

Farlington Focus

Issue 20

January/February 2012

Message from the Headmistress - Mrs Jonnie Goyer

Poor February often gets a bad press. It is the month in which 5 British monarchs died: Charles II and George VI naturally, Scotland's James I and Mary Stuart and England's Lady Jane Grey rather less peacefully. It is also the month which saw the deaths of Martin Luther, Michelangelo and the 'Busby Babes'. The Valentine's Day Massacre and the bombing of Dresden do little to lift the mood and the month's 28 days have been described as "merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March".

But I prefer "February sweet and small, greatest month of all"; the births of Galileo, Marlowe, Washington, Peel, Darwin, Lincoln and Dickens; the release of Nelson Mandela and the accession of Elizabeth I (though not the coronation which we will be celebrating later in the year!); the ancient Day of Purification and the modern Random Acts of Kindness Week.

Certainly Farlington's February Focus gives us many things to celebrate. Once again this has been a spectacularly busy half term in School both within the classroom and outside. Despite some freezing weather and lasting snow, we have had no 'Snow Days' and all trips and visits have gone ahead as planned. Space permits me to highlight only a very few items. The Prep School hosted over 100 children from other schools at a wonderful Science Fair. Our own Prep 2 girls enjoyed all the activities too, and I was immensely proud of our Prep 6 girls in their teaching roles. Huge thanks to Mrs Baggs and her team for making this such a successful event. The Spring Concert was a fabulous way to round off half term for the whole School and I was privileged to be a judge for the Senior School's House Olympic Challenge Creative Arts Day on Friday 10th (full report in the next Focus). The talent and variety was stunning!

To conclude, important thoughts from Roy Gibson; "Keep your faith in beautiful things, in the sunshine when it is hidden, in the spring when it is gone". Have a great half term break!



Amazing Hand Span from the Science Circus



'Dress Like Mr Snewin' Day

At Farlington, Physics and Chemistry teacher, Chris Snewin, is well-known for his unique style of dress – black shirts and eye-catching neon ties. Turning this fashion statement to the school's advantage, he organised a 'Dress like Mr Snewin Day' in order to raise funds for the school's eco initiatives. Senior girls came into school sporting brightly-coloured elements to their outfits, from bright stripey socks and fluorescent ties to neon braces and brightly-coloured tutus. Members of staff joined in enthusiastically, and around £400 was raised. This will go towards a composting scheme which will make the best use of any food waste. The compost will then be used in the school grounds and might also be sold on.

SPORT

UK Olympic year 2012 is destined to be all about sport, and at Farlington our sports teams have started the year in winning form.

Hockey

After a very exciting and competitive **U11 Hockey Match against Brighton and Hove High School**, the U11 won the match 7-1. Miss Whittaker praised the girls for the way in which they had supported each other.

On 18th January the **U10 Hockey Match was also against Brighton and Hove**. Both the A and B teams played extremely well, with some wonderful defending by goalkeeper Ellen Farelly. Both teams triumphed – with final scores of 4-1 and 6-2 respectively.

The **U11 A and B Hockey teams were at home to St Catherine's** on 26th January. Both teams displayed some excellent hockey with the A team winning 3-0 and the B team 7-0.

The **U16 Hockey team played against Oathall**. They had a very good match in which the team worked really well together, passing the ball around and scoring some lovely goals. The match ended with a win for Farlington 4-1.

On Wednesday the 25th January the **U12 Hockey A team played Penntorpe**. The girls worked well together making some fantastic passes, and some great goals were scored, resulting in a 7 - 0 win to Farlington.

The **U15 team played Oathall** on home turf. The first half was a tight encounter and Farlington seemed to tire quickly. Finally Ellie Burnell-Price slotted home with a great finish just before half time. After the break and regrouping Farlington played some free-flowing hockey only to be denied time and time again by an outstanding performance from the visiting keeper. The final result was 1- 0.

Netball

At the **Windlesham Netball Tournament** on Saturday 21st January the U11 & U13 teams played six games each and came 3rd in their respective sections. The U11s missed going through to the semi-final by a whisker.

The U12 A team played Millais. The team worked well together and there was some great shooting from Amelia Sherring and Isabel Malzer. It was a fantastic start to the term with a 17-5 win for Farlington.

Swimming

On Wednesday 25th January the Senior School Swimming teams travelled to the Triangle at Burgess Hill to swim in the **Mid Sussex Swimming Gala**. The Juniors, represented by Gemma Cumber, Gabby Eltham, Poppy Maunder and Tara Williams, came a very creditable 4th out of 9. The Intermediate team, represented by Ellie Burnell-Price, Kate Jones, Jess Scott and Bella Zanin, were 5th out of 9. Finally the Senior team represented by Juliet Collen, Issy Dunlop, Rebecca Clarke and Nicole Chan won their event, beating the other two competing schools. The event took the form of 25m individual races followed by a medley and freestyle relay. The following girls have been selected to represent the Mid Sussex area at the Sussex Schools event which is to be held at K2: Issy Dunlop, Rebecca Clarke and Nicole Chan (Seniors) and Ellie Burnell-Price (Inters).

IAPS Swimming Regional Round

Farlington's competitors did extremely well in their freestyle relay and medley relay heats at this event, held at Cumnor House. The girls now have to wait until 2nd March when all the other schools have swum their rounds to find out if they have made the top 16 times in the individual events or the top 12 schools in the relays. Gabby Eltham knocked 4 seconds off her PB for 50m breaststroke and Gemma Cumber also swam a PB for 50m backstroke.

Rock Climbing

A group of Year 11 and Sixth Form students are tackling a 10-week climbing course at the K2 climbing wall in Crawley during PE lessons. Braving the 12m-high, roped wall, students are honing their climbing and abseiling skills. There are over 60 routes to choose from, and the girls are growing in confidence on the wall and improving their climbing techniques each week.



Items from the Parents' Round Table

Many thanks to those parents who represent parental views at the termly Round Table meetings and we hope this will be just the first of many such bulletins.

- **Car sharing:** It makes sense, not just in ECO terms but also financially, given the high cost of fuel. Any parents who would be interested in starting up a new pool should contact the Senior School Office.
- **Girls staying later after school:** please encourage girls who are unexpectedly waiting for lifts for any significant time after prep has finished, **NOT TO WAIT OUTSIDE THE PUPIL ENTRANCE** but to **COME TO RECEPTION IN THE MAIN HOUSE** where they will be warm and supervised. Reception is open until 6.00pm. After this time parents can alert the Boarding House on 01403 282562. Clearly this is not for regular use -any parent who knows there will be a regular issue about collecting their daughter before 6.00pm should contact the Bursary.
- **Wearing coats:** School and home need to work together to ensure that girls wear the proper uniform, including the School coat, especially in this cold weather.
- **Use of the drive:** sincere thanks to Mr Trehwella and Mr Barnard whose presence in the mornings makes a significant difference to the smooth flow of traffic. They cannot be present in the afternoons as well. All parents are asked to park at pick-up for as short a time as possible and not in areas that are clearly marked as no parking or Nursery only.

Les Menuires



A rather sleepy group of Farlington girls met at Gatwick airport at 3.45am on the 17th December 2011 for a week's skiing in Les Menuires. After a couple of stressful weeks looking at the snow report and thinking we might be alpine walking rather than skiing, we were lucky that there had been a big fall of snow just before we left and, in fact, it did not stop snowing until the last day of the holiday. This meant fantastic skiing and a soft landing for the numerous falls we had during the week! The instructors were great, and Les Menuires is a brilliant resort due to it being part of the Three Valleys so there were more runs than we could ski and plenty of off- piste to keep us challenged. Even though we unfortunately had fog for 5 out of 6 days, being Farlington girls we didn't complain, and we were treated to gorgeous clear skies on the last day! All groups

went up to the top of the resort, where we saw Mont Blanc and signs down to Meribel and St. Martin. We all had a great ski down, with amazing views across the valley and beyond. We managed to pack so much into just one week, including some groups going through woods and down black runs! Chair-lifts definitely proved a challenge for some, and let's just say the 'stop' button had to be pressed a couple of times...!

The evening activities were all really good fun and the highlight of the week was watching the teachers sing 'The Carpenters', 'Rainy Days and Mondays' on the karaoke night. Mrs Higgs was still in good voice, even after a day of skiing! We all had a fantastic time and are looking forward to the next one. Thank you, Miss Whittaker, for organising a fab trip.
Contributed by girls from years 10 and Sixth

Farlington Show



Farlington's Show Jumping Competition took place on 14th January, on a cold and frosty day. 65 teams and 71 individuals entered (over 300 competitors) from as far afield as Winchester, Croydon, Addlestone and Fleet. The course was well up to height and quite technical so all the competitors can feel very pleased with their results.

There was a very good atmosphere throughout the day and a lot of positive feedback.



Farlington riders had some very pleasing results:

- Class 1** 2nd Team Aisha Mahal, Lila Millard and Ella Bubb
- Class 2** 6th Team Aisha Mahal, Lila Millard, Ella Bubb and Clarissa Burnell-Price
6th Ind Clarissa Burnell-Price
- Class 4** 5th Team Harriet Upton, Lucy Crichton, Chloe Mariani and Henrietta Walker Duncalf



The Sixth Form are currently displaying last term's landscape project in the school foyer. The works are very exciting and portray a wide range of creative styles including mixed-media, expressive inks and oils. Each student developed her work, making strong connections to the works of artists such as Barbara Rae and Michael Honnor, and the results are original and dynamic. It is a small sample of the work produced last term, and we will be exhibiting the exciting background work for all to see at the end-of-year show in June.

Programme of Careers Talks



We have had a tremendous response from parents willing to come in and talk to the girls about different careers. So far this term, the girls have learnt about Marketing, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy and options within Science, while Management Consultancy, Law, Medicine and the World of Property are amongst those lined up for later in the academic year. All of the speakers have given a very clear outline of what their work involves and how they got into their specific area, along with some very sound general advice. Strong communication skills and being able to work with, and lead, a team seem to be a common thread throughout these talks. We will continue to develop these skills through the opportunities available to the girls both in the Sixth Form and lower down the School. The girls can read a write-up on each talk on the VLE – Sixth Form: Choosing your Course. There are plans for a Careers Fair to be held in school, early in the Autumn Term.

Tea and Cakes

Five Lower Sixth girls, under the guidance of Miss Higson, have been organising a new venture in the village of Warnham. On Friday afternoons the girls have organised afternoon tea and homemade cakes for the elderly of Warnham accompanied by exciting activities.

'Last week, Friday 26th, we ran a tense game of bingo, and we learnt the life-long lesson of 'bingo lingo'. This week, Friday 3rd, we have been busy organising a thrillingly challenging quiz and, of course, have baked many more delicious cakes! We are really looking forward to this session and the Fridays to come.'

Georgie Hamp, Alice Penfold, Caitlin Mursell, Cynthia Li and Phoebe Wallis



Young Enterprise Success



On Tuesday 31st January, the Young Enterprise teams FrEco and Loco Coco attended the Young Enterprise area Business Plan and Pitch, at Thomas Eggar's offices in Crawley. Annabel Comyn and Caitlin Mursell (Loco Coco) and Felicity Elliott and Rebecca Clarke (FrEco) represented the teams. Both teams had to present a 5-minute business pitch on their start-ups, following the completion of their business plans which had been submitted in December. This was delivered to a team of judges, as in the Dragon's Den TV show. They then had to answer some tough questions, competing against 7 other teams.

All the girls gave an excellent performance, remembering their lines and dealing with difficult questions, and really thinking on their feet. It was a true test of presentation skills, business acumen and nerve. They all represented Farlington very well and their teams should be proud of them. On the night, Loco Coco won the main award, for the Best Business Plan, receiving a £50 cheque for their team, and Annabel and Caitlin were delighted with their reward. Both teams now have a lot to prepare for in the run up to the Area Final on April 23rd in Crawley. This will include setting up a stand at the Horsham Trade Fair on March 17th and finding new initiatives to impress the judges in the 'Final' event.

Well done to both teams!



Theatre Trips

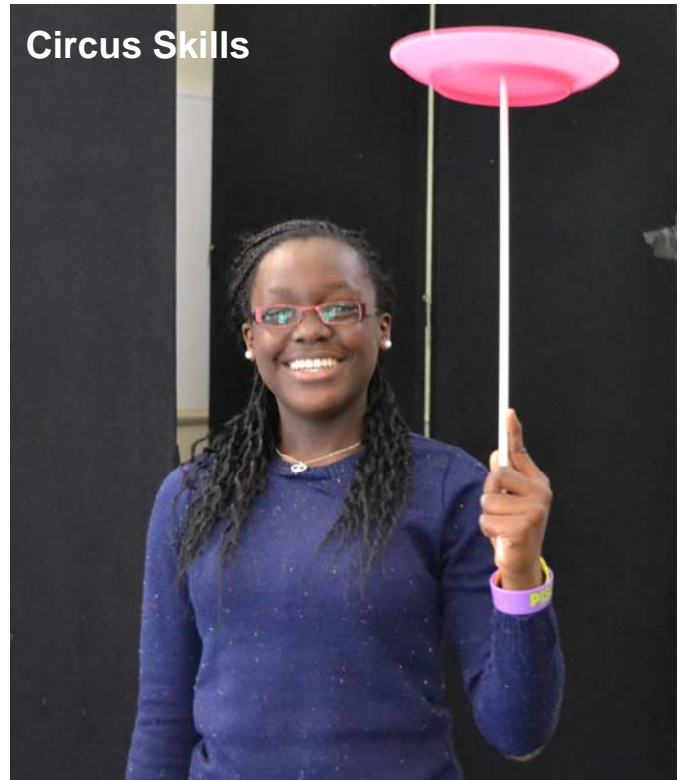


The whole of Year 9, together with Year 10 drama students and Lower School Drama Scholars, went to see a matinee of **'Wicked'** at the Apollo Victoria theatre on Wednesday 25th January. Everyone thought the show was excellent, full of colour and humour. The group got back just in time for some of the girls to participate in the school's musical soir e. I am sure that they were inspired to give a good performance!

On Thursday 19th January Year 11 ventured to London for their post-mock theatre trip. This year the girls voted to see **'Ghost'** the musical. The show was fantastic, with some impressive sets. The story captivated the girls and had many of them in tears throughout. A lovely afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Weekends in the Boarding House always involve some sort of activity or outing, and recently the boarders had the chance to learn some circus skills.

Circus Skills



"We did some juggling, plate-spinning, Diablo, tight-rope walking and stilt-walking. Personally I enjoyed learning something I have never tried before, I had a lot of fun while I was doing it. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We learnt co-ordination, how to balance, and how to work with each other as a pair. We would love to do it again in the future."

Jasmin Tsoi Year 10



Poetry Live

On February 7th Year 11 went to the Dome in Brighton for a 'Poetry Live' Day to hear 6 of Britain's best poets - including Carol Ann Duffy, the Poet Laureate - read and answered question on their poetry. Some of their poems appear in the AQA anthology that the girls are studying for their English Literature GCSE. Here are some of the girls' responses:

'My favourite poem was 'The Right Word' by Imtiaz Dharker. I loved the way it showed us how silly we are for assuming the worst of people and not giving them a chance.'

'A truly inspirational day. It really helped me to look at the poems in more detail and understand the exam criteria.'

'My favourite poet was John Agard; I liked how animated and excited he was - and his poems were brilliant.'

'It was thoroughly enjoyable hearing some of Britain's greatest poets reading their work and exploring the unseen messages within the poems.'

'I found the Chief Examiners' tips very useful and the work of John Agard particularly inspiring as his way of reading poetry in a calypso rhythm really opened my eyes.'

'I learnt that words are powerful and can be used in many ways.'

'I enjoyed having the chance to ask the poets questions about where they got their ideas from.'

'An unforgettable experience!'

Year 11 behaved impeccably, and it was a pleasure for Miss Lewis, Ms Williams, Mrs Lloyd and Mr Thomas to accompany them.

Meals at Farlington are always excellent thanks to our great team of caterers from Harrisons. But every so often the team surpass themselves by preparing a themed menu, such as the recent one to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Staff and pupils could choose from Chicken Noodle Soup, Chinese Spare Ribs, Velvet Chicken, Stir Fried Vegetables with Five Spice, Sesame Dough Balls, Egg Fried Rice or the vegetarian option of Stir Fried Tofu with Shitake Mushrooms, Mange Tout and Spring Onions in Black Bean Sauce. For desert there was Eight Treasure Rice Pudding. To set the scene a display of blossoms and Chinese items was set out in the foyer, the menu was written in Chinese

Music

There's nothing like a **Musical Soiree** for cheering up a cold, dank January evening! The idea was to give our A-Level and GCSE musicians a platform for the performing strand of their examinations; in the event we were also treated to some marvellous compositions, plus soloists and groups selected from our other talented musicians. An added dimension for the girls to contend with was the fact that the programme was recorded; for the A-level pupils – Chloe Greer and Felicity Elliott – this meant one continuous track of up to fifteen minutes, with no blunders or hesitations! Luckily they both performed splendidly, with high spots being Chloe's Vivaldi duo with Fiona Campbell, and Felicity's virtuoso rendering of Bach's "Badinerie", backed by the superb Strood Consort. GCSE candidates Mariella Savage and Leanne Hammond both sang beautifully, with invited "backing groups" giving excellent support; and their charming piano "Variations" showed real compositional talent, as did the impressive orchestral pieces composed by Chloe and Felicity.

We were also treated to some beautiful piano playing from Olivia Middleton and Angus Chan, and delightfully-contrasted chamber music from the Telemann Quintet and the newly-formed Wind Quintet. It was a splendid evening, thoroughly enjoyed by both audience and performers – and, fortunately, the resultant recording proved excellent!



A full review of the superb **Spring Concert** which took place on 9th February will appear in 'Vive' and on the website. Pictured here are Razzamajazz entertaining the audience with 'Art's Groove' by Frank Griffith.

as well as in English and oriental music played throughout the mealtime. The next themed event to look forward to is the Greek menu on 15th March.



SCIENCE CIRCUS

Farlington hosted a special Key Stage 1 Science Circus for Year 2 pupils on Thursday, 2nd and Friday, 3rd February. Children from Rudgwick Primary and Trafalgar Infants joined with Year 2 Farlington pupils to enjoy a feast of exciting “hands-on” science exploration, all linked to the new National Curriculum Guidelines.

The children had the opportunity to make “lava lamps” using vegetable oil, water and salt. This gave rise to a discussion about materials and their properties. An activity entitled “Amazing Hand Spans” was linked to ‘Life Processes and Living Things’ and resulted in each group producing a beautiful peacock, using hand spans they had cut from coloured paper. The next work station gave thought to structures. There was a competition to build the tallest tower using spaghetti and marshmallows!



A giant African Snail and smaller juveniles were the central attraction at the next work area as pupils studied these interesting creatures. Using magnifying glasses and pen torches, the children were able to observe the snail’s tentacles, muscular foot and mouth while learning many interesting facts about these fascinating invertebrates. There was an opportunity for pupils to make a balancing acrobat and discuss the force of gravity on such a structure. The final activity took place in the Prep School’s ICT suite where the children enjoyed the thrill of using the Dataharvest Flowgo program. This involved devising a set of instructions to make a light bulb switch on and off. The children went on to produce a burglar alarm and lighthouse.

The pupils in Farlington’s Year 6 classes helped at each science activity and were great ambassadors for the School. Joy Baggs commented on the value of “hands-on” exploration in the learning of scientific concepts, and said that she had been delighted with the way in which the children had responded to all of the activities on offer.

A wonderful science circus of discovery was had by all!

What is Art?



A very enjoyable day was spent by Year 4 at the Tate Modern Gallery in London. They were looking at different types of art and trying to answer the question ‘What is art?’. The girls saw that there were a variety of types of art – from paintings, sculptures, photographs, film and installations. The girls made sketches of the pieces they liked the best and over the next few weeks will be creating their own ‘masterpieces’ in a similar style. After discussion, the girls agreed that something is art if it is ‘creative’.

Zing Zillas



Annabel Knight who teaches recorder at Farlington has recently appeared on Zing Zillas on CBeebies with her recorder quintet. Annabel said “It was very exciting going to the Pie Factory in Salford (the new headquarters of Children’s BBC) where we enjoyed visiting the Zing Zillas glade and all the characters! My recorder quintet, Fontanella, were invited to appear as guests in the glade: the theme for the episode was ‘Tiny and Tall’, featuring all the different sizes of recorder. The episode was broadcast on Wednesday 25th January.”



The Globe Theatre

On a cold, snowy morning Prep 6 girls set off to The Globe Theatre to see for themselves how different Shakespeare's theatre would have been from modern theatres. They were obviously not disappointed judging by the 'oohs' and 'ahh's' as they walked through the doors into the 'groundlings' space and then sampled the thin, hard wooden benches of spectators. Having participated in a workshop exploring the influences on Macbeth, the play they are studying in school at the moment, the girls then performed some sketches on the Globe's stage, a moment to be remembered for ever. The exhibition was also a highlight, learning about the archaeological discovery of the original Globe's location and its subsequent reconstruction.

I really enjoyed our trip to The Globe Theatre and I learned some interesting facts about the costumes the actors wore. My favourite part was when we had the experience of actually going on to the stage and acting out a part of the play, Macbeth. I had a great day! **Daisy Taylor 6W**

First we did a work shop which was really fun. We acted being Macbeth and Lady Macbeth when Lady Macbeth was trying to persuade Macbeth to kill Duncan. The best thing I learnt was that on the stage the actors always wore hats unless they were playing a weird character. When I was actually on the stage, I felt like I was really an actor. **Alana Rowland 6W**

Year 6 have been learning street dance for two months in their PE lessons, working towards the Year 6 House Dance Competition which took place on 20th January. Miss Currell taught the girls a set street dance routine and then, within their houses, they had to compose their own dance moves. In order to develop their dance the girls used specific technical dance skills – formations, levels and canon. On the day of the competition, each group performed their dance to the rest of the Prep School pupils and staff. They were scored out of 10 on their timing, creativity and technical skills. The winning team were Nightingale scoring 29/30.

Years 1 and 2 visit Pizza Express

On Tuesday 7th February, Prep 1 and Prep 2 headed off by minibus for the short journey to Pizza Express in Horsham as part of their 'Food' topic. After a superb tour 'behind the scenes' to see where all the ingredients are kept in the beautiful old building, the girls were kitted up in numbered chef's hats and aprons ready to make pizza. Each girl was given a pizza base and had to choose their own toppings



from a range of ingredients. The girls learnt about how important it is that food is prepared in a clean environment and also about how their particular choice of toppings might affect the texture of the finished product. All of the individually numbered pizza boxes were transported back to school and taken home for the girls to enjoy for tea!

