

EXCEL

aspiration • empowerment • excellence



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Spring 2017 | Issue 23

The Newsletter of
Flixton Girls School

fgs SUCCESS

Continued
successes
for our girls...

ACADEMIC SUCCESS - AWARDS EVENING



Flixton Girls celebrated student success with an evening to recognise their academic achievements. It was a pleasure to see our Class of 2016 school leavers return and be able to celebrate their academic successes. Many of the students were nominated for a variety of awards/cups with over twenty five excellent winners.

With so many great results it is difficult to pick out just a few but special recognition needs to go to retiring Head Girl Sandeep Kaur who won the Head teacher's Award for Service to the School. Plus Emily Bates, current Sixth Form Year 12 student who won two prizes; The Curie Cup for Science and The Fathers Cup for Olympic Legacy and who is continuing her scientific studies.

As ever, this edition of Excel is packed full of exciting reports of what our girls and staff have been up to in the last few weeks. Parents and students in our partner school's year 6 will be particularly interested as they will receive notification on March 1st as to where they will be spending the next five or even seven years of their education journey. If you are hoping to come to FGS then this newsletter provides just a glimpse of what you will be doing at our lovely school, including our Sixth Form.

You may also be aware that our Governing Body has recently consulted with current parents on the school forming a Multi Academy Trust following a twelve month period of discussion with other professionals. There are currently many challenges facing schools and the Government is encouraging academies to look to the long term benefits offered by creating a MAT. As a high performing school the Regional Schools Commissioner has also recommended that we consider this.

Following the consultation period, including parent meetings, all feedback and comments have been considered and I am pleased to inform you that the Governors have voted to go ahead with the conversion to become the Healthy Learning Trust. Please do visit our website to recap on the benefits the school will see along with some answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. If you do have any further queries please contact the school. We will be working closely with all our stakeholders, in the coming months and we will keep you all informed of the progress we are making.

In the meantime I look forward to meeting all our new students and parents later in the Spring at the first of our transition events.

Julie Hazeldine
Headteacher



CREATE FACULTY (ART, DT & FOOD TECH)

Anglesey Artists

The Create Faculty organised a weekend away for Art and Photography A-Level students, they enjoyed a creative weekend at the Conway Centre; producing some amazing art work for their portfolios. It was an opportunity for students to develop higher level drawing and recording techniques in more depth; under the guidance of professional artists and teachers. A focus on materials and processes allowed the students to enhance their understanding and technical achievements. The weekend was a huge success in terms of student input and work they created.

Diwali

After creating the Diwali Lanterns in a special workshop at FGS; year 7 and 8 students met



Mrs Hennigan and her family, on a Saturday night, to celebrate the Diwali festival in Manchester city centre. They were included in the parade and even appeared on the stage in front of a packed Manchester audience. Everyone enjoyed this excellent evening which culminated in an amazing light show and firework display.



Bake Off

Once again we held our ultimate baking battle for our Great Flixton Bake Off. Students from all year groups took part in the competition; being tested on their technical skills and creative baking prowess. We had fantastic results each week with 100% commitment; so a massive well done to all the girls that took part. A special mention obviously goes to our star baker year 9 Sian Allen-McKinley!

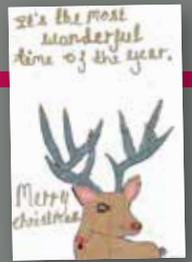
Bowfell Boulder

TALENTED artists from FGS have used their skills to tell the story of an ice age boulder that is a well-known local landmark. The Create Faculty was commissioned by Knoll Care Partnership to undertake a piece of artwork for the site hoarding, at a new care home development on the former Flixton Library site; on Bowfell Road. Year 9 students received the challenge taking photographs of the area which linked to their 'Structures and Surfaces' project. The composition shows the story of the boulder using student photographs inspired by the artists Claire Rollet and Russell Leng. Knoll Care Partnership thanked FGS for producing this stunning piece of art which has been erected on the hoarding around the development site.



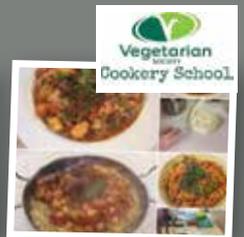
Christmas Card Comp

Kate Green, local MP, received many entries into her annual Christmas card competition; including two of our year 8 students, who were selected to form part of the card.



Ella McHugh was a runner up with her bauble design being the inside cover, while Lilli Jones' reindeer design was used on the back of the card. Miss Abu-el Failat said 'both girls work very hard in Design and Technology and show excellent work ethic, their designs are excellent.'

Vegetarian Society



The world's premier vegetarian cookery school, 'Vegetarian Society Cookery School' came to FGS to deliver an inspiring lesson to year 9 students. Alex, one of the team's chefs' taught our students about vegetarian diet and nutrition followed by cooking up a variety of tasty meat free dishes; which they all tried at the end of the lesson.

COMMUNICATE FACULTY (ENGLISH & MFL)

ENGLISH

Girls Horrible Histories

We hosted our annual Primary liaison literacy day with Wellacre Academy and ten local primary school year 6 students attended both sites. They took part in Horrible Histories themed literacy activities throughout the day.



COLLABORATIVE ART'S SOCIETY

INTERPLAY

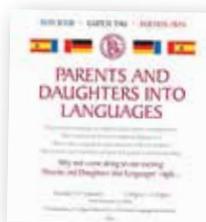
Our new Communicate club 'Interplay' a collaborative art society, combining music, visual art and text, continues to encourage students creativity across a variety of disciplines. The use of as many senses as possible enhances the emotional

experience for the listener and viewer. We look forward to all years getting involved and being inspired to be creative!

MFL

Languages for Families

It was lovely to see so many of our students and their parents' at our Languages Night. They had the opportunity to look at why we learn languages, the ways we teach languages 'nowadays' and were also taught various skills; with the parents taking on the role of students.



National Spelling Bee

Year 7 students have continued Routes into Languages National Spelling Bee for French following the success of last years German students. Class level competitions are taking place to determine who will represent FGS at the Regional Competition in March.



Enrichment Clubs



New enrichment clubs for Key Stage 3 - French and German Culture Clubs - began learning about the background to France/Germany including stories, pictures and a creative activity; building gingerbread houses and Eiffel Towers using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Accelerated Reader Programme



Following the success and impact of the Accelerated Reader Programme in 2015-16, all students in years 7, 8 and 9 are enrolled this year on the programme as part of their English sessions. This will be delivered by the MFL teaching staff.

INVESTIGATE FACULTY

(SCIENCE, MATHS & BUSINESS)

MATHEMATICS

MyMaths

All students at FGS can now access the resource MyMaths at home to practise their mathematical skills as well as honing their talents on a range of Maths games.



This resource will be good for all students from year 7 to year 13 as it covers all topics and has a range of revision packages and lessons from GCSE to A-level.

To access, go to the site: Centre: **flixtton**
Password: **6tangent**

Primary Visits

Miss Davidson escorted a group of FGS students to local primary schools where they delivered mini maths roadshow to year 5 and 6 pupils. FGS students did us proud and demonstrated a range of problem solving techniques aimed at developing younger pupils' skills as individuals and working in teams.

SCIENCE

STEM Fairs

Year 9 were tasked to carry out an investigation into something that interested them and display their methods and findings to staff and students.

Winning entry was Mia Woodcock with her sustainability of wind turbines project including; calculating quantity of energy needed to power a mobile phone and how many turbines this would take.

Microscope Donations

Ms Wilson facilitated a donation of microscopes to a charity which helps support schools in seemingly impossible situations, like refugee camps and disaster zones. Simon Divine Founder and Operational Director said: 'We plan to send your kind donation to Ghana in early 2017 to our partner school SOS Children's Village school in Kumasi where we are delivering teacher training and psychosocial support to the teachers and orphan carers there. Please refer to information on the project at: <http://www.wwep.org.uk/ghana/>



Rainforest Roadshow

Over 100 primary students from Woodhouse Primary and Urmston Juniors attended FGS and participated in our Rainforest Roadshow. This hands on roadshow offered students the opportunity to dress up in tribal clothing and also get up close and personal with tropical snakes and a giant tarantula.



COLLABORATE FACULTY

(HUMANITIES-HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY/RE)

Primary Collaboration

Humanities staff from FGS visited local Primary Schools - St Mary's, Highfield and Urmston Juniors - promoting the skills and creating enthusiasm for the subject area.

Students looked at the Olympics using this theme to develop collaboration skills. They took part in competitive challenges like problem solving and working together to review and develop their own strengths.

This forms part of our transition and primary programme of activities bringing engagement with students into their primary environment whilst stretching and challenging them.

Italy Trip

Classics/Geography students took a trip to Italy as part of their studies, visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum to review the famous ruins. They also considered coastal processes and management whilst on a boat trip from Capri.



PARTICIPATE FACULTY

(DRAMA /MUSIC / PE)

New 3G Pitch Open



Pitch is now fully in use both during school hours and in an evening / at weekends by a variety of local teams. Our school facilities hirer SLS are now taking bookings for use of all school facilities including the 3G pitch, drama studio, dance studio, school hall, dining room, classrooms, ITC suites and art/design facilities. All enquiries for use of school facilities must go to www.flixtongirls@schoollettings.org

Christmas Concert & Carol Service

Both events were a great success providing a magical start to the festive period. Our students musical and performing arts talents were gratefully received by both audiences and



many commented how the hard work, preparing for these events had really paid off.

Anfield Audience

Over 50 FGS students participated in a group dance performance on the pitch at Anfield during the Rugby League Four Nations Series Final. The girls attended workshops and rehearsal sessions to perfect the overall performance, only coming together with all the participants on the morning of the event.



Rewards Events



All year groups received their qualifying end of term reward of a theatre trip to see Alladin at Opera House Manchester or a concert from Thomas Teago at the school during the last week of Christmas term.

Drama Performances

GCSE Drama students attended local productions of



'Be My Baby' and 'Blood Brothers' last term; part of their preparations for their own GCSE Drama exam of scripted performances of 'Noughts and Crosses', 'Be My Baby' and 'Blood Brothers'.

Their performances took place on 26th January to rapturous applause.

School Show

FGS turned pink this term for their adaptation of the award-winning Broadway musical and the smash hit motion picture, Legally Blonde, The Musical JR! The three-night production ran Wed 8th to Fri 10th February seeing over 30 students and some staff hone their performance skills, but additionally reliability, resilience, determination and dedication. All skills we at FGS actively encourage. Well done everyone involved it was a fabulous production.

GCSE Music

Mrs Cannons escorted GCSE music students to the Bridgewater Hall to watch the Hallé orchestra perform. Students were wowed by a Brahms' violin concerto and treated to a performance of Ravel's Mother Goose Suite.

Choir Wedding Performance

Senior choir were asked to perform at St Clements Church in Urmston prior to Christmas for Rev. Karen's daughters' wedding. The choir performed 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' and 'O Holy Night' during the signing of the register; as well as joining with the congregation for hymns and carols.

CAREER ASPIRATIONS

As part of our 6th Form pathways and with college application deadlines looming, FGS hosted our annual Aspirational Futures Day. Attracting thirty different colleges, universities and other businesses with the aim being for our students to discuss their own potential career choices and pathways.



HEAD GIRL TEAM

SIXTH FORMERS UNI OFFERS

Many of our year 13 students have been receiving university offers over the past few weeks ensuring they will be continuing their career pathway, beyond FGS.

Offers have been coming in from a range of universities including Redbrick and Russell Group universities including Durham, Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester to name just a few.

We are very proud of our students and their offers in particular our Head Girl Mia Foley who has received offers from York, Chester and Manchester Metropolitan University. Mia is planning to extend her Psychology studies with a Psychology degree with her overall aim to become an Educational Psychologist.

Ayesha Ahmed Deputy Head Girl; has also received offers from Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester Metropolitan University, plus Manchester University. She earned the right for a reduced

offer from Manchester Uni via the Manchester Access Program (MAPS). FGS invited the MAPS programme organisers into our sixth form to signpost our students to this 12 month programme of lectures and assignments. The programme aims to guide potential university students through the application process, with specific emphasis on those students with no family history of attending university. Ayesha will be continuing her Psychology studies with a Psychology degree aiming to become a Clinical Psychologist.

In addition two of our students Chloe Ridley and Hannah Culleton have both received unconditional offers from Bolton and Bangor Universities respectively. These are in addition to offers from Salford, Liverpool and Manchester Metropolitan University. Hannah plans to complete a degree in Medical Science to succeed in her chosen role as a Biomedical Scientist.



MIA FOLEY



AYESHA AHMED



CHLOE RIDLEY



HANNAH CULLETON

Mrs Hazeldine commented: 'We are really proud of all our Sixth Form students and the fantastic offers from their chosen universities, very well done!'

For a future in...



Health and
Social Care



Creative Industry



Engineering



Environmental
Science



Business



Law



Medicine



Politics



Social Sciences



Sports



Veterinary
Science

...choose A Levels at Flixton Girls School

SIXTH FORMER ENRICHMENT TOUR

Sixth formers and staff had a full day of adventures with a trip to London as guests of our local MP Kate Green. They toured the Houses of Parliament, took part in a Suffragettes workshop and held a private Q & A session with Kate Green herself. They ended the day with a whistle stop walking tour of some of London's major sites including the Cenotaph, Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square and a quick photo shoot outside Buckingham Palace before heading back to Manchester.



D OF E GOLD AWARD

Currently FGS has seven students from lower and upper sixth form completing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The course requires evidence of volunteering over an 18 month period which are students are undertaking with Delamere School, Girl Guiding 'Brownies' and Tiny Feet Day-care. Plus physical and skills evidence, over 12 months with students learning ice skating, martial arts, origami, art and diving. This gold award programme continues

next academic year with current year 11 students; who have currently achieved their silver award, progressing to the gold award.

At FGS we believe in the ethos of D of E; it's a fantastic life experience that reaches beyond school. The programme provides unique benefits for our student's personal development, building independence and confidence; whilst improving communication and teamwork skills all of which universities and employers look for.



Lastly students undertake an expedition over 4 days/3 nights; this year going to Glossop, Edale and Castleton in the Peak District. They walk for four days; camping out for three nights and being totally self-sufficient. A day's walk sees them cover over 10km.



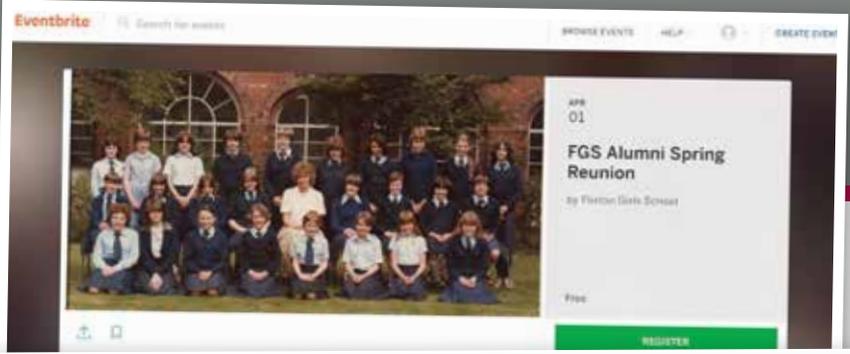
STRETFORD FOOD BANK

Over 1500 food meals were collected from our Harvest House competition and gratefully received at Stretford Food Bank.

ECO ANIMAL SPONSORS



Year 7 & 8 Eco committee members voted to again sponsor Chester Zoo animals from monies raised following the PTA Christmas Fair cake stall with Anne Frank house nominating a tiger; Helen Keller house nominating a two toed sloth and Rosa Parks nominating a red panda.



PAST PUPILS REUNION

On Saturday 1st April the school site will be open for an informal reunion / get together for all ex-students, teachers and governors. This is a planned annual event to allow as many of our alumni back into the school as possible.

This is a great opportunity for you to catch up with old school friends/colleagues that you may have not seen for years. Perhaps arrange a get together with the added benefit of a chance to have a good look round the school site and reminisce about how it used to look, feel and sound.

Your year group / form may be celebrating a specific milestone and we would love to ensure this could take place at the school where it all began.

The event is open to all who have attended / worked at school since 1933 to present date.

Refreshments will be provided by Friends of Flixton Girls for a small charge.

Book your place asap to avoid disappointment via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fgs-alumni-spring-reunion-registration-31509752518>



JUST FOR A DAY



Year 11 student Soraya Holloway had the opportunity of a lifetime, as part of the Greater Manchester Police Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge to spend a day in the shoes of GMP Deputy Chief Constable Ian Pilling.

Soraya Head Cadet at Trafford Police Cadets joined DCC Ian Pilling for the day, watching how he makes important decisions for the Force and receiving tips on what it takes to be a leader.

PRIMARY MULTI-SKILLS FESTIVALS



LET'S TALK YOUTH

FGS year 10 & 11 students participated in the Let's Talk Youth Conference' run by the Trafford Member of Youth Parliament, at Sale Life Centre. Our girls got their creative skills flowing and proposed an app called 'Let's get appy' which was crowned the overall winner, beating strong competition from other Trafford schools. Very well done ladies!

KEY 103 MISSION CHRISTMAS



FGS again received a great number of unwrapped gifts and toys for the Key 103 Mission Christmas appeal and wish to thank all those who were able to donate! Khadeeja Hussain Year 8 Transition Ambassador reflected on her visit to Mission Christmas headquarters 'Three words to sum it all up - Amazing, Shocking and Great. Amazing donations and staff at the centre, shocking the volume of donations all in one place and great to see FGS donations reaching those in need at Christmas.'



Currently our year 7 and 8 Sports Leaders have run a variety of Multi-Skills sessions for our cluster of Primary Schools (Woodhouse, Abbotsford, Flixton Infants, Urmston Infants and St Mary's). Students, assisted by Miss Cashin and Mrs Statham work on activities during after school clubs, which are then delivered as morning and afternoon skills sessions to the primary pupils. The participants visit multiple stations where activities have been developed for physical literacy - balance, agility and co-ordination. All students have worked hard in preparing their activities and enjoyed working with the primary pupils to enhance their skills.



TRAFFORD SCHOOLS FUTSAL CUP

This competition has just commenced and we have great expectations following great successes in this competition across all age groups. Best wishes to all teams taking part.

DIVING DEDICATION

Claire Brown year 11 competed in the English Schools Diving competition. She did incredibly well to qualify and showed great dedication to her chosen sport; doing herself, family and the school proud with her determined performance.

NETBALL RESULTS

Great season of netball for all year 7, 8 & 9 teams; all progressed to the semi-finals of the Trafford Secondary Girls Netball League. A fabulous effort showing excellent skill development and dedication in the sport throughout the last term.

NATIONAL TEACH MEET WINNER

Miss Tedford became the winner of the inaugural national Teach Meet for physical education for her idea about storyboards in GCSE PE. Miss Tedford attended the event to share ideas and develop these in the teaching of GCSE PE. FGS will be hosting a Teach Meet event over the coming months.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Fifty two students have achieved their bronze award with fourteen achieving their silver. Sixth form students continue to work towards completion of their gold award. Very well done to everyone involved; showing dedication and determination in gaining these achievements.

NEW KIT

New team football kit has been awarded following a bid through the Premier League Football Foundation. U13's and U14's teams benefited by use of this new kit in the English



Schools Cup. Both teams equalled the schools best ever run in the national competition. Well done to the entire squad.

VELODROME TRACK CYCLING

Groups of students attended the National Cycling Centre at Manchester velodrome and learnt new techniques required for 'fixed wheel' track cycling - including how to stop without brakes. Emma Bristow commented: 'It was exhilarating.'



U16'S ROUNDERS TALENT

Jessica and Raegan Wallworth have been selected for the U16's England Rounders squad and are continuing their training with the squad. Ms Tedford said: 'The girls have been on my team since year 7 and I'm so proud that their exceptional talents have been recognised. Both girls are complete all-rounders.'

YEAR 7 ULLSWATER EXPERIENCE

Miss Bates commented 'Thank you all students, staff and Outward Bound colleagues for an amazing week. Our young ladies have been empowered to excel at whatever they do.'



Year 7 Ona Raphane poem:

"When I think of Outward Bound,
I think adventure.
I think of the aqua streams gushing
Through my feet,
I think of the stars
Illuminating the pitch black darkness,
Piercing the sky marking their spot.
I think of gigantic mountains
Reaching for heaven.
I think of the new
Friendships I've made
And the one yet to come.
When you think of Outward Bound,
Well that's a mystery to me -
Why don't you go there
And see what awaits."