



AUTUMN 2 - 2022

# News

**GOLD WINNER!**

## ACHIEVEMENT

**At a prestigious awards ceremony and selected from thousands of nominations, Tara Hall has been named as one of the nation's most inspirational educators.**



She won the Gold Award in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School.

Elise Ecoff, Group Education Director at Nord Anglia Education, sponsor of The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School, said:

*"Congratulations to Tara Hall on this outstanding achievement. Tara is a wonderful teacher who is clearly incredibly committed to making sure her students thrive in school, and she deserves this award."*

*"I feel extremely proud that I'm able to represent my school and our community in such a positive way. This award is a wonderful recognition of the hard work of everyone at school, and that includes our students and my colleagues."*



## Mental Health & Wellbeing Award!

INNOVATIVE PROACTIVE WELLBEING ACTIVITY



**Well done Fir Vale School for winning the UK Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards 2022 for 'Innovative Proactive Wellbeing Activity.'**

The judges were impressed with the way that Fir Vale School identified a number of pupils who were experiencing poor mental health and used that as a

catalyst for supporting all of their pupils to avoid mental ill health and to promote wellbeing across the whole school.



## Headteacher's Update

A huge 'well done' to all of our students in this issue who have got attendance and achievement awards and also those who have got rewards for work in their subjects.

Alongside your great teachers and parents, you are what make Fir Vale School a great place to be.

We are thrilled with our Ofsted report and determined to continue to improve.

Read on in this issue for some of the highlights of this half term!

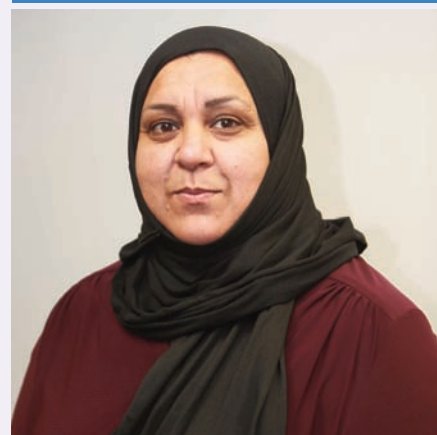
Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year!

*Rachel Smith, Headteacher*



## Ofsted - 2022

**Chair of Governors Usma Saeed is celebrating that Ofsted have judged Fir Vale School to have gone up to a 'good' rating in two out of four categories.**



*"This is an amazing achievement for the school" said Usma Saeed, Chair of Governors.*

See inside for further details



**\*Togetherness \*Kindness \* Respect \* Achievement \* Determination \* Opportunity**





Team Building exercises with the Army!

“ Pupils enjoy their ‘elective’ activities each Wednesday. ”

Ofsted 2022



Students creating beautiful designs with Hama Beads during their Electives time.



Mock Interviews & Action Planning/Revision



Fir Vale students learning vital First Aid at one of our Personal Development days.

“ Leaders have developed a high-quality personal development offer. ”

Ofsted 2022

**Ofsted 2022**  
[www.firvale.com/our-school/ofsted/](http://www.firvale.com/our-school/ofsted/)

**The school is now rated 'good' for behaviour and attitudes, 'good' for personal development and has 'effective safeguarding'.**

The inspectors also praised the school's provision for Maths, literacy and reading. "This is an amazing achievement for the school" said Mrs Saeed.

"The improvement to a 'good' in two out of four categories is amazing and testament to the hard work of staff and students. Although we retain our overall '3' rating we are committed to being an outstanding school in all areas and we are working hard to improve the areas highlighted in the report."

See the full report on our website:  
[www.firvale.com/our-school/ofsted/](http://www.firvale.com/our-school/ofsted/)

“ Pupils benefit from a strong personal development offer. ”

Ofsted 2022

## A flower of Strength!



**Our dedicated group of gardening gurus continue to develop the allotment area during their Electives time.**

The shed is up and another bed has been created for growing fruit, veg, plants and flowers. We grow whatever we like! Feel free to share any ideas/suggestions to help grow the gardening community further and we'll dig deep to deliver.

## Keen Gardeners!

**Fir Vale School "Cohesive Community Gardening Group" has continued to work hard this term**

We started the year harvesting potatoes and beans which we planted in the spring/summer of 2022.



The beans and some potatoes were donated by the gardeners to a local food bank.

“ Difference is celebrated among the school's diverse community ”

Ofsted 2022



**\*Togetherness \*Kindness \* Respect \* Achievement \* Determination \* Opportunity**





# Y8 Residential Adventure!



**All Y8 students were invited to attend a one-night residential at Hesley Woods in October.**

Staff and students took part in a variety of outdoor and team building activities, including climbing, crate stacking, obstacle course and archery. It was a fantastic experience and it was great to see students working together and developing their confidence and resilience.

## Cadets on Camp!

**17 cadets went on camp to the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Strensall for the weekend to develop their drill and parade skills.**

They took part in a skill at arms training session. The cadets split into four teams and, alongside another school, took part in four different activities including **laser shotgun, paintball target practice and weapon maintenance**. The top two cadets for paintballing were Jimmy and Mohammad.



Bethany, Mohammed and Libby were the top three cadets in a competition using the Scorpion Air Rifle. The 'Cadets of the Weekend' was awarded to Bethany, Julian and Priscilla. The cadets are now looking forward to more camps moving into 2023.



Jazmina - Y8

**This week, we celebrated students with 95%+ attendance since September.**

Good attendance is linked to good progress. When students are in school learning, they are far more likely to make good progress. Two students with 100% attendance won a £30 Amazon voucher in our prize draw! Congratulations to Jazmina - Y8 and Amaan - Y11.



Amaan - Y11

## Super Car Reward!

Fir Vale students who had **100%** attendance, no negative referrals, and no lates for the last two weeks were put into a draw to get a chance to pose in a Lamborghini.

Huge thanks to our local anonymous benefactor who trusted us with his car!



**95%+**

**Fir Vale School**



**Congratulations to all the students who have achieved 95%+ attendance since September.**

## Figure Skating!

For a highest recognition points some students were invited to Ice Sheffield to watch the Championship Figure Skaters.



**\*Togetherness \*Kindness \* Respect \* Achievement \* Determination \* Opportunity**



# Book Awards 2022



After reading, reviewing and voting on some of the best books published this year, students went to the award ceremony and got to meet some of the award winning authors.

## MAMMA MIA!



Fir Vale students were excited to visit the Lyceum Theatre to see the professional performance of 'Mamma Mia'.

## Out in the Field!

Y11 Geography students visited Sheffield City Centre to complete their second fieldwork on regeneration in the city and the effects that this has.



Photograph was taken by one of our students.

### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 4th January 2023
All Students Back to School
Thursday 5th January 2023
Y8 & Y9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 2nd February 2023
Y11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 2nd March 2023
Y7 & Y10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 9th March 2023
Y9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 16th March 2023
Y8 Parents' Evening

# FOOTBALL UPDATE



Y10 boys played 3 games since September and gave it their all in the games showing good fight and spirit. We were unlucky not to get a win. The league will resume in January where we will go again!



The under 13 girls- football team took part in the EFL SWFC girls cup, competing against schools across Sheffield. The highlights were beating King Edwards 1-0 and drawing with Hinde House 1-1. The player of the day was Dina.

## Exciting New Project!



Some of our students are taking part in an exciting project with the NHS. Their first session was a visit to the Sheffield Children's Hospital where they met various staff and learnt about different careers. Every Wednesday they are attending a GP surgery, working with NHS staff to create resources about vaccinations to support families in our local community.

## Team Building!



14 cadets visited Ninja Warrior for a team building exercise and to develop their confidence in preparation for the cadet camp.

They all really enjoyed the trip and have asked to go again. The students were a credit to both the school and the CCF.



**Fir Vale Christmas Tree is Up!**  
Thanks to Mrs Dodd and Chris our caretaker.

## Reward Trip 2023!

**Alton Towers Attendance Reward trip.**

Hundreds of Y7-Y10 students earned the trip this year.

Please note the criteria is strict to gain a free trip, even an authorised absence is an absence, which is why we have not just restricted the trip to those with 100% attendance.

Attendance, good behaviour and good punctuality all go towards earning a place!

