

# EXCEL

aspiration • empowerment • excellence



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The Newsletter of  
Flixton Girls School

## EXAM EXCELLENCE 2015



Students at Flixton Girls School have again achieved excellent examination results reflecting a solid reputation for delivering high quality education. Exam results have improved year on year for 8 years under the leadership of Headteacher Julie Hazeldine who said, "I am extremely impressed with the girls achievements this year and of the massive improvements the staff and Governors have secured providing our local community with a school they are proud of. It's a shame we have had to turn people away for entry for this September as we are now oversubscribed."

These results are not a 'flash in the pan', they have been consistently high at well over 70% 5 or more A\* to C grades including English and Maths for several years. In the top 10% of schools in the North West, FGS has again delivered results way in excess of the national average, building on previous records and securing its place as one of the top performing schools in the region including Trafford, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington.

The vast majority of girls at FGS will go on to study A levels with many joining their own recently opened 6th Form. For information on enrolment to Sixth Form please contact the school. For admissions to year 7 in September 2016 why not attend the Open Evening on Thursday 24th September and/or visit the website: [www.flixtongirls.com](http://www.flixtongirls.com)

## NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our Head Girl and leadership team for the academic year 2015/2016.

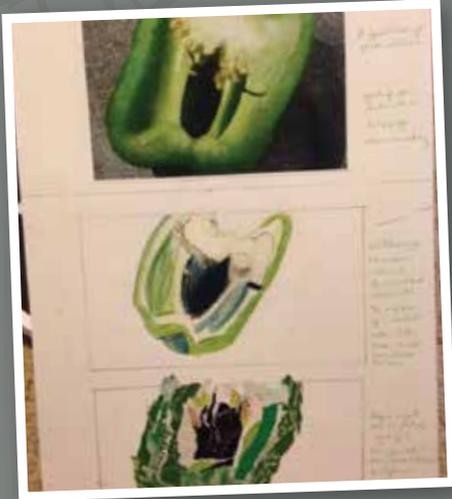
Sandeep Kaur takes the role of Head Girl, following a rigorous application process with 21 other fantastic

applicants. Well done, Sandeep! She will be supported by Deputy Head Girls Lian McCall and Kathryn Stephenson, who will in turn have the backup of a junior leadership team.

Headteacher Julie Hazeldine says, "Huge congratulations to Sandeep, Lian and Kathryn, who were up against many other girls of extremely high calibres. We are very thorough in our Head Girl team appointment process and all the applicants were fantastic, but these three really shone."



## CREATE FACULTY



### A healthy approach

Healthy eating is always a priority at FGS and the girls in Year 7 have created some fabulous observational drawings of healthy meals with truly creative packaging. Watch out, Waitrose!

### Comic timing

Design was also key for our Year 8's thanks to a visit from Paul Pickford, a comic strip style artist. He came into school and ran a workshop which captivated the students and helped encourage them in all their projects.

### STEM workshops

As well as art and creativity, STEM is always at the forefront of our minds and our staff took part in a series of workshops which inspired them

to engage the students in STEM projects, such as mechanical engineering. We're really looking forward to next year! Watch this space for SMART fabrics and new technologies!!



### Creativity is key...

Our craft club this year has been a huge success encouraging students of all ages and abilities. In addition, the Create faculty took on the challenge of fund raising for Red Nose Day which included 'make your face funny for money' keyrings and a staff vs students bake off. It was a great opportunity to showcase the students' creativity and most importantly to raise money for a great cause.

A huge well done to our outstanding catering team, who again have been showcasing their talents across events in the school calendar. In particular the canapés produced for the TAG evening were spectacular and the catering provided for the Summer Concert was a perfect finale to a tasty year.

### Fantastic trips!

Year 10 students took our new Cannon Digital SLR cameras to work when they visited the Emily Allchurch exhibition held at the Manchester Art Gallery. Being inspired by this they then went out around Manchester creating work reflecting her style. They will be developing the results on Photoshop for their final GCSE project.

The past was the focus meanwhile for some other year 10 students who visited Blisits Hill, a Victorian open air museum. There they engaged in Victorian life, gathering research through observational drawing, interviewing, creating rubbings and taking photographs. This provided historic inspiration for their GCSE coursework.

A wonderful opportunity for our students came in the form of a visit to the Lee Hanson workshop, held at Manchester Craft Centre. Lee Hanson is a ceramic artist specialising in tiles. Once they understood the process, a group of students went into Manchester to collect photographs for inspiration, ready to create their own piece of Graphics work.



Food was on the menu for Year 9, thanks to Big Buffet where the students had the opportunity to use the professional kitchen at Trafford College. They cooked a buffet style feast for their parents to enjoy and some students enjoyed it so much they signed themselves up for the prestigious junior chef academy! Masterchef, here we come!

## COLLABORATE FACULTY

### Molto Benne!

Over the May half term Miss O'Hara, Miss Johnston, Mrs Trussell and Mrs Hazeldine took thirty Year 10 girls to Rome as part of the Classics course.

The visit took in the world famous sights of the Vatican including the Sistine Chapel and St Paul's Basilica, as well as the amazing ancient city. The girls enjoyed perusing the Roman Forum and seeing the remains of temples, political buildings and monuments. A real highlight was visiting the magnificent Colosseum and indulging in Italian lifestyle first hand: eating pizza, pasta and ice-cream!



## COMMUNICATE FACULTY



### MFL / Maths Roadshow

Our mathematics and language skills have been combined at the MFL and Maths roadshow, where students needed to solve interactive Maths problems with instructions in French, German and Spanish. Tout un défi!

### Viva Languages

30 students went to University of Manchester recently to learn about the value of languages for their future. They listened to a presentation about languages in the workplace, and with the help of some undergraduates, created and acted out sketches in French and Spanish. It was a great day for all involved.

### Student Links Programme

We've been delighted to welcome 11 students from Spain for 4 weeks as part of the Student Links Programme. They had the opportunity to live life as a Flixton student, living with our student hosts and attending lessons each day. The students were happy to help in the MFL department and worked with our Year 9 and 10 Spanish groups in preparation for the demands of GCSE. We miss them already!

### Expansion of the MFL department

We are very excited to announce that from September 2015 the department will also be delivering German, as well as French and Spanish. This will involve all of Key Stage 3 initially. Hopefully the girls will get the opportunity to visit Germany towards the end of the academic year, which will be a great trip to plan alongside our trip to Northern France in December.

### Parents and daughters into languages

We welcomed families to school earlier this year for a session on foreign cultures and languages. It was a real success and we are pleased to announce that this will take place again this academic year. Watch this space for more news.

### New curriculum

Our Year 9 students have made a start on the new GCSE Curriculum. They are the first year group to experience the changes! They have been studying Romeo and Juliet as a little taster of the exciting things to come in Year 10.

### Help is at hand

We have a GCSE expert tutor who has been working with a group of 60 Year 9 girls to make sure they are GCSE ready and equipped with all the skills needed to continue the exceptional results enjoyed by the English Department in recent years.

### Pen to paper

Our Creative Writing Club is proving very popular and we are proud to see some real talent emerge. Some exceptional pieces have been brought to life by girls in Y8 and 9; so a round of applause must go to Sadie Telfor, Zoë Hodson, Ella Crean, Anzaal Aslam, Eve Gerrard, Bethany Daniels, Charlotte Pears and Rabia Tanweer.

## INVESTIGATE FACULTY



### Maths Challenge

It's been a groundbreaking year in Maths with more girls than ever taking part in the Junior, Intermediate or Team Maths Challenges. We have received three gold awards, five silver awards and 13 bronze awards. Anastazia Gordziejewicz in Year 10 achieved the highest result in the school on the Intermediate challenge, gaining a silver award and in Year 7 and 8 Lana Walker, Nybha Miah and Abbie Barnard all achieved gold awards which is amazing!

In the summer term of this year, Maegan Bradley, Farah Kaye, Ellena Wood and Tia Robyn-Sharpie represented the school at the Regional Finals for the Team Maths Challenge. The girls went to Manchester Grammar School for the day to compete against 40 other schools and were put to the test completing lots of challenging problems and puzzles as a team and against the clock. Well done girls!

They have all worked hard preparing themselves and have all done extremely well and a hearty round of applause goes to everyone who took part.

### Science

The Solar Eclipse was a major news event earlier this year and the girls at FGS did not miss out, watching the solar eclipse with glasses obtained by Mr. Horridge. Thanks, Sir!

In addition, we've had a fantastic trip to the famous Jodrell Bank Observatory and been enjoying lots of biological dissections in Science Club!



## PARTICIPATE FACULTY



### Fitness Friday

Fitness Friday continues to be as popular as ever with girls and staff taking part in a range of different activities and challenges led by Lynn our fantastic Friday coach! This groundbreaking initiative has really grabbed the attention of sporting organisations, the national press but most importantly, our students. Well done and thanks to all who are involved! #FitnessFriday



### Duke of Edinburgh

We have had 36 girls completing the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award this term. Firstly on practice around the Dunham Massey area in May and then on their final assessed expedition in the Rivington area in June. Congratulations to all girls who passed with flying colours! We have also received a new accreditation, allowing us to run all of our own programmes in-house, so watch this space for more developments in this area!

### Fixtures

FGS continue to enter as many competitions we can. We organise and host the Trafford athletics meet and take part in all the Summer Rounders fixtures and competitions. Rounders continues to be one of the girl's favourite clubs and teams and this year and we are proud to say that we have achieved some amazing results. Our Year 7 team have made it through to the league finals, where they will face tough opposition but we believe they are on fantastic form and will do very well.

### Trafford Champions!!!!

Our Year 8 Rounders team became the Trafford Champions which is an outstanding achievement. They

played 6 league games undefeated, making it through to the final in style. The PE department are so proud of the girls and cannot wait for next year when we will be trying to retain our title. Go, FGS!!



In June, we hosted the annual Trafford athletics competition at Longford Park. Students from Years 8-10 represented 11 schools from across the borough in a variety of athletic disciplines. The girls were excellent role models and it was fantastic to see an abundance of talent on the track and field. We are really proud that we took over 40 athletes which was the biggest team at the event! Year 8 finished in 5th position, Year 9 in 5th position and Year 10 in 4th position. Well done girls!



### A Sporting Awards Evening

We welcomed some high profile guests to our annual Sports Awards evening at the end of June, as Rachel Brown-Finnis, former England goalkeeper, and Nicola Minichiello, world champion bobsleigh driver, toasted our students' sporting successes. Both ladies inspired the audience with their own stories, and there were a range of performances from students including dance, aerobics, martial arts and song. Primary school students from St Mary's delighted the audience with their guest dance performance.

Students across all year groups received awards for their successes and teamwork and helped entertain and host the event. Among the awards were Sports Personality of the Year KS3, which went to Georgia Haworth, and Sports Personality of the Year KS4, which went to Yvette Loukes. Well done to everyone who took part.

### Strictly Primary Dancing

On Wednesday 24th June FGS welcomed 120 Year 5 primary students from Flixton Juniors and Urmston Juniors. They took part in dance workshops led by our excellent dance leaders, and supported by Y9 dance students. Strictly has nothing on us!

### A Sporting Day

Sports Day is the PE department's favourite day. Every year we pray for sunshine and hope that as many girls take part as possible. This year the sun shone and we had 200 girls taking part in many different events, from long jump and discus to 100m, 800m and team relays. All the girls represented their forms and houses exceptionally well and the atmosphere in the afternoon was brilliant. Even the teachers got a little bit competitive at the end in the annual teachers race! Huge thanks to all who came along to cheer us on.

### Summer Concert

The annual Summer Concert and Art exhibition was held on Friday 10th July. The Create and Participate Faculties created a fantastic event that truly showcased the fantastic work and talent in our school. Well done everyone and thanks to all the supporters who came along.

### Wicked Rewards

Students who have demonstrated fantastic commitment to all the work of the faculty have been treated to either a visit to Alton Towers or a trip to watch the amazing musical Wicked at the Lowry Theatre, Salford. A great time was had by all, and the faculty would like to thank all of those girls who have given endless hours of practice, rehearsal, fixtures and performances over the last academic year.



### Summer Inter-form competition

Summer Term in the PE Faculty brought the highly anticipated Inter-Form Competition. Every girl from Years 7 and 8 chose from a range of sporting activities including rounders, tennis and speed stacks. Year 9 forms entered their rounders team into the fiercely competitive rounders competition. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their activities, showing exceptional skill and team work.

**Congratulations to the following forms that placed during the event:**

Position	Year 7 Winners	Year 8 Winners	Year 9 Winners
<b>ROUNDERS</b>			
1st	71A	8FHF	9HG
2nd	7CJ	8JC	
<b>TENNIS</b>			
1st	7PH	8JS	
2nd	7CJ	8SK	
<b>SPEED STACKS</b>			
1st	7KS/F	8DO/F	
2nd	7KA/P	8NS/P	

# OPEN EVENTS 2015

## FGS: "GIRLS ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE"

It's been another outstanding year at Flixton Girls School.

We are proud to be a school of first choice for parents in the high achieving borough of

Trafford. They choose us because they know that girls of all abilities succeed at FGS, thanks to our founding principles of aspiration, empowerment and excellence.

Our school has now enjoyed eight continuous years of improvement. We are a top performing high school in Trafford AND in the top 10% of all secondary schools in the entire North West region, including grammar schools.

Our ethos is to deliver a rich combination of academic, creative, performance, sporting and outdoor activities, catering for girls of all abilities and nurturing their individual talents, encouraging them to achieve excellence.

Our latest GCSE results show that our overall pass rate including English and Maths is significantly above the national figure at well over 70%.

This year we received an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress made by students between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results.

Our sports faculty has also received national recognition. The Youth Sport Trust gave us Innovation School Status this year as we continue to work with Olympic athletes, leading the way in the fields of health and wellbeing for other schools throughout the UK. What's more, our school-wide commitment to the Outward Bound Trust ensures that our girls take on some of the most enjoyable and character-building activities we can provide.

We also have a hugely successful performing arts faculty, generating dancers, actors and musicians of exceptional skill with many of our alumni having gone on to leading music, arts and dance academies.

We recognise that our role is not only to educate, but also to prepare our girls for life after school, so we collaborate with a wide range of partners, such as Trafford College, the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, as well as charities and business.

Partner organisations and Ofsted have singled out our students for praise, noting their manners, pride and level of social, cultural and moral maturity.

Demand is high and applications for incoming year 7 places is heavily oversubscribed which is testament to the high levels of confidence and respect for the school.

So if you would like your daughter to be part of our forward thinking, empowering, award winning school, then we invite you to our Open Evening on the 24th September 2015, where staff and students can tell you more. We look forward to meeting you.

FLIXTON GIRLS SCHOOL

# OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER • AT 6:00PM

“Girls achieving excellence...”

We are a top performing Trafford high school and in the top 10% of all secondary schools in the entire North West region, including grammar schools.

Girls of all abilities succeed at FGS through our founding principles of aspiration, empowerment and excellence.

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 @FlixtonGS  FlixtonGirlsSchool



# FGS RECEIVES “TOP 20” AWARD!



Headteacher Julie Hazeldine and Director of Learner Services Dorothy Trussell recently attended a celebration ceremony in Liverpool, in recognition for the value that FGS adds to students' achievements at GCSE.

FGS have been chosen to receive an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress made by students between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16. It is a huge honour.

Speaking at the event, Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: 'Flixton Girls School should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this school could share.'

'These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at FGS, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT network.'



# FGS IS A NATIONAL TOP 10 SCHOOL!

The Department for Education schools league tables show that in a comparison of schools with a similar make up of students, Flixton Girls School is a superb sixth best across the country.

Following the publication of the nationwide data, it is with huge pride that we can report that FGS is also the second highest performing non-selective school in Trafford and the best performing non-selective school in the north of the borough. We are also in the top 10% of schools in the north west, based on the percentage of students gaining 5 or more GCSE's at A\* - C grades including English & Maths and in the top third of the best performing schools in the whole of Greater Manchester on the same measurement.

This is a testament to all the hard work our staff and students have put in and real evidence that our girls ARE achieving excellence. Well done, everyone!

# A HUGE REUNION

Over 400 ex-students came back to school recently, as we opened our doors for a huge alumni reunion.

Former students joined teachers past and present, some travelling from overseas to the school to take part in the event, which was part of our 80th birthday celebrations.

As well as a tour of the school, a vintage tea party and a look through the archives, guests were part of photographs of each decade, taken by a professional photographer. These are being sold as part of the school's new Annual Giving Fund, which invites school supporters to help the school continue in its progress.

A massive thank you to everyone who came and made the event the incredible success that it was.



We welcome the stories of all our alumni so if you know of someone who would like to share their stories of life after FGS, or contribute to our Annual Giving Fund, which helps us to continue to give our students the best possible start to their education and careers, please get in touch at [alumni@flictongirls.com](mailto:alumni@flictongirls.com)



THE 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS PROVED TO BE A YEAR OF SPORTING SUCCESS FOR FGS, HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS THAT WE HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING. FULL MARKS, TOP OF THE CLASS AND GAME, SET AND MATCH TO FGS!!!

## FLIXTON SHORTLISTED FOR A NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD

We are delighted to have been recognised for the work we have been doing on our health and well being project Fitness Fridays, when the Youth Sport Trust shortlisted us for its Innovation Award. Fitness Fridays have been a huge success with our students during the last year, offering them a variety of alternative physical activity options and promoting the benefits

of a healthy active lifestyle. Evidence shows that being active can have a significant impact on academic achievement and at FGS we have seen this first hand. We are now sharing this model with local partner primary schools where the feedback has been very positive.



### STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM FOR FGS GIRLS

As a key partner of the Youth Sport Trust, we were one of only 20 schools in the whole of the UK to be selected to be part of an exciting new project called Beyond The Baseline.

The project uses tennis as the vehicle to engage with students and raise their aspirations for the future as well as developing skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience. We selected twenty students from year 7 and 8 who received specialist support from British international tennis player Anna Fitzpatrick which culminated in them delivering a project to all students during national school sport week.

This project has brought several benefits to our school including equipment, student packs and the amazing opportunity of receiving free tickets for our students to go to Wimbledon to watch the men's quarter finals on court number one.

## FGS IS APPOINTED AS NW AMBASSADOR FOR FA WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN

Flixton Girls' School (FGS) has been appointed as a Football Ambassador by The Football Association (FA) and The Youth Sports Trust, in their newly launched campaign to get more girls playing football.

The campaign, called B Inspired, was launched last week at Wembley Stadium, with FGS one of only 12 schools chosen from all over the UK to take part.

Six students, (Olivia Potter, Lucy Jones, Georgia Haworth, Hannah Kendall, Yvette Loukes and Francesca Giblin), travelled to Wembley with

teacher Kay Statham to take part in the launch and meet their fellow ambassadors. The school will be working closely with Manchester City Ladies and Manchester University to drive the campaign in the northwest.

The day involved in-depth training as well as a full tour of Wembley Stadium, with exclusive access to the changing rooms, the tunnel and the pitch.

"FGS has long held a strong record for sport," commented Kay Statham. "We work closely with Youth Sport Trust, collaborate with other schools and have welcomed a number of well-known

athletes to help encourage our students. We are passionate about sport for everyone, regardless of ability, because of the essential team-building and leadership skills it delivers."

"To be one of the schools chosen by the FA to help encourage women in sport is a great honour and one we are incredibly excited about."

FGS will now be working on a series of events with Manchester City Ladies to increase participation, develop leaders and raise the profile of women's football in the region.