



Christmas Term 2011 – Issue 64



Fantastic new facilities



The new building in the 1960s courtyard – now called St Joseph's Courtyard – has been completed. The Sixth Form Laboratory (above, top right) is kitted out to the same high standard as our other newly refurbished labs. The new Geography classroom is large, light and

airy, and the spectacular multi-purpose room (above, bottom right) has a sprung oak floor and 10 metres of uninterrupted wall mirrors. It is an ideal dance studio, but will also be used for assemblies and examinations. The Performing Arts space continues with its make-over; the girls love



the new entrance with its purple wall and pink neon lighting. The Courtyard garden (above left) looks lovely and seating will soon be installed so that the girls can enjoy that area during lunchtime and breaks.



Radio station goes live

The first broadcast of **F'Hill Radio** went on air at lunchtime on 2 November. Produced very professionally by the Sixth Form Radio Team, the show was available in classrooms and other public places around the school and is set to become a weekly event. The show included music, interviews and competitions and lived up to its motto of **'Entertaining the Whole Person'**.



Record Breakers

Once again our girls achieved record-breaking GCSE and A level results. At A level there was a 100% pass rate with an astounding 83% of results at A* – B grade, up 5% on last year. Top performers with 3 or more A*/A grades each were: **Hannah Thrower, Ruth Simmons, Rachel Cauldwell, Sophie Crisp, Helen Foster, Sophie Griffiths, Alena Malik, Chloe Micklethwaite** and **Hannah Thomson**.



Pictured l to r: **Ruth Simmons, Rachel Cauldwell, Chloe Micklethwaite and Hannah Thrower**

At GCSE, last year's record year was topped with a fantastic 91% of all the results at A* – B. This year also saw a 12% leap in the A* figure, with 38% of all the results being at this grade and 72% of all the results being A* and A. This is quite outstanding and once again puts our results for value-added in the top 5% in the country.

More than a third of the year group achieved at least eight A*/A grades. Top performers with 10 A*s, or 9 A*s and an A at AS level, were **Emma Smith, Katherine Patel** and **Anna McManus**. They were closely followed by girls with 9 and 8 A*s as well as AS levels including **Laura Thrower, Sydney Johnson, Rachel Garnett, Lauren Enright, Bethan Tyler, Darcy Young, Lizzie Emo, Hannah D'Arcy, Amelia Evans, Charlotte Fowles, Laura Hague** and **Fiona Myles-Hook**.

Many congratulations to all the students and their teachers!

Prize Giving

We were delighted to welcome Old Girl, Alex Danson (2003), as the Guest of Honour at Prize Giving. Alex is a member of the England and Great Britain women's hockey teams and is one of the youngest ever England internationals. In her inspirational speech she said that with hard work, energy and belief everyone can achieve their dreams. She told the girls to embrace challenges, saying 'feel the fear but do it anyway!'

Mrs Buckle reported that good schools evolve and develop and each year something extra enriches the lives of everyone in our community. Last year the SHINE project was one such initiative. Mrs Buckle also stressed the importance of teamwork. 'It is teams that make the difference; everyone working together and supporting each other, to deliver what we do best: Educating the whole person in a caring Christian Community'.

Head Girl, **Faye Henry**, then gave a very poised Vote of Thanks to Miss Danson on behalf of the school.



Pictured l to r: **Georgina Bernard** (Deputy Head Girl), Mrs Buckle, Miss Alex Danson and **Faye Henry** (Head Girl).



Year 7 enjoy their lunch

◀ We welcomed many new girls this September and our roll at 561 is the highest in the school's history. All year groups are full with waiting lists; Year 10 has, exceptionally, expanded to five forms, but with smaller teaching groups, to accommodate 105 students. This healthy position enables us to continue developing the school and investing in new facilities.

SCHOLARS

Our Sixth Form continues to thrive and we are pleased that this year it is the largest for many years. Pictured with Mrs Buckle are girls who hold a variety of scholarships and awards, including academic, performing arts, creative arts and sport. Congratulations to these girls; we wish them well with their Sixth Form studies.



Our own apple juice!



The Grounds Team's idea of using the apples from the orchard to make juice became a reality under the direction of Mrs Chapman. Year 8 girls carefully picked 475 lbs of apples which produced over 200 bottles of the nectar, aptly named 'Apple Heaven' by **Kristen Roche**. The apple juice was so popular that we are planning to extend production next year.

New Altar Cloth

The Mass of the Holy Spirit, our first of the year, saw the presentation of our new Altar Cloth, designed and co-ordinated by Mrs Bond and Sixth Form students.

Members of the school participated by designing a badge to illustrate how they hoped to live a good life. The badges form the tail of a glittering peacock – the symbol of resurrection and hope.



Harvest Festival

At Harvest Festival the sanctuary was filled with donations of food and toiletries, which were sent to the Step-by-Step Project in Aldershot, which accommodates young people who would otherwise be homeless. Many thanks for all the donations.





THINK TANK

▽ Graphic artist, Carl Lyons, who has worked for companies such as Disney and DreamWorks, ran several workshops during students' Art lessons and gave a talk at lunchtime. **Chloe Metcalfe** said that he was 'truly inspirational.'

▷ Steven Kasamba, an extremely talented and energetic master drummer from Uganda led a series of workshops and a lunchtime performance with the girls. Steven talked about the cultural heritage of drumming in Africa and stressed the importance of fun and performance as a community.



◁ Dr Baker (Head of Psychology) gave girls in Years 10 and 11 an insight into how Forensic Psychology is used to help the police solve crimes. The girls were then challenged to solve the mystery of Mr Quinnell's disappearance!

▽ Dr Amy Smith, from Reading University, talked to A level Classical Civilisation students. Her passion for the subject was clearly evident and she enthused the girls with some very thought-provoking ideas based on the A level specification.



Double success for public speaking

We are delighted to report that both our Senior and Intermediate teams scooped the top awards in the Farnham Rotary Public Speaking Youth Speaks Competition this year. Farnborough Hill girls have won either Senior or Intermediate awards (or both) in this competition in all but one of the last eleven years.



Senior team (l to r): **Lily Khan** (Vote of Thanks), **Katherine Patel** (Speaker) and **Lucy Chisnall** (Chairman)



Intermediate team (l to r): **Carys Dally** (Vote of Thanks), **Sangeeta Rijal** (Speaker) and **Beatrice Cerullo** (Chairman).

Engineering courses



Thirteen girls attended six different four-day Smallpeice residential courses this year, including 'Nuclear Marine Engineering' on HMS Sultan in Portsmouth.

The Smallpeice Trust runs these taster sessions to encourage students to consider a career in engineering. The girls also qualified for a Bronze Crest Award from the British Association for the Advancement of Science.



Chef Competition

Year 9 food groups took part in a competition to find a signature dish which could be made and served in the school refectory. **Lucy Collins** (pictured helping to prepare her dish in the kitchen with Mrs Dobson) won with her 'Cornflake Apple Pudding'. It's delicious!

Fisher House Quiz

The traditional Fisher House Quiz is always a hugely enjoyable, lively affair and this year was no exception. The highlight was the observation round based on a silent movie, devised by **Darcy Young** and **Laura Thrower**, called 'Harry Potter at Hogwarts'. It featured the teachers, with Mr Waymark in the title role. The quiz winners were Howard, closely followed by More with the other houses sharing third place.



A Night at the Musicals

Sixth Former, **Fionnuala Hills**, (pictured front row 4th from right) organised 'A Night at the Musicals' with a little help from her friends, including West End star Chloe Hart. This highly professional evening of entertainment, in aid of Cancer Research UK, raised over £1300. Well done!

National Poetry Day

The National Poetry Day theme this year was 'Games'. The English Department dressed up as the characters from Cluedo (pictured below right) and held a competition to discover who killed Dr Black. Well done to **Rhiannon Davis** and **Victoria Williams** for guessing correctly; it was indeed Colonel Mustard (Mrs Clarke) in the



Hall with the dagger! The girls' fancy dress was fantastic – the winners, the Griffindor team, are pictured left. There was lunchtime entertainment and poetry and art competitions. See the web site for lists of all the winners.



Senior Choir Tour

The Senior Choir tour to Barcelona was a great success. Even a long delay at the airport did not dampen the choir's spirits – Mrs Phillips held an impromptu rehearsal and the choir attracted a large crowd of bystanders! The concerts and Masses in which the choir participated were enthusiastically received, with standing ovations at many venues. Sea, sun, swimming and singing – what a wonderful tour!



Duke of Edinburgh **Johanna Cantwell**,

one of the 63 girls who took part in the assessed weekend, reports: "D of E was an amazing experience. It taught me a huge amount, from team work to map reading skills. I had a great time and I am looking forward to Silver and Gold already. Thank you to everyone who helped us, the '7 Dwarves', to get our Bronze."



The Geography Department's trip to Morocco proved to be an invaluable experience for both students and staff. They were able to: live the life of a Douar villager for a day; journey into the Atlas Mountains – the sheer scale of peaks such as Mt Toubkal astounded the girls; watch a traditional mint tea making ceremony and visit an ancient Kasbah. Miss Stevenson says 'The cultural enrichment provided by the trip has left us wanting to visit ever more exciting and challenging environments'.

Destination: Tanzania

Pictured left is the latest fundraising initiative (Farnborough Hill Teddy Bears) for our 16 Sixth Formers who are going to Tanzania in July 2012. On this expedition they will climb Mount Kilimanjaro, partake in a cultural exchange with the Maasai Tribe, do some charity work and possibly go on safari. Miss Gibson, Miss Stevenson and Dr Baker will join them on this exciting trip.



Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania © incpire.com



Prize-winning grounds

Everyone who has visited the school will know that we are privileged to be set in 65 acres of beautiful grounds. We were delighted to win Best Landscaping for a Commercial Property in the Rushmoor in Bloom competition. The students gave the Grounds Team a rapturous reception when the Nigel Baines Cup was presented to David Bell (pictured centre) during Assembly.

New staff... and new names



(pictured l to r) **Mrs Wilson (Assistant Librarian); Mrs Oxton (Mathematics)**
Mr McSweeney (Music) and Mrs Evans-Jones (English)

We congratulate Miss Weeks and Miss Clarke on their marriages. They are now known as Mrs Dunnage and Mrs Clarke.



Community Feast Day

During Community Feast Day Mass we witnessed the Sisters renewing their religious vows. As always this was a joyful celebration of community, and the renewal of vows was a very moving and beautiful moment. The Sixth Form entertainment for the Sisters in the afternoon was also truly wonderful. We thank God for the presence of the Sisters and for their witness and faith which enhance the life of Farnborough Hill.

Sixth form team-building



The Sixth Form was taken through its paces when the Army came on site for our annual team-building day. The girls had to pit their wits to solve a series of tasks and really enjoyed this break from their studies.



The Christmas Bazaar and the Advent Carol Service are a highlight of the school calendar. It was Miss Stevenson's first year co-ordinating the Bazaar, as Head of Champion House, and she did a wonderful job, supported, as usual, by a massive team of helpers. The Bazaar raised over £2,200.

PARENTS' DIARY 2012

EASTER TERM

6 Jan	Entrance Examination
9 Jan	School re-opens for pupils
19 Jan	Year 11 Students' and Parents' Evening
26 Jan	Year 10 Students' and Parents' Evening
2 Feb	House Music Competition
3 Feb	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents
6 Feb	Year 11 Retreat
7 Feb	Year 10 Retreat
8 Feb	Year 9 Retreat
9 Feb	Year 8 Retreat
10 Feb	Year 7 Retreat
	Interim Records of Achievement – Years 7 - 8
	Attainment & Effort Assessments – Years 7 - 11
	Half Term begins
	Friends of Farnborough Hill Valentine Disco for Year 7 and Year 8
20 Feb	Half Term ends
23 Feb	Introduction to GCSE Evening for Year 9 Parents
28 Feb	Higher Education Evening for LVI Students and Parents
1 Mar	Year 9 Parents' Evening – 9A & 9B
6 Mar	Year 9 Parents' Evening - 9α & 9ω
8 Mar	Informal Music Evening in Hall
9 Mar	BBC Any Questions?
19 Mar	Matinée Performance of 'The Boyfriend'
	Evening Performance of 'The Boyfriend'
20 Mar	Evening Performance of 'The Boyfriend'
21 Mar	Evening Performance of 'The Boyfriend'
28 Mar	Gym and Dance Display
29 Mar	Upper Sixth Retreat followed by sleepover in school
30 Mar	Attainment & Effort Assessments – Years 7 - 11
	Year 11 Mock Summary Sheet
	Records of Achievement – Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth
	Easter Service
	Term Ends

Badminton – District Win

Our 'A' team (pictured l to r: **Tilly Ttofi**, **Syan Wombwell**, **Lydia Steven** and **Sangeeta Rijal**) won the District Tournament, having played with passion, flair and determination.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Athletics Senior District Cross-Country

U15 Girls Individuals: **Natalie Bretherton** 3rd

U15 Girls 'A' Team: 1st: **Natalie Bretherton** (3), **Emma Hebb** (10), **Grace Starling** (17), **Hannah Collier** (18), **Katrina Hellier** (23), **Charlotte Dannat** (24)

U17 Girls A Team: 2nd: **Laura Doherty** (9), **Malka Reuben** (16), **Madeline Parker** (17), **Molly Heyden** (18)

The girls all ran superbly for the school showing determination and enthusiasm. All the girls who came in the top 16 have been selected to represent Aldershot and District Athletics Association at the Counties in January.

Hockey

The U14 team reached the semi-finals of the County Hockey Tournament. Miss Kelsey says that 'the standard of play was very high and the team should be proud of the fact that they were one of the top 4 teams in such a prestigious and highly competitive event'.



Netball

The season has got off to a cracking start with our teams winning all three District tournaments: Year 10 'Ison' Versatility Tournament; Year 11 District Netball Championships; Year 10 District Netball Championships.

