

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2025

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What we've been up to

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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](#)

**New staff**  
None this month

**Recognition**  
None this month

## What we've been up to

The first half term of the year saw many varied therapeutic craft activities taking place at Phoenix with a firm favourite being **Pumpkin carving!**

Pupils showed their resilience and determination when scooping out the (endless?!) insides of their pumpkins and enjoyed making different shapes and face designs on the outside of the pumpkins as the photos show!



Pupils and staff showed fantastic teamwork and motivational skills to complete the pumpkin carving task and it was jointly decided by all that the end result was definitely worth all of the effort!

The completed carved pumpkins were on display in the Phoenix school alongside the spider / spider web and ghost crafts that the pupils have been also been working hard to complete.

On the Friday before Halloween itself, we had a Halloween themed quiz as well as a mummy making competition, where head teacher Dave was wrapped in lots of lots of toilet roll!



In English, our young people at Forestwood have been learning about **Aristotle's three pillars of public speaking – Ethos, Pathos and Logos**. They've been listening, reading and watching a range of historical and contemporary speeches to inspire and challenge them. Our young people have identified one subject they're passionate about and are currently writing a persuasive speech to be presented at the end of term. Our young people have expressed that this unit "has really helped speaking up in ward rounds" and are "feeling more confident" in articulating their needs. Most students have completed a speech scaffold (pictured) and are now in the drafting and editing process using feedback from their English teacher.

My Speech	
My speech will be about:	Home leave & unescorted leave.
My Ethos (what makes you qualified to talk on this subject?)	This is my lived experience. I know me better than anyone.
My Pathos (what kind of emotions do you have about this subject?)	I feel very strongly about this as it's personal.
My Logos (what FACTS and STATISTICS do you have to support your speech?)	<p>Fact 1: It is factual that having home leave will prevent the loss of independence.</p> <p>Fact 2: Staying in hospitals for long periods of time lead to feeling isolated. Home leave will let us socialise with our families.</p> <p>Fact 3: Home leave will bring a sense of normality to life.</p>
Checklist (tick when complete): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I know what my speech will be about. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I've spoken to Kira about the subject of my speech. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have at least three facts that I've researched. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have a personal story about this subject matter. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I've started to draft my speech.	

My Speech

Do you know what it's like to not see your family for long periods of time? Do you know what it's like for family visits to be observed by staff?

I hope you never get to experience this feeling but this has been my life for the past 8 months.

I'm ready for Home Leave and Unescorted Leave, this is my lived experience and I can feel heartily say I can do this. For the past week I've been crying for hours due to me wanting my family. It feels like a whole is missing in my heart that only they can fill. I'm constantly looking on my family's social media and seeing how much fun they have. This makes me feel left out.

I have made so much progress while being in hospital. I engage well with ward staff, education and my therapy. It is factual that having home leave will prevent the loss of independence. Being in hospital for long leads to the patient feeling isolated. Home leave will bring families together and therefore feeling less isolated. Home leave also brings a sense of normality in to life.

I hope you can understand how much I want this.

Yours Sincerely,

In honour of **Occupational Therapy (OT) Day**, Forestwood School welcomed members of the OT team to deliver a careers talk to the young people, in which they explored what occupational therapy entails, what it is like to work as an OT, and different routes into the career.

The session was an interactive one, which allowed our young people to delve into an area which many of them have expressed an interest in, and to better understand the wider responsibilities of the OT team. This aligns well with our school improvement plan, which decrees that we will invite professionals from various sectors to meet and speak with our young people to help inspire them to aim for a bright future.

What should I study

**Step 1:** GCSEs, or equivalent

English language and Maths are essential.

A science subject would also be good.

**Step 2:** A-levels, Welsh Baccalaureate, Scottish Highers or Irish Leaving Certificate

Not all Universities specify subjects.

Human biology, health and social care, psychology or social sciences would be good subjects.

A BTEC Diploma in a health and social care related subject or an access course are other options.

Royal College of Occupational Therapists



**Students have been working with Yvette at Phoenix on their cookery skills, in order to develop their understanding of different techniques and ingredients.**

Each person has planned a dish, researched and costed up the ingredients, and made changes so that it suits their own dietary needs, for example by reducing the sugar content, or replacing meat with non-meat alternatives like tofu.

There have been a good mix of sweet and savoury dishes made, with cookies being a firm favourite, followed by spaghetti bolognaise.

Students have practiced their ingredient preparation – dicing and sautéing for dishes like Tacos; and have used techniques like roasting and grating to create Chicken Kiev.

Everyone has practiced their washing up and cleaning skills, developed their food hygiene practices, learnt about oven and hob use in addition to the importance of temperature control. We look forward to seeing and tasting more exciting dishes as the weeks pass!

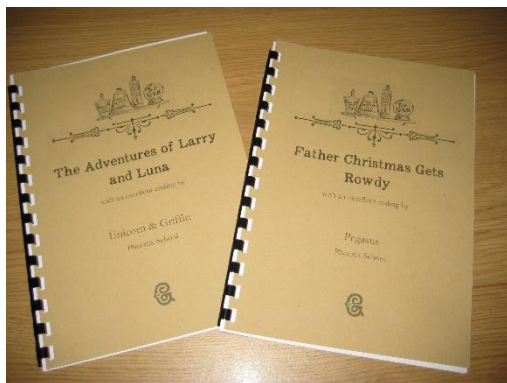


In November, our pals at [Grimm and Co.](#) (a Rotherham-based children's creative writing charity) came back to pay us a visit and help our young people pen some magical tales!

After adopting a magical pseudonym for the session, our students came up with captivating characters, a supernatural setting and a sorcerous storyline with the help of Grimm and Co.

Once the young people had written the beginning to their story as a group, they set to writing their endings independently. The good folks at Grimm and Co. then wrote and illustrated the stories and bound them into books.

You can catch our Phoenix-penned tales, 'The Adventures of Larry and Luna' and 'Father Christmas Gets Rowdy', in our school library. However, they're set to fly off the shelves so get them while you can!



This term's science theme is 'The Ecosystem'. **Students at Forestwood School, have enjoyed building a mini ecosystem to increase their understanding of this term's theme.**

To ensure that it was self-sustaining the bucket terrarium had an initial drainage layer of small rocks followed by soil and collected plant matter.

After spraying with water, animal life was added (snails, slugs and wood lice) and then the lid was sealed. The bucket was placed in indirect light and the students observed and recorded the changes over time.

