

# Footlights

Autumn 2016 Issue 27

Opening doors, unlocking potential



## HAPPY TALKING

Students create a positive learning experience together

## Educating our young people to be the best



THE verb 'educate' is derived from the Latin 'edu-cere', which means 'to lead out and draw out what lies within'.

It is an approach to learning we believe in at Falinge, and throughout this issue you will see examples of our students leading on programmes and drawing out skills that are having a positive impact on both themselves and others. Very often they are working alongside staff; sometimes they take the initiative themselves and lead their peers.

We are seeing skills and potential being realised in our young people that make for exciting times at the school!

Janice Allen, Headteacher

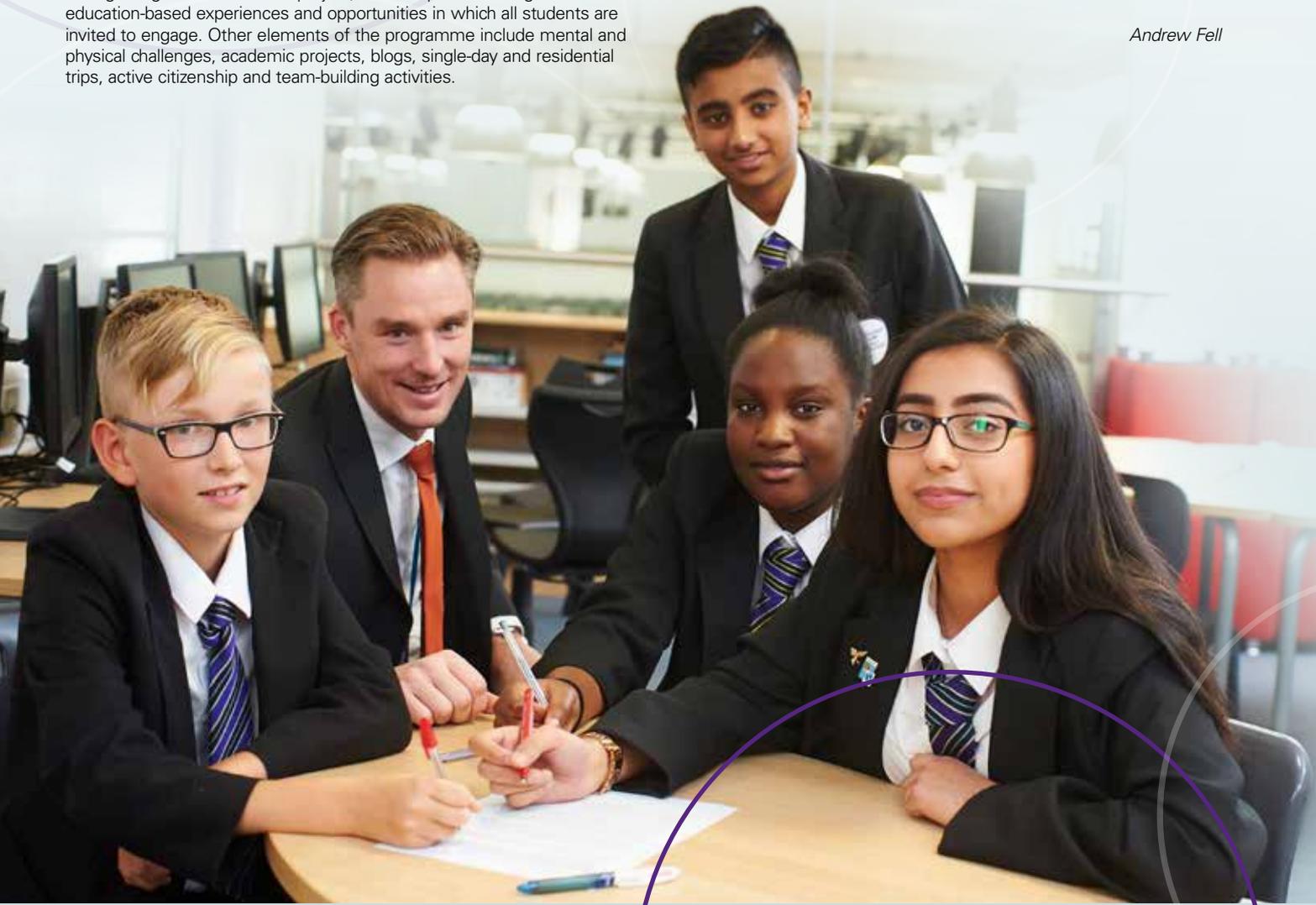
## 'My FPHS' enriches all our students' futures

EARLIER this term, we launched My FPHS – fulfilment, potential, hope, success – an enrichment curriculum designed to shape bright futures for all our students.

Beginning with the REACH project, it encompasses a range of education-based experiences and opportunities in which all students are invited to engage. Other elements of the programme include mental and physical challenges, academic projects, blogs, single-day and residential trips, active citizenship and team-building activities.

We believe this all helps to underpin 'our students' development as learners, leaders, role models, experts, thinkers, researchers and team players. More information is available on the school's website.

Andrew Fell





# Democracy in action

IN a simulation of a 'real' election, student representatives were democratically elected by their peers in November to the newly re-launched School Council. The idea is to build on the Council's past successes and to give all students the opportunity to participate in the school community.

The new School Council will lie at the heart

of a range of exciting new developments that will help students to understand how things work, and how to challenge and change them for the better in an informed manner.

Representatives from across the school community are leading a range of activities this academic year for students to experience 'democracy in action'. The main aim of the

Council will be to engage with, and address, real issues. It will also utilise student voice to ensure that the school is meeting the specific needs of students. Parents will also be invited to get involved.

*Jane Keighley*

## Young Leaders rise to the challenge

THIS year, a small group of students have been involved in the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award.

As well as learning how influential people such as Gandhi worked to promote justice, the students have carried out a variety of volunteering challenges, including clearing up after the Eid lunch, and baking and decorating cakes for staff to thank them for everything they do.

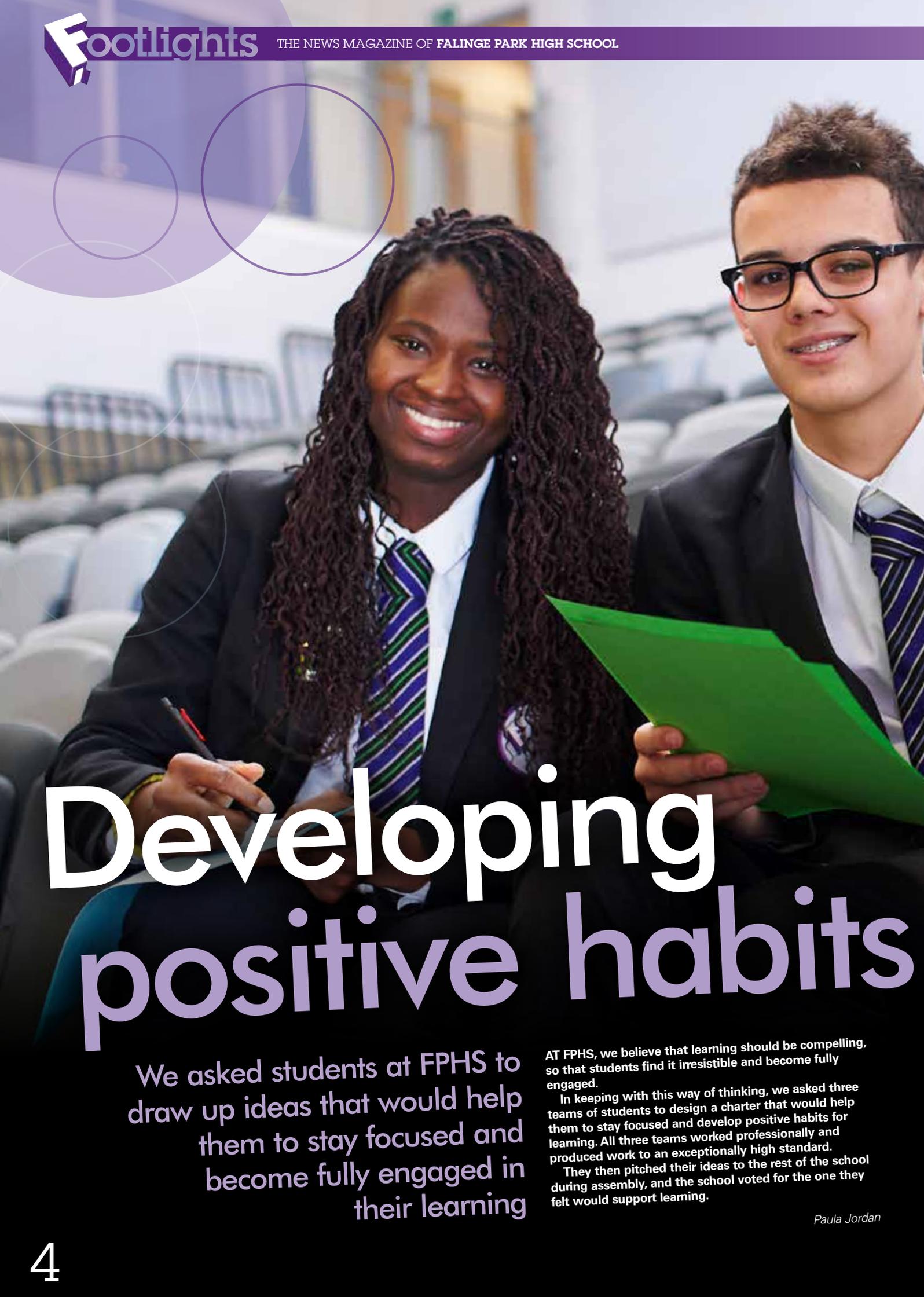
Students also met the Mayor of Rochdale and asked about the challenges of leadership.

Currently, students are planning a book, toy and game collection in aid of Rochdale Moorland Children's Home. The next challenge is to learn to knit and make twiddle muffles for dementia patients.

If you are interested in 'being the change you want to see', and are in Year 9 or 10, please see me for more details.

*Emily Clark*





# Developing positive habits

We asked students at FPHS to draw up ideas that would help them to stay focused and become fully engaged in their learning

AT FPHS, we believe that learning should be compelling, so that students find it irresistible and become fully engaged.

In keeping with this way of thinking, we asked three teams of students to design a charter that would help them to stay focused and develop positive habits for learning. All three teams worked professionally and produced work to an exceptionally high standard.

They then pitched their ideas to the rest of the school during assembly, and the school voted for the one they felt would support learning.

*Paula Jordan*



## 'You are stronger than you think!'

I STILL remember the first time I walked into this immense building full of strangers that I wasn't meant to become friends with. That was three years ago, and it was awful! I didn't want to be here because I didn't know any English and the only thing I wanted was to receive a letter at home saying that I could not get a place in school. At that moment, it would have been the best gift that the world could have given me. Now I believe that it would have been the worst thing that could have happened to me!

My first day of school was the worst day of my life because I have never experienced such loneliness and unhappiness. Often I went back home and thought that I wouldn't

need to experience it again as it was just a bad dream, but every morning I had to accept the unpleasant reality all over again.

But look at me now! I'm not the person who was scared to live new experiences any more because this school has changed me a lot. It has helped me to become a better person and has given me all the skills that I need to succeed in the future. I am so grateful to my teachers and the staff that have helped me in my journey, which has been incredible and really enjoyable.

So don't let fear take control because you are **STRONGER THAN YOU THINK!** And have belief in the journey!

*Marianna Embalo, Year 11*





## Year 9 step up to ballet

**FIFTEEN** of our Year 9 GCSE Dance students and 15 Year 8 Cardinal Langley students recently took part in a practical ballet session in the Dance Studio at FPHS. The event was held in conjunction with the Manchester International

**Festival and English National Ballet.** Professional artists delivered a practical session in the morning, teaching rep work and ballet/contemporary techniques from Akram Khan's new work, *Giselle*.

All the students involved were then invited to The Palace Theatre in Manchester to watch a preview of the production, before it received its premiere two days later.

*Jenny Wystawnoha*

## Creative showcase

EIGHT FPHS students attended the North West Comino Creative Consortium (NWCCC) Showcase at The Landing at Media City, Salford Quays, in July. The aim was to discuss and present the wide-ranging projects and initiatives that we have undertaken over the past academic year. Among the guests were Governors, industry and education delegates, and Comino trustees.

Miss Allen, Dylan Hassett and Thomas Ferguson explained the value of our Creative Partnerships through a short presentation, which was followed by a vibrant marketplace networking event.

Our students received extensive praise regarding their ability to communicate their ideas precisely and swiftly, and we all left the event very proud of what our school has achieved over the past 12 months.

*Simon De Courcey*



# Passport to more responsibility

EARLY in October, I visited Barcelona with 38 other students and five teachers.

It all started when a group of Year 9 students and I went to see Miss Allen to ask if we could go on a trip.

Miss Allen said "yes", but only if we helped to organise it. Within weeks, we met with Miss Bryant and Miss Thomson to plan the itinerary, make posters and PowerPoint presentations to advertise the trip, and helped to organise and deliver an assembly to all communities.

We also helped the MFL teachers with admin tasks such as writing and delivering letters to students, and helped to organise and assist with the parents' meeting.

All our hard work certainly paid off, and the trip was a fantastic experience; we learnt about a different culture, visited lots of interesting places and built friendships with students from other year groups.

*Queensley Iginla, Year 10*



## Accent on Europe, and beyond

Did you know... there are over 6,000 languages spoken throughout the world, including 300 in London alone; and that JK Rowling is fluent in French and taught English as a foreign language in Portugal?

These were just some of the many interesting facts about languages that students learnt when FPHS celebrated the European Day of Languages on 26th September.

The school also went global – with language competitions and quizzes demonstrating how multicultural and multilingual it is.

Staff showcased the A-Z of world languages by greeting students throughout the day in a variety of different languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chewa, Dutch, Estonian, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kurdish, Latvian, Mandarin... and more!

Students were also able to sample food from around the world at lunchtime.

*Louise Pottinger*



## Runners go the extra mile

THIS year, several students took part in the Rochdale Schools' Cross Country Championships.

Although we did not win any of the team races, there were some outstanding performances from Fifon Cloran, Layla and Georgia Barrett, Mohammed Arman and Noorul Islam.

Name Emilia Gartside, Year 7, and Mohammed Amaan, Year 9



## We love sport!



FROM an early age, we have both been involved in various sports.

We've been doing gymnastics since 2008, and during this time we have won a wide range of medals and trophies. We also train with Rochdale Junior Netball Club, and play Centre and Goal Attack for Rochdale Rockets.



Over the years, we have also been involved in judo and athletics, and in school we enjoy many of the sports on offer, including trampolining, football, rounders, volleyball and badminton.

Layla and Georgia Barrett, Year 9

# Jude packs a punch!

I STARTED boxing at Hamer Amateur Boxing Club. At first, I wanted to get fit, then I wanted to know more about the sport itself – it really intrigued me as it was something I never thought I'd do.

I had my first fight at the age of 12 in Hartlepool, and I am now ranked second in England in my age category (14 and over). Recently, I went to Ireland to compete and came home with two gold medals.

Jude English, Year 10

