



# FHS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

**BREAKING NEWS! FEATHERSTONE IS IN THE TOP 3% OF SCHOOLS NATIONALLY FOR THE PROGRESS STUDENTS MAKE.**

## OUTSTANDING RESULTS

Once again, Featherstone has achieved outstanding A Level and GCSE results. Many staff were in school on results day and shared in the moments when the envelopes were opened, witnessing the delight of the student's achievements and the affirmation of all their hard work.

Sixth Formers worked incredibly hard with 57% of all grades marked A\*-B, an incredible 81% of A Levels marked A\*-C. BTEC Level 3 students also excelled, with 73% of grades awarded the top Distinction\* or Distinction.

25% of students were accepted to the prestigious Russell Group Universities, with three starting at Oxford and Cambridge and five future doctors and dentists beginning their Medical School journeys.

One of those, Yasmin (AAA) said: "I have no words for how supportive all



the members of staff were throughout my Medical School application. I appreciate the emotional support and general encouragement I received. I will miss Featherstone High dearly. THANK YOU!!! I can't believe I'm going to be a doctor!

GCSE results were equally celebrated with our results placing the school in the top 3% of schools nationally for the progress students make. 23% of

all grades were awarded the top 9-7 grades, with 74% of grades at 9-4.

Top student Joel (10x Grade 9s) said "I'm thrilled, I really didn't expect to achieve this. The school has really supported me and provided all the resources I needed to get these grades".



## WEAR YELLOW!



Staff wore yellow on Mental Health Awareness Day to show our young people that how they feel matters.



Sixth Formers attended a taster day lecture during October on bioinspiration to revolutionise wound repair at Imperial College.

CARE

RESPECT

CHALLENGE

RESILIENCE

PARTNERSHIP

INCLUSION

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## AUTUMN NEWS

The clocks went back last weekend and the rain has been falling steadily since last week. Autumn is well and truly upon us and the long, hot extended days of summer are far behind. For some people, the autumn will be a time of some despondence as the nights draw in, the need to put the heating on looms large and the pavements are wet and slippery. For others though, autumn is a time to wrap up warm, enjoy the changing colours of the trees and be enthralled by the lights in the sky that mark Guy Fawkes night and Diwali. It really is a matter of perspective.



It can be the same with school. For some, school does not always appeal while for the fortunate, and hopefully the majority, they recognise that school is a place where they are surrounded by people who want the best for them; where there are opportunities promoted for them and where they feel safe and secure.

The second half of the Autumn term will be no different. We welcome the pupils back after their slightly longer than usual half term holiday and we are pleased to note that the children have come back with their typical bounce and good cheer. This will be another wonderful half term and everyone is ready to go.

As a footnote I must tell you that in recent weeks, the school league

tables were published. At the recent year group information evenings, I have been telling you that it was likely that Featherstone would be in the top 5% of schools nationally once the figures were out. Now the league tables have been published, I am pleased to tell you that we are in the top 3% of all school nationally. League tables will have their critics; they will not be to everyone's tastes and they certainly do not paint the full picture of life at school but it is nonetheless a wonderful testament to the hard work of all our teachers and students that we have, once again, done so very well.

Have a very good November.

**Mr Walters, Headteacher**

## AWARDS EVENING

We welcomed guest speaker Jasmine Dotiwala (broadcaster, businesswoman and ex-student of Featherstone!).

It was wonderful to celebrate our students' achievements, welcome back our leavers and hear polished musical performances.



SCAN ME

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN OUR NEW SCHOOL FILM, SCAN HERE AND TAKE A LOOK!

## EXPLAINER PROGRAMME

Congratulations to Sixth Formers, Hana and Muskaan for completing the Kew Youth Explainer Programme.

This is a free, year-long training and volunteering placement in science communication. Laura, the Youth Programme Officer said: "They have been wonderful additions to the programme. Hana even did a speech with another member of the programme stating: 'Her speech almost made me shed a tear'". Well done girls.



## INTERNATIONAL STEM COMPETITION

Well done to Sixth Former Gurdit who showcased his STEM project at the international BIEA Competition challenging students to design solutions for cities to mitigate their emissions.

Hosted at the Museum of London, Gurdit scooped an award for Outstanding Achievement! He was subsequently invited to attend Parliament for the D4ISY Climate Forum which featured talks from MPs and Climate Professors from UCL.



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# FHS LIBRARY NEWS



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



## SUBJECT READING DISPLAYS

The Library supports students with their studies across the curriculum.

Displays have been created to highlight books and resources in different subject areas.

## ORACY OCTOBER

A number of events celebrating oracy and speaking skills have taken place in the Library.

Year 7s enjoyed the Yes/No Challenge, and staff and students came to Perform a Poem on National Poetry Day.



## ENRICHMENT

Library Enrichment activities this year include The Brainwaves Board Game Club, offering students the chance to play thinking and strategy games such as Scrabble, Boggle and Chess.

The Manga and Comics Club is all about these popular graphic books and films.

## RECOMMENDED READING LISTS

The updated, new look Recommended Reading Lists for Years 7/8 and 9 have been produced and distributed to students. These list

some great books, together with short outlines and reviews.

All the books are available to borrow from the Library and lots are on the FHS ePlatform too.

## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT - FOCUS ON READING

Parents of selected Year 7 students were invited to a presentation about how to support and encourage their child's reading.



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our librarians regularly put together special displays to engage our students and help them with their studies.

Pictured is a display for our Year 9s who are studying the Silk Roads in Humanities and a spooky selection for Halloween!



## OVERDUE BOOKS

A number of students still have outstanding library books from last year. These are now overdue and should be returned as soon as possible. If there are any problems students should come to talk to library staff.



## UNIFORM APPEAL

Do you have any unwanted items of FHS uniform? If so, donations would be gratefully received by the Social Inclusion Department. These items will be passed on to students who may need them. Please bring any donations to reception.



# PE NEWS

It has been a fabulous start to the term with over 500 pupils attending Physical Education clubs each week!

We have had on offer at lunch or after school, girls' and boys' football,

cricket, netball, badminton, table tennis, dodgeball, volleyball, dance, KPOP and basketball.

Featherstone pupils were invited to attend the NFL community day hosted by the Buffalo Bills. We travelled to



the Grange hotel in Watford where the girls enjoyed a training session led by the Great British Women's NFL team and some of the Buffalo Bill players. The girls worked really hard to score as many touchdowns as possible and really proved how resilient they are!

## TOM SCHULLER

### GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Our Year 11 geographers had a great day at Highcliffe and Barton Beach.

Students compared and contrasted the effects of coastal management schemes versus leaving nature to take its course.

### GCSE DRAMA TRIP

Last half term, our Year 11 drama students attended a thrilling performance of Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution at London's County Hall.

It was an imposing venue, with an imposing entrance and huge public gallery, and the performance was incredibly immersive - so much so, that some of the audience became members of the jury, and our very own students were sat right next to one performer shouting from the gallery! There was an unexpected turn at the end which shocked the audience. It was a thrilling afternoon, and now the students are writing up their notes as they will be asked questions on this in their exam in May. We were complimented on the exemplary behaviour of our students, so well done Year 11 on representing the school so well.

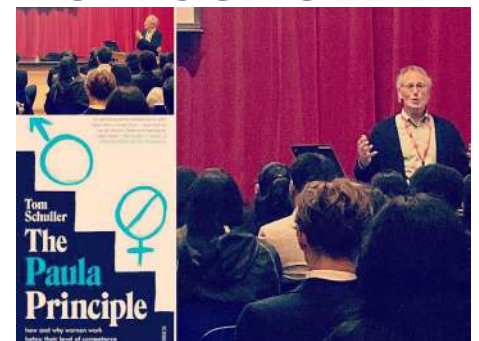


### GO LIVE WORKSHOPS

During October we had a variety of workshops take place for 100 of our Year 9 drama students.

They ranged from Clowning, Comedy Acting, Contemporary Acting and even Stage Combat! The students were introduced to a range of different exercises that professional actors do in their rehearsal processes, and the students really enjoyed the day. This will coincide with 30 of those students being invited on a trip to see Frozen on 23rd November, so we look forward to that!

Thanks to Year 9 for their excellent effort and work throughout the day and for representing the school so well.



We welcomed author Tom Schuller to school.

Tom gave a fascinating talk unpacking the theme of his book, "The Paula Principle". It mirrors the theme of the 1960's Peter Principle: "Men rise to the level of their incompetence". His book explores that in general, women, despite outperforming men in terms of qualifications and life long learning, "tend to stick at the level below that of their full competence." Food for thought!

### GLOBAL ACADEMY



Nicole from Global Academy visited our Year 11s to speak to them about jobs in the media and opportunities available.



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# ReSET PROJECT



Ten of our Year 9 students have embarked on the workshop phase of the ReSET Project, which is a new school-based preventative mental health intervention for adolescents.

Funded by the Medical Research Council, it is one of seven research projects chosen as part of a £24 million

investment into improving the mental health and wellbeing of adolescents in the UK. Huge numbers of our Year 8 and 9 students applied to take part in the programme, and our workshop participants have been selected at random by the researchers at University College London. Each week we are focusing on skills to support emotional wellbeing, emotion perception and interpersonal relationships. Students

have participated enthusiastically thus far and have engaged in thought provoking discussions. We will be running further groups in Spring and Summer so stay tuned for more updates!

Miss Witts and Zeynep Altunay (Hammersmith, Fulham and Ealing MIND) - ReSET Project Co-Facilitators

## STUDENTS' WORK PUBLISHED

Students Emma and Anjaliyn had work published in The Litmus, a publication produced by Trinity College, Cambridge.

With the theme 'Over the Borders', the two students submitted creative writing inspired by this idea. Their work was selected to appear in the University's annual printed publication.



## DIARY DATES

**Sixth Form Open Evening:**  
Wednesday 29th November 2023

**Christmas Concert:** 13th & 14th  
December 2023

**End of term:** Thursday 21st  
December 2023

**Christmas holiday:** Friday 22nd  
December 2023 to Friday 5th  
January 2024

## Ealing Mental Health Support Team



### Workshops for parents/carers - Autumn term 2023

Over the Autumn term, Ealing Mental Health Support Team will be running a variety of workshops for parents and carers of children who attend a school in Ealing.

If you would like to sign up to one of our workshops, please do so on the below website or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/EE7eGmXmjSemf2te9>

If you have any questions, please do email us on:

[Ealing.mhst@nhs.net](mailto:Ealing.mhst@nhs.net)



<b>Student Anxiety</b> 17th November 2023 4pm	<b>Student Anxiety</b> 17th November 2023 4pm
<b>Introduction to Autism</b> 24th November 2023 1:30pm	<b>Introduction to Autism</b> 24th November 2023 1:30pm

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Promoting hope & wellbeing together

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