

EXAMS

JUNE 2023

This month we've finished facilitating and supporting the young people admitted into our care entered for and sitting their GCSE's and in some cases A Levels.

Throughout the academic year we support and encourage the young people to work towards and achieve awards including Functional Skills and AQA Unit Awards, but during May and June we also host GCSE's and A Levels for those entered by their community school and those entered by us.

This year across the schools we've:-

Facilitated exams for 16 students

Supported 5 types of qualification

Across 11 subjects

With a total of 113 exam papers



Phoenix School (Sheffield), Excel & Exceed Centre (Bury) and The Summit (Coventry) are DoFE registered special schools, providing education for young people admitted to their co-located hospital services.

Our schools are regulated by OFSTED and were all rated GOOD at their last inspection.

[Excel & Exceed Centre](#)

[Phoenix School](#)

[Summit School](#)

Sitting examinations can be incredibly stressful and pose challenges, yet all our students have shown great determination and commitment to their education. This is great achievement for our young people and we are so proud of their hard work.

Of course, to facilitate these exams requires planning, organising and much collaboration by the Exam Officer based at each of our 3 schools with our Education staff, MDT, Community schools, Parents/Carers and the multiple awarding bodies. Due to the nature of our setting, we often need to take immediate action when a Young Person is admitted into our care just before or during the exam season, to ensure that the process is as efficient as possible.

Impromptu inspections are also carried out by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) which is the governing body for the largest qualification providers in the country. Phoenix School was inspected during the series and passed – confirmation of the great job being done!

Thank you to everyone involved in supporting the young people admitted into our care with their exams - not just during the formal exam series, but throughout the academic year.

We know through feedback received this doesn't go unnoticed by the young people, parents, community schools and even Local Authorities. Your hard work and support makes a difference to these young people – Well done!

Feedback from Staffordshire Local Authority

Just wondering if XX has got underway with her exams yet?

Yes she has, she has had a good go at Biology and English Lit....Maths on Friday

That's fab news, Katy. Thanks for all you are doing to support her.



Helen Trafford
Exams –Co-Ordinator, Cygnet Schools

Feedback from a community school

"Thank you for your support on this! We got her work yesterday and it is absolutely incredible, your support with XX has meant that she has still been able to achieve and succeed in a subject that she loves and has a real skill in"

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

What we've been up to this month.....

In June, Excel and Exceed opened up an exciting opportunity for its students. The advertisement of a **Teaching Assistant for work experience** was posted and within the week applications were returned by prospective candidates. Interviews were held and a student was chosen to undertake some work experience as part of the team at Excel and Exceed.



Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to: admin based tasks, display management and aiding in session preparation. Additionally, the role includes keeping a record of the activities that are completed within an experience journal. It's worth noting that our new work experience Teaching Assistant has settled in fantastically to their new role and we would like to extend our congratulations to them once more!



The Phoenix School unveiled their brand new **Reading for Pleasure** incentive this month. The Bookflix display will be updated once per half term, and will feature "Top Picks" – book of the week picks suggested by staff and young people, "Trending" – books linked to awareness days/events/MHFE focus, and "Reading Now" – texts being read in reading for pleasure sessions in school. This half term the Trending books were linked to National Teen Self-Esteem month (May) and Pride month (June).

Each young person has been given a Bookflix loyalty card which they can earn stickers on for reading a book, writing a book review, or attending the Reading for Pleasure session. When they have a full card (10 stickers) they are able to choose a prize from the prize box and collect a new loyalty card.

The initiative has been a huge hit already – and we are loving reading all of the book reviews and seeing how much our young people are enjoying reading.



On Friday 23rd June **Sports Day** was celebrated at Cygnet Bury in Primrose garden. With an array of activities such as the classic egg and spoon race and more obscure events such as the javelin and shotput. For each race that the Young People participated in, there were also staff races for members of the extended MDT and teachers from Excel and Exceed participated in events for their associated wards throughout the afternoon. Although the results were close, the winners were announced as Mulberry Ward. As usual, we like to show success with a 'cup' - unfortunately, after the event it was discovered that both the Sports Day Cup and Attendance Cup had both disappeared from Mulberry Ward! Photos began to circulate around the building

of the 118 Men with the coveted cups. As of yet the culprits have not been found and 'WANTED' posters have been distributed amongst the wards. It should be noted that the pair appear to bare a striking resemblance to Primrose Ward Team Leaders, Leah and Adam, yet, they maintain their innocence. Since their appearance on Sports Day the 118 Men have not been seen again and it leads to the question as to whether they may appear again this academic year!!



This half term Summit school hosted a **school trip to the Coventry Cathedral Ruins** to witness the captivating Pride flag on display. It was a significant opportunity for our students to appreciate and engage with LGBTQ+ representation. For those unable to join us on the trip, we had prepared a diverse range of resources, focusing on PSHE and Literacy.

In the Literacy, students had the chance to explore LGBTQ+ poetry. They analysed and appreciated notable poems while also creating their own poetic works. Comprehension exercises on historical LGBTQ+ figures further deepened their understanding. Engaging activities such as word unscrambles, word searches, and alphabetizing exercises added an element of fun to the learning experience.

In PSHE, students had the opportunity to unleash their creativity by designing their own Pride flags. Whether working individually or collaboratively, they used various materials like paint, coloured paper, and other supplies to bring their designs to life. Our aim was to create a magnificent collective display of these Pride flags. Additionally, students expressed their support for Pride by crafting vibrant rainbows using their handprints. Students indulged their artistic talents by designing and creating personalised Pride-themed t-shirts or bags. They utilised t-shirt blanks and were provided with templates to guide their designs. It was a chance for them to showcase their unique styles and celebrate Pride in their own creative way.

Throughout these activities, we embarked on a collaborative project. Students contributed to a large wall picture, colouring individual pieces with care and enthusiasm. Once completed, the pieces were assembled to create a visually stunning artwork that was proudly displayed within our school.