

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

World Class News

October 2019

Edition 9



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Welcome to Pearl Hyde!



Welcome from Mark Bailie



Dear Parent / Member of our community

Welcome to the latest edition of World Class News.

It has been a positive start to the new academic year, with lots of opportunities for staff and children.

We welcomed, on 1st September, Pearl Hyde Primary School to the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. This is an exciting addition to the FPMAT as it adds to our capacity to deliver 'World Class' education for all children from the age of 3-19.

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust currently consists of two primaries and 3 secondaries:



We draw on the expertise of Primary and Secondary colleagues to ensure our education is developed with and by all members to reflect the needs of our children, their families and the wider community.

With the addition of another primary, we are able to extend opportunities for moderation; opportunities for subject leads and middle leaders to come together when working on their own curriculum development; shared CPD; cross phase working; as well as greater shared opportunities for children.

We look forward to working more closely with Pearl Hyde staff and children.

Schools within the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust also benefit from being part of a Teaching School Alliance, The Lion Alliance. Finham Park School has a successful record of training teacher and has Teaching School status. Teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide quality school-led teacher training and professional development opportunities. The Teaching School Alliance works in partnership with Warwick University and Birmingham City University.

Through the partnership within The Lion Alliance, schools have access to current training from professionals at the top of their field, with training based on action research. This means that our teachers are able to develop professionally. This also helps with recruitment and retention, meaning we are able to attract applications from lead professionals. All of which has a positive impact in the classroom.

I hope you enjoy reading about the great learning opportunities taking place in our schools. I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Half Term break.

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



Outdoor Learning Wildlife Club and Forest Schools

Pearl Hyde Primary School sits within the Sowe Valley Nature Reserve, providing many wonderful opportunities for students to encounter and explore the outdoors.



Our Wildlife Club and Forest Schools activities regularly get the children out of the classroom, learning in nature in ways that are fresh, lively and green.

This term, Year 3 have benefitted from the expertise of a ranger from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

They have learnt all about bats, birds, minibeasts and much more. We have watched the resident buzzards playing in the sky above; and have examined the signs of the changing seasons.



Year 4's Forest School sessions have enabled all learners to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through experiences in our beautiful school grounds.



They used tools including bowsaws and fire steels, using team-work to overcome a series of challenges.

We have seen how these activities improve health and wellbeing, build confidence, develop empathy for others and for nature, and allow the children to learn from experience. We are looking forwards to more adventures as the seasons change and the children grow.





FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Blog Post

International Cross of Nails School Award

On 2nd July 2019 Finham Park School received the International Cross of Nails School Award at a ceremony hosted at the school. The following is taken from Mr Bishop's ceremony speech:

'When I stop to think about what the role of a Headteacher actually is, it is easy to get lost in the ether of the day to day logistics of a school.



The simple truth is though that the struggles we all have as humans whether a student, a teacher or a parent aren't all that different. We as the leaders in schools may have acquired a little wisdom along the way to share, but in reality we all have work to do in learning how to create peace, how to forgive, and how to try and address some of the imbalances that human nature has created. That is why ICONS is such an exciting body to be involved in as it relates to each and every one of us in our schools, our homes and our community at large.

As a father of three I often talk with my children about what the right things to do are. A badly timed comment, a lost toy, an unkind word are not uncommon events in any household; but all of these things raise the question of how we teach young people what is right, how do we even know ourselves?

Like any parent I often find myself swimming against the tide, never really sure where to find the instruction manual! But what I have learnt is that if I model kindness and compassion for others, my children follow suit and continue to be the amazing,, vibrant happy characters they are today.

We often see in school children who are not always in charge of their own emotions, who can be cruel and unkind to one another, and this is why we know that the work of ICONS in schools is instrumental to ensuring we try to help our students and the local community to build a culture of peace.

Our recent work in Uganda really brought home to us the true inequalities still ever present in the world. Our students are mainly very privileged and for the most part they have been sheltered from the power that inequality wields in the world.



Living in a multi-cultural city and coming from a forward thinking school, students here understand to a larger degree what unfairness and inequality looks like.

We know that the students in the room understand right from wrong and on the whole, accept the difference. What however perhaps we do not always see is the inherent prejudices that life itself offers. The harsh reality of the world where some young people do not get the chance to go to school and where poverty is raw and real both in the UK and abroad. These are things we all see and hear about yet probably find hard to fully understand. It is our job to nurture young leaders who want to challenge this, who want more than just the trip abroad to see 'the culture' or visit a 'poor country'.

We want our young people to see the marginal gains they can help make to adjust the injustices globally and who continually are grounded enough to remind themselves of this and commit to this mission. It is for this reason

that we are building strong links in Africa and working on ongoing projects to support and develop our curriculum and CPD offer. Thus enabling our staff, students and parent's exposure to the true meaning of poverty with some open avenues to make a positive difference. We are committed to help our students to understand how they can help to reconcile the conflicts they face and these are the skills that will help them make positive changes in the future.

Recently I visited a fellow World Class school and their tagline of 'everyone can be something' resonated with me. At Finham we want all our students to celebrate their differences and to be pioneers of challenging those who show prejudice towards others. It made me think even more deeply about what World Class actually means to us and reminded me of a past student of mine...

He was convinced the world was against him. He hated teachers, hated his family, even I think hated himself. He had a tough time at school and lived in a world where colour mattered and aggression was the 'language' that was valued most. He was the student most people expected to end up in prison, who teachers in some schools might have rolled their eyes about behind closed doors or secretly dreaded teaching. The Headteacher of that school however did not think those things and now, years later, these are the things I also stand firm against. He was the student who needed teachers the most, who needed support, a role model and to be shown kindness. I was proud to be part of a school that offered all of those things and who never would give up or abandon a young person in need. That young man is now successfully running his own business and remembers the impact teachers who would not give up on him had on his life. He has made peace with those he wronged and now is able to use his experiences to model a better way to those who look up to him.

Making a difference drives me and is the basis for what we stand for at Finham Park School. it's why we as a school community are continually looking to make our world a better place. It's important to look at how we can live in a more sustainable way, not just with those people around us but also with our environment.

I am therefore pleased to be able to say today that Finham Park School has committed to being single use plastic free by September.

We are proud to be here today, making these pledges , not because they are easy, but precisely because they are hard and cost us something as they all challenge us personally. We are committed to working collaboratively with the Cathedral and the community it serves to build a future that is focused on peace and reconciliation.



Chris Bishop
Headteacher, Finham Park School





National Youth Orchestra



SCHOOL
MEMBER

On Thursday the 11th of July Lyng Hall was visited by the National Youth Inspire Orchestra. They gave us an incredible day, culminating in a spine-tingling performance of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. We squeezed all of years 7 and 8 into the theatre alongside the 70 piece orchestra and also streamed the event live to all classrooms so that everyone in the school could be part of the concert and experience the unique atmosphere. As Mr Green said at the end of the performance, you really have to feel an orchestra to properly understand it.



The NYO musicians gave workshops to our young people and introduced them to each orchestral family in turn. We had instruments and tutors on hand from our new partners at Coventry Music Hub and were able to give pupils the chance to try out instruments. We have since established a scholarship scheme where 100 pupils can have lessons on instruments ranging from cello to flute and trombone to violin and are forming a school orchestra.

The day was run by our group of Young Promoters (or YoPros) who had already received training in event management from the NYO at the Warwick Arts Centre concert in January. They explored the technical side of the music industry and worked alongside the NYO staff to ensure that the day ran smoothly.

The NYO took over the school for the entire day, even replacing the bell with live music played over the school's loudspeaker system. Our ks4 musicians had the opportunity to work with composers and begin introducing new sounds to their compositions and groups of musicians flash-mobbed in the courtyard and in classrooms all over the school.

We also recorded a special episode of the school's fortnightly music podcast, which can be seen by scanning the QR code below.



This features performances from various different parts of the orchestra, as well as an interview with NYO players about how and why they got into music.

The orchestra more than lived up to its name and utterly inspired the whole school for the whole day. In a few years we aim to have some of our own players in NYO. Lyng Hall has recently been awarded Music Mark in recognition of the developments in our music provision.



Did you know that spiders shed their skins?

That was a question children at Finham Primary School were asked.

Year 2 children learnt that the answer to that question is 'Yes', they do shed their skins!



Scarlett in 4S brought in some Tarantula Spider skins to show the children at Finham Primary. This fitted well with part of the Year 2 Science Curriculum Life Cycles.

The children were given the opportunity to look at the skins and ask some questions about these spiders. Scarlett was able to tell them what part of the world they live in and how different habitats affect the size of the spiders. They were also told why they shed their skin and how you have to be very careful touching them due to their unusual fur!

Outdoor Learning



At the end of the summer term, students from Lyng Hall School and Finham Park School spent a day at Finham Primary.



The students were part of the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust Student Leadership team (MATSLs).

The students spent time with Finham Primary children and staff to find out more about the outdoor learning that takes place there.



Finham Park 2 are proud to be supporting the work of the Guide Dog Association by welcoming into school Alan, a Guide Dog puppy.

Alan was born on 7th June 2019 and is a Golden Retriever Labrador cross. He is living with the Finham Park 2 librarian Mrs Kerr for the year, and making regular visits into school to meet with children and staff.



Alan has also participated in extra-curricular activities including Duke of Edinburgh.

This weekend he accompanied some of our students on their Bronze practice expedition.

Alan will be in school until June of next year when he will go to be formally trained and eventually paired with a blind or partially sighted individual. It is hoped that his experiences within school will prepare him for his future role. However, when the time comes he will be much missed by students and staff alike who enjoy his company!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The first Finham Park 2 Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are underway.!

The students are working towards their Bronze Award and have to complete 6 hours of planned activity for two days with an overnight camp.

One weekend at the beginning of October, saw participants crossing the local Warwickshire countryside travelling along the Coventry Way with full rucksacks and then setting up camp at the Corley Centre.

Fortunately our tents turned out to be waterproof as it couldn't have rained any harder through the night! The students are all looking forward to the assessed expedition the following weekend (as long as their boots have dried out by then!).

Over the last six months students have also been completing their skills, volunteering and physical sections of the Award with a wide range of activities being undertaken.

Good luck to all those taking part!



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Mandarin Excellence Programme

Shanghai 2019



In July 2019, students and staff from Finham Park School, Lyng Hall and Finham Park 2 travelled to Shanghai, China as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme. During the 2 week visit, students took part in intensive learning lessons led by Chinese teachers, and applied their learning in a series of real life opportunities.



Children were able to speak Mandarin whilst shopping and visiting many historic and cultural sites. By immersing themselves in the culture, children not only developed their linguistic skills but were also able to appreciate the context of their learning.

Children in Finham Park Multi Academy Trust are fortunate to be part of the Confucius Classroom and the Mandarin Excellence Programme in conjunction with the British Council and University College London (UCL) Institute of Education.



This visit, with children from three schools across the Finham Park MAT, also benefited from learning and working together.





The lion Alliance

Initial Teacher Training

We welcomed our 23 new trainees into our Teaching School Alliance in September of this academic year and have enjoyed supporting them to settle into their schools. Our superb group of subject mentors have been busy attending training at Warwick University and supporting our trainees, helping them to develop their craft and classroom practice.

Welcome to The Lion Alliance

A pioneering world class teaching school alliance that trains teachers to innovate and inspire the current and future generations



Our strategic partners



Contact us:
www.thelionalliance.co.uk
admin@thelionalliance.co.uk
[@thelion_alliance](https://twitter.com/thelion_alliance)
Finham Park School, Green Lane, Coventry CV3 6EA

I wonder how many of us can remember teaching our very first lesson. The daunting feeling of standing in front of several pairs of eyes and trying to remember all the ingredients of an effective lesson 'don't forget to ask questions, be ambitious and challenge learners, support and scaffold learning, check understanding, use the school's behaviour system'. The list is endless.

We forget, as professionals, the multitude of things we do in a classroom to enable learning but at the beginning of our career it can be overwhelming. Our current 23 trainees are experiencing this this half term as they observe lessons, watch teaching, track students and start to teach for the first time.

Please do take the time to find out who the trainee teachers are in your school and say hello.

Alliance Day



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that



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admin@thelionalliance.co.uk
c/o Finham Park School

Following The Lion Alliance Induction days and Warwick University induction weeks, we hosted the first alliance day at Finham Park School in mid September.

It was a fantastic opportunity to see all our trainees together in one setting. The training focus was on planning. Representatives from Warwick University joined us, observing our training provision throughout the day.

Many thanks to colleagues who were involved in planning and delivering training sessions during this day: Danni Malin (Deputy College Leader, MFL) and Ellie Boyce (English) delivered training on memory, recalling and retaining knowledge and planning over time for progression. Mike Gunn (Head of Creative Arts) finished the day with a much appreciated session on Planning Time for Ourselves.

We're looking forward to seeing our secondary trainees together again on 18th November at Finham Park 2 for our next Alliance Day.



TeachMeet

On Tuesday 1st October, colleagues from across the Lion Alliance came together for the 4th Lion Alliance TeachMeet.



Jay Davenport, Headteacher of Manor School in Northants gave a keynote speech about his school's approach to the wellbeing of staff and students. He spoke about 'controlling the controllable' and the importance of communication in schools between colleagues. He shared his school's strategy on wellbeing and revealed how his senior team have put vision into action.

There were a series of table top sessions led by colleagues from across the Lion Alliance, which included:

- Whole class feedback
- Technology in the classroom
- Curriculum
- Supporting vulnerable children
- Mentoring Violence Prevention Programme
- SEND



Lion Alliance CPD

Sports England



THE LION
ALLIANCE

CPD

Date

Time

Location

Leader

Cost

Mindfulness.b foundation course (8 weeks)

Thursday 7th November 2019, running every Thursday

until 19th December 2019 and then a final session on

Thursday 9th January 2020

3.20pm to 4.40pm

Finham Park, Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EA

Toby Smith, Bablake School

Free to all schools in The Lion Alliance

The Lion Alliance is offering a mindfulness.b foundation course which is specially designed for teachers and adults in the school community who wish to learn the foundations of mindfulness. The training has been trialled and proven to be effective in over one hundred schools across the UK. Further information is attached.

To book your place please email admin@thelionalliance.co.uk by Friday 11th October 2019



CPD

'Teachers learn from teachers'

One of the benefits of being part of a Teaching School Alliance, is the opportunity to access a range of free training for staff. Schools within The Lion Alliance are committed to investing in their staff as part of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Our CPD programme is tailored to the demands of the schools within The Lion Alliance. As a Teaching School and Teaching Alliance, we have access to a range of training based not only in research, but applied in practice.



Lion Alliance CPD

Autumn Term

| CPD | Date & Time | Lead & Location |
|--|---|---|
| Feedback or Feedforward? | Tues 8 th October 2019 3.30pm to 4.30pm | Helen Cooke Finham Park |
| The Google Powered Classroom | Tues 15 th October 2019 3.30pm to 4.30pm | Jon Bridgeman Finham Park |
| Retrieval and Retention strategies | Thurs 17 th October 2019 3.30pm to 4.30pm | Danielle Malin and Elliot Cole Finham Park |
| PLC's – A Marriage of Knowledge and Skills | Tues 12 th November 2019 3.15pm to 4.30pm | Alex Smith Finham Park |
| Effective strategies for the more able | Wed 13 th November 2019 4.30pm to 6.00pm | Helen Pascoe-Williams Princethorpe College |
| Effective SEND Provision | Mon 18 th November 2019 1.30pm to 3.30pm | Danni Sheriff and Sally Casemore Moseley Primary |
| Assessment for Learning | Mon 25 th November 2019 4.30pm to 5.00pm | Liz Allton Finham Park 2 |
| Raising Expectations in Maths | Thurs 28 th November 2019 9.00am to 11.30am | Darren Rudge and Sally Casemore Moseley Primary |



THE LION ALLIANCE

To book your place or to list those attending from your school please use [Frog Lion Alliance](mailto:admin@thelionalliance.co.uk)
If your school requires additional Frog log in's please request via admin@thelionalliance.co.uk

Lion Alliance Leadership

2020 will also be the launch date of our brand new Lion Alliance Leadership courses, for leaders at different stages of their career.

If you are not yet a leader but considering this then the Aspiring Leadership course could be right for you. Lion Alliance Leadership courses and training will also be available in addition to our Lion Alliance Leadership courses for those colleagues considering the move to Senior Leadership.

There is something for leaders at all stages of their teaching career. Places are limited but please speak to colleagues leading teaching and learning in your school for further information.

Specialist Leaders in Education

In the last half term of last academic year, we appointed 5 Specialist Leaders in Education across our primary and secondary schools and looking forward to them becoming involved in training and support across The Lion Alliance.

We will be recruiting again later this academic year.



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Teacher training
that



CARES

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Recruiting Trainee Teachers for September 2020

Do you know someone who is considering a career in teaching?

Perhaps they'd like a taster day in one of our alliance schools or want a chat to understand more about the profession?

Please do ask them to get in touch with us.

We are officially open for applications from prospective trainees and in addition to our partnership with Warwick University, we are also working in partnership with Birmingham City University this year and have places in a wide range of specialisms; we have both primary and secondary places available.

admin@thelionalliance.co.uk



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 2020

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.



**THE LION
ALLIANCE**



Apply through UCAS Online
Applications open: 8 October 2019

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

Throughout the year, we will be attending several recruitment events across Birmingham and Warwickshire. Our first event will be at Warwick University on Saturday 23rd November, showcasing our excellent training and support for those considering a future in teaching.

There will even be glimpses of our new promotional videos, filmed in many of our alliance schools. Keep your eyes on Twitter – you may soon see some familiar faces, of both students and colleagues!

admin@thelionalliance.co.uk



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

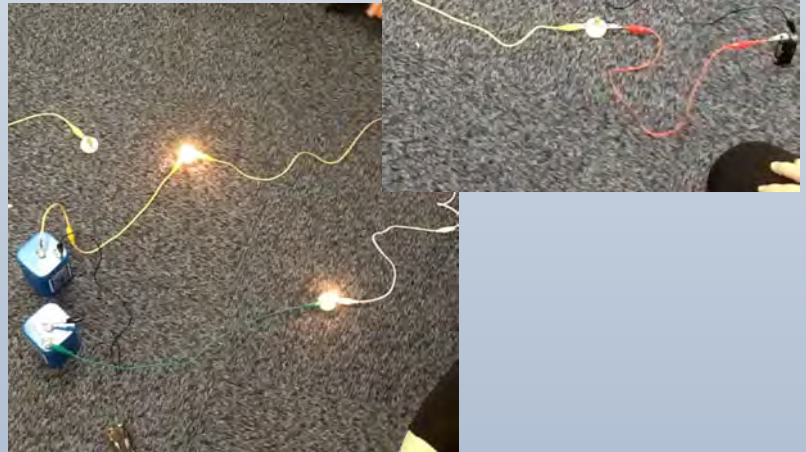


Exploring, Experimenting and Learning

Children at Pearl Hyde have been having lots of fun in their learning.

In Year 4 Science, children have great fun learning about electricity.

They explore circuits using 6V batteries and test what makes an effective circuit and what materials or factors interrupt circuits.



Children in Years 3 and 4 develop their scientific knowledge and understanding when they learn about states of matter. They posed questions and used their prediction skills before conducting experiments to find out how dried ice-cubes would react over time.



The children conduct a series of investigations in Science and are encouraged to apply their findings to their wider knowledge.

Here they learnt about rain making , or precipitation to use its scientific name.

Children at Pearl Hyde are encouraged to take their learning beyond the normal classroom and apply it to lots of different environments.

In the summer term, Year 3 and 4 children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Kingsbury waterpark where they had the opportunity to explore and test out their survival skills!

Fire lighting, shelter building and open fire marshmallow toasting all develop children's understanding of different environments, enable them to test their practical and resilience skills—the marshmallows also taste good too!

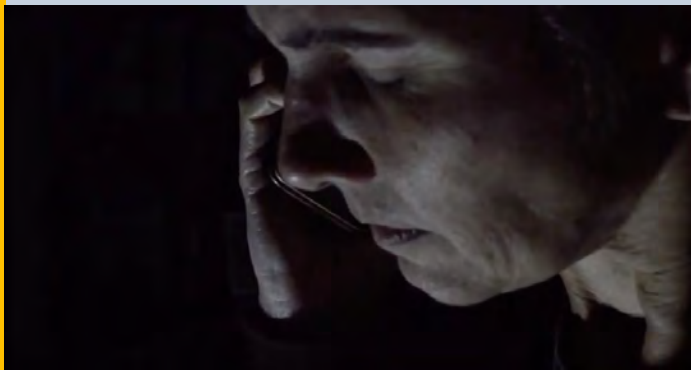




FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Finham Park Media Arts

The final term of last year was hugely successful for the Media Arts department in a number of areas we'd targeted. Not only were our results at GCSE and A Level both outstanding, but we were also awarded a certificate from Oxford Analytics congratulating us on having the highest value added scores at A Level Film in the country for 2018. This gives us real momentum in our attempt to become a national centre of excellence in film-making.



In addition, the practical work produced by students was yet again highly commended by professional film-makers, both at our own film festival, and at the National Media Magazine Production Awards, where Kitty Eaton-Kent was short-listed in the top five Short Films on show for her superb production design in "For Caroline". This is now the third time Kitty has been nominated for national awards, and the ninth nomination for the school in total.

The Finham Film Festival itself was yet another chance to showcase the incredible standards of production work here at Finham Park. Again, Mr Hartshorn's chefs did FP2 proud with a superb three-course meal for 80 guests



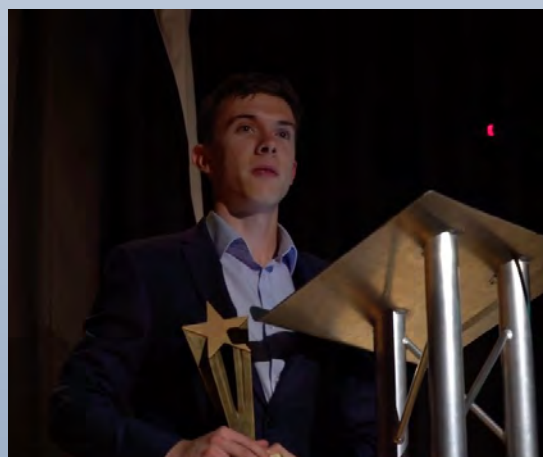
including guests from the film industry such as local directors Dan Gage and Lee Charlish, Production Designer Marcus Rowland (Rocketman), First Assistant Director Rob Grayson (Game of Thrones, Thor: The Dark World) and Concept Artist Bob Cheshire (Star Wars, Avengers).



We were even joined by ex-student Cameron Cox, who recorded the evening and gave our students the footage to create a film about the festival in the hope of promoting it further for next year. You can see their superb efforts on our website, which also contains all of the work of the nominees, and the winning videos: <http://finhampark.com/finham-film-festival/>



The video itself can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/345076996>



If anyone is interested in helping out at next year's film festival (Finham Film Festival 2020 - Bigger, Badder... Filmier!), then please get in touch with Mr Gunn (m.gunn@finhampark.co.uk). We'd love to hear your ideas.



Lyng Hall School has strong links with Warwick University, providing students with a wide range of invaluable experiences and opportunities.

Warwick Scholars is a competitive programme which provides support and mentoring to Post-16 students.

This sought after programme is open to schools nationally and Lyng Hall are delighted that one of their students, Nidhi Himatlal, was successful in her application.



Over the next year she will benefit from visits to campus to get to know the Law Department, receiving mentoring from a current Warwick student to guide her through the programme, including one to one tutoring for her A Level subjects, and A Level revision support.

Full participation in Warwick Scholars will also give her access to a guaranteed reduced offer for 2020 entry to study her Law Degree. This is a testament to her hard work and determination.

"I feel extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to take part in this programme. Warwick University is an elite university and so having a guaranteed chance of being a potential student is a n opportunity that has been given to me."

Nidhi has already attended a residential session as part of the introduction to the Warwick Scholars programme. She has been invited to talks as well as had the chance to meet with current students who are able to guide her and talk about the UCAS application process as well as general information about life as a Warwick University student. We wish her good luck with her studies.

Franklin Scholars

Lyng Hall's Franklin Scholars programme focuses on literacy and numeracy, enhancing transferable skills. For example, communication, teamwork and resilience. In September, fifteen Year 10 students successfully completed their initial training to be able to become a Franklin Scholars Mentor. Students were really engaged during the session and are now fully equipped to mentor Year 7 students through this programme.



Year 10 student, Layan, commented, 'This programme lets Year 10 students assure Year 7 students that new beginnings aren't always difficult, and that they will have support to make it easier for them.'

Year 10 student, Emily, said that as part of the training students took part in a range of activities and games. Playing 'Guess Who' helped to improve communication skills.

Emily mentioned that the programme will improve the learning skills of Year 7 students by focussing on how they communicate with others and build their own confidence.

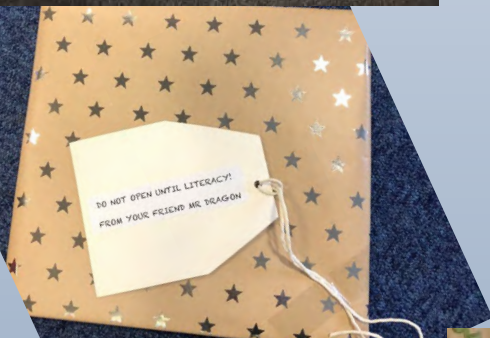




Children in Year 2 were very excited to find that whilst they were in assembly, there had been a very special visitor to their class-room—a dragon!

Children found letters individually addressed to them which they excitedly opened.

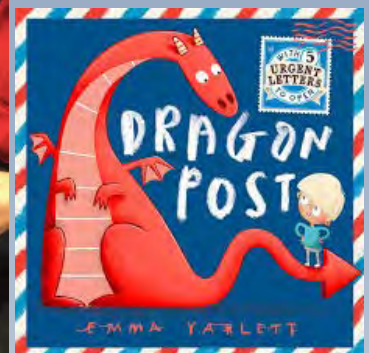
The letters, from Mr Dragon, told the children all about him.



The following day, Mrs Thakor was very surprised to find a copy of 'Dragon Post' by Emma Yarlett waiting for her.



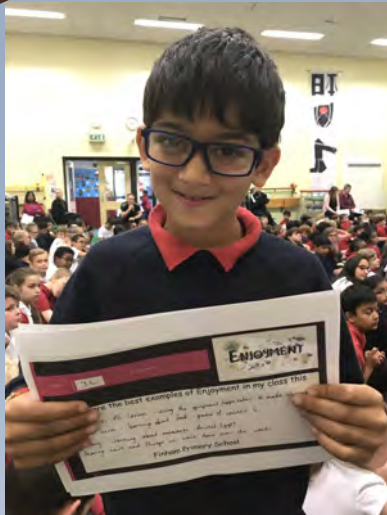
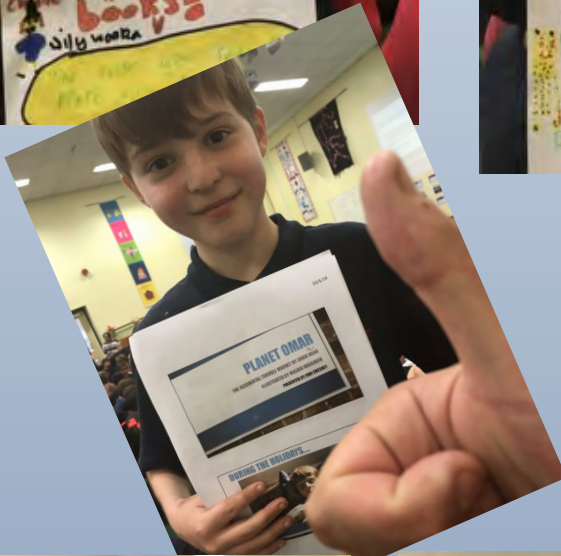
Mrs Thakor and Year 2 really enjoyed reading about Dragons and learning about writing letters.



Enjoyment Week

Children enjoyed 'Enjoyment Week' where they were able to share and talk about things they enjoy!

Reading was very popular and children were keen to show off their love of reading amongst other things.



Finham Park 2 Design and Technology students have been involved in a project (#DesignLabNation) with The Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry and The V&A Museum, London this year. During the Autumn term we had visits and workshops at both museums and two workshop days back at school. The students also got to work with designer Gemma Latham each time and she inspired them with digital technology, computer games and the links between coding and weaving which is part of Coventry's textiles heritage. Students also got the chance to meet and hear from a designer from Rare Ltd (Computer games) and learn about how computer games are made and developed and potential careers in the industry.



The project has since been run with three other schools in Coventry – Finham Park, Foxford and Cardinal Newman. On the 11th July some of the students involved attended a celebration event at The Herbert to look at the work produced by the four schools and celebrate the fantastic ideas and work produced by all.



The Year 8 and 9 students involved have developed their creativity and iterative design skills which will be really beneficial to their GCSE D&T Product Design course. They have also been fantastic ambassadors for the school during all of the trips and events and I have been extremely proud of them.

Students in Design Technology have lots of opportunities to learn the importance of developing ideas by modelling, testing and evaluating. Examples include:

Year 7 designing, modelling, testing and evaluating board games.

Year 8 explored biomimicry where they worked on passive speaker projects with shapes and patterns inspired by nature.

Students learnt how to use different materials, including concrete, within their designs. They also developed their practical skills learning about new tools and process used by hand and also CAD / CAM.



Year 9 GCSE Design and Technology students learn about Sustainability and Environmental issues. They have to think about responsible design and using scrap materials for repurpose and upcycling, like these upcycled clocks:





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FINHAM PARK 2



Finham Park 2

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