

Calendar of events

DECEMBER

- 01 Arts showcase
- 01-03 Aachen trip
- 06-10 Year 7 House trip to Aberllefenni
- 06-17 Year 11 Mock Examinations
- 06-17 Year 10 Work Experience
- 07 Year 13 Music Performance
- 14 Year 7 Academic Review Day
- 17 Last day of Autumn term

JANUARY

- 04 First day of Spring term
- 07 Year 8 Academic Review Day
- 10-14 Year 7 House trip to Aberllefenni
- 10-31 Public Exams
- 20 Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 27 Year 12 Parents' Evening & Consultation
- 31- Year 7 House trip to Aberllefenni

FEBRUARY

- 01-04 Year 7 House trip to Aberllefenni
- 16-17 Musical Production *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- 21-27 Half Term
- 28 INSET Day

MARCH

- 03 Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 10 KS4/5 Music Showcase
- 17 Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 24 KS3 Music Showcase

APRIL

- 04-07 Performing Arts Festival Week
- 08 Last day of Spring term

Message from Steve Brady, Headteacher

I am delighted to tell you that, this year, we continued our sustained improvement by achieving our best ever set of GCSE results. 53% of students attained 5A*-C including English and Maths with 63% gaining 5A*-C grades. We also achieved outstanding A Level results with exceptional performances from Physics (92% gained A-C grade) and Maths (89% gained A-C grade). The results were an excellent basis on which to launch our newly reorganised sixth form SFH6 (Sydenham and Forest Hill Sixth Form). I am confident that SFH6, built on many years of close collaboration between ourselves and Sydenham School, will further enhance our high academic standards while allowing our young men to remain within the familiar and supportive Forest Hill environment.

Our university destinations reflect our success at A level with many students gaining entry to 'Russell Group'

universities including Cambridge. The outstanding performance this year came from Martin Ansong who achieved 4A* grades and is now at Warwick studying Mathematics! Congratulations to all those students who were successful this summer. Our excellent Year 11 and Year 13 results partly stem from our policy of early entry lower down the school. This continues to be an enormous success with 53% of Year 10 students gaining a C or higher in English Literature and or Maths respectively. We even have a number of Year 9 students who already have a grade C GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. We are constantly seeking ways to provide even more opportunities for our students against a backdrop of changing educational policy.

The new coalition government have promised to protect education in what are clearly difficult economic times. The real impact of the Spending Review on the local authorities and subsequently on schools and education remains as yet unclear while the debate in relation to 'Academies' and 'Free' schools is ongoing. We will naturally keep a keen eye on developments nationally and locally but I can assure you that, throughout, the focus of the Governors and staff at Forest Hill continues to be on providing the best opportunities and outcomes for your sons.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a successful 2011.

Steve Brady *Headteacher*

Forest Hill School PTA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the PTA fund-raising events in this summer's Forest Fest - sorry we could not thank everyone individually, but we are very grateful for all donations, and to those who gave their time on the day.

Anne Knox Vice Chair PTA

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Welcome back everyone to our first issue of FHS in the new academic year – which is my first year as Head of Arts.

A part of what we needed to do with the Performing Arts this year was to clarify what we valued about education and what place creativity and the Arts have in the development of our learning community. There are many commentators on creativity with some quite divergent views so it is quite a difficult job to be clear about what is important.

We spent some time trying to consolidate our views on creativity, the Specialism and its relationship to learning. In the end we came up with the following mission statement:

Forest Hill School's Performing Arts Specialism creates an inclusive learning community that nurtures creativity and achievement through engagement, ownership and responsibility.

Our mission statement places creativity central to the experiences of all our students. But what is our view of creativity?

For me it retains some of the idealist view of connecting with the awe inspiring nature of the universe. I also think that young people's creative work should engage with every day realities – however difficult and troublesome they may be. To do this we provide an engaging learning environment that allows students to have ownership of their work. Creative work in the arts allows young people, through their shared symbolic resources, to make sense of who they are and their relationship to others.

Students can, through creative work, find a deeper, more personal connection with their learning as they see that education is more than just a route to qualifications – it allows students to see themselves in a new light and imagine new possibilities in life in a way that can be inspiring and liberating.

It seems to me that creativity in schools is essential to the development of a really vibrant education that reaches out and inspires. At FHS there are many examples of engaging, creative work and in the rest of this newsletter you will be able to read about just a few.

Jason Kubilius Head of Arts

drama

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



Our first audition for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was held in the drama studio on Thursday 23rd September 2010. We began with a dance audition run by Mr Oudkerk who was looking for boys who had energy, commitment as well as strong dancers. We then were taught a song from the musical, *Any Dream Will Do* with Mr Livingstone

who was keen for us to show off both our voices and our enjoyment of singing. Ms Sullivan was looking for how we sung the emotion of the song. On the second day of auditions, we had to sing a solo. I had to queue for what felt like ages to get my turn to perform. I felt quite nervous but I was keen to do well and impress the directors with my singing and performing ability. I sang my song once through, then was asked to re-perform portraying how Joseph might feel. It was a bit like being in the X Factor but less nerve-wracking.

We have now started our first rehearsals and have been working towards creating a short video which we hope to premiere at the Performing Arts Showcase in December. It's been fun and enjoyable to work on and I can't wait to find out which part I'm playing.

Dylan Canton D8G

Don't miss *Joseph* on 16th & 17th February 2011 – see FHS website for more details.

Richard III

As a Year 10 GCSE drama student I was invited to audition for Forest Hill School's performance of *Richard III* as a part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Catford Broadway Theatre in October.

Richard III was a very energetic and interesting Shakespeare play to act in. It was also very challenging and rewarding getting to grips with the Shakespearean language. I played the role of Buckingham, one of Richard's fiercest allies who gets betrayed by Richard and seeks his revenge.

In the end the hard work paid off as I succeeded in playing my role with confidence. I also felt my participation in the project helped me with my English studies.



The two directors Ms Sullivan and Ms Montague-Gibson were really good and very encouraging. With rehearsals beginning last June twice weekly for 2 hours, it was very exhausting but it was definitely worth the time and effort.

Dillon Wallace D10G

dance

Welcome

I'm delighted to formally welcome **Ms Ovenden** to Forest Hill School. With boundless enthusiasm and heaps of ideas, I hope that we can make the most of her obvious abilities at FHS.

Calling all FHS Boys!

Please check the screens in the Atrium and the dance noticeboard (outside the Dance Studio) for details of the wide-range of extra-curricular opportunities available in dance for ALL year groups. Also speak to Mr Oudkerk or Ms Ovenden if you are interested in a different dance club we could start up...

With the sheer number of performances and events it's hard to keep up with all that goes on at Forest Hill. We have so many dance performances outside of the school that I thought that it might be worth sharing some of the photos that have been captured over the past few years. We often talk about dedication in dance, but I think you can also see joy, focus and energy in these images. 'A picture can say a thousand words'.

Mr Oudkerk *Head of Dance*

On Tap

I was absolutely delighted when Mr Oudkerk asked me to run the new tap dance club on Tuesdays after school. I am a qualified teacher of the ISTD (Imperial Society of the Teachers of Dance), have been tapping for over 30 years and teaching for over 16. Tap dance is one of the most enjoyable and rhythmic forms of recreational dance. It can be learnt regardless of previous dance experience and in addition to looking impressive and fun, tap is a great way to gain balance, strength, agility, mental and muscle memory as well as musicality. Not only are you a dancer when you tap, but also a percussive instrument.

The club has been running since the beginning of October 2010 and I have been overwhelmed with the commitment, hard work and enthusiasm of our regular members who are often extremely keen to showcase steps they have practised and mastered in between sessions. Please see Mr Oudkerk if you would like to join.

Our debut performance will be in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on the 16th/17th February 2011. Don't miss it...

Michaela Rispin *Performing Arts Administrator & Dance Specialist*



KS3 visit to the Royal Ballet School, November 2010



Community Connections

Community Spirit

After a summer of consultation the **2010-11 Specialist School Community Programme** has been finalised, and is full of new partnerships, themes and art forms.

This year we welcome the Art Department to the fold in two exciting projects. The first, a collaboration with **Lewisham Youth Service** and the charity **Working with Men**, explores the topic of teen fathers; while the second, an intergenerational project, takes skin as the starting point to discovering the histories and identities of senior citizens from **The Grove Centre**.

The Dance Department will be kept on their toes as they create opportunities for KS3 students at **Brent Knoll Special School** to discover dance and its profession, whilst simultaneously supporting **Eliot Bank Primary School** with the redesign of its dance curriculum.

Welcome also to **St Michael's C of E Primary School** who will work with staff and students from FHS's Music Department, developing pupils' percussion and music technology skills, and music and singing teaching practice. Once again, music sixth formers will work with **St Christopher's Hospice** patients – last year's project was magical.

Elsewhere, the Drama Department heads an ensemble cast involving pupils from five primary schools rehearsing and performing

Instrument lesson update

Instrument lessons are well underway at Forest Hill this term and we welcome the latest addition to our Arts' team – **Lwena De Barros Sorento**. Lwena is our new vocal tutor and has already been working with our choir in preparation for the Performing Arts' Showcase and next years' production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Any students that wish to sign up for vocal/instrument lessons, or find out more about our extra-curricular music offer, should come to the drop-in session with Mr Coggle every Tuesday after school, Room 239.

Details of all current instrument lesson times and room numbers are available on our music department website. Click on the 'Instrumental lessons' tab on the left hand side of the home page and then on the tutor photo to reveal the timetable.

Community Music Training

At Key Stage 5, Forest Hill now offers the vocational unit **Music in the Community** as part of our BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music.

This practical based module provides work related training and practical experience in planning and delivering community music projects and events. As part of our specialist status, Forest Hill School provides an extensive programme of performing arts practice that benefits children and young people from local primary, secondary and special schools, as well as individuals and groups from within the wider community.

This new course is a clear way of introducing young musicians to this vital and beneficial career option.

Further details can be found on the music department website.

Book rehearsal space online

You can now book rehearsal and practice space for lunchtimes and after school at the music department website. If you search for Forest Hill School Music Department on Google, we're the top result.

To book, click on lunchtime bookings (or after school bookings) and use the calendar strip at the top to select the day that you want. You then click the 'book' button for any available room. Use the button by each name of each person in your band to add them to the list – once you've selected your band members hit the 'Book' button.

If you haven't booked before, your name won't be on the list. You need to come up to the music department and we'll add you to the list and take you through the rehearsal room set up and tidy up rules.

Craig Coggle Senior Music Specialist

Sections

alongside FHS staff and students as part of next February's whole school musical *Joseph* – a definite must see!

Last, but not least, FHS' flagship community arts festival **Forest Fest 2011** returns on 2nd July 2011. For information on any of the mentioned projects and events email p_arts@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk or call 020 8613 8423/8422.

Sasha Leacock

Community Performing Arts Manager

Millwall Community Scheme

For the past year Millwall Community Scheme has enjoyed a great relationship with those at Forest Hill School (FHS), with one of the highlights being the partnership work and creation of the **It Kickz** project. The social inclusions project aimed to bring practical musical making opportunities to young people aged between 11–18 years old, using the skills of those at the school and Millwall coaches.

Our experience of working in partnership has been a positive one, with FHS staff's input, hard work and flexible but professional manner. The project has been a great success with young people who may not have had the chance to learn how to play an instrument, gaining this opportunity along with new skills, and many new friends. We hope to work alongside FHS in the

Dance Outreach



Last year we took part in a really exciting dance project with Forest Hill Boys. When our class first found out about the project we were very excited but nervous. It was a privilege to be chosen. The first lesson we did was at Forest Hill School. We were all exhausted by the walk there, however the lesson was really fun. The dance teachers came to our school the next week and we learnt a dance routine.

As the weeks progressed we learnt

different parts of the routine. In our spare time we practised it, and even started practising in the playground and on the amphitheatre. On the day of the performance at Forest Fest we were all very nervous and excited. The performance went well but there was one little mistake but we all recovered well. It was a great experience and everyone enjoyed it. The 12 weeks of hard work had paid off.

Hannah and Sophie Year 6, *Horniman Primary School*

very near future to create more opportunities for Lewisham young people to have access to the fantastic facilities of the school.

I would like to say a personal thank you to Sasha Leacock and Craig Coggle for all their hard work and commitment. One of the participants **Kavit Thakrar** gives his view of the project "I've enjoyed the It Kickz project

because it gave me a chance to learn new instruments, socialise with other people, and have fun. I really enjoyed the performance at Forest Fest because the people who participated felt a great sense of achievement."

Kelly Handley Social Inclusion Officer, *Millwall Community Scheme*

FHS go to university!



The science department sent a group of KS4 triple science students to spend a day at The Imperial College of London (top 6th university in the world). The focus of the day was to gain an insight into university life and engage in workshops which included hands-on practical Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The activities were designed to increase confidence, motivation and aspiration towards Higher Education. "The activities were fun and interesting...I would recommend it to others who are considering a future in science" says **Nathan Van Cooten** D11F. **Jon Clark** in H11F said, "I really enjoyed the day because practical experiments were involved".

Our boys did us proud by demonstrating excellent collaborative skills alongside the university students. Well done!

Nargis Hamid Triple Science Co-ordinator

Another Year

This year we took a group of film and media studies A-Level students into central London for a special preview screening of the new film by acclaimed British director Mike Leigh. *Another Year* hadn't yet opened in UK cinemas but Film Education arranged a National School's Film Week screening for just a small number of schools so our students were among the first people in the country to see the film (already a success at the Cannes Film Festival). Mike Leigh himself was on hand for a lively 45 minute discussion. He shared fascinating insights on the making of the film. Although the film featured mainly 'older' characters he reminded the audience that they would all be 'older' themselves; several of our students asked searching questions and we were very fortunate that he was prepared to discuss the film so candidly. It was a memorable day.

Rob McInnes Head of Film & Media Studies

Chris Saraiva exhibits his drawings in Catford Library

An Art Private View was held in Catford Library on 20th September to celebrate the work and achievement of **Chris Saraiva** in R8F. Frankie Sulke, Director of Education, was there to talk to Chris about his drawings and present him with his award and one from the Mayor of Lewisham, Steve Bulloch. His skill for capturing the personalities of the people he draws clearly shows he has an understanding of what he wishes to communicate through his art and we look forward to seeing Chris's work in future exhibitions around our school and in the community. Well done Chris.

Jane Gallant Head of Art

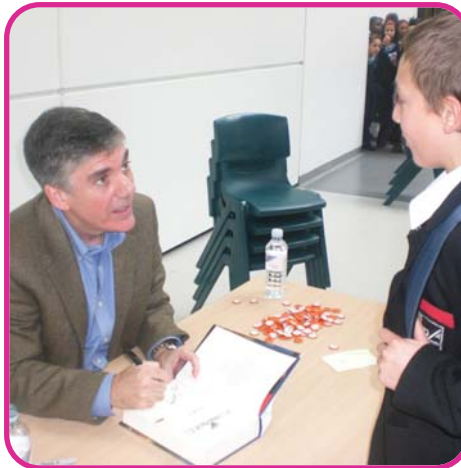


Shoe Shine Shimmy win Business Challenge

Forest Hill School students took part in a two-day Business Challenge with the Lewisham Education Business Partnership. Students listened to a talk from business coach Daphne Clifton before being divided into teams that would become mini businesses for the event. They were set the challenge of coming up with a realistic business idea that could raise £500 for the charity Comic Relief. Teams had to allocate roles, create a business name and come up

with their Big Idea – an event, product or service which could be put into action by the students themselves and raise the money within a £150 budget. They were assisted and advised by Business Advisors, volunteers from a wide range of business sectors. Each team had to deliver a presentation about their business concept to the rest of their year and the panel of judges. The winning team was Shoe Shine Shimmy.

Percy Jackson Book Signing



Top American author **Rick Riordan** who has written the Percy Jackson stories visited our school recently to give a show that was broadcast live to hundreds of other schools all over the world. This will be available as a download for all to view at www.rickriordanvirtuallylive.co.uk. Rick was very impressed by the welcome he received from the boys, many of whom are ardent fans of the books. The show was also attended by students from other schools including our sister school, Sydenham Girls. In the words of one student "It was great!".

Carol Webb Librarian

My Pencil Case



My name is Quay Lam and I want to tell you about the pencil case I made after Ms Arthur showed us how. I designed it in my book first. It was easy to make my paper pattern because it was a basic drawing with fewer details to draw out on the light box. The fabric I chose was a goldish colour and I thought that it would look great as a background, because the black picture of death looked neat with the white scythe and made a nice contrast. I've learnt how to use a sewing machine and I'm amazed by what I have made. It looks great and I'm hoping that it will last longer than one year. I have never done anything this cool with fabric, thread, a zip and a needle!

Quay Lam S8F

sport

6th Form student captains England LD football team

Congratulations to Sixth Former **Christopher McGinty** who has proudly captained the England Learning Disability football team to a win against the Republic of Ireland and currently holds two international caps for England LD. Chris also plays for Bromley Reserves Under 18s, Lewisham Youth FC and the FHS Sixth Form team. At school he is studying for a BTEC National Sports certificate, A level Applied Media and General Studies.

Malawi Project

As part of our efforts to have a wider impact on communities outside of Forest Hill, the school council arranged a fund raising scheme aimed at generating unwanted items of clothing and toys. All proceeds of the scheme were sent to a small orphanage in Malawi that the school council have built a partnership link with.

One of the many items sent was a full football kit, kindly donated by Mr Dean Dennis who runs a local football club. As you can see the kit was well received by all! Many thanks to all those who gave so generously for our fund raising scheme, and please keep collecting as there will be many similar projects this year as we try to strengthen our wider community links.

Mr Stevenson Student Voice Co-ordinator

student voice

A day in the life of a House Captain



When I was first told I had been elected to be a House Captain I was very proud. I feel it was an honour to be chosen to help both the staff and other pupils to make school life better for us all. Amongst my duties I have to help students around the school, help out tutors and work directly with the Tutor Group and also be on duty in the playground at lunchtime. An enjoyable part of the job is being an active member of the School Council and holding regular meetings with the other House Captains and Council Reps.

This year we have two main aims, firstly to improve the litter situation around the school, and secondly to develop a feeling of pride in how we wear our school uniform and as a group we intend to solve these issues.

Joshua Lawson Harvey House Captain

pta

200 CLUB WINNERS

October 2009

1st prize £50 No. 109; 2nd prize £10 No. 33; 3rd prize £5 No.44; 4th prize £5 No.6

November 2009

1st prize £50 No. 72; 2nd prize £10 No. 74; 3rd prize £5 No.13; 4th prize £5 No.83

December 2009

1st prize £50 No. 118; 2nd prize £10 No. 123; 3rd prize £5 No.163; 4th prize £5 No.32

July 2010

1st prize £50 No. 198; 2nd prize £10 No. 33; 3rd prize £5 No. 47; 4th prize £5 No. 195

August 2010

1st prize £50 No. 62; 2nd prize £10 No. 41; 3rd prize £5 No. 55; 4th prize £5 No. 12

September 2010

1st prize £50 No. 78; 2nd prize £10 No. 191; 3rd prize £5 No. 37; 4th prize £5 No. 4

For more information please contact Mrs Baillie at the school.

FOREST HILL BOWLING CLUB In urgent need of new members

28 Wynell Road, Forest Hill

Tuesday or Friday evenings from 5:30 onwards – bring a pair of soft soled shoes. For further information please ring the secretary, Jackie Hillman, on 020 8650 0529.

PRIZE DRAW WINNER!

Alex Feakes was the lucky winner of our Community Consultation Prize Draw (drawn in July), winning a fantastic one month's family complimentary membership to David Lloyd Leisure in Beckenham. Well done!

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

For Specialist Status and Community Performing Arts enquiries:

Tel: 020 8613 8423 / 8422

Email: p_arts@foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk

fhs newsletter is edited by Michaela Rispin and Lyn King

