

FOCUSON...



Issue 193
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Celebrating our school and community

...Open Evening 2024

What a lovely evening! We welcomed hundreds of prospective students to FHS on the warm and sunny evening of 19 September. The beautiful weather only reinforced what is now our trademark warm welcome from students and staff across the school. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and even more new ones. Students and parents were able to tour / meet all our subject areas, speak with our support teams and even sample the menu on offer in the dining room! The evening was busy and vibrant, supported very professionally by our newest Year 7 tour guides who had only been with us less than three weeks themselves. Thank you to all our visitors and all the students and staff for such a lovely evening, which was fantastically rounded off with our 'flash mob' *getting set for a new day!* On leaving, one of our Year 6 visitors asked "Can I start tomorrow?"



...BBC Bitesize Careers Tour

On Wednesday 25 September students in Years 9 – 12 had the opportunity to attend the BBC Bitesize Careers Tour. They heard from professionals working in creative and technological industries, including a Software Engineer, a Radio Producer and a Makeup Artist. The panellists shared information on relevant qualifications, career progression, their work experience, and key skills needed in their roles. Mrs MacDunne, Curriculum Leader for Personal Development, said "The quality of student questions was excellent, and the event was a huge success with students taking away a great deal of knowledge and inspiration from the speakers."

...Reaching High

Our Year 10 Reaching High cohort started their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award last week which has been built into their curriculum. Youth and Community Partnership have been invited to deliver some bushcraft skills over the next three months and we started their first session with some different methods of fire lighting. An exciting programme is in store over the next few months, watch out for more reports!

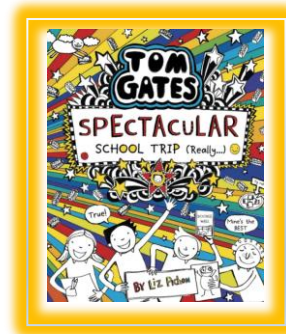


... Join the newsroom!

Do we have any budding journalists amongst our students? Would you like to feature a news item of your own? Our FocusOn... newsletter exists to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of our school community, inside and outside the school gates – if you have something you want us to feature, please get in touch by contacting Mrs Forster at school!

...Library Corner

Tom Gates is already proving popular with our new Year 7 students, with books leaving the Library as soon as they come back! This book is the seventeenth laugh-out-loud book in Tom Gates' adventures. *Tom's doing everything possible to stay out of trouble but somehow he's got THREE sad faces on the school achievement chart! And getting another sad face means Mr Fullerman won't let him go on the SCHOOL TRIP!* Written in diary form and full of doodles with lots of laughter, The Brilliant World of Tom Gates books are perfect for both boys and girls to sit down and relax with. Come up to the Library to find out more...but be quick, they are not here long!



...European Day of Languages



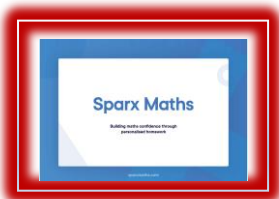
European Day of Languages was celebrated this week with students attending an online event from universities in the north-west (the Universities of Chester, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University) and their university student ambassadors all about languages and careers. We were also lucky to have visits from ex-students Lily and Esther who shared their experiences of living in Spain before heading back to their respective universities of Newcastle and Durham for their final year. Students from Years 7 to 13 were inspired by the opportunities with

languages and had the chance to ask questions about university life and living abroad. It is always great to see how confident and happy our university linguists are and we wish them both good luck for their final year at uni! After the activity, one Year 7 student said "I am definitely going to university now to study languages!"

... Sixth Form Matters

We're off to a flying start in Sixth Form. Our new Year 12 students have settled in well and we have been delighted by how many new students have joined us from other institutions alongside lots of our own students from the lower school. The Sixth Form Team recently met with Year 12 parents as part of the Sixth Form Matters evening to introduce them to the way we operate and to signpost some of the exciting events we have coming up. Our Careers programme was also kicked off this week with the brilliant BBC Bitesize event, providing insight into a range of jobs including engineering, radio producing and make up artistry. The Sixth Form Team have also been meeting with all our new students to check in on how they have settled in. We would like to remind all our Year 12 students and parents about using Class Charts: if you have not already accessed it, please see one of the Sixth Form Team for your code. For Year 13, the UCAS applications have begun, with the early entrant October deadline fast approaching. Students have attended sessions on Personal Statements, and we have a visit to the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair at Anfield coming up on Tuesday 15 October, followed by a visit to Weightmans Solicitors on Monday 21 October to learn about law apprenticeships. We hope that Year 13 will continue to make the most of all these opportunities to help them to finalise their plans for next year!

...Sparx Maths



Sparx Maths was a huge success in 2023/24 and we are delighted to be using it again this year as our Mathematics homework platform which provides important support at the students' own level of expertise. Sparx Maths will provide your child with one hour's worth (30 minutes for Years 7 and 8) of perfectly tailored retrieval practice homework per week which follows our curriculum. In an independent trial, research conducted by Cambridge University, showed that one hour of Sparx Maths a week

significantly improves grades. Please ask your child about their Sparx homework and help them build their confidence and independence.

On the Horizon...

- ★ Year 7 Curriculum Information Eve – 30 Sep (6pm)
- ★ Lessons from Auschwitz Trip – 10 Oct
- ★ Year 11 Geography Fieldwork – 1 Oct
- ★ UK University & Apprenticeship Fair – 15 Oct