

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

World Class News

June 2018

Edition 5

Finham Park chosen to train the next generation of teachers



THE LION
ALLIANCE



Welcome from Mark Bailie



Dear Parent / Member of our Community

Welcome to the latest edition of World Class Education.

This edition once again showcases both the smorgasbord of opportunity available to our students, and the dedication of colleagues in all our schools.

May 2018 saw the Department for Education announce the latest round of Teaching Schools across England—Finham Park School's bid was judged to be successful and designation starts on September 1st 2018—congratulations to all involved! The 'Lion Alliance' will operate a delivery model where all our schools and additional strategic partners—Warwick University; West Coventry Academy; Coundon Court School; Rugby Free School; and primary schools—will collaborate in supporting and improving the education we provide, impacting on the wider system in Coventry and other key 'priority areas' in our region. This work will be delivered in three strands: Initial Teacher Training; School to School Support; and Continuing Professional and Leadership Development.

In this edition you will also be interested to read about the Race for the Line challenge at Lyng Hall; the 'Artists in a Shoebox' project at Finham Park 2; and our very own 'World Class' cheerleader: Amy Barson from Finham

Primary School who competed in the recent World Championships in Florida and won a gold medal with her England Team—let's hope our football squad are able to reach such dizzy heights in Russia next month!

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher

The schools in our Multi Academy Trust (FPMAT)

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust (FPMAT) currently has 4 schools. These are: Finham Primary; Lyng Hall School; Finham Park and Finham Park 2. We therefore provide education in Coventry to children from age 3—19. Each school has its own identity but benefits from being part of FPMAT. These benefits ensure that each school can provide high quality teaching and learning experiences for all students.

Students and staff feel part of a wider family of schools which allows them to engage and work with their peers, preparing them for the next stages in their education and workplace.

Lion Alliance

Finham Park chosen to help train the next generation of teachers



THE LION
ALLIANCE



Chris Bishop, Headteacher of Finham Park School was delighted to confirm they were successful in a bid to the Department for Education to form a Teaching School Alliance. This means that all the schools within Finham Park Multi Academy Trust, Finham Park School, Lyng Hall, Finham Primary and Finham Park 2, together with Warwick University, West Coventry Academy, Coundon Court and Rugby Free School are all now part of a successful **Teaching School Alliance**.

Teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide quality school-led teacher training and professional development opportunities.

They raise standards through supporting other schools, especially those in challenging circumstances, and ensure that the most talented school leaders are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers. Teaching schools take a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession. We will be committed to identifying and developing leadership potential, providing support for other schools to bring about school improvement, and working with schools across our teaching school alliance to raise standards of teaching.

The Department for Education (DfE) has responsibility, in partnership with headteachers from the Teaching Schools Council, for the appointment of teaching schools and the quality of the teaching schools programme. There are now 800 teaching schools across England.

Lord Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State said: “I’d like to congratulate Finham Park—they should be very proud of this achievement. Teaching schools attract and train the best new teachers and develop the next generation of leaders.”

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Co– Construction: How this benefits students

Co-construction allows colleagues to go beyond collaboration to establish a true working partnership which enables staff to work together with a common aim of providing a World Class education for all students. It is much more than sharing ideas; we are able to benefit from:

- ◇ FPMAT CPD Programme—sharing teaching expertise and best practise for all staff to deliver a “World Class” education
- ◇ Using primary and secondary expertise to develop world class learning experiences in subject areas
- ◇ Seamless progression across phases
- ◇ Assessment progression from age 3—19 —ensuring students are making at least expected progress at each phase of their education
- ◇ Moderation across the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust (FPMAT) to standardise assessments
- ◇ FPMAT GCSE groups and masterclasses
- ◇ FPMAT Student Leadership
- ◇ FPMAT World Class Guarantee
- ◇ Finham Park MAT FROG Connect—a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) which allows students and staff to access shared resources
- ◇ Economies of scale—enabling efficient budgeting allowing us to utilise the budget with the best impact

There are a range of opportunities that students benefit from throughout their time in FPMAT which we believe are only possible through our strong partnership.

Co– Construction: How this benefits students

Assessment Progression

Subjects have completed an assessment overview from Nursery – GCSE.

It was essential we ensure our expectations as a MAT (FPMAT) are consistent. Co-constructing the assessments will ensure the learning experiences for students across FPMAT are consistent, continually progressive and cohesive.

Moderation as a MAT

After creating their assessments, subjects then used their co-construction meeting and teacher training day to moderate work as a MAT against the new assessment criteria.

The continuation of this work will ensure that progress is accurately and consistently tracked across FPMAT.

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust FROG

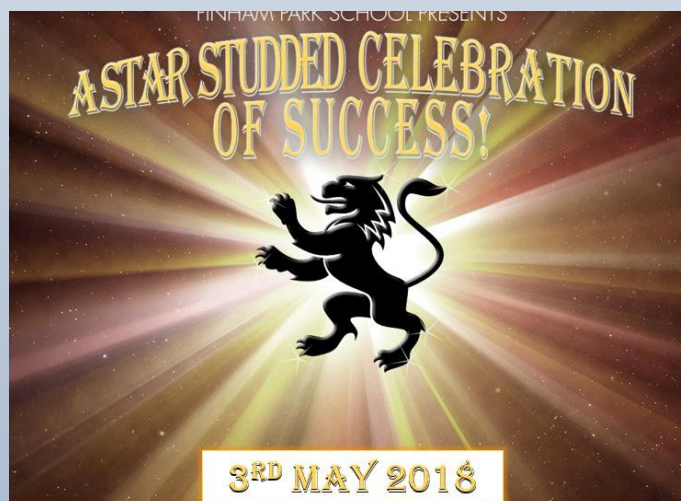
This year, a Finham Park Multi Academy Trust FROG site was created to ensure ease of collaboration. This particular site is accessible to all schools within the Multi Academy Trust. Many of the documents were created on Google Docs and could therefore be continually edited and viewed by staff across the MAT. Staff have also used the site to communicate and share helpful resources. This sharing platform, called Finham Park Multi Academy Trust Frog Connect, was designed by staff at FPMAT and created by FROG who now showcase Frog Connect as an example of good practice for schools and multi academy trusts. This will feature at Frog's annual conference in June 2018.

Co- Construction: How this benefits students



Star Studded Celebration of Success!

On Thursday 3rd May, Finham Park and Finham Park 2 celebrated some incredible successes at the annual Star Studded Celebration Of Success at The Welcome Centre in Coventry.



Students and staff alike dressed in their finest to enjoy the evening, hosted this year by Suzie Green, Director of Maths, and Andy Ditch Assistant Headteacher at Finham Park. A number of esteemed guests were invited to the event, including the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor John Blundell and Deputy Lady Mayoress, Lindsey Blundell; Peter Burns, Chair of the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust Governors; Catherine Colby-Johnson, Chair of Governors for Finham Park 2; Jane Long, Chair of Friends of Finham; and Mark Bailie, Executive Headteacher of the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust.



Both Chris Bishop and Russell Plester, respective Headteachers at Finham Park and Finham Park 2 spoke with immense pride about the achievements of their students and how delighted they were to see so many young people excelling in their academic and extra-curricular activities.

The evening also saw a number of superb performances from students, including two exceptional musical interludes and a very impressive dance from some of our Mandarin Excellence Programme students.



The evening culminated in students taking to the dance floor and watching a magician in an interactive magic show. It was a delight to see young people from Year 7 right through to Year 13 enjoying the evening together.

A special thank you was given to Jane Long, Chair of Friends of Finham who is stepping down at the end of this year.

We'd like to thank the local businesses who sponsored the evening, making it possible for students to celebrate in style.



Co- Construction: How this benefits students

Engineering Education

5 students from across the FPMAT that are studying A Level Physics have been working on an engineering project with the RAF in their centenary year.

Amardev Balrey, Jodh Gosal, Joey Lau, Ewan Jewkes and Vinesh Vignarasa have been looking at saving aircraft engineers both time and money when working on aircraft by researching, designing and building a tool delivery system. The “RAF Runner” can be programmed to collect tools from a central tool store and deliver them to an aircraft bay where an engineer will work on the aircraft. This currently costs the RAF about £25 per day for the average engineer, providing an option for cutting costs but saving jobs as funding becomes tighter.

The team began their work in October, about 4 weeks later than all other teams from the West Midlands region. However, the team did not see this as a set back and worked until 5.30 every Thursday until a residential workshop at Birmingham University in December. Here the students got a taste of life at university and got to build their system in the purpose-built workshops at the Edgbaston campus. Although the weather was bad (and most schools and colleges in the region were closed) the students managed to accomplish what they had set out to over the 2 days.

As the team have been working to a tight budget, almost all of the materials used to build the runner were recycled or made from part recycled materials.



From January until March, the team collaborated and brought together all their findings to write a 35-page engineering report. This has been read by the Major John Randall of Defence Munitions Kineton, where the STEM mentors are based.

On the 4th of May, the EES came to an end when students got to attend a celebration and assessment day. The day started early, with students setting up a stand to show off their work and delivering a presentation to a panel of engineering experts that critiqued their project. Team Finham were interviewed at their stand by Major John Randall and received fantastic feedback of how the students had a solid plan, answering questions about how they would improve their clearly and with a high detail of scientific understanding.

All 5 have received an Industrial Cadets Gold award, inspired by HRH The Prince of Wales, ensuring that young people develop skills that can be illustrated to potential employers through this award. Each of the students are now applying for a BSA Gold CREST award to highlight how the work they have completed contributes towards the scientific or technological community.

As a team, we would like to thank the RAF for their support and opportunities that they have provided our students, including a visit to RAF Cosford and a personal tour of a hangar – including time for each of the students to sit in a RAF Jaguar-13 jet. We would also like to thank Amtico, who sponsored our team in the background to allow our team to take part in the project.



We will be looking for a team of students to take part in next year's EES scheme, and an application process will begin shortly.

By Mr Broomhall

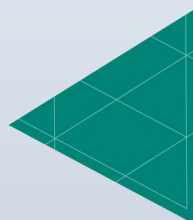


Finham Park School were the proud recipients of not one, but two national awards!



TRANSFORMING PRACTICE IN
**Variety of teaching
approaches**

SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education



TRANSFORMING PRACTICE IN
**Principled curriculum
design**

SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education

Finham Park School was delighted to be accredited as a school that is transforming practice in the '**Variety of Teaching Approaches**' they use and in '**Principled Curriculum Design**'. This means that the school met the highest standards of the SSAT (Framework for Exceptional Education and that our work in this area is 'amongst the most effective practice nationally'. To achieve accreditation as transforming in practice, Finham Park School was reviewed by another high-performing school and an independent moderator from SSAT. Members of the peer review commented:

"The **climate** for learning across the school is **positive** and focused, with students demonstrating a desire to achieve."

"The practice observed is clearly **established**, embedded and sustainable as a result of ongoing developments that have been implemented over the past few years."

"A culture of open discussions about T&L is evident, along with the **absolute focus** on T&L across the school."

SSAT's Chief Executive, Sue Williamson comments "for a school to be accredited for transforming practice is a real credit to their team and the quality of the work that they are doing." It enables our school to further support other schools nationally in these areas whilst also continuing to learn about best practice nationally.

Den Corral, our SSAT moderator, also provided wonderful feedback following his visits:

“I saw a **real variety** of approaches from a **very effective approach** to number work in a low set year 9 Maths lesson, to a **highly sophisticated** discussion in Year 12 Law Lesson and some very confident pupils in a Year 10 Mandarin lesson. In a recent visit to the school I saw some **inspiring** robotics work with pupils of all years and a literacy event for all Year 7s led by a local poet.”

“The **most impressive** aspect of Finham’s curriculum is that it has been developed to respond to the community and to some very principled decisions about a secondary curriculum for the 21st Century. Some examples of this are: The links to Chinese schools and the teaching of Mandarin to GCSE and A- level in key stage 4 and 5. I visited these classes and met the Mandarin teachers and was very **impressed**. They are one of the **pioneer** schools for Mandarin teaching in England and have built up an enviable reputation for the quality of teaching and the achievements of pupils.”

“The robotics teaching at Finham is **truly impressive**. Their robotics lab, which is a converted classroom, is an **inspiring** place to be.”

“I met many **impressive and enthusiastic** teachers and pupils who were clearly relishing the opportunities that Finham gives them. Staff are encouraged and given every opportunity to shape and review the curriculum and they do it in the context of Finham’s wider values of being a true comprehensive school with a local commitment and a global outlook.”

I personally, would like to thank those staff directly involved in the visits who opened up their classrooms and gave up their time.

By Alex Ford



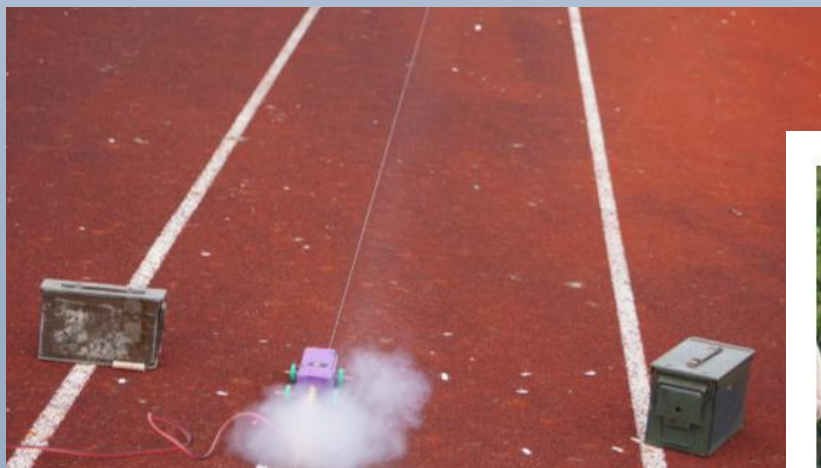
Lyng Hall Race for the Line

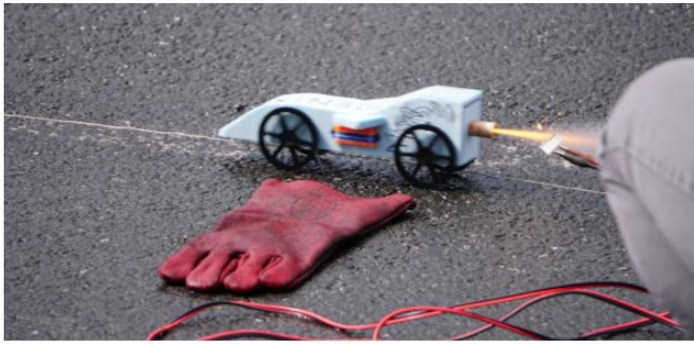
Over the course of the Autumn Term, all of Year 7 have been part of a national challenge called 'Race for the Line'. Their challenge was to build a car from a base model that would be the fastest in a drag race.



The students worked in teams of 4 and had to analyse the aerodynamics of their car and engineer it to the best of their ability.

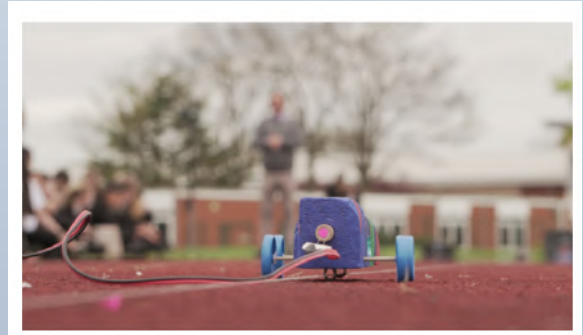
Each of the cars would be rocket powered on the day to give the cars the thrust needed. Lyng Hall final enabled students to test their designs and win a place in the Regional Final at RAF Cosford.





Students were given the starting controls and a rocket was placed into the car to give the cars the acceleration.

The main challenge on the day was being able to keep up with how fast the cars were going with their rocket propulsion.



A group of 4 students attended the regional final at RAF Cosford to build a new model from scratch and race against 25 other schools from across the West Midlands Region. It was an amazing experience, even though our team of rocket scientist and engineers didn't make it to the national final—this time!





Stand for something... or fall for anything



'When there is a storm and you stand in front of a tree, if you look at its branches, you swear it will fall. But if you watch the trunk, you will see its stability.' (The Revenant)

Following my first blog, I was asked to develop my thoughts about 'trusting your instincts and staying true to your values' having argued these were particularly important in enabling me to be consistent during any decision making process. When preparing for Headship, much is made of the need to nurture your value-driven educational philosophy. The need to refer to a measuring stick or 'plumb line' to mark yourself against.

What should we stand for?

It will come as no surprise that as a professional educationalist, I strive to ensure that 'no-one gets left behind' as I believe it of utmost importance that all students are nurtured into well-adjusted adults who leave well, able to contribute to society.

Some people derive their values from their faith, some from their society's laws, some from the upbringing they have experienced or the influence of friends. The '5 Finham Values' we have been discussing in mentor time build on the British Values we promote in lessons: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and respect and tolerance for all.

We believe the human values of perseverance, courageousness, integrity, kindness and humility are some of the most important character traits that enable us to live happy, well-adjusted and successful lives.

- To act with *integrity* and do the right thing even when no-one else is looking
- To show *humility* and think of yourself less and others more
- To not just say 'thank you' when receiving an act of *kindness*, but to repay it with another
- To preserve, 'don't quit—do it'.
- To be courageous and act, not in the absence of fear, but in the presence of it

Well-practiced habits

Any well-constructed training course or lesson is designed to alter your actions and your thinking in some way; to give you skills and knowledge that you previously did not have. The repetition of this new practice and the application of your newly acquired knowledge should in turn develop into a new, well-formed habit. This is why the formative years are so important to later life.

My Dad used to tell us:

'The purpose of education is not to solely teach you facts and figures, but to also give you the skills to enable you to do 'the right thing'. Sometimes the 'right thing' is not the thing you want to do, but you do it when it needs to be done whether you want to or not.'

For the long term

As young people grow, they explore various worldviews and find their place in society. They develop their opinion about what society should look like and develop their ability to stand up for something and say 'no' when subjected to peer pressure. Their instincts become nurtured.

Our school has a role to play here in exposing students to opportunities to complement learning in lessons so they develop their own set of values which then enable them to react positively to situations with great instinct. We must build student leadership. We must cultivate opportunities to engage with places of worship. We must enable funds to be raised for those in need. We must expose students to different viewpoints.

Ventures such as these give students the chance to grow 'strong roots' through the formation of good habits in their formative years. As they grow they will be more likely to stay true to their values and trust their instinctive reactions. If they do not, they will be more likely to fall at hurdles or lack confidence in making the right choices.

As the 1960s human rights activist, Malcolm X, said,

'A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything.'

<https://finhampark.blogspot.co.uk/>

By Chris Bishop, Headteacher Finham Park School



Going for Gold!

I began my cheerleading life at 4 years old with my family's group The Gemini Cheerleaders. Throughout my formative years as a Cheerleader our team grew in strength culminating in numerous National Titles which would lead us to competing on an international stage via the European Cheerleading Championships. I was fortunate to attend numerous European Competitions, twice held in Manchester UK but also as a result of my teams success visiting countries such as Russia, Italy, Sweden on two occasions, Finland, Norway & Denmark.

As I grew older my love and passion for Cheerleading led me to begin my coaching qualifications, I began coaching from age 16 and once fully qualified I was soon teaching in numerous schools in both Coventry & Warwickshire at after school clubs promoting what a wonderful sport Cheerleading is. This experience gave me terrific pride on behalf of my team, but also knowing that I was spreading something very special to so many was most gratifying.

The year 2008 was to prove a decisive year as at the National Championships I was awarded a huge honour, the title of Coach of the Year, praise indeed, this accolade was swiftly followed by another huge



compliment as, at the try outs for the Team UK squad to appear at the World Championships, I was selected to represent my country in Florida USA. In a hugely competitive competition Team UK were to finish 6th, a position they had never previously achieved, my love for the world stage had been ignited, I was hungry to be the best I could.

In recent times my own Gemini Cheerleaders team has continued to develop and grow stronger, we currently attend numerous competitions around the UK returning home to Coventry with many title winning banners, something which gives us all great pride. On a personal note I was offered the opportunity to coach the Coventry University team a little over a year ago, a team that had struggled previously, in this season which has just finished, my first full season in charge, I coached them to their first ever University National Title.

In 2017 I once again attended the World Championships in Florida representing Team England, we were narrowly beaten into second place but taking home a silver medal was swiftly followed by an invitation to become coach to Team England for the 2018 Championships.

Throughout the long winter months athletes from around the country would meet up with one common goal, to be winners on the international stage, the sessions were very enjoyable but all along our focus was on Florida in April of 2018. Then after months of hard work and determination we took to the World Championships floor, the wait for results seemed to take forever but then when we heard in 1st place Team England all of those long training sessions had become so very worthwhile, we were World Champions, we had took on the best the world could offer and we had beaten them, Team England are World Champions and I will forever have that memory to take with me throughout life.



If you want something enough your passion and hard work will achieve that goal and I cannot thank Finham Primary enough for their support and love on my return as a World Champion.

By Ms Barson



Lyng Hall

Poetic Justice!



Two Year 11 students from Lyng Hall School had competed in Warwick University's Two Chairs Writing Competition earlier this academic year. Shanua Alam and Erik Ionnicescu were just two of over 150 entries from across the country.





Their entries had so impressed judges, that they were both recipients of the Special Commendation Award.

In recognition of their achievement, Shauna and Erik were invited to Oxford University where a special day was planned for them. They spent a day at New College, Oxford University, where Harry Potter was filmed. During the day they worked alongside two renowned writers, Hanna Issa and Ian McMilla. They explored new forms of writing poetry.

One of the highlights was when their poems were read aloud by the judges, which moved some members of the audience to tears.

By Mr Ivanov



FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

What a show!

Mrs Spokes took students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to the Oxford Playhouse in April to see Kneehigh's production of The Flying Lowers of Vitebsk.



The performance was loved by all, as it used live music, a gravity-defying stage and puppetry to wow its audience. The experience was a real success, helping prepare students with their forthcoming exams and the whole group were a credit to the school!



By Mrs Spokes

Play-in-a-day

Finham Park pupils from Year 7 worked with local Physical Theatre company, Highly Sprung, at the start of May. Led by Mark, the group worked together to create a performance about 'aspirations' in just one day!



The talented bunch pulled together to learn new skills and had a fantastic day developing an original piece of drama using still images, choral movement and physical theatre....



A huge well done to all those involved and a big thank you to Friends of Finham for helping to fund the experience.



By Mrs Spokes

Finham Primary Choir

The Arts Centre audience at the Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra and primary school choirs' concert on Sunday May 6th certainly enjoyed a delightful treat. The musicians were exceptional, serenading us with popular classics and music from shows and films with great aplomb and professionalism; the combined choirs of 6 Coventry primary schools, including Finham Primary's very own 19 strong chorus, were a delight.



The children sang with such clarity, enthusiasm and confidence that the audience were spellbound. Rehearsals in school and the five joint evening practices, culminating in a final rehearsal on the day at Warwick University with the Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, delivered a performance to remember. It was a day of hard work and dedication for the children but a great day was had by all.

Taking part in a professional performance of this calibre in the spacious Butterworth Hall, in front of a large audience of family and friends, and the thrill of experiencing first-hand the swell and boom of a live symphony orchestra is something the children will never forget.

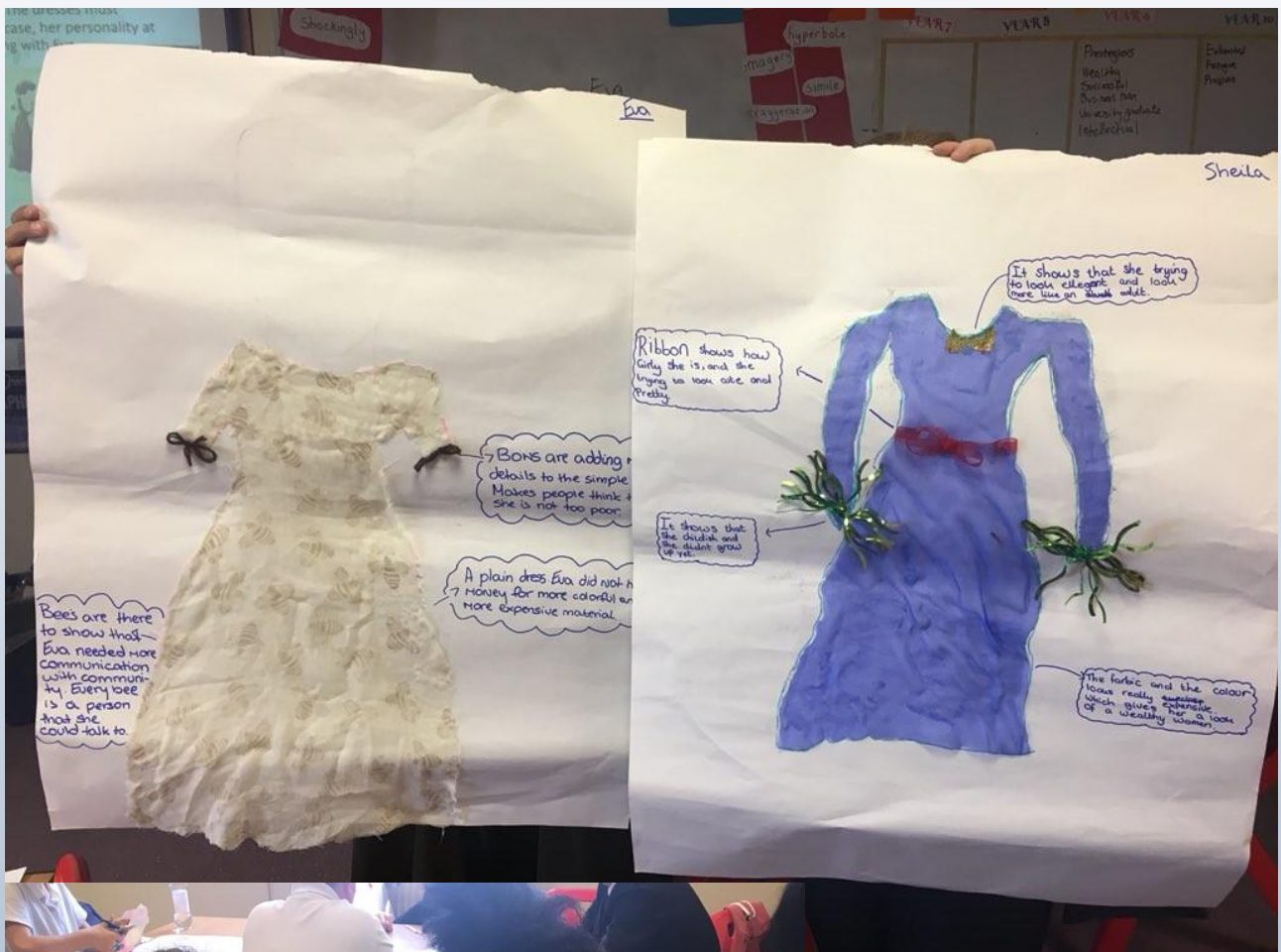
The singers were alert and well-versed and delivered their pieces ('Mr Blue Sky', 'I am the Earth', 'Si Nijay, Nijay, Nijay', 'Feed the Birds', and 2 compositions by local composer Robert Ramskill, 'The Big Bang' and 'Patterns in the Sky') with great enthusiasm, sometimes singing in two-part harmony and at times displaying some pretty tricky armography!

The behaviour of the children on the day was exemplary. During the interval some audience members commented on the fact that they could hear every word the children were singing—praise indeed!

The icing on the cake came at the close of the splendid 'Radetzky March' finale when the audience rose to their feet to give a well-deserved standing ovation to the whole company. Thanks must go to the teachers, helpers, organisers, particularly Brian Chappell, leader of the Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, the parents whose help and support is invaluable and, of course, the fabulous children.



By Ms Pritchard



Year 9 Girls Rugby



The Year 9 Girls Rugby team recently participated in a full contact rugby competition against a range of private and public schools based in West Midlands and Warwickshire. The teams they played against consisted mainly of Year 10 students.

As this was our first fixture and competition we were excited to test ourselves and a little bit apprehensive as we had not played as a team before. This apprehension did not last long as we quickly confirmed that we have a team full of confident, supportive but hard playing young ladies.

They pulled together as a team, led themselves and put their bodies on the line in all four games. This dedication, spirit and commitment enabled us to win all four games and end the tournament undefeated against students a whole year older than themselves.

To finish off a perfect day, over half of our school team had to rush off at the end of the tournament as they were being flag bearers for the women's international 6 nations game (England vs Ireland) being hosted at the Ricoh Arena. Additionally, the rest of the team, myself and their parents were in the stands, cheering on our students and watching England win against Ireland.

On a personal note, this will be a day I remember for the rest of my career and life. The girls were faultless for the whole day and they made myself, their parents and our school very proud. Well done girls!



By Mr Hudson

Artist in a Shoe box

Year 8 students were set the challenge for homework to research an artist and create their own piece of art to represent them.





FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Finham Park Film Festival

FINHAM PARK 2



The Finham Park Film Festival 2018 may have been a small film festival, but it had big aspirations. When we first started teaching Film Studies at Finham Park, we encouraged students to have the highest expectations of their work, and to enter films for local competitions. When the students started winning, we encouraged them to enter national competitions. In the last four years, Finham Park students have had five student films nominated for national prizes, including their first winner last year, Jack Brazil, now in Year 12. The bet between Mr Hartshorn (first Michelin-starred school Food Tech department) and Mr Gunn (first mention in an Oscar speech) is well and truly on, with FP2 students cooking yet another superb three-course meal this year.



The school wanted to use this festival to showcase some of these fantastic films, show the wider community just how much potential they have, and inspire the next generation of students to aspire to even higher goals, and believe that they too can make it. The department's aspiration is to make Finham Park school a centre of film-making excellence, despite the current squeeze on Arts in the National Curriculum. At last year's festival, we declared that we wanted the Finham Film Festival to kick-start this process of recognition, and ignite the #Coventry2021 bid for City of Culture. Eight months later, Coventry won. Coincidence? We don't think so!

This year's festival prizes were judged by a panel from the film industry. Anna Andrews' work as an Executive Producer at ITV is well-known, as is Ali Bannister's work on Steven Spielberg's War Horse, though Sean Hartofilis, independent New York film-maker, will be less known. However, Josic Cadoret's work funding new talent at BFI Film London will become much more prominent now that he has been [announced as one of the six regional talent executives by the BFI](#). Students nominated for awards had the opportunity to talk to him, hear from their heroes, and get tips on how to be at the forefront of Coventry's 2021 bid to become UK City of Culture: "21 in 21", they could literally be the next generation of film talent to put the city on the map.

Finham Park 2 made their first appearance at our Film Festival, with Emily Gunn and Freya Plester taking home the prize for Best Enrichment Music Video. The Best Year 9 Intro Sequence was won by Inez Williams for her final film of last year, while her classmates Alex Flamson (Thriller) and Lenore Court (Horror) shared the Best GCSE Film Intro Sequence prize. Our Best AS Short Film this year went to the sumptuously shot "Coven" by Caitlin Wheatley, her first nomination at our festival. But the real applause was reserved for the smorgasbord of delight offered under the Best A2 Short Film category, with a rockumentary (Get Carta), a moving reflection on loss (Coping) and three superb comedies. The prize went to last year's Year 12 champions, Joe Jurczak and Matt Betts, for their short film Meta-Morphosis, a film about the difficulties of making short films!

All of this year's entries can be viewed on the department's Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Finhammedia/playlists>

We hope to see the standard get even better next year!

By Mr Gunn

Plas Dol-y-Moch

53 children from Year 5 and 7 teachers went to Plas Dol-y-Moch in Maentwrog, Wales. The journey began on Friday 20th April with a later than planned exit from Finham due to traffic problems. Luckily, the 4 hour journey saw some stunning views in the evening sunshine. On arrival children had dinner and quickly made beds and got ready for a late bedtime of 11.30pm.

Everyone woke up sprightly on Saturday morning and got ready for Day 1 of activities. A beautiful sunny day lay ahead with children going off rock pooling on the beach, kayaking, orienteering, mountain walking, exploring a slate mine and biking. Temperatures reached 24 degrees so sun cream was needed which doesn't normally happen in Wales!



After dinner children completed their jobs, before one more activity around the centre then bedtime. Day 2 and Day 3 consisted of the children completing activities previously mentioned in weather that is the usual in the Welsh mountains but this did not affect the

children's enthusiasm and enjoyment of everything they were doing. Every night teachers fed back to the whole of year 5 regarding how individual groups got on and it was brilliant to hear such positive experiences had by all.

The children showed great responsibility in looking after themselves and completing their jobs, showed respect to the instructors and in looking after the Plas Dol y Moch house and grounds, and showed great resilience in all the activities they completed. Journey back home on Tuesday 24th April went without travel sickness, which is a first for me so happy days all round!



By Mr Tickle



History

Year 11 Historians applied active revision when they analysed the fall of the Weimar Republic. In preparation for their exams, students tracked the positive and negative developments in post war Germany in chronological order. This was a really good way to visualise their learning and assisted with their revision.



History and Science joined forces to build a giant Death Ray! They had to wait for a sunny day, but finally the Year 7 Historians applied their theory into practice when learning about ancient weaponry. They harnessed the power of the sun's rays to destroy several Roman sails and avoided a Roman invasion. The use of solar power provided Year 7s with an ancient weapon of mass destruction!





FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Catering Technology Visit



As part of their GCSE Catering, Mrs Finn's class were invited to Hogarth's hotel in Solihull.

We were treated to a tour of the hotel and its grounds, it's facilities and staff.



(Year 11 Catering Class
2018 – Emma Griffiths,
HR on the far left)

Students were shown around the banqueting suite, guest rooms and kitchens and had the opportunity to speak to staff about their roles and careers.

Here we are taste testing to identify the different foods.



Very many thanks to Emma Griffiths, HR who organised the visit to Hogarth's hotel and arranged all the activities. We look forward to attending the Year 11 prom next term!

By Jo Hooke

National Apprenticeship Week 5th –9th March 2018

Finham Park School celebrated this annual event by inviting former students who have successfully progressed to apprenticeships, to deliver assemblies and to speak in subject classes.



Esherveer Sagoo left Finham Park School after AS levels and progressed to a higher apprenticeship with the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC). He attended with his Manager, Matt and both passed on valuable advice to our engineering students about how to apply for careers in the industry. Esherveer has progressed to BTEC Level 3 qualification in Engineering and is a proud STEM ambassador for schools and went on to pass his driving test later that day!

Deniz Uzun left our 6th form after studying A Levels and is now embarking on a Degree Apprenticeship with Jaguar Land Rover. Currently a second year apprentice, Deniz is working as a Cost Engineer. She showed us a very informative video and is a positive role model for more females to consider engineering as a future career.



Harry Packer – Right Check – t4 Connex



Another former FP student, Harry, works for Right Check, t4 Connex, a Technology and Innovation Company. Passionate about IT and systems, Harry works with the latest mobile technology for businesses to use to interact with their employees, their customers and suppliers.

We are very proud of all of our students who gave up their time to return to school and talk about their current roles. They all enjoyed speaking to students and staff and this has been valuable for their own competences in the workplace. Many thanks to them all and their companies, for allowing them to participate.

It has been a busy half term in the library with the student librarians working harder than ever. Last week, they undertook the challenge of preparing 400 books to go out onto the library shelves.

It was a hard task as there are so many different processes for each book to undergo before it is ready to go on the shelf and be loaned. The students worked really hard and exceeded their goal by working before and after school, and at break and lunch times.

They were rewarded with a special lunch at the end of the week which was very much deserved.



We have now added a magazine area to our Library which is very well used. We have a range of titles for the students to look at from 'Wonderpedia' to 'Empire'. If anybody has any suitable magazines that they would like to donate to this area they would be much appreciated.

We were pleased to invite in to the library some of our neighbours from local businesses for an afternoon tea. We were particularly grateful to the employees from Zenith Contractors Ltd and Clements Plant & Tool Hire Ltd who took the time to come and look around the library and the rest of the school and meet with Mr Plester, Mrs Brake, Mrs Kerr and Zak Mills (Head Boy).

HS2

We have initiated a partnership with one of the lead contractors on the HS2 project, LMJV. We are really fortunate to be working with them as this will lead to many great opportunities for all of our students.

We have already had two representatives attend Year 9 geography lessons to talk about HS2 and it's impact on the area in which we live. Students were really engaged in the talks and asked some fantastic questions.



Our next engagement activity is in the last week of half term, when some of our engineering students will be lucky enough to visit the HS2 build site in Birmingham as well as the Engineering faculty at Birmingham City University. We will be joined by the Education Manager for HS2 Ltd and employees from various subcontractors. It will be an amazing experience, which will then be rolled out to all schools across the Finham Park MAT.

By Mrs Kerr



Lyng Hall

Year 9 Scientists

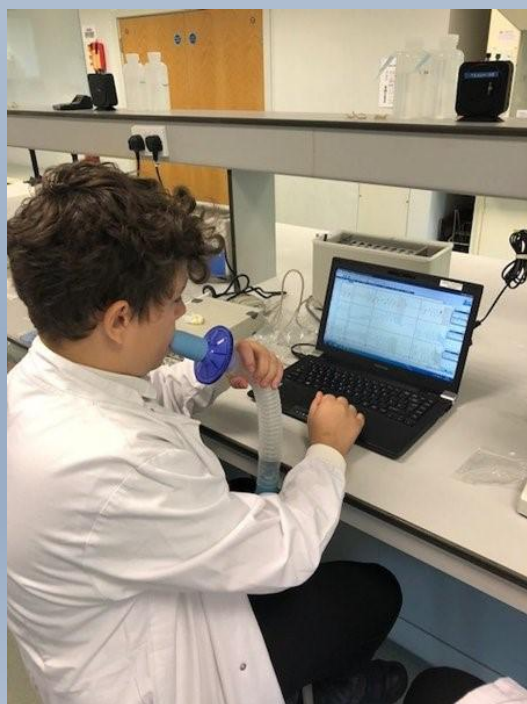
Year 9 scientists were lucky enough to get the chance to spend the day at Warwick University.



They visited science laboratories and took part in lots of experiments. These included: making thumbs twitch, checking heartbeats; and measuring lung capacity. They also looked at blood smears and pond bugs under the microscope.



This gave students not only the opportunity to learn more about Science, but also to use state of the art equipment and experience learning in a top university.



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Finham Primary

'Inspiration is the spark that awakens us to the possibility of achieving great things'



The Porridge Pot



In March, Year 2 and 3 came together to put on a performance called 'The Porridge Pot'. The story centred around fairy tale characters in the midst of a crime wave! It was all down to Detective Spratt and his friends to solve the crime and work out who was behind all the dodgy dealings that were destroying the forest.

The play contained numerous toe-tapping tunes, heart-warming dance routines and many comical moments that kept the audience laughing.



The children managed to learn their lines in just 3 weeks, which was a spectacular achievement for the actors. Both year groups worked incredibly hard and wowed their friends and families who came to watch the performance.

Well done Year 2 and 3!

By Miss Beale

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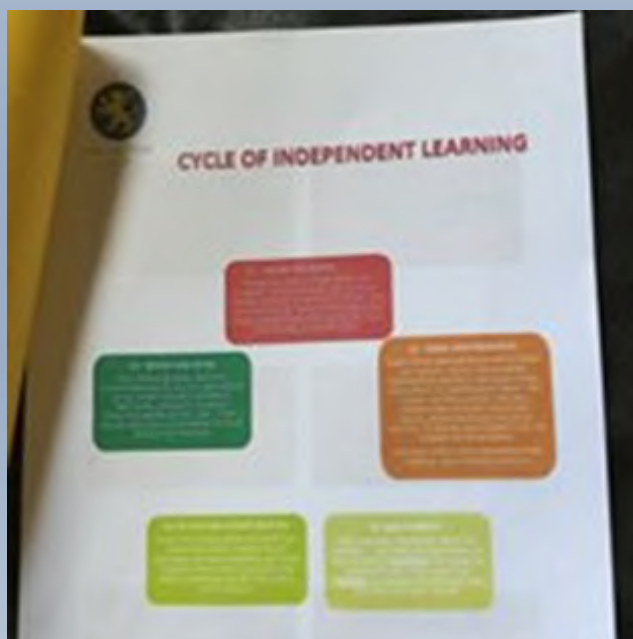
Lake District



Earlier this term saw the launch of our new push on independent learning skills. So often students go into Year 11 and 12 with so little idea on how to manage study time and how to actually embrace their love of learning that we felt it was time to begin to tackle this!

Our aim is to teach students how to do research properly before they get into Year 11 so as they can become the masters of their own learning. We want to teach our students how to break down information and to show them how they learn best. We want to challenge and stretch our students so they become inquisitive, self-directed learners.

The first step in this process began with our Stretch and Challenge Conference for Year 10 to Patterdale Hall Outdoor Centre. Here students chose a number of cross curricular and extension seminars to attend. They began to see what it is like to be in a more 'tutorial style' setting and the types of study that they would be expected to do Post 16 and beyond.



Students were introduced to the wonderful world of the MOOC and encouraged to broaden their research parameters away from Google alone! Every student who came on the trip is now undertaking their own mini EPQ style research project and we are looking forward the presentation evening in the summer to showcase these projects.

Whilst on the trip students also took part in a number of outdoor pursuits designed to challenge them both physically and mentally. As well this we put students in unfamiliar circumstances and shared living spaces – a great university preparation exercise! The feedback from the trip was great and we hope to repeat a similar version with the Sixth Form next year.



By Ms Buckenham

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In Science, 7a were tasked with a range of homework options, one of which was the opportunity to create a chemistry inspired cake. This year we set a school record, we had over 20 fantastic, lovingly made science cakes!

As a class we were very happy with this outcome but we had to put our game faces on to try to wade our way through all of the tasty treats. As they say, not all heroes wear capes!



Consequently, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and parents for using your chemistry knowledge to design, create and decorate such a fantastic range of science inspired cakes.



By Mr Hudson

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