



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Our thoughts this week are very much with the victims of the dreadful terrorist attack in Manchester, their friends and family, and the emergency services supporting them. As others have said, any act of violence like this is awful, but the fact that this was aimed at young people somehow makes it stand out. It has been a very sad week but we must do all that we can to show that we will not bow to terrorism. Whilst keeping those affected in our thoughts, we must carry on as normal.

For the school, this has meant the continuation of exams amongst other things. The Sixth Form have been embracing politics this week, and my thanks go to Mr Johnson for arranging for MPs from the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties to come in for a hustings. They also held a mock election and you can read the results below.

This morning I attended Year 13's final assembly. It was a lovely event with many memories shared and a real sense of recognition of the support and opportunities the students have had over the last seven years or two years. Their costumes added a lot of humour to the occasion and I was very moved by their obvious affection for staff and fellow students. Year 13 is a special year group for me as they were my first year 7s when I took up the Headship in 2010. I wish them every success in the summer and I hope that they will go on to lead fulfilling lives. They are a very talented cohort and I fully anticipate hearing great things about many of them in the future.

We wish all our Muslim families a happy Ramadan, starting on Saturday. Also that day, our KS3 French trip begins and we hope all students taking part have a wonderful time. I am sure all our students are looking forward to the half-term break which is a good opportunity to rest, relax and prepare for the final weeks of the year.

Wishing all of you a lovely half-term and we look forward to seeing you again at 8.35am on Monday 5th June.

Amendments to North Wing and Twyford Gate Opening Times – Senior Leadership Team

We are committed to a constant review of the security of our site and as a result of a recent safeguarding review, we have taken the decision to minimise access to North Wing and to South Wing via Twyford Avenue at various points during the school day.

This will mean the following adjustments will be made from **Monday 4th June**:

North Wing Access – Creighton Avenue

1. The gate on Creighton Avenue will be opened by a member of staff at 8.10am every morning. The gate will be supervised by duty staff until 8.35am when it will be secured. Students will have no access to North Wing after 8.35am so any that do arrive late will need to get in to school via South Wing. Please be reminded that the first buzzer sounds at 8.30am so all students should be on site by then.
2. The gate will be open in the afternoon from 3.20pm – 3.35pm. Students wishing to leave the site via the Creighton Gate will be able to do so between these times. After 3.35pm the gate will be closed and students will then need to leave the school site via South Wing.
3. Sixth Form students will not be able to access or leave the school from the Creighton Avenue gate unless at the above times. Sixth form students wishing to come and go during the course of the day will be able to use their passes at the South Wing gate but they will not work on the North Wing gate.
4. Any scheduled meetings with parents and carers will all take place in South Wing from Monday 4th June. All visitors who have appointments and wish to come onto site should do so from the South Wing Gate.

- Students who need to leave from North Wing if they are unwell during the course of the school day will still be able to do so as we have a welfare officer in that wing who will facilitate the collection of students if necessary. However, should parents wish to collect students to take them off site for scheduled appointments then they will need to meet them in South Wing.

Twyford Avenue Gate Access

- The gate on Twyford Avenue will be opened by a member of staff at 8.10am every morning. The gate will be supervised by duty staff until 8.35am when it will be secured. Students will have no access via this gate after 8.35am so any that do arrive late will need to get in to school via South Wing main entrance. Please be reminded that the first buzzer sounds at 8.30am so all students should be on site by then.
- Twyford Avenue gate will be open in the afternoon from 3.20pm – 3.35pm. Students wishing to leave the site via this gate will be able to do so between these times. After 3.35pm the gate will be closed and students will then need to leave the school site via South Wing main entrance.

We have made the above adjustments to ensure that our site is as secure as we can possibly make it for our students but have tried to do so to cause minimum disruption to the routines of those who use these gates as their point of access at the beginning and end of the school day. We would like to thank parents/carers and students for their understanding as we make these necessary adjustments.

Student Wellbeing Evening: Tuesday 6th June 6.30pm in North Wing Hall – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

We will be welcoming Allison Havey and Deana Puccio, local mums and authors of what the Independent Online called one of the Top 10 Parent Books of 2016, 'Sex, Likes & Social Media, Talking To Our Teens In The Digital Age'. Offering practical tips and guidance, they will be speaking about how to help our children negotiate a very complex world growing up as digital natives. They will address the laws on sexual assault, consent, how hardcore pornography is affecting relationships and expectations, sexting, alcohol, and personal safety when it comes to dating, parties, and traveling on public transport.

We would like to ask parents to register their interest in attending this event by emailing our events email address, events@fortismere.org.uk. We hope to see as many of our parents at this important event as possible.

Late Start: Wednesday 7th June (Year 9 Deep Learning Conversations) – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

A reminder that lessons will start at 10.20am (Period 2) on Wednesday 7th June to allow time for the Year 9 Deep Learning Conversation meetings. Parents and carers with children in Year 9 will be receiving their appointment times in the next few days. Students should not arrive on site before 10am that morning.

Music Notes – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

Extra-curricular activities (bring a packed lunch please!):

- Year 7-8 Choir*
 - Fridays 12.30-1pm in Mu1
 - New and regular members welcome!

2. Orchestra

- Mondays, after half-term (starting first Monday back): 3.30-4pm
- Music Hall

3. *Fortitude* – any bands or vocalists who want to perform to the crowds??? If you are free between 2.15pm and 3.15pm on Saturday 1st July, then let me know what you could perform and I will take a listen.

GCSE Art Exhibition – Ms Powell, Head of Art

Congratulations to all GCSE Art and Photography students for a fantastic exhibition last week. The moderator and chief examiner for the region came on Monday and were overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of the work displayed. See a selection of the work on the department flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortismereartdepartment/albums/72157681023137884>



Students should have collected their work by now. Please contact the relevant Art teacher if this has not been possible.

A reminder that our A-Level Art Exhibition is on the 22nd June. Here is a link to the work from last year to give you a taste: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortismereartdepartment/albums/72157670269053976>

General Election Hustings Event for the Sixth Form – Mr A Johnson, Teacher of History & Politics

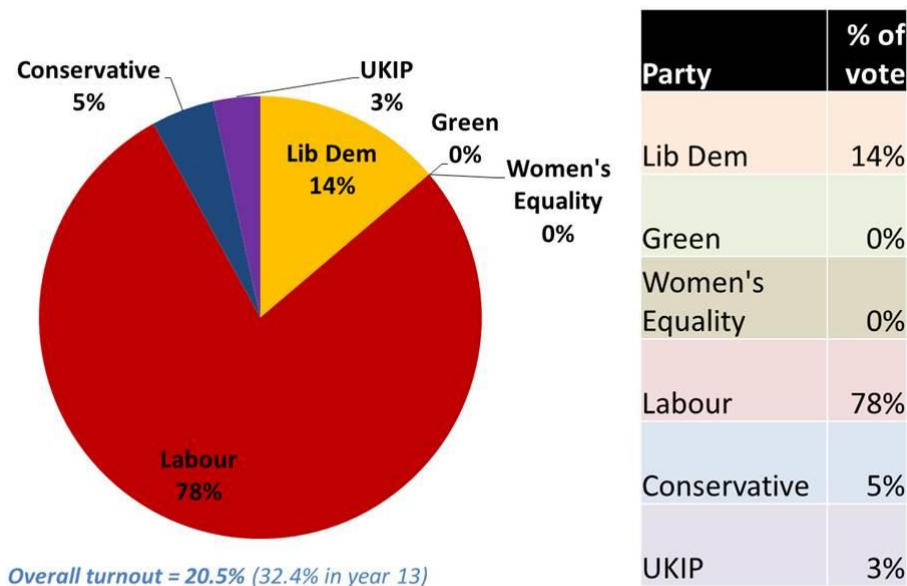
Prospective parliamentary candidates for the three major parties – Catherine West (Labour), Dawn Barnes (Liberal Democrat) and Emma Lane (Conservative) – attended a hustings event at Fortismere this Thursday. The event comprised of a lively discussion followed by questions from the audience. Thanks to all staff and students that attended.



Sixth Form Mock Election Result – Mr A Johnson

A mock election was held in the Sixth Form yesterday. The Labour Party won the election, garnering 78% of the vote. The Liberal Democrats came second with 14%.

Full results below.



Calling GCSE and A-Level Art Students – Ms Powell

The ArtsDepot’s annual Open Exhibition is now accepting submissions! They have a Young Artist prize (for ages 13 -19), alongside two prizes for Barnet-based artists, and a general ArtsDepot Open Prize. As the exhibition is July – September, GCSE and/or A Level students can submit any final exam pieces or coursework. The deadline for submissions is Monday 12th June.

Please speak to your Art teacher for more information or email Ms Powell (mpowell@fortismere.org.uk)

Ephesus: Rainbow Run for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice – Ms Williams, Head of Ephesus

Ephesus have supported Noah's Ark for a few years now and we have raised lots of money from various charity events. This summer we are entering the Rainbow Run again and we hope to beat our target of £500!

The Rainbow Run is a 5k fun run where you get covered from head to toe in coloured powders. We have entered before and found it was lots of fun. You can walk, run or skip the race along with friends and family.

It takes place at Allianz Park on Sunday 26th June. To register please visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk/events

It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible for such a great cause. Our fundraising page will be up soon - watch this space...

Do let me know if you enter!



Tickets for Schools: 'Kinky Boots' Offer – Ms Keogh

Tickets for Schools have a special offer on theatre tickets for the popular show, Kinky Boots.

£69.50 tickets are reduced to £32.50 which includes the £5.00 donation to the FSA, valid Monday - Wednesday performances until 7th June (excluding half-term). Bookable using the link below:

<http://tickets4schools.com/fortismere-school>

The show comes highly recommended and has something for everyone!

Careers Information – Ms Phillips, Careers Advisor

I am now coordinating appointments for Year 10 students to talk over potential career plans. It is really important that parents/carers attend these appointments to help acquaint themselves with the appropriate next steps their son/daughter should be exploring concerning post-16 progression.

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! In particular, there is the latest information on University Taster Days and applications are now open for Mercedes-Benz apprenticeships.

Reminders from the Admin Team

Student Absences/Appointment: please remember to report your child's absence due to sickness before 8.35am by calling 020 8365 4429 or email attendance@fortismere.org.uk and copy in your child's Form Tutor. (Please note that absence known in advance should be made via the Leave of Absence request form, available on our [website](#)).

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.

Access to Site: to support our Safeguarding, parents/carers/visitors will not be allowed onto the school site unless they have an appointment about which the office has been informed in advance.

From the Library

Phoenix by our very own Patron of Reading, S F Said, has been chosen by BookTrust as one of this year's BookBuzz books. Once again, and thanks to the FSA, our new Year 7s will be able to select a free book as a welcome present to Fortismere. Here's SF talking about the scheme <http://bit.ly/2rXspt8>

On Friday 19th May, 8X4 spent a couple of hours at Muswell Hill Library in the company of (Andy) Prentice and (Jonathan) Weil, co-authors of the brilliant Books of Pandemonium. Members of the class donned different headgear and a story was made up around the characters we thought they were. We ended up with a totally bonkers and very imaginative tale about a Liverpoolian transgender alien called Axl, his duck sidekick, Steve, and an evil villain by the name of Panos. By using Panos' greatest fear, curry, against him Axl was eventually able to achieve his greatest ambition – to own a wine cellar. Or something. This hilarious event was part of the first of our YA Shot visits to Muswell Hill Library (<http://yashot.co.uk/> and see last week's Newsletter); we'd like to thank the staff of the library for their generous welcome and lovely space.

162 reviews on our Carnegie Shadowing site <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW> - so proud!

This is the Place – a poem to Manchester by Tony Walsh aka Longfella <http://bit.ly/2qeaZfr>

Recommended Read of the Week

I was lucky to be able to pick a pre-publication copy of *Tender Earth*, the latest book by our previous Patron of Reading Sita Brahmachari <http://bit.ly/2qZnjPt> It's a wonderful coming of age story that promotes the idea of inclusion at all levels, and is endorsed by Amnesty International. Powerful, enlightening and a cracking read.

FSA News

Fortitude on Saturday 1st July, 12 – 6pm

Would you like to get involved in helping to organise Fortitude this year? You will not have to come to any meetings!! This is an additional request, and not a call-out at the moment for volunteers to help on the day (that will start after half-term!).

We want Fortitude to be bigger and better than previous years. This means we want to have more going on that children and adults can enjoy.

Parents have kindly come forward and agreed to help organise 3 of the stalls for the day, however there are still some more stalls we'd like to have, see below. Or perhaps you have an idea of something else you'd like to organise on the day – we are very open to ideas.

It's all about having fun and raising money!

- ~~The Bottle Tombola~~
- ~~The Second Hand Clothes Stall (clothes for teenagers and Vintage Clothes for Adults)~~
- A Water Gun Game
- The Wang A Welly Competition
- ~~Throw a Sponge at a Teacher~~
- A 'graffiti wall'
- A Coconut Shy
- The Plant Stall

Please get in touch with Kirsty at markskirsty@gmail.com if you want to be involved.

ONLY together we can make this a Great Day!

Car Boot Sale: Sunday 18th June 11am – 3pm

Save the date! It'll be in South Wing Car Park and cars cost £15.

If you are interested in participating please email Maria at mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your space.



Contact the school

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk