



Finham Park School | Magazine– November 2023

THIRD EDITION | NOVEMBER 2023 |

In this edition.....

- Information on recent school events
- Many reports about some of our amazing educational visits
- Year group and College update
- Relevant links and support material – especially regarding wellbeing
- Sport, Drama and much, much more.....



BBC Bitesize Roadshow

At the end of September we welcomed a BBC crew who filmed a careers presentation given to students in years 7-12 about how they can use the BBC's service to look at jobs in media and beyond.





Talks 4 change: Danny Wilsher

On Tuesday 26th September we were honoured to welcome mental health champion Danny Wilsher into school to speak to students in years 11 and 12. Danny and his colleague Olly Newton from Talks for Change UK are on a mission to speak to as many young people as possible:

"Our youth are struggling with depression, anxiety, self-harm, eating disorders, and suicidal thoughts more than any generation before them.

Talking saved our lives. At first, we both learned how to TALK about our emotions, feelings, and the things we were struggling with. We learned how to navigate ourselves out of years of depression and mental health struggles.

Then, we learned how to SPEAK publicly. I mean, really, really speak... And finally, we learned how to inspire others to TALK. To begin the journey we have both undertaken, only much sooner."

Further details about the project can be found here: <https://100talksforchange.com/>

Danny may be familiar to those of you who watched the Channel 4 TV programme The Piano. His inspirational talk covered how he used music to help him overcome grief and suicide and included a live performance which was a very special experience. His visit was filmed as part of a documentary film about the project which also features interviews with students and a performance of 'Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' from Mr Bishop.

Message from the Headteacher – Mr Chris Bishop

The school continues to push and make gains for our young people in any way we can this half term. We have recently had our first trips back to China and Uganda since COVID. We have hosted a huge number of sporting fixtures at the school including local derbies with Bishop Ullathorne and Finham Park 2. The Russell Plester Derby was a particularly poignant event here.

Events around the world will continue to challenge us all as we see suffering happening wherever there is conflict.

Finding our way through and out of conflict is not an easy thing to do. This is why the work of our restorative justice programmes is so important to always keep front and centre of all our pastoral work. The aim is to give students the space to think and consider peace and reconciliation so that we can live with kindness and humility.

Healthy struggle is an important aspect of life and not something that should spook us. This is a concept that all schools and education providers are working within. The process of learning is a complicated one as everybody comes to that place from a different starting point and will progress through at differing rates. Managing the stress and anxiety that this can bring is important. We are therefore launching our 'Class of 2024' intervention programmes over the coming weeks which will include: alterations to our mentor programmes, reviews following mock exams and evening online meetings with parents to equip them with the skills to support their children at home in their studies, many of whom will be going through external examinations with their children for the first

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.



Year 7 – Mr John Lawrie

Year 7 students have made an excellent start at Finham Park School. Their behaviour and attendance have been exemplary. In fact, during the last half term, 139 Year 7 students attained 100% attendance. That is a staggering 52% of the entire cohort.

Throughout the year, students collect achievement points. It was pleasing to see that quite a few Year 7 students have already attained their Silver Reward Certificates. The Top 5 pupils of the Year Group are: Lara (K10), Hester (K10), Rebecca (M02), Nima (B07), Ernie (K10)

In each edition of the Newsletter, I will be including a 'special mention' to a student who has excelled in a particular discipline.

Music- Congratulations go to Lara C for submitting the best performance in Year 7 for our topic on Matilda. A well-rehearsed and polished performance.

Lara is a member of the Choir of Finham and hopes to take on a solo role in our Christmas Graduation celebration at the Cathedral on December 20th.

Year 8 – Mrs Kim Hunter

As always, we start the academic year with excitement and look to celebrate the success of those students who have not only met but exceeded our expectations. So many of the students in Year 8 have started the year positively and have made a real effort to be in the right place at the right time, wearing the correct uniform and demonstrating exemplary behaviour.

A special mention goes to the following students who are currently the TOP 10 for the number of reward points they have accrued:

Vishy N 160; Aarav 152; John P 151; Halima B 148; Charlie P 144; Niyah T and Molly A 142; Jet G and Gabrielle Q 139 and Beth A 138

Well done to all of those students and a challenge to the rest of Year 8 – can you top the leader board next time?

In PSHRE, Year 8 have shown great maturity and insight when discussing Equality. They have delved into what equality is, explored LGBTQ+ and gender equality as well as how to remove barriers for all. This half term they will be completing an Image project – I look forward to seeing what they produce!!

Year group in focus – 9 – Mr Jerry Crawford

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the Year. The vast majority of Year 9 students have been punctual and presented themselves really well so far. Year 9 have really taken to the introduction of their taster sessions and it is great to see so many students enjoying new experiences in preparation for their GCSE options.

Year 9 also have Prison Me No Way coming up. The recent parents' evening was a perfect opportunity for parents to have that face to face contact with staff and they were all appreciative of the efforts that have been put in to ensure success for their children. It was also great to see so many students there eager to show off how well they've been doing to their parents.

As a year group Year 9 have received a total of 12349 stickers with a shout out for the Top 4 students – Sienna S, Scarlett O, Vithooshan U, and James K. Well done to all Year 9 students especially those that have already received their Bronze and some Silver awards, keep it up.

Year 11 – Mr Lewis Baker

I am very pleased to say that Year 11 have made an excellent start to their final GCSE year and it is good to see the majority of students engaging with lessons positively and the revision sessions that are on after school. They have had multiple assemblies and some key dates upcoming are as follows

- Monday 20th November – Year 11 Mocks Start
- Thursday 23rd November – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Friday 8th December – 6th Form Application Process assembly
- Thursday 21st December – Year 11 Mock Results day

I am also pleased that I now have a small group of students to help me plan that end of year including their Prom. A date for your diaries is Thursday 4th July. Further details will be released in the New Year.

A huge congratulations to the following students for achieving the most reward points since the start of the year Oheneba N, Ibraheem B, Sam T, Umar K, Gabrielle K and Hassan S.

I hope they all have a good mock exam run and I look forward to seeing them open their results in December.

Sixth Form – Ms Suzie Green

Thank you to those of you who attended the recent meeting entitled 'Understanding your Child's Progress Check'. Please find the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fHsbwQIQOc>

On Monday, year 13 had an information assembly about their mock examinations. To view it please find the recording here: https://youtu.be/wsCw1CG_uB8

I realise I forgot to circulate the recording of the meeting I did a few weeks ago for year 12 parents about careers. Please find the recording here: <https://youtu.be/QimvkE0Ddxw>

Recently, the department for education came to visit. A number of sixth form students presented for them or performed to them. We have also welcomed back students who visited Uganda, and have had students training staff about SPLDs and supporting students with neurodiversity.

If you are interested to see what your child is studying with us in more detail, please look on our websites to see our learning journeys. Go into each subject area for a detailed breakdown of what they will be studying.

This week we had a mock 'Ofsted' activity. Thank you to all parents who completed the parental questionnaire that formed part of this.

Upcoming period 6 talks:

27th November: Careers in the Theatre, Film and Television Industry (No Class Creations)

4th December: Working for National Grid (Fiona Rivington)

11th December: Witches and Paganism (Maggie Webster)

Year group in focus – Year 10 - Mr Steve Marfleet

We are really pleased with the focused start that Year 10 have made to their 2 year GCSE cycle...

This term in English, Year 10 have been exploring Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, which is examined on Paper One of their two Literature papers. Students have been conducting research in to what it was like to live in Shakespeare's England and consider the difference reactions to the play of modern audiences and audiences watching in the late sixteenth Century. It has been lovely to see students enjoy watching the different film versions of the drama and take on the challenge of reading parts aloud in class. Well done to Maria I, Lennon S, Ossa S, Eleanor K and Nana N. for volunteering to accept character parts week on week. Students have really tried to think about how the play was written and have developed the confidence to consider their own interpretations - Isabel P-H and Niya J should be commended for their efforts in offering impressive interpretations of the text.

Mrs. Beckinsale

Mandarin Excellence Programme Year 10 trip to China

On Thursday 19th October 22 Year 10 students who are studying Mandarin had the opportunity to visit Beijing and China on the pilot programme to set up a school visit post-covid. Students flew to Beijing where we had an Opening Ceremony, getting to try some extremely fancy Chinese food, and we went to visit the Great Wall. We then flew to Shanghai where we spent the rest of the week learning Mandarin. Throughout the week students had lessons in Mandarin, where we learnt new vocabulary, such as how to order a range of food and drink. In the afternoon we got to practise this vocabulary in real-life situations, so students ordered bubble tea and butterfly biscuits – both specialities from Shanghai. In the evenings we took part in Hangfu dressing up, a river cruise in the city and visiting night markets in the city. The trip was an amazing experience and all students and staff are extremely grateful for the opportunity!



Mrs. Spokes: In Drama Year 10 are continuing to complete their C1 Devised performances based on the issue of Discrimination. They have made some superb work so far weaving in real life case studies from across the world and history.

Mr Gunn: In Film we have been studying narrative structure in film, through the set text of Jojo Rabbit, as well as the theme of propaganda. The students have also been devising their first film sequences of Year 10, ready to enter for the Film Festival later in the year. As inspiration, we hosted a lighting and cinematography workshop earlier in the term which the students excelled in, and later this term we will be visiting Pinewood Studios for a careers fair about working in Film and TV.

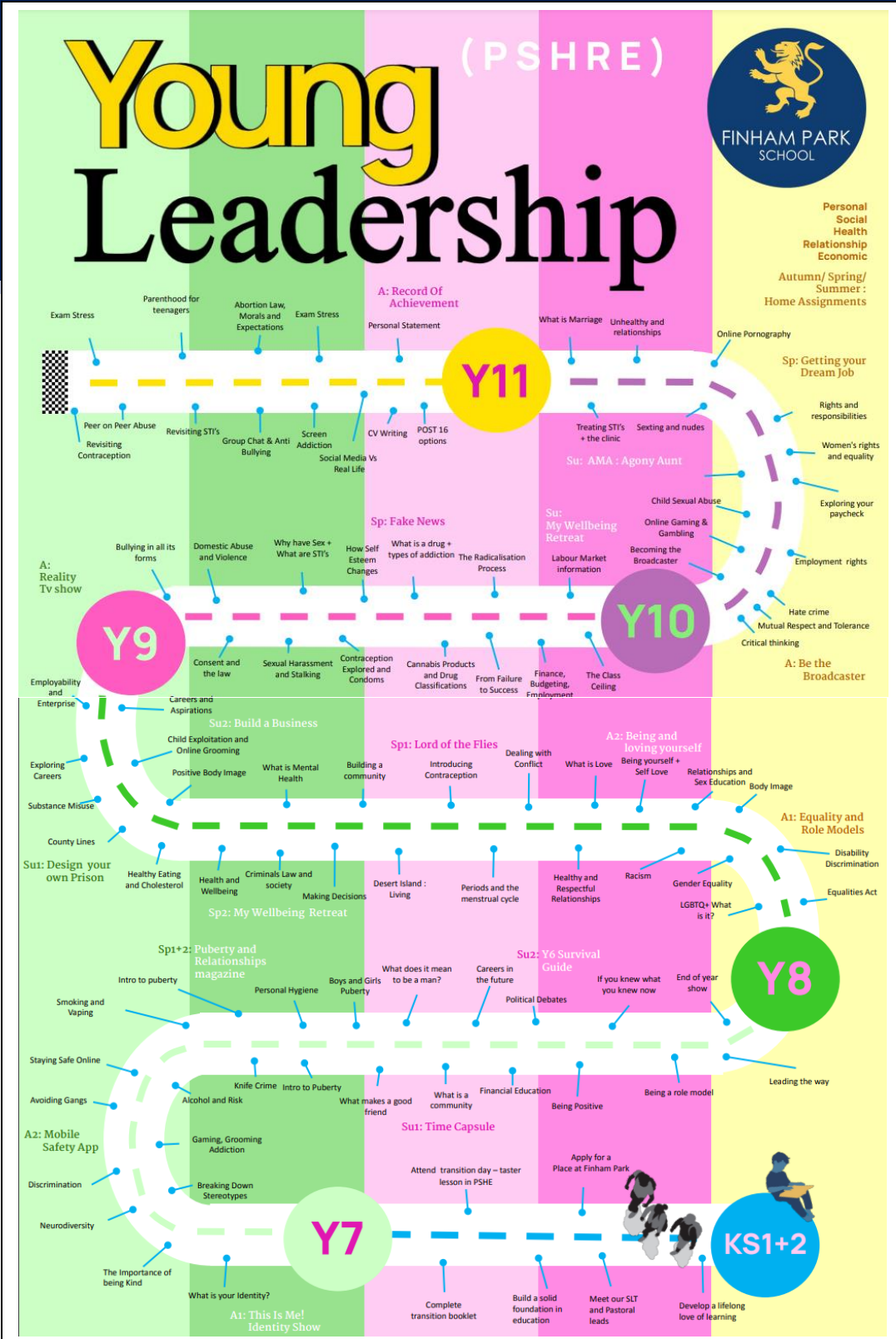
Personal, Social and Health and Relationships Education
LEARNING JOURNEY



Young Leadership (PSHRE)



Personal
 Social
 Health
 Relationship
 Economic
 Autumn/ Spring/
 Summer :
 Home Assignments



College Focus – Mr John Lawrie

Asiatic, Barbary, Katanga, Masai and Nubian students have been busy collecting achievement points since the start of the academic year.

Over 60 000 stickers have been awarded so far. This is an amazing achievement and highlights how hard our students have been working.

Below are the top 5 students for each College – CONGRATULATIONS!!

Asiatic – Zaynab (A06), Jeremi (A01), Himat (A01), Connor (A10), Holly (A06)

Barbary – Nima (B07), Zayn (B10), Meghan (B07), Jaya (B07), Niyah (B07)

Katanga – Lara (K10), Halima (K03), Hester (K10), Ernie (K10), Saran (K10)

Masai – Rebeka (M02), Vishy (M10), Charlie (M06), Aanya (M05), Briony (M09)

Nubian – Beth (N01), Rebekah (N09), Tasneem (N01), Josh (N09), Gabby (N11)

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:

November 2023:

Year 10 in class assessments
Year 8 progress checks
Year 11 mock exams start
Sixth Form Open Evening (Thurs 23rd Nov)
Year 10 progress checks

December 2023:

Year 13 parents evening
Year 9 options evening
Christmas concert

Key upcoming dates:

January 2024:

Year 13 mock exams
Year 7, 9, 10 & 12 in class assessments
Year 11 parents evening
Year 9 progress checks
Year 7 progress checks
Year 12 in class assessments

February 2024:

Year 10 Work Experience
Year 12 progress check
Year 9 options deadline
Spanish and Ski Trips depart

Our website in focus.... did you know you can find out about various platforms the schools uses to communicate with parents/carers, who to go to in the first instance should you need to contact the school. The link is below:

<https://finhampark.com/parents-forum/>

Below you will find a link to information about who our fabulous Wellbeing Officers are and the Colleges they link to. You will also find 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.

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

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

Year 7 to 9 Progress Checks

We have now launched a new style of progress check for KS3 students which simply states whether your child is working at expectation or not. This is similar to primary school progress checks and should provide reassurance whether your child is on track. Further details are on our school website:

<https://finhampark.com/key-stage-3-assessment/>

Each subject is supported by an assessment grid which will give you an idea about the topics covered in each year and the skills / knowledge expected of students at every stage. Please do have a look through some of the grids to help you further support your child. An example is provided below:

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Finham Park School</h2> 			
KS3 Computer Science Assessment Statements – Year 7			
Working Towards	Working At	Greater Depth	
I can use at least one software application effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can use a range of software applications effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can confidently use more advanced software applications.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can use google classroom to access my lessons online.	<input type="checkbox"/> I understand how to use technology to communicate and collaborate with others.	<input type="checkbox"/> I consistently use technology to effectively collaborate with others.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know how to create a document and share it with a teacher or other student.	<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the principles of digital literacy, including how to create, edit and share content.	<input type="checkbox"/> I competently apply the principles of digital literacy, modifying content to make it suitable for my audience.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know the difference between computer hardware and software.	<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the basic principles of computer hardware and software, including input and output devices, storage and processing.	<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the principle of computer networks and how they work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can access the internet safely at school and know who to report cyberbullying to.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can use the internet safely and responsibly and avoid risks such as cyberbullying and malicious websites.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know how to protect myself against online threats such as viruses, malware and phishing attacks.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know how to make a strong password to help keep my data secure.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know the principles of data protection and privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know how to behave appropriately online.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know how to keep myself safe from viruses and malware.	<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the impact of computing on society and the ethical issues surrounding computing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can give code-based instructions to a computer using a block-based programming language.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can program basic algorithms using block-based programming languages.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know how to use programming languages such as Python to create simple algorithms which could include sequencing, selection and loops.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I know that computers use binary numbers to store data and can convert between binary and denary.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know how data is represented in binary for images and text.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> I know how data is stored, transmitted and processed.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Attendance messages – Mr C Thompson

Thank you for supporting us encouraging your child to be in school and on time, this is having a positive impact on student learning.

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 or if you need to send us a general message regarding holidays, medical appointments, lateness etc.

We will also be using Studybugs to keep you updated on your child's attendance and other important information at points throughout the year. Please use the link below to download Studybugs.

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

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

Join The Club

At Finham Park School we are going to be celebrating students' ability to be disciplined (which is an act of learning rather than sanction) by launching our '100% attendance' club and 'C zero' club each week. Students get a fresh start every Monday and are challenged to get no consequences marks in the coming week and to come to school promptly every day. We will write to you more over the coming days about this and to also update you on your child's attendance this term.



Year 9 Business Studies students planned and ran a pop-up shop at Finham Fest in July 2023 – putting lots of the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom into action. Students started by carrying out some market research and found that 'bucket hats' and festival accessories including sunglasses and flower garlands might be demanded. The students sourced the items, purchased them, set up a pre-order form, planned the stall and got it all ready. They decided pricing strategies, worked out the variable costs and calculated the break even point at varying prices.

At Finham Fest, over the two-day period, small groups of students took turns to staff the stall, actively selling festival items to their peers and staff. They dressed the stall, managed stock rotation, negotiated prices, worked out monetary change, recorded sales, etc. Afterwards, students calculated total revenue, counted and put away the stock, banked the takings and worked out that the stall had been really successful. All of the flower garlands and sunglasses had sold out making a small profit and bucket hats, whilst popular, there was a slight surplus left over to restock for next years pop-up shop! Overall, the enterprise was really successful and the students thrived on the opportunity to manage their own real business – hopefully inspiring the entrepreneurs of the future!



Finham Park Media Arts

Open Evening in September saw the launch of our revitalised Radio FPS show line-up. New equipment, new speakers, new presenters, and lots of new ideas including a weekly quiz, Throwback Thursdays, and The Alphabet Mafia's look at LGBTQ+ issues in the news. This term has also seen us build on our previous collaboration with IntoFilm to bring films and educational activities to the students on the subject of Mental Health Awareness and Black History Month.

We were fortunate enough to be able to host ex-student Jack Brazil for a day in October as he taught students in Years 10/12/13 about the practical skills involved in cinematography and lighting to make their films look much more cinematic. This is the first of a programme of workshops with Film creatives which will culminate in November with a visit to Pinewood Studios for their Pinewood Futures Careers Fair, which will give students the opportunity to explore the whole range of jobs available within the Film and TV industries.



Awards

On top of a phenomenal set of GCSE and A Level results this year (top value added in the school at GCSE!), the end of last term gave us a number of reasons to celebrate with many of our students entering national competitions for their film-making efforts, and a number of short-listed nominations.

Congratulations to:

Mia P – Best Short Film nominee at the Parallusion Film Festival Awards in Beijing as well as the Barnes Film Festival Youth Showcase

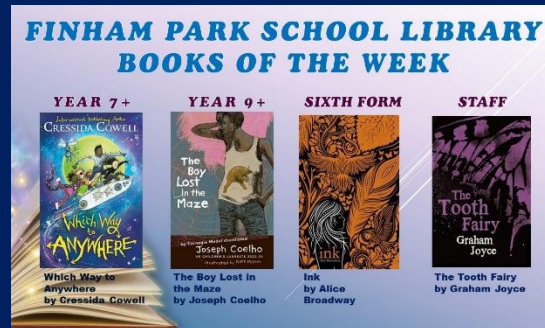
Lola A – Best Short Film nominee at the MediaMagazine Production Awards

Izzy M – Best Short Film at the CovCreative Film Festival Awards



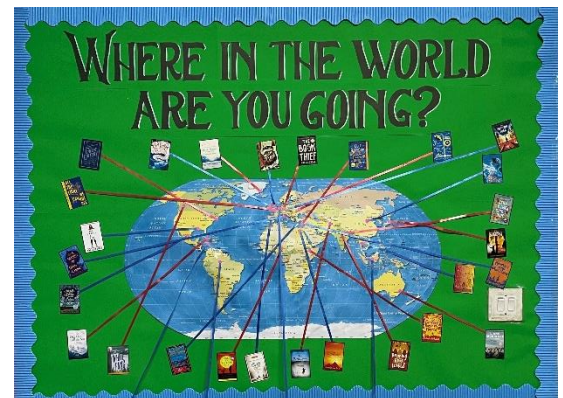
Library information – Paul and Zoe

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 our set. Reading books set in different countries from our own can provide us with an insight into 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!



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.





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

An exciting start to the year!

From new starters to students entering their final year- what a term it's been so far in the Drama Department...

Year 7 began the term exploring Silent Movies to develop their non-verbal communication skills by creating over-the-top slapstick characters. They have worked together brilliantly and impressed the Drama department with their performance skills!

Year 10 are currently creating a devised performance for their component 1 exam based on a stimulus called 'Zero', which is an animated film exploring the issue of discrimination. They are using real life case studies of discrimination across the globe and throughout time to inform the audience of this issue using a range of creative drama techniques and styles.



Year 13 are rehearsing for their Component 2 exam, which is a 30 minute scripted performance. Interpreting 'Girls like that' by Evan P and 'How to disappear' by Finn K the talented group are developing their communication skills whilst exploring issues of social media, bullying and identity.

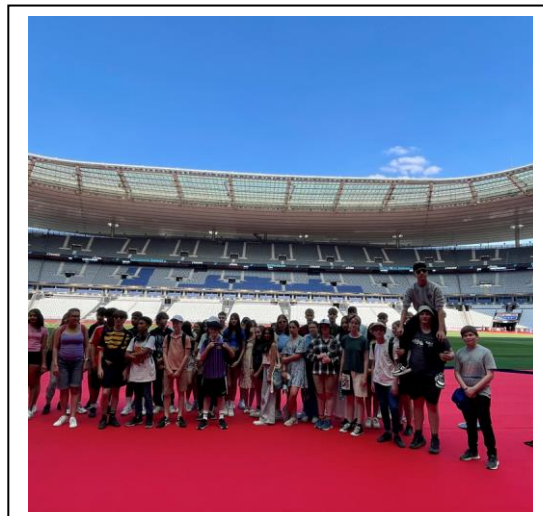
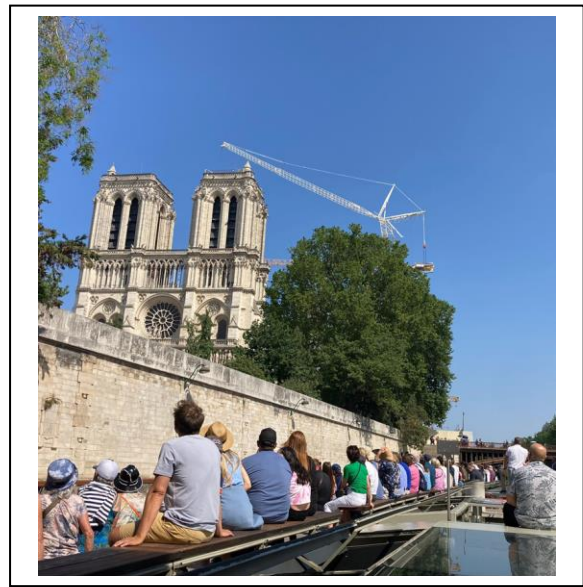


Finally, we look forward to welcoming again '**Highly Sprung Theatre Company**' to the school in November. The company are coming in to do a Physical Theatre workshop leading to a performance with our amazing **Year 9** Drama students. We can't wait to see what exciting work they create!



Residential Trip to Marne la Vallée and Paris, June 2023

The second week of June saw 44 Year 10 and Year 9 students off to France for the first time since 2019. The weather was amazing allowing us to see Paris at its best. Students had the opportunity to practise their French language skills in everyday life situations. We visited Chateau Vaux le Vicomte – a grand stately home to the south-east of Paris famous for featuring in a James Bond film. We spent 2 days in Paris, exploring the city's beautiful sights from a bateau on the River Seine and walking through the streets near the Latin Quarter and having lunch in the Jardin des Tuileries at Place de la Concorde. There was time to spend shopping on the Champs Elysées, admiring the Arc de Triomphe as well as dining in a French restaurant at Place du Tertre in the shadow of the Sacré Coeur. A highlight of the visit for many was the tour of the Stade de France and hearing about many of the famous footballers, rugby players and music artists who have graced the turf of this national stadium. The trip ended with a day spent at Disneyland Paris where students were able to experience the thrills of the Tower of Terror and Hyperspace Mountain. The teachers joined in with the Disney fun too! It was great to hear such positive feedback from our students regarding all their experiences whilst on the trip and we look forward to running it again in 2024.



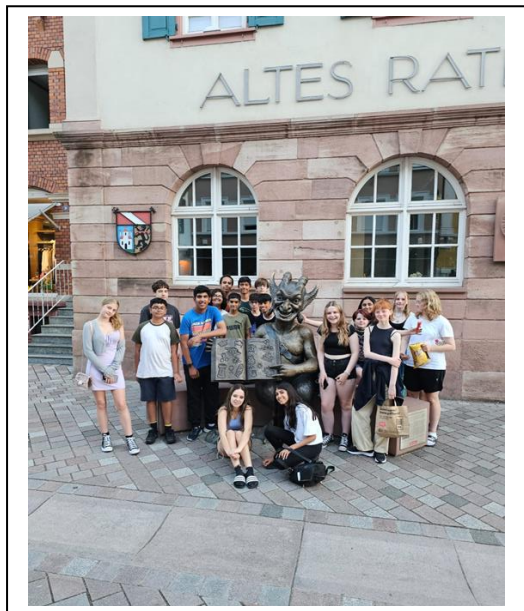
Finham Park, Finham Park 2 and Ricarda-Huch Schule, Kiel Peace Project, June 2023

In June, we welcomed a group of students from Ricarda-Huch Schule, Kiel to Coventry for a week of joint projects centred around peace and sustainability. 11 Year 7 and 8 students from Finham acted as fantastic ambassadors for the week, after working to prepare for the project all year, and were undaunted by the fact that our German visitors were a little older and a lot taller than them! We hosted our new friends at Finham Park for one day, working together to play percussion, to introduce the game of rounders and to create symbols of peace, inspired by Chinese culture, as well as sharing a picnic on the field and completing a "peace trail" around the school site. The week also included visits to Finham Park 2, the Schools of Modern Languages and Politics at the University of Warwick, Coventry Cathedral, the Transport Museum and a reception with the Lord Mayor at the Council House. The visit culminated with an opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster and share a picnic in St James' Park in London.



Stuttgart and Black Forest trip, July 2023

We were pleased to offer 25 of our German students the opportunity to visit South-West Germany in July. After a long journey through four countries, we spent some time getting to know students from our partner school near Stuttgart and practising German with them as they introduced us to their town and school. We explored the cultural heritage of Stuttgart with visits to the Ritter Sport chocolate factory, the Mercedes Benz Museum, Schloss Solitude and the iconic Fernsehturm before travelling to the Black Forest. There, we experienced the food culture of beautiful Freiburg and took a cable car ride through the forest to enjoy the breathtaking views. On the last day, we had lots of fun at the EuropaPark theme park and the local Eiscafé before heading home. All students were an absolute credit to the school, and we look forward to offering the visit again in summer 2025.



Year 7 European Day of Languages escape room challenge, September 2023

In September, some Year 7 students were invited to take part in an online escape room challenge in small groups where they had to put their logic skills and language knowledge to the test to crack a code to win prizes. Students were enthusiastic and positive and came away with lots of new facts about the languages spoken across Europe and the importance of learning languages in and out of school!

Year 8 German food tasting, October 2023

Students studying Year 8 German were lucky enough to have an interactive food tasting session with students from the University of Warwick as an introduction to their module on German food. Year 8 were treated to various German specialities and encouraged to express their opinions in the target language.

GCHQ National Language Competition, November 2023

We have entered five teams of Year 9 students into the GCHQ National Language Competition this year. They have to work together to solve a series of code breaking, problem solving challenges by spotting patterns and working out the clues. We have been really impressed with the students' attitudes towards the competition, which has seen them exposed to a variety of unfamiliar languages and challenging activities.

Year 9 Business in Languages Day at Warwick University, November 2023

On November 8th some Year 9 students went to Warwick University to experience their business in languages day. Students designed a pitch for a travel company to advertise their hotel accommodation, thinking about their unique selling point, the location and what activities people would be able to do there. In the afternoon students made a model of their hotel and prepared and delivered a presentation in Spanish. Our students came in 2nd place for the event and won a prize to reward them for their fantastic efforts!



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.

Kobi T - yr 9 - international Taekwon- Do

Kobi has been training in Taekwon-Do since the age of 2 years. He is a 2nd degree black belt. Kobi started competing age 5 years old and has a good success rate. Over the last year Kobi has competed regularly in 3 disciplines - sparring, patterns and special technique. Kobi is currently ranked No 1. In sparring and 2 in patterns throughout England. Kobi started training with the England Taekwon-Do team over a year ago which involves traveling to London on Sundays. At the start of November Kobi was selected to represent England at the European Championships in Madrid. He came away with a fantastic bronze medal. In the future Kobi hopes to continue competing and add a world championship gold medal to his collection.

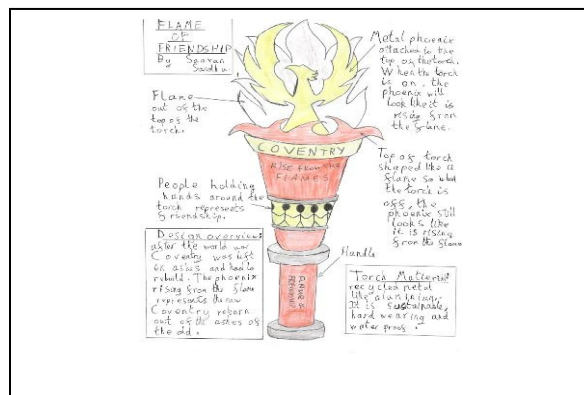


Coventry Flame of Friendship

In the run up to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Coventry schools will once again be hosting a torch relay The 'flame of friendship' will be carried between all Schools in Coventry. As part of this, School across the City were invited to design the torch, which will then be made at Warwick University. In total Finham had over 200 Year 7 entries. Three students were chosen to represent Finham. Congratulations to: Hester F; Roa B and Saavan S Fingers crossed one of their deigns will be chosen, as the overall winner!

Further student success:

Shennai C Y10 - had a great experience at the National Tennis Finals for the road to Wimbledon



Hosting Coventry wide Sporting events

Since September the department have hosted the 'Finham Park rugby 10s festival' for year 7, where several school from around Coventry and Warwickshire took part. Finham Finished 5th overall.

We also hosted the annual Coventry Schools Cross Country Championships and Relay Championships, which saw over 300 runners compete. The Y7/8 girls and Y9/10 boys both won the overall team competition.

Football & cross-country Success

Both the Year 7 & 8 football teams have progressed to the 3rd round (last 250 schools) in the Country of the English Schools Cup.

The Year 7/8 girls and boys cross country team qualified for the Regional team championships.

The Russell Plester Derby – 5th October

It was fantastic to see Year 7, 8 and 9 students from both Finham and Finham Park 2, coming together through sport, to celebrate and remember the amazing Russell Plester. This will become an annual fixture between both schools.



National Sports Games Mark

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition, experiences and engagement across the school and into the local community. The PE department are proud to have achieved a GOLD mark.



Winter Cooper Run

Congratulations to the following students, who achieved the fastest 12-minute copper run at the start of the year of the year:

Year 7: Boys: Albie D & Sael B (2800m);
Girls: Rose S D (2600m).

Year 8: Boys: Joey B & Naveer D
(2900m); Girls: Lucy P (2600m).

Year 9: Boys: Elias M (3300m); Girls:
Sophie O & Lilia S (2300m).

Year 10: Boys: Archie W (3600m); Girls:
Emily M P (2500m).

Ski Trip - Austria .

The PE Department are busy organising the next ski trip, where over 60 students from Year 7-13 will be going to Austria. This is a biannual trip.



Variety of sporting opportunities

Since the start of term the PE department, the PE department has offered a wide variety of enrichment to all students in school. Activities include, badminton, cross country, trampolining, football, netball, basketball, fitness, rugby and cheerleading. The take up by students has been fantastic. Over 50 fixtures have been played since September.

