



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 31/10/16 Wk 2

Contents:

[Message from Mrs Helen Glass](#)

[Absences on Go4Schools](#)

[31st October, Halloween](#)

[School Photos](#)

[Sports Fixtures, November 2016](#)

[Meeting the England Rugby League Squad](#)

[Year 12 Politics Trip to the Houses of Parliament](#)

[Ephesus Charity Fundraising: Crossbar Challenge Winners!](#)

[Reminders from the Admin Team](#)

[Careers Information](#)

[From the Library](#)

[FSA News](#)

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week we held our Year 9 Options Day, designed to assist students with making decisions about which GCSEs they will take. This is a key moment in their school career, when – perhaps for the first time – they start to think about life beyond school, and what their hopes and aspirations are. We work hard to ensure that all Year 9s are clear about the process, what their choices are and where they might lead. My thanks go to the whole team for making the Options Day such a success. This is just the beginning of a really exciting journey, and we are all on hand to assist students and parents/carers, so please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor if you have any questions.

It is hard to believe that half-term is upon us already! The first half of term has flown by and has been packed with fantastic activities, trips, extra-curricular clubs and, of course, a lot of hard work! I hope that all our students have enjoyed the term so far. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 31st October (Week 2).

Absences on Go4Schools – Ms Greenwood, Administrator with responsibility for Attendance

Registers are taken twice each day – once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Consequently, if a student is absent for one full day, it will show up on Go4Schools as two absences (either authorised or unauthorised). Our school systems recognise this and we would only count it as one day off school.

31st October, Halloween – Senior Leadership Team

As you will be aware, on our return from the half term break the date will be October 31st – Halloween. This date rarely happens in school term-time but please can we ask parents to convey to students that they are not allowed to come to school in Fancy Dress on that day. Fortismere still requires that students adhere to the school dress code and any students contravening this / dressed up in Halloween outfits will be asked to change or go home to change. Many thanks for your support in this.

School Photos – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

The school photos will be taking place on Thursday 3rd November – all years will be involved, with the exception of Year 7s who had their photographs taken just before the summer holidays. If you would like a family photograph taken of siblings, please email your Head of College and arrange for the students to go to South Wing Foyer at lunchtime on the 3rd.

Sports Fixtures, November 2016 – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE

The November Sports Fixtures list is attached and is also available on our [website](#).

Meeting the England Rugby League Squad – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Here are a few pictures of our exciting trip to watch the England Rugby League Squad in training before the start of the Four Nations Cup this weekend. The boys that came along had the chance to meet the players afterwards and had a great time.



Year 12 Politics Trip to Parliament, Thursday 20th October – Mr Johnson & Ms Davey, Teachers of Politics

A group of 32 students from Year 12 visited the Houses of Parliament this Thursday. The AS Politics students were lucky enough to sit in on a debate in the House of Commons about the nature of Britain's exit from the European Union, seeing several front-bench celebrities and high profile politicians. Students also met with Catherine West, the local MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, who gave them an insider's perspective on life at Westminster. The students asked many insightful questions and greatly enjoyed the day. We look forward to returning again next year.



Ephesus Charity Fundraising: Crossbar Challenge Winners! – Ms Mangan, Acting Head of Ephesus

Last Friday (14th October), Ephesus ambassadors organised a Crossbar Challenge in aid of Noah's Ark (our College charity). The winners were:

Sophia Pearce
Daniel Lederer
Rocky Morris
Oscar Levy (hit it twice!)

Well done - prizes are in your tutor's pigeon holes!

Careers Information – Ms N Phillips, Careers Advisor

Application form filling sessions will be running for Year 11s every Thursday from 1st December 2016. If you would like your child to attend a session, please complete the attached Consent Form and return it to me. The form is also available on the website.

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!

Reminders from the Admin Team

Absences: please remember to report your child's absence before 8:35am on the 0208 365-4429 before 8:35am or email attendance@fortismere.org.uk

Appointments: please remember to send an email to office@fortismere.org.uk to report your child's appointments. (Doctors, Dentist etc....)

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.

PLEASE NOTE: any items not collected by Tuesday 25th October will be disposed of.

From the Library

An interesting and enlightening article – please read <http://huff.to/2e65Akz>

Our new KS3 historical fiction reading group, Young Quills, has had its first meeting and Mr Stewart and I had a lovely time talking to our enthusiastic students about what they've read and their recommendations. The next meeting is on Friday 11th November and is open to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Just a reminder that the book we will be discussing at the next



[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

CoverUp (parent/staff reading group) meeting is *Chains of Sand* by Jemma Wayne. Hope to see lots of you on Thursday 24th November at 7pm in the library – new members always welcome!

Well done to everyone who entered The Guardian's young critic's competition. The shortlist of four fantastic books has now been announced, and I suggest you read each and every one of them!

<http://bit.ly/2dQKH8K> I know who my winner is!

It's been a great and very busy half term in the library. Our Year 8s are continuing with Accelerated Reader, and we're happy that we've been able to send home congratulatory postcards for students who've already reached their reading targets. Our Year 7s now know how to do quizzes and use the book guide – we've got some very keen readers amongst our newest students which is lovely to see. So, happy half term to everyone – the cooler weather is a perfect excuse to snuggle up with a good book.

Recommended Read of the Week

Matt Dickinson's *Lie Kill Walk Away* was inspired by the (suspicious?) death of scientist David Kelly in 2003. It's a cracking story with short, snappy chapters from different viewpoints that will ensure it's a book you can't put down #readitinoneday! All Recommended Reads are available to borrow from the school library.

FSA News

Bids Evening Feedback

Last night the FSA, parents/carers and teachers met to discuss the bids for the year. Thank you to all the teachers who took the time to give detailed presentations and answers to the questions that came up; Mr Strathdene, Ms Allaway, Ms Overs, Ms Fineberg, Ms Vangucci, Ms Brooks, Mr Corke, Ms Davey, Mr Egunjobi, Mr Rainey, Mr Yakup and Mr Liggett; apologies came from Mrs Ward and Dr Daniels. A special mention also to students Adam Ramgoolie and Billy Krish, Deputy KS4 leaders, for their presentation (**Student Voice**) and the Year 7 students Jennifer Mulligan, Nusayba Ali and Yu-Wei Huang, who missed some of the school's Halloween party to put forward a strong case for equipment for the new Year 7 common room.

This year we have had requests for just over £105k, this is a 50% increase on the amount requested last year, and we only have £55k! Below, an extract from Dr Daniels' (Head of Science) letter, explaining the need for more equipment better than we can explain ourselves:

"... Every item on the bid directly relates to equipment required for the practical assessments activities, which are compulsory under the new specifications. Pupils must have gained experience in a set of predetermined practical activities in order to complete the new 1-9 GCSEs which have been introduced this year and A-level courses which were introduced last year. Without this equipment pupils will be at a disadvantage as they will not have been able to experience for themselves the use of this equipment, instead they will have to see a demo or watch a video clip. The examinations now directly question this knowledge and the very best way for students to engage with the practical is to be able to physically carry them out themselves...."

All the relative documents have been uploaded [here](#) – please take the time and have a read; there are many great ideas/initiatives but sadly it also reflects the situation that most schools are finding themselves in at the moment, and why your help is essential in helping with fundraising events and any projects the FSA would like to organise for this year.

Fireworks Event

Tickets sales are going well; remember it's cheaper to buy before the day - tickets before the event available from the library and online at <http://www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com/> - £5 in advance or £7 on the gate.

Buying from the library is preferable as all the money per ticket will go directly to the school (we pay fees per ticket online).

We still need more volunteers – email markskirsty@gmail.com – if you can come and help on the night.

Mr Egunjobi (Business Manager with responsibility for the site) will be holding the marshal meeting on Monday 31st October; we will need 25 marshals. Can we ask Year 13 parents to speak to their child(ren) and ask them if they could please help on the night - entry to the event will be free and their help will be gratefully appreciated – email markskirsty@gmail.com

Phil the Bag

Donate your unwanted textiles. We have a collection area in South Wing car park - bring your textiles in plastic bags such as bin liners. We accept all kinds of wearable adult and children's clothing, uniforms, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels. We DO NOT accept: Blankets, Bric-a-Brac, Duvets, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Soft toys, Rugs, Carpet, Offcuts of fabric, any wet items, tent canvas, and no ripped or stained clothing. Unfortunately we are also unable to accept towels, bedding and curtains from commercial organisations e.g. Hospitals, hotels and animal sanctuaries.

Last year we collected 880kg of textiles – let's try do it again! Clean out your cupboards during half term!



Vice Chair

Unfortunately our continued call out for a Vice Chair has not been successful. If you feel you might like to get involved with the school in this time when funds have never been so stretched, please contact Maria on 07715 413 435 or at mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk. The Vice Chair role can be split by two people if you have a friend you'd like to work with. The work is immensely rewarding...

Christmas Fair

Back by popular demand will be the Christmas fair – we are at the beginning of the planning stages for this event. Please contact everyone you think who would be interested in having a stall at the event - £35 per stall. Also if you know of any orchestra/choir who would like to perform at the event – email markskirsty@gmail.com

Dates for Diaries:

- Thursday 3rd Nov, 18.00-21.00: **Fireworks Night!!**
- Monday 7th Nov, 19.00-21.00: Group discussion on how to divide the raised funds to the requests made at the Bids Meeting. South Wing Conference Room.
- Sunday 13th Nov: it's that time again – **Phil the Bag**. We'll be having a big push to start after half-term so start clearing those cupboards!
- Sunday 11th Dec, 12:00-16:00: **Christmas Fair** – back by popular demand! North Wing Hall.

