



14th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: 'The hope that firm foundations bring' (December 2021)

Our privilege as parents and educators is to show and teach young people how to develop the firm foundations that will stand them in good stead for the future. Education plays a huge part in this. We give them experiences and opportunities for growth that will endure, enhancing their life chances and giving them the widest choices for the path they eventually follow.

At Finham, we aim to make those foundation experiences World Class. Some of our students recently attended Oxford University to formally receive our World Class re-accreditation (2021). It was good to meet with other schools, share experiences and see the aspirations of children raised. There is much we can learn from each other as our school never stands still.

We are progressing our Restorative Justice work in January through engaging with 'Restorative Justice for Schools' again to enable our young people to make the best choices, rooted in forgiveness and reconciliation.

Our new building's foundations are now set, with the steel frame being constructed over Christmas. The new debating club, formed and run by students, is enabling them to engage in current affairs and is helping them shape their understanding of and influence in the world. Our inclusivity work continues to be developed to reflect our young peoples' development. Extra-curricular activities are being widely attended with two thirds of students taking part in at least one of the 70+ different events (<https://finhampark.com/oosh/>). Our pupil voice activities are ensuring that we address pupil need as well as interest; a new boxing club being an example of this. It is these reflective, daily conversations and interactions that enable progress to be made whether that be academic, mental, physical or moral.

Traditionally, Christmas is a time where family and friends get together, it can be a time for reflection and of setting new goals. However, it will also be a time of difficulty and perhaps sadness for many of us and our young people. Our foundations can come in many forms: faith; family; friends; rule of law... and when these are shaken or tested, it can be hard to see and appreciate the good that we have in our lives. However, I do hope you get time to pause over the Christmas break, feel refreshed for the New Year and are able to move into 2022 with enthusiasm and optimism for the future, knowing that the foundations that have been set will support you well with any challenges that may come. In the words of one of my favourite Christmas movies: *'This is Christmas. The season of perpetual hope'* (Home Alone, 1990).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop
Headteacher