



Finham Park 2 Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher Update

Date: Friday 25th September 2026



Dates for your diary

8 th October: Year 11 Information Evening in EK	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,

The Plester Cup: celebrating a shared legacy

On Tuesday, we took five football teams and four netball teams to Finham Park School for the annual Plester Cup. A huge thank you to the Finham Park PE team for hosting us so warmly. The event is held each year in memory of Russell Plester, the founding Headteacher of Finham Park 2 and a much-valued Deputy Headteacher at Finham Park for many years. Russell's passion for young people, high standards, opportunity and the joy of sport remains deeply woven into the identity of both schools.

The Plester Cup is about far more than the final score. It is an opportunity for students to represent their school with pride, challenge themselves, show respect for opponents and officials, and enjoy the simple joy of sport alongside friends. It is also a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when two fabulous schools work together positively and with a shared sense of purpose.

Our students had a brilliant time and represented Finham Park 2 superbly throughout. The photographs capture the energy, commitment and positive spirit of the day brilliantly.

Thank you to all students, staff, organisers and supporters who made the event such a success. We are proud of every student who took part, and proud to continue celebrating Russell Plester's remarkable contribution to both Finham Park and Finham Park 2. 😊👏🏆🏈



Fantastic Cross-Country success for Olly 🏆🏃

Congratulations to Olly P, who finished an excellent second place in the Key Stage 4 cross country event at Finham Park. This is a fantastic achievement, reflecting real determination, resilience and commitment. Cross country is a demanding event, and Olly represented Finham Park 2 brilliantly throughout. Well done, Olly — we are very proud of you!

Year 11 GCSE Information Evening

Now that they are in Year 11, it is time for students to really “lock in” to the importance of this year. From my experience of many years working with Year 11s – and as a parent of teenage children myself – the earlier students get into good habits, the easier the journey will be and the more likely they are to achieve successful outcomes.

To help with this, we will be holding our Year 11 Information Evening on **Thursday 8th October**. School leaders and key heads of subject will outline the journey ahead, the strategies and expectations we have to support students, and provide key guidance in English, Maths and science. We will also share some top tips for parents to support their child through this challenging but hugely important time.

Thank you again to all parents who attended the recent Meet the Mentor sessions – we hope you found them useful. Further details of the Information Evening will follow, and information will be emailed home directly to Year 11 families.

Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams – starting 3rd November

Our Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations will begin on **Monday 3rd November**. These are a vital part of preparing for the summer exams, giving students the chance to experience exam conditions and test themselves on the content they have been learning.

It is really important that students make a careful note of which papers they are sitting and what content is being assessed. Just as importantly, they should now be developing strong revision habits at home. Practice makes all the difference – students who build good routines during the mocks tend to carry these through to their final exams, which has a huge impact on outcomes. Please support us by encouraging your child to plan their revision, keep to a timetable, and balance work with rest and leisure.

Mock timetables will be released next week, but revision should start now as we only have 5 weeks before they start and the outcomes of this will be an important part of teacher predictions that will go with college and apprenticeship applications in the Spring term. It really matters! If you have any questions about the Year 11 exams, please contact Ms Turner, Deputy Headteacher and Raising Standards Leader, or your child's mentor in the first instance. For Year 13 queries, please contact your child's mentor or Mr Werner, Head of Sixth Form.



Mobile Phones: Not Seen. Not Heard. Not Used.

We are committed to creating a calm, safe and focused learning environment for every student. From this term, mobile phones should be kept away throughout the school day: not seen, not heard and not used.

This approach supports students to concentrate fully in lessons, build positive face-to-face relationships and enjoy their time in school without the distraction of notifications or social media. Where a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and returned at the end of the day, alongside the relevant behaviour sanction.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in helping every student make the most of their education.

**Finham Park 2**
PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

MOBILE PHONES:
NOT SEEN. NOT HEARD. NOT USED.
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.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PHONE IS SEEN OR HEARD

-  **PHONE IS SEEN OR HEARD**
During the school day (lessons, movement time, break or lunch).
-  **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.
-  **THREE NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR POINTS**
Three negative behaviour points will be given.
+
DETENTION
-  **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 **REPEATED OFFENCES WILL LEAD TO FURTHER SANCTIONS.**
If a student continues to make the same choice, further sanctions will be applied.

POSSIBLE SUSPENSION **PERSISTENT DEFIANCE MAY LEAD TO SUSPENSION.**
If defiance continues despite support and sanctions, this could lead to suspension in line with our behaviour policy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

-  Talk to your child about our mobile phone policy and why it matters.
-  Encourage them to focus on learning and enjoying time with friends.
-  Support good routines: equipment ready, enough sleep, on time.
-  Praise positive choices and encourage independence.
-  Work with us so every student can achieve their very best.

**WHEN WE PUT OUR PHONES AWAY,**
WE OPEN THE DOOR TO SUCCESS.
Thank you for supporting us.

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

Introducing new members of staff

At the start of the new academic year, we were delighted to welcome a number of fantastic new colleagues to Finham Park 2.

We have recruited exceptionally well over the summer and are very pleased to have such talented, committed people joining our team. They will make a real contribution to all that we do for our students and wider school community.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing short biographies so that you can get to know some of our new staff. Below is just a small selection, with more introductions to follow in future newsletters.



Mr. Bloxham – Teacher of English



I've been teaching for eleven years, spending most of my career as a secondary English teacher and middle leader. Most recently, however, I spent eighteen months working in primary education as a Year Six teacher. I'm an English Language specialist at GCSE and A Level and particularly enjoy helping students develop confidence in their communication and writing abilities. Outside the classroom, I enjoy bodyweight fitness, swimming and hiking, as well as drawing, painting and visits to the theatre when I get the chance. Thank you for making my first few weeks at Finham Park 2 so welcoming — here's to many more to come! Note to reader: this image is AI on the English display board 😊

Mr. Moss – Teacher of History

I'm Dom Moss. This is my 11th year as a teacher, having previously taught history in Rugby, Slough and West London. I love teaching students about all the moments in history that we can show have a direct impact on their lives and why it is important for them to understand them. I am currently trying to read a book a week this year, and also have a variety of niche and nerdy hobbies that I will bore you to death about given that chance so... apologies!

Mr Veal – Head of History



I'm really excited to be joining Finham Park 2 as your new Head of History. The pupils and the staff have already provided me with a tremendous welcome! I am especially excited for our upcoming lessons with year 7 when we will re-enact the Battle of Hastings on the field!

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Royal Institution Engineering Masterclasses: An Exciting Opportunity for Year 9

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity for Year 9 students with an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The Royal Institution Engineering Masterclasses, delivered by WMG at the University of Warwick in partnership with the Royal Institution, give young people the opportunity to explore the excitement and real-world applications of modern engineering. Sessions are interactive and led by engineers and researchers working in industry and at the forefront of engineering research.

The 2027 programme includes sessions on **crash structures, robotic vehicles, materials science and more, culminating in a mini-masterclass and celebration event**. The sessions will take place on **Saturday mornings between January and March 2027** at the University of Warwick.

This would be a fantastic opportunity for students who enjoy Science, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, Computing or problem-solving — and for anyone curious about how science and technology can be used to tackle real-world challenges.

Places are limited, and registering interest does not guarantee a place. We would strongly encourage interested students and families to find out more and complete the Register Interest form via the [University of Warwick website](#), particularly if they are considering STEM-related subjects or careers in the future.



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THE REFECTORY

WEEK 1 MENU

AUTUMN 2026

MAIN MEAL £2.10

MEAL DEAL £2.89
MAIN + DESSERT + DRINK

Good Food Brighter Days

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN Jerk chicken with rice & beans. VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Caribbean sweet potato curry with rice & beans (VG). 	MAIN Butchers pork sausage with mash potato. VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Veggie sausage with mash potato (VG). 	MAIN Salt & pepper chicken with egg noodles & stir-fry vegetables. VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Vegetable chow mein (V). 	MAIN Chicken tikka & chickpea masala with wholegrain rice. VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Cauliflower & red pepper curry with wholegrain rice (VG). 	MAIN Breaded fish fillet with chunky chips & peas. VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Vegan sausage roll with chunky chips & peas (VG). 

DAILY DESSERT SELECTION

Fresh fruit salad • Muffins • Flapjack




PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Vegetarian (V) • Vegan (VG)

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THE REFECTORY

MORE CHOICES

Good Food Brighter Days

ADDITIONAL FOOD CHOICES	DRINKS
 Daily special £2.10 Chips / wedges £1.63 Chips / wedges & beans £1.94 Jacket potato £1.56 Jacket potato + 1 filling £2.10 Jacket potato + 2 fillings £2.63 Pizza slice £1.42 Spicy chicken burger £2.36 Salad bar £2.10 Sandwich – basic range £1.63 Sandwich of the day £2.15 Tortilla wrap – basic range £1.63 Wrap of the day £2.15 Garlic / naan bread 35p   	Fruit juice carton 47p Small water 47p Capri-Sun 53p Milkshake carton 58p Radnor Fruits Fizz 74p Large water 74p 

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Available alongside our weekly main meals



Key Stage 3 homework explained

HOMEWORK PLANNER

AUTUMN TERM 2026

FINHAM PARK 2

EVERY WEEK
NON-NEGOTIABLE

Complete your weekly SPARX Maths and SPARX Reader tasks set by your teacher.

1 WEEK 1 – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER HOMEWORK

2 WEEK 2 – SUBJECT HOMEWORK

STARTS (MONDAY)

14 th Sept	During week 1, you will be expected to develop the study skills needed to remember more.
28 th Sept	You will complete a focus strategy each week and then have free choice at the end of term.
12 th Oct	The pattern for these weekly study skills sessions is:
2 nd Nov	Monday: English/Languages/Food
16 th Nov	Tuesday: Maths/Art
30 th Nov	Wednesday: Science/Music/Drama
14 th Dec	Thursday: History/PE/RE
	Friday: Geography/DT

FOCUS STRATEGY

- Frayer Model
- Key words & definitions
- Look, Cover, Say, Write, Check
- Flashcards
- Self-quizzing
- Mind Maps
- Retrieval Practice (Your choice)

STARTS (MONDAY)

7 th Sept	Complete subject homework set by your subject teacher and record in your planner for the details.
21 st Sept	
5 th Oct	
19 th Oct	
9 th Nov	This homework links to what you are learning in class.
23 rd Nov	
7 th Dec	Follow the instructions carefully and ask your teacher if you need help.

HOW IT WORKS

WEEK 1 – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER HOMEWORK

Each week, you will complete ONE Knowledge Organiser task per subject using the study strategy shown in the planner.

WEEK 2 – SUBJECT HOMEWORK

- Each week, you will complete subject homework set by your teacher.
- Record the details in your planner.
- This homework links to what you are learning in class.
- Follow the instructions carefully and ask your teacher if you need help.

HOW TO USE THIS PLANNER

Spend up to 20 minutes per subject

- Check your homework diary each day to see which subject you need to complete.
- Spend up to 20 minutes per subject.
- In your exercise book, write the date and subject.
- Complete 1 A4 page of revision per subject.
- Clip flashcards to your homework page.

KEY TO WEEK TYPE

1 Week 1 Knowledge Organiser homework – build knowledge and practise study strategies.

2 Week 2 Subject homework set by your teacher.

★ REMEMBER ★

- Little and often is best.
- Retrieval practice = long term success.
- Use your Knowledge Organisers.
- Your effort today, your success tomorrow.

WEEK 1
STUDY STRATEGIES
YOU WILL USE

FRAYER MODEL
Understand a word deeply by exploring its meaning, features, examples and non-examples.

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS
Learn and understand important terms and what they mean.

LOOK, COVER, SAY, WRITE, CHECK
A step-by-step method to practise and remember information effectively.

FLASHCARDS
Create cards with questions and answers for quick and effective revision.

SELF-QUIZZING
Test yourself regularly to strengthen memory and confidence.

MIND MAPS
Organise information visually and show connections between ideas.

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE (YOUR CHOICE)
Choose the strategy that works best for you to retrieve and remember.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS
 We can apply reasonable adjustments to homework. Please speak to the SEND Hub if this is an issue.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY
 If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's subject teacher.

WORKING TOGETHER
 Your encouragement, routine and support help your child become a confident, independent learner.

THANK YOU
 Thank you for supporting your child's learning journey.

PRIDE ★ RESPECT ★ RESPONSIBILITY

Homework for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 follows a clear two-week cycle. The Autumn Term Homework Planner is included in each student's Knowledge Organiser Pack, alongside the essential subject knowledge they need to secure this term.

During Week 1, students complete Knowledge Organiser homework. The planner identifies the subjects to study each evening and the technique to use. Students should complete this in their dedicated exercise book and bring it to school for their mentor to check and sign.

Each Knowledge Organiser week develops a different study skill. For example, during the week beginning Monday 12th October, students will use Look, Cover, Say, Write, Check in small, manageable sections. In the week beginning Monday 2nd November, they will study the same subjects on the same evenings using flashcards. This will help students build both secure knowledge and effective revision habits for the future.

Guidance videos and QR codes are available in the Knowledge Organiser Pack. During Week 2, teachers will set subject homework more flexibly, recorded in students' planners and linked to current classwork.

Parents and carers can support by regularly checking the Homework Planner and Knowledge Organiser exercise book.

As always, if you need support with any aspect of your child's learning and wellbeing, do not hesitate to contact the school and thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend

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





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									



Attendance Update



Fantastic Start to the Year for Attendance!

We are delighted to celebrate the **fantastic attendance we have seen during the first month of this term**. Thank you to our students, parents and carers for your continued support in making excellent attendance a priority.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance gives students the best possible opportunity to make progress, develop positive learning habits, maintain friendships and feel connected to their school community. This is particularly important as students move through their courses and prepare for future examinations and next steps. Missing even small amounts of school can quickly add up to lost learning.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please remember that, for safeguarding purposes, please report your child's absence as early as possible on **each day they are absent**, preferably **before 8.00am**.

The quickest and easiest way to do this is through the **MCAS app** or **telephoning the main school line and choosing the attendance line**. You will then be able to leave a voice message.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure that our students are safe, in school and ready to learn. Let's keep up the fantastic start!



Key Safeguarding Updates

We would like to share a brief update following the latest **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026** guidance. Safeguarding is most effective when school and families work together, and we value the important role parents and carers play in keeping our young people safe.

Online Safety and AI

Young people spend increasing amounts of time online. Alongside the filtering, monitoring and education provided in school, we encourage families to talk regularly about social media, gaming, online scams, misinformation and harmful content. The increasing use of artificial intelligence also makes it particularly important that young people learn to think critically about what they see and read online.

Attendance and Safeguarding

Good attendance is about more than academic achievement. Changes in attendance can sometimes indicate that a young person is experiencing difficulties, including bullying, poor mental health, exploitation or other safeguarding concerns. We want to work proactively with families to understand and address any barriers to attendance.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Early support can make a significant difference. Our staff are trained to recognise when a student may be struggling and respond appropriately. If you notice changes in your child's mood, behaviour, attendance, friendships, online activity or general wellbeing, please contact us. Our internal mental health provision and Early Help services can provide additional support for students and families.

Working Together and Early Help

One of the strongest safeguarding messages continues to be the importance of identifying concerns early. Schools, families and external agencies work together to provide support before difficulties escalate. **No concern is too small to share.**

How Parents and Carers Can Help

You can support your child's safety and wellbeing by:

- Keeping communication open and talking regularly with your child.
- Discussing online safety, social media, gaming and AI
- Monitoring age-appropriate use of apps and devices.
- Encouraging good attendance and punctuality to school
- Sharing concerns with school as early as possible.
- Seeking support if you are worried about your child's safety, mental health or wellbeing.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. By working together, we can help our young people feel safe, supported and able to thrive.



Book Recommendations for this week

Year 7 + Six Weeks by Matt Goodfellow



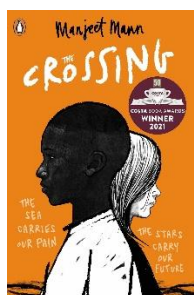
Alfie Piper has six weeks of summer - and nothing left to lose.

Since his mum died, Alfie's world has unravelled. The silence between him and his stepdad roars louder than ever.

So he does the only thing that makes sense: grabs his bike, and rides.

In these long summer days, can Alfie rebuild what was broken?

Year 9+ Crossing by Manjeet Mann

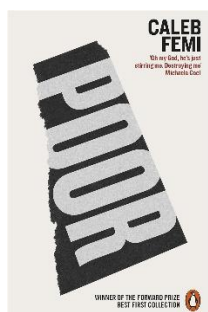


Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge.

Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future.

A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

Staff, Parents & Sixth Form – Poor by Caleb Femi



What is it like to grow up in a place where the same police officer who told your primary school class they were special stops and searches you at 13 because 'you fit the description of a man' - and where it is possible to walk two and a half miles through an estate of 1,444 homes without ever touching the ground?

In *Poor*, Caleb Femi combines poetry and original photography to explore the trials, tribulations, dreams and joys of young Black boys in twenty-first century Peckham. He contemplates the ways in which they are informed by the built environment of concrete walls and gentrifying neighbourhoods that form their stage, writes a coded, near-mythical history of the personalities and sagas of his South London youth, and pays tribute to the rappers and artists who spoke to their lives.

