



Footlights

Spring 2016 Issue 25

Opening doors, unlocking potential



SUCCESS ON THE MENU

Breakfast rewards for
hard-working students



Educating the whole child



WELCOME to our spring edition of *Footlights*, where we share how we are opening the doors and unlocking the potential of all our children at Falinge Park High School.

At FPHS, we believe that we have to educate the whole child – not just teach them a narrow set of skills to pass an exam. We are determined that our children will get the same opportunities as those attending the top private schools in the country, and this news magazine will give you a flavour of how we're achieving this.

It's an exciting journey for the Falinge Park family, and it will only get better!

Janice Allen, Headteacher

Invitation to Downing Street

ON 10th February I was invited to an event hosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, at 11 Downing Street.

FPHS was one of only four schools in the country to be invited because of our commitment to unlocking potential; and because of our partnership with the Ideas Foundation – a charity that enables students to get on the ladder in digital and creative industries – and the Comino Foundation. The event was also attended by directors of the top brands in the UK.



So far, through our partnership, we have:

- Year 10 students working with the marketing department of Odeon Cinemas
- Students working with a Digital Designer in Residence on manipulating code into Art
- Three of our staff working with the University of Manchester on creating drone technology
- A summer school for students planned with McCann advertising agency in Prestbury (they do the Aldi adverts, among many others)

Following my visit, we have also secured a place for ten of our Year 8 girls to work with IBM at Manchester University in June. I'm sure there will be more to come!

Janice Allen, Headteacher

Year 8 savour their success

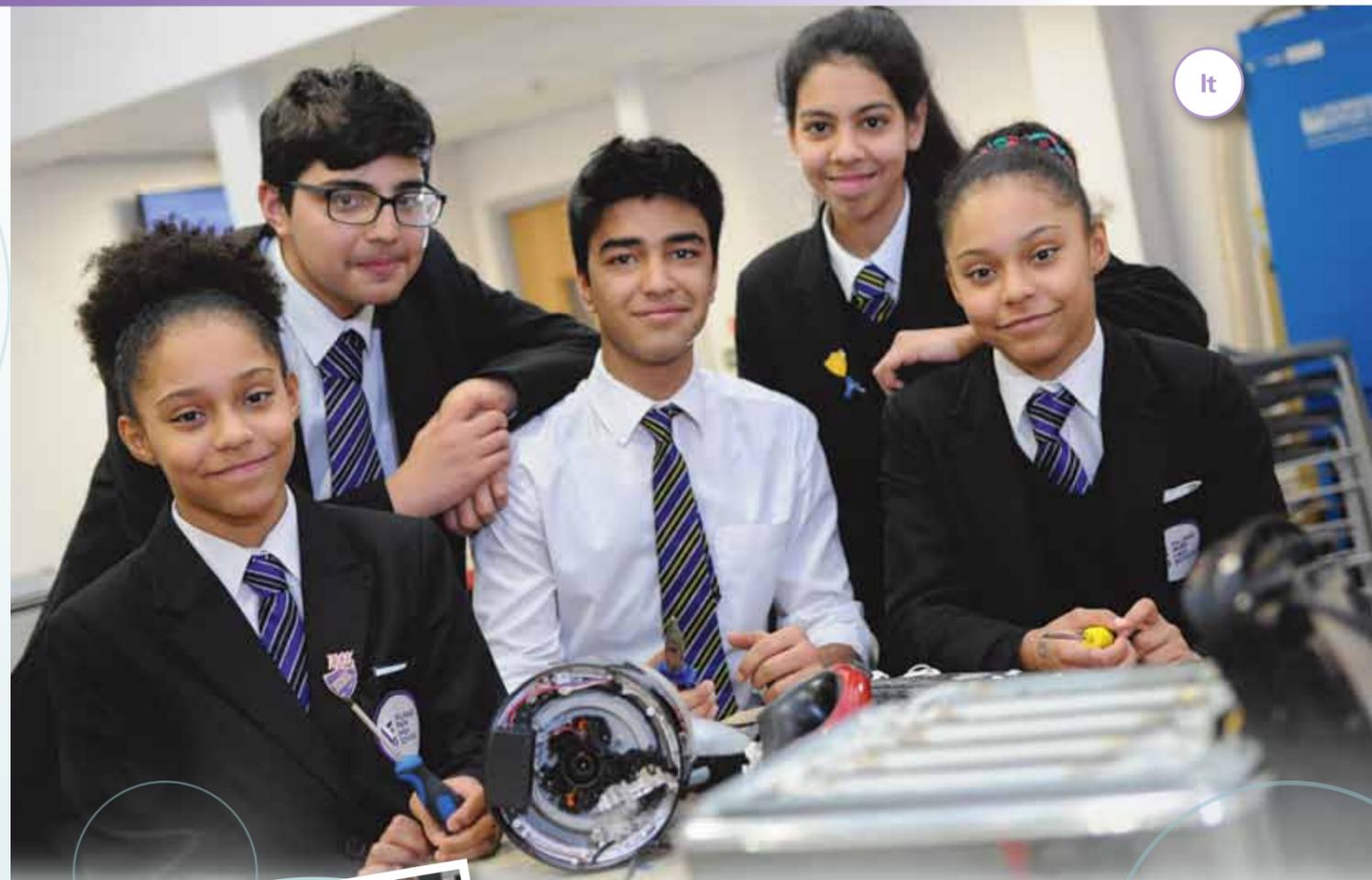
ON 1st and 7th December, around 90 Year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit the European Christmas Markets in Manchester on the MFL reward trip. We were chosen because of our excellent effort and attitude towards learning in our language lessons.

On display were different types of food from a variety of countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Germany and Holland. They included chocolates, cakes, meats, cheeses, pancakes and waffles, as well as gifts such as jewellery, clothes and glass ornaments.

The trip also enabled us to practise our foreign language skills with the stallholders. Altogether, it was an amazing experience and a great reward for all our hard work.

Layla Barrett (P1) and Khadija Zahid (L2)

Mfl



It

Embracing engineering across the curriculum

STAFF from Technology, Science and Computing are working with the University of Manchester on a project to help develop students' engineering and problem-solving skills.

Entitled 'Tinker Tailor Robot Pi', so far, students have taken part in a competition with the Al Khor International School in Qatar via a live video link – which Falinge Park High School won.

Parents and carers were also invited into school to work with their children at the Family Tinkology event held in February. Teams had to construct a vessel that would safely deliver a fragile package of food from a height of over five metres.

Feedback suggests that everyone appreciated the opportunity to work on a fun but challenging task, and plans are in the pipeline for a larger event to be held outdoors in the summer term.

Peter Cloran



Year 10 capture the magic of the movies

ART and Photography students from Year 10 spent an afternoon with industry mentors from Odeon Cinemas as part of a special session relating to the 'Rediscover Cinema' creative brief. Our students were asked to prepare creative responses for a new advertising campaign later in the academic year.

Working in teams, students will compete with other entrants around

the country for a place on 'The Ladder', an exclusive group of aspiring creatives who will have access to creative industry opportunities, projects and networks.

The winning team will have the chance to visit London to pitch their ideas to a judging panel of representatives from Odeon Cinemas.

Anthony Lawlor



At FPHS, we aim to unlock our students' potential by teaching them new skills, introducing them to a variety of experiences and rewarding not only their achievements, but qualities such as positive attitude, effort and excellent behaviour

Opening doors to opportunity

Positive ethos earns points

IN January, we decided to introduce a new system to reward students for effort, achievement and their contribution to school life.

Students can be awarded points, both in and out of lessons, for example by showing a positive attitude in lessons, for not giving up

when faced with a challenge or always producing their best. They also get points for representing the school at sporting events, creative Performing Arts events and helping in the community.

The more points students get, the more money they earn in the form of vouchers.

The vouchers can be used to help pay for the end-of-year school trip or the Year 11 Prom.

In addition, students who work really hard will receive a subject award in the form of a badge, which they can wear with pride on their blazers.

Silvia Sapsford



Badges awarded for attendance

WE are always looking for additional ways to acknowledge, and show our appreciation for those students with excellent attendance.

This school year, we launch our new badges. For a full term of attendance, students receive a bronze 100% attendance badge, for two terms they will receive a silver badge and for three terms, a gold badge. We hope to see

many of our students displaying all three badges at the end of the school year.

We recently gave out 283 bronze badges for the first full term. The next set will be issued at Easter.

Students Lola Brown, Shannon Hitchings and Ishtiaq Hussnain (pictured), are in L4, whose students received the highest number of badges.

Kate Barnes



The breakfast gives me the chance to talk to those children who embody the FPHS ethos and to share in their successes

Celebration on the menu

EVERY week, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 are nominated to attend a special breakfast with me.

The students are chosen because of their consistently hard work, effort, excellent behaviour and resilience in facing a challenge. Every faculty is represented.

Our breakfast takes place every Friday breaktime, and students are able to tuck into a feast of food – some which is healthy, some which can be classed as treats.

The breakfast gives me the chance to talk to those children who embody the FPHS ethos and to share in their successes.

Every student has the opportunity to tell the rest of the group what they have achieved and why they are proud of their successes. It's one of my favourite parts of the week as it gives everybody a chance to talk – they can tell me what's going well and what we need to improve. Every student also receives 50 Achievement Points.

In addition, you might notice your child coming home with Headteacher Postcards of Praise. It's one way of making sure every child here is treated as a unique individual – because they are.

Janice Allen, Headteacher



Re-engaging with education

A GROUP of students were selected to be part of a project to raise awareness of underachievement among Asian boys. The aim was to help the students explore sensitive and difficult topics such as domestic violence, conflict, community, identity, ambitions and fears.

In February, the group visited the Houses of Parliament with the idea of developing their confidence in forging relationships with other students and staff, as well as the wider community.

Afterwards, the students drew on their experience to develop scripts for a piece of theatre, detailing their journey and exploring the issues that directly affect them.

Abdul Abulaleem



Students speak for themselves

A CREATIVE and collaborative project, entitled 'Speaking for Ourselves', brought together 15 Year 9 Drama students from a number of schools in a bid to explore issues around identity, community and British values. The initial one-day workshop took place at Hopwood Hall College Studio Theatre and subsequent sessions have taken place at each school.

The end product will be a short film about the experiences students glean from the sessions and a larger debate about

contemporary issues relevant to the young people of today. Here at Falinge Park High School, our students will be sharing their knowledge and expertise with students from Years 8 and 10, to create a student body who are 'Values Champions'.

The final showcase video will be shared with the general public at the International Festival of Science in Manchester and at the showcase of our 'Earthworks Project' at the Manchester People's Museum on 19th June.

Simon DeCoursey



Dr

Safeguarding our young people

THIS year, for the first time, we decided to raise the profile of our safeguarding work in school by having a Safeguarding Week.

This was held just after February half-term, and included work with all students on the Prevent Agenda, E-Safety and First Aid. Additionally, some students in Year 10 did further work on Domestic Abuse, based around a theatre production by M6. There was also a training session for staff, parents and governors led by Irfan Chishti, exploring how we (the Falinge Park High School community) "can work together to empower our young people to keep themselves safe in an ever-changing world".



As a consequence, all students can now perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and will receive a certificate from St John Ambulance. We also used the week to reinforce the very important message that it is always good to talk (even when that conversation is really challenging), because it is only through talking to one another that we learn to understand and respect others.

Gillian Skerrow

Eal

Book illustrates the joy of reading

STUDENTS from Years 9 and 10 were recently given the opportunity to illustrate the page of a book on the subject of parents and children reading together. Themes included 'join the library', 'exploring words', 'talk to the teacher' and 'a quiet, cosy place to read'.

Working with Mrs Sandler and Mr Facchinello, each student was recommended by Mr Walker, the Head of Art.

The book, which is to be published electronically by Mantra Lingua, will be available in 25 different languages, and is designed to help parents improve their English language skills.

It will also be displayed at 1 Riverside and exhibited at the Town Hall in the summer as a part of the Refugee Week celebrations.

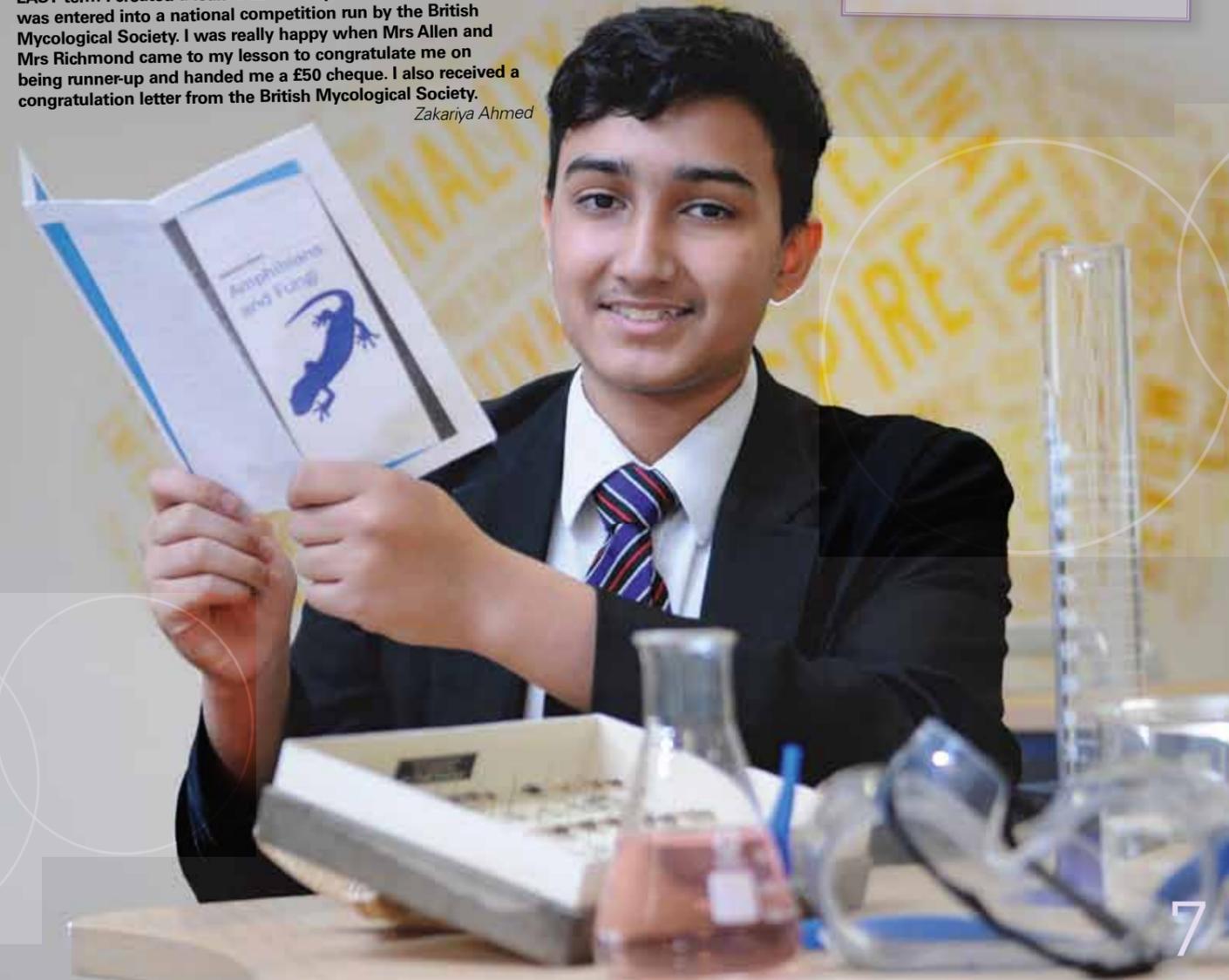
Numa Begum 9PB

Focus on fungi

Sci

LAST term I created a leaflet about amphibian decline which was entered into a national competition run by the British Mycological Society. I was really happy when Mrs Allen and Mrs Richmond came to my lesson to congratulate me on being runner-up and handed me a £50 cheque. I also received a congratulation letter from the British Mycological Society.

Zakariya Ahmed





Tour de force

THE Year 10 football team have made a solid start to the season and are now becoming a force to be reckoned with. Two high scoring victories and a smash and grab defeat mean that Team Falings is ideally placed to secure promotion. However, last season's top scorer, Callum Harrison, is facing competition this season as Tom Hartley currently

tops the Falings goals tally. The Falings boys have once again done themselves, the management, and the school proud with their teamwork, resilience and commitment. The management team of Mr Jundi and Mr Hodgson are also now looking the part in their school branded kit.

Dan Hodgson

Shannon shall go to the dance



"IN my spare time outside of school, I enjoy dancing," explains Year 7 student Shannon Rhodes. "The styles of Dance I do are disco, tap and street dance, and I have been going to Samba Dance and Fitness since the age of four. I have been competing in competitions in disco for the last five years, and I have won a variety of trophies and medals. The sections I compete in are solos, pairs, team, rock 'n' roll and slow dance. My latest achievement is winning Dancer of the Year at my Dance school."

Shannon Rhodes



Anyone for Pilates?



PILATES is an excellent form of exercise and relaxation that works both the body and mind. It can be used as a way of relieving stress and it is also a fantastic tool for building up core strength, and improving posture and flexibility. There are two sessions run on Fridays – one for Year 11 students and their parents, from 2.45 – 3.30pm, the other for staff only, from 3.30 – 4.15pm. If you are interested in coming to the student and parent session, please speak to Mrs Ridings in the PE department.

Samantha Ridings

Volleying for success

STUDENTS from Years 7 to 10 competed in the Rochdale Schools' Volleyball Tournament last half term. The standard of volleyball was very high, and the players who represented the school performed fantastically. Special congratulations go to the Year 8 Boys' team who came third in the Key Stage 3 division. Many of the students were competing for the first time. Well done!

Ashley Ingham

