

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2026

CONTENT

Recognition	1
What we've been up to	2

Phoenix School (Sheffield), and Forestwood (Bury) are DfE registered special schools, providing education for young people admitted to their co-located hospital services.

Our schools are regulated by OFSTED you can read their last inspection via the websites.

[Forestwood School](#)

[Phoenix School](#)

Recognition

Forestwood have received some lovely feedback from 2 YP previously admitted into our care

".....I'm still doing English and I go back mainstream to start my GCSE's next week. I couldn't have done this without you and everyone at education - You're all icons and I'd be lying if I said I don't miss the education staff!"

"I am sending you this email to say thank you for everything whilst I was at Cygnet. You were truly an inspiration to me in English and thank you so much for pushing me to my full potential".

Jayne Rowlands at Forestwood received this fabulous feedback from a Virtual School

"I just wanted to say how impressed I was with your approach to education with XX as soon as he was admitted and your willingness as an organisation to prioritise education and engage with the PEP process. I'm hopeful we won't have any more YP coming your way, but if we do I look forward to working with you all again in future".

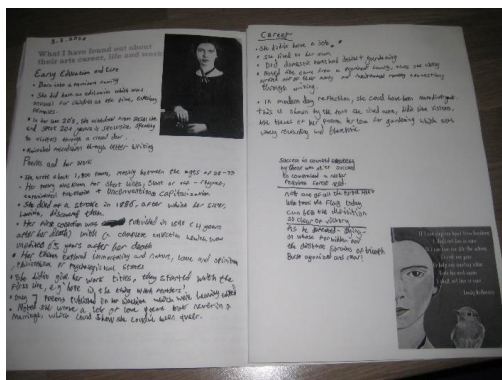
What we've been up to

Pupils at Phoenix School have begun working toward their **Bronze Arts Award**, engaging in activities designed to broaden their understanding of the arts.

As part of the programme, they have researched an artist of their choice, with many choosing well-known poets and musicians.

Through this work, pupils have been able to deepen their knowledge of different artistic disciplines, explore the backgrounds and achievements of influential creatives, and reflect on how these insights can support the development of their own skills. They have also had opportunities to share their learning with others, helping to build communication skills and confidence within the classroom.

Overall, the project has supported pupils in developing curiosity, independence, and a stronger appreciation of the arts as part of their educational journey.



This term, Forestwood School invited pupils to take a leading role in reviewing and refreshing the **school's rewards system**. With rewards linked to our attendance points scheme, students were asked to share their honest opinions on what motivates them,

what feels age-appropriate, and what would make the system more exciting and meaningful.

All students were asked for their views individually and what they would like to see on offer. Their ideas and suggestions were then put into a group visual so that everyone could see the full range of suggestions and give their opinions overall.

One clear message came through: some previous rewards were no longer appealing to older students. As one pupil put it, *"The So... body sprays are so Year 7!"* Students expressed a desire for rewards that feel more mature, more relevant, and more in tune with their everyday interests.

Across all interviews, snacks proved to be the most popular request — everything from crisps to chocolate treats. Another noticeable trend was a growing interest in wellbeing and calm, with many students requesting items such as herbal teas and pillow sprays to help them relax and unwind.

We are proud of the maturity, insight and creativity shown by all the pupils involved. Their contributions have helped to re-shape a rewards system that truly belongs to them — one that recognises effort, encourages positivity and celebrates the many successes of our Forestwood community.



Our pupils at Phoenix School have been working closely with staff to create a vibrant **Neurodiversity Role Models** display.

This new feature, now proudly showcased along the education corridor, highlights a range of neurodiverse identities and the inspiring individuals who represent them.

The display celebrates role models connected to Autism, ADHD, OCD, dyscalculia, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, offering everyone who passes an opportunity to learn, reflect, and appreciate the strengths and diversity within our community.



Students at Phoenix School have been working very hard in the garden this half term, working towards **AQA unit awards**.



All students in the sessions engaged fully and used gardening tools safely. Other jobs have included: weeding, preparing the soil, planting bulbs and watering.

We've also planted seeds with the hope to grow food for cooking sessions - this has included chilli peppers and pumpkins.

Future planned sessions include growing potatoes and strawberries and we'll also be learning about the life cycle of different plants. Well done to all!



Forestwood Hospital School is celebrating a trio of creative triumphs after three of our students received recognition in this year's prestigious **2026 Koestler Competition**, centred on the inspiring theme "**Roots.**"

One student earned a **Commendation** for an imaginative short story told from **three different angles**, impressing judges with its originality and emotional depth. Two more students were honoured with **£25 Special Awards**: one for a beautifully crafted **poem**, and another for intricate **henna artwork** created on their own hands, blending tradition and personal expression.

A standout feature of this year's competition was the **fast, personalised feedback**. Each student received an **A4 handwritten critique** from one of the judges—thoughtful, encouraging notes that recognised their strengths and offered guidance for future creative growth.

We're incredibly proud of our talented young artists and writers. Their achievements show just how powerful creativity can be, and they continue to represent Forestwood School with imagination, courage and heart.

Our award winning YP poet has given permission for their poem to be published in this newsletter.

Freedom

One day I will grow wings
and they will rip from my back in wet, jagged
shreds,
skin splitting like old parchment, curling at the edge,
muscle snapping like rusted chains, tendons
screaming wide,
veins hanging like torn roots from a slaughtered
beast denied.
the agony will be righteous, my body a sacrifice,
and as the blood pools at my feet,
I will finally feel light enough to rise.

one day I will grow wings
and the earth will not mourn me,
it will spit me out like a spoiled, rotting fruit,
let my carcass slump in the dirt, hollow and mute.
No flowers will grow from my skin, no vines from
my ribs,
the roots will recoil, blackened and curling in fibs,
refusing to drink from what festers and breaks,
my soul will claw upwards, shedding dead flesh and
aches,
leaving behind a body too ruined to mourn

one day I will grow wings
and the sky will open, not in mercy, but hunger
the wind will strip me clean, relentless and starving,
scraping grief from my ribs like burnt skin, still
carving.
I will rise, not weightless but wrecked,
a splintered thing, held together by want and
neglect.
The heavens will hear the sound of me tearing free,
a wet, guttural rip - even your god will fear me

one day I will grow wings
and death will come like a blade to the throat.
not gentle, not soft - but a brutal severing,
a violent shattering of all that was tethering.
my wings will beat, shredded and bloodstained,
stitched from suffering and bound with grief
unchained,
and as I leave this world behind,
I will finally be free

This term at Forestwood, our school welcomed the **hospital kitchen team for a special food-tasting session** designed to gather student feedback on new menu ideas. The team prepared a wide range of sample dishes, giving all our young people the chance to explore different flavours and share their thoughts.

After tasting each item, students completed a review form where they commented on taste, texture, and other sensory experiences. Their responses will help shape future menu options, ensuring the meals offered reflect what our young people enjoy and feel comfortable with.

The event was well attended, and the enthusiasm in the room was fantastic. Trying new foods can be challenging for some of our students, so it was especially heart-warming to see them encouraging one another and celebrating each small step of bravery.

We are grateful to the hospital kitchen team for creating such an engaging and inclusive experience. It was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to have their voices heard — and to discover a few new favourite foods along the way.

