

## Calendar of events

### DECEMBER

- 05-16 Year 10 Work Experience
- 05-16 Year 11 Mock Examinations
- 07 Year 7 Academic Review Day
- 16 Last day of Autumn term

### JANUARY

- 04 First day of Spring term
- 04-30 Public Exams
- 13 Year 8 Academic Review Day
- 19 Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 26 Year 12 Parents' Evening

### FEBRUARY

- 07 The Arts Oscars
- 13-17 Half term
- 20 INSET Day
- 23 Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 28 KS4/5 Music Showcase

### MARCH

- 13 KS3 Music Showcase
- 15 Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 21 Themed Parents' Evening
- 27 Year 11 Final Music Gig
- 28 Year 10 Music Performance
- 29 Year 13 Final Music Gig
- 30 Last day of Spring term



Hands Reaching Hands See page 3

## Message from Steve Brady, Headteacher

Leading the way in boys' achievement' – the Forest Hill mantra has once again been endorsed by our continued profile of improved GCSE and A level results this summer, with students again achieving our best ever results. A particularly strong academic core (Maths 70%; Science 65%; English 60%) contributed to 57% of our boys achieving the 5A\*-C (including English & Maths) benchmark and allowing them a choice of progression routes and pathways for further study. Our EBACC measure is amongst the best in the borough. The results of our most able students have been particularly pleasing, with 36% achieving 10 or more A\*-C qualifications.

The new Sixth Form configuration – SFH6 – has had an immediate impact on raising attainment with 46% of all grades being A\*-B and 76% A\*-C, ensuring students have been successful in gaining their chosen university places.

Forest Hill continues to recruit well, is oversubscribed and is able to maintain its all-ability profile despite competitive pressures from across and outside the borough. We remain a community school, with the intake currently restricted to boys living within 3kms of the school.

Over the summer holiday period a new Food Technology room was

constructed and is already proving highly popular across KS3 and no doubt many of you will have sampled apple crumble and cookies brought home by the boys. It is envisaged a GCSE will be available in the near future.

Already this term we have celebrated significant individual success for both students and staff. Kieran Lang (H11G) has recently been elected 'Young Mayor of Lewisham' ahead of sixteen other candidates, and making Forest Hill School the first school in Lewisham to have had two successful candidates. Well done, Kieran – now the hard work really starts!

Also, our Librarian Ms Carol Webb has been awarded the highest accolade of 'School Librarian of the Year 2011' in a keenly contested and highly regarded national competition. This formal recognition of Ms Webb's tireless enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the boys over many years at Forest Hill is richly deserved.

I am sure you will agree these are most significant achievements for which both Kieran and Ms Webb should be congratulated.

Finally, in case I do not see you at one of the parents' evenings or events prior to the Christmas holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable festive break, and my very best wishes for a successful 2012.

Steve Brady Headteacher



## INSIDE

- 2 A Code for Murder | Frankenstein | A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 3 FHS Dance Company | X Box Connect for the Dance Studio! | A Level Dance | Other Dance News | Hands Reaching Hands | US Violin Prodigy Visits
- 4 Fest Is Best! | It Kicks Music Project is back
- 5 Foyles Young Poets Awards | Space Camp – Mission Discovery | Exciting times in MFL | School Librarian of the Year 2011
- 6 Sport | Forest Hill School PTA | Young Mayor of Lewisham

## A Code for Murder

When I found out about the chance to perform in *A Code for Murder*, I was very excited about the prospect. I loved performing in these sorts of productions as I had taken part in the Year 8 Gifted and Talented Drama production and loved it.

When I came to the auditions I was expecting a medium role, but when I found I had the lead I was ecstatic. We spent a number of Saturdays rehearsing from 9 to 1 o'clock, sacrificing a lot of free time.

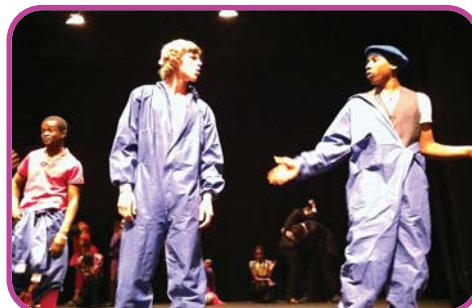
With help from Lift representatives, Ms Montague-Gibson, Ms Webb, Mr Kanton and Ms Ade, we managed to pull together a spectacular performance and I am proud of our achievements.

**Matthew Riley H10F**



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

An outstanding performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was performed at The Broadway Theatre, Catford on Tuesday 1st November 2011 as a part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.



## Frankenstein

For the first time last year pyrotechnics and drama combined to make an explosive unit for year 7. *Frankenstein* focused on the technical elements involved in theatre, with the students having control of the lighting and effects such as a smoke machine and flash-pots to create an atmospheric scene. Tony from D8F was a part of this experience and reports "It was interesting because we got to do the smoke, lights and watch experiments with Mr Simpson. Mr Griffiths was jokes when he came in with the fire extinguisher because he thought there was a real fire!"

The students created some imaginative work that co-operated technical theatre alongside their acting skills. In this year's Arts Showcase you will have seen 3 of our now year 8 students bringing you *Frankenstein*, alongside a gang of monsters from the dance department!!! The explosions, lighting and high quality performances that were brought to the stage made this a production not to be missed.

**Mrs Humphrey Dance & Drama Teacher**



# dance

## FHS Dance Company

The FHS Dance Company wowed the audience at their first performance at Rushey Green Primary School. The boys performed a street and break dance piece, which they have worked hard on in the company rehearsals. Everyone at the Rushey Green International evening was very impressed with the fantastic dance talent from FHS. Also a big well done to the year 10 GCSE group for their outstanding performance.

**Mrs Humphrey** Dance & Drama Teacher



## X Box Connect for the Dance Studio!

A newly mounted projector enables students to perform dance in front of a moving backdrop. The use of visual images, film and live projection can enhance the audience experience, and adds another dimension to the context of the performance. We are also going to give students the opportunity to make use of the digital developments in virtual dance experiences by connecting the projector to an Xbox Connect. A new FHS Digital Dance Champion will be crowned in 2012!

## A Level Dance

We are delighted to be running A Level Dance for the first time in the Sydenham Forest Hill Federation. The course develops students as performers, choreographers and critics of dance. As with all A Levels, the academic rigour requires students to have an analytic approach to dance as a performative art form. The students must be able to write about the significance and meaning of professional dance works using specific terminology and have an excellent understanding of the dancer in training. We wish all the students the best of luck, although commitment and hard work may serve them better!

# art

## Hands Reaching Hands



The art department have been exploring the topic of 'Journeys and Mapping' and were very fortunate to have **Valerie Pannier**, a multimedia/video artist, working with them last term. Valerie works with schools in other countries and set up our project, 'Hands Reaching Hands' which was run simultaneously with a school in Kenya. The students from both schools used 'blogger' a safe protected online blog, to record their journeys and art work. It was an exciting project, linking our school with the Alekii school in Kenya, enabling intercultural dialogue, enhancing cultural awareness and creativity.

**Ms Glover** Art Teacher



## Other Dance News

- Forty students enjoyed an amazing performance of *Some Like it Hip-Hop* at the Peacock Theatre in November. It was an inspiring tale told through the medium of street dance.
- Eight of our Year 9 students are working intensively with Laban Dance Conservatoire and students from across the borough to create a performance for the Lewisham

# music

## US Violin Prodigy Visits

By the time you read this we will have had the pleasure of hosting a day of string performances and workshops with violin virtuoso **Gareth Johnson**. Now in his mid-20s, the New York Times once said of Mr Johnson that he "...possesses prodigious musical gifts – like Joshua Bell or Maxim Vengerov...he dominates the stage." The Washington Post said, "...a confident soloist who combines sensitive control of the bow with right-on intonation and nicely detailed phrasing."

Local primary school string players have



also been invited to this event as well as some of the more advanced players from secondary schools in Sydenham. This is a great chance for our string players to develop further; we already now have an established section that rehearses on Wednesdays after school, known as The **Big Bow Band** and led by our cello teacher Ms Amelie Addison.

**Mr Coggle** Music Teacher

## Black History Month

Congratulations for the brilliant musical performance by **Marlon Mahoi, Shaun Blake, Narcisse Kalala** and **Perry Newman** from D9F in the Black History Month Whole School Assembly on Wednesday October 19th. Staff and students alike were very impressed – well done!

**Ms Bryon** Music Teacher

School Dance Showcase in February.

- Hot off the press: **Tap Club** will be recommencing in January every Tuesday lunchtime in the Ken Kirkby Theatre. Open to all years and abilities.
  - Any student interested in taking up an opportunity in Dance should see Mr Oudkerk or Mrs Humphrey.
- Mr Oudkerk** Head of Dance

## Fest is Best!

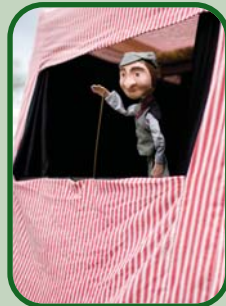
Yes, we know you'll say we're biased, but this year's Forest Fest was truly our biggest ever! With more than 4,300 visitors through the door, our annual arts festival, held on 2nd July, attracted a more diverse and larger crowd than ever before. Even the Mayor of Lewisham, Steve Bullock paid us a visit.

There was circus skills, lantern making, quilting and art exhibitions; puppet shows, stilt walkers and acrobatic acts. XLP made an appearance with their mobile recording studio, and as always there was brilliant theatre (Hamlet, London Bubble), dance and music performances by students from FHS and surrounding schools, as well as local artists and performance groups. To top it off, there were fun games, activities and competitions galore provided by our fantastic PTA.

Special thanks to the Perry Vale and Forest Hill Assemblies, who each donated £2,750 to help fund the festival; and the many parents, residents and supporters who lent a helping hand in the weeks and months leading up to the festival, making this great day possible. Thank you.

**Sasha Leacock**

*Community Performing Arts Manager*



## It Kickz Music Project is back!

‘Exciting’ is how Youth Music described the It Kickz Music Project. Held Friday evenings between 5.30pm-7pm at FHS, this innovative and FREE 2 year programme is a must for any young person interested in developing their music skills and maybe a career within music.

Participants learn how to play a range of musical instruments, develop their creative music making skills, participate in collaborative projects and perform to a live audience. They can also gain leadership skills, a nationally recognised Arts Award qualification, plus insight into music career opportunities.

To be eligible, participants must be aged 13-16 years, live or attend a school in Forest Hill or Sydenham, and qualify under one of the following: receive free school

meals, in registered social care and/or have limited opportunity to access out of school music provision.

For more information contact Sasha Leacock (Community Performing Arts Manager) on 0208 613 8422 or email: [ltkickz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ltkickz@hotmail.co.uk)

It Kickz Music Project is a collaborative project between Forest Hill School and Millwall Community Scheme and is funded by Youth Music.

**Sasha Leacock**

*Community Performing Arts Manager*



## Foyles Young Poets Awards

This year I entered one of my poems into the Foyles Young Poets Competition. It was called 'Relentless' and I had completed it in my English lessons. I came up with a starting line for the poem and I then extended this to look at the relationship between humans and animals. I wrote my poem as an extended metaphor – my aim was to hide the story behind the words.

I was surprised when my English teacher, Ms Gregory, suggested that I should enter my poem into the competition. I wasn't aware of how big the Foyles competition actually was, and I was really happy to hear that my poem stood out enough to be chosen for an award. I attended the ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall and was awarded my prize. Next year, I plan to write another poem and come first!

**Ryan O'Halloran S9G**

## Space Camp – Mission Discovery



At Forest Hill School, the mathematical abilities of three pupils were recognised: **Joe Martin (R10F)**, **Jared Ndisang (D10F)** and **Sam Turpin (D10F)**. Combined with their commitment to hard work from the June 2011 exams they had secured GCSE Maths A or A\* grades by the end of Year 9.

The gifted and talented Mathematics pupils were invited to participate in a week

long programme at the Imperial College of London University during their summer holidays. Throughout the week they learnt about resolving complex problems in Astronomical Science, which involved exploring the intrinsic links with Mathematics and Space. They also acquired knowledge about the wide range of mathematical formulae used in space flight.

Joe, Jared and Sam received specialist support from previous astronauts from NASA to design an experiment based on the concept of improving life on earth or space travel. Of the 24 groups they were the youngest (some attendees were already in university). They got to the final and won awards for the 'most unique idea,' 'budgeting and planning' and 'best team-building skills.'

The consensus from the three pupils was that it was a fun and engaging week.

**Ms Nguyen Maths Teacher**

## School Librarian of the Year 2011



We are delighted to announce that **Carol Webb** was named School Librarian of the Year at a recent ceremony held in London by the School Library Association.

Dawn Woods, Chair of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Selection Committee, said: "Carol was the first school librarian we visited on our quest this year and she certainly raised the bar at Olympic standard heights. The library is

immediately visible from outside the school and beckons to all who pass. Within the school it is a bright focal point. Carol's information literacy approach would put some Higher Education establishments to shame. Then to top it all, we were very impressed with Carol's links to publishers. Admittedly the school has an advantage being so close to London publishing offices, but so are another few hundred schools. Carol saw the opportunities and seized them and this has resulted in an all boys' school of avid readers defying all stereotypes."

Our school library is fundamental to developing the way we work with boys. Carol uses her expertise to mediate between a child's reading ability and the different kinds of literature that exist for young people. Reading for pleasure is essential as research has shown it is a key factor in raising attainment at GCSE. We believe the work of the Library team has been critical to raising literacy levels at Forest Hill over the last 12 years and has underpinned our steadily rising exam results.

We have known that Carol was an outstanding colleague for a number of years and it is fantastic to have that endorsed with this prestigious national award.

**Ms Levens Deputy Headteacher**



The MFL department welcomes three new faces this term: the new head of department **Ms Swift**, **Mr Foglia** and myself. A big thank you goes to **Ms Lopes**, **Mr Okwechime** and **Ms Buckley** for helping us to settle in and sharing invaluable knowledge and ideas about languages and Forest Hill.

Teaching in MFL has taken on an added dimension thanks to the introduction of ActiveTeach language learning software in German, French and Spanish. The programs can be accessed by students from home through Fronter and include vocabulary learning games as well as reading practice and built-in audio tracks and video clips for listening practice! Speak to an MFL teacher for more details.

In other news, fast-track GCSE classes in a second language for Years 8 and 9 have proved immensely popular this year, as has the trip to Aachen in Germany which was heavily over-subscribed. Exciting times indeed!

**Mr James MFL Teacher**

# sport

## Year 7 Football

The **Year 7** football team have had a bright start to the Year. They have so far played five games and at present are undefeated. In their first game they beat The Warren by an impressive 16 goals to 0 with a hat trick from **Korrey Henry** and **Declan Roye-Norgrove**. In their second game they travelled to Salvatorian College near Harrow and came back 4-0 winners in the English Schools Cup. Their third match was a close game against local rivals Sedgehill which they won 8-5 after being 3 goals to 0 down – an impressive 3 goals from **Tahjae Anderson** and 2 from **Yazid Kaikay**, and **Jardell Francis-Adeyinka** led the scorers. In the 2nd round of the London Cup they came away 6-1 winners from Sacred Heart with hat tricks from **Tahjae** and **Jardell**. In their last game the feat was again repeated when **Tahjae** and **Jardell** both scored hat tricks as the Year 7s again notched double figures to win 11-3.

## Hockey

Having had success last year, hockey has continued to see a small revival at Forest Hill. To date we have had around 20 different boys at training on Wednesdays from Years 7-9, from which 12 were taken to play Haberdashers' Askes Knights Academy. A well drilled Knights Academy put on a better display than last year and we had a tough task on our hands to prove that Forest Hill were superior. Finally the boys got it together and maintained a lead of 3-2 to secure the win.

For most schools hockey isn't a large part of their extracurricular program so it is hoped before Christmas and into the New Year we are able to find some more fixtures, and challenge ourselves against the likes of Alleyns or Langley Park Schools. Well done boys, keep up the hard work.

**Mr Stevenson PE teacher**

*Below: Year 9 Football*



# PTA

Forest Hill is unusual among secondary schools in that it has had an active Parents Association for over 30 years, which fundraises for the school and organises social events to bring parents, carers and teachers together. All parents and carers are automatically members of the PTA which enables you to get involved in shaping the activities of the school, work directly with teachers, governors and the School Council and help run social events to raise funds for the students. We raised £2500 last academic year to provide extra equipment for the boys. In addition, we were winners of the Community Award at the **Lewisham Pupil Ambassadors' Working Together Awards** in 2011. Look out for our upcoming events such as "Quiz Night" and "The Disco". To get involved contact us at [foresthillschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillschoolpta@gmail.com)  
**Keith Knox PTA Chairperson**

## PTA 200 CLUB WINNERS

### April 2011

1st Prize £50	No 67	MR & MRS L CLUNEY
2nd Prize £10	No 45	MRS S PARIS
3rd Prize £5	No 114	MRS L KIING
4th Prize £5	No 60	MS C HOUSE

### May 2011

1st Prize £50	No 69	MS E BOURG
2nd Prize £10	No 27	MS C GLUYTHER
3rd Prize £5	No 87	MS L BROOKMAN
4th Prize £5	No 79	MR G GARCHA

### June 2011

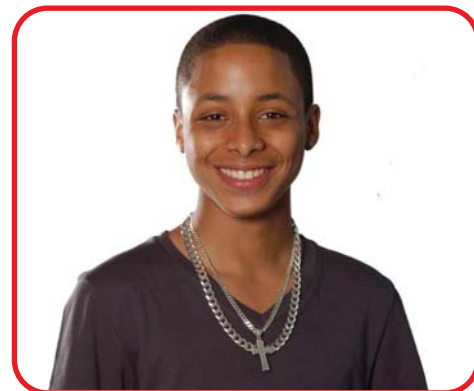
1st Prize £50	No 14	MR & MRS BD LESLIE
2nd Prize £10	No 21	MS DM PEEL
3rd Prize £5	No 198	MR G DOLAMORE
4th Prize £5	No 36	MR A TILL

If you would like to become a member of the 200 Club, please complete the form 'Application to Join' and return it with the relevant cash/cheque or complete the authorisation for payment by standing order. All forms to be returned to 200 Club c/o Mrs Baillie at the School.

**Patricia Stocker 200 Club Treasurer**

# student voice

## Young Mayor of Lewisham



Congratulations to **Kieran Lang** of Harvey House, who was elected Young Mayor in the recent election, beating 18 other candidates and securing 2,817 votes from his peers across the borough.

He had campaigned on ending negative stereotypes of young people, creating opportunities and events for them to show their talents and mending relationships with the community.

Kieran says "I'm overwhelmed but extremely happy and excited. As mentioned in my manifesto, I am an example, not a stereotype, and will work on relationships between the young and old. Thank you to all my supporters, I'm going to do my best to make a change, I can't wait".

We wish him the very best for the year.

**Mrs Baillie Assistant Headteacher**

## contact us

**Forest Hill School  
Specialist School in  
Performing Arts**  
Dacres Road, London SE23 2XN

For general school and  
curriculum enquiries:  
Tel: 020 8699 9343

Email: [info@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk)

For Specialist Status and Community  
Performing Arts enquiries:  
Tel: 020 8613 8423 / 8422

Email:  
[p\\_arts@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:p_arts@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk)

fhs newsletter is edited by  
**Michaela Rispin**



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

