



### Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

As we come to the end of our first term this academic year, it is wonderful to look back at what a great term it has been as well as looking forward to an exciting future.

I have been thoroughly impressed by our new Year 7 students who have settled into life at FP2 brilliantly well. They are no longer 'ex- year 6 pupils' but are mature, sensible and hardworking FP2 students and are supported brilliantly by our older students- in fact only this week I was watching a football game at break time that consisted of both Year 11 and 7 students. All were laughing, having fun and getting on with each other- a real testament to our vertical college system and how caring our students are. We are already looking forward to welcoming the new cohort next year. Speaking of which, we are delighted to have had such a high number of applications for next year.... over 500 again! - which is the result of the hard work of the Finham Park 2 staff and the way our students conduct themselves.

Students have been on a number of exciting trips and visits already this year including The Houses of Parliament, New York, as well as PE fixtures, Harry Potter trip, author visits and competitions such as Kids Lit Quiz, Bebras Computer Challenge and Maths Challenge. We are looking forward to even more exciting opportunities in 2020- including our second Mandarin Excellence Programme trip to China with Finham Park and Lyng Hall students.

Speaking of 2020, Year 8 will be choosing their GCSE options (more details about that will be sent home in the new year); and we start preparing for our Star Studded Celebration of Success for those students who go the extra mile- the crème de la crème of FP2 students (it is always difficult to choose as we have so many to choose from!).

Looking forward to next year, we of course have our first set of GCSE results in the summer. After Mock GCSE results day this week we know that Year 11 want to continue doing their very best with revision both at home and in school to ensure they achieve the very best they are capable of. Also, we are working hard behind the scenes to set up our new Sixth Form ready for September 2020. Year 11 can apply by 31<sup>st</sup> January via the website: <https://sixthform.finhampark2.co.uk/applications/>

Finally, I would like to thank parents, staff and governors for their continued support- we truly appreciate it. I would particularly like to thank everyone who has supported the school over the past 5 years to help set up Finham Park 2 and make it the success it is today- an oversubscribed school; fully staffed with committed and positive subject specialists and support staff; a good Ofsted; and fantastic students. 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.

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, Headteacher



## Department Focus – Maths

There have been a fair few changes in the Maths department since the last academic year. Whilst Mr Bailey and Mr Sigmundsson have moved on to pastures new, we welcome four new members of staff – Mrs Tyrrell (Key Stage 3 co-ordinator and Second in Department), Mrs Ahmed, Miss Dhadday and Mr Ditch.

### Numeracy Challenge

Since the beginning of term, Mr Jay has been issuing a numeracy challenge for mentor groups to complete each week. The intention is to provide all students, regardless of age or ability, the opportunity to engage in Maths outside of their normal lessons on some problem solving activities. Here are some examples of the challenges set:

On Mathland TV a political commentator summed up an election result as follows.

" A Labour majority of 1729 last time has been turned into a Conservative majority of 1654 in this election and the conservative candidate has obtained 38% of the poll. Labour has taken second place. The Liberal Democrat has obtained only 14% of the poll and has been beaten into fourth place by the SNP candidate who has 50 more votes than the Liberal Democrat.

Given that there were just four candidates and that the figures quoted were exact find the number of votes polled for each candidate.

The sum of the ages of 5 babies is 190 weeks.

The mean age of the babies is 10 weeks greater than the median age. The modal age is 5 weeks less than the median age. One of the babies is 56 weeks old.

How old are the other babies?

It has been really encouraging to see so many mentor groups getting involved each week and handing in solutions personally for entry into the end of term raffle. The winning mentor group for this half term will win a selection of goodies for the last day of term. A big thanks to NG02 and SG06 who have submitted a correct entry every single week. We look forward to more mentor groups getting involved in the Spring term.

### PiXL

As our Year 11 students reach ever closer to their final exams, the majority of lessons are being focused on exam technique and application of knowledge. We have had a really big push on the use of PiXL Maths for students to engage with the most powerful knowledge that they need to learn on a daily basis. All of Year 11 have been encouraged to work through the graded challenges (all Foundation students need to have completed at least grades 4 and 5 by the start of the Spring term). The students that have engaged with the app the most each week have been invited to take part in Hot Choc Friday with Mr Plester. A big shout out goes to *Jessica Brady* who currently has the highest engagement score in the year group with *Issy Potter* having the highest engagement score across all of the subject specific PiXL apps. As a school we are ranked 11<sup>th</sup> across the county based on the amount of time spent on PiXL – let's make this into the top 10 in the Spring term!



All students now have logins for both PiXL Maths and the PiXL times tables app (both on the App store and Google Play). Students will be shown how to use these this week if they have not been told already. Rewards will be given after Christmas to those students who have engaged with apps over the festive holiday.



## Department Focus – D&T/Engineering

**Year 7** – It's great for us at FP2 D&T to have yet another year group of enthusiastic Product Designers in the workshop. That's exactly what we've got this year! Year 7's have been working on numerous projects already, focusing on developing skills in practical aspects in their current Trinket Box project and learning all of the essential knowledge to become a great product designer in the architecture project.



**Year 8** – Year 8 have been working hard this year at practicing their practical skills. Trialing ideas and making mistakes were welcomed in the Keyring project, giving students an opportunity to really evaluate and improve their designs. They now move on to their passive speaker projects which will use theory elements such as Biomimicry and using new and emerging technology and materials to create an innovative and original product.

**Year 9** – Year 9 who have opted for a Design and Technology related course (either Product Design or Engineering) have been getting stuck into the GCSE courses. Product Design taking on a multitude of tasks including Computer Aided Design and a practice NEA project on Upcycling where they are currently focused on modelling to aid imaginative iterative design. Engineering students are developing their sketching and presentation of design ideas.

**Year 10** – Year 10 have been getting closer to exams and coursework starts in Engineering, creating an atmosphere of work hard attitude in tasks that are preparing them for their first exam at the end of the year. They also will take part in starting a coursework element based around disassembling a product to see its function. In Product Design students have been working on a practice NEA project, developing the skills needed for the real thing that will start in the summer term. They have most recently been learning about modern and smart materials as well as the moral and social implications of globalisation, Fairtrade and the sustainability of resources for future generations.



We were extremely proud to take our Year 10s on a trip to the World Skills Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. A showcase of many different careers ranging from Army Engineers to manufacturers of vehicles and the emergency services. Our students had a great day bringing back many memories and keepsakes from the different people on show at the event.

**Year 11** – A Busy time of year for year 11 Product Design and Engineering students who are both in the middle of completing coursework tasks and preparing for exams. Our Engineering students take their first official GCSE level exam at the start of January. We are excited to see NEA (coursework) projects emerging from some fabulous future Engineers and Designers. It is brilliant to let them have the opportunity to showcase their amazing skills in the subject and we look forward to sharing their work in the summer exhibition alongside Art and Photography work.

**Plans for the future** – We are very excited to be able to offer Finham Park 2 students (and other students joining us for Year 12 next year) an A Level course for both D&T Product Design and Engineering students. The OCR course means that all D&T Year 11 students could potentially take an A Level in the subject and we look forward to building a very successful KS5 course with links to local Designers, Universities and Engineering/Manufacturing companies.



## Library News! – with Mrs Kerr

### More new books!

I am delighted to inform you that almost another 500 books have been added to the library shelves this term. This is thanks to donations from our neighbours at Kite Packaging, WH Smith and parental contributions. These books have been prepped and are now on the shelves for our students to enjoy. Thanks to all of our benefactors.

### Lit Quiz Success

We were extremely fortunate to be able to take two teams to this year's Midlands regional finals of the Kid's Lit Quiz. The students were selected for their superb range of literary knowledge and general brilliance! I was so proud of the way that they conducted themselves against some tough opposition, and saw excellent teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship from all involved. Well done all!



### Accelerated Reader

The AR programme continues to go from strength to strength with 360 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 taking part. This term we have awarded 59 bronze awards, 22 silver awards, 9 gold awards and 2 master awards. This is phenomenal when you consider what is needed to achieve each of these awards:

#### Bronze

For taking at least 3 quizzes  
OR reading 50,000 words  
AND achieving at least 85%  
average.

#### Silver

For taking at least 10 quizzes  
OR reading 200,000 words  
AND achieving at least 85%  
average.

#### Gold

For taking at least 25 quizzes  
OR reading 500,000 words  
AND achieving at least 85%  
average.

#### Master

For taking at least 50 quizzes  
OR reading 1,000,000 words  
AND achieving at least 90%  
average.

To continue our development of the programme, Miss Hopkins and myself were invited to the AR headquarters in Canary Wharf to share our AR experiences and listen to some inspirational speakers from the world of education. I am pleased to announce that Renaissance are going to be hosting a regional event at our school in the spring term of 2020 and have asked us to present a session on our AR success.

### Harry Potter Club

Our Harry Potter Club is continuing to be incredibly popular. This term's activities culminated in a visit to the Warner Brothers Studios to see the sets of the Harry Potter films. It was awesome! We saw everything Harry Potter from the Great Hall to the Gryffindor Common Room, from the Knight Bus to Gringotts's Bank.



Some of the feedback relating to the trip show us just how fabulous it was;

'Thank you for taking *my child* on such a magical trip to Harry Potter World she has had the BEST day!'

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and all the staff who took the students on the Harry Potter trip. *My child* has not stopped talking about it and said, "It was one of the best experiences of my life!"

Despite the excitement, our children were superb ambassadors for the school and behaved impeccably.



### Alan the Library dog

Alan is now 6 months old and thriving! He is really enjoying hearing the students read and being cared for by my team of dog care helpers. Alan enjoys continuing to support on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. He met his sponsors from the Coventry Building Society this week who were very impressed with him (despite him barking at the Christmas tree!).

### Comic art Masterclass

Students were nominated by teachers to attend a Comic Masterclass run by Kev Sutherland. It was a unique opportunity to work with this professional comic book writer and artist who does work for the Beano, Marvel and Doctor Who comics. Students were given an insight into the all comic genres from superhero to indie, manga and beyond and came away from the session with their own comic strip and individual caricature.



### Library party

Last Friday we hosted 73 of our top students in our Christmas reading celebration. These are students who have achieved awards on Accelerated Reader, helped out on our Paired Reading scheme, or volunteered to help run the library with me. Mr Plester gave a congratulatory address, which was followed by a Christmas buffet and festive tunes. This party was much deserved – just look at the stats below;

Total number of words read by these students since September **22,849,924**

Total number of minutes volunteered within the library (Student Librarians and Paired Readers) **2560**.



## Woman in Black theatre trip

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November, GCSE Drama students went to London to watch *The Woman in Black* for their Live Theatre Review section of their GCSE written exam. It is a two-man play which involves a considerable amount of multi-rolling. The students commented and praised the acting skills displayed to be able to instantly change characterisation. The minimal set, use of stage and cyclorama, lighting and sound all added to the overall impact of the performance, giving the students so much to write about in their review. Although the performance was a bit jumpy, the students acted with maturity and represented the school and Drama department well, as always!



## Showcase cinema trip

On Wednesday 13 November, Mrs Malone and Miss North took ten Year 10 intervention students to the Showcase Cinema to watch *Spiderman*.

This was an exciting opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge of different types of media, presentation and how it can be interpreted.

The student's behaviour was exemplary, the film was fantastic and it was topped off with Tango Ice Blasts and popcorn!

## Duke of Edinburgh

Year 11 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions earlier this term. Braving the wind and the rain, they completed their training expedition in the local area, walking from Berkswell to Corley. They did really well getting to grips with Trangier stoves and tent pitching. Alan the Guide Dog puppy also joined us for some of the walk which cheered everyone up and inspired them to keep going. The second weekend was based in the Chiltern Hills and the groups were expected to be independent with their map reading as well as camp skills. One group were a little late in on the second day and when asked what they had been doing, they explained they had been watching the giraffes and elephants as they walked past Whippsnade Zoo.

Many of our students have now completed all of their sections for their Bronze Award and will be able to get their certificates at the citywide awards evening in February.

A new DofE group will be starting for Year 9 and 10 students in January. Any interested students should pick up a letter from Student Services or speak to Mrs Brake.





## Children in Need 2019

The week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> November saw students at Finham Park 2 start their week of support for Children in Need. The Head Boy and Girl, as well as the Deputy Head Boy and Girl had advertised the fundraising in assemblies in previous weeks.

There was a 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar' competition organised by the Junior Leadership Team, as well as merchandise being on sale during mentor and break time. We also had a non-uniform day and the fantastic FP2 Bake Off, where students baked a wonderful array of cakes in the theme of Children in Need. These were then judged before being cut up to be added to our successful cake sale which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.

A huge well done to Levana G who was the winner of the Bake Off competition this year with this amazing entry! It looked absolutely amazing, and tasted great too!

Overall, we raised a grand total of £711.61 – a fantastic achievement!



## Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 7 December, Finham Park 2 ran its very first Christmas Fayre which was open to the public. A number of students from the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) worked really hard in the weeks leading up to the fayre to ensure that it ran smoothly on the day and was the huge success that it was!

The key aim of the fayre was to raise money for our two chosen charities:

- Zoë's Place, Coventry
- The Alzheimer's Society

The JLT worked together to ensure that all aspects of the fayre had been considered, from planning the stalls to ordering equipment, to being part of the promotions team or helping out of the day itself. Each and every students' contributions was invaluable to the success of the event.

The stalls run by the JLT ranged from games such as 'Pin the nose on Rudolph' and 'Pick a Card' to fun favourites such as the raffle and tombola. We had a fantastic number of stalls from external stallholders with an amazing array of gifts and prizes on offer. It was lovely to see a mix of stalls from students in the school and members of our local community coming together to make the event what it was.

We have to say a huge thank you to all of those people who donated a prize for the raffle or the tombola – we couldn't have done it without you! Also, to the students who gave up their time on a Saturday afternoon to ensure that the day was a fantastic success.

All the hard work resulted in more than £500 being raised for charity. We are already excited about Finham Park 2 having another Christmas Fayre next year that is even bigger and better than this one! Here's to 2020!





## Cannon Park Wrapping

NG04 came up with the fantastic idea of wrapping presents for charity this Christmas. Each Saturday, Miss Rawlins and Miss Dye have been with students for the last five weeks at Cannon Park Shopping Centre offering a gift-wrapping service, raising money for the school's two charities, Alzheimer's Society and Zoë's Place. The students have been absolutely World Class, giving up their free time to help out and have raised over £100 so far!



## Football news!

Finham Park 2 now have their first ever girls' football team! They will have their first league match on January 14<sup>th</sup> and have been training hard with Miss Rawlins and Ms Daffern this term to make sure they are ready. Well done girl!

## Parking & Road Safety

Thank you to parents and carers who have followed our request to not park on the pavement on Torrington Avenue- it really does make the roads much safer for students when leaving school.



If you do need to collect your child from school, please can you do so with care and consideration for others.

The safety of our students as well as parents/carers and small children from the nursery is paramount. If an emergency services vehicle is needing to access or exit the site, please be considerate with where you are waiting. There should be free access at all times.

Following on from this, please make sure your child has the correct gear for cycling including a suitable and safe helmet alongside reflective clothing and lights for when the days get shorter.



## Equipment- being 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 and reading book. 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*

20 December	Christmas Jumper Day / Last Day of Half Term – early close 1:25pm
21 Dec – 5 Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
6 January	MAT Training Day – School closed to all students
7 January	Training Day – School closed to all students
8 January	First Day of Spring Term – school starts at normal time – No OOSHL this week
9 January	Year 8 Options Information Evening, 6:00-7:00pm
16 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening – No OOSHL
30 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening – No OOSHL
21 February	Last day of half 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](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. 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 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](http://www.finhampark2.co.uk)



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