Despite significant changes to the way school performance is now measured and the more demanding GCSE qualifications, students and staff were all delighted with the outstanding GCSE results. A quarter of all the exam entries were graded the highest scores of 7, 8 and 9. The English and Maths pass rate at 4 – 9 has increased from last year to 77% and is well above the national average.

Headteacher, Mr Wadwa commented that: “this was an exceptionally hard working year group and these results reflect just how hard students and staff have worked throughout the year to prepare for what is undoubtedly a more challenging national examination system.”

One of our top GCSE achievers Manpreet Singh gained an incredible seven grade 9s and two grade 8s and is now studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry at FHS Sixth Form. Fellow student Manisha Johal was shocked when she opened her results (three 9 grades and six grade 8s) and attributed her results to “revising every day and her fantastic teachers”.

Featherstone Sixth Form once again celebrated fantastic A Level and BTEC Level 3 results with many students achieving top grades. The new reformed A Levels were more rigorous and challenging this year. Despite this we were thrilled with an excellent set of results with 51% of students achieving A* - B and a 100% pass rate for A Levels.

Our top achiever at A Level this year, Chittesh Patel (3A’s) is now studying Maths with Economics at the London School of Economics. He said “I want to thank all of my teachers for their incredible support throughout the two years and consistently giving up their time to help me.”

BTEC students also celebrated after completing more demanding courses than in previous years. We are thrilled that 95% of students achieved Distinction* - Merit this year. Penifa Monteiro (D*D, M) has just started an apprenticeship in Pharmacy. She said “I had a lot of support from the school and the teachers were fantastic, giving up their time and really helping us prepare for the exams”.

Mr Thorley, Head of Sixth Form, said, “I want to congratulate everyone for their hard work and dedication.”
Headteacher’s Message to Parents/Carers

Once more our new academic year has begun in a very positive manner with staff and students buoyed up by some excellent examination results. Last year was dominated by the implementation of the government’s radical educational change agenda – much tougher exams with very little in the way of guidance available. There were 13 new GCSE exams at Featherstone this summer and 12 new style A levels. As reported at our Awards Evening some GCSE students sat a total of 22 exam papers which meant 34 hours of exams in the Hall! Despite these demands, we were delighted that once more students and staff delivered outstanding examination results. At GCSE we had 60 of the new Grade 9s – the so called super A*s. The key School Performance Table GCSE measure is called the Progress 8 – we scored +0.74 which means Featherstone students achieved three quarters of a grade higher in each of their best 8 GCSE exams than would be seen in similar schools. Post 16 results were also very strong with 51% of A level grades achieved at A*-B and 95% of BTEC Applied A levels at Distinction*-Merit. 80% of Year 13 decided to progress to a university of their choice against a national average of 50%. Each of these successes mentioned above also reflects your success as critical partners in your son/daughter’s learning – thank you.

Our attendance statistics for the last academic year are also once more the best in the Local Authority. The relationship between outstanding attendance and excellent results is well established – we know “every lesson counts” and please remember we will not authorise any holiday absence during term time.

Exam success on its own provides a very one dimensional view of education and I’m sure you will agree that our personal qualities are critical to our future success. We do offer a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs to nurture the talents and personal and social skills of our young people. These are all listed on Firefly – please do encourage your son/daughter to engage in these opportunities.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.
Mr Wadwa, Headteacher

FHS Got Talent 2018

On Thursday 11th October FHS hosted FHS Got Talent for a third year running. Once again it was a huge success and we managed to raise £108.60 which will go towards the House Charities at the end of the year.

Our wonderful MCs for the afternoon, Alban (Year 10) and Beydan (Year 11), did a fantastic job by keeping the crowd engaged and entertained in between acts. Admittedly, the show wouldn’t have been amazing if we didn’t have all these talented students performing. The performances were mind blowing and extremely entertaining as always. Well done to Ramandeep, Pratik, Kiranjot, Sarah, Gurshan, Harleen, Jasleen, Suneena, Gurdit, Ishneel, Ben, Joel, Angela, Hussein, Prem and Eris who were brave enough to audition and entertain their peers in the live show. The performances were mind blowing and extremely entertaining as always. Well done to Ramandeep, Pratik, Kiranjot, Sarah, Gurshan, Harleen, Jasleen, Suneena, Gurdit, Ishneel, Ben, Joel, Angela, Hussein, Prem and Eris who were brave enough to audition and entertain their peers in the live show.

Aspiring Medics

Sixth form students Iqra and Faheem are planning to apply to study medicine at University and were able to complete work experience over the summer at Epsom Hospital.

Featherstone has a strong tradition of nurturing and helping aspiring medical students with an established partnership with a South London Hospital Trust.

Both students said the experience was invaluable and will really help with their university applications.

Ex FHS student Anjali Bharj was recently awarded Ealing Council’s “Apprentice of the Year” and also nominated and shortlisted for an award at the 2018 London Borough Apprenticeship Awards. The award was presented by Julian Bell in the presence of the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Tejinder Dhami.
Awards Evening

During September, we once again celebrated the outstanding achievements and commitment of our students at the Annual Awards Evening. We were entertained by two fantastic musical performances and we were delighted to welcome Alex Pascall, OBE as our guest speaker this year.

Alex Pascall is a Grenada born broadcaster, journalist, musician, composer, oral historian and educator. He was one of the developers of the Notting Hill Carnival; a political campaigner; and was part of the team behind Britain’s first national black newspaper, The Voice. He is credited with having established a black presence in the British Media, presenting the BBC radio programme, Black Londoners for 14 years and interviewing the likes of Muhammad Ali and Alex Haley.

Reading & Learning

The Library has been very busy during the first half-term. All Year 7 students have had an introduction and have started to borrow and read some of the great books on offer.

Home Learning Club for Years 7, 8 & 9 takes place every day until 3.45pm (3.00pm on Wednesdays) and all students can visit before school and at break or lunchtime to read, change books or study.

Fun was had at a Reading Café special with students discussing funny books and telling jokes. The new Year 9/10 Book Group met for the first time to talk about new novels and favourite fiction.

We are very excited to announce the new area in the main library is almost finished. Watch this space!!

Physics & Maths Masterclass

To usher in the Exam season for Year 11, the Numeracy department provided Year 11s with the first Maths and Physics Master class on 15th October 2018 at the Main Hall.

About forty Year 11 students from the top three classes in Maths and Physics attended. What was so inspiring about the event was the fact that the individuals who delivered the lessons and offered the guidance and messages were the Year 13 and Year 12 top achievers. They stood with confidence and the power of their understanding showed their resilience and determination for the Year 11 to emulate.

At the end of the session the attendees received a folder of resources which they can use to revise for all the exams they are about to start.

European Day of Languages 2018

In order to celebrate European Day of Languages, the MFL department carried out a variety of exciting activities throughout the week of the 26th of September to highlight the importance of learning a language and to celebrate our school’s diversity.

Our Year 7 students had the opportunity to practise their language skills whilst enjoying a continental breakfast served by their languages teachers. Our Year 8 groups tasted some traditional French and Spanish delicacies and were able to give their opinions in the target language to their teachers. Our Year 9 groups carried out a linguistic treasure hunt where they learnt more about the languages of the European Union.

Reading - 7 in 7!

Well done to Bebemarwah who is our first Year 7 to read “7 in 7”! All Year 7s have the challenge of reading 7 full length novels during Year 7, and Bebe has managed this before half term. Well done Bebemarwah for your resilience, aspiration and effort!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 28th September, we had a huge response to our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Students and staff had been working hard all week in and out of lessons to ensure there was a vast array of treats and we weren’t disappointed!

Year 11 and 6th form students who didn’t have lessons on Friday morning helped to set up the decoration and price the cakes, and throughout the day sell to staff, students and also parents who attended our engagement morning that day. We raised a record breaking £598.96, and couldn’t have done this without the work of Ella and Sydia, our food technician and teacher. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to this amazing charity.

6th Form Geographers

A Level geography students have recently attended two extra curricular lectures to deepen their understanding of the subject. At St Mary’s University students listened to Gill Miller from the University of Chester as she explored issues surrounding ‘Dealing with Disease! Global and local responses in the developing world’.

Later in the term the Geographers travelled to the prestigious Royal Geographical Society’ in Kensington to hear about the latest developments in Hazard management around the world.

Firefly Parent’s App

We want to keep you up to date with important messages and information about your child. Please visit: www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/firefly-app-for-parents/ for more information.
Sports Awards Evening

On Wednesday 17th of October Featherstone High held the annual sports awards evening. We welcomed Laviai Neilson, a 400m Great British sprinter, to present our awards. Awards were given out to over 80 pupils for all sports competed in, commitment to extra curricular clubs and achievement in theory courses.

The students were able to take part in a question and answer session with our guest speaker Laviai and the evening proved to be an inspirational experience for all involved.

Ealing Foodbank

Featherstone High School is a Foodbank agency who can issue vouchers to families in need of support.

You can contact any of the following members of staff listed who will meet with you and issue a voucher. Please ring the school (020 8843 0984) or email them directly.

Once we’ve issued you with a voucher please take it to one of the local centres. You can find a list of local centres and opening times on the website above. When you arrive, they’ll give you a hot drink and a warm welcome, and the volunteers will chat with you about your situation. They’ll also discuss any dietary needs you may have and exchange your foodbank voucher for a parcel of three days of emergency food. They may be able to point you in the right direction for further help and support. Most of the foodbank centres offer a cafe style environment and their aim is to provide non-judgemental support at the point of crisis.

Please contact one of the following members of staff for help and advice:

Ms Nikourazm: SNikourazm@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk
Ms Spreadbury: JSpreadb@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk
Ms Matharu: MMatharu@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk
Ms Noel: PNoel@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk
Ms Kallha: PKallha@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk
Mr Noel: JNoel@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Parent Friendly Websites - Online Safety

www.saferinternet.org.uk
UK Safer Internet Centre, where you can find online safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.

www.net-aware.org.uk
Your guide to the social networks your kids use. Stay up to date and keep your child safe in today’s digital world.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Thinkuknow is the education programme from CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Parent Friendly Websites - Online Safety

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse
The NSPCC focuses on preventing abuse.

www.internetmatters.org
Helping parents keep their children safe online

www.youtube.com/user/nspcc
NSPCC Youtube channel

For further information delivered at our recent parental engagement meeting go to: www.featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk/parents

University of Roehampton Business School

The University of Roehampton’s Business School visited Featherstone 6th Form last term. It was a very useful visit for the Business School as they are currently revamping their first year of their degree course and it helped them to better understand the school environment students come from. The University staff commented that the Featherstone students were lovely and really enjoyed chatting to them about their aspirations.

The school has successfully achieved Stage 2 of the Quality in Careers Standard reflecting the high standards of careers education and guidance delivered by staff across the school. Planning for the final Stage 3 assessment in December is now underway. The Careers team is always keen to work employers who can provide high quality experiences of the World of Work to students across the school.

To discuss opportunities please contact Andrew Webb, Head of Careers.
Email: AWebb@featherstonehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Normal school day co-incident with Diwali: Wednesday 7th November 2018 (school open as usual)

Borough INSET afternoon – early closure: Wednesday 14th November 2018 (all students finish at 12pm)

Normal school day coincident with Guru Nanak’s birthday: Friday 23rd November 2018

Sixth Form Open Evening: 28th November 2018 from 4pm-7pm

End of term: Friday 21st December 2018

First day back for all students: Monday 7th January 2019