



*Making a Difference*

Phoenix Park Academy

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Principal's Newsletter**

It doesn't seem like five minutes has gone by since I wrote to you at the end of the first half-time, but here we are again and it's almost Christmas! It has been a busy and successful term once more for the students and staff at Phoenix Park Academy and I am delighted to be able to write to you to tell you a little about it.

I would like to start off by thanking those of you who were able to attend our Review Days over the last couple of weeks. I was so pleased to meet so many of you and to hear your views and opinions of the Academy and the education and support we give to your children. The turnout at this round of reviews was as high as it has ever been since I have been involved with the school, both in terms of parents and schools who attended. I hope that you found it a worthwhile experience. I was delighted with the feedback we received from the parents and carers who attended through the survey we asked you to complete, the time you took to complete it is much appreciated. I will send a summary of the survey's findings to you in the new year so you can see the details.



**The Phoenix House Tree**

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's education or progress, we want to hear from you. Please do not feel that you have to wait until Review Days for this. As you know we send out weekly reports about your child and staff try and call when things are going well as well as when we have issues we want to make you aware of. We are always trying to look to improve our communication with home and to that end, we now have a Twitter feed on which we post information and celebrate the achievements of our young people. You can find it at: <https://twitter.com/PhoenixPark> which makes our Twitter name @PheonixPark\_ . The Academy website can be found at: <http://phoenixparkacademy.co.uk>

I have been very impressed by what I have seen from our young people this half term, both in the achievements they have made their learning and the way in which so many of them are improving in their behaviour. Once again I have been amazed at the fantastic things they have accomplished, they make me proud every day. I will leave it to our two Heads of Centre to expand on this ....



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## Phoenix House:

As we approach the festive season it is always nice to look back and reflect on the progress that has been made throughout the term.

During this first term we have witnessed some exciting and positive achievements, both academic and vocational. These include six students achieving their level one equestrian award whilst horse riding at Weelsby Riding School. This involved students showing their understanding of saddlery, walking, trotting and changing direction independently.



Gemma and Josh – two of our riding stars !



We have also had a number of new appointments at Phoenix Park Academy this term. These new members of staff have settled in well and strengthened an already established team. We are more able to provide our students a mixture of academic and pastoral support using a variety of methods.

At the end of last half term Phoenix Park Academy had its first sea faring trip. For two days a fishing trawler was chartered and students were given the opportunity to experience life out on the open sea. During the trip a vast amount of fish were caught, too many to keep, and so some were let go as the baskets were full and there was no room left in the freezer. One student, Kevin Kraus, built a replica trawler out of balsa wood. This was extremely detailed and included fishing rods, baskets, nets and a wheel house with working wheel and rudder.





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After these trips, parents and governors were invited into school to observe the fantastic work accomplished by students over the course of the term and to feast on fish and chips, prepared using fish caught from the trawler and home-made chips. The feedback from the day was very positive and open days like these will be a regular feature at Phoenix Park Academy.



Mr Lucas and Mrs Matthews have worked extremely hard this term with four students designing and building go-karts. This project has proved to be very successful, with some students staying behind after school to finishing painting them. There is one go-kart that has a bumper, grill and even a number plate! The New Year will see the first Phoenix Park Academy race using said go-karts, stay tuned for the results.



**Pole Position – three future Lewis Hamiltons on the starting grid in the cars they built themselves!**

The end of term also saw the KS2 nativity play; here we had a modern version of a traditional story. The play had many highlights; some of these were the silent choir, a fantastic solo from Charlie Mcquillan and the wise men arriving on motorbikes, a brilliant effort from all involved!



**Action from the excellent KS2 Christmas play and Phoenix House**



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Students have created some excellent pieces of art work this term, Aaron Isherwood has produced some fantastic graffiti art and Kerry Marper has painted a pop art portrait of Marilyn Monroe. Both will be entered into the upcoming art competition.

Finally I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support and also every member of staff for their commitment and effort throughout term, without their work, none of the successes here would be possible.

Mr P Burns (Assistant Principal, Head of Centre Phoenix House)

### **Park House**

Park House opened its doors in September with an influx of new students who swiftly made their mark. Jonathon Thornton showed his talents in Mechanics, Ashley Hopkins excelled in the Sports group and Paige Johnson and Emily Sawyer set new standards with their good behaviour.

This followed in the Park tradition of exemplary behaviour as demonstrated by longstanding students such as Jake Walpole, Bobbie Barlow and Reece Lawson who continued to flourish.



**The tradition of Park House students producing amazing artwork continued this term.**



In October the new Year 10 students came to the fore. Mark Patterson's extraordinarily high attendance showed his great enthusiasm for attending school. Lewis Knox shone in Science as did Elle Mae Barber in Hair and Beauty.

November brought notable successes. Bradley White's art work was exceptional. Ben Allen's enthusiasm for Maths and Lucy Stafford's progress in English were inspiring as were Dillon Chester's efforts across the board. Katelyn Mathewson went on work experience at a local nursery and deserves all the praise she received for doing such a great job and representing the school in the wider community. Kaine Belbin must also be mentioned for his brilliant art work which adorns the walls of the school office.



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In the December reviews, Victoria Hargreaves was recognised for outstanding achievement in English, a feat matched only by Jacc Thompson's equally high attainment in Maths. Hollie Sedgewick also showed great promise with excellent marks in assessments.



Two very different works  
inspired by the Mona  
Lisa.



As we close the doors on 2015, Park House staff wish all students, parents and carers the Season's Greetings, and look forward to 2016 and all the successes it will surely bring.

Merry Christmas!

Mr Nicholas Leach (Assistant Principal, Head of Centre – Park House)

It leaves nothing more for me to say than to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year !

We will see all pupils back at school on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016** as we are closed for staff training on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Kind regards and ho ho ho,

Scott Jacques  
Executive Principal  
Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academy

