



Finham Park 2 Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher Update

Date: Friday 4th September 2026



Dates for your diary

	11 th September: School Photos Y7 & Y10
17 th September: Open Evening. School closes 12.30.	21 st -23 rd – New Parent tours
24 th September: Meet the Mentor Evening Y7, Y11, Y12	25 th September: MEP Autumn Festival
1 st October: Sports Day TBC	8 th October: Year 11 Information Evening in EK
12 th -15 th October: Year 10 Army Residential	15 th October: Year 13 UCAS deadline for early entry
23 rd October: INSET day (school closed)	26 th – 30 th October – Half term holiday



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Dear Parent and Carer,

A fabulous start to the new school year

It may have been a short first week, following our staff training day on Monday, but it has certainly been a big one! This week we have welcomed another 180 students into Year 7, as Finham Park 2 continues to grow. We have also seen our Year 12 intake double in size, which is absolutely fantastic and reflects the growing confidence that young people and families have in our school.

Most importantly, our students have been fabulous. It has been lovely to see our older students helping younger students find their way around, answering questions and making them feel welcome. The students I have spoken to have been incredibly positive about their first few days and there has been a really lovely atmosphere around the school. Uniform and equipment have also been excellent. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in getting students ready for the new year, and also for the many positive messages and comments we have received this week. They are genuinely appreciated. There is lots happening over the next few weeks, so please take a moment to look at the Key Dates section at the top of this newsletter and get those important dates into your diary. It has been a fabulous start. Thank you to our students, staff and families for playing your part in it.

Attendance Matters – Every day really does count

If there is one message I would ask every family to take away from this first newsletter, it is this: **Attendance matters.**

We know that attendance has become a significant challenge nationally and Finham Park 2 is not immune from that. But being in school regularly matters so much more than simply collecting attendance marks. It supports friendships and wellbeing. It develops resilience, routine and good habits for adult life. Most obviously, it has an enormous impact on learning.

I often compare missing school to missing episodes of your favourite TV series. Miss one episode and you can probably work out what has happened. Miss another and there are a few gaps. Miss too many and suddenly the characters are discussing things you have never seen, the storyline has moved on and it becomes increasingly difficult to understand what is happening. Learning in school is very similar. Lessons build upon what has been taught previously. Poor attendance – and below 90% is labelled as persistent absence – damages education.

Our own 2026 results give us tangible evidence of just how important this is. Among our Year 11 students whose attendance was below 90%, only around 30% achieved a pass in both English and Maths. The average grade for this group was also below the standard pass grade. 90% as a number sounds high; if it



was a test result, I would be very happy. For attendance, it isn't good enough for an employee and it causes problems for a learner. 90% attendance means missing approximately one day of school every two weeks. Across a school year, that is a considerable amount of lost learning.

It can also be surprisingly easy to reach that point: some illness, perhaps a holiday during term time, a few isolated days here and there when a student might have been able to come in – and suddenly attendance has fallen below 90%. Of course, children do become genuinely unwell and there will be occasions when they simply cannot attend. We understand that. However, unless your child is genuinely too ill to be in school, please get them into school. If they are a little tired, reluctant or simply having one of those mornings, encourage them to come in and allow us to support them once they are here.

Every lesson matters. Every day matters. Attendance matters.

Celebrating the Class of 2026

As we welcome our new students, it is also important that we celebrate the achievements of the young people who completed their GCSEs and A levels with us this summer.

Finham Park 2

Congratulations

— CLASS OF 2026 —

YEAR 11 PROM

YEAR 13 PROM

We are SO PROUD OF YOU!

You smashed it!

Your hard work, determination and resilience have paid off and we couldn't be prouder.
Here's to an amazing future! ☆

At A level, our students achieved an average grade of C. What was particularly pleasing was the progress many students made from their individual starting points and the way in which outcomes improved from the position we had seen earlier in the year. Our students have now moved on to universities, apprenticeships, employment and a whole range of exciting next steps.

At GCSE, there were some excellent outcomes and, more importantly, some wonderful individual success stories. We saw students achieving the very highest grades, students significantly exceeding expectations and others overcoming considerable challenges to secure the qualifications they needed for their next steps.

These results matter because they continue the development of Finham Park 2. We are still a relatively young school, but we are now firmly established within Coventry and demand for places continues to be extremely strong. We are oversubscribed, and the growth of our sixth form this September is another really positive indication of the confidence families have in us. That should not discourage families who would like their child to join us. Circumstances change and places can become available during the school year, so families interested in an in-year transfer should still contact us and apply. Behind every result is a young person, a family who supported them and staff who invested an enormous amount of time in helping them succeed. We are immensely proud of the Class of 2026 and wish them every success for the future.





Finham Park 2

PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

OPEN EVENING

*Discover what makes Finham Park 2
such a very special place*



PLACES
AVAILABLE
180
PER YEAR
GROUP



THURSDAY
17TH SEPTEMBER



5.00 PM – 7.00 PM



Speak to students
of all ages about
their experience
of the school



Tour the school
and see our
fantastic facilities



Meet our teachers
and find out about
our curriculum



Listen to the
Headteacher



Talk to our
admissions team



Finham Park 2
Torrington Avenue
Coventry
CV4 9WT



finhampark2.co.uk



PARKING IS Hugely Limited – Please walk if possible or car share













Our **Open Evening takes place on Thursday 17th September, from 5.00pm until 7.00pm**, and we are really looking forward to welcoming prospective families into Finham Park 2. The evening is primarily aimed at families of children currently in Year 6, although Year 5 families are very welcome too. It is a chance to tour the school, meet our teachers, speak to students from across the school about their experiences, hear from me as Headteacher, speak to our admissions team and get a real feel for what makes Finham Park 2 such a special place. We are delighted that demand for places continues to be so strong and we now admit 180 students into each year group.

Please be aware that, to allow us to prepare properly for the evening, school will close to students at 12.30pm on Thursday 17th September. Students who receive free school meals will be able to collect their lunch items at break before leaving school.

Many of our students are already keen to volunteer as guides for the evening. They are incredibly proud of the school and genuinely are our best advert. Students who would like to take part will receive further information shortly, and we will need parental permission for them to stay and support the event. One final practical point: parking is hugely limited, so if you are attending the evening, please walk if possible or consider car sharing. We are very proud of our school, our students and our community, and we look forward to opening our doors and showing future families what Finham Park 2 is all about.



One simple job that could save you money!

At the beginning of every school year, we inevitably see an increase in lost property as students get used to new routines. Blazers get left in classrooms. Ties disappear. Pencil cases are misplaced. PE kit gets mixed up in changing rooms. We even end up with socks that nobody claims! So, please could every family do one very simple thing this weekend: **Name absolutely everything.**

A permanent marker costs very little and writing your child's name somewhere on the label of every item takes only a few minutes. Please include blazers, trousers and skirts, ties, PE kit, trainers, coats, pencil cases and anything else they regularly bring into school. If something is then mislaid, we have a much better chance of getting it straight back to its owner. School uniform and PE kits are expensive. This tiny bit of organisation can save families a considerable amount of money and hassle – and potentially save students quite a lot of upset too! Thank you for your help.



Smartphone use



Finham Park 2
PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

MOBILE PHONES: NOT SEEN. NOT HEARD.

Helping our students stay focused, safe and ready to succeed.




WHY WE DO THIS

- SAFEGUARDING COMES FIRST**
Mobile phones can pose risks. We keep our school community safe.
- REAL RELATIONSHIPS**
We want students to talk, connect and build strong relationships in real life.
- FOCUS ON LEARNING**
Fewer distractions. Better concentration. Better outcomes.
- DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS**
Communication, teamwork, confidence and resilience are built face to face.
- DITCH THE DISTRACTIONS**
Constant notifications interrupt learning and mental wellbeing.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- ✓ Talk to your child about our mobile phone policy and why it matters.
- ✓ Encourage them to be present, focused and make the most of school life.
- ✓ Support good routines: equipment ready, plenty of sleep, on time.
- ✓ Praise positive choices and the effort they put into their learning.
- ✓ If you have concerns, contact us – we're here to help.

Thank you for working with us to support your child.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PHONE IS SEEN OR HEARD

1



PHONE IS SEEN OR HEARD

During the school day (lessons, movement time, break or lunch).

2



CONFISCATED BY STAFF

A member of staff will confiscate the phone. It will be kept safely and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

3

-3

THREE NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR POINTS

Three negative behaviour points will be given.

+ DETENTION

4



REFLECT & MOVE ON

We help students learn from their choices and get back on track, ready to learn.

REFUSE TO HAND OVER THE PHONE?

THIS IS DEFIANCE.

Another member of staff, usually SLT or a member of the pastoral team, will then deal with this.

The phone will still be confiscated with that more senior member of staff, but it will also result in time in Refocus to consider the choices they've made. Teachers should not be undermined.

REPEAT OFFENCES

IF THAT HAPPENS MORE AND MORE,

further sanctions will be applied.

POSSIBLE SUSPENSION

REPEATED DEFIANCE COULD LEAD TO SUSPENSION.

If defiance continues despite support and sanctions, this could lead to suspension in line with our behaviour policy.



When we put our phones away,

WE OPEN THE DOOR TO SUCCESS.



Finham Park 2
BE PROUD.
BE RESPECTFUL.
BE RESPONSIBLE.

Thank you for your support with our mobile phone expectations. The message to students is simple: phones should not be seen, heard or used during the school day. This is in line with the latest government guidance, which makes clear that schools should be mobile phone-free environments. For us, this is about keeping school calm, safe and focused. It is also about helping students concentrate, talk to each other, build friendships and enjoy school without the constant pull of notifications and social media. We know many families want their child to have a phone for the journey to and from school. We understand that. However, once students come through the school gates, phones need to be away. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and returned at the end of the school day. The incident will be logged on Bromcom, and parents and carers will be able to see this through MCAS. Students will also receive three negative behaviour points and a detention. If a student refuses to hand over their phone, this becomes more serious. At that point, it is no longer just about the phone; it is about refusing to follow a reasonable



instruction from a member of staff. A senior leader or member of the pastoral team will then become involved. The phone will still be confiscated, and the student will spend time in Refocus to reflect on their choices. Repeated incidents or continued refusal to follow the policy may lead to further sanctions, including suspension in line with our behaviour policy.

If your child needs to contact home during the school day, they should speak to reception or a member of the pastoral team. If you need to get an urgent message to your child, please contact the school office and we will help. Thank you for working with us on this. When phones are away, students are more focused, more present and better able to make the most of their time in school.

Catering queues this week

We are aware that the queues for food have been too long this week, and that some students have had to wait longer than we would normally want or expect. School leaders and our catering managers have been looking at this closely. We do have approximately 100 more students in school this academic year than we had last year, and naturally that can add pressure at social times. However, that was not the main issue this week.

Unfortunately, two members of the catering team were unable to come into school, which meant we had to close some of our serving stations. This led to longer queues and increased waiting times. To be clear, there were no restrictions on food access and food was still available. The issue was that students were having to wait longer than we would want. We have addressed this today by securing alternative staffing until further notice. This means that all four of our food serving stations can be open, and waiting times should return to the very good levels we would normally expect.

Thank you for your understanding. The issue has been identified and addressed.

We hope you have all had a good first week back. We are always here to listen and to help. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



Will Keddie
Headteacher BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH.



Attendance Update



Great to Be Back!

There has been a real buzz around school since the start of term, with students enjoying the opportunity to reconnect with friends, meet their teachers, and begin their new learning journeys. Being back at school provides structure, routine, and exciting opportunities to learn new things, take part in clubs and activities, and work towards personal goals. The positive atmosphere around the school has been fantastic to see, with students displaying enthusiasm, resilience, and a readiness to succeed.

Students have commented:

"It's great seeing all my friends again after the holidays. School feels really positive this year."

"I enjoy having a routine and getting back into my lessons. It helps me stay focused."

"I've missed being part of the school community and taking part in activities with my classmates."

"I like having new subjects and challenges to work on. It feels like a fresh start."

We are delighted to welcome everyone back and look forward to a successful year filled with achievement, growth, and memorable experiences for all our students.



Shout out to our new Year 7 students

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 students for their outstanding attendance and punctuality for their first week at FP2.

Your excellent commitment to arriving at school on time and being ready to learn has made a fantastic start to the year. Good attendance and punctuality are key to success, and you have already shown maturity, responsibility, and a positive attitude towards your learning.

We are incredibly proud of the way you have settled into school life and embraced new routines so positively. Keep up the excellent work, Year 7. Your dedication is setting a wonderful example for others to follow!





School term dates 2026-2027

September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Finham Park 2 INSET Days

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027 – MAT Conference

Monday 19th July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Students last day – Friday 16th July 2027

Term time



Holiday



Bank holiday



Weekend



LA set training day

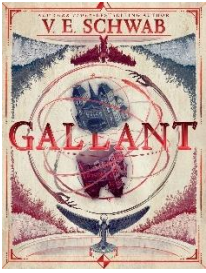


+ 4 set by the school



Book Recommendations for this week

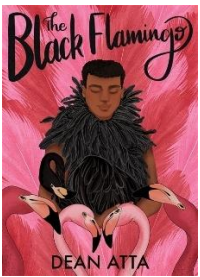
Year 7 + Gallant by V E Schwab



Olivia Prior has grown up in Merilance School for girls, and all she has of her past is her mother's journal—which seems to unravel into madness. Then, a letter invites Olivia to come home—to Gallant. Yet when Olivia arrives, no one is expecting her. But Olivia is not about to leave the first place that feels like home, it doesn't matter if her cousin Matthew is hostile or if she sees half-formed ghouls haunting the hallways.

Olivia knows that Gallant is hiding secrets, and she is determined to uncover them. When she crosses a ruined wall at just the right moment, Olivia finds herself in a place that is Gallant—but not. The manor is crumbling, the ghouls are solid, and a mysterious figure rules over all. Now Olivia sees what has unraveled generations of her family, and where her father may have come from.

Year 9+ The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

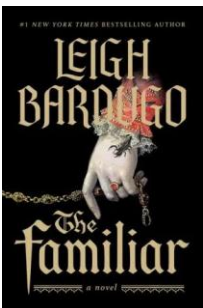


Michael is a mixed-race gay teen growing up in London. All his life, he's navigated what it means to be Greek-Cypriot and Jamaican—but never quite feeling Greek or Black enough.

As he gets older, Michael's coming out is only the start of learning who he is and where he fits in. When he discovers the Drag Society, he finally finds where he belongs—and the Black Flamingo is born.

Told with raw honesty, insight, and lyricism, this debut explores the layers of identity that make us who we are—and allow us to shine.

Staff, Parents & Sixth Form – The Familiar by Leigh Bardugo



In a shabby house, on a shabby street, in the new capital of Madrid, Luzia Cotado uses scraps of magic to get through her days of endless toil as a scullion. But when her scheming mistress discovers the lump of a servant cowering in the kitchen is actually hiding a talent for little miracles, she demands Luzia use those gifts to better the family's social position.

What begins as simple amusement for the bored nobility takes a perilous turn when Luzia garners the notice of Antonio Pérez, the disgraced secretary to Spain's king. Still reeling from the defeat of his armada, the king is desperate for any advantage in the war against England's heretic queen—and Pérez will stop at nothing to regain the king's favor.

Determined to seize this one chance to better her fortunes, Luzia plunges into a world of seers and alchemists, holy men and hucksters, where the line between magic, science, and fraud is never certain. But as her notoriety grows, so does the danger that her Jewish blood will doom her to the Inquisition's wrath. She will have to use every bit of her wit and will to survive—even if that means enlisting the help of Guillén Santangel, an embittered immortal familiar whose own secrets could prove deadly for them both.

