



Finham Park 2 News

Autumn Term 1 2016-17 - Issue 15

Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester



Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2016-17 academic year. I hope you all had a good summer break even though it seems a long time ago now. Also I'd like to welcome our new parents and of course new year 7s. The school newsletter is a half termly way of sharing what's been going on at school. If you're interested in previous newsletters these are available on our website at www.finhampark2.co.uk

So, has anything exciting been happening during the first half term? Here are a few examples of what's been going on and you can decide!

- We've *doubled* the size of the school with now 240 students on role
- We moved into our newly refurbished building *on time*. Everyone who has visited has been very impressed with the space, light, and calm, purposeful atmosphere of our site
- We've had trips to Covent Garden Opera House, The Houses of Parliament and Shanghai!
- We had a fantastic turnout to our Open Evening for next year's year 7
- ...and we've had our first Children's University Graduation!

We continue with the aim to make Finham Park 2 a 'World Class' school, where the students have 'the time of their lives' and staff have the highest aspirations and expectations of our students. Our students and staff continue to make me extremely proud of being headteacher of Finham Park 2.

With best wishes,

Russell Plester

Meet our new staff!



Hi, I'm Jon Rogers and I lead Computing. I've lived within 2 miles of Leigh Court since 2000 but I have never taught in Coventry in over 10 years of teaching. My passion for understanding technology has led some people to call me a geek but I think everyone at FP2 is going to learn something useful from it! I have two little boys who do their best to keep me busy but I am also part of the leadership of a local church. I love reading and flying quadcopters and I'm trying to get back into cycling!



Hello, I am Hannan Zafar, the new Modern Languages teacher. I was born in Paris and lived and studied in France for over 18 years. I moved to the U.K. to pursue my University studies where I graduated with a Business and Accounting degree.

I am an unconditional fan of Aston Villa, but please don't hold that against me 😊!

I am really pleased to be teaching the first generations of Finham Park 2 students, setting the standards high and ensuring we are known as a 'World Class' team... I mean school.... just like Real Madrid!

Hi, my name is Amy Randall and I am the school Librarian and teaching assistant at Finham Park 2. I'm really excited to be the school's first Librarian as I'm a huge bookworm and love to see children read. I'm also excited to be working in such an amazing new school and am really enjoying being involved in setting up a fantastic new Library for everyone at Finham park 2.

Away from work, I'm a mum of identical twin girls, and will usually be found doing something creative, reading or cooking. I spent 8 months a few years ago travelling the whole of the American continent, from Canada to Argentina, which was a life-changing experience. I've also just taken up lyrical dancing, which is proving to be lots of fun!



Hello, my name is Louise Sumner-Williams and I am the new Technician at Finham Park 2. My role at Finham 2 is very varied as I provide support in setting up all the exciting science experiments your children get to take part in during their lessons along with supporting creative Art and Food Technology lessons. I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to work in such an establishment that prides itself on quality and high standards as well as continue with a vocation that I truly have a passion for.

Being a mum to two boys most of my spare time is spent with them and my husband, however I enjoy live music whenever I can and I am obsessed with interval training and Kettle bells. I feel privileged to call myself a staff member of Finham Park 2.



My name is Mrs. Pendergrast and I'm delighted to be at Finham Park 2! I moved to Coventry from the Norfolk coast about 5 years ago (I miss the sea!). I have taught in 2 other Coventry schools and have run workshops in Primary Schools and for home schooling families. My background covers all types of art, textiles, sculpture and photography. I studied at Norwich School of Art before going to Cambridge University for my Post graduate studies. As well as teaching for around 10 years, I have spent several periods of time in East Africa running and developing projects. I love my students to put their own personality into their work, and have the opportunity to try new things and produce excellent quality work independently and as groups. My aim will be for Finham Park2 students to have the best sketchbooks and art work in Coventry.... and beyond! Outside of school I am a mum to 4 'messy munchkins'. Random facts about me: My favourite colour is green (it reminds me of Uganda), I am petrified of spiders, I love going to the cinema and theatre and you can often spot me at Wasps games!



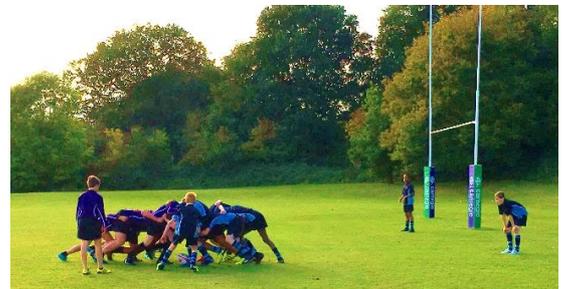
I'm Ms Pearce and I'm really excited to have joined Finham Park 2 – who wouldn't want to teach in a school that aspires to be, 'World class' and where the goal is for students to have, 'The time of their lives'? I'll be teaching both English and drama and my own goal is to make sure every student has fun while making great progress; expect lots of discussion and group activities! I work incredibly hard for my students as I love to see people achieve things they once thought were impossible. I've been a teacher for 6 years in and around Coventry, but have also worked for a number of international companies in recruitment management both in the UK and Australia.

When not busy teaching, I love running (I'm as slow as custard but have completed 3 half marathons and various 5-10 km races), singing in a local pop choir, eating curry and trying anything outdoorsy.

Year 8 Rugby

On the 11th of October Finham Park 2 engaged in a full contact rugby match against Westwood Academy. The final score was 45-10.

Despite this loss, the team played very well. We worked together and played our very best. In particular, our scrummaging and passing were particularly strong. However, what we will focus on during our next game is to improve our tackling and rucking at the breakdown. Regardless of the defeat, it was a good game that all of us enjoyed and we hope that we can play many more games in the future.



Fran (Rugby Captain) and **Joss** (Vice Captain)



Children's University Graduation

Children's University is a programme we run at Finham Park 2 to celebrate extended learning. The students collect hours within our 'out of school hours learning' (OOSHL) or through clubs and record them in their passport. They can also go to external learning destinations, such as Warwick University, to gain hours. Each year there is a graduation ceremony whereby children who have achieved enough hours to merit 'Diploma' level or 'Degree' level will graduate with caps and gowns. This year was our first ever graduation ceremony which almost half of our students managed to achieve their diplomas and degrees. The students were really proud to be a part of this experience and it was a fantastic day with Mark Wood, the polar explorer, as our guest speaker. Parents were invited and many came along and enjoyed the canapé's put on by Mr Hartshorn's food students. A huge thank-you to Claire Roche from Exquisite Event Designers for decorating the room for the graduation.



-Mrs. K. Coltman, College Leader

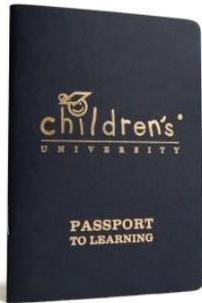
'I really enjoyed this experience of the Children's University graduation. It was fun collecting all of the hours before-hand. I collected most of my hours playing basketball out of school. I felt very proud when I got my award and I am really looking forward to next year. I would like to thank Mrs. Coltman for organising this event.'

-Issy Potter, NG01





Children's University



Reminder- Students should be filling in their learning passports with the number of Out of School Hours Learning (OOSHL) time they are taking part in (homework club doesn't count!). They then need to ask the relevant member of staff to sign their passport so they can add up hours towards their graduation.

Please can you ensure your child keeps their passport safe as they cost £5, which we have paid for this year, and is filling it in regularly. Please note it is the students' responsibility to get their passport signed

Royal Opera House trip

'On Monday 26th September 2016, most of the Year 7's and 8's went to the Royal Opera House in London. We went to see The Barber of Seville. I cannot say which Opera I prefer out of Barber of Seville and Tosca, I enjoyed them both and loved to be in the Opera House. They were both dramatic! I would like to see another Opera again.' – **Faye Bates**, WG02

'I thought the Opera was fabulous! The Opera House was super cool. How many 12 year olds can have been to see an Opera? My mum has never even been! At the end, we even got to go to Starbucks, obviously a bonus to end a fantastic day!' – **Harry Poole**, WG02

'I really loved it. My mum hasn't been and I've been twice! My mum said she would love to go. I loved Barber of Seville, especially when the room was on hydraulics. However, Tosca is still my favourite Opera of all time.' – **Liam Dixon-Butler**, WG01

'It was a great experience; I am so glad I went!' – **Kian Davies**, NG01





China Trip- Shanghai 2016

On 15th October, 10 intrepid student travelers from Finham Park 2 (alongside 20 Finham Park students) and teachers took off from Birmingham Airport on a 10-day visit to Shanghai. The aim of the trip was a STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths) project based on building model cars run on renewable energy. We visited our partner school in Shanghai called Wei Yu Junior Middle School (one of the best in Shanghai!) as well as visiting lots of exciting, historical and amazing sites. We also tried some 'interesting' Chinese food, such as jellyfish and frog (there was also lots of lovely food)!



We tried to use our Mandarin skills that we have been taught in school which was difficult as the Chinese students are so good at English. They looked after us and treated us really well- we will hopefully now have pen-pals for life! It was the trip of a lifetime with memories we will cherish forever!



Year 8 Shanghai students.

SEND Information Advice and Support Service – Autumn 2016

The SEND Information Advice and Support Service have arranged the following **free** sessions for parents/carers of children and young people who have SEN and Disabilities. All sessions commence with coffee/tea at 9:30am, ready for 10.00am start. They will be held at: Information Advice and Support Service, Limbrick Wood Centre, Thomas Naul Croft, Tile Hill, COVENTRY, CV4 9QX

Friday 25th November 2016: Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – Find out how CAF can support you to help your child.

- Share your story once.
- One point of contact.
- Work together with agencies to find solutions to support your child's needs.

Wednesday 7th December 2016: Understanding Dyslexia – Lesley Hill from North Warwickshire and Coventry Dyslexia Association will be joining us again to offer advice and information to parents.

All parents and carers welcome! If you would like to book a place or for further information please contact Lorraine at the SEND Information Advice and Support Service.
Tel: 024 7669 437 Email: IASS@coventry.gov.uk



A few items from Friends of Finham Park 2

Please donate old uniform!

Friends of Finham Park 2 (FOF2) are looking for donations of old Finham Park uniform. From jumpers to PE kits, everything is welcome! Please make sure the uniform is in a good condition for its next owner before donating. If you do have any items you wish to donate, please hand them in to Student Services at Finham Park 2.



Easy Fundraising

FOF2 are running a competition during November & December to see who can raise the most from buying online via <http://bit.ly/2f2neF2>. It doesn't cost you anything to use, just go via this link- registration takes seconds. It could bring in a lot of money to us and the school. There is a quick video on how easy it is on our Facebook page. Ask your employer too or friends and family. The person who has raised the most will win a lovely big chocolate hamper in January - the money you raise, the bigger the hamper will get!!



Toner cartridges

If you have a printer and are not sure what to do with those empty cartridges, please bring them into school where we will recycle them and get paid for it! A recycling box will be in the library. Another great way to donate to the school and support our students' education.

Disco!

Tickets are now available to buy for the Ultra Violet Winter Disco. Tickets are limited and can only be bought from FOF2's website www.pta-events-co.uk/finham-park-2 (or click on the link at the top of the school website).

Please join our Facebook page for all the latest news & chat with other parents about lost uniforms, homework, bus buddies, FOF2 events and more. Just search for "Friends & Parents of Finham Park 2". Half of the parents are already members so please come along and join in.

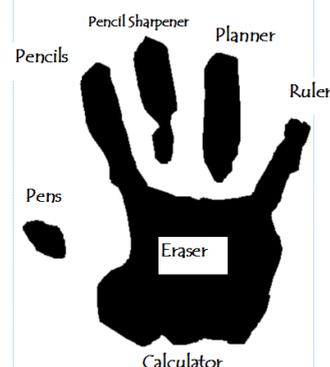


Equipment- being ready for learning

This half term is an ideal time to stock up on equipment for school.

Please can parents help their children ensure they have all the necessary equipment for learning. We expect a minimum of: pen, pencil, (it's better to have a few of each), ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, calculator, reading book, planner, and Children's University Passport. If students don't have the necessary equipment it can disturb valuable learning time.

Are you equipped for learning?



Important dates for this half term

- 18 November Children in Need (non- uniform for £1 donation)
- 25 November Disaggregated Training Day – School closed to students
- 2 December FOF2 Christmas Disco
- 16 December Last day of term – early close at **1:25pm**

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



Parking



As many parents will know parking is tight at Finham Park 2. If you do need to collect your child from school, please can you do so with care and consideration for others. Can we also ask that parents do not park on the pavement on Torrington Avenue as it makes it more dangerous for the students when leaving school.

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



www.finhampark2.co.uk



Finham Park 2



[@FinhamPark2](https://twitter.com/FinhamPark2)

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

