

Finham Park School | Newsletter – March 2023

FIRST EDITION |2023|

In this edition.....

- Information on recent school events
- Year group and College update
- Key upcoming dates (relevant to students and parents)
- Our wesbite in focus
- Relevant links and support material especailly regarding wellbeing
- Careers, Sport, and much, much more.....

The RAP Project foundation

On Thursday 9th February we were fortunate to welcome the RAP Foundation who came into school to work with each of our year groups. These sessions were interactive, and included information on gaming, grooming, social media and content producing; curating their life online; toxic masculinity; rape culture; the importance of empathy and apologising; the pressures boys are dealing with; the legal definitions of sexual offenses, and the world of influencers. Sessions delivered were:

Year 7: Digital Natives
Year 8: Digital Natives + Social Skills
Year 9: Altered, Airbrushed and Unrealistic + Social Skills combined
Year 10: Social Skills for Life
Year 11: Everyone's Invited: What Now

Sixth Form: Everyone's Invited + Big Leap



Message from the Headteacher – Mr Chris Bishop

Welcome to the first edition of our relaunched newsletter. It is always a joy to meet with parents and hear your views on how the school can improve, with this newsletter being one of the outcomes of that feedback.

As you are aware, we are also spending a lot of time talking with our pupils about the need to nurture and develop a sense of belonging; a sense of shared ownership. This is not just for the environment, but for the wider aspects of living in a community with others. (With your gratefully received support, we have seen a vast improvement in students arriving promptly to school in the morning by 8:40am). School uniforms are there to do precisely that; to enable pupils to develop **identity**, **loyalty**, **fellowship**, **pride** and **belonging** as well as creating high **standards** of appearance during the school day. As you can imagine, schools often mirror trends in wider society, especially when it comes to the appearance of young people. Perhaps this is even more prevalent today in a world often dominated by influences and trends seen in the media. A school uniform is an important form of identity linking students to a school and ours, we hope, provides a sense of pride. Equally important is the fact that it serves as a great 'leveller' in terms of affordability where one student does not stand out from another simply because of what they can afford to wear or how they present when wearing their uniform. We will be carrying out a review of the dress code for September and consulting with parents/carers. I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Watch out in the next edition for a report on.....

Year 9 took part in a Crime Awareness event known as 'Prison? Me? No Way!'. The day consisted of a series of workshops delivered by prison staff, police and the Red Cross. The day had two aims:

> How easy it is to become involved in crime.

> Consequences of criminal activity for both the victim and the perpetrator.

The main emphasis was on anti-social behaviour and the day involved a role-play with students being taken through the crime, arrest, prosecution and conviction processes. It was very realistic and some found it hard-hitting; students took an active role in the workshops throughout.

Additional sessions were led by the prison service and consisted of workshops dealing with issues associated with the theme of the day including speaking to someone who had experienced jail time and the impact imprisonment has had on their life.

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.

#HolocaustMemorialDay " – Mrs Samantha Griffiths

We are very excited to share the second extract of Holocaust survivor testimony from Filip's great, great, great, grandfather Wladyslaw Pytlewski. Watch it here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvkGuEzmI8E</u> <u>@UCL Holocaust @HMD UK @ZaraSultana</u>. #BeaconSchool2223 #HMD2023

Below are some wonderful responses from our students to the first extract of Filip's great grandfather's testimony shared on Holocaust Memorial Day (Friday 27th January 2023)



Year group in focus – 9 – Mrs Cheryl Chester

In January you will have received your child's most recent ATL (attitude to learning) grades. In year 9 we saw 5 students in the year group receive 4's for every subject and for mentor time, something that is worth celebrating, keep up the hard work Leher, Ella, Anna, Rebekah and Phoebe. In our next progress check it would be great to see if we can add more to the list!

So far in PHSE, students have studied: Peer influences; substance and gangs; citizenship; healthy lifestyle and mental health. This half term we will be moving on to look at: Financial decisions; saving and borrowing; gambling, financial choices and debt.

Year 7 – Mrs Maddy Walker

Year 7 have had a great first half year at Finham Park School and we look forward to the students continuing to flourish throughout the remainder of the year. You have recently received your child most recent ATL (attitude to learning) grades. In year 7 two students in the year group have received 4's for every subject and mentor time, this is a huge achievement; keep up the hard work. These students are Beth and Zaynab. It would be great to see more students added to the list!

Year 7 have also been working towards gaining reward points and the following have received the highest points in year 7 and a number of awards along the way. Niyah 305 points, Zac 296 points, Maryam 295 points, Ethan 286 points and Oscar 282 points.

So far in PHSE students have studied:

Health and puberty; transition and safety; developing skills and aspiration; building relationships and online safeguarding.

Year 8 – Mr John Lawrie

These are the **Top 5 ATLs** for Y8 from the last report: Summer A; Haydn B; Meghna P; Ekamveer R; KeilanB **Top 5 Rewards** for Y8: Jessie B; Zac M; Niya T; Oscar H; Theo O

Year 8 Sporting Success:

The Year 8 Boys Football Team are through to the Semi Final of the Coventry Schools Cup. In the recent Coventry Schools Netball competition, the Year 8 Netball Team reached the Semi Final losing to KHVIII but defeating all Coventry State Schools.

Mr Day reports that the Year 8 Rugby Team are having a good season. They have played 8 matches, won 6 and lost 2.

So far in PHSE students have studied: Drugs and alcohol; diversity; careers; developing skills and aspirations This half term we will be moving on to look at: Aspirations for the future; career choices and Identity and the world of work.

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

I cannot believe we are at the stage of advertising the prom, year book and hoodie, and planning the last day of year 13. It seems so recent that year 13 were attending their induction days at the end of year 11. This term alone, we have appointed the new head student team, planned a student led concert and have a fundraising event for the Earthquake appeal in Syria and Turkey at the end of term.

Before Christmas, a group of year 12 students produced a Shakespeare Showcase in aid of the charity Mind, in recognition of the fact that mental health struggles can become more challenging in winter. They did all the work for it themselves, including choosing the scenes, creating the set, rehearsing, directing and performing the play.

Our Finham Pride Alliance goes from strength to strength and is in the process of sharing their good practise with other students across the MAT. Our religious students have been working with local places of worship to equip our multi-faith prayer room with equipment such as prayer mats. As Ramadan approaches, it has been a joy to work with our new Diversity group to produce guidelines for staff in how best to support students who are fasting.

We are in the process of recruiting year 11 students for next year's year 12. It has been exciting to receive well over 450 applications and we are excited that so many year 11 students have applied. Over the next few weeks we will communicate details of our induction which will take place towards the end of the summer term.

Year 10 – Mr Lewis Baker

We are currently in the process of finalising the Year 10 full written report and I hope that you will all be pleased when you receive it. We will provide you with the students with the top AtL (Attitude to Learning) scores in the next newsletter. We were very proud of the Year 10 students who completed their work experience in the week before half term. The reports we have had back from employers have been glowing on the whole and we cannot thank the students enough for representing the school in the way that they did. We also want to say a huge congratulations to the following students for being top in the year group for reward points so far: well done to Lucy W, Hassan S, Poppie C, Jonas B and Jamie T. A little reminder that the top 20% of students in the year group gain special perks at Finham Festival 2023 in the summer.

So far in PHSE students have studied: Exploring influences; careers; addressing extremism and radicalization and healthy relationships. This half term we will be moving on to look at: Skills for employment; applying for employment; online presence and reputation.

Year 11 – Mr Steve Marfleet

Languages have completed the curriculum and revision has started in lessons. A beneficial round of Mock 2 Speaking exams has taken place; students should gain confidence from this process and build on their performance ready for after Easter.

Film Studies students have now completed their NEA coursework, with most getting marks at or above their targets. There are some excellent films there which we hope to get nominated at the CovCreative Film Festival later in the year, with really strong submissions from Shyla K, Jake P, Maria I, Riya S and Isla F. We are now starting to revise our units in order of difficulty, preparing students through weekly learning homework and a focus on exam skills.

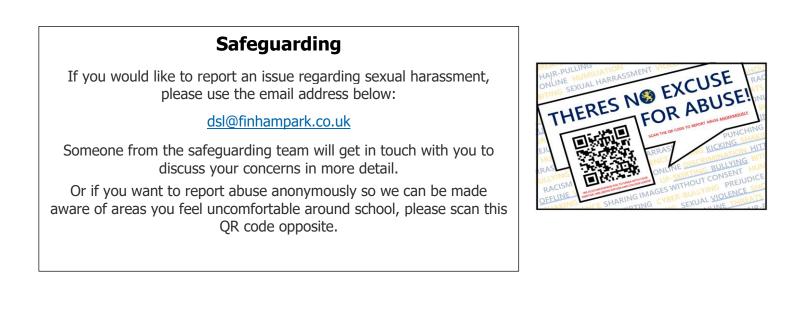
Business Studies_students have completed the full course over the 3 years and now have plenty of opportunity to practise exam type questions. Lessons consist of topic revision, followed by students working in their 140 page exam pack to plan and answer short questions and longer 9 and 12 mark questions. After-school revision takes place twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and often has good attendance. The sessions enable attendees a more personalised environment to complete 30 minute topic revision.

Music are currently finishing off coursework recording solos, ensemble, and completing two compositions before revision for the summer exam. Lana has made amazing progress in her work.

College Focus – Mrs Cheryl Chester

Welcome to our Finham Park School college newsletter section. Firstly, I just thought I would remind you of the five colleges we have here at Finham: Asiatic, Barbary, Katanga, Masai and Nubian. Although your child will be part of one college and earning stickers and points in our inter-college competitions, we also share the same ethos, values and mentor programme. This half term we have focused on embedding RESPECT within all our lessons. Each pupil participated in launching the RESPECT campaign by designing posters to promote it. They will be placed around the school and each winner will receive a voucher!

During mentor time, pupils have also been busy following our set programme including, Assemblies, Book club, PSHRE discussions, Personal Development and Well-being activities/Quiz. We take pride in the strong communication between pupils, mentors and parents and hope you will enjoy hearing about our mentor schedule regularly. Within this valued time, we also have focus weeks, more recently being holocaust memorial week. The Finham community were privileged to have first access to diaries written during the holocaust. This wonderful event was even celebrated on BBC CWR!





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:
June:
Year 12 work shadowing
Year 7 Progress check and report
Year 10 exams start
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

Our website in focus.... did you know you can find out who to contact about any issue relating to your child's education via our website? The link is below:

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

Here you will find information about the best person to contact for different scenarios, staff email addresses as well as links to our parent questionnaires so that you are able to share with us your experiences, and those of your child, to help us improve where necessary. Please do not feel you have to wait until a parents' evening to discuss your child's education with us.

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

Mentors and College Leaders are pushing attendance each week and the Attendance Team are giving chocolates fortnightly to the mentor group with the best average attendance and the best improved attendance.

We have seen an increase in attendance of virtually all mentor groups and we are seeing our termly figures on the rise.

Winners for this fortnight were: Best mentor attendance over the last 2 weeks goes to B01 Mrs Sharkey; Best mentor improvement over the last 2 weeks goes to K01 Mr Day

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.

Parents are reminded to call the absence line or use FROG to report student absence before 9am

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: <u>https://finhampark.com/exams/</u>
- 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.

Krakow Trip - February Half Term 2023 – Mrs Lucy Madden

During February half term some of our students were fortunate enough to visit Krakow, in Poland. The trip was offered to our older students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Students spent four days and three nights in and around the city of Krakow visiting commemorative sites from the Holocaust such as the Jewish Holocaust museum and Auschwitz-Birkenau. One of the highlights of the trip was when students got the opportunity to listen to a Holocaust survivor speak about the atrocities that her family went through over the duration of the Second World War and how she survived Auschwitz. This was a very moving experience and enabled our students to get the most from their visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp. We also found time to enjoy the delights of the city! Students who went on the trip will be visiting Year 8 lessons after Easter to tell them all about their experience.

"One of the best experiences ever! The whole time was so surreal and seeing the places and meeting the people in real life gave me a completely different insight and experience. Definitely a once in a life time experience to go to Aushwitz and meet a Holocaust survivor. It was so interesting and I am so glad I went! Thank you so much to the teachers, you were all so nice and funny! The whole stay was great!" (Year 11 student).









Candle Conference 2023 – Mrs Madden

The RS department ran an A Level trip to Coventry Cathedral earlier this term to see the eminent philosopher, Peter Vardy deliver a serious of lectures on "Religious Experiences". It was a great experience for students to engage in university style lectures and the conference culminated with a debate on the existence of God. It was a great trip, in a fantastic venue, and has inspired some of our students to consider studying philosophy at university. The department looks forward to a further philosophy conference at the University of Warwick later on this month.



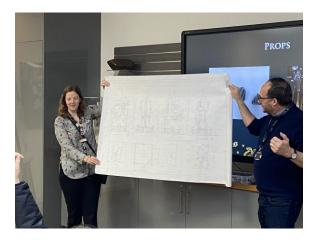


Film and Media – Mr Mike Gunn

"The Film and Media Department have had a number of notable successes this term, with 60 lower school students on the trip to Warner Bros Studio Tours being treated to an additional expert talk from Art Director Gary Tomkins, who worked on all of the Harry Potter films, and is one of only two people to have worked on all three sequences of the Star Wars films, from the originals in the 1970s to the prequels and then the most recent films (Photo attached).

We are also very proud to have helped put together video diaries of Filip Pcion's accounts of his great grandfather's experiences of being in a concentration camp during WW2 for Holocaust Remembrance Day, which have been shared throughout the school as part of our PHSE programme.

It's also awards season, and our students and ex-students have been picking up an armful of awards! Aaron Mann in Year 13 picked up Into Film's 'Film Of The Month' Award for his outstanding horror film 'A Clear Picture Of Myself'. Freya B-D's film 'Driven To Despair' about a girl with OCD anxiety won our own CovCreative Film Festival Award for Best Year 13 Film last year, but last week it went on to do a clean sweep of all the national student awards, starting with July's 'Film Of The Month', followed by Into Film's 'Best Short Film' award, and then last week winning the National Moving Image award (Photo attached). And finally, an ex-student of ours in Media who has been working as a sports journalist for The Mirror has won the 'Football Media Award' for his pioneering work reporting on homophobia in football. Well done to all!"







Careers - February 6 -10th 2023 National Apprenticeship Week – Mrs Hooke

To celebrate this event, we organised a week of activities delivered through mentor time and, during each assembly, we invited a former Finham Park School students who has successfully progressed through this route.

We hosted Rhianna (who studied at WMG) but is now an apprentice Nuclear Submarine Engineer with Rolls Royce. Rhianna spoke to an engineering and product design class about her pathway, how important work experience was to her application.

Ollie and Chloe from MTC Engineering spoke about their roles within the company and the opportunities available within the industry. Ollie is an engineer and is now a STEM Ambassador. Chloe was an apprentice business administrator and has been promoted to Human Resources. They advised all students to 'work hard and get involved in activities both in and out of school'

Jack represented Coventry Building Society and is a Technical Data Analyst with the company. He completed A levels at Finham Park School. His message to students is: 'show a genuine interest and willingness to learn – all can go a long way for all career and education paths.'

We would like to extend our apprentices and employers a huge thank you for supporting our school with this event.

Tom left school in Y11 to attend a BTEC Construction and Built Environment Course at college. He was informed about an apprenticeship with Deeley's Construction and applied. Tom was successful and has started training as an apprentice Quantity Surveyor and attending the course he intended to study as part of his training, but getting paid and gaining valuable industry experience. Tom is developing his career by studying a degree in Quantity Surveying at Coventry University.





Our final visitor was Lewis, who left school after Y11 and joined MTC where he completed his engineering training after a year and then (after 60 applications) he was offered an apprenticeship with Arrowsmith Engineering Group, making precision parts for aircraft and prestigious cars. He spoke with a passion about his job and is keen to develop his career with the organization. Lewis aims to become a Team Leader and he will have the opportunity to study a degree when he completes his Level 4 qualification. Lewis' advice to students: Persistence

Performance Exams and Theatre Trips Galore - Mrs Jenny Spokes and Ms Sophie Bartlett

The Drama department has been a hive of activity this term as we rehearsed, polished and performed all of our practical exams for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13!

The students were resilient, conscientious and their talents lit up the stage! We started with Year 11 and 13's Component 2- Scripted performance. Year 11 performed monologues and duologues from poignant and mature plays like, *Things I Know To Be True, 5 Kinds of Silence* and *4:48 Psychosis* and the cheers heard from the Theatre were inspiring! Year 13 had the mammoth task of a 40-minute group performance followed by contrasting monologues. Their plays were *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* and *Girls Like That* and explored engaging issues of identity and responsibility.

Year 10 and 12 then finished the exam period with their Component 1 Exams- Devised performances. Year 10 reflected on their stimuli and developed pieces on mental health, the dangers of the digital age and the pressure that society places on women- especially women of colour.

Year 12 out did themselves once again by focusing their performances on the concept of freedom with their aims being 'Power wielded in the wrong direction can have dangerous consequences' and 'Is freedom a right, or do we have to fight for it'.

This time of year is always physically and emotionally demanding; but seeing the audiences reactions to the talented students on stage makes it all worthwhile.







We have been lucky enough to see two pieces of Live Theatre in the last few weeks.

In February, we saw The Ocean at the End of the Lane which is adapted from the novel by Neil Gaiman. The students LOVED it and it was truly the perfect performance for them to see for their exam.

We also took students to see An Inspector Calls, which is their set text for the Component 3 written exam. It's so helpful to see the words come to life in the way the playwright intended.

For both performances, we could not have been prouder of the way the students conducted themselves. They were polite and respectful and members of the public approached us to compliment them. A real credit to the school!











Sport – Mr Matt Amos

Sports Enrichment Clubs - Over the past few months students have had the opportunity to attend a large variety of enrichment clubs. These include, football, rugby, table tennis, badminton, cross country, trampolining, netball, fitness, fencing and taekwondo, dodgeball. Over 65% of year 7 students attended clubs in term one. We are always trying to give students many outside of lesson opportunities. There has been so much sporting news to celebrate over the past few months. Since the start of September, the department has completed over 100 fixtures in a massive variety of sports.





Headline Results

Year 7/8 cross country girls and boys teams, both finished in the top 10 in the Regional English schools cross country Championships.

The year 11 football team are one game away from playing at the CBS arena. They have progressed to the semi-finals of the prestigious Evening Telegraph Cup.

Year 8 Rugby team narrowly missed out winning the annual Finham Rugby festival.

KS4 basketball team are currently unbeaten and look set to make it to the Coventry Cup finals **Year 8 netball** – Fantastic performance in the Coventry schools tournament. Narrowly losing to Henries in the semi-finals. Year 7s also played in the year 8 B competition and also narrowly lost against King Henry VIII school in their semifinals.

Go Parks Active School Challenge

Well done to all the students (and parents) who got involved in the Go Parks active schools challenge:

Finham WON!



Sporting 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 <u>m.amos@finhampark.co.uk</u> to share student success stories.

<u> Amelie P– Year 10 – International water polo</u>

I'm currently part of the u17s Great Britain Water polo team. Throughout the past 12 months I've travelled to multiple different countries to take part in competitions/overseas training camps in preparation for Europeans which is held in Turkey in July this year. Then next year I will hopefully be selected for u19s Europeans. My biggest achievement so far playing in 2022 Europeans nations in Czech Republic where we finished 4th and I finished top goal scorer for my team. In the past 2 years I've won numerous national age group titles with West Midlands and in those tournaments consistently winning 'Top goal scorer of the tournament' and 'MVP'. Playing high level sport requires a lot of dedication and hard work, I'm in the pool every day or multiple times a day doing water polo and swimming training, hoping one day to fulfil my dream of playing Water polo at the Olympics.



Further student sporting success

Football: Congratulations to **Jack J** and **Jay M** who have both signed two-year scholarships with Coventry City Football Club. **Trinity M** Y9 Football – Has been given a place on the FA girls emerging talent centres, which is supported by the premier league, with the aim to provide better accessibility and more inclusivity for young female players and enhancing development.

Golf: Josh G – Winner of the North of England U14 Championship 2022 and finished 12^{th} in the U15 category of the English Boys U16 Championship.

Taekwondo: Good luck to **Tzion T, Jessica T & Kobi T**, who will be representing the International Taekwondo Federation Union at the European Championship qualifiers in Rotterdam.

Irish Dancing: - Well done to **Lilia S**, who represented her Region in the Irish Dance World Championships

Rugby: Well done to **Jessica P and Amelie P** who have represented Warwickshire U16 girls' rugby

Student Leadership in Sport

This term the department will be refreshing its vision for Sports Leadership.

The long-term goal is to create a network of student role models, who have the opportunity to lead younger peers, developing their sporting skills. This will also give the department more capacity to offer further enrichment opportunities.

Congratulations to the following year 7 & students who will be working with Miss Essam. Initially they will be leading their PE groups in small group warm-ups:

Year 7: Ben L; Miles F; Molly W; Lyla P; Amber T; Lucy P; Ella H; Kitty F; Lalo A; Abdullah A; Niyah T; Cayetana R; Lara M; Harvey M; Pia L.

Year 8: *Pratyush H; Behzad M; Oliver V; Florence P; Simran M; Sophie O; Isabelle S; Aimee D; Layla L; Dan P; Zain I; Teddy H; Oscar H*

<u>Inter-College Sports</u> <u>Latest</u>			
1 st Barbary	314pts		
2 nd Nubian	300pts		
3 rd Katanga	292pts		
4 th Masai	286pts		
4 th Asiatic	286pts		

Women's International football trip

At February half term our students had an amazing time at the CBS stadium watching England Ladies win against Italy.

