

Newsletter for Parents and Carers



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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Welcome back to another half-term! Hope you all had a good break – well-deserved after such a busy few months. It looks like the coming months are going to be equally as busy! Some of our students are starting their exams this coming week (Year 11 Music practicals, Year 12 Drama performances), and this will slowly increase as we approach GCSE time after Easter.

There are lots of school trips to look forward to including the KS5 Spanish trip, Classics Trip to Athens and Modern Languages trip to China, as well as day trips to art galleries, the theatre and other venues. We'll be packing a lot in!

Finally, I must mention our alumnus, singer/songwriter Michael Kiwanuka, who was nominated for British Album of the Year and British Male Solo Artist at this week's Brits Awards! Unfortunately, he lost out to David Bowie but to be nominated alongside him is a huge achievement in itself. Michael has spoken fondly of his time at Fortismere and we are all delighted to see his talent flourishing.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Message from Mark Chapman, Chair of Governors

As we highlighted before half term, we have upcoming vacancies for three parent governors. Information about the role, and the process by which Parent Governors are appointed will be sent to all parents/carers by ParentMail on Monday 27th February. The process will be run by our Clerk, Sam Murray, and nominations need to be placed with her by Friday, 10th March at 5pm.

We welcome applications from any parent/carer and from all parts of the community, however at this time we would particularly like to add to our skills in legal, finance, fundraising (corporate and charitable sources) and premises matters (estate management, procurement and project/contractor management).

Please get in touch if you're considering the role, and you'd like to speak to a governor or the clerk beforehand. Contact details will be in the documentation to be circulated on Monday.

Late Start: Tuesday 28th February 2017 – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

Owing to the Year 10 Deep Learning Conversations on Tuesday 28th February, school will start at 10.20am promptly for all other years.

Local Residents' Driveways – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

We have received a number of complaints from local residents about the use of their driveways for parents and carers dropping off their children at Fortismere. Please could parents and carers ensure that driveways are not used or blocked in this way. We would also encourage our students to walk to school; Fortismere is, after all, the proud recipient of a bronze award for our Travel Plan promoting walking to school.

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 attached to this edition of the Newsletter, in case any parent/carer wishes to make a donation.

N/W and S/W Canteens: Lunchtime Service – Ms Keogh

To ensure that students get to lessons in a timely way, N/W and S/W canteens will be closed to service from 1pm. Students will be able to remain in the canteens to eat their lunch until the end of break; however, there will be no service provision after 1pm. This arrangement is effective from Monday 27th February 2017.

Display Boards at School – Mr Holden, Teacher of Art & Photography

We are in the process of creating a number of display boards that will celebrate the achievements of our students outside of school. We have an amazing student body and feel it is important to celebrate not just their academic accomplishments but other areas of success in their lives. If you feel your child has any achievements that they would like to have on show please could you email me with details and images that can then be placed on display: gholden@fortismere.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Final Music GCSE Practical Exams – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

These exams, comprising 30% of the final mark, take place all next week in the Music Department. Students have access to the timetable on the student imacs/shared resources.

A reminder for students to:

1. Provide a labelled copy of both solo and ensemble music to Ms Ogilby before the exam, and additional copies for the accompanist.
2. Arrive 15 minutes before the exam time to prepare/warm up
3. Inform Ms Ogilby of any changes/illness via email as soon as possible: sogilby@fortismere.org.uk
4. Bring all necessary equipment including spare strings, guitar picks, capos, reeds etc.

Thank you and good luck to all students!

Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies Exam Performance Evening – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

This is taking place on Tuesday 28th February at 6pm in North Wing Hall. Some performances may contain adult themes and are recommended for Year 11 and upwards. Tickets are £4 and are non-refundable - available on ParentMail now!

'Fortisbucks' Hot Drinks Sale – Mrs Prinsley, Teacher of Wellbeing & PSHE Co-ordinator

Olympia Student Ambassadors are implementing the 'Fortisbucks' hot drinks sale with help from other Student Ambassadors. This is part of the Borough-wide Team London Young Leaders project with Tetherdown Primary and Gladesmore. The theme of our project is to raise awareness of the effects of bullying on mental health. All profits will go to Young Minds, a charity focused on improving the wellbeing of young people.

The sale will take place from Tuesday 28th February to Thursday 2nd March at lunchtime in North Wing Foyer. Prices start from £1. Thank you for your support.

Sports Fixtures – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE

The Sports Fixtures list for March is now available on the [website](#).

Information Pods – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

We have decided not to continue with our contract for the Information Pods (in North and South Wings) and they are therefore now out of commission. Information will be shared through other means.

Philosophy Trip to the New College of the Humanities – Mr Aldridge, Head of Philosophy

Our Year 12 and 13 Philosophy students spent Wednesday at The New College of the Humanities (NCH), a London university. The day was arranged exclusively for Fortismere – we were personally invited by Master of the College, Professor AC Grayling, in recognition of the department's continued success. The students attended two lectures and a seminar, and had the chance to quiz Professor Grayling on a number of topics, ranging from the existence of God to the meaning of meaning. He was particularly impressed by the challenging questions from Erika, Kafui, and Layla, and the College have invited us back next year to continue the debate!



Photo – Oscar Davison, Casey Wachman, Helga Braja, Professor Grayling, Grace Volante, Ms Arrowsmith, Robbie Campbell, Kerim Tebira.

Girls' Under 13 Cricket – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to the Under 13 Cricket Team who came 3rd in the County Cricket Finals last Tuesday. Well done girls!



Sixth Form History Trip to New York – Ms Common, Head of History

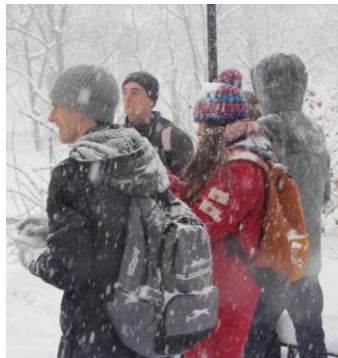
The week before half term saw the History Department taking 60 Year 12 and 13 students to New York. It was a fantastic chance for the students to deepen their understanding of American political, social, and diplomatic history, supporting their A-Level coursework unit on American history between the 1860s and 1990s.

The students benefitted from a wide range of visits to locations such as the Empire State Building, the Museum of Finance, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York City Hall, and the City Museum of New York, each of which supported one of the possible A-Level coursework questions. In addition to this, students attended a showing of *A Bronx Tale* on Broadway and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where they were joined by a small group of American students from a high school in the Bronx. A real highlight of the trip for both the students and the teachers was the visit to the UN headquarters, where the Deputy Permanent Representative from the UK, Ambassador Peter Wilson, spoke to our students about the history of the UN and Britain's involvement in it up to the present day.

The students maintained good humour and engagement through jetlag, 60 miles of walking across the five days, cold weather, and a record snowfall on our second day resulting in the cancellation of our planned visit to the Bronx secondary school and the Tenement Museum. As a group and as individuals, the students on the trip were a credit to the school. We hope that every student enjoyed the trip and found that it provided useful context for their A-Level studies.



On a walking tour of Manhattan – Bowling Green Park and Wall Street.



Battery Park in the snow storm.



Fortismere Students with Ambassador Wilson in the lobby of the UN.



With the American students in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fair Funding For Schools: Local Meeting for Parents of Children at Haringey Schools Tuesday 28th February at 7.30pm Park View School

Parents of Fortismere students are invited to attend the above meeting (more details in attached leaflet) which is due to take next week at Park View School. We know that many of our parents have concerns about cuts to school budgets and that many of you will be keen to attend this event.

Facilities and Lettings – Ms Ioannou, Finance Officer

We offer a variety of facilities for hire including an Astroturf pitch, a gymnasium and classrooms/halls. One of our most popular lettings is the Sports Hall. If you are interested in playing any sports or hosting an event, and are in need of a venue, please email us for further details at Lettings@fortismere.org.uk

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 National Apprenticeship Week, and the Apprenticeship Fair that is taking place at Tottenham Hotspurs' Football Ground on Wednesday 8th March. Full details 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 4423 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

On Tuesday 21st February we were delighted to welcome author Rob Lloyd Jones back to Fortismere. We have always been impressed with the way he engages our students with anecdotes about how he became a reader and writer after initially hating books and being a "Bad Boy" at school (he did stress that no-one should ever steal biscuits from the staff room to give out in the playground, even if they do believe they are Robin Hood). He also talked to packed audiences of Year 7s about his latest series, *Jake Atlas and the Tomb of the Emerald Snake*, taking the students on a treasure hunt through his life and inspiration. In a previous life, Rob was an Egyptologist, and he fascinated us all with information about the ancient world that he had gained during his work in the Valley of the Kings. Those students who bought copies of *Jake*

Atlas need to remember to enter his competition – the winner gets the villain in the next book named after them (and as the film rights to the series have been sold, that's quite a prize!)

It's World Book Day next Thursday 2nd March, and to celebrate, our very own Patron of Reading, S F Said, will be returning to Fortismere to spend time with the whole of Year 7 (X Bank during Period 4 and Y Bank during Period 5). Year 7 and 8 will be receiving WBD vouchers in their library lessons, and we have enough for any other student who would like some money off a book! This year, for the first time, we have bought a selection of the special WBD books and are giving these out to our youngest students – hope they are enjoyed.

Are you the young author of tomorrow? <http://bbc.in/2lbGakA>

Recommended Reads of the Week

The amazingly young and talented Baileys Prize nominee Hannah Kent, author of *Burial Rites*, has once again come up trumps with *The Good People*, set in 19th century Ireland. Broadly based on a true event, it's a riveting tale of superstition and the fairy folk. And for our younger readers, but in the same vein, try *In Darkling Wood* by Emma Carroll.

International Women's Day: Opportunity for Fortismere Mums

We have been asked to pass on this message by one of our parents, in case it is of interest to others.

The 8th March is International Women's Day. To mark this occasion, the investment company BNY Mellon are looking to host a networking seminar on 10th March at their Canary Wharf offices. It is geared towards women who have had a period of extended absence from the Financial Services workplace due to family commitments, and are now considering returning to employment in the City. The seminar will cover a number of topics:

- The changing landscape of recruitment
- New tools for working in a digital and technology-focused environment
- Research methods, approaches and access to information
- Client interaction protocols
- Regulatory environment and the impact of regulation on the industry since the financial crisis
- Corporate culture and conduct

The seminar will run from 10am – 12:30pm and there will be an opportunity to network with speakers and other attendees.

If you are interested to attend, please notify Kate Anderson (kate.anderson@bnymellon.com) or Maria Semedallas (maria.semedallas@bnymellon.com) to register your interest.

FSA News

Quiz Night: Saturday 4th March
Doors from 6.30pm-10pm in North Wing Hall (Creighton Avenue)

We desperately need 2 or 3 raffle donations for the Quiz – please contact: markskirsty@gmail.com if you can help.

The legendary sell-out Fortismere Quiz Night looms, so if you fancy coming along to get your general knowledge tested to THE MAX then get on and book your tickets NOW at: www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

STOP PRESS: hurry and book because we only have 3 tables left available!!!

Hosted by the award-winning comedian Pauline Eyre, tickets are £10 each. Just bring food, we'll supply the paid bar. With the prizes kindly sponsored by our friends at Sola*Kitchens (<http://www.solakitchens.com/>), it's a great night out, with a mixture of question levels so you do not need to be a genius to come and enjoy yourself!

fortismere
School Association

charity number: 801227

sponsored by SOLA*KITCHENS

Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club

Saturday 4th March
Doors 6.30 for 7pm prompt start

North Wing Hall, Creighton Avenue Entrance.

Tickets £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people.

Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team.

Licensed bar. Bring food to share but please don't bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Tickets online from www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com



SOLA*KITCHENS
BESPOKE SCANDINAVIAN INTERIORS

HAMPSTEAD
83 Heath Street
London NW3 6JG
020 3400 4798

FULHAM
121 Mulcaster Road
London SW6 6DQ
020 3004 0896

www.solakitchens.com

Dates for Diaries:

- Wednesday 8th March, 7pm-9pm: Planning for our next fundraising events, South Wing Conference Room
- Saturday 22nd April: Outdoor Movie Night! More information coming soon...

[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk