



Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

The Spring term is always an exciting one: Year 7 are fully settled into FP2 life; Year 8 are choosing their GCSE options; Year 9 are stepping up to the challenges of their GCSE courses; Year 10 are already preparing for their GCSEs with just over a year to go before they begin; and Year 11 are making their final preparations for their GCSEs!

We also regularly welcome visitors to the school including school leaders from across the country. Their feedback is always the same: they say how positive the relationships are; how calm the school is, how welcoming and polite our students are, and how smart they are dressed. However, this does not make us complacent and we are always working on ways to improve the school. If any parents are interested in meeting me to share their own feedback- both good things and areas for improvement, I will be holding regular parent forum meetings in my office. The next one is on Monday 23 March- if you are interested please contact mt PA, Miss Thomson on l.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk.

On another exciting note, Mr Ditch is also moving forward at pace with our post-16 offer: we are delighted to have received such a high number of applications for 6th form and that we are able to offer physics and business studies. We are also looking to set up a small dark room for A Level photography, so if anyone has any old 35mm SLR or dark room equipment please let us know! More information will follow after half term.

The successes from last term have continued into the Spring term: fabulous events such as maths and English competitions; design technology workshops; Safer Internet Day; mock exams; Institute of Physics trip for some of our Year 9 scientists; Skype meetings with our Dennis Yarmouth School in Cape Cod USA (one of our partner schools) as well as superb sporting events including trampolining! Even more is planned for the forthcoming terms including the Star Studded Celebration of Success!

We know how beneficial taking part in extracurricular activities is for all students which is why we expect every student to attend *at least one* OOSHL (out of school hours learning) activities every week- and we have over 50 to choose from- something for everyone! If your child would like to get more involved in activities mentioned in this newsletter or has ideas for activities we are not currently providing, please ask them to speak to their mentor or Mrs Brake.

We are already planning for our next new Year 7 cohort (once again we have had over 500 applications for 120 places for September 2020) as well as our new 6th form, we will of course need more staff and so have already started recruiting teaching and support staff. We will be making more appointments after half term. Our goal will always be to recruit the highest calibre staff to compliment the fantastic team we already have.

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.



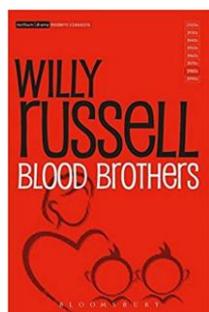
Department Focus – Drama

There are many exciting things happening in Drama currently and there is much more to look forward to over the next couple of terms.

Currently in Drama...

Year 7 have just completed their performances of 'The Wardrobe', an adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. They have been focussing on characterisation, centering in on exploring different ways in which status can be portrayed by using various dramatic techniques. The performances were fantastic with some of a very high standard. Miss O'Donnell is amazed by the progress students have made in just half an academic year.

Year 8 have been using the topic of Homelessness as a stimulus to ignite and create some original ideas for performance. They have explored the power of still images, created atmospheric soundscapes and produced thought-provoking monologues. Their awareness and sensitivity towards the topic was extremely mature and heart-warming.



Year 9 are currently studying *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. They have commented on how much they have loved the play so far and have enjoyed the rollercoaster of emotions it takes you on. They are currently preparing their monologue of 'I Wish I was Our Sammy', which they will be performing after half term. The class radiates talent, confidence and creativity – Miss O'Donnell cannot wait to see the performances (especially to hear some attempts of the scouse accent!).

Year 10 are working towards their first module of their GCSE, which entails devising their own piece, in groups, from a stimulus. Students are consistently developing ideas and their creativity is widening every lesson. Miss O'Donnell is pleased to see a lot of Physical Theatre, which is being used to encapsulate ideas, and is being performed in a variety of powerful ways.

Year 11 completed their scripted performances in January and are now preparing for their written examination in May. Some of the talent displayed was incredible. Their focus levels remain high as they work towards completing their third and final component.

Finham Park 2 have been given the unique and amazing opportunity to work in conjunction with West Midlands Police to make a new regional video as part of the latest Anti-Knife Crime campaign. The script has been written and we cannot wait to get filming after half term – an incredible opportunity for our students!



This year's production 'A Night at the Musicals' that is to take place later in the year includes musical numbers from *Annie*, *Les Miserable* and *Hairspray*. All students are working hard by learning new choreography, engaging in characterisation and committing time to ensure their performance is of a high standard. Every year Miss O'Donnell organises a trip to see a performance that helps the students to gain a better understanding of a professional production, and of course enjoy an amazing display of talent; this year, in March, we are going to see *Matilda* – the students are very excited!



Library News! – with Mrs Kerr

What a start to 2020 we have had in the library!

The year started with the brilliantly supported MAT book swap. Over 40 staff members from across all MAT schools visited the library stand to share their favourite books and choose another recommended by a colleague. We have continued this programme with Finham Park 2, where a number of staff are well into their 3rd, 4th or even 5th book shared via the book swap.

This term we have launched our next stage of Accelerated Reader incentives and started to provide all students in Year 7-9 with a personalised AR bookmark for them to record their own reading success. Those students who have read over 1 million words have been in receipt of a very special keepsake of the books that they have read. To find out what this is, you will have to achieve this prestigious level yourself!

We have had a fabulous new addition to our library resources – an exam library. The sections holds copies of textbooks from all subjects, study guides, and past papers. Sections from the past papers can be photocopied by request to allow students to work on them away from the library. The library has also offered extended opening hours to Year 11's during exam times to support and encourage.

We also have a new staffing addition – Mrs Russell, who will be in the library during afternoons for the next academic year. We welcome her to the team and are very much looking forward to all the new projects that she is going to be working on.

In January, we invited teams from across Coventry primary and secondary schools to complete in a literature quiz based on the books in this year's Coventry Inspiration Book Awards. An impressive seventeen teams joined us from a number of different schools. The questions and prizes were provided by the Schools Library Service.

We have been very lucky this term to have won book and game prizes from our associates at 'Empties Please', who love the idea of our scrap recycling programme. We are also massively grateful to our neighbours at the 'Tenable Screw Company' for the bags of metal donations which will feature in our 'retro' display next term.

We have started discussions with representatives from 'Coventry City of Culture' about our involvement in the celebrations. It looks like these will include a number of high profile author and poet visits, and a permanent art display being created for our library. Watch this space for more details.

National Citizen Service

Guests from the NCS (National Citizen Service) came to deliver an exciting assembly about opportunities available for Year 11 students over the summer. The NCS involves students participating in a week of outdoor activities such as climbing canoeing and teambuilding activities at a centre near Exeter. The second week is based at a local university with students staying in halls of residence and experiencing how to cater for themselves as well as learning what university life is like. The last two weeks are based at home with students working on a charity project of their choice. This is an amazing opportunity and costs only £50.00 for all four weeks! The dates can be selected by students and they can join up with friends from other schools.

More information can be found at: <https://wearencs.com/find-programme>



The Cyrenians & Christmas Jumper Day

At Christmas we always try to think about the wider community that we live in, so we once again held our Christmas appeal for the Coventry Cyrenians.

Families were very generous in sending in gifts of gloves, hats and scarves as well as tinned and packeted food. The gifts were used as part of the Cyrenians Christmas event held each year at the Methodist Central Hall that provides meals and gifts for over 130 guests as well as for long term projects for the homeless and vulnerably housed people in Coventry and Warwickshire. We would like to thank all of the Finham Park 2 families who supported this appeal.

Alongside the Coventry Cyrenians, we also supported Save the Children by taking part in their Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff had the option of wearing a Christmas jumper for a donation of £1.00. We can confirm that we raised a fantastic £128.84! Thank you to everyone who took part and donated.



Save the Children®



Year 11 Fieldwork Trip

On a very cold Monday, Year 11 Geography students braved the chilly conditions to explore the regeneration projects in the city centre of Birmingham. They conducted a transect from Centenary Square to the Bull Ring and explored the new Grand Central Station. Students had to practice their fieldwork skills and collect data such as pedestrian counts, environmental surveys and questionnaires. This data will then be presented and analysed as part of their preparation of their GCSE exam. Students will need to decide how successful the regeneration projects have been as well as linking it to other aspects of their studies. The fieldwork gave them the opportunity to link the theory we have been studying in class to a real environment as well as giving them an opportunity to practice wider skills such as teamwork and communication.





WeHeartC20 at Finham Park 2 **WE** **C20**

This summer will be Finham Park 2's first set of Year 11 results and everyone is busy working with the students to ensure that they are fully prepared and able to do their very best in all subjects.

An update:

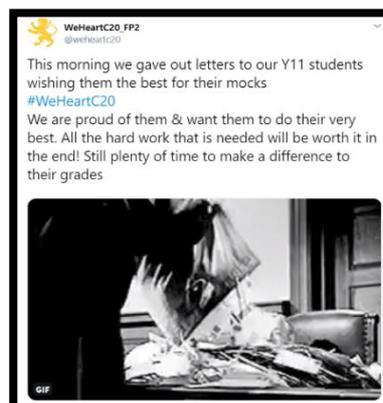
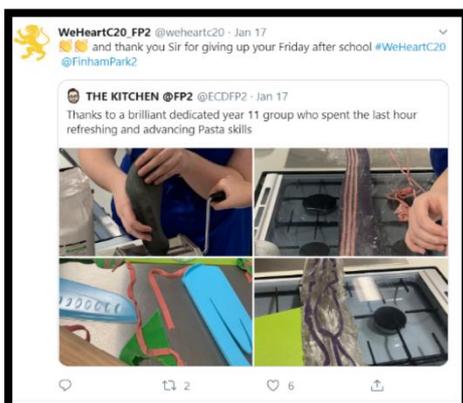
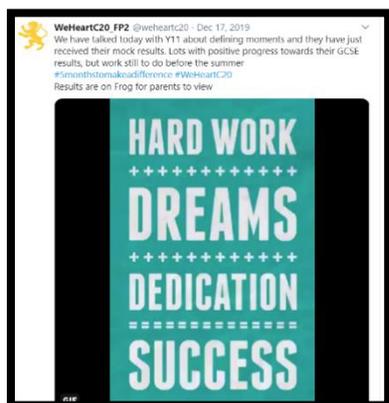
Over the last few weeks and months, Year 11 have been involved in the following:

- All Year 11's attended subject OOSHL's Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. The programme is based on which subject staff feel students need to attend. It is reviewed each half term so students get the opportunity to go to different subjects each half term. There are specific OOSHL's for NEA support, focus on missed or insecure units of work in subjects, Foundation and Higher groups, Grade 7-9 classes and specific subject sessions for example, the required practicals for Science. Students are rewarded with praise points towards their Leavers' Ball invitation and we collectively track the hours that students attend. Year 11 have collectively banked over 3500+ hours of extra study which definitely has the potential to make a difference to their results. While Year 11 were doing their February mocks, OOSHL's became drop-ins for exam support, **the timetabled OOSHL's will be updated for after half term and start again from the week beginning Monday 2 March.**
- Year 11 mentor groups. At the start of the spring term, we created Year 11 mentor groups (Year 7-10 remain in vertical mentoring) and devised a specific programme during mentor time that will support students with revision and mental health in the run up to exams, as well as create an opportunity for us to celebrate our amazing students more often.
- Elevate 18 mentoring – 18 selected students have staff mentors that meet with them regularly and can work 1-2-1 to make sure that students receive the personalised support they need. From helping with revision organisation, identifying and addressing barriers to learning or working with them on specific subjects.
- Action+ mentoring – A smaller group of selected students also have staff mentors working with them regularly both in the run up to mocks and the real examinations in the summer.
- Use of PiXL Maths App (all PiXL Apps are available to Year 11 students) in lessons and for homework. Following assessments, students can upload their results and get targeted questions to help them focus on the areas they need to improve. We are very proud to be 4th out of hundreds of schools in the country for our use of the PiXL Maths App.
- PiXL Build Up. Twenty selected students have access to a range of software that supports revision of subjects, including Maths Whizz, Tassomai, MyOn and GCSE Pod. They should be using these during mentor time, intervention lessons in school and for homework.



- PiXL Build Up resources are also being used in mentor time which focuses on motivation and aspiration for all students regardless of what they want to go on to do after their GCSE's.
- For students who have joined us since the start of Year 10, there have been various interventions including 'Book in a Day' events for students in English to help them with any gaps they may have from joining us later.
- There are support days for Year 11 in February half term for Food Preparation and Nutrition, D&T Product Design and Engineering, Art and Photography.
- We are having fortnightly celebrations this term and next including praise breakfasts, praise postcards, Hot Choc Friday's, assemblies and more...
- Good luck letters – On Friday 13 January, each Year 11 student received a good luck letter from a member of staff. All staff members were asked to contribute if they could and so the letters came from staff across the school including associate staff as well as teachers. This reminded students that all staff care about them and want them to do well. We hope this was a positive boost before their February mocks.

You can also follow our Twitter feed @WeheartC20 or the hashtag #weheartc20





FPMAT Policy for Responding to Parents

It is the policy of the school that admin staff will pass on a telephone request or email request to speak to a member of staff the same morning or afternoon that it is received. Most teaching staff have commitments to classes during the working day and are therefore unlikely to be able to respond to a message immediately. Staff will be expected to acknowledge receipt of an email or phone call by the end of the next working day. A follow up contact will be made to try to resolve an issue or arrange a meeting where a parent requests it within 2 whole working days. It will help our response if parents give us brief details relating to their enquiry or email us at contact@finhampark2.co.uk.

Any urgent messages of information can be communicated via the school office.

Where there is a need to speak to a senior member of staff as a matter of emergency, parents are respectfully asked to explain briefly the nature of the emergency to admin staff so that they can be directed to the appropriate member of the senior leadership team. An emergency is defined as a situation where the safety of a child is at immediate serious risk. In all but the most serious cases, parents will not be directed to speak to the Headteacher.

Parents who arrive at school wishing to see a member of staff without an appointment will be asked to leave a contact number or email to suggest times when they might be available for a member of staff to contact them.

Frog App!

All parents/carers have access to the Frog Parent App which lets you have full access to the area's students visit as well as other features and information specifically available only to parents/carers. These can include students assigned homework, child's timetable, the school calendar, attendance summaries, behaviour reports and school reports.

You can install the My Frog App on Apple iPhone and Android Phones by visiting the app stores. Once the app has downloaded, you will be asked to enter a URL. You will need to enter: <https://frog.finhampark2.co.uk> then click next. You will then see a login screen. Enter your username (first letter of your first name, full stop and then followed by your full surname (e.g. "J.Doe" and your password.

If you have never logged in before, visit the 'forgot password' page button on the login page.

If you have any issues with logging onto Frog Parent, please contact the school admin office.

For more information, please click the following link: <http://finhampark2.co.uk/frogos/>

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.

If a bike is left on the school site during the day, please make sure it is locked up. Any bikes not locked up should be stored round the back of the school.





Coronavirus: Public Information



The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours. To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have a cough, or fever, or shortness of breath and have been to any of these places in the last 14 days:

- China
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Hong Kong
- Malaysia
- Japan
- Taiwan
- Macau

Stay indoors and call NHS 111

If you have been to Wuhan, or Hubei Province, China in the last 14 days ...

Stay indoors and contact NHS 111
even if you do not have symptoms



Visit NHS.UK for more information



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

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 21 February | Last Day of Half Term |
| 22 Feb – 1 March | HALF TERM HOLIDAY |
| 5 March | World Book Day, Year 9 Parents' Evening – No OOSHL |
| 13 March | Sports Relief – Non-uniform Day |
| 26 March | Year 7 Parents' Evening – No OOSHL |
| 30 March | Year 11 Group Photo, Year 10 Work Experience Week |
| 9 April | Last Day of Term – school finishes at normal time |
| 10 April | Bank Holiday |

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
keep us informed

FINHAM PARK 2



A Mathematics & Computing College

| 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)

Finham Park 2
Torrington Avenue
Coventry
CV4 9WT

T: 024 7771 0720
E: contact@finhampark2.co.uk
www.finhampark2.co.uk

Headteacher: Russell Plester
Chair of Governors: Catherine Colby-Johnson



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST