



22 May 2026

Dear parents/carers

Exam season is well under way, and it has been great to hear daily positive reports from students as they have come out of their examinations. The focus from our young people has been excellent, and I am also grateful to so many staff for giving up their time providing additional masterclasses, and to our sixth form team for creating a quiet study space for our Year 13s. I know our students will be busy revising during the holiday, but also hope that time is set aside for rest. The long holiday is not far off!

We have received our draft report from David Rzeznik, a school improvement advisor who has been commissioned by Finham Park Multi Academy Trust (FPMAT). He identified many areas of strength. These include a strong sense of belonging from staff and students, the strategies in place to support independent learning, especially in our sixth form, and the extensive links that we have to so many groups and organisations in the local and wider community. Our key target for improvement is to better communicate with parents and carers the curriculum and assessment expectations in every subject, and to equip our students in Years 7-9 with a deeper understanding of how to learn. This is a known priority and something we are looking to make significant headway on next term in the time created by our Year 13 and 11 students leaving.

Behind the scenes we have been working hard on reviewing and developing the curriculum for next year. Alongside the changes for our current Year 8 and 9 students, we are also looking at providing further provision for our highest need students across all year groups. Planning is underway in response to the new SEND white paper, and we will be updating parents on this work in due course. Work will start after the half on the new school timetable, and we are pleased to be fully staffed across all subject specialisms.

Over the last few weeks, we have confirmed a number of changes in our leadership team as colleagues through retirement or promotion. Mrs Hurton has been promoted to the role of Director of SEND allowing a smooth transition following the retirement of Ms Kovacs. Ms Ford has secured a central role in the FPMAT as Secondary Education Development Lead, a role she will start following her return from maternity in July. Mr Pickerill has been promoted to the role of Assistant Headteacher to replace Ms Ford and this will create much needed capacity within our team, particularly on the academic side of the school (curriculum, assessment, data, interventions, reports etc.) Mr Baker has been promoted to Director of Mathematics to backfill for Mr Pickerill. Mr Belham, Operations Manager has also been promoted to a Head of Estates role within the FPMAT with his replacement starting with us in September. I feel privileged to work with such an experienced and skilled group of leaders who go above and beyond to support our students, staff and wider community.



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As always, there is so much going on at the school- far more than I can do justice to here. Highlights from this half term include the 100+ students who auditioned for our next School Production – We Will Rock You, the Trip to Hamburg and Kiel that is currently underway, the filming for the Film in a Year project that took place during the Easter holiday, the many sports fixtures that have been taking place across our summer sports, the performance of our Year 7/8 students in the Junior Maths Challenge (4 students have progressed to the Kangaroo round), and the ongoing Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. I am so grateful to our hardworking staff for providing such a wealth of opportunities, and to you as parents/carers for all the support you put in place to allow your children to take part. Please also check out our news articles which are being updated more regularly on our website ([Finham Park School - News](#)). It remains a personal goal to try and make best use of this space.

Next half term will offer some of the favourite community events, now firmly established in our calendar. Our annual China Trip, Finham Sports Day and FinhamFest. Alongside this, we are in the final stages of confirming the students who will be recognised in our first Finham Flame celebration event. On 1 July 2026, we will welcome in our new cohort of Year 7 students, and we look forward to meeting the newest members of the Finham Park community soon. There is much to be thankful for and to look forward to.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful (and warm!) May holiday.

Kind regards

Mr D Bedford
Headteacher



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