



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 13/03/17 Wk 2

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week was very much 'business as usual' at Fortismere, although, as you will read below, our KS5 Spanish students had a fantastic time in Andalucia. My thanks go to the Modern Languages team for organising such an enriching visit to this historic part of Spain.

It was good to see many of you at the Year 8 X Bank Parents' Evening on Tuesday and I look forward to seeing Y Bank parents/carers on 21st March.

Thank you to our followers on Twitter (@Fortismere_Sch) for supporting our participation in the Association of School and College Leaders' campaign about funding cuts to education. In my experience, the threat to schools' funding has never been greater, and whilst we want to focus all our efforts on supporting students, we are, unfortunately, in a position where we also need to lobby politicians for support. We are fortunate, at Fortismere, to have been able to offer not only excellent teaching but also a wide variety of other activities which add value to our students' education. Like most schools, however, we now face difficult choices, and even the most basic tools of our 'trade' are at risk. It is for that reason that we are reluctantly asking parents/carers to make a financial contribution. As explained in the letter we sent you all at the start of this term, whether or not you feel able to make a donation will certainly not affect the way in which your son or daughter is treated. To be honest, as a Headteacher, I feel some discomfort in even asking you for this kind of help, but these really are unique times. Becoming more vocal in the political arena, through campaigns like the ASCL's, is also now a necessity. Please be assured that we are doing our utmost to secure the funding we need to ensure that Fortismere's students receive the school experience that they deserve.

Have a good weekend.

Late Start: Thursday 16th March – Mr Ward

Lessons will start at 10.20am (Period 2) on Thursday 16th March, to allow time for the Year 11 Deep Learning Conversations. Please ensure that your child does not come on to the school site before 10am.

Year 8 Y Bank Parents' Evening – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

The Parents' Evening for 8Y classes is on Tuesday 21st March in South Wing. We look forward to seeing parents and carers with their children then.

International Women's Day Celebration – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

Monday 20th March, 7.30pm in North Wing Hall

An evening celebrating the achievements of women and girls around the world has been organised by Fortismere's Year 11 girls. The evening will include speeches, art exhibits, poetry and music. Some of the guest speakers contributing to the evening are Bafta award-winning actress and writer Rebecca Front, Shadow Foreign Minister Catherine West MP and sociologist and writer Ann Oakley. The charity that will benefit from this event is *Women for Women International* and representatives will be available on the evening to give information about their incredible work.

This promises to be a very unique and inspiring evening. Tickets will be available on ParentMail from Monday 13th March. Prices: £3.50 adult and £2.50 child.

Performance Opportunity for Year 10-13 Students – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

Does your child want to perform at the Roundhouse? Are they in Years 10-13? See attached poster for information about an exciting opportunity!

Year 8 Girls' 6-a-Side Football – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls' 6-a-Side football team who made it to the semi-finals last Friday in the Premier League Schools Competition at Tottenham's training ground. They all played so well and were unfortunate to lose, 1-0, to Ashmole School. There were 21 schools competing from local boroughs.



Modern Languages Trip to Granada & Sevilla - Ms Valdés, Teacher of Modern Languages

Last week the ML department went to Spain with a group of KS5 students. We spent 5 days in Andalucia: 3 days in Granada and 2 days in Sevilla. It was a great opportunity for these students to immerse themselves in the language and culture in an authentic way.

The students benefitted from a wide range of visits to locations such as La Alhambra, El Albaicín, La Catedral de Granada y La Catedral de Sevilla, La Giralda, La Plaza de España y La Plaza de Toros Real Maestranza. These visits are of huge value as they provide a historical and cultural awareness of the subject. In addition to these visits, the students watched a play called *La Cervantina*, which is an adaptation of some of the main plays by the great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes. They also watched a Flamenco Show in which I briefly participated, much to their surprise! We also had a guided tour with actors to learn more about Federico Garcia Lorca, a famous writer from Granada.

The students showed great enthusiasm through the trip despite the long walking distances and the overdose of information in Spanish. They greatly enjoyed the sunny weather and even experienced 2 rainy days without complaining! They were a credit to the school and made all of us really proud.



Whole group Picture in La Plaza de España
in Sevilla



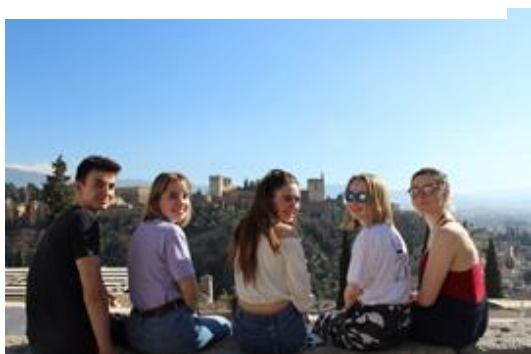
Whole group picture with La Alhambra as
background



In front of La Catedral de Granada



During the Flamenco show



Year 13s with La Alhambra in the background



Visit to La Plaza de Toros Real Maestranza en Sevilla

Esther Morgan, Year 10 – Ms Jackson, Head of Olympia

Huge congratulations to Esther Morgan who is representing the U15 Welsh National Football team. She has already played twice in the Starting 11. We are so proud of all her hard work and dedication and wish her every success in her upcoming fixtures!



Voluntary Contributions Update – Ms Keogh, Business Manager

As you will be aware, last term we asked parents/carers to consider making a voluntary contribution to complement the school's budget which is under significant pressure from increased costs and the National Funding Formula. You will have received a letter about this, via ParentMail, in January and it is available on our [website](#), in case any parent/carer wishes to make a donation.

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! In particular, you might be interested in the following:

- Studying abroad, the **Student World Fair** takes place at the Emirates Stadium on 18th March.
- Tech City College is celebrating **STEM Fest** on 15th March.
- **London Higher Education Exhibition** at ExCel on 27th and 28th March
- **Apprenticeships** with major retailer, Arcadia
- **Pre-Medical Summer Placements**

Full details of all these events, and more, can be found on our [website](#).

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

Our Patron of Reading, SF Said, spent another great afternoon with our Year 7s on World Book Day. He helped us launch our Fortismere Reading Champions competition which was so successful last year by talking with the students about all the different elements that make a book enjoyable, riveting, exciting and un-put-downable! This is going to help them with the presentations that every one of them will be doing about a book that they have loved. During library lessons over the next couple of weeks, each student will be given a long and varied reading list from which they must choose at least two books to read. They will be given the opportunity to prepare a little something to convince the rest of the class that their book is the one that everyone should read – last year we had some wonderfully original presentations that included stop-motion photography, iPhone films, powerpoints and posters. On 29th June, we will be holding a special evening chaired by SF where the winning students will attempt to convince the invited audience that their book should be Fortismere's Favourite 2017. Exciting bookish times ahead! Take a look at SF's blog <http://bit.ly/2m2dJ8z> which describes our WBD afternoon in more detail and which has some excellent hints and tips for our students. He's always happy to answer questions via the comments link.

Joffre White is an author and reading motivator and we were delighted to welcome him to Fortismere library on Tuesday 7th March. He worked with two Year 7 classes on creative writing, getting them to build mind maps around a theme and showing them how an imaginative and readable story can evolve from linking a few words together. One student even produced 171 words on her two mind maps, breaking Joffre's

record! They were astounded to discover that, although only aged 11/12, their lives had already produced a myriad of experiences that they could use in their writing (including standing in fresh dog poo with bare feet – there's always one...) Joffre also met two Year 8 classes and gave an inspirational talk on how he hated reading, how his weird and wonderful life gave him a wealth of ideas and how he got to love books. A fairly "excitable" group of over 50 Year 8s settled very quickly once he started talking. In previous lives Joffre was trained by his father to perform in a circus and was also a professional rock musician – so he is a true performer (despite laryngitis) and entertained and inspired our students – lots of laughter in the library that day!

The next meeting of our parent/staff reading group, CoverUp, is Thursday 16th March, 7pm in the library, when we'll be talking about *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* by Max Porter. As always, everyone welcome!

The shortlist for the Carnegie Award will be announced on 16th March, and our prestigious Carnegie Shadowing Group for Year 8 students will be starting the following week. Students will be hearing about the group in their English lessons. See Recommended Reads for the longlist.

Recommended Read(s) of the Week

The Carnegie longlist of 20 phenomenal books is now out. Take a look for inspiration <http://bit.ly/2kVuNj>. If you want a glorious book to keep and stroke and admire, or give as a gift, Brian Selznick's *The Marvels* is the book for you. Part of the story is told through pictures, the rest through words and it is a ... marvel.

FSA News

Quiz Night Feedback

Many thanks to all the parents who came along to Saturday's quiz – we received some great feedback but couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks to Pauline Eyre for the quiz design and compering, students, Gareth Morgan and Kezhé Julia-Temir for helping with tech support, and Sola*Kitchens for sponsoring the event.

We raised over £5000 for the school!!

Fortismere Food Market



It's happening!! Muswell Hill is getting its own food market!

We hope that it is a real winner with the locals and will continue to grow each week with the support of the community.

Proceeds from the market will go to the FSA and ultimately the students.

If you wish to have a stall or know someone who does please contact stall4alluk@gmail.com. Updated information about stalls can be found on the FSA website: www.fortismereschoolassociation.com



We are delighted to say that Paul James "Mackenzie" Crook will be our guest to open the new market on Sunday 19th March. Mackenzie is an actor, director, comedian and Bafta-winning writer, best known for playing Gareth in *The Office*, Ragetti in *The Pirates of the Caribbean* and Orell in *Game of Thrones*. He is also the creator and star of BBC Four's *Detectorists*. He will be cutting the ribbon to open the market at the Tetherdown entrance to Fortismere at 11am.



Outdoor Movie Night – Grease Singalong!

The word is out! It's Grease Singalong, on the field! Tickets can be bought online from today – and from the school library from next Wednesday.



is the word
GREASE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Gates open 7.00pm for a GREASE Karaoke. Film starts at 8.30pm
SAT 22ND OF APRIL on FORTISMERE SCHOOL FIELD
 Popcorn with every ticket! Bar, hot chocolate, sweets and food stalls.
Bring your lawn chairs, blankets. VIP inflatable seats to hire on the night.
PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED GUY AND GAL
ENTRANCE £7 on the gate. Free for under 5's. £5 in advance from the library and
 online: www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

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