



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning 24/04/17 Wk 2

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Firstly, I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. Our terms seem to be ever more packed with activity so the holidays are a welcome pause and a time for fun and relaxation, as well as reflection and preparation.

Unbelievably, we are now in the final term of the year, which is exam season for many of our students. We provide lots of information about how to prepare for exams, how to keep healthy and what to do when the results come out, so I hope our students (and parents/carers!) are feeling ready. If anyone has any concerns or anxieties, I would urge them to speak to their Tutor in the first instance. We all appreciate how stressful a time it can be and we are here to help.

You will by now have seen the message from Mark Chapman, Chair of Governors, about my intention to leave Fortismere at the end of this academic year. It is not a decision that I have taken lightly, but I believe I will be leaving the school in a strong position and with a fantastic staff team to ensure that Fortismere continues to thrive.

Wishing you all a good weekend, especially if you will be coming along to the FSA's Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday!

Launch of our new Safeguarding and E-Safety Information pages on the Fortismere School Website – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

We would like to direct our parent and carers to our recently developed pages on our website which contain useful information for parents on [Safeguarding](#) including links to Fortismere's own [Safeguarding and Child Protection policy](#) and other related documentation. This includes guidance that schools use on keeping children safe and working with agencies such as Prevent, as well as advice for parents on issues around radicalization, extremism and an extremely informative document produced for parents on safety. We hope that our parents and carers will also be interested to read some of the articles in our featured CEOP RSS feed which provide an interesting exploration into a range of wellbeing issues that are relevant to supporting young people. CEOP is the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection command and the feed on our website will be constantly updated by them.

Please also find a link to our newly developed [e-safety page](#) where we have put together some resources that will help you understand more about the risks to young people online and how you can help your child to stay safe. Here you will find links to other useful and informative websites that provide a wealth of information and practical tips on issues such as cyberbullying and more general information on online safety.

We hope our parents and carers will be able to take some time to browse these pages and trust that they find the information contained within them useful.

Wellbeing Parents' Evenings – Ms Judge and the Wellbeing Team

We would also like to remind parents and carers of two of our parent workshops that are taking place in the Summer Term (details below) and we will shortly be bringing you further details about a workshop for parents being planned after May half-term which will be delivered by 'Mentor' who provide support for young people and parents around protecting children from alcohol and drugs (date to be confirmed).

Mental Health Awareness Evening - Monday 15th May, 6.30pm

We have invited a speaker, Richard Moore, a trainer from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust to lead a discussion on how young people can be supported when struggling with such issues and how parents can identify warning signs. Please see more information about the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust by clicking here <http://www.cwmt.org.uk/>. 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. Please indicate in the title of your email the name of this event as shown above.

Student Wellbeing Evening – Tuesday 6th June (time and location to be confirmed)

We will be welcoming Allison Havey and Deana Puccio, local mums and authors of what the Independent On Line 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.

Anti-Bullying Programme – KS4 Student Leaders

This Summer term we are introducing an updated anti-bullying policy to reinforce Fortismere's inclusive, friendly and respectful values within its community. As a school, bullying of any kind has never been tolerated and all members of the school community have a responsibility to work together to make life in school as safe and friendly as possible. Our new policy highlights this and emphasises the importance of staff, students and parents/carers working together to create a secure and dynamic place of learning. To see the details of the policy click [here](#).

Alongside the new policy, the KS4 Leadership team, made up of Year 11 students, has set up a student-based community which aims to build stronger relations between students of all years. As Student Leaders, we feel it is important to be approachable and act as a bridge between students and teachers. We would like to create a safe and open space for students to share their thoughts or problems, whether bullying-related or not. This could be pressures of school (academic or social), the use of the internet, how others are being treated or issues at home. We hope that this will encourage Fortismere's inclusive nature and further communication across the school.

This academic year we have introduced the Year 7 Common Room to support the integration of the new Year 7s into Fortismere's community and ease the jump between primary and secondary school. We have already seen the benefits of students who have gained confidence, met other peers and made new friends within their year. We hope to offer similar opportunities for exchanging ideas and meeting new people to other year groups too.

This term the Year 11 Leadership Team will be giving assemblies to all Colleges to open up the dialogue with all students and spread the anti-bullying message. We are sure that future Student Leaders will maintain and expand the effort to make Fortismere an even more inclusive and supportive community. You can read the student-friendly version of the anti-bullying policy [here](#).

Behaviour Focus Week: Dress Code – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

Following on from our relaunch of the school Dress Code before Easter there will be a Behaviour Focus on the Dress Code next week. Please can you make sure that students are appropriately dressed for school and have a lanyard which clearly shows their face. Many thanks for your support.

Reminder: Go4Schools Student Logins – Ms Karp, Assistant Head

All student logins for Go4Schools have now changed to: **schoolusername@fortismere.school**

This is instead of: **schoolusername@students.fortismere.org.uk**

Year 7 Enrichment and First Give Presentations – Ms Arrowsmith, Head of SPE Faculty

As part of this year's Enrichment programme, the Year 7 students have been researching local charities, working in teams, putting together their own PowerPoints and making presentations to their peers. This initiative comes from an educational charity called First Give who have worked closely with the school this year. The students and teachers have selected 8 groups to go through to a final where First Give will be awarding £1,000 to the chosen charity of the winning team and £250 to the runner-up.

On Wednesday, the students were given 2 hours of presentation training and the final presentations will be taking place in South Wing Hall on Wednesday 26th April between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. The students will have to present to a panel of judges including Mrs Glass, the Head Girl, the Chief Executive of BeyondMe and the Grants Officer of the Jack Petchey Foundation, and will have to use their skills of public speaking to present to the audience, members of the local charities they have researched as well as their parents and carers. Parents and carers of Year 7 are also invited to come along and watch these presentations. We hope that this research has inspired our Year 7s with a call to action; to be aware of the importance of charities in local communities, to understand more about how local charities operate, and most importantly, how to support local charities.

Sports Review, Spring Term 2017 – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE

Please find attached, and on our [website](#), the Sports Review for last term. Some fantastic results – well done everyone!

Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable, Summer Term – Mr Hawkes

The extra-curricular sports timetable is now available on the [website](#).

Focus Football Development Programme – Mr Cox, Head of PE

Please see attached a letter about the Focus Football development programme which will be starting again at Fortismere this term.

Summer Karate Course – Mr Kelsey, Teacher of Geography

There is a free summer karate course starting at Fortismere on Thursday 27th April, 3.30pm-4.30pm in SW Gym supported by Muswell Hill Karate Academy. <http://www.muswellhillkarate.org.uk/>

The course will provide international quality coaching from Sensei I Berisha, 7th Dan I.T.K.F. (International Traditional Karate Federation) who has 40 years of teaching and refereeing experience.

It is open to students in all year groups with any level of experience. Beginners welcome! See Mr Kelsey (in S11) or Mr Cox in PE for more details.

Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies Exam Performance Evening – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

Tickets for this performance will be available on ParentMail from Monday 24th April. The event takes place on Tuesday 9th May at 6pm in North Wing Hall. Tickets are £4 and are non-refundable. The performances contain adult themes and language and it recommended for Year 11 and upwards.

Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam Performances – Ms Overs

Here are some photos from the Year 11 GCSE exam performances that took place at the end of March. The students excelled themselves and the audiences were thrilled and delighted by the talent displayed. A very well done to all of the candidates!



Blithe Spirit



The Importance of Being Earnest



One Man, Two Guvnors



Kinder Transport

Mandarin Competition Winners' Trip to Beijing – Ms Huang, Teacher of Mandarin

The following five students won the first prize in the HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition this February with their group performance, 'Judge Bao': Hector Farr, Esme Whelan, Maya Sutton-Patel, Lulu Betteridge and Oryna Goichuk.

They, together with the other three individual winners, were awarded a free trip to China during the Easter holidays. They took part in a wide range of cultural lessons and exchange activities with their buddies in Bei Da Fu Zhong, one of the top secondary schools in China, and toured around Beijing. During the trip, all the students got on with each other very well. They shared their Mandarin learning experience, and played a lot of games in Chinese. On the last day, they were taken to a posh restaurant with HSBC Beijing Team, and visited the British Council headquarters. It was a memorable trip and will certainly promote their motivation for further learning. Most importantly, they all enjoyed this fantastic trip!



On the Great Wall of China



Chinese Painting Lesson



Eating Chinese food in China!



In a Chinese classroom

Contact the school

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk



*Farewell Performance –
We love our buddies!*

Careers Information – Ms 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:

- UCFB and Sky Sports 'Women in Sports Media' Day on Wednesday 26th April 2017

Full details of this event, 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 Year 8 Carnegie shadowers are outdoing themselves with 76 reviews on our special website to date <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW>. I was so proud during the holidays to note that they were continuing to read and post reviews even though they weren't at school – that's dedication. Read Oscar's review of *Railhead* – the author Philip Reeve has sent me a special message to give to him...

Delighted to see creative writing by our students published here <http://bit.ly/2ghKHig>

This link has a lot of common sense ideas on how you can help to get your teens reading
<http://bit.ly/1mNgfQt>

Two special days coming up, so we have new displays for Earth Day on Saturday 22nd April and Terry Pratchett Day on Friday 28th April (who knew?) And to celebrate the new series of Dr Who, our main display is currently showing all things Whovian.

Recommended Reads of the Week

For boys who want to know about girls, and for girls who want to know what goes on in a boy's head... *Andy Robb's Geekhood: Close Encounters of the Girl Kind* is an hilarious read. And, although it's not published yet, look out for Anthony Horowitz's new Alex Rider book, *Never Say Die*; we have some students currently reviewing proof copies for the TES. It's a cracker!

FSA News

GREASE
 JOHN TRAVOLTA OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
sing along!
 Fortismere School Association
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 chocolates, 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

YOUR LOCAL GARAGE
AutoWERKE
 MUSBWELL HILL
 UNIT 7 THE VADUCT ST. JAMES LANE LONDON N10 3QX 0200 8857 338

Grease Movie Night

Last chance to buy tickets before tomorrow's show £5 @ www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

(£7 on the gate).

The weather is looking very promising!

Start warming up your voices: Karaoke at 7pm with prizes

Movie starts at 8.30pm



Sunday Food Market

We're over the moon to announce that Emma Spitzer, Master Chef Finalist 2015 will be at the market this Sunday!

Come along and watch her cook up some recipes from her latest book!



Comedy Night: Thurs 4th May

This promises to be a wonderful evening with the talented HARRY Hill and MC Mark Maier

Tickets £25 @ www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

More info on acts @ www.fortismereschoolassociation.com

He (or she) who laughs, lasts...