



Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2017-18 academic year. I hope you all had a good summer break even though it seems a long time ago now. 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 Finham Park 2. 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!

- Our student numbers have increased by 120 with now 360 students on role
- We have expanded into the whole of our school building now including the first floor. Everyone who has visited has been very impressed with the space, light, and calm, purposeful atmosphere of our site
- We've had a trip to The Houses of Parliament
- We had a fantastic turnout to our Open Evening for next year's year 7, with brilliant support from our current students showing parents around and telling them about our wonderful school. A special mention hear to Emily Gunn and Joseph brunt who spoke to over 500 parents about their experiences at FP2 in their first few weeks- very impressive!
- Students have been involved in a mentor board competition
- Numerous sporting fixtures have taken place
- Students have been involved in a review of the OOSHL programme (see below)
- We have welcomed students from our partner school in Shanghai, China
- It was also great to welcome year 7 parents to the Meet the Mentor evening....
- ... our year 7s have settled in superbly- what a year group!

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



Parental Feedback

As Mr Plester mentioned in his introduction to this Newsletter, it was wonderful to meet our year 7 parents- some new to the school, and others already experienced FP2 parents with older siblings at the school. Thank you to parents who completed our questionnaire. Here are the results (each response =2%):

Is my child happy at school?	98% positive
My child feels safe at school	100% positive
My child makes good progress at school	100% yes (6% said they didn't know- <i>progress checks are our after half term</i>)
My child is well looked after at school	100% positive
My child is well-taught at school	100% positive
My child receives appropriate homework	96%- <i>an area to work on!</i>
The school makes sure the students are well-behaved	100%
The school deals effectively with bullying	100% positive
The school is well led and managed	100% positive
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	100% positive
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	98% positive
I would recommend this school to other parents	98% positive

A few comments from parents:

"Thank you! We couldn't have asked for more at this stage."
 "Absolutely delighted at the progress my daughter has made already."
 "Thank you"

This is fantastically positive feedback. However, we will not be complacent and continue to strive to be a "World Class " School for your children.

Mandarin and China

Trip to Shanghai 2018

This half term we have launched our trip to Wei Yu Junior Middle School in Shanghai. If you would like to know more about the trip please contact Mr Plester on 02477 710720 or at r.plester@finhampark2.co.uk . MEP students will also have the opportunity to visit China during the summer of year 8- more information about this will be available later in the year.

Mandarin Lessons

We are delighted to have welcomed Ms Wang and Ms Lang to Finham Park 2 who will work alongside Mrs Lewis, our leader of Mandarin and Mrs Lee. We offer Mandarin to all of our students: All year 7 & 8 students have the opportunity of studying 12 weeks of Mandarin during enrichment; in year 9 students can choose to take GCSE Mandarin; and our first cohort of MEP students have started and are making superb progress.



Visit from Wei Yu Junior Middle School

We were delighted to welcome students from our partner school in Shanghai- the first time that students have visited Finham Park 2. Students from our year 7 Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) students, members of the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) and Wei Yu students worked together over 2 days to perform a Chinese dance to an audience of students and staff. One of the Chinese teachers also taught the MEP group how to make Traditional Chinese decorative knots. The students from across the globe worked extremely well together and even managed to swap contacts. We were exceptionally proud of MEP and JLT students- they were hard working, mature, sensible and wonderfully welcoming to our Chinese guests.



Kacie Thornett and Lilly-Mae Smith Year 9

"On September 28th 2017 the students from Shanghai came to visit our school for two days. Prior to their arrival Lilly and I made a poster for them that said 'Welcome to Finham Park 2' in Chinese characters. Within the space of 2 days, year 7 mandarin excellence program learnt a traditional Tibetan dance that the students from Shanghai taught us. On the second day we went to Finham Park to perform the dance. The Shanghai students gave us many gifts from China. The performance went really well and we are hoping to stay in touch with the Chinese students."



Library News

This half term we were able to give 10 students the chance to go and meet author Jonathan Stroud and listen to him talk about his spooky series of books 'Lockwood & Co'. It was a fantastic opportunity and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I'm not sure any of us will forget the student who volunteered to be dressed as a ghost hunter, and his enthusiasm for the role! We were also able to get some signed copies of his books, with the whole series now available to borrow in the library.

If you haven't read any of his books or his current series about ghosts and the brave children who go hunting them down, then I can highly recommend you give them a try!

We have also started testing ready for the exciting launch of Accelerated Reader next term. Watch this space for more information on this exciting new reading project and how it will help everyone improve their reading, and enjoy reading for pleasure.

Auditions for this year's Kids Lit Quiz have taken place. We have selected our squad and we are now in training ready for the Regional Heats in November. Last year we came third, we would love to make an improvement this year. So keep your fingers crossed for us!

Finally, we have loads of new books going on the shelves at the moment, so come and see what we have to offer!

Bike Safety

A letter concerning bike safety was given out before half term, however we would like to highlight some of the main points of bike safety. From 30th October:

- Students who cycle to school **must** wear a helmet
- Bicycles must be well-maintained and have front and rear brakes
- Bicycles must have lights when weather and/ or light conditions deem it necessary
- We strongly advise that students who cycle to school wear bright or high-viz clothing in the darker winter mornings and evenings.

- Students arriving with an unroadworthy bike or without helmet *will not be allowed to lock it up in the bike sheds.*
- Their bike will be stored securely and they will not be able to take it home until they arrive with a cycle helmet.
- If their bike is not road worthy parents/carers will have to come and collect it from school.
- Any students not cycling in a safe manner will not be permitted to bring their bicycle onto the school site. This includes wearing headphones whilst cycling or wheeling.



Thank you for your support with this matter. Your child's safety is paramount!



From the Art and Photography Department

Well done to Henry and Eva in year 8 who have won a national Stabilo competition. They will receive a prize and their work will be displayed on a tree at Olympia London's spirit of Christmas festival. This is now 2 national competitions students at school have won! Let's keep entering them!!!!

If any parents have any unused digital cameras we would be more than happy to utilize them in the department and will allow for children to borrow them for outside of school work. Similarly, if any parents buy Photography magazines and wish to donate back copies, they would be welcomed. Any retro/vintage cameras also greatly received for study of History of photography and the technical workings.

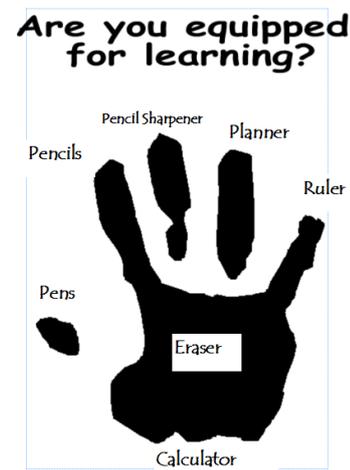
Art department is in need of any old/ unwanted/ broken musical instruments. Any kind (especially string and wind/brass) They will be used for many years to come and will have a loving home J Taxidermy and other weird wonders and oddities also received with pleasure!

OOSHL Consultation

Hopefully all parents and carers have received either an electronic or hard copy of our Out of School Hours Learning (OOSHL) consultation letter. If this is not the case, please follow this link which leads to a copy on our school website: <https://finhampark2.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/OOSHL-Consultation-Oct-2017.pdf>

Equipment- ready for learning

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 and planner. If students don't have the necessary equipment it can disturb valuable learning time.



Important dates for next half term

Start dates for the new academic year

- 17 November Children in Need – non-uniform day
- 1 December Disaggregated Training Day – School closed to students
- 21 December Christmas Jumper Day / Last Day of Half Term – early close 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.

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.

Competition

There is a design competition which is open to all Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

What to do:

- Create a new design from something old!
Designs can be based in wood, plastic, metal, ceramics, textiles or any other material/combination of materials.
- Think about how you can creatively #upcycle a product into something new. It must have a new purpose that is different from its original function.
- You can enter by drawing out your creation/idea and add notes to explain how you would make it. Think about the presentation of your entry as well as your idea.
- Make your design and bring in the actual item for judging.

Competition Information

- Dead line: Monday 30th October 2017
- Make sure the name and mentor group is clear.

Junior Leadership Team

Issy Potter

"During this half term the junior leadership team helped out during the open evening: we handed out prospectuses, helped escorting people to the lift and took parents around on guided tours. We also helped beforehand by filling the prospectuses with a notepad, pen and information about the school. The JLT team helped with the McMillan cake sale, this was a big success and we were only left with six cakes which Mr Plester ate! Lastly the junior leadership team helped decide on the gifts we gave to the Chinese students. They were very appreciative."



Join us on Twitter

Are you following twitter to keep up to date with what's happening at FP2?

@finhampark2

@ECDFP2

@FP2_Art

@DandT_FP2

@FP2MFL

@fp2_maths

@GeogFP2

@FP2English

@FP2_Science

@FinhamP2Drama

@FP2_Hub

@FP2Computing

@FP2Librarian

@2Finham

@FinhamMAT





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 this school is not contacted, the absence becomes unauthorised.
- If there are ongoing medical problems, please keep us informed.



Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	190 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	240 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	285 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	335 Lessons

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

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)