



Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

After the Christmas break, it was great to see the students again in January- they actually looked older and seemed to have grown! The successes of last term has continued: fabulous academic events such as the maths challenge, Bebras (computing) challenge; robotics competitions; library events as well as superb sporting matches and the very first public live performance of the Finham Park 2 Rock Band have taken place (next stop: The Cavern- home of The Beatles!). Even more is planned for the forthcoming terms- various trips and the Star Studded Celebration of Success!

We want as many of our students to get involved in exciting activities, and a huge number do! If your child would like to get more involved in activities mentioned in this newsletter please ask them to speak to their mentor.

As the school expands to 360 in September, we of course need more staff and so have already recruited teaching staff in the following areas: English, Geography, Mandarin, Technology and Engineering as well as Mrs Brake being appointed as Deputy Headteacher- huge congratulations to her. We will be making more teaching staff appointments after half term. Following these appointments we will be recruiting support staff. Our goal will always be to recruit the highest calibre staff to compliment the fantastic team we already have.

We continue with the aim to make Finham Park 2 a 'World Class' school, where the students have 'the times of their lives' and staff have the highest aspirations and expectations of our students.

With best wishes,

Russell Plester

Bebras Challenge!

"Congratulations to you and your students who achieved in the top 10% at UK Bebras 2016. This makes them eligible for entry into the newly named TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. We are very grateful for [TCS](#) (part of the Tata group) for providing the funding to run this and develop the platform we need to be able to produce this computational thinking and programming challenge."

Three of our students (Issy Wicks, Edward Owen and Joss Wozencroft) are all eligible for the next round. Congratulations to them all!



Excellent Sporting Achievement



We would like to congratulate Maisie Bennet, WG01, for being selected by Land Rover to be an official Wasps Mascot for the international Wasps v Toulouse fixture at the Ricoh Arena. Maisie had the privilege of leading the Wasps team out onto the pitch before the game (live on tv!) and had the chance to meet the players after the match. Maisie also featured in the match day programme!

Maisie's parents informed them that Maisie started playing rugby at the age of 11 when she started at Finham Park 2 and was instantly hooked. Maisie's P.E teachers advised her to look for a rugby club outside of school to join to further expand her skills and love of the sport. After training for a year with two clubs in Warwickshire, Maisie has now finally joined Barker Butts Under 13s girls team at the beginning of this season and hasn't looked back!

Her proudest rugby moment to date was scoring a try in the first 5 minutes of her debut game and being asked to step up and play in the older age category, U15s, where she was awarded 'Player of the Match'.

There is now talk of Maisie trying out to play for England next season!

Finham Park 2 are extremely proud of Maisie and we hope her story will influence other students to participate in sports, both inside and outside of school.

A message from the Cyrenians

'Dear Finham Park 2,

We would just like to thank everyone at Finham Park 2 for once again supporting us with the generous donation of food, biscuits, chocolates, and toiletries toward our Christmas Appeal including the Christmas Day meal at the Central Methodist Hall in Coventry. We also received a financial donation for which we are very thankful.

For over 30 years Coventry Cyrenians has been delivering this free event for some of our community's most vulnerable people, including those who find themselves homeless. A team of 60 volunteers cooked and served a delicious traditional roast turkey Christmas dinner, provided entertainment and gave out presents to a group of people who find themselves without the home comforts and supportive family and friends that most of us take for granted. Kind regards and best wishes for the New Year.

The Cyrenians'





Library News!

This has been another eventful half term for the Finham Park 2 Library.

Finham Park 2 has issued more than 1000 books in the last 3 months! Well done everyone. Keep up the excellent reading because "research shows that a child who reads for fun will do better at school, even in subjects like Maths!" (<http://www.booktrust.org.uk>)

Coventry Inspiration Awards

In January we visited Caludon Castle School to take part in the Coventry Inspiration Awards Book Bout. A group of avid readers from the Finham Park 2 Book Club put together a presentation promoting one of the books from the current awards. We championed the book 'Dreamsnatcher' by Abi Elphinstone. They performed brilliantly, and did the school proud. We didn't win this year but it's the taking part that counts and we had great fun being involved. We are now following the books as they are slowly evicted, to find out this year's winner, and we are all hoping it will be our winner. If you are interested in finding out more, please check out the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards website.



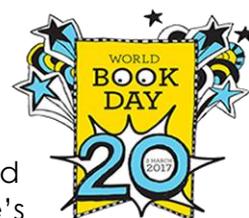
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/140/coventry_inspiration_book_awards

Library Leaders

The library has also excitingly now recruited its first Library leaders. We now have 6 keen library users who are now training to be fully qualified Library Leaders and student Librarians. Well done to Kizzy Ayland, Kiara Ronan, Demi McAlister, Sophie Print, Joseph Barr and Myles McMurray. Mrs Randall the Librarian is looking forward to working with you.

World Book Day

The whole school are now looking forward to World Book Day on the 2nd March. We will all be dressing up as our favourite book characters, taking part in a sponsored read to get more great books for our library, and getting involved in the 'Where's Wally School Search'. Plus, 30 lucky students who entered our "Why Me?" competition are also getting the chance to go to the World Book Day Roadshow to see lots of amazing authors give inspiring talks about their books and get their favourite books signed. It should be an amazing trip!



The Book People

If you want to buy great value books, then try The Book People website. They have some great deals, and now if you order at <http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/school-fundraising> and use the fundraising code **FJ3G3n**, Finham Park 2 will benefit by receiving 10% commission to buy more books!



History Castle Project

'Last year we had a fantastic time competing the History castle project. We had a long amount of time to complete different sections of the project. We were able to use our imagination to show the facts in almost any way we wanted. Students made posters, booklets 3D models and one student even went as far as creating and building a castle cake! This project helped us build determination and creativity. After all the projects had been handed in, 40 students were shortlisted to enjoy a fabulous day out to the British Museum in London. It was very interesting and expanded our history knowledge. Overall, the project was extremely fun and we all enjoyed it! We hope that the new year 7's are enjoying taking part in this project just as much as we did!'

- **Kayleigh McCarthy & Maya Evans, SG01**

Finham Park MAT Team Maths Challenge

Just before Christmas, 13 of our keenest mathematicians took part in the first ever MAT Team Maths Challenge at Finham Park School alongside students from Finham Park, Lyng Hall and Finham Primary. Students had to work in a competitive manner with students from each of the other schools in a variety of exciting and fast paced maths tasks under strict time limits. It was great to see FP2 students working so enthusiastically with students that they had only just met and spurring on the primary school students in their groups. Watch this space for more information on the outcome of the independent UKMT Junior Maths Challenge taking place in April.



Digital Leaders Report

On Tuesday, 24th January, the first competition took place- our first FP2 Robotics trip. It was a half an hour drive to Finham Park, where 8 other teams came with their magnificent robots (and us with the legendary Gary). Our experience proved that we had only been practicing for a few weeks, but we put up a show with our drivers Sulaymaan, Aiden and Jack. We came to the next round by coming one point off winning, which means we had to enter another round.

The second competition took place on Friday, 3rd February, at Princethorpe College. For people of our age and with our experience, we did really well. We were first up until the finals. That's when it



all went downhill. The other team's robot was too big, and we couldn't get on the bridge. If we had managed to get on the bridge and balance it, then we would have won.

In both competitions, at Finham Park School and Princethorpe College, we came extremely close to winning, by two or three points in both competitions. This was very disheartening but we were happy since we had done incredibly well for the first competitions we were involved in. If you would like to see more photos and videos of the two competitions you can find them at <http://twitter.com/fp2computing> or #TeamGary.

- **Sulaymaan Jamil, Luke Green & Ben Olley**



Year 7 Boys Rugby

Our Year 7 boys have really impressed us with their teamwork and enthusiasm on the rugby pitch this year! On the 7th February, fifteen Year 7 boys travelled to Finham Park School for a friendly rugby match between the sister schools. FP2 played fantastically and managed to steal a brilliant win of 5 – 25, a superb achievement! Mr Hudson, leader of P.E has named Westgate's Joseph Powling as the Man of the Match. 'I am very proud of the team. Their tackling, sportsmanship, teamwork and attacking play was excellent. They have really grown as a team and we look forward to many enjoyable and successful rugby matches in the future.'

- **Mr Hudson**



Year 8 Boys Rugby

To round off an excellent week of rugby at Finham Park 2, our Year 8 boys team beat our sister school Finham Park 103 points to 0 (yes, you did read that correctly!)

'I am exceptionally proud of this result for two reasons: Firstly, we played brilliantly as a team and a range of players ended up scoring tries and conversions. Secondly, I was impressed in how we conducted ourselves with our considerable lead. The boys kept their edge and were striving, in a positively sportsmanship way, until the final whistle to score as many tries as possible.' – **Mr Hudson**

Well done to both rugby teams, you achieved the double over Finham!





Footwear Donations

As you know, we have high standards on what footwear students can and can't wear during their P. E lessons. We have these standards because we want to look after our brand new facilities and to ensure they can be used for many years to come. However, we also acknowledge that at times students forget their trainers or astro trainers for their P.E lessons. Therefore, I am sending out a donation request to all parents to send in trainers (sporty, not casual, any size and with non-marking soles) and astro trainers (any size, any colour, any make) that your son or daughter has grown out of. This will ensure, even if a student does forget their footwear, they can still participate. If you do kindly donate your past footwear, can the shoes please be clean and in a fit state. Thank you for any future footwear donations.

Kind regards, Mr Hudson – KS3 Leader of P.E

Important dates for next half term

27 February	First day of Half Term
9 March	Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening 1- 7 a & b
26 March	Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening 2- 7c & d
7 April	Last day of term (school finishes at normal time)

Important dates for the complete year can be found on our [school calendar](#).

Free School Meals- are you entitled?

If parents wish to apply for school meals or want to check if you are eligible please go to the following website www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals . Alternatively, parents can visit the Contact Centre in the city centre (next to River Island) where you can make an application. If you need any support or guidance with this, please contact the school office.



Attendance- *advice to parents*



- Our *minimum* expectation is **96% attendance**
- If your child is ill, please don't send them.
- If they have a 'minor ailment' please send them in
- **We do not approve any holidays taken in school time**
- Please contact the school straight away to let us know if your child is absent
- If there are ongoing medical problems, please keep us informed

If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch via email or :



www.finhampark2.co.uk



Finham Park 2



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Also have a look at our [Baraza Blog](#) and see what the students are suggesting to improve our school.