



Finham Park 2 News Updates

March 31st 2015 Issue 1



Message from the Headteacher Designate, Russell Plester

It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce Finham Park 2's very first Newsletter- the first of many to help you keep in touch with what's going on at our school. Apologies that the newsletter's title isn't very exciting- I am hoping that one of our creative new students will come up with a better one!

I am delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher Designate of Finham Park 2- a new secondary school for Coventry providing more choice for parents and meeting the demand for high quality co-educational places for the children in the South West of Coventry. It is truly exciting to be part of the the introduction of a new school to The City with the students, parents and staff setting the highest standards and expectations of excellence for future generations in years to come.

I am extremely proud of what our team has achieved in a relatively short amount of time: complete the application to open a new school in record time; have the application approved by the Department for Education (DfE); have our funding agreement approved by Lord Nash; offering places for 120 students- and being full; appointing fantastic teaching staff; finding a superb building to house the school that will provide a wonderful learning environment for our students and ensure that the temporary building for the first year will be a great introduction for the new students in September 2015.

It has also been wonderful to meet so many of our new students and their parents recently. I must say, we seem to have a very talented bunch joining us!

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us so far and I look forward to working closely with you.

Buildings news



As some of you will already know we are finalising discussions on our permanent site which will be situated near Hereward College and Templars Primary School. Whilst this fantastic building is being refurbished, students will be based at Finham Park School in Green Lane for the first year only.



The benefits of this are that during the first year students can access clubs and facilities that may not normally be available to a smaller school. Also the 'Outstanding' (Ofsted-January, 2015) Finham Park School will be able to help support and develop staff and procedures where appropriate.

The 120 year 7 students at Finham Park will be separate to students at Finham Park School for most lessons and social time as the building will be in a different part of the school grounds where Finham Park students are not permitted access.

Finham Park 2

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We have recently met with contractors who are going to build the new building at our Green Lane site. We will be choosing our final contractor this week who will then get started on the process of building the new 'mini' Finham Park 2 School. All contractors have significant expertise and experience of constructing quality buildings in short time frames. The photos show examples of what some of the contractors have built in schools previously and the kind of look we want for Finham Park 2.

Our year 7 students will then have opportunities to have their say on developments for the permanent Finham Park 2 building and be able to stamp their ideas on the building for years to come.



Staffing news

We have been overwhelmed with the quality of candidates that have applied to work at Finham Park 2. This has made our job of appointing new staff extremely difficult! Some of the new staff joining us in September have come from Finham Park School – including Mr Plester, our new Headteacher, and Mrs Brake who will be Assistant Headteacher- between them they have over 38 years' experience of working in a variety of high achieving schools. Many more staff have come from the local area with some even coming as far away as Lincolnshire and Hertfordshire! 5 teachers are experienced staff from others schools with 2 new teachers. 3 further experienced teachers will be working both at Finham Park School and Finham Park 2 in ICT, Modern Foreign Languages and Music.



In our next issue we hope to share more details about who our staff are and what they are looking forward to most coming to work at Finham Park 2.

It can be difficult to recruit governors for any school- however, due to the exciting nature of setting up a brand new school, we have had a number of highly talented people wanting to work with us as governors. Catherine Colby-Johnson will become our new chair of governors and has already been involved in new staff appointments. Catherine has been a governor at Finham Park School for several years and has extensive expertise with schools in the South West of Coventry and we are delighted to have her on board. More about Catherine in our next issue....



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Uniform

Uniform for Finham Park 2 will be almost identical to the already smart and successful uniform at Finham Park School. To keep it simple, the only difference will be the tie! As with Finham Park, there will be FOUR different stripes on the tie to identify which college students are in- Northgate, Southgate, Westgate or Eastgate. More information will be sent to parents about which college their child will be in during the transition process.



Transport

We are pleased to have offered free transport to a significant number of students for the first year at Finham Park 2 (One of our students suggested the name “The Finham Park 2 Express”!). We have been in close contact with local coach and bus companies to ensure the best service possible. Parents will be informed if they have a place on the school bus before Easter. Times and pick up points will be shared with parents as soon as they are finalised.

Transition

And finally.... The Finham Park 2 transition programme started on 27th March with Mr Plester visiting primary schools to speak to the new students. “This is one of the best parts of my job.” commented Mr Plester, “Meeting with our new students and primary colleagues is always such a positive experience. The primary schools I have visited so far have such high expectations of their children and provide such positive learning environments. Our job at Finham Park 2 is to continue this into their new school.” More details about the transition programme will be shared with parents soon.

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



www.finhampark2.co.uk



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