



# FHS NEWS

JAN 2022

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Everything was set for our Christmas Concert to go ahead on the 15th December 2021. Unfortunately, due to Covid rules and the fast spreading Omicron variant, the main concert, where the students would perform to family, friends & students, was postponed. As we were already well into rehearsals it was decided that we would film the performances in the hall to create a virtual concert.

All the necessary equipment was set up in the hall as if we were doing the actual public performances, along with a video camera & microphone to capture them. We recorded 10 performances in all in which 59 students performed singing, drums, guitar, bass, trumpet,



dhol, piano & percussion. Parents and students can view these on Firefly.

A special mention goes to our Year 13 ex-music students who may have played their last gig for us at Featherstone. Aadithya, an amazing bass player who has not only played on a number of this year's performances but has played bass on many occasions since he was in Year 7. Also, Harnoor, who is now an

accomplished piano player and has played in many performances since Year 7. Last but not least, Amitojpreet Aulakh, whose vocals have brightened up our concerts over many years.

If you would like to watch the full concert go to (you'll need to be logged into Firefly): <https://featherstonehigh.fireflycloud.net/music/concerts/christmas-concert-2021>

## WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS EVENT

On the 6th December, Ms Winters, Ms Horton, Zarifah (Year 13) and Rumaitha (Year 8) attended the World Class Schools awards ceremony at Oxford University. The event began with a tour of the university buildings, on which we were given information about the long history of the university and famous alumni. We were then taken into the historic Sheldonian Theatre where influential figures including Nelson Mandela have spoken, for the ceremony.

We were nominated amongst seven other incredibly prestigious schools for School of the Year, and although we were unfortunate not to win, we are proud to have been considered in such a highly regarded category. Rumaitha was one of 5 finalists for the Essay Writing Competition, and we are incredibly proud of her efforts. We are looking forward to our re-accreditation this year and demonstrating the attributes of all our World Class Students.



Rumaitha (3rd from right) pictured with other Essay Finalists



Please view a student led film about our World Class School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAWn-QbAbxI>

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

**T**hank you for your support throughout what was a very long and challenging autumn term of 15



weeks. Over the course of last term, we had 83 students and 19 staff test positive for Covid at some stage. In addition, there were 191 students and 13 staff who needed to stay at home to self-isolate. Despite this significant disruption, there were so many highlights to celebrate last term. We managed to successfully host many of our big autumn term events on site including Awards Evening, Open Evening for Year 6 and our Sixth Form Transition Evening for Year 11. These events required a lot of careful planning to ensure Covid risks were minimised and the support of so many staff and of course the trust of you as parents/carers.

After such a difficult couple of years it was great to see some of our extra-curricular offer back up and running. Throughout last term, our Music Department led by Mr Daron were very high profile in the local community with the school choir supporting the Southall Remembrance Sunday Service; our Senior Band played and sang the new Adele song to Bishops and other dignitaries at a national gathering of the Near Neighbours group in Southall and our Xmas Concert featured over 80 students. Further information about accessing the concert is on the front page of this newsletter, try and listen to some of it if you can.

PE Clubs were thriving last term with 23 clubs up and running and most attracting 25-30 students with between 50 and 60 attending girls football. Many thanks to all PE staff for getting these thriving clubs up and running. Ms Horton and Ms Harvey organised an informal Drama showcase which allowed 33 aspiring student actors to perform to the delight of their parents. A new Careers Club started this year led by Mr Webb and called our Y7 Tunnel Club. Employers from a range of sectors involved in the design and construction of railway tunnels came into school and talk about those careers. We pride ourselves on the quality of our careers programme at Featherstone which begins in Year 7 and continues throughout a child's journey at school.

On the 2nd November we received confirmation that we were one of just 8 schools shortlisted for the World Class School of the Year Award. The Awards Ceremony was on the evening of Dec 6th at Oxford University. Whilst we didn't take first place, to be shortlisted Featherstone High School was deemed to meet the following criteria:

- Offer the best education to students in the UK
- Develop the World Class skills, competencies and characteristics which students need to flourish in an emerging global economy
- Give students the confidence to overcome socio-economic barriers to recognise and achieve their potential

The students, led by our former Head Girl, Zarifah, had to put together a video about what makes our school special. Do have a look at this video which is on our website.

I am sure many parents of students in Year 11 and 13 will be very interested and perhaps concerned about how your son or daughter's GCSE/BTEC/A level grade will be decided in the summer. Last term, the Government's stated intention was that they were "determined" that a modified series of exams would go ahead in the summer. However, they are also requiring schools to put in place what they are calling a "Plan B" should it not be possible to schedule public exams. Plan B requires all schools to identify three examination points to be scheduled during the academic year when students should be set examination standard questions on the topics covered up to that point in time. The questions must be unseen and answered under strict examination conditions. Teachers will mark these exams and they will form the basis of a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) for 2022 should it be required. In effect we will be preparing students for two possible eventualities – either end of course public examinations or a series of mock exams to support the award of Teacher Assessed Grades. Mr Thacker (Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum) will be writing to parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students in due course to ensure you are kept fully informed about this process.

Mr Wadwa, Headteacher

## PRAISE BREAKFAST

**M**r Wadwa hosted a Year 9 Praise Breakfast with selected students to congratulate them for their outstanding start to Year 9 and excellent contribution to wider school life.

Mr Wadwa said: "It was a pleasure to be able to meet the students and commend them on their positive start to the year."



Year 9 Students, Harshit, Abubakar, Maheen, Ajuni, Gurmilan and Emma (not in the photo) pictured with Mr Wadwa

## VALUE BADGES

**S**tudents will now be awarded our FHS Values badges if they continuously model and promote our school values. These will also be issued to students that have earned many achievements points for the values.

Students will receive their badges at the end of each school term.





# ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

During Anti-Bullying Week our Anti-Bullying Student Ambassadors created assemblies and PSHE lessons to reach out to students and promote the theme of "One Kind Word"

Jagmeet Soni our Anti Bullying lead Ambassador and the other ambassadors stated: "Featherstone is a diverse school and we want to embrace those who are different and special with the concept of wearing odd socks. Wearing odd socks marked the last day of anti bullying week (Friday 19th November) and showed that we - teachers and students - stand up to a change. Furthermore, this also allowed



us to showcase how each and everyone of us is unique and should encourage this rather than allowing bullying to occur. We should also think about the use of social media and how we can reflect on how this affects people. By using one kind word; we will bring about the biggest change in our effort to stop bullying. This year we want to use our platform to encourage all students to say 'One Kind word'."

# INSPIRE PROGRAMME

This term the Inspire programme has been offered to Years 9, 10, and 11. We have had over 35 students who have enrolled. This is an online course, run in collaboration with Oxford University, which focuses on a central theme approached from a variety of subject viewpoints.

Each virtual class includes articles, quizzes, and challenges. The classes also include information on making informed choices about A Level subjects and University courses, and advice on study and revision skills. By taking part in the programme pupils will have an opportunity to follow their interests in depth, whilst developing skills and confidence in their ability. Pupils will



St John's inspire programme for Years 9, 10 and 11 "Visions of the Future"

also have the chance to submit responses to each class' challenges, to be in with a chance of winning prizes.

Following the online classes, there will be a Virtual Summer School for all participants. There is also a competitive application process for a free residential Summer School at St John's College, for participants in Year 11.

If you have any questions please email Miss Pal [npal@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:npal@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

# DRAMA SHOWCASE

On the 8th December, we were able to share the work of our Drama Club students to a socially distanced audience of selected family and friends.

After so long being unable to do such events, it was a joy to see such enthusiasm from the students involved and support from family and friends. We had over 30 committed, talented performers take part in both performance and backstage roles. The students had all devised their work themselves, writing



and rehearsing largely independently to get the performances ready. We are so proud and thankful, and hoping to be able to put on a summer show in the final weeks of the academic year.

# GRAPHICS TRIP

Our Year 9 Graphics class recently went on a trip to The London Eye as part of a typography competition.

The trip was a success and they enjoyed it immensely.



# YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise students in Year 12 have started their company "Teazy"

Their idea is to capitalise on the number of tea drinkers and the benefits of different types of tea (sleep, relaxation, digestion) and promote this through the sale of their own branded tea. They have sourced a UK manufacturer and already started to make sales. Watch this space and do follow them on Instagram (@fhsteazy).



## Drama Showcase Cast and Crew:

Rashi Rathod; Sean Vas; Zaina Bhayani; Mitzi Rodrigues; Jasmin Chonkaria; Abshiro Yusuf; Anna Malik; Asia Singh; Mahal Baloch; Reet Kaur; Thivani Kuganathan; Rehman Afzal; Kelly Aguiar; Maglev Fernandes; Jaskirat Rao; Jaspreet Kaur; Aisha Dawood; Daljit Virk; Tarandeep Virk; Taranjeet Virk; Emma Holland; Nimco Osman; Savreet Sungoo; Natalie Wieladek; Amrita Jezewska-Singh; Rammas Ali; Jeevan Singh; Adin Malik; Maheen Malik; Areena Vohra; Hassan Hassan; Amandeep Kaur; Kelly Aguiar

# REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**E**leven students from FHS participated in The Southall Remembrance Sunday Service.

The event is very much a multi-faith remembrance of all those who have lost their lives as a result of conflicts around the world. It included local MP, Lord Young and a wide range of Community and Faith leaders from Ealing. The FHS School Choir delivered the song "Smile"



to a packed multi-faith audience at St John's Church. The Vicar of St John's, Anna Poulson, was full of praise for all

students: "The song, for me & for many, was the highlight of the service! The choir was a true credit to the school."

## CHILDREN IN NEED JACK PETCHEY

**F**HS was fully behind the Children In Need event this year, celebrating with a phenomenally popular cake bake sale and a range of wacky sports activities, including a bouncy castle obstacle course, dizzy penalties, blind football and cricket games.

There was such a buzz around the school, which was fantastic to see after the past few years of disruption to our students' lives/ well-being. As a result of this and the support that you gave to this hugely important cause, we are delighted to announce that we smashed many previous years of charity fundraising takings, **raising a whopping £892 for Children In Need!** Special thanks to Miss Ennever and Miss Szumielewicz from the Home Economics department who oversaw the Years 9s to bake some incredibly creative, stunning 'Pudsey



Bear' themed pops, cupcakes muffins and biscuits that we can all agree were mouth wateringly good and the students couldn't get enough of them! Also thanks to all of our kind and well-organised helpers who gave up their time to help with this worthy event-We genuinely could not have achieved all we did without your support.

**A** group of year 10 students attended a Jack Petchey public speaking workshop for six hours focusing on developing their confidence and communication skills.

They completed a variety of fun activities and finished the workshop with individual presentations on a topic of their choice ranging from football, racism and social media to mental health. Four finalists were chosen: Nabila Yusuf, Joel Watson, Rusanthan Karanthirarasa and Ramesa Bhuyian, who delivered their speeches during a Year 10 assembly. They were able to share their skills and profile the importance of public speaking in improving their confidence, competence and connection with their audience.

Nabila Yusuf was selected as the overall winner to go through to the Ealing Regional final in January with her speech on Mental Health.

## XMAS JUMPER DAY



**A** huge thank you to all staff and students who contributed to the Christmas Jumper Day 2021 fund raiser. **Together we have raised an AMAZING £386!**

All contributions will be sent to the Wings of Hope charity foundation. Secondly, a big thank you to Mrs Scotland and other members of staff who supported in this event. A HUGE well done and thank you all for your generosity.

## DEBATING COMPETITION

**C** Featherstone High School has progressed to the second round of the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace 2021-2022!

Congratulations to the three Year 10 students who took up this challenge against a sixth form group from Notting Hill and Ealing High School with a very tricky premise 'This house believes that artists have a moral duty to be political in their work'. The debate was organised online due to restrictions. Despite the taxing premise Joel Watson, Nabila Yusuf and Ramesa Buiyan worked hard on their delivery and as a team, managed to pass

to the next stage of this rigorous debate competition organised by the English Speaking Union. We look forward to the next round on January 27th when our debate team will be up against Harrow School with the proposition 'This house would ban gambling'.





# LIBRARY NEWS



The library has been very busy since we were able to re-open in September. Here is a round up of what the students have been up to:



Follow us on Instagram:

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

## Student Librarians

A team of students in Years 8, 9 and 10 have volunteered as student librarians to work in the Library in their own time. They have been trained to use the computer issue system, prepare new books and assist with shelving returned books. Mrs Scotland, Librarian, said "They are fantastic and we really couldn't run the Library without all their help!"



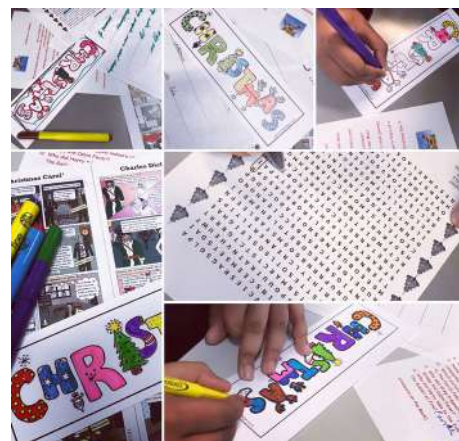
## Bookbuzz

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. There was great excitement when the books were distributed.



## Reading Café

Reading Café is running again and students have enjoyed discovering some great books, doing fun puzzles and quizzes and even solving a crime. At the Christmas Event they designed colourful Christmas Bookmarks.



## Book Reviews

Students in Year 7 have been planning and writing book reviews in their regular library lessons. They were then challenged to enter a competition to write a review about their favourite book or one they have read and enjoyed recently. Well done to everyone who entered. The best entries will be displayed in the Library.

The winners were Sohani Multani (7EIN) and Eragavi Maharajan (7CHL).

## 'FHS Reads' Newsletters

Click to read the Newsletter for your Key Stage:



### KEY STAGE 3

<https://www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/KS3-Newsletter-Jan-22.pdf>



### YOUNG ADULT

<https://www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/YA-Reads-Jan-22.pdf>



### 6TH FORM

<https://www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FH6-Reads-Jan-22.pdf>

# MUSSEL POWER!

Students are being taught to prepare and cook mussels as part of the "Mussel Power" programme. This has been organised by The Fish In Schools Hero programme which aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school and is run by The Food Teachers' Centre and The Fishmongers Company's Charitable Trust.

Through "Mussel Power" 8000 students in 200 hundred schools across the



country are cooking and tasting sensational freshly cooked dishes made with British mussels.

Food and Nutrition teacher Ms Ennever explains the lesson: 'Our student chefs have been busy practising how to prepare and cook sustainable fresh fish. They learned how mussels are rope-grown and harvested sustainably and provide key nutrients. Most of these students have never eaten mussels before'.



# TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION

Students, Ben and Joel Watson competed at the British Schools Gymnastics Association Trampoline Schools Competition on 28th November in the Under 19 Boys Intermediate category and the Under 15 Boys Novice category respectively.

Both did very well, with it being Ben's second external competition and Joel's first since the clubs return after lockdown which stopped all training for 18 months!

Ben had a cracking first routine, pulling a whole two marks clear of the rest of the field!

For Joel it was a very close competition,

with only 0.3 separating Joel from first place after the first routine!

Unfortunately, Ben fell in his second routine, which had to be terminated early. Nerves crept in during Joel's second routine, and the lead increased. However Joel still managed a 2nd place finish, with Ben finishing 5th in his category. Both have secured a qualification spot at the Southern Zonal Schools competition!

We are very impressed with both Joel and Ben, who have really put the effort and hours into training and the results can be seen in the new skills they have picked up and the incredible development in their form.



Joel receiving his trophy

## QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

The school is currently seeking reaccreditation for The Quality in Careers Standard through CSW Investor in Careers, the national quality award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

Access to high quality CEIAG provision allows students to have a greater opportunity to broaden their horizons, raise aspirations and help them make the right choices at key transition points.



Parents wanting more information about the reaccreditation or able to support the school's careers programme through student presentations or work experience should contact Andrew Webb, Careers Leader, via [AWebb@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:AWebb@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

## LIVED EXPERIENCE MEETINGS

Local MP Virendra Sharma (For Ealing Southall) is holding a series of Lived Experience Meetings to hear the voices of local residents on what it's like to live in Ealing Southall.

The dates and times are as follows:

- 7pm, 21st Feb: Southall Broadway, Lady Margaret & Dormers Wells
- 7pm, 22nd Feb: Southall Green & Norwood Green
- 7pm, 23rd Feb: Elthorne & Northfields

Please RSVP to: <http://virendrasharma.eventbrite.com/>

or contact Mr Sharma directly on: [virendra.sharma.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:virendra.sharma.mp@parliament.uk)

## DIARY DATES FOR PARENTS

Half Term: Mon 14th to Fri 18th Feb 2022

End of Term: Fri 1st April 2022

Easter Holiday: Mon 4th to Mon 18th April 2022

Start of Term: Tue 19th April 2022

Bank Holiday: Mon 2nd May 2022

Curriculum Day (Eid-al-Fitr): Tue 3rd May 2022

Half Term: Mon 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

## CHARITY EYE GLASS COLLECTION

We are collecting used & unwanted, good condition prescription eye glasses for charity. The collection box is located in the school reception.

FEATHERSTONE HIGH SCHOOL  
11 MONTAGUE WAYE, UB2 5HF

020 8843 0984

[INFO@FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK](mailto:INFO@FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK)

[WWW.FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK](http://WWW.FEATHERSTONEHIGH.EALING.SCH.UK)



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



[@FeatherstoneHS](https://twitter.com/FeatherstoneHS)



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



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

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

## 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/10.30am (depending on your child's timetable). Students need to be in school before these times as the gates will be closed promptly at 8.30am/10.30am.

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

The school gates will close at 8.50am/10.50am. 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.**