Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

World Class News

May 2022

Edition 26

Castaway

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The Blue Abyss

Welcome from Mark Bailie

Dear Parents and Members of the Community,

Welcome to the latest edition of World Class News.

The first half of the Summer Term is always a busy time in school with SATs, GCSE, and A-Level examinations. Students and staff have been preparing hard for these assessments and examinations and I wish all the students every success.

However, whilst these examinations are understandably an important part of school, looking through this latest edition shows that our schools offer students much more than preparing for tests; they prepare them for life and to be the best they can be in life—truly World Class.

There is high-quality learning taking place in classrooms across the schools in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust and in addition to this, students are able to participate in a wide range of experiences outside the classroom, developing a wide variety of interests. Some examples from our primary schools include children from Lillington Nursery and Primary School going on a trip to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham to support their topic The Blue Abyss. In the secondary schools there are debating and film clubs that students can attend after school, students having the opportunity to work alongside the physical theatre company *Highly Sprung*, students going to see performances at the Belgrade Theatre and students benefiting from a University of Warwick Scientist experiences.

I am very pleased to announce that Finham Park Multi Academy Trust is now working with World Class Schools Quality Mark as one of seven Multi-Academy Trusts nationally on their inaugural World Class MAT accreditation programme with Finham Park School, Lyng Hall and Finham Primary School.

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

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher
Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Primary Support and Innovation Leader

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the latest editions of FPMAT World Class Education and FPMAT World Class News. This edition features some of the highlights from across the schools in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. It is always a pleasure to receive articles for these publications and to see the range of experiences on offer for both staff and children.

Although this has been a fairly short half-term, it has been a busy time in the primary schools. Year 6 children all completed their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). I was very impressed with how they tackled these in such a calm and mature manner. Year 2 children have also been working very hard on their SATs. Our Year 6 children are now looking forward to going on residential visits, being involved in plays and performances and preparing for their transition to secondary school. A very exciting time for them, making memories and preparing for the next step in their education.

At the start of this half-term Lillington Nursery and Primary School were Star School for the week on BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio. The children and staff enjoyed telling the community about their school and sharing what makes Lillington special.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Finham Park School as part of a the FPMAT quality assurance 'Health Check' process. I particularly enjoyed talking to staff and students and hearing them talk so positively about their school and the different opportunities they have to be student leaders at Finham Park School.

Congratulations to Liz Allton who has been appointed to the role of Senior School Improvement Leader. I am really looking forward to working with Liz when she starts her new role in September.

As I write, this schools are planning and preparing their celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate 70 years of service. I wish you all a relaxing half-term and long weekend.

Emma O'Toole
Primary Support and Innovation Leader

Castaway

On April 26th the physical theatre company *Highly Sprung* brought their incredible show *Castaway* to Lyng Hall. The show is an innovative dance-based piece that tells the horrors of plastic in our environment. Not a word is spoken, but everyone watching was spellbound during each of the thirty-minute performances. The work is based around a giant crane-like contraption, which requires extraordinary teamwork and trust between the performers to keep everyone safe and produce the hugely complex moves that the show involves.

The show has been toured internationally; we were lucky to have it come to Lyng Hall as a test event for the Coventry Young Promoter programme. Six Lyng Hall students were joined by students from three other schools and the team produced every element of the show - organising, ushering, introducing, evaluating. They did a remarkable job during the two performances, the first of which was to year 7 and the second was to year 8 and demonstrated excellent leadership skills.

FINHAM PARK 2

Science Experience

Staff at FP2 6th Form are extremely proud of our Head Girl Isabelle Wicks.

Issy was directed by her Physics' teachers to apply for a Warwick University Scientist Experience aimed at females in science. She has been successfully selected to take part in a fully paid 4-day trip to visit the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in France to experience working life as a research scientist. She has shown in her writing to Warwick lecturers her passion, work ethic and drive to support change. Issy is very deserving of such a recognition and we at FP2 are so proud she is getting to be involved in such a world class experience.

In Issy's own words
'In order to enter the competition, I needed to write two essays; one on a famous female scientist called Ada Yonath, and the other on why I would like to go on the trip. The first talked about her life and achievements, and how these led to her Nobel Prize. The second explored what the trip was about, what skills it would give me, and how it could influence my future. I am so happy to be selected for the trip as it is a unique opportunity that can give me a much better understanding towards my a-levels, and skills and memories that last a lifetime.

Creative Writing and Film Lab

'Film Lab' is a new OOSHL initiative for us at Finham Park this year, a collaboration between our Media and English departments which offers an exciting creative space for students who love to write for the page or the screen. We have been overwhelmed both by the demand (we are packed out every Monday evening) and the quality of the writing!

This half-term our writers have been focused on developing their existing projects. After our workshops on structure and bending the rules of conventions, students have been redrafting their pieces with an emphasis on openings that grab the reader and compel them. We also entered the Twisted Tales competition and attempted to create 100-word stories that again, flip the convention of traditional villains. Sumayyah Dedat's excellent piece playing with the ideas raised by Disney films is being published by the Young Writers in their summer anthology. Please find below Sumayyah's piece and two openings volunteered by our group.

Disney Knows Best

She watched us. Or rather, we watched her as she perched on her little high-chair, waving her arms with excitement. Her eyes were fixated on the screen upon which we danced so gracefully, with our porcelain skin and golden locks.

Together, we wished upon shooting stars, investing in them our deepest hopes. But we knew what she did not. We stole her dreams, weeping with joy as she wept with dismay. We adorned ourselves with the finest dresses, laughing through her sobs.

*****

Click, the screen lit up.
We had her trapped in our tower, with nobody to rescue her now.

-Sumayyah Dedat

<u>The Whendon Mysteries</u>

A cloak of darkness enveloped the crowds of the desolate, ransacked houses of the minute town of Glenwood, silence lining the streets. As if it were playing some kind of childish game, the miniscule, bone-white moon hid under cover of the silver clouds and fingers of mists, just beyond a viewer's vision. It was a peaceful night, and it was, like every other night, dull, quiet and uneventful. However, that was about to change. That night was a special night for residents of Glenwood, although many would consider it a terrifying happening, albeit an exhilarating one.

Past

Rain stings my face like piercing bullets. Stumbling over the rough terrain, I glance over my shoulder. They're still following me. Their steely eyes set upon their goal: the thing in my hand. Thunder is penetrating my body; it's chilling me to my core. Knee-length grass brushing my saturated leggings. Why me? The question circles around my mind like a broken record.

They have surrounded me. The only way out is to the swirling, icy depths of the sea below, just waiting to swallow me up in one mighty wave. I take a deep breath.

I'm falling. Wind howling in my ears. Almost in slow-motion, I hit the sea. My hair splays out behind me, my eyes sting like wasps and putrid salty water fills my mouth. They've lost me. In more than one way. I fear.

Lauren Dempster

Whitley Academy

Lord Mayor visit

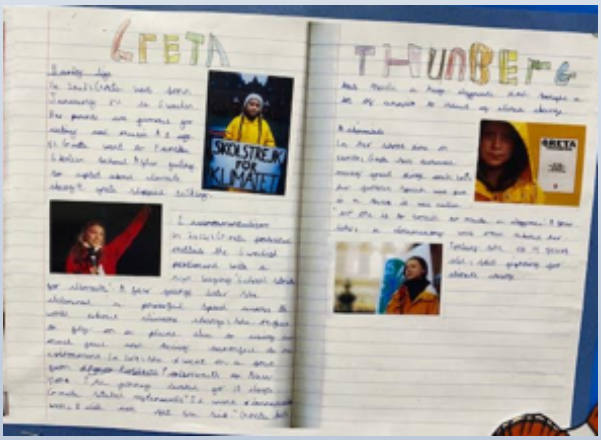
On Wednesday this week, the Art and Design department welcomed the Lord Mayor. He had requested to visit the department after he had received a gift of a piece of artwork from his last visit to the school. The Lord Mayor started his visit by meeting with Mrs Pettman and Mrs MacLean. We discussed the art curriculum and about what the city has to offer to aspiring artists. Some year 10 students showed the Lord Mayor their artwork and talked about their GCSE course.

During the tour, the Lord Mayor visited a year 9 art lesson who were doing some work in response to the artist Shepard Fairey. He also visited a year 9 cooking lesson who were making Rogan Josh. He was very impressed with the resources in the design technology room, seeing the laser printer, 3D printer and robotics that the students get to use. He said that it was very different from when he went to school.

The Lord Mayor was very captivated with the artwork that he saw and thought it was good that it was displayed and celebrated around the school. He enjoyed the different subjects of art work that were displayed and was impressed with the maturity of drawing that students displayed.

The Blue Abyss

In Spring 2 Year 3 and 4 began their Blue Abyss all about oceans and sea creatures. They started the topic by exploring sea pollution and the environmental effects. The children were very passionate about saving our oceans. To draw upon this interest, we began learning all about Greta Thunberg and her life's work. The children wrote some fantastic biographies, here are some examples below:



The children were fascinated to learn about the different layers of the ocean and the creatures that dwell in these parts. To incorporate art into our topic the children created some brilliant water colour paintings of a sea creature of their choosing. Here are some of their masterpieces:

We finished our topic with a trip to the Sea-Life Centre (after writing convincing persuasive letters to Mrs Wallace!). The children were able to see the creatures we had been learning about up-close and personal. They even got to stroke a star fish!

FINHAM PARK 2

Trampolining Success

The Year 9/10 trampolining team took part in the County Finals, held in Solihull on Thursday afternoon. Every student performed their routines with such confidence and professionalism. Overall, we took home the SILVER MEDAL for the team competition which was a huge success. Additionally, Hope Higgerson came 3rd in the Level 3 competition, and Grace Riley 2nd in the Level 1 competition. I am so proud of all the students involved, what a great experience, as well as fantastic results.

Bone Sparrow

7Y have been working with The Community Producers at The Belgrade Theatre to create their own stories. Inspired by the story of The Bone Sparrow, students worked with artist Laura Nyahuye to explore objects of importance to them, and the stories that everyday objects can tell.

They each chose an object special to them and created a character and a plot for a short story and went on to do an audio recording of their short story. These stories are now available at The Belgrade for anyone to hear.

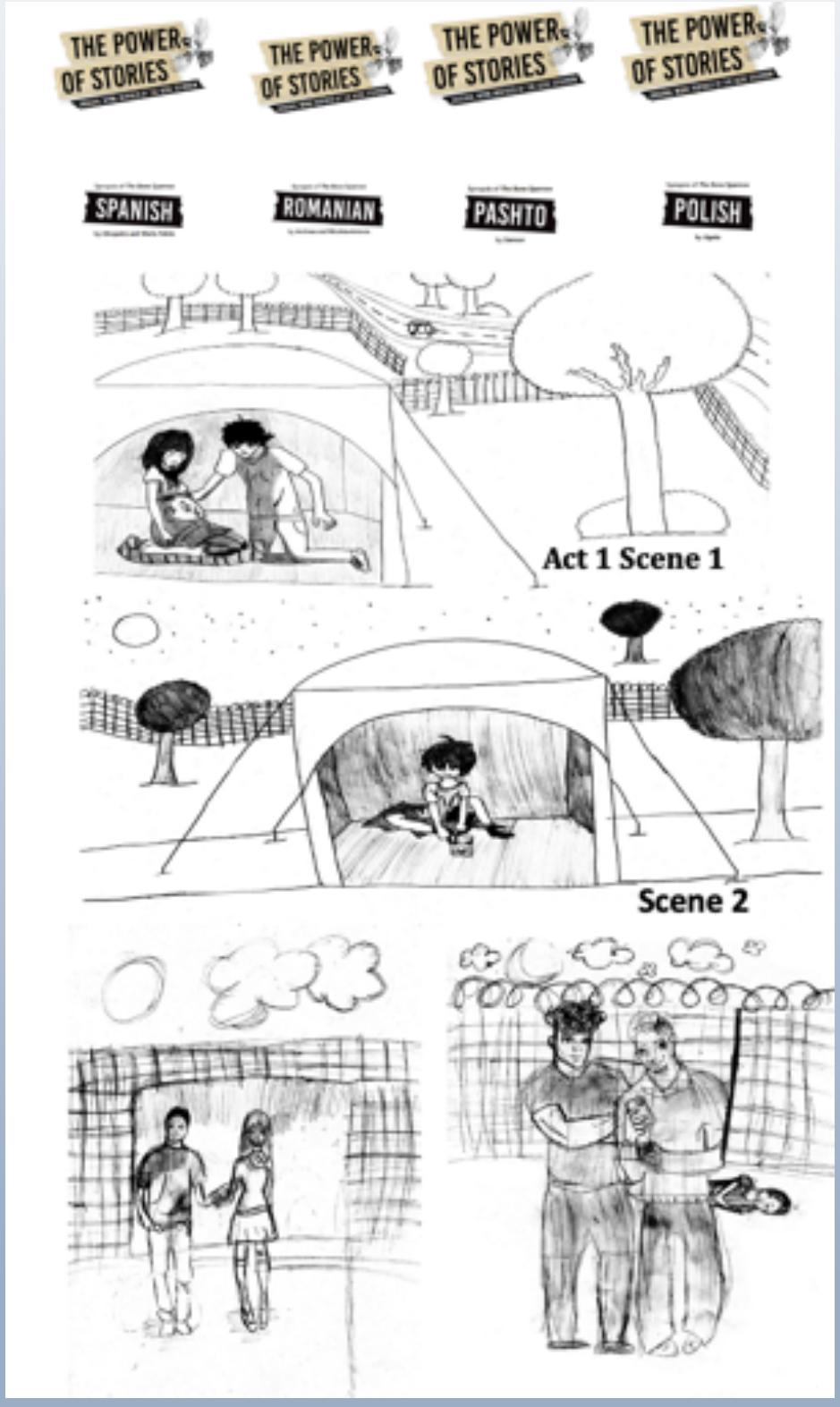
As a result, the students were invited to attend the VIP night of the brand new play The Bone Sparrow. This was such an exciting opportunity for 7Y and the TEFL students and I am extremely proud of them.

Why is the project so important one could ask…? The play touches upon subjects of being a refugee, of one's place in the world, standing up for yourself, and the power of stories that carry the messages of our identities and let us make sense of the world.

The main character '*Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother fled the violence of a distant homeland, life behind the fences is all he has ever known.*

But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, until it is bursting at the limits of his world.'

The students created accessibility materials for non-English speakers in the community. They translated the play synopsis into 9 different languages! These proved to be so successful that Pilot Theatre asked the students if they could take their translations and art work to showcase in other cities in the UK during their tour!!



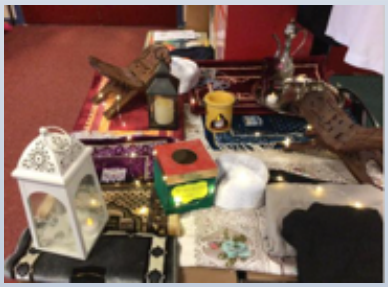
And for those, who can't read in any language, TEFL students Jeovanny and Cleopatra created *The Bone Sparrow* in pictures booklet

Finham Primary School

Ramadan and Eid

Now restrictions have lifted we are happy to be able to invite parents into school again. We have been very luckily to have a parent come in to talk about her and her family's experiences of celebrating Eid.

Reception have had 2 sessions to learn about Ramadan and Eid. We learnt about fasting and acts of kindness. We then completed classroom activities such as Mendi hands and Eid cards.



Mrs T bought in prayer mats and objects for the children to investigate.

Mrs T then came in to do a school assembly about Ramadan and Eid.

At Finham Primary we are enhancing our RE curriculum with trips to places of worship from Years 1 - 6 and are inviting speakers in from different beliefs to talk to the children.

Carrie Lomax
R.E Subject Lead

Whitley Academy

The Conversation with Louis Bloom – President of Island Records

Written by Aadi and Matvej –Year 7 reporters, edited by Mrs Nguyen

The event took place on Thursday 3rd March 2022.
We were the lucky students chosen to join the audience and listen to Louis Bloom –the President of Island Records Company.
As soon as the auditorium was filled with students, Louis joined the ZOOM virtual meeting platform. The laptop camera was turned towards the excited audience and there it went, the flow of questions from us….
Some days before, we met together and came up with the questions to send to Louis so that he could be prepared for the talk at his end. It was the first time Louis talked to the young people!

Do you know that:

Island Records' history spans over 60 years?

The Company's Jamaican heritage still remains a vital source of inspiration?

Island Records work with music stars such as Sir Elton John and Ariana Grande?

Here are some Q&A of the talk….

How were your school days as a teenager?

It was a long time ago. I however enjoyed my school days. I come from Manchester and went to schools in the area. Of course there were times I pushed the boundaries and was in trouble. I was silly at school, careless. When I hit 13-15 years old, something clicked in me and I was more sensible, hard-working and studying for my GCSEs and then to the end of A levels.
After that I went to university to do my degree. It paid off at the end.

Which subjects did you like best?

I love History and Music. I am obsessed with History. I like to learn how people lived, the cultures in the past. I also want to learn from the past mistakes. From this I love learning the history side of Music.

What is ONE thing you would tell your teen-self to do if you could rewind the clock?

Having a passion! You got to find something you love and go for it. Be committed. You will be successful. There have been times I feel very anxious about too many things. Having a passion and the mind-set of 'chill-out' will help you achieve what you want.

In your teenage years, did anyone doubt you and your dream? If so, how did you get through it?

When I was 13 or 14 I was told I had no musical talent or musical appreciation. I did not care. It did not bother me. I went on working hard and I have proved those people wrong and their perception on me. From Manchester I moved to London and pursued my dream. I turned any negativity into positive by showing my self-belief and confidence.

On-the-spot questions from the audience

What do you do? What does your typical day of work look like?

I started out as a tea boy (something that doesn't exist anymore) and have been at this record company - Islands Record - for 20 years. After graduating as a talent scout, I went around to different bars/clubs to find talent: bands, singers. Then I reported back to my boss. That job is called A&R.
Now my job includes A&R but with much more dimensions to work on: marketing, promotions for the artists. It's the whole experience in building a brand new talent from nothing to winning well-known awards.

When you went around looking for talents, who did you discover to be the most successful?

I found the bands named Busted, Florence and The Machine, the singer Amy Winehouse to name but a few.

How do you feel being in charge of Island Records?

It's a BIG responsibly. I always treat new talents as human beings first and foremost. I want them to join the process. I take my job very seriously. The artists I work with are from different countries, mostly the U.S and the U.K. Ariana Grande, The Weekend to name some.

Do you have a favourite talent at Island Records?

I love Amy Winehouse as she had made a massive difference to the U.K music culture.

What is your favourite music genre?

I love bands in the 60s such as the Beatles. When growing up I loved Oasis. Now I like hip-hop and rap music, artists like Stormzy.

What was the worst mistake you have made in your life?

Ed Sheeran. Ed won the Island Records 50th anniversary search for unsigned talents from universities and colleges. But we did not show interest to take Ed Sheeran on seriously. It was the worst mistake we have made over the years. We've got to move on.

How do you get in touch with top artists and manage to work with them?

In the past, we contacted and we called the managers or their lawyers. Now with the expansion of the Internet, our Research Department do the search and we contact them directly, e.g., via Instagram.

Some snapshot questions about Louis himself

What is your guilty pleasure?

I like to listen to pop music such as 'Shout out to My Ex' by Little Mix.

What is your favourite movie?

I like gangster movies such as The Godfather.

Question from Louis to the audience

What is your favourite band or music or music artist?

Mr Bailie (Executive Headteacher of the Finham MAT):
My favourite band was The Stone Roses.

Aman –Year 9:
One Direction.

The talked ended before our lunch break. We loved all the stories Louis shared with us as they were so relatable to us all.
The moment it took Louis time to answer Dylan's question on his favourite book, possibly because of the hectic flow of daily life, Louis didn't have much time left for reading. His honest answer of reading factual books about historical figures –good or bad; once again, makes us remember how much Louis loved History.
The question Zak of year 7 asked Louis of the reasons how Louis has become so successful and his advice to hang around with the right people or people who are more talented, better than you – were so true. It is teamwork that decides success.
Thank you to Louis and his Team at the Island Records.
Thank you to Speakers for Schools who have given us this opportunity to feel inspired and more reflective on our school journey ahead.

The World of Our Imagination

“A Writer is a World trapped in a person” - Victor Hugo

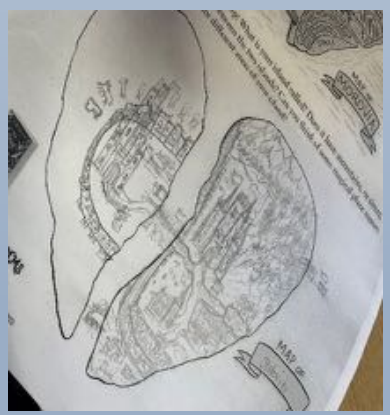
On Thursday 31st March, we were lucky enough to host a virtual visit by award-winning and best-selling author, Sophie Anderson, on the day that her new book, ***The Thief Who Sang Storms*** was published. Hugo’s words came to life as year 7s, alongside their Literacy Leaders, explored the power of the written word and the importance of our imaginations.

The Island of Morovia is shaped like a broken heart. The humans live on one side of the island, and the alkonosts - the bird-people - live on the other. But it wasn't always this way...

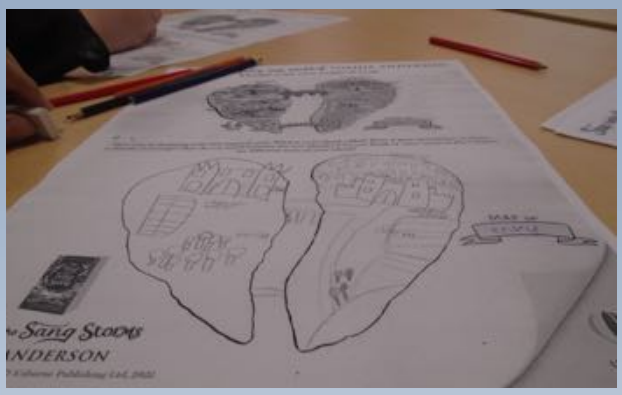
Linnet wishes she could sing magic, like her father, Nightingale - and bring the two sides of her island together again. For her land has been divided by a terrible tragedy, and Linnet has been banished with her father to the deepest swamps, leaving behind her best friends, Hero and Silver.

So when her father is captured, Linnet must be brave and embark on a treacherous journey. Through alligator pools and sinking sands, she finds new friends. Yet without her singing magic, Linnet discovers something even more powerful.

As well as hearing about her own work as a writer, the students were then able to work with her to create their own fantasyland in a special workshop.



“In the workshop, my world was about mermaids and aliens, they saw the land at the same time and it was a full heart. Both chose pieces—they wanted it all for themselves and so the world ultimately split apart.”



“The fantasy writing workshop was fun because we had the opportunity to create our own worlds. I tried to create a world for Dragons—one side frost, and one fire. Enemies, by the way.”

“I think it was really exciting because you had the chance to meet an author and they are talking about a book no one else has seen. It was also pretty fun because we got to do activities, and we were able to open our minds, and share our thoughts with the author. It was also really fun to work with Year 7s from different groups, we got to share ideas and have the opportunity to do something different.

She shared with us that reading is good because it allows us to get out of a situation. For me, this has always been why I enjoy reading. You are able to take away everything that is happening. You can be calm and in another space. It feels like you are somewhere else.

At the minute, I am reading Sherlock Holmes—I picked it as I love mysteries. There’s always clues in the book and then at the end you realise how you can put it all together. For me, that is why it is fun to read. I also love the writing of Conan Doyle, it makes you feel like you are really part of the place, even though it is from the Victorian era. At first it is not clear but then it is all figured out in the end!

Daniel

“I enjoyed it because I’ve never met an author before, speaking to her in person, learning about a book, the first people to hear about it in the world, it was amazing.

The book itself sounded cool because the girl controls storms. She has elemental powers. It appeals to me because there were a lot of journeys, people who needed help, those in danger. I enjoy books that are thrillers. I am currently reading: Top ten creepy urban legends—it is about demons and monsters. My favourite one is Slander Man because he is a tall person, just like my uncle. He has giant fingers. They creep me out but the story excites my curiosity.”

Logan

Pupils had their mind’s blown when Sophie talked about the peaks and troughs of being a writer but also during the question and answer session, where they grilled her with things like, ‘what mistakes did you make as a writer?’ and ‘what book inspired you to become a Writer?’. The ‘imagination exercise’ where they had to create a design and story, to go with an image of a divided island, threw up some interesting suggestions about ‘warring’ worlds and ‘love lost’ on the islands. Overall, the meeting with Sophie had a really positive and inspiring impact on the pupils.

Mr. Abhedin

Miss Hagan

Standard Assessment Tests (SATS)

At Pearl Hyde, our year 6s have been getting themselves ready for their SATs. They have worked exceptionally hard and are as prepared as they could possibly be. We are so very proud of them and wish them the best of luck.

Here is what two children had to say about their feelings towards SATs and what they are excited for in the future:

Sats (Standard Assessment Tests) are coming up in about 5 days. I am writing this to tell you how I feel about Sats at the moment. For Sats, I feel prepared and confident but also, I feel a bit worried and nervous. I have been practicing past sats papers at school, so I feel very confident and very tired!

Many People have helped practice me with my sats such as my mum and dad, myself and most definitely my teachers and past sats papers! From a year ago to now I have learned so much from how to answer the questions, changed my methods on how to answer questions and practiced my multiplications, divisions and adding and subtracting. I have also learned how to do long division, multiplying decimals by decimals and many more! I have done all of that for my sats just to be prepared so I can get into a very good class in secondary school!

After Sats, I am looking forward to doing a school challenge called the fiver challenge, the fiver challenge is a challenge where you first have to get a partner and you both have to share £5. With that money, you both have to make things and buy things with that £5 and then sell them. If people like your product then you will start to make profit off of that £5. The people with the most money at the end win! After Sats, I am also looking forward to the school play! And also, the last two things I'm probably looking into is the summer holidays and secondary school!
By Danvir

SATs And Secondary

SATs is around the corner and many stress but oneself am not. If any negative energy involving around my feelings would be worried. I am worried that I may not do my best one physically can in subjects I have been learning for a long period of time. I am particularly imperious and assertive that I will do good on my SATs coming up within the next few days.

How are you feeling about secondary?

I am feeling assured that I will be a nice fit for this secondary school of Coventry. I am determined to do my best when I can or even if not bothered to do it, I will motivate myself to do my finest. It will be draining but we all go through it and it will settle my future ahead of me.

Who motivates you and why?

My main motivations are: My teachers – Miss Burns, Miss Edwards and Mr Hunt, My family – Mum and my sister Amelia. These people have given me the best advice and have raised me either my whole life or my school life and they're the ones who made my life so enjoyable at times even when they were not.

Yours sincerely, Alexie, A pupil of Pearl Hyde Primary School

Finham Park Debating Society

In November 2021 the newly formed debating society met for the first time. Initially the group was comprised of just Sixth Form students, but it was quickly opened up to Year 11 students as well, who were keen to get involved. The club was run by our Sixth Formers and was very well attended.
In January 2022, an advert appeared on Twitter for schools to sign up to an International Debate Competition. The teacher organising the competition was from an international school in Dubai, and Finham Park was signed up to participate.

In March, our debate team took part in three online debates, with teams from across the world. Although the team were newly formed and had never taken part in any competitions before, they did exceptionally well, winning all of the debates, making it through to the semi-final. It was only because of the points system that the team did not make it through to the final. They did exceptionally well, being one of the only state schools in the competition and they should be incredibly proud of their achievements. They presented their arguments in an articulate manner and handled the rebuttals from their opposition teams superbly. Next year the competition will take place again and we will definitely be entering again, hopefully securing a place next year in the final.

Whitley Academy

Tom Palmer – the Nation's Favourite Author

Written by Oliver R – Year 7 Student Reporter, edited by Mrs Nguyen

It was the afternoon of Friday 11th February when years 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Finham Multi Academy Trust (M.A.T) met Tom Palmer virtually for 30 minutes/each year group.

Tom is a children's author who writes stories about football, history or family. He writes both fiction and non-fiction.

Luckily, the audience was given the chance to ask Tom questions about his work…

YEAR 7

Who is your role model? Who do you look up to?

My wife!

When you are down, what books do you read to make you feel better?

When I am down, I love action books!

At what age did you start writing books?

When I was young, I started writing so that I could feel better as my Dad was very ill. When I was 21, my Dad died. In school I struggled with reading. Once I got into reading, I found it easy to write.

Which one of your own books is your favourite?

Armistice Runner

What is your favourite book from another author?

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë or Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

YEARS 8 and 9

How many books have you had published?

54

Are you currently writing a book?

I actually just finished writing a book today!

When do you write best? Do you find that you have a writing routine?

I try to write in the morning as it yields the best results

What type of student were you at school?

I struggled in school and did not do very well. I got into reading quite late at the age of 17 or 18.

What are your plans for the future?

Continue writing, especially books about history as I consider it as a responsibility, a duty.

Our reflection

Keethana -Year 9

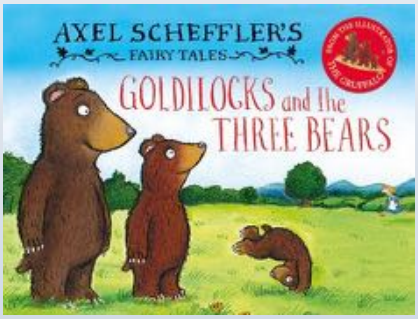
It was inspiration to meet an author as big as Tom and have him answer all our questions. Tom shared many interesting stories.

Hesna - Year 8
I find it fascinating to find out that the stories Tom has written were based on real stories [history books] and all about the struggles many went through that may have been forgotten “they gave a sense of what the real world was like”. I was really touched by what Tom had spoken about.
Rylan –Year 9
Tom is really down to earth as he went through so much and knows what it is like to have troubled times.
Oliver - Year 7 Tom taught me to use bad experiences to drive you to achieve good.

About his books
Tom has many distinct reasons for authoring various books about anything. But the most important would-be Armistice Runner and D-Day Dog books.
Tom shared with us the story behind the book Armistice Runner: Tom's daughter is a fell and cross-country runner (as Tom is). Tom wanted the story to come from the point of view of a girl like his daughter and the other keen children who enjoy running cross country and on the fells. Knowing that many cross-country and fallen runners went to fight in the First World War, the story started there.
D-Day Dog story started with Finn – the dog. In real life Tom and his family do have a dog named Finn. Tom reflected:” The story is about Jack - a boy who loves learning about wars and loves his dog. On a school trip to France – Jack finds out dogs were used in World War 2 and that some of them died.”
We thoroughly enjoyed all stories Tom shared with us.
One thing we surely know that Tom’s books will become more popular to many of us for our reading choice.
We thank Mrs Gater (from Lyng Hall School), Mrs O'Toole (from Finham Park Multi Academy Trust), Miss Van Wyk and Mrs Nguyen for providing us with this opportunity to meet Tom (even virtually).

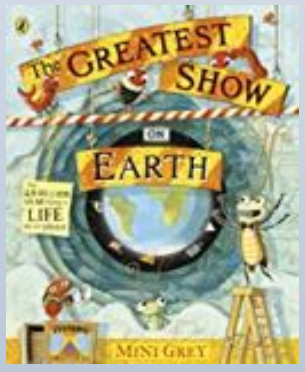
Wednesday 06th April 2022
Tom’s reflection on reading our write-up:
“It’s great. Thank you. Very nice to read. Thanks for a lovely experience.”

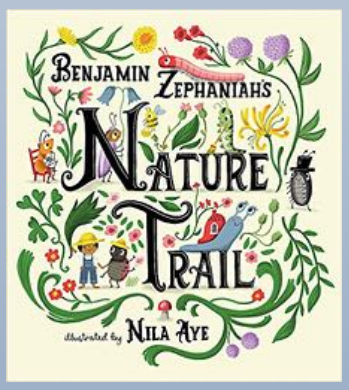
Recommended Reads for May



Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Axel Scheffler
When Goldilocks stumbles across a little house in the woods, she finds an array of treats await her inside… the perfect little chair to sit on, the perfect bowl of porridge, not to mention the perfect place for a nap – Baby Bear's bed. And when the three bears arrive home, who will be more surprised at what they find… Goldilocks or the bears?

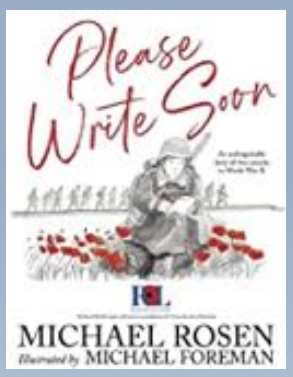
The Greatest Show on Earth by Mini Grey
This gorgeous new book by Mini Grey is an amazing look at the history of our planet. 46 Billion years squeezed into 48 pages! You'll be an expert once you've finished it! Narrated by a friendly troop of insects and with mind-blowing, lively illustrations, this illustrated non-fiction book will entertain and educate, as we put on a show,
the greatest show, the show of the evolution of life on Earth.

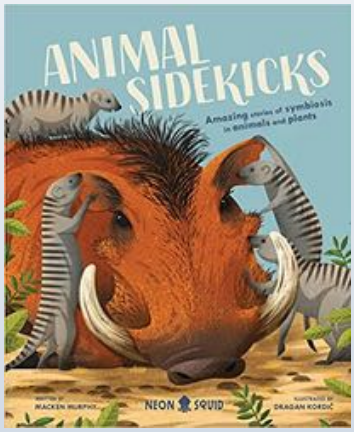




Nature Trail by Benjamin Zephaniah
A joyful celebration of nature and the wonder of the world around us. All around us, from parks to gardens and flowerpots to pavements, there's a world of wonder just waiting to be discovered. Why not look a little closer and see what you find? This joyful celebration of nature reminds us all to take a closer look at the world around us and enjoy the wonder of nature wherever we find it. Packed with animals and minibeasts galore, this imaginative rhyming text is perfect for reading aloud.

Please write soon – Michael Rosen
An emotional journey through World War II told by the letters written by two cousins, Solly in London, and Bernie in Poland. Both cousins have to leave their homes, Solly when he is evacuated and Bernie when he is taken to a forced labour camp. The letters give a rich understanding of what life would have been like and show the deep connection of the cousins.





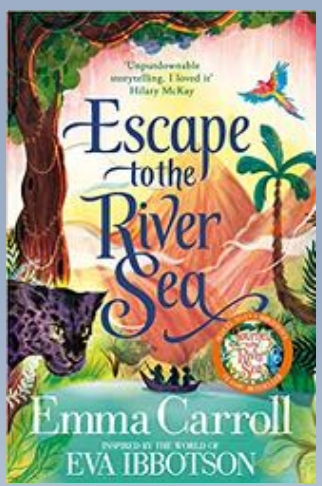
Animal Sidekicks by Macken Murphy
Heard about the fish that clean shark teeth? Or the frog that lives with a tarantula? Or the warthog that likes a mongoose massage?
Welcome to the weird world of symbiosis – where animals form incredible relationships. In his first non-fiction book, Macken Murphy explains the cool science behind the baffling behaviour of some animals – from friendly alliances to pesky parasites. You'll even find out about symbiotic relationships including YOU! (Hint – is your head ever itchy?) By the end of the book, you won't look at nature in the same way again!

Firesong by Vashti Hardy
Return to Vashti Hardy's marvellously imagined world in this sweeping and propulsive new addition to the Brightstorm series. When Arthur and Maudie begin hearing a strange song summoning them north—a song only they can hear—they know there's an adventure waiting for them that may change the lives of everyone in the Wide. As the crew of the *Aurora* prepares for their trip, they're joined by new members and old friends. But they're not the only sky-ship journeying northward to uncover the region's secrets....

The girls who lost a leopard by Nizrana Farook
Nizrana always transports us to countries far away but after finishing her books, you'll know these distant lands like the back of your hands. Join Selvi as she desperately tries to conjure a plan to save Lokka the leopard when hunters begin to circle. You will be hooked from the very first page and won't be able to put it down!

One to look out for
Escape to the River Sea by Emma Carroll
Having adored Journey to the River Sea and read it with several classes alongside topic work on rainforests I couldn't wait to get stuck into Escape to the River Sea. Journey to the River Sea is such a well-loved classic that writing the sequel must have been a daunting task, yet Emma Carrol has done an amazing job. It was delightful to re-visit the Amazon rainforest and read about the adventures of the next generation.

Emma O'Toole



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.finhamparkmultiaademytrust.co.uk and by following the various links.

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Website: http://finhamprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Theresa O'Hara
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Tel: 024 7661 0165
Website: http://pearlhyde.co.uk

Headteacher: Victoria Wallace
Address: Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa CV32 7AG
Tel: 01926 425144
Website: https://www.lillingtonschool.org/

Headteacher: Chris Bishop
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Headteacher: Paul Green
Address: Blackberry Lane, Coventry, CV2 3JS
Tel: 024 7672 4960
Website: http://www.lynghallschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Russell Plester
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Head of School: Bernadette Pettman
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World Class Education

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