

EXCEL

aspiration • empowerment • excellence



In this issue of Excel...

Welcome and GCSE success..... 1

Faculty updates..... 2

Open events..... 4

Latest news..... 6

Sporting successes..... 8

Autumn 2014

Issue 17

The Newsletter of
Flixton Girls School

GIRLS ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE!

It is an honour to welcome you back to another year at Flixton Girls School as we celebrate the breath-taking success of our 11 students in their summer examinations. This year our girls have again smashed all targets by gaining more than triple the number of academic A* grades (not including vocational qualifications) compared to last year. There has been a significant increase of nearly 100% for the top grades of A* and A across the board with 35% of all grades gaining the top A* and A grades. In several subjects the proportion of A* and A grades was extremely high between 60% and 100%.

The Governors, staff, students and parents can all be very proud of our impressive record of success putting us firmly amongst the top high schools in Trafford. The overall pass rate including English and Maths is again significantly above the national figure at well over 70% which is particularly impressive when nationally results are falling.

These stunning examination results are very well deserved: both students and staff have shown great determination and commitment in achieving such a significant outcome. We are an academic school delivering high quality academic results for students of all abilities. We are delighted with the standards at our school and the fact that our students meet and exceed them, year on year. Congratulations to our year 11!

The results conclude a great year for us with record numbers of students applying to attend. We are a school of first choice for parents who are confident that girls of all abilities succeed at FGS through the founding principles of aspiration, empowerment and excellence.



INVESTIGATE FACULTY

Junior maths challenge – accepted!

In May, all of our TAG Year 7 and 8 pupils sat a national Junior Maths Challenge.

The challenge is run by the UK Mathematics Trust which is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics.

Over 240,000 pupils from across the UK sat the challenge with only the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, 13% receiving silver and 21% gaining bronze. This year our students achieved 2 silver awards and 9 bronze - and a particular well done must be said to Farah Kaye in Year 8, who achieved the highest result in the school and was only 3 marks off a gold!

All the girls who took part have been working hard all year in preparation. Many have given up a lunch time almost every single week to practise for the challenge and work on weekly problems together. Well done everyone.



CREATE FACULTY



A smashing summer concert

An inspirational evening was had by all at our summer concert. Visitors from throughout the community enjoyed all that was on offer, from the fabulous food at the vintage café, to the quality art exhibition. The evening was rounded off with live entertainment from the Performing Arts department. It was an evening buzzing with delight and enthusiasm; well done to all the girls who exhibited, danced, sang and catered!

Famous greats!

The whole school took a trip through history when we recently gave them the subject of 'Famous Greats'. Year 7 made fantastic masks of Famous Greats while Year 8 had a fabulous time manipulating newspaper to create outfits, reflecting historical periods of time, which were



then showcased in a final fashion show. Year 9 created Keith Haring style figures to create a final art installation and Year 10 decorated chairs with collage and paint to create unique 'Famous Great' chairs ready for DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time around school. Everyone was really impressed with the quality of the work and the enthusiasm of the girls.



Grand designs

Our GCSE Textile students found a recent trip to wallpaper manufacturer Graham and Brown very inspirational. They spent the day with designers in the studio and were able to follow initial artwork through to final product by touring the manufacturing plant.

The Cheshire Show

Girls from the new GCSE food group tantalised their taste buds by trying lots of foods at The Cheshire Show in June. They were entertained by cookery demonstrations and informative

chats with local producers and farmers. These experiences will help them to prepare for next year's GCSE course.

Credit to the catering team

The team has been on the boil this term! The girls have catered for so many people, from new Year 7's to Olympic heroes. Lots of high praise received for their professional products, well done team!

World record attempt

Our Year 7's took part in Jamie Oliver's world revolution day and competed alongside thousands of schools worldwide to create a rainbow wrap. Delicious!



New photography courses

We're really looking forward to next year when we begin a new Photography A-Level and GCSE course - look out for this work being exhibited next summer.

PARTICIPATE FACULTY

Athletics triumphs

In June our PE department had the honour of planning and hosting the Year 8/9 and 10 Trafford Athletics Competition. Our girls put in a great performance, with some excellent individual achievements from Yvette Loukes, Danni Armstrong and Hannah Head who all qualified to represent Trafford in their respective events. Our Year 8 team came 2nd overall beating Loreto Grammar, which was a fantastic result.

Our Year 7 Athletics team competed in a similar competition with Skyla Stanhope winning the shot put throw and beating her competitors by a massive 2 metres. Well done to all who competed.

Play ball!

Our Year 7 and 8 Rounders teams have had an incredible summer season, taking part in both the Trafford Rounders League and Trafford Tournament.

Our Year 8 team came third in the Trafford Tournament and made it to the semi-finals in the Trafford League. Meanwhile our Year 7 team competed in the Trafford tournament but just missed out on a place in the finals to AGGS. Both teams have done incredibly well and we are really excited for next year's season.

Sports day success

The sun might not have put in an appearance at our Sports Day, but some brilliant sports performances did! The atmosphere for the finals was electric with the whole school supporting the competitors with form banners and house canvases. Congratulations to Keller House who won the overall Sports Day. Well done everyone!

Sports assemblies

In July we hosted our annual Sporting Achievements Assembly, to recognise and reward girls who have attended sporting clubs, participated in at least three teams over a season and also excelled in a sporting field. We handed out a record number of badges across all houses and also recognised other students for their individual excellence. We hope that the badges have been a great incentive and that more students get involved in PE and Sport next year because we really do believe that 'Sport Changes Lives'.

School production

Following our hugely successful performance of 'Annie' back in February, preparations are once again well under way for the next school production, which will be The Sound of Music in October. Tickets will be on sale

in September and we hope you will be able to come and watch what promises to be another spectacular production.

Outdoor Learning



No less than 35 girls enrolled on the bronze Duke of Edinburgh last year. The girls have worked hard to complete their physical recreation, skill and service sections of the award and will be doing their final assessment later this month. Good luck girls!

Our Outward Bound residential will be taking place throughout 2014/2015, the dates for your diaries are as follows:

Year 10: 24th – 28th November 2014

Year 7: 1st – 5th December 2014

Year 8: 16th – 20th March 2015

Sign up now to secure your place. Contact nashurst@flixtongirls.com for details.

COLLABORATE FACULTY

Creative homework on the menu

This term students in Years 7-9 have produced outstanding homework using takeaway menus to choose their own projects. This has allowed pupils to really explore their creative sides with excellent results. A great example of this initiative was our Year 7 RE students who followed the theme of Sikh wedding celebrations. We have had wedding buffets, henna designs, drama pieces, catwalks and amazing dance routines. The girls have worked extremely hard and should be proud of their efforts! Well done!

Our KS4 historians and sociologists have been working hard all year and using a variety of visual techniques during revision to help them secure the grades they want in their GCSE exams.



COMMUNICATE FACULTY

Introductions

A huge thankyou to parents, staff and students for their continued support for the Languages Department at FGS. And we'd like to introduce Mrs Crowder and Mr Shah who are going to be joint Heads of Department and a new member of staff called Miss Sayeed who will be joining us from September.

Happy hosting

This year, we have seen trips to some universities for Years 8 and 9. Year 9s have also the opportunity to learn two languages simultaneously, some of them deciding to study both at GCSE level. Most recently, some of our girls have taken on the responsibility of being hosts for Spanish students who have been with us for four-week visits. The friendships made and language skills developed have been resounding - and this has not only impacted the host girls, but also the whole school.



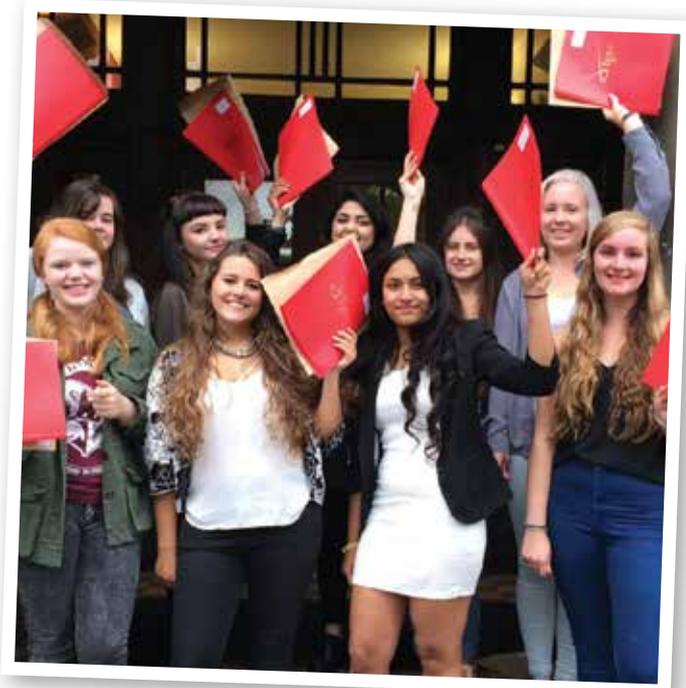
OPEN EVENTS 2014

At FGS we are delighted to be the first choice school for the vast majority of our parents who are looking for their daughter's talent and ability to be nurtured, as we encourage our pupils aspire to excellence, empowering them and preparing them for the next chapter in their lives.

Our school provides a rich combination of sporting, academic, performance and outdoor activities, recognising and nurturing the different abilities and talents of all the students and helping them aspire to excellence.

Our academic programme, including our Sixth Form, is complemented with visits to leading universities and talks from inspiring scholars. We have a hugely successful performing arts department, generating dancers and musicians of exceptional skill. Our sports faculty has received national recognition, working with Olympic athletes and other like-minded schools to drive talent and ambition. Our school wide commitment to Outward Bound sees our students take on some of the most character building and enjoyable activities any school can provide.

This year students at Flixton Girls School have smashed all targets by gaining more than triple the number of academic A* grades (not including vocational qualifications) compared to last year. Overall there has been a significant increase of nearly 100% for the top grades of A* and A across the board with 35% of all grades gaining the top A* and A grades. In several subjects the proportion of A* and A grades was extremely high between 60% and 100%.



The school has an impressive record of improvement putting it firmly amongst the top high schools in Trafford. The overall pass rate including English and Maths is again significantly above the national figure at well over 70% which is particularly impressive when nationally results are falling.

We recognise that our role is not only to educate, but also to prepare our pupils for the next chapter in their lives and so we collaborate with a wide range of partners, such as Trafford College and Manchester Metropolitan University, as well as charities and businesses. We are on national steering groups and government advisory panels and work with regional and national organisations providing a wealth of access and opportunities across a range of subjects for our students.

The last year has seen some amazing events including our 80th birthday vintage tea party which attracted over 400 local residents, alumni and guests. Later in the year we were honoured to be visited by Baroness Campbell, Chairman of UK Sport and Chief Executive of Youth Sport Trust (YST). Also, six times Olympic medal winner Sir Steve Redgrave joined the school team for a day to celebrate the huge success of the national Sporting Promise programme.

March saw Ofsted visit the school for a full inspection and we were pleased to receive a “Good with Outstanding features” rating.

The comments included high praise for Students:

- They are polite, friendly and respectful towards adults and each other.
- They wear their uniform with pride.
- Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding.

And for leadership, care and teaching at the school:

- The school’s work to keep students safe and secure is outstanding
- Students were observed being inspired by teacher’s skilled use of resources resulting in outstanding progress
- The school’s leadership is outstanding

And from September 2014 girls at FGS will be wearing our new uniform, reflecting the school that we have now become. We anticipate great things for 2015, with our incoming Year 7 a testament to the growing popularity of not just FGS but also of girls only education. If you would like your daughter to be part of our amazing school then please come along to our Open Evening on the 25th September to find out how to apply and find out much more about FGS.

We look forward to meeting you.



FLIXTON GIRLS SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER • FROM 6:15PM

(THE HEADTEACHER WILL SPEAK AT 6:30PM)



“*Girls achieving excellence...*”

We are a school of first choice for parents who are confident that girls of all abilities succeed at FGS through our founding principles of aspiration, empowerment and excellence.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Flixton Girls School, Flixton Road, Urmston, Manchester M41 5DR

T: 0161 912 2949

W: www.flixtongirls.com E: admissions@flixtongirls.com

 @FlixtonGS  FlixtonGirlsSchool



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

FGS is delighted to announce the appointment of the Student Leadership Team for the new academic year.

Congratulations to Lydia Riley (Head Girl), Imania Yaqub (Senior Deputy Head Girl), Alice Holroyd and Megan Stead (Deputy Head Girls), who will be supported by their team of 6 House Captains and 42 Prefects.

On her new role as Head Girl, Lydia said: "I am really honoured and look forward to the responsibility and to help other people to get the most out of life at FGS. I'll embrace the opportunity that has been given to me."

THE POWER OF FOOTBALL BY MRS TRUSSELL

I followed my mother into teaching: she taught in a primary school in Nigeria, where I lived for 15 years before moving to the UK. We have always wanted to return to Africa so it was a pleasure to visit Gambia with my family in February half term to manage a series of charity deliveries.

Those deliveries were very simple but hugely popular - we were taking footballs to children who would benefit from the sport but did not have the kit. Bright orange balls were gratefully received by orphans at the "Missionaries of Charity" in Bakoteh - the sisters go out in a 4x4 rescuing unwanted, abandoned and sick babies and children. They were also taken to "Old Yundum High School" in Old Yundum, where the Principal had one battered old football to share between 1,100 pupils until February. We also dropped off some footballs at a nursery school in Bakau, providing additional recreational equipment much needed by the children there, some of whom are aged up to 13 because parents can't afford to send them to the secondary school.



80TH CELEBRATIONS - THE GRANDE FINALE



We rounded off our 80th anniversary celebrations in style, with a

Summer concert and art exhibition. This welcomed guests from the school, local primary schools and alumni, all of whom enjoyed a rolling programme of song and dance, including a primary school cheerleading dance performance by St Mary's CofE School. The GCSE artwork of our Year 11 students made an impressive art gallery and a variety of cakes cooked and served by our hospitality students at the vintage café were very well received.

The heritage of our school is fantastic and it was captured brilliantly by a tour of the school and a wonderful memorabilia display which included documents and photographs from throughout the school's history, all the way back to when it opened in 1933.

Thank you to everyone who helped, by attending, creating, or donating.



Mrs Hazeldine, Headteacher commented: "The calibre of the students that put themselves forward for these roles has been outstanding and I look forward to working closely with the girls during 2014/2015. Our sincere thanks go to our outgoing Head Girl, Georgina Clarke, and Deputy Head Girls, Sharal Javed, Aliza Abid and Megan Killen, who have represented the school so magnificently and have been such inspirational role models. We wish them, and all of our Year 11 girls, the very best for the future."

REUBEN'S RETREAT SCORES £3,000 GRANT THANKS TO FGS

Reuben's Retreat, a charity founded in memory of Reuben Michael Graham who tragically passed away aged 23 months has been awarded a £3,000 grant, thanks to FGS.

The grant was awarded to Reuben's Retreat as part of the international Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), which challenges participating schools to identify worthwhile causes and provides grants, thanks to its network of corporate partners and donors.

Year 10 students at FGS took part in the initiative, visiting their chosen charities and presenting their pitch to a funding panel, in this case comprised of other students, staff and Iggy Rhodes, West London Regional Facilitator of YPI.

The charity received the grant thanks to FGS students Mia Carney, Alice Holroyd and Mia Foley who chose Reuben's Retreat as their charity and were praised for their passionate and professional pitch.

Iggy Rhodes and the students presented the cheque to the charity on 13th June. Comments founder, Nicola Graham: "We are overwhelmed to have received this grant and are very grateful to the



YPI - and to FGS for including us in their range of worthwhile causes to support. Our goal is to provide a retreat in the North West of England countryside that will relieve the distress of families and their close friends who have suffered the bereavement of a child or have a child suffering from a life limiting or life threatening illness."

FGS STUDENTS HONoured AT POPPY APPEAL PRESENTATION



Rachel Purser and Anandjot Kaur, both in Year 11, and their fellow Sea Cadets from the Sale and Altrincham area, have been honoured at a special presentation evening by the Royal British Legion for their efforts in the 2013 Cheshire British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The girls, joined other young cadets from the Sea Cadets, Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force, CCF and Fire Cadets to celebrate the 2013 Cheshire British Legion Poppy Appeal collection.

The presentation evening, which was attended by The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs was held at the Daresbury Hotel on 6th May 2014, where Rachel was awarded third place and Anandjot awarded first place for their hard work and determination.

Julie Hazeldine, Headteacher at FGS commented: "It is very inspiring to see young people making such a huge effort to help those who risked their lives in the service of their country; and it makes me so proud that two of our students were heavily involved in this worthwhile cause."



FLIXTON SPORTS EXCELLENCE APPLAUDed BY BETH TWEDDLE, MBE

In June we welcomed a sporting great to our school, as Beth Tweddle MBE, took to the stage as guest of honour at our annual Sports Awards Evening.

Beth, a multiple gold medal winner and the most successful British gymnast in the history of the sport, inspired the pupils and the school, by advising everyone to always try something new, as she started with trampolining and horse-riding before realising her love for gymnastics. She advised our pupils that they may not succeed first time, citing her 4th place in the 2008 Olympics, but that there is always a way to reach their goals and achieve their dreams if they try.

Beth was joined by Craig Heap, Commonwealth Games gold gymnast medalist and Olympic representative. Together with staff, parents and pupils, they watched a range of performances from all year groups and applauded students across the school who received awards for their successes. Among the awards were Sports Personality of the Year, presented to Hannah Head for Key Stage 3 and Helen Leigh for Key Stage 4.

Lisa Fathers, Associate Headteacher of FGS, commented "Our pupils tell us how sport makes them feel good inside and it does help lead towards improved exam results and confidence to achieve and attain, which is demonstrated by our year on year improvements. We were so proud of all the girls and delighted with such an amazing turnout from their families."

THE 2013/2014 ACADEMIC YEAR IS PROVING TO BE A YEAR OF SPORTING SUCCESS FOR FGS, HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS THAT WE HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING.

FGS WELCOMES SIR STEVE REDGRAVE AND MAKES SPORTING PROMISE



Olympic legend Sir Steve Redgrave visited FGS to meet our students and staff, and celebrate the success of the Sporting Promise Programme.

The Sporting Promise, set up by the Youth Sport Trust and Matalan, is an award-winning grass roots sports initiative encouraging more young people to take part in PE and School Sport.

Sir Steve was joined by Claire Cashmore, Paralympic double silver and bronze swimming medallist at London 2012, and together they delivered an inspiring assembly and took part in a range of sports classes with the pupils and staff.

Our students were joined by pupils from St Mary's CE Primary School for an impressive gymnastics display.

Helen Leigh, Year 11 said, "We all know Sir Steve from his amazing successes and as well as being an inspirational sporting figure, he was really down to earth and friendly. I was very excited to meet him."

Mrs Fathers, Deputy Headteacher at FGS said, "As a Sports College the ethos of sport underpins all that we do and over recent years we have experienced first-hand how grades throughout the school have increased in direct correlation with the amount of physical exercise undertaken in the average day at school. We have seen our GCSE results increase from 42% 5+ A*-C including English and Maths to 73% 5+ A*-C including English and Maths, an improvement which is testament to the right balance between sport and academia."

FLIXTON'S FRANKIE DANCES HER WAY INTO LEADING BALLET SCHOOL

Congratulations to Frankie Thompson, who has secured a much sought-after place at the Central School of Ballet.

Frankie, who will be starting in September, will now spend the next three years in London studying ballet, to gain her internationally recognised BA (Hons) qualification. She then hopes to go on to be a professional dancer. Central School of Ballet graduates can be seen performing in dance companies in the UK and around the world, thanks to the training they received at the school, which was established in 1982.

"I'm really excited to start at the Central School of Ballet," says Frankie. "It's a wonderful opportunity for me and one which will stand me in good stead for a professional ballet career." "I have been dancing at the Gwyneth Hare School of Dancing since the age of three and have to thank Ms Hare for 13 years of excellent coaching!"

Mrs Ashurst, Head of Performing Arts at FGS, adds: "We are exceptionally proud of Frankie's achievement. She has been a joy to teach and has done really well to combine her dance training with her mainstream education here at FGS. She'll do really well at Central and we look forward to seeing her career take off!"

