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Winter 2012

Issue 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
FLIXTON GIRLS' SCHOOL

## Academic News

### Aspirational Futures Day –Year 11

At FGS we aim to offer support for our students to help them understand the range of opportunities available to them once they leave school. October saw a host of representatives from universities, colleges and local businesses attend a Careers Fair for our students. Over 50 visitors took part in the event with hundreds of our students receiving impartial information, advice and guidance about routes into university and employment.

The fair was a great success with those attending finding it an interesting and enjoyable event. Organisations included Oxford University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Salford University, Trafford College, RAF, RBS, NHS, as well as talks from chemical engineering specialists.



### Student Learning Innovation Group

“Our aim this year is to look at our learning within the school. We want to improve pupils education during their valuable time with us. We want to improve pupil voice as well as sharing learning tips that we pick up on the way.”

The Student LIG

### FGS Buck the Trend!

**The Autumn term has been a time for celebrating record examination results. Not only have the results improved again this year but they represent a significant increase on what is already a very good record. This is the result of a real team effort and is testament to the hard work, determination and belief of students, staff, parents and governors.**

Against National Trends our Year 11 students succeeded in breaking all records with our best results yet! With more girls than ever gaining 5 or more A\* to C grades including the essential English and Mathematics, we have improved our results by over 20% on last year. This was no easy feat given the huge improvements of the last five years. It reflects the high standards in all aspects of the school and is the result of hard work, determination and self-belief by the whole school community. The support and dedication of teachers, support staff, parents and Governors has made it possible to provide ever improving opportunities for our girls.

Well done also, to all of our Year 9 and Year 10 girls who sat GCSE exams and BTECs this year making a really good start to their examination career. As an 11 to 16 school we are also very proud of 4 girls who sat AS and A2 Level examinations gaining A grades in Arabic, German and French. This bodes well for our female only 6th Form provision which officially opens next September in partnership with Trafford College.

Congratulations to all of our students, I have no doubt they will achieve great things in the future.

Julie Hazeldine  
Headteacher



## Meet our Head Girl and Deputies...

Congratulations to newly appointed team of Young Leaders, who this year will be led by Bethany Ringwood (Head Girl), Bekky Myles Cooper, Katie Holloway and Rebecca Geary (Deputy Head Girls).

Our Young Leaders Programme helps to broaden students' horizons, aspirations and achievements by providing them with learning, volunteering and leadership opportunities whilst assisting and supporting both staff and students.



## Outward Bound



On 13th October two buses of excited Year 7 pupils and staff set off on a 3 day adventure weekend at the Outward Bound Ullswater Centre, in the Lake District.

The weekend forms part of our induction programme at FGS and enables our new Year 7's to interact and form new relationships with other students, as well as to learn and achieve in a supportive and inspirational outdoor environment promoting confidence, respect, communication skills and punctuality.

All activities from canoeing and raft building, through to gorge scrambling, mountain walking and the terrifying "leap of faith" are designed to challenge students physically, psychologically and emotionally. Help and encouragement from their team was essential to enable all students to reach their targets and push themselves to the limit of their abilities.

The weather was beautiful, the scenery amazing and when they had finished, everyone wanted to do it again. We are looking forward to our students' next visit in Year 8.



## Ukrainian Culture Exchange



During October, 9 students were given a warm welcome by our Ukrainian friends as part of our on-going cultural exchange with students from Gymnasium Number 2 School in Odessa.

The girls were guests at the homes of the Ukrainian students and had the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in Ukrainian culture as they lived the lives of teenagers in another country. Many of the things they did were similar to their own lifestyle, but they also learnt a lot about how other people live and about the Ukrainian social and cultural history.

The girls attended lessons at the school and learnt a lot about the life of an Ukrainian student. After lessons, students visited local places of interest, including visiting six different places of worship, such as a Synagogue, Mosque and Orthodox cathedral. They also had an amazing evening watching a ballet performance at the "Opera House", had an historic tour of Odessa, as well as learning Folk dancing and developing their Ukrainian cookery skills making "vareniki"!

We are all looking forward to our Ukrainian friends visiting us again in September 2013 and we will make every effort to ensure that they are made to feel as welcome as we were and enjoy their visit to Manchester.



## Bright Futures 2012

Following the resounding success of the "Bright Futures" programme last year, in which 5 of our students shared a full-time job at Barclays Bank, we have been lucky enough to secure 16 placements with the following prestigious organisations: Barclays Bank, Trafford Housing Trust, Siemens, Kelloggs and Manchester University Medical School.

This opportunity will not only help to build self-esteem and boost confidence amongst the girls but also provide them with vital employability skills, support in making informed career choices and raised aspirations.



## COMMUNICATE FACULTY

English, Modern Foreign  
Languages, ICT & Business  
Studies



### English

In October our Year 7 students used their imaginations and brought to life their love of literature as they dressed up as a variety of book characters for the day. Costumes

ranged from Pippi Longstocking to Katniss Everdeen and included Willy Wonka and three of his Umpa Lumpas!

Great fun was had by all as staff and students guessed who the girls were dressed as. Congratulations to our winners Maegan Bradley, Daniella Conway, Caitlin Coombs, Charlotte Fox, Dolly Howarth and Megan Morris, who all received book tokens.

### Languages

- The whole of Year 7 is off to a flying start studying Spanish. The MFL Department would like to say well done for such enthusiasm and creativity in lessons. Keep it up!
- With such talented linguists around the school the Communicate group (English, Languages and ICT) will be recruiting journalists to produce articles, games and quizzes in French and Spanish to be published in the school newspaper. Any volunteers please make yourselves known!

### ICT and Business

- Good luck to the girls embarking on this year's Young Enterprise programme! The new company 'Keywords' is busy conducting market research and planning production of their exciting and innovative product. Keep a look out for them at this year's Christmas Fair where they will have a stall. They will also be taking part in the Christmas Markets in Manchester later on in the year.
- Year 7 has made a good start to the year and has been discovering the range of things on offer to them in ICT at Flixton – from learning how to use the school's email system to making sure that they've updated their profile picture on Frog!
- We are pleased to launch our new revision tool GCSE Pod. GCSEPod is free of charge to all our KS4 students and staff, and contains over 2500 GCSE specific podcasts that you can watch via a school or home computer, or download to play later on your iPod, iPhone, Blackberry or Android device.



## COLLABORATE FACULTY

Citizenship, PSHE, History,  
Geography & Religious Studies

### Geography

- Last year's Year 8 took to campaigning to make poverty history. They learnt a lot from their experiences looking at people who were less fortunate than themselves.
- Well done to the GCSE students - 73% A\*-C for vertical geography with 100% of Year 9 achieving A\*-C.

### Sociology

- Exam results were amazing this year's well done for all your hard work. Last year's Year 11 achieved 70% A\*-C; a new record. This was then smashed by the VT group which achieved an impressive 82.5% A\*-C with well over 20% of those being As or A\*.
- We have a record number of students choosing sociology GCSE, making it now one of the most popular options.

### History

- Exam results were fantastic this year; well done for all your hard work. The number of A\*-C grades improved by a massive 20% for last year's Year 11's and the VT groups achieved even more highly, with well over 15% of those being an A or A\* overall. Well done.

## CREATE FACULTY Art, Design & Technology

- Let's Get Cooking! Our KS3 have begun their new cooking club 'All About Eggs'! So far they have been poaching, boiling, frying...here they have made omelettes with a variety of fillings!
- During October the school had its first SMSC Day, where the Art, Design and Technology department had a creative time modelling dresses out of recycled material; the results were fantastic! All the students got involved and really enjoyed the modelling and sculpting process – creating new and inspiring products from the old and boring.
- As part of the new 'create' department Mrs Hennigan has been displaying inspirational images around the school. This one was created collaboratively with Mrs Tigkiris and Tyla Hanley-Watts (Year 9), who is currently looking at graffiti and Banksy in her Art work.



## PARTICIPATE FACULTY PE & Performing Arts

### Sport

- On 13th November, 10 of our Year 11 Talented, Able and Gifted students accompanied Mr Coultas on an 'Investigating Options' day at Oxford University to gain advice and guidance on their post-16 options. The day will include sample lectures, meetings with current undergraduate students and seminars investigating post-university career option choices. Further information about our school university links is available via our Graduate Programme leaflet or Mr Coultas on [gifted&talented@flixtongirls.com](mailto:gifted&talented@flixtongirls.com).

- We have been extremely fortunate this year in receiving funding to access 6 weeks' ski tuition at the Chill Factor, which has been offered to girls in KS4 who have demonstrated commitment to PE clubs, displayed impeccable behaviour in PE lessons, had a 100% kit record or demonstrated effort and enthusiasm in all their PE lessons. So far the group has this to say about their experiences.....



*"Skiing so far has been such a good experience for me. Since I started lessons, I feel that I have gained more confidence within myself by overcoming challenging situations and big hurdles. Skiing is hard to master but it has allowed me to have fun whilst learning along the way."*

*"Skiing is a rare sport for teenagers to take part in; this is why I am glad that my school has had this opportunity to take us for 6 weeks' tuition at the Chill Factor. Not many people my age have a chance of getting opportunities like this."*

### Performing Arts

#### Music:

- The Year 7 choir has also started well this year, and Miss Stubbs is already working hard with them learning new songs to be ready for the BTEC Christmas Concert and Carol Service.



*It has been another outstanding term at the school with so very many impressive student achievements. Below our Heads of Department celebrate some of the highlights for their subject areas.*

- 'Get your Grades' also has a large number of pupils in it this year and we look forward to celebrating the girls achieving in their grades in the future.



- Miss Lock has also had a busy first few weeks in the music department. Every Year 7 girl was given the opportunity to have an instrumental lesson and from this many took up the opportunity to have lessons over the coming year. There are a few slots left on Miss Locks' timetable so if you are interested, please get in touch.

#### Dance

- Our G & T Ballet and Street dancers have had a very busy start to the year with a fantastic performance at the school open evening.
- A reminder to our girls that there are a range of after school classes to attend including a new Strictly Come Dancing class with Mrs Harrison on a Tuesday and Street Dancing with our fantastic Year 11 dancers Shauntea Brown and Aaliyah Harriett on a Wednesday. Both classes are open for all years to attend and will be working towards a performance piece for the school evening of dance.



# INVESTIGATE FACULTY

## Science & Mathematics

### Science

- On 19th November Mr Jones and Dr Rawsterne are taking a group of Year 11 Triple Science students to GCSE Science Live! at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. The Science Department is very excited to have this opportunity and we hope it will generate a greater enthusiasm for science, plus show our pupils that science really is all around us. There will also be an opportunity to improve exam techniques with "top tips" from an examiner which we hope, will increase the chances of pupils considering science subjects at AS and A2 levels.

Speakers at the event include Prof Lord Robert Winston, Dr Kate Lancaster (nuclear physicist), Prof Andrea Sella (chemist), Prof Jim Al-Khalili (physicist) and Steve Mould (physicist).

- In July, our Year 7 and 8 gifted and talented students, along with 3 primary schools took part in a Rainforest Road Show in the science department. They got to work hands on with a variety of exotic rainforest animals, and even got to try on tribal outfits from some of the remote tribes of the Amazon Rainforest.



### Mathematics

- Celebrations ran high over the summer as the Maths Department found out our Year 11s had achieved the best Maths results ever! 72% of students gained a grade C or above and an impressive 25% of the girls got an A or A\* grade.



- Free Maths Tuition - The department has recently purchased a new resource which we strongly believe will support our students in their studies throughout Years 7 to 11; in fact it was a contributing factor for our Year 11 success. MathsWatch is a series of short videos covering almost every topic in the curriculum. The videos, narrated by Maths teachers, give clear examples and explanations and have worksheets to accompany them for the vital practice. Talk to your Maths teacher for the login details.



## OTHER NEWS

- In July, Mrs Callaghan and Mrs Soldiew took 6 pupils from Flixton Girls' and 3 young people from Trafford to Romania alongside Trafford Youth Service. The aim of the trip was to engage young children from Romania in play activities. This year the group was invited into the homes of some of the Romanian children and met their families. During their stay they also visited four small villages and a lot of local people from Sibiu.



- Journey of a Learner Services Supported Student**

The Learning Support department aims to do exactly what the name states....support learning. We have a large, experienced team of support staff whose long term aim is for all girls to leave school as independent learners who can fulfil their own potential. Some girls need a lot more support than others to achieve this. Here is just one account of a student who successfully gained an impressive 7 GCSEs grades A-C despite having dyslexia.

Back in 2007 when Holly Courts joined us as a Year 7 student a routine literacy assessment indicated that she had dyslexia. Further tests revealed Holly had the reading age of a six and a half year old, but with her understanding of the story being much higher – the classic dyslexia indicator.

Following on from these tests, Holly received a statement of educational needs and personalised funding which was used to help Holly access her lessons in school. Holly worked hard on her reading, spelling and writing with our dyslexic specialists Mrs Sherliker and Mrs Thomason, and in Year 10 the school enrolled Holly on a photography course to give her grounding in her career choice.

This summer, Holly gained a staggering 7 GCSEs grades A-C, including a Photography Silver Arts Award. Holly is now at Trafford College pursuing her photography dream. We are so proud of her.

**This is one story of many. The Learner Services support staff made the difference for this student and continue to do so for students every year.**

## Specialist Sports College News



**2012** has to have been the most exciting sporting year, not only because of how well we did at London 2012, but also the way in which 2012 showed the magnificence of women.

Our first Team GB gold was from a female and for the first time we had the female boxing. The 2012 Olympics and Paralympics provided more female role models than we have ever had before and as a girls' school this has inspired us all. We have had many athletes visit the school over the last few years and we were very proud to watch so many take gold medals: Sarah Storey and Victoria Pendleton to name a couple!

Obviously we must not forget a group of FGS girls who actually lined the Athletes' route into the Opening Ceremony touching shoulders with Usain Bolt, Jess Ennis and all the others. The girls said it is a memory which will stay with them for life.

In the run up to 2012 our girls embraced the Olympics and since summer we have seen a huge increase in the number of girls taking part in after school PE and Sport Clubs – keep up the momentum girls and remember to try at least one new Sport or Dance Club this term - an active body leads to a healthy mind!

The focus will now inevitably be on 'legacy' and with the help of our girls we want to make a true Olympic legacy here at FGS.

Other Sports College Headlines this term are that Rachel Redmond and I have secured a bid for FGS to be a 'Lead Health and Wellbeing Partner School' with the Youth Sport Trust and that we have also expanded our Healthy Life Styles Coaching role, both in local primary schools and here at FGS.

**Lisa Fathers**  
Deputy Headteacher /Director of Specialism



## Celebrating our Sporting Heroes

Back in June we hosted our annual Sports Awards Presentation Evening to celebrate the sporting achievements and success of our students. Over 300 people attended the event, along with guest speakers Paralympic sporting legends Sarah Storey and Barney Storey, and retired Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist gymnast Craig Heap who gave motivational speeches to the girls on their journey to Olympic success.

Well done to all award winners and performers, in particular Vicky Grayson who won Sports Personality of the Year in KS3 and Amber Brookes who won Sports Personality of the Year in KS4.

Good luck girls for 2012/2013.

## Time to Shine

Our Gifted and Talented programme aims to support and encourage those students who show particular enthusiasm or ability in either a certain subject, or across the whole curriculum. The programme provides students with exposure to examples of cultural, intellectual, sporting and artistic excellence.

Each term we would like to share with you the successes and achievements of students on the programme, this term we focus on Yvette Loukes and Katie Holloway.

## Yvette Loukes (Year 9)

Yvette has an amazing talent for football and has recently been selected in the pool of England Under 15 squad players by the Football Association. Yvette will attend a number of training and skill development camps over the course of the year as well as following a detailed fitness programme. Mr Coultas supports Yvette with her speed training after school and she uses her own time to complete her body conditioning programme.

We wish Yvette luck for the coming season with her commitments for both Manchester United Under 15 Girls and with England.

## Katie Holloway (Year 11)

Katie has had an incredible year with her horse riding commitments, recently attending the high profile Horse of the Year Show with her horse Ethrow April Affair. Katie, who kept her focus and invested a huge amount of time in qualifying for the event, found the experience enjoyable and was overwhelmed by the high level of competition. She represented herself, her family and the school with pride and we are all very proud of her achievements. Well done Katie!



## All the Fun of the Fair

In spite of a wet and windy start on 25th November our annual Christmas Fair was a roaring success with students, staff and local residents attending the festive celebrations hosted by the school's PTA.



Claire Critchley, Community & Enterprise Coordinator at FGS said: "We were absolutely delighted with the strong turnout. To have over 200 people through the door is definitely a success worth celebrating."

"Thanks to all who helped make the event a success."

If you are interested in joining the PTA please contact Mrs Critchley on 0161 912 2947 or come along to one of our meetings which are held at the school on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.



## Getting a Taste of Business

In September 2012 a group of 8 students formed their own Social Enterprise. **Young Cooperatives** is a catering business that fulfils the catering and hospitality requirements at a variety of school events, profits from which are donated to local charities.

*"We're just at the beginning of our social enterprise journey and it's nail biting, but the hard work will be worth it as we will be able to support local charities."*

Good luck girls!

*Working with the local community is important to everyone at FGS. Many facets of school life extend beyond the classroom and into the wider community which enriches relationships between home, school and the community, to everyone's benefit.*

*Here's just a taste of things that have been going on this term....*

## National Standard for FGS!

**National Standard**  
for Enterprise Education

**FGS is delighted to announce that we successfully achieved the SSAT National Standard for Enterprise Education.**

Certified by the Centre for Education and Industry at the University of Warwick, the accreditation echoes our belief and vision for Enterprise Education at FGS. We seek to encourage a 'can do' attitude to enable all students to be able to access enterprise learning to support their development of key skills including leadership, creativity and innovation, teamwork and communication, problem solving, risk taking responding positively to change, planning and financial capability in order to support them in both their personal lives and in the world of work.

## Mission Christmas at FGS

*A happy Christmas for ALL children. That's Mike and Chelsea's mission.*



Flixton Girls' School are delighted to announce that we are an official drop off point for Key 103's Mission Christmas campaign in association with Cash for Kids.

There are currently 1 in 3 children living in severe poverty in Greater Manchester and those kids will wake up to a Christmas without a present. That's why Mike & Chelsea and Cash for Kids have launched Mission Christmas. They are hoping to raise

150,000 presents for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years, you can donate your new and unwrapped gift here at Flixton Girls' School.

Whatever you can give, big or small, will make a huge difference to local children this Christmas.

If you would like any more information on Mission Christmas or to find out how you can get involved please visit [www.key103.co.uk/missionchristmas](http://www.key103.co.uk/missionchristmas).

## Community Use of School Facilities

As a school at the heart of the local community our wide range of facilities are available for private hire for individuals or organisations during the evening and school holidays.

Our facilities include our floodlit astro turf pitch, school hall, sports hall, drama and dance studios, as well as a range of classrooms, some of which are specialist such as our ICT suites, Food Tech room and Hair and Beauty Salon.

Looking to run a meeting, production or health & fitness class? Then contact Mrs Kitchen on 0161 912 2949 for further information or to arrange a viewing.



Fancy joining one of our current Health & Fitness classes? Then come along or contact the following:

| Day of the week | Class         | Time            | Contact Details  |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Monday          | Yoga          | 7.15pm - 8.30pm | Emma<br>T: 07941 540 995 or<br>E: yogiemma20042003@yahoo.co.uk       |
| Wednesday       | Dance         | 6.00pm - 7.00pm | Julie<br>T: 07879 488446 or<br>E: broadbentjulie@hotmail.com         |
|                 | Belly Dancing | 7.00pm - 9.30pm | Michelle<br>T: 07733 115043 or<br>E: michelle@whirling-dervish.co.uk |

## Enterprising Minds

Enterprise Week (12-16th November), part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, is a national celebration of enterprise with



thousands of events and activities happening across the UK inspiring people to be enterprising - to make their ideas happen!

This year FGS ran a week of interactive, competitive and exciting activities which included visits from local women who spoke to our Business Studies students about their entrepreneurial experiences going into business and a Year 10 Enterprise Challenge where our girls got to grips with running a business and designing shoes. The week culminated with an East Meets West party which was organised by the students.

## Flixton Girls' Support Local Communities

During October and November students and staff donated 1000's of tinned and long-life goods to The Booth Centre in Manchester and Altrincham Foodbank, two charities that provide support, advice and food for vulnerable families and homeless people throughout Manchester.

"We want to say a huge thank you to Flixton Girls' School for their food donations", says Hayley Entwistle, Altrincham Foodbank volunteer. "It is so encouraging to see young people taking an interest in their local community and supporting those in need. Their donations will be a great help to Altrincham Foodbank."



## Community Christmas Spirit

It has been an annual tradition for a few years now and on 12th December we will once again be inviting over sixty members of our local community to come and celebrate Christmas with us for an afternoon of festive cheer.

Organised by Mrs Critchley and her team of student helpers guests enjoy a three course Christmas meal prepared by Cucina our fantastic catering team; a few games of bingo and entertainment provided by our choir, musicians and dancers.

Look out for photos in our next newsletter.