

PRIDE: The Phoenix Academy Newsletter

December 2016



Professionalism
Respect
Independence
Diligence
Excellence

DATES

- Spring term starts: Wednesday 4 January 2017
- Year 11 Parents' Evening: Thursday 19 January 2017
- Last day of first half term: Friday 10 February 2017
- First day of second half term: Monday 20 February 2017

A Message from Mr Taylor



We have had a busy half-term, with lots of activities both in and out of the classroom. Staff have worked hard to organise these and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

One of the unique aspects of Phoenix Academy is our focus on character education. We believe that as well as teaching children the usual subjects and helping them gain good qualifications, we should help them gain the resilience and determination they need to succeed in their future life. The PRIDE code sums this up: Professionalism, Respect, Independence, Diligence and Excellence. We teach these qualities in formtime, Social Studies lessons in Key Stage 3, Superlearning Days, trips and visits.

Our school is getting better and better thanks to the hard work of all staff, the support of our families and the diligence and excellence of our students.

We will continue to demand the highest standards of professionalism from our students in terms of uniform, appearance, attendance, punctuality and behaviour. We will also be focusing on punctuality to lessons next term.

I am very pleased to see our first group of students wearing blue stars, awarded for having an excellent attitude to learning (A2L) throughout Learning Cycle 1. Students who achieve the highest A2L score of 4 participate actively in lessons, take responsibility for their own learning and produce outstanding work. I am looking forward to awarding even more stars at the end of Learning Cycle 2.

Happy Christmas to all our families from everyone at Phoenix – we hope you have a good holiday and we look forward to working with you in the New Year.

SPEAK OUT!

28 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge where they had to devise and present a three minute speech on a topic of their choice.



The winner Naren Nouri went through to the borough final at Hammersmith Academy where she presented a very emotive and passionate speech on the topic of Mental Health. She did us proud!

BRILLIANT CLUB

Seven Year 10 students celebrated their graduation from The Brilliant Club programme with an activity-filled day at the University of Oxford – judged to be the best university in the world.

The highlight of the day was a guided tour of Wadham College, led by current undergraduates. Through their natural curiosity, our students gained an insight into the genuine affordability of studying at Oxford, along with the criteria they will need to meet in order to gain a place.

This opportunity was presented to them thanks to their hard work on a global history project of A level standard, with tutoring from a PhD student in that area.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the day and came away realising that there is a place for them too at Oxford.



DAY OF PEACE

Wednesday 21 September was the United Nations International Day of Peace. On this day, around the world, tens of millions of people join in acts of peaceful solidarity. A delegation of students from Phoenix went to the Hammersmith and Fulham event in Lyric Square organised to mark the occasion. There were speeches from the mayor and community leaders and some music. Pupils were then asked to write pledges for peace that were sent up on balloons released by our very own Aminata Koroma, the Youth Mayor of the borough.

All of the pupils who attended were a credit to the school and their participation stands as symbol for a more peaceful and harmonious world.



THE FARM

Our farm is a brilliant resource, unique in London, which gives us a great opportunity for learning outside the classroom.

We had a training session for staff on including farm lessons in the curriculum and many teachers have taken advantage of the facility.



WEEDING TASK FORCE



Hammersmith Community Gardens Association arranged for a team from Stem Marketing, a local company, to spend two days renovating flower beds and planters ready for a Year 7 enrichment project.

YEAR 10 THEATRE TRIP

GCSE Drama students went to see 'Things I Know to be True' at the Lyric Theatre. Eden Alexander 10RMU summarised the play as "clever and tragic". The students really enjoyed the performance and the content was highly emotive, leaving one or two close to tears.

Our students received positive praise from a teacher from another school. She assumed they were from a private school as they were the only ones without mobile phones and were following the show with a high level of maturity.

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

The GCSE music class took an exciting departure from the classroom to watch a live opera performance of "The Knife of Dawn" at The Roundhouse in Camden. The performance, a contemporary, classical, one-man opera, stretched the listening of students who have little experience of this genre. During a Q&A with the composer after the performance, Phoenix students asked insightful and thought-provoking questions about the compositional process and the sounds that they had heard, much to the composer's delight and praise.



YOUTH TAKEOVER DAY

35 students in Years 9 to 12 participated in Hammersmith & Fulham's Youth Takeover Day. It gave students the opportunity to experience a wide range of shadowing and work experience opportunities and challenges that were set by various Council Departments. The aim of the day was for young people to have a chance to experience the world of work, to work alongside adults, gain skills, knowledge, inspiration and an understanding of the processes behind decisions



that affect them. The students took on roles such as Mystery Shoppers for Trading Standards and Planning Officers. The feedback was excellent and the students really enjoyed the day. At the end there was a celebration event and the students were presented with certificates by the Mayor.

NETBALL CHAMPIONS!

The Year 9 netball team are Borough Champions and a big shout out has to go to all the girls. They have worked extremely hard as has Ms Rayner who has been putting them through their paces. The team have shown great commitment in their PE lessons and training and this really showed on the court. Well done to all involved.

OH YES THEY DID!

All of Year 7 went to see Aladdin at the Lyric Theatre. This is an annual tradition and means that well over 95% of students at Phoenix have had a live theatre experience.



Students enjoyed all the traditional elements of panto, screaming at the top of their voices and boogieing in their seats to the musical numbers. They also grabbed for sweets hurled at them by the actors, a teacher's nightmare! Despite this, the students conducted themselves well throughout. A massive thank you to all staff that helped with the trip!

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL



As part of our character education programme, we took our Year 7 students to Norfolk Lakes, near Norwich.

The students participated in activities such as rock climbing, obstacle

courses, canoeing, kayaking, raft building, caving, team games and sports activities.

Sidon was a key student and his enthusiasm shone through throughout the few days. Mr Bishop followed Sidon's lead and his energy for the three days was motivating for both students and staff.

Students demonstrated great team building skills which encouraged their peers to get around the obstacle course. They also had a positive attitude to facing and overcoming their fears. Kayaking had the students scared of the water to begin with, but after some debate and a few pupils courageously taking the lead, others followed and got into the water.

The cold weather did not knock the student's enthusiasm and every member of Year 7 should be proud of their achievements over the days we were away.

