



Principal's Newsletter: Belonging as part of a team

Dear Parent and Carer,

It has been another really busy fortnight at JFAN as we hurtle through the month of January. We continue to be proud and impressed with the work that our pupils are creating at Joyce Frankland. This was especially noticeable this week when I judged the Year 9 "Theatre in a Box" competition with some exceptional entries. Pupils across this cohort had worked so hard to bring staging for a real play or show to life. Some of them would not have looked out of place at The National Theatre. It is always excellent to see joy coming out of our curriculum like this.

Also last week, we had careers workshops for Year 9 and 10 pupils with specialist professionalism providing inspirational talks. Thank you to those members of our parent community who took time out of their busy day to speak to our pupils. The feedback we received from the event was really positive and it has definitely opened the minds of our young people as they continue to consider future career pathways that they may wish to explore.

Thank you to all our Year 9 parents and carers for engaging with our online parents' evening yesterday. Once again, engagement was very high, as it has been for all our parents' evenings. We know that the preference between online meetings and face-to-face ones remains divided! Therefore, we will continue to try to rotate this each year to make this as fair as possible, with the exception of exam year groups which will always be face-to-face.

We also understand that we sometimes communicate with our parent community through different channels which can be confusing for you and time-consuming. We will be reviewing this and trying to ensure that as much as possible, communications are through one medium. We continue to be very active on our Facebook page, so please do continue to view this as it might provide information you are looking for.

Lastly, as I have repeated throughout this academic year, our key theme is creating a sense of belonging for all. There is no doubt that sense of belonging is properly formed when our young people join a club. There is so much taking place at lunch times every week and, especially if your child is in a non-exam year group, I would really recommend joining at least one of these per week. On Fridays, for example, we have anything from yoga to cheerleading, chess playing to history club. It is taking part in experiences like this, that help to make you feel part of a team.

In words of Simon Sinek, 'A team is not a group of people who work together. A team is a group of people who trust each other.'

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

24th January 2025

Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **My School Fund** is an exciting initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians, carers and teachers to help boost schools budgets. It's free to register, and you can start earning cashback rewards straight away when you spend with participating retailers, including Sainsbury's and Argos. Please visit myschoolfund.org for more information and to register.
- **School Tours** will be taking place for the remainder of this academic year for parents and carers with pupils who are currently on roll at our academy. For details of how to book onto our first one of these, please click the [Eventbrite](#) link.
- **Volunteers** at our academy are vital to helping us add capacity to deliver the projects we need and give our pupils the best possible experience. We are currently looking for volunteers to support our Modern Foreign Languages department to support with interventions such as speaking assessments. If you are fluent in French, German or Spanish, and might have some time to support our team, please contact our Curriculum Lead for MfL, Mrs O'Grady a hogrady@joycefrankland.org
- **Our Eco Garden** is a very special part of our school site. With a big re-launch of the eco-garden planned for this spring, we are getting the garden ready for the pupils. We have

lots of plans (we will let you know them all in due course) and already a fantastic new building on site that our Site Team have constructed. Mr Kennedy is planning to do some early spring cleaning and clearance in the garden a week on Sunday 2nd February 9.00am-1.00pm and would always welcome some help. As ever, please bring your own tools. Mr Kennedy am the designated first aider. Any donations of plants of course is always welcome.

- **Sickness/Diarrhoea:** This term we have had a rise in cases of sickness and diarrhoea. Please be aware of our policy. Children should not attend school until **48 hours after** the symptoms have stopped. Joyce Frankland follows the government guidelines for Sickness and Diarrhoea. Thank you for supporting us in trying to stop the spread of illness at this time of year. Further guidance on infection control can be found [here](#).

Key updates



- **Teaching and learning** remains the core priority at our academy to ensure our pupils have the best possible learning experience. We thought it might be useful for parents and carers to see our Teaching and Learning foci questions which we use to help us

monitor our standards in the classroom and learning spaces and target teacher training. The questions are as follows:

- How are we ensuring a purposeful and meaningful start to our lessons?
 - How are we using knowledge of pupils to develop a sequence of learning?
 - How are we responding to pupils' needs, in real time, and ensuring we are achieving the learning intentions?
 - How are ensuring that all pupils, including the most able, are finding learning difficult?
 - How are we developing reading, by embedding powerful words into our teaching?
- **Building positive connections** between our teachers and our pupils remains an integral part of our behaviour for learning policy. As I said in my assemblies at the start of this half-term, if a pupil is not engaging with the learning in a classroom space we will first try to **connect** to find out why, **remind** them of our expectations and then **wait and reinforce** as necessary. Usually, these measures respond with a positive outcome, however, if that is not the case, we will speak with the pupil after the lesson and log the behaviour on our Management Information System which you will then see on the Parent App. If you have a query about an incident that has been logged you can contact your child's form tutor or the teacher to enquire.
 - **Excellent attendance** remains one of the key drivers to ensuring pupil success. Please can we remind parents and carers to report absence as soon as possible in the morning either by phoning our attendance line or reporting it using our Parent App. For further information about how we track attendance and our up-to-date policy and procedures, [here is a link](#) to our website.
 - **Site security** continues to be a key priority within our school community and we have made significant steps over the past 18 months to address this with increased CCTV, new signage and access controlled doors. I am pleased to inform you that we are now progressing with our fencing project which will be the last part of this work. Procurement for this project has been more difficult than expected, however, we are confident that this work will begin over the Easter period and be ongoing throughout the summer term, trying to ensure as little disruption to the school community as possible. This project will impact upon how you access the site. Therefore, once the projects starts, we will inform you of any changes that you need to know.

Thought of the week



'A team is not a group of people who work together. A team is a group of people who trust each other.' Simon Sinek

Dates for the diary coming up...



Thursday 6th February Years 12 and 13 Parents evening

Monday 10th to Friday 14th February Italy Trip

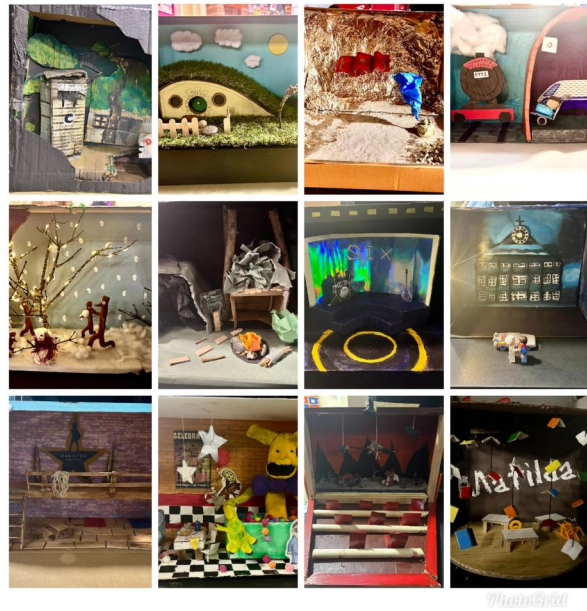
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February Half Term

Monday 3rd March Year 9 Immunisations

Wednesday 5th March Year 9 Immunisations

Thursday 6th March Year 9 Options evening

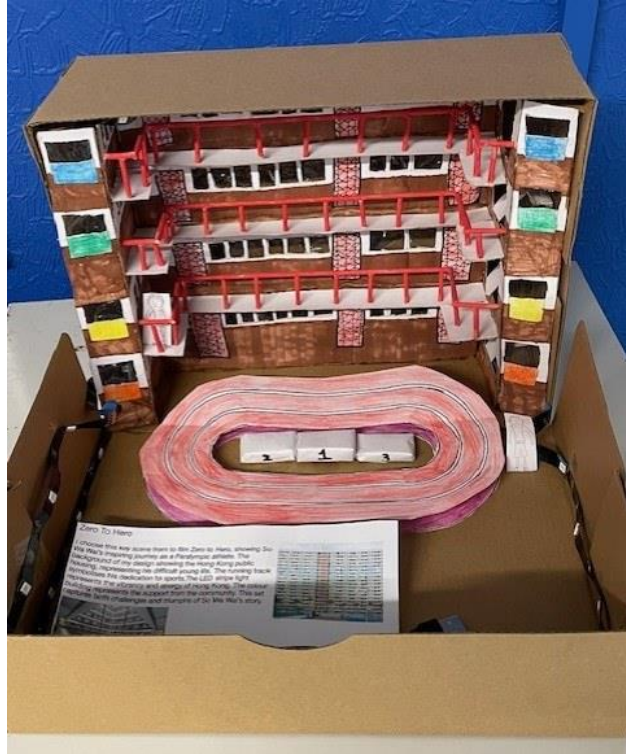
Friday 7th March Year 11 Photos



1 - Some Year 9 shoebox designs



2 - Jasper J



3 - Hoi Hoi W



4 - Luca N



5 - Winners: Jasper J (1st); Luca N (2nd) and Hunter K (3rd)



6 - Percussion Group

Success stories



Congratulations to: Harry M in Year 11 who has passed his Grade 5 piano exam with a distinction, a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to: Abigail S in Year 8 who competed in the Southern School's regional event achieving a silver medal.

Newport Parents Association (PTA)



The Newport Parents Association (PTA) help to raise funds for the enrichment of the school and to co-ordinate activities for school parents, families and the local community. We are also a registered charity. We aim to bring together parents, teachers and others to raise money and to support the school raising vital funds to buy items or provide support for pupils not covered by the school budget. For example, the provision of therapy / counselling for students , the provision of new sports and dance equipment , the provision of equipment for the music department and so much more!

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers who would like to dedicate some of their time. That could be sparing an hour or two to help at an event or you may wish to join the NPA committee, new members are always welcome.

If you would like to get involved with the NPA please contact the Chair of the NPA Kerinda Trigg via the Academy's administration email address. jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

Vacancies



Details for all the current Academy and Anglian Learning vacancies can be found on our website [here](#)

Contact Us



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Visit us on our website at www.joycefrankland.org

Please follow our social media pages. [Facebook](#), [JFAN Performing Arts](#) and our dedicated [sixth form Facebook](#) page.