

EXCEL

aspiration • empowerment • excellence



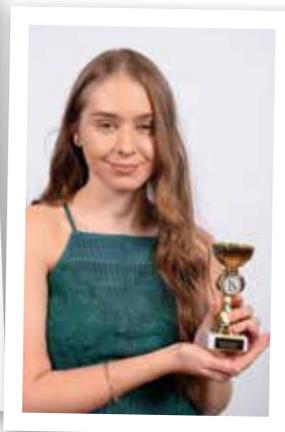
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Winter 2015 | Issue 20

The Newsletter of
Flixton Girls School

EXCELLENCE APPLAUDED AT ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING



Our Class of 2015 was celebrated at the end of November, with our Academic Awards Evening. Students, families and teaching staff watched, as last year's Year 11 students were invited to collect their GCSE certificates and celebrate their fantastic results.

Our prestigious guest speaker on the night was Dr Jennie Potts (BSc, MSc, PhD, D Clin Psy, CPsychol). She gave an inspirational speech about her own personal experiences and spoke to the audience about never giving up – a strong message we give to all our students.

Special subject prize awards were also presented to some of the highest achievers across a range of subjects. Particular mentions must go to Imania Yaqub, our Senior Deputy Head Girl for 2014/15, who was winner of the Curie Cup for Science, Lydia Riley Head Girl for 2014/15, who was the winner of the Headteacher's Award for Service to the School as well as the Academic Award for Geography, and Charlotte Wilkinson, winner of the Governor's Award for Academic Excellence. Charlotte was the highest achieving student in 2015 and gained the highest point score of all students.

Well done to all our students and staff, for an outstanding year in which we again delivered results way in excess of the national average. We are delighted with the high standards at our school and the fact that our students meet and exceed them year on year.

I am delighted to present our Winter issue of 'Excel' celebrating some real high points for us this term. Our annual Academic Awards Evening featured here on the front page is the pinnacle of academic success and a wonderful celebration of the achievements gained through hard work, dedication and determination.

Success in examinations is the result of great attitudes to learning; of the resilience and commitment the girls develop in their journey through school as they take advantage of the wide and varied activities on offer. We are blessed at FGS with a wonderfully committed staff who go above and beyond what is expected in ensuring not only the very best lessons, but a great extra-curricular and enrichment programme.

In this issue you will read about the opportunities we provide here at FGS for our girls to develop as well-rounded young women: from international visits to the Science Fair and participating in the Christmas concert and Carol Service, there really is something for everyone. Many thanks to all the girls and their parents for continuing to support our work here at FGS and for another great term's work!

Julie Hazeldine
Headteacher



COMMUNICATE FACULTY

ENGLISH



A HEATED DEBATE

Our successful debating society was formed to embrace the school's ethos of Aspiration, Empowerment and Excellence. Cogito is the name of the society, taken from the Latin "Cogito Ergo Sum" - "I think therefore I am." Those who get involved will develop critical thinking, effective communication, independent research and teamwork. Debate teaches skills that will serve our girls well in school, in the workplace and in life. Please look out for promotional literature coming soon. We look forward to welcoming students to the society.

POETRY LIVE

Due to the hugely successful trip to Poetry Live, where Year 11 students heard from the very poets they are studying, the department has already started to arrange this event again. It clearly has an impact; demonstrated by the increasing level of attainment at A/A* grades in recent years.

MFL

GERMAN AT KEY STAGE 3

We are delighted that German has now been introduced at Key Stage 3. The MFL department now offers three languages in total, with some students studying two languages this year.



SPELLING BEE

Our Year 7 students have all been entered into the Routes into Languages National Spelling Bee for German and we hope to have some success at the Regional Competition in Spring 2016.



FRENCH AND GERMAN TRIPS

All that spelling practice can be put to good use, as there will be a Year 7 trip to Cologne next July. The December French Christmas Markets trip was unfortunately cancelled, due to the situation

in Paris at the time. We hope to plan another opportunity to visit France later in the year.



NEW PARTNER SCHOOLS

We are proud to announce that we have now linked with new partner schools in France and Germany and students will be connecting with them through various projects throughout the year.



VIVA LANGUAGES

Following the success of last year's event, our Year 9 French and German students will have the opportunity to take part in the Viva Languages event again, held in January at the University of Manchester.

INVESTIGATE FACULTY

Enterprise: In November, Miss Cookson took a number of girls to Manchester airport to take part in a Dragons Den competition. They have designed their own 'colour your own' Christmas cards which they are selling in aid of St Anne's Hospice.

Six groups of Year 9 and 10 students, meanwhile, are taking part in Dragon Peter Jones's Tycoon Challenge, competing against other schools. Teams have researched local charities and each team has chosen a different charity to donate their profits to. They are now selling their products in and outside of school. Most teams have already paid back their business loans and one team has already made £250 profit for their chosen charity. Well done, girls.



MATHEMATICS

In the New Year, Miss Davidson is planning to enter a number of girls in the UK 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. The girls will go to Manchester Grammar School for the day to compete against 40 other schools and will be put to the test completing lots of challenging problems and puzzles as a team and against the clock. Good luck all.

The Maths department will also be launching a programme known as Times Tables Rock Stars, which will help the students to recall their times tables and improve their division skills!

SCIENCE

SCIENCE CLUB

The Science club, managed by Mr Horridge, is proving to be very popular. It is held every Thursday and we are delighted to report that everybody involved is having a fascinating time; dissecting things such as hearts and eyes; making slime (investigating polymers); and starting (safe and small) fires!



SCIENCE AMBASSADORS

The Science department has established a Year 8 group of Science Ambassadors to help promote the subject. These ambassadors were involved in the recent CSI primary day, when a number of local primary schools were invited to the school. Thankyou, ambassadors!

CREATE FACULTY



CAKE AND BAKE SHOW

Year 10 Students were wowed as they got the opportunity to look at some of the country's best cake designers. Our trip to the Cake and Bake Show meant we were able to watch celebrity experts such as Phil Vickery and Harpeet Baura work their culinary magic. They can't wait to bring some of the skills learnt back to the classroom and use the information collected to begin their coursework.



practise teamwork in running and marketing a business - all whilst pushing their creativity.



CLOTHES SHOW LIVE!

In December, our GCSE Textiles and Art groups had the opportunity to visit the Clothes Show at the NEC, Birmingham. The live show provides fun and inspiration for the girls as well as educational opportunities in seeing the fashion industry

coming to life. Lots of pictures and resources were brought back to school and the students are going to work collaboratively with the department to create an informative and creative display for GCSE inspiration and coursework theory.

CRAFT CLUB

Students are extending their creative ability into craft, inspired by the likes of Kirsty Allsopp. So far they have made paper wreaths, which were such a hit they decided to run this activity at the Christmas Fair. They also created garlands which went down a treat!



THE RESTAURANT

FGS students are showcasing their talents once more in their very own restaurant. In preparation for the big event students have been designing menus, decorating plates, creating table runners and even doing a bread flavour bake off. This opportunity is allowing students demonstrate leadership skills,

COLLABORATE FACULTY

FIRST HAND REMEMBRANCE POLAND TRIP

In October, Year 10, 11 and 12 students embarked on a trip to Krakow, Poland including a visit to Auschwitz. They have described it as 'life-changing' and 'memorable.'

The trip was aimed at students studying GCSE RE, History and A Level Philosophy, in order to develop their social, moral, cultural and spiritual awareness. It was specifically designed to give students an in depth historical knowledge of the tragedies that occurred during the Holocaust, as well as providing the opportunity to visit sites and speak to people deeply affected by the Second World War.

As part of the trip, students visited the Schindler factory, touring both the Jewish quarter before the war and the Ghetto area used by the Nazis. The second day was spent at Auschwitz-Birkenau and they visited the concentration and death campsites as well as meeting a Holocaust survivor, Monika Goldwasser.

The girls then reported their incredible experiences to the rest of the school as part of our Remembrance assemblies, which were themed around remembering every man and woman impacted by modern wars.



FGS STEP BACK IN TIME



35 Year 11 students studying GCSE History enjoyed a day at National Trust's Quarry Bank Mill before Christmas. Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire, is one of the best-preserved textile mills of the Industrial Revolution and is now a museum of the cotton industry. The site has recently been used as a set and inspiration for the acclaimed Channel 4 period drama 'The Mill'.

Our students explored the historical site to gain insight into the Mill and assess whether the Gregg family who built and ran it were enlightened employers or astute business people. They also toured The Apprentice House and participated in apprentice lessons practicing their alphabet, writing and arithmetic skills.

PARTICIPATE FACULTY

FESTIVE CHEER

As always, the run up to Christmas was extremely busy and great fun for the Music department. The choir sang in the PTA Christmas Fair in November and in December we hosted the Christmas Concert. There we heard various performances from the senior and year 7 choirs, drum and guitar ensemble, wind and brass ensemble, string ensemble, as well as solos from our talented singers and instrumentalists. It was a very enjoyable, relaxed evening and we were extremely grateful to the Create Faculty who were a fantastic support, providing table decorations and of course, the wonderful food.



By far the musical highlight of the year, however, was the Christmas Carol Service at St. Clement's Church in Urmston. It is always an event the whole school looks forward to and, as ever, it was lovely to go back to a church that we know so well and celebrate a traditional Christmas in such a beautiful setting. We heard eight Carols and lessons as well as both choirs singing pieces by choral legend, John Rutter.

FAME!!

Our highly awaited next school production, 9th to 11th March 2016 is FAME! Tickets will be available on ParentPay. Book in advance to avoid disappointment.

FGS SIXTH FORM



I am delighted to present our unique Sixth Form for girls.

FGS Sixth Form is all about success. As part of this, we believe our students deserve an education that broadens their experience and prepares them for the challenges of an increasingly competitive world. The girls will need the best possible qualifications available to secure offers at the best universities.

FGS is small enough to provide for individual need and with high aspirations for all students we are uniquely placed to support our girls through the academic challenge that comes with ambitious target setting.

Students based in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre at FGS and are taught by A Level specialists from both the School and our partners from Trafford College. Beyond academic study we have identified some key personal development success factors and created an entitlement for all students which includes:

- Sixth Form induction programme
- Internships and volunteering
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Preparation for the Future



We work in partnership with universities including the University of Manchester, Oxford, Cambridge and many others to ensure that our girls are thoroughly prepared for the UCAS application process.

This year we have proudly elected our first Senior Head Girl and Senior Prefect Team. These highly successful girls will lead our Year 11 Head Girl and Prefect Team as the ultimate role models in school.

All of our Sixth Formers have the opportunity to improve their research and independent study skills and play a central role in wider school life: acting as leaders, gaining additional qualifications, mentoring younger students and working alongside the teaching staff in the School.

It is this attitude, commitment and ambition which makes the Sixth Form at FGS a special place to continue YOUR journey to success.

Julie Hazeldine
Headteacher



SENIOR HEAD GIRL TEAM



Mia Foley, from Davyhulme; "It is a real honour to become Senior Head Girl and I embrace my role with determination and dedication. I am excited by the prospect of being involved in the development of our Sixth Form over the next couple of years. I chose to study for my A-Levels

in Sociology, Business Studies, Psychology and Philosophy and Ethics at FGS due to the unconditional support the teachers provide. I hope to follow a career in teaching Social Sciences."



Megan Stead, from Davyhulme; "I am studying Maths, Biology, Psychology and History A-levels at FGS where I have previously attended for the last 5 years. I stayed on at FGS to continue my A-level studies due to the small

class sizes and immense support from teachers and staff. In the future I hope to go to university to study physiotherapy, ultimately to pursue a career in the army as a Rehabilitation Physiotherapist."



Tegen Butler-Hardie, from Flixton; "I'm studying Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy and Ethics. I decided to continue my A-Level studies at FGS as the Sixth Form offers support, small

class sizes and friendly faces. Later on in life I want to go to university to study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics as I'd like to pursue a career as a Humanities teacher."

FGS SIXTH FORMERS RETURN VICTORIOUS

In September, 22 Sixth form students became the first in the UK to take part in a new and highly challenging outdoor learning programme at iconic Ogwen Cottage in Snowdonia.

The new programme was hailed by students and teachers as a 'roaring success' and used the spectacular and challenging environment of Snowdonia's rugged mountain ranges and Wales' first National Nature Reserve as a conduit to embed learning. The programme provided key life skills the students need as they prepare for sixth form life, future employment or higher education such as confidence, resilience, time management, problem solving and team work.



For a future in...

 @FGS6thForm
  FlixtonGirlsSchool
www.flixtongirls.com/sixthform



Business



Creative Industry



Engineering



Environmental Science



Health and Social Care



Law



Medicine



Politics



Social Sciences



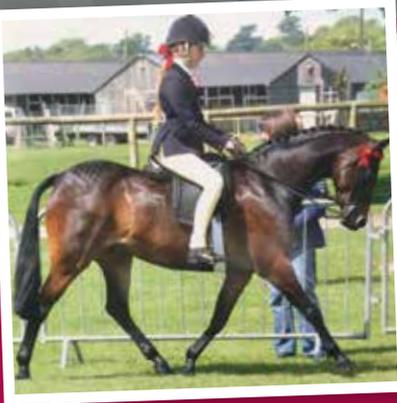
Sports



Veterinary Science



...choose A Levels at Flixton Girls School



NETBALL & HORSE SHOW SUCCESS

Year 8 student Ellie Dean plays for Trafford Junior under 13's netball team and earlier this year, she went to EuroDisney to train with England Netball - being voted player of the tournament by the team manager.

We're very proud of Ellie's success, not just in netball but also in showing her pony at the highest level around the country. She started riding at the tender age of two and has had much success qualifying for the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead and the prestigious Horse of the Year Show.

DAHLICIOUS DRESS UP LITERACY DAY

Nearly 400 primary school children joined us for our annual Dahlicious Dress up Literacy day last term, along with the staff and students at Wellacre. The school was overrun with Oompa Loompas, BFG's, giant peaches, and lots more characters from the famous Roald Dahl novels.

Students took part in various activities throughout the day across a range of subjects, all underpinning the development of literacy through a range of fun and engaging activities.

The event was held as part of FGS' hugely successful Primary Liaison / Transition programme, which works closely with primary schools all over the borough, giving them access to the school's facilities and approaches learning in a fun and interactive way.

TRAFFORD SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Another sporting success comes from student Bradie Zimmer-Collins, who fought off stiff competition to be named Trafford Sports Achiever of the Year 2015 at Trafford Sports Awards Evening.

The awards, organised by Trafford Leisure, celebrate the achievements of Trafford's clubs, coaches, volunteers and performers. Bradie began snowboarding at the age of nine and has come a very long way in her chosen sport in a short space of time.

During the last 12 months, 13 year old Bradie has been awarded U14 English Snowboarding Champion and came 2nd in the overall women's category. She also recently won the Scottish U16 Championship and came 2nd overall.

On top of her competitive achievements, Bradie also represents the School as a Young Ambassador inspiring others to take part in sport and physical activity. She is a fantastic example of FGS founding principles of Aspiration, Empowerment and Excellence.



LABOUR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Year 11 student Lian McCall has recently been appointed 'Labour Youth Officer' for Kate Green's constituency of Stretford and Urmston.

Lian's involvement in politics stems from her father, and her wanting to be active in the local community. She experienced political success last April, during our Empowerment Day, when her Green Party manifesto took the winning vote amongst her peers. The event was supported by local Labour MP Kate Green and Green Party candidate Geraldine Coggins.

Following on from this success Lian then completed her FGS work experience in Kate Green's Morris Hall constituency offices. At this time her interest in politics was further enhanced



and she began attending the Stretford and Urmston Labour Party meetings, leading to her appointment last term.



OUTWARD BOUND SUCCESS

November 2015 saw 168 year 7 students head off for a two week residential visit to Ullswater, to take part in an outdoor learning adventure with The Outward Bound Trust. Here are just a few photos from the trip!

Outdoor learning is hugely rewarding and the staff and students did themselves very proud on this trip!



EVIE SCOOPS FUN TRAIL PRIZE

Well done to Evie Edginton, Urmston Junior School Year 5 student, who won our Open Evening Fun Trail Competition prize.

Following our hugely successful whole school Open Evening earlier this term, Evie's Fun Trail card was selected at random which meant she was successful in winning the competition prize of an iPod Nano.

Evie visited FGS and was presented with her prize by Mrs Hazeldine, Headteacher and Sandeep Kaur, Head Girl.



CADET WINS GMP CHARITY COPIDOL EVENT

Year 10 student Soraya Holloway recently won 'CopIdol', an annual fundraising competition run by members of Greater Manchester Police, in aid of Retrak Charity. Retrak is a faith-based UK charity, whose mission is to transform highly vulnerable children's lives, preserve families, and empower communities.

Soraya was asked to take part in the event by her Volunteer Police Cadet's leader, PC Adnan Ali.

The fundraising event was a resounding success, as Soraya beat off stiff competition to win the £100 prize fund. She then donated her prize back to her nominated charities Retrak, Cancer Research and the National Volunteer Police Cadets.

FOOTBALL RESULTS



Our students have taken part in both Under 14s (Yr8/9) and Under 15s (Yr9/10) tournaments so far and have seen excellent results. Yr7/8 teams have planned fixtures in the newly formed Trafford League commencing after Christmas.

We look forward to continued successes and strong performances from our promising teams next year.

ATHLETICS



Yr10/11 teams competed in Manchester Regional Invitational competition held at Sport City with strong performances from Francesca Giblin in shot put and Georgia Howarth in 800m among the highlights of the competition.

NETBALL RESULTS



All year groups have participated in various matches over this term with wins over Lostock College, Broadoak School and Stretford High School. All teams have performed well under pressure and we hope to continue their successes into 2016.

BADMINTON RESULTS



FGS entered two teams into the Trafford Girls Badminton competition at Sale High School. The winners of this event go forward to represent Trafford at the County event to be held in January 2016.

After some fiercely contested games Flixton A team fell at the final hurdle, narrowly

missing out on a spot in the finals to Altrincham Girls Grammar, who went on to win the event. During the event the girls notched up some impressive performances, really displaying our founding principles of Aspiration, Empowerment and Excellence. Well done to all who took part!

10 NEW TEACHING STAFF

We have welcomed 10 new teaching staff to the school this year.

The language department has welcomed Amy Kong as an English teacher and Nicky Jones as an English KS3 coordinator, while Paul Eager and Helene Tirmarche will be teaching Modern Foreign Languages, German and French.

Natasha Harwood joins the school as a Mathematics teacher, and as a further boost to its STEM subjects, Dr Alexandra Bushell will be specialising in Chemistry in her new Science teaching role.

Charlotte Taberham is the school's new Head

of Drama, while Rebecca Croniken comes to the team as acting Head of Dance and LIP of Participate Faculty.

Stacey Perkin has been appointed as a new Geography teacher and Sharon McGougan joins her in the Humanities department to teach Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care and RE.

These new appointments will help us further develop our combination of academic, creative, performance and sporting experiences here at FGS, as they will allow us to adapt for, and exceed in new subjects that have been added to the national curriculum.

