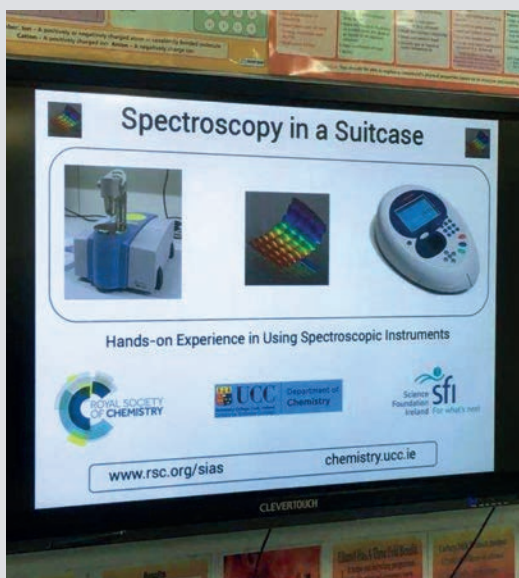
On Monday 19th March, the MFL Department were pleased to welcome Professor Tom Wynn from Durham University who came to school to talk about 'Self-made women: gender and identity fraud in eighteenth-century Europe'.

Wynn explored the nature of identity fraud in a time before technology through the stories of women who, with varying degrees of success, had created new identities for themselves

in the cosmopolitan Europe of the Enlightenment. These women included an Austrian noblewoman, an English soldier and a French nun.

This was an inspiring talk that gave us an insight into women's life in one of the most important periods in French and European history.

**Miss Alessandra Spera**  
ACTING HEAD OF MFL



## Upper Sixth Chemistry Workshop

On Tuesday 13th March in the afternoon, all the Upper Sixth Chemists took part in a Royal Society of Chemistry Spectroscopy Workshop at school in Lab B10. The session, led by first year undergraduate Chemistry students from University College London, involved a recap of the theory of infrared spectroscopy followed by a 'hands-on' practical experience of using the technique to identify some unknown compounds. There is no doubt that the girls

thoroughly relished the chance to use such sophisticated equipment in preparation for university; they also correctly identified the substances! They enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside students who are just twelve months ahead of them, and whose knowledge, understanding and presentation of infrared analysis was highly impressive.

**Paul Tiley**  
HEAD OF CHEMISTRY

## Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On Tuesday 17th April, four enthusiastic scientists in the Lower Fourth took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at University College London.

In the morning, the girls had to solve a crime, combining their forensic science and code breaking skills. In the afternoon, the task 'University Challenge,' enabled them to put their scientific method into practice by investigating how a reaction could last for exactly one minute (they achieved 58 seconds!). After a full day in the lab, the girls, then had a chance to relax by watching some amazing demonstrations of changes of state. They were treated to a chemistry cookery experiment



making ice cream with: cream, sugar, strawberries, chocolate chips and the magic ingredient, liquid nitrogen!

The competition was certainly tough as more than twenty five schools took

part and although our girls didn't win the trophy, they were most deserved runners-up. Well done, scientists!

**Miss Emma Hollender**  
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

# Inter-Form Debating Final



The 2018 Inter-Form Debating Final took place, as is customary, on the final day of the Spring Term. This year saw an unprecedented thirteen pairs compete in the competition - one per form group from Upper Fourth to Upper Fifth and four pairs from the Lower Sixth. All debates preceding the Final were extremely competitive, and many were so well attended that we had to move from the Lecture Theatre to the School Hall to seat the 80+ members of the Floor (audience).

It was very encouraging to see the manner in which the FHS girls debated, in the best of spirits, always congratulating their opponents immediately post-debate irrespective of the result or the feedback they received. I am not only very proud of all our young debaters and the high expectations they set of themselves, but also grateful for those who provided supporting roles throughout the competition: whether in form time, through friendships, or indeed by attending Senior Debating each week. Those who ask the difficult questions from the Floor are just as valued by the Debating Society as the two teams week to week.

For the Final itself we welcomed Caroline Hyde, the Broadcast Journalist and TV Presenter (Bloomberg), as our guest judge. Having been invited to set the Final motion, with her own specialism in business and technology, Caroline opted for "This house believes robots will make the world a worse place".

Isabella Fisher Turner and Ellie Valentine (Lower Fifth) argued the

case for the Proposition, with Laura Stewart-Harris and Scarlett Field-Green (Lower Sixth) in Opposition. After a week of fervent preparation from our Debaters, the Floor were treated to an epic contest. Speeches were made, Points of Information interjected, the answering statements given, and the debate was certainly thoroughly engaging. When the Floor were asked to make their own points and questions, there were hands galore in the air, and many pertinent questions posed to the debaters. A short video of 'highlights' can be found on the school website.

After the Debate, Caroline took to the stage to share with everyone how debating skills have helped her, not only when at school and University, but every day in her journalism career to date: choosing the key arguments, asking the right questions, maintaining civility in challenging circumstances, story-telling to captivate your audience, and many further debating disciplines that we explore in Senior Debating Society every Friday lunchtime.

Caroline was full of praise for the outstanding FHS debaters, pausing to reflect on the unglamorous but crucial role of the Final's Chairs (Alice Emlyn Jones and Yasmin Morrell) before explaining that, though it had been a hard decision, the winners were Scarlett and Laura, who addressed the key points and responded to their opponents and the Floor most effectively.

**Tom Carew Hunt**  
HEAD OF DEBATING

## Competition Participants

- UIV J** Jessica Hales  
Mya Shah
- UIV M** Miranda Saunders  
Katerina Quacquarelli
- UIV S** Eve Hobsbawm  
Jazzy Charap
- LV C** Clara Stirling  
Grace Glinsman
- LV E** Lara Isaacs  
Georgina Sedgwick
- LV H** Izzy Fisher Turner  
Ellie Valentine
- LV P** Izzie Klug  
Eleni Papanayotou
- UV B** Amy Cash  
Tilly Sykes
- UV L** Olivia Saunders  
Maia Von Malaise
- UV M** Letizia Filippi  
Eva Perez
- 6th Form 1** Scarlett Field-Green  
Laura Stewart-Harris
- 6th Form 2** Alice Emlyn Jones  
Gabby Rapp
- 6th Form 3** Nula Kenzie  
Mina Guessous

## Some of the motions debated

- > *This house believes there should be a tax on plastic bottles.*
- > *This house believes that the private school sector should not exist.*
- > *This house would tear down all statues of imperialists.*
- > *This house believes that we should not 'lie to children' about the existence of Santa and the Tooth Fairy.*
- > *This house believes that eating humans is the same as eating animals.*
- > *This house believes that prison does not work.*
- > *This house believes that NHS funding should be prioritised towards the young not old generations.*
- > *This house would reintroduce conscription.*
- > *This house believes it is time to go gender neutral.*



# Wind, Brass and Percussion Concert



With a wonderful array of solos, duets and ensembles, girls from the Thirds to the Upper Sixth performed in the annual wind, brass and percussion concert. Featuring a particularly eclectic mix of musical styles the concert finished in a typically upbeat jazz style with two numbers performed by Pink Ladies.



# Senior Vocal Concert



Students from the Upper Fifth to the Upper Sixth gathered to present the annual Senior Vocal Concert on Thursday 19th April. Featuring a typically varied mix of solos and duets, there was music ranging from opera to lieder to songs from the shows. A splendid event!

**Robert Patterson**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

# Joint Choral Concert at Harrow School



On Tuesday 20th March, girls and staff gathered in Harrow School Speech Room for the annual joint choral concert. The concert featured a programme of all Mozart, and we

were treated to an operatic overture, before hearing the piano concerto in A, K488. The choir then performed The Great C Minor Mass with great verve and energy. Although technically

challenging at times, the choir more than rose to the occasion. Next year we will be performing Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.





## IGCSE Trip to Castle Head



On 10th - 13th April, fifty-three IGCSE Geography students went to the Lake District to learn new fieldwork skills and techniques to help them better understand Paper 4.

After a good night's sleep, the girls enjoyed a day of exploring physical geography techniques by looking at changes of variables on a river and seeing how sand dunes changed as they progress further inland. On the second day, the girls compared two urban sites

- Lindale and Bowness-on-Windermere. They looked at differing land use patterns within these settlements, as well as how tourism impacts the environment; all whilst enjoying a walk to the stunning viewpoint at Orrest Head.

Thank you to the girls on the trip for their excellent effort and participation!

**Miss Emily O'Neil**  
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



# HART Trip to Rome and Florence



The first week of the Easter Holidays saw seven of the Upper Sixth Art Historians led by Miss Dobell and myself in Rome and Florence. We went with the aim of seeing many of the works of art and architecture that the girls have studied in class.

It is always so amazing to see these works at first hand, and whether we were seeing something for the first time and for the hundredth, we were all amazed by the reality of the buildings, sculptures and paintings. These cities also provided us with the opportunity to see the pieces in their original

context – the frescoes of Masaccio in the Brancacci Chapel, or the work of Fra Angelico in the convent of San Marco. This is a wonderful privilege and one we fully appreciated.

**Miss Clare MacDonnell**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



# History Trip to Ypres

Seventy girls from Upper Fourth travelled to Ypres in southern Belgium on Thursday 15th March. While there we visited a number of World War I battlefields and memorials.

The highlight of the first day was our visit to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, which “commemorates more than 72,000 men of British and South African forces who

died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave” (Thiepval Memorial, Commonwealth War Graves Commission). Here some of the girls were able to find the names of their ancestors amongst the fallen. We also attended a service at the Menin Gate, where the ‘Last Post’ is still played every evening, in memory of those soldiers who left Ypres via the gate and never returned.

On the second day we visited both British and Allied cemeteries, where we laid wreaths to remember the dead of all nations. The girls then endured a very rough crossing of the channel, which was no fun for anyone, before landing safely back in Blighty!

**Duncan Bryson**  
HISTORY AND POLITICS DEPARTMENT





## Out & About in London and Stratford

A Level English Literature Visits



### Chaucer Study Day

**Bloomsbury Baptist Church**

On Wednesday 7th March, while the rest of the school had a day at home thanks to the problem with non-flushing loos, our Upper Sixth Literature pupils attended a fascinating day of lectures on Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale'. We learned about the position of the tale within *The Canterbury Tales* as a whole, and a huge amount about medieval society, marriage and the bawdy humour of the fabliau. Nudge-nudge, wink-wink!



### *The Duchess of Malfi*

**The Swan Theatre**

Our next literary adventure with the Upper VI group took us to Stratford-on-Avon by train on Saturday 10th March, to see the current stunning production of Webster's Jacobean tragedy directed by Maria Aberg. This production starts with Joan Iyiola as the eponymous Duchess in sweaty gym kit, dragging on a giant castrated bull carcass, which is then strung up on a meat hook, while she transforms into her elegant public self, and the action begins with her choosing her own husband in defiance of her controlling

brothers. The emphasis in Aberg's production was on masculinity in crisis – hence the symbolic bull carcass – and its impact on an intelligent woman trying to assert her right to political and sexual agency. It was very much a production for our times, and our Upper Sixth students were riveted from start to gruesome finish, with the stage literally swimming in blood that oozes relentlessly during the last half an hour from the stricken carcass. Not for the faint-hearted!

**Mrs Kate Oakley**  
HEAD OF DRAMA



### Drama News

- » Our Junior Play this term is an adaptation of Edith Nesbit's beautiful story *The Railway Children*. Thirty girls in the first two years of the school have been cast.
- » There are two performances, on June 21st and 22nd, both at 6pm in the hall. The play has one interval, and running time should be about an hour and a half. Tickets are free.
- » Rehearsals for the whole cast take place on Fridays after school, and the girls with larger named roles will also be working on other days and at lunchtimes.
- » If any parent could help with assembling and making costumes, as well as sourcing props, Mrs Oakley would be very glad to hear from you.



## A Quiet Man Talks

On Tuesday 6th March, 21 students of Government and Politics were given the opportunity to have an audience after school with Mr Iain Duncan Smith, the former leader of the Conservative Party, Secretary of State for Works and Pensions and MP for Chingford and Woodford Green.

As we assembled at number 1 Parliament Street, the Jurassic Park of politics, some big political beasts were circling the corridor; a Clarke and a Soubry roamed past, perhaps planning to nibble away at Brexit a little. We were saved by Mr Duncan Smith who brought the group to an intimate room and told us a little about his career, before inviting a question-and-answer session.

The girls asked a range of probing questions; on one occasion he looked back in anger at Mr Osborne when questioned about his resignation as Secretary of State and he was slightly thrown when asked to identify his greatest achievement. But there is no use in crying over spilt milk, or indeed water. Mr Duncan Smith offered a learned insight into parliament and government, giving our students a more rounded view of politics and politicians.



His expertise on the welfare system gave us all a better understanding of the complexities of change.

They say a week is a long time in politics, but the generous hour plus that we were afforded by Mr Duncan Smith flew by. All thanks to him for his time and to Mr Storey who accompanied the students.



**Patrick Glavin**  
HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS

## 'Art in Action' Conference

On Wednesday 7th March, the Lower Sixth Art students attended the conference 'Art in Action, The Creative Process' at the Emmanuel Centre, to hear four renowned artists speak about their ideas and projects:

Cornelia Parker, a sculptor and installation artist; Hurvin Anderson, painter and Turner Prize nominee; Simon Norfolk, award winning documentary photographer; and Rebecca Wright, director of Graphic Design at Central St Martins.

This was an inspiring day, which gave us much to think about as we returned to our studios at Francis Holland.

**Miss Jane Orr**  
HEAD OF ART





## Inter-form Netball

On the afternoon of Tuesday 13th March, as the students walked to Regent's Park for the Inter-form Netball competition, you could feel the excitement growing in the air. Over the past few weeks Sports Captains had divided their form into an A and B team. Each team was hoping to be able to take home the prize by being the best form at netball.

Each team had eight minutes on the court to show their skills; whilst the rest of the form stood on the side-lines cheering them on. The atmosphere was electric.

Rumours started to circulate around the netball courts that the Six Form had been training. They were determined to take down the staff members once and for all in the Staff v Six Form match. The game was pretty even with both teams scoring early on. However, somehow, the students came away with the win. Mrs Dawes played outstandingly and came away with player of the match for the staff, while Dani Dunkley was voted player of the match for the student team due to her incredible defensive skills.

### Results

Places were awarded by combining the scores of both the 'a' and 'b' teams of each form. The results are as follows:

THIRDS	S
LOWER FOURTH	S
UPPER FOURTH	M
LOWER FIFTH	H
UPPER FIFTH	L
STAFF V SIXTH FORM	(2 – 3)

### Players of the Tournament

THIRDS	EVA BIELAWSKI
LIVTH	SIMONÉ YANEZ
UIVTH	ZOE HEARING
LVTH	ELLA VON HAMMERSTEIN
UVTH	MAIA VON MALAISÉ
6TH FORM	DANI DUNKLEY
STAFF	MRS DAWES

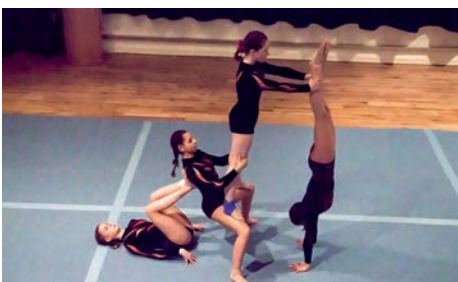
As always it was a fun afternoon, enjoyed by students and staff alike!

**Miss Lucy Kutrolli**  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT





# Gym and Dance Display



On Friday 2nd March, as the snow fell outside, the gym filled with nervous girls practising their routines; each student eager to display what they had learnt throughout the year in both gym and dance. By 7pm the hall was full with parents, family members, staff and friend's eager to watch the Gym and Dance Display.

From the very first act that took the stage the audience was amazed at the talent on show. Students' performances ranged from beginner to advanced, groups to individuals, with each student doing an incredible job.

Many thanks to all the staff who gave up their mornings, afternoons, and lunch times to help choreograph each routine.

**Miss Lucy Kutrolli**  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## Mini Marathon

Well done to all the girls who participated in the FHS Mini Marathon 2018.

The times were fast across the board this year, especially for the Thirds, which may have been due to check point one being missed. It is for that reason that we haven't got the Thirds in our fastest times count down.

### Fastest in School

- 4TH: AMELIA MITFORD UIVM (13.10)
- 3RD: LILY NASH LIVS (13.06)
- 2ND: CATRIN JONES UIVJ (13.01)

**FASTEST GIRL OVER 3KM AT FHS:**  
ELLA VON HAMMERSTEIN LVP (12.11)

Ella's time was really quite impressive as she beat the rest of the field by 50 seconds – but I've got a feeling that our thirds next year will be super quick and challenge our school record.

**Ms Jane Tucker**  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

WINNERS	BRONZE (3RD)	SILVER (2ND)	GOLD (1ST)
<b>THIRDS</b>	INDIA SMITH	FRAN CHEN	CHARLI EDGE
<b>LOWER FOURTH</b>	HARRIET WELLOCK	ALICE MITCHESON	LILY NASH
<b>UPPER FOURTH</b>	VIOLET REED	AMELIA MITFORD	CATRIN JONES
<b>LOWER FIFTH</b>	HERO COLES	CHARLOTTE HASSENFORDER	ELLA VON HAMMERSTEIN
<b>SIXTH FORM</b>	KATE O'DONOGHUE	POPPI HAYNES MARIE-LIESSE GOULLIARD	



# Sports Report



What an incredible and very busy year of sport we've had so far.

## London Cross Country:

Francesca Chen, Charlotte Edge and Saffron Jones were selected to run for Westminster, and represented their borough and school with pride. They helped Westminster to come first in their age group and Charlotte placed third in the race, receiving a bronze medal. Well done, girls.

## U12 and U13 Middlesex Netball

The girls played very well and improved incredibly throughout the competition. We had wins, draws and a few that we lost. Both teams tried exceptionally hard and worked very well as a team.



## London Secondary Schools' Swimming Champs:

On Monday 26th February, a large number of girls from the Swimming Team competed at the Queen Mother Sports Centre. Collectively, the girls took home seventeen medals, including six 1st place positions. The girls achieved 4th place overall, which was a fantastic achievement.

## U13 LSGA Gymnastics Competition:

The girls had been practising vault and individual routines for weeks and were nervous but up for the challenge. Throughout the day they performed exceptionally well and finished 3rd overall. Well done to everyone who took part; you should be very proud of your achievements.



## U13 Middlesex Hockey:

Despite a hesitant start the girls soon found their stride and achieved a fantastic draw and a first-ever victory in this competition! Simone Yanez and Lily Nash scored two goals each, which meant that the team only narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next stage. The whole of the U13 Squad has made great progress this year and we are already looking forward to next season!

Well done to all our girls who have taken part and represented the school; we are exceptionally proud of you. I want to say a big thank you to our Upper Sixth Netball and Hockey teams; they have worked hard over the past seven years and we will miss you all very much. The amount of commitment and effort you show has been wonderful, and I hope you are inspired to continue to play sport at this level when you leave school.

**Quote of the term:** *"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination."*  
 (Tommy Lasorda)



**Miss Laura Burroughs**  
 DIRECTOR OF SPORT

**Mrs Kirsty Lombard, Miss Colette Mahieu  
 and Miss Maria Merrigan**  
 PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## MAY

### WEDNESDAY 16 MAY

**6.30pm** Parents' Association Meeting in the Gloucester Room

### MONDAY 28 MAY – FRIDAY 1 JUNE

» **Half Term**

## JUNE

### FRIDAY 8 JUNE

**9-10am** Parents' Prayer Group meeting in the Gloucester Room

### SATURDAY 9 JUNE

» **Oxbridge Preparation Day for Lower Sixth**

### MONDAY 11 JUNE

**5.30pm** Venice trip Information Evening

### WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE

**6.30pm** Lower Fifth performance concert in the hall (Pre-concert drinks in the Library at 6pm)

### THURSDAY 14 JUNE

» **Upper Fourth Take Your Daughter to Work Day**

### FRIDAY 15 JUNE

**12.30pm** Lunch for Parent Helpers in the Hall

### TUESDAY 19 JUNE

**3pm** Second hand uniform sale

# DIARY

### MONDAY 25 JUNE

» **Sixth Form Induction Day**

**6.30 pm** Lower School Vocal Concert in the Hall (Pre-concert drinks in the Library: 6pm)

### TUESDAY 26 JUNE

**5.30 pm** Lower Sixth Parents' Evening

### WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE

**6 pm** Upper Sixth Prize Giving and Leavers' Evening (for 6.30pm)

### THURSDAY 28 JUNE

» **Sports Day in Regent's Park**

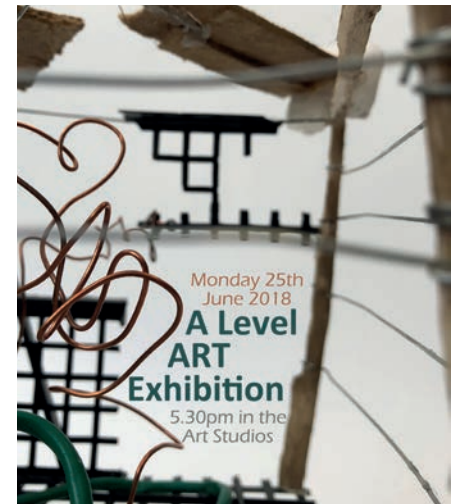
## JULY

### MONDAY 2 JULY

**5.30 pm** Lower Fourth Science Fair in the Hall

### FRIDAY 6 JULY

**12.30pm** End of term (approx.)



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