

Message from The Principal

1st April 2022

This half-term has only been six weeks long, but so much has been packed in to that time it seems much longer. This term there has been the usual range of enrichment trips and visits, many of which you can read about in this issue of our newsletter. Some of the highlights for me have been the inspirational talk from Dr Zeinab Ali, Boston Scientific mentoring, Year 11 trip to the Globe theatre, Year 11 Poetry Live event and the performance by Synergy theatre company on the final day of term.

Ben Ruzbehan (Year 12) was elected as Youth Mayor in the 2022 elections for Hammersmith & Fulham. This is a truly amazing achievement for a student who only joined Phoenix in Year 10 and is currently studying four A levels in our Sixth Form. Ben with the support of Romi (Year 12) put together a great campaign and presented his vision for a better Hammersmith & Fulham to the school and was able to achieve a number of votes not only from the school community but beyond. Youth Mayor plays a fundamental role in providing a voice for young people in the borough and I am very much looking forward to what Ben can achieve in this role.

Additionally, we hosted the first in a series of parent coffee mornings. Parent voice plays a key part in our development and it would be great to have as many parents involved as possible so that we can continue to work together to make Phoenix a truly remarkable school for all. We will be hosting further coffee mornings during the Summer term so please sign up.

The Summer term will see the return of externally assessed examinations for Year 11 and Year 13. Both year groups performed well in their recent mock exams but we can all improve and it is important that students continue to revise over the next few weeks and months to give them the best chance of success. Mr Everett, Mr Pearson and Mrs Issa have all delivered assemblies over the past few weeks on how to revise and students have been given blank timetables to complete their revision. A number of staff have committed to coming in over the Easter holidays to run intervention for Year 11 and 13. Parents can also support with revision through quizzing your child via their knowledge organisers or flash cards.

I would like to wish you a happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim students and parents.

Mr MacDowall
Principal



Tony MacDowall
Principal

English Department

Year 7 – Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'

This term, Year 7 have been reading and studying Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'. This unit focuses on exploring the presentation of the chivalric hero and the genre of medieval romance. Students have been analysing how the writer depicts the values of chivalry within 'The Knight's Tale.' They have enjoyed making meaningful comparisons across the texts they have studied this year including 'The Odyssey' and 'Beowulf'.

Year 8 – Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'

Following the students' exploration of William Blake's poetry last term, this term's unit has further developed their understanding of Romantic values and anti-Enlightenment belief among art of the time through their study of Mary Shelley's gothic novel, 'Frankenstein'. The students have been developing their writing skills by imitating Shelley's style and incorporating elements of the Gothic genre into their own creative writing. Students have been learning, over the course of the unit, how to incorporate hyperbole, pathetic fallacy, foreshadowing, tension and vivid description to heighten terror in Gothic fiction.

Year 9 – A Raisin in the Sun

This term, Year 9 have been reading and studying Lorraine Hansberry's play 'A Raisin in the Sun'. Students have been exploring the writer's attitude towards the key themes of the text including hope and the American Dream, racial prejudice and economic hardship. Ideas analysed so far this year – of ostracisation, exile, assimilation and community – in *Silas Marner* and *Murder on the Orient Express* have been brought into sharp focus by this play and have offered students a more contemporary perspective on how literature can help us to understand what it means to live in and navigate society.

Year 11 Trip to the Globe Theatre

On the 7th March, Y11 students visited Shakespeare's Globe theatre and watched a performance of 'Macbeth'. Here's what some of our students had to say:

"An artful retelling of a Shakespearean classic told within an intricate building filled with years of history. The actors brought to life the downfall and corruption of Macbeth and his chaotic world." (Muhammad Muhammad, Y11 student)

"The 'Macbeth' performance was extraordinary, from the intricate globe theatre which brings you back to the Jacobean period, to the unfolding of the action which left us wildly intrigued." (China Omoregbee, Y11 student)

"A captivating performance. I loved to see what I have been studying for weeks come to life." (Ragda Althamari, Y11 student)



English Department

World Book Day Activity and Pop-up Shop

This year Phoenix Library teamed up with the English department for World Book Day to run a combined activity during English lesson for Year 7s and Year 8s: to identify different genres from a selection of books in a project box and, as a nice gift from the London Children's Book Project, the chance to browse and buy a book from our pop up shop with the Phoenix tokens. There was a variety of books on offer from Fantasy Fiction to Humour, as well as Adventure, Romance. Some were modern books and some other were all-time Classics. The students enjoyed browsing and finding clues to what kind of books might be of their liking following the clues as to what genres they were. Among the authors on offer were Robert Muchamore, Malorie Blackman, Angie Thomas, Grace Dent, and many other favourites. It is important for the students to own their own books and to take ownership of what kind of literature they like and how they evolve as readers: a life long adventure.



Pastoral Department

This term has been full of many more amazing achievements that have been celebrated through our weekly assemblies and daily line-ups.

One of many highlights has been our weekly Achievement Award that has continued to be awarded to students with the most merits. The students with the most merits in each year this term have been Hamedha Ismail in Year 7 with 187, Ensar Berisha in Year 8 with 123, Yunis Omar in Year 9 with 89, Hanin Fneiche in Year 10 with 88 and Jasmin Puzon in Year 11 with 80.

We have continued with a number of students bravely reading aloud in assemblies this term. This included Yashar Kermanipour and Ensar Berisha sharing the successes of the Year 7-9 athletics team.

We heard from Ben Ruzbehan who is running for Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Mayor, talking about his desire to further raise the profile of the school and give our students a voice in the local area. In our assemblies we have further debated the role of our shared values of Aspiration, Knowledge and Respect looking at a range of individuals who have championed our values to achieve incredible things. Our students have then risen to the challenge of championing these shared values. For example, all of our students wrote good luck cards to our Year 11 students prior to their mock exams, with so many of our Year 11s commenting on the boost this gave them before they sat their exams.

We have also spoken frequently about how to look after each other and how to stay safe as a school community. All students have been introduced to Kooth, a website and app aiming to promote good mental health. We promoted our new safeguarding team so that all students are aware that Mr Everett is the Designated Safeguarding Lead whilst Deputy Safeguarding Leads Ms Copeland, Ms Minors, Mr Macdowall and Ms Issa are also available for students to approach with any concerns for either their own or others' wellbeing. We have also regularly reminded students to look out for each other and be 'obviously kind' to each other in and outside school. In the local community before and after school, students are now able to visit the Parkview Health Centre on Bloemfontein Road should they ever need help or support. Students have also continued to compete for merits to represent their House, with every student now wearing their house pin-badge with pride on their blazer. We have had numerous competitions ranging from sporting events to Science competitions. There has been a shift in the House leader board as a result with Athena remaining top but Apollo leapfrogging Zeus into second place! Please do continue to encourage your child to wear their house pin-badge, volunteer for house competitions and compete for merits. Both staff and students alike have thoroughly enjoyed the friendly competitive spirit around school this term.

Mr Everett, Vice Principal



Thank you again for all your support since Christmas. I have received numerous emails and comments from guests to the school and members of the local community commenting on our students' maturity and politeness. We are developing into an even stronger school community as a result of our students' efforts to look after each other and make guests/members of the public feel welcome, but also due to your parental support for our approach as a school. Phoenix is going from strength to strength with all of teachers, students and parents/ carers pulling in the same direction.

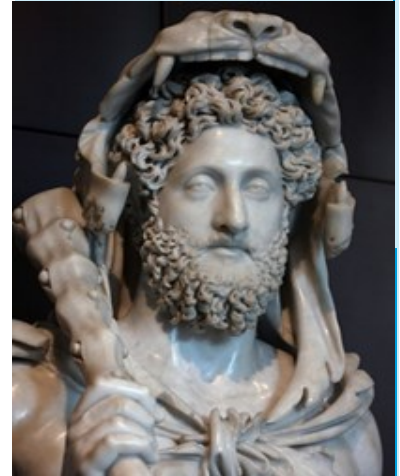
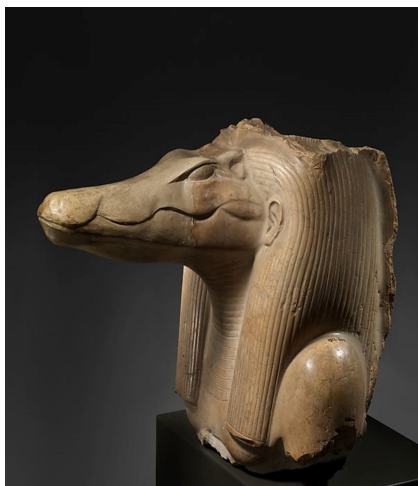


Latin Department

It has been an exciting term for Latin at Phoenix Academy. Some brilliant year 7s have written their own fables (in Latin!) as part of a Trust wide competition. The very best stories will be published alongside the winners from other schools. Older years are working through the textbook, journeying from African Leptis Magna into the city of Crocodilopolis (an Egyptian site where crocodiles were worshipped). Many have been leaping from strength to strength and are close to being masterful translators of complicated and exciting Latin stories. Some students have even been reading around the subject in their free time, looking into books written by contemporary novelists telling ancient myths from the perspective of their female characters.

- Year 7 have been continuing to master Latin grammar, as well as maturely examining the historical reality of slavery in the ancient world.
- Year 8 have been translating stories about Dido and Aeneas, one of the most tragic love stories in all ancient literature.
- Year 9 have been studying the ancient world beyond Rome, most recently learning about Egypt and Crocodilopolis.
- Year 10, in preparation for their GCSE next year, have been working hard to learn new grammar points and translate stories about ancient Arabia.
- Year 11 have been reading Latin poetry by ancient authors on the theme of magic and superstition. Their subjects ranging from werewolves to witches, these poems offer insights into how Romans viewed and interacted with the supernatural.

Mr Bearcroft, Latin Teacher



History Department

It has been another very busy term in the History and Politics departments, with students again learning about a range of interesting topics. Year 7 have been studying Norman England and the impact of the Crusades on the history of Europe and the Middle East, whilst Year 8s have been looking in detail at the English Civil War. Year 9s have been considering the role of Enlightenment thought in shaping the Age of Revolution, building their understanding by looking at America, France and Haiti.

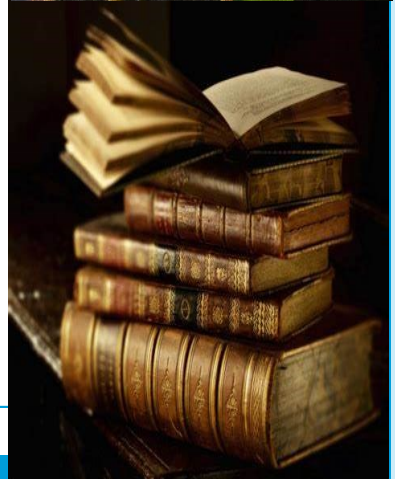
Our Year 11 and Year 13 classes are now working hard in preparation for their public examinations in the summer. Students in Y13 History have completed some fantastic pieces of extended writing on decolonisation and Indian independence, whilst Y13 Politics students are looking at political themes in a global context – all too relevant in these historic times. Before the end of term, we are hoping to screen the recently released documentary 'Final Account', which will help our Year 11 History students broaden their understanding of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

Our Citizenship classes have been involved in a range of exciting projects this term. Mr Witchell's Year 10s were unfortunately not able to make it to the Houses of Parliament this term – disruption on the Underground meant they only travelled as far as Shepherd's Bush! – but we are busily reorganising so that the trip can go ahead in the summer term.

Ms Paine's and Mr Bennett's Y11s have been engaged in designing their own Citizenship Action Projects, each of which focusses on an element of citizenship engagement about which the students are passionate. Topics chosen have included the BLM movement, poverty in the UK and environmental action. I am looking forward to seeing the final presentations and listening to students reflect on their work.

Once again, my colleagues and I have immensely enjoyed working with such a dedicated, hard-working and cheerful group of young people. Wishing everybody a restful Easter break,

Mr Stock, Head of History.



Art Department

The students have had a great start to the year in art across all year groups. Year 7's have begun on their first 'final piece' working on Perspective and Formal Elements, which will be displayed at the end of term. There has been a great turn out of students for art club every Wednesday after school from Year 7 and 9 students, it has been lovely to watch the Year 9's being role models and helping the younger students with their work. They have recently looked at re-creating the work of 'Sonia Delaunay' with watercolour paints.

Year 8's have finished their final 'Cubism' self-portrait and can already see some future art GCSE students in the making! (photo attached). Year 9's are working on how to create tone and create realistic drawings using 'the grid method' as we get into the summer term they will be focusing on Architecture and Street Art. Miss Williams will be hosting meetings for those students who are achieving high and are potential GCSE art students towards the end of this term.

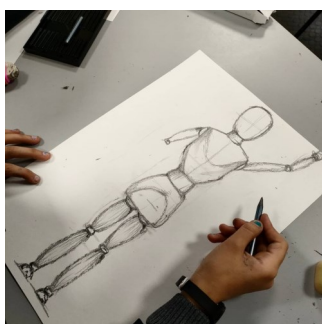
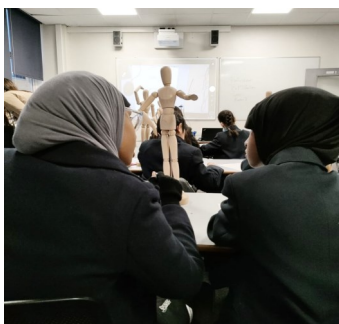
Year 10 students continue with their Alice in Wonderland project with some impressive artist pages! A huge shout out to the Year 11's who have exceeded my expectations in their new exam project 'in the news' the knowledge and commitment to their coursework is something to be proud of and a fantastic example of hard work for the younger years.

Looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store!

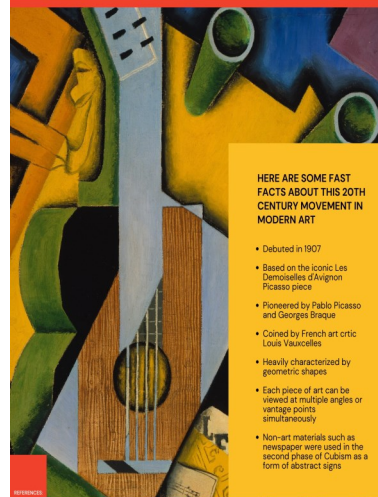
Miss Williams

Phoenix art Instagram:

Miss Williams is showcasing the Phoenix art from year 7 to 11 on the [@phoenixacademyart](https://www.instagram.com/phoenixacademyart).



CUBISM



YEAR 8 ART



Phoenix Academy

1st April 2022

Enrichment Department

A very busy term highlighted by working with numerous stakeholders for the benefit of our students. Support for our Afghan students has increased and clubs have continued apace. We have had a full programme of events during Apprenticeship week and trips are booked for the second half of the term.

Construction Youth have been doing sessions with our Year 11's who are potential NEET's and they also addressed the Year 7&8's. The BBC have been working with our Environmental Action Group with the same goal of reducing single use plastic. They also gave a webinar to the Year 9's as they, like so many companies, still have many staff working from home. Balford Beatty's finance director accompanied by some apprentices addressed Year 9 – 12 about the massive 10-year project and its related opportunities at Old Oak, right on our doorstep. To continue the Construction theme and the aim of educating students about the vast variety of careers available within that sector we had LDS Architects in with their presentation. The DWP came in and educated the Year 8's about the World of Work while the Year 13's went for a very productive 'Study Skills Day' at Hatfield House. In preparation for Work Experience in July many students will be asked to interview for their post so the Year 10's had interview preparation before attending mock interviews with 12 external business people: to build confidence it was more Hamsters Cage than Dragons Den.

We also were fortunate to host Dr. Ali, a local girl now an Oxford PHD student, whom Lord Nash had seen talk and recommended. She gave a talk and then a workshop to students interested in the medical field.

We have worked with Imperial College again this term with the LIA programme completing. (Year 5 medical students did a session with our students on mental health.) This association has gone from strength to strength.

Having said that the Schools Challenge Programme with JP Morgan is also exemplary and will conclude in March. Hopes remain high for a first overall victory – 20 London schools take part in the challenge.

All clubs have continued and after discussions with students a new Gym Club is awaiting new mats before launch. Our sporting offer is varied but plans are afoot for cricket nets to bring cricket back to Phoenix Academy. Basketball is our success story this term winning against other Academies in the Trust. Our Business Club is taking part in the Youth Enterprise Challenge and 'Swellve' (Business name) have come up with a unique product – just need to get it to market! The Art Club is thriving and have new digital pads. A student survey will take place next half term to see what clubs can be added next year.

Finally, Bikeability, a project to get students up to Level 3 in cycling proficiency funded by LBHF Council has started with our Year 7's. It is proving popular and enjoyable and aims to ensure our students know how to ride safely even on the busiest of London roads.

Mr McCarthy



Phoenix Academy

1st April 2022

Music Department

As we are nearing the final term of the academic year, it continues to be a busy time in the music department. KS3 students are in full swing in their lessons as they continue to develop their musical skills on the new instruments.

This term, year 7 have been developing their whole class singing voices and have been learning 'Something Inside So Strong' by Labi Siffre. There have been some pleasant surprises with several students showcasing their voices by singing solos (both boys and girls) and it has been great to see and hear their enthusiasm. I look forward to hearing more of their voices over time.

Year 8 have been learning about the Blues and have been working on a performance of the 12-bar blues in C major. It is very encouraging to see the progress that the students have made on their instruments since last term and things can only get better.

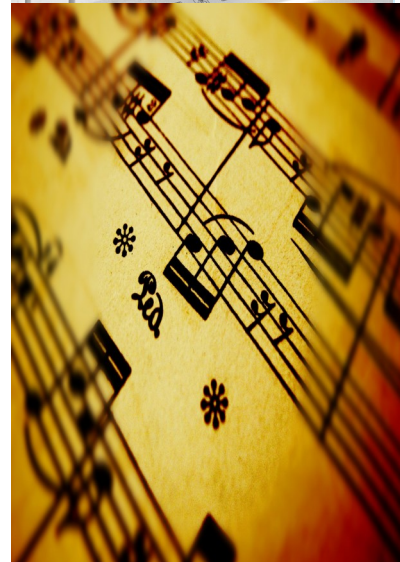
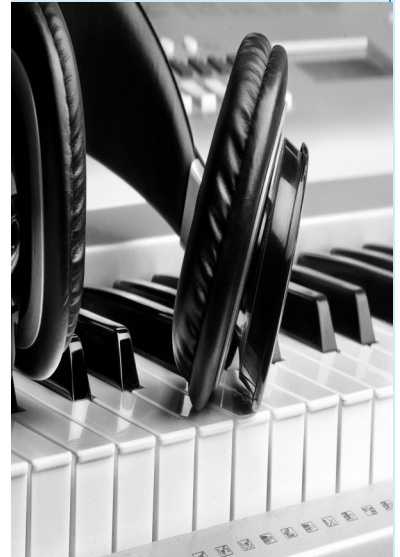
Year 9 continue to develop their musicianship and perform cover songs. This term the battle has been between Ariana Grande, John Legend and Taio Cruz. Students in year 9 are stretched and challenged to demonstrate real musical performance skills that encourages teamwork, good listening skills and ensemble skills, as well as developing their rehearsal skills. I'm looking forward to welcoming a number of the students on to the GCSE music course next year.

Year 11 are coming to the end of their journey here at Phoenix and all the students have been working incredibly hard to produce high quality solo performances and compositions. GCSE music is a challenging course as it really does stretch and challenge students in all areas. However, I am proud of resilience, hard work and commitment that the class have shown, and I look forward to hearing their pieces when fully complete.

As always, I thank you for your continued support.

Miss. Ugono

Head of Music and Head of Year 9



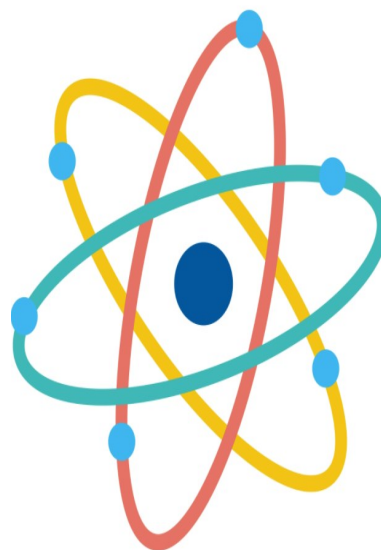
Science Department

The science department have had a wonderful start to 2022! In March we celebrated British Science week where students got to take part in practical's every day of the week as well as running around school searching for scientists as part of our 'Great Scientists Hunt'. Students have also enjoyed reading their teachers' profiles about their journeys into science and where their passion for science came from.

It has been a busy term in the science department – all year groups have studied aspects of physics, chemistry, and biology:

- ◆ Y7: Our students have been studying the human body which has encouraged them to ask a lot of questions about how the body works. They have also studied atoms in Chemistry which is a fundamental topic that they will need to understand for the next 5 years at school.
- ◆ Y8: In Biology Y8 have been studying reproduction which has fascinated them. Learning that we all started as one cell and then developed into the complex organisms that we are now has really encouraged a passion for science. They will be studying energy in Physics which again is a foundational topic that will help them make links to a lot of other topics in physics in the future.
- ◆ Y9: Our Y9 students have been working very hard this term and that can be seen in their attitude in lessons. They have looked at the history of the periodic table in chemistry and have experienced how science evolves through time with advancing technology and discoveries. They have also been looking at energy resources and power stations in physics. We have been discussing the need for more renewable energy resources and the impact of using fossil fuels which is a very relevant topic and something they will hear mentioned a lot in the news.
- ◆ Y10: Y10 have been studying electricity and making circuits to explore how current flows in series and parallel circuits. They have also been studying the heart and transport systems in biology which enabled them to understand what is happening in their own bodies every day.
- ◆ Y11: Our Y11s have been busy preparing for their second round of mock exams as well as completing the rest of their content for their GCSE exams. They will be ready for revision after the Easter holidays.

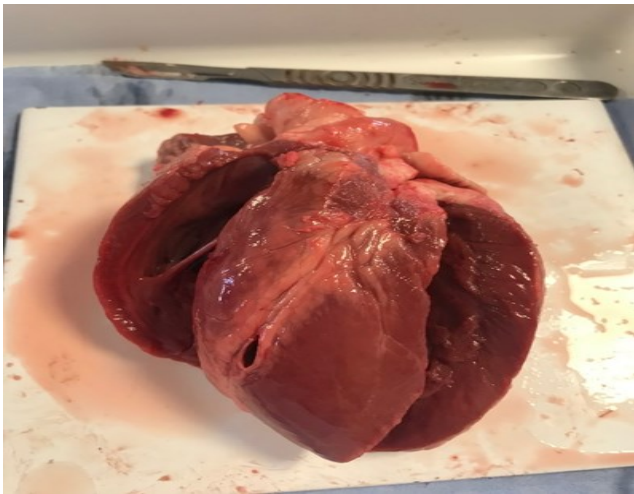
Dr Shahabi, Head of Science



1st April 2022



Y12 students dissecting a heart to explore the internal structures.



A poster comparing animal and plant cells (Year 7).



Our lovely students participating in science week.

Phoenix Academy

1st April 2022

Physical Education Department

Term 2 has been another great term for the PE department. I would firstly like to thank all our students at Phoenix Academy for all the hard work that they have put in over this term. This has been particularly seen in our after-school clubs which have shown the dedication that students have to the development of their sporting abilities. Students' dedication to after-school clubs has also been rewarded with a group of students going to watch QPR vs Cardiff City. We look forward to offering many more trips like this for our students who continue to show dedication to their PE studies.

Fixtures have seen an all-time high at Phoenix Academy with our continued win streak. I would like to thank all the students that have represented the school in our home and away fixtures. It has been amazing to see our students display our core values at these events whilst demonstrating what it means to be 'Proud To Be Phoenix'. One of our biggest victories was our year 7 and Year 8 boys winning the first inter-trust basketball competition beating Trinity and Pimlico. I am looking forward to many more victories like this over the rest of the academic year.

Other exciting news is our school will be offering a ski trip every two years in the Easter holidays. This trip will be starting from next year and we are very excited as a department to offer this out to our students.

Enjoy your Easter break and rest up for a busy summer term. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Mr Heaton, Head of Physical Education



Year 7 & Year 8 Boys—
Phoenix Basketball Team



Year 8 Boys—Phoenix Foot-
ball Team



Year 8 Girls—Phoenix Foot-
ball Team

Maths Department

It has been such a tremendous pleasure witnessing our students respond so positively to high standards and expectations over the last several months. The rollout of Sparx since October has seen the implementation of the 100% requirement for Maths homework completion, and our students from Years 7 to 11 have seized this opportunity with both hands. More than anything else this is evident through the fact that Phoenix Academy now ranks among the top 8% of schools in the entire country by percentage of students completing every Sparx Maths homework to 100%.

Every week in Assembly, our community celebrates the top 3 students in each year group by number of XP Points gained in the last 7 days. In addition to the compulsory homework, XP Points can be gained by going above and beyond in Sparx, doing the optional 'XP Boost' and 'Target' tasks every week. Below I'd like to commend the All-Time Top 5 XP Boost Champions from each year group:

Year 7

Student	XP All time	Level
Nada Zahoumi	32233	Level 3
Miraj Miah	23253	Level 2
Dani Testore	22022	Level 2
Ayesha Koroush	16501	Level 1
Stanislava Stefanova	16476	Level 1

Year 8

Student	XP All time	Level
Maya Dadache	130206	Level 13
Salma El Haimer Al Buri	31953	Level 3
Manizha Paiman	20171	Level 2
Maryama Hassan	20076	Level 2
Linda Lin	17086	Level 1

Year 10

Student	XP All time	Level
Isaac Mesaque	17740	Level 1
Hasan Arwani	17402	Level 1
Sadim Azab	17058	Level 1
Nawal Mohamed	15762	Level 1
Hanad Hassan	13405	Level 1

Year 11

Student	XP All time	Level
Emily Scannell	12818	Level 1
Anas Ahmed	10998	Level 1
Jasmin Puzon	10192	Level 1
Haroon Samim	9772	No Level
Ventura Colado Jimenez	8423	No Level

Maths Department

By far the most impressive character trait our students have embodied in the last 6 months is resilience. It is very pleasing to see our students regularly in the habit of re-trying all incorrect homework questions – not for a fixed number of tries, but until they fully understand and get the correct answer. Below are two wonderful examples of students who first got an incorrect answer (Attempt 1), before using help from the corresponding Sparx video to close gaps in knowledge, and subsequently getting the correct answer (Attempt 2).

Attempt 2 ✓

Bookwork code: **K36**

31 seconds 8 days ago

[Leave us feedback](#)

What is the y -intercept of the line with the equation below?

$$y + 15 = 12 - 2x$$

Correct answer:

Student's answer: ✓

Attempt 1 ✗

Bookwork code: **K36**

1 min 8 days ago

[Leave us feedback](#)

What is the y -intercept of the line with the equation below?

$$y + 15 = 12 - 2x$$

Correct answer:

Student's answer: ✗

Attempt 2 ✓

Bookwork code: **P67**

2 mins 22 days ago

[Leave us feedback](#)

Solve this pair of simultaneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned} 6y + 7x &= 57 \\ 6y + 5x &= 39 \end{aligned}$$

Correct answer: $x = 9$
 $y = -1$

Student's answer: $x = 9$
 $y = -1$ ✓

Attempt 1 ✗

Bookwork code: **P67**

2 mins 22 days ago

[Leave us feedback](#)

Solve this pair of simultaneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned} 6y + 7x &= 57 \\ 6y + 5x &= 39 \end{aligned}$$

Correct answer: $x = 9$
 $y = -1$

Student's answer: $x = 9$
 $y = 14$ ✗

Geography Department

It has been another busy term in the geography department at Phoenix. The Year 7s have been studying RIVERS, and recently completed an assignment on meanders and oxbow lakes. We had some excellent responses – many rival some of the best GCSE answers we've seen. Year 8s have started a country study on BRAZIL and have recently explored the Amazon rainforest – they have looked at the Jukuna tribe and the threats that they face. Year 9s have been looking at RUSSIA, where we have explored the country's biomes, it's superpower status and the annexation of Crimea. Year 10s have moved onto their third unit of study on ECOSYSTEMS – they are starting to understand the complexity of nutrient cycles and how they compare between different biomes. Year 11s are revising, revising, revising for their summer exams. The AP2 exams although a stressful, intense period of time, the students are now clear on what they need to work on before their real exams. The Year 12s are studying REGENERATING PLACES with Mr Vak and TECTONICS with myself. They have recently completed an assignment where they completed some really promising answers – keep it up! We also enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum to attend the Earthquakes and Volcanoes gallery where the Year 12s were able to experience what the Kobe earthquake would have been like on a simulator.

Miss Burch, Head of Geography

Religious Studies Department

Students in Religious Studies have been busy this term, getting to grips with the shared stories of the Abrahamic faiths. We are reminded that the similarities of our great religious traditions far out-weigh the differences. Take the story of Ibrahim for example. Ibrahim is generally agreed to be the founder of Abrahamic monotheism of Judaism and of Christianity but also the great prophet of Islam, teaching the same enduring message of the Tawhid, the belief in the oneness of God that finds its clearest expression in the Shahadah, the Islamic declaration of faith. As our year 10s develop their knowledge and understanding of Islamic beliefs the year 11s reflect and refine their recent mock performance, revising the entire GCSE content ahead of the fast-approaching summer examinations. At KS5 pupils have been considering the significance of good conduct in religious life and as they do, consider what skills and attributes it will be that see them succeed in their studies at Phoenix, and beyond.

Mr Bennett, Head of Religious Studies

