What our Governors say ...

During the last four years the school has taken great strides forward in every way. The leadership from the Head Teacher down is excellent. I am always impressed with all aspects of the school, not least the behaviour and uniform dress of the students. I am pleased that my daughter is a student at Phoenix and would certainly recommend the school to others.

The governors are fully committed to support the dedicated senior leadership team and staff in delivering the best possible education for all of our students. Governors take an active part in school life. Our pupils are always smart, respectful and hardworking and our staff do everything to ensure each child achieves their goals.

What our students say ...

I enjoy using the technology at Phoenix. It makes learning more enjoyable.

Teachers inspire and motivate you to try and perform your best in every lesson.

The teachers at Phoenix are very helpful and caring.

The teachers know how to push me in order to achieve the best grade I can possibly get.

I find Phoenix is a very good school as it is always helping us to do better and reach our target.

What our teachers say ...

Our pupils are friendly and lively characters who make my job an enjoyable one.

The students love high expectations and challenges and are worth every minute of my time.

Working with pupils from Phoenix provides me with a laugh a day – watching them enjoying a lesson makes me want to work harder for them.

Pupils in this school are: Always smiling; Always have nice words of greeting.

Our pupils are ‘Eclectic and creative’.

What our Governors say ...

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The school's present population is approximately 1500, drawn from a wide area and is genuinely comprehensive. Almost 50% of our students come from ethnic minority groups. By placing your children with us you are placing them in an environment which mirrors as closely as possible the diverse society they live and will work in.

Our general facilities are good and rapidly improving. General teaching rooms are enhanced by specialist rooms: the hall with a well equipped stage; drama studio; sports hall; 15 science laboratories; 16 ICT suites; an all-weather running track and extensive playing fields. We aim to provide the most up to date experiences for all students.

A Literacy Resource Centre and our 6th Form Centre with its up-to-date technology for ICT and Media courses allow students access to information and supports independent study.

Funding through the Priority Schools Building Programme will see Phoenix move into a brand new, purpose built school in September 2017.

At Phoenix we want all of our students to be happy, but we also want them to aspire to be the very best they can be ... ASPIRE, BELIEVE, SUCCEED.

Parental Comment
Phoenix is a friendly school with a family atmosphere. Staff are friendly, courteous and very helpful. I am happy with the progress of my son. I think Phoenix is the best secondary school in the midlands and probably the UK. You have it just right, well done.
Why Phoenix

Vision

Phoenix is a school that aspires to turn every child’s dream into reality; believes that there is no limit to what can be achieved and succeeds through passion, commitment and determination.

All students are prepared for life after school in a happy safe and caring environment where everyday makes a difference.

Parental Comment
I am proud of my son and how he is developing not only in subjects but socially and emotionally, which I feel the school is having a great impact on him.

Our Values

Our values are based around WITH PRIDE

Wisdom Integrity Tolerance Honesty
Passion Respect Individuality Determination Equality
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‘The schools drive to raise aspirations for what students can achieve is making a difference to their lives’
Ofsted
Parents have the right to expect Phoenix to provide:

• A caring, happy and well disciplined school
• An environment in which we can help everyone to work hard, do well and feel valued
• A place where all of our community are respected
• A stimulating atmosphere in which motivation can thrive
• An excellent education which ensures success for all.

As parents/carers you will:

• Receive regular reports on your child’s progress
• Be able to access to your child’s teachers to discuss progress
• Have opportunities for consultation on major decisions that may affect the school
• Have the opportunity to meet other parents.

Education is a partnership between home and school and at Phoenix we work hard to maintain this partnership and in July 2014 we achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award celebrating our excellence in this area.

Parental support is vital for the continuing success of our students.

Therefore as a school we expect parents/carers to:

• Accept responsibility for their child’s behaviour in school as well as outside of it
• Support the curriculum ensuring all homework is completed
• Ensure your child attends each day in the correct uniform
• Let us know of any concerns you may have regarding your child.

We recognise that parents/carers have high expectations of our schools.

Parental Comment

All three of my children have been happy at Phoenix. My experience with staff has always been professional and all of the staff have always been approachable.
Parents have the right to expect Phoenix to provide:

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… High standards

‘Clear and high expectations are established and students are responding well to these’
Ofsted
I am very pleased with the system they use for monitoring students attendance and are strictly following wearing school uniform policy. My daughter is always happy to go to school, which make me happy.

For your child to succeed they need to attend. We have high expectations of attendance for all our students.

**Attendance**

As a school we expect our students to attend 100% of the time unless ill. 90% may sound good for attendance and most of us would be pleased with this in a test, however it means missing one day off school every fortnight. For students who attend regularly a reward system is in place with prizes and certificates. Our rewards activity day is linked to student attendance.

At the start of each term, each student will be given an attendance target to aim for during the term.

Parents are asked to phone the school on the first day of absence to supply a reason for their child's non-attendance. Should you fail to do this and our systems detect your child not to be present or arrive late to school, we will use our automated text/phone system to contact you to find reasons for their absence. We operate this system to ensure the safety of our students.

We ask that all parents reinforce the schools wish for maximum levels of attendance. If you do experience difficulty in getting your child into school please discuss it with us. There is a dedicated and highly successful attendance team within school to help with this.

As you can appreciate we need to know that your child is safe. In addition, we have numerous registered first aiders situated around the campus to help administer basic first aid if your child needs it. If it is deemed necessary we will contact you and emergency medical help. In this way your child’s personal records and contact details must be kept up-to-date. If you change address / telephone numbers etc. ensure that the school office has them.
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‘Students attendance is much improved’

Ofsted
Phoenix works hard to celebrate and praise the successes of all students, however small or large they may be.

We operate a formal system to recognise students’ endeavour through a merit system in years 7 to 11. We reward the 4As:

- Attendance
- Attitude
- Appearance and
- Achievement

The collection of merits leads to the award of bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates as well as entry to termly prize draws. We also use postcards, letters, certificates of commendation and the head teacher’s book of excellence for outstanding achievement. Students can record their merit points in their planners. These merit points ultimately lead to rewards and form the structure of our annual rewards activity day and formal celebration events in July.

Phoenix expects very high standards of behaviour from all students.

We simply expect students to behave.

We have a fair and transparent system for managing students whose behaviour has let them down, simply based around consequences for the decisions they have made.

There is a scale of sanctions that starts with a verbal warning, through to extra work being given, break time detentions and after school detentions.

This is outlined in more detail in the behaviour policy which is available on the school website.

Ultimately the school will use exclusions for more serious breaches of the school rules.

"Parental Comment

Very pleased with the school. The use of reward points is excellent and motivates my child to do well in all areas of his learning and behaviour."
Rewards

Celebrating Achievement

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Parental Comment

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‘Students have good attitudes to learning in lessons. Students behaviour has improved and is now good’

Ofsted
Transition

We recognise that starting a new school can be an exciting but challenging time for children and an anxious one for parents.

At Phoenix we strongly believe it is important to give Year 5 & 6 students the opportunity to experience working in a secondary school environment.

We invite many primary school students into our school to work alongside us throughout the year. In this way they can get to know the site and our staff before they have to make important choices.

Moving from a primary school to a secondary school is a huge step, so we make the process as secure and happy as possible. We have a dedicated primary transfer team of staff who visit the primary schools and work alongside the primary staff so that we get to know your child before they join us in September.

To help our new students to settle in as quickly and effectively as possible, Phoenix has a sensitive and caring induction process. A successful school is dependent on more than good teaching and learning. At Phoenix we believe that if a young student is to thrive and develop into a caring, confident independent learner and a socially acceptable citizen then we must work in partnership with each student and their parents/carers. Between us we can enable your child to achieve their academic and social potential, as education is for life.

The following events are planned each year to help all our new students and their parents to familiarise themselves with the site and staff at Phoenix:

- **Open Events for prospective students of Year 5/6 and their parents**: Sept/Oct
- **Primary school visits to meet students and work with class teachers**: April onwards
- **Induction Day & Parents evening**: July
- **Transition Holiday Programme**: Summer Holidays
- **Welcome Day for all Year 7 students**: September
- **Year group assemblies**: September
- **Settling in report and Parents Evening**: Oct/Nov
- **Outdoor & Adventurous Team building experience**: Oct/Nov
- **Wolverhampton University sports rewards trip**: July

Students who apply for places at other times in the year will have individual arrangements made for their smooth induction to Phoenix.
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Students described feeling safe and well cared for in school’

Ofsted
‘Teachers have high expectations of what students can achieve and use their subject knowledge to make learning interesting and stimulating’

Ofsted
Curriculum

We want our students to leave school being able to make a contribution to the world.

In Key Stage 3, your child will study a broad and balanced curriculum that helps them to make progress and be able to move from school into further study, employment or vocational training. We ensure that the curriculum is differentiated, relevant and supports individuals.

In Years 10 and 11, students are able to choose a more personalised curriculum. They will be able to select from a range of GCSE, Btec and Vocational subjects. The Phoenix vision is articulated in three core principles, “aspire”, “believe” and “succeed”. Our curriculum and learning environment are designed to support the needs and interests of all our young people and allow them to succeed.

We want your child to be:

• Literate and numerate
• Have skills that will meet their needs and prepare them for life in the Twenty first Century
• Confident in being successful in the wider community
• Supported in making good decisions about their future.

Enrichment offers extra opportunities to our students, both within the day and in out of hours study support sessions, clubs and teams. We have high expectations of our students, which are regularly communicated through our monitoring and target setting processes.

Underpinning the taught curriculum is the development of social, moral and spiritual learning and values. A wide range of additional support is offered to those students who experience any barriers to learning.

The timetable is based upon 25 lessons each week; with an opportunity for tutor period and daily reading time of 20 minute reading sessions.

Key Stage 3: All Year 7 students follow the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. Supporting this curriculum is our determination to teach core skills for lifelong learning such as Citizenship, Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.

We place a strong emphasis on Literacy, with all students having access to the Lexia and Renaissance programmes to support them. This programme of literacy support and development is delivered via our dedicated literacy centre. From September 2014, we are to introduce a “catch up” programme to assist those students who require additional support in closing the gap in Literacy and Numeracy, to ensure that they become more able to fully access the curriculum as they move through the school.

Additional subjects we offer in Year 7 are: History, Geography, Spanish, Technology (Food, Materials, Textiles), Drama, Music, Art, Dance, Physical Education, ICT and Religious Education. Our religious education programme is designed for students of all faiths and backgrounds and does not promote any one set of beliefs above another.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship are delivered through PSHE lessons and a series of Curriculum Enrichment days. A unit of sex education forms part of the programme and concentrates upon personal relationships rather than physical processes. Careers information is included in the tutor programme for all year groups. We work closely with representatives from over 100 local firms and enterprises. Connexions play an important part in preparing our students for their lives after school.

The right of parents to withdraw students from these lessons extends to all students. However, as the school takes care to prepare to programme sensitively as part of an on-going life skills package, we very much hope that this right will not be exercised.

Key Stage 4: We believe that Year 9 marks the transition between Key Stage Three and Four and that during this time, there need to be a strong emphasis placed upon the development of those skills which form the basis of future success in the subjects which they will follow in Year 10 and 11.

As well as the core subjects and PE Year 9 sees the time for your child to choose options. Following an intensive programme of Information, Advice and Guidance, students will be asked to choose FOUR option subjects – made up of both GCSE and BTEC qualifications. We also offer the opportunity for studying Punjabi, Polish and other home languages after school to GCSE standard.

PSHE, citizenship, Enterprise Education and RE continue to be delivered via a series of Curriculum Enrichment days.

There are also opportunities to take up vocational placements, or be placed on an alternative curriculum provision programme, following consultation with parents.

Post 16 - the 6th Form

Our offer in the 6th form provides a range of subjects at AS and A2 alongside all levels of BTEC courses. There are also opportunities provided for students to continue their study of Maths and English,
Teaching Groups
In Year 7 pupils are largely taught in mixed ability tutor groups of approximately 25 pupils who follow the same timetable during their first year at Phoenix. Grouping in Mathematics and English is setted.

From the beginning of Year 8, most departments place pupils in sets according to ability. This is to allow each student to work at an appropriate level within each subject area.

In Years 10 and 11 pupils are grouped according to ability and the choices they make.

Sex Education
Sex education is incorporated into the tutor programme at Key stage 3. We use a number of external professional agencies such as Brook Advisory to engage and educate our young people and generate important and useful thought and discussion. Emphasis is placed upon providing factual information so that pupils can make informed choices in their later lives.

Religious Education
Our religious education programme is designed for pupils of all faiths and backgrounds and does not promote any one set of beliefs above another. We believe it is important for all pupils to be prepared for and give value to, a multi faith society.

Assessment, reporting and target setting
We set students targets for achievement over a Key Stage that are challenging and aspirational, we want the students to be aware of their potential and aim for excellence. As well as the information from primary school, students are assessed to provide teachers with information to ensure that they can plan to get the best from your child.

Parental Comment
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At Phoenix we look to find the talents of all our students, whatever field it may be in.

At Phoenix we look to find the talents of all our students, whatever field it may be in. Each year we identify our gifted and talented students, who have the potential to achieve at a level significantly in advance of the average for their year group. Any parent who thinks that their child has a particular gift or talent should contact us at school.

Instrument Lessons
Phoenix provides lessons with Sandwell Youth Music to allow instrumentalists to develop their musical skills with professional instrument teachers.

Extra-Curricular Activities beyond the classroom
We provide a varied and challenging extended curriculum that offers something for everyone, whatever their ability or interest, and aims to develop an enthusiasm and enjoyment for learning which will stay with students throughout their lives. We aim to encourage all students to actively involve themselves in extracurricular activities. We expect every child to be involved in at least one extracurricular activities.

Many school teams and individuals from all age groups compete at all levels. At inter-school, county and district level, The Phoenix Collegiate is now challenging for honours in many departments. The range of sports on offer included: Netball, Basketball, Rounders, Athletics, Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Triathlons, health-related fitness, Dance, Table Tennis, Trampolining, Handball, Badminton and Gymnastics. In addition, the PE Department is involved in the FA Football ‘Mash Up’ Programme and the Black Country Consortium Satellite Club Link Programme (Walsall Netball Club). Many students also participate in national and local schemes such as Sports Leadership Awards and The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

The Phoenix Collegiate is a vibrant community where, through an enormous range of enrichment activities, students are encouraged for further develop their talents and skills. Everyone can be involved. Clubs of an academic, practical sporting and social nature take place both during lunchtimes and after school. Trips to Plas Gwynant, Kingswood and Ingestre Hall are an integral part of the school calendar as are regular visits to theatres, museums, galleries, concerts and universities.

The school has also forged excellent links with the community and many students have been involved in raising money for a variety of charities for example Wear it Pink, Macmillan Coffee Morning and the Comic Relief Charity Day.
Here at Phoenix we have an excellent Pastoral System – Phoenix is a school that cares, but delivers results.

Pastoral Welfare
The Pastoral Care of your child is based on a year group system which exists to promote a sense of community and good order in the school. We have an established dedicated Year 7 team of tutors that possess the necessary skills to enable your child to transfer from primary into secondary education as quickly and easily as possible. This team of experienced tutors is led and managed by an Achievement Coordinator, a devoted Year 7 Pastoral Support Manager and supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

This committed team of staff are responsible for the well being of your child. Your child’s tutor is the first point of contact with the school as they will see your child on a daily basis and work with your child through the Personal Social and Moral Education Programme.

The Achievement Coordinator ensure that your child is rewarded for good behaviour and work by organizing rewards presentations in the weekly assembly and as part of the end of term awards events.

The Pastoral Support Manager, in conjunction with the rest of the team, will work with your child if they are a cause for concern, i.e. demonstrate unacceptable behaviour or poor work rate. There are other support systems in school that can be used if necessary e.g. Educational Welfare Officer, School Counsellor, School Nurse and our Learning Support Centre.

Bullying
For the vast majority of our pupils, bullying is not a problem they will encounter at Phoenix, however, bullying is of course, rightly not tolerated at Phoenix and we as a community take a clear and quite simple stance against bullying.

We encourage both pupils and parents to let us know if a problem is occurring so that immediate action can be taken.

On arrival students are made fully aware of this stance and also the many ways of reporting bullying whether on the receiving end being aware of it indirectly.

The first line of defence is via teachers, tutors, Year staff and non-teaching staff as well as parents who can alert school accordingly.

As a backup we have the school website Frog 24/7 email alert system where any student can email concerns through to school directly at any time of the week, day or term. This facility is checked regularly for entries allowing a swift and effective response.

We are currently striving for the national Anti-Bullying Quality Award Mark and our student and parent survey responses are forming a powerful positive part of that venture.

We have been chosen by the ABQM-UK assessors to be a local ‘hub’ for workshops on anti-bullying for schools in Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall which is exciting.

We have a whole school Anti Bullying advice board for all students and staff and we are currently training up Peer Mentors so that students can work with staff to support both those very few students ever experiencing bullying and indeed the bully themselves.

Uniform
At Phoenix we believe that a young person’s appearance is very important. It helps to establish an appropriate attitude to work and here at Phoenix we hold a strict uniform policy which we expect all students to adhere to. We encourage our students to take pride in the way that they present themselves. Further information on the school uniform policy can be found on the school website.

Special Educational Needs
Many students find they have a Special Education need at some part of their school lives; we are here to provide support for these students, allowing students full access to a rich curriculum as well as guidance to help them reach their full potential. To ensure this we have a dedicated team of SEN staff and a number of excellent facilities to support your child.

We encourage parents of students with additional needs moving to Phoenix to discuss the student and their needs with our SEN team so we can make any transition a smooth positive process.

Parental Comment
Since my step daughter started the school she has come out of her shell more at home and started to discuss things with me, being more confident in herself. She seems a different person now as she is always happy within and outside of school. So I would like to thank the staff at Phoenix Collegiate. It is much appreciated.

Parental Comment
We moved our daughter to Phoenix because the pastoral care at her old school was non-existent. Phoenix offers a caring and supportive environment for our daughter. She is happy and becoming more confident and her self-esteem is improving the longer she is at Phoenix. This we are grateful for.
At Phoenix we believe strongly that student voice; through listening to our students is the basis of school improvement.

Parental Comment
I am very happy with the progress of my child in this school.

Student Voice, Council and Responsibilities at Phoenix
Our systems allow all students to raise their opinions, concerns, ideas and suggestions at many levels via tutor groups, year groups, subjects, year council and school council. We also have a 24/7 Live Frog Suggestion facility where students can input their thoughts from anywhere with internet access.

We are currently developing our student leadership systems, enhancing our current student responsibilities which includes; prefects, buddies, school guides, receptionists, librarians, peer mentors and student ambassadors and this year will see the student leadership opportunities at Phoenix expand massively.

School Meals
The school restaurant is run by an external company called Aspens, providing a variety of high quality meals which meets the latest nutritional guidelines. Pupils may bring packed lunches if preferred. We also have an external food outlet called the ‘Snack Shack’ should students prefer this option.

Pupils are not allowed to leave school premises at lunch. This is for pupils’ protection and to ensure they are under proper supervision.
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‘Students from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together’

Ofsted
With over 260 students in the Phoenix Collegiate 6th Form, our 6th Form is one of the largest in the North of Sandwell, which enables us to offer a wide range of courses as well as excellent facilities.

Our 6th Form College is a friendly, caring and sharing part of the school which is based on respect, commitment and enthusiasm. By encouraging quality work and positive social interaction we strive for an adult atmosphere where staff and students can work in partnership.

We are very proud of the wide range of academic studies that our students can follow. These include vocational level 1 and 2 courses; GCSE courses and the more traditional A level courses, where over 95% of our upper sixth students will then enter their chosen University course to study at degree level. Our recent A2 results puts us in the top 25% compared to other similar schools nationally. Our A2 pass rate was 100% and AS pass rate 94% in 2014.

Alongside the wide range of courses, we are delighted to be able to offer our 6th Form Students a broad range of activities that enable them to become independent learners who have experienced working in the community and with different charities. We expect all our 6th Formers to have significantly contributed to the social aspects of developing into a mature, socially acceptable citizen.

What Students can expect in the 6th Form

- A wide range of subjects taught at different levels, usually taught in small classes by experienced enthusiastic well qualified teachers.
- Excellent results.
- An outstanding high rate of students being accepted onto their chosen degree course or into their chosen area of work.
- Private study facilities are available and are constantly being improved.
- Use of the 6th Form block, common room and private restaurant.
- Full access to the 6th Form learning centre and IT facilities.
- To have an experienced 6th Form Tutor and support in completing application forms for further study or work.
- To be a part of a caring and sharing friendly 6th Form Community.
With over 260 students in the Phoenix Collegiate 6th Form, our 6th Form is one of the largest in the North of Sandwell, which enables us to offer a wide range of courses as well as excellent facilities. Our 6th Form College is a friendly, caring and sharing part of the school which is based on respect, commitment and enthusiasm. By encouraging quality work and positive social interaction we strive for an adult atmosphere where staff and students can work in partnership.

We are very proud of the wide range of academic studies that our students can follow. These include vocational level 1 and 2 courses; GCSE courses and the more traditional A level courses, where over 95% of our upper sixth students will then enter their chosen University course to study at degree level. Our recent A2 results puts us in the top 25% compared to other similar schools nationally. Our A2 pass rate was 100% and AS pass rate 94% in 2014.

Alongside the wide range of courses, we are delighted to be able to offer our 6th Form Students a broad range of activities that enable them to become independent learners who have experienced working in the community and with different charities. We expect all our 6th Formers to have significantly contributed to the social aspects of developing into a mature, socially acceptable citizen.

What Students can expect in the 6th Form

• A wide range of subjects taught at different levels, usually taught in small classes by experienced enthusiastic well qualified teachers.
• Excellent results.
• An outstanding high rate of students being accepted onto their chosen degree course or into their chosen area of work.
• Private study facilities are available and are constantly being improved.
• Use of the 6th Form block, common room and private restaurant.
• Full access to the 6th Form learning centre and IT facilities.
• To have an experienced 6th Form Tutor and support in completing application forms for further study or work.
• To be a part of a caring and sharing friendly 6th Form Community.