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# FHS News

Keeping our community informed

Issue 6, 2020/21

23 July 2021

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## Message from the Head



Mr Sullivan's  
Video Message



Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great sadness that I must begin the second consecutive half-termly newsletter by marking the death of a former Headteacher.

As you will remember, the death of Peter Walsh in April had a significant impact on those of us who knew him.

This makes the death of Steve Brady, Pete's successor and my predecessor, doubly hard to bear. Steve died suddenly and unexpectedly last month, an event which has deeply hurt and saddened many people, not least myself. There has been a remarkable response driven by a desire to celebrate Steve's achievements at Forest Hill School, and to support his family. You will find personal tributes to Steve on Page 2.

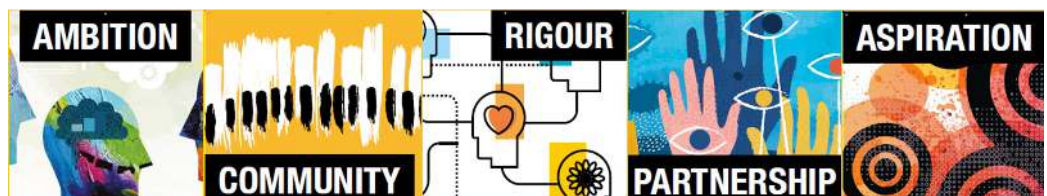
Steve was a giant of Forest Hill, having worked here for 30 years. He rose through the ranks to be Head of PE, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and finally, in 2009, Head. In all of his roles in the school he embodied the ethos and values of Forest Hill, and worked tirelessly towards its improvement. He continued the modernisation process that Pete Walsh had begun, and led the school to fully realise its ambition to be a beacon for the creative arts. Additionally, he presided over the most successful period of academic achievement in the school's history, bringing us to the very cusp of an outstanding Ofsted judgement in 2013.

Steve was an inspiration to me, as well as a great friend I will dearly miss. Our thoughts are with his family who wish for a lasting memorial to Steve to be established in the school. Of course, we will make sure this happens and we will keep you informed about progress towards it.

The final newsletter of the year is full to bursting with a wide variety of interesting articles which I encourage you to peruse. You should have received a letter this week outlining arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term. Can you please make sure that you familiarise yourself with these to ensure you know when the term will begin for your son? We have a staggered start, with Lateral Flow Testing happening ahead of the start day for each year group. Please contact us with any queries and do check our website for updates in the light of any potential changes to government regulations relating to the pandemic.

I hope you enjoy a restful summer break.

**Michael Sullivan**



## A Tribute to Former Headteacher, Steve Brady

Earlier this term, we sadly announced the sudden and unexpected death of former Headteacher, Steve Brady. Steve was a loyal servant to the school for over 30 years and was Headteacher from 2009-2016. He presided over, perhaps, the most successful period in the school's recent history, seeing significant increases in student outcomes and taking the school to the cusp of an outstanding Ofsted judgement in 2013. Steve's untimely death came as a shock to the many colleagues and friends he leaves behind at Forest Hill. Here, we pay tribute to Steve's contribution to Forest Hill and will share our plans for a lasting memorial to him in due course. Our deepest sympathies and thoughts remain with Steve's family at this difficult time.

Steve was a very upbeat figure around school. He encouraged and supported me with my teaching and was not afraid to show his humorous side to the students when he gave his blessing for the first ever Forest Hill Christmas Panto and then played the role of Sir Alan Sugar. He wanted students to have a positive experience in all aspects of their school life.

**Ms Kenton**



I worked with Steve for many years, both as a member of the senior team and later as his PA when he became Headteacher. I have the fondest of memories of a warm-hearted, generous and good-humoured guy who had time for everyone, no matter what. A sorrowful loss for all who knew him. RIP dear Steve. **Ms Brutto**

Steve was a fantastic Headteacher who cared so much about the students and the wider community. On a professional level I am forever grateful to Steve for giving me the opportunity to come back to FHS and the belief to install me as Head of Department. Ex-students have expressed their sadness in his passing and how much belief he had in them and how he had supported and nurtured their development.

**Mr Hollidge**



He welcomed me into the FHS community as a PGCE student in January 2009 and supported me throughout the early years of my career. I will always remember his ability to put people at ease with his warmth, sense of humour and, above all, his dedication to FHS in providing the best for his students and staff. Thank you, Steve.

**Ms Lopez Oliveira**

Steve was always very supportive and was always smiling. He was approachable and always listened to and supported the extracurricular topics I wanted to work on with the boys. I'm still shocked at his passing and my thoughts go out to his family. **Ms Sparkes**



Steve was a great man and a wonderful Headteacher. His passion for ensuring the young people of Forest Hill had as many opportunities as possible shone through in everything he did... from signing off on students taking exciting term time holidays to insisting that it was character building for the whole of Year 7 to go marching through the sodden hills of Abergavenny every Autumn. He was a supportive, warm and driven individual who lived and breathed Forest Hill. Every time I saw him after he retired he would want to know how everyone at FHS was doing, from senior teachers to the kitchen staff and cleaners. He will be sorely missed by us all. **Mr German**

I remember his comments to me when we first met... "Godwin, teaching can be very stressful, and there will be days when you won't feel like being in school. Remember to call in so we know and we take care of you" I thought that was very important to know that the school cared about my welfare and would listen to me in times of difficulty. Rest in peace Steve, until we meet again.

**Mr Kanton**

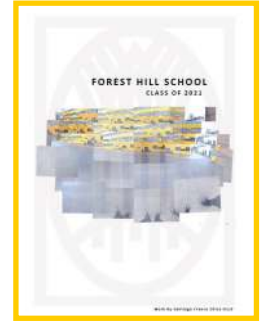


Steve was a calm but firm presence who was always supportive and well loved by all the FHS family. This news has been a shock to us all but he will live on in memory and in the fabric of what the school is today. **Ms Shepherd**

## Year 11 Virtual Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to a fantastic online Year 11 Celebration Event on Tuesday 13 July. We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and all they have achieved in the face of such adversity over the last couple of years. We are sure they are all going on to do really impressive things. We have set up a webpage where a recording of the online event can be viewed with a link to the Year 11 yearbook (students will need to log in to Teams to view): <https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/year-11-leavers-2021/>

We would like to remind our Year 11 leavers that they will always be part of the FHS Community and we will miss you! We look forward to seeing you on GCSE Results Day on **Thursday 12 August** and hope to welcome many of you back to SFH6 in September.



*Thank you to all the students and teachers, who have made our time spent at FHS worthwhile.*

**Shabir A, Year 11 Student**

*A massive thank you to Mr Green, you have been a big part of my son's school years and have guided him in the right way.*

**Year 11 Parent**

*Good luck in the future Year 11. You have amazing potential and a bright future ahead of you all I'm sure!*

**Mr Haresign, Deputy Head**

## Olive Dining Food Tasting Sessions



On Wednesday 7 July, a few lucky students enjoyed a food tasting session with *Olive Dining*, our school catering company. *Olive Dining* is a family owned catering business that provides meals in schools around the south east of England. They are committed to serving freshly produced, flavoursome, affordable

food and are keen to offer our students a varied menu that caters to everyone's tastes and requirements. The boys enjoyed falafel and chicken salads, kofta wraps and nachos as well as smoothies and mini banoffee pies which all got a big thumbs up! They shared their feedback on the proposed menus for Autumn and took away a canvas tote bag with goodies to thank them for their time.



## Reading Buddies Initiative

Earlier this term, we launched a new 'Reading Buddies' initiative at school for selected students to help them build confidence with their reading and improve their literacy and vocabulary. Members of staff (both teaching and non-teaching) were assigned to students and have been reading out loud with them at least once a week and setting targets for reading at home, in addition to reading homework. Reading is so important for success in school and we would ask all parents to encourage your children to do as much reading as possible at home and over the summer holidays.



*I have loved being a reading buddy for a Year 8 student this term. In my role, I don't necessarily have daily interaction with the boys so it has been really inspiring to spend time in the classroom getting involved with their learning. After a shy start, my student has really opened up and now regularly asks questions about new vocabulary we come across. I hope he has enjoyed it as much as I have!*

**Ms Heath, Marketing Officer**

## Jazz Collective 2021



Although there was no Jazz Collective concert this year, Mr Lowe kept our brass students busy by preparing and recording a 2021 version of the classic Frank Koessler tune *Slow Boat to China*. Well done to Isaac, Eddie, Caan, George,

Hano, Charlie and Leo for your terrific rendition. Although some boys weren't in school for the video session, they do all feature in the recording: <https://youtu.be/DaJ3p-a-zCY>



*I love being a reading buddy! Taking 20 minutes out of my busy day to sit down and read with a young person and discuss what they like about the book and how they are finding it is such a pleasure. It is so interesting to see which vocabulary they have already and where they need help and it has been great seeing the*

*young people's confidence in reading out loud grow throughout the term!* **Mr German, Deputy Head**

## Junior UK Maths Challenge – Kangaroo Round

Last half term, we shared the news that 41 boys from Years 7 and 8 had been successful in achieving bronze, silver and gold certificates in the Junior Mathematical Challenge – a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

This half term, the six gold certificate recipients took part in the next (Kangaroo) round of the national competition. The boys did extremely well to get through to this round and we are delighted to announce the school's first student to achieve a Merit – the highest award possible in this round. Well done to Year 8 student, Kaya S!

Congratulations to all the boys who took part:

Kaya S (T8G), Stanley N (P8G), Sidney D (A8F), Brandon P (P8G), Remi H (A7F) and Mohammed D (A7F).



## Author Events



It's been an exciting term for author events at Forest Hill School. On Thursday 24 June, we finally welcomed Dan Freeman, over a year after he was originally scheduled to come and talk about his gripping book for teens, *Unstoppable*. Dan spoke to all

our Year 9 students and a handful of lucky Year 7s. He talked about his experiences with the England football squad and his *Jamie Johnson* series of books as well as whetting the appetite of lots of boys to read *Unstoppable*.

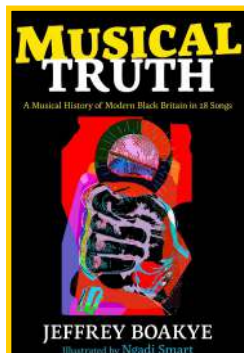
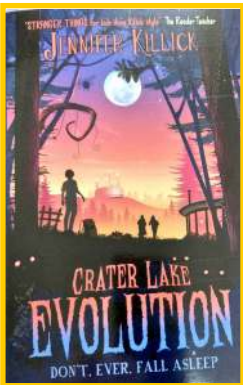
We also welcomed Jennifer Killick who 'visited' O8F and A8F

online, answering questions about being a writer and her writing inspiration (*Walking Dead* films and *The Hunger Games* book series!). She enthused quite a few boys to borrow *Evolution* (her sequel to *Crater Lake*, which has been one of their tutor group reads this year).

A8G enjoyed an online session with Jeffrey Boakye talking about his new book *Musical Truth* (and listening to the accompanying

sound track) while some of our Year 7 students have enjoyed pre-recorded author talks this term – from Charlie Higson and Robert Muchamore (authors of the very popular *Enemy* and *Cherub* series' respectively) and from M G Leonard, author of the *Beetle Boy* books and *Adventures on Trains* series and her new book, *Twitch*).

Next year we look forward to having more in-person author events again!



## National Theatre Playwriting Competition

New Views is the National Theatre's playwriting programme for 14 to 19 year olds. Every year, hundreds of students from schools across the UK write 30-minute plays, and each year one play is produced at the NT with a professional cast and crew, alongside rehearsed readings of other shortlisted plays. This year, a selection of Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in the competition and we are delighted to share that Frank K in Year 12 got down to the long list. Well done, Frank! The students loved it and learnt so much in the process.



## FHS Eco Garden

The Eco Garden is a space between the middle and back playgrounds that we have been using to promote wildlife and native plants. Every Thursday after school, Year 7 students have been getting stuck in moving seedlings into larger pots and planting mature plants into the ground as well as topping up our compost and weeding! We hope that once we can mix bubbles, we will be

able to open up the after school club to other year groups as there is plenty to get done!

The long term aim for the garden is to provide a space for staff and students to relax and simply enjoy nature, which can be difficult in London,

particularly if you live in a flat. We plan to encourage native wildlife using a collection of different plants. Currently it is the time of year to count butterflies and we will continue to take part in activities that record the numbers of local wildlife.



## DoE Expeditions

This half term, Year 9 students headed into the Kent countryside for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze expedition.



*"We started at Sevenoaks station. The challenge ahead seemed difficult as it was a new environment, yet it was exciting to be there. Many of us walked through a variety of countryside, some steep hills and muddy paths including the stunning Knowle Park full of deer. The expedition challenged our communication and social skills as small groups, occasionally being brave enough to ask for help from other walkers. Map reading seemed easy in training and learning but more difficult in real life. It was a successful couple of days, most of us didn't get lost, and Mr Davey even managed to arrange the England v Denmark game on a screen too! Sleeping in the tents at the farm made for a tiring night's sleep and certainly an early start the next morning. We had a great two days and appreciated the chance to do something different. We are all pleased we signed up to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award."* By Kory, Tharun, Reuben and Ciaran.



Additionally, Mr Davey and Mr Fry took 17 Year 12 students to the South Downs National park. These boys undertook three days of hiking and camping to complete their Silver Award. A very long 20km walk on the first day after some students had to make use of the coast for Geography fieldwork simultaneously made for tired students and a late dinner. But despite this, the sun shone and it was a very successful few days with all the groups working very well to finish. Congratulations, boys!

For students in Year 8 considering participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, information has been emailed home to parents/carers for them to start activities that will contribute towards the Bronze Award in Year 9.



## National Children's Book Quiz

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Forest Hill School was delighted to be included in the first ever children's National Book Quiz, organised by the National Literacy Trust. We held a series of lunchtime quizzes in order to select our teams. We were limited to four boys from Year 8 and four from Year 7 and could easily have had eight strong candidates from each year group so we fielded a reserve team for each Year group who came along too and joined in the fun and drama.

The South London heat was held in June with 40 school teams participating. With some time to warm up, the boys practised by asking each other questions in preparation for the Myths and Legends category of questions (their 'joker' round, which meant that all of their correct answers were awarded double points). The students all acquitted themselves really well with our Year 8 team being placed 22nd and our Year 7 team coming in 9th! Well done, boys!

## Former Student Wins TV Show

In June, we were very excited to see former FHS student, Kieran Lang, winning the Channel 4 show *SAS: Who Dares Wins*. The television programme sees ex-Special Forces soldiers recreate the SAS's secret selection process and put recruits through it, in the ultimate test of their physical and psychological resilience. Kieran, who is now a 25-year-old Dental Engineer, was one of only two recruits from the 21 who began the 12-day challenge not to quit or be axed.



Kieran, who joined Forest Hill School in 2007, went on to be House Captain of Harvey House (now Turing), was a school councillor and was Young Mayor of Lewisham in 2011-2012.

He was quoted in the [Mirror](#), saying: *"Knowing I have the strength of character to cope with whatever is thrown at me has made me very proud of myself."* Forest Hill is very proud of Kieran too; he is exactly the kind of role model we want for our students.

## Stonewall Silver Award Application

Forest Hill School has been proud to hold a Stonewall Bronze award for three years and this has demonstrated our commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion. However, we have made lots of progress during this time and Ms Suart has now sent off our application for the Silver award! This included writing a Trans-inclusion policy, adapting the School Journey policy to be LGBTQ+ inclusive, collating LGBTQ+ inclusive lessons from across the curriculum, surveying staff and pupils, sharing our work with a range of other schools, and much more!



FHS is wholly committed to continuing to improve our inclusion and celebration of LGBTQ+ people and identities. Pride matters at FHS! Please keep your fingers crossed that we will have good news to announce next term!

## Reading Championship 2021

To encourage and motivate students in their independent reading, the school Library has been running an inter-house Reading Championship. The boys record their reading by submitting reviews of their books online (via the library website) which are then verified and published by the library. Each book reviewed by students earns two e-praise points and a House Point. The House points are regularly tallied and have been published in the Weekly Bulletins, as well as being displayed in the library. Boys are rewarded with:



- Bronze certificates + 10 e-praise accolades for **4** books
- Silver certificates (Reading Champion) + 10 e-praise accolades for **8** books and
- Gold certificates + 10 e-praise accolades + **book prizes** for **12** books.

Reading Champions are photographed and displayed on our honours board and the tutor group with the most number of Reading Champions will receive sweets for the whole class! Well done to Jacob P, pictured, who was this year's first reading champion. The student to read the most books in their tutor group will be awarded with a £10 *Love To Shop* voucher (with a total of £140 worth of prizes to be won by Years 7 and 8).

We are encouraging students to continue to read and submit reviews over the summer holidays – reading their own choices of novels for pleasure, and we will announce the winning House in a special assembly in September 2021, when the trophy will be presented to the Head of House. Students who read the most within their House will be awarded a medal for their effort and contribution.

To date, students have reviewed a total of 668 books! Many are sharing their favourite reads with their peers and encouraging each other to read more regularly. We encourage the boys to read not only to further develop their literacy and challenge themselves academically but to broaden their horizons, develop independent thinking and stimulate the imagination. Reading is known to be beneficial for mental health and can help young people to better express themselves as well as developing empathy for others and self-reflection.

## Floral Installation for RHS Garden Festival

This term, some of our Year 7 students participated in an after-school art project, producing a collaborative floral installation for the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, which took place between 6-11 July 2021. It involved floral and vegetable dying, as well as floral bashing to create dyed linens that were then stitched and hung at the Garden Festival as a joyful sign of hope.



The project was part of a collaboration with Yolly Flower Shop (based in SE23), the Horniman Primary School and Sydenham Garden, and the end result was fantastic! It even made it onto the backdrop of the BBC News! Well done to all staff and students involved.

## Critical Literacy Lessons



Having read that "[The] 2018 Commission on Fake News and the Teaching of Critical Literacy Skills found that only two percent of [UK] children have the critical literacy skills

needed to identify a credible news story" (F Yeoman & K Morris 'Why media literacy is more important than ever for today's youth'), Ms Hans, our school Librarian, planned a series of pilot sessions focussing on various aspects of Information Literacy, especially considering fake news. This term, she has enjoyed working with lots of classes in Year 8 and Year 9, using a range of resources, in their Science, Maths, Music, English and History lessons.

*"We have had fantastic discussions with thoughtful contributions from many boys and they have helped evaluate these lessons, noting what they have enjoyed and learned and giving suggestions for future sessions."*

## Visit from MP Ellie Reeves



On Thursday 15 July, we were delighted to welcome Ellie Reeves, MP for Lewisham West and Penge, to Forest Hill School. She enjoyed a tour of the buildings with Mr Sullivan, chatting to students and staff on her way round...

*"I was really impressed with how the school have coped with the pressures of Covid and maintained a really positive learning environment for the students. I was particularly impressed with the music and creative arts provision. It was fantastic to hear that free music lessons are available to students so that everyone in the school gets the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and fulfil their creative potential. The broad curriculum on offer was really inspirational and a credit to the school leaders."*

## Anti-Racism: Parent Information Event and Work to Date

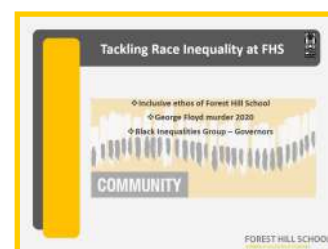


On Wednesday 6 July, we held an anti-racism parent information event via Microsoft Teams, which is available to watch here: [https://youtu.be/b1n\\_S3xLHEU](https://youtu.be/b1n_S3xLHEU). The event was well attended and had positive feedback which was great.

Community and inclusivity are integral parts of our ethos at FHS, and our drive to tackle racism sits within our wider aim to reduce all aspects of inequality wherever we can. This is written into our School Improvement Plan and a range of our school policies including our Equalities Information and Objectives policy. Following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, a core working group of Ms Thomas, Mr Sullivan, Ms Manders and Mr Green have been meeting to

discuss what we can do to ensure we were tackling racial inequality head on within our school community. The governing board has also put together its own committee group called BIG, which is regularly liaising with our working group. More recently, Lewisham Learning has developed a pledge for its schools to commit to, to further push this drive for change forwards.

The key things we have done this year are: carried out a survey with all staff to establish their feelings and understanding around issues of racism and inequality; launched the Lewisham Learning baseline surveys for staff and students; taken more opportunities to celebrate all cultures within FHS; adapted our behaviour and exclusion policies; developed a wider staff working group and started to undertake our decolonising of the curriculum work, led by Ms Sparkes. This has already had a large impact and we are excited for the next phase of our work which will include: staff training in partnership with the Prosperity Project; staff restorative justice training; revamping the rewards policy; reinvigorating the extracurricular and House competition provision post Covid-19 and ensuring a wider range of mentoring and student leadership opportunities are available.



As always, if you have any queries, feedback, or ideas to help us further push our equalities agenda please do contact [Ms Thomas](#).

## Farewell to Governors

The Governors of Forest Hill School are representatives of the local community, local education authority, parents and school staff. They give their time voluntarily and work together to bring a range of interests, outside knowledge and skills to the school. Sadly, the time has come to say goodbye to two key members of our governing body.



Dr John Perry, Chair of the Forest Hill School Governing Board, is stepping down as both Chair and as a governor after eight years' service. John spent the last five years as Chair of the Governing Board. All of John's children have attended Forest Hill School and/or SFH6 and he first joined as a Parent Governor in 2013. Totally committed to the school, John is a great advocate for community comprehensive education and that has shone through repeatedly in his governance.

As Chair, John has worked tirelessly to steer the school through turbulent waters and challenging times. I have greatly valued the wisdom he brings from his exceptionally busy professional life as a high-ranking civil servant with the Home Office. This makes it even more astounding that he can find the time to attend, not only Full Governing Board meetings, but every one of the many sub-committee meetings which happen very regularly throughout the school year on weekday evenings. In all of these he has regularly brought his laser sharp focus to help move the school forward.

John will now, deservedly, have more time to spend with his family and pursue his many interests. We thank him for all he has given to Forest Hill School and wish him the best for the future.



Keeley Graham is leaving the governing team after serving with us for four years.

In recent years Keeley's particular focus has been upon improving outcomes for the most vulnerable – to this end she has chaired the SEN and Inclusion subcommittee and worked as the link governor for SEND and for Child Protection. It was within this role that she took a lead in remodelling the school's Inclusion Team – a team that has been hugely successful since its launch. Keeley's sharp intellect and keen eye for detail will be much missed along with her constant efforts to grapple with the data for this complex area of the school.

We wish Keeley the best for the future and would like to pass on a massive thanks from us all here.

## Farewell to Staff

At the end of this school year, we say farewell to the following staff:

Mr Bruce Jones, MFL Teacher  
 Ms Gloria Makiza, MFL Teacher  
 Ms Cecilia Karlsson, RE Teacher  
 Ms Jemima Soare, Geography Teacher  
 Ms Sam Rowland, Academic Mentor  
 Mr Sam Barfoot, Academic mentor  
 Mr Jude Imoh-Ita, PE and Cover Supervisor



We thank them for all their hard work and efforts, particularly during the last 18 months, and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.



We also have a very special farewell to announce as Ms Patricia Brutto is retiring after almost 19 years at Forest Hill School as the Headteacher's PA. Pat joined the school in February 2003 and has carried out PA duties to an exceptional level for three Headteachers including the current incumbent, Michael Sullivan, who is devastated to be losing her!

Pat is a model of professionalism, organising the Headteacher's diary, liaising with the Senior Leadership Team, other staff and parents, as well as taking a leading role in many of the important communications which are sent out from the school. She has, over her many years at Forest Hill, performed her duties impeccably and so is universally loved and respected across the school.

Pat has always been a team player and during her time at Forest Hill has taken on additional roles as a staff governor, clerk to governing body sub-committees and office manager. Her flexibility has allowed her to develop her role to be crucial to the effective functioning of the Headteacher's office, and to the life of the school.

Pat is looking forward to taking life at a more serene pace from now on, spending more time with her family, including her three grandchildren. We thank her for her many years of diligent service to the school and wish her a long and happy retirement.

## Sports Days 2021

Forest Hill Sports Days were due to take place from Monday 19 – Wednesday 21 July for Key Stage 3 students but, sadly, due to a large number of staff and students needing to self isolate, the school closed from Tuesday 20 July so only Year 8 managed to enjoy their sports day this year. Competitions took place across the four sports: football, table tennis, basketball and softball both onsite and down at Elm Lane playing fields. The boys had a fantastic time despite the searing heat and there was fierce competition between the Houses. Well done to all for their enthusiasm and good sportsmanship!





## Meet the Staff

Each issue we introduce you to a member of staff at FHS so that you can put a face to the person you speak to or email, and find out more about who teaches your sons/daughters. This issue, it's our Head of Year 10, Mr Davey.



**Ms Aaron Davey**  
*Head of Year 10 and  
PE Teacher*  
*(10 years at FHS)*

### **What do you like most about working at FHS?**

I like the variety of interactions I have with staff, students and parents. Everyone brings their own life experiences and challenges to the school and wants to meet their own goals at the end of their time here. Being a PE teacher and HoY gives me a chance to support all our young people to work towards their personal dreams. It is a very rewarding job.

### **What was your favourite subject at school?**

PE or DT. I did a lot of sport at school and really enjoyed the variety of opportunities but I was also creative and good at designing and building things.

### **If you could go back and give one piece of advice to your teenage self, what would it be?**

Believe in yourself more; don't underestimate your own abilities to keep going.

### **Who would you most like to swap places with for the day?**

I think I would like to be an elite athlete; skiing is my favourite and I'd like to push myself in that environment. Downhill skiing at 80/90mph and being on the edge of control plus having access to the best training facilities would be a great day.

### **What did you want to grow up to be when you were a child?**

As a youngster I wanted to be fireman and as a teenager, I wanted to design sports products.

### **Where is your favourite place in the world?**

Ski resorts or the mountains. I don't think there is anything better than fresh air and great views.

### **What book are you currently reading?**

I've just finished *Zero Negativity* by Ant Middleton and about to start *Not a Diet book* by James Smith.

### **Tell us something interesting or unusual about yourself...**

I have had two wonderful experiences in the same place at polar opposite altitudes – skydiving 12000ft above sea level and scuba diving 20m below sea level in the Great Barrier Reef.

## Meet the Governors

This issue we introduce you to our new Chair of Governors. Keith Knox, a parent of a former student, who has been a member of the governing body for eight years. The governing body welcome contact from parents/carers wishing to share their views and ideas. See [Governors](#) on the school website for contact details.



**Mr Keith Knox**  
*Governor for 8 years*  
*Chair of Governors since  
2021*

### **What made you want to be a governor at FHS?**

My son had just left the school for University and I had been Co-Chair of the PTA with my wife for seven years. I was asked if I would become a Community Governor and it just seemed the right thing to do!

### **What do you hope to achieve as Chair of Governors?**

FHS reflects the community it is situated in and teaches pupils from all backgrounds and abilities in an inclusive environment. It also provides a curriculum of great breadth unlike many other secondary schools. I wish it to retain these great strengths and to help all boys achieve their potential.

### **What do you do day to day? (work and pleasure)**

I am retired but teach KS2 children on a Dutch Barge on the Thames with a charity called The River Thames Boat Project, based in Kingston. I am also a watercolour artist specialising in sea and landscapes.

### **What did you want to grow up to be when you were a child?**

A ship's captain!

### **What book are you currently reading?**

I read Science Fiction and Fantasy. However my current book is neither of these! It is *Golden Hill* by Francis Sufford.

### **Where is your favourite place in the world?**

Druridge Bay on the Northumberland coast where we spent many happy holidays.

### **Tell us something interesting or unusual about yourself**

Before retiring, I was Logistics Director for an International Aid Agency and had to move medicines, tents, food into areas experiencing natural and man made disasters. I spent a lot of time in the former Yugoslavia during the war and met families that had been displaced and had members killed solely due to their religious or ethnic background. It was a humbling experience and has shaped my life since.

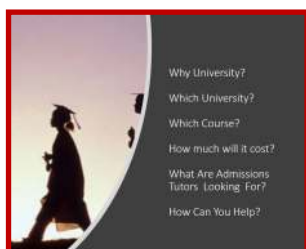
# SFH6 NEWS

## Bridging Week for Prospective SFH6 Students

During the week beginning 28 June, students who have applied to SFH6 for September 2021, visited Sydenham and Forest Hill schools for 'taster sessions' of the courses on offer. There was a Virtual Welcome Assembly, which included current students Tylan and Gabriel offering their top tips for starting Sixth Form along with sessions about applying to Russell Group Universities and Oxbridge. The SFH6 team really enjoyed meeting the students and hope that they found the week useful.

In preparation for joining SFH6, there is some 'Pathways to Year 12' work on the SFH6 website for the students to complete over the summer: <https://www.sfh6.org/611/pathways-to-year-12>

## Futures Week



Futures Week took place during the week commencing 21 June. It was an off-timetable week for Year 12 students to really focus on developing the knowledge and skills they will need to make decisions about their next steps after Sixth Form.

Students enjoyed a number of presentations and activities and heard from various guest speakers from *Amazing Apprenticeships* as well as Susie Kilburn from Goldsmiths University. They attended workshops about applying to university, writing CVs and attending online courses, and learnt more about student finance.

On Tuesday 22 June, SFH6 held a live Q&A session for parents and carers about university applications to give them the chance to ask questions about anything they heard in the pre-recorded presentation explaining the process of university applications and how to support your child, which we hope parents/carers found useful.

This presentation as well as student finance information and useful links can be found in this [SWAY](#) if any parents or students wish to refer back to it.

## A special gift for Mr Kanton



Wednesday 26 May was an emotional day for Mr Kanton but also a reminder of the close relationships that develop between staff and students throughout their time at school...

*"I was gifted a shirt for the best football club, Arsenal, by my Year 13 students, to mark the end of an era. These students were the biggest A Level Maths group ever in SFH6 – 27 students, of whom 20 started their maths education in Year 7. I was the first Maths teacher for some of these boys when they arrived at FHS and was their teacher seven years later when they finally left SFH6. It has been a joy and an amazing experience to see these boys develop into young adults and future professionals. I wish them all the best – and thank you!"*

## We Rise Sessions

This term, SFH6 has been working with the award winning Brixton-based mentoring organisation *We Rise* whose mission is to empower young people to take ownership of their future beyond education.

*We Rise* has been running sessions with Year 12 students at Forest Hill School during tutorial, who will have the opportunity to sign up with *We Rise's* exceptional mentors for advice and guidance.

More information is available at [www.werise.org.uk](http://www.werise.org.uk)



## A Level Results Day

A Level Results Day is **Tuesday 10 August 2021** and students can come into school to collect their results from 9.00am-12.00pm (from the school site where their lessons took place). Any students unable to collect their results in person should contact the relevant exams officer:

Forest Hill: [Ms Beadle](#)  
Sydenham: [Mr Lake](#)

Staff will be in school on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 August to help anyone who needs support with clearing. Please refer to the [TAGs](#) page of the school website for information about how to appeal results.

# Notices



## Jack Petchey Competition

The Jack Petchey Foundation has launched a new creative competition for young people aged 11-19 to get creative over the summer holidays in celebration of Sir Jack Petchey turning 96 this year. They are asking young people to look ahead to the next 96 years by submitting a creative piece that shows their hopes and dreams for life in the year 2117. Further details are available [here](#). The deadline is 30 September 2021.

## Lateral Flow Testing: Summer Holidays

Thank you to all families for regularly testing students over the last term. Please note that this will be paused over the summer holidays but all students will be tested ahead of starting back at school in September. You can of course continue to test at home if you wish by collecting home test kits from a [local collection point](#) or ordering them [online](#).

## Support for Results Days

The National Careers Service is providing a series of webinars for parents and carers whose children are receiving results this August, to give advice on options and tips for helping their child prepare for results day.

[Friday 30 July, 12pm](#)

[Tuesday 3 August, 4pm](#)

[Wednesday 4 August, 12pm](#)

## Food Bank Referrals

If any FHS families require a referral for food bank use, please contact Ms Murray ([a.murray@foresthillschool.co.uk](mailto:a.murray@foresthillschool.co.uk)) or Ms Bartley ([s.bartley@foresthillschool.co.uk](mailto:s.bartley@foresthillschool.co.uk)).

## DfE Catch-up Programmes and Activities

The DfE has launched a new site, designed especially for parents, with the support, information and resources they need to help their children enjoy the summer holidays and prepare for the next academic year. It is aimed at parents of 0-19 year olds, with extra information for parents of SEND children. Find out more [here](#).

## Lewisham Summer of Food and Fun

This summer, with DfE funding Lewisham Council is providing a varied holiday programme, with **free activities and lunches** for school-aged children and young people (aged 5-16 years – up to 19 for children/young people with SEND) eligible for and in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals. [Click here](#) for further information.

## Dates for the Diary

### 10 August

A Level Results Day

### 12 August

GCSE Results Day

### 2 September

Y7 Lateral Flow Tests

### 3 September

Y7 Return to School  
Y8 & Y11 Lateral Flow Tests

### 6 September

Y8, Y11, Y12 & Y13  
Return to School  
Y9 & Y10 Lateral Flow Tests

### 7 September

Y9 and Y10 Return to School  
Y9 & Y10 Lateral Flow Tests

### 15 September

Y8 HPV Vaccinations

### 21 October @9.15am

Headteacher's Coffee Morning

### 25-29 October

Half Term Holiday

### 3 November @ 6.30pm

Parents' Forum

### 17 December

Last day of Autumn Term  
Y7-11 Flu vaccinations

### 6 January

First day of Spring Term

### 17 January

INSET Day (no students in school)