

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2025

CONTENT

Recognition	1
What we've been up to	2

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

Jayne Rowlands received the following feedback regarding the coaching:-

"Coaching has been a useful experience. It has enabled me to focus my thinking, and my coach has been able to suggest ways round problems that I might not have thought of. I have felt reassured that I can ask for coaching at any time should my circumstances change and I feel very supported".

What we've been up to

Education staff and colleagues from Cygnets Bury Forestwood came together to celebrate the renaming of the hospital's school to Forestwood School. Formerly known as the Excel and Exceed Centre, the OFSTED registered school is the specialist provider of education for all young people admitted to Cygnets Bury Forestwood. The name change to Forestwood School more closely aligns the school with the hospital.

On the day education staff, students and hospital staff celebrated the launch of the new name with cake and fun activities throughout the day. This included making bracelets using the colours from the new logo, a forest / tree themed quiz, hat spinning and even a juggling workshop!



Forestwood School's Head Teacher, Wendy Webster, said: "Our highly experienced teaching staff at the school and exam centre will continue to provide all students with a good education and a broad curriculum of study and the new name hopes to demonstrate closer links between the clinical journey and educational journey and the importance of both on recovery".

You can read more about it [here](#)

NSPCC Number Day took place on the 7th of February, and this was celebrated again at Phoenix School.

School staff dressed up in number-based outfits and t-shirts and a whole range of number-based activities was prepared for the young people for the day.

We had activities around the theme of personal finance, code breaking as well as some quite challenging maths puzzles that stumped even our most numerate students (as well as some of the staff!).

Number-based games were played by all: some new such as the fabulous dice game Qwixx and some classics like Rummikub.

The highlight of the day was probably the number-based quiz where all the answers were numbers and a fairly challenging picture round that had stills from films that all had numbers in their title. A good day all round and we are already looking forward to next year.





The planets aligned w/c 24th February and the Wonder Dome returned to Forestwood School to promote the term's theme of "SPACE"

Ben, the Wonder Dome presenter and "Scope Wizard" graduated with a degree in Observational Astronomy. Students were taken on an interactive journey through the universe that was played onto the 180 degree surface of the dome. Lots of questions were answered and the knowledge gained was taken back into the classroom to support the completion of the SPACE themed learning grid. The seven planetary alignment will not be seen again until 2040 so there were lots of scientific questions about the event in addition to what we might all be doing in 15 years' time.



WELCOME TO GRIMM & CO

On February 11th Phoenix School was visited by Zora and Mads from Grimm & Co, a local storytelling charity who host magical and mythical workshops at their own site and in schools for children of all ages. Over the past few months, Eric and Katy have been planning sessions with Grimm & Co, including visiting Grimm's site in Rotherham on two occasions to deliver training to Grimm staff about our setting.

Zora and Mads delivered two sessions, one for Pegasus and one for Unicorn and Griffin wards. These sessions were group story writing sessions. The sessions started with an opportunity to investigate some of the magical items from Grimm's apothecary, including grandma's scabs, peace and quiet, and troll earwax.

Following this, students and staff were encouraged to spin a wheel to discover which magical creature they are before engaging in some silly ways of re-starting the adults' imagination.

The students in both sessions engaged well as teams to create characters, settings, and plots for their stories, including a spoon-human who was in a race to complete a maze, and a dragon who worked on Cygnet Sheffield's mythical 5th ward, accessible only through the lift that never works.

Grimm & Co will now print and bind our students' stories as well as having their own illustrators illustrate them. Copies of our stories will be available in the school library for all to read.