Best in Rochdale
Focus on our sporting stars
WELCOME to the latest edition of Footlights.

What a summer it has been... bringing with it record exam results, as well as a building site! Both point to a school that is ‘on the up’, and one that has faith in the ability of our young people to succeed. However many changes you see in the building, our values and determination will remain constant.

We hope you enjoy the roundup of what’s going on here at school.

Robin Lonsdale

Headline news

THIS year’s spectacular school production of C.S. Lewis’s The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe took place in the new, state-of-the-art theatre at Rochdale Sixth Form College.

As with previous shows, most of the props, costumes and scenery – complete with integrated digital imagery – were made in-house by our own students and staff. Performed by the youngest cast so far, the two evening performances played to an appreciative audience.

Alfred Mvula

Adventures in the land of Narnia

IN conjunction with Edge Hill University, Northwest Dance, The Lowry and the Arts Council, FPHS was selected to work with 12 Degrees North Graduate Dance Company on an innovative pilot programme. This aims to strengthen Dance provision in the North West and to support the transition from training to employment.

During the day, the company’s dancers worked with BTEC Dance students in years 9, 10 and 11, who took part in a series of high-energy, challenging and risk-taking workshops. During lunch, the company performed a memorable site-specific dance in the school yard, and concluded the day with a triple bill in the school hall.

Members of the company also answered questions about the Arts at college, university, and beyond.

Jenny Wystawnoha

In step with Dance

PROJECT Hugo is an exciting new venture, which brings students and schools together through a shared vision. The project, which is centred around creativity and working collaboratively, involved FPHS students and four primary schools: Shawclough, Healey, Norden and Whittaker Moss.

The students experience vibrant and creative learning through Dance, Drama, Art, Photography, Music and Design Technology, to enhance their literacy skills and understanding of topics. The stimulus for the project is the novel by Brian Selznick, The Invention of Hugo Cabret, and the subsequent film spin-off, Hugo. The work, which stems from the book, include invention, journeys, relationships, adventure and illustration.

The work will be shared at Carnforth Train Station on 23rd March next year.

Jenny Wystawnoha

Reach for the stars

FALINGE Park student Punitha Naidu has been shortlisted in the national ‘Search for a Star’ competition to find the next generation’s junior sports TV presenter, in conjunction with the FA Women’s Super League, ESPN and Shout magazine.

The sixteen-year-old made the final four after impressing judges in a 60-second video entry reporting on a recent sporting event.

In September, she joined the other three finalists in London to attend an exclusive masterclass at the ESPN studios and to record a professional piece to camera for the final judging panel.

Simon DeCourcey

Roll out the red carpet

WE are very proud of our summer leavers, who smashed all previous school records. A staggering 79 per cent achieved 5+ A*-C, 57 per cent achieved 5+ A*-G grades including English and Maths, and 58 per cent achieved 5+ grades at G or better. This meant that, on most measures, Falinge Park students performed above the national average. This is a fantastic springboard to Further Education for our students.

In celebration, we laid out the red carpet for Year 11 on Prom night which, once again, was held at The Village Hotel in Bury. Meanwhile, Arsher Miah and Chloe Oliver were crowned Prom King and Prom Queen at the Year 11 Leavers’ Assembly. A delighted Chloe said: “It really tops off a wonderful year.”

Julie Clarke

Springboard to success: Our former students receiving their exam results in August.
During the construction of our new school, every care is being taken to ensure the wellbeing of our students, staff, parents and visitors.

Since returning to school in September, we have all noticed big changes to our working routine. To date, students have coped admirably with the reduction in their recreation space, a problem that has been increased by the torrential rain this summer and autumn. Staff have also benefited from the generosity of our friends at The Open Door project, who allowed us to use their parking area for the duration of the build.

The school is adapting in other ways. When we lose our hall, we will be conducting our assemblies in half community groups in the upper year centre in order to maintain the continuity of bringing the school together.

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Health and safety at school

Both the school and the building contractor have a responsibility for the safety of our students, staff and visitors while construction work is taking place. In this respect, staff have been briefed about the amended fire escape procedures and parking restrictions.

All visitors, parents and staff are required to park at the Horse Carrs - Open Door facility as, currently, there are no facilities for visitor parking. This is less than 100 metres to the north of the school’s former rear entrance. Unfortunately, parents are also unable to drop off or pick up children as the former turning circle is out of bounds for the time being.

The contractor has met with all students to explain the dangers of construction sites and the need for students to take care of their own personal safety. Year 7 have attended additional classes on this topic, and the architect has spoken with students in Years 10 and 11 about careers in architecture.
STUDENTS and staff celebrated the European Day of Languages on 26th September in a variety of exciting ways. Languages staff dressed in national costumes, international meals were served in the dining rooms, staff used a wide range of languages in their classrooms and organised a quiz during tutor time. Students in Year 7 also took part in a poster competition.

New staff settle in

WE welcomed two new Foreign Language Assistants to Falinge Park recently. Isabel Perez Garcia (top left), who is our new Spanish Assistant, said: "I came to England in 2010. I enjoy being here at Falinge Park. Everybody is very friendly, but I miss the nice weather back in Spain!" Marine Fusco (bottom left), who comes from Toulouse in the south of France, is our new French Assistant. Marine said: "I came here to improve my language and to discover a different education system. I also want to make people see France differently: we do not all eat snails and frog legs! Apart from the weather, I'm really enjoying my new life here."

Languages on the menu

ON 3rd October, students travelled to the Waterstones book store in Manchester to meet the award-winning horror author Darren Shan, whose terrifying tales certainly put us in the mood for Hallowe'en. After listening to a few readings from his new book, Zom-B, the students were given the opportunity to take part in a question-and-answer session.

FPHS champions Fairtrade

FALINGE Park has successfully gained Fairtrade School status. Summing up our application, Celia Plassat, the Fairtrade Schools Officer, said: "This is by far the best application for Fairtrade school status that I have ever seen. Everyone should be very proud, from the person whose idea it was to get involved as a school with Fairtrade status, to the Headteacher, all the catering staff, those in the Sports department and, especially those on the Fairtrade Steering Group. Your school appears brimming over with enthusiasm, with a sense of whatness and purpose. Excellent."

By royal appointment

DURING half-term, I accompanied Anna Zwarts and Adam Walker to the Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award ceremony at St James’s Palace in London, where we were treated like royalty. As well as a guided tour around the Palace by a Gold Award Holder, we listened to people’s experiences of their time spent completing the Award. The Duke of Edinburgh was at the ceremony and he spoke to Miss Zwarts about the benefits of the Award in schools.

Prize-winning animations

DURING our summer ICT lessons, students were given the opportunity to develop their skills in computer animation, using Pivot Stickfigure Animator, which is a fun, free program, available on the internet. The students were encouraged to produce an animation based on a topic of their choice, or with an Olympic theme. Competition was fierce, and the first, second and third place winning animations were, respectively, an Olympic diving event, an Olympics tribute and a Michael Jackson moonwalk dance. The winners all received certificates and a prize.

Catering to your needs

I AM proud and honoured to be the new Catering Manager at FPHS. I am joined by new Head of Production, Kara Mills. Between us, we have a wealth of catering knowledge. Our three-week, winter menu cycle has some interesting dishes, including home-made fresh soups at lunchtime. This is a great way to warm up and take on board some essential nutrients. Don’t forget, if you have any questions, please ask. We are here to support you. Before I go, I’ll leave you with a couple of questions: what is the world's most expensive spice; and what are Gariguette, Elsanta and Evie all kinds of?

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Mike Ianelli

Food for thought: Mike Ianelli and Kara Mills.

The art of animation: Curtis Tweedale and Annabel Clarke, Year 11.
Next stop Rio!

FOLLOWING the Olympics event held at Sport City in July, student Nasim Ahmed, Year 11, was approached by the Rochdale Harriers Athletics team. They have suggested that he compete in the pentathlon event as he is such a good all-round athlete. Who knows? You may see Nasim in Rio de Janeiro at the next Olympic Games in 2016!

Daniel O’Reilly

Jamie packs a punch

STUDENT Jamie Lee O’Sullivan, Year 11, who boxes at Syke Amateur Boxing, is now the best boxer in Rochdale for his weight category (63-66kg). Congratulations to Jamie, who is now the North West Champion competing in the North West Championship final.

Daniel O’Reilly

Fast track to success

YEAR 7 student Chloe McGrath won the first inter-schools, cross-country race this year at St Anne’s Academy in Middleton. Negotiating a tough course, Chloe succeeded in beating Year 7 girls across the borough.

Daniel O’Reilly

Ahead of the field: Chloe McGrath, Year 7.

Boxing clever

THAI boxer Lewis Campbell, Year 11, has maintained his position as North West Champion for the past four years. In addition, Lewis has won both the Southern Championship and the English Championship.

He will be competing in the European Championship in Turkey, in March next year. We wish him all best.

Daniel O’Reilly

Champion boxer: Lewis Campbell, Year 11.