

Finham Park 2 News

Summer 1, 2020-21
Issue 43

Message from the Headteacher, Russell Plester

I hope you and your families are well.

As I have previously informed you this half term finishes at the usual time on Friday 28th May (except for Year 11 who will finish earlier in the day) and it has absolutely flown by! It has been a busy half term, as always, and one where there seems to be a much greater feeling of optimism and hope for the future.

Speaking of time flying by, today (28th May) we say goodbye to our 2nd cohort of Year 11 students. Some who were tiny in Year 7 now seem 8ft tall; others who perhaps needed to focus more in Year 7 are now striving for the grades to get into 6th form with an eye on university; others (and this refers to most of the Year 11s) have been brilliant from day 1 and continue to be brilliant, and some parents will be asking how can I have a child who has left school?! We will really miss them. As I have said, we hope to see most of them in the 6th form in September, but if not we wish them all the very best for the future. To celebrate Year 11s' time in school Mrs Diaz and Miss Platt (and team) have spent a great deal of time organising leavers' hoodies, the yearbook, final day celebration event and prom (all things crossed that the government continue to relax COVID-19 measures).

With regards to other year groups, Year 9 are in the middle of their summer assessments (they have also been excellent) with all other year groups to follow. This will give us even more information to plug any gaps in knowledge and skills or remove any misconceptions in learning ready to start the new academic year in September. Please may I ask that parents/carers ensure their child has the appropriate equipment for exams and bags are packed the night before with pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, calculator etc. It is also important that all students prepare for these exams by revising thoroughly so they can demonstrate how much progress they've made. There are lots of great revision websites, apps and books that can be found and many are free- please see Frog for more details. Some useful ones are: BBC Bitesize; Oak Academy, Seneca; Freesciencelessons.co.uk; Quizlet; Khan Academy, PiXL apps e.g. for maths and many more.

Along with the Year 11 prom, we are hoping that more 'normal' events will be taking place in school next half term such as Sports Day; OOSHL; trip to Dol-y-Moch for 6th form; and Star Studded Celebration of Success, albeit in a smaller, more COVID-19-safe way.

After half term there will also be some new staff joining us in preparation for the new academic year. I would like to welcome them all to the FP2 family. In addition, Ms Bloom, Deputy headteacher from Whitley Academy, will be joining us on secondment for next half term. She will be focusing on supporting improvements with students leadership, homework and gifted and talented provision amongst other things. Mrs Allton will, in turn, be working at Whitley Academy for a few days a week until the summer break.



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Please may I also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the following:

- Visible nose piercings are not allowed in school. Please ensure that either a clear stud is worn or a plaster is fixed over the piercing.
- After half term, weather permitting, coats will not be allowed to be worn in class.
- To keep the school community and your families safe, please remind your children to continue doing their lateral flow tests twice a week.
- If your child cycles to school they must wear a helmet- for their own safety!

Thank you so much for all you have done to support your children and the school community. We are very proud of how students have responded to the various changes with maturity, resilience and understanding.

With best wishes,
Russell Plester



Maths Summer Club

Eedi has offered all Year 5 to Year 9 families free access to Eedi Summer Club, a maths summer program **100% free of charge** that will help to boost your child's confidence in maths so it's sky high for the new school year.

Your child will first do a quick placement quiz to set their work and then get recommended topics that'll help them improve the most over 7 weeks. Your child will get unlimited access to review questions, videos and live chat support with real teachers over the holidays. You'll also get weekly reports on how they're doing.

The minimum recommended work is 1 lesson a week, which should be around 30 minutes of work.

Each week, Eedi will hold competitions to boost motivation and engagement - from who's given the most thoughtful explanation to a problem to what team has the highest amount of points... Plus there are real prizes up for grabs!

Signup Deadline: June 14th (Get Eedi Summer Club for free until this date)

Summer Club Starts: July 5th

Summer Club Ends: August 23rd

Sign up on [this link](#) to get the offer automatically applied to your account.

If you have any questions, please contact family@eedi.co.uk directly.

Department Focus: Science

Year 7

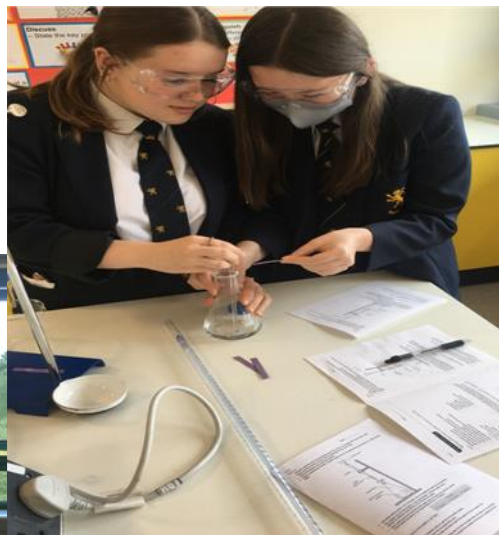
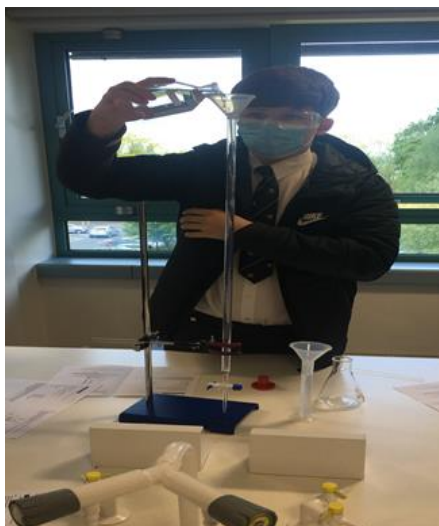
Although our new scientists haven't had the usual start, they have shown curiosity and discussed topics including cells, forces and chemical reactions. The first lesson focussed on the most important skill in science, communication. Throughout the year they have mastered this skill and demonstrated it by completing their first science experiment in secondary school. Experiments have included solubility, filtration and students also got to separate the colours in ink. Even though students were excited they remained calm, listened to instructions, worked as a team, and most importantly had fun. In the final half term Year 7 students will get to learn all about space and continue to show out of this world science skills!

Year 9

Year 9 students have been working so hard since September when they started their GCSE courses. They have had to learn lots of new information as well as recalling facts and knowledge from their KS3 science lessons. They have gone from having science lessons to biology, chemistry and physics. This week they have started sitting their end of year exams and organising their revision into the different disciplines of science. Students have enjoyed being able to differentiate the areas of science to help them understand the topics that they do well in and like as well as areas to improved on.

Year 10

Some of the Year 10 pupils have been able to get back into the labs and carry out experiments. The students have really loved being able to put into practice all the science skills that they have learnt in the last few months of online learning. Carrying out the experiments helps the students reinforce the theory and understand it in more detail. The photos show a Year 10 group who are making ammonium sulphate in the lab. This is a very important chemical reaction as ammonia is using for fertiliser and this is what helps to make our food.



A Level Biology

The pupils who have taken on biology have been a credit to the school and their families. They have had to incorporate many new ways of learning over the year. Starting in September, they had face-to-face teaching and had to get used to the responsibility of independent learning and the additional freedom that comes from doing A-levels. In November they had to get used to their teacher educating them from home while the students were in school. The pupils were amazing and were able to sort out setting up the technology, logging on with their teacher and asking/answering questions via a video call. When January came everyone was working from home and again the students had no problem adapting to this change. Finally, pupils and staff were able to return to face to face teaching. Biology students are now planning an educational field trip to Wales near the end of the term to carry out some research different biological factors on a variety of species.

A Level Physics

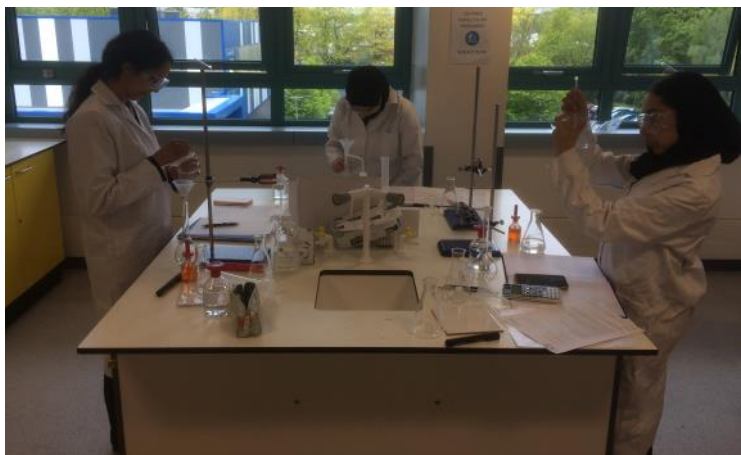
Last term the physics class were lucky enough to have a CERN physicist give a talk exclusively for our 6th form physics students during careers week. The talk didn't stop at science careers either - they were given a virtual tour of CERN, and the students had a Q&A session after. Our students thought it was absolutely brilliant!



A Level Chemistry

In our first year of teaching A-level Chemistry, the students have been building on their GCSE Chemistry knowledge, learning there is more to it all! We have learnt about electron subshells, shapes of compounds, practised lots of maths calculations in relation to moles and concentration, looked at energy within reactions and related this to rate of reaction and equilibria. We have learnt how to draw mechanisms for organic chemistry and all the practical skills relating to synthesis of a range of organic compounds with desired functional groups.

More recently due to the relaxing of COVID-19 guidance, we have been able to do some practical work, including heating to constant mass to determine formula of a hydrated salt, making standard solutions, titrations to determine formula and unknown concentrations and determining relative molecular mass by collecting a gaseous product. Many of the students have had little chance for practical work in Year 11 due to the pandemic and the practical work is enjoyed enabling students to develop their skills and consider errors which may occur and therefore arise in exam questions!



Library News with Mrs Kerr!

myON

I think the appropriate description of the library this half term is 'have wheels, will travel!'. We have been fortunate in receiving funding for a set of library iPads and the myON programme which has been transported to all Year 7, 8 and 9 students during mentor time and English lessons.

The myON programme is an online library which offers a range of books for students to read – almost 6,000 titles! It is linked to our Accelerated Reader programme which means that students can take quizzes on the books read online, and we can ensure comprehension of the chosen texts.

There is a myON challenge each week which is included in the bulletin, with successful students earning themselves a chocolate award. The myON programme is proving to be very popular with students, with student reading hours being measured already showing gratifying results.



Accelerated Reader

I have had to award so many AR awards this term! A record 83 students have achieved their bronze award, 34 their silver, and 20 their gold. A number of students have also achieved their Master Reader, reading over 1,000,000 words. In addition to this, I have had to create a Master Plus Reader award for those students who have read over 3,000,000 words. Would you believe that I have already awarded 2 of these awards with over a half term to go before the end of the academic term! Well done all!

Student Librarians

This group of fabulous young people are continuing to tidy the library and prepare the new books. They have also been busy constructing items for our next display. We are focussing on history in the display, and the students have just completed making a working catapult. It is a fantastic feat of engineering!



Reading Outside!

Our Forest Schools groups have been working really hard in the school garden. They have cleared a lot of the beds, dug out old roots, and burnt a lot of debris. Planting has started – wild strawberries and sunflowers in the beds, and herbs in the planters. The hope is that in the long run the garden will provide a quiet place for students to read in the summer months.



British Army Visit

Year 12 students had a unique enrichment opportunity with the British Army. The soldiers delivered a presentation about the army and what day to day life is like. They then delivered team building activities which included students using communication and problem solving skills to complete tasks. Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very engaged, they even got competitive to win challenges which was fantastic to see.

Students had a variety of activities including using Meccano to build a catapult. They had to work in groups and compete to see whose catapult launched a ball the furthest.

Students also had to rearrange tyres in number order from one side to another. They had to use their team working and communication skills.

The activity that all students were very fond of was called 'Tappy discs'. Students had to divide the 12 discs between them and then take it turns to count the discs the fastest. They got competitive to be the winning team which was fantastic to see.



BBC Star School

There was a great deal of rumour and speculation surrounding the announcement that Finham Park 2 had been selected as the BBC Star School! The honour of 'Star School' lasts 1 week, during which time the selected school takes over the Breakfast Show on BBC CWR.

The Friday before the big week, a BBC outside broadcast team came to the school and interviewed Mr Plester, and were given a recorded tour of the school by some of our Year 7 students. The Year 7 pupils also set questions to be answered by the public on Maths, English, and History.

All of these elements were then broadcast following the big announcement on the following Monday.

On the Wednesday of the Star School week, the outside broadcast team came to school again, this time to do a live piece with students and staff. The students interviewed live on air talked about their D & T project, careers hopes, and even taught the presenter Spanish. Mrs Kerr, the FP2 Librarian gave the answers to the questions posed on the Monday, talked about being back at school and then was asked to give a weather report.

Following from the live broadcast, the team then pre-recorded some elements for the Friday show, including a news bulletin read by Year 8 students, and a Mastermind slot featuring our very own Head of Humanities, Mr Ludgate.

The Friday show, and indeed the whole week of programmes received a great deal of positive feedback, and we have been asked to feature regularly on education slots in the future.

Well done Team FP2!





Head Boy (Shiv) & Head Girl (Hawa)

We have had a remarkable experience throughout sixth form this year as head boy and head girl. We have hosted fundraising for Children in Need for sixth form, raising money by cake sales, non-uniform days and other activities. We have made some changes to the after school timetable for sixth formers, giving them social activities, such as sport and movie club. We also made adjustments to the lunchtime menu, bringing in foods of the students' choices, so that they are more satisfied with their lunchtime meals.

It has been difficult this year to make any changes to the other year groups as COVID-19 has meant that we cannot mix bubbles, therefore it's harder to take ideas from other people of different ages. However, for whoever applies next year, this may be different as the restrictions would've changed by then, therefore you will have more responsibility to look out for the whole school rather than one year group.

There has been a lot of character growth this year. We have established ourselves as leaders and have learnt to listen carefully to suggestions. We have learnt to take these suggestions on board and cooperate to come to a reasonable agreement for a solution to problems. We've also learnt to better communicate with teachers and put forward our ideas, which are always listened to and acknowledged and something is always done.

Our experiences with Finham Park 2 were very different, as head girl I entered sixth form from a different school. The atmosphere entering sixth form was very welcoming and very supportive. The teachers are very inspirational and very enthusiastic about their work, and the students at sixth form are very approachable. It was easy to adapt to such a different environment. I am very glad I am a part of this Sixth Form.

For me, as head boy, it was easy to adjust to sixth form as I've been here since Year 7. I knew the teachers so it wasn't difficult for me to communicate with them and they were very supportive towards any ideas that I had. Overall, head boy was a role easy for me to fit into as I had nothing to be afraid of and it was within my calibre.



Department of Education—COVID-19 testing over May half-term

As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing. This includes those who have had their vaccine.

We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. Over 40 million tests with staff and students have now been conducted as part of the education testing programme.

Please continue to encourage your children to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to school after the holiday.

The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results is easy. Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Studybugs - Finham Park 2's Attendance Tracker

In case you do not know already, Finham Park 2 uses an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness called Studybugs.

Why use Studybugs?

Helps safeguard your child by automating our school's processing of sick reports, so if any children are unaccounted for, they'll know right away. It also verifies that reports of your child's absence have really come from you.

Contributes to public health by collecting anonymised data on illnesses going around - to help schools, parents/carers and public health organisations take preventative action as early as possible.

Saves you time - it takes seconds to give the school all they need, and know they've got the messages even if you're reporting at 6am or 11pm the night before.

Guides you with official information from Public Health England on the need to stay off school, based on the symptoms or illness you are reporting.

Confidential and secure. Your personal data is kept strictly confidential between you and your child's school. We never share your personal data with third parties.

If you haven't already done so, please download the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us if your child ill and unable to attend school.

Here's the link: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Guide Dog Update!

Cici the Guide Dog puppy is settling in very well to life at FP2. She has grown a lot – she weighed 4.2kg when she arrived in March and is already 12.4kg!

Cici has already been making herself useful, supporting students in Forest Schools lessons, listening to students reading, and having cuddles with staff.

She has mastered the 'sit' command, but can easily be distracted by a bag with a nice smelling sandwich!



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.

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 - Be Ready for Learning

Please can parents/carers 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.

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 where you can make an application. If you need any support or guidance with this, please contact the school office.

Important Calendar Dates for Next Half Term

Friday 28th May	Last Day of Half Term
Monday 31st - Friday 4th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 7th June	First Day of Summer Term 2
Thursday 10th June	Year 10 Parents' Evening (Online)
Monday 28th June	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 2nd July	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 20th July	Sports Day
Wednesday 21st July	Last Day of the Academic Year - Early finish

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

Attendance

- 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

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 :



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