



# FHS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024

## EXCELLENT SUMMER RESULTS



**A**gainst the national trend, GCSE measures were up this year at FHS: many of our top achievers are pictured here celebrating.

We were also so proud to see our Year 13s follow their paths to success following their A Level and BTEC results.

Mr Walters said: "We are delighted so many of our students have achieved their dreams and ambitions in securing their grades. So many have also done superbly reaching their universities of choice and it is really good to see students, once again, going to excellent UK universities including Kings College, UCL and Imperial."



*Pictured: one of five medical and dentistry students this year, Ammara, now undertaking a medical degree at UCL*

## KOREAN VISITORS TO FHS



**W**e welcomed students & teachers from Gunwi High School, S.Korea, as part of a programme to promote culture & diplomatic relations.

6th Form students took part in 2 days of activities with our visitors, ranging from dancing, singing to ice-breaker games. The students from Korea also shared much about traditional Korean food, clothing and lifestyle. A truly memorable experience for our students.

## SOUTHALL URBAN GARDEN



**T**hank you to Southall Community Alliance for facilitating two visits to the Western Road Gardens - a space dedicated to the local community.



Our Value Reps took a tour of the space, gathering tips and inspiration for our own school garden. Additionally, three of our Sixth Formers joined students from Villiers to discuss how efforts to address climate change can align with tackling poverty and inequality.

## ORACY AWARD



### ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

### Oracy Culture Awards 2024

We are delighted to announce that Ms Amiri from FHS has been awarded the Secondary School National Award for the work she has carried out in creating a culture of oracy at Featherstone.

## GALLERY VISIT



**Y**ear 8 students visited Pitzhanger Gallery for a private viewing of the beautiful silk prints our pupils helped produce as part of the Southall Resists Project.

The students also took part in a workshop to produce mini banners and badges. It was a privilege to have their work next door to Grayson Perry's!

CARE

RESPECT

CHALLENGE

RESILIENCE

PARTNERSHIP

INCLUSION

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER

Some long-distance races operate on an out and back basis. In other words, the runners race to a far point at what is usually the halfway point of the race and then they turn and return over the same ground to the finish.

Of course, there is a burst of optimism at the turning point, knowing that they are past the halfway marker, and they can now look to run as strongly as possible home to the finish line. However, the initial run out is also critical as they must not lose ground on their competitors, and they have to dig deep into their reserves of stamina and resolve if the going gets tough.

I am reminded of this style of race by the clocks going back at the start of half term and the fact that we are now entering a long period of dark nights until the clocks go forward next Spring.

Of course, this period of the next few months can be likened to the run-out phase of the long-distance race. When the days get lighter next Spring much of the race will have been run and all our students will be left with the run to the finish. This will be most apparent for the exam years who have the very real finish line of the final examination, but it is true for every student in every year group in making sure they achieve everything they can in their current school year.

The key factor for every student and every family to remember is that no ground must be lost across the next few months. It will be dark; it will be cold, and it will, very likely rain. There will be moments of light too as various annual events and festivals occur but it is important, in terms of learning, that everyone stays the course.

There will be challenges as seasonal illnesses crop up, and there may

very well be other unforeseen challenges, but we must all do whatever we can to be sure that when the light and warmth of the Spring returns that we are in a strong position to sprint home to success.

Finish lines are a strong symbol of completing a task, and so it is with a race and with a school year. I have given this piece the misleading title of the Loneliness of the Long-Distance runner after the celebrated short story of Alan Sillitoe. In this story the runner is on his own. The good news for everyone at Featherstone is no-one is on their own. Instead, we will all be there to support each other and every student and member of staff as we live by the motto, "Together we Achieve." Here we go for another half term, and we are all here for you.

Mr Walters, Headteacher



## LEARN WITH THE LORDS



We welcomed Lord Borwick last half term to FHS as part of the 'Learn with the Lords' programme.

After a tour led by our Head Girl and Senior Prefect, Lord Borwick dropped in on a Year 13 Economics class and then delivered a talk and Q&A session to our Year 12s.

After visiting our school, Lord Borwick invited six students from Year 13 for a private tour of the House of Lords. They watched Lords Question Time and the students saw behind the scenes of Parliament's upper chamber. It was a really memorable day.



## VISIT FROM MP



We were pleased to welcome the new MP for Southall, Deirdre Costigan to Featherstone.

She met with our Headteacher and Chair of Governors. We look forward to working with her to improve the lives of our young people.

## FHS AWARDS EVENING 2024



Our guest speaker, Sunny Singh Gill spoke to students and their families at our Annual Awards Evening.

Sunny is a Football Association referee and the first British South Asian to officiate in the men's English Premier League.

The evening recognised the achievements of our students and we welcomed back many of our Year 13 leavers to wish them well for the future.

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# KEW GARDENS TRAINING



Sixth Former, Hemayu, took part in the award-winning “Explainer” training and volunteering programme at Kew, helping young people become experts in science communication and public engagement.

He learnt from world-leading scientists and horticulturists and graduated from the programme at the end of September.

Hemayu said: “Being a Kew Explainer was a joyful experience; from learning about the variety of endangered plants found globally to being able to make new friends for life. I learnt a lot in my short time at Kew and the skills I gained from the experience will definitely help me in the future.”

# CAREERS VISIT

Business Studies students in Years 10 and 12 recently had the opportunity to listen to Amy Smith, Global Director, Recruitment & Outreach at Framstore, an Academy Award winning visual effects house based in London.



# WORKING WITH YEAR 6



Science teacher, Ms Maroof from FHS regularly delivers lessons to our Year 6s in our partner school, Woodlands Academy.

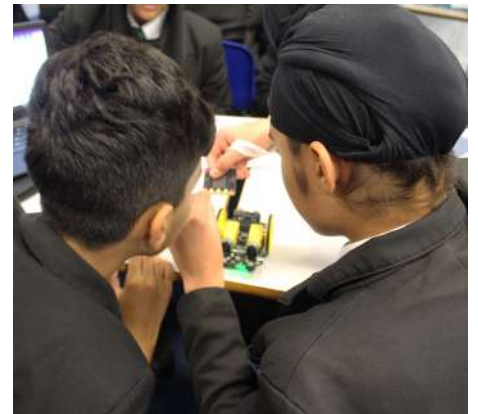
Pupils recently took part in a practical science lesson, dissecting an animal heart for their topic on the circulatory system. Having a specialist science teacher delivering lessons is great preparation for starting high school.



# STEM CHALLENGE

Students in Year 8 took part in the Heathrow STEM Generation challenge.

Working with staff from local charity Spark! and engineers from Heathrow the students were tasked with the job of programming an autonomous vehicle to navigate a route across the airfield to repair a defective light on the runway. The engineers outlined their roles at the airport and gave students the chance to ask lots of questions.



# POWER OF HAIR



We welcomed performance poet Adisa the Verbaliser who delivered a workshop called the “Power of Hair”.

Adisa worked with our Year 8s to help them understand personal and social aspects of hair and hairstyles, end hair discrimination and inspire a new generation of hair confidence.



# FHS LIBRARY NEWS



## HALLOWEEN IN THE LIBRARY

Halloween was celebrated in the Library throughout October with Spooky Stories, Halloween Colouring and Alarming Activities.

The Year 7 Book Group enjoyed sharing some frightening fiction and ghostly graphics.



MRS SCOTLAND MET HER KOREAN COUNTERPART, THE LIBRARIAN FROM GUNWI HIGH SCHOOL.



## OVERDUE BOOKS

A number of students still have library books from last year.

These are now overdue and should be returned as soon as possible so that others can read them. If there are any problems students should talk to library staff.

## ORACY OCTOBER!



## ORACY POSTER COMPETITION



Winner- Jenessa Gomes 9LDN

We have had a number of events within the Library and across the school to celebrate Oracy October.

Students designed posters explaining the importance of speaking and listening skills and oracy in school across all subjects. We received a range of entries that were engaging and eye-catching, sharing the key ideas of the importance of oracy.

As well as this, the library organised special events using Oracy Speaking and Language Skills with some fun games such as the Yes/No Challenge and Articulate Day for the Year 7s and 8s at lunch times. We ended the month with assemblies that showcased the finalists from our Jack Petchey Speak out challenge workshop for all the year groups. Speaking and listening are valuable life skills for our young people which we are proud to celebrate.



Runner-Up – Arya Gupta 7APN



@FeatherstoneHS



@featherstonehighschool



@featherstonehigh



# COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Our Year 7 Community Ambassador Group met for the first time last half term.

The theme of their meeting was "giving thanks". They made cards for their Form

Tutors, Student Services, Librarians, Teaching Assistants, Teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team. These Year 7s are keen to make sure that the people who have helped them settle in this half term know that their kindness is noted.



# NO VOTE, NO VOICE

Thank you to the representatives from the Greater London Authority and Shout Out UK for visiting our Sixth Formers.

They spoke with students about having voter ID so that they can make sure their voices are heard when elections happen.



# MACMILLAN BAKE SALE

Sixth Formers showed a lovely community spirit by organising a bake sale for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Younger students and staff bought cakes and donated to a Just Giving page to support the charity.

Lots of delicious cakes and biscuits were sold through out the day to raise money for this important cause. Special thanks to our cookery teacher, Ms Ubhi for her baking expertise



# HEALTHY SCHOOL



HEALTHY SCHOOLS LONDON

W

e are now a Silver Healthy School!



Awarded by the National Children's Bureau and the Mayor of London, the Healthy School Award recognises that we are supporting the health and wellbeing of our school community and creating a health promoting environment and ethos for our students and staff.

# GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Y

ear 11s embarked on a fascinating Geography field trip to the Dorset coast.

Students conducted field work to learn about coastal erosion and see coastal defences in action. A chilly day turned into a beautiful afternoon with views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Some students even spotted a seal!



# TERM DATES

School Closed: Fri 23rd November

School Closed: Mon 25th November

End of term: Fri 20th December 2024

Christmas holiday: Mon 23rd December 2024 to Fri 3rd January 2025

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**FREE**

# online parenting workshop



## Parenting Workshops Autumn 2024

**29th  
Oct  
10am-12pm**

### TALKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH

This session will discuss how to talk about sex and sexual health without shame or embarrassment. You will learn what is available through local clinics and what STI testing involves.

This session is for parents/carers of teenagers

**12th  
Nov  
10am-12pm**

### INTERNET SAFETY

This workshop will look at the positive & negative ways children use the internet today and what parents & carers need to know to be proactive in keeping them safe online.

This session is for parents/carers of children aged 13 & under

**19th  
Nov  
10am-12pm**

### IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE MALE ROLE MODELS

This session aims to empower fathers / grandfathers / uncles / foster fathers etc to become more effective and engaged in their children's lives, while maintaining balance and fostering healthy family dynamics

**26th  
Nov  
10am-12pm**

### EMPLOYMENT, BENEFITS & RETRAINING

Discover what support is available for you, how to access training, advice on returning to work, where to start retraining, and what benefits are you entitled to when working

email [parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk) to register your place



This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**  
let's come together and  
choose respect!

**CHOOSE**

**RESPECT**



**#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK**

From

**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> to FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER 2024**

If you're worried about bullying and/or want to be  
involved in Anti-Bullying Week this year, please contact



**Miss Hakizimana**



**#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK**



**ORGANISER**