

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust World Class News

February 2023
Edition 29



Welcome from Mark Bailie

Dear Parents,

Welcome to edition 29 of World Class News.

It does seem a very long time since we were celebrating Christmas and another New Year. I hope you have recovered! In January, our 2023 MAT Conference for all teachers and support staff across the Trust was held at Finham Park 2. Colleagues heard from a range of excellent speakers from the national stage on topics such as 'Responsive Teaching' and curriculum design. All these ideas are then taken back into our schools and used to improve the experience for your child/children. Partly as a result of the reputation we are building for high quality continuing professional development, the schools in our Trust continue to recruit and retain some of the best teachers and support staff in the country.



This half-term has continued to pose challenges at a national level that, if we are not mindful, could create unnecessary divides within our communities in, and outside of school. As just one example; I was very proud of how our schools managed the recent 'strike days' – offering a challenging and delicate balance where both respect for the important issues of the day and supporting educational provision for the most vulnerable children were achieved.

This edition of our newsletter contains some superb contributions from colleagues and a wonderful reflection of the huge range of activities, trips and visits that are being undertaken by our children now we are allowed to travel more freely. These are the experiences that make education special and I would ask you to encourage your child to get involved if they haven't already. Richard Branson once said "If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later." Whilst perhaps not the best advice for budding astronauts, it is certainly fantastic guidance on how to approach life!

And finally... I would like to wish you all a relaxing, enjoyable and happy half-term over the coming week.

Kind regards – Mr Bailie

Mr Bailie
Executive Headteacher
Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Try the Train Trips

Half of Year 8 have now been treated to a day out on the railway courtesy of our working partnership with Heart of England Community Rail Partnership.

Our first group of students were treated to a day out at the Sea Life Centre, Birmingham. The trip, with a joint purpose of introducing students to careers both in the railway and tourism



sector, and learning about marine biology and plastics in the ocean, was phenomenal! Highlights included meeting the penguins and touching starfish in the rock pool experience. Taking the train was fabulous – introducing students to the joys of a sustainable public transport method and we enjoyed seeing the sights of Birmingham too!

Our second group of Year 8 students visited the Think Tank in Birmingham by train. We met at Tile Hill Railway Station and interviewed staff member about their jobs before catching the train to Birmingham New Street. The highlight of the visit had to be the 'Into Orbit' planetarium show – and certainly affirmed the desire of one of the students to become an astronomer in later life.

We are very grateful for our partnership with Heart CRP which has benefitted our students immensely with free workshops, engineering days, careers events and train travel for all!

Commonwealth Games Legacy

We were delighted to host our Commonwealth Games friends from our partner schools at a Christmas sports extravaganza and lunch. Our Sports Leaders did an amazing job of supporting the children from Corpus Christi, Earlsdon Primary, Moseley Primary and Riverbank with sports and arts activities. We were then joined for lunch by the Deputy Mayor and his wife and the students presented on their Commonwealth Games experiences.



We are now starting work on our Paris 2024 journey to the Olympics! We will receive details of our partner schools in France after half term, and then start the work on our contribution towards the opening ceremony! Exciting times!

Siemens Engineering Project

Some of our most talented year nine engineers have been working on a project with Siemens to design and programme a new health care device. The team worked hard together to create a wearable device which alerts emergency services if a fall is detected by an internal movement detector. The engineers from Siemens were incredibly impressed and the team is moving on to the next stage of the competition. In March they will present their product at Siemens UK head office and may even come away with a prize!!

SIEMENS
Healthineers 

Continued work with the BBC

Filming on the school based drama, 'Phoenix Rise' has concluded on the set on Broad Lane. Finham Park 2 students provided 40 supporting artists who were on set during March and December 2022. As well as earning a little pocket money for themselves, the student and staff hard work on the programme has been recognized with a line in the credits and a substantial donation to the drama department's wardrobe and props. Some students have been invited to Media City in Manchester to see the editing process and have a look around the BBC studios.

Phoenix Rise will be aired on the BBC from March 2023.

UNESCO

We are delighted to have been awarded Associate School status by UNESCO in recognition for our peace work within school and the wider local, national, and international community. We have recently learned that Finham Park 2 has been selected to represent the UK at the



UNESCO Peace conference in Japan in September. This is a true honour. We are working on the finer details at the moment including how students (and staff!) will be selected to attend

Lord Mayor's Peace Committee

The work with the Peace Committee continues, and was recently celebrated at tea with the Lord Mayor. Our work has seen us partnered with a school in Kiel with whom we meet virtually and are sharing work on peace in the cities of Kiel and Coventry. 21 visitors from the German school are coming to Coventry in June to experience English hospitality, education, and explore the sights.



Guide Dog News

Welcome to our 3rd Guide Dog Puppy in school – Bigoda! Bigoda is a retriever/Labrador cross and can be found in the library, careers office, or Sixth Form at various times during the school day. Bigoda will be with us for about a year before he goes on to further Guide Dog training.

Our previous puppies, Alan and Cici, both continue to be life changers supporting visually impaired individuals in Nottingham and Birmingham respectively.





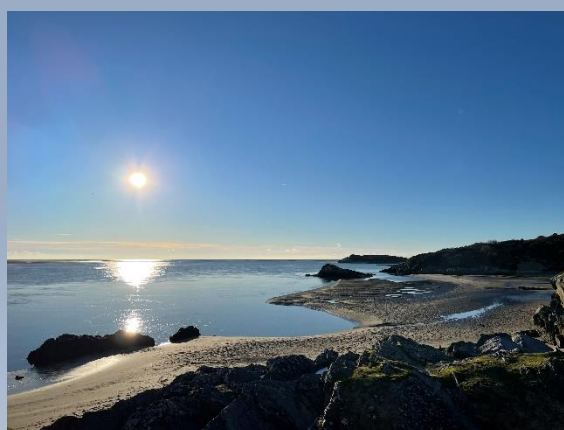
Pearl Hyde - Year 6 Residential to Plas Dol-Y-Moch

As the excitement built and final preparations were being made, an unexpected phone call led to a last-minute change. The extreme weather added a slight delay to the start of our trip. Heavy snow was falling in North Wales and it was not safe for us to arrive in the dark as planned. Frantic phone calls between school and the centre meant we would leave earlier the following day, Sunday 11th December and arrive at Plas Dol-Y-Moch, just after lunchtime.

The scenic journey was made even more majestic with snow on the hilltops and sparkling frost covering the ground. With thermals and fleece lined clothes packed, excitement grew as we travelled closer to our destination. On arrival, the children made their beds and got kitted out, ready for the next two days of activities.



The first morning we woke up to clear blue skies, bright sunshine and icy temperatures. The views that day were simply stunning for all groups. Two groups spent the day on the mountain and the other two groups did orienteering and spent some time on the beach, scrambling over rocks and of course eating ice cream, even when the temperature was -5!!



The following day we switched. Climbing a mountain with snow and ice on the ground is beautiful but incredibly challenging. The children learnt how to keep themselves on their feet by looking at the ice in different forms - some were far more successful than others!



Of course, no trip to Dol-Y-Moch is complete without taking on the Labyrinth or the infamous night line. As the last school to visit in 2022, our trip was celebrated as we enjoyed a Christmas Dinner on our final night. The children showed great resilience, respect and teamwork during an unusually cold snap. As ever, all adults that went on this residential were extremely proud of all of our children.



Kelly Briggs



In Autumn term 2, the children in year four learnt about volcanic eruptions. A valuable lesson learnt was that during science not all experiments happen first time of trying. Before the actual event of eruption, the children had to construct a volcano using recycled materials. These consisted of a 2L plastic bottle, an empty cardboard box, unwanted paper from the classroom scrap paper drawer, glue, masking tape and paint.

Creating the volcano started with the children attaching the bottle to a cardboard base. Next, they had to scrunch up paper to surround the bottle. Once this had been done, lengths of masking tape were used, attaching them from the neck of the bottle coming out at an angle onto the cardboard base to create a tent like shape. Now, the children were to attach strips of recycled paper to cover the tent like shape (the actual volcano,) creating a stable base to be painted once the structure had dried out.



Ingredients that had to be used to recreate a volcanic eruption were:

1. vinegar
2. bicarbonate of soda
3. washing up liquid
4. warm water
5. food colouring (optional, but does create a fantastic colourful flow of lava.)

After drying out and collating all the ingredients the science could begin! First the washing up liquid was added to the empty vessel which acted as the inner of the volcano, followed by the vinegar as it malted or white. The optional ingredient of food colouring would now be added. The final ingredients of bicarbonate of soda and warm water were combined together, then poured into the top of the volcano. At this point the combination of all ingredients reacting with one another created a volcanic eruption.

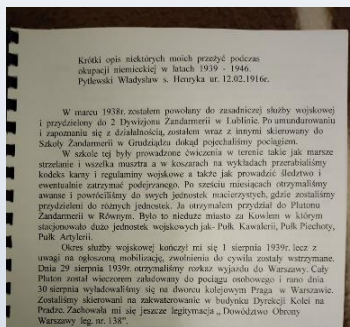
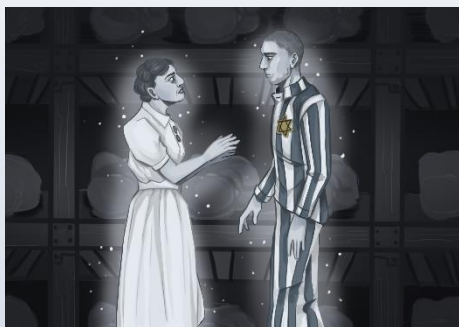
Mrs Brooks-Keith
Finham Primary School

Finham Primary

Celebrating our work on Ancient Egypt.

In year 3 over the last term, we have looked in depth at Ancient Egypt. We held an Egyptian workshop which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The children completed a range of activities from mummifying tomatoes, where the children had to scoop out the insides and embalm the remains with salt. We also held an Egyptian escape room where the children had to decode hieroglyphics and answer questions around Ancient Egypt. Children had mummy races to see who would wrap a mummy in the fastest time. Near the end of the day the children participated in Egypt's got talent and we were fascinated by how much talent these year 3 Egyptians had. The children have loved learning about Ancient Egypt and this topic has definitely been a firm favourite.





Holocaust Trust Beacon School 2023

Finham Park is proud to be a beacon school for Holocaust Memorial Trust in 2023. Led by Mrs Griffiths, students have produced some wonderful artwork on the theme of holocaust. Filip Pcion in year 9 has translated the diary of his great great grandfather and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Pytlewski which has never before been shared. Filip was then recorded by our film department reading some of the passages and appeared on local radio CWR on Holocaust Memorial Day to speak about this incredible experience. You can see Filip reading passages here: <https://t.co/FN0Hal85tW>



Wladyslaw Pytlewski



Filip on the Vic Minett show



Filip recording his great grandfather's testimony

Post 16 Football Team

Well done to our fully student led sixth form team who organised and played their first game this half term against Coundon Court. As for the score, let's just say it was the taking part that mattered most! Bring on the next match.....





An amazing experience for media and film students on a visit to Harry Potter Studios asking questions to Art Director Gary Tomkins.



FPS came first in the Whittle category for the Go Parks school's challenge!

Awesome Annie (Jnr!)

Below are a few photos from our drama department's wonderful production of Annie Jnr which took place at the end of last term. This was sold out every night and gained rave reviews from audiences.



And we're done!



Coming back after Christmas is always a shock to the system for us as it's the Drama departments busiest time of the year! Since returning, we have completed all of our practical exams for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13!

The students have been so resilient throughout their exam period and shown such a conscientious attitude.

We started with Year 11 and 13's



Component 2; a Scripted performance. Year 11 performed monologues and duologues from poignant and mature plays like, *Things I Know To Be True*, *5 Kinds of Silence* and *4:48 Psychosis*. The cheers heard from the Theatre after each one was inspiring! Year 13 had the mammoth task of a 40-minute group performance followed by contrasting monologues. Their plays



were *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found*

and *Girls Like That*. The former being about a man who chooses to go missing and the latter a timeless piece about growing up and the pains of school.

Year 10 and 12 then finished the exam period with their Component 2 Exams;

Devised performances. Year 10 reflected on their stimuli and developed pieces on mental health, the dangers of



the digital age and the pressure that society places

on women- especially women of colour.

Year 12 out did themselves once again by focusing their performances on the concept of freedom with their aims being 'Power wielded in the wrong direction can have dangerous consequences' and 'Is freedom a right, or do we have to fight for it'.



As a department, this time of year always seems so physically and emotionally demanding; but as soon as we sit to watch their final exam performances, it really is worth it.

Finham Drama Department
Mrs Spokes and Ms Bartlett



Artsmark for Meadow Park School

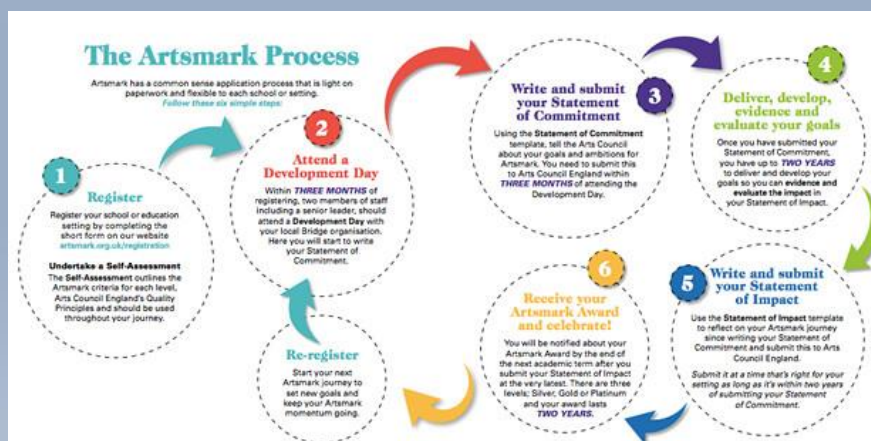
We are very proud to announce that Meadow Park School has been awarded a gold award from Artsmark.



Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. They support settings to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education for all children and young people.

In our feedback, the assessor said: *"Pupils have a wide range of opportunities to celebrate their work and collaborate with a range of professional artists."*

The journey to Artsmark started before the Covid-19 pandemic. Firstly, we submitted our proposal then over the past three years the Art and Technology team have worked tirelessly to develop the arts across the school. The whole school has been a part of the journey to give our students cultural enrichment and experiences which helps to broaden our students' horizons.



Trip to the Tate Modern & Tate Britain



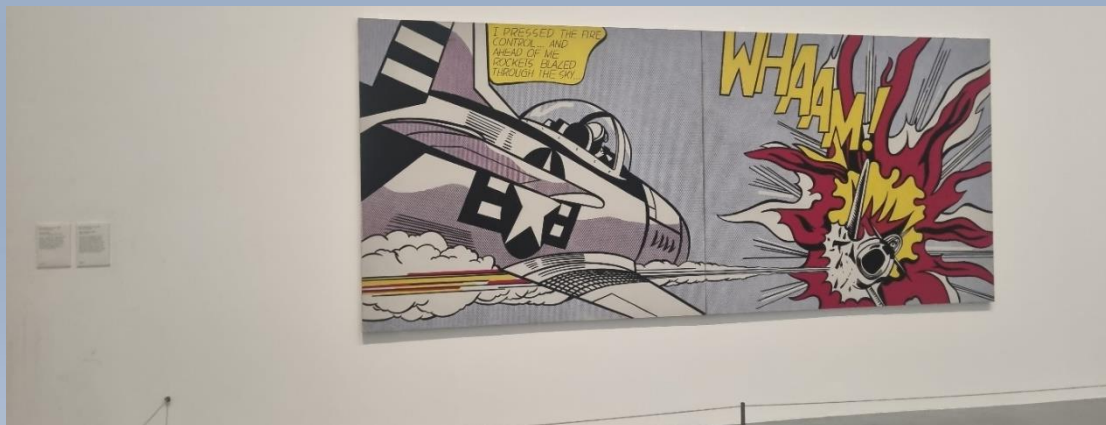
On Wednesday 11th January 2023, Art and Photography students from Year 9, 10 and 11 at Meadow Park School travelled to London to visit the Tate Britain and Tate Modern. Students were able to look around both galleries in small groups and whilst perusing, students had small tasks to complete and most took their time to sit and sketch different works of Art.

London was a perfect opportunity for the students to also think about the Young Rotary Photography Competition. The theme this year 'The Beauty of Architecture' fitted in perfectly with the trip to London.

This trip was an invaluable experience for the students as it coincides with the start of the preparation for the GCSE exam for Year 11 and the start of the Art and Photography GCSE course for Year 10. Year 9 students were able to experience what the course entails and also speak to the older students about the course ready for their choices.

Students were able to see first-hand, many great art works such as David Hockney and Bridget Riley with more modern works in the Tate Modern. Although upon asking the students which gallery they preferred it did seem that most preferred the Tate Britain and the old masters!

During the course of the day the students were well-mannered, well-behaved and positive role models for Meadow Park School. This was also evident on the coach back when it did take us an hour to move 3 miles! Miss Smith, Miss Noble, Mrs Stones and Mr Harris are very proud of them for using this opportunity to further their creative knowledge and broaden their outlooks on the world of Art.



Outdoor Learning

RSPB - Wild Challenge

Year 7 Foundation



What is the Wild challenge?

This award scheme is all about supporting school-based learning. It enables pupils to apply curriculum knowledge and skills, as well as to develop their resilience and sense of agency through outdoor learning.

There are 24 activities to choose from, each helping children to connect with and learn about nature.



Bird feeders

One of the activities which the year 7's got involved with was to create fat balls for birds using lard, bird seed, sticks and string. Students got stuck into this activity by mixing the lard and bird seed by hand before squeezing the mixture onto a stick with string attached and leaving them to set. We then made a visit to the school pond and outdoor classroom to hang our fantastic bird feeders. We had lots remaining which were placed down in the woodland space.





Year 8 Foundation



Habitats

Year 8 students got involved by looking at ways we can create habitats for insects and birds. Students created bird homes using recycled materials and bug hotels with old bamboo canes, elastic bands and string. These amazing homes have all been placed by the school pond and already have birds making it their home.





Student Leadership

Lillington appointed head/deputy head girls and boys at the start of the spring term. The new roles were created to ensure that pupil voice is represented in key decisions and developments within Lillington Nursery and Primary School. It was encouraging to see so many children apply, but as there were so many applicants, deciding who to appoint was challenging. After sending in application letters, ten children got shortlisted and then had to participate in a range of tasks. First up was to give Mrs Wallace and Mrs O'Toole a tour of the school. The second task was to lead a school council meeting linked to lunchtime provision or recycling. The adults involved with the letters, tours and school council meetings then decided who the best applicants were.

Head girl: Gina

Head boy: Tommy

Deputy head girl: Penny

Deputy head boy: Connor

We're already seeing positive results from the new team as they have organised class votes to choose two school council representatives for each class. They've got a huge number of ideas to try and make the school even better.



Stargazers

The majority of year 5 children attended the overnight Stargazers Campout at Lillington Nursery and Primary School on Thursday 2nd February. They all arrived back at school at 7pm – some with enough luggage for a month-long holiday – to start the stargazing activities.

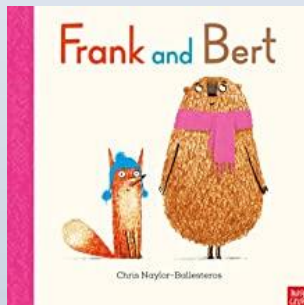
Initially, the children used telescopes to have a look at the moon, the visible planets and stars. Unfortunately, it was slightly cloudy so it was a bit tricky to get a good view of the stars. Resilience was shown and the children patiently waited for a chance to get a good view of the moon. Once the telescope action was over, the children had burgers and hot dogs before roasting marshmallows on an open fire.

After eating all the marshmallows, the children watched some clips from the Planets documentary on the BBC iPlayer. It was then bedtime so the children had a quick story with the teacher before taking 2/3 hours to go to sleep. Hopefully the event inspired a future astronomer. If not, it was fun to stay in the school overnight and for the children to spend time doing some different activities.



Recommended Reads

With so many books being published each month it can be difficult to keep up with the latest releases. Here are a few of the latest publications to look out for.



Frank and Bert – Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

A gorgeous story about being a good friend and supporting each other's happiness. Perfect for an assembly or a large group. These Nosy Crow picture books come with a 'Stories Aloud' audio recording - just scan the QR code and listen along!

The Three Billy Goats Gruff – Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen

A fabulous reworked traditional tale with gorgeous illustrations and hilarious detail. A troll bites off more than he can chew when a trio of billy goats cross his bridge.



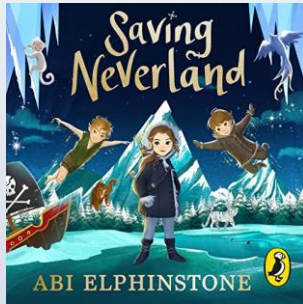
The Kindest Red – Ibtihaj Muhammad

The highly anticipated sequel to the stunningly beautiful 'The Proudest Blue' explores sisterhood and kindness. When Faizah's teacher asks her class to imagine what kind of world they want to live in. Faizah wants a kind world, a world where kindness passes from on to another

Pick A Story – Sarah Coyle and Adam Walker-Parker

This is the second book in a brilliant new series of 'pick your own' picture book adventures! Discover three fun filled worlds, dinosaurs, robots or unicorns in this Pick a Story adventure which has multiple endings. It's up to you to decide!



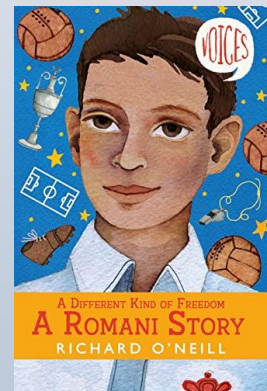


Saving Neverland – Abi Elphinstone

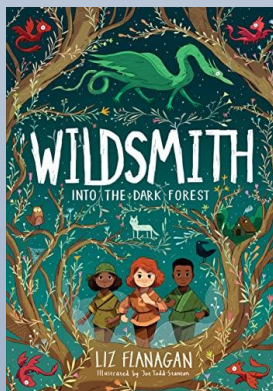
Saving Neverland is a wintry adventure story set in the well-known world of Peter Pan. We return to the magical world of Neverland with 10-year-old Martha and her brother Scruff where they meet Peter Pan and his Lost Kids. Together they must save Neverland from a terrible curse cast long ago by Captain Hook.

A Romani Story – Richard O'Neil

A gripping football-filled adventure based in the Romani community of 19th-century Sheffield. This action-packed story is told through the eyes of young Lijah, as he navigates life and discovers football and the legendary Rab Howell.



Wildsmith: Into the dark forest – Liz Flanagan



Following on from the fabulous Dragon Daughter books, Wildsmith is the first in a new series by Liz Flanagan. When war threatens her beloved city, Rowan and her mother must flee to the Dark Forest, meeting Grandpa and his white wolf Arto for the first time. Though she misses her father, Rowan makes new friends – including a powerful trio of witches. When she rescues a baby dragon from poachers, she discovers the secret of her own identity: Rowan is a Wildsmith! Fostering a whole clutch of dragons, the summer speeds by. But when danger threatens, Rowan and he Grandpa must call on their friends for help.

The Detention Detectives – Lis Jardine

A fantastic new murder mystery. Imagine finding a dead body when starting a new school ... Not exactly the best start to a new life but Jonno is convinced that by getting involved in the case it will convince his Mum that moving schools was a big mistake. Joined by Lydia and Daniel, the misfits are determined to solve the case.



Emma O'Toole
Primary Support and Innovation Leader