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Issue 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF
FLIXTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

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Headlines

Dear Readers,

Firstly I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year! As we begin the New Year it prompts us to look back over the last year and particularly the last term. We had a great start in September with our superb examination results which put us third of the ten high schools in Trafford. At 57% (published 56%) of students gaining 5+ A* to C grades including English and Maths, the latest performance tables show how we compare to other schools. Our performance in English puts us at the top of all the high schools in Trafford. The data from the Department for Education shows that we have made huge progress in the last three years and further to our last visit by Ofsted, we now judge that we are likely to be graded as at least good with outstanding features. This really is a great start to 2011!

Thank you to all parents who are supporting us with our Standards for Learning. Behaviour has improved significantly and fixed term exclusions have reduced by 70% over three years. The vast majority of girls do the right thing, work hard and take pride in their work as demonstrated by the excellent Year 9 languages visit to Manchester University and the high quality dance performance at the Lowry. Well done girls!

Major developments this year include consideration of academy conversion as the Board of Trustees has given permission for the governors to explore this option. Consultation with all stakeholders will take place if the governors wish to proceed. We are also currently conducting a major review of the Key Stage 4 curriculum and our options system and we hope to be able to bring in some new ideas for next year that will improve the conditions for learning for both students and staff. Please watch out for letters and communication on the website regarding all developments.

Julie Hazeldine, Headteacher

Hands On

In October 2010, 16 girls enjoyed a trip to local butchers, P J Howarth's as part of our enrichment day. The girls learnt how the butcher sources his meat and got hands on experience making sausages, which, of course, they were able to bring back to school and share with classmates who had baked fresh bread.



FGHS Goes Global!

Global Education contributes to the whole curriculum and enhances the students' understanding of the world. Through our Global Dimension initiative we study different cultures and countries and the issues that face them, and develop an understanding of the impact our actions have on them.

In July 2010 we were awarded the 'Intermediate International School Award' in recognition for our substantial curriculum-based international activities and work with our international partner schools which are The Woodstock School in India and Gymnasium No. 2 in the Ukraine.

We are currently working on our submission and hope to gain the International GOLD award this year.



Performer of the Year

Congratulations to ex-pupil Danielle Lea (Year 11 in 2009/2010) who scooped 'Performer of the Year' at the Trafford Sports Awards 2010.

The annual awards are held to recognise and celebrate the wealth of talent and commitment of sporting athletes, clubs and volunteers from across the whole of the Trafford Borough.

Beautiful Mehndi

In November 2010, Laura Wetherill (Yr10) and her fellow friends on the Hair & Beauty Diploma practised Mehndi designs on each other. Mehndi is the application of henna (temporary form of tattoo), which dates back to Egypt over 5000 years ago. Today it is used for special occasions such as weddings and baby showers.



Academic News

11 Million Takeover Day

On 12th November, Zarnab Naz (9SM) and Sarah Lobodzinski (9NL) were lucky enough to enter the adult-run world of business as they helped to run the constituency office of Kate Green MP for the day, as part of Takeover Day.

Takeover Day is a national event led by the Children's Commissioner for England which gives children and young people the chance to shadow jobs, get involved in decision-making and offer their opinions on key issues.

Zarnab and Sarah spent the day with Kate Green MP helping to run the constituency office and accompanying her on her visits to St. Teresa's R.C Primary School and the theatre to support a 'Save the Children' charity event.

Blue Peter Gold Badge Winner

Congratulations to Yvette Loukes (7CO), who has been awarded a Blue Peter Gold Badge in recognition of her outstanding sporting achievements, despite her struggle with Type 1 diabetes.

Yvette appeared on Blue Peter on 10th January and met the Prime Minister at Number 10 Downing Street where she, along with other badge winners, was given the honour of switching on the Downing Street Christmas lights.



Filming for Blue Peter included presenter Andy talking to Yvette about coping with diabetes in sport, as well as filming her training with her MUFC U12 team mates at Manchester United's training ground.

In addition to playing for MUFC U12's and representing FGHS at football and netball, soccer mad Yvette has twice represented Great Britain on the international stage in Switzerland at the Junior Diabetes Cup tournament, playing for her country against Italy, Spain, Poland, USA and a host of other teams from across the globe. In 2010, her team won the ultimate prize, beating France 2-0 in the final!

Miss Austin, Director of Specialism added: "As a specialist Sports College we are absolutely delighted to see such perseverance and tenacity."



Pamper Day

In December our Health and Beauty students hosted a pamper day. Parents and staff were treated to hair and nail "make-overs" for a small donation, which raised £100 towards the "Wood Street Mission" Christmas Appeal.



On TRAC - House Points

Highest Scoring Pupils in the Whole School

Position	No. of points	Student	Form
Joint 1st Gold	329	Hannah Maine	7JF/F
	329	Bayley-Rio Sibthorpe	7JF/F
Bronze	320	Esme Chapman	7JF/F

Highest Scoring Forms in the Whole School

Position	No. of points	Form
Gold	4774	7JF/F
Silver	3652	7HC/K
Bronze	3524	7SP/F

Highest Scoring Pupils for each House

Name	Form	Points	House
Abbie Norton	7HC	185	Keller
Aysha Nagdi	9NL	185	
Olivia Skinkis	7HC	183	
Crystal Roswell	8AH	183	
Jemma Gillings	7HC	181	Frank
Hannah Maine	7JF	329	
Bayley-Rio Sibthorpe	7JF	329	
Esme Chapman	7JF	320	
Ayeda Shahid	7JF	315	Parks
Yasmin Alkhfaji	9SB	226	
Natasha Bushell	7TE	211	
Charley Jade Delfinis	8NW	209	

Highest Scoring Forms for each House

Form	Points	House
7HC	3652	Keller
7CO	3429	
8CJ	2513	
7JF	4774	Frank
7SP	3524	
8EB	2668	Parks
8NW	3319	
7TE	3138	
9SB	2669	

House Totals

Position	House	Points
Gold	Frank	21563
Silver	Keller	19833
Bronze	Parks	19369

Staff

Sadly during the last term we said goodbye to some of our friends and colleagues, who will all be missed.

Anne Halligan	Maths teacher
Emma Ball	Head of PE
Carol Smith	Rosa Parkes House Assistant
Charlotte Taylor	Head of Humanities - maternity leave

As we said goodbye, we have also welcomed the following new staff:

Helen Larkin	Rosa Parkes House Assistant
Kath Brindley	Behaviour Coach - returned from maternity leave
Margaret Brown	PE Teacher (temporary)
Sarah Stapleton	Maternity cover for Charlotte Taylor

Specialist Sports College News

“Happy New Year!”

What a jam packed term it was in the run up to Christmas! We had a member of our Football Team at No.10; Olympic stars launching AdiStars; the Primary PE Conference, not to mention the BBC news visit!

I am also pleased to report that although the new Government is still making drastic cuts to school Sport, they have actually listened to the huge public outcry and have announced that some funding will remain. This will enable us to continue with our tremendous work through sport with our partner primary schools. In Trafford all Sports Colleges, both School Sport Partnerships and Sport Trafford are working hard collaboratively to find local solutions to maintain the current structure as far as possible. It is a challenge but the ethos of Sport means we won't give up!

We have many opportunities for parents to support us through coaching and volunteering in the PE and Dance team. Please contact us if you are interested and please do keep supporting our sporting achievements.

Finally I am delighted to let you know that not only are we hosting the Greater Manchester Mini Games in July - when 1500 primary school children will be competing in over fifteen different events on our school site, but also we are the lead school in the development of the National pilot of the Level 3 Olympic Style school competition being held in July.

Lisa Austin
Director of Specialism

FGHS in Tour de France

Inspired by the visit from Victoria Pendleton MBE and Shanaze Reade, two of our staff have been successful in applying to race the most difficult stage in the Tour de France in July this year. Mr Buck and Mr Woolley will be organising a range of activities to involve our students and develop cultural awareness and understanding.



FGHS are Trafford Leaders

Back in September FGHS hosted an Inclusion Sports Leader Training programme – as a result 20 of our Year 9 students are now trained as North Trafford Inclusion Sports Leaders. Stretford High School took the opportunity to send two of their students to access the training here at FGHS.

These 22 students are the first pupils to be trained in Trafford for inclusion so it is great that we have based it at our sports college.



Adidas launch AdiStars at FGHS

British Olympic and world champion track cyclist Victoria Pendleton MBE and professional British Bicycle Motocross



(BMX) racer and track cyclist Shanaze Reade made a surprise visit to the school in November to launch AdiStars. This is a new initiative from Adidas aimed to inspire a youth audience to participate in sport in the run up to and beyond the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The scheme, which is hosted online at www.london2012.com/adistars, encourages young people to choose 'powers' such as skill, speed and stamina and then participate in one of the 'missions' for that power. By completing the missions they earn rewards which can be anything from exclusive virtual badges and London 2012 products to meeting Adidas sports people.



FGHS on BBC News

On 15th November the staff and students from the school were put under the spotlight as reporters and film crew interviewed Miss Austin, Director of Specialism on the Government's spending review and their decision to cut funding for School Sport Partnerships.

The interview made the 6 o'clock BBC News. We hope the interview helped with the Government's u-turn as they have recently announced that they will be putting back £64 million into school sports.

Community News

Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

Our annual Senior Citizen's Christmas Party in December was another successful event that was enjoyed by all involved.

After a sherry reception, guests were treated to festive carols from the school choir before tucking into a turkey and trimmings feast prepared by the school's caterers Cucina. The afternoon ended with a game of bingo and free Christmas raffle, with prizes donated by staff and students.



Intergen

We are extremely excited about a new project starting early in the New Year. The school has teamed up with charity organisation Intergen, a group of volunteers aged 55+ who have spare time, life skills and experience in various areas and who volunteer in schools.

We are lucky enough to be working with a group of 6 volunteers who will mentor our students in literacy, ballroom dancing and crafts.

Intergen is always on the look out for new members. If you know of anyone who is retired, who would like to share their skills and knowledge on a voluntary basis and help Intergen with their work in local schools please contact Pauline Castledine on 0161 864 4839.

PTA

Congratulations to the PTA on their first Christmas Fayre. The event was a huge success, raising in the region of £700 towards school funds.

The PTA will be holding a Race Night on Friday 11th March – more details will be made available via letter and the school website.

To raise funds, the PTA have recently set up a 50/50 club. As the name 50/50 club suggests, 50% of the money each month will go directly to the PTA and 50% will go to parents who win. The scheme is open to parents and staff and costs £1 per month to enter with draws taking place at the start of the month.

Interested in joining the PTA? Contact Mrs Critchley on 0161 912 2949 for an application form.



Adult Learning



FGHS continues to work in partnership with Trafford College to offer a variety of short, community courses aimed at improving skill, confidence and wellbeing.

Courses for the New Year include Indian Cookery, Dress Making, Computers for Beginners, Cake Decorating and Photography. Please contact Trafford College on 0161 886 7443 for enrolment details.



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