



# Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 03/10/16 Wk 1

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## Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, we hosted and co-delivered the first session of an exciting training course for senior leaders in schools. We are members of the New River Teaching Alliance which is a group of outstanding schools in Haringey, chosen by the Department for Education as Teaching Schools. Based on our excellent track record, we play a leading role in the training and professional development of school staff. Fortismere's strategic priority within the Alliance is Research and Development, and we will be delivering training to a cohort of aspiring senior leaders throughout the year. This provides a great opportunity to share best practice, to promote the excellent work of our school community and to ensure that we are at the cutting-edge of education provision.

I enjoyed delivering three College assemblies this week to update students on key focus points for the year ahead, and to celebrate our exam results and wider achievements.

I also gave my President's address to the Fortismere School Association (FSA). The FSA is a dedicated group of parents/carers who organise a fantastic range of events and activities for the school – all to raise much-needed funds for the little 'extras' that enhance student life. They have fun doing it too! At the moment, we have a core group of five parents/carers who do everything on the FSA, which I'm sure you will agree is a little unfair since the whole school community benefits. We would all appreciate it if more of you could spare some time to help; the more parents/carers that get involved, the more evenly the effort will be spread, the more events we can run and the more money will be raised for students. Please contact Kirsty Marks, if you would like to find out more or can offer some help (details below).

Coming up next week, we have our Year 7 Deep Learning Conversations on Friday afternoon (note the early closure for all other years that day). For parents/carers that are new to Fortismere, these short but focused appointments are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, not just academically, but generally. You will be meeting with your child's tutor and, for Year 7 parent/carers in particular, it is a time to see how the first month at Fortismere has gone. I hope you find the conversations useful. Don't forget, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance (all contact details can be found on the Contact Us section of our website).

In the meantime, I'd like to wish you all a very nice weekend. To our Jewish families, we wish you a very happy New Year!

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## Early Closure Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Late Start Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

Confirmation that school will finish with dismissal at 2:15pm next Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, to allow time for the Year 7 Deep Learning Conversations.

In addition, a reminder that school will start with Period 2 at 10:20am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October to allow for the Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations. Students should not arrive on site before 10am. Appointment times for parents and carers with children in Year 8 will follow early in the week.

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### **Non-Registration Texts – Ms Greenwood, Administrator responsible for ParentMail**

Please be aware that PMX ParentMail does not currently have the facility to tell you which of your children we are texting you about for Non Registration at the start of the school day. We appreciate that this is frustrating and the ParentMail technical team are working on an update to ensure that this is possible, but that may take a while. In the meantime, there are two ways you can find out which child the message relates to:

- if you have downloaded the PMX App, your child's name will be in the subject heading of the message.
- you can log into PMX ParentMail, click into SMS and you will see the message history. Click on the message you are concerned about and it will say 'Message sent to... regarding...' – the name of the specific child will be shown there.

If you are still unsure or concerned, please call us to determine which child it is that you are being texted about.

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### **Communications Working Group – Wendy Sloane, Parent-Governor**

The Communications Working Group (made up of several Governors and staff) met again recently and has put together an Action Plan for discussion at the next Governing Body Meeting in November. The aim of the group is to promote good communication throughout the school community. We will keep you updated.

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### **Piano Concert: Weds 5 October, Music Concert Hall 6.30-8pm, North Wing – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music**

Any pianists that want to perform in this informal event next Wednesday evening, please email [sogilby@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:sogilby@fortismere.org.uk), if you haven't already. Any level, any year group, any style of piano solo piece. Tickets are available on the door: £3 adults and £1 children. Look forward to seeing you there!

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### **Ephesus Charity Event, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – Ms Mangan, Head of Ephesus College (Acting)**

The Ephesus Student Ambassadors are holding a "Crossbar Challenge" near the sports hall next Friday and need you to participate! There are prizes up for grabs and all the proceeds will go to our College charity, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. Please bring some change with you to school on Friday so that you can participate! Thank you.

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### **October Sports Fixtures – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE**

Please find attached the October Sports Fixtures list. This is also available on the website.

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### **'The Shard' Rehearsals – Ms Turner, Teacher of Drama**

I just wanted to thank all the students who auditioned for "The Shard". I have included everyone in the cast (all 101 students!). Rehearsals start this week and a ParentMail has gone out with the script, rehearsal timetable and contract. Please return the slip as soon as possible. If anyone involved hasn't received the information please could you contact me on [dturner@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:dturner@fortismere.org.uk).

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### **New Views – Ms Turner**

All students who submitted writing this week are confirmed as accepted into New Views. More information will be emailed after this weekend.

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### **Haringey Cross Country Running Success – Mr Cox, Head of PE**

Congratulations to the following boys who won the Haringey Cross Country Race on Tuesday 20th September:

Alfie Zak  
Bryn Williams  
Lucas Porter  
Lucas Maier  
Joseph Imam  
Ethan Raine-Dunk  
Ishaan Sampat  
J'Vantai Duberry



A special mention goes to Alfie and Bryn for winning their age groups.

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### **UK University Search Fair – Ms Cunningham, Acting Deputy Director of Sixth Form**

Year 12 students spent this morning at The UK University Search Fair at The Emirates Stadium. They've been chatting to university representatives, attending seminars and investigating the world of opportunities available to them in the future.



## Lost Property – Admin Team

We have already accumulated a lot of lost property so far this term. It really helps if name tags can be attached to clothing (especially coats/jumpers/PE kit, which often get mislaid) – we can usually reunite items with their owner in that case!

Please do ask your child to pop into SW or NW offices to check lost property on a regular basis. We will send out another reminder just before half-term, and anything that has not been collected then will be disposed of. Thank you.

## From the Library

I get quite a few parents telling me that their children won't read! If they like football/sport, take a look at the New Star Soccer G-Story app (currently 79p) <http://the2steves.net/g-story/> It is personalised, and not only do the readers read the story, they also make moral choices to influence the outcomes of the story.

Sad face time. Too many books are being returned to the library in bad condition, soaked, covered in food (and worse?), torn, drawn on, corners turned down etc. We can cope with wear and tear, but when it is obvious that a book has not been cared for we will now have to consider charging for replacements. May we suggest that backpacks include plastic bags (prevents rain damage) and request that bottles of water in bags are tightly sealed? Ditto DVDs – the state of some returns suggest they have been used as coasters, frisbees and dinner plates.

On Monday afternoon, we will be donating all cake containers left from our Mammoth Cake Sale (final total paid in £813 – smiley face time) to the Food Tech department. If you still have a tin/tray/plate/box that you want back, collect it now!

## Recommended Read of the Week

A YA (Young Adult) contemporary classic this week. Written 15 years ago, Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses* explores the futility of prejudice from an interesting perspective. A must read for all lovers of dystopian fiction; we also have the new graphic novel version.

## FSA News

Thank you to everyone who came along to our AGM on Wednesday this week.

The new people who came along expressed their surprise that there are so few people involved in the running of the FSA given that the school is so big (Fortismere has around 1,500 families and the FSA just has around 10 parents who regularly come along and help plan and make the events happen) and they thought it was worth us reminding you all!

If you feel that you can help out, 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](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com). Please don't assume we have loads of volunteers already! There are just a few of us on the team and can be very stretched, particularly when we have big events like Fireworks Nigh to manage, so please volunteer to help plan things as well as on the day.

It has never been more important to help the school when funding is so tight. The school site is wonderful and large, but Mrs Glass has told us how much it costs to keep it running (eg draining the field last year cost around £125,000). The school doesn't receive more funds from the Borough because it's bigger and the infrastructure is always in need of updating. Last year FSA funding meant that, for example, the Science Labs could be updated with new microscopes (the previous ones were 12 years old) and the DT Lab could have more than one 3D Printer for all the kids to use.

We all want our kids to have the best learning environment possible and we all have a responsibility to help out and make that happen. So please do get involved.

### How can you help?

- Have a Martyn Gerrard estate agent board outside your house advertising the Fireworks Night. Email [mirrieclark@gmail.com](mailto:mirrieclark@gmail.com) if you can help with this ASAP;
- Can you set up a website for us? We've had to close our current ning website due to high licence costs - so we desperately need some expert help managing all our online assets (we must have some web genius parents out there amongst the 1,500?);
- Volunteer with a friend to help out on the Committee (as Vice Chair(s) or just come along to a meeting);
- Volunteer to help us with one of the things we manage - eg be our PR liaison, or catering stalls person - do you have a skill that can help us?
- You and some friends could 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't help out in any of these ways, please think about helping the FSA with a regular (or one off) donation. Even £10 each month really massively helps. Just fill in the easy online form at: <http://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool>

If you can help in any of the ways above please, please, please, please get in touch with Kirsty at [markskirsty@gmail.com](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com)

### Up and Coming Events:

#### Fireworks Planning Meeting, Wednesday 11th October, 7pm

Please join us at our next Fireworks and Annual Programme planning meeting. It starts at 7pm in 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.

Meet us at the **Bids Meetings** on 20th October to meet the teachers and then 1st November to allocate the funding.

**Fireworks on the Fortismere Field on Thursday 3rd November:** gates open at 6pm, advance tickets £5 now available in the library or online at <http://www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com/>.

Full AGM minutes will be published next week and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. In the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful weekend!

### FSA Team

[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 [office@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk)