

PRIDE: The Phoenix Academy Newsletter

February 2017



DATES

- First day of second half term: Monday 20 February 2017
- Last day of second half term: Friday 31 March 2017
- Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 2 March 2017
- Sixth Form Parents' Evening: Thursday 9 March 2017
- Year 11 Information Evening: Thursday 16 March 2017
- Year 9 Parents' Evening: Thursday 23 March 2017

A Message from Mr Taylor



As you can see we have had another busy half term at school. We believe that our students should have the opportunity to learn in different ways and the events described in this edition of the newsletter give you an idea of what we do. We are proud of the way

out students participate and present themselves in these activities – we always get good feedback from the public and teachers from other schools about the professionalism of our students when they are out on trips.

Our Student Council is now up and running and we have appointed prefects – easily identified by their smart red ties. We hope that under the leadership of these students, all our pupils will take an active role in the development of the school. The professionalism and diligence shown by the student leaders (guided by Mr Bennett) will be an excellent example for other pupils to follow.

Our Year 11s and Year 13s are now on the last leg of their work towards their GCSEs and A levels. There are only 10 school weeks to go before the exams start and we urge students to use that time productively. They need to make a revision timetable, get revision books for all subjects and use Doodle. If you need any support from us which will help you to encourage your child to revise, please contact the subject teachers or Mr Lamboi (Year 11) / Mrs Chaves (Year 13).

We are, as always, working hard to make the school a better place in which to learn and succeed. We have very high expectations of ourselves and of our students – we want to see the best behaviour and the best work. The Attitude to Learning (A2L) scores we award, are a measure of this and we want every student to strive for a score of 4 in every lesson. We awarded an iPad Mini to the student with the best attitude to learning in each year group at our Christmas assembly – well done to those students.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

As we know, school is about more than exam success.

In ancient Greece the philosopher Aristotle wrote about 'virtues' and 'vices' and of the need to practice every day to become the person you want to be. We are building on this inspiration because we think that our pupils can aspire to do



Professionalism

Respect

Independence

Diligence

Excellence

more, fulfilling their potential as well-rounded, successful individuals who give back to society.

Here at Phoenix Academy we are working to make character part of what we do on a day to day basis. The characteristics we think are important are embodied in our PRIDE mnemonic: *Professionalism, Respect, Independence, Diligence, and Excellence*. At Key Stage 3, pupils have opportunities to explore social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues, reflect on their own lives and consider what kind of person they want to become. We are working on a new tutor program with PRIDE at its heart and the new school council is all about giving pupils not only a voice, but a chance to practice and demonstrate the PRIDE values.

JAMIE REDKNAPP VISIT

Jamie Redknapp visited us to meet the students, and tell us about his life. The students behaved beautifully despite being very excited and the large assembly went without a hitch. Jamie was genuinely interested in the school and our students and enjoyed his time with us. He gave a strong message to our Football Academy boys in the Sixth Form about the hard work and self-discipline required to be a professional footballer. The students really appreciated the visit and so did the staff!



SUPERLEARNING DAY

Our first Superlearning Day, ably organised by Mr Kabba, went very well, with good feedback from students in all years. Many important PSHE topics were covered. The Sixth Formers visited university sites in London and got a great deal out of the day.



BRUCE'S INFLATABLE FUN

When Commando Joe asked all Year Leaders to provide him with a list of their top 20 pupils, it was a surprise to him to see that there were so many candidates to pick from. This list wasn't "Top secret" or "For your eyes only" but it was a list he thought he would never have clearance for. His mission was a simple one. To reward the pupils who do their job, study and follow the rules.

The inflatables were a huge success and Bruce was really pleased to see the students enjoying themselves. There were several additional rewards given out to some students who showed core values: team work, resilience, communication, health and wellbeing to name a few.



SPORTS NEWS

Phoenix Football Academy

The PHX squad drew 1-1 at home to Fulham and were disappointed to concede in the last 5 minutes. The team have worked hard on their defence and big improvements have been made.

The W12 squad travelled to Sutton and their impressive form continued and we won comfortably in the end 8-1. The PE team would like to congratulate Che Krabbendem and Andrew Sealey who go on trial at Championship club Bristol City from Thursday. It seems that Jamie's talk had done the trick!

Boys' Football

Phoenix go marching into the next round of the Inner London cup beating Stoke Newington 5-2 at home. The boys raced into a four goal lead with some excellent goals. SN pulled one back before half time. Mr Kabba gave an honest assessment at half-time about how they had taken their foot off the gas and they scored minutes into the second half. SN pulled one back but it was too late to mount a comeback.

The W12 squad have started 2017 as they finished 2016 – winning! They have secured two impressive wins in the last week and now are in the last 16 of the national cup and could travel as far as Liverpool to play in the next round. They have won all their league games and have a plus 54 goal difference. They are still in a number of cup tournaments and are aiming for a clean sweep.

All football teams have games coming up thick and fast over the next couple of months and the Year 11s are also in the last 16 of the London Cup. Let's hope in May that the cabinet is nice and full.

U19s

The W12 squad also had a convincing win in the National Cup, winning 3-1, with silverware still very much on the cards.

Girls' Athletics

The Year 8 girls took part in a Sportshall Athletics competition at Hammersmith Academy. All girls did extremely well - their determination and passion to win their races and field events served them well. Overall, we came third in the Borough, coming first in three races.

Trampolining

Phoenix Academy competed in the British Gymnastics Schools competition on Sunday 4th December in Harlington, Hayes. All our girls were in the U14 Intermediate category, in which there were 42 competitors. They all competed a compulsory and a voluntary routine.

This is our second competition. Last year we did not appear in the top ten; this year we were placed an incredible 4th overall out of 30 schools.

Diana Stevanovic (9MAR) placed 7th

Emily Brown (8OOT) placed 10th

Makeda Downer (9MAR) placed 28th

Reazan Ali (8OOT) placed 34th

Well done to all the girls and many thanks to them for their hard work and efforts over this term.

POETRY LIVE

Ms Copeland took selected Year 11 students to The Apollo Theatre, Victoria on Friday 2 December for GCSE Poetry Live. The students watched performances of the poems they are studying, by the poets themselves, including Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy and John Agard. They also had a talk from a chief AQA examiner who gave them excellent tips on what the examiners are looking for in A* answers.

For many of our students hearing poetry read aloud was a completely new experience, and it enabled them to begin to think of poetry as an art form which can be enjoyed rather than just something they have to study for their GCSEs. The students were extremely well behaved, engaged and were busy taking notes and annotating the poems as they were being read so hopefully this trip will translate into engaged students in the classroom.

PHOENIX GRANDMASTERS

Phoenix Academy's "grandmasters" pit their chess prowess each Thursday during lunch time in room 6209. Their captain, Alex Ettienne-Hare flanked by deputies, Rashaun, Allyana, Bruce, Eden, Deondre and Boscet, normally ensure that there is a good positive spirit when they play.

"It really is fun to play chess!" remarks Bruce who has made great strides in



the short time that he has learnt the game. Bruce wants to become a grandmaster and is therefore totally committed.

BIG LOCAL

On Friday 16 December 2016, Ms Morris and our Phoenix Academy musicians helped get the community in the Christmas spirit by performing at the Big Local Community Christmas in Bridget Joyce Square. Students from Years 7 to 11 sang a selection of Christmas carols and songs in front of a captive audience of locals, residents and reindeers! The outdoor event was the first external performance for many of the students involved who conducted themselves with perfect Phoenix PRIDE.



ANIMAL CARE TRIPS

Year 11 Animal Care visited two animal related charities in recent weeks, organised by Ms Hodder, to support their coursework on animal welfare. They had presentations and behind the scene tours of the facilities. The first trip in December was to one of the UK's oldest animal welfare charities, The Blue Cross. The Blue Cross was founded in 1897 and has looked after abandoned or unwanted, ill or injured pets every year since then. They currently help

approximately 40,000 animals every year and work with all types of pets ranging from small domestic pets, like guinea pigs to horses.

The second trip in January was to the new state-of-the-art cat rehoming centre built by Cat Protection in Mitcham, with revolutionary enclosures that are designed to ensure that the cat's stay with the charity is as stress free as possible and the welfare of the animal is at the forefront at all times. Several of the cats were so friendly and wanting to be held and petted, that it was very difficult not to want to take them home. Adam Vallely was definitely the favorite of a few of the cats during the visit this week.



ANNE FRANK TRUST

The History Department had an exhibition from the Anne Frank Trust in The Vibe for the first two weeks of term, organised by Ms Macri. 16 Year 9 students were trained as expert guides and taught other students about the Holocaust. This finished with a Drama workshop for the whole of 9P on Friday 13 January, on digital resilience. It was a really successful event and the guides all stepped up to the challenge.

INTO UNIVERSITY

Ms Walker arranged for INTO University to come in to deliver careers workshops to year 8 and year 7 students.

Learning Preferences & Study Skills

A group of year 8 students took part in an INTO University careers workshop on Monday 9 January which explored a range of different learning styles, including visual, auditory and kinaesthetic and introduced appropriate study techniques for these. The aim of the workshop was for students to recognise the different approaches and to learn how to apply them to their studies.

Choosing Success

A group of Year 7 students took part in an INTO University careers workshop on Monday 9 January. In the workshop, students learnt more about themselves by identifying their skills and qualities. They were encouraged to relate a positive understanding of themselves to an ability to cope effectively with challenges and change, taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions. Students ended by setting targets for their own development.

The feedback from both the students and facilitators was really positive.

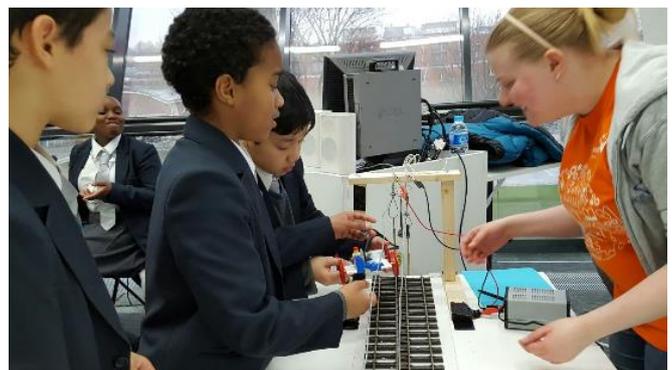
SCIENCE: STEM WORKSHOP

The UK will need more than a million engineers by 2020, so there is a real need for young people to be aware of opportunities within railway engineering and engineering in general.

On Thursday 12 January, 60 of our top scientists participated in a STEM workshop in the Classroom. STEM offers young people the opportunity to enhance their understanding of, and aptitude for, problem solving, creativity, design, and engineering. The fun-filled day involved students working together in small groups on 'design and make' projects to improve their creative thinking, problem solving and team working skills.

Students worked in teams of five on a brand new railway-engineering project where they completed three challenges based on the new HS2 rail project. The project will showcase the ultra-modern HS2 vision for the future of high-speed rail. Students took part in real-life railway engineering challenges that HS2 is currently facing, where they used their team working and problem solving skills to come up with the best solutions in order to run HS2 most efficiently.

All students participated with great enthusiasm, worked excellently collaboratively and presented their novel projects eloquently. The students were a credit to the school.



AMAMUS LATINAM

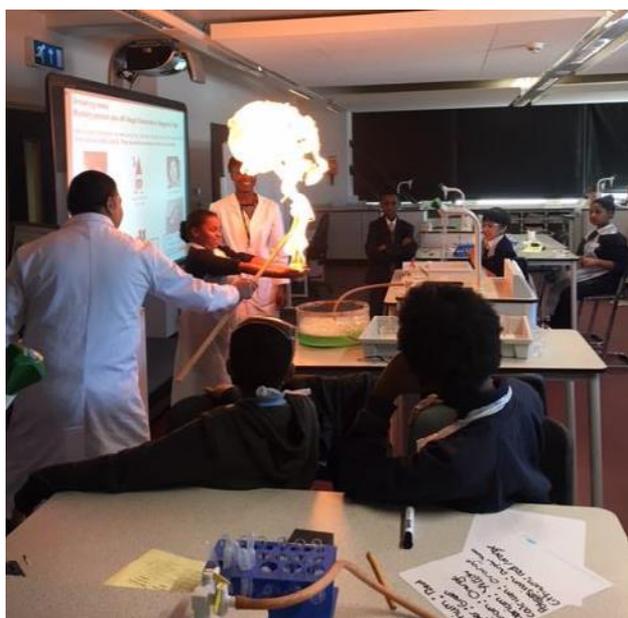
On Tuesday 17 January, 15 students from Middle School attended the first of their weekly Latin lessons at Latymer Upper School with Mr Aribigbola. The lessons form part of the activities related to the Phoenix Academy Scholarship Programme.

The students also learnt some Roman history along with the new Latin words and they were well and truly fascinated with the Roman diet.



YEAR 5 EXPERIENCE DAY

On Friday 20 January, Ms Goodwin arranged for 90 Year 5 students from Old Oak, Wormholt Park and Ark Conway to attend Phoenix Academy for a taster day. The day was a great success and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The activities they took part in included a selection of fun teamwork activities in Physical Education, making smoothies and scrambled eggs on the farm, a Drama masterclass and they also became scientists for the day solving crimes.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD

The students of Phoenix Academy continue to shine. On the 31 January 2017 at Kensington Town Hall, nine students from across all years, including one graduate from 2016, were awarded medallions for their academic achievements, social skills, behaviour and community involvement. These students

are excellent role models in school and were duly recognised as such. We wish to celebrate their achievement by adding our own congratulations to them. They are:

Arbesa Bela (11IAL)

Jordi Lopez (8DGR)

Rakiya Hasan (12AFA)

Dunia Salamzada (9MAR)

Mark Maher (10LMC)

Samira Shire (11PAL)

Zakaria Jama (11MIY)

Nadea Musharraf (10LMC)

Jastan Gill, former Executive Ambassador 2015-2016.

Mr Woods was presented with the Leaders Award for his hard work and popularity with the students since joining the school.



FREE HALF TERM SAFE CAMP

We are running another FREE Half-Term Camp at Phoenix Academy from Monday 13 to Friday 17 February 2017. Young people between the ages of 8-16 are welcome to have fun taking part in a wide range of sports from Football, Basketball, Trampoline, Dodgeball, Table Tennis and Tennis all week. We also have Arts and Craft, Drama, Hair and Beauty, Dance and BMXing. If you are interested in attending then please call 020 8735 1589 for more information.

