

EXCEL

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Spring 2016 | Issue 21

The Newsletter of
Flixton Girls School

FGS IS NOW A NATIONAL TOP 5 SCHOOL!



The recent publication of the Department for Education schools league tables shows that in a comparison of schools with a similar make up of students, Flixton Girls School has improved its position, now being a superb fifth best across the country.

The similar schools measure allows the comparison of the key stage 4 performance of schools with similar ability students, based on the level at which they were assessed at the end of primary school.

Following the publication of the nationwide data, we can see that FGS continues its excellent performance in being:

- the second highest performing non-selective school in Trafford (missing out on top spot by only 2%) and the best performing non-selective school in the north of the borough.

- well inside the top 10% of schools in the north west based on the percentage of students gaining 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C grades including English & Maths
- and comprehensively out performing all but one school in neighbouring Warrington education authority where we are equal with Lymm High School

Headteacher Julie Hazeldine commented: "The improved and excellent performance demonstrated in these statistics is a testament to all the hard work our staff and students have put in to make sure they are achieving great results despite the continued cutbacks in education funding. They are the very real evidence that our girls continue to achieve excellence."

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of Excel. As you will see it has been a tremendously successful term in very many ways: our academic success in the national school league tables; our incredible sporting success across a wide range of sports; an inspirational school play 'Fame'; Y9 entrepreneurs reaching a national final at Buckingham Palace and our success in the vast range of enrichment activities reported from every faculty in this edition of Excel.



Last term we held a very successful recruitment event with over a hundred prospective teachers in attendance. As we are oversubscribed for September and we have a large number of girls who want to come back in the Sixth Form, we will be recruiting ten new teachers across all subjects. You will see on our website that we now have information about working at FGS and several testimonials from current staff. Our aim of course, is to provide excellent education and for this we need to provide a great environment where talented teachers can thrive, bringing out the very best in the girls.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for their continued hard work and support and to wish Year 11 and the Sixth Form the very best of luck in their forthcoming examinations.

Julie Hazeldine
Headteacher



INVESTIGATE:

Space travel with Year 7

Inspired by astronaut Tim Peake our Year 7 students completed a trip to Jodrell Bank, to complement and enrich their Space studies. Students took part in a guided tour, planetarium workshops and explored the Space discovery Centre and Planet Pavilion.

They investigated and measured the strength of



gravity and made use of the famous giant Lovell telescope, to bring their astronomy studies to life. The experience was out of this world!

Creating Windfarms in STEM

We welcomed 3DWebtech back to school for another STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) event. Year 8 students participated in a wind farm project. These ground-breaking education sessions have been so successful that 3DWebtech have taken them to a number of other



schools. As MD Andy Dennison says: 'FGS students are by far the best group we have delivered the sessions to. FGS is an absolute pleasure to work with.'

CSI: Investigates

FGS turned detective, with a CSI themed primary Science Day for Urmston Junior School. The crime? The theft of Mr Searle's stolen laptop. The investigation? Fingerprint and footprint analysis,



chromatography, hair and fibre sample analysis, visiting and sketching the crime scene, and reviewing witness statements. All the activities were aimed at the development of problem solving skills as well as applying scientific skills and techniques that the students could utilise throughout their school pathway. This is our third CSI day and it looks like a series that could run and run!

A Royal Visit for our Enterprise Finalists

We were delighted to make the FINAL of a national enterprise competition at Buckingham Palace. Our team (Deluxe), were awarded silver by none other than Peter Jones CBE and HRH The Duke of York!

Deluxe created elegantly decorated candles and soaps, sourcing low cost products and then revitalising them for a more premium price. They turned a healthy £421 profit and have donated it all to Children with Cancer UK. Team member Lana Walker comments: "We're really proud to have made it to the final but we're even more pleased to have raised so much money for charity." Over 450 teams took part in this competition: we could not be more proud of Deluxe!

Primary Maths relay

Our Primary Liaison team has been working with Woodhouse and Highfield Primary Schools to deliver a selection of higher level puzzles and challenges, entitled "Thinking like a Mathematician." 35 Year 5 students enjoyed a maths relay, overseen by our own Miss Davidson. Both schools loved it and we have more planned for the coming year.



COLLABORATE:



The Letter of the Law

Order! Order! Year 9 students have taken part in mock trials as part of the Regional Magistrates Mock Trials competition. They took on various roles including prosecution and defence lawyers, magistrates, witnesses and advisors – all in front of real magistrates. This annual competition, run since 1994, aims to introduce the legal system to young people in an innovative and exciting way.



Political Conference

A group of Year 10 & 11 students participated in a Youth Political Conference, run by the Trafford member of Youth Parliament. The event at Sale Life Centre saw our students create

their own political party and campaign to the other eight schools at the event. When meeting with local MP Kate Green the students were able to question her on real issues. Our students were praised for their mature approach and we are delighted to see them take a real interest in politics.

Tourism - A Real Assessment

Year 8 Geography students have visited Castleton and Peak Cavern in the Lake District, to coincide with a new GCSE study topic: Sustainable Tourism. The students analysed data recorded to assess



the impact of tourism on the region. The tourist elements were brought to life for the students as they explored the caves and visited local places of interest. The group were described as a credit to the school by more than one host!

FGS 6th Form

#Givebackfriday 6th form students embraced an array of activities on Friday mornings developing their altruistic nature! They chose to read with Year 7's and mentor Year 7 & 11 students on friendship issues and exam stress tactics.



RE Life

Year 8 RE students have had a busy half term as Humanist life event planners. They have been studying non-religious ethical belief system and have taken a comparative approach in looking at it in light of religious beliefs. Well done Year 8 in reaching impressive steps in your RE journey, your teamwork skills, religious literacy and presentation skills have developed greatly! A* for effort.

COMMUNICATE:

A Magic Day

A magical day was had by all, at our primary liaison event held in collaboration with Wellacre. Our aim was to develop skills in English, Maths and Science in a Harry Potter theme. Students and staff dressed up as characters from the books and took part in creative writing and character descriptions in English, potions in Science and stretch and challenge Maths activities focusing on potion ingredients. Our Year 8 Transition Ambassadors supported this event. The day culminated with a Harry Potter quiz.



famous quotations and form groups decorated the doors to their form rooms as a gateway into a book of their choice.



Winter Creative Writing Competition

Year 11 students, Jasmine Sutton and Amina Khan, achieved success in a Winter Creative Writing competition involving Manchester schools.

National Spelling Bee Regional Competition

Year 7 finalists represented FGS with accurate recall of 150 words, being able to translate and spell the words using the German alphabet. The team performed really well up, against some fierce competition, well done ladies!



German School Partnership

FGS's partnership with the Gesamtschule Hardt in Mönchengladbach is well underway with students in both countries creating informative videos to describe the similarities and differences between school systems. The exchange of videos is the first stage in our partnership, which could hopefully lead to a visit in the future.

Onatti Production

FGS Year 7 German students were given the opportunity to support their studies by experiencing an all-German language performance of 'Zwillinge' (Twins). Onatti production company brought this live performance to FGS to introduce and review all the key vocabulary, which our students are currently learning, in a clever and entertaining way. Head of Languages, Mr Eager said 'It was a fantastic performance ideally suited to our students. The students were able to develop their language skills way beyond the vocabulary used in the classroom.'



Game, Set & Match

It was game, set and match at the start of the year in Urmston, when Trafford primary schoolchildren enjoyed our indoor tennis festival. The event welcomed students from St Mary's and Woodhouse Primary schools to George H Carnall Leisure Centre. They spent the afternoon being coached in games and tennis skills by students from FGS. This was the conclusion of the FGS students' 'Beyond the

CREATE:

FAME

The Create faculty Hospitality students did a fantastic job making and serving the canapés for the VIP audience members. Many commented how great the food and the students were, making the whole VIP experience very enjoyable!

Art Club

Every Wednesday Year 7 & 8 students worked on a collaborative project creating ceramic tiles using nuts and bolts for texture. Their work will be displayed together as a large piece of artwork. They are moving onto origami and large scale 3D papier-mâché work for their next project.



Food Tech

Year 10 & 11 were brilliant at the 'Big Buffet' at Trafford college which gave them the opportunity to work in an industrial kitchen. Preparing duck tortellini including their own pasta, as well as working in the pastry section making apple turnovers, mini victoria sandwiches, pinwheels and many more delights that were enjoyed with their families. They were also introduced to how to pursue a career in hospitality; with an understanding of work placements and qualifications available at the college.



Baseline' project developed by the Youth Sport Trust, which uses tennis as a vehicle to develop confidence, self-esteem and career aspirations.

Girls Active Conference

We worked with the Youth Sport Trust again in March, when five Year 9 students travelled to Loughborough to take part in our second Girls Active conference. Funded by Sport England, in partnership with This Girl Can and Women in Sport, Girls Active offers a flexible action planning framework, to help teachers and girls work together to address their individual needs and motivate more involvement in sport. We came back full of ideas and can't wait to put them into action!



PARTICIPATE:

Music Conference

Music GCSE students were able to gain some brilliant insights into their forthcoming exams and practical assessment needs, as they attended a keynote music conference in central Manchester. They saw examples of A* compositions and performances and spoke with examiners as well as taking part in a Q&A session. Kathryn Stephenson Year 11 commented: 'It was really helpful and will be a vital part of my exam revision.'

TAEKWONDO TREATS

A group of over 40 students were treated to an exciting taekwondo athletes visit recently. Due to our fundraising prowess and involvement with Comic Relief and specifically Sports Relief; our students were rewarded with a visit from members of the British taekwondo team.

Sports Relief team said, 'Flixton Girls' School was one of the Top 500 fundraisers for Sport Relief 2014! It's an incredible achievement, so from all of us here at Comic Relief a massive well done and thank you! We're really excited that you'll be getting involved again this year!'

Bianca Walkden, Abigail Stones, Charlie Maddock and Shannon Ryan are all members of the current British Olympic taekwondo team and will be aiming high to achieve fantastic results in the forth coming August events. In fact Bianca Walkden has already had her place confirmed in the Rio 2016 team.



Following a question and answer session the students had first-hand experience of mastering a few taekwondo moves, after being shown by Bianca they each then practised the move with one of the athletes. The girls really showed their quick learning techniques and physical abilities to the athletes who were impressed with their achievements.

Jessica Wallworth Year 9 said 'I thought meeting the athletes, as a reward for our Sports Relief top 500 fundraiser, was a great experience and I really enjoyed it. I learnt a lot from the athletes including resilience, which taught me to never give up on my dreams. The demonstrations were excellent and I even managed to learn some taekwondo skills.'



Ebony Riley Year 7 commented 'I was very proud to be selected to meet the elite taekwondo athletes. Sharon Ryan is a role model of mine as she comes from a Tai Boxing background which I am currently competing in. I enjoyed taking part in lots of Sports Relief activities in school, especially the run a mile event which we all take part in during our PE lessons.'

Miss Cashin, PE Teacher commented: 'The Participate Faculty planned a host of activities for this year's Sport Relief. Here at FGS we relish the opportunity to take part in physical activity whilst also raising money for such a worthwhile cause. We are beyond proud to be one of the top fundraisers in the country and this year we raised over £2700.'

During the week leading up to Sports Relief we ran fun sports every morning break - hoola hoops, football skills, circus skills and skipping. Plus run a mile during PE lessons and double points for extra-curricular clubs for the entire Sports Relief week.

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Over £2800 was made from the event run by the PTA and as a result large picnic table umbrellas have been purchased to benefit our students outside dining. Thankyou all!

Text Santa/Mission Christmas

Thanks for all your kind donations for our involvement in the Text Santa and Mission Christmas events.





FAME

THE MUSICAL

'FAME!' AT FLIXTON GIRLS' SCHOOL



round show. It was my first visit to Flixton Girls School, It certainly won't be my last!"

Says Miss Taberham: " 'Fame' is by no means an easy production, but the girls have risen to the challenge. They have worked extremely hard."

The cast were supported by students from Wellacre Academy in the band section, as well as several more school students who built the sets, sold programmes and served refreshments.

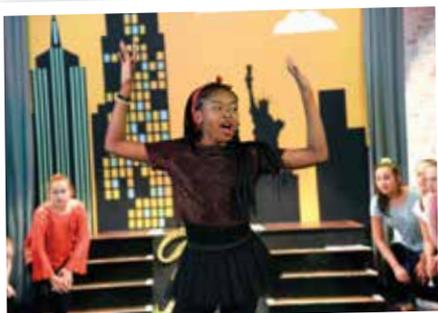
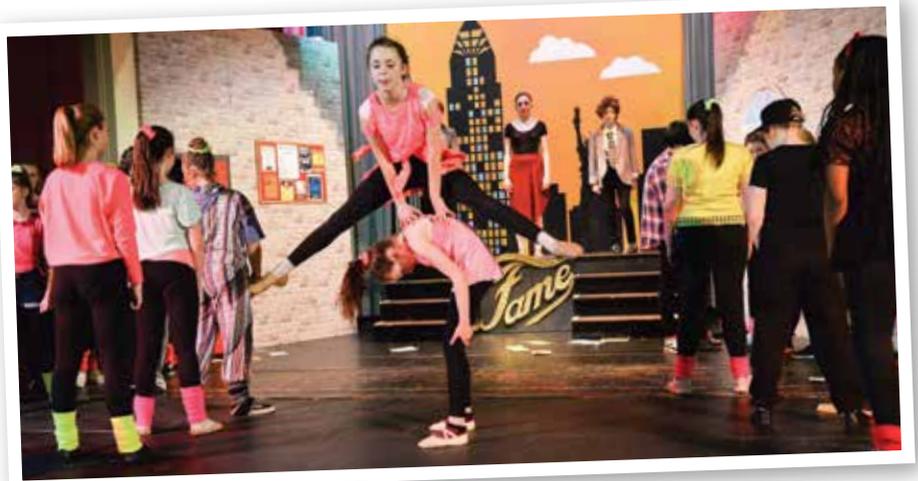
role as Carmen Diaz, had everyone on their feet and singing along. Cast member Faye Dixon, who played dance rebel Tyrone Jackson, commented: "We were nervous at first but all really enjoyed it. We've loved the rehearsals and are all so disappointed that it is over!"

This latest production is one of several extra curricular activities being run at the school, whose reputation as a leading establishment in sports, drama and arts matches its academic standards,

Flixton Girls' School was transformed to 1980s New York, as the students put on their sold-out production of 'Fame'.

The three night run saw students don their legwarmers and glitter in the show that was based on the 1980 hit musical, directed by teachers Miss Taberham, Director and Miss Stubbs, Musical Director and supported by the school's 'Create' faculty.

Amateur theatre reviewer North West End, who attended on closing night, said: "Each and every one of this cast gives 100% - this was a superb all-



Sponsor Chris Balden (Paul Birtles Estate Agents) described the show as 'excellent'. From the opening sequence the audience was cheering, and the famous title track from the show, performed as a finale by Eden Woodstock Burgher in her

which are well above the national average. As Miss Taberham concludes: "The show gave a platform for students to demonstrate not only their performance skills, but also reliability, resilience, determination and dedication, all of which we actively encourage. It was brilliant."



MOTHER'S DAY PAMPER EVENT

Hair & Beauty students designed invites for their mums and planned a mini pamper session that include hair, manicure and facials. They demonstrated skills they had been practicing during their hair and beauty sessions and were so professional throughout! They worked hard to ensure that the salon was a calm and relaxing environment and were able to say thank you to their mums at the same time!



CHILD CARE TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

The students studying our Caring for Children qualification, organised a teddy bears picnic inviting children from St. Marys Primary School Year 1 & 2 to attend. They planned and prepared activities and a healthy snack for the children as part of their assessment. They made fruit kebabs and organised a treasure hunt and 'musical bears'! All children brought their teddy bears to join in the fun. It was a lovely morning and our students worked really hard to make sure that the children had a nice time. The students and Miss Jones received a hand-made card from St Mary's as a thank you for the event.

STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT IN SALE GANG SHOW

Students Isobel Blackburn Year 8 and Ellena Wood Year 9 were both involved in the local Sale District cubs and guides 'Gang Show' at Altrincham Garrick Theatre, in front of a live audience for a full week during the February half term. They both performed in singing, acting and dance pieces which required a lot of hard work and dedication. Ellena said 'Performing in a show of this scale was an excellent experience as it helps to build your confidence. This year's show was my 5th and hopefully there will be many more brilliant shows to come.' Isobel also achieved her Grade 2 Flute examination during this same period which illustrates her dedication and achievement.



Isobel Blackburn

EBONY RILEY

Our very own Ebony Riley is British Champion for Muay Thai (under 27kg) and this year is being trained by her father (British and World Champion many times over), to enter a higher weight category. Ebony has just started training with the Diane Modahl Sports Foundation

and will be competing in a range of athletics competitions throughout the year. This is while also completing a range of modelling assignments and taking part in Sainsbury's Active for Kids 2016 campaign. Good luck Ebony, we're rooting for you!





WELLBEING FUNDING SECURED

We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our staff and students and so we are delighted that Mrs Statham has secured funding in excess of £5,000 for healthy schools projects. This includes over £2500 from Trafford Community Panels for our Wellbeing Wednesday open evening style events, over £2000 through Salford Red Devils for an after school dance club, and in excess of £1250 through Sportivate for a trampolining and gym project. Thankyou Mrs Statham!

CLOUD 9

Cloud 9 is a new pilot focusing on nine areas that we feel are crucial to aiding our students' wellbeing. They include attendance, goal setting and aspirations; dealing with exam stress, physical health, mindfulness, positive thinking, self-esteem and confidence building; careers advice and resources and revision techniques.



Our students were invited to attend nine morning sessions, run by Miss Powell. Everyone felt that the programme had been 100 per cent beneficial in preparing them for their examinations. Thank you to everyone who took part and gave feedback.



NETBALL



All Netball teams have continued to raise their game this term and our Year 8 team are ahead above the rest as North Trafford Girls Netball Champions. Well done and we look forward to cheering you on even more next season!

SWIMMING

Two teams took part in Trafford Swimming Gala, held at St. Ambrose College, with 10 teams competing over 6 events including backstroke, butterfly and relays.

Both teams were competitive in fighting for a top 3 position in all races. It was fantastic to see the students excelling against some of the best swimmers across Trafford. The final results saw the B team finishing 4/10, whilst the A team finished 1st becoming Trafford Swim Champions.

HANDBALL

Year 9 competition was fierce but FGS became overall winners and Trafford Champions at their first ever Handball tournament.

ATHLETICS



Great results achieved by our Year 7 students who took part in the Greater Manchester Indoor Athletics Competition, where 16 schools from across Manchester competed. Brooke Wetherill won the 60m sprint and with other members of the 7 strong team achieving third place in 60m sprint and shot put. Overall the team achieved 6th place in the competition.

ROWING

Year 10 Indoor Rowing Team represented Trafford Schools at the Greater Manchester School Games Indoor Rowing Competition at Robin Park, Wigan. Competition was fierce in the individual 5 minute time trial events, our team members putting in determined performances, including Piper Clarke who came 9th overall. The girls achieved a team



silver medal with a team personal best distance of 2027m in the 4x2 minute team relay.

BASKETBALL



Year 7 & 8 teams achieved great results in their recent basketball competition, so much so that they won the overall competition and were crowned North Trafford Basketball Champions. They came second in the U13 Trafford Basketball tournament.

Year 9 & 10 combined team made it through to the Trafford finals after proceeding as North Trafford undefeated winners. This undefeated run continued and they became Trafford Champions 2015.



FOOTBALL



Year 7, 8 and 9 football teams all claimed North Trafford 7-a-side champions titles in January! They all fought off competition from Urmston Grammar, Lostock College, Stretford Grammar,



Stretford High, St Antonys and Broadoak to claim the titles in each of the different year groups!

The Year 8 team also reached the finals day of the Man Utd Foundation competition and came 3rd overall after beating a number of teams including Astley Community Sports College.

