

FOCUSON...



Issue 174
29 September 2023

Celebrating our school and community

...Open Evening 2023

Last week FHS opened its doors to prospective families looking to join us in Year 7 in September 2024, with lots of visitors from across the borough in both Years 5 and 6. It was a real pleasure to share our school with them for the evening, very ably supported by our very own new Year 7s who acted as exceptional tour guides, having only been here themselves less than 3 weeks! Thank you to them and to all the other Student Ambassadors who supported subject areas with a very busy evening. Feedback from our visitors was incredibly positive, with many comments about the warm welcome from staff and students. Experiencing his first Open Evening as Headteacher, Mr Wood said

"I was blown away by the teamwork shown by staff and students and the pride they showed in sharing this school with others. What a night!"



...Careers Education

Our vibrant Careers Education programme is well underway for the new school year with lots of activities on tap to support students across all year groups. Our 'Careers Breakfasts' kicked off the year with a fantastic session by Dr Feyistan, who inspired over 40 students from all year groups last Wednesday morning with his fascinating journey to becoming a successful surgeon. In a couple of weeks our Year 12 students will have the opportunity to 'Meet the Professionals' in our annual event bringing students in touch with professionals from a wide variety of trades and industries. Career

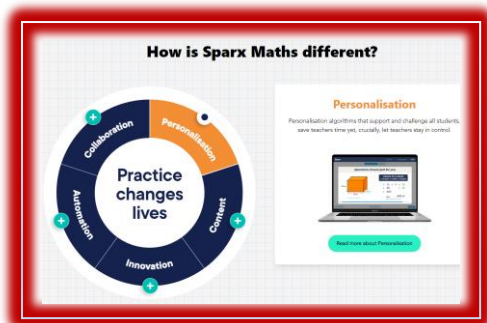
Conversations continue weekly with our Careers Advisors, supporting Year 11 and Sixth Form students to explore their next steps. Careers Education is a vital component of our overall Personal Development Curriculum at FHS, led by Mrs MacDunne. We were absolutely delighted to learn just yesterday that FHS has been shortlisted for an Educate Award for Careers & Enterprise!



...FHSXtra

Our energetic extra-curricular programme is now in full swing with a huge variety of clubs and activities on offer, from Music to Maths, Panto to Pride Club, Chess to Cross Country, and so much more - there really is something for everyone. We encourage all our students to get involved wherever they can – check out the current FHSXtra programme online for full information: [Extra Curricular – Formby High School](#).

...Sparx Maths



September is the official launch of Sparx Maths, our new Mathematics homework platform. Sparx Maths will provide your child with one hour's worth of perfectly tailored retrieval practice homework per week which follows our curriculum. In an independent trial, research conducted by Cambridge University, showed that 1 hour of Sparx Maths a week significantly improves grades. We are delighted to offer our students this support at home as it provides important retrieval practice at the students' own level of expertise. This promotes engagement, confidence and ultimately learning. Look out for our XP

Boost competition in the Autumn term for those who want to do that little bit more!

...Sixth Form Matters

As always it has been a busy few weeks in Sixth Form! A group of 25 students from Year 12 and Year 13 recently travelled to Durham University Open Day. They took part in subject sessions, toured the campus and visited university accommodation. In other post-18 opportunities, we have several events planned over the next few weeks in the run up to half term including a trip to Weightmans law firm to find out about legal degree level apprenticeships on 11 October, an *Alternatives to Medicine* session led by the University of Sheffield on Monday 16 October and a visit to the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair at Anfield on Tuesday 17th October. Meanwhile, our Year 13 students who are applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Oxford and Cambridge are working hard to finalise their UCAS applications for the upcoming October deadline. They were helped last week by visiting former students Emily, Alice and Esther who provided advice based on their experience. Emily, who is currently studying at Cambridge University spent time speaking with our Oxbridge applicants to provide support on personal statements, admissions tests and interviews. We wish all our early entrants the best of luck with their applications!



...Year 11 Maximise Your Potential!



As part of the Year 11 Raising Achievement Plan (RAP), our Year 11 students took part in a motivational study skills workshop last week, delivered by Maximise Your Potential. This hugely successful motivational session is designed to support students with their study skills, giving them some proven and practical revision skills and exam 'know how' as their GCSEs approach. Importantly, the session also explored how students can use effective time management to feel in greater control of their learning and, importantly,

minimise stress and anxiety.

...SEND Sports GHS

Mrs O'Sullivan recently took a group of FHS students along to Greenbank Sports Academy where they had the opportunity to play a number of different disability sports, including wheelchair handball and powerchair football. The students were extremely well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the trip!



...GOSH You're Great!



During their PE lessons next week, students in Year 7/8 will be running 5k to raise money to help build the new Children's Cancer Centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), as part of the [RBC Race for the Kids campaign](#). In the lessons, there will be a prize for the fastest boy/girl per class, and merits for effort which are available to all students who try

hard. For anyone wishing to donate, we have set this up on ParentPay; thank you in advance for any donations which will help to support this amazing cause.

...Attendance Matters

Over the course of this half term, each year group is partaking in their own attendance initiative, led by their Climate for Learning Leader / Achievement Leader. The initiatives will involve a series of activities which will see students rewarded for good attendance. This is not just through rewarding those with 100% attendance but also recognising those who have improved their attendance, and ensuring that everyone understands the direct impact attendance can have on achievement in school. This achievement is beyond simply academic; good attendance helps to support good routines, provides stability for our young people and increases their sense of belonging within our school community.

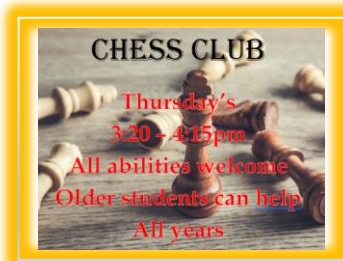
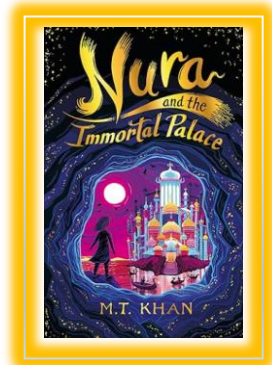


...Dancing in the Big Top

On Tuesday, our talented Sixth Form dancers were invited to open the show at Trinity St Peter's Primary and their big top circus event. The girls performed a themed routine to Britney Spears' 'Circus' and had a fantastic time.

...Library Corner

Nura and the Immortal Palace by MT Khan, is new to our library collection; a magical adventure rooted in Muslim culture and tradition. *Nura has worked all her life in the mica mines, hoping someday to find the legendary treasure – the Demon's Tongue. But when a terrible accident traps her best friend Faisal underground, she is determined to find him.* With a headstrong heroine who values family and friendship over riches, and community over selfishness, this book highlights how hard life is for many children in the world, in an engaging, age-appropriate way. Come up to the Library, A6 to find out more.



Don't forget that there is lots going on in the Library, including Chess Club (on Thursdays after school) and Film Night every Monday after school. Next Monday (2 October) we will be enjoying *The Emperor's New Groove!*



On the Horizon...

- ★ Y12 UKMT Maths Challenge – 3 Oct
- ★ SEND Parent Workshop ADHD – 4 Oct (online)
- ★ Y13 Geography Fieldwork – 4 Oct
- ★ Y7 Curriculum Info Evening – 9 Oct
- ★ Y12 Meet the Professionals – 11 Oct
- ★ Y7 Welcome Disco – 13 Oct