



FIR VALE FORTNIGHTLY

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy start to the year. We began with a highly productive staff training day focused on our curriculum, the quality of teaching in lessons, and how we best support our students to succeed. Alongside this, we were greeted by some very cold weather — including a snow day in the first week — and I would like to thank you again for your support and understanding during that time.

This week has also seen the start of our building works, including improvements to perimeter fencing, the introduction of a new student entrance, and better structures around the site. We are looking forward to sharing further updates as the next stages of the work progress.

Year 10 students have now completed their mock examinations. It has been encouraging to see students engaging positively with the exam process, gaining a clear sense of what formal assessments feel like, and demonstrating how their learning is developing.

There are many positive things taking place at Fir Vale, and we look forward to sharing more of these with you in this update and in future newsletters.

Mr Bullock



Mr Bullock
Principal



Determination



Togetherness



Achievement



Opportunity



Kindness



Respect



Arbor

We're now in full swing with Arbor, our school's information system that keeps you connected to your child's attendance, achievements, behaviour, and all our updates. **It's really important that you download the Arbor app so you can stay fully in the loop.**

Please take a moment to download it and log in so you have everything you need at your fingertips!

[iOS App Store](#) / [Play Store](#) [App Store](#)

Key Dates

Monday 2nd February 2026

Coffee Morning – All Parents are welcome
(10am – 11:30)

Y9 & Y10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 5th February 2026
(3:45pm – 6:00pm)

Y7 & Y8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th February 2026
(3:45pm – 6:00pm)

Rewards are coming up!

This term we have launched our new rewards programme:

- **Raffle tickets:**
Issued by staff in lessons, with a draw taking place in assembly for each year group every week.
- **Student of the Week:**
Awarded in assembly each week.
- **Awesome Walls:**
Every week, **12 students** go on a reward trip to **Awesome Walls** for positive behaviour and attendance (0 negatives and 100% attendance).



Awesome Walls reward trips for best behaviour and attendance in Y7, Y8 & Y9.





In School Every Day!

It has been fantastic to see so many students making the effort to be in school every day, building strong routines and showing real pride in their achievements. Recent highlights have seen prize draws for a Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5, and the award of 100% attendance badges for both half-term and termly success. These rewards not only celebrate individual effort, but also help to reinforce the message that every day in school matters.



Once in a Lifetime!

Y10 & Y11 Sports Leaders attended a once in a lifetime opportunity, volunteering at the European Figure Skating Championships at the Utilita Arena Sheffield. This was important to their progress on the Sheffield Academy of Young Leaders in Sport programme (SAYLS).



Blood Brothers!

“Tell me it’s not true. Say it’s just a story!”

KS4 Drama students recently visited the Crewe Lyceum Theatre to see a live performance of *Blood Brothers*. The trip supported their GCSE studies, giving them valuable insight into professional acting, staging, and design of the iconic play. Students were a credit to the school and were particularly struck by the emotional impact of the play.



Best Motivators!

Y9 Better Learners, Better Workers students attended a skills matter day at AWRC Sheffield. They created a Tik Tok video aimed at getting young people to exercise more. They won the best entry for being the best dance motivators. Well done!