

Farlington Focus

Issue 8

January 2010

Message from the Headmistress Mrs Jonnie Goyer

The vagaries of the weather meant that, along with most schools in the country, we had an unusual start to this Spring Term. Farlington did look beautiful in the pristine snow but we were all very pleased indeed when things got back to normal. Huge thanks are due to Adrian Trehwella and his team for their sterling efforts in clearing, and keeping clear, pathways around the site. In our 33 acres, this was a very big job. On behalf of the boarders who were snowed in to school, rather than snowed out, I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs McKinney, Mrs Barnard and Mr Hutchinson who kept them well fed and comfortable throughout.

Year 11 have now finished their mock examinations and the current round of AS and A2 examinations is drawing to a close as I write. Girls in examination years, and their parents, should all now be aware of the arrangements made to catch up with work missed. If you have any queries regarding these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the School office who will find the right person to help.

This edition of the Focus is slimmer than usual but not even the combination of bad weather and an examination period can keep Farlington girls down! These pages give just a small flavour of the range of indoor activities over the last two weeks. Inevitably, our programme of sports fixtures has been significantly curtailed – but the Prep netball teams scored significant victories over St Catherine’s and there are lots of matches and, indeed, tournaments scheduled over the next few weeks; and do look out for a report in the next focus about our visit to the Netball Super League in Guildford.

On Thursday 28th January, Farlington was host to regional GSA Prep School Heads, and all the visiting Heads were impressed with our girls. Particular thanks go, from Mrs Baggs and myself, to the girls who acted as tour guides – they were great ambassadors for the School.



Citizenship



Prep 4 attended their first Citizenship lesson from PC Beckley on Wednesday 20th January. This lesson focused on the role of the police and being a good witness. The girls were able to try on a range of police clothing and headwear. They then tried to give as detailed a description as possible of two characters after watching a short DVD. Further lessons with PC Beckley will deal with issues such as ‘keeping safe’ and ‘making choices’.

Mrs Baggs created this Farlington snowgirl on her front lawn where it drew admiration from many passers-by for over a week!



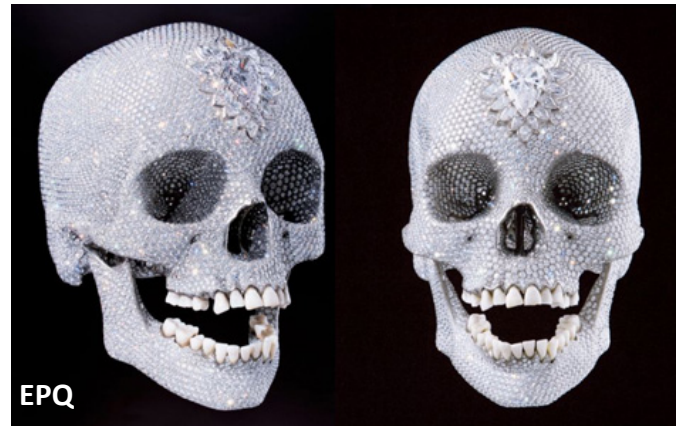
Haiti

The situation in Haiti has inspired a number of girls to come up with fundraising ventures. Girls from 7B have raised £85 through cake sales and Katie Ling in the Lower Sixth has also baked enticing cakes to tempt staff and girls to donate to this worthwhile cause. Her father's company has offered to double any money Katie makes and her target is £200.

Lower Sixth A Level Geography students are seen in the photograph below preparing their assembly on the Haiti earthquake in which they are raising awareness of the short and long term issues. Girls were invited to donate to a final collection.



This same group of Geographers, together with some Upper Sixth and Year 11 students, will be going to Guildford to the Geography Association lecture on volcanic hazards given by Professor Martin Menzies from Royal Holloway University, London.



The Extended Project Qualification is a new AS level which we are introducing into the Sixth Form. It gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in research and in independent study which are the foundation for university level work. The students can develop ideas covered in their A level studies, use cross curricular themes or research an entirely new area. The work involves research and writing up an extended essay (a 'dissertation') or students could produce a piece of artwork, drama or music. They will be awarded an AS grade (A* to E) based on their journal, which contains the write up, analysis and reflection on how they managed the project.

Helen Seymour (U6), under the guidance of Mrs Penny Huntsman, has almost completed her EPQ and, as part of the final award, she presented an overview of her project to a mixed audience of students and tutors. Helen has spent the last eight months researching the works of Damien Hirst, a well-known contemporary (and controversial) artist about whom there is relatively little documented. This did not put Helen off, rather it fuelled her interest and she visited galleries to see the works first-hand, researched through the inter-library system and bought gallery brochures to inform her writing.

Her final presentation, which focused on memento mori, was fascinating, inspiring, informative and in true Helen-style entertaining. Her explanations were clear and demonstrated her very high level of understanding of the man and his works, but she managed to bring the difficult concepts down to a level which the audience could relate to and connect with the ideas.

We are hoping that Helen will be able to deliver her presentation to a wider audience, and that the Lower Sixth will be inspired to take on this very worthwhile challenge next year.



Girls from Prep 6 have entered a competition to write a mini saga of exactly 50 words. They had to come up with a complete story, with a beginning, middle and end which could be on any topic they liked. **ALL** of the girls' entries were accepted and their work will be published in a book, available in April, with prizes going to the best contributions. As an example of their work, below is Grace Savage's entry:

We arrived at the cottage we had rented for the summer holidays. The roof was battered with the appalling British weather but we thought it would hold up for two weeks. We strolled up to the old wooden door and knocked. There was a sudden crash and the cottage collapsed!

Sister Parsons and Sister Woods would like to extend a massive thank you to the PTA for providing the funds for the Medical Centre to purchase an AED, oxygen and an emergency grab bag.

An AED is an automated external defibrillator that uses voice prompts and visual indicators to guide the rescuer through a resuscitation sequence that may include defibrillation (electric shock to restart the heart), in the unlikely event of any member of the school suffering a heart attack, leading to cardiac arrest.

More and more companies, airlines, shopping centres, GP surgeries and many schools are now in possession of an AED and we felt that it was important for Farlington to keep up to date with medical technology. In the extremely unlikely event of someone suffering a cardiac arrest, we are now prepared to deal with it there and then, without having to wait for an emergency ambulance first. The first five minutes following cardiac arrest are vital and we are very grateful to the PTA for their support.

If anyone would like any more information on the AED please do not hesitate to call into the medical centre and we would be more than happy to show you how it works.