Phoenix Rated “Good” by Ofsted

Ofsted described Phoenix as having “a ‘no limits’ culture driven by the uncompromising belief that all students can and will be successful as they move onto the next stage of their life”, when they visited the school late last term. Inspectors highlighted a determined and successful drive from the school to raise standards and improve teaching.

Ofsted went on to praise the school’s “relentless focus on the importance of reading” as well as regular tracking of students’ learning. They said students are proud of their school and feel safe and well cared for and emphasised the culture of high aspiration and success evident across the school.

We are delighted to have been judged a ‘good’ school by Ofsted in our recent inspection and extremely proud of the fantastic progress our students are making. There cannot be many head teachers fortunate enough to work with such a magnificent team of teachers and support staff, who, together with supportive parents, have transformed the quality of education at Phoenix.

The improvement in student outcomes at Phoenix has been nothing short of remarkable over the last few years. However, we are far from complacent and consider this just a milestone towards achieving our ambition to become an ‘outstanding’ school.

Chris Ward, Sandwell Council’s Director of Education, said: “The improvement seen at Phoenix in recent years has been excellent and is a true reflection of the hard work of the whole staff team and the students. Our children in Sandwell deserve the best possible education we can offer and Phoenix has certainly risen to that challenge.”

The full inspection report is available on our school website: www.aspirebelievesucceed.com

Gary Hill - Head Teacher

Phoenix ‘NEW BUILD’ gets the go ahead!

Sandwell’s planning committee gave the go ahead for the rebuild of Phoenix when they met on 1st July. Plans are now in place to start the build in early August 2015 and students are expected to move in to their new school in April 2017.

The new school will provide state of the art buildings for its students and for the community during the evenings. The thought of cutting edge ICT facilities, dance and activity studios, and suited science laboratories which incorporate external classroom space has seen the number of applications for places in year 7 this year soar to record levels.

During recent months, we have been working closely with Carillion and the government to plan the new school in detail. Our key aim in these talks has been to ensure that the high quality of education that Phoenix has a reputation of providing amongst its parents, students and peers, is never compromised during the build phase. Indeed, I am committed to ensuring that the quality of our provision goes on improving throughout this process and parents can be confident that the safety and education of their child is our single most important priority.

Gary Hill - Head Teacher

Return dates for September 2015

Pupils return to Phoenix on

**Monday 7th September 2015**

Year 7 pupils to arrive at 8.40am and report to the school hall

Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 pupils to arrive at 10.15am and report to their tutor

Year 12 students to arrive on

**Monday 7th September**

at 10.15am and report to the school hall

Year 13 students to arrive on

**Monday 7th September**

at 11.25am and report to the Sixth Form centre

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www.aspirebelievesucceed.com
Governors

Joanne Clair
Support staff governor
Joanne has recently been appointed as support staff governor. She has four children (three daughters and a son) and eight grandchildren and loves to spend most of her free time with them.

Joanne has been employed at Phoenix for nearly 15 years and has worked across the school holding several positions.

She is currently overseeing our RAISE Centre (KS3 Facility) which accommodates pupils for up to six weeks. The KS3 facility assesses pupils and addresses any issues/concerns pupils/staff may have in regards to their learning and supports their reintegration back to lessons.

Joanne also oversees our Alternative Provision (KS4 Facility) that is now situated onsite and provides pupils with challenging behaviour an alternative curriculum to meet their needs. It provides additional support to both pupils and their families through outside agencies. This new facility has been a success and Ofsted were impressed with how the school had moved this forward.

She also oversees our Internal Exclusion facility which is an alternative to fixed period exclusions which again is a very successful area that has helped ensure our exceptional reduction rate in exclusions.

Joanne is our Educational Visits Coordinator and makes sure that all trips are risk assessed and follow Local Authority procedure.

She has recently taken over the monitoring our pupils that go out on vocational courses such as Hair & Beauty, Construction, and Mechanics.

And finally Joanne is our Extended Services Coordinator and works in partnership with Harvills Hawthorn Primary, Hateley Heath Primary, St John Bosco RC Primary, St Mary Magdalene CoE Primary and Moorns Primary known as CoFERB. Through the partnership she runs the holiday provision onsite at Phoenix which is open borough wide to support parents/carers and promote healthy lifestyles to children age 4yrs to 12 yrs.

Ian Collett
Parent governor
Responsible for Finance (Budget setting and financial control)
Ian was born and bred in, and has always lived in, West Bromwich and attended the current Phoenix Clarkes Lane building as a pupil in the 1960s when it was West Bromwich Grammar School.

Since leaving school, Ian has always worked in accountancy / finance, hence his current role on the governing body as Chair of Finance, which involves regular meetings to discuss the current financial position of the school. He is currently employed as Finance Director of a local and long standing West Bromwich Insurance Brokers where he has worked for the last 26 years.

As well as being a parent governor of Phoenix Collegiate for the last four and a half years, he has also been a governor at a local Junior and Primary School for about the last eleven years where he is Chair of Health and Safety.

He is a member of the Methodist Church and has worked with young people in the voluntary youth sector all his adult life, working mainly with 11 to 18 year olds in the Boys’ Brigade, which takes up much of his spare time. Consequently, his knowledge of young people extends far beyond his involvement as a governor of Phoenix.

Ian lives locally with his wife Jane, who is a member of staff at a local junior school, and their daughter, who is a pupil at Phoenix. They love the musical theatre and like nothing better than visiting the West End to see a musical.

Additionally, Ian is also a Magistrate, sitting on the Black Country Bench, and is a director (unpaid) of a Local Community Association serving West Bromwich town centre.

Important dates for Autumn term 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2015</td>
<td>School closed to pupils for Inset days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th September 2015</td>
<td>Pupils return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th September 2015</td>
<td>Late start for pupils – 10.10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19th October 2015</td>
<td>Years 7, 10 &amp; 12 Settling in meetings (5.00-7.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th October 2015</td>
<td>School closed to pupils for Inset day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26th October 2015 to Friday 30th October 2015</td>
<td>Half term holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th November 2015</td>
<td>Key Stage 5 open evening (6.00-8.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th November 2015</td>
<td>Late start for pupils – 10.10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd November 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 parents’ evening (4.00-7.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th November 2015</td>
<td>School closed to pupils for Inset day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st December 2015 to Friday 1st January 2016</td>
<td>Christmas holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th January 2016</td>
<td>School closed to pupils for Inset day</td>
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Class anthology

Poetry was the main topic of the spring term and students were inspired by the work of famous poets such as Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage to write their own poetry about various events in real life.

Students chose from five topics to write about; conflict, family, love, nature, book characters, war and life and death. Poems were beautifully written about every topic.

Particular poems that stand out above the rest were: Okay by Demi Morgan, I Love You by Daisy Boyer-Pritchard, The Butterfly Garden by Megan McDermott, Second Chance by Desjana Brozi and The Birth of Me by Leah Blundell.

The class anthology will be available in the school library, in J block. For more details contact Mrs Hill on the school’s website on FROG.

Ravneet Chahal & Renesha Hodgson Year 9

Summer 2015

Results Days

Thursday 13th August GCE Results:
Year 12 and Year 13 from 9.00am

Thursday 20th August GCSE Results:
Year 11 and Year 12 re-sits from 9.00am

Collection of Results

Whilst most students collect their results, we appreciate that this is not always possible. Results can be posted or collected on their behalf by prior written arrangement only.

Posted results will require a stamped addressed envelope of A5 size with the candidate number written in the top left hand corner.

English

During the course of the year, students in Mrs Houlston’s Year 9 English class have taken the time out of their own schedule to come together and create a class anthology.

Poetry was the main topic of the spring term and students were inspired by the work of famous poets such as Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage to write their own poetry about various events in real life.

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Ravneet Chahal & Renesha Hodgson Year 9
Young Writers’ Grim Tales mini saga competition

Mrs Foster’s Year 8 class have produced some gruesomely grim tales for a national competition… and will have their work published! The class was required to create a ‘grim tale’ in 100 words and they relished the challenge.

Mrs Foster said “I’m so proud of the class’ work; they loved writing the tale and it was a real challenge for them to stick to 100 words. The fact their work will be published is just fantastic.” Students have received a bookmark and are eagerly anticipating the publication of their work on 30th September. Well done 8ab4!

World Book Day in the LRC

On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day by having a scavenger hunt and a treasure hunt in the LRC. It was open to years seven to eleven but pupils had to come and register to take part before the day.

For the treasure hunt, we hid different books around the library then gave the pupils a clue where to find them; it was very exciting watching them, especially when they got close to finding the right book.

For the scavenger hunt, the pupils had to find their own books i.e. a book with an animal on the cover etc. It was the first time we had done this but everyone enjoyed it so we will do it again in the future.

Our two lucky winners were Daisy Nock, who won the treasure hunt, and Katie Atterbury, who won the scavenger hunt.

Both pupils won a £5 voucher to spend in the Scholastic book leaflet.

‘All My Sons’

On the 26th March, a group of sixth formers and year 11 English students visited the Birmingham Rep theatre to watch the Talawa theatre company’s rendition of ‘All My Sons’, a play by Arthur Miller.

The play documents the Keller family’s struggle to continue life after World War 2 in 1940s America. Iman Mills-Smith, a year 12 English student, called the performance “riveting”, whilst another sixth former labelled it “outstanding”. The heartfelt performance was executed with both passion and perfection, honouring Miller’s work.

Overall it was a great opportunity provided by the Phoenix English department and a fantastic night enjoyed by all.

Use of Mathematics exams for Year 9

Congratulations to our Year 9 students who have successfully completed two of the examined modules of their Use of Mathematics course.

They have now completed part of a formal qualification which will help them in their understanding of how maths is useful in the real world.

They had to prepare for the exams using data sheets and apply their skills in challenging ways.

The remaining part of the course will be finished at the end of year 10, setting the students up with most of the knowledge they will need for their GCSE exams in Year 11.

Maths at Phoenix

DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITES

Have you clicked on the new subject websites yet? Maths, English and Science sites have been live throughout the revision season, and students are regularly set homework and challenges through them.

Other departments will be going online over summer and into the autumn, so be sure to keep checking back to see what’s new. Over 1,000 users have already accessed these subject sites, so don’t get left behind!

Simply go to aspirebelievesucceed.com, then go to Subjects Information in the menu.

Maths

www.aspirebelievesucceed.com
**Maths Enrichment Trip**

Fifteen of our most able Year 9 mathematicians took part in a trip to Wolverhampton University on 2nd July. They did a range of exciting activities and challenges, getting a chance to work alongside mathematicians from other schools from a wide area. They finished the day by finding out about the bizarre nature of infinity, and its relation to everything in our universe, from ants to bricks.

**Science & Engineering week**

To celebrate National Science and Engineering week, pupils at Phoenix were wowed by science staff who showcased fascinating and exciting experiments and chemical reactions in a series of science assemblies throughout the week. Whoosh bottles, burning thermite, and green flaming tornadoes were just a few of the show pieces.

Each assembly was broadcasted to the world, live on YouTube, meaning everyone could access and experience each one, and even watch it again if they wished!

**Upcoming Event:**

**The National Cipher Challenge**

Have you heard of the 2014 Oscar-winning film The Imitation Game starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley? Are you fascinated by puzzles? Have you ever wanted to know how codes and ciphers work to keep our country safe? Are you interested in winning a large cash prize and competing against other students in a national competition?

If yes, then you might be interested in the National Cipher Challenge in partnership with IBM, GCHQ and the Universities of Southampton and Cambridge, starting in the autumn term 2015.

Keep your eyes open for events after the summer, but to keep you going:

UZWUC GML LZW OWTkalW SL ZLLH://000.UAHZWJ.ESLZK.KGLGF.SU.MC/

Cipher hint: come and see if you can conquer it.

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**Science Sixth form biology taster session**

In order to introduce Year 11 students to the practical nature of A level biology, a taster session was organised.

Biology students from our current Year 12 and 13 aided Year 11 in the dissection of a fish head, in order to retrieve the gills and explain the counter current principle.

The Year 11 students furthered their interest by removing a fish eye and recovering the lens within it. During the session, Year 11s had the opportunity to chat about sixth form life and the subjects that they may choose to study in September. A smelly, but successful time was had by all!

Finally, a big thank you to ‘Owen’s Fish’ who very kindly donated the salmon heads.

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**Solar Eclipse**

Not wanting such a massive celestial event to simply pass us by, pupils and staff at Phoenix made the most of this rare opportunity to view a solar eclipse.

Science lessons in the days before the eclipse focussed on the why and the how of eclipses, looking at and learning about past solar eclipses visible in the UK, like August 11th 1999, learning how to safely view the eclipse and making pinhole cameras and projectors to use on the day.

On the morning of the main event, the whole school went outside for an extended tutor period to catch a glimpse of the 92% coverage at the maximum of the eclipse at around 9.30am.

...A once in a childhood experience, the next chance in the UK being August 12th 2026!

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Managed by MEI Innovators in Mathematics Education

www.aspirebelievesucceed.com
Fashion Show

On Thursday 25th June 2015, Phoenix Collegiate came alive with style, fashion and action!

Models, designers, performers, presenters and photographers... most of them Phoenix pupils owned the stage and put on a fantastic showcase for the pupils of Phoenix and visitors, including fashion store managers, friends and family and special guests from Walsall College who provided clothes for the models of Phoenix to wear.

Also in the show were Nike, Blue Inc. and Burton Menswear. The boys and girls who got involved in the show had dedicated weeks of commitment to rehearse what was going to be shown on the day, but were so adaptable to last minute changes. From 8.30am onwards they worked solidly (as did all staff!) to produce what everyone would agree was an energetic, enthusiastic and incredible hour of fashion, music and pure talent and ambition, which highlights perfectly the ethos of Phoenix...inspire, believe, succeed.

Beginning as an idea in February 2015, the fashion show came alive on Thursday 25th June as the pupils all worked in unison backstage and onstage modelling to provide the audience with the first and biggest ever fashion showcase in Sandwell.

Phoenix Days are an essential part of the school year for our pupils, and this day was certainly that. The positive, fresh and upbeat vibes were felt by everyone and it simply was the most amazing day to end the month of June.

Photography trip to London

On 21st January, A level Art and Photography students enjoyed a trip to London, where they visited two galleries, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery, for inspiration to develop their ideas for their coursework.

For the Year 12 artists, the focus was ‘The Portrait’; the National Portrait Gallery impressed with a myriad of portraits to inspire and act upon, especially the work of Grayson Perry.

All students thoroughly immersed themselves in the work of Van Gogh and Degas at the National Gallery. Photography students focused on the theme of ‘Urban’ and experimented with street photography with lots of primary sources.

Overall, it was a wonderful trip and all gained inspiration for A Level Art or Photography projects, making the trip a resounding success: useful and enlightening. As well as looking around the galleries, both year groups had the opportunity to visit famous London landmarks such as Covent Garden and Camden Market.

Design & Materials: gift ideas

Well done to Haydn Abrahams, who has been busy working through his lunchtimes to produce thank you gifts for his mum and dad.

He has used the laser cutter, vinyl cutter and vacuum forming machine to manufacture personalised clocks with the Disney theme – a favourite family holiday destination.

If you have any ideas for a product you would like to make for a family member, friend or yourself then pop into I Block any lunchtime and speak to staff there.

Working with Multi-Media artists

Art and Design students have been working with multi-media artists Jamie Jackson and Stephen Whitehead to create art work around the theme of our environment. The artists invited students to attend an Artists’ Talk - Outrider: Lines and Intersections on Friday 22nd May 2015.

Artists Ron Haselden, Dr Cath Keay and Dr Sally Payen discussed their participation in Outrider, a series of artists’ commissions exploring the Alfred Watkins collection of photographs and books about beekeeping held by Hereford library.

Initiated by Salt Road, a not-for-profit artist led organisation based in the West Midlands, Outrider: the work can be seen at Haden Hill House Museum, Sandwell (7 May – 31 August). Gemma Madhas (Year 12 student) attended the event and has organised her work experience with the professional artists involved in this project.

Year 8 students have created masks inspired by their knowledge and understanding of other cultures which then led to Cubist and Abstract paintings.
**Art Exhibition**

GCSE and A level Art and Design students celebrated their end of year exhibition on Thursday 9th July.

Teachers, governors, parents and friends attended to see an exciting array of outstanding paintings, ceramics, prints, drawings and photography on display in the school gallery.

**Year 9**

Year 9 explored graffiti art and discussed whether it is a vibrant urban art form or senseless vandalism. The debate still continues... but Year 9 created group graffiti wall art pieces and mini bricks to make a whole wall.

**Business Hub**

GeoPost (dpd Group) Dragons’ Den 2015

This year’s GeoPost Dragons’ Den event took place on Wednesday 24th June, in which over 95 Year 10 Business Studies students presented their Business Plans to the SMT of GeoPost UK Ltd. The aim was to learn invaluable entrepreneurial skills such as decision making, team working, communication and interpersonal skills. The event was managed by our Year 11 and 6th Form students, led by our 6th Form Deputy Head Girl, Sapna Sandhu.

The event was a huge success, supported by our Governor and HR Director of dpd Group, David Poole and his SMT team, including Steve Mills, Sinead Croke, Damian Palmer, Mark Wilkes, Justin Pegg, Tim Jones, Mandy Deaken Snell and Jonathan Pratt.

We are grateful to GeoPost for their considerable commitment to the school and the obvious impact it is making on our students.

**IPads in the Classroom - Bringing Education to Life**

Pupils at Phoenix have endless opportunities to access the valuable resources of iPad Minis. The interactive technology makes learning more motivating, exciting and memorable. With key tools such as audio and video recording, learning has never been more engaging.

Year 7 art pupils were recently visited by the Chair of Governors, Leigh Pepper, and the Head Teacher, Mr Gary Hill, in order to gain an insight on the use of iPads in the classroom. Kyle Fowler and Alans Ozolins demonstrated to Mr Pepper and Mr Hill how to take photographs and manipulate them using apps in order to create outcomes inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau.

Using the iPads has enabled pupils to access learning in the palm of their hands, making it possible to progress in the learning process anytime, anywhere. This is just the beginning; the possibilities are endless...

**Achievers International Project**

A selection of Year 10 students have continued to engage in a joint Business/MFL enterprise project throughout the year. They have explored the concept of International Trade/Business and Communication by:

- Creating a company with a business logo and associated job roles
- Creating promotional material for their company including the design of a website
- Maintaining company records
- Using both written and electronic methods of communication to make contact with students in international partner schools.

Remaining company members will be receiving certification for having engaged in the project throughout the year. Well done to everyone involved.
IKEA Wednesbury - ICT Competition

As part of our continuing partnership with IKEA Wednesbury, a selection of Phoenix ICT students were given an opportunity by marketing professionals to enter a competition to design and create new promotional material for the company’s own soft toy campaign.

Ikea’s ‘Soft Toys for Education’ campaign is a good cause partnership created 12 years ago between the IKEA Foundation, UNICEF and Save the Children to help fund education projects and provide quality education to children living in poverty in developing countries.

Students at Phoenix were invited to create new and innovative methods of promoting the campaign to people of their own age. Congratulations to Harman Grover, Jordan Dehal, Gabriela Solek and Milosz Jagiello for creating the winning entry.

Here are photographs of students working together in teams to produce their entries for the competition.

Thank you to ICT staff at Phoenix and in particular Nuzhad Chagan, Naomi Campbell, Paula Cade and Jo-Ann Wilkins at IKEA for launching the competition to students.

Congratulations to Harman Grover, Jordan Dehal, Gabriela Solek and Milosz Jagiello for creating the winning entry.

BUSINESS LINK WITH TESCO – NEW SQUARE WEST BROMWICH

This year has seen a continued educational relationship between Phoenix Collegiate and Tesco New Square West Bromwich.

Staff and students have been privileged to work with Sid (Community Manager at the store) who has been helping to enhance teaching and learning within various areas of our school curriculum.

Year 12 Applied GCE Business students have already been provided with an opportunity to receive a guided tour of the Tesco West Bromwich store and then listen to a presentation delivered by Sid concerning recruitment and human resource considerations connected to the company.

Sid will also be working with Key Stage 3 and 4 ICT students to provide them with knowledge of how ICT is used at an operational level within a supermarket store.

Thank you to Sid for providing very valuable learning experiences to our students.

“Once again the students were impeccably behaved, their interaction really helped my presentation and the way that some were taking notes and some running out of paper showed they were eager to learn.

I look forward to continuing our partnership – please pass on my thanks to all of your students.”

Kind regards - Sid

Humanities Hub

Sandwell Council works with Year 11 students

As part of their GCSE Geography qualifications, over 40 Year 11 students were provided with an opportunity to listen to a presentation delivered by Jenna Langford (Planning/Regeneration Officer at Sandwell Council) regarding information concerning the regeneration of West Bromwich town centre and future careers in Planning.

Jenna Langford is an Ambassador for the Royal Town Planning Institute and works to aid the RTPI’s future planners’ initiative by bringing the concept of ‘planning’ into the classroom. Jenna’s presentation provided an opportunity for students to learn about the work of professional town planners, regeneration planning in Sandwell and information regarding future careers in both planning and the built environment.

Phoenix Collegiate would very much like to thank Jenna for her support and we look forward to continuing our link with Sandwell Council with regard to building a ‘planning’ element into the curriculum for other year groups.
HISTORY TRIP TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
A small group of Year 13 History students visited the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

The thought-provoking gallery takes the visitor on a journey through pre-war Germany, the rise of the Nazis and the eventual genocide of 10 million Jews, gypsies, homosexuals and disabled children.

Listening to the stories from Holocaust survivors brought the horror of the event into sharp focus.

The students had free time to see some of the sights of London including the Houses of Parliament and Trafalgar Square.

Sports & The Arts Hub

Big Brum come to Phoenix!
The Drama Department have been extremely busy this year; we have had some fantastic visits: Theatre in Education Company ‘Big Brum’ came to Phoenix on 3rd March to perform an interesting new play based on a father and son relationship called ‘The Angry Roads’ by Edward Bond.

The play explores a journey from the past to the present with some shocking revelations.

We were all very lucky to see this performance as this was the World Premiere of Bond’s play, what a privilege!

Phoeniix Live
Working in partnership with Sandwell Youth Music Service, students have been selected to be part of Phoenix Live.

They rehearse in the CLC every Monday evening and are currently preparing to perform at a number of musical events. Their hard work and dedication is palpable and we wish them every success with their future ventures.

Any budding musicians and songwriters are welcome. Collect a letter from Miss Neal in the Music department if you are interested.

The 4th Degree
A group of Sandwell College Performing Arts students came in to perform their version of a piece called ‘The 4th Degree’ to some Year 9 students at Phoenix.

The play explored themes of racism, equality and ambition and even had reference to some local history! The College students also ran a workshop with Year 9 afterwards and commented on how fantastic they were to work with.

Well done Year 12!

National Sports Week – Visit to Woodlands Outdoor Activity Centre, 22nd June 2015

As part of National Sports Week, 14 Year 9 students were given the opportunity to spend the day at Woodlands, completing various challenges and enjoying the fresh air.

Activities included zip wire, obstacle course, raft building and kayaking. An enjoyable day for all with plenty of laughter.

Year 12 Sociology trip to Birmingham Crown Court

The Year 12 Sociology group went to the Birmingham Crown Court in June as part of their A2 course.

The students witnessed many different types of cases and had a very interesting day.

Revelations
Revelations are a diverse dance group that ranges from the ages 12-18. They are a committed after school dance crew that takes place at Phoenix Collegiate.

They create all their own choreography and explore different dance genres as a team. They are all from different backgrounds but come together as a family to create inspiring and energetic choreography to give off an atmosphere of enjoyment for our audience. Their passion is to dance.

These students have performed at Great British Dance Off and finished in the top 5 out of hundreds of school groups.

They also represented the school and Sandwell, as Shape Your Talent finalists and at UDO (a national dance competition) in June. They came 3rd in Sandwell and 5th in the National dance competition making them 5th in the UK.

Well done Year 12, what a success!
The Duke of Edinburgh Award

It has been another very busy year, for the DofE team with day walks, qualifying weekends on the Long Mynd and an assessment weekend at Brow Farm, Shropshire.

We are the proud owners of our directly licenced Centre Certification. This allows us to offer the DofE Awards directly within Phoenix Collegiate, thus allowing more access and opportunities at a reduced cost.

The DofE programme helps to develop leadership, teamwork, self-motivation, communication, confidence, consideration and the ability to learn.

Phoenix will be launching the Silver Award next academic year. If you would like to be considered for the 2015/2016 cohort, applications will be available from Key Stage or Miss Hancocks. For more information please get in contact.

You can also follow the DofE team on the schools DofE webpage and on twitter.

Back-to-back Student Enrichment Days

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June were back-to-back Enrichment Days. Departments led fun activities on Thursday covering strands of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) and British Values. For example the Maths department led sessions relating to the theme of Maths carnival games and the Science department carried out investigation skills within the theme of Forensic Science. During this day, pupils put on an amazing Fashion Show for the whole school which promoted the concept of having confidence in your own bodies and to love it. The show was appreciated by all!

On Friday, the enrichment day was led by tutors whereby pupils were presented with a wide range of learning activities based on different themes. Year 7 pupils visited central London as part of the Phoenix Charter, Year 8 pupils carried out deep learning about the theme ‘Confident Me’. Year 9 pupils worked in teams to invent their own games as part of the ‘StreetGames’ charity and Year 10 pupils carried out various activities relating to PSHE.

Vaisakhi Assembly

A mixture of pupils from various year groups planned, rehearsed and delivered a series of assemblies based on the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is the celebration of the Khalsa which promotes every individual to be equal and to respect the diversity of other cultures.

Pupils spent weeks planning the presentation, gaining information from parents and teachers to present an interpretation of the meaning of Vaisakhi and its morals.

As part of the assemblies, some pupils performed a Bhangra dance with their teacher Mrs Kapoor. Bhangra is a tradition dance form which is performed to celebrate festivals and social events. The dance was performed alongside the dhol beats (Indian drum) played by Anjana Madahar in Year 10.

To put the ‘icing on the cake’, 300 samosas were kindly donated for each assembly by Mr Kuldeep Singh, the father of Bhawanjot Kaur, in order to celebrate the month leading to Vaisakhi. The samosas were extremely appreciated by all staff and students and we would like to thank Mr Singh for his kindness.

The Vaisakhi Assemblies were successful, as they provided a platform for pupils to share an aspect of their culture which is respected by all the pupils at Phoenix.

Watch out for the Diwali Assemblies!
Primary Links / Key Stage 3 Achievements

Primary Links

Last half term, a Year 5 class visited Phoenix from All Saints School in West Bromwich. They came to our school to experience a taste of what lessons are like at Phoenix.

First of all, they learnt how to use a digital camera with Mrs Kapoor and were taken outside to shoot some photographs. With these photographs, they then used the MAC computers to design a montage of their work.

After a short break, it was science! Miss Hemmings had organised a series of experiments and activities on a carousel for the students to participate in. They worked with magnets, invisible ink, electrical circuits and other science equipment.

Some of our Year 7 students were involved in the taster day too, so a big thank you to those individuals and all staff involved.

The Year 5 students had lots of fun and seemed to enjoy their Phoenix lunch too!

Transition

Summer School

Again this year, to support the transition from primary into secondary, we will be running our transition summer school which is available to all of our new Year 7 students.

We will be hosting this free summer school every Tuesday and Wednesday of the holidays from 4th August onwards.

All your child will need is a packed lunch and a big smile! Hope to see you all there.

‘Your Future, Your Choice’ Business in the community event

Held at Birmingham University, this event was for ‘Business Class Schools’. As part of this group, Phoenix sent some Year 8 pupils to an event designed to help them make the most of their GCSE and career options available to them as a pupil at Phoenix.

Not only did the pupils excel, beating all other schools in one of the architecture competitions, they also had the opportunity to meet two former pupils:

Mr Craig Hill, who now works for the WSP group, a multimillion pound company which worked on the London Shard as well as many other high profile buildings around the world, and Mr Sanjay Dass, who after leaving the school has had a successful career at Lloyds Bank.

Other companies present included the car manufacturer Jaguar and numerous medical companies, as well as Birmingham University offering support on accessing university education.

As always, it was a pleasure to see former pupils meeting their aspirations and how this motivated and inspired our current pupils. We are looking forward to building on this successful event to offer the opportunity to more pupils in the future, helping prepare all at Phoenix for successful higher education and employment.

London Landmark Competition

In line with the Year 7 visit to London, the students were given the opportunity to create a new landmark which they would like to see in London.

During their PSHE lessons they worked extremely well in groups to come up with ideas and then create their landmarks. These came in all shapes, sizes and showed a great deal of creative flair; from a ‘Water Slide Bridge’, ‘A Space Odyssey’ and even a new ‘Train System, that was faster than the speed of light’.

Having the opportunity to visit all the tutors groups to judge each and every entry, was I must say very gratifying, not just their creations, but the collaborative way these students had worked together. Year 7s you should be really proud of what you produced!

Who knows I could have been looking at the architects of the future!

Miss Foster
Induction Day – 1st & 2nd July 2015

Another fabulous couple of days with our future Year 7 pupils. This year we changed it a little and had 2 days of family learning and both were a roaring success.

The students then enjoyed a day of being official Phoenix pupils taking part in 2 lessons, spending time with their new tutor and of course having a slap up meal provided by our caterers Aspens.

We really look forward to these pupils joining us in September; they really are a great year group.

Trip to London

On Friday 26th June our Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit the capital city of London as part of the new ‘Phoenix Charter’ that has been introduced to the school.

This involves students experiencing new adventures; taking them on a journey through their school life here at Phoenix and this was their first adventure. The students day was packed with things to do; The Natural History Museum, a picnic in Hyde Park and then a tour of the landmarks of London.

These are experiences some of our students may never have the chance to do again, so they took full advantage of this opportunity and fully embraced the day, being excellent representatives for The Phoenix Collegiate.

We really look forward to these pupils joining us in September; they really are a great year group.

Key Stage 4 Achievements

Year 11 Prom and Leavers’ Assembly

On the 26th of June, our Year 11 pupils officially left the school and there were two events to celebrate this.

In the morning, there was a special assembly to celebrate their school careers to date at Phoenix and in the evening, their prom was held at the West Bromwich Albion Richardson suite. Both events were well attended and it was a highly enjoyable, yet emotional day.

Congratulations to Kim Archer and Brad Jones our Prom Queen and King, and Shelby Lockley and Shaquill Bogle our Prom Princess and Prince.

We wish the Year 11 pupils every success in the future and look forward to seeing them on the 20th of August to receive their exam results.

Key Stage 5 Achievements

6th Form Awards Evening and Prom, Tuesday 30th June 2015

Our 6th Form leavers and prize winners were treated to a night of dancing and music at Bescot Stadium.

It was definitely a night to remember for our top students who were rewarded for their hard work throughout their years at Phoenix.

Guest Speaker David Hyner gave a truly inspirational speech. This was followed by a highly entertaining speech by Head Boy Matthew Roberts.

Head Girl Alicia Cox spoke eloquently about her time at school and her hopes and dreams for the future. Talented dancer Alicia Cox and girls from the Livingstone Academy of Dance opened the evening’s event with a performance inspired by the Lion King.

Entertainment came from the awesome street dance group Crux, Darnick Patel and Jack Groves featuring Raffielle, Ryan and Jerome. Music was provided by John Chauhan and ex-pupil Ben Stanaway. Once the formal part of the evening was over, the parents left and the students danced the night away at their prom.

Year 13 have been an awesome year group and I wish them all the very best for their future.

Miss Barr
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Head Boy and Head Girl 2015-16

Following a gruelling election process which includes a pupil vote, staff vote and tough interview with Mr Hill, Mr Purewal and myself, we are delighted to announce the winners.

Head Boy: Tom Willetts
Deputy Head Boy: Dale Britton
Head Girl: Sanjna Sandhu
Deputy Head Girl: Chloe Stanaway

There was very little to separate these four students. They are all outstanding ambassadors for the school and will make a superb team. I am looking forward to working with them and seeing the changes they make to the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Head Girl and Head Boy and their deputies for all their help and support. They have been amazing and are a tough act to follow! Thank you to: Head Boy Matthew Roberts, Deputy Head Boy Alex Herr, Head Girl Alicia Cox and Deputy Head Girl Sapna Sandhu.

Miss Barr – Assistant Head Teacher (Achievement Post 16)

Student Enrichment Day trips

On the January Student Enrichment Day, 6th form students undertook a variety of off-site trips to partner universities or an enrichment visit to London.

Wolverhampton University visit

Students attended a Wolverhampton University open day where they had the opportunity to engage with a variety of subject-based workshops relating to their university choices.

Students who attended undertook workshops in biomedical science and biology. In addition, they undertook other activities, such as a campus tour, a workshop on student life and a workshop on student finance.

Staffordshire University Creative arts and Media visit

A large group of students attended Stafford campus of Staffordshire University in order to undertake a variety of workshops relating to film production and music technology.

Students had the opportunity to undertake workshops relating to film production and lighting as well as undertaking some of their own video editing using state of the art software.

6th Form ‘breaks bread’ with local food bank

During December 2014, Sixth Form students organised a food collection to help raise food stocks for Wednesbury food bank ‘Breaking Bread’.

Along with a lot of help and support from students and staff from throughout the school, the sixth form collected a great deal of food which helped out local families over the festive period.

John Steventon, co-ordinator of ‘Breaking Bread’, expressed his gratitude saying, “staff and customers are extremely thankful for the kind gesture”.

Another group worked on music related production undertaking a music production in the studios at Stafford campus.

Finally, students undertook a campus tour and generic student life workshop where they had the opportunity to talk to existing students about their experiences and things to consider when studying at University.

Year 13 students covered a range of topics on the first Student Enrichment Day of 2015. In January, Coventry University, Sandwell school nurses and Bite the Ballot came into school to provide the students with workshops covering money management, sexual health and information on voting, ready before the election.

The interactive sessions provided students with valuable information that they will no doubt find useful after they leave school in the summer.

Phoenix Young Carers Support

Support is offered to young people whose lives are affected by caring for a family member.

BIG problems / small problems or just want to talk something over, come and see Ms Lloyd for a confidential chat!

Join her in J Block
every Friday lunchtime
- 1.15pm to 2.00pm

Bring your lunch - time for a chat

Or if you want a private and confidential chat, leave a message any time with staff in J03 and Ms Lloyd will get back to you as soon as possible.

Uniform

The school has continued its drive to ensure that its uniform is one of the smartest in the area, so that when visitors come to school and see how good they look they take that positive vision away and share it.

However, we can only do this if all pupils meet these high standards and this can only be achieved with the support of parents. Please could you help ensure they arrive in September in the correct uniform (see the school website) including the correct hair length and colours and especially the correct footwear.

All students also need a full Phoenix PE kit and some trainers for September. Unfortunately, if your child does not meet our standard they will be isolated or sent home without exception. Please help us ensure this does not happen. Thank you.

Pastoral

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Anti-Bullying Quality Mark

On 8th May, Phoenix was awarded the prestigious national Anti-Bullying Quality Mark – ABQM-UK – following almost 2 years of collecting evidence for a portfolio and driving anti-bullying standards within school upwards, concluding in an assessor visiting the school and meeting with teachers, support staff, governors, parents and students.

The award website states:
ABQM-UK is a national award that enables schools to demonstrate to parents, OFSTED and others that the safety of children is taken seriously and bullying is not tolerated.

We are proud of our school and our stance on bullying and this award supports the Ofsted Good category that the school achieved in March.

Well done to the whole school community.

Paul Harris – Assistant Head Teacher

Head Teacher’s Commendation

Our Head Teacher Gary Hill has been recognising the exceptional achievement of some of our students by meeting with them individually and presenting them with a framed certificate of commendation. He thought it would be wonderful to think that by hanging it on their wall at home, they would be reminded on a daily basis of their achievement/s.

There are no categories, just recognition of excellence, exceptional achievement/improvement/attitude or overcoming adversity.

Well done to all of the students below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pawan Tagger</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Outstanding effort, resilience and determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajan Tagger</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Outstanding effort, resilience and determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalia Tokarova</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Outstanding determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Mitchell-Faulkner</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Positive attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Pearce</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Service in the community - Supporting another student in a medical emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamsher Singh</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Outstanding achievement in all Year 10 progress checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayley Langford</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Outstanding performance for improved attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Rogers</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Exceptional attitude and determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Walker</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Exceptional achievement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quality Award in Careers Education, Advice and Guidance

We are delighted to announce that Phoenix Collegiate has recently received the prestigious “Quality Award in Careers Education, Advice and Guidance”, (CEAIG). This is a national award and accreditation which demonstrates that we have a structured and progressive programme which provides:

- Independent and impartial advice on all of the options available to our young people, both within school and through our excellent relationship with the “Connexions” careers service.
- Opportunities to participate in programmes which support medium and long term planning for progression to further education, vocational training and employment.

We received particular praise for the work which takes place in engaging parents in the decision making process and for our employer partnerships with “GeoPost”, “Halifax” and “Santander” building societies.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed.

Attendance

The school attendance figures have improved again this year, up 1.5% and we thank our students for this but also the parents for ensuring they attend school.

In September, the government is raising their attendance thresholds for challenging student absence and so we will also raise our expectations even further. From September, we will expect all our students to attend at least 97% of the time. This brings the school into line with many major employers in the West Midlands and will prepare our students for the expectations they will face in the world of work.

Please help us achieve this figure by ensuring your child attends school every day. If they are unwell, please inform the attendance team on the morning of each day of absence.

Could we also remind parents that holidays in term time are not permitted and that medical and dentist appointments should be made outside of the school day. The local NHS trust should support you in ensuring this. Every day counts at school and pupils attending over 97% usually achieve all their target grades!

Miscellaneous

Building their future

At one of the school council meetings, student representatives were given an opportunity to view and discuss the latest plans for our new build.

They were shown plans for the new ‘super block’ and proposals for the existing sports facilities and L Block.

The councillors discussed the plans and put forward their views on the facilities they would like to have in the new school.

Student voice activities were planned for forthcoming Enrichment Days to ensure that all Phoenix pupils had the opportunity to contribute their ideas so that the new build reflects their needs.
SEN PARENTS’ COFFEE MORNING

Now in its second year, the SEN parents’ coffee morning has been a great success. Run every half term, it is an opportunity for parents to support each other and offer guidance to the school.

In the past 12 months the group has invited guests including Educational Psychologists, the School Governor for SEN, the Assistant Head in charge of the school Anti-Bullying campaign and had the chance to review and make recommendations on the new building, SEN policies and our local offer.

If you are interested in joining the SEN parents’ coffee morning find the date and time of the next meeting on line or by phoning the school.

Play area for children with additional needs

As part of the Phoenix new build, an area has been allocated to become a safe play area for pupils with additional needs.

The school is currently fund raising to equip this area with rubber tarmac, football and basketball equipment, benches and a covered area.

If you wish to help support this either as an individual or as a company willing to sponsor some aspect of this area, please contact Mr Jones at Phoenix.

MLD FOOTBALL

Phoenix pupils are taking part in a football competition for children with MLD, ensuring all children have access to sport and fitness.

During the Sandwell heat, the pupils came second and then took part in the Black Country Finals!

ROTARY CLUB

Phoenix pupils were once again able to take the opportunity to go on the Rotary Club ‘Kids Out’ experience at Drayton Manor.

The experience allowed pupils to work on developing their social and emotional skills, as well as risk management and independence, in a supportive but complex environment.

We would like to thank the Rotary club for providing and funding this wonderful experience.
National Sports week 22nd-26th June 2015
Phoenix Collegiate took part in National Sports week.

We had an action packed week including Sandwell Steelers American football and boxing, woodlands trip, dance artist who did contemporary/street, football freestyle with Danny McGee.

Lots of new opportunities were given to the students and lots of students rewarded for their efforts over the year.

YEAR 7 NETBALL
Well done to Jenaye Williams and Tiana Francis who have been voted player of the matches against Stuart Bathurst and Q3 in March this year.

Heartstart training
The 3 GCSE PE groups have taken part in Heartstart training. All gained a certificate of completion.

A big thank you to Birmingham university third year medical students for the delivery.
All trained in CPR, recovery, choking, bleeding and hearts attacks.

GIRLS’ TRIATHLON
The girls came 8th out of 9 on 12th March.
They worked really hard and seemed to have fun in doing so.

ul4s Sandwell schools netball tournament
The following ladies competed on 10th March in the ul4s Sandwell schools netball tournament.
They came 2nd place out of 9 schools.
They represented the school well and showed great teamwork, commitment and attitude all night.

Sixth Form Leadership
Sixth formers have been getting involved with Year 7 PE lessons.

Year 7 athletics competition
The event was an annual competition on Tuesday evening at Tipton.

Fantastic effort and another trophy to add to our collection.
Sports Update

Albion Foundation

Clive Allen from the Albion Foundation is coaching at the Satellite club here at Phoenix, which happens every Thursday from 3.00pm until 4.30pm and is open to boys and girls!

Black Country games finals

Phoenix qualified to represent Sandwell in the Black Country finals in June. The Year 8 and 9 girls were outstanding. We came 4th in the group.

Tom Davis

Tom Davis, British Judo champion, came in as an athlete mentor as part of Sky Living for Sports to inspire Year 10 GCSE PE students.

There were team building and judo activities were held to help develop a plan for the future. A great day was had by all!

Basketball club players

The basketball club players had a shootout competition for a Harlem Globetrotters basketball, donated and presented by Mr. Webb.

Congratulations to Mikolaj Laskowski from Year 8 who won the prize!

Sportsfest

Students from Year 10 GCSE PE attended an event at Wolverhampton University in April called Sportsfest.

Students had a mixture of taster sessions from Thai Chi, football led by the Albion, monitoring pulse rates and fitness testing in the lab.

Students were a credit to themselves and the school.

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West Midlands schools championships on Saturday 13th June

Simmone Foreshaw

Two excellent performances in what was only her second competition outside of school:

2nd in the Long Jump final and 2nd in the 100m final.

Her long jump was the outstanding performance of the day and was unlucky not to have won.

Courtney Cooper

Courtney dug deep to pull a good performance and finished a very good 6th in the 100m final.

She can be proud of her two performances as the junior girls’ sprints are very strong in our region.

Diavonne Lewis

Diavonne finished a good 5th in the shot final and 7th in the discus final, on what was a horrible wet day.

Despite being a little under the weather she dug in and put a performance together. Well done!

The girls and the school can be proud of their performances.

PE Leadership

Year 8 pupils took part in Leadership during PE lessons. They led a group of Year 7s in a warm up, skill and a game.

Very good performance from the Year 7 pupils: Xjana Hunter came 3rd for 200m, Sinead Slade 5th out of 11th for Javelin.

Under 14’s Football Competition

Congratulations to the below Year 8 pupils who finished ‘runners-up’ in the Under 14’s Football Competition, at Pulse on 11th June, supported by Sandwell Leisure Trust:

Codie Barrett, Rakib Choudhury, Simmone Forshaw, Chyna Hare, Callam Henry, Demaree Moore, Cereana Warren, Adam White, Kirsty Wright

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