

# News

Fir

Vale

School

Academy Trust

FEBRUARY 2015

## Headstart

One of the many joys of being a Headteacher is when Fir Vale regularly wins top awards. The Inspiring Youth Awards were a great example of this.

The programme is not an easy option with full portfolios of work being produced. Many thanks to Mr Ziarat and Miss Rayner who guided our students to an outstanding array of work and we were all delighted when Fir Vale won the top prize.

As you were aware we were forced to close recently due to bad weather. This is never a decision taken lightly and I try to make that decision just after 6.30am having checked the safety of the school site with our caretakers. Like many schools in the area we have lots of teachers who live far afield, some in Nottingham, many out in Derbyshire and Leeds. This means that Fir Vale may only have a few inches of snow when other areas may have over six inches. It is often impossible for staff to get into school and teach lessons.

I will usually notify parents by text message if we are opening late that day or closing because of dangerous conditions.

Unfortunately this year we had dozens of families who had changed their mobile and contact numbers and not informed the school which meant they did not get this vital text. Can I remind you to check that your contact numbers are up to date.

**Breffni Martin**  
Headteacher

**Examples of what students have to achieve on the Inspiring Youth Project:**

Taking on responsibilities at home

Achieving higher grades at school

Promote learning about different cultures in their schools

Getting involved in physical activities

Becoming a mentor for others

Raising money for charity

Doing something useful during school holiday

Getting involved in community projects

## Celebrating Success



### Inspiring Young People...

"I was completely overwhelmed when I was announced the winner on the stage. Taking part in the project was a great experience and something that will stay with for a very long time."

Winning student, Aisha Qureshi with Miss Raynor, Student Support Officer.

**It was a night to remember when students from Fir Vale joined young people from other schools across Sheffield and Rotherham at the Mecure St Paul's Hotel.**

The inspiring Youth Project event was a celebration for successfully completing the project with South Yorkshire Police.

South Yorkshire Police volunteers run the project for young people who want to better themselves and achieve personal goals. Working with young people in schools to

inspire knowledge, self esteem, self confidence and develop their potential to perform better in school, at home and in their own community.

The school trophy was awarded to Fir Vale School for having the highest scoring student for 2014.

On the evening, Chief Constable David Crompton said "This project really makes a difference to the lives of young people, it gives them the confidence to go on and achieve things they were capable of doing".





## Welcome...

Marek Pecha has recently joined the Support Staff team at Fir Vale School. With a keen interest to offer support to students, staff and parents he is already proving to be a great asset around school. He can be contacted through the school office to assist with any Slovak translation enquiries.

## Sticking with it...



Students are recognised when they make progress in school with a variety of rewards.

Naimah Khan achieved even more when she was chosen by 'My Stickers' to win a MiP which is a computerised robot. This was presented to Naimah in assembly by Ms Smith.

## Keeping in Touch...

It is vital that the school has up to date contact details for the parents of all students in school.

This information is used when we need to contact a parent in an emergency and also when we need to let parents know of any changes about the school day, such as with delayed opening due to the recent bad weather or if your child is ill or late back from a sports fixture. Please contact the school office if your details change.

## Dates for your Diary

### Wednesday 25 February

Y8 Parents Event (3:30 - 6:00)

### Tuesday 3 March

Re-arranged Y11 Parents Evening (3:30 - 6:00)

### Wednesday 11 March

Y7 Parents Evening (3:30 - 6:00)

### Friday 27 March

Last day of term for students

## How to apply for work

## Money Management

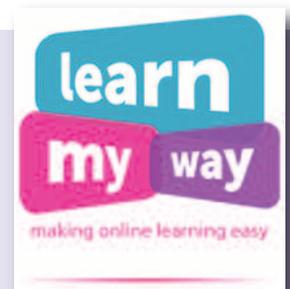
Do you want to learn 'How to apply for work' or about 'Money Management'?

These are just two of the new courses available for parents as part of the 'Learn My Way' programme. If you would like to build your confidence in the

use of the computer and gain knowledge, please get in touch with the school. Ask for Mr Cropper or Mr Pecha.

### And also...

For anyone in the local community who wishes to develop their computer skills we do have courses as part of



our Microsoft IT Academy enabling individuals to achieve useful, industry recognised, IT qualifications. Please ask at the school reception if you are interested in attending an introductory session

## JUST THE CUE...

Following a successful bid to World Snooker (WPBSA) the school now has a set of snooker tables supplied through the 'Cue Zone into Schools' initiative.

This is backed by 6 times World Champion Steve Davis.

Having had training through this initiative, Mr Posgate and Mr Linfitt are now running a very popular snooker club for students which takes place before and after school as part of our 'Extra' programme.



## Reach for the Sky!

Year 7 students who had made progress in English enjoyed a team building and problem solving day at Kingswood Outdoor Centre.

Many students and staff challenged themselves to climb the pole, get across obstacles and complete the birthday bench.

It was a beautiful, crisp, cold yet sunny day and we had to keep

warm so the hot chocolate in the canteen at lunch was most welcome.

In the afternoon all students created a fabulous photo diary of their day using their ICT skills.

All-in-all, a very enjoyable day.

Well done Y7's and

Mr Linfitt for being the only staff member to climb the pole, despite his fear of heights.

visit [www.firvale.com](http://www.firvale.com)