



# Footlights

Autumn 2013 Issue 19

Opening doors, unlocking potential



**A SHINING EXAMPLE**

**Award-winning teaching  
in our Spirit project**

## A tradition of excellence

THIS is a term of conflicting emotions. We move out of our old 1935 building, which has served generations of children here in north Rochdale, first as the Grammar School for Girls, then Greenhill Upper School and, latterly, Falinge Park High School. However, it is time to pack up and move next door into our new home with its outstanding new facilities.

On a more positive note, I must congratulate Year 11 who achieved the best results at 5+ A\*-C including English and Mathematics in Rochdale Township. This means there are only another couple of Local Authority schools for us to catch. What better motivation for our current Year 11 students to work hard.

*Robin Lonsdale, Headteacher*

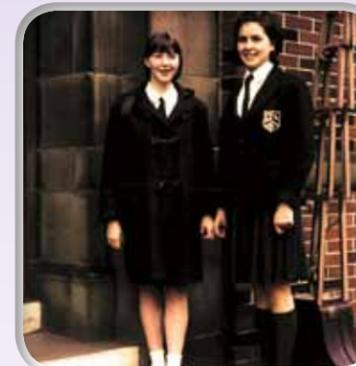


# New school builds on our past

AFTER operating as a school since 1935, our school building will soon no longer exist.

However, over the years, the building has undergone several extensions and modifications to accommodate increasing student numbers and educational needs.

A new school was first considered in 2007, and the design has been through several revisions, reductions and locations, which have resulted in the new building we will soon call home. Some parts of the existing school have been refurbished rather than renewed, but these works are very much in keeping with the new build.



## Award for linguistics

MFL

IN recognition of their hard work, students learning a Modern Foreign Language have the opportunity of being nominated as the linguist for that half term.

In every languages class, one student is awarded a gift voucher and certificate for being the best-performing student. The award is given for a variety of reasons: for outstanding progress, excellent assessment results, superb contributions in class activities and fantastic effort.

*The MFL Team*

## Turning pounds into profit

THE Tenner Challenge is a nationwide competition to find the next generation of budding entrepreneurs.

In May, Year 9 Business Studies students were loaned £10 from The Tenner Bank. Working in groups of two or three, they used this money as start-up capital to get their mini-businesses off the ground. The idea was to make as much profit as possible, while giving something back to society.

*Adrian Penn*

*Budding entrepreneurs: Madhiah Ahmed, Farah Savrat and Saxon Newsham, Year 10.*



## Primary pupils get a head start

CI

THE Creative and Literacy Learning Summer School took place from 29th July to 2nd August, and involved 25 Year 6 and 7 learners who spent the week working on the theme of 'Amazing Discoveries'.

The five days were spent on a variety of tasks, and included a visit to the Yorkshire Museum and the National Rail Museum in York and a trip to Hull to examine exhibits in the Museum's Quarter and The Deep.

Pupils also completed independent learning booklets, which encouraged research and further questioning. At the end of the week, each pupil received a certificate and a satchel to give them a head start in the new academic term.

*Simon DeCoursey*



### A BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME

At the start of the building project, the reception and main entrance to the school was demolished to facilitate the new build. During the demolition process, a capsule was discovered: it was a lead box measuring 200 x 50 x 25mm, which was opened by staff and students from the Humanities department. Its contents included a tape of the last school assembly in July 1966, photographs of students and the Headmistress, pre-decimalisation coins and school concert tickets. The inclusion of a school news booklet also included reference to the student editorial team, one of whom went on to become a member of staff at this school, who retired only last summer.

As a result, a new time capsule is planned for the reception area of the new build, whose location will be denoted by a faceplate created by Design & Technology students.

The new building will become our new school on 19th December, after which teaching and learning will begin in earnest in January 2014.

*Paul Keppie*





“ Students enjoy school and are proud of it... ”

“ Leadership and management **GOOD** ”

“ Care, guidance and support **OUTSTANDING** ”

“ Cohesion **OUTSTANDING** ”

“ Preparing students for life **EXCEPTIONAL** ”

“ Overall effectiveness **GOOD** ”

“ Governors **PASSIONATELY COMMITTED** ”

“ Achievement of pupils **GOOD** ”

# Our latest Ofsted inspection has been overwhelmingly positive **'This is a good school!'**

THREE weeks after changing the Ofsted inspection framework, we welcomed a team of inspectors to Falinge Park on 17th and 18th September. The changes have meant that inspections are far more difficult. However, what they found has delighted our parents, staff and students.

“ Dealing with bullying **SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE** ”

“ Behaviour and safety of pupils **GOOD** ”

“ Including every student in the life of the school and in making sure that every student has equality of opportunity to succeed **OUTSTANDING** ”

The rhetoric is of a school that is good and close to being outstanding. Hopefully, all families will have read it, but if you haven't, there is a link on our website.

- Here are some of my favourite sound bites:
- “Students enjoy school and are proud of it...”
  - “Students from different ethnic backgrounds get on with no problems whatsoever. They enjoy each other's company. 'We all get on without any problems. It's like a big family' was the opinion of one student, and this sums up the harmonious atmosphere that pervades the school.”
  - “Students behave well and have positive attitudes to learning.”
  - They feel very safe in school and are proud of their school.
  - Leaders and managers are exceptionally successful in creating a harmonious school community in which all students, regardless of ethnicity or background, get along outstandingly well with each other.”

*Robin Lonsdale, Headteacher*



Cutting-edge teaching: Mrs Uddin and Reema Akhtar, Year 7.

# Reading for pleasure

THROUGH the SPIRIT project – an innovative reward programme that inspires and motivates students to read for pleasure – Mrs Uddin and her team have successfully given 30 students intensive support with their literacy skills. Over the past year, students have been rewarded for their hard work with free

books, visits to places of interest, and the opportunity to use iPads in a series of interactive treasure-hunting activities. The Accelerated Reader application has also proved successful, with the result that FPHS has introduced the software to the whole of Year 7 to encourage progress in reading.

## LEADING THE WAY IN LITERACY



### Teacher shines

MEANWHILE, the SPIRIT project also resulted in Mrs Uddin being named as one of 11 winners in the 'Let Teachers SHINE' competition, which ran in conjunction with *The Times Educational Supplement*. After a long application and interview process, Mrs Uddin was chosen from 119 entries to run the project in school. The accompanying £14,291 grant was used to purchase new technology to support cutting-edge teaching in school.

New technology: Faiza Qureshi and Ryan Morgan, Year 9.

### Sponsored Readathon

STUDENTS across the school were invited to join forces with the SPIRIT team to raise money for seriously ill children in the UK, with a sponsored Readathon. Over the course of two weeks, the students

read over 200 books and raised a total of £255.04. Participants were rewarded with a free book, badge and other goodies as a thank you. The next Readathon will take place during the spring term.

### Pioneer spirit

FALINGE Park was the first secondary school to visit the newly renovated Rochdale Pioneers Museum. SPIRIT students had their efforts in reading rewarded with a team-building and communication event in which they travelled back in time to 1844.

### Stepping back in time

THE SPIRIT team also celebrated their achievements over the year with a visit to the National Trust site of Dunham Massey. Immersing themselves in the life of a Victorian servant for a day, they learnt to make bread, cheese, butter and soap, before hunting for treasure in the grounds of the park.

### Tips of the trade

A GROUP of CALL learners recently took part in a workshop at Rochdale Central Library, led by the author and illustrator Curtis Jobling. The students were able to gain an invaluable insight into the life of the author, as well as picking up tips on how to create and develop their own stories and characters.

Liz Rogerson

## Creatively commemorating WWI

COMPANY Class, the FPHS Gifted and Talented Dance company, is currently working on 'Project Tommy' ([www.project-tommy.co.uk](http://www.project-tommy.co.uk)), in commemoration of the centenary, in 2014, of the start of the First World War. The senior and junior sections of the company have joined forces to work on dances in response to images, text

and ideas from the Michael Morpurgo novels *Private Peaceful* and *War Horse*. The final performance will be held at the Imperial War Museum North in Salford on 8th June.

Senior Company Class have also been selected to represent Rochdale in 'Signatures', a national event at the Lowry Theatre in Salford.

Alfred Mvula



In good company: Members of Company Class.

Flash mob: Tabitha Rusden, Year 9, and Kriss-Ann Wilson, Year 11, with Stacy Murtagh.

### Students brush off their clogs

STUDENTS and staff recently took part in a 'flash mob clog' in the new Rochdale Library at Number One Riverside. The event was part of the borough-wide Literacy and Ideas festival, and involved trapeze artists, local poets, storytelling and folk musicians from Rochdale Youth Music Service.

Leading up to the event, staff and students undertook only three lessons to learn a Lancashire clog dance routine, which they performed with community groups, Rossendale Heritage Clog and dance groups from as far afield as London.

Stacy Murtagh

## Focus on Fairtrade

FPHS students have been working hard all year to help us achieve the Fairtrade School Status Award.

The Fairtrade Steering Group, which is made up of students from all year groups, is in charge of everything that is Fairtrade in school. So far, we have held a Fairtrade Café at Rochdale Sixth Form College, Trainers 4 Trainers Day to help raise money for poor farmers around the world and we have a Fairtrade Tuck Shop, which is open at lunchtimes.

Look out for more Fairtrade events and competitions coming up soon.

Rozwana Masood

## Rambert raises aspirations

IN October, the Year 9 BTEC Dance group visited the Lowry Theatre at Salford to watch their first performance by Rambert Dance Company, who performed three contrasting dances:

*Castaways*, by Barak Marshall, was an entertaining narrative about being trapped in no man's land; *What Wild Ecstasy* had a great set, with giant insects hanging from the ceiling; and *L'Après-midi d'un faune*, which caused riots when it was first performed 100 years ago.

Jenny Wystawnoha

Pe

## Marathon runners beat world record!

ON 18th October, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the Marathon Challenge on the school's playing fields.

The international event, designed to raise money for Save the Children, was undertaken by students in countries around the world. All had the same objective: to raise money for others less fortunate, and to break the world record.

Incredibly, FPHS did just that, beating the world record of 2 hours, 23 minutes and 23 seconds. They raised a staggering £1,950 in the process.

*Andy Jones*



Sharing expertise: Umme Safiya, Year 11, with Kieran Farrell.

## Coaching sessions

PROFESSIONAL boxer Kieran Farrell has been coming into school to coach our students. Both boys and girls are welcome to attend the boxing sessions, which take place every Friday lunchtime in the Dance Studio.

Kieran has also been working with two groups of Year 11 girls in their PE lessons. Meanwhile, Paralympian Simon Jackson MBE, who has been coaching GCSE PE students in judo, will be holding more sessions in January.

*Sam Ridings*

## Rugby fans raise the roof

DURING half-term, a total of 97 students, staff and family members attended the Fiji v Ireland Rugby League World Cup fixture at Spotland Stadium.

FPHS was also privileged when Year 11 student Jack Beazley was nominated to carry the flag during the opening ceremony.

Fiji went on to win the game 32-14 in front of a record crowd.

*Danny O'Reilly*

## Netballers court victory

NEXT May, the Year 8 netball team will be playing in one of the biggest tournaments in the country, the PGL Boreatton Park Junior Netball Tournament.

Over the course of three days, they will compete against some of the nation's best netballers. This is a very exciting opportunity for our team – and fingers crossed that they bring a trophy back home to Rochdale.

*Sam Ridings*

## Manager of the Month

THE Year 9 football team are currently undefeated in the league, and the majority of the praise can only be aimed towards the Mourinho double that is Mr Meara.

Coach Meara has motivated and pushed the team to their limit, ensuring that they have beaten every team they have played. As a result, he has been awarded the Manager of the Month trophy for the past two months.

In other football news, Year 8 Joint Managers Mr Jundi and Mr Hodgson have been given the full backing of the board.

*Danny O'Reilly*

## Celebration of sport

PLAYGROUND to Podium (P2P) is a borough-wide event aimed at giving students with Special Educational Needs or disabilities the opportunity to take part in a range of sporting activities.

As a result, sports such as Boccia and New Age Curling were discovered by Darshan Datta, Firaz Nadeem, Ahsan Khan, Touheed Kamran, Ali Shah and Aroosa Rafiq at a special event in October. Many more varied sports are planned throughout the year.

Thank you to staff helpers Victoria Busfield and Stuart Brown.

*Lindsey Sykes*

