



## FAREWELL TO OUR HEADTEACHER

**MR GERRY WADWA IS RETIRING AFTER NEARLY 14 YEARS AT FEATHERSTONE HIGH SCHOOL.**

**M**r Wadwa came to Featherstone in September 2009, having previously worked in six secondary schools in the London area (including two Deputy Headships and an Interim Headship in a school in challenging circumstances).

During his time at Featherstone, Mr Wadwa has overseen many changes, incredible achievements and great challenges (including delaying his retirement to take us through the pandemic).

We maintained our Outstanding Ofsted designation (followed by regular endorsements of this grade) and achieved World Class School status in 2016 (which has been reaccredited twice). Perhaps the biggest change for Featherstone was receiving government approval to become a Sponsoring Academy. We used this to develop the Grand Union Multi-Academy Trust with Woodlands Primary School and increased our work with our local feeder primary schools.

2018 was a fantastic year for Featherstone and for Mr Wadwa

professionally. During this year, our exceptional performance was honoured by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, through the Schools for Success Award. Mr Wadwa also received a personal invitation to Number 10 with 100 selected teachers, committed to giving every child an excellent education.

We have also seen physical changes to our school. As Mr Wadwa joined us, our new sixth form block became fully operational, and was officially opened in the Autumn Term of 2010. He has overseen an upgrade of the LRC, a brand-new library reading room, two new science labs, a climbing wall, a major refurbishment of our main block, and a new dedicated Social Inclusion building (to name a few!).

We have received many awards during Mr Wadwa's time, including: a regular endorsement from the SSAT (Schools, Students and Teacher Network) for educational outcomes – putting us in the top of performance tables for non-selective schools nationally for student attainment, student progress and high levels of performance for students eligible for pupil premium. The school



holds a certificate of recognition from the National Endowment Foundation for challenging disadvantage, Investors in People, Leading Edge 2016, Capita partner status, Institute of Education partner status, Young Enterprise centre of excellence, the National Standard for Enterprise, the Institute of Education's Gold Award for professional development and London Gold Club status. We have also had recognition for award winning lessons from Good Schools Guide.

We see fantastic GCSE, A Level and BTEC Level 3 results, building year on year and putting us regularly in the top 5% of schools for the progress

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



our students make. Students now regularly get into Oxbridge, top Russell Group Universities, Medical School, overseas placements and competitive apprenticeships.

During Mr Wadwa's Headship, we have been privileged to have had plenty of important visitors. The then Prime Minister and her Education Secretary – Teresa May and Damien Hinds, selected our school to speak to students and see how we do things. Our pupils entertained the King (then Prince Charles) in a multi-faith event. We entertained the Archbishop of Canterbury, local dignitaries and Faith Leaders during a visit to Southall to promote inter-faith dialogue and harmony. We have also welcomed various guest speakers including Sir Steve McQueen, Lord Professor Robert Winston, Mark Ramprakash, Jamie Redknapp and Michael Attenborough.

Students have travelled overseas on trips to Iceland, NYC, Washington DC, Spain, Belgium and France. They have also enjoyed getting involved in whole school events such as fantastic School Musicals including Bugsy Malone and We Will Rock You, the Dance Festival and School Concerts. The school has also developed annual events such as Science Week and the Wonderful World of Words literacy festival. Mr Wadwa enjoys his sport and a highlight was the formation of a Gaelic Football Team at Featherstone. The students travelled to Ireland to take on schools there and tour the City of Dublin. They even made the evening news!

Mr Thacker (Senior Deputy Head) praised Mr Wadwa as "a consummate professional and role model who has led us by his example. Someone whose commitment, sagacity and advice will sorely be missed as sadly the school and Gerry now part ways. All things must come to an end – but his enduring



### Speaking with BBC London Tonight

legacy is to leave an outstanding school that continues to serve our community well".

Mrs Winters (Deputy Head) said: "Thank you for your support, care, guidance and advice as always. Wishing you only the very best (a good rest!) in your new adventure of retirement".

Our Director of Finance, Mr Haider added: "Every child and member of staff really does matter when it comes to Gerry. His door has always been open to everyone during his tenure in which he has immersed himself into the school motto 'Together We Achieve.' Gerry has tirelessly driven standards with his leadership skills coming to the fore getting the school successfully through the pandemic. It is sad to be saying goodbye but we wish Gerry a wonderful, well deserved retirement and the very best for his future endeavours".

Mr Wadwa previously said, "As a school we are passionate about giving our students, many of whom come from deprived backgrounds, the best possible chances and opportunities to excel in their studies and go on to



### Invitation to Number 10

university or an apprenticeship". He has always strived to ensure that each and every child is able to taste success and get the most from their school journey.

Our Head Girl, Hana Lamba said "I can't thank you enough for everything you've done as our Headteacher! Every time you hold an assembly or speak to us, your vision, wisdom, and passion for this school shine through. You do an excellent job of listening to student concerns and keeping us motivated to improve our school. Thank you for making such a positive difference."

Mr Wadwa leaves Featherstone on a high note, a school full of optimism and aspiration, firmly rooted in its community, ready for our new chapter.



### Our 2022 Sixth Form Graduates



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@featherstonehigh



# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers



I wanted to say a brief thank you to all before I leave.

Your support for the school has and will I know continue to be exemplary. In recent years, perhaps more than ever before, parents and carers have made an even greater impact on a child's progress through school. Lockdown

brought enormous challenges for so many of our families yet we registered attendance levels at our online school that were the envy of other schools. Many of you are very busy with perhaps work commitments or supporting other family members yet you find the time to attend meetings and encourage your child to study at home. We are all hugely appreciative of this. The latest 2022 GCSE Performance Tables place Featherstone in the top 2% of schools

in the country for the GCSE Progress score. This outstanding academic progress could not be achieved without your vital support.

After 14 very enjoyable years, I am now leaving Featherstone and want to extend my personal thanks for your support and my very best wishes to you and your family for the future.

Mr Wadwa, Headteacher

## GREEN QUARTER CHRISTMAS

The Music Dept under the stewardship of Mr Daron came together with The Green Quarter development in Southall to be part of the annual Christmas Community Event.

The event saw more than 350 people from the new development and local community come together at the amphitheatre in Central Gardens to celebrate with music, dance and an all-round good feeling with warm snacks and drinks on what was the first chilly night of the winter. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the musical talent we have within the school as they performed an acapella version of Jingle Bell Rock which was well received by the crowds as The Mayor of Ealing turned on the Christmas Tree Lights.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year to commemorate Remembrance Sunday the Featherstone choir sang at a multi-faith service in St John's Church.

The students sang 'See You Again' to a large audience including local councillors, faith leaders and the local MP.

FHS students also paid their respects at the Southall War Memorial.

Thank you to all the students and staff involved.



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# MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW HEADTEACHER



From January we welcome our new Headteacher, Mr Walters. [Click here for his short welcome message.](#)



<https://youtu.be/2noJXZ8y6To>

## EAL QUALITY MARK



GOLD AWARD

FHS is thrilled to announce that we have been

awarded the Gold EAL (English as an Additional Language) Quality Mark.

The EAL Quality Mark is an award made to schools for their achievements in meeting the needs of pupils learning English as an additional language. We have been recognised because we give all learners the opportunity for rapid and sustained improvement and deliver an inclusive curriculum which promotes language development alongside learning.

## ODD SOCKS DAY

At FHS we want to put a STOP to bullying. From Monday 14th November until Friday 18th November we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week where the theme for this year was "Reach Out". The anti-bullying Ambassadors, wanted to promote this message to all students at Featherstone High School and make a step towards erasing bullying.

The theme of Reach Out was introduced this year following consultation with teachers and pupils, by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, who coordinate anti-bullying week every year in England and Wales. Teachers and students wanted a theme that empowered us to do something positive to counter the harms that bullying causes.

Anti-bullying week provides an opportunity to publicise resources and ensures that students as well as teachers are aware of this issue. We believe that it is important to raise awareness of anti-bullying as it is a matter that affects so many people.

At FHS we promoted our Anti bullying campaign by allowing all students



and staff the opportunity to take part by wearing odd socks. Odd socks represents how each and every one of us are unique and that we should encourage our differences.

The Anti-bullying Ambassador Team also led the assemblies this week by giving all students the important message of tackling bullying both face to face and online.

Together we want to make young people feel safe and happy.

## ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS



This half term, our FHS Anti Bullying Ambassadors took part in training with the Diana Award Trust to become Anti-Racist Bullying Ambassadors

FHS Staff spoke highly of the students amazing attitude and dedication to this training. The trainer Natalie who is from the Diana Award trust said that "Featherstone High pupils have inspired me with their input and knowledge".

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2022/3



We have now elected our new School Council:

Year 7: Hamilton & Dhruvi

Year 8: Intisaar & Aafaq

Year 9: Hassaan & Mujebullah

Year 10: Abubakar & Hannah

Year 11: Harsimran & Hussein

Sixth Form: Hana & Basit

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT VOICE PLEASE EMAIL: [STUDENTVOICE@FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK](mailto:STUDENTVOICE@FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK)



# CULTURE & SPORTS DAYS



**W**e were finally able to enjoy Culture and Sports Days at FHS during the Autumn Term (delayed from the Summer due to extreme weather).

It was a lovely opportunity to share languages, clothes, food, dance, music & literature and learn from each other.

embracing one another's heritage and culture.

Thank you to all the staff and the students for being so enthusiastic and

Well done to the students who brought the idea of Culture Day to the School Council. Let's hope this is just the beginning of an annual celebration.



# FHS STEM CLUB

**T**his term the STEM Club has been trying to answer the following question: "Is there witchcraft and wizardry in the real world?".

They turned into alchemists when they managed to turn every day 1p and 2p copper coins into silver and gold!

# CHILDREN IN NEED

Students made their own "magic water" bright pink with just one colourless drop of phenolphthalein indicator.

The STEM Club is run by Miss Aynab and is open to students in year 9-11.

They made test tubes and beakers disappear by suspending them in liquids of a similar refractive index. (Video is on the science Instagram page, sadly we didn't take any pictures of this)



They tried their hand at herbology and explored how useful substances could be extracted from plants. They were able to successfully extract limonene from oranges by distillation.



**W**ell done to our students who have been raising money for Children in Need. Nearly £700 was raised by staff and students.



# THINK ABOUT AN APPRENTICESHIP

**M**y name is Dilpreet Kaur Bains (I graduated from FHS this Summer) and I am a Level 4 Junior Management Consultant Apprentice at IBM. Instead of going to university I am completing a 2-year apprenticeship which will provide me with a qualification equivalent to the first year of university. Simultaneously, I work as a ServiceNow Developer and Consultant at IBM, where I am aiming to achieve a ServiceNow Certified System Administrator Certification whilst working on client projects.

From 16 years old I knew I didn't want to attend university, where I would walk away with a minimum of £30,000 debt despite having a degree under my belt. Studies show that the number of graduates has increased but the number of graduate schemes has not, thus why would I want to put myself in a position where I have accumulated a hefty loan through higher education yet struggle when job hunting. Therefore, it was my mission to kickstart my early professional career whilst earning and learning, therefore an apprenticeship would enable me to do so.

There are various types of apprenticeships, ranging from Level 2 to Level 7 and you



should apply for the level of education you are interested in achieving and your desired industry/role. I would highly encourage students to research as much as possible about the role they are applying for, to determine if they are suitable for the role as well as the role being a good fit for them. After all, an apprenticeship isn't an easier route, if not it can be more challenging because you are working full-time and studying part-time. Hence, it is paramount that you enjoy your job role, to ensure you can pass your apprenticeship/qualifications successfully.

The support I was given within FHS were from the Business Department, including Ms Pal and Mrs Sharma as well as the Sixth Form Leadership Team, such as

Mr Webb. However, it is crucial that you are proactively looking for vacancies and are self-motivated. Also, I was fortunate enough to have made amazing connections through attending many work experiences, events, and careers fairs. Thus, I benefitted from being notified of vacancies through platforms such as LinkedIn as the connections I made posted when their employers were hiring.

I am hosting an apprenticeship drop-in session from 1:30pm – 2:15pm every Week B Friday in the Sixth Form Atrium, where you can pop by and ask any questions on the application and selection process.

# DISNEY! STEP BACK IN TIME

**W**ork Experience at Disney was unlike any other job I've ever had!

The staff was extremely friendly, and my group was extremely supportive. They were always surprising and giving us gifts, and meeting the different departments gave me a new perspective on the creative media industry. Our final task was my favourite because we got to work on a campaign release for their new movies 'Peter and Wendy' and 'The Mandalorian,' which allowed us to work as a team and be creative as we presented our ideas to superior managers and directors.

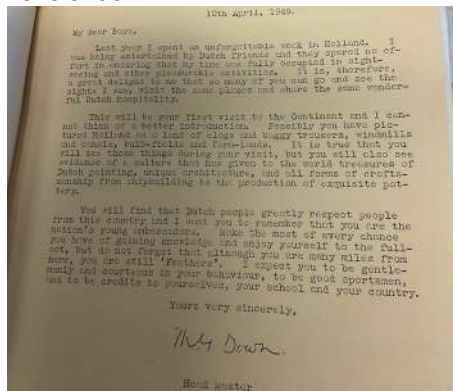
Hana Lamba (Head Girl).



**B**ack before Featherstone High School existed, there was a Boys School in Southall.

A former pupil of that school, Mr Malcolm Carey found this fantastic book from 1949, produced by his teachers for all the boys who went on a trip to Holland. It is a fascinating record of Holland at the time and it must have been very special for a group of boys to be able to travel to the continent in the late 1940s.

The book is in the Sixth Form Library Office if anyone would like to come and have a look.



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# LIBRARY NEWS



## BOOK BUZZ



Follow us on Instagram:  
[@featherstonelibrary](https://www.instagram.com/featherstonelibrary)

All Year 7s have chosen and received a free book from the Bookbuzz scheme which is run by the Book Trust and aims to inspire a love of reading.

These students in 7 Willow (right) were very excited to receive their books and get reading.



## BOOKS DONATED TO CHARITY

Old library books, which are no longer needed due to curriculum changes or newer editions being published, have been boxed up and donated to schools and charities in Africa and Sri Lanka.



## BOOK FAIR

Students enjoyed visiting a very busy and successful Book Fair in November.

They bought lots of books and fun stationery items and the Library earned free books in commission. Thanks to the team of Pupil Librarians who helped to run the Fair.



## LIBRARY CELEBRATION DAY

We marked the fourth anniversary of the Library Reading Room with rainbow-themed quizzes, poetry and activities. Staff and students told us what they love about their library.



## WORLD CUP

Football fans have been tracking their favourite teams on a giant wall chart and have enjoyed reading football books including player biographies, tips and skills, and football stories.



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# OXFORD UNIVERSITY: PHYSICS & MATHS DAY

## STUDENT REPORTS:

**Ishita Mankoo:** 'This prestigious opportunity from Oxford provided us with an insightful experience of what physics and material physics courses are like at Oxford University. Learning about new, interesting concepts such as superconductors and calculating the age of the universe was especially gripping. Additionally, the hands-on investigations and demonstrations extended our knowledge within particular topics such as strain and stress of materials. Talking to physics students studying at Oxford University also gave us genuine anecdotes of daily life as a student there. It was a truly enthralling experience.'

**Gurdit Singh:** 'The Oxford Physics and Material Science workshop was excellent as it enlightened me on the two courses and what they entailed. The workshops were very engaging and fun, blended in with a learning aspect. My favourite workshop was the astrophysics one where spectroscopy was very well explained although it was university level content. All in all, the workshops were very interactive and being in Oxford was a significant positive as we explored the area from different department to a tour of Mansfield College. The staff were very friendly and demystified Oxford stereotypes which usually deterred potential applicants.'



# STEM PROGRAMME AT BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

**Year 9 students, Nicole Dosanjh and Srijay Sivasothinathan** have been attending Brunel Engineering masterclasses on Saturdays. Here are their reports:

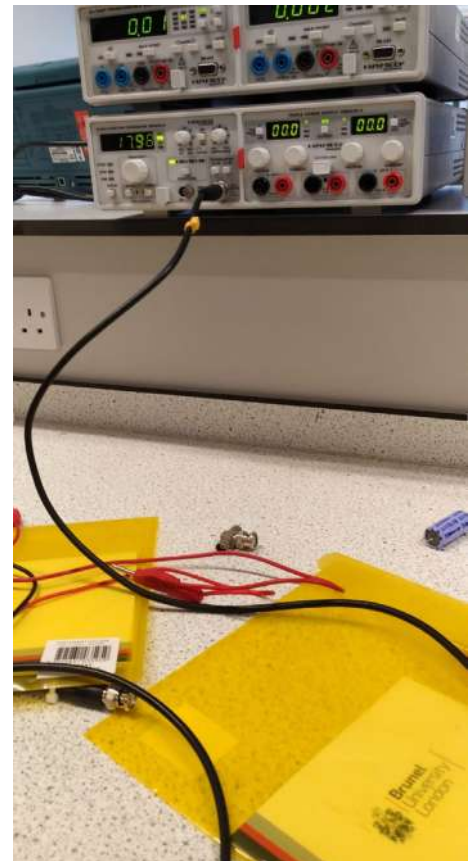
**Nicole Dosanjh** 'We learnt about space and used tin foil, tin boxes and crisp packets to create something that would successfully block the phone's communication signals. This experiment represented how scientists are coming up with new ways to protect space crafts from radioactive material in space. For the second half of the lesson we had to design a moonbase taking into consideration basic human needs and what you would need to do to make sure they can survive in space.'

We have learnt how to use some equipment in the lab such as an oscilloscope, which graphically displays varying electronic voltages. We also learnt about CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and were shown how to use the Autodesk software. This software is mainly used to create pieces of work that can later be printed out on a 3D printer when completed.'

**Srijay Sivasothinathan:** 'At this programme students from schools in West-London are participating in a 6-week series of activities every Saturday.'

They are hosted by Student Ambassadors and professors from the

University in the Wilfred Brown building. They participate in activities such as using a 3d-printer to model and create various objects which they will receive at the end of the 6-weeks. These students also get to have access to labs where they can see robots and AI created by the University and using apparatus such as multi-meters and Oscillators. You can use these to measure sound waves and frequencies and test to see if the factor of age affects the frequency in which you can hear it. STEM subjects teach you important transferable skills that include critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork. These skills can be applied to different professions and throughout your life. Some of the skills you will learn include: Solving real problems with innovative and creative solutions.'



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# FEATHERSTONE PE NEWS

## YEAR 10 NETBALL DANCE

**H**i my name is Allene, and this season our team has been doing absolutely fantastic!

Despite having played no matches yet, our team's connection is still powerful and fierce and our dynamics and strategies are getting stronger every session. Our excellent attacking and defending skills, attempting to retain the ball in our preferred areas toward the goal have been consistent throughout

each session, however there's always room for improvement. But by following our core 6 FHS values I believe we will achieve our end goal and that is to not only win every game, but to also enjoy ourselves. We have an upcoming tournament and we hope to apply every bit of training we have done in order to secure some victories! We look forward to our League games against William Perkin, Ealing Fields, Twyford and Cardinal Wiseman. Thank you.



**M**y name is Ridhi and I attend Dance Club every Monday after School.

Together with my friend Navneet we are looking at different Bhangra styles to create a partner dance. We have looked at different movements we can use with the beats, we are doing this to create a dance for GCSE PE. We look forward to perfecting it and then hopefully performing in the Dance Festival in March.

## YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL

**I**'m Sam and I am the year 7 Football Captain.

This season has not gone well as we have lost all our matches except one which we drew 2-2. We are fine with this as we just moved up into a new league so are just getting used to it. We cannot wait till our next game as we are training each other to become the best we can be. Here are the scores of this term: 7-3, 7-0, 6-0, 2-2. From here we will build our team into the winning squad of the league.

## GIRLS UNDER 14 FOOTBALL

Jasmin Chonkaria / Soundraya Baskar (Vice) - U14 Girls

**T**he start of the season wasn't really what we expected as we lost quite harshly to the opposing team. However the team still kept their heads up and kept cool as they tried to create chances for us to score and attempted to keep a positive attitude throughout the game.

Even though we lost we still enjoyed the game, had fun participating and supported each other. After the game finished we had a team talk and pointed

out the faults as a team. However in our next game we will attempt to give our all and have confidence in each other. Also to be able to communicate more effectively with each other and have more confidence on the pitch and more control over the game. Other than this I'm proud of the team for making excellent efforts, working as a team and just being able to enjoy themselves by participating.

## YEAR 7 NETBALL

**M**y Name is Gurmeet and I am the Captain of the year 7 Netball Team.

Featherstone's year 7 netball team has really developed since the beginning of the school year. Our defence knows how to intercept the ball and our offence knows what position to be in so they can pass to us. Our players listened carefully to our coach's skills and tactics to win,

which led us to victory when we were playing a match against William Perkin. That day we were ready and knew what to do and as the game went on we were all spread out and using all the space around us. Adna scored once in the first half and once again the second half just before the final whistle leading us to victory! Julia was named player of the match for her adaptability in different positions.

## Y8 NETBALL

**H**i My Name is Kashmeen and I am the Year 8 Netball Captain.

At Featherstone our values are Partnership, Care, Challenge, Inclusion, Resilience and Respect all of which our yr 8 team has used so far this year. I truly believe that our team will strive and go the extra mile to achieve and be the best we can be. At netball training we practise taking centre passes shots and try perfecting them so they are ready for the games. In conclusion the yr8 netball team is a place where students push other students to be the best they can and a place where everyone can feel comfortable. We played our first game against William Perkin and we grew in confidence throughout the game to draw the game 3-3. We look forward to upcoming matches and a tournament.

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# GIRLS UNDER 13 FOOTBALL YEAR 10

## FOOTBALL

**H**ello, my name is Sukhmani I am the year 8 Girls Football Captain at Featherstone High School.

The girls' football team is primarily made up of exquisitely proficient individuals, who are extremely passionate and determined to win and play every game with the mentality to excel. We have outstanding defending and attacking skills, which makes it a lot easier to retain the ball within our preferred areas toward our opposition's goal. My team and I always display the FHS values when playing such as partnership and care, however that also always means we are highly resilient and we never let a loss defeat the mentality for us to excel. Instead our motto "Together We

Achieve" boosts us up even more as a team and makes sure we refer back to our improvements, and come back even stronger with a win. We have shown this mainly through a lot of training, but recently through a tournament we had this year at Brentside High School, where we competed against many other schools such as Greenford, Ealing Fields and Villiers. This year we were extremely successful as we reached the quarter-finals, but were unfortunately beaten by a very tough team from Greenford in the very last minutes, 2-1. I am extremely proud of the team with the dedication they have all shown recently, with that we very much look forward to our next matches, and can not wait to improve our skills in the future.

Yuvraj Mann/Ahmed Sheikh

**T**he start of the season kicked off with high hopes and strong ambitions from the team.

Unfortunately, this wasn't reflected in the results, with a 3-0 loss to Cardinal Wiseman. As a team we reflected on our performance and dedicated ourselves more to training. After weeks of continuous game play and training after school on a Friday, we soon approached our fixture against William Perking. After being 2-0 down the team managed to claw back a 4-4 draw. After the draw we went to penalties. With an amazing save from the keeper and some unbelievable strikes we took the win! Well done to all the team.



# YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL

**H**i, my name is Husnain and I am the captain of the year 8 football team.

Last week, we had a game on Thursday against Twyford High School and in my opinion we didn't play the game like we normally do. In the first half, we were up by 2 in the first 10 mins. But as the game went on, we lost the ball. In the second

half, Twyford scored 2 goals but at the same time, we had a lot of chances to score goals but we couldn't. The man of the match in my opinion was Rupinder Singh but there are few that could potentially be man of the match in future fixtures. This was our first loss, and we won't give up and trying our hardest to win the matches against other high schools.

## DIARY DATES FOR PARENTS

### SPRING TERM 2023

Start of Term: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Half Term: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023

End of Term: Friday 31st March 2023

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

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