

FARNBOROUGH HILL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON

NEWSLETTER



The Caring Face of Academic Excellence

Candlebearers and choir process up the aisle



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Advent Carol Service is one of the most popular events in the school calendar. The chapel was overflowing again this year for this very special service which began, as is the tradition, in darkness. Candlebearers appeared in the sanctuary in formation and the Senior Choir processed up the aisle singing the first carol. The candlelit liturgy was beautiful and the singing of the choir delighted the congregation.

A wonderful start to the Christmas season.



Top right: Hannah and Georgina Fensome

Right: Becket House stall

Bottom right: One of the Young Enterprise stalls at the bazaar



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Miss Thomas, pictured spending her money at the Bazaar, says:

It is only just beginning to dawn on me that I am attending these special school events for the last time this year. The Advent Carol Service was one of the most beautiful and moving occasions I have experienced in our school chapel.

The Bazaar, co-ordinated for the first time by Miss Clarke, the new Head of Champion House, was a huge success raising nearly £2000 for the House charities. I feel very proud of all the talent, hard work and dedication from staff and students which make our activities so successful. I appreciate too the large number of parents who support school events and I wish all our families the joy and peace of the Christmas season.



A MUSICAL SOIREE!

BY KATY NAGLE

In October wonderful sounds could be heard drifting from the Grand Salon. The Musical Soiree was a perfect way to show off the wide variety of talent at Farnborough Hill. Various soloists amazed, the Pistachios wowed, the Baroque group impressed and the Stomp Group (pictured right) generally caused chaos! There were many excellent performances, and the appreciative audience went home having been thoroughly entertained, after having been coaxed by the sixth form rendition of 'Big Spender' into making generous donations.



WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

BY NIAMH HILLS

Now an annual event, the Senior Choir were again privileged to sing at Mass at Westminster Cathedral. This year the girls and staff were joined by tenors and basses, and the 4 part choral music resonated around the vast cathedral which was packed with a congregation of over 1,000. The choir enjoyed the experience, and despite having sung Casciolini, Franck and plenteous hymns and chants, were not too tired to sing through their entire choral repertoire (from Fame to Faure) on the bus journey home.



At a special Harvest Festival service in the school chapel, the 500 pupils and the staff of Farnborough Hill donated a veritable mountain of food to Emmaus Projects, the Aldershot based charity, which offers support and accommodation to homeless young people in the area. Harvest Festival offers us an opportunity to reflect upon how lucky we are. In a small way we try to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Hamish Robertson, father of Freya-Anne, to assembly on 27 November. Mr Robertson played traditional Scottish music on the bagpipes in honour of St Andrews Day, the following Thursday. The school responded with great enthusiasm.

What a wonderful way to start the week!



Mr Wellington *AFTER* the makeover!!

Fund raising is always fun at Farnborough Hill and the Year 8 Fairy theme day in aid of Make a Wish foundation was no exception.

The girls in Year 8 spent the day dressed as fairies and provided cakes and doughnuts at break time. The fair at lunchtime was fantastic with one of the most popular stalls being the make-up stall. RE teacher, Mr Wellington (top left), was made over, but we don't think that Trinny and Susannah have anything to worry about, do you? As you can see lots of other members of staff took part too.



PRIZE GIVING

At Prize Giving Miss Thomas, Headmistress, spoke of her pride in the school's achievements over the past year, including the fantastic GCSE and A level results and the wonderful drama and music performances. The Headmistress also reflected on her 10 years of leadership.

Guest speaker, Julia Cleverdon CVO CBE, listed by the Times as one of the 50 most influential women in Britain, has established a formidable reputation as a renowned leader on corporate social responsibility. Ms Cleverdon said that Farnborough Hill's scope of awards was most impressive, recognising all achievement. Prizes are awarded to students throughout the school for academic excellence, sporting endeavour,

consistent effort and progress, courtesy and school spirit. She talked of her hope for the future telling the students that they should take pride in their achievements and remembering that it is what you do that defines you, not who you are.

Head Girl Grace Huxford delivered a most eloquent Vote of Thanks, in which she told Ms Cleverdon that she was impressed that she 'made things happen' and that she hoped the students at Farnborough Hill could follow her most impressive example.

Picture: (L to R) Felicity Gilbert (Deputy Head Girl), Jacqueline Thomas (Headmistress), Julia Cleverdon, Grace Huxford (Head Girl)

POETRY DAY

Poetry Day this year was based on the theme of 'identity' and everyone entered eagerly into the spirit of the day. Unique outfits were worn by both staff and students and the wonderful Dr Russell organised and compered a superb lunchtime show.



NEWS



We encourage parents to log on to the web site, which is continually being enhanced. Please apply for a password to the parents' section which includes letters from Miss Thomas and details of school activities.

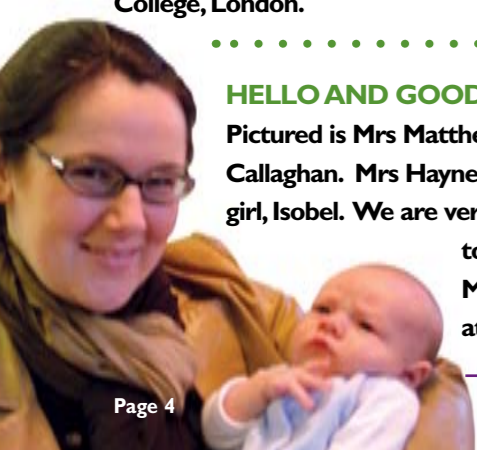


We are very grateful to everyone who has collected Tesco vouchers. Pictured are Mrs Berry and Mrs Ison with the PE equipment from the scheme last year.

Congratulations to Mrs Walker who was awarded an MA in Contemporary Crafts (Ceramics) from the University College of the Creative Arts and Mr Forrest-Biggs who was awarded an MA in Classical Education from King's College, London.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Pictured is Mrs Matthews with her baby son, Callaghan. Mrs Haynes also gave birth to a baby girl, Isobel. We are very sorry to say goodbye to ICT Co-ordinator, Mr Ansell, who is leaving at the end of term.



TWILIGHT THEATRE

Lower VI general studies students (Farnborough Hill and Salesian College) put together an all-singing all-dancing performance of a Victorian style spoof music hall called 'Victoriana et al'. Proceeds went to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and great fun was had by all!

Members of the Lower Sixth and staff from Farnborough Hill and Salesian had great fun at their Christmas party



NUFFIELD AWARD



During the summer Sixth Form student, Christina Moore, worked at QinetiQ Boscombe Down - the test and evaluation centre for UK military aircraft - as part of the prestigious Nuffield Science Bursary scheme.

The scheme sponsors A Level science students to take part in a 4-6 week research project. Christina's recommendations for modifications to the Sea King search and rescue helicopter switch controls are now being implemented. She has also received a BA Gold CREST award and the prize for the best report in the Surrey region. She will attend the BA CREST Science Fair at the Royal Society in London as the Surrey representative for the Nuffield Science Bursary scheme.

We are absolutely delighted that Christina's work in this field has been so highly recognised.

Mathematical success for Sixth Form

Four of our Sixth Form mathematicians performed particularly well in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge this year. Pictured are Hannah Shelley (Silver and Best in School), Katie Smith (Silver), Grace Huxford (Silver) and Claire Danson (Bronze).



Sixth Form scholars with Miss Thomas left to right, Molly Beck, Zoe Hawken, Hannah Crane, Rebekah Overton, Katie Smith, Emma Green and Hannah Shelley

Sixth Former Emily Malyon-Roberts has had an article about 'Poppy Day' published in the November issue of 'History Magazine'.



DRAMA

Year 11 GCSE drama comprised an eclectic mix of modern theatre ranging from Churchill to Godber. Their performances made for an exciting and vibrant evening with this hugely talented cast of actresses.



Top Girls

Short 'n' Curlies



Dream Jobs



Woman in the Moon



Beautiful Inside

EXAM CONGRATULATIONS

A LEVELS

Farnborough Hill once again turned out an impressive set of results at A level with 64% of all the school's results awarded at grades A and B.

Among the success stories were **Victoria Grace** and **Cristina Belcher** with four A grades each. Victoria is reading English and German at St Andrews University and Cristina English and Spanish at Southampton University.

GCSE

Staff, students and proud parents were thrilled to discover that the school had exceeded last year's record results. An amazing 61% of subject entries were graded A* and A.

As always there were superb performances from a number of individuals with nineteen students gaining ten straight As, four of whom achieved the magic 10A*s: **Hannah Crane, Hannah Shelley, Vaneesha Short** and **Katie Whicher**. **Vaneesha Short** and **Hannah Shelly** capped these fantastic results by scoring one of the top five marks in the country for English Literature – out of 362,438 candidates!



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

In November Year 8 participated in the IBM 'Women in Technology' project. The scheme is intended to promote the idea of technology based occupations for women. With a range of activities from team building to robot building the girls had an exciting and informative morning at IBM in Farnborough (below). Feedback shows that the message is getting across and we are grateful for the opportunity to develop links with local and multinational businesses.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Public Speaking teams have had much success again this term. The English Speaking Union team, comprising **Natasha Adams**, with her speech 'Charity begins overseas', **Caroline Haines** (questioner) and **Joanna Belcher** (chairperson) won their heat, went on to compete in Guildford's Guildhall and were the overall winners there. The team will now compete in the final, to be held at the very prestigious Dartmouth House, the ESU headquarters, in March. In the Rotary Senior Competition in Farnham **Natasha** (speaker), **Joanna** (vote of thanks) and Sixth-Former **Bianca Nobilo** (chairperson) were awarded runner up prizes. The intermediate team won the Farnham Rotary competition. The speaker was **Tegwen Gabb**, speaking on the topic of 'Why we still love to hate the French!' She was joined by **Victoria Beynon** (chairperson) and **Lucy Sparks** (vote of thanks). The girls' coach, **Mrs Winch-Johnson**, said 'All the girls in our public speaking teams show how confident and able they are in presenting ideas with fluency, entertainment and charm. They are a joy to work with and it is a pleasure to see them do so well.'



HOCKEY

The teams have had quite a busy programme this term including 4 tournaments. The highlights have been the Seniors winning the Ryde Invitation Tournament and the U14 Team reaching the semi-finals of the Hampshire Championships.

NETBALL

The netball season has been as busy as usual with the focus being on the Thursday evening fixtures and the district tournament. The highlight was the U15 team winning the Aldershot and District Tournament

FOOTBALL

This is a new venture for us. Miss Gibson has done a brilliant job organising, coaching and motivating the teams. Friendlies have been played but the main focus has been on the U13s who have played in the local outdoor and indoor leagues.



BADMINTON

Miss Gibson has also started badminton teams playing friendly matches and gradually working through the age groups. These matches have proved to be very popular.

CROSS COUNTRY

The season began with a friendly at Farnborough Hill. In the Aldershot and District Schools Cross Country Championships the U15 team were runners up and the U17 winners.



U15 (above) and U17 (left) cross country teams

PARENTS' DIARY 2007

SPRING TERM

5 Jan	Entrance Examination
8 Jan	School re-opens for pupils
24 Jan	Fourth Form Students' and Parents' Evening
31 Jan	Second Form Parents' Evening: IIA & IIB
5 Feb	Fifth Form Retreat
6 Feb	Fourth Form Retreat
	Second Form Parents' Evening: II alpha & II omega
7 Feb	Third Form Retreat
8 Feb	Second Form Retreat
9 Feb	First Form Retreat
14 Feb	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents
16 Feb	Half Term begins
26 Feb	Half Term ends
27 Feb	Fifth Form Students' and Parents' Evening
1 Mar	Introduction to GCSE programme for Third Form and parents
6 Mar	Joint Higher Education Evening for LVI with Salesian College
8 Mar	Upper Sixth Retreat
	Third Form Parents' Evening: IIIA & IIIB
9 Mar	Upper Sixth Retreat
12 Mar	Third Form Parents' Evening: III alpha & III omega
14 Mar	Informal Music Evening
17 Mar	Friends of Farnborough Hill Skittles Evening
26 Mar	Production of 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell
27 Mar	Production of 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell
28 Mar	Production of 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell
30 Mar	Term Ends

International Sportswomen Karate



Christine Cook is a 1st Kyu grade with her next belt being the coveted black belt (1st Dan). Wado, meaning 'Way of Peace', Karate focuses on agility and balance rather than strength. Christine's next international competition is in Belfast in February 2007, where she will be competing in the Girls 1st Kyu Kumite and Kata. This is a demanding category, as many of the other competitors will be much older and bigger than Christine. However this seems to hold no fear for Christine!

Rugby

After a successful pre-season training program with the England player development academy, **Victoria Beynon** was chosen to captain a Surrey representative 7-a-side team in an exhibition match at the world renowned IRB Dubai international 7 a-side tournament. The match was played in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 20,000 rugby followers. Victoria led by example and her tackling ability helped ensure that the local team did not venture out of its own half throughout the game, resulting in a 19 – 0 win for Surrey.



An Olympian in training by Nathalie Ormrod

In September Lower Sixth student **Zoe Franklin** travelled to Switzerland for a four-day training programme in target shooting. A member of the development squad for the 2012 Olympics, Zoe has to take every opportunity to practise her shooting, this time using real .22 bullets. Scheduled training each day from 9.30am to 5.30pm proved to be a tough regime, but Zoe came home very enthusiastic with high hopes for the future. She returned to Switzerland during half term, to prepare for a competition in Holland in February, where she will represent England. We will follow Zoe's progress with interest.



HORSESHOE LAKE

Year 9 enjoyed a fantastic day at Horseshoe Lake, organised by Mrs Chapman. The girls participated in a number of team building activities including building a raft which they then had to row around an island on the lake. Only some teams managed to do this but the girls all enjoyed the experience.

Rock climbing was another feature of the day – some of the girls excelled at this activity and felt very proud when they reached the top!



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