

# FARNBOROUGH HILL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON

## NEWSLETTER



The Caring Face of Academic Excellence

# THEY'RE THE TOPS!

Our hugely successful A level results this summer led to Farnborough Hill attaining 58th position nationally in league tables, ahead of many far more selective independent schools. Last year's UVI students achieved record results with the highest A level grades in our history, 90% being awarded at A or B. Half of the entire year group achieved straight A grades and a phenomenal 72% of all the results were at A grade.

- Our **GCSE** students also achieved fantastic results, with one third of the year group gaining all A\* or A grades. Overall, 90% of the results were at A\* - B grades and five of our students were top performers nationally in **Modern Languages**.
- Pictured are **Elsbeth Wright, Hannah Dennis, Sarah Wonham, Rachael Shelley and Cindy Li**, who all gained 9 A\* grades at GCSE and an additional A grade for **AS level English Language and Literature** a year early.



*Claire Danson, Grace Huxford, Claire Hinton and Amy Binns, who all achieved 4 A grades.*



Prize Giving was once again a highlight of the school year, giving the school the opportunity to celebrate the many and varied gifts and talents of our students. We were delighted to welcome Sister Cara Nagle, Superior General of The Religious of Christian Education, who presented the prizes and certificates and made a moving and thought-provoking speech. Head Girl, Molly Beck, delivered the Vote of Thanks with clarity and maturity responding to the sentiments in Sister Nagle's address. The speech and the Headmistress's report can be found on our website (parents' area).

*Pictured are (left to right): Molly Beck, Mrs Buckle, Sister Cara Nagle and Hannah Fensome.*



## CRAFT CLUB CREATIONS

The Craft Club has been knitting squares to make blankets for AIDS orphans in South Africa. **Miss Val Applegate**, a member of our domestic staff, very kindly made up the first blanket

which will shortly be on its way to

South Africa, where it will be taken to its final destination by former Farnborough Hill Physics teacher, **Dr van den Hoek**. So

far,  $\forall \theta$  is in the lead in the competition to produce the most squares but several other forms are catching up fast. If you would like to help us, we need squares of double knitting, 11 cm x 15 cm by February half term please.



## STUDY SKILLS MORNING

BY JESSICA WILSON

Study Skills morning was designed to equip the **Fourth Form** with the motivation and knowledge to revise as we approach our GCSEs. We were shown several presentations on motivation, how to learn and digest knowledge and how to revise. We had lots of fun as we worked together in groups and enjoyed a well-deserved hot chocolate. One aspect which I really appreciated was that the methods we worked with were directly linked to our GCSEs. We were taught how to learn vocabulary with flash cards, how to present a mind map in a way which we can revise from easily and how to use index cards. **Mrs Winch-Johnson** and **Miss Gibson**, who ran the morning, were inspirational and I learnt a lot from them.



# THINK TANK

A new extra-curricular opportunity, called **The Think Tank**, has been launched by **Miss Goddard**. It aims to inspire pupils and extend their learning through three different types of activities:

### GUEST SPEAKERS

**Jimmy Goddard**, described his unaided ascent of Kilimanjaro in a wheelchair. He showed that with determination and a positive approach, it is possible to overcome setbacks and reach your goals in life.

**Dr. Lorraine Wild**, Academic Officer at the School of Geography at Oxford University, spoke about what top universities are looking for in applications. The talk was also attended by pupils from three schools.

**Shahid Azeem**, who starred in the Channel Four documentary, 'Millionaires' Mission', spoke about the British entrepreneurs' attempt to use their skills to improve the quality of life in a small village in rural Uganda.

### THE QUIZ OF THE FORTNIGHT

So far, students have tackled a riddle, a mathematical problem and a verbal-reasoning question. First Former **Rose Grievie** has been one of the first 3 pupils to find the correct solution for all 3 quizzes.

### UNIVERSITY LECTURES

Sixth formers and Year 11 students are encouraged to attend university lectures.

For more information please look at the **Think Tank** notice board or visit the school website.

Top left: Jimmy Goddard  
 Top right: Rose Grievie (right)  
 Middle: Dr. Lorraine Wild  
 Bottom: Shahid Azeem



# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Amidst singing from the Junior and Senior Choirs, students and staff presented gifts of food at our Harvest Festival. These were donated to the **Step by Step** project in Aldershot, which supports homeless young people. It was very moving to see so many young people bring forth offerings with smiles of joy on their faces. The sanctuary in the Chapel was full of food and looked wonderful.

## FARHAT SOAKELL R.I.P.

It was with great sadness that the school was told of the death of Mrs Farhat Soakell after her long battle against cancer. Her funeral was attended by many staff and girls who had been taught by her. The service was very moving and included a beautiful eulogy given by Dr Milly Bright and a charming rendition of 'Danny Boy' by Niamh Hills, a member of last year's UVI.

## REMEMBERING...



The school commemorated All Souls' Day with a special service in Chapel at lunch-time. We particularly remembered two members of the school community who died recently: Mrs Soakell and Karolima Rzecka Shepherd, a former pupil of the school. At the altar we placed the names of those known to us who have died.



The staff at Farnborough Hill enjoyed their 9th year of taking part in The World's Biggest Coffee Morning and raised £234.95 for Macmillan Nursing.

## MEDICAL CAREERS

A group of students interested in medical careers were lucky enough to attend the first "Careers in the National Health" event organised by Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



### CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND SORRENTO

At half-term staff and students had a great time on the Classics trip to Rome and Sorrento, taking in the major sites of the city of Rome, the Vatican as well as the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Please look at our web site [www.farnborough-hill.org.uk](http://www.farnborough-hill.org.uk) for Rebekah Overton's report of the trip.



Sixth Form scholars with Mrs Buckle left to right: Laura Amatt, Jennifer Orchard, Marina Daoud, Sarah Worham, Hannah Dennis, Joanna Belcher, Rachael Shelley



### LVI RETREAT

The Lower Sixth, two of their tutors, Mrs Rix and Miss Goddard, and Chaplain, Miss Farmer, went on retreat to the All Saints' Pastoral Centre, London Colney. They spent their time on team-building activities, meditation and insights into prayer. The closing liturgy, prepared by the students, incorporated music, drama and reflection. The retreat was run by the SPEC team which included old girl, Sophie Duffin, a member of last year's UVI. The students thought the experience was brilliant!



## SIXTH FORM... TEAM-BUILDING

The UVI and LVI really enjoyed their weekend on the Isle of Wight at the beginning of term!

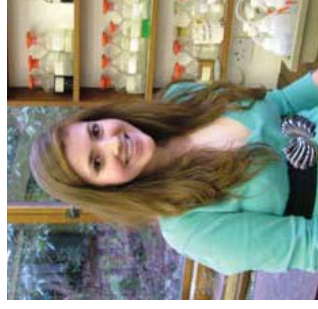


## UNIVERSITY INTERVIEWS

In October all our UVI students had a chance to practise their interview techniques in preparation for their university interviews. Panels of experienced interviewers from the professions, business and industry made the experience very realistic for our students.

### The Honduras 2009 Expedition

was launched on the 5 December. It is a unique chance for girls in the present Fifth Form and LVI to visit Honduras and participate in a wide variety of activities. The idea behind the expedition is that the girls plan their own individual itinerary to include an element of community work, personal challenge, physical challenge and relaxation. If you are interested please visit [www.outlookexpeditions.com](http://www.outlookexpeditions.com) for further details or contact Miss Weeks.



Pictured is Hannah Cooney who was awarded a gold certificate following her project which was undertaken with the help of a prestigious Nuffield Bursary. Her project involved synthesising a derivative of Taxol, which is an anti-cancer drug. She described it as invaluable preparation for a medical degree and found using NMR machines extremely interesting.

## COMMUNITY FEAST DAY

We were delighted to celebrate the 190th anniversary of the Religious of Christian Education on Community Feast Day. The whole school attended Mass and was

privileged to witness many of the Sisters renewing their vows. The Sisters were presented with two new candlesticks for their Chapel, which were blessed during Mass. Members of the LVI entertained the Sisters at Lafosse House and this was followed by tea with the staff and Sixth Form.



## SCIENCE PRIZE



Elizabeth Edwards has won a top prize in The Images of Science and Technology competition run by the University of Surrey. Elizabeth's entry 'Dispersion of light on a CD' was judged by television presenter, Johnny Ball, to be the best in the oldest (14 - 16) age category. Elizabeth wins a £50 voucher and is understandably delighted.



## PUBLIC SPEAKING

The first heat of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition was held at Farnborough Hill in November. It was delightful to see **Madeleine Sakakini** (speaker) give a speech on why a gap year should be compulsory with excellent conviction and style, ably assisted by **Rebecca Morwood** as a most impressive chairman and **Helen Walker** as a brilliant questioner. In the next heat, at Guildford's Guildhall Madeleine won the trophy for 'Best Speaker' and Rebecca received the Richmond Cup for best speaker, which is judged and awarded by the Mayor.

The junior public speaking team of **Alice Reid** (chairman), **Hollie Smith** (vote of thanks) and **Charlotte Fowles** (speaker) on the subject of the internet, were runners up in the **Farnham Rotary Competition**. The Senior team, **Natasha Adams** (speaker) **Joanna Belcher** (chairman) and **Caroline Haines** (vote of thanks) won the Senior Farnham Rotary Shield.

Pictured are **Senior Maths Challenge** certificate winners **Laura Tingle** (Silver and Best in School), **Hannah Shelley** (Bronze), **Katie Smith** (Silver), **Teresa Marsden** (Bronze) and **Vinaya Srirangam Nadhamuni** (Silver).



## CHOIR IN ITALY

The Senior Choir's summer concert tour to Italy saw them performing in locations around Lake Garda and singing Mass in St Anthony's Padua and St Mark's Cathedral in Venice. The Italians loved their rendition of 'Santa Lucia' and even joined in the singing in the square at Sirmione. This was an amazing action-packed week, with a trip to Gardaland and an impromptu concert in a flotilla of gondolas!



## YEAR 9 ACTIVITY DAY



Winning team in the raft building race at Horseshoe Lake.

## POETRY DAY



The English department love **National Poetry Day**, as you would expect. This year the theme was **Dreams**, and we went into the realms of fantasy. Bob Dylan lyrics were in registers, students and staff dressed up, a notice board in the English corridor fluttered with the entries for the poetry competition and the lunchtime show was lovely, with dancers and readers, actors and singers, rounded off by Mrs Phillips and the junior choir with, of course, 'Any Dream Will Do'.



## DRAMA

Year 11 GCSE drama students performed 'Titanic' by David Foxton and 'You Made Me' by Kevin Reynolds and Adrian Lockwood in the Princess Studio. The audience were highly impressed and both pieces were rewarded with an ecstatic ovation. The commitment and hard work of the students, as well as of the drama department staff, was very much on display and contributed to another exciting evening of drama.



Above: 'You Made Me'  
Below: Technical team



## HISTORICAL DAY

Year 9 were visited by the **Lunchbox Theatre Company** who performed an interactive drama about working conditions during the Victorian era. In the afternoon, the girls took part in two workshops. In the first, they used original sources to find out about life at Farnborough Hill when the Empress Eugénie lived here. In the second, they had the opportunity to act out scenes from the morning's play.



## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF..



Mrs Brocklehurst,  
Maths Teacher



Miss Buck, Latin and  
Classics Teacher



Mrs Camprubí-  
Reches, Spanish  
Teacher



Mrs Kelsey,  
Head of P.E.



Mrs Nix, Design and  
Technology Teacher



Mrs Cahalane,  
Exams Officer

# PARENTS' DIARY 2008

## EASTER TERM

8 Jan	Entrance Examination
9 Jan	School re-opens for pupils
21 Jan	Fourth Form Students' and Parents' Evening
29 Jan	Second Form Parents' Evening – IIA & IIB
5 Feb	Informal Music Evening
7 Feb	Second Form Parents' Evening – IIα & IIω
8 Feb	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents
9 Feb	Friends of Farnborough Hill Skittles Evening
11 Feb	Fifth Form Retreat Introduction to GCSE programme for Third Form and parents
12 Feb	Fourth Form Retreat
13 Feb	Third Form Retreat
14 Feb	Second Form Retreat
15 Feb	First Form Retreat Half Term begins
25 Feb	Half Term ends
27 Feb	Fifth Form Students' and Parents' Evening
28 Feb	Upper Sixth Retreat
29 Feb	Upper Sixth Retreat
29 Feb	John Lewis in school
4 Mar	Higher Education Evening for LVI students and parents
6 Mar	Third Form Parents' Evening – IIIA & IIIB
10 Mar	'Bugsy Malone'
11 Mar	'American Extravaganza'
12 Mar	'American Extravaganza'
13 Mar	Visiting performers
16 Mar	Friends of Farnborough Hill Go-karting Afternoon
17 Mar	Third Form Parents' Evening – IIIα & IIIω
20 Mar	Term Ends



*Mufti Day initiated by Robyn Mansfield. The whole school dressed in pink to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Trust.*



*The Christmas Bazaar raised over £2,000 for the House Charities.*



In the Independent Schools Association swimming gala, Rebecca Fisher (left) won gold medals in both the 100m freestyle and the 200m individual medley and Alex Shields (right) won gold in 50m breaststroke.



*The U14 Netball Team won the North Hampshire Tournament and went through to the Schools County Netball Final.*