



Finham Park School | Newsletter – June 2023

SECOND EDITION | 2023 |

In this edition.....

- Information on recent school events
- Loads of reports about some of our amazing educational visits
- Year group and College update
- Guest and agencies we have in school working with some of our students
- Relevant links and support material – especially regarding wellbeing
- Careers, Sport, and much, much more.....

Key Stage 3 Debating – Mr Paul Shepherd

Our debating team attended a regional debate and public speaking competition in April. It was reported that they spoke with real conviction, stepping up to the challenge having never done anything like that before. One student got an honourable mention by the judges for their speech on why they think that the current format of examinations are not fit for purpose and should be abolished. Another student volunteered to do the 'post-it' challenge and talk for as long as they could on an unseen topic without hesitation, deviation or repetition. Well done to the whole team for representing the school in such a way!!

The KS3 Debating Students were Josh, Andrew and Miles with Jaipreet, Charlotte, Sophia and Abi the Yr12 helpers



Message from the Headteacher – Mr Chris Bishop

This summer term has been marked by lots of unusual events - extra bank holidays, teacher strike days, a Coronation and sadly the sudden passing of our trusted friend and colleague, Russell Plester (Headteacher of Finham Park 2). I visited Finham Park 2 a few times over the past few weeks, to say hello and help out as needed. It was so humbling to see so many thoughtful 'yellow and blue' flowers. They were from schools across Coventry and Warwickshire - from friends, colleagues and well-wishers.

Our football teams have done very well this year with both Year 7 and 11 teams winning the Coventry Schools cup in their age groups. It was remarkable seeing them demonstrate our values of humility, kindness, courageousness, perseverance and integrity on the football pitch. They were such a credit to the school, to you and to each other. The Duke of Edinburgh expedition was brilliantly executed with students receiving high praise from people they engaged with. Whilst walking, they came across a very poorly member of the public and thanks to their quick thinking and World Class skills, saved their life! I could not be more amazed by the humble manner in which they acted. Our debating team attended a regional debate and public speaking competition. It was reported that they spoke with real conviction, stepping up to the challenge having never done anything like that before. Well done to them all.

We have been busy recruiting some excellent teachers and support staff for the coming academic year. These roles will enable us to continue to grow sustainably over the coming years as more students fill the lower year groups as well as providing for an ever-increasing number in the Sixth Form. We have had over 420 applications for places in Year 12 for next year and over 600 for Year 7. Clearly, not all of these will materialize into offers of a place but it does present opportunities for growth and development that we have been planning for some time.

It is an exciting time of the year to be thinking about our plans for next year and the future and with FinhamFest on the horizon again and a number of trips and visits going out, there continues to be opportunities for everyone to experience world class opportunities as part of Finham Park School.

Restorative justice at Finham Park allows those who are harmed, or affected by conflict caused by another, to come together to find a more constructive and positive way to repair this relationship. In order for this to be successful, all parties involved need to adhere to the following four "R's"

- Respect- respect for everyone their thoughts, feelings and opinions and learning to value them.
 - Responsibility- for everyone to take accountability for their own actions.
- Repair- to help everyone involved repair the relationship and or behaviour, giving necessary skills to help identify a solution that suits all.
- Re-integration- to support all parties involved, allowing for smooth transition for the next meeting together a.k.a. a clean slate!

Restorative justice at Finham is managed by a college student well-being officer. This process is facilitated between the victim or victims of the incident and the offender. For us this can be between individual students or a group or between students and teachers. Everyone has a right to be heard!

For more information on this please speak to your college well-being officer.



Granada Trip – Miss Danielle Malin

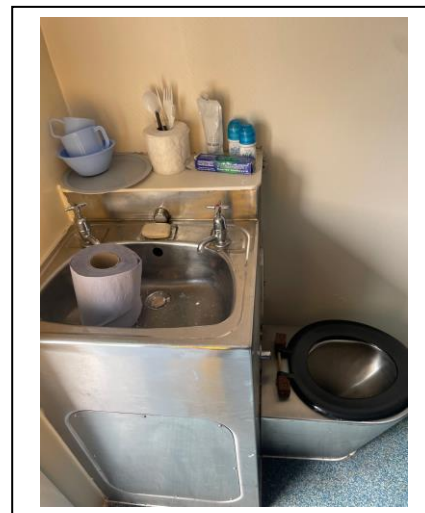
On Sunday 4th July a group of 50 Year 9 and 10 students accompanied by 5 staff members arrived at Finham to travel down to Heathrow for the flight to Malaga. After a late arrival at the hotel in Granada we quickly got round to exploring the city on Monday, with a quest expertly led by Mr. Downie. The highlight of the week was visiting our link school in Almeria where we got to meet Spanish students and talk to them about our town and our school. Students made friends with one another, sharing Snapchat and Instagram details so they could keep in touch, and they even joined us on the beach in the afternoon to spend more time together. Other highlights of the week included a tour of the Alhambra (with Ms. Malin and Ms. Lopez sharing a variety of historical facts!) and, of course, the much-anticipated trip to the water park. Students were exceptionally well behaved and were a credit to the school, speaking some great Spanish in restaurants, cafes and at the airport. Well done to all the students involved, we are very proud of your hard work and behaviour on the trip.



Prison, ME? NO WAY! – Year 9 Crime & Safety awareness – Mr Lewis Baker

The day was organised to educate students about how different choices can affect their lives. Lots of friendly volunteers from The Red Cross, Prison? Me? No way! and Prison staff came in to help and give hands on experience. I asked some students to write up about the day and this is what they said

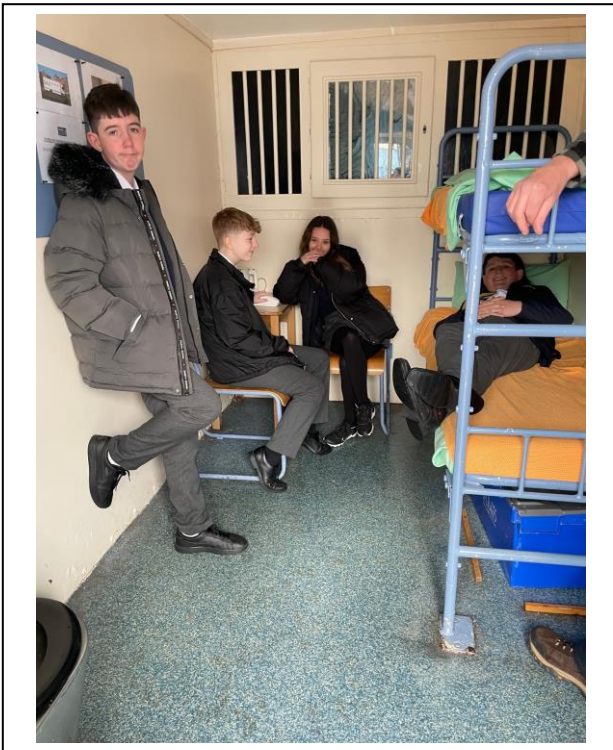
We were all thoroughly educated and really do not want to go to prison. The focus of the day was to teach us about anti-social behaviour using role-plays with students being taken through the crime, arrest, prosecution and conviction processes. We also talked about how easy it is to become involved in crime and the consequences of criminal activity for both the victim and the perpetrator.



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

The second session was a talk from two ex-prison convicts, we all felt safe and happy for them to be there since they were very approachable and open to questions. They were very passionate about kids not getting into crime and gangs. We felt we could ask more questions of them because they were not an authority figure and we could be more open with them because they were like us at our age and wants us to lead a good life that is crime free. This began with a 30-minute presentation about the ex-offenders background, brief details about their crime, impact that their actions have had upon their lives and their families' lives and their future beyond custody. Lots of us felt emotional about what happened and how it affected their life. Their captivating story changed some of our views on crime and how many people it could effect.

The third session was definitely something to remember. Two prison guards came in and gave us a lesson of a lifetime. For the first 30 minutes, one guard told us about how hard it is in prison and how none of us would survive in prison. This really helped put things into perspective. The officer was full of answers to all of our questions and was helpful. For the last 30 minutes of the lesson, we met up with another officer. He took us all outside and split us into two groups. He explained to us about what a normal prison cell would look like. None of us liked the description so you can imagine how we felt when we got into one. On the back of a van was a prison cell, we went in with our two groups and it was cramped. Even though there was a lot of us in there we were able to see just how cramped it really was. It was an amazing experience overall and it definitely showed us how bad prison really was. The fourth session was led by the Red Cross and was definitely worth being there for. The person who led the session was straight to the point and helped us learn a vital life skill. We learnt how to properly perform CPR and we did it in a fun environment. The person was open with us and answered all of our questions with enthusiasm. We all managed to have a practice with "Resus Annie" the CPR doll and we all came out of the lesson feeling that if someone was to drop to the floor we would be able to assist.



The final session was the County Lines presentation. This was extremely interesting and we all learnt about the process of what county lines is and how easy it is to get involved. Why gangs target young people with gifts and promises and then make us repay the favour by taking drugs to different cities. They told us about all of the bad things that could happen in prison and it is safe to say that we were all a bit scared, but we all enjoyed ourselves and learnt a lot. Over all the whole day was worthwhile and it helped us all see that prison really isn't worth it. It really made us think about how our actions affects our friends, family and the people around us. All of the volunteers and staff members were helpful and informative.

Year 7 – Mrs Maddy Walker

Year 7 have had another fantastic half term with congratulations going out to the following students, the Year 7 football team that have qualified for the Coventry Schools cup final and Miles, Josh and Andrew for representing Finham Park at a debate competition and Miles for his special mention by Mr Bailie for his speech on why he thinks that the current format of examinations are not fit for purpose and should be abolished.

In our last newsletter we celebrated 5 students for receiving fantastic ATL grades in year 7 and hope to be able to celebrate more students following the upcoming reports. This time we are celebrating students that have achieved the highest stickers in Year 7 so far this year, Joey and Molly have achieved their World Class badges earning 400 stickers this year, this is an amazing achievement and the first ones in the school this academic year. Have a great final half term of your first year at Finham Park.

Last term in PHSE students studied: Developing self-confidence and self-worth including puberty and managing change and body satisfaction and self-concept.

This half term we will be moving on to look at:

Developing assertive communication, risk management and support-seeking skills including: Rights in the community; Relationship boundaries; Unwanted contact and FGM and forced marriage

Year 8 – Mr John Lawrie

In the last edition of the newsletter, we focused on students in Year 8 who's 'Attitude to Learning' (ATL) in lessons was exemplary. In this edition, I would like to draw your attention to those pupils who have been working really hard to get 'reward stickers'. Below are the top 5 in Year 8: Arjun (N08); Tilly (N01); Hayden (B08); Pratyush (N11) and Jasmine (A02)

Some Year 8 classes have been doing a litter pick as part of their learning in Computing, in order to collect a set of data to analyse. Year 8 students spent a lesson collecting litter around the school, recording where it is and what type of litter it is – so they can make suggestions on how to improve the problem of litter within the school community.

Finally, Congratulations to the Year 8 Football Team who have made it through to the final of the Coventry Schools Cup.

Last term in PHSE students studied:

Aspirations for the future; career choices and Identity and the world of work.

This half term we will be moving on to look at:

Developing communication and negotiation skills, clarifying values and strategies to manage influence, including: Healthy relationships; Boundaries and consent; LGBT+ inclusivity; 'Sexting' and Managing conflict

Year group in focus – 9 – Mrs Cheryl Chester

Year 9 have had a super busy half term. I must congratulate all students on how they presented themselves, and the effort they gave to make the assessment process successful. It can be a stressful completing exams under strict exam conditions so I am super proud of you all. On top of this some of our students also managed to fit a Duke of Edinburgh exhibition in too! In our last newsletter we celebrated 5 students receiving perfect ATL grades in year 9, and hope to see an improvement in your up and coming reports. However I thought it would be nice to celebrate the amazing students who have received the most amount of stickers so far and earned a Diamond badge! Well done Molly, Elise, Amy, Macy, Cagan, Connor, Filip and Archie.

Last term in PHSE students studied:

Financial decisions; saving and borrowing; gambling, financial choices and debt.

This half term we will be moving on to look at:

Developing assertive communication, clarifying values; and strategies to manage influence, including: Healthy/unhealthy relationships; Consent; Relationships and sex in the media

Year group in focus – 6th form – Ms Suzie Green

Last term the new Head Student Team got underway with a number of projects; between the Iftar, non-uniform day, quiz in aid of Viva College in Uganda, and the concert, they raised around £2000 for assorted charities. Credit to this must go to students within and beyond the head student team, because a number of students across the sixth form helped. For African Heritage day in May, the students organised activities to be shared in mentor period, as well as working with staff in the canteen to cook African recipes. Many even came to school dressed in clothing from any African Culture.

Year 13 had their last lessons on 10th May, and officially 'left' on 11th May; they enjoyed a series of celebration activities, including members of the main school forming a guard of honour as they walked off site for the last time. Their last day was fancy-dress; it was lovely to see them dressed in such creative costumes. They will celebrate their prom on 29th June at the Windmill Village hotel.

The Sixth Form are preparing to paint a mural in T block celebrating the cultural diversity of students at Finham Park school; students are invited to submit a design representing their culture, to fill one of a number of squares. We will pick a range of designs which represent the diversity of the school to be painted.

The next half term is very busy; year 13 will be focusing on their exams. Year 12 will do work shadowing, progression exams, participate in a careers conference and celebrate the end of term at Finham Fest. We will spend time inducting Year 11 students who plan to attend Sixth Form next year. Year 11, 12 and 13; good luck for your exams. Remember you are brilliant.

Year 10 – Mr Lewis Baker

As students are preparing for their end of year exams, as well as all the activities like Sports Day and Finham Festival for the final time, we were very impressed with the way Year 10 have conducted themselves over the last few weeks when Year 11 left for their exams. As promised, we were very impressed with the following 10 students who had a perfect AtL in the last progress check. They were Sumayyah, Mariam, Aleksandar, Sydney, Gagan, Maryam, Naomi, Milly, Kia and Amalia. I would also like to applaud the 65 Year 10 students who have a perfect behaviour record this year. A huge congratulations to the following students for being top in the year group for reward points so far. Well done to Lucy (Barbary), Jonas (Barbary), Amelia (Nubian), Katen (Nubian), Kitty (Asiatic) and Jamie (Barbary). A little reminder that the top 20% of students in the year group gain special perks at Finham Festival 2023 in the summer.

Last term in PHSE students studied:

Skills for employment; applying for employment; online presence and reputation.

This half term we will be moving on to look at:

Developing respect for diversity, risk management and supportseeking skills, including: Nature of committed relationships; Forced marriage; Diversity and discrimination and Extremism

Year 11 – Mr Steve Marfleet

The last few weeks have seen us send off our brilliant Year 11 cohort with their final day in school involving shirt-signing and a Leavers' Assembly which proved to be very entertaining and during which Victoria and Lola, amongst others, featured heavily!

In the run-up to the last day Shyla and Riya both entered their GCSE Film Studies films for the BFI IntoFilm Awards with Shyla being nominated for Best Editor Award. The Awards Ceremony will take place on July 1st.

Modern Foreign Languages were one of several departments to put on revision breakfasts and one-to-one support in the run up to the final exams. Students were able to practise their skills whilst enjoying waffles, croissants and pains au chocolat! In addition to this all relevant subject areas have provided students with at least one 'Masterclass' during the GCSE exam period.

We are looking forward to giving our Year 11s a fitting final send off at the Leavers Prom in July. Many staff who have been at the school for a number of years have expressed the opinion that the Class of 2023 were the best Year 11 that they have taught at Finham Park so we will be sad to see them go.

College Focus – Mr Steve Marfleet

Asiatic, Barbary, Katanga, Masai and Nubian Colleges have been celebrating some amazing Attitude To Learning (ATL) scores. Since the last newsletter staff have given an ATL score to all students in Year 8 and Year 10. In Year 8 3 students managed to score a perfect 4.0 average across all of their subjects. Congratulations to Hayden (Barbary), Ellie (Masai) and Laila (Barbary) for scoring a 4 in every single subject area!

Year 10 actually managed 9 maximum scores! Well done to Mariam (Asiatic), Sumayyah (Asiatic), Aleksandar (Asiatic), Sydney (Asiatic), Gagan (Barbary), Maryam (Barbary), Kia (Katanga), Naomi (Katanga), Milly (Katanga) and Amalia (Masai) for displaying outstanding attitude in everything that you do!

Safeguarding

If you would like to report an issue regarding sexual harassment, please use the email address below:

dsl@finhampark.co.uk

Someone from the safeguarding team will get in touch with you to discuss your concerns in more detail.

Or if you want to report abuse anonymously so we can be made aware of areas you feel uncomfortable around school, please scan this QR code opposite.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online wellbeing service for children and young people. Young people using the site are able to access a range of support services including one-to-one counselling sessions, discussing issues with their peers through online discussion boards that are fully moderated, reading and contributing to self-help content and recording their feelings via journals and goal trackers. The online nature of Kooth means that young people can access help in a way that is most suitable for them, at a time that is convenient for them, 365 days of the year.



<https://www.kooth.com/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Free apps to access support wherever you are!

Stressheads: Support to lower stress levels.

Stay Alive: Support to those who may experience suicidal thoughts/feelings.

Self Help Anxiety Management (Samapp): Support and techniques to help manage anxiety and panic.

Moodometer: (NHS). Allows you to track your moods, what influences it and how to improve it.

Calm Harm: Activities to assist in the management of self-harm.

Grief support for young people: Information about grief, bereavement and the feelings we may experience when we lose a loved one.

Insight Timer: A large collection of free guided exercises to help relieve stress, improve relaxation and wellbeing.

Calm: A large collection of exercises designed to calm us down.

Winston's Wish: Helpline to support young people with the death of a loved one. 08088 020 021

Key upcoming dates:

July:

Year 8 Progress check and report
Year 13 Prom
Year 6 in to Year 7 Transition Day
Year 11 Leavers Ball
Year 12 Progression exams
Year 12 Careers conference
Sports Day
Rewards events/Finham Fest
End of school year

Key upcoming dates:

Aug:

Year 13 A Level; Level 3 BTEC and Level 3 Vocational Courses Results day (17 August)

Year 11 GCSE and Level 2 BTEC and Level 2 Vocational Courses Results day (24 August)

Sept:

Start of term for students (from Wed 6 September – TBC which year group when)

Our website in focus.... did you know you can find out about our student wellbeing and also our student voice? The link is below:

<https://finhampark.com/student-wellbeing-officer>

Here you will find information about who our fabulous Wellbeing Officers are and the Colleges they link to, information about wellbeing and our student wellbeing charter and also the You Said, We Did in relation to the student voice questionnaires we carry out.

We are keen to ensure contact details for parents/carers are correct.

If you have moved house or changed your telephone number or email address, do please let us know. It is important that we are able to make contact with you. Thank you.

fpsreception@finhampark.co.uk

Finham Park School's start to the school day

8.40am – Students to be in school and moving to mentor rooms

8.45am – 30 minute mentor session starts until **9.15am**

If students are going to arrive to school after 8.40am we ask parents/carers to contact school reception and attendance to inform them of the reason for the expected lateness

fpsreception@finhampark.co.uk

Attendance messages – Mr C Thompson

We're pleased to announce that Finham Park is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school and at the latest before 9am on the day of absence.

Get the app or register now:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Missing days of school has a massive impact on not only students' learning but also impacts their own attendance percentage and their mentor group attendance. We encourage students to meet an attendance level of 96% over the year and with parents' help we can help them achieve this.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	EXCELLENT
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	SATISFACTORY
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	POOR
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE

Progress checks and assessment information – Mr Ryan Downie

- Guidance video on the progress checks and full assessment calendar is available at this address: <https://finhampark.com/exams/>
- We are in the process of changing the KS3 progress checks for September 2023. More information to follow in the summer term.

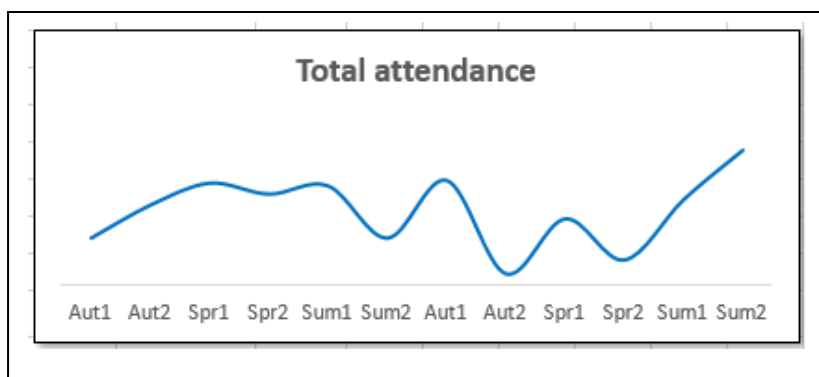
Please note: parents/carers receive an update on their child's progress either verbally, or in writing, every term and they you welcome to email teachers directly if they have any specific concerns outside of this.

Our data story for attendance and behaviour since September 2021

We thought it would be a good time to share some data we have recently been analysing to explain how the landscape in certain areas has changed over the past 2 academic years. We hope you will find the analysis useful.

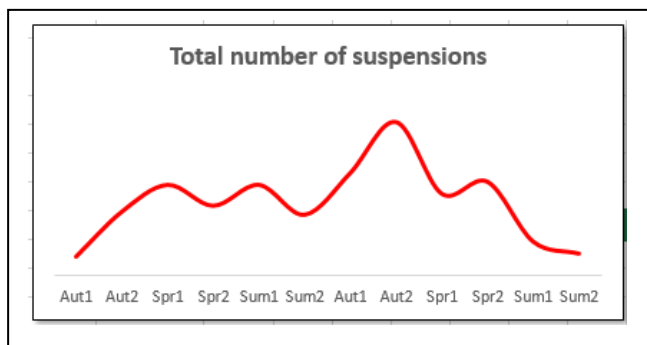


Lates: As you will be aware from correspondence home we have been educating students as to the importance of being on time to school and also to each lesson in the school day. Our mantra has simply been be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing. Through having a concerted effort, informing home where support is required and teaching the students to move directly from one lesson to the other, you can see on the graph opposite how the total number of lates across the whole school has dropped significantly.



Total attendance: Similarly to our focus on lates, we have also focused on attendance. You will have received communication at the start of each half term since Easter about the previous half term's attendance in comparison to your child's overall attendance. The aim of this is to spot any patterns early and, working together, ensure that each child has the highest possible attendance to school, therefore significantly increasing their life chances as a result. Currently our overall attendance is 93% with the Coventry average sitting at 90%. The national average is 87.7.

Total % PA YTD: PA stands for Persistent Absence. This represents the percentage of students that have an attendance of below 90%. Our current figure sits at 13.6% with Coventry PA sitting at 28.9%. There have been studies that have concluded that every 10% drop in attendance from 100% equates to a student achieving one whole grade less for **each** of their subjects. I.e a student with an attendance of 80% would achieve grade 4's in all their subjects compared to a student of a similar ability at the start of secondary school with a 100% attendance achieving grade 6's in all of their GCSE subjects.



Suspensions: The graph opposite highlights our two-year trend in terms of suspensions issued. The Aut 1 to the left is the first half term after students returned to school after the second COVID lockdown and were settling back down in to 'normal' school routines. Interestingly to give a context, the peak of the Aut2 to the right included 3 students being issued over a third of the overall suspensions. Since this peak we have put in a programme called the Passport to Suspension Reduction which is implemented once a student returns from suspension and aims to eliminate repeat offenders. The impact can be seen in this graph.



PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH MUSIC

THE EXCITING MAC PROJECT OFFERS A NEW ROUTE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, INSPIRING THEM TO MAKE POSITIVE GROWTH THROUGH AN IMMERSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH MUSIC BUSINESS, PERFORMANCE & TECHNOLOGY.

WITH EXPERT SUPPORT AND MENTORING, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LEARN IMPORTANT NEW SKILLS, INSPIRING AMBITION & POTENTIAL.

THOSE AGED 11-18 YRS WILL...

- LEARN TO CREATE MUSIC
- LEARN ABOUT THE MUSIC BUSINESS
- INCREASE THEIR CONFIDENCE LEVELS
- BE INSPIRED TO GROW AS INDIVIDUALS
- DEVELOP EMPATHY AND SOCIAL SKILLS
- DISCOVER ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- SAFE ENVIRONMENT, AWAY FROM CRIME
- 1-2-1 AND GROUP SESSIONS



• **MUSIC** •
 • **MINDFULNESS** •
 • **MENTORSHIP** •



The MAC Project – Mr Ben Dugdale

During the summer term for the first time we are working with The Coventry Boys and Girls Club to introduce the MAC Project. The MAC (Music and Change) Project is designed as a course to engage young people about career possibilities within music. From production, to artist management, the MAC project seeks to give participants a new pathway to professional studies, in an informal and immersive manner. The MAC Project is being rolled out in schools in Coventry, with plans to introduce sessions within the CBGC Club House on Whitefriars Street. The course was envisioned and championed by CBGC Youth Leader, Leah O’Loughlin, and is designed and taught by Howard Richards and John Bernard.

Various students have been invited to take part in the sessions and it is particularly valuable to those who may feel disconnected with their current education or need a positive environment. The sessions provide both theory and practical lessons, with one-to-one mentoring and guidance on how to pursue a career in the music industry.

**Having a Publication in The Design and Technology Associations magazine
(that goes out nationally to all secondary and primary members of the
association) – The Technology Department**

Finham Park is a popular, successful and exciting secondary comprehensive school of over 1,650 students, located in the south-west of Coventry. The school became an 'Outstanding' convertor to Academy status in August 2011 and became the lead and founding school in the Finham Park Multi-Academy Trust in 2015.

Borough Market Food Trip

Michelle Checklin and Baldeep Deygun, Finham Park School

"It was a great experience to go to Borough Market and experience lots of different street foods, I'm sure this will benefit us as we prepare for our NEAs in Year 11. I would definitely go there again, and take my family next time" Amelie Perkins Year 10 student.



The Design and Technology department is part of the Creative Design Faculty and is run by Richard Elliott. As a department we are constantly striving for ways to develop our teaching and delivery of the subject as well as the content to ensure our students not only achieve in our subject but also enjoy and are excited by it. Our department is made up of five specialist teachers and we are lucky enough to have two technicians (one food and one workshop based).

Brand new food room

Our school recently invested in a new food room for the department, and this has seen an increase in student numbers choosing the subject as well as an ability to develop what can be taught in the room and what our students can achieve. We deliver the WJEC Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE which equips students with not only practical cooking skills but the theoretical knowledge of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating. Our specialist food teacher Baldeep Devgun has developed the subject to one that excites and inspires our students in the preparation of food.

London Borough Market

In December 2022 we took our Year 9 and 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students to London Borough Market with an initial short stop off at Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park. We were focusing on the popular and ever-growing topic of 'Street Food' and Borough Market ticks these boxes wonderfully. Some of our students will have never been to London before and certainly not seen the levels of food choice and variety as seen on the market. This trip is an opportunity for them to experience food past the shelves of their local supermarket.

In the lessons prior to the trip, our students had been making and shaping various flavours of fresh pasta (including spinach pasta and a chocolate pasta – which they surprisingly loved!) Our Year 10s had been pastry making including a beautifully colourful and seasonal vegetable quiche. There were many examples of pasta and noodle pots and both sweet and savoury pastry items available at the market for students to see,



PRACTICE

taste, evaluate and consolidate back into their practical lessons at school.

We had done the trip prior to COVID, and it had been so popular that we were keen to reinstate it as soon as we were able to. We believe highly in extracurricular opportunities to bring the students' learning to life and this trip does exactly that. We often run this trip in conjunction with our Product Design A-level students who come to London at the same time to visit the Design Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum as part of their courses.

Borough Market is a fantastic experience for students and one that I would highly recommend as an alternative learning environment.

Generous helpings

The coach dropped us directly outside one of the entrances to the market and once inside students were able to explore independently in groups of no less than three, but not leaving the market boundary. We visited on a Thursday as the Borough

Market website advises Wednesdays and Thursdays to be the best time for schools to visit as the market tends, in general, to be much quieter on those days. It has an abundance of fresh produce with stalls dedicated to cheeses, bread, fish, vegetables etc. Basically, every kind of produce you can imagine and with stall holders who are extremely knowledgeable and willing to engage with our students. The free samples are very much appreciated too! It is the perfect location for discussing food provenance and variety and bringing this conversation to life.

The students and staff bought lunch at the market (with pupil premium funding being used where needed) which allowed them to experience the food further. The prepared food choice is vast with an array of multi-cultural delights cooked right there in front of you, many in huge simmering pans. The paella looked like it was a big hit with the public. Vegetarians and vegans were well catered for with a vast choice of dishes available. The queue for the 'Humble Crumble' stall was so long

it was easy to see why it was so popular when one of our students showed us her delicious looking dessert.

The market is well laid out and easy to get around, the street food stalls tended to all be in one designated area, so very easy to keep an eye on the students. When it comes to choosing lunch there was literally too much choice! We found ourselves walking back and forth double checking before settling on our chosen dish. We spent just under two hours at the market which we felt was enough time to take in all areas and really benefit from the experience.

If you are looking for a trip for your food students, then I highly recommend the visit as it links so perfectly with the curriculum and our students came back into school inspired and full of ideas.

Cadbury's World Visit – Mrs Ying Crawford

Back in March the RS department took a trip with year 12 and 13 to Cadburys world where we had insightful presentation on the ethics of the business world of Cadburys, as well as eat chocolate! Students got to look at the different ways in which the business has developed over the years and how they have tried to keep up with ever changing world and still keep its Cadburys values.



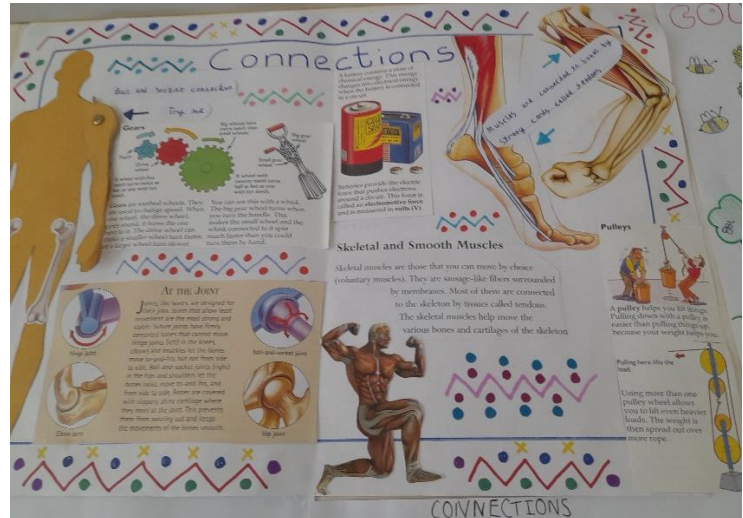
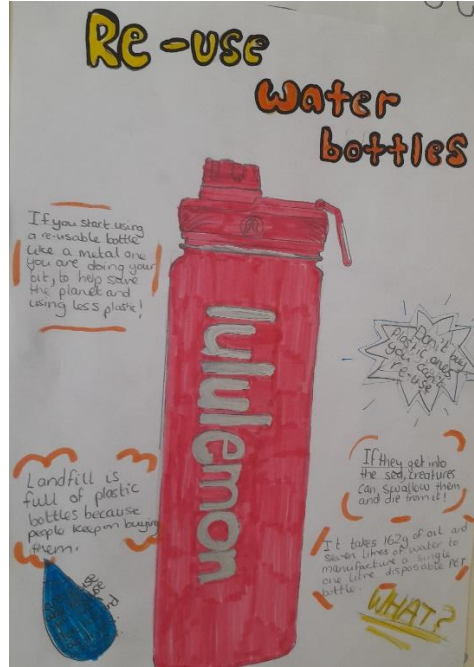
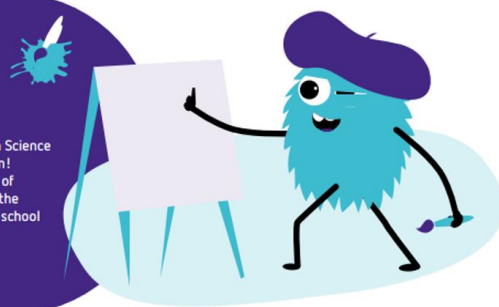


March 2023

Some of the posters that our Year 7 and 8 students produced below:

POSTER COMPETITION

Students can get creative and enter British Science Week's annual, UK-wide poster competition! They can make a poster about any version of 'Connections' that they like and be in with the chance of winning an array of prizes. Each school can enter the 5 best posters!



Business, Economics and Careers

Business Studies and Economics students were fascinated to hear from a young, local entrepreneur who came into Finham Park to share his story – putting their classroom learning into real life context!

James Ison, who instantly impressed with his famous clients and supercar in the car park, also left lots of the Finham students in awe as he explained how he was in their shoes just over 10 years ago – studying Business Studies and Economics and motivated to think about which direction his future career would take him. Starting with the fundamentals of buying and selling, he shared with students how he used his supply and demand knowledge to sell phone cases, tangle teasers and makeup on eBay and at car boot sales at weekends. James explained how he then moved into developing an App (which he learned a great deal from – especially when it failed), then into social media where one night at University he set up a page called 'Rich Kids of Instagram' and uploaded images that he thought would capture the interest of his peers.

Students listened intently and then had endless questions for James about his success, his failures, his life lessons, his growth plans, etc. We would like to thank James for giving up his time to share his journey with us and encourage any other local entrepreneurs to get in touch if they would like to help inspire the next generation.



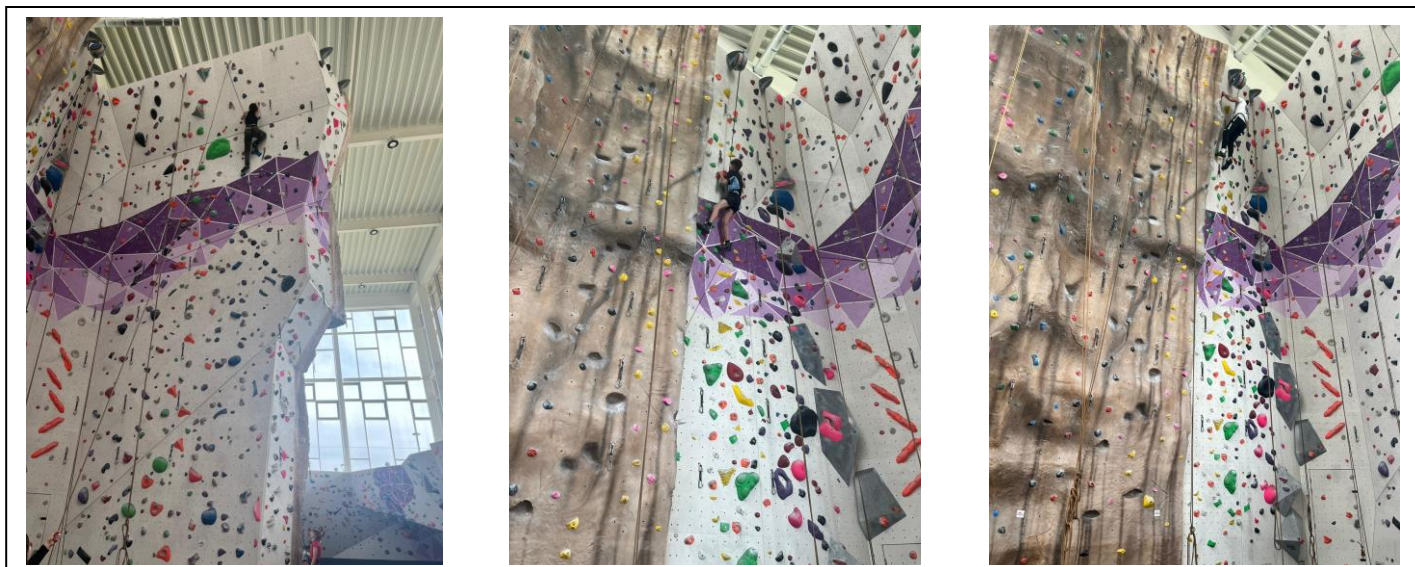
Business, Economics and Careers – Miss Watson

Year 13 Business Studies students took part in a trip to Stellantis in March – the Headquarters of the multinational automaker who own brands including Peugeot, Jeep, Fiat and Maserati to name a few. As one of the students A'level examination papers is about the UK car industry, the visit was very informative about the current car market and the many external issues facing the industry. The group were then treated to being the first students ever to test drive the new 'all electric mobility solution', the Citroen Ami, driving a route around the car park at the Whitley based HQ! Following the educational visit, two of the year 13 students were so impressed that they applied for Commercial Degree Apprenticeships with Stellantis and we are delighted that they were both successful and the feedback we received from Stellantis was that they were both exceptional candidates! Both Eva and Georgia will join Stellantis this summer to embark on their new careers – congratulations girls!



PP Trip to Warwick Climbing Centre – Josh Bingham

This half term, the PP team have taken 3 trips to Warwick Climbing Centre at Warwick University. The aim of the trips has been to build confidence in KS3 pupils, to give students a bit of a treat and to give them access to some exciting new opportunities. The facilities at the centre are fantastic and staff are great at working at the confidence levels of the students. They introduce them to the harnesses and equipment, start them on the smaller, easier walls and then gradually build them up to the biggest walls in the centre. There are also opportunities for students to literally support their peers by holding the ropes for them. It is great to see students getting out of their comfort zone, supporting and encouraging each other and proving to themselves what they can achieve if they really put their minds to it. Student feedback from this trip is really positive and it is something that we will look to continue next year.



Film and Media – Mr Mike Gunn

“Better Than New Normal”

Film Festival, Paris, Phoenix Rise premiere, Harry Potter Trip and Production Designer

While last year we attempted to get back to the “new normal” in the Finham Film and Media Department, this year we’ve gone all out to improve on it! Our trip schedule this year has been very full, with visits linked to our students’ future careers taking them to Warner Bros Studios (Year 7-9), Pinewood Studios Careers Fair (Year 10-13), and the Paris ÉCU Film Festival. Immaculate as ever, our students really managed to sell their skills to these potential employers and show how important creative skills are within the school/ At Warner Bros Studios we even had the chance to meet Gary Tomkins, Senior Art Director on the Harry Potter films and several Star Wars films too!

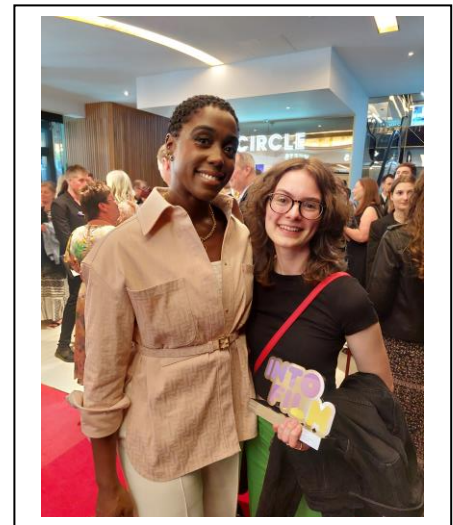
Once again we have gone out of our way to provide students with world class experiences, to inspire them to want to become the next generation of film-makers. As well as obtaining work experience placements for five of our students on the BBC’s Phoenix Rise TV Drama, we were also fortunate enough to be invited to the Premiere of the show, hosted at Finham Park 2.

Awards

This year has seen a number of our students entering national competitions for their film-making efforts, and a number of them short-listed for awards. Congratulations to:

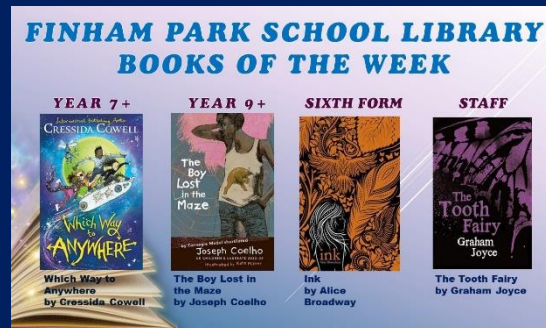
- Shyla – Best Editor nominee at the IntoFilm Awards
- Mia – Barnes Film Festival Youth Showcase nominee
- Freya – Best 16-19 Short Film winner at the BFI [Into Film Production Awards](#)
- Aaron – Best Short Film winner at the Into Film [“Film Of The Month” Awards](#)

Finally, this term will culminate with the return of our very own Finham Film Festival. Bigger, better, and rebranded as the CovCreative Film Festival, last year’s event was attended by 180 people. We are hoping to beat that with bigger crowds and better films this year when the festival is held on July 14th at The Box, Fargo Village. Tickets will be on sale to the general public. With guests from the industry including Marvel and LucasFilm professionals, actors and even an Oscar winner, we are very much looking forward to getting the department up in lights where it belongs!



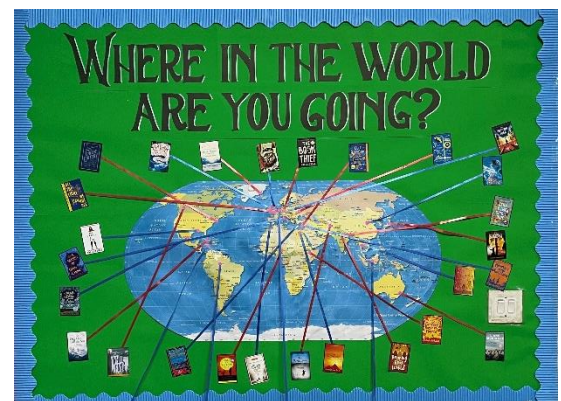
Library information – Paul and Zoe

Books of the Week: Every week we suggest a book for year 7+, year 9+, sixth form and staff. These suggestions are designed to help you choose your next reading adventure and also highlight new books into the library. These books are displayed each week at the front of the library ready for borrowing!



Where in the world are you going?

Highlighting the diversity of our library catalogue, we have used our latest display in the Library to map where in the world some of our fiction books are set. Reading books set in different countries from our own can provide us with an insight in various cultures alongside the emotional and spiritual lives of the people who live in those places. Travel the world from the comfort of your reading space!



Most popular books Spring Term 2023

A selection of our most borrowed books of the spring term. An interesting mix of books; it's nice to see a classic in the mix (1984) thanks to our year 9 borrowers!



New books in the library!

Check out some of our latest additions.



Games in the library

The library isn't just the place to get your latest literary fix; chess, Uno and Scrabble are available for our library users to play when we are open before school, after school, break and lunch time. Chess has been incredibly popular this year.



Drama Department

Goodbye and good luck!

From 'Annie', to practical exams, to reams of written work- it really doesn't feel like we are already at this point in the term!

It's been an emotional few weeks- saying goodbye to our gorgeous Year 11 and 13 cohorts. Both groups have shown such resilience and dedication throughout their GCSE and A Level year and though we are sad to see them go we are so excited for them to go onto the next chapter of their lives.

Good luck and keep in touch!



Meanwhile, Year 12 have been getting stuck into the written exam content. Though in a bid to make it a little more practical for them we were treated to a 'fashion show' that I'm sure rivalled the Met Gala! The students recreated the costumes from the production; *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* which they saw for the Section A part of their exam which is a Live Theatre Evaluation. As they 'walked the runway', they also gave in-depth and insightful analysis of what different materials, colours and fits in costume communicate to an audience.

Finally, our Year 7's have made an excellent start on their Devising scheme of learning. They are looking at Social Media, the hold it has on our lives and are bringing it to life using a variety of Drama techniques. We are so proud of their maturity and how fantastic their ideas are. We can't wait to see what else they come up with!





Providing school shoes
for children in need



No child should miss out on school because they don't have a pair of well-fitting school shoes.



The Coventry
Children's
Boot Fund

Contact Josh Bingham (j.bingham@finhampark.co.uk) if you would like to find out more

We are supporting



The Coventry Children's Boot Fund

childrensbootfund.org.uk

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Mr Subhaan Sheikh

This is an award that can be undertaken by students from Year 9 onwards. It has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Award is split into four areas which must be taken over 3, 6 or 12 months depending on the level. They are skills, volunteering, physical and the expedition. Over this term we have had one group of students undertaking the silver practice expedition come to the aid of someone in the general public having a medical emergency. Bronze practice expedition and fully assessed expedition. Over 70 students have participated in the bronze award this year, one of the highest numbers of students from a school in the area.



FINHAM WIN THE COVENTRY TELEGRAPH CUP – FOOTBALL

In the 46 years that the Coventry Telegraph Cup has been played Finham Park have never reached the final of this prestigious U16 football competition, let alone won the trophy! History was made on Tuesday 2nd May at the CBS stadium. Our Year 11's won, defeating rivals Bishop Ullathorne 2-0, with goals from Harry and Jack. This was a fitting culmination of five years of exemplary effort and teamwork from this talented and all round excellent group of boys. Since year 7 the team have played close to 50 inter-school games. The attitude and commitment of the team has always been amazing and they have been a pleasure to work with over the course of that time. I would like to personally thank all of the boys for their efforts, positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour and also to the parents that have supported in many different ways over the last five years.

It's also fantastic that we have other year groups coming through, who could emulate the year 11's, especially after year 7 and 8 played in the Coventry Cup finals.

Team: Joel, Harry, Max, Oli, Callum, Owen, Matthew, Jay (Captain), Paddy, Jack, Tom, Finlay, Isak, Finn, James, Hayden, Ben. **Manager,** Mr Shepherd



SPORTS STARS OF THE FUTURE.

In all future newsletters we will feature one student to share their amazing sporting talents. I would like to celebrate many more students outside of school sporting achievements. Please email m.amos@finhampark.co.uk to share student success stories.

Joshua Gardner – Year 10 – International golf

Josh is currently playing off a handicap of -1. He has recently been accepted as the youngest member of the England Under 18 Midland Regional Squad as well as being an established player in the Warwickshire County Under 18 Squad. He is currently North of England Under 14 Champion, Warwickshire Under 14 Champion and Midland Under 14 Champion of Champions. During 2022 he was the highest ranked English Under 14 player in the European Golf Rankings for most of the year.

His home course is Coventry Golf Club, Finham. In October of last year he played in the Junior European Open in Spain, where he was top of the leaderboard going in to the last round. Unfortunately the final round wasn't his best but he had a great experience playing in front of the Sky Sports cameras.



Further student success:

Swimming – Good luck to **Eve**, who will be competing in swimming at the International Children's Games in Daegu, South Korea.

Water polo – **Amelie** made her debut for the senior ladies England squad at a home Nations tournament in Dublin in May.

Twkwondo – Competing in an international event in Scotland, **Jessica** won gold patters & **Kobi** silver patterns

Hockey – Well done to **Lucy** who qualified for the Midlands team hockey finals in April

Tennis – Well done to **Matthew** who won his doubles competition in a 'Road to Wimbledon' tennis competition.

Boxing - Well done to **Kiran** who won a silver medal at the U14's National Boxing competition.

Tennis -Well done to **Ishaan** who has been selected to represent Beechwood Tennis Club in the Warwickshire Club Challenge at the Rothesay Classic Birmingham. This is played alongside the WTA tour event at Edgbaston featuring the top players in world tennis.

Honours board

Congratulations to **Emily and Matthew**, who were chosen by the PE team and the best sportsman and sportswomen of the year. Their names have both gone onto the school honours board.

Variety of sporting opportunity

Over the past few months the variety of sport / opportunities on offer to students has been amazing. Year 10 students in particular have had the opportunity in curriculum time to get involved in a variety of sports including: self defense, lacrosse, American football, rugby & Yoga. Students also continue to have a great opportunity of enrichment including, tennis, cricket, rounder, fitness, football, twdondo and archery.

There has been so much sporting news to celebrate over the past few months. Since the start of September the department has completed over **150 fixtures** in a massive variety of sports.

- **YEAR 7 COVENTRY CUP FOOTBALL WINNERS** A brilliant performance by the year 7 football team winning on penalties to Cardinal Wiseman.
- Well done to the **KS4 basketball team**, who agonizingly got knocked out in the semi-finals of the Coventry Cup. Losing 56-53.
- The year **8 rugby team** finished 3rd in the Coventry school's competition.
- The **KS3 & 4 badminton** teams both remain unbeaten this year
- The year 8's were runners up in the Coventry Cup football Finals. Losing 5-2



Inter-College Sports Latest

1 st Barbary	314pts
2 nd Nubian	300pts
3 rd Katanga	292pts
4 th Masai	286pts
4 th Asiatic	286pts



Sports Person of the Year

	Male
2007/8	Michael Holmes
2008/9	Thomas Annett
2009/10	Haaris Hussain
2010/11	Harry Lumb
2011/12	George Swain
2012/13	Thomas Hill
2014/15	Bayley Pollard
2015/16	Ben Rex
2016/17	Miles Clisham
2017/18	Sam Lucas
2018/19	Joshua Pyott
2019/20	Sam Kendall
2020/21	James Herbage
2021/22	Alfie Pyott
2022/23	Matthew Herbage

	Female
2007/8	Emma Armitage
2008/9	Sally Lewis
2009/10	Lucy Bagworthe
2010/11	Hannah McGrory
2011/12	Penny Lewis
2012/13	Lucy Rouse
2014/15	Ella Long
2015/16	Bethany Nixon
2016/17	Beth Taylor
2017/18	Rebecca Campbell
2018/19	Abigail Halder
2019/20	Kamiya Smith
2020/21	Sofia Yunis
2021/22	Jasmine Bownass
2022/23	Emily Evans Bent

Health & Well-Being

As part of the year 10 curriculum students received talks from 'Coppafeel' (breast cancer awareness & 'Oddballs' (testicular cancer).

Wheel Chair Basketball

At Finham we work hard on given opportunities for all abilities. In April we held a wheelchair basketball workshop, where over 350 students participated throughout the day

FITNESS

All students in year 7-9 are measured for their cardiovascular fitness twice a year. Student complete the 12-minute cooper run. It was fantastic to see the overall average performance of each year group went up. Top students in each year group were:

Y7: Boys: Joey, Naveer, Joel & Archie – 3000m &

Girls: Lucy 2800m

Y8: Boys: Harry, Rajan & David 2800m & **Girls:** Izzy 2800m

Y9: Boys: Reuben 3250m & **Girls:** Trinity 2900m

