Togetherness

Pupils chose words that sum up the things that are important to us at Fir Vale School. They are now displayed at school. The theme of this edition is ‘Togetherness’.

Togetherness

Headteacher’s update

What a year! I’m so pleased and proud to be Headteacher at Fir Vale School. Students, staff, parents and our communities have worked hard together to support and improve our school. I’m proud of students’ achievements and their support and care for one another.

Together we will go from strength to strength to ensure all students achieve their full individual potential.

If you would like to help or support our school or would like information about being a parent governor, do contact us.

I wish everyone a calm and restful summer holiday. We look forward to seeing all students on 4th September!

Rachel Smith, Headteacher

Fir Vale School’s recent Ofsted report found the school’s effectiveness had grown significantly and that the school is ‘recovering well’ under new leadership.

Headteacher Mrs Smith’s aim is not only to improve punctuality and attendance but also establish trusting relationships with families in the area, and use this as a foundation to build on as children filter from primary through to secondary education.

Mrs Smith said: "It has to be fast because parents have to be confident in the school and see that it is going in the right direction."

Sports Day - 2019

Record breaking results and a fantastic event for our Y7 & Y8 pupils. Mr Walker’s form and Ms Lowry’s form were the champions. Thanks to Miss Spurr, the PE department and our Sports Leaders. A fabulous day!
On Your Bike!

Mrs Smith, Headteacher, took on the London to Brighton Bike Challenge and raised over £1,000 for The British Heart Foundation. Well done!

Dress For Work Day

Dress for Work Day proved an amazing success where students dressed in different outfits to represent the world of work, with prizes for the best dressed staff and students.

Local Councillor Visit...

Over the last two weeks, Councillor Mark Jones (Burngreave) has been working in school with GCSE Citizenship classes to raise awareness and understanding of the work of the local council. Students were able to discuss any issues they have in their communities and learn how they can make their voices heard. This is a part of our ongoing relationship with Sheffield City council and REED employment to demonstrate to our students the range of careers and opportunities that are available to them.

ORCHESTRAS FOR ALL

What a fantastic day our students had at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire at their first National #Modulo Meet. Huge congratulations were sent to all the young musicians from Fir Vale School, Tapton School, Beck Primary School, North Leamington School, Stokepark Junior School and St Ambrose Barlow RC High School who all worked so hard. The final performance was awesome!

Music in the Community

Y7 and Y8 Fir Vale students performed music to our local Primaries. As part of the project, supported by the University of Sheffield Wider Participation Programme, students and the audience joined in with the singing. Fir Vale students Anezka and Diana said they were proud of what they had achieved and “hope to perform again next year.”

Performance Friday

Our young musicians get the opportunity to play the grand piano every Friday. The atmosphere is wonderful!
When a student goes over and above and gets things right, they get a recognition point (R1). We have just had a week where students received well over 2,000 recognition points in a week. We like it that way, and so do our students, who are entered into mega prize draws if they receive three or more recognition points in a week. We currently have a prize pot with hundreds of pounds worth of prizes including Rassams and Meadowhall vouchers, sports items, jewellery and much more.

And it doesn’t stop there; we have members of staff around school during every lesson, who pop into amazing lessons and give out raffle tickets to the students who are most engaged. Hundreds of students per week then get to put their tickets in the raffle box and this is another way to enter the weekly mega draw.

Out In The Field!

The geography department took around 60 students on two recent field trips. The first one was to the Moor, Sheffield to find out whether regeneration in the city centre has been successful so far.

The second was a trip across two days to Padley Gorge, in the Peak District. This was to find out whether the river followed a typical model we have been studying. Both of these trips were important to help pupils write about the data that they gathered in their GCSE exam.

On all the trips the Y10s were absolutely brilliant, very respectful around the public and the weather was excellent!

Debate Club

Y7 to Y9 students have attended Longley Park and Parkwood School over the term to discuss topics such as:

Do you support exams? Where the adjudicator congratulated our school for the strength of their arguments.

Politics, Our students were the youngest at this conference and listened to the lectures with maturity. Although the students initially felt a bit intimidated, they showed confidence when the debates began and actually enjoyed meeting adults and students from other schools.

Sheffield and Rotherham Science and Technology Challenge Day

Our students really enjoyed the day and were pleased to take part in activities that they wouldn’t be able to do at school. As a school we had success winning 1st prize in the robotics challenge and the medical diagnostic challenge. Each student received a certificate and winners plaque.

We were winners of the overall team prize and earned a place in the national finals taking place in January 2020.

Y10 Interviews

This week all year 10 students were interviewed by staff and external visitors. Their views will help shape their final year, plus it was a fabulous interview experience.

Reed Employment offered their support.

Leaders know what to do to improve teaching and the curriculum and are acting quickly to bring this about.
Excellence in Leaders

Fir Vale Sports Leaders attended the sports day for Tinsley Meadows Primary School to support the students in the running field events by demonstrating the races and helping set up events.

"Without them I don't think we would have been able to achieve what we have. They represented Fir Vale School brilliantly. Thank you!"

Seven students were rewarded for their excellence as Sports Leaders with a trip to the International World Cup Cricket game between West Indies & Afghanistan at Headingley Stadium.

Tickets were provided by the Yorkshire Area Development Officer, Shajahan Younis. Mr Kelly, Support Teacher said: “It is an iconic venue and the students were immaculate and really enjoyed the event. Praise to Miss Gill who made it possible.”

100% Attendance

Here is Hamza Ghaffar - Y11. He received a free hair cut of his choice for the Y11 Prom for achieving 100% attendance in school. Well done!

Y6 Transition

Year 6 students visited Fir Vale for an exciting transition event.
The students met with their new Y7 tutors and completed team building activities within their new form groups.
In the afternoon parents attended an evening to gather information and collect their child’s free uniform. They also left with homework tasks to be completed over the summer holidays and a free book!

Y9 Graduation Event

Year 9s are graduating this year at a special annual ceremony. They will receive some equipment to get them started on their KS4 journey.
Good Luck!

We are all committed to ensuring our children are safe in and out of school. If you have any concerns about a young person throughout the holiday please contact the safeguarding hub on: 0114 273 4855

What’s on the Menu?

Hospitality & Catering teacher Mr Swain standing in front of images of food our pupils have planned and made. “The standard of food is exceptional.”

5:5 Programme

Tutors signed up for the 5:5 programme where they mentor Y10 students for 5 minutes per week for 5 weeks.

RAP Meetings

The Senior Leadership Team meet with department leaders every week and discuss the progress of every single Y11 student.

Action Tutoring

Fir Vale School now has professional tutors working in small groups after school every week, in order to improve the progress of our Y11s.

Litter Picking

Fir Vale pupils were appalled by the amount of litter outside their school so did something about it. This is the result!