On Wednesday 18 January, the third annual ‘Careers Fair’ took place at FHS where over 40 professionals from a wide range of backgrounds gave up their whole day to meet with students. Building on the success experienced in previous years, this event is part of our Careers Education and offers additional support to our Year 9 and Year 11 students as they begin to consider their GCSE options/Post-16 study choices at the end of this year. Professionals from higher education institutions, medicine, science, hospitality, banking, construction, engineering and the military (to name but a few) set up their stalls in a vibrant marketplace of careers! Students were able to find out about what is involved in the various industries and what qualifications and experience would be useful to help them pursue different careers. Not only does this provide a valuable link with the world of work for our students but it really helps them to make more informed subject choices as well as shape and inspire their future direction. The professionals were very impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of our students as they engaged with them throughout the day and, on behalf of all our students, we would like to extend a huge ‘FHS Thank You’ to all the professionals who came in. We will see many of them return in the very near future for our ‘Year 11 Practice Interviews’ and look forward to welcoming them back. To learn more about our Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance programme, click here!

On Tuesday 17 January, FHS welcomed Sue Williamson, Director and Chief Executive of the SSAT (Schools Students and Teachers Network). The SSAT works with ambitious, high achieving schools throughout the country to encourage collaboration and inspire innovation in the field of education. Mrs Williamson was given a tour of the school by our Creative Ambassadors team and had the opportunity to drop in on several lessons along the way. The SSAT (formerly the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) is no stranger to FHS, having worked with us on our specialisms in Performing Arts and Science for over a decade. In her post-visit tweets, Mrs Williamson commented on how pleased she was to see how FHS continues to passionately promote the arts and offer a curriculum with breadth and balance. On another tweet she commented “Students at FHS are confident, articulate and engaged. It’s a real pleasure to see students loving to learn and with a great rapport with staff.”

Coming soon is our unique music project centred around the 100th anniversary of Battle of the Somme. Our GCSE and A Level musicians have been involved in an ambitious project to compose new music scores for extracts from the classic silent film ‘Battle of the Somme’. Working alongside composer Laura Rossi, their work will be premiered in February as part of a special concert at Holy Trinity Church. The event will also feature our very own community orchestra performing Laura’s acclaimed score ‘live’ with the film on the big screen. If you are, or know of, a Grade 5+ string player who would like to join us, please get in touch with us for details. http://www.somme100film.com/
Life in Sixth Form continues to be fast paced as students gear up for a very busy Spring and Summer term. A Level PE students visited the Manchester Velodrome this week with Alivia and Oliver securing the fastest times on the track! The UCAS deadline has just passed and 85 FHS students have submitted applications – offers are already coming in, with several students having received unconditional offers – well done! Last week, Mrs Grant took 16 of the Year 13 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students to Liverpool John Moores University for an interesting workshop on improving research skills. Research is a vital aspect of higher education and, in preparation for their transition to university, the students were able to refine their skills and increase their knowledge of resources available and how to access and use them to best effect. Applications for Sixth Form in September 2017 are now flooding in and we are very excited to receive applications in such high numbers of our own Year 11 and students from other schools in the area. If you haven’t yet submitted your application, you can still do so online before Friday 3 February (click here to access the online application).

**Year 9 STEM Taster Day**

On 13 January, a group of our Year 9 scientists spent a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) taster day at the University of Liverpool, to inspire their interest in robotics and demonstrate the practical application of mathematics and engineering. The day was the Liverpool heat of a Merseyside wide competition involving teams of students from local schools building their robots in the morning and pitting them against each other in a series of afternoon matches. This was a great opportunity for the students to understand a variety of design, science and engineering principles, and also encourage teamwork, leadership and problem solving skills.

**Sporting Matters**

Year 7 boys are simply unstoppable this week! Last Saturday, the Year 7 boys cross country team clinched what can only be called a momentous victory, stealing the Merseyside title from St Anselm’s College (Wirral) who have held on to the top spot in the county for many years. Well done to Michael, Harry, Oscar, Gideon, Sam and Charlie! The Year 7 boys futsal team are Sefton Champs, having won all their games in the group stage and a nail-biting final against Stanley High School – congratulations boys! Finally, Year 7 and 8 boys basketball both won their games against Holy Family this week. It’s not all about the boys though; well done to Year 8 and 9 Girls cross country team Lilly Ann, Jennifer, Faye and Phoebe who secured a silver medal at the weekend; there were also several strong individual performances from runners including, Alex, Emily and Hannah.

**On the Horizon...**

- Y10 Science Live trip – 23 January
- Y7 Subject Consultation Evening – 26 January (4:30-7:30pm)
- Y13 Drama Devised Performances – 27 January (7pm)
- The Groove Dance Show – 2 February (7pm)
- UKMT Intermediate Challenge – 2 February (P1)
- FoFHS Quiz Night – 4 February (7:30pm)
- Y7/8 Trip to Spain – 5 to 8 February