

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

World Class News

May 2021

Edition 18



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

FPMAT

Dramatic Return



Bloodheart



Girls on Board



English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking



Welcome from Mark Bailie



Dear Parents and members of the community.

Welcome to the latest edition of World Class News.

This edition is packed with more examples of the World Class experiences available for staff and children in our schools. I am always incredibly proud when I see the commitment staff offer to our students.

Secondary schools have been working on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) and Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). As part of this process, colleagues from all subjects across all 4 secondary schools came together for moderation. This is important work and will help ensure that students receive grades which reflect their achievements in GCSEs and A Levels and enable them to progress further in education and beyond. I wish them all the very best for their futures.

Whilst this has been an unusual year, to say the least, I know that staff have been working hard to support Year 13, Year 11 and Year 6 prepare for the next stage of their education. The 'normal' transition experiences, whether from primary to secondary or from Year 11 to Sixth Form, have had to be adapted. The next half term will provide students with transition experiences and schools are looking forward to working with the children. I never fail to be impressed with the resourceful and willingness to implement new initiatives or approaches in the best interests of the children. I am sure that while many will remember this academic year for some reasons, such as the pandemic, many more will remember the support they received at school. I would like to thank students, staff and parents for their hard work and commitment so far this year.

Next academic year there will be even more opportunities for colleagues across primary and secondary to collaborate and co-construct. School calendars will be more closely aligned, and more co-construction time will be given for colleagues to share best practice. For example, there is a second MAT training day planned in February where colleagues will work together. This will ultimately result in greater opportunities for all children in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust.

It is really pleasing to read of the successes of the children in this edition. Schools in the Finham Park MAT offer a range of opportunities to take part in national competitions and initiatives. For example, students at Whitley who entered the English Speaking Union, Churchill Public Speaking and Lyng Hall students who took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz. These are experiences that will stay with the students for life.

More locally, as part of the City of Culture, students have worked together to design flags for the Coventry Moves Project. Creative Arts play an important role in children's learning. Pupils at Lillington have been using arts to develop their understanding of texts and vocabulary.

We also run our own competitions and are searching for our very own Finham Park MAT Poet Laureate. I am really looking forward to reading the entries. I hope you will encourage your child to enter.

As we approach Whitsun, I know that many of you will be looking forward to spending time with friends and family. I hope that, whatever your plans, you make the most of what will hopefully be a drier week than recently!

I wish all of you and your families a restful break over the Half Term.

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher

School Improvement



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the latest editions of FPMAT World Class Education and FPMAT World Class News.

This edition features just some of the highlights from across the schools in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. It is always a pleasure to receive articles for World Class Education and to see the range of experiences on offer for both staff and children.

As you will be aware, Finham Park MAT embeds a 3 year Teaching and Learning cycle across our schools. Our current cycle, Responsive Teaching, is coming to a close at the end of this academic year. This has been one of our most successful cycles yet and it has been exciting to see colleagues using Responsive Teaching strategies in practice. Many staff have been conducting action research, and applying what they have learnt into practice. This is then shared with colleagues across the Multi Academy Trust and enables staff to benefit from further training.

Due to the success and relevance of Responsive Teaching, we will develop this further in our next 3 year teaching and learning cycle. To move Responsive Teaching to the next stage, we will be introducing Instructional Coaching. This is a very exciting development and something that all 7 schools in the FPMAT have committed to. This coaching enables all teachers, regardless of experience, to develop even further. This is in addition to the wide range of training and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) provided to staff over the course of the next academic year.

Earlier this year we launched our FPMAT Development Groups. I am pleased that they are progressing well and there are some interesting work being conducted by colleagues. The next edition of World Class News will provide an update, on their work. From the work of the Development Groups, we will have some exciting new for Student Leadership in all schools next academic year, including the relaunch of our Finham Park MAT Student Leadership body.

A new MAT magazine has recently been launched, which features the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) and will be shared by schools with their parents. The MEP provides a great opportunity for students to not only learn Mandarin as a language, but to gain a historic and cultural understanding too. As part of the programme, students have the opportunity to visit China in an immersive programme. I was fortunate to accompany MEP students to Chengdu, China in 2018 and can certainly vouch for the fantastic opportunity students are given.

There are some great examples of the work and experiences offered to students in this edition. Public speaking is a highly regarded skill which will benefit students for later in life. Recently I was interviewed by students at Whitley who were keen to ask my opinion on climate change. This was part of their submission for a national competition and I would like to wish them the very best of luck—full details to follow in the July edition.

As we prepare for the final half term of this academic year, I wish you a restful and peaceful Half Term break.

Bernadette Pettman
MAT Senior School Improvement Leader



FINHAM PARK
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Mandarin

We are excited to launch the first edition of the FPMAT Mandarin Newsletter—look out for the full edition—extracts below. **Vanessa Priest**



FINHAM PARK
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MAT 3031

Finham Park MAT

Mandarin Newsletter



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Huānyíng 欢迎 Welcome...

...to the first edition of the **Finham Park MAT Mandarin Newsletter**

In this newsletter we celebrate the successes of our students studying Mandarin in the MEF (Mandarin Excellence Programme) classes within our Multi Academy Trust schools.

Studying Mandarin gives pupils the opportunity for a world class education and an experience of the world.

You can see the creativity in teaching, the enjoyment in learning and the successful acquisition of the Chinese language.



MAT MEF students outside a Buddhist temple during residential trip to Shanghai. Over 18% of the population of China are thought to be Buddhists.

The rich Mandarin curriculum is delivered by skilled linguists and experienced teachers, underpinned by the **UCL IGE Confucius Institute for Schools** via the **DfE** and the **British Council**.

The curriculum focuses on the academic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing (in Pinyin and characters), as well as widening cultural knowledge and experiences.

Through intensive learning days, visits, competitions, cultural celebrations and activities such as song writing, tai chi and calligraphy we provide real life language learning to support students to become Global Citizens.

FINALIST

LYNG HALL STUDENT THROUGH TO THE FINAL OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL MANDARIN SPEAKING COMPETITION.

PAGE 2



Mandarin Excellence Programme

THE YEAR OF THE OX

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE DESPITE LOCKDOWN 3.

PAGE 3 & 4



WHAT'S GOING ON?

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS IN THE MAT MANDARIN CALENDAR

PAGE 15

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| January 一月 1月 | February 二月 2月 | March 三月 3月 |
| April 四月 4月 | May 五月 5月 | June 六月 6月 |
| July 七月 7月 | August 八月 8月 | September 九月 9月 |
| October 十月 10月 | November 十一月 11月 | December 十二月 12月 |

HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition:

Each year the MEP hold a HSBC Mandarin Speaking competition and this year was no exception. Usually held at the British Council in London, this year the competition is being held on line. It is the second time Ling Hall school has entered a pupil. Adam Yeh is the Intermediate + category, as how did he go on? Find out below.



Why enter the competition?

The competition offers a fun opportunity for secondary school students to practice and improve their Mandarin Chinese language skills, with the aim of encouraging greater interest in Chinese language and culture. Taking part helps to raise students' confidence in their speaking skills, develops their vocabulary, and improves their pronunciation.

Was Adam successful?

YES! On the 25th March 2021 Adam successfully made it through to the final of the HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition. The final is on Wednesday 5th May 2021. Well done Adam we are all very proud of you.



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What do participants have to do?

The competition is in 2 rounds. A knockout stage and then the final. For both rounds pupils have to:

- Prepare a 3 minute presentation on a topic.
- Translate text from Mandarin to English or vice versa.
- Discuss a scenario chosen by the judges. Daily routine and school?

"Adam demonstrated dedication, and his profound knowledge in Mandarin. He performed impressively under pressure". Miss Luo

Chinese New Year celebrations: Iyng Hall

Throughout the year Finham Park MAT hold Invasive Learning days. This is where students are off timetable for the whole day and spend it putting into practice what they have learnt in the classroom, through cultural and real life experiences. This year this has been happening on line. This year, kick-started at Iyng Hall School, celebrating the Chinese New Year.



Student Resource Pack

Letters were sent to parents and students were sent activity resource packs through the post in preparation for Chinese New Year Invasive Learning day. These included, a fan, a pot (Chinese food), a calligraphy brush pan, character template sheets, red and yellow card and glue.

The itinerary for the day



The day was carefully planned and delivered by the Mandarin department. Miss Luo, Miss Wang and Mrs Priest. With cross curricula lessons with Miss Scott (Drama), Mr Leach-Smith (PE), Miss Stock (Maths)

"I loved learning about calligraphy and having my own seal to write characters"

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Chinese New Year celebrations: Iyng Hall

The collaboration of teachers and administrative staff delivered an exciting program of events for students to participate in. Active activities are pupils learn about the cultural aspects in China, and then get a chance to participate themselves. Celebrating their accomplishments in a closing ceremony at the end of the day.



Fan Dancing-Isabella

Students learnt about the traditions of Fan dancing and a routine to perform.

Chinese football challenge-Muhammad

Mrs Priest and Mr Leach-Smith set the challenge to see how many times pupils could keep the Jiao (Chinese Football) off the ground. They both watched and pupils watched their attempts... they were not very good! Only managing 3 touches.

Chinese Lantern Making-Muhammad & Natan

After each lesson activity students were given a Chinese character. At the end of the day these made a message that students sent via teams during the closing ceremony and received a New Year Chocolate!

Calligraphy-Isabella

Students learnt about the traditions of Calligraphy and a routine to perform.

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MANDARIN NEWSLETTER

Creative Teaching: Lockdown learning

The participation and creativity of our students is so pleasing to see. It was important to see practical activities to provide variation in learning and time away from looking at a screen. Cooking Chinese food was the perfect complement to the Food and Drink topic.



Year 8 West Conventry Academy made Chinese dishes when they learned the topic of 'Food and drink'.

Some had great ideas to combine Chinese and western food together. They also designed a school menu in Chinese and presented it via Teams during lockdown.

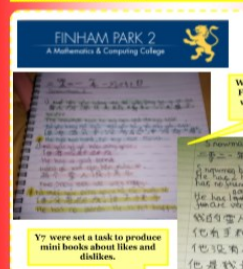
WCA 星期三菜单

吃 喝 水 茶 牛肉 牛奶 米饭 可乐

FINHAM PARK MAT
MANDARIN NEWSLETTER

Creative Teaching: Lockdown learning

Each of our Finham Park MAT Schools took a variety of approaches to distance learning. Live lessons via Microsoft Teams was essential in continuing the learning of Mandarin.



Year 7 were set a task to produce mini books about likes and dislikes.

With the first snow falling FP2 Year 7 pupils took to writing along the snowy theme in Mandarin.

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MANDARIN NEWSLETTER

Creative Teaching: Lockdown learning

Despite the various lockdowns, MEP Mandarin students across the MAT have been learning in very creative ways. Via online live and recorded lessons, through Google classroom, they have continued to make excellent progress.



Year 7 lovely students were very engaged with Jamboard during the lockdown.

They learned how to talk about their sports and hobbies with our brilliant trainee teacher Miss Mansell.

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MANDARIN NEWSLETTER

Creative Teaching: Lockdown learning

Year 10 and 11 students show how they are independent learners and have motivation to keep on learning at home.



Y10 student Medha made a Tour Guide booklet for the London tourist information centre to offer the Chinese tourists more tips in London.

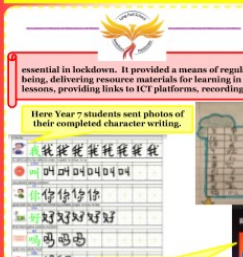
Tourist attraction Zhongshan 'Zhu Family tomb'. An ancient water town near Shanghai. Established 1700 years ago with archaeological findings dating back 5,000 years.

Our Y10 student Tegan demonstrated how busy she was during the lockdown, studying, baking, cycling and making bread herself!

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Creative Teaching: Lockdown learning

Both students and teachers increased the use of ICT learning platforms to continue learning the curriculum. The variety of platforms allowed for teachers to be able to teach and assess during the same live lesson.



Year 7 students sent photos of their completed character writing.

Google classroom was essential in lockdown. It provided a means of regular contact, checking well-being, delivering resource materials for learning in live classes, storing video lessons, providing links to ICT platforms, recording and monitoring students.

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MANDARIN NEWSLETTER

Creative Teaching: In the classroom

Year 7 at Finham Park 2 have been getting creative in their learning and learning about Chinese traditions.



Year 7 designed colourful, personalised lollipop sticks. Great for selecting pupils to answer questions, choosing individual students and picking teams/groups. A great way to encourage fair participation.

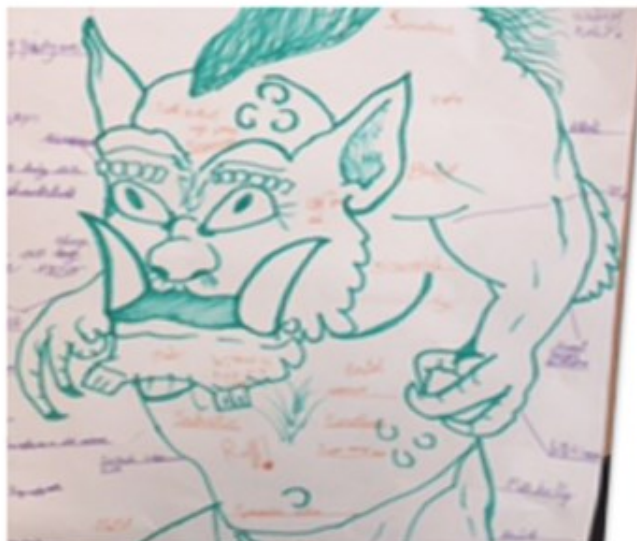
Year 8 student Haleema designed her own revision game.

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MANDARIN NEWSLETTER



Drew Class: *Exploring how the arts can deepen children's immersion, engagement and comprehension of new texts*

With the aim of improving children's immersion, engagement and comprehension of new texts, both the teachers and children pooled a wide range of popular, creative activities from across the arts. For example: charades, Write Dance and expressive movement to genre specific soundtracks; illustrated glossaries; hot-seating; conscience alley; responding to illustrations and music; role on the wall; readers' theatre and even puppetry!



PIC • COLLAGE

The children are currently responding brilliantly and have shown real motivation in participating and taking ownership of the strategies. This has also enabled us, as a key stage, to additionally address and facilitate the children's social skills after such prolonged periods of time out of school and/or in isolation. Consequently, the children's understanding of new texts and related vocabulary - across all subjects – is currently showing accelerated progress in both their reading and writing.

Most importantly though, they're having fun!



Finham Primary have adopted an approach that empowers girls in school to navigate the choppy waters of friendship for themselves.

We are all aware that when girls fall out with each other at school it can be tough for the girls, but also for the teachers and parents who try to support them. Teachers can spend many hours a week trying to unpick the problems and issues that lead to relationship conflict between girls, but with only limited success. The problem is that the issues involved are very fluid and hard to express precisely. Girls in school say that things usually get worse when the adults get involved in their friendship issues.

Girls on Board offers a different way of supporting girls and has been adopted in dozens of schools by hundreds of teachers helping thousands of girls across the UK including Finham Primary School. It is a research-based approach and is developed by Andrew Hampton, Headteacher of Thorpe Hall School in Essex, this approach has been shortlisted for the TES Independent Schools Award for Wellbeing Initiative of the Year 2019 and 2020 and has been shortlisted again for 2021.

Unless there is specific wrong-doing or bullying taking place, *Girls on Board* replaces the 'justice tools' approach usually adopted by teachers to investigate conflict. A *Girls on Board* session brings all the girls in a school year group together to explore and re-enforce the key principles:

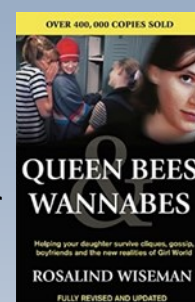
- All girls fear having no friends.
- Adults can only help in very limited ways.

A girl without a friendship group is a problem for *everyone* because whichever group she eventually joins will be changed in some way by her arrival.

Once girls begin to see and understand that they nearly *all* feel this way, then rifts between them naturally start to heal and they start to bond with each other again. Using the *Girls on Board* approach, teachers help the girls build healing empathy and then let that empathy do its work. With hit points throughout the session it brings more and more girls on board until by the end every girl not only understands the importance of remembering that every girl needs a friend, but the school also understands that. The girls gain trust in the facilitator as they are the person who has pointed out the truths about them, which no adult has possibly articulated before. Once girls begin to see and understand that they nearly *all* feel this way, then rifts between them naturally start to heal and they start to bond with each other again. Using the *Girls on Board* approach, teachers help the girls build healing empathy and then let that empathy do its work. With hit points throughout the session it brings more and more girls on board until by the end every girl not only understands the importance of remembering that every girl needs a friend, but the school also understands that. The girls gain trust in the facilitator as they are the person who has pointed out the truths about them, which no adult has possibly articulated before.

Girls on Board sessions look at the dynamics of group sizes, different types of girl behaviour, managing parent reactions and includes role play. If you are familiar with the film *Mean Girls*, you will recognise many of the girl behaviours. If you have girls yourself, it may be worth reading 'Queen Bees and Wannabees: Helping your daughter survive the Cliques, gossip, boyfriends and the new realities of girl world' by Rosalind Wiseman as the film was inspired by this book. Wiseman describes the different roles girls play in and outside of cliques as Queen Bees, Targets, and Bystanders, and how this defines how they and others are treated.

A session may possibly address a friendship issue head on, but more usually a session will remain at the level of principle. The teacher's role is to remain largely recessive and act as facilitator in holding up a mirror which reflects the girls' behaviour and attitudes. A session may possibly address a friendship issue



head on, but more usually a session will remain at the level of principle. The teacher's role is to remain largely recessive and act as facilitator in holding up a mirror which reflects the girls' behaviour and attitudes.

There are six hit points in total these include:

HIT POINT 1-Every girl needs a friend.

HIT POINT 2-Every group of girls need something to bond over

HIT POINT 3-Everybody feels insecure about their friendship

HIT POINT 4-Girls worry about what other people are saying about them.

HIT POINT 5a-Girls tell lies because they don't want to be told off by their parents.

HIT POINT 5b-There are consequences to not telling the truth to your parents.

HIT POINT 6-When grown-ups get involved in girl conflict, things get worse.

This approach is delivered as a single workshop session and reactive sessions can be called as and when required providing that the issue has been explored to rule out bullying. All girls in Key Stage 2 of Finham Primary have had this delivered to them and the light bulb moment when they realised that they feel the same about friendships was a great experience. They particularly enjoyed the role play and opportunities to talk openly about their friendships.

Emma Whittle
Learning Mentor

During this term at Finham Primary we held an MFL week across the school. This created a huge buzz around languages especially Spanish. Children across the school completed a number of activities ranging from food tasting, dancing the flamenco, holding conversations and looking at other countries traditions and beliefs. We held a whole school assembly where clues were planted in each classroom and the children had to guess what our theme was this week. When going into each classroom and speaking to children about what they have enjoyed this week, this is the feedback I received

"I love learning about Spain and when I go on holiday I can speak to other people in their language"

"Learning Spanish is fun but learning the flamenco is really hard"

"Learning Spanish will help me in the future and I like learning about other countries"

This is just a snippet of what children have said but it was a fantastic week and the amount of MFL objectives that teachers can hit in that week has been really beneficial, especially to see progression.

National Day of Remembrance

On Tuesday 23rd March, we joined in the National Day of Remembrance. We



started the day with an assembly and we decided as a whole school to draw around our hands to reflect on the first day of Lockdown. Everyone coloured in a hand and we joined them together to show that we were all in it together as a team. They are displayed in the Finham Primary corridors.



We decided that it was hard times for us, but we pushed through it!

By Finham Primary School Council



*Written by Alesha –Year 9 student reporter,
edited by Mrs Nguyen*

The year 2020 and a big part of 2021 are the years that we will remember forever. It has been tough with virtually no physical human contacts except for people you live with. And our school days were mostly online lessons until Monday 8th March 2021 when we finally got back to our normal classrooms.

It was Friday 23rd April that we, all of the year 9 students, got the opportunity to think about our future and watch the virtual talk from the Human Resources Director of Severn Trent Water: Mr. Neil Morrison. The meeting took place in Green Skills Week where, as Neil mentioned is a week to “talk about all the opportunities that exist in the green economy”.

Neil joined Severn Trent in August 2017 as Director of Human Resources. From his very-down-to-earth approach, Neil explained to us that Human Resources means People Management where the right people with the right skills and the right salaries are employed.

Neil’s career in HR management started in 1996 and he has since worked in a variety of HR roles within other companies. Neil started his life as a lecturer in psychology but “wasn’t very good at it” and so went into people management where he has been ever since.

He explained that Severn Trent makes sure we have fresh water for our homes which is then put back into the environment as clean as possible. Even though we take fresh water for granted as Neil said not everyone in the

world has this opportunity we do, and that Severn Trent Water is very important for the community and people. We then explored how the sewage system is treated and linked to the environment to keep it clean. world has this opportunity we do, and that Severn Trent Water is very important for the community and people. We then explored how the sewage system is treated and linked to the environment to keep it clean.

Do you know that....

Severn Trent Water employs around 7000 staff members?

Severn Trent Water HQ is based in Coventry City Centre?

Severn Trent Water also uses its strength in engineering to change human waste into energies and put them back into the national grids?

Then came the most important part of the talk: Neil talked about how we could get a job at Severn Trent Water from joining Work Experience, Apprenticeship to Under Graduates and Graduates programmes.

We listened with a great deal of interest when Neil talked about a whole range of jobs from engineers to solicitors and the newly opened Training Academy in Finham to provide specific skills and education.

We were then shown a short video of Serena Variah, Assistant Project Engineer at Severn Trent who experienced the apprenticeship that Severn Trent offers, who says:

“Apprenticeships can provide you with the qualifications you want and put you one step ahead.”

Serena also mentioned that Severn Trent has a very positive working culture and that if you're looking for an apprenticeship, Severn Trent apprenticeship opportunities are a great choice as you are "earning while you're learning" and that "you won't regret it", it is a way to learn new skills and meet new people.

"It's the ability to join Severn Trent and combine qualifications with paid work. It is really appealing"

Neil Morrison

We then learnt about Severn Trent's involvement with The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games where Severn Trent is taking on the sustainability agenda to make the Games the most sustainable ever.

To do this Severn Trent have planned projects for the future such as planting ***72 mini forests to represent the 72 nations taking part in the Commonwealth Games and planting 2022 acres Commonwealth Forest.*** Wow! This will bring a sense of hope and opportunities for young people to find jobs and careers within Severn Trent especially after all the hardships the young people have encountered since the first lockdown in March 2020.

"We are doing everything we can by taking more apprentices than ever before. We are creating more jobs than ever before. We are committing to 100 000 hours of our employability training to help people trained to get jobs"

Neil Morrison

To end the meeting Neil answered some questions from the staff and students.

Q: How did you do in your secondary school years?

A: I did so badly and was offered with a clearing or retake. This caused me to not enter the university I would have wanted. This was a life changing moment and I now say to people don't let unexpected things drag you down, do your best."

Q: Do you have any unforgettable memories?

A: I grew up in the Isle of Wight where I experienced parties and trips during school life in the fields. How fun!

Q: Why did you choose to work with Severn Trent Waters over the others?

A: I loved the ambition around the environment that was very important to me, the chance to do things in the local community. Severn Trent is based in Coventry. You get up and go to work every day to provide water to people and water is the source of life, so it felt good to work here.

Q: If we were interested in an apprenticeship what would we need to do to apply?

A: The earliest people can join us is 16 as you need to be part of a training program but there is work experience you can take part in before that. All the information is on the Severn Trent website for working with us."

Q: What is the one thing you like most about Coventry as a City?

A: It's fantastic to see lots of investments for the City, including Coventry City of Culture. I love the people here. It's the honesty from people across the West Midlands

And just like that at the ring of the bell our meeting with Neil was over.



The students left with new knowledge and aspiration for career paths for their future. We learnt the environmentally sustainable projects Severn Trent has planned, the treatment of water we take for granted that comes out of our taps at home and many opportunities such as apprenticeships and work experience at Severn Trent. The students of Whitley will agree with me that it was an eventful learning experience, and we are grateful to Neil and Miss Nguyen for organising this event for us.

Above all, we want to say thanks to the National Charity Speakers for Schools who has given us the opportunity to meet and listen to Neil Morrison. We also want to thank Neil for spending time to prepare for his presentation, as he said it was a nerve-wracking experience to run a virtual talk with the possibility of technical hiccups happening, (thankfully they didn't). Neil has given us a lot of food for thought.

Thank you for reading this blog and remember as Neil said:

“Don't get hung up on your grades, always work hard, always do you best and always put every effort in but if something happens that you didn't expect then don't let it stop or derail you, you can always carry on; every individual is more than just their letters and grades.”

*Written by Alesha –Year 9 student reporter,
edited by Mrs Nguyen*



COLLEGE POINTS BADGES

In every lesson our students have the opportunity to earn achievement points. The maximum possible score for any single lesson is 5 points and these points are collated every week to form the basis of the college championship. So far, 98 students have achieved the milestone of 1000 points and these students have been awarded with a silver phoenix badge to mark the achievement. The badges were presented during tutor time and it was fantastic to see so many students proudly wearing their new badge. Well done to everyone who has received a badge. - **Mr Sanford-Casey, Executive Director for Performing Arts and the School Colleges**





FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Delayed but still amazing!

At the end of the spring term our incredibly talented Year 10, 11 and 13 students completed their practical exams. Despite changes to the specification, numerous students intermittently self-isolating and having to navigate social distancing regulations in a practical subject; the students still performed outstandingly.

Year 13 performed a collection of monologues showing maturity and subtlety in their portrayals of the characters. Their characterisation demonstrated keen insight into the intentions of the playwright. Their performances were incredible.

Year 11 showed great determination and resilience performing their Component 2 scripted monologue and duologues, using plays such as *The Long Road* and *Things I know To Be True*. Their work was captivating and developed, with insightful choices in their artistic decisions. It was wonderful to see and feel such a supportive atmosphere in the Theatre as they cheered on their peers with one amazing performance after another.

Year 10 finally completed their Component 1 devised performances. They have faced many hurdles in the preceding months but they took it in their stride, creating powerful work looking at discrimination and the destructive power of social media. This meaningful work was performed with skill and maturity. Their congratulatory words to each other afterwards were heartfelt and enthusiastic.

As a department- we could not be prouder of their motivation, resilience and outstanding performances!



The Finham Drama Department
J Spokes and S Bartlett



The Lion Alliance Teaching School

Alexandra Ford – Head of the Lion Alliance

We've had another busy term in the Training School, processing well over a hundred ITT applications to date. We are really pleased to see not only excellent growth in our Primary numbers but also in the number of career-changers who are now considering teaching. We have made many excellent appointments for September.



In March we hosted yet another fantastic Alliance Day where trainees received high quality training led by colleagues from across the MAT as well as an afternoon webinar by Hywel Roberts. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with all attendees finding his session inspirational and a 'breath of fresh air.'

Upcoming Events

Termly TeachMeets

Lion Leadership Pathways

'Meet the Expert' Events including...

June 14th 2021– Dr Debra Kidd – tickets on sale now! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h8fe8WIOofoKtxLSWq_2vvQoJz-EA4OFJ8T6SOLdNwU/edit



"Debra Kidd taught for 23 years in primary, secondary and higher education settings. She is the author of two previous books, Teaching: Notes from the Front Line and Becoming Mobius: The Complex Matter of Education, but her latest project, Uncharted Territories: Adventures in Learning, with Hywel Roberts is her favourite because it represents where her heart is – in the classroom. Debra is the co-founder and organiser of Northern Rocks – one of the largest teaching and learning conferences in the UK. She also has a doctorate in education and believes more than anything else that the secret to great teaching is to "make it matter"."

June 21st 2021 – Oliver Caviglioli – tickets on sale now!

**OLI
CAV**



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AmVSvXkoYT7D0Az0Pcf4igX-3G24c2VQARI95jE5Vmc/edit>

Author of Dual Coding for Teachers and most recently the Lesson WalkThrus series, Oliver will deliver three fantastic sessions during the day.

ABOUT

“I used to be a headteacher of a special school, wrote several books on visual teaching strategies and was a trainer in schools and colleges for nearly a decade. After an inspired visit to the 2008 Berlin VizThink conference, I invented the HOW2s — visual step-by-step guides to teaching techniques. Now, I design and illustrate books, produce poster summaries of educational ideas, create visual branding, visualise CPD packages, and make the **occasional** presentation in the UK and Europe.”

Find out a bit more about Oliver on his website: <https://www.olicav.com/about> or follow his Twitter @olicav

July 2022 – Tom Sherrington – tickets coming soon

We are very excited to be hosting a day with Tom Sherrington. Author of the Learning Rainforest, @teacherhead blog and of course Lesson WalkThrus.



Recruitment

If you, or someone you know, would like to train to teach then do please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

Get in touch

Website: www.thelionalliance.co.uk Email : admin@thelionalliance.co.uk

Twitter : @lion_alliance

Written by Eve year 10, edited by Mrs Nguyen

On Wednesday 17th March, many people would have been celebrating Saint Patrick's Day, but Lola, Callum and I were celebrating for a different reason entirely. We were celebrating the fact that, all of us (the Dream Team) had got through to the English-Speaking Union debate semi-finals and would be participating that very evening alongside some amazing competitors, with the likes of Concorde College and Newcastle-Under Lyme School, and many more.

Due to the current circumstances of Covid-19 restrictions, all ESU debates took place over the virtual platform of Zoom. I had personally never used Zoom before, but luckily no computers died and no mics were muted! It was amazing that despite the ongoing national lockdown, the three of us still got to participate and enjoy such an exciting evening of debating, talking about topics of our choices, and I'm sure those who were present there would agree with me when I say we are very grateful to everyone involved in making this possible.

To clarify, ESU stands for English Speaking Union, a national charity with a simple mission which is, ***"to give young people the speaking and listening skills and cultural understanding they need to thrive"***. It was founded in 1918, more than a century ago and one of its first Chairs was Sir Winston Churchill (1921-1925).

To start with, at 4:15pm, we all logged onto the meeting and already, were met with some of our competitors saying their 'Hellos' and 'Good afternoons'. Soon enough, the debate was underway; we were all immediately stunned by the incredible standard of schools that we were competing against. We were in awe of the diverse topics that all school teams had chosen, and how passionately some spoke on them. One of the topics was, ***"Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains."*** (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

This is how the debate works - in each team you have a Chairperson who introduces and concludes whilst keeping the debate flowing - this was Lola's role. You also have a Speaker, who you could say is the main event, talking for 5 minutes about the topic they have chosen – this



for us, was Callum. And finally, you have the Questioner who listens intently to the Speaker and asks them questions on their chosen topic. This helps to clear things up for the audience and to learn a bit more about the topic being debated - this was my job. But here's the twist! The Chairperson and the Questioner don't stick with their teams, they get paired up with the Speaker of another school to form a new team. Similarly, the Speaker gets paired up with the Chair and Questioner of an opposing team.

Soon enough, it was Callum's turn to deliver his speech on the topic of ***"We have a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws- Martin Luther King Jr."*** Callum's passion and knowledge clearly showed, touching on the tangible margin between just and unjust laws. Callum used a part of the Holocaust as an example. Another focal point of Callum's argument was the horrendous treatment from the Chinese government towards the Uighurs – one of the Chinese ethnic minorities. Many of us in the audience learnt so much from Callum's speech to realise the living conditions of the Uighurs.

On reflection, Callum said:

"My experience of the ESU debate was great. It was enjoyable, exciting and informative. It allowed me and my team to learn a lot about a wide variety of topics through others speeches and researching our own. I personally loved it, I love to listen to others' speeches, also I loved making and performing my own. It allowed me to have a great experience where I got to learn teamwork, public speaking, working under pressure and writing my own speech. I am very thankful to my team Eve and Lola, Mrs Nguyen and Whitley Academy for this opportunity."

On reflection, Callum said:

“My experience of the ESU debate was great. It was enjoyable, exciting and informative. It allowed me and my team to learn a lot about a wide variety of topics through others speeches and researching our own. I personally loved it, I love to listen to others’ speeches, also I loved making and performing my own. It allowed me to have a great experience where I got to learn teamwork, public speaking, working under pressure and writing my own speech. I am very thankful to my team Eve and Lola, Mrs Nguyen and Whitley Academy for this opportunity.”

Well said Callum! I agree.

But we couldn’t relax yet. Next Lola and I joined forces alongside Advay from Newcastle-under-Lyme school, to introduce and question him on his topic of *“Medicinal cannabis should be legal.”* Lola began with a pitch perfect introduction, using the quote from Princess Diana herself: “You can be as naughty as you can, just don’t get caught!”

Lola’s thoughts on the evening were as follows...

“I was so nervous that I couldn’t really listen to anyone else’s speech in the time before my turn, I had practiced my speech at least 8 or 9 times, although I was more confident in myself this time than I was in my last. When my turn finally came, I was half expecting to get my words wrong under the pressure, but I was very pleased with how it went, the judges were really proud of our work and suggested that we deliver the speeches to our School. If I could sum up that night in a sentence, I would say that it definitely left me feeling like I wanted to do more public speaking competitions, even though it was so nerve-wracking!”

Next, Advay hit us with an informative speech bursting with knowledge (he actually ended up winning best speaker. Well-done Advay!) Then, it was my turn to question him on what he had just enlightened us on, and I did just that! Since we were the 3rd team to go, I got to see a few of the other questioners and was inspired by the standard in which I had the

opportunity to compete beside. It was incredible to see how interested everyone was in each other's performance and topics. I was honoured to have been able to get there. And, similarly to Lola, it left me feeling inspired to carry on my debating journey and get involved in more.

Almost in the blink of an eye, our part was over and all we could do was sit back and observe the rest of the debate. At around 6:20pm, the judges went away to deliberate and would soon return with the results!

Now it was our half hour wait full of nerves and excitement. We really felt the effects of butterflies in our stomachs. I can't talk for Lola or Callum, but I certainly enjoyed a lovely cup of tea during the wait, living up to my British stereotype.

The esteemed judges then returned back from their Zoom breakout room to deliver the results. Although we didn't win anything, we all left feeling proud of our achievements. After all this was the first time we had actually competed in a second round of any debate, not only that but we were the youngest ones present!

In these days of restriction where physical human contacts are distant memories, it was a massively positive opportunity for us all (including our parents and carers who were sitting there in the background, listening and watching us talking) to at least experience our mental and emotional contacts with young people around us.

To sum up, the evening was very enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to learn, grow and better ourselves as debaters! We are all very grateful to the ESU for organizing such an event, and all the judges for giving up their time. As well as all the teachers and students for making the debate so fascinating! And the last thank-you goes to you for reading this blog and I hope you enjoyed it!

"If you can speak, you can influence. If you can influence, you can change lives."

Robert Brown

There was a great deal of rumour and speculation surrounding the announcement that Finham Park 2 had been selected as the BBC Star School! The honour of 'Star School' lasts 1 week, during which time the selected school takes over the Breakfast Show on BBC CWR.

All of these elements were then broadcast following the big announcement on the following Monday.

On the Wednesday of the Star School week, the outside broadcast team came to school again, this time to do a live piece with students and staff. The students interviewed live on air talked about their D & T project, careers hopes, and even taught the presenter Spanish. Mrs Kerr, the FP2 Librarian gave the answers to the questions posed on the Monday, talked about being back at school and then was asked to give a weather report. The Friday show, and indeed the whole week of programmes received a great deal of positive feedback, and we have been asked to feature regularly on education slots in the future.

Well done Team FP2!



Guide Dog Update

Cici the Guide Dog puppy is settling in very well to life at FP2.

She has grown a lot – she weighed 4.2kg when she arrived in March and is already 12.4kg!

Cici has already been making herself useful, supporting students in Forest Schools lessons, listening to students reading, and having cuddles with staff.

She has mastered the 'sit' command, but can easily be distracted by a bag with a nice smelling sandwich!



Jo Kerr



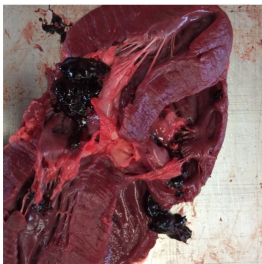
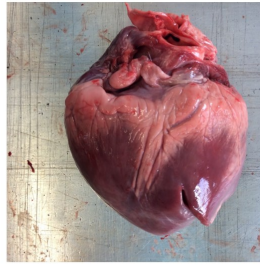
Bloodheart

King and Pankhurst have been working through the 'Bloodheart' topic as their Cornerstones project this term.

Our 'memorable event' included dissecting a pig's heart and making blood. Throughout the project we have been learning about the circulatory system and the importance of a healthy heart. Lessons have included developing the children's knowledge about the workings of the heart, the understanding of children's pulse and how different activities influence heart rate.

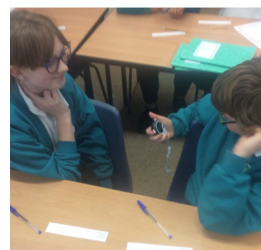


The dissection of the pig's heart was incredible. Children held the heart, felt the strength of the different veins and arteries before cutting the heart in two. Inside, the children found the pig's heart was very similar to a human heart with broadly the same chambers, valves and tubes. Whilst some children found the dissection a bit gruesome, we're hoping someone might be inspired to be a biologist.



In this picture, you can see the Pankhurst children holding the dissected heart. Some were very brave and had a good poke around in all the veins and arteries, others were happy to just watch their friends getting involved and some had to leave the room... We had Mrs Wallace in as a special guest and she seemed to enjoy herself.

In this picture collage, the King children are participating in running activities and investigating the impact exercise has on their heart rates. The children measured their resting heart rates, their heart rates immediately after exercise and then at one minute intervals to see how quickly their heart rate returned to 'normal'. It's really inspired them to become more active.



Mat Holt



As a school, Whitley Academy, we stand strong on doing the right thing at all times, where ever we are and no matter what we are doing. As a collective, kindness is something that we value so much because it costs nothing to give and nothing to accept, so we take full advantage of that.

We showed this through so many things we did through lockdown: delivering food parcels, sending posts cards, and offering a service in where people can contact us for support or even just a chat. We learned so many things and met so many new people through this scheme, and it's all down to one thing Kindness!

When we were first contacted by the Red Cross, we were astounded by the ways in which they make something so simple, a calendar, into something so massive such as the kindness calendar! Miss Hilditch, our Student Leader Mentor, who has done a sensational job at supporting so many people in the community in Whitley, set up a meeting, (socially distanced of course!) and said this is something so small but would have such an amazing impact on people, that we need to get on this and really help the wider community!

The word that stuck out to us the most was relaxation! Relaxation, to us, meant that no matter what's going, what you have to deal with or have dealt with, everything will be okay, and no matter what just stay calm and relaxed because there are people to help!

Miss Hilditch especially has really been touched by this, she showed humongous amounts of kindness and support to so many people no matter that they were strangers; she showed such care and consideration to their situation, but what does it mean to me? This project showed me that no matter your background, gender, situation or who you are, we are all the same - we all share the same problems and are suffering in our own ways. Through this project, I have come to realise, so many people need just a chat over the phone or a postcard through the post, but every little gesture helps massively!

The school, Whitley Academy, Miss Hilditch, our amazing mentor and me - Sam - one of the student leaders, want to say on behalf of everyone you have helped and have done, "Thank you!"

Written by Sam, Whitley Academy .

SAM PARGETTER, 16

Schoolboy Sam was one of many pupils who got involved through the Power of Kindness calendar, which urged young people to show some kindness.

With others in his Year 11 class at Whitley Academy in Coventry, the teenager created postcards with kind messages to deliver to vulnerable people and care home residents near his school.

Sam says: "The residents couldn't have visitors so we hoped

our cards brightened their days. We also delivered food parcels to people shielding or self-isolating.

"We have created six posters with words like 'relationship', 'refuelling' and 'recreation' to get us through these times. All students do one act of kindness each day as part of the kindness calendar.

"Volunteering has helped me and has shown a different side to people.

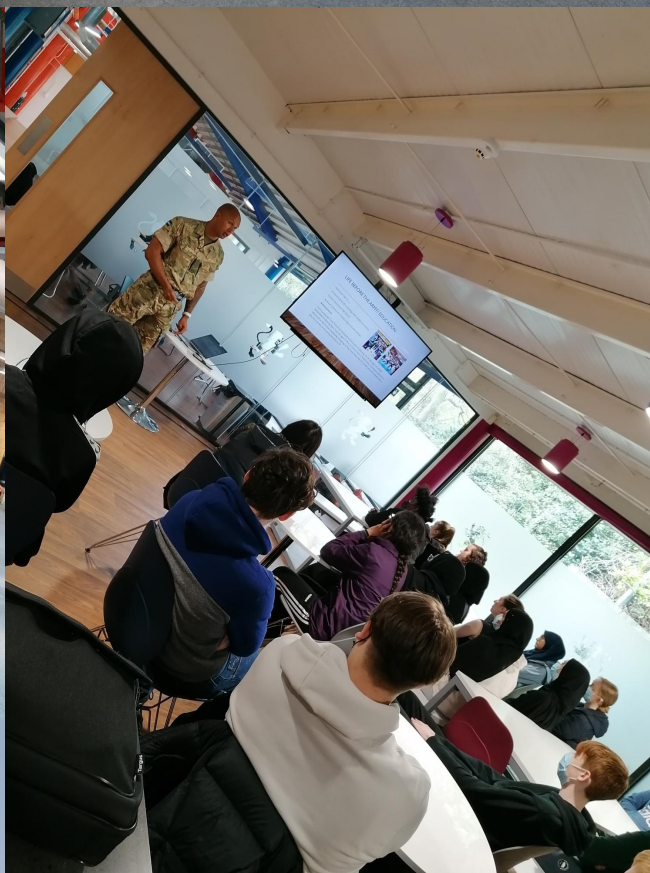
"It makes you stronger and by working collectively, we will get through this pandemic."



Being
kind is
a help

Year 12 students had a unique enrichment opportunity with the British Army. The soldiers delivered a presentation about the army and what day to day life is like. They then delivered team building activities which included students using communication and problem solving skills to complete the tasks. Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very engaged. They even got competitive to win challenges which was fantastic to see.





Shakira Asghar



West Midlands Regional Heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz 2021



Members of 8M have been researching and practicing, with admirable dedication over the past couple of months. The final team was short listed 6 weeks ago—they met each week to practice

Their quizzing game. The team of 5 students went head to head with peers from 32 other schools in the area during the heats on 4th May.

The competition, which is in its first year, is led by the National Literacy Trust and funded by the Author's Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS). It celebrates keen, young readers and champions the important role of teachers and school librarians in promoting reading for pleasure. It comes after National Literacy Trust research revealed that children who enjoy reading have significantly better mental wellbeing than those who don't.

Discovery Academy were named champions after getting 84 but our team played a competitive game, scoring 54 and placing 14 out of the 33 schools. Throughout they showcased their skilful ability to identify the characters, authors and titles of some of the most well-loved stories. They really shone in the World Play and Odd One Out rounds.

Proud of the students' dedication, resilience and passion, the English Directorate rewarded them from reads which have recently been shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards. This was our first experience in the competition and we have set our sights on climbing the leader-board in the years to come.

“The National Reading Championships quiz was an extremely fun way to test our knowledge, it was great to do things outside of the classroom and a truly amazing opportunity.”

“It was an amazing opportunity, it expanded my knowledge and helped develop my teamwork skills.”

“In the reading contest, some questions really made you think, especially the word puzzles. It was a very fun experience and it made my knowledge on books even stronger. It was a great opportunity—preparing for the questions encouraged me to study different topics. I grew increasingly curious about lots of different areas.”

“Very fun experience, very competitive—ultimately a nice time worth attending.”

We would like to thank the National Literacy Trust for this opportunity. It has been a massive boost to the confidence of our students to take part in a national competition. It's been so great to see their progress and how they have prepared and worked together on the quiz.

Henrietta Roberts, Project Manager of the National Reading Champions Quiz, said:

“We are so excited to host the first National Reading Champions Quiz to celebrate young readers across the UK. There is an amazing wealth of literature out there for students to explore and through the Quiz we hope to motivate them to read as widely as possible - and to feel proud of their reading knowledge.



Year 11 Catering Exams

This week Year 11 took part in their practical exams. These photographs show the fantastic standard of work that was produced. These pupils have not been able to cook in school for over a year! They did themselves very proud with their effort and determination. Some fabulous dishes showing great skill and technique. WELL DONE 11Fd!!! -Mrs Coletta



UK Junior Maths Challenge

During this week, 60 Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge. The Junior Maths Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages **mathematical reasoning**, **precision of thought**, and **fluency** in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are **designed to make students really think** in a problem solving manner. The top 40% of pupils in the country are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates with the top 1500 going through to further follow on rounds.

We are super proud of the efforts of the pupils who took part and can't wait to share their results with you.

-Mrs Glancy



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust



Year 1 Finham Primary



Last week we went for a walk to have a look at our local environment. We walked across to Droylsdon Park and looked at the seasonal changes.

We spotted Daffodils starting to grow and blossom forming on the trees. We stood under the tree and looked at where the blossom had formed on the branches.

We spotted human features in our local environment such as roads, shops, the library and houses. We talked about who had visited the library and what they had done when they were there. We talked about how libraries are brilliant because we can look at lots of different books, borrow them and take them back after we had read them.

When we got back to school we compared maps of Finham over time. We looked at a map from 1886, 1901, 1920, 1946 and one from today and observed changes. We saw that in the earlier maps most of the Finham area were fields and farmland and there were very few manmade roads. As the maps progressed through time, we could see houses being built and there were fewer fields. We talked about the need for shops to be built as more people were living in the area and they would need shops locally. We really enjoyed looking at Finham in the past and comparing it to Finham today and we were very excited to see all of the signs of spring in our local area.

Natalie Russell

Year 1 Finham Primary School



FINHAM PARK
SCHOOL

Coventry Moves Schools Flags project

Coventry UK City of Culture 2021.



Between May 2021 and April 2022 there will be a year of colourful, creative arts activities for all across the city. Creative projects of all kinds will show how the arts can empower communities and create a fairer, more connected society.

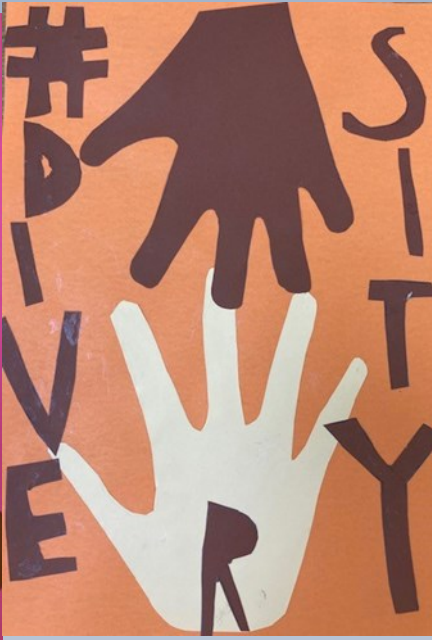
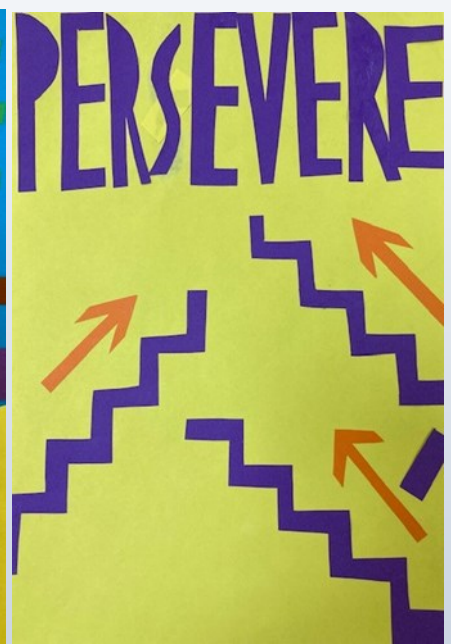
Over the last 4 weeks the Creative Arts department at Finham Park school has been delivering a City of Culture schools flags project to the Key Stage 3 students.

Students were asked to design a flag to help add colour and vision to the City of Culture launch event. 1500 designs will be printed and displayed in the city centre for Coventry Moves on 15th May 2021, all others will be displayed online in a digital gallery.

Students were asked to choose from one of the six main themes of the event and think about what it means to them. Whilst engaging in online remote learning students were involved in discussion, research and mind maps to gather information. They developed abstract shapes and words to incorporate in their design, all were then asked to make plans and designs for their flags. For inspiration students studied the cut paper collage work of Henri Matisse, students then using coloured paper drawing with scissors to complete their final flags.

The students completed over 280 final finished flags of which we hope many will be selected for the launch event.









Yr7 have entered some fantastic flag entries for the Coventry Moves Schools Flag Project, to celebrate Coventry being the city of culture this year.

Yr7 have also produced some fantastic plastics in the ocean projects including the following sculptures made from household waste materials.



Yr8 have begun their Pop Portraits watch this space and Twitter for the exciting results.



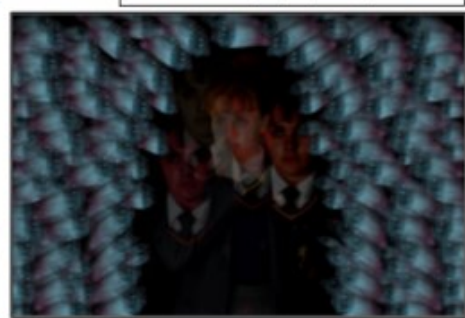
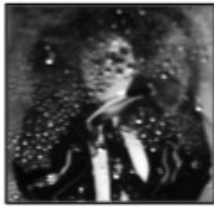
This term our Yr9 Photographers have been very creative whilst working on their lighting and editing techniques.



used this shoot off the face brush man and used the sponge tool to give the paint on the face effect.

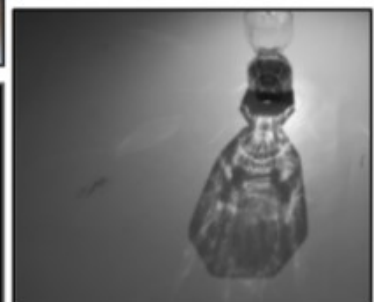


Yr10 Photography Progress





Yr10 Photography Progress



Kelly Ward



Vacancy: Poet Laureate

***There was an Academy Trust,
Who really thought it was a must,
To have written in verse,
MAT news diverse,
If it you to whom this role we entrust?***

Are you interested in being our very own 'Poet Laureate'? We are looking for a secondary school student, primary school student and a member of staff!

We are looking for three individuals to take on this role for an academic year, to pen poems and verses about the MAT and other educational and cultural events.

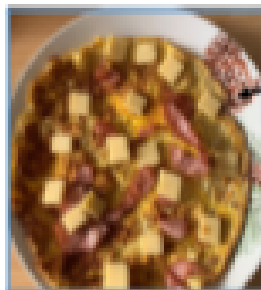
The works will be shared across the MAT, via social media and in our newsletters.

If you are interested please send a poem based on 'Spring' to L.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk by Friday 28th May 2021.



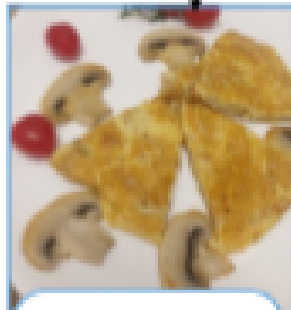
YEAR 9 SPANISH COOKERY

On Thursday 11th February the Spanish department set the task 'La comida española'. Year 9 pupils needed to make themselves some Spanish Food and watch their favourite movie in the Spanish language. We gave them the instructions in Spanish to make a Spanish omelette and add their individual variations. Alternatively they could research other Spanish food recipes and here are the results... ¡Fenomenal!

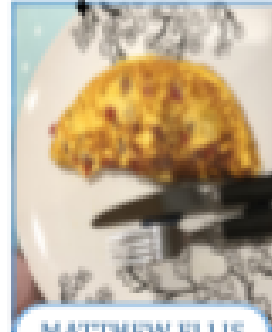


MATTHEW
ELLIOTT

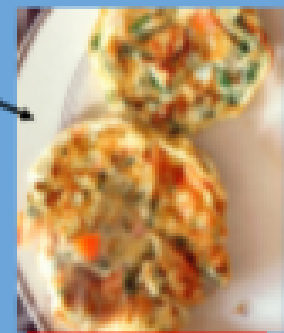
Tortilla Española



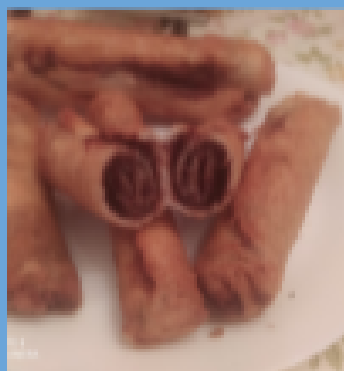
DIANA ZACHEU



MATTHEW ELLIS



JASKIRAN THANDI



LAVANYA MITTAL
CHOCOLATE ROLLS



RUBY QUINN
GARLIC MUSHROOMS



DANIEL BUSTEAN
CHORIZO PASTA



Las Películas españolas...

Most students chose to watch Spanish language films including 'Pans Labrynth', All about my mother. Some chose their favourite movie and switched to the Spanish language version. All good for improving listening skills!



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Schools within the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Schools in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust set out to pioneer, innovate and deliver a "World Class" education for all children from the age of 3-19 where the artificial barriers of stage and age are removed. Our education aims to exceed the highest national and international benchmarks for academic achievement, whilst ensuring young people develop a passion for learning in all its contexts and are ready to take their place as active members of our global community.

The schools in our Trust have moved beyond collaboration and into co-construction – ensuring our education is developed with and by all members to reflect the needs of our children, their families and the wider community. You can find more information about our schools and what it is like to work in our Trust on our website: www.finhamparkmultiacademytrust.co.uk and by following the various links.



Finham Primary

Headteacher: Sarah Bracken

Address: Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EJ

Tel: 024 7641 5425

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



Pearl Hyde Primary

Headteacher: Theresa O'Hara

Address: Dorchester way, Coventry, CV2 2NB

Tel: 024 7661 0165

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



Lillington Nursery & Primary

Headteacher: Victoria Wallace

Address: Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa
CV32 7AG

Tel: 01926 425144

Website: <https://www.lillingtonschoool.org/>



Finham Park School

Headteacher: Chris Bishop

Address: Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6EA

Tel: 024 7641 8135

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



Lyng Hall School

Headteacher: Paul Green

Address: Blackberry Lane, Coventry, CV2 3JS

Tel: 024 7672 4960

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



Finham Park 2

Headteacher: Russell Plester

Address: Torrington Avenue, Coventry, CV4 9WT

Tel: 024 7771 0720

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



Whitley Academy

Headteacher: Kathryn Wright

Address: Abbey Road, Coventry, CV3 4BD

Tel: 024 7630 2580

Website: <https://www.whitleyacademy.com/>



Finham Park MAT

Executive Headteacher: Mark Bailie

Address: Torrington Avenue, Coventry, CV4 9WT

Tel: 024 7641 8135

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

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