

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

World Class News

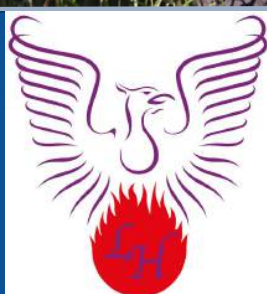
May 2019

Edition 8



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Travels to Africa



FINHAM PARK 2 

Welcome from Mark Bailie



Dear Parent / Member of our community

Welcome to the latest edition of World Class News.

The Spring and Summer Terms are always busy times in schools, with SATs, GCSE and A Level examinations. Students and staff have been preparing hard for these public examinations and I wish all students every success. However, whilst these examinations are understandably an important part of schools, looking through this latest edition shows that schools offer students much more than preparing for tests; they prepare them for life.

The high quality learning that takes place across the schools in the Finham Park MAT stem partly from the opportunities given to staff through Continual Professional Development within their own schools, across the MAT and through the Teaching School Alliance. The TeachMeet hosted by Finham Park 2 in March enabled staff to come together and share best practice. Colleagues from Primary and Secondary took away inspiration and teaching and learning strategies which had been tried and tested in the classroom. Having a wealth of expertise across Finham Park Multi Academy Trust and the Lion Alliance Teaching School Alliance, are certainly beneficial to our schools.

Developing literacy skills are key in children's learning. Accelerated Reading, used in our schools, is having a positive impact on children. In this edition you will see a celebration of the readers at Finham Park 2. Vocabulary, comprehension and creative skills are enhanced, as well as trying different genre, view point and of course growing a love of reading. Enjoying

reading is hugely rewarding as well as educational. It was lovely to see the children across all schools celebrating World Book Day. I think Finham Primary won the award for best costumes!

Learning extends beyond the classroom and some highlights are included in this edition. Students from Finham Park School were given the opportunity to travel to Africa for the start of what will surely prove to be a strong link being forged between schools in Uganda and Finham Park.

Children from Lyng Hall School and Finham Park School have demonstrated their linguistic skills as well as an understanding and appreciation of culture in Spanish speaking nations. Fiesta Hispanica and a student exchange with Santa Ana School, Spain are just a couple examples of where our students benefit from the Languages departments within our Multi Academy Trust. In fact, students from Lyng Hall School, Finham Park and Finham Park 2 will be travelling to China in July as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme. I'm sure we will read more about that in the Autumn edition.

Careers Information Advice and Guidance opportunities at all of our schools help prepare students for their next steps. Examples of this can be seen in this edition at Lyng Hall. Preparing students with these life skills play an important part in education, as does the work around the Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural development of children.

This edition shows just a few examples of the work within our schools to prepare children not only for examinations, but to be the best they can be in life—truly World Class.

I wish you all a restful half term break after what was possibly one of the shortest half terms we have had!

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher

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 MAT Student Leadership

The Finham Park MAT Student Leadership body consists of students from each of the schools across the MAT. They work together to:

- ◇ Contribute to the development of Teaching and Learning
- ◇ Develop opportunities for students across the Finham Park MAT
- ◇ Experience learning in each of the FPMAT schools
- ◇ Develop leadership qualities
- ◇ Work together on school and community projects
- ◇ Raise money for charities



The lion Alliance

Teacher Training

Our trainees are already two terms through their training year! Many of our trainees have been looking for their first teaching position as NQTs and have already been successful in securing their first teaching post for September. Subject mentors across the alliance have been fantastic in supporting trainees to develop their classroom practice and excel in their training year.

Alliance Day

Our fifteen Lion Alliance trainees came together for their final Alliance Training Day this half term, to consider and explore their role beyond the classroom. They experienced an action packed day at Finham Park School, focussing on different aspects of the role of a teacher outside their own specialism. It was great to have the team together, reflecting upon their practice and considering how the practical advice could influence their craft.





Interested in a career in teaching?

**The Lion Alliance Teaching School
is proud to offer School Direct places for
initial teacher training starting in
September 2019**

The Lion Alliance is a group of schools based in Coventry and Warwickshire. Training can take place in any of our Primary or Secondary schools within our Alliance and in partnership with Warwick University.

We are committed to providing high quality support and training for teachers in every stage of their career, from Initial Teacher Training through to developing school leaders.



**Apply through UCAS Online
Applications open: 9 October 2018**

www.thelionalliance.co.uk
Finham Park School, Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EA

Know Someone Interested in Teaching?

We've been busy meeting potential trainees at recruitment evenings at Warwick University and have enjoyed hosting taster days at different schools across the alliance. Already we have a significant number of trainees joining us in September in both Primary and Secondary schools across the alliance but we still have spaces. If you know anyone who is considering teaching as a career, we'd love to hear from them! Ask them to get in touch:

admin@thelionalliance.co.uk



Teaching School Alliance
Finham Park School
Green Lane
Coventry
CV3 6EA
(024) 7641 8135

Have you spotted our banners?

The next time you're driving down the A45, look out for our banners, advertising our alliance. If you look carefully you may spot some familiar faces!



Continuing Professional Development

Finham Park 2 hosted the second Lion Alliance Teach Meet earlier this half term. The event started with talks from Paul Green, Head of Lyng Hall and Nicola Gould from the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, followed by Sajid Gulsar from Prince Albert Community Trust. Practitioners from schools came together to share expertise and specialist knowledge on different aspects of pedagogy. This was an excellent opportunity for colleagues to share and learn from one another. We're looking forward to the next one, being held at West Coventry Academy!





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that

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c/o Finham Park School



Specialist Leaders in Education

It's an exciting time as we are opening the recruitment process for Specialist Leaders in Education across The Lion Alliance. This is an incredible opportunity to develop systems leadership in different schools. We're looking forward to meeting our applicants.

For more information use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/specialist-leaders-of-education-a-guide-for-potential-applicants>

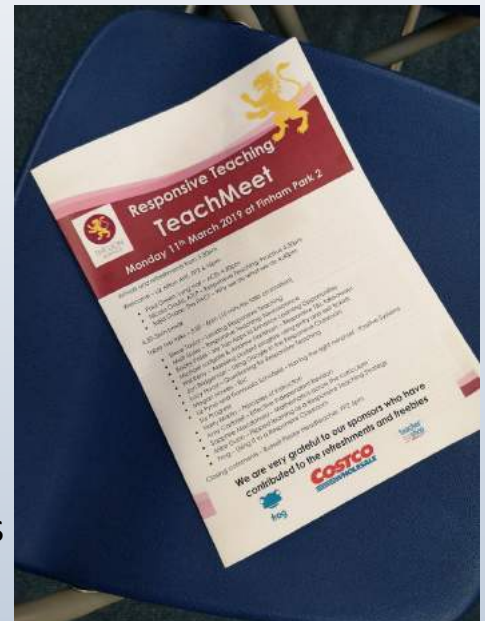
Jane Buggins



TeachMeet

On Monday 11th March, colleagues from across the Lion Alliance came together for the 3rd Lion Alliance TeachMeet.

Hosted at Finham Park 2, with sponsorship from Frog Education and Costco, over 100 colleagues were able to listen to key presenters before moving to table top presentations.



Paul Green, Headteacher at Lyng Hall School, was the first presenter on stage. He spoke about Adverse Childhood Experiences



Nicola Gould, School Improvement Team for the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, presented Responsive Teaching Practice. She shared two different methodological approaches to practice: The importance of planning for practice and the impact of practice on children.



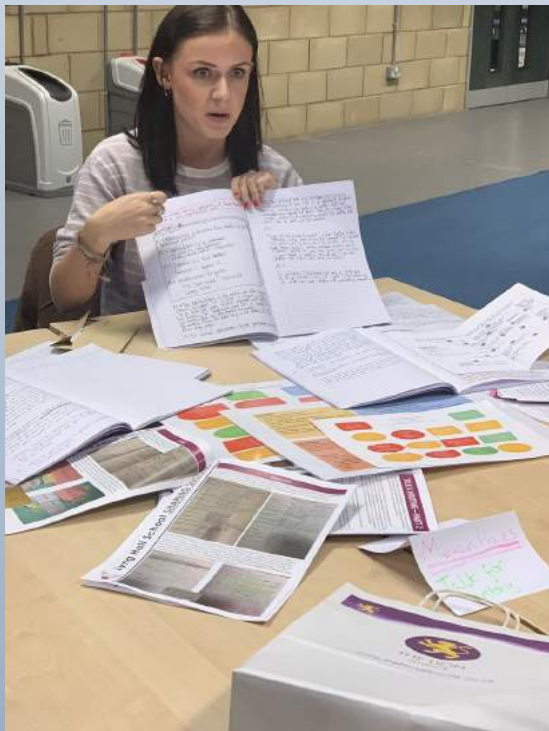
Sajid Gulsar, CEO of the Prince Albert Community Trust in Birmingham, spoke on 'Why we do what we do.' Specifically focusing on inclusive schools



There were a selection of table top presentations from:

- Steve Taylor—Leading Responsive Teaching
- Lucy Hood— Questioning for Responsive Teaching
- Sapphire Macdonald —Maths across the Curriculum
- Dr Liz Pyne and Fionnuala Schofield—Having the right mind set—Positive Systems for Progress
- Phil Kerry—Assessing student progress using entry and exit tickets
- Becky Patel—Top Apps to Enhance Learning Opportunities
- Mike Gunn—Flipped learning
- Jon Bridgeman—Using Google to support Responsive Teaching
- Matt Styles—Responsive Teaching—Neuroscience
- Maria Andrianova—Developing digital skills for learning
- Megan Howes—Talk 4 Writing
- Frog—Using IT in a Responsive Classroom





Thank you to our sponsors, all those who presented and to Finham Park 2 for organising and hosting.



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Blog Post

First thoughts from Africa



The first question people ask of you when returning from Africa, is often 'so what was it like?' This is one of the hardest questions I have to answer because I genuinely don't know how to.

'Exhausting, exhilarating, grounding, humbling, exciting, inspiring, beautiful, happy, sad.'

These are all emotions and thoughts that I could use to describe the experience someone could go through when visiting the continent. However, even that would be an oversimplification.



Returning from 1 week there in February 2019 with 12 students, there was a very real sense that lives had been altered by the experience. For some of them, the adventure was nothing like what they would have experienced before or likely to again. They did things that they will never be able to repeat as they were once in a lifetime experiences; experiences such as the ethnocentric observation and study of chimpanzees in their natural habitat on an island that is impossible to reach as a tourist.

The aim of the trip?

To look at how we could develop a World Class relationship with a school in the developing world so that we could provide sustainable, life changing opportunities for children in both countries. The points below highlight what we did to achieve that aim.

- We visited 3 schools: Viva College School, MM Wairaka College, and Kome Island Primary School. Students learned about the courses studied (O Levels and A Levels) and how they meet the local challenges through a regionally based curriculum that ensures students are trained to work in their local, national and international context. Their day starts at 5am with lessons from 7:30am to 5:00pm, followed by 3 hours of supervised homework in the evening. All students study English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History and Geography to O Level. They then specialise at A Level in subjects that 'belong together'. They saw a 3D printed weather station, extensive farming, plastic recycling initiatives and internet cafes for students to use. Issues such as quality assurance processes, restorative justices concepts and emerging CPD needs for staff were initial ideas school leaders discussed with me as these are areas we are excited to potentially be able to collaborate on.
- The students skilfully and diplomatically engaged in an international debating event with Ugandan students from 4 different schools. the topics debated were: Equality, Concepts of Justice, The use of the Internet in Society, The Place of Religion in Society, Globalisation and the Environment. It was fascinating to see how the students from such diverse cultures argued their point and moved to greater understanding. Cultural differences extend to far more than just the type of food or language you speak. Students were able to challenge each other's preconceived ideas and ingrained societal norms.

- We visited a local co-operative community that was raising funds to provide safe and clean water for the island to help counteract disease in their HIV children. It is difficult to comprehend how manifestly unjust the disparity in wealth is around the world and yet uniquely humbling to see that regardless of circumstances, the children we met were happy, with smiles that were infectious.



- A tour of a music studio at The Discovery Centre that was being provided for free to students from local schools showcased how aspirations were being raised. Apple Macs and green screens were fully utilised with local talent employed by the centre, highlighting their tagline of 'realising potential'.



Gifts from the UK of football clothing and footballs were handed out to children in the greatest need, most of those on the streets with little to nothing to call their own.

Students had lots of opportunities for sightseeing including finding the source of The Nile, a visit to Itanga Falls as well as the experience of a local market in Jinja where they had to become skilled hagglers in a very short space of time!



What was the impact?

To see students change during the days in Uganda was truly humbling. They embraced street children, challenged each other's views, engaged in everything including the food.... And refused WiFi....a particular highpoint for the UK teachers.

So what next?

How do we continue to provide our young people and those in Africa with the life altering experiences in a sustainable and healthy way? We are now developing programs that will enable an effective exchange of ideas and facilitate regular visits of staff and students between the schools to answer that very exciting and formidable question. These are precisely the kinds of activities our school should be engaged in in what I often describe to staff and students as our commitment to 'sharing excellence'.

Resources do not enrich people's lives. People do. 'Great minds shape the world' regardless of geography.



Our students have learnt this lesson. It isn't about a suitcase of clothes. Wi-Fi or a tan. They quite simply now 'get it'.

Chris Bishop

Headteacher, Finham Park School

In January and February, 150 children across the Finham Park MAT and Rugby Free School completed a series of lessons called Tech We Can. The lessons were created by the Tech She Can charter and their main aim is to encourage more students to pursue careers in technology. The Tech She Can charter is primarily focused on increasing the number of females pursuing technology careers however the Tech We Can lessons are aimed at both boys and girls.

The students completed six two hour sessions themed around different areas in which they could use their technology skills within a career.

The results of the pilot included the following statistics:

65%

of students say they would now consider a career in technology, compared to **45% before**.

81%

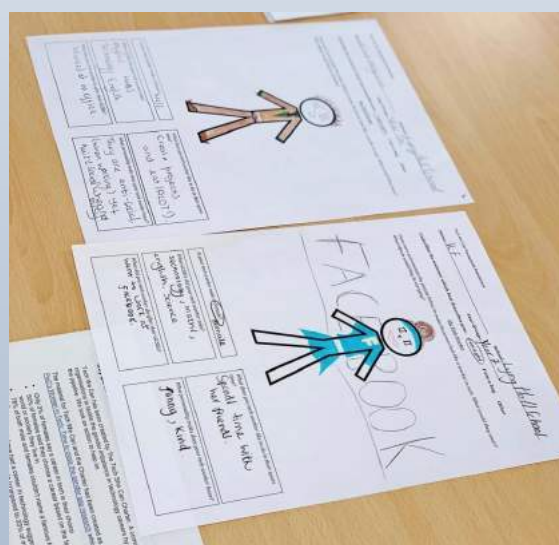
of students can name a famous female working in technology after the lessons, compared to only 50% before.

87%

of students enjoyed the Tech We Can lessons.
And 87% also say it increased their knowledge of technology careers.

Before the lessons started, the students were asked to draw a picture of a typical worker in technology and describe their personality and hobbies. They were then asked to repeat the same task after completing the lessons. This picture is an example from one of the Year 7 girls who completed the Tech We Can lessons. Before the lessons, she drew a male in a brown suit and noted that he “spends his time on computers and isn’t very social”. At the end of the lessons, she drew herself as a Social Media Manager for Facebook.

Following feedback from the teachers and students in the Finham Park MAT, the lessons have now been adapted, improved and refined ready for a second pilot after Easter. The second pilot will include schools from all over the country.



Further information about Tech She Can and Tech We Can can be found at the following link:

<https://www.pwc.co.uk/who-we-are/women-in-technology/tech-she-can-charter.html>

Becky Patel



Lyng Hall

Fiesta Hispanica

On Wednesday, 9 year 9 pupils took part in ¡Fiesta Hispanica! Event at Aston University.

About 100 pupils from different schools took part. They were divided into 3 classes, given a presentation on cultural celebrations, then split into smaller, mixed schools, groups.

They then worked together in to create and deliver a presentation to all the other students and teachers, about either Ché Guevara, Frida Kahlo, Gabriel Garcia Martes.

I am very proud to say that pupils from Lyng Hall won both the presentation and the creation of offrenda.





Myton Hospice

Claire from Myton Hospices visited Lyng Hall School on 9th April to meet with the Student College Fundraising team. Students watched a presentation and received updates from their chosen Charity Partner.

Later that afternoon, the Student College Fundraising team had the envious task of judging the entries from the Lyng Hall Staff Bake Off. IT was tense, tasty and terrific. Well done to al entries, and a special mention to Mr Insley who won. All money raised was donated to the Myton Hospice.





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Prison, ME? NO WAY! – Crime and safety awareness day for Year 9

The day was organised by Mr Baker to educate us about prison. Lots of friendly volunteers from The Red Cross, Prison? Me? No way! , Prison staff and Magistrates came in to help us learn and get hands on experience. We were all thoroughly educated and really do not want to go to prison.

The focus of the day was to teach us about anti-social behaviour using role-plays with students being taken through the crime, arrest, prosecution and conviction processes. We also talked about how easy it is to become involved in crime and the consequences of criminal activity for both the victim and the perpetrator.



The first activity was the street scene. We role-played what could happen if we were in a gang and were caught by the police. We went through the consequences of being in a gang and we got involved with the roleplaying whilst enjoying ourselves.

The second session was a talk from an ex prison convict, we all felt safe and happy for him to be there since he was very approachable and open to questions. He was very passionate about kids not getting into crime and gangs. We felt we could ask more questions of him because he was not an authority figure and we could be more open with him because he was like us at our age and wants us to lead a good life that is crime free.



This began with a 30-minute presentation about the ex-offenders background, brief details about their crime, impact that their actions have had upon their lives and their families' lives and their future beyond custody. Lots of us felt emotional about what happened and how it affected their life. Their captivating story changed some of our views on crime and how many people it could effect.

The third session was definitely something to remember. Two prison guards came in and gave us a lesson of a lifetime. For the first 30 minutes, one guard told us about how hard it is in prison and how none of us would survive in prison. This really helped put things into perspective. The officer was full of answers to all of our questions and was helpful. For the last 30 minutes of the lesson, we met up with another officer. He took us all outside and split us into two groups. He explained to us about what a normal prison cell would look like. None of us liked the description so you can imagine how we felt when we got into one.



On the back of a van was a prison cell, we went in with our two groups and it was cramped. Even though there was a lot of us in there we were able to see just how cramped it really was. It was an amazing experience overall and it definitely showed us how bad prison really was.

The fourth session was led by the Red Cross and was definitely worth being there for. The person who led the session was straight to the point and helped us learn a vital life skill. We learnt how to properly perform CPR and we did it in a fun environment. The person was open with us and answered all of our questions with enthusiasm. We all managed to have a practice with “Resus Annie” the CPR doll and we all came out of the lesson feeling that if someone was to drop to the floor we would be able to assist.



The final session was the magistrate of the court. This was extremely interesting and we all learnt about the process of the court. Everyone played a part in the role-play and we had to be very professional. The person who ran the court made sure that everyone was doing their jobs and answered any queries we had about the functions of the court. They told us about all of the bad things that could happen in prison and it is safe to say that we were all a bit scared, but we all enjoyed ourselves and learnt a lot. Over all the whole day was worthwhile and it helped us all see that prison really isn't worth it. It really made us think about how our actions affects our friends, family and the people around us. All of the volunteers and staff members were helpful and informative.

Caitlyn Year 9



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The Finham Challenge

Students from every year group have submitted their entries to this year's essay writing competition 'The Finham Challenge'.

The question this year was: ***Who has been the most influential person in history?***

Serendipitously, the BBC Icons series was launched as the students were researching their essays so they were able to use the resources and ideas from this as well as those supplied by teachers. Each mentor has chosen their best 2 essays and colleges have all selected the two top essays from KS3 and 4. Sixth form also participated in huge numbers and Leadership team had the joy and honour of selecting 3 winning essays for the whole school.

The standard was very high this year with wide ranging ideas. Figures from Freddie Mercury to Marie Curie; Alan Turing to The Prophet Mohammad. All skilfully argued and convincingly written. What a difficult choice! The winning writers will be announced at the forthcoming Star Studded Celebration of Success.

Judging in
action.....





Big Bang Trip

The Big Bang Fair is a STEM exhibition held at the NEC every year that draws exhibitors from all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Two large coaches of Year 7 students travelled along the A45 to gain an insight into the kinds of real-world applications their learning could have in the future. While there students tried out a massive range of activities:

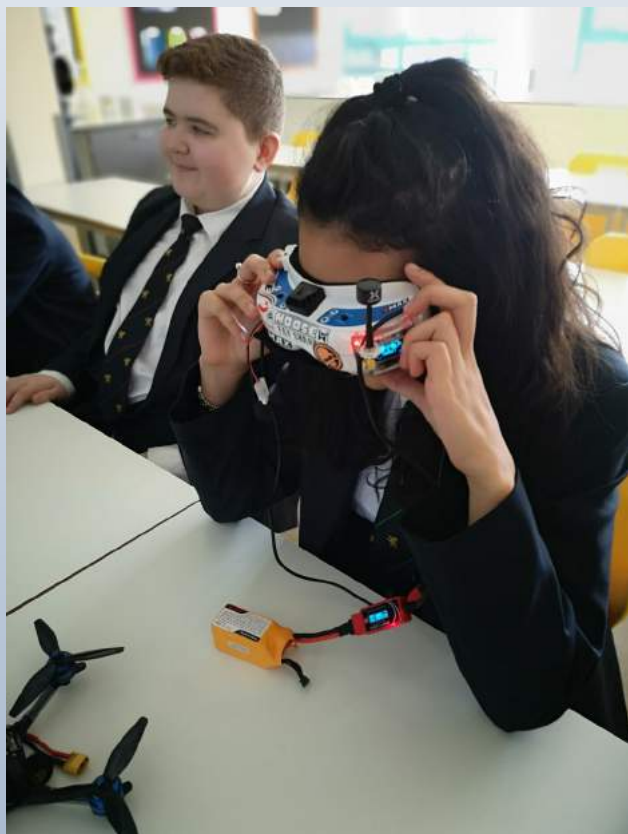
- Watching engaging presentations about science
- Flying drones
- Coding
- Creating electronics and slime
- Finding out about how technology is used to develop fitness in the army
- Looking at student research projects
- Meeting real-life scientists and engineers (and some creepy-crawlies)
- Looking at cars, a armoured assault vehicle, and helicopter and fighter jets up close

Solving puzzles, codes and quizzes



Drone club (Airineers)

We recently had a visit to our Drone OOSHL club from Kerry Blackman who is a professional Drone pilot and the Coventry University Drone racing team. We will hopefully continue to build these links as part of our Engineering curriculum.



Finham Primary School have been working on a project to support some of more vulnerable learners with a weekly visit from Disney, a Therapy St Bernards.

Most adults are apprehensive about speaking in public. It is very daunting. Children are no different.

Research shows that children can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a PAT Dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental.

Before long the children are really look forward to the reading experience as they are going to read to their new friend, the PAT Dog.

PAT Dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun. The teacher remains in charge of the reading sessions at all times.

We have chosen children who lack confidence, or have difficulty with reading or attention deficit, children who are experiencing personal loss or difficulties and children with attachment issues. The work has been excellent in building children's confidence and we have seen a difference in how they present back in class too.



'I love reading to Disney, she really likes the stories I choose and she makes me feel less nervous.' Mustafa Age 7



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Modern Foreign Languages

In February our Y12 and 13 Spanish students had the fantastic opportunity to stay with host families and to complete some work experience in a local Spanish school. It was our very first student exchange with Santa Ana School in Calatayud near Zaragoza in Spain.



The best part of the trip was when we surprised our students with an interview on the local radio 'Onda Cero'. We could not have been more proud of their listening and speaking skills. Students were bombarded with questions which they answered very well! Un trabajo muy bien hecho! In our guided tour of Calatayud and Zaragoza, we also learnt about Spanish history and how 3 different cultures left an impressive legacy. We all had an incredible time and cannot wait to welcome the Spanish students in the near future to Finham Park and Coventry.



Lara Falomir and Liz Wilkinson

First leg of Saint Etienne work experience exchange visit

We were very excited to welcome seven sixth form students and two teachers from Coventry's partner city of Saint Etienne on March 24th. The exchange visit between the two cities has a long history, having existed for least thirty years and this year we were delighted to involve students from Finham Park, Caludon Castle and Blue Coat Sixth Forms. For students it was an opportunity to finally meet their exchange partners in real life after several months of online contact in the run up to the visit.



The French students were hosted by their partners' families, thus gaining first-hand experience of life for a British teenager and having a golden opportunity to practise their English. They all completed successful work experience placements at a number of different primary schools across the city, including Finham Primary,

Grange Farm and Pearl Hyde. Massive thanks to the primary schools for hosting them.

Over the course of the week, our students rose to the challenge of looking after their exchange partners, and they organised several social activities for the whole group. We also had a reception with the Lord Mayor and a mini tour of Coventry City Centre.



Genuine friendships seem to have formed between all of the students and everybody was sad to say goodbye at the end of the week. We can't wait for our return visit to Saint Etienne in May!

Jenny Staton



Lyng Hall

Keith Fraser, from Employability UK visited Lyng Hall School on 10th April. He delivered an inspirational session to Year 12 students on how to overcome obstacles, tackle career hurdles and feel the fear and push through.

Employability Skills



Students were also able to practise their skills during Interview Week. Volunteers interviewed students and gave them feedback on their skills.



UKMAT Maths Challenge



On Thursday 7 February, 20 of our most talented mathematicians from Year 9 and 10 took part in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge that is organised by the UK Mathematics Trust. This involves students completing a variety of complex problems with multiple choice answers. Although this helps, students are deducted marks for incorrect answers and this therefore encourages students to think carefully about the problems that they are solving.

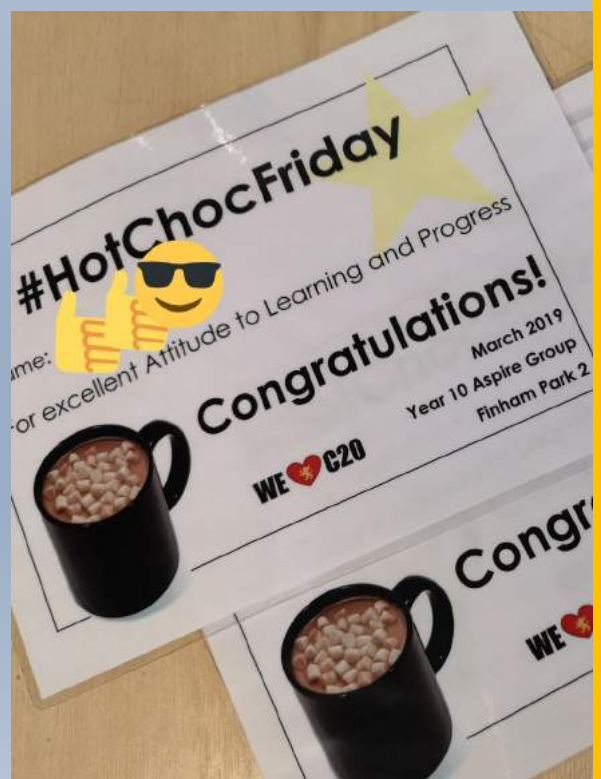
A huge congratulations goes to Monika Pekosz for achieving enough marks to receive a Bronze award as well as Best in Year alongside Haziq Raja Mazuir for achieving Best in Year for Year 9.

The Junior Maths Challenge for Years 7 and 8 will be taking place on Tuesday 30 April, so watch this space!

#HotChocFriday at FP2

We started 'Hot Chocolate Friday' as an event to celebrate the students who have achieved the best overall Attitude to Learning scores and the greatest progress made so far this year. During the last few weeks the Leadership Team have met with Year 10 and Year 7 students for Hot Chocolate as well as those showing excellence in Maths.

This is becoming another lovely Finham Park 2 celebration tradition.





**#HotChocFri-
day at FP2**

Staying Safe Workshop

On Wednesday 13 March, students from across years 7-10 took part in the **Staying Safe** programme delivered by the Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) in collaboration with West Midlands Police, Coventry City Council, the Police and Crime Commissioners office and Street Doctors.

The aim of the programme is to help young people make positive life choices and avoid the dangers of getting involved in knife crime and other forms of violence. The Staying Safe programme is being rolled out to every secondary school in Coventry. It has been delivered to 14 schools and seen more than 167 participants so far, with over 90 per cent agreeing the sessions had helped them to better understand the consequences of violence.

Dean Kavanagh, chairman of Positive Youth Foundation, said: "The need for a co-ordinated, joined-up approach to tackling youth violence in Coventry is something partners and schools have been calling for. It's vital to get into schools and other places across the city and engage with our young people, to speak their language and bring about positive changes... and we believe this programme is crucial for Coventry".

World Book Day

We love World Book Day at Finham Park 2, particularly the fact that everybody is involved! The annual staff dressing up is a particular highlight, with this year surpassing all others in costume creation. From Little Red Riding Hood to The Boy in the Dress, a whole range of literary characters were represented.

We also gifted a new book to every member of staff and every students to ensure that they have some fabulous new reading material to get absorbed in.



A variety of celebrations were held for World Book Day this year. Assemblies, quizzes, and dressing up helped remind students of how highly we regard reading at Finham Park School. The PE department held a huge book swap for all year 7 students; each student was asked to bring in a book that they had read and would recommend to their peers. Our student leaders sorted and set out the books by genre so that each class could browse the books and choose something new to read. (photo attached) On World Book Day itself, staff dressed as their favourite literary characters and the whole school participated in an extra Drop Everything and Read session.



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Media

At the beginning of February 50 Film and English students from Year 7 and 9 attended two workshops at Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studios, the first on filming and camera techniques, and the second on how to structure film narratives. The staff were incredibly impressed at how knowledgeable and well-behaved the students were, saying they compared favourably with almost every group they've ever had. This trip gave many students the opportunity to look at the job roles involved in the making of the Harry Potter Films, and left many of our students inspired enough to look into careers further.



It's becoming a bit of a habit! On the back of last year's two wins at national film competitions (Jack Brazil, Joe Jurczak and Matt Betts), this year saw yet another award.

Niamh Cutler and Isabel Clennell scooped the National Moving Image Award 2019 for Best Under 16 Entry (<https://goo.gl/EhpkCW>), and had their work shown at the BFI in London in January.

A further ten films this year have been put forward for the Media Magazine Video Production Competition Awards 2019, which we hope will continue to cement our place amongst the top film-making schools in the country.



4th Finham Film Festival

This May will see our fourth annual Finham Film Festival, once again sponsored by local community businesses. The fields are again very strong, with some excellent work from our new Year 9 to look forward to in particular. This year's judges come from all areas of the film industry, including the organisers of the Midlands Movie Festival, editors from major Hollywood films, and some of the UK's top production designers. FP2 students are again doing us proud with their menu preparations for the big day, and we will also show the films later in the year to the entire Finham Park student body so they can vote for their favourites. And in case you're wondering about the significance of these awards, the three films which have won nationals awards over the last twelve months were all winners at our very own awards first. If Hollywood wants to see where the talent of the future is coming from, they'd better get their tickets quick!

Mike Gunn

Accelerated Reader Success

This term has been a phenomenal success in terms of Accelerated Reader. This week I have had the pleasure of awarding so many AR award badges that I will have to order more for the summer term!

So far this academic year I have awarded 121 Bronze awards, 53 Silver awards, 24 Gold awards, and 9 Master awards! To achieve this, students have to undertake the following:

Bronze

For taking at least 3 quizzes OR reading 50,000 words AND achieving at least 85% average.

Silver

For taking at least 10 quizzes OR reading 200,000 words AND achieving at least 85% average.

Gold

For taking at least 25 quizzes OR reading 500,000 words AND achieving at least 85% average.

Master

For taking at least 50 quizzes OR reading 1,000,000 words AND achieving at least 90% average.

It is so impressive that we have so many students reading such a large number of books. This will have a direct impact on their results across all curriculum subjects. Well done!



Accelerated Reader Mentor Championship

Congratulations to **NG02** who won the AR mentor competition during the winter term. Mr Jay has set a fabulous example to his mentor group, role modelling reading every day, and encouraging students to choose a book that interests them in order to improve reading success.

NG02 enjoyed a pancake breakfast as an award for their hard work, although, as one of the students pointed out: "Reading is a reward in itself!" I couldn't agree more!

New Library Displays

I was really proud of the students who learnt the art of book folding to create a new display for our library. It is quite complicated and took a while for all of us (including me!) to get my head around! However, the results are very effective and show exactly how we feel about reading.



Finham Park 2 working with W H Smith

We are massively grateful to W H Smith Coventry for their ongoing support of Finham Park 2 Library. Ian and his team

at W H Smith have been very generous with both their time and resources this term which has enabled us to enhance the learning experience of all of our students. On World Book Day, a number of our students were invited to tour 'behind the scenes' at W H Smith and help to create one of their displays. At the end of the session we were presented with £500 of book vouchers to spend on the new library resources, and 4 boxes of brand new books for the students. We are very grateful for their support.

Jo Kerr



FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

VEX IQ 2019 National Finals

Once more Finham Park robotics club have been building, modifying and programming robots. Following a successful win at a regional competition, the all girls team LORD (Life Of Robotic Design) qualified for the one of the highly sought after places at the two day VEX IQ National Finals. The following student account details the two day event:

On the 3rd & 4th of March Mr Maguire drove us, team LORD, to the International Centre, Telford with smiles across our faces, happy to be at the VEX IQ UK Nationals again. 59 other teams from all over the UK, were also competing, but only five would qualify for the World Championship, held in America.



On the first day we arrived at 10am and went to get our robot inspected, to see if it was legal for the competition. After a short time to modify our robot to make it legal (it was 3mm too long for the competition!), we found the teams that we would be partnered with for the teamwork challenge. We discussed tactics and strategy based on the design of our robot and skills when driving it. We practiced hard with each team and came out with average scores for the teamwork matches.

We had three of our driver skills challenges that day so we lined up our robot and went for it. We got 15 points on the last attempt. At the end of the first day competing we were in the middle of the leaderboard so not too good or bad.



Our robot had also broken in the process of trying to adjust it to make it able to earn the most points possible, so we took it home and worked on it for hours and when we'd finished it was better than brand new.

The next day we got to the International Centre, Telford for 9am. We started the day by testing our new robot and it worked smooth so that was good. We also spoke to judges and people who came round to have a look at our robot and talk to us about what we do and why we started robotics.



Again, we practiced with each teams but we were unable to secure decent scores in the final matches. We didn't get the best score overall but we were happy to have been at the national competition and we enjoyed every single bit of it. We were happy for the teams that got through and the ones that didn't because we all did the very best to have even reached national final. Of course we were disappointed as we could have done better but we tried hard and left with smiles on our faces the same as the day we arrived.



By Sana Pasha (Year 9).



FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

DKMS

Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer and some 2,000 people are looking for a potentially lifesaving blood stem cell donor each year. Since DKMS was launched in the UK, in 2013, they have been receiving great support from the public and have registered more than 400,000 people as potential blood stem cell donors.

Some of these amazing people have gone on to donate blood stem cells, giving more than 500 second chances of life to blood cancer patients.

Within our school community we have a student who requires a bone marrow transplant. No match has been found so we are asking for as many people as possible age 17-55 years old to register online to go on the donor register.

<https://www.dkms.org.uk/en/register-now>



Lucy Madden



Interested in a career in teaching?

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Or contact: admin@thelionalliance.co.uk

Finham Primary

Headteacher: Richard Machin

Address: Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EJ

Tel: 024 7641 5425

Website: <http://finhamprimary.co.uk>

Finham Park 2

Headteacher: Russell Plester

Address: Torrington Avenue, Coventry, CV4 9WT

Tel: 024 7771 0720

Website: <http://finhampark2.co.uk>

Finham Park School

Headteacher: Chris Bishop

Address: Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EA

Tel: 024 7641 8135

Website: <http://finhampark.co.uk>

Lyng Hall

Headteacher: Paul Green

Address: Blackberry Lane, Coventry, CV2 3JS

Tel: 024 7672 4960

Website: <http://www.lynghallschool.co.uk>

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