

# News

## TOGETHERNESS



### National Schools Awards 2021

**We are delighted that Fir Vale School has been selected as one of the four shortlisted nominees for the School of the Year Award.**

The judging panel for the awards will be announcing the eventual winner at a ceremony on 8th December at the House of Lords in Central London. Wish us luck!

### Brilliant News!

**Ms Johnson, English teacher, entered a competition for our school during the summer to see if we could win 100 different books and WE WON!**

We are so happy about this and the new books, worth at least £700 are by 'Authors of Colour' from Penguin, called Lit In Colour, plus a set of 30 books of one text, of a particular relevance to our school community.

Reading is a key focus in school. This donation will show our pupils the benefit of taking opportunities and would be both a symbol of hope and a sign of the power of books.



### Congratulations to all our hard-working pupils on their GCSE results!

It's been a tough year and it was wonderful to see the hard work of our pupils rewarded.



Our Chair of Governors, Usma Saeed, came in to school to congratulate students on their results. Representatives from Longley Park and Sheffield Colleges were on hand to ensure pupils were aware of their next steps in education. Well done!



### Headteacher's Update

It's been fantastic to welcome so many visitors to our school this term. Many of them used to attend Fir Vale. We thank them for sharing their skills and experience and their desire to 'give something back'.

They all have truly inspirational stories. Words of encouragement are like seeds - you never know how they will grow.

We warmly thank all our visitors for giving so freely of their lives with our students, we really appreciate it.

Rachel Smith, Headteacher



### Fir Vale Alumni



Fir Vale School welcomed Saad Ali, Lawyer and ex pupil. Saad talked to our Y11s and gave an inspirational insight into his own career pathway.

### Treading the Boards!

The drama department welcomed back two other successful ex pupils:



**Zane Alsaroori, now a professional actor.**

**Ndumiso Ndulovu, now a professional theatre writer.**



KS4 drama pupils conducted a Q&A session with the ex pupils and were able to get an insight into their creative careers. The professionals then conducted a practical drama workshop with the pupils and shared their expertise.



## Round Up!



**Thank you to everyone who supported the bake sale.** We raised just over **£100** which will be donated to Roundabout, which is a homelessness prevention service.

## Inspirational!



University of Cambridge graduates visited our school to work with our Y10 pupils, giving them an inspirational insight into life at an Oxbridge University.

## World Famous!



**Over 150 pupils requested tickets to be in the audience with world famous Gina Miller.** She came to our school via Zoom and the pupils were inspired by her determination to stand up for her principles and what she believed was right. We hope some of our students go on to be politicians of the future!

## Excellent Start!

The girls football teams have made an excellent start to the 2021-2022 season. There were some close games and great team performances.  
**The KS4 team came out with an 7-3 win against Hinde House.**  
**The Y7 team drew 1-1 with Silverdale.**

## Speaking your Language!



**Fir Vale celebrated European Day of Languages.** Every year, we celebrate the diversity of our school and the languages that many of our pupils already speak or study.

To commemorate, this year we set up posters all over school with interesting facts and a few words in 16 different languages, as well as learning a bit more about the importance of languages and completing a fun quiz during form time!

## A Work of Art!



**Four pupils were lucky enough to work with local artist, Leigh Redhead, to create permanent artwork promoting our school values.**

The piece they created is vibrant and current and gives a very plain stairwell a new lease of life! The pupils involved were fantastic representatives of our school and had a great day spray painting the walls!

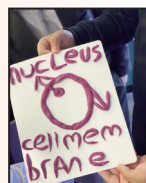
## A day of learning without a pen!

Across the school pupils were involved in a range of creative activities without the use of a pen.

Exciting tasks from Science included:

- Making models of the structure of diamond and graphite using molymods and playdoh
- Making and labelling paper skeletons
- Playing food nutrition top trumps
- Modelling the human digestive system
- Making a model wave from soft sweets

Both pupils and teachers enjoyed the practical activities that involved creativity.



## A Good All Rounder



22 pupils braved the weather for the introductory Duke of Edinburgh walk. This is where they have a taster of whether it's for them. They embarked upon their train journey with bright skies. The heavens opened, but the students persevered and made it the 9 miles to complete the walk from Grindleford Station in Derbyshire through the stunning Padley Gorge and Burbage Edge to Endcliffe Park. A soggy five and a half hours later when asked to score out of 10 of how wet they were - the score was a definite 10! When asked how much fun they had, 10 was also the answer! So a good day all round.

## On Target!

The boys were on it right from the start with their attack. throughout the match. They played some brilliant football, their passes and shots were mostly on target which resulted in the 2-0 win against Westfield School.



## Team Effort!

What a great experience for the Y7s on our Team Building Day. They worked together to learn new skills.



## Dates for your diary

**Thursday 11th November 2021**  
Parent Drop-ins (3:15pm - 4:15pm)

**Thursday 18th November 2021**  
Presentation Evening (6pm)

**Thursday 25th & Friday 26th November 2021**  
Training Days (no students in school)

**Thursday 2nd December 2021**  
Y10 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 9th December 2021**  
Y11 Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 14th December 2021**  
Winter Showcase