A term in the life of a new school can be a long time. Two terms in the life of Phoenix appear to have flown by! Back in September the school opened its doors for the first time, full of hope, ambition and determination to succeed.

What has happened since has exceeded our wildest hopes. Success after success has followed, despite the weather presenting one of the worst winters in living memory. The school looks great, and is commented upon by all who visit us. The students are behaving in ways that we, and perhaps more importantly they, and their families can be proud of, and the indicators of examination success show we are on a remarkable path to success. The school could well be one of the most improved schools in the country when we reopen in September, and all in one year!

We have seen students succeeding in all aspects of school life. From sport to music and drama, from business applications to art exhibitions, from raising money for charity to actively being involved in improving the school environment. Phoenix students have shown themselves to be amongst the very best there could be, and their attitude and success has set them out against all others. This newsletter gives just a flavour of the many things they have been involved in this term. Remember you can read this, and the back issues, on our school web site.

Perhaps the greatest testimony to our early success, and that very special ethos, was encapsulated in the comments of the Headteacher from the highly prestigious public school, Bromsgrove School. On a visit to the school he could not hold back his pleasure at what he was seeing. He waxed lyrical about how well behaved and on task the pupils were, and after watching a drama rehearsal in a GCSE Drama group exclaimed “that is the best thing that has happened to me this week!”. High praise indeed, and well earned by Phoenix pupils.

Brian Heavisides
Executive Headteacher
Gifted and Talented at Phoenix Collegiate

Our students have been busy attending a number of activities this term. Starting with a SPORTS SCIENCE trip to the annual lecture held by Worcester University. This enabled the 40 pupils who attended to learn about how human beings developed the skills of balance and movement to perform sport at the highest levels. The lecture was interactive and some of our students demonstrated their own skills and impressed all of the hosts.

We also had two year 10 girls attend a BBC Boot Camp during half term. The girls learned many of the skills and abilities involved in the world of broadcasting and presenting and both had a great time.

On the 18th March several year 10 students along with Mrs Selwood will be attending a Sports physiology day at Wolverhampton University and here our pupils will be finding out about the human body and how it performs in sporting contexts.

To keep our parents up to date with G&T we have recently been invited to participate in a parents awareness session organised by the national G&T group.

Year 8 visit The Public

On Wednesday 2nd February the whole of Year 8 (North Campus) visited The Public in West Bromwich during PSHE to watch the premier of 3 short films made by some students in the year group as a result of the Creative Partnerships project. This was followed by a tour of the facility. Behaviour was exceptional as was the level of enthusiasm for the differing creative tasks/challenges. Well done Year 8!

Edgmond Hall

Music Residential Trip Jan 2011

North Campus News - 24th - 28th Jan 2011

20 students from Years 7-10 attended Edgmond Hall in Newport to participate in a musical extravaganza residential week of teamwork and music making skills. The students participated in a number of activities throughout the week such as firelighting, torch walk, shelter building and orienteering mixed with rehearsals in preparation for a showcase event on the Friday morning prior to lunch and departure.

What is the Arts Award?

It is a nationally recognised Award at Levels 1 (Bronze), 2 (Silver - GCSE) and 3 (Gold - A Level). To achieve a Bronze Award you need to take part in an arts activity you enjoy, go to an arts event, research your arts hero and share your skills with others. If anyone wants to know more about this extra curricular award, please see Mr Kibby.

Congratulations to Calum Richardson for passing the Level 1 Arts Award qualification.

Young Carers Meeting

(South Campus)

Young carers has recently started meeting on a Tuesday lunchtime. We meet with young carers of all ages from the school to chat with each other about experiences we may have and to offer support where needed.

We meet outside the year nine office at 1.15pm and have lunch with each other even though there are only a few at the moment we hope that this group will grow and be able to support each other.

Anti bullying reporting on FROG

Following the FROG launch recently the Phoenix Anti Bullying Scheme now allows all members of our school community to report bullying via the link on FROG. This is an immediate alert to the anti bullying squad who can then ensure immediate action and - email feedback to those who do the right thing and act and report any bullying happening to them or others. It has been used already on several occasions with immediate success. Log on the FROG and take a look – it’s really easy.

We are currently bidding for funding to develop our anti bullying initiative and to then share the outcomes with all Sandwell schools – watch this space.

Ski Trip to Valloire France – 6th to 13th of Feb 2011

20 pupils from Phoenix Collegiate visited Valloire in France to develop their skiing skills and techniques. Pupils enjoyed their experience high in the French Alps whilst skiing, ice skating, bowling and bungy boarding. All pupils managed to ski on green, blue and red ski runs. The ski instructors were impressed with their ability how they developed their skills.

The ski trip was our pupils first experience of skiing in mountains, taking in spectacular views and fine sunny weather. Well done to all pupils involved in the trip.

The Phoenix School Student Voice Council

This has now met several times with actions already in place on lunchtime cover facilities, canteen food theme days, arrival of the past 16 Pod and availability of suggestion boxes across both sites to run alongside FROG at this stage.
**Art and Design**

1. Yr 7 students took part in a national competition being held in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen’s 85th birthday. Twenty-four winners will receive cash prizes totalling over £1,000 and all entries will be included on a digital photo frame to be sent to The Queen. Portraits of the Queen can be viewed on the online gallery www.lookandlearn.com. The picture inserted is by Sarah Hale.

2. Yr 9 Digital photography students have taken part in a historic national event for the Radio Times to design a front cover to celebrate the Royal Wedding. (please see attached work by yr 9 photography Students)

3. Yr 12 and yr 13 art and design students visited Birmingham Museum and Art Galleries for inspiration for their A level Art Exam.

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**Year 10 Community Development Challenge**

On Thursday 3rd March 2011 a group of Year 10 Phoenix pupils took part in an Enterprise challenge that had been launched during Enterprise Week 2010.

The challenge involved the pupils having to investigate issues for consideration when deciding on the best suitable locations for property development in a fictional town. Pupils investigated different elements of property management and how to try and satisfy the needs of stakeholders when finalising plans and proposals for property development.

The event was sponsored by The Association of Women in Property (WiP), an association that aims to promote careers in property to young people. The judges were made up of leading figures from local property management companies.

Pictured here are the team of winning pupils who successfully development a proposal for property development and effectively presented this proposal to the panel of judges. Congratulations to Demi Bennett, Shannon Withey, Anthony Martin and Carl Smith.

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**Property challenge for pupils**

Teenagers turned property professionals at a Sandwell school when they went head to head in a Community Development Challenge competition organised by the Associated of Women in Property. Seven teams of students from the Phoenix Collegiate in Sandwell turned architect, surveyor, planner and engineer for the challenge that saw them have to identify the best use for a derelict site and then explain to a panel of judges the rationale behind their decision.

The teams that took part were called Pride in Property, the Phoenix Developers, Property Pigeons, The Phoenix Builders and D & M Developers. The winning team was Pride in Property which was made up of Domi Bennett, Carl Smith, Shannon Willey and Anthony Martin.

Mr Thorne said: “In the end it was an extremely close run affair as all the teams had worked hard to create some really exciting proposals. As a judging panel we were all hugely impressed with the commitment and creativity of each team and we were left in no doubt that we saw plenty of potential property professionals for the future.”

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**Red Nose Day**

The staff in J block raised £100 for comic relief through a sweepstake (won by Wendy Goodwin), the Learning Support Assistants all paying to wear red and various other generous donations.

Year 11 - Calie Churchhill, Kirandeep Kaur Gill, Sarah Thompson and Zinna Moore all worked hard to organise events and raise money and must be congratulated for their efforts.

Kirandeep Gill
Sarah Thompson
Carla Churchhill
Zinna Moore

These girls did a great job in getting biscuits from North side and selling them on South Site.

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**Sixth forms planning to help African pupils**

The whole school in the Sandwell £10 per year group has been involved in the Phoenix College website project for the last year which is a charity website set up to raise money for charity.

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The site can be used to sell school leavers work or any other charitable work. The site targets commercial organisations and church groups looking for a way to support local projects.

The site is free and completely user friendly. It can be used by schools, community groups and any organisation who wants to raise money in the Sandwell area.

The site can be used as a marketing tool to sell products, services or sales tickets.

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PRESS INFORMATION March 2011
The Baggies give a Boost to Budding Phoenix Footballers

Aspiring ‘Brutts’ and ‘Carsons’ from the Phoenix Collegiate got an insight into the dedication it takes to become a pro when they took part in a football training session run by two coaches from West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

Thirty Year 9 and 10 pupils from the schools North and South campuses took part in the session held at the new Pulse Soccer & Fitness Centre, which is part of the Phoenix Collegiate.

As well as teamwork games, pupils got involved with technical football work and put their new skills into practice with a series of tournaments. Ben Redfern, director of sport at the Phoenix Collegiate, said: “We have some talented pupils at the collegiate, many of them Baggies fans, so it was fantastic to be able to give them the opportunity to be taught by coaches from the club. They certainly learnt that becoming a professional footballer takes a lot of skill and commitment, but it comes, as no surprise that the hard work involved hasn’t put them off!”

Dave Lawrence, Sandwell and Birmingham Development Officer at WBA who helped organise the event, said: “It’s great to see how the [Phoenix] students embrace different activities, especially those which can lead to a healthy lifestyle and are relevant to modern society.”

Many thanks from South Site English students to Sue Sherman, Ken Bhoglie and staff at the CLC for a great experience of Comic Life and Garage Band computer programmes on 22nd and 24th of March.

KS3 Girls Basketball Team
The girls lost narrowly on Monday night to Wednesborough Community Technology College, the girls showed a great level of effort, team spirit and were a credit to the school.

The back row is Simrat Ghurias, Sasha Bowen, Olivia Sillwood, Chloe Stanaway
The front row is Maxuma Payamon, Simranpreet Kooner, Aleksandra Guczek and Imran Mills Smith

KS3 Basketball team
Congratulations to the KS3 Basketball team who beat St Michael’s 24-21 in their first game of the season.

The boys who played were: Back row, left to right Shaan Shaffi, Ravinder Sidhu, Jason Williams, Hani Singh, Bradley Abraham
Front row, left to right: Jeevan Kiar, Payam Nasiri, Reiss Watson

Year 9 Netball Team
The Phoenix North Y9 Netball team have made a really good start. They have played five games in total against Wednesborough, Wood Green, Q3, Stuart Bathurst and George Salter.

They won 3, drew 1 and lost 1. All the girls played really well but special mention must go to Abbie Kitley, Nicole Rashida and Danielle Hall who were nominated as ‘girl of the game’ by the opposition.

The squad members include: Alyson Knott, Harinder Singh, Danny Martin, Matthew Roberts and Lance Osbaldeston.

KS3 Badminton
Congratulations to the KS3 pupils who reached the Sandwell Badminton Final held last week. The pupils came 2nd overall and produced some pleasing performances.

The boys who played were Fau Ahmed, Danny Martin, Matthew Roberts and Harindri Singh.

KS5 5-a-Side Football Team
KS5 5-a-side football team, they won 3 out of their 4 matches in a local North Sandwell competition. They worked hard listened to advice and showed a great deal of fitness and determination in their play.

The boys who played were: Back row, Dale Holloway, Josh Mendez, Ishtam Harris
Front row, Josh Breeze and Rawezh Mohammed.
Sport News

5-a-side Football Team

Congratulations to the pupils pictured who won the North Sandwell 5-a-side league and now go through to the Sandwell final held in March. The pupils won 4, drew one and lost 1 on the way to topping the table.

Back row - Dale Holloway, Joshua Mendez and Ashley Forbes

Front row - Rawezh Mohammed and Josh Breeze.

All boys were a credit to the school.

Boys Sports News (North Site)

Boxing Clever Scheme

Congratulations to the following boys who participated in the BOXING CLEVER scheme with The Phoenix Collegiate and Wednesbury Boxing Academy. The boys all trained hard for 8 Wednesday evenings between 5 and 6 pm. The results were clear to see, with great improvements in their skills and fitness levels. They all impressed the coaches so much that they have all been invited to join the boxing academy as regular members now that they have finished the scheme.

Ashley Ward (year 13) Sam Miller (year 10)
Sam Edwards (year 9) Kieran Harding (year 9)
Charlie Fellows (year 7)

If any of you are interested in trying Boxing why not go along to Wednesbury Boxing Academy (Wharfedale Street) any Monday, Tuesday or Friday evening between 6 and 7 pm (cost £2). Either look for one of the boys above or ask for one of the coaches and tell them you are from The Phoenix Collegiate. You will be made very welcome and you will have lots of fun whilst learning a skill for life.

FIXTURES

The spring term (January till March) has been a busy one for fixtures. We have entered teams in Volleyball tournaments at key stage 3 (years 7 to 9) and key stage 4 (years 10 & 11) and in Rugby tournaments at year 10 and key stage 4. We have also entered teams in mixed age cricket fixtures. In every single one of these fixtures the attitude and efforts of the boys were excellent and they produced some very impressive performances.

INTER FORM COMPETITIONS

Every Thursday lunchtime this half-term we have held inter-form football tournaments. Congratulations to all boys who took part in the fiercely contested competitions which were well refereed by our sixth form sports leaders. The inter form sport competitions will continue after Easter.

CLUBS AND PRACTICES

The new Pulse Soccer and fitness centre has proved a great success with over a hundred pupils turning up each week to play football and to get fit.

We have practices and clubs every single night of the week from 3 till 4.30. All of them are open to all pupils. All you need to do is turn up with PE/sports kit.

MONDAY: Badminton
TUESDAY: Fitness
WEDNESDAY: Football
THURSDAY: Fitness Volleyball
FRIDAY: Judo

ALSO Cricket practice will be held one night each week after Easter.