



29 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: 'Your children are amazing' (February 2024)**

I have the privilege of hearing lots of good news stories from parents and staff as Headteacher. Just this week someone raised money for the Myton Hospice charity by swimming 156 lengths and one of our national athletes carried our designed 'Flame of Friendship' from Coventry Cathedral to the first Coventry primary school as it sets off around the city up to the Olympics. So humbled by so many achievements of our young people!

With the half terms in the Spring term being so short, a lot has to be packed in to the five short weeks in the busy life of our school community. Staff continue to provide students with excellent learning opportunities both within and outside of the classroom setting. Three educational visits took place over half term.

- Our Sixth Form students have had the amazing opportunity to spend 5 great days in Andalucia, in the south of Spain, where they put their Spanish skills into practice in a range of fantastic contexts that they don't get in the classroom! Students met their pen-pals in our partner school in Cadiz and they visited the beautiful cities of Malaga and Cordoba. Staff reported that it had been a pleasure to see them improving their level and confidence in the language by attending lessons with their Spanish friends, trying traditional food like tapas and experiencing the culture firsthand by watching a flamenco show. It was a real joy to see them getting out of their comfort zones and being the absolute best version of themselves during this enriching experience.
- Some students also went to Paris on an Art trip. They were impeccable having visited a large amount of significant venues in Paris, including the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay, The Musee de l'Orangerie, The Je De Paume Museum, the Musee Rodin and the Pompidou Centre. They also enjoyed a boat trip on the River Seine, a street art tour in Menilmontant in the East of the City and spent time at the Eiffel Tower, The Sacre-Coeur and Montmartre.
- 61 students from Years 8 to 13 had an amazing time skiing over the half term in Austria, Nassfeld. Throughout the trip the hotel staff and ski instructors commented how well behaved our students were. All students showed great teamwork and perseverance. The next Ski trip will be launched in October, to run in February half term 2026 to the same resort.

We achieved a national award this week, in recognition of being in the top 25% of schools for attendance. Thanks to the strong partnership between families, school and pupils we have started to see dramatic improvements in attendance and engagement, improving from 90.4% to 93.3% with persistent absence dropping to 15.9% from 23.7% over the course of the year. Thank you.

In PE lessons last week, our students were exposed to a total of 23 different sport and recreation activities including Tchoukball, dance, boxercise, volleyball, gymnastics, fitness suite, hockey, basketball, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, handball, lacrosse, Yoga, stretch & mobility, mindfulness, first aid, sports leadership & Gaelic football.

I passionately believe in our comprehensive education system as it is vital that all young people get access to the very best start in life and experiences, irrespective of those barriers that might limit their ability to engage. Over 67% of our students have already taken part in at least one of the 60 Out Of School Hours Learning opportunities, with both our EAL and SEND students being overrepresented to give every student the chance to have the time of their lives whilst at Finham Park School. This forms a crucial element of our World Class Guarantee which we launched to students at the end of 2023.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop (Headteacher)

Finham Park School  
Green Lane  
Coventry, CV3 6EA

Tel: 024 7641 8135

Email: [headteacher@finhampark.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@finhampark.co.uk)

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

Headteacher: Chris Bishop

Chair of Governors: Anne Brennan



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