

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2026

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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 had some brilliant feedback from trainee teachers who have spent time in our school.

"The team at Forestwood School were absolutely brilliant – so welcoming and supportive and gave amazing advice"

"Thank you so much for a welcoming, humbling and eye opening new perspective to the world of education. This short time will be long lasting in my mind"

Phoenix have also had the following amazing feedback from a trainee teacher on placement in our school.

"Thank you all for making my placement last week such a valuable and enjoyable experience. I am incredibly grateful for the time, support, and insight that all staff provided throughout my visit. The placement gave me a much greater understanding of education within a CAMHS setting and the importance of personalised learning, multi-disciplinary working, and supporting young people's wellbeing alongside their academic progress. I particularly enjoyed observing the wide range of learning opportunities available and seeing all the positive relationships staff build with students."

What we've been up to

On 10 June, Forestwood School hosted a successful **Careers Fair**, bringing together a variety of local organisations and internal teams to showcase opportunities, skills, and career pathways available to our Young People.



The event gave attendees the chance to learn more about employment, volunteering, training, and personal development opportunities. External exhibitors included Think Forensic, who provided insight into forensic science and crime scene investigation careers; Bark & Hound, who shared information about dog grooming and animal care professions; MillHaus, who showcased creative arts and crafts opportunities; Barclays, who provided guidance on careers within banking and financial services; and C & K Careers, who offered valuable careers advice and employability support.



Alongside our external partners, several Cygnets teams were present to demonstrate the wide range of professional roles within

Healthcare and support services. Young people had the opportunity to speak with Occupational Therapy staff, Art teachers, Social Workers, a Gym Instructor and a British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreter, gaining a deeper understanding of the skills and experiences involved in these rewarding careers.



The Careers Fair created an engaging and supportive environment, encouraging attendees to ask questions, explore different career paths, and build confidence in their future aspirations.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the organisations and staff members who gave their time and expertise to support the event. Their involvement helped create an informative and inspiring experience for everyone who attended.



We look forward to delivering similar events in the future.

This half term, students at Phoenix School have been working towards a series of **AQA Unit Awards in Hairdressing**, building skills that connect directly to their future career aspirations.



Throughout the unit, they explored the scientific structure of hair, investigated effective ways to maintain healthy hair, and developed practical techniques used within the industry. The experience has given them a valuable insight into potential pathways within the hair and beauty sector.

Students at Phoenix have continued to develop their **cooking skills through a range of hands-on, practical lessons.**

They have successfully followed a variety of recipes, including favourites such as chicken curry and lasagne, giving them the opportunity to practise key techniques and explore new flavours.



Throughout the sessions, pupils demonstrated excellent kitchen safety, carefully following instructions and maintaining clean, well-organised workstations. Their focus has been clear to see, with everyone taking real pride in producing high-quality dishes.

The final results were absolutely delicious and students should be incredibly proud of what they achieved. Well done to everyone for their hard work and growing confidence in the kitchen!

National Safeguarding Week is always particularly meaningful in our setting because safeguarding is more than a policy — it underpins everything we do, helping every young person feel safe, supported, and valued.



Danique Wilson, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at Forestwood School ran targeted safeguarding sessions and focused on two important questions:

- *What is safeguarding?*
- *What makes me feel safe?*

These simple but powerful questions encouraged thoughtful discussions and gave students the opportunity to share their own perspectives. Many highlighted the importance of being listened to, having trusted adults around them, and feeling respected and understood.



We also supported students to recognise personal boundaries, identify trusted people, and understand how to seek help when needed. One of the most valuable outcomes of the week was hearing directly from our students. Their insights will continue to shape how we

create a safe and nurturing environment for everyone.

Our young people at Phoenix School have been exploring the **fascinating world of acids and alkalis**. Using a range of everyday household substances, pupils carried out practical tests to discover if the substances were acidic or alkaline using litmus paper.

As expected, lemon juice proved to be acidic, while sodium bicarbonate showed clear alkaline properties. However, the biggest surprise of the lesson came when students tested our hand soap and discovered it was acidic!

This unexpected result sparked curiosity and discussion, with pupils eager to understand why.



We are already planning further investigations to get to the bottom of this mystery.

Their enthusiasm, careful testing and scientific thinking have been great to see and we look forward to uncovering more surprising results as the topic continues.



Phoenix School have been hard at work exploring the **Highway Code and completing practice driving theory tests**, all of which contribute toward their AQA Unit Awards. As part of this learning journey, they've also been developing their skills in hazard perception—an essential element of safe driving.

Students have been practising identifying potential hazards in real-time video scenarios. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow, with many showing clear improvement in spotting risks early and understanding how drivers should respond.

One young person had a particularly proud moment after achieving full marks on a challenging double-hazard scenario. Their reaction said everything—this was an outstanding achievement and a brilliant example of what focus and determination can lead to.



Moments like these highlight not only the progress our learners are making, but also the life skills they're building for the future.



Forestwood School ended the month with our **annual duck hatching project, in partnership with Incredible Eggs.**

We were thrilled to see that all five eggs successfully hatched, marking the start of a memorable and engaging week for both pupils and staff.

Watching the ducklings emerge from their shells and take their very first steps in their new surroundings was a lovely experience, capturing the attention and curiosity of everyone in school.



While the ducklings certainly provided plenty of enjoyment with their lively personalities and playful antics, the week was also packed with valuable learning opportunities. Science teacher, Joanne Rider shared how the project supported hands-on scientific enquiry:

“In science, work was covered to understand the life cycle of a duckling. Students learnt about how an egg is formed and the time it takes for it to be laid.

Daily measurements were taken of their length, to produce a graph showing their growth over time from hatching to

leaving.

As the ducklings grew, we observed how they preen their feathers after swimming to make them waterproof. It was fascinating to see how they instinctively knew what to do with no adult ducks to show them.

We also learnt about the different feathers ducks have on their wings and how these help them to fly."



The ducklings quickly became much-loved members of our school community, with pupils taking great pride in helping to care for them and checking in on their progress throughout the day.

Alongside the scientific learning, the experience encouraged responsibility, empathy and respect for living things.

At the end of the week, it was time to say goodbye as the ducklings returned to their countryside farm.