

Calendar of events

JUNE

- 16-24 Adeche water sports trip
- 27 Bitburg trip

JULY

- 02 Forest Fest
- 03 Bitburg trip return
- 05 New Intake Induction day
- 08 LIFT Drama Performance at Downham Library
- 08 Art Exhibition
- 11 Year 10 Mock Examinations
- 14 Key Stage 3 Achievement Evening
- 16 Tomorrow's Warriors performance at Southbank Centre
- 18 Sports Day
- 21 Last day of Summer term

SEPTEMBER

- 05 INSET Day
- 06 New Year 7 & 12 only
- 07 Whole school returns



Clockwise, retiring teachers Elisabeth Redsell, Sue Bartley and Colin Wagstaff



Message from Steve Brady, Headteacher

The summer term is dominated by the intensive examination period with students across years 10 -13 focused on achieving success in module and final exams. Year 7, 8 and 9 have also had a series of important end of year assessments and exams, with some Year 9s having sat early GCSE examinations.

Prior to the exam period Year 11 celebrated with style at their 'Graduation Ceremony'. An evening of performances, prizes and speeches illustrated the vast richness of talent, ability and character within the year group. The event recognised the individual and collective contributions the boys have made in ensuring Forest Hill continues to thrive as a vibrant learning community. We are certain that they will have risen to the challenge of fulfilling their undoubted academic potential in their examinations.

The first year of the new Sixth Form partnership, SFH6, has been highly successful and recruitment is once again strong for September. Many students are holding offers for prestigious university places and I naturally wish every success to all those who have sat their GCSEs and A levels.

The end of the school year will see three long-standing colleagues retire after many years of outstanding commitment to Forest Hill School.

Colin Wagstaff has amassed an

amazing 36 years here having held senior positions as a Head of House and Head of Humanities. Elisabeth Redsell has led the renaissance of the MFL department and has served tirelessly on the Governing Body for many years. Sue Bartley has most recently filled the key position as Head of Shackleton House but has also contributed to teaching within Learning Support and MFL. I am sure you will join me in expressing real thanks and appreciation for the superb contributions they have made to the school and the boys they taught. We wish them every happiness and enjoyment in their well deserved retirement.

Other colleagues are taking career breaks to travel. Both Mr Adams (P.E.) and Ms Vine (Music) have plans to explore the world while Ms Nelson (MFL) is taking a sabbatical to refresh her language skills in France, Spain and further afield. Mr Aird (Technology) is returning to his native Australia while Ms Rea (MFL) and her family are moving to a more rural setting. All have made an exceptional impact on their departmental areas and contributed to all aspects of the wider school community. They leave with our best wishes for happy times and exciting travels.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and refreshing summer holiday.

Steve Brady *Headteacher*



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Solve the code, save a life

BTEC Performing Arts



This term has seen three exhilarating and varied performances by the BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) cohort. Here they explain what went into creating each piece of theatre...

A Raisin in the Sun

This is a play based on an African-American working class family, set in the 1950s written by Lorraine Hansberry. The Youngers are an extended family living in Chicago in a confined apartment and the play documents their struggle as African-Americans living in a society in which they are looked down upon.

We were asked to use Stanislavskian techniques to perform the play naturalistically. I played the character of Ruth, the mother of the family, who is married to Walter, the main character in the play. I used Emotion Memory, Magic If, Subtext and Given Circumstances in order to play my character naturalistically.

Overall I felt the performance went well because the techniques helped us to portray our characters effectively. As many of the cast were multi-roling, we used the same props in each scene to ensure the audience knew which character we were playing. For example, this was shown by all the people playing Walter wearing leather jackets; all the people playing Mama wearing head scarves etc. We were delighted with the feedback we got from our audience and we were thrilled to be given the opportunity to perform Hansberry's classic play to a modern audience.

The Panoptican

Our final Year 13 devised performance was inspired by the idea of a Panoptican and the theme of security being over-used and society's private lives being observed and filmed. It was a devised piece which was made up of a variety of techniques. We used different pieces of media to show the narrative of each character and also to make the audience feel as though they were part of the performance and to feel affected by the issues it raises.

This is a typically Brechtian technique – to make the audience feel like they were responsible for the society that they live in today. We also used elements of Stanivslaski's techniques such as

A *Code For Murder* will be performed promenade style in the community setting of Downham Library and Leisure Centre on Friday 8th July at 6.45pm & 8pm. The **London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT)** have invited us to participate in their 30th Anniversary celebrations this year.

We have taken this opportunity to bring both Drama and Maths departments together in order to study the accountancy and management behind a performance. A team of students from Key Stage 3 have been chosen for their strong mathematical abilities to form a production company: **Christopher Perrin** H7F, **Jacob Smith** D7G, **Silas Allen** S7F, **Piers Sanders** H7G, **Patrice Quadrucci** H7F, **Henry Kerr** H8F, **Tyler Smart** S8G, **Noah Chapman** H8F, **Joshua Lawrence** R8G, **Roman Buckle** R8F, **Calvin Kee** S9G, **Sam Thompson** S9G, **Jared Ndisang** D9F, **Sam Turpin** D9F.

Given Circumstances in order to create characters realistically, and monologues in order to effectively engage the audience.

Overall we felt that the piece went well, especially the way in which we managed to incorporate new media with live performance – there were no technical difficulties and it enabled us to give the audience more insight into the back-story of the characters.

Our aim was to leave our audience questioning the methods used in modern society by the government to police and control the people, and judging by the comments made afterwards we feel we were successful in doing so.

East

The BTEC Acting group was given the play *East* by Stephen Berkoff. Having been given our groups, we started to work on our Berkovian performance techniques. Berkoff's theatre is very physical, exaggerated and over the top style which demands a gesture for every line that is spoken. He aimed to shock the audience into remembering the message of the play and did not believe in naturalistic theatre.

The performance went off with a bang as the opening performers delivered an epic duologue followed by a thrilling and chilling performance by everyone. The delivery of the lines and the physicality of the actors served to shock and delight the audience who were on the edge of their seats.

The play came to a climactic end when the final scene told the emotional story of a man and his Harley Davidson motorbike. The audience reacted well and we received really positive feedback. It was a challenging piece and we felt we went about it with the enthusiasm and dedication that Berkovian theatre requires.

BTEC Performing Arts Students



They have commissioned an original play *A Code For Murder* by Nardine Montague-Gibson and are holding auditions for Year 9 students. Erica Campayne, Participation Producer from LIFT has been working with the students to develop their professional knowledge and skills. Mr. Kanton, Mathematics teacher, was very impressed by their inquiry experience at the LIFT Archive of Goldsmith University, commenting that "they have covered a week's worth of Year 11 maths in one morning". This will be a unique theatre experience and one not to be missed!

Ms C Webb Librarian, Forest Hill School

End of an era

My experience of GCSE drama was a very challenging one. We started Year 10 by rehearsing and performing a play



called *The Odyssey*. We performed it in front of a class from a lower year and also at a local primary school. One of my favourite schemes was an exam unit on the Columbine Massacre. We used the Simon Armitage poem, *Killing Time*, as a stimulus to explore what might have motivated two young American men to commit such a tragedy. We looked at the influence video games and music possibly had and were encouraged to draw our own conclusions about who was to blame, if anyone. This really stretched the group's imaginative skills and required that we approach the subject matter with maturity and sensitivity. It also challenged me as we used drama to explore the stereotypes the media portrays around high school cliques.

In one improvisation I performed as a tall American Footballer with big muscles. As I am not really any of these things I began by feeling quite self-conscious but as the impro went on I relaxed into my role and my audience enjoyed my performance. Doing GCSE drama is an experience I will never forget and one that I would recommend to any Year 9s choosing their options. Especially if you are creative, cooperative, prepared for hard work and ready to dedicate long hours to extra-curricular rehearsal!

Jack Butler S11F

dance

My dancing years at Forest Hill School

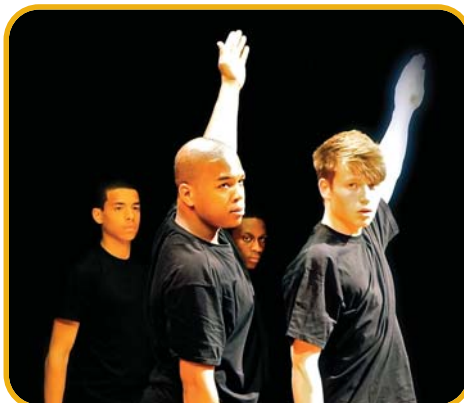
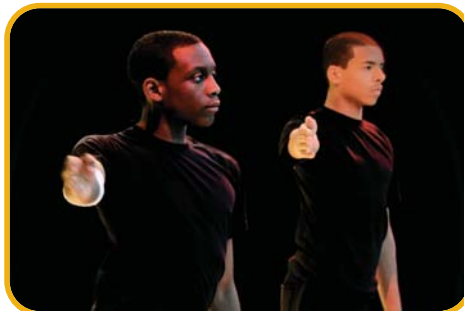
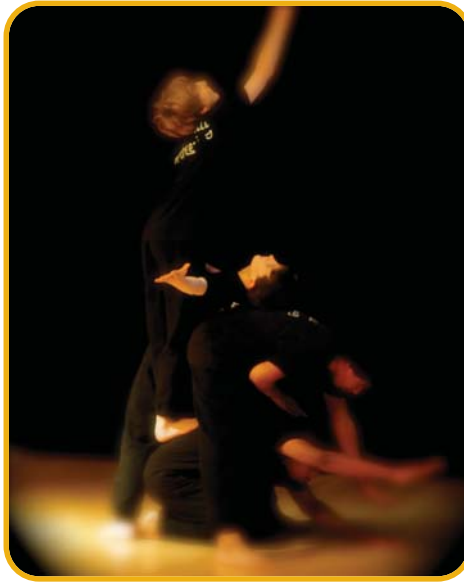
Before coming to Forest Hill School I had studied a range of dance styles, from Jazz and Contemporary to Bollywood, and have had a range of influences throughout my early dance experience. However, Forest Hill allowed me to broaden my dance horizons and has given me the ability to develop my dance ideas and abilities, leading to choreographing my final GCSE dance pieces and leading classes in a full cardio-vascular warm up. My experience has also allowed me to come up with new choreographic ideas and mix different genres of dance to teach outside of school.

Over the years I have been taught an amazing range of dances. I still remember dances that we were taught in Year 8, learning the history behind the Charleston and watching a film of the Jiving Lindy Hoppers. I continued my engagement with dance at Forest Hill and in Year 9, I was given the opportunity to work with a group of boys and girls from Forest Hill, Sydenham Girls School and the Royal Ballet School on a project that developed my ballet skills for life. We were also fortunate enough to perform for HRH the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at the Royal Ballet School itself, one of the most prestigious dance schools in the world. Obviously that is something not many people can say they have done and it was a fantastic experience that allowed me to make new friends and I'm sure is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Over the years I have seen professional dances at the theatre such as *Edward Scissorhands* and *Breakin' Convention* and performed at The British Museum, The Catford Broadway Theatre, Laban Conservatoire as well as numerous events at school. Having tap danced for many years outside of school, it was great to work with Ms Rispin this year in the after-school tap club, assisting and demonstrating to the younger students. I think a big thank you is in hand for all the dance teachers that have helped me to get to where I am today. Also a special thank you to Mr Oudkerk and Ms Ovenden for giving me all of these opportunities and allowing me to unlock my full dance potential throughout my time at Forest Hill School and hopefully getting an A* in my dance GCSE. Thank you dance department!

Joelle Lecky S11F

Year 11 GCSE dancers perform at the Graduation Evening



music

Forest Hill Boys perform at Southbank

Forest Hill School are currently working with the multi-award winning **Tomorrow's Warriors** and **Youth Music** as part of the **Routes to Roots** project, a platform for promoting Britain's most talented Jazz artists.

The FHS Tomorrow's Warriors have participated in fortnightly Jazz workshops with Peter Edwards, a highly talented professional Jazz pianist, who has a wealth of performance experience and is one of the Tomorrow's Warriors leaders.

During workshop sessions we have been developing an understanding of music theory, studying the history and origins of Jazz music, and exploring a variety of approaches to Jazz improvisation. As part of the Routes to Roots project, the FHS Tomorrow's Warriors performed in a sharing day at the Southbank Centre in March which was a great success.

The boys played to an incredibly high standard and we have been invited back for another sharing day at the Southbank. The FHS Tomorrow's Warriors are a fabulous ensemble with a range of talented musicians both from the lower school and SFH 6th form.

Don't believe me? Come along and see how amazing we are at **Forest Fest** on the Saturday 2nd July 2011.

Ms S Vine Music teacher

Self-portrait Competition



The winners of the Library's Self-portrait competition are: 1st prize **Rory O'Neill** R7F, 2nd prize **Wayne Jury** S8F and Commendations to **Jon Bailey** S8F, **Chris Saraiva** R8F and **Atilla Ibrahim** R8F. A special staff prize went to Ms Arthur for her textile entry (pictured).

Ms C Webb Librarian

Community Connections

Forest Fest 2011 Bringing the Community Together

Summer 2010 saw the biggest and busiest **Forest Fest** yet. The annual event has become a huge success, showcasing the vast variety of talent that the local area has to offer. With over **4,000 people in attendance last year** we anticipate that numbers will grow once again for the up-coming event on **2nd July 2011**.

This year's programme is shaping up to be the most exciting ever, with a variety of performances from local music, dance and drama groups confirmed. Highlights include a writer's workshop with BAFTA award-winning playwright **Roy Williams OBE** organised by the Sydenham Arts Festival, a collection of themed short stories by **London Bubble Youth Theatre**, plus a 'don't miss it' performance by renowned Jazz musicians the **Tomorrow's Warriors**.

Visitors will have a chance to get involved with hula-hoop, dance (including salsa from **Leigh Knight** and workshops from Laban and a performance from **Militree Dance**) and DJ workshops, and there will be a chance for you to record your own tracks at the **XLP** mobile recording studio. On top of all of this, there will be art installations and exhibitions celebrating our home-grown creative talent, plus performances from our local primary schools including the **Christ Church, Horniman, St Michael and Holy Trinity School Choirs**.

For younger Forest Fest goers there will be circus skills workshops, walk-about, face-painting and a giant game of snakes and ladders. **Tea Leaf Arts** will be providing



lantern-making workshops, a chance to help construct the Forest Hill Mandala and even a vegetable/animal competition! Local resident **Anne Schuman** will also be running a workshop to produce a quilt hanging for the school.

As if that wasn't enough, there will be plenty of stalls to tempt visitors; from handcrafted toys and crafts, exquisite jewellery to vegetables from our very own school garden! The Forest Hill School PTA will be providing some school fete classics – tombola and bouncy castle to name a few. Plus a selection of tasty treats and mouth-watering offers will be available, with something to please everyone, from ice cream to Caribbean cuisine.

COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL FOREST FEST

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Saturday 2nd July 2011

12pm – 5pm

**Forest Hill School,
Mayow Road, SE23 2XN**

Admission: Adults £1.50, Children 50p



Funded with the generous support of the Perry Vale and Forest Hill Assemblies (Lewisham Council), Forest Hill School PTA, Bairstow Eves and Sydenham Arts Festival, the day is sure to be full of diverse talent, great food and drink, and of course lots of fun! We look forward to seeing you there – at our annual celebration of our thriving local community!

For more information or to get involved email forestfest@hotmail.co.uk, or go to www.foresthillschool.co.uk

Reveal and Conceal exhibition

Congratulations to the A level art students who produced a wonderful exhibition at the **Stephen Lawrence Centre**. The exhibition, 'Reveal and Conceal', was a culmination of a three week inter-generational project with elders from the **Ageing Well LCC** craft group in Sydenham and was part of Lewisham's first ever **Intergenerational Festival**.

The private view was a great success as it brought all participants together again to share their experiences in a celebratory environment, giving them all a sense of self-esteem and a place in the heart of their community.

David Savill, the Artistic Director from **Age Exchange** commented, "It was a terrific exhibition. Clearly the young and old working creatively together was both a great learning experience and great fun". He was right.

Ms R Glover Art teacher



Monday Daydreamers

Our second year at St. Christopher's hospice gave us another opportunity, this term, to make music with a wonderful group of local residents who visit the centre to receive a range of therapy, care, and support. After brainstorming song choices at the start of the project the inclusion of *Daydream Believer* and *What a Day for a Day Dream* also gave us the name of our group – **The Monday Daydreamers**.

We invited Year 12 students from our BTEC Level 3 Music in the Community Course to take part and saw a true collaboration between old and young, all sharing their love of music.

Our final performance was both moving and joyful and the efforts of everyone that took part brought some real brightness into the lives of family members and participants alike.

Mr C Coggle Senior Music Specialist

Budding Engineers



Jared Ndisang, Rudi Clayton, Roman Buckle, Liam Alford, Faizan Chisti and Henry Kerr

The Engineering Club has had fun testing Alka Seltzer rockets – we found that they can be explosively spectacular at launch. We have had a composite jelly making competition; the winning entry survived the weight of a brick, and even a three storey free fall – intact! We have also been investigating how to make an egg float using ideas about density alone. This relates to design of submarines, and even in life saving equipment like inflatable jackets. Other activities have included making a rocket powered buggy, chemical clock reactions and sand timers.

The Engineering Club runs every Thursday after school at 3.15pm.

M Ahmed *Science Department*

Midsummer Magic

In March approximately 160 Year 7 students went with staff on coaches to see either a morning or afternoon performance of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley. When the performance began it was immediately entertaining and funny because the mix of original text and modern dialogue gave it a pantomime feel.

Set in Athens against a background of a Royal Wedding, the play tells three interweaving stories: four young friends are involved in a dispute concerning an arranged marriage; six working men rehearse their play to be performed at the Royal Wedding Feast; and the King and Queen of Fairyland's constant arguing has upset the balance of the mortal world. Puck the mischievous sprite stirs these ingredients to make midsummer madness in the woods – or is it all a Dream? We all agreed that Puck's performance made the production because he engaged the audience and was extremely entertaining. The students joined in with the pantomime feel, as did a few teachers!

Miss Simmons *English Department*

Penguin Publishers Visit



At a recent visit to Penguin we met new author Ruta Sepetys, whose book *Between Shades of Gray* entered the bestseller list in America on the day of release and has already been translated into 23 languages. This book is for both teenagers and adults and is seen as ground-breaking in that it helps to end the 70 year silence about the forced labour camps created in Eastern Europe by Stalin.

A little bit before the end there's a moment when you feel like your heart has been ripped out and then threaded back in, that moment is when Lina's mother dies. She has been strong and courageous, never gave up hope but finally died. The thing that mends my heart is when Lina carries on and I think that her mother's spirit carries on by living inside her.

Lewis French-Simon *Year D8G*

Lewisham Book Award Challenge



Forest Hill School achieved 1st place in this year's Lewisham Book Award Challenge which was held at St Matthew Academy. Our winning students were **Belal Gheran** R8G and **Travis Barton** S8F. The challenge consisted of creating a presentation about one of the shortlisted books in a team with students from other schools in less than an hour and then presenting it in front of an audience from all seven participating secondary schools. Many adults would find this challenging but all of our students performed brilliantly: **Elliot Scott**, **Nathan Henry**, **Luke Kenyon**, **Vionard Sillah** and **Rudi Clayton**.

Ms C Webb *Librarian*

BBC School Report

On Thursday 24th March S8G took part in a national event, hosted by the BBC, where the kids were in total control of a website that covers the news. The event was highly successful and was enjoyed by all. We divided into groups and each covered a range of areas in the project: local news, national stories, editing, script writing and making the website. The day started with a briefing from a BBC journalist who is also an ex-student. On the word "go!" the groups raced to their stations to read the day's news and plan their stories. It was then action stations as we rushed to film, edit and upload by the deadline. The event was a huge success and the website was up and running by the end of the day. The teams were on a tight schedule but in the end they pulled through and exceeded all expectations. You can visit the website at: <http://media.foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/scchoolreport/index.html>.

Alex Dobson & Jake Webber *S8G*

Forest Hill Financial



Forest Hill Financial editorial team

Switch on the TV or read the newspaper and it is difficult not to be hit with daunting economic problems facing us, but do you often find yourself getting lost amongst the political waffle? This is a problem that a few of us recognised in our AS Economics class and so decided to produce a magazine that makes current affairs accessible to students by discussing complex issues in a simple yet interesting manner. This is called the Forest Hill Financial and it was circulated through SFH sixth form. We worked hard developing our economic knowledge, analytical and team skills and even though the magazine is still a work in progress we received positive feedback from 6th form students. Next time you are in the 6th form common room, stop and have a read of the Forest Hill Financial or read it on the school website and become more aware of world affairs that affect all of us.

Louis Mulvaney *Forest Hill Financial Editor*

sport

Athletics

The Athletics squad maintained our outstanding record in the Lewisham Schools Athletics Championships by winning this year's event with the massive margin of 45 points in May. This was our third consecutive success and our fifth championship in the last six years, finishing runners-up on the other occasions. As a result of their performances, the following have been selected to represent Lewisham in the London Schools' Championships in June: **Elliott Gayle, Said Gabo, Leroy Da Silva, Anthony Owusu, Anton Daly, Finn Nightingale, Marcus Angel, Jamel Higgins, Ebenezer Lawal, James Allan, Liam Johnson and Emmanuel Monthe.**

Cricket

Well done to **Oliver Hickford, Callum Walters, Oscar Sibley-Harris, Hugh Taylor** and **Asad Malik** who have all been members of the London Schools Cricket squad this year.

Football

Viewers of Sky Sports will no doubt have seen **Alastair Gordon** representing England Under 16's in the Victory Shield competition. Representing his country was a tremendous achievement and, having left Forest Hill this year and joined Chelsea, we hope to see more of Alastair displaying his talents in the future.

Gary Taylor *Head of Physical Education*

Forest Hill School PTA

The PTA Committee members are busy planning a host of activities for Forest Fest on July 2nd. Letters have been sent out – please let the PTA know if you can help at this important occasion. Plans are underway for an exciting programme of fundraising activities for the next academic year. Specific events and dates have still to be decided but ideas include a SkyRide – escorted cycling around central London for families (Sept); a Bingo Night (Nov); Wine Tasting (Dec); an Affordable Art Show (Feb); Fashion Show (March); and our summer disco (May) and Fair (July). Please remember to check the school website and your boys' bags for letters. The PTA can be contacted at: **foresthillschoolpta@gmail.com**

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

enrichment

Drake House takes on Snowdonia

It has been a long tradition at Forest Hill School to send the new Year 7 boys and their tutors to Aberllefenni in North Wales for a week of outdoor activities. Each House has their own visit, usually some time between November and January. They stay at Tyn-y-Berth, a residential Outdoor Education Centre at the edge of the beautiful Snowdonia National Park and set at the foot of Cadair Idris.

It is a fabulous opportunity for the boys to forge and strengthen bonds with their new classmates and teachers and we encourage as many of our new year 7s to take part as possible. For the boys who will be joining us in September this year look out for the information about your House visit – it's great fun and something that you will always remember.

Rachel Woolf

Educational Visits Co-ordinator



Tore Shortridge (D7F), Alfie Jones and Oliver Dawkins (D7G)

payment by standing order. All forms to be returned to 200 Club c/o Mrs. Baillie at the School. Thank you for your continued support.

Patricia Stocker *200 Club Treasurer*

PTA 200 CLUB WINNERS

January 2011

1st Prize £50	No 29	T WALDER
2nd Prize £10	No 41	A D LING
3rd Prize £5	No 128	M A YEOMANSON
4th Prize £5	No 85	C MARGUET

February 2011

1st Prize £50	No 144	K KNAPPETT
2nd Prize £10	No 145	A F SCHUMAN
3rd Prize £5	No 66	P A SETREM
4th Prize £5	No 55	Y BAILLIE

March 2011

1st Prize £50	No 52	H SEALEY
2nd Prize £10	No 24	T BURMAN
3rd Prize £5	No 45	S PARIS
4th Prize £5	No 174	P A R ELDRIDGE

student voice

We couldn't have done it without you!

During the Easter holidays we were selected to represent Charlton Athletic on their tour of the Italian city of Padova. This included an annual tournament which brings many teams together representing nations from all over the world. We had to source our own sponsorship money and were aided in this by the school council who, via its many fundraising initiatives, sponsored us to help us raise the money we needed, and we raised the rest ourselves.

We also had the opportunity to take part in local ceremonies and experience the culture of Italy. We stayed in a hotel that we had to share with our rival teams giving us an excellent chance to make friends with boys of our own age from very different cultures and backgrounds, but all of whom share a love of Football.

The tour was a great success and we managed to get to the final which was a fantastic experience, played at the Padova stadium. Unfortunately we lost on penalties but came away from the game extremely happy with our performance, and we are grateful for the experience and would like to thank the Forest Hill School Council for their funding and support.

Joseph Gomez H9F & Kasey Palmer D9G

contact us

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fhs newsletter is edited by Michaela Rispin and Lyn King

