



FHS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HEADTEACHER AT FHS

Welcome to our new Headteacher, Mr Nathan Walters, pictured here with the School Council.



His first newsletter message is over the page.

OXBRIDGE

We are thrilled to announce we have three students with Oxbridge offers.

Pictured: Ben (Physics, Oxford), Zohaa (History, Oxford) and Abhijeet (Economics, Cambridge). What a fantastic achievement. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the staff that have supported them through the process. Well done!



SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week 2023: another fantastic week of STEM activities at FHS.

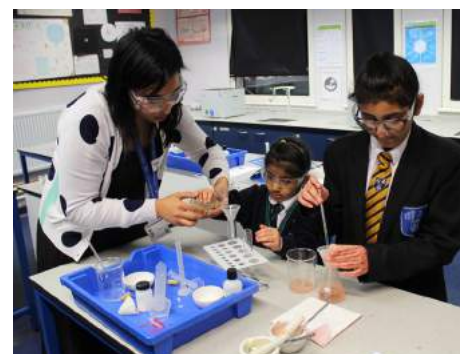
More on this story inside.



An unforgettable visit from Dr Ken! Fire eating, juggling, acrobatics: all in the name of science!



A colourful and explosive pyrotechnics demonstration happened in the hall!



Year 7s and their families came into school to work together on science experiments.

NEW HOUSE LOGOS

Thank you to the students who inspired these final designs (winners below). Look out for these logos & House Events around the school.



Care:
Chester



Respect:
Asma, Janice,
Simrandeep, Aaron



Challenge:
Jeewahsh



Resilience:
Thavaniya



Partnership:
Landa



Inclusion:
Anshpreet

CARE

RESPECT

CHALLENGE

RESILIENCE

PARTNERSHIP

INCLUSION

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Dear Parents & Carers,

I have already written about how welcoming and cheerful I have found your children to be. It has been one of the most striking features since joining the school as headteacher in January and it has certainly made settling in much easier. When I reflect on the conversations that I have had with students from Year 7 all the way up to the senior students in the Sixth Form, from both boys and girls, I notice that in getting to know me, I have been asked one question more than any other. That question is: "Which football team do you support?"

Surely this speaks of the dominance of football in our culture and perhaps that is



not always a good thing but then again football brings so much joy to so many people as witnessed by the World Cup last year and, of course, the success of the England Women's team in the European Championships last year. Of course, we can draw many parallels between football and a school. In both we have our kit or our uniform; in both we have our location, our home ground; in both we have a range of identities and characters; and in both we have people who specialise in one aspect of the school or team more than another.

Taking this analogy further, the headteacher has something in common with the manager of the football club too. Just like a manager it is my job to ensure that everyone knows their role and what that involves. I also need to be ambitious for my team and to bring home, instead of trophies, results, opportunities and experiences. Mind you, I am sure the PE department and our sports teams will be happy if we do collect some trophies along the way!

Reflecting on my first half term, I can see that the school is in a very healthy position. This sets us up for a very good second half of the year. I am very grateful to you, the parents and carers, for taking on the role as supporters. This gives us the very best chance with your children, with you supporting our rules, our ethos and our expectations. Schools really work at their optimum best when all the adults are on the same page.

So, we begin on what promises to be a very good next half term and, with your support, I am looking forward to all that it brings.

Oh, and if you are wondering what the answer to the question that all the students asked me is – I will be happy to tell you when I next speak to you in person!

Mr Walters, Headteacher

OUR NEW 6TH FORM LEADERS



HEAD GIRL
Hana Jatin Lamba



DEPUTY HEAD GIRL
Anmol Virdee



SENIOR PREFECT
Kathija Ashraf



HEAD BOY
Ali Qadri



DEPUTY HEAD BOY
Gurdit Singh



SENIOR PREFECT
Joravar Virdi

COACHING IN EDUCATION

We are thrilled to announce that we have been re-accredited for the Coach Mark Gold Award.

This is a quality mark awarded to schools who provide excellent staff coaching and also use coaching in the classroom to help students think about and reflect on solutions to their work rather than be told the answers.

Featherstone has succeeded where many have failed, which is to fully embed a culture and practice of coaching that runs through the school like the words through a stick of rock.

The inspector said: "What a privilege it has been to assess your school for Coachmark. It was genuinely inspirational to see what has been



maintained, developed, and achieved over the past 5 years, and especially considering the difficult times the school has lived through in the past 2.5 years".



@FeatherstoneHS



@featherstonehighschool



@featherstonehigh

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We were so excited to welcome families to our Christmas concert at the end of last term, it was a really entertaining evening for all.

We are proud of each & every student who participated in this event and we recognise the effort they put in; meeting every single week either at lunchtime or after school.

Each student playing in the show put in countless hours of solo preparation and ensemble practices. We had over 110



students from every year group from Year 7 to 13 involved either on stage or in the running of the 24 performances.

The students have worked really hard and the Music Department is incredibly proud of them.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

We Marked Holocaust Memorial Day at FHS by inviting our School Council to listen to the incredible testimony of Holocaust survivor Ruth Posner BEM.

Year 8 student, Aafaq said: "This was a really intriguing and eye opening story"

Year 9 student, Mujebullah added: "This was a very informative account. She was a very open-minded lady about her experience and being able to return to Germany later in life."

The library also put together a selection of books to help our students learn more and understand the important lessons for today.



FORMER MP VISIT

Fatherstone welcomed former Labour MP, Tom Levitt.

He spoke to and took questions from A Level Geography, Business and Government & Politics students about sustainability in the business sector.



SPANISH PLAY



Year 10 Spanish pupils enjoyed "Mi personalidad", performed by the wonderful actors from Onatti Productions.

VISIT TO BELAZU

Twelve year 9 Food and Nutrition students visited Belazu in Greenford.

They learnt about all the processes that take place in the factory and all the different jobs you can do at Bellazu.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY TO SCHOOL

At Featherstone High School we are fully committed to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence.

We will also support parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly and will promote and support punctuality in attending school and lessons. Parents/carers are required to ensure that their child attends school on each day the

school is open for the pupils, unless there is an authorised reason to be absent.

The Headteacher is the only person who has the authority to authorise school absences during term time. This responsibility is delegated to specific members of staff. The governors of the school have asked the Headteacher not to authorise leave if a request is to attend a wedding, family gathering or holiday. Requests will only be considered if there is an exceptional circumstance or an emergency. A maximum of 10 days will only be authorised if there is an emergency or an exceptional circumstance. If 10 days are granted and the student fails to return within agreed dates the student may be removed from the school roll and the parents/guardians will be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Parents sometimes confuse 'telling' the school as being good enough, this is not so. If a child goes abroad during a school holiday period, the parent must make definite arrangements so that they return in good time for school re-opening. Absence claimed as illness before or after a school holiday must be reported during the period of absence and medical evidence produced on return to school, otherwise the absence will be regarded as unauthorised leave.

Parents who wish to apply for leave during term time must do so via the Operoo link on our website.

[Please read our Student Attendance, Absence & Punctuality Policy which you can find here.](#)

Attendance

Make sure your son/daughter arrives on time and attends every day. Every missed day counts!

It is a fact that the greater the attendance the greater the levels of attainment.

Statistics tell us that if your child's attendance is 88%, they have a 3% chance of achieving five 5-9 GCSEs.

Missing one day of school per week equals one year of school missed over the course of five years.

Applications for Leave During Term Time

Only emergencies or exceptional circumstances will be considered.

Holidays or family gatherings will not be authorised.

Fixed penalty notices will be issued by Ealing. In some cases Ealing will prosecute parents.

Applications are to be made via Operoo on the Parent Portal.

Punctuality

School starts at 8.30am. Students need to be in school before this time as the gates will be closed promptly at 8.30am.

Students arriving late are asked to go to Gate A, where they will be met by Senior Staff to explain their reason for their lateness.

The school gates will close at 8.50am. After that, access to school is by the main school reception.

All students are expected to arrive on time at school, ready for lessons. Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for students to form good habits for later life. Punctuality records form part of references passed onto employers or higher educational institutes.

We would ask parents to support us in maintaining good punctuality by:

- Ensuring that their children get up in plenty of time to be ready and prepared for school.
- Ensuring their child has organised their bag and equipment the night before so that this does not delay departure in the morning.
- Discussing any issues of lateness to ensure this does not become a habit.
- Monitoring their child's attendance record when it is sent home and looking for patterns of lateness.



OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE = OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

POOR ATTENDANCE = UNDER ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED ACHIEVEMENT ↑

97% - 100%

Outstanding attendance. No risk of poor attendance impacting on grades

96% - 96.9%

Risk of underachievement, maybe a quarter of a grade per subject. Close monitoring by Form Tutor and referral to Head of Year
At least 34-46 lessons missed.

94% - 95.9%

Risk of underachievement, up to a third of a grade per subject. Head of Year aware and monitoring. Education Welfare Officer (EWO) aware.
At least 46-68 lessons missed.

90%-93.9%

Severe risk of underachievement linked to attendance. Nearly the equivalent of one academic year of Geography or History lessons missed. EWO monitoring closing.
At least 68-114 lessons missed.

Below 90%

Extreme risk of underachievement. Risk of court action. There are 120 hours of guided learning in one GCSE qualification, at this level, the equivalent of a whole GCSE missed.
At least 114 lessons missed.

SCIENCE WEEK 2023

Science Week this year really celebrated Science and the STEM subjects and careers, offering something for every year group.

Here are some of the highlights pictured below.

The Science Department worked hard to provide a varied week with plenty of

external visitors and exciting workshops run by teachers.

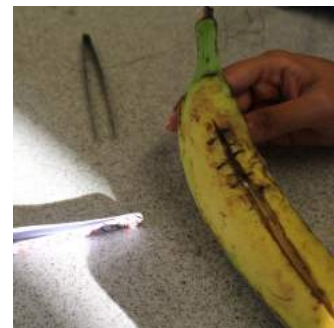
We hope everyone felt inspired.



HS2 Learn by Design Workshop: Year 8s designed a station, built a tunnel and planned a rail network!



Royal Institute Live: Energy LIVE! was an exciting student led show, delving into the different stores of energy and how they affect our lives.



Suturing Workshop: Year 12s learnt about suturing with staff.



Indoor Fireworks show: We explored the colourful and explosive world of pyrotechnics with Matthew Tosh deconstructing the STEM behind firework displays.



Career in Medicine: We were also joined by Dr Serina Peroos from UCL who discussed careers in medicine.



Climate Science: Dr Joseph Daron, a Science Manager and applied climate scientist, spoke to Sixth Formers



Rockets: With the explosive power of baking soda and vinegar, students launched their own rockets!



STEAM Talks: Brentford FC Community Sports Trust spoke to students about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths.



Zoolab: This fascinating session looked at a section of complex behaviours from the animal world including Batesian mimicry, parthenogenesis and camouflage!



The Polymer age: Dr Bromley from Reading University discussed the leap from early free-radical reactions to modern controlled radical polymerisation and the exciting places these materials might take us.

We also had: the Explosive Science show; The Amazing World of Science in FACT and FICTION; Energy Quest; HealthReach from Reading University; Science Made Simple Shows - women in STEAM; and Liquid Nitrogen Bombs!

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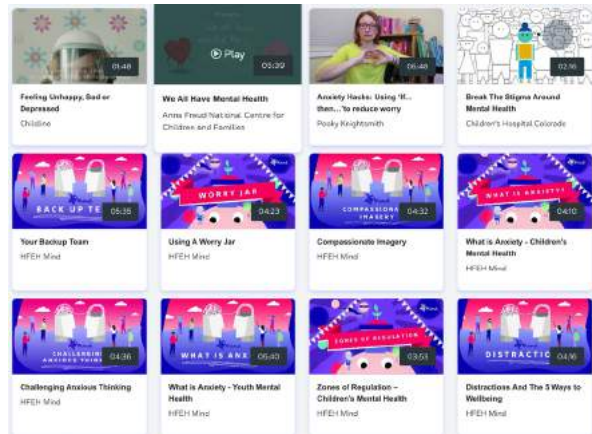
WELLBEING RESOURCES

Elving Mind have sent us a link to their online resource: My Mind TV, link below.



There are lots of useful video clips for students, staff and parents/carers.

<https://www.my-mind.tv/>



A source of safe, reliable information and support about mental health and wellbeing for all.

CHARITY UPDATE

In the Autumn Term, Students and staff worked together to raise the following amounts:



£129.49 for Macmillan Cancer Support



£150 for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



£626.84 for Children in Need

ACTIVE CHILD

On the 8th February, Year 8 Leaders took part in Project Active. Their aim was to get pupils to compete in a circuit of challenging and fun activities.

The leaders showed excellent communication skills when demonstrating what the Year 4,5 and 6 pupils needed to do. They were modelling the correct technique, recording times and distances and showing lots of enthusiasm towards the pupils taking part.

The leaders were brilliant all day and the primary school pupils responded really well to them. They were cheering the primary school pupils on and were being super helpful at all times. Well done to them all.



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FOCUS ON LITERACY

READ CHALLENGE

Year 7 students have been taking part in the READ Challenge, our in-house programme designed to encourage students to read widely and regularly and to develop a love of books and reading for pleasure.

They record each book they read on a READ bookmark and then discuss the book with a teacher or librarian who will guide them on future choices. They can earn merit points and rewards as they read more books.



BOOK BUZZ REVIEWS

Our Year 7s were challenged to write a book review about their Book Buzz books; the free books they chose and received last term.

Well done to Winner Hasnain Safi, Runner-up Samarpreet Singh Kaur and Reading Champion's Award Winner Harleen Pannu. All the reviews are on display in the Library, together with lots of the Book Buzz books for anyone who is inspired to read them.

EPLATFORM

The FHS EPlatform has almost 2000 ebook and audiobook titles which students can access wherever and whenever they want on a range of devices, either through the FHS portal or the ePlatform app.

This is a great option for anyone who wants to discover a different way to read. It is free, portable, and you will never run out of books!



RECOMMENDED READING LISTS

Recommended Reading Lists have been given to all Year 7 and Year 8 students.

These are full of some great books, series and authors suggested by the librarians and teachers and arranged according to genre. All the books are available to borrow from library and there is a special display to highlight them. This is a great place to look if you don't know what to read next or want to try something new! Year 9 and Young Adult editions will be available soon.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/KS3-Reading-List-January-2023-1.pdf>

READING BUDDIES



Year 12 and Year 11 students have been providing support and encouragement to our Year 7 & 8 readers through the Reading Buddies scheme.

The trained volunteers read twice a week with their 'buddy', encouraging them to challenge themselves and build resilience. Over time, our 'buddies' have built up fluency, comprehension skills and reading resilience. A big thanks to all involved!



Follow us on Instagram:

[@featherstonelibrary](https://www.instagram.com/featherstonelibrary)



Year 7 Bedrock Learning Reading Champions!

Bedrock Learning is a new online reading programme which is being used by all Year 7 students supporting and improving their literacy.

The programme means that students, completing short literacy lessons and quizzes online, will widen their academic language and become even more confident with reading, writing and speaking. Last half term, the Year 7s have been competing to see who can complete the highest number of Bedrock Learning lessons.

Congratulations to the top achieving Year 7 students who have consistently been accessing the new online programme to improve their literacy and develop their vocabulary: Anshuman (7HWN), Harleen (7ACA) and Dhiany (7LDN). Since Bedrock Learning was launched for all Year 7s in early November these three students have been exceeding expectations by completing many reading lessons independently online. Anshuman said about using Bedrock, "It helps my vocabulary and I have used these new words in my lessons to make my writing more interesting, and I have been using the grammar section to improve my sentences, plus it's challenging but really fun."

FHS READS



CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO READ OUR KEY STAGE 3 LIBRARY NEWSLETTER:

<https://www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ks3-newsletter-feb-23.pdf>

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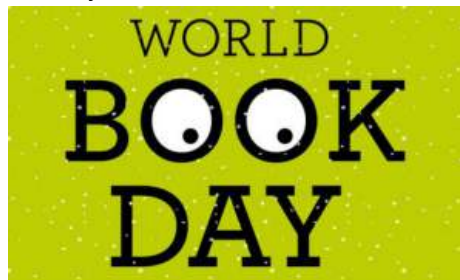
WORLD BOOK DAY: Tokens are digital this year

World Book Day tokens are available to download this year.

Please visit the link below to get your token. You'll get £1 off a book at participating retailers until the 26th of March.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/secondary-digital-token/>

Students shopping at our FHS book fair in the library will automatically get a £1 off, they won't need a token.



Friday 3rd March

TERM DATES FOR PARENTS

End of Term: Friday 31st March 2023

Easter Holiday: Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023

Start of Term: Monday 17th April 2023

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023

Extra Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III: Monday 8th May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023

End of term: Friday 21st July 2023

Summer Holiday: Monday 23rd July to Friday 1st September 2023

GEOGRAPHY BOOKS

Reading for Information

Year 7 students have recently been busy borrowing and reading books about Geography, including topics such as countries, earthquakes, maps, climate and weather, and the environment.

This was a home learning task and they have enjoyed discussing the fascinating facts and information they discovered. Some were surprised to find this information in books and not just on the internet!



LIBRARY COMPUTER ASSISTANTS

Thanks to Gurjot and Marcel from Year 7 who have volunteered to become Library Computer Assistants and help out in the Library at lunchtimes.

They have supported other students with problems logging-in, monitored printing, handed out headphones, and kept the computer room tidy.



BOOK CHAT

Book Chat Mats have been introduced in KS3 library reading lessons to get students talking about the books they have read and enjoyed.

This fun informal activity encourages reflection, develops language, oracy and listening skills, and is an opportunity to share and recommend books to each other.

read **Book Chat** **read**

Currently, I am reading ...
The book I have just read is ...

- What did you like or dislike about this book?
- Describe the main character (The protagonist)
- Can you predict the ending? What do you think might happen?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- Which part of the story do you like best?
- Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
- Was there anything about the book that surprised you? What was it?
- What is your favourite genre? Why?
- What do you remember most about the story?
- I love this book because...
- What emotions did you feel while reading this story?

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[Featherstonehigh1](https://www.youtube.com/Featherstonehigh1)



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[@featherstonehighschool](https://www.facebook.com/featherstonehighschool)

PARENTS: INTRODUCING CLASS CHARTS

From **Monday 20th February 2023** we will be using Class Charts to communicate with parents/carers of Year 7 students only. We plan to include all other year groups after the Easter break.

You will be able to use Class Charts to keep track of your child's behaviour, view attendance records, access their weekly timetable, view assigned homework tasks, create wellbeing submissions and view announcements.

Detentions will not be visible on Class Charts at present however this will be added later in the year.

If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account.

Class Charts for parents can be accessed via our website, or through iOS and Android apps.

ABC123 You will receive a parent code from Featherstone High School which will look like the example code shown on the left. This code is used to set up your Class Charts parent account. [Please refer to this guide](#) for parents for further help on how to set up your account and use the app.

Your child will be able to access Class Charts via a student app. This information will be shared with students in school.



ClassCharts

