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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Thank you to the many parents/carers who attended the Mental Health Awareness presentation given by the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust this week. We hope you found it informative and useful. We take the matter of student wellbeing very seriously and will continue to provide events and information for parents/carers, staff and students (see below for information on our next event on 6th June).

I really enjoyed the GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition this week – the result of such hard work from students and dedication from staff who support them. The range of ideas and quality of execution was very impressive and I congratulate all our GCSE Art and Photography students.

When you walk around the school now, there is that familiar hush that comes during exam time – various walkways are out of bounds so that we don't disturb students in the main halls. It all adds to the sense of nervousness and anticipation – for staff as well as students! I hope the first week of public exams has gone well for everyone.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Parent Forum, Monday 22nd May – Ms Sloane, Link Governor for Communications

The next Parent Forum will be held on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in South Wing Hall. Please email parentforum@fortismere.org.uk if you would like an item to be put on the agenda. Ms Judge, Deputy Head, will be at the meeting.

In addition, there will be a Governors' Surgery before the Forum, from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please come along if you would like to discuss any issue with a Governor.

Parent Forum Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Follow-up from last meeting
3. Suggestions from parent/carer emails:
 - Toilet Policy
 - GCSE study leave
 - C3s to Year 11 students before GCSEs
 - Supply teachers – are there too many in Year 7?
 - New Headteacher
 - Leave of Absence Policy (for medical/music exams)
 - Few school trips, especially abroad
4. New topics for discussion
5. Date of next meeting;
6. AOB

Hope to see you there!

Toilet Locking Procedures at Fortismere – Senior Leadership Team

We would like to thank parents/carers for their support while we investigated the best way to manage access to the toilets during lesson times and for responding to the recent survey. The survey gave us an opportunity to gather the specific views of our parent community around the locking of toilets. Please note that we conducted a full review of this arrangement which has also included gathering the views of staff and students. We have decided that from Monday 22nd May student toilets in both Wings will be kept unlocked at all times.

We will be monitoring this arrangement very closely as we still have concerns about the volume of students who have been attempting to access toilets during lessons. Our concerns around misuse of the facilities will be explained very clearly to our students during VT on Monday 22nd May. We would like parents and carers to be aware that this new arrangement is based on the general expectation that students use the toilet facilities outside of their lesson time.

From Monday 22nd May:

- Staff will only permit students to use the facilities in case of an emergency. Students who are, in exceptional cases, allowed to leave class will be issued with a toilet pass lanyard which they must wear while outside of the classroom.
- Staff will continue to issue C3s to students who are late to class, including those students who are late because they have used the toilets in lesson changeover.
- There will be an increased presence of senior staff on corridor patrol during lessons to monitor the number of students leaving class to use the facilities during lesson time. Students should expect to display their lanyard to show that they have the permission of their class teacher to go to the toilet.

We expect our students to respect the school facilities and they will be made aware that any vandalism of these facilities may result in that specific toilet being closed for a period of time. We are also committed to adding more CCTV cameras to corridors to help us safeguard all of our toilet facilities.

Please note that students who have been issued with medical toilet passes will still have increased access based on their specific needs. As such these arrangements are unaltered.

Fortismere Students' Presentation Pledges: Equipment for Learning – Ms Fineberg, Assistant Head

Although the majority of our students continue to attend school fully equipped for learning, it has been noted that some pencil cases are becoming depleted. Please could you take the opportunity of the forthcoming half-term break to check with your son(s)/daughter(s) that their pencil case is fully equipped and replenished if required. As per our school Students' Pledges, all pencil cases must include:

1. **two black pens**
2. **one green pen**
3. **a pencil and sharpener**
4. **a rubber**
5. **a ruler**
6. **a calculator**
7. **a glue stick**

General Election Hustings Event for the Sixth Form: Thursday 25th May – Mr A Johnson

Prospective parliamentary candidates for the three major parties – Catherine West (Labour), Dawn Barnes (Liberal Democrat) and Emma Lane (Conservative) – will be attending a hustings event at Fortismere on Thursday 25th May. The hustings will be held in the Sixth Form study room (T19) at 3.20pm.

Candidates will discuss their respective policies and ideas before taking questions from the audience.

Some of the candidates will also be coming in to briefly talk to Year 13 students during their assembly this coming Monday 15th May.

This is a Sixth Form-specific event. However, lower school pupils can request to attend by emailing Mr Johnson at ajohnson2@fortismere.org.uk. Places for the lower school are limited and open on a first-come, first-served basis.

Music Notes – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

Extra-curricular activities (bring a packed lunch please!):

1. *Pop/Rock Ensemble*

- Tuesday lunchtime: 12.30-1pm
- North Wing Music hall
- Learning some old and new songs; open to all levels and abilities. Although mainly a guitar ensemble we welcome any other instrumentalists including drummers, bassists, pianists although roles for some of those instruments may be on a sharing basis. Session led by two of Fortismere's peripatetic music staff who teach guitar, bass and drums. The ensemble will perform at the summer concert in July and will be given an opportunity to audition for Fortitude (Fortismere's music festival also in the summer)
- Anyone interested should turn up on Tuesday (23rd May) for a meet-and-greet session. Any previous members to the guitar ensemble are welcome to return.

2. *Year 7-8 Choir*

- Fridays 12.30-1pm in Mu1
- New and regular members welcome!

3. *Orchestra*

- Mondays, after half-term (starting first Monday back): 3.30-4pm
- Music Hall

4. *Fortitude* – any bands or vocalists who want to perform to the crowds??? If you are free between 2.15pm and 3.15pm on Saturday 1st July, then let me know what you could perform and I will take a listen.

Student Wellbeing Evening: Tuesday 6th June 6.30pm in North Wing Hall – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

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

Mental Health Presentation – Mrs Prinsley, PSHE Co-ordinator

We would like to thank parents/carers for their participation at the Mental Health Awareness event on Monday 15th May. It was incredibly well-supported by parents who were both touched and inspired by our presenter, Richard Moore, who spoke about the issues around adolescent mental health both from his own experience and his wealth of knowledge from working with young people and in education. You can access the slides from Richard's presentation on our [website](#).

Students ambassadors (Zak Tidswell, Felix Tachie-Mensah, Dylan Tapper, Nathan Yaoz, Esme Whelan, Maya Sutton-Patel and Sidahmed Bachir) provided refreshments for parents at the event. They are raising money for Young Minds which is the chosen charity for the Team London Ambassadors. Fortismere is continuing to work with Ambassadors from Tetherdown Primary School and Gladesmore Community School.



Tickets for Schools: 'Kinky Boots' Offer – Ms Keogh

Tickets for Schools have a special offer on theatre tickets for the popular show, Kinky Boots.

£69.50 tickets are reduced to £32.50 which includes the £5.00 donation to the FSA, valid Monday - Wednesday performances until 7th June (excluding half-term). Bookable using the link below:

<http://tickets4schools.com/fortismere-school>

The show comes highly recommended and has something for everyone!

Careers Information – Ms Phillips, Careers Advisor

I am now coordinating appointments for Year 10 students to talk over potential career plans. It is really important that parents/carers attend these appointments to help acquaint themselves with the appropriate next steps their son/daughter should be exploring concerning post-16 progression.

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

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

CoverUp, the parent/staff reading group, is meeting next Thursday 26th May at 7pm in the library. We will be discussing *The Outrun* by Amy Liptrot and many other bookish things besides. Everyone welcome – you don't have to have read the book to join us. Refreshments provided.

Here's a date for (next year's) diary: Saturday 18th April 2018 <http://yashot.co.uk/>. This book festival for young people is fantastic and I will be reminding you about it on a regular basis! Last year the Haringey School Librarians Group placed a bid to YA Shot to get free author visits to our local libraries and was lucky enough to be one of the two boroughs around the country to win. Fortismere is now reaping the benefits and classes of KS3 students will be visiting Muswell Hill library over the next few weeks to meet different authors. An excellent way to support our public libraries and to introduce many of our students to a free local amenity.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you to check our Carnegie Shadowing page. Our Year 8s are excelling themselves this year <http://bit.ly/2rtPV0r>

Ha! I knew it! <http://bit.ly/2pp7kGg>

Recommended Reads of the Week

One for the grownups: *The Muse* by Jessie Burton – Ms Cunningham introduced me to this and I'm so pleased she did. A book about art and women and mystery and I loved it. Apparently I must now read *The Miniaturist* which, in her opinion, is even better! For younger readers, *Framed* by Frank Cottrell Boyce is inspired by the evacuation of paintings from the National Gallery to a Welsh mine during WWII – a brilliant twisty-turny tale of (among other things) how art can change lives.

Haringey 'School Assembly'

The Fair Funding for All Schools campaign is holding a national day of action on Friday 26th May - with local events across the country bringing parents and staff together for after-school get-togethers, picnics and so forth to raise our voice against school funding cuts.

In Haringey, we are asking parents/carers to join us at one of three local picnics taking place that afternoon. We are asking parents, pupils, staff and governors to join us, get creative, bring home made banners etc. There will be a few speakers and a best banner competition. In particular, we would encourage everyone to join us at Ally Pally at 4pm that day.



Join the Haringey School Assembly - part of the Fair Funding For All Schools national day of action.

School communities across the Borough are coming together in a show of strength against the funding cuts to our schools.

Join the family picnics at the following locations, starting at 4pm:

- ▶ Alexandra Palace, South Terrace, N22
- ▶ Chestnuts Park, St Ann's Road, N15
- ▶ Highgate Wood, Highgate, N6

www.fairfundingforallschools.org  [fairfundingforallschools](https://www.facebook.com/fairfundingforallschools)  [@fairfundschoo](https://twitter.com/fairfundschoo)

FSA News

Fortitude on Saturday 1st July, 12 – 6pm

We REALLY need your help!! Unfortunately we didn't hear back from *anyone* regarding our appeal for help last week, and it is just not possible for the 4 of us to be everywhere on the field on the day.

We want Fortitude to be bigger and better than previous years which means we want to have more going on that children and adults can enjoy.

Please, please, please can you take on running a small part of the day? We need volunteers to do the following (perhaps get a friend to help you):

- The Bottle Tombola
- The Second Hand Clothes Stall (clothes for teenagers and Vintage Clothes for Adults)
- A Water Gun Game
- The Wang A Welly Competition
- Throw a Sponge at a Teacher
- A 'graffiti wall'
- A Coconut Shy
- The Plant Stall

And we are open to other ideas from you ... anything that you feel people would enjoy.

Also do you do an activity/hobby/job which might make an interesting demonstration on the day? Zumba, yoga, archery, boxing ... anything that will work on a field?

Please get in touch with Kirsty at markskirsty@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

ONLY together we can make this a Great Day!

Fortitude
www.fortismereschoolassociation.com

SATURDAY 1ST JULY 12-6PM

Summer Festival
FORTISMERE SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS,
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ENTRANCE £4
VIA GATES ON TWYFORD AVENUE

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Market Stalls GIFTS, BOOKS, CLOTHES	Fun Fair Rides TOTAL WIPE OUT METEORITE, SUPERSTAR
Food Stalls SALADS, CAKES, + INTERNATIONAL FOODS + LICENSED BAR	With Prizes! TOMBOLA + RAFFLE

ENTERTAINMENT
LIVE MUSIC + CAKE OFF
+ SILENT DISCO + FESTIVAL FUN

fortismere School Association
charity number 90227

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Food Market: Prosecco & Wine-Tasting

Don't forget the Food Market every Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

This Sunday (21st May), we're featuring a prosecco and wine-tasting event!



Car Boot Sale: Sunday 18th June 11am – 3pm

Save the date!

It'll be in South Wing Car Park.

Cars cost £15.

If you are interested in participating please email Maria at mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your space.

