



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 10/10/16 Wk 2

AUTHOR, CATHERINE JOHNSON, INSPIRES A PACKED LIBRARY!

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, our Year 11 Geographers have been out on a residential field trip to Norfolk. The purpose of the trip was to explore coastal management systems and to assist students with their GCSE coursework. As you can imagine, it is a real logistical feat, organising and overseeing such a trip for some 200 (excited!) students, so my thanks go to the Geography Department. The students were staying at Overstrand Hall, which is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the North Norfolk coast. As well as working hard on their field studies, the trip gives students the opportunity to take part in some outdoor activities such as archery and abseiling, so there is a great sense of adventure about it. These trips are so important for developing self-confidence and a sense of achievement, and I hope all our Year 11 Geographers had a great week!

The Music Department held its Piano Concert on Wednesday evening which was delightful. I am always astonished by the talents of our students, and their ability to perform in front of an audience, no matter whether they are at Grade 5 or just starting out, is really impressive. For any parent/carers with an interest in music, you might like to find out more about the Fortismere Music Centre which provides a range of instrument and vocal lessons, and runs the Community Choir and Community Symphony Orchestra. Both ensembles are well-attended and hold termly concerts, and I am very proud of our association with the Centre. You can learn more on our [website](#)

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and would like to wish our Jewish families a successful fast on Yom Kippur next week.

Dress Code – SLT

Please see attached the Dress Code for Fortismere. It remains the same, but with the addition of some clarification on the points within.

Music Notes – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

Congratulations to the 18 students across Years 7 to 12 who performed brilliantly to an extremely appreciative audience at the Music Department's annual piano concert on Wednesday 5th October!

Extra Curricular Music:

1. Orchestra – Mondays after school; music concert hall 3.30-4.15pm
2. Year 7-8 Choir – Wednesdays; Mu1 12.30-1pm
3. Big Band – Tuesdays; music concert hall 3.30-4.15pm

England and Australia Rugby Squad Training – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

London Skolars have been visiting Fortismere to offer some coaching sessions to some of our Key Stage 3 classes. Through this initiative we have been sent a wonderful opportunity which we may want to take up. England are playing Australia in November at the Olympic Park and they are using London as their base in the run-up to the Four Nations Series. We have been given exclusive access along with other partnership schools to attend one of their training sessions and I'd like to invite as many of our partner schools as possible.

[Contact the school](#)

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Our students will be able to see possibly the greatest coach of all time, Wayne Bennett, lead his new England players up close as they train to take on the World-Champions Australia. The venue is one of the most exclusive in London and will allow students to get close to such superstars as Sam Burgess, James Graham, Ryan Hall, and Sam Tomkins, amongst all the rest.

This is taking place on Monday 17th October, we will be travelling on the underground, leaving school at break-time and returning for Period 4 that afternoon. If you are interested in coming along can you please email me (mvangucci@fortismere.org.uk) or come to the PE office by next Wednesday 12th October.

Year 7 Common Room – Mr Strathdene, Head of Colosseum

Our new Year 7 Common Room, in N11, is proving to be really popular. So much so that we wondered if anyone would be able to donate any extra games. We're looking for anything Year 7s might enjoy: board games that can be played by a group of students and take less than 20 minutes; there's a small outdoor area so an old skittles set or spare skipping ropes would be great; and the Year 11 student leaders would like to run a Wii tournament one day a week but we need a Wii with a couple of controllers. Contact mstrathdene@fortismere.org.uk or drop off anything appropriate for him in Reception. Thanks!

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. Here are a couple of forthcoming events:

- **ULAS Insight into Law** Event – Wednesday 12th October. More information here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ulas-law-industry-insight-event-tickets-26095350897?aff=eac2>
- Open day at **Chickenshed** for their courses, including a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts, Foundation Degree in Inclusive Performance and BA (Hons) Top Up. The Open Day is on **Thursday 13th October from 4-9.30pm** (Students must be attend the whole evening) More details on the evening and how students can register are on their website. <https://www.chickenshed.org.uk/student-open-day>
- Open Day at the **Fashion Retail Academy** on Saturday 15th October 2016, 11am to 2pm. They will be presenting their latest course offering, Level 2 to Level 4 courses in areas of fashion retail, along with workshops in Merchandising and Garment Technology. There will also be an opportunity to tour their facilities at the Fashion Retail Academy. For more information and to book a place please click here: <http://www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk/events/>

From the Library

On Thursday 6th October we crammed 6 classes from Years 7, 8 and 9 into the library for a fantastic couple of sessions with author Catherine Johnson. Catherine delighted (and occasionally disgusted) her audience with true historical facts that she used for her latest books, *Sawbones* and *Blade and Bone*. She talked about people from history that have informed her work and said that although her characters are made up,

they are always based on truth. Even Alexandre Dumas' father has a cameo role in her latest novel – he was the highest ranking black man ever in a European army. Catherine's lively chat kept everyone riveted and she was the ideal author to launch our new Historical Fiction Reading Group – more about this in history lessons! By the way, Catherine told students that those whose stomachs churned occasionally from the medical details she described obviously had the good imagination needed to become a great author (along with powerful observational skills and being a good liar!) Come and borrow Catherine's books from the library.

Our Y7s are very excitedly choosing a free book from this year's BookBuzz selection <http://bit.ly/2du7ufm>. This is very kindly funded by the FSA; thank you to our wonderful parents' association who granted us the means to ensure that every child has a book that is theirs to keep.

And talking of the FSA – get your Fireworks Night tickets from the library now! You'd be foolish not to...

Recommended Read of the Week:

We have today put a brand new book on the shelves; we feel that it is more important than ever. *Who Are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave Their Homes? And Other Big Questions* by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young is a wonderfully accessible book that should be read by all families with their children to create greater empathy and understanding. Available to borrow now.

FSA News

Thanks to all the kind people who have volunteered to help us with a Martyn Gerrard Board advertising our Fireworks event; these will be going up all over the area w/c 17th October and will be up for around 3-4 weeks. Thanks again very much if you agreed to help.

Also, please don't forget that Martyn Gerrard (<http://www.martynherrard.co.uk/>) have kindly committed to make a donation to the FSA if a Fortismere parent or carer either sells or rents out their home through them, so please let Kirsty know (markskirsty@gmail.com) if you have instructed Martyn Gerrard to do this, and we can chase up the donation for you.

Other ways you can help

- Volunteer with a friend to help out on the committee (as Vice Chair(s) or just come along to a meeting)
- You and some friends come up with or take on one of our smaller events and run it for us (with us to help and guide you)
- Volunteer to help out on the day with set up, running the stalls, selling tickets or clear up

If you can help in any of the ways above please, please, please, please get in touch with Kirsty at markskirsty@gmail.com

FSA Constitution

Please find the draft updates to the Constitution for the FSA attached to this parentmail email. We are proposing to bring the FSA Constitution (originally adopted in 1988) up to date with new legislation and to update the area of members (point 4) and the Committee (point 5) to be a manageable (and more realistic) number of parents and to be specific about powers (point 3) and liability (point 7).

These updates have been taken directly from the PTA-UK Model Constitution, we are members of the PTA-UK which is the main membership organisation for PTAs in the UK (<http://www.pta.org.uk/>).

If you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes please contact Miriam at mirriec Clark@gmail.com urgently before 20th October which is when the changes to the Constitution will be proposed at the EGM for approval before submission to The Charity Commission.

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR FIREWORKS FROM THE LIBRARY

Fabulous Fortismere Fireworks by Titanium on the Fortismere Field, Twyford Road entrance, Thursday 3rd November, gates 6-9pm, fireworks at around 7.30pm.

Carters Steam Fair, Hot Food stalls, Bar, Sparkler Den, Hot Chocolate and more...sensible footwear such as wellies are HIGHLY recommended.

Tickets are only £5 from the school library NOW or £5 in advance available online at: <http://www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com/> or will be £7 on the gate.

If your kids attend the school, please buy through the library if you can, as all of the money per ticket can then go towards the school (we pay fees per ticket online).

Please also circulate the attached poster among your friends and share our Facebook event <https://www.facebook.com/events/205394933207409/>

Up and Coming

Fireworks planning meeting Tuesday 11th October, 7pm

Please join us at our next Fireworks and year programme planning meeting. Starts at 7pm, South Wing (Tetherdown) Conference room, which is on the first floor of the main building, a side door will be open on the left of the building when you are looking at reception - just come up to the first floor and meet us there. Plenty of parking available as well. All very welcome.

If you feel that you can help out but can't make the meeting, even if it's just to manage one aspect (eg booking the marquee), or an hour of admin time ordering the sparklers, please do get in touch with Kirsty at markskirsty@gmail.com please don't assume we have loads of volunteers already. The team is just a few parents and is very stretched, particularly when we have big events like Fireworks to manage, so please volunteer to help plan things as well as on the day.

Bids Meetings and EGM

The first on 20th October (also now designated as an EGM for the Constitution and Accounts Approval) is to meet the teachers and hear about what they are bidding for then there will be another meeting (TBC date) in November after Fireworks to allocate the funding.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend! Apologies for the delay but full AGM minutes will be published next week, and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

FSA Team

[Contact the school](#)

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