



## From the Headteacher:



Yet again Falmer High students have shown how brilliant they can be in terms of the quality of their work. Girls from across the age range took part in the "Let's Dance" festival held at the Brighton Dome. They performed to an exceptionally

high standard and were a real credit to the school and our community. The girls involved were: Nikia Willis-Brown, Sydney Winder, Hannah Kis, Tanya Jones, Sophie Weller, Katie Hoey, Maria Jiminez, Amber Bancroft, Amber Bond, Tayler Cooper & Gabrielle Edmonds. Many thanks to Miss Keene who worked extremely hard with the girls. Thank you also to the staff, family and friends who came along to watch.

The whole of Year 7 were involved in a Reading Challenge as part of the International Year of Reading. The project was spearheaded by Mrs Shaw and involved work with students and staff from the University of Brighton. Film makers, story-tellers and illustrators also worked with our students in a series of workshops. The finale was a performance to parents/carers, friends, staff and Governors after school. It was amazing what the students produced given that they only had a few hours to prepare. They made a film, wrote a play, made illustrations and produced a comic! Thank you to all friends, family and partners of Falmer High School who were able to support the event. It is very much appreciated. Special thanks to Mrs Shaw and Dave Simpson (University of Brighton) for making the whole event happen.

The school production for 2008 is 'The Little Shop of Horrors'. At the time of writing, students are rehearsing hard for the final production in the last week of the Spring Term. They have shown a huge amount of commitment and dedication – including Sunday rehearsals! Many thanks to Miss Banks, Mr Walmsley, Miss Embury and all other staff involved in the production – it promises to be a massive hit!

The Falmer ski party returned from the Aosta Valley in Italy on Sunday 15th March. Mr Tate and Miss McAlister led a group of students from all year

groups to the Alps. Many had never skied before but made fantastic progress non-the-less. Furthermore, I am informed that the students were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Well done to everyone who went and many thanks to Mr Tate and Miss McAllister for giving our students this fantastic opportunity – we're all very jealous!

We are entering that very nerve racking period of SATs and GCSE exams. Year 9 have just completed their second round of mocks and have impressed everyone with their commitment and general attitude. The results of the mocks are very encouraging and we are now hopeful of fantastic results in May. We have introduced lots of support for students with prizes for those who work hard and attend extra sessions. It is always encouraging to see students making the most of these opportunities and giving their own free time. I guarantee that their hard work will be rewarded by good results. If your child is in Year 9 it is crucial that they attend all the SATs papers during SATs week which begins on Tuesday 6th May and ends Friday 9th May inclusively.

Similarly, Year 11 is in the last throes of preparing for their GCSE exams. Many have also shown extra commitment by giving up their free time to attend catch up sessions and revision. A series of "Master classes" have been held on Saturdays and these have been well attended. There is a comprehensive programme planned throughout the Easter holidays and we hope that many students will make the most of this opportunity to help them prepare for the exams. The whole year group has shown a great deal of maturity in their preparation for GCSE exams – we wish them the best of luck. Thank you to all the staff who have given time to support students in the run up to the exams.

**Stuart McLaughlin**  
Headteacher

Read about the Falmer Plus Progress on centre pages and Student News on back pages.

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- > Clubs and Activities
- > Student News





Falmer is an extended school and encourages parents and the local community to make use of the school facilities and the range of learning opportunities at the Bridge Community Education Centre.

As an extended school, Falmer is able to offer more opportunities to students. A wide range of clubs is available to students, giving them the chance to take part in activities outside their normal studies. These activities are well attended and feedback is very

## Proud to be Parents and Proud to be Friends

'Falmer Plus Friends' is a group of parents and supporters which organises social events such as quizzes and car boot sales at the school. If you are interested in becoming a Falmer Plus Friends supporter or would like information about the group please call the school on 01273 691191.

## The Bridge Community Education Centre

The Bridge Community Education Centre is based on the site of Falmer School and offers a wide range of courses including Parenting, Cookery, Health and Wellbeing, Personal Development, Music, Art and Crafts, Work Skills, Languages, Computing, and clubs for young people.

For more information about the Bridge please ring 01273 294930 or pop in for a chat.

## MACs Place

Mac's Place is a multi-agency advice and guidance drop-in centre for 11-25 year olds which is based at the Bridge on the Falmer School site. The friendly team of workers are there to offer advice, support and information.

Mac's Place also offers free after school clubs such as the popular Snack Attack on Tuesdays. Other clubs include Girls' group, Cooking Club and BME groups

positive. Mac's Place is continuing its success with lots of people from the school and wider community making use of the excellent advice and support services that are available.

Continue reading to find out more about recent activities and achievements and see how you can become involved in future developments.

and Mother and Daughter complementary therapy sessions on Saturdays. If you are interested in joining any of these activities why not pop in to find out more or call Christine Brady 01273 294823. Mac's Place now has a mobile text service, call 07506 326039.

Year 11 Applied Art students and Treehouse joined up to work on a project about domestic violence. The group were invited to exhibit their work at Hove Town Hall for the Women's Refuge Symposium where the work was warmly received.



Art students' work displayed at Hove Town Hall

Mac's Place will be taking part in the Brighton Youth Fringe Festival and exhibiting artwork at the Bridge during the week of 5th May 10am-5pm, do come along and check out the young people's work.

Dance Diversity sessions have been running at the Bridge on Tuesdays 4-5.30pm and the participants will be performing as part of the Youth Fringe Festival at the Corn Exchange on 25th April 7pm.

## Clubs and Activities

A varied programme of activities is available to students outside normal class time, before school, during break and lunch times, after school and during the school holidays. These include a popular breakfast club, homework clubs, sports activities, music clubs, cookery and lots more.

For more information about clubs and activities please contact Katherine Gregory on 01273 691191.

## Dance Club

After attending after school dance sessions with JP Omari of 'Strictly Dance Fever' fame, the Falmer dancers



Falmer Dancers with JP

performed at Falmer's Finest awards evening. The students performed brilliantly and the audience loved them.

## Carnival Club

The Carnival club has been running this term and the group have been getting very creative. They will be part of the Brighton Festival Children's Parade for the second year running so make sure you catch up with them around town in May!

## Are you a LONE PARENT?

### Are you thinking of returning to work?

WORKING LINKS at The BRIDGE could offer the support you need.

Joining our Lone Parent programme is FREE, easy and won't affect your benefits. You will have one to one support and get help with things like:

- Job searching and filling in application forms
- Help calculating your benefits and tax credits
  - An up-to-date CV
- Funding for interview clothes & travel expenses
  - Support with building confidence and self-esteem
- Finding the right childcare solutions for you and your family
- Support for becoming self employed, including 3 months free bookkeeping
  - Support and funding to break through the barriers that are holding you back



To find out more, come and see us at:  
THE BRIDGE, Falmer School  
Or call Nicki 07812740924 /  
Gail 07977010037 / 01273 696797

**FREE Funplex vouchers when you join**

## Word Lab Research Study

Children under 5 are invited to participate in a research study about word learning at the Word Lab at the University of Sussex. All of our studies involve ordinary **word learning** and **play situations**. Visits to the lab typically last 30-45 minutes. **Children will receive a small gift for participating.**

**We are always in need of volunteers. We shall be very grateful for your help!**

**For more information please contact:**

Dr. J. Horst at 01273 873918 or [word.lab@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:word.lab@sussex.ac.uk).  
Or visit us online at: [www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/wordlab](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/wordlab).



Catering students prepare buffet for Learn 2 Earn

## Enterprise

The Learn to Earn Enterprise day ran in February and was a success, with 147 students participating over a day and a half. Young Enterprise were involved, along with business people from the Royal Mail and American Express.

The day teaches the students about the value of choosing the right 'option' for their GCSEs and gives students first hand advice on interview techniques, how to apply for jobs and manage their personal finances.

The year 11 catering students once again excelled themselves by preparing a delicious buffet on the day.

## Just 24

Falmer High School is looking forward to the start of Just 24, an attendance initiative starting April 21st until May 23rd. Run in conjunction with the Education Welfare Service (EWS), Just 24 aims to encourage as many pupils as possible to achieve 100% attendance for this period.

All students who achieve 100% will receive a certificate from the EWS and be entered into a prize

draw to win exciting prizes such as Nintendo Wii's, digital cameras, meals out, clothing vouchers, gig tickets and much more!

Prize winners and their parents will be invited to an awards ceremony at Hove Town Hall to collect their prize along with prize winners from other Brighton and Hove Schools taking part in the initiative.

## Falmer's Finest

Falmer's Finest was held in January and celebrated the achievements of over 150 students from all



Falmer's Finest students with Chris Collins

years. The guest speaker was Chris Collins, the Blue Peter gardener. There was fantastic support from parents, friends, staff and governors. Throughout the



Peer Support Group at Falmer's Finest

evening there were brilliant performances from students of all ages including music performed by Dogan Mehmet who left Falmer two years ago.

Dogan has appeared on television recently on BBC1 on the Omid Djalili Show and as a finalist in the BBC2 Young Folk Musician Competition.