

fortismere

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



We'd like to wish
all our students,
parents/carers,
staff, supporters
and friends
a very
Happy Christmas
and all the best for
2017!

Don't forget—school starts again on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 10.20am

Newsletter for Parents and Carers

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Concert this week. I'm sure you'll agree that, once again, our talented students did us proud! The event is one of my favourites of the year and, for me, really kicks off Christmas! My thanks and congratulations go to all the students who took part, on stage or behind the scenes, and of course, to the staff that made the event possible. I've included a few photos shared by someone who enjoyed the show very much below.

The Colleges have been undertaking various Christmas activities over the past few weeks. Not only do we have Christmas Tree decorating competitions and Secret Santas, but it is also great to see how many of our students think of others at this time of year, and get involved in a range of fundraising activities. We are very grateful to all the parents and carers whose generosity supports and inspires students to be so considerate. Together, students have raised large sums of money and donated much-needed items to local organisations – most definitely embodying the spirit of goodwill to all.

There is much to look back on with pride this term. Students and staff have all worked extremely hard and I hope you all have a well-earned and wonderful Christmas break!



Advance Warning: Lessons Start Period 2 on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

Students begin lessons promptly at 10.20am (Period 2) on the first day of the Spring Term (03/01/17). It will be Week 1.

Parent Forum – Ms Sloane, Parent-Governor

More than 60 parents attended the inaugural Parent Forum last Tuesday. Detailed information will be made available on the website under the Parents/Carers section. It was decided to form a Working Group to decide the agenda and format of the next meeting, with a number of parents volunteering to take part. The next Parent Forum date will be decided then. The next Governors' Surgery will be Tuesday 17th January from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the School, exact location tbc (this will be announced at the start of next term). The Working Group will meet following the Surgery at 7:30pm.

Responses to Questions Raised at the Parent Forum – SLT

We will endeavour to respond to all the questions that were raised at the Parent Forum on 7th December, starting with a couple of issues below:

1. Fizzy drinks are sold in the school canteen and there is a concern about obesity

The response is from Derek Scanlon, Support and Development Chef Manager, Harrison Catering Services Limited:

These are the full range of our drinks: Milkshakes, juices, Randor sparkling fruit flavoured drink, Suso sparkling juice drink, Juice Burst juice drink and still water. Suso is a sparkling juice drink. It is made from sparkling water so is different from a fizzy drink. It has no added sugar. In fact, it's one of your '5 a day'. Radnor is a flavoured fruit juice drink made with carbonated spring water. It is fully school compliant and, again, one of your '5 a day'. See below for drinks labels.



2. Information about Extra-Curricular activities is not easy to find

The response is from Ms Westley, Communications Officer:

The majority of our extra-curricular activities (mainly linked to sport, music and modern languages) can be found on our website, within [Learning / Extra-Curricular](#). There is also a link, on the same page, to a presentation which lists all the many other opportunities available – [here](#). This information has been available all term on the 'Pods' in NW and SW. We will be compiling a comprehensive list next term and this will be circulated when it is ready.

Student Presentation Pledges: Equipment – Ms Fineberg, Assistant Head Teaching & Learning

Kindly ensure that your child/children's pencil cases are fully replenished over the Christmas period so that students can return to school fully equipped for learning in January. Fresh glue sticks and additional pens/pencils might be required after what has been a long and busy autumn term! Equipment checks will take place in the New Year and the Students' Presentation Pledges are attached as a reminder of expectations. Thank you in advance and wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas break.

Google Classroom – Ms Karp, Assistant Head

Google Classroom is a pilot scheme that Mr Yakup (Head of Enterprise Faculty) and some departments are working on. Google Classroom may become Fortismere's new Learning Platform if staff, students and parents/carers like it.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff regarding Google Classroom, please contact Mr Yakup on myakup@fortismere.org.uk

School Photos – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

If you have ordered a school photo they have now arrived at South Wing Office (Tetherdown) – the office will be open on Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December (between 9am and 3pm) if you want to pop by to pick up a photo for a Christmas present! Happy Holidays!

Sports Review, Term 1 – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE

Please find attached and on our [website](#) a review of our sporting achievements this term. We've had some great success! You will also find our fixtures list for next term on the website.

Focus Football Training – Mr Cox, Head of PE

From January 2017, Focus Football Training will be delivering a programme to develop young footballers at the school. Sessions will take place before school and are open to girls and boys from Years 7 to 11. The first session takes place at 7.30am on Friday 6th January. Please see the letter attached for more information.

Christmas Hat and Jumper Day – Anna Horrocks, Alexia Micallef & Ms Sullivan, Director of Sixth Form

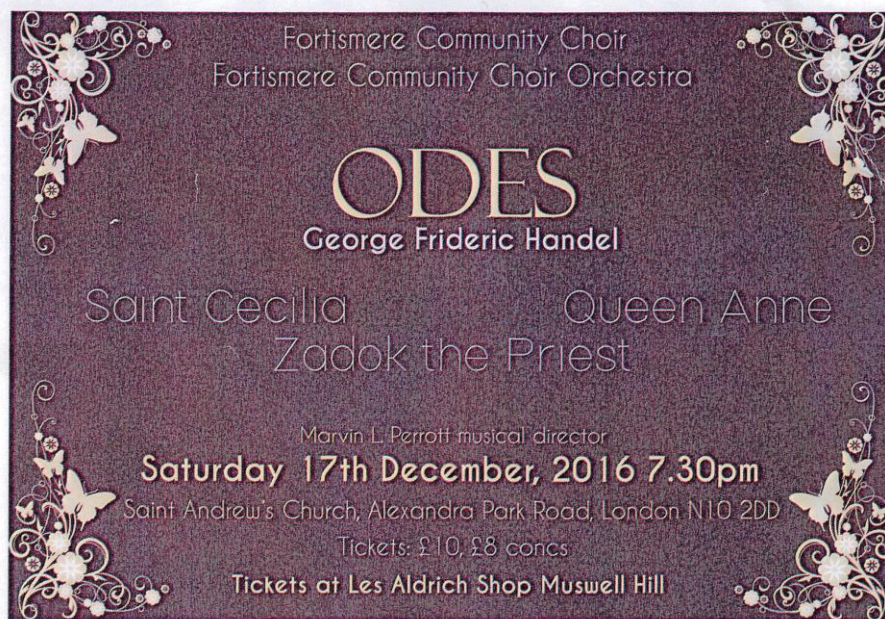
Huge thanks to all of those who dressed up and donated! We are pleased to inform you that the school raised £574 which has been split between MSF and Save the Children. It was lovely to see so many students taking part and happily dropping their donations in the collection tins.

Ephesus Fundraising – Ms Mangan, Head of Ephesus

Ms Stevenson and I would just like to thank parents and carers for the overwhelming amount of lovely items donated to the CARIS homeless project. Ms Stevenson took the items to CARIS ahead of their Christmas party today and said they were overwhelmed with the amount of fantastic things donated. Thank you for your generosity.

From Fortismere Music Centre

Tickets for this concert on 17th December are available from Les Aldrich Shop in Muswell Hill, or on the door on the night.



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:

- The Compton School - 6th January 2017
 - Camden School for Girls - 6th January
 - Woodhouse College - 16th January
 - Highgate Wood School - 20th January
 - Fortismere - 27th January
 - Alexandra Park School - 31st January
 - Henrietta Barnet School - 1st February by 5pm
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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

I mentioned recently that some of our Year 10 students attended a creative writing workshop run by Haringey Literature Live. Take a look at this link <http://bit.ly/2qhKHig>

We are delighted to share the news that Fortismere's Patron of Reading, S F Said, is the UK's nominee for the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Honour List for Writing. This is a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books and it honours writers, illustrators and translators from all around the world.

Another writing competition! You don't have to live in Slough to enter, but this was the only link I could find! <http://bit.ly/2gGoTjW> It's for writers aged 11-16 and will be judged by Joffre White, who's visiting us at Fortismere next year.

We had a huge amount of entries for the library's Six Word Story competition and it was very difficult choosing winners. In the end, we picked six "stories" that seemed to have a beginning, middle and an end and made us think about the contents. We're sorry that they are not full of the joys of the festive season, but it seems that our students have dark little souls! Congratulations to the following, who have each received a signed copy of R J Palacio's *Wonder* as a prize.

Sledges skid. Ground gulps. Parents search. (Grace Chapman, N3)

"But you're not her," he said. (Aiya Brouk, P8)

Through the portal, there he was. (Oben Gray, O6)

It is true. I did it. (Layla Badalova, E5)

With its last breath came everything. (Spyridoula Kyriakopolou, P10)

One text. One glance. One funeral. (Lily Thompson, O8)

And an honourable mention to Ms Larsson (Admissions & CMIS Manager), who made us smile with *Named the turkey Brian. Vegan Christmas.*

It's coming to the end of 2016; the final game of library bingo has been played with Year 7, the last batch of book trailers has been shown to Year 8. Oscar Davison from 12TK donned Santa hat and flashing jumper to read *The Night Before Christmas* to our Year 8 Chapter 2 members. We're looking forward to starting the new year with book club meetings – dates for Young Quills (historical fiction) and the Haringey Children's Book Award Shadowing Group (we'll probably call it Books and Biscuits!) will be published in January. Watch this space!

Recommended Reads of the Week

Some grown-up recommendations courtesy of the English and Media Centre <http://bit.ly/2gC7ASC> . We're looking forward to hearing about all the books our students receive at Christmas! Happy reading, one and all!

FSA News

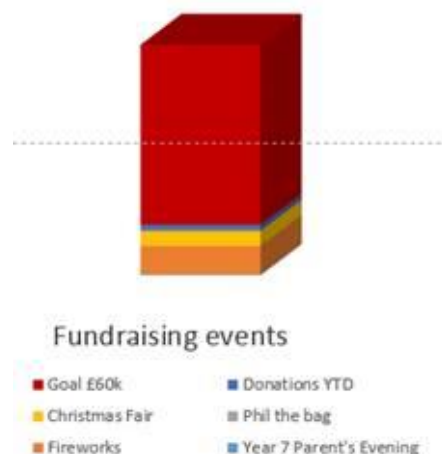
A special thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas Fair last Sunday, the hampers made from your donations looked wonderful and raised about £600. Overall we raised just under £5000 on Sunday! Many thanks to the 55 parents who helped on the day without you these events could not take place.

If you attended the event we would love your feedback – good or bad – please email – philippastonebridge@hotmail.com



Fundraising figures Sep – Dec 2016

It has been suggested that a visual reminder of how much money we need to raise each year would help to explain the importance of having people help at events and come to the FSA meetings to help fund raise, so please see our progress so far on the chart on the right.



[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

Date for Diaries:

Wednesday 11th January 2017, 19.00 – 21.00: Planning the next fundraising events. 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.
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