

## Finham Park 2 News

Spring 1, 2021-22  
Issue 47

### Message from the Deputy Headteacher, Jo-Ann Brake

Apparently the old English name for February was Solmonath meaning mud month and certainly over the last few days of heavy rainfall mud month seems quite apt. The current name, February, comes from the Latin Februum which means purification. This time of year is often linked to spring cleaning and readying ourselves for the warmer months ahead. In school our students our year 11 and 13 students are preparing for their examinations and what lies beyond. They have been attending revision sessions and OOSHLs as well as making applications for Sixth Form and Universities. However, the assessed work doesn't all happen in the exam hall. The GCSE music students completed their final performances this week, showcasing their talents to an audience of friends and family. In PE the staff and students have been completing moderation of the practical elements of their course, including football, climbing, basketball, trampolining and netball. Food Preparation and Nutrition students have also been off timetable developing their final pieces of work, creating imaginative and delicious dishes that fit their examination brief. It has been fantastic to see all of their hard work and endeavour paying off.

As Covid restrictions have lifted, school life has steadily returned to normal. Hopefully the days of year group bubbles, 2 metre social distancing and restricted areas at social time are now a thing of the past. We have, however, continued to make sure our classrooms are fully ventilated and additional cleaning continues. Covid vaccinations have also been made available in school time and test kits continue to be provided for staff and students. Thank you to all parents and carers who have been so supportive of the school over the last two years and helped us make the changes we have needed to in-school to keep all of us as safe as possible. After half term we want to continue returning our classrooms to normal and so we are going to ask students to remove their coats when they are in lessons. If it is a particularly cold space then staff will make the decision about whether coats are appropriate.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to develop our out of school learning offer. There are a range of trips being offered to students including visits to Silverstone, the University fair at the NEC, art trips to the Herbert, theatre trips to the Royal Opera House and the Belgrade. We are also continuing to work with the Commonwealth Games 2022 projects linked to the Zambia, with students engaging in activities led by athletes. Towards the end of the next half term our yr10 students will be going out for a week's work experience. We are still looking for placements for the week so if you know of any companies or work settings that would be happy to provide these could you be in touch.

We hope you have a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing all of our students back on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.



FINHAM PARK  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## Department Focus: Drama with Miss O'Donnell

### Year 7

Year 7 have made a great start to drama here at FP2. It has been amazing to see so many students become more confident and progress their ability to perform in front of their classmates. Since the beginning of the year, they have been exploring many different drama techniques to aid their performing and devising skills. Year 7 then started to explore characterisation by looking at the characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. I thoroughly enjoyed watching their individual interpretations of the golden ticket winners through their monologue performances. More recently, Year 7 have been exploring The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and have been exploring how they can show status through levels, space, proxemics, voice and body language. To aid their acting they have also explored Konstantin Stanislavski's Emotion Memory technique!

### Year 8

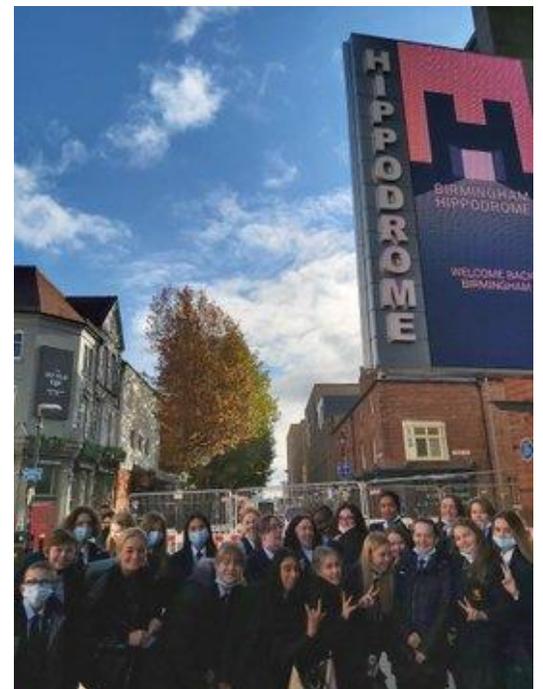
Before Christmas Year 8 enjoyed looking at styles of theatre that they had never seen or performed before. We started by exploring different genres including Slapstick Comedy, Action, Horror and Soap Opera. We used a range of works from Charlie Chaplain right through to Capoeira Dance scenes to aid our inspiration. Year 8 then responded amazingly well to 'Our House the Musical' where they learnt more drama techniques. They specifically enjoyed learning, exploring and creating their own Physical Theatre moves.

This term so far, they have been exploring the script 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty'. This script investigates teenage bullying. We have looked closely at characterisation and really getting to know the characters through many rehearsal techniques. We are continuing to use this script as a stimulus next half term to aid their devising module.

### Year 9

Year 9 have been exploring 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell as their set text. They started by looking at the themes, plot and context, and how they influenced the characters in the play. Year 9 then performed their scripted exam by bringing to life their interpretation of Mickey's monologue 'I Wish I was Our Sammy'. Some of the creative and confident performances blew me away. Year 9 also got the opportunity to go and see the live performance at The Birmingham Hippodrome. Students commented on how much they enjoyed the trip and for some it was the first time experiencing the theatre.

Since Christmas, Year 9 have been looking at the written and design elements of the drama course. They have plotted their own lighting and aural setting, and designed their own costumes and set. We definitely have some budding actors and designers in this year group!



### **Year 10 and 11**

Year 10 have been working hard on their devising module which is to be performed and examined after February Half Term. They have explored many different practitioners, acting styles and devising techniques. I am really looking forward to seeing their final performances!

Year 10 and 11 went to London to watch 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'. Both the show and the students were amazing and it was fantastic to be able to take them to see live theatre that they will review as part of their written exam.

Year 11 also have their scripted performances after February Half term. They have all been working hard to complete their mocks, make final tweaks to their devising portfolios, and stage their final performances. I am proud of every single one of them!

### **Finham Park 2's First Pantomime**

In January we finally managed to perform our first ever Panto. Every single student, whether they were acting, helping backstage or with the technical elements represented FP2 with great professionalism. We received such high praise and it was amazing to see students back on stage, doing what they love, after such a long time. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and everyone who contributed their time to make it happen!

We have a lot more exciting events currently being planned behind the scenes – follow @FP2\_Drama on twitter to stay up to date!



## P.E Updates!

Finham Park 2 hosted our first schools' trampolining competition on the 16<sup>th</sup> February for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students. The Key Stage 4 team performed fantastically with Hope H, Aleesha G, Tiegan W, Noah H and Thomas W competing. Hope competed in the age group above and scored the highest mark in the whole competition, alongside the team finishing in second place. The Key Stage 3 team also performed amazingly with Holly P, Daisy M, Alayla B, Isobel Y, Miley D and Casey M taking part. Daisy scored the highest mark in her age group along with the team taking first place. Well done to everyone who participated.



It has been a great half term for the FP2 netball teams, with them finally getting to put their skills into action in competitive games against other schools. All of the students who played showed a fantastic attitude when representing FP2 both at school and when visiting others.

The results reflected all of their hard work with the following results:

- Year 7 beating Grace Academy
- Year 7 and 8 beating Enesford Academy
- Year 8 beating Bluecoat

A huge congratulations to all of the students who took part in these fixtures for not only a great practical performance, but a true showcase of maturity, dedication and teamwork. Well done everyone! We are incredibly proud of you.



## Updates with Mrs Kerr!

**There's a lot going on at Finham Park 2 and in The Library this half term! Lets kick it off with:**

### Commonwealth Connections Programme

This programme is moving apace as we are now in 2022, the year of the Commonwealth Games.

Our Sports Ambassadors were very fortunate to have a one-to-one session with Commonwealth and Olympic athlete Liz Johnson. The students were treated to sessions in 'Inspiration', 'Team Building', and worked on their project to launch a Commonwealth Sports Club within school, designed to encourage those who would not ordinarily participate in extra-curricular PE activities. It was so brilliant to have this fabulous opportunity to work alongside an elite athlete and be motivated by their brilliance.



On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February both our Sports Ambassadors and Arts Directors were invited to take place in a legacy Commonwealth event at local primary schools. 'Tiny Forests' were planted with funding from Severn Trent Water, one at Corpus Christi Primary School which was a New Zealand themed forest with Silver Fern trees, and one at Mosely Primary School which was Zambian themed. We were fortunate enough to be joined on the days by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Cllr Caan, Joan Musaka (Local Zambian Committee), Abigail Chaponda (Zambia High Commission), Hayley Coyne (British Council), Liv Garfield (CEO Severn Trent Water), and ITV News. The students got their hands dirty planting trees, and took part in traditional dances from the two countries. A plaque commemorating the Finham Park 2 contribution to the project was added to both forests.

Coming up we have our Commonwealth Athletes Day here in March and the start of our rehearsals for the Commonwealth Opening Ceremony dance with Highly Sprung. We are so privileged to be a part of the Commonwealth Games 2022.



### **School Pantomime**

The 'Aladdin' pantomime finally took place in the last week of January. The students were absolutely superb having had a huge break in rehearsals for Covid absences and the Christmas break. We also had to have a stand-in Aladdin for one night- a student who learnt the entire script and songs in a day. The performances were very well attended, considering that the tickets were originally sold for December! The refreshments and raffle raised over £300 for charity. It was a brilliant 'feel-good' event ending with a rousing rendition of 'Shut Up and Dance' and a cry of 'We are Finham Park 2' – enough to bring a tear to your eye with sheer pride.



### **Renaissance - Accelerated Reader and myON**

We have had an absolute bumper round of AR rewards this half term. It is with pride that I hand out every single award as I know that the student has worked so hard in their own time to read and quiz.

I have handed out more awards for reading this half term than at any other time, including 2 of our 'Master Plus' badges for those who have read and quizzed on over 3 million words. What an achievement.

In addition to the success of the reading and rewards programme, our school has been chosen as a success story on the Renaissance website, and our very own school librarian, Mrs Kerr, has been asked to be the guest speaker on Webinars talking about best practice in Literacy strategy. Finham Park 2 will also be hosting an Accelerated Reader roadshow in late March with guest speakers and a chance for professionals to share ideas on improving reading and literacy in both primary and secondary schools.

### **Grow it, Cook it, Eat it**

We really want to say a big thank you to Lakeside for the work that they have put into the school garden. It has meant that the students involved in our innovative after school club have been able to get stuck in and start planting produce to cook and serve in our pop-up restaurant. At the moment we have radishes and peas growing quite nicely in their pots waiting for warmer times before they can be planted out.

We are also pleased to announce that shortly after half term our students will be visiting Michelin starred Hampton Manor for a tour of their garden and cooking facilities before having a talk from renowned Managing Director James Hill. We truly are learning from the best.

## **Forest schools**

The Forest Schools students have been enjoying planning their dens and lighting fires outside when the weather has allowed. They have also taken part in 'The Great British Birdwatch' and some of the class have earned their green Blue Peter badge. Our students shown here are making prototype dens in readiness for constructing the real thing for an evening under the stars.



## **Bebras Challenge**

Problem solving and puzzles are at the heart of Computer Science, and yet it can be difficult as a teacher to find tasks which will stretch the most able while not disenfranchising others in the class.

For many years Finham Park 2 have used the Bebras Challenge (<https://bebras.uk>) as a way to do this in class for KS4 Computer Science and as an extra OOSHL for Year 7 and 8. Bebras exists in many countries around the world, each with their own challenges. Bebras means Beaver in Lithuanian (or so I am told), with the puzzles based around anthropomorphic semi-aquatic rodents with differing levels of difficulty. These levels of questions are reflected in the reward of a correct answer - and the negative of an incorrect one. This too results in differing strategies among students - to answer everything (but maybe lose points) or answer just a few they are most confident in. Solving many puzzles or just a few, all are engaged for the full time and receive a certificate marking their achievement.

Bebras takes place in November each year and takes just an hour of lesson time (or OOSHL), plus preparation and practice time. If you'd like to know more about entering, please get in touch with Mr Rogers.

Bebras also acts as a feeder to the Oxford University Computing Challenge, an annual competition that tests programming as well as problem solving skills. Only the top 1% of students nationally are invited to take part. While we have previously had a few students progress to OUCC, this year we are delighted to have a total of 7 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 entering. They will use a block-based programming language called 'Blockly' to solve the puzzles given to them and compete to reach the final round at Oxford University.

**- Mr Rogers**



## Governor Update

We have now said our goodbyes to Catherine Colby-Johnson as our Chair of Governors and have welcomed Antony Hopker to take on this extremely important role. Once again, on behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank Catherine for all of her support, time and effort over the past 7 years. Antony has been Vice Chair for almost 4 years and has been a governor from when the school opened in 2015.

Antony has lived in the Finham Park 2 catchment area his entire adult life, having studied at the University of Warwick and stayed in Coventry ever since. A communications professional, he worked in the education sector for 15 years and now works for a major energy company based in the Midlands. His parents were teachers and he has two sons, both of whom will be at secondary school by September. He's excited to be taking on this role and looks forward to engaging with you as we revisit our vision for Finham Park 2 as it continues its exciting journey as a school.

## Star Studded Celebration of Success & Year 11 Graduation

This year, with some of the Covid restrictions being lifted, we were proud to host our Star studded celebration of success alongside the Year 11 Graduation at Finham Park 2. Mr Ditch and Mrs Brake, our Deputy Headteachers, presented over 60 students with their certificates and awards for outstanding progress and/or highest attitude to learning in each subject throughout the academic year. Mrs Allton (Assistant Headteacher) presented GCSE certificates and rewards to the Year 11 graduates, many of whom have remained at FP2 and are now thriving in our 6<sup>th</sup> form. Our staff awards were given to Most Supportive member of Teaching staff, Mr James Hunter (Head of Music) and Most Supportive member of Associate staff, Mr Simon Mason (Data Manager) – very well deserved!

Specially thanks go to:

- Our exclusive catering team for the evening, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Cutts, who provided a huge spread of wonderful food for all to enjoy
- Mr Hunter and a number of outstanding performers from FP2: Aspen J, Maroon 4 and Project Echo who provided the evening's entertainment
- Miss Ward and her team who took photographs throughout the evening
- Miss Platt and Mrs Diaz for organising the event

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to our sponsors: SCCU training provider and The Standard Sweet Centre (Coventry). Without your support, the event would not have been so special.

We are so proud of our students at Finham Park 2 and these winners truly deserve this recognition. We are looking forward to the next celebration event for 2021-22 and plans are already underway to make it a night to remember.



## Dol-y-Moch



Students from year 12 Biology and Geography groups visited Plas Dol-y-Moch at the end of January. Despite the chilly weather they had a brilliant time developing their field work skills. The Biologists focused on shoreline environments, exploring the biodiversity of the rocky coast at Borth-y-Gest as well as studying the sand dune ecosystem at Morfa Harlech. They then headed into the ancient oak woodland above the centre to set up their own data collection study.



The Geographers had an equally busy time, spending the first day on the coast at Criccieth studying how humans have used different techniques to manage the coastline and protect the town. They then headed up into the mountains and explored the new World Heritage Site status along the Vale of Ffestiniog. This led them underground into the slate caverns where they developed a better understanding of what life would have been like for the miners.



Even in the evenings the students continued with their work. We were very impressed that even at 9pm in the evening and we had finished the sessions they were still working on the statistical tests and checking that each other understood what to do.

All the students got together on the last morning to have fun canoeing on the river, most of them returning slightly soggy and ready for a hot chocolate and lunch. They were a brilliant group to be with and I know that all the staff that worked with them were impressed by the can do, positive attitude and support for each other.

## Chinese New Year at Finham Park 2

This February, we celebrated the Chinese New Year with decorations and delicious Chinese food served in The Refectory. On February 4th, we had a full school assembly where our students learnt about the Chinese zodiac animals and the customs that take place during this festival. Our students were also encouraged to greet as many people as possible with a "Happy Chinese New Year" in Mandarin.



For our Year 7 Mandarin learning pupils, we had a special off-timetable day, where they took part in various activities to celebrate the year of the tiger. Students prepared and performed a play about the Chinese zodiac animals and made New Year banners with calligraphy paint brushes and ink. This was followed with Tai Qi, playing with Chinese shuttlecocks and singing Happy New Year in Mandarin.

At the end of the day, our Year 7's took home Chinese decorative knots that they made themselves, a traditional red envelope, and the best Mandarin learners of the day took home a pair of Panda chopsticks. Our students immensely enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year at FP2 and are eager to learning about the next Chinese festival.



- Mr Harrison

## Text in a Day

As we've had several students join us during the GCSE course, we have been running our 'Text-in-a-Day' intervention programme. This is for students who need to catch up rapidly in order to access the learning in their English lessons.

Studying 'An Inspector Calls' were thirteen students who spent the first part of the day watching a film version and collecting notes on the main characters and themes, as well as exploring some new vocabulary that will help them to produce fantastic essays. Students were able to use complex vocabulary to describe characters (one student confidently described Gerald as duplicitous, despite never having studied the play before) and justify their choices by referring to the characters' words or actions in the production that we watched.

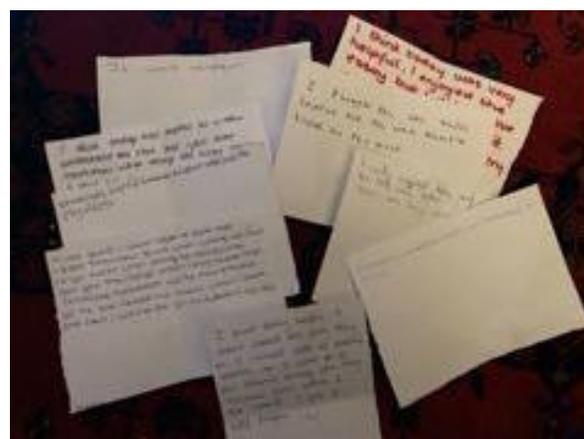
We also used some brilliant resources gratefully borrowed from Stuart Pryke in order to give students knowledge about the central themes of the play as well as set them up with some concrete strategies for independent revision after the workshop. Students were given information about the key themes, which they then highlighted to shorten points and identify the key information. Then, students folded the paper and aimed to re-write the information from memory. When they had written everything they could remember, they were allowed to look back and fill in any gaps or correct any errors with a different coloured pen. Then, students folded again, and repeated, and folded again, and repeated. By the end, all students had significantly increased their amount of knowledge they had about key themes in the play.

Finally, we explored the idea of 'East Essays', a resource we've made in house where we teach students to write an introduction to essays as a three part sentence using AND and BUT. So, for example: Priestley presents all the Birlings as selfish **AND** shows this selfish behaviour to have a big impact on Eva Smith **BUT** he shows that not everybody is willing to change. Then, we used Feel, Imagine, and Think and Because, And, But to encourage students to write detailed comments about the effect of Priestley's methods.

As the final activity, all students involved produced an essay response to an exam-style question under timed conditions. In previous years, students participating in 'Text-in-a-Day' have, on average, achieved two grades higher than previously, so we hope these hardworking students are able to experience the same success this year!

Over the next few weeks, we'll run similar workshops for 'A Christmas Carol', 'Macbeth' and the Unseen Poetry section of the Literature exams.

- Mrs Kidman



## A Message from the DfE

### Information for parents of pupils aged 5 to 17 years old on the vaccination programme

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college, and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full.

We have published some frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19.

Guidance on how to book appointments for children aged 12 years and over is available on the NHS website. Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in a guide published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

## 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](http://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

Monday 28th February	Staff Moderation Day - school closed to students
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Thursday 3rd March	Year 9 Parents' Evening (online)
Friday 18th March	Sports Relief
28th March - 1st April	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Thursday 31st March	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online)
Friday 8th April	Last day of Spring Term

**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 :



[www.finhampark2.co.uk](http://www.finhampark2.co.uk)



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