

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2025

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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

### Feedback given following a Quality Assurance Visit at Phoenix School

*"It was great to meet you all and learn about the really important work you do for the young people".*

## What we've been up to



We're delighted to announce **Rachel Rix has been appointed as our new Head of Education.**

Rachel officially stepped into the role earlier this month, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a long-standing commitment to improving outcomes for young people with additional and complex needs.

You can read more about Rachel's appointment [here](#).

Phoenix School is proud to have been successfully reaccredited as a Rights Respecting School, reaffirming its commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of the school.



A Rights Respecting School is one that embeds the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and culture.

The reaccreditation process was overseen by Amy White, PSHE lead, and involved all school staff in evaluating current practice across key areas. As part of this process, the school gathered a range of evidence highlighting good practice which was compiled into a presentation for the assessor.

Students played a central role in the process, sharing their experiences of school and how their rights are upheld. Their voices and opinions were recorded and shared at the reaccreditation meeting, ensuring their individual perspectives were heard by the assessor.

This month sees the **end of the exam period for those young people admitted into our care who are sitting their GCSEs.**

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

Of course, to facilitate these exams requires careful planning, organising and much collaboration by our Exam Officers 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 even during the exam season, to ensure that the process is as efficient as possible.

At Phoenix, this year in particular, has seen lots of young people sitting a whole range of subjects at both higher and foundation tiers, including statistics GCSE and a Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths!

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. I'd also like to highlight the determination and can-do attitude shown by Aimee our newly appointed Exams Officer. Aimee has 'hit the ground running' with a positive attitude, ensuring in all students had the opportunity to sit the exams entered for – well done Aimee you should be proud of your achievements!

**Cygnet Forestwood School held its annual Careers Fair this month and once again it was a busy event.**

Charlie Dwyer and Lauren Hoarty from the Education team had been working hard over the past few months to pull together industry representatives from a range of jobs. Careers included banking, firefighting, engineering, forensic science and the King's Trust.

The Careers Fair 2025 was a great success again - more detail about the event is on our [website](#)



**Yvette, Phoenix School's teaching assistant, has been using her skills and passion in the kitchen to engage the young people in Sheffield with cooking.**

Over the past few weeks, we have seen a variety of products being produced, including cakes, cookies, pizza and jerk chicken!



Not only has this been a great way to promote and discuss healthy eating with the kids, it has been a great way to build relationships with the young people, as well as helping develop positive peer interactions through sharing and communal eating.

In addition, the teachers have been using their amazing skills to weave in maths, English and science: recipe writing, using scales, measuring, quantities and estimating, chemical reactions.



### 5 Incredible Eggs hatched at Forestwood School last week and the annual duck project began.

As well as just enjoying their antics some serious science was undertaken as science teacher Joanne Rider explains "In science, work was covered to understand the life cycle of a duckling. Students learnt about how an egg is formed in a hen and the time it takes to lay the egg.

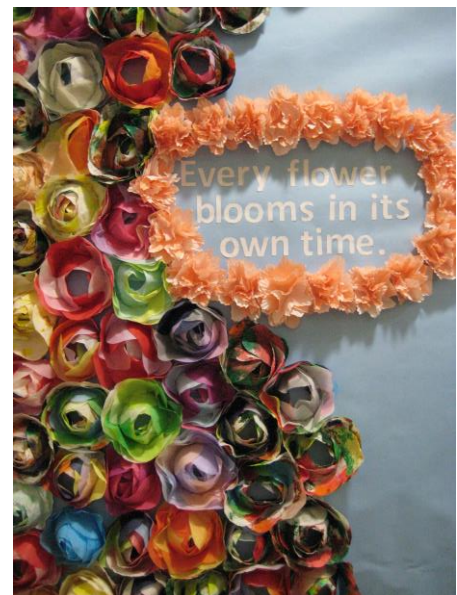
Students observed the ducklings hatching then taking their first steps in their new home. Daily measurements were taken of their length to produce a graph representing this from hatching to leaving.

As the ducklings grew we observed how they preen their feathers after swimming to make them waterproof.

It was fascinating to see how they knew what to do with no adult ducks to show them. At this time we also learnt about the different feathers ducks have on their wings and how they are able to fly".



The ducklings have now gone to live in the countryside with Dr Laurie who's going to keep us posted on their progress.



### This month has been filled with all things arts and crafts with a bit of a summer flower theme at Phoenix School.

Pupils have showed creativity, patience, crafting skills, teamwork and resilience when putting together a 3D rose flower art wall display entitled "Every flower blooms in its own time".

The size of the display was slightly underestimated with regards to how many art craft 3D roses were needed, but keen not to leave the job unfinished pupils and teaching staff team met the brief by producing over 150 3D roses!

The overall finished display has been commented as being 'stunning', 'beautiful' and 'really tactile' and gave everyone involved a sense of pride in their achievements.

Continuing on the flower and craft theme..... flowers from the hospital grounds were picked and pressed and used by the pupils to make a range of greeting cards, with many pupils choosing to make their own greeting cards for their family and friends. Additionally, pupils have produced hand painted birthday card designs with stylish lettering and all cards have been placed in the main hospital reception for anyone to help themselves to and gift them to the wider community.

Looking forward, craft tasks are being focused on the end of year celebrations with regard to producing colourful and fun decorations..... Watch this space!

