

CORIFERS NEWSLETTER JAN-FEB 2020

The Tempest, Women of Influence series, Holocaust Memorial Day, Academic Enrichment Lectures, Inter-House Hockey, Autumn Concert, Christmas at FHS...and much more

WE COME





Some might say that the Autumn Term is the right time to meet new classmates, to learn new routines and to familiarise oneself with the school itself. If that is considered to be true, then by contrast, the Spring Term is all about looking outwards to the world beyond the school gates.

At this stage of their school life, girls in the Upper Sixth Form have their eyes firmly set on life post-A levels. Work experience, internships and university life are key thoughts and key motivators for these girls who face a long season of study and exams before arriving at their next destination.

For those of us who have longer left at Francis Holland, the wider world is also a consideration at this time of year. In order to focus our minds on issues outside of our daily life, we have the annual 'Women of Influence' speaker series (see page 4 for more). I am enormously grateful to our guests who have offered to visit the school and address the girls about their particular area of expertise during the morning assembly slots. As usual, we have women from diverse walks of life. This year's innovation to the familiar talks is that each guest is being interviewed by members of the school - ranging from the Thirds to the Upper Sixth. I am terrifically proud of girls who are bold enough to step forwards and











Widening Access to Highly-Selective Universities

Wednesday, 26th February 2020 10.30am - 1.00pm St Cyprian's Church Glentworth Street London NW1 6AX

The role of schools across the country to act as agents for social mobility has never been more important. Race and underprivilege continue to impact on access to elite universities today. Four London schools have come together to raise awareness and increase understanding around issues of inequality.

do something difficult. The hardest audience which one can face is an audience of one's peers and the hardest time to do that is adolescence, so it speaks volumes of the Francis Holland mindset that I have had to turn down a good number of volunteers, because there are not enough guests available to be interviewed.

Meanwhile, I have also planned a oneoff event to consider issues of social mobility and inequality for an audience of 200 other headteachers drawn from state-maintained and independent schools. It is well known that black and minority ethnic pupils are statistically under-represented at elite universities. Indeed, in 2017 David Lammy MP published his findings from Freedom of Information requests which revealed that 13 Oxford colleges had not made an offer to a single black candidate in the previous six years. Schools have an important role as agents of change and aspiration and I am proud to be hosting this symposium at St Cyprian's Church in February.

Finally, I draw your attention to three events for pupils running during the weekends later this term:

• On Saturday 21st March, we are hosting a 'Classics Fest' for pupils from the Lower Fifth upwards. The Classics Department at this school is world class and this collaboration with other schools – and with the universities of Cambridge, Manchester and Warwick – is a clear indicator of the ambition and

the determination of the staff and the girls, under the direction of Mrs Simons. Details have gone out by FH Post.

- For Saturday, 28th March, our Director of Careers, Mr Bossé has planned an **Entrepreneurship Day** here at school. The event is facilitated by 7 billion ideas. An entrepreneurial skillset can give control to young people. It is considered as knowledge that will never go out of date, nor be antiquated by new technologies, and it will always be in demand by employers around the world. Details have gone out by FH Post.
- Also on Saturday, 28th March, there
 is a Leadership and Teamwork
 morning being led by Mrs Francisco,
 Assistant Head (Co-curricular). She
 has planned a series of workshops,
 talks and training open to any pupil
 from the Thirds and above, but with
 a particular target group of pupil
 leaders of clubs and societies as well
 as form captains, sports captains and
 prefects. Details have gone out by
 FH Post.

Here at Francis Holland, Regent's Park we are outward-looking; we are considering our place in society, we are acknowledging our privilege and we are shaping the world of the future.

The school is in good heart.

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CHARLES FILLINGHAM

New Staff

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Ms Una Murphy joins us as the new Director of Music and is already under way with rehearsals for the School Birthday concert on 13th February and the Joint Choral Concert with Harrow in March, where the choir will be performing Verdi's *Requiem*. She is doing great things and we look forward to hearing what other musical delights she has in store.



Miss Lokyee Szeto is our new Gap Year Intern and joins us from Wellington Girls' College, New Zealand. She will be helping with dance classes (look out for the Gym and Dance Display on 6th March), accompanying Lower Fourth trips, taking photos at events, and just generally being a helping hand about the school. We're excited to have her on board.

Bursaries and the Development Fund



Over this last term, we have been greatly moved by the generosity of our parent body and alumnae.

The Headmaster has recently forged a strong relationship with a local 11–16 state school. The success of the Bursary Fund has made it possible for FHS to offer to four of their most academic Year 11 students Sixth Form places next year. We can offer these girls access to our facilities, remarkable teaching staff and co-curricular activities, and they will in turn bring different life

experiences, perspectives and values to our community. The Bursary Fund enriches our school greatly, and we are grateful to the individuals and organisations who support our ambition to increase the number of bursary places we can offer.

The Wider Development Fund has led to significant improvements around the school over the last year, in particular the courtyard garden and the library. As a token of our appreciation and recognition of those who have shown such

generous support for this fund, colourful glass butterflies are now in the trees. I hope you take the time to look for them - they really brighten these February days.

Thank you to the following people for your recent support:

Garvin and Steffanie Brown **Embassy of Mankind** Jon Mided and Leila Golestaneh Helen Last The Lee family The Malpica family The Morris family Susanne Nedas The Noren family The Francis Holland Parents' Association The Phillips family Quondam The Sall family Mark Teeger The Tugendhat Somain family

and to all our FHS families who wish to remain anonymous.

Ms Mollie Tant
DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

NEWS NEWS

Women of Influence 2020

This year's 'Women of Influence' speaker series looks set to be as interesting and diverse as ever.

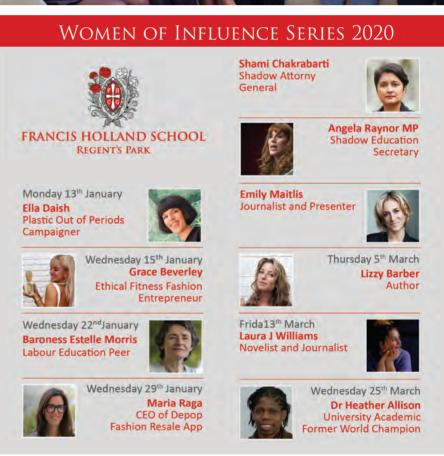
Joining us on Monday 13th January was Plastic Out of Periods campaigner Ella Daish, who was interviewed by Jessica Snijders and Milly Winterburn. Conventional period products contain up to 90% plastic and are continuously manufactured, used for between 4-8 hours, disposed of and then take over 500 years to break down. Ella's campaign focuses on ending this plastic use through persuading companies to change their practices. She offered advice on plastic-free alternatives to the main brands and shared with us the campaigners who inspired her.

On Wednesday 15th January, Isabella Waite interviewed Polished Corner, fashion entrepreneur, and social media influencer Grace Beverley. Grace set up three companies while studying Music at the University of Oxford – activewear brand TALA (whose mission is to create 100% upcycled clothing, while keeping costs to a minimum and paying labourers a fair wage) and fitness industry brands B ND/Shreddy. Grace spoke about the challenges she faced establishing her business alongside her studies, her experiences of being stereotyped, and how she manages a social media following in excess of one million followers.

Labour Education Peer Baroness Estelle Morris visited us on Wednesday 22nd January and was joined on stage by Chiara Khadem and Eydis Karadottir. She spoke to us about her political career, reflecting that having a father who was an MP meant that she never considered







it to be beyond her capabilities, and observed that there are an increasing number of opportunities available to women today (though we have not yet had a female leader of the Labour Party). She also shared some thoughts on education and reminded the girls to take every opportunity to build character as it is something you acquire over time, rather than a subject you study for an exam.

We have many more great guests to look forward to, from politicians to

debut authors, and a journalist to a World Champion. We are grateful to all our speakers for taking time to share their thoughts and journeys with us. This has also been a wonderful opportunity for the girls to develop their interview and presentation techniques as they have shared the stage with these inspiring and influential women.

Miss Sarah Lawrence



Holocaust Memorial Day

"Love is the most powerful weapon in the world." and "We're all human beings." That was the powerful message of Holocaust survivor Leslie Kleinman BEM who joined us for a lunchtime talk on Thursday 23rd January, ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27th.

During his time with us, Mr Kleinman recounted his story: how he and his family were taken from their home in Romania to Auschwitz; how he was saved by a Polish Jew who pulled him from the line and told him to claim he was 17 so he would be put to work rather than be sent to the gas chambers; how the rest of his family were sent to those chambers; how he survived; and what he had done after being liberated 75 years ago.

NEWS

He showed us an image of the number he was branded with, 8203, and explained that when converted to the Hebrew alphabet it had the same value as the word love. While the Nazis had given him this mark, he spoke about how God used this hidden meaning to guide him to denounce hate and promote love – because "we're all human beings". An advocate of peace, when asked what he would say to a Nazi if they were stood in front of him Mr Kleinman answered with one word, "Shalom".

He also spoke about how God had guided him to share his story with the young, so that the next generations would know this history and learn from it. We were all deeply moved by this man's message and are truly grateful to have heard it. I hope we will all live up to his expectations for us by living lives of love and peace.

Miss Lucy Cooper TEACHER OF HISTORY

Careers Department News

Things have been busy in the Careers Department. We've hosted events, taken girls to visit Savills (see page 13), organised career guidance interviews for the Upper Fifth, and are now planning for an Entrepreneurship Day in March.

Our two most recent panel events were centred on the worlds of Banking and Financial Services and Journalism and the Media. They were designed to enable our students to hear from industry experts and to ask questions about a range of potential career paths. We are grateful to all the parents who took part in these panels – Mrs Natalie Supplisson-Perrier, Mr Robert Saunders, Mr David Charap, Ms Claire Collinson-Jones and Mrs Scheherazade Hessabi – who gave of their time to share



personal experiences, triumphs and challenges.

Our next panel events will explore the fields of Engineering and Law and the Civil Service. If you would be interested in being part of a panel at either of these events please contact the Careers Department at careers@fhs-nw1.org.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Mr Jason Bossé

NEWS

ARTiculation Success

Congratulations to Chloë Yaffes who spoke with such knowledge and enthusiasm about the David's depiction of the *Death of Socrates* (1787) at the Royal Academy heat of ARTiculation on Monday 13th January.

Chloë is through to the London Regional Final which will take place at the National Gallery in February, and we wish her every success.

Miss Clare MacDonnell
HEAD OF HISTORY OF ART











Photography Club

I am absolutely stunned at the work created by our Photography Club students this term!

The Art Department works in tandem with an amazing charity, Sir Hubert Von Herkomer Arts Foundation, who uses funds from the courses run with us to fund school projects for children in more deprived areas. We are extremely fortunate to have Debbi Clark, a photographer whose work features in *Vogue*, *Homme*, *Face* and *ID*, visit our department to teach a senior and junior club. The girls have learned how to use the exposure triangle, working on composition, multiple exposure, shutter speed, aperture and ISO.

Mrs Heather Maund

Stretch and Challenge Booklet

We are excited to launch our new online *Stretch & Challenge* Booklet. This comprehensive booklet is an opportunity to provide Francis Holland girls with a mix of broadening (enrichment) and extra depth (extension) during their studies. You will find that each department has provided a wealth of enrichment and extension recommendations designed to stimulate and challenge the girls across a range of abilities as well as

providing an opportunity to engage and work independently at a high level. We very much hope the *Stretch & Challenge* Booklet will inspire our girls to make the most of the multitude of excellent lectures and exhibitions on our doorstep.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms Kristina Lewis

ASSISTANT HEAD OF TEACHING & LEARNING



Academic Enrichment Lectures

Discovering new areas of interest and expanding our horizons is a key part of academic enrichment at FHS and so far this year we have heard some brilliantly engaging, academically rigorous, and self-reflective lectures.

On Monday 18th November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Gina Rippon, author of *The Gendered Brain.* Professor Rippon is a researcher in the field of cognitive neuroscience at the Aston Brain Centre at Aston University, Birmingham, and an advocate for initiatives to mitigate the under-representation of women in STEM subjects. She spoke to a Lecture Theatre filled to the brim with girls from the Thirds up to the Upper Sixth, and showed us how we first arrived at the conviction that the female brain is "different" (and thus inferior), how this misperception persists into the 21st century, and how the latest breakthroughs in neuroscience can, and should, dispel such fallacies forever.

Our own Dr Francesca De Bono spoke to us on Thursday 30th January, delivering a fascinating exploration of the fractured identity of author Daphne du Maurier, who fought sexual disorientation, risked conflation with her most iconic creation and struggled

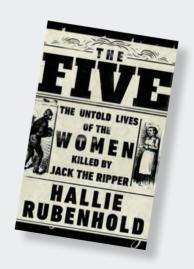


to align the public and private selves she created. Entitled 'Three's A Crowd', the talk explored du Maurier's alter ego, Eric, a rugby-playing hyper-masculine poster boy, and his diametric twin Rebecca, her most seductive and misconstrued heroine. The lecture aimed to answer the question: who was Daphne du Maurier and will we ever know?

Next, we will hear from social historian Hallie Rubenhold, author of *The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper.* She will be joining us on Wednesday 18th March and girls are encouraged to sign up after half term if they want to hear the stories of these previously unknown women.

Ms Kristina Lewis

ASSISTANT HEAD OF TEACHING & LEARNING



Author Hallie Rubenhold will be speaking at FHS on Weds 18 March.

PHDRAMA







In November a cast of Upper Fourth to Sixth Form students put on an enchanting performance of Shakespeare's final play, *The Tempest*. The production had moments of comedy, romance and a sprinkling of magic.

The girls were wonderful to work with. Their ideas and enthusiasm shone through every rehearsal, from our initial read-through in September, to our final rehearsal on Inset Day. When the set arrived, the girls were so excited. Suddenly their hard work was framed by a beautiful backdrop of foliage and silk fabric. The sound and lighting added to a sense of place and mystery and the play was transformed into a beautiful production.













DRAMA

Charlotte McBurney (Prospero) had this to say:

"Our production of the Tempest was a huge collaborative effort, and I feel so privileged to have performed with such a wonderful cast. We all bonded over a term of rehearsals, and there was such a fantastic array of talent. There were so many moments of humour, like Maia Von Malaisé's hilarious performance as the ostentatious Ferdinand, but there were also hugely touching scenes, like the drowning mariners, with Venice Gainfort-Head held up in a lift. Some of the roles were double cast, and it was extraordinary to watch the different interpretations of the same parts. Emma Radcliffe played the role of Miranda as a rebellious and powerful young woman, while Saskia Teeger made the part a frightened and impassioned daughter. I played the part of Prospero, an ageing, embittered father who seeks revenge. It was an incredible experience to perform one of the greatest roles in Shakespeare at 18 years old, and certainly something I will never forget."

Later this year it will be the turn of the Lower School, and auditions are already under way for their production of *High School Musical*. But first the Inter-House Drama Competition.

Mrs Helen Simmons
HEAD OF DRAMA







Autumn Concert

Pupils from all year groups gathered in St Cyprian's Church for this year's Autumn Concert, which showcased all the main ensembles. The School Orchestra opened proceedings with a triumphant rendition of the Allegro from Beethoven's Symphony no. 5, the Lower School Choir charmed the audience with Osiek's 'River of my soul', and the Pink Ladies rounded off the concert with a little bit of jazz. There was a wonderful array of performances and we look forward to hearing many of the girls perform as soloists at the Spring Evening Recital and IGCSE Concert in February.

Miss Liva Zarina









House Poetry Competition Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners – Misha, Ava, Lily, Poppy and Ruby – and our overall winner Lizzy whose poem on the theme of 'light' is printed below.

Mr Adrian Smith
TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Hefty rays oppress,

Darkness, velvet, silk seductive, drawing in Wraps me round, becomes my skin Pitch-Blackness, descending mine To the mantle, magma, core Warm dark essence, envelops more. Blot out all light Silent, dreamless fight Anaesthetised – not quite.

No gentle hue of morning To welcome, usher in. Gunshot, without warning. Paralysis. I cannot move, I cannot rest
Light weighs heavy on windows, walls and chest.
Light pricks and pierces, needle sharp
Brightness, blinds, splits heads apart.
Fluoresence forces thoughts adrift,
Dispersed, then kettled shiftDreary confusion, clinical numbness seeps

Leaden light, presses torso, limbs, mind to sleep Yet, in the void

Light tantalises, whispers, I'm your friend. Without me, despair, desolation cannot end.

Christmas at FHS

EVENTS F H

This season of goodwill was marked in a number of ways by the FHS community.

Celebrations began in late November with the MFL Department sharing a number of German Christmas traditions with students in the Lower School. Girls had the chance to buy chocolates to send to their friends on 6th December, St Nicholas' Day, and in the process raised £101.55 for Evelina Children's Hospital.

On Saturday 7th December, the school community gathered for the annual Christmas Fair run by the Parents' Association. It was an amazing day with a stunning programme of 21 stall vendors, reindeers, and scrumptious food. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, the 74 parents who volunteered on the day and the 30 who baked treats for the café. This year we raised £33,337 for charities, far exceeding our target! £20,070 of which came from the raffle – well done girls for selling those tickets.

Finally we finished off our celebrations with a rousing Carol Service on Thursday 12th December. Readings from the Bible were delivered by representatives from every year, a member of staff and the Headmaster, and interspersed with the joyful singing of carols by the whole school community. We were also treated to a beautiful arrangement by Mr Patterson of 'O Little Town' and an original composition entitled 'O Magnum Mysterium', also by Mr Patterson and performed by the Fifteen, which lived up to its name.

Miss Sarah Lawrence

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN









Francis Holland School Parents' Association

SPRING QUIZ

Wed 18 March

School Hall 7.00pm

Tickets

£35pp (+ booking fee) includes dinner and a glass of wine
Book online only at
https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fhsnw1
Tables will be by year group
Please advise pa@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you
would like to arrange your own table
Always a sell-out so don't delay!
All proceeds go to charity



TRIPS

Independent Schools Ski Championships 2019

Congratulations to our Ski Team led by team captain Isabella Mahapatra-Andrade who competed in the Independent Schools Ski Championships 2019 in Les Deux Alpes over the Christmas holidays.

The team consisted of ten pupils ranging from the Lower Fourth to the Upper Fifth and they competed in a number of races in quite adverse conditions, showing great courage and resilience, as well as humour. Miss Burroughs and I were so impressed with them all!

Miss Clare MacDonnell
HEAD OF HISTORY OF ART











Thirds trip to the National Portrait Gallery

On Friday 29th November, the Thirds visited the National Portrait Gallery for a highly informative and engaging lecture on 'Image & Identity'. They explored the galleries to discover a wide variety of artwork; from 500-year-old Tudor paintings to contemporary

holographic portraits. Hopefully, our young artists have gained great inspiration to create their own artwork based on Identity. We look forward to seeing what they create!

Miss Niamh Carew





Upper Sixth Politics Students hear from Tony Blair

On Monday 25th November, our Upper Sixth Politics pupils were invited to an exclusive talk delivered by former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, at Reuters' Headquarters. Blair criticised both parties for 'peddling fantasies' in the 'weirdest election' of his lifetime. In a rather gloomy speech, Blair warned

against the rise of populism and urged everyone to vote on 12th December. Thank you to Mr Axel Threlfall, a parent at Francis Holland School, for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity in these turbulent times!

Mr Patrick Glavin

HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS



Upper Fifth trip to the Royal Courts of Justice

On Tuesday 19th November half of the Upper Fifth visited the Royal

Courts of Justice to explore and experience through role play, the UK legal system (the other half having already visited earlier in the term). After discussing different kinds of law and some recent cases with our guide, our students enacted a case of appeal in which the appellant was requesting a reduced sentence from murder to manslaughter. Three girls took on the role of the judges, while

TRIPS



A Visit to Savills

On Tuesday 15th October, four of us took the train to Covent Garden station to look around Grain house, an island of buildings that were being sold for redevelopment. A representative from Savills' Investment Management explained to us that this almost half acre site had been her first buy 20 years ago and now would be sold and completely refurbished. She also explained to us that, surprisingly enough, the London commercial market for office buildings had not been considerably affected by recent changes in value of the pound, as no matter what happens, the number of regulations and security put in place for buyers always leads to foreign investors feeling confident in buying in London. As she toured us around the building she revealed that it had been leased out to Kings College as a satellite facility. By the end of the tour, we were all so surprised by what investment management actually entailed and all really enjoyed the trip.

Bella Atfield

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT



the others were divided into the representatives for the appellant and respondent. After a lively debate, the girls left with a greater understanding of the intricacies of the legal system, the complexity of balancing societal and individual rights, and an appreciation for the gravitas of the courtroom.

Mr Harry Clayton

HEAD OF LOWER AND UPPER FIFTH FORM

HOUSE

Inter-House Hockey



Inter-House Hockey was another great success this season. With almost every girl from the Thirds to the Upper Fifth taking part, there was plenty of House spirit and determination. Here are the match results:

	Year Group	Winners	Players of the Tournament
Y (L)	III	Saturn	Honor Shingles & Reia Paskaralingam
	LIV	Saturn	Saskia De Koster & Clementina Malpica
	UIV	Mars	Lola Shingles & Saffron Jones
	LV	Jupiter	Anthippi Hadjipateras & Simoné Yanez
	UV	Mars	Juliette Hassenforder & Zoe Haering

But there were lots of bonus points on offer for sportsmanship, organisation and encouragement. With all the points combined it was Saturn who were our overall winners this year! Congratulations to all who took part.

Miss Maria Merrigan

Photo Competition Winners



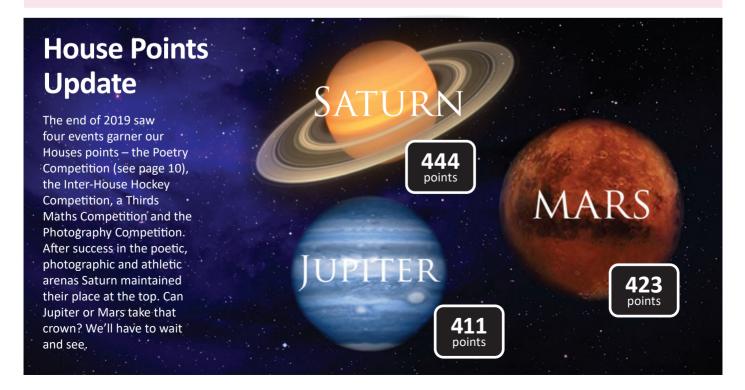
Gaia Accardi (Saturn)
Objects Category Winner



Delaney Grey (Saturn)
People Category Winner



Eva Bielawski (Jupiter)
Environment Category Winner



SPORT

Netball

On Monday 18th November the U13 A's Netball team competed in the Westminster Games. Pool A featured teams from St Augustine's, St Marylebone, and St George's, but our girls came out on top and made it through to the semi-finals. Here they faced Grey Coat School and, despite a rocky start, they pulled through with a win and earned their spot in the finals where they were met by FHS, Sloane Square. This was a tough game with the score neck-and-neck right to the whistle. As the game finished in a draw, extra time was needed to find a winner of the Westminster Games. Both teams were nervous and excited to keep playing for the title with, Regent's Park winning by one point, 10-9. Well done to all the girls who participated in the Westminster Games.



TEACHER OF SPORT



Hockey

On Saturday the U12 and the U13 Hockey Teams travelled to Highgate School to take part in a competition against some top hockey schools. The U13s won one, lost one and drew one, meaning they were only one victory away from winning overall! The U12s won two out of their three matches - a great achievement for their first ever games! All involved played exceptionally well; well done to everyone.

Miss Maria Merrigan

TEACHER OF SPORT

Gymnastics



In December, we took six girls to Streatham to compete in the Milano Trio, a London wide competition where the winner represents London in the national finals. The girls participated in Vault, Trio routines and individual routines. The day went exceptionally well with both teams performing flawlessly and competing to the highest standard. Their category had the most competitors with 15 gymnasts participating in all, the girls finished an admirable 7th and 8th. Well done to the six girls, Charlotte Baird, Rose Slinn, Chloe Dyos, Saskia Shah, Maya Pilkington and India Smith.

Mrs Brogan Percy



Cricket

This term are Cricket Club have been lucky enough to have Lord's Cricket Ground as their training venue. Each week the FHS pupils will head up to Lord's and be coached. It's an amazing opportunity for them to experience playing cricket in this historic location.

Miss Laura Burroughs



Upcoming Careers Events

- Engineering Panel Event Thursday 26th March, 1pm
- Entrepreneurship Day Saturday 28th March
- Law and Civil Service Panel Event Thursday 30th April, 1pm

Gym & Dance Display

Friday 6th March, 5pm

Refreshments are available in the Library from 4:30pm

Parents' Association Spring Quiz

Wednesday 18th March, 7pm

Please join us for an evening of fun, friendly competition, food and fast thinking, hosted by our fantastic Quiz Master, Mr Harry Clayton!

Tickets: £35

Daunts Book Fair

Friday 6th March in the Library

Students will be able to browse and purchase books throughout the day – parents are welcome to have a look while enjoying the refreshments before the Gym and Dance Display.



Musical Save the Dates

- School Birthday Concert with Parents' Choir Thursday 13 February, St Marylebone Church, 7pm
- IGCSE Performance Concert Monday 25th February, School Hall, 6pm
- Spring Evening Recital Thursday 27th February, School Hall, 6pm
- Joint Choral Concert with Harrow School Tuesday 24th March



