



## Finham Park 2 News

November & December 2015 Issue 9



### Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

Coming to the end of our first term at Finham Park 2 it is wonderful to look back at what a great term it has been as well as looking forward to an exciting future. It seems a long time ago that we were teaching students in D block at Finham Park School to now being in our new purpose built building - T block. There is growing excitement about moving into our 'world class' refurbished building at the Land Registry in September- more about this below.

Our students are no longer 'ex- year 6 students' but are more mature, sensible and respectful Year 7s with an eye on preparing for Year 8 and welcoming the new cohort next year. Speaking of which we are delighted to have had such a high number of applications for next year- which is testament to the hard work of Finham Park 2 staff and the way our students conduct themselves. A visitor from the DfE said that our students were "wonderfully positive about Finham Park 2 and very articulate".

Students have already been on their first whole-school trip to Warwick University for their Christmas Science Lectures - which the students really enjoyed. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Further science lectures can be viewed over the Christmas Break on BBC 4 and are always worth watching.

Very soon student leaders will be appointed (this is taking slightly longer than anticipated due to the large number of applications); a trip to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden is coming up in the New Year and our trip to Shanghai, China for 2016 is soon to be launched. I was recently lucky enough to visit Shanghai to sign the formal partnership agreement with Wei Yu Junior Middle School to enable this to happen.

A number of parents are already involved in our fledgling 'Friends of Finham 2' (FOF2) PTA. If you would like to get involved in helping to raise money for the school or even if you have good ideas for events or contacts that would be useful, please get in touch with Dionne Wallace, the FOF2 Chairperson at [dionne.wallace@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dionne.wallace@hotmail.co.uk).

Finally thank you for your feedback on the school and for the Out of School Hours Learning (OOSHL) consultation. I was delighted with the large number of positive comments as well as the areas where you feel we can improve. I have already sent parents a letter responding to the OOSHL consultation and will be looking more closely at the whole- school questionnaire feedback over the next few weeks. 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.

On behalf of all of the staff and governors at Finham Park 2 we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year.

With best wishes,  
Russell Plester



## End and start of term arrangements

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### **Friday 18 December 2015**

- Christmas jumper day- if students would like to wear a Christmas jumper with their NORMAL SCHOOL UNIFORM they are welcome to do so. We are collecting money and/ food donations for Coventry Cyrenians.
- Students will be dismissed at 1.00pm- the bus has been informed to collect at 1pm.

### **Monday 4 January 2016**

- Staff training day- school is closed to students

### **Tuesday 5 January 2016**

- Assembly at St Martins (where we normally have our assemblies) at 8.40am
- Mentor period and p1- extended mentor time
- Normal lessons will begin p2- THIS WILL BE **WEEK 2**



## How are we doing as a new school?

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Throughout the term we have had visits from various people from outside the school including: governors; the EFA (Education Funding Agency); DfE (Department for Education); other local head teachers as well as asking parents to complete an Ofsted questionnaire online. Most of these visits have been to give feedback on the school- to let us know what we're doing well and what we need to improve. The feedback has been extremely positive:

- One parent said "This school is already World Class in my eyes"; several others said how much they appreciate the time and effort staff are putting in for their children.
- The DfE made several comments about how "articulate" our students are; what a positive learning environment there is at the school; that our aspirations for our students are high and what excellent teaching takes place every day.
- Similar comments were made by a local head teacher who visited the school with Mr Bailie recently.

There are also areas where we want to improve further and the feedback from all of our visitors and questionnaires is helping us focus clearly on our priorities.

If parents would like to add any further feedback, please go to [Parentview](#).

## What the students have been up to....

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### **Science Trip to Warwick University**

"Finham Park 2 pupils went on their first school trip on November 30<sup>th</sup> to Warwick University, to see "Christmas Lights and Lasers Bright" – the first of 2015's Warwick Christmas lectures. Students and staff were treated to an hour of lasers and light shows, from the how the Northern Lights happen to using lasers to pop balloons – many pupils even got to go home with a Santa hat! The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and it was lovely to see them enjoy the trip. More details will be in the school newspaper later in the term!" Mr. Braim



Christmas Lecture @ Warwick university By Chris Jilks

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November we got on the coach at 1:00pm to go to the University of Warwick. Once we got off the coach we went to the lecture room. The lecturers we had were called James and Ali and they showed us some laser involved things like a trap, which can trigger if somebody steps on it. After that they showed us fibre optic cables where light came from one end to the other. Then they showed us refraction by showing a tub of water with milk infused into it and shone it with a laser pen and it bent because air and water bent the laser differently. After that they showed us diffraction and they had a helper to demonstrate with them. He had two colours shone on him and also they illuminated multiple fire exits. Finally, they showed us a 'death ray' and there was a remote to adjust the power level and James set it to 100% and had a row of black balloons- the laser obliterated them. Then they showed us the grand finale- the laser harp. Two people worked together to play Jingle Bells- It was great!



**Coventry Cyrenians**

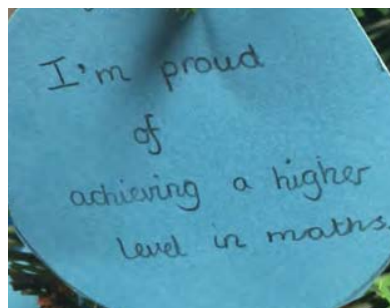


We are currently collecting food and donations for [Coventry Cyrenians](#) – thank you to everyone who has sent donations in. Finham Park has supported this charity for a number of years. We feel it is especially important to support local as well as national charities, especially focused on the homeless over the Christmas period.

**College Christmas Tree Competition**



Mentors have been very impressed with the teamwork, creativity and competitiveness that the students have shown over their college Christmas Tree Competition. There were some fantastic designs including the Christmas Tree of Achievement. However, there can only be one winner...and the best College Christmas Tree for 2015 goes to..... Southgate! (see left for picture of the winning tree and below a bauble from the Tree of Achievement!)



**Kids' Lit Quiz**

**From Mrs Kidman:** "FP2 students came 7th out of 21, and were only six points behind the winners.....who were Finham Park School! Lots of the other competitors were Y8. Our students did brilliantly well, and I'm sure we'll win next year!"



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Chair of Governors: Catherine Colby-Johnson



## New Building- Land Registry



As promised we will share any new information about our new building on Torrington Avenue as it arises. We have been meeting regularly with BAM- our building partners and EE- our ICT partners to develop the plans for the Land Registry building.

The exciting plans so far include a complete refurbishment of Leigh Court – (the main building at the Land Registry) as well as a new sports hall and all weather pitches. Specialist rooms include everything needed to teach the full curriculum including food, technology, ICT, music and drama.



**The Courtyard**



**A quarter of one of 3 floors to be refurbished**



**The Refectory (canteen)**

The school is designed to hold 800 students eventually and will be ready to house 240 students for September. There will be 3 phases to the building programme - The first is getting everything ready for September for our current year 7s and our next cohort with further work to swiftly follow. There are strict guidelines on how the builders have to work once students are there to prevent any disruption to learning.

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More information about the building will follow in the New Year.

## 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.

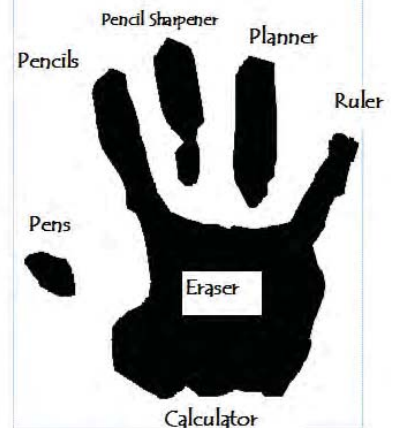
**Please can you ensure your child keeps their passport safe as they cost £5, which we have paid for this year, and that they are filling it in regularly. Please note it is the students' responsibility to get their passport signed.**

## Equipment

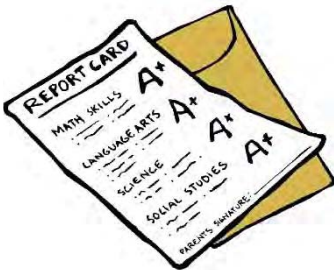
Please can students check they have all the necessary equipment for learning when they return in the New Year. We know Santa is on his way so if there is anything missing from the poster on the right perhaps these could be added to the list!



## Are you equipped for learning?



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Check...now available on Insight



Your child's 2<sup>nd</sup> progress check is now available on [Insight](#)

What will the progress checks show?

- 'Working at' grades- what grade your child is currently working at (using GCSE grades)
  - Target grades- the *minimum* we believe your child can achieve by the end of year 7
  - ATL- attitude to learning on a scale of 1-6 (6 being the highest)
- BfL- behaviour for learning on a scale of 1-6
  - Star Sticker benchmarks- bronze (50), silver (90), gold (120) or platinum (150)
  - Attendance %- we expect at least 96%- more information on attendance below.



## New staff

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We are extremely pleased to have appointed a new Learning Mentor- Mrs Lewis- who has started with us this week. Her role will be to help and support any students who may have barriers to learning or need any extra support, as well as working with parents. Most students need some extra support at some point during their school career and Mrs Lewis will be able to offer this.

## Free School Meals- are you entitled?

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If parents wish to apply for school meals, or you would like to check if you are eligible) please go to the following website [www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals](http://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.

## Contacting or visiting school

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If you need to get in touch with the school the best way is via your child's mentor or individual teacher. All [email contacts](#) can be found on our [website](#).

Any questions about Insight please contact [Lesley Rose](#)

Any questions about Parent Pay please contact [Debbie Campbell](#)

If you need to visit the school for any reason it is always better to let us know in advance so we can find out if the member of staff you wish to see is available.

## Important dates for the next half term 2015

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18 December	Last day of term- <b>early finish at 1pm</b>
4 January	Teacher Training Day- school closed to students
5 January	Assembly at St Martin's at 8.40am
9 February	Safer internet day
12 February	Last day of half term- 3 <sup>rd</sup> progress check available

There are other exciting events taking place in the New Year. We will inform you about these nearer the time.

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

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## Attendance- advice to parents

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- 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](http://www.finhampark2.co.uk)  
[@FinhamPark2](https://twitter.com/FinhamPark2)



Finham Park 2



Also have a look at our [Baraza Blog](#).

A Very Happy Christmas from all at Finham Park 2.