



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR (YEAR OF THE ROOSTER)

Week beginning: 30/01/17 Wk 1

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, we launched our programme of activities designed to help Year 9 choose their Options. The 2017 Options Booklet is now on our [website](#) and on Tuesday 31st January, we will be holding our Options/Careers Fayre for Year 9s. There is plenty of information available to help our students make their decisions, and the online form will go live in February (you will be alerted when it does). I hope your sons and daughters will feel supported in selecting the courses they wish to follow in the next phase of their Fortismere experience.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we had problems with our telephone system on Wednesday. We got this fixed as soon as possible but I do apologise to anyone trying to make contact with the school while the phones were down. In such situations, please do email our office and messages will be passed on and dealt with (office@fortismere.org.uk). We seem to have had bad luck with our utilities in January, with the power outage earlier in the month! Though not of our making, these events – whilst rare – are very frustrating, so thank you for bearing with us.

The term is speeding by and there are only a couple of weeks to go before half-term! I always look forward to that week because it often marks a change in the weather and we start to see the early signs of Spring. In the meantime, here's hoping for a few more bright days, in amongst the damp foggy ones!

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very happy Chinese New Year!

Have a lovely weekend, whatever the weather!

Advance Warning: late start to school on Tuesday 28th February – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

Advanced notice that lessons will start at 10:20am on Tuesday 28th February to allow time for the Year 10 Deep Learning Conversations which take place that morning. Students should not come onto the school site before 10am.

Parents/carers with children in Year 10 will receive a letter confirming their appointment time next week.

Safeguarding – Mr Egunjobi, Business Manager

As part of our commitment to safeguarding students and staff, visitors to the school (including parents / carers) will not be allowed on the site unless they have an appointment. The security team and reception staff will be informed of all appointments in advance and visitors will not be allowed entry unless notification has been received.

If you wish to see a member of staff, please email them to book an appointment (all email addresses can be found on our [website](#)).

Dress Code – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

A reminder to parents/carers that although liberal in our dress at Fortismere there is still a dress code to adhere to. Please be aware that ripped or fashionably torn jeans **are not allowed** in school.

Year 9 Options – Ms Allaway

Year 9 students had their kick-start assembly for Options on Monday this week. All tutors should have by now held short conversations with their tutees as an introduction to thinking about Options and I do hope that you have been having those conversations at home too! Next week there are two important events for students and parents:

1. **The Options Fayre, Tuesday 31st January, 5-7pm in North Wing.** Please note from the attached Options Timeline that this year we will be holding *two* talks on Options during the evening and this has been split into colleges. Alexandria, Colosseum and Ephesus Talk 1 and Rhodes, Olympia and Petra Talk 2. This is so that everyone can fit into our hall!
2. **One-to-one Guidance Meetings.** All of Year 9 will have a one-to-one guidance meeting with a member of SLT and Heads of College next week. This will be explained further on the Options Evening to parents. Early in the week students will receive their individual appointment times.

Please see attached an Options time plan and layout for the Options Fayre on Tuesday 31st January.

Train to Teach Opportunity – Mr Ward (Responsible for Student Teacher Training)

I am writing to inform you about current opportunities at Fortismere for would-be teachers. Fortismere is part of an alliance of National Teaching Schools called the New River Teaching Alliance (NRTA). One of the NRTA's key priorities is the recruitment and training of new teachers. Our teacher training is delivered through a Government funded scheme known as School Direct. In summary, our School Direct Scheme is a full school-based, school-led teacher training course run in partnership with the University of London's Institute of Education.

The programme has been designed to give those who wish to enter the teaching profession hands-on experience at Fortismere and other Haringey schools. Successful completion of our School Direct programme leads to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE), the recognised qualification for teachers in the United Kingdom.

It is for this reason that I am writing to you. You, or someone you know, may be interested in considering teaching as a possible career either as a first choice or as a change of career.

We have a limited number of places available in September for those would like to train as secondary school teachers. In order to be eligible all applicants must:

- have a degree level qualification in the subject or a closely related subject
- have Maths and English GCSEs at grade C level or above
- have spent a minimum of five days' work experience in a school prior to interview. NB this is something we may facilitate for those who meet the first two criteria.

We have an excellent record of training and securing employment for teachers across our alliance of schools. If you meet the criteria above, are interested in joining our School Direct Scheme and would like to learn more about this, please do not hesitate to contact Iraj Felfeli who coordinates the programme from Alexandra Park School to arrange an initial informal discussion about the course. He is available at ifelfeli@alexandrapark.school or on 0208 826 4887.

Holocaust Memorial Day Event for Year 9s, Monday 30th January – Ms Arrowsmith, Head of SPE

All Year 9 students will be attending the local synagogue to listen to Bernard Koshland, a Holocaust survivor. They will be visiting the local place of worship during school hours and will be under the supervision of their classroom teachers and members of the Synagogue. The visit will take place during Periods 2 and 3 and all students will return to school in time for lunch. It is expected that all students attend. If you have further enquiries, questions or objections to this visit then please contact me at jarrowsmith@fortismere.org.uk

Group	Where students will be sitting	Lesson Period 2	Lesson Period 3
9X1	Seated upstairs	HISTORY – MR BREARLEY	WELLBEING AND RS – MS MASSEY
9X2	Seated upstairs	WELLBEING AND RS – MS KAYE	ENGLISH – MR STRATHDENE
9X3	Seated downstairs	ENGLISH – MS MORRIS	COMPUTER SCIENCE – MR TIBBLE
9X4	Seated up-stairs	WELLBEING AND RS – MS PRINSLEY	ENGLISH – MS MORRIS
9X5	Seated downstairs	MUSIC – MS TOPPING	ART AND DESIGN – MS WILLIAMS
9Y1	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR RAHAT	MANDARIN – MS XIAO
9Y2	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MS DANIELS	SPANISH – MR RAINEY
9Y3	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MS GWYNN JONES	SPANISH – MS BRUEL
9Y4	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR HUXLEY	SPANISH – MS FINEBERG
9Y5	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR RICHARDSON	SPANISH – MR MOORMAN

All students must line up at the end of break in their teaching groups, with their teacher to be registered. They will walk sensibly to the Synagogue in their teaching group with their teacher. The schedule will be as follows:

10.25 – 10.35am – students arrive and are settled. Students in the Y bank will sit downstairs with 9X3 and 9X5. This is a visit to a place of worship in the local community and all students are representing the school. BFL will be used if necessary. Brief welcome from Rabbi David to the synagogue itself followed by a brief talk from Ruth Jampel contextualising Bernard's story within the Holocaust by going over key facts and events.

11.00-12.10pm - Bernard will give his talk followed by a minute's pause to digest his story. This will be followed by a question and answer session from the students. There will be a summary of the event followed by the presentation of a thank you gift to Bernard.

12.15 – 12.20pm - dismissal of students – students downstairs will be dismissed first; those students sitting upstairs will be dismissed last. Chance for students to come and ask further questions if they wish. Students return to school for lunch and then go to Periods 4 and 5 as usual. All teachers will escort and remain with their classes during the times that they would be teaching them.

Whilst in the Synagogue, students will not be able to use the toilets so they must make sure that they go to the toilet during break time.

Holocaust Memorial Day Special Assemblies – Ms Fineberg, Assistant Head

In addition to Year 9s visiting Muswell Hill Synagogue on Monday, all students will be receiving a special College assembly before half-term to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

Music Notes – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

Charity Band Night – Thursday 9th February 2017 at 7pm, Music Concert Hall, North Wing

This takes place in a couple of weeks and would be a lovely way to end a busy half term: an evening of entertainment, with all profit donated to four of our school College charities. The show begins at 7pm with performances featuring students, staff and parents/carers, in the Music Concert Hall, North Wing. If any parents/carers would like to perform or know of any other adults that might like to, please email me on sogilby@fortismere.org.uk We look forward to seeing you all!

Junior Choir (Year 7-8): Vocal Express!

Rehearsals start again on Fridays in Mu1 – starting on 27th January – please bring a packed lunch. Rehearsals are in preparation for the end of year show. New members welcome anytime.

Orchestra

Rehearsals have not started yet as we are still at the planning stage of how the orchestra will be involved in the end of year show. Rehearsals will resume shortly and will be advertised accordingly.

Sporting Success – Mr Cox

Haringey Badminton Tournament

On Friday 20th January, Ms Bailey took a girls and boys team to play in a Haringey Badminton tournament. The boys' team comprised Lucas Maher, Ethan Raine-Dunk, Leith Shaban and Charlie Sprung. The girls' team comprised Mia Laurens, Aya Pfeufer, Freya Mistry and Aparna Mukherjee.



Both the boys and the girls played extremely well and we are very proud of how they conducted themselves and the effort they put into every match.

The boys were unlucky and didn't manage to come home with a medal. The girls who were all playing their first competitive tournament managed to play with excellence and determination and were delighted to come second out of five schools in the tournament coming home with silver medals.

Handball & Cricket

Congratulations to our handball and indoor cricketers! All age groups (U13 to U15 boys and girls) won the Haringey Borough Competitions and have progressed to the North London Finals. Only one more win separates the Handball Teams from the London Finals to be played at the Copperbox Arena, home to the Handball in the 2012 Olympics!

Careers Information – Ms N Phillips, Careers Advisor

There is lots of information being added to our website all the time about open days and opportunities that might be of interest to our students, so don't forget to take a look!

Parents/carers and students should be aware of the following local Sixth Form Application Deadlines:

- Alexandra Park School - 31st January
- Henrietta Barnet School - 1st February by 5pm

Reminders from the Admin Team

Absences/Appointments: please remember to report your child's absence/appointment before 8:35am by calling 020 8365 4429 or email attendance@fortismere.org.uk and copy in your child's Form Tutor.

Lost Property: ideally, label your child's possessions so that if they do get mislaid, they can be returned. Alternatively, don't forget to regularly check Lost Property in both Wings for missing items.

From the Library

Entries are now being considered for the Betjeman Poetry Prize for young poets aged 11-13. Take a look at the judging criteria and lots of tips for writing poetry here <http://bit.ly/1xFNBjt>

Owls have been returning thick and fast from young wizards and witches coming to the Harry Potter Night on 3rd February – Professors Bhambra and Ward are delighted to say that all those who've replied will be coming! Do remember that if your child is being collected by another adult at the end of the evening to let us know beforehand – for safeguarding and fear of Dementors.

The next books for CoverUp members to read, compare and discuss at our meeting on 16th March is *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* by Max Porter and *Crow* by Ted Hughes.

Our 6th formers had to up sticks and retire to the meeting room in the library at lunchtime on Thursday 26th January because so many excited and keen Year 7s turned up for the first meeting of the Haringey Children's Book Award group – we ran out of space! Such a lovely problem to have! Before the books were lent out, we scrutinised the covers and tried to work out what each book was about; as always Mrs Coles and Mrs Ward were stunned by the sophisticated ideas our students had. Take a look at the shortlist we'll be reading before the Celebration and Awards Ceremony on 24th April <http://bit.ly/2jAQzpn> when we'll be meeting groups from (at least) 20 other schools around the borough, as well as loads of authors and local celebrities!

Recommended Reads of the Week

One for the grownups: *The Bricks that Built the Houses* by Kate Tempest if only for the extraordinary language and microscopic images. For younger people, Morris Gleitzman's series of four books *Once, Then, Now and After* can be found on our extensive display of books for Holocaust Memorial Day.

FSA News

Quiz Night: Saturday 4th March Doors from 6.30pm in North Wing Hall (Creighton Avenue)

Tickets are now on sale for the Quiz Night! Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre ("Fabulous, funny and brilliant!", Fitzroy Club), tickets will be £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people. Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team. There will be a bar but do bring food to share with your team.

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great opportunity to meet other parents/carers; perhaps have a table with other parents from your child's class?

Tickets – www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

fortismere
School Association
charity number: 801227

Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club

Saturday 4th March
Doors 6.30 for 7pm prompt start

North Wing Hall, Creighton Avenue Entrance.

Tickets £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people.

Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team.

Licensed bar. Bring food to share but please don't bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Tickets online from www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 1st February, 19.00 – 21.00: Planning for our next fundraising events. If you have any ideas or are interested in helping out come along to South Wing Conference Room.

Other Ways to Fundraise for the School:

- Donations to the FSA for the school can be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool> – also allowing us to benefit from Gift Aid!
- The Giving Machine – go to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.

