



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 17/10/16 Wk 1

Contents:

[Message from Mrs Helen Glass](#)

[Late Start: Monday 17th October \(Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations\)](#)

[Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations: Monday 17th October](#)

[Lunchtime Rota](#)

[Year 9 Careers Day: Wednesday 19th October](#)

[Aerosol Sprays](#)

[Year 7 Halloween Disco on Thursday 20th October](#)

[Canvassing Views on Establishing a Parent Council](#)

[Art Department News](#)

[CCTV \(Chinese Central Television\) Visit](#)

[Haringey Table Tennis Competition](#)

[Reminders from the Admin Team](#)

[Careers Information](#)

[From the Library](#)

[FSA News](#)

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

It was business as usual this week, with Year 11s gearing up for their mock exams. The Music Practical exams took place and we ran a special Mock Exam Preparation session on Wednesday. Getting ready – practically and psychologically – for the first public exams that many students sit is very important and we endeavour to give them all the support they need.

Next week, we are holding our Year 9 Options and Careers Fayre which is another opportunity to prepare students for life beyond Fortismere. I hope this proves useful. If parents/carers or students have any concerns or questions about choosing Options and/or where this might take them, please don't hesitate to contact tutors in the first instance. We want our students to be happy and achieving, wherever their talents lie, and we are here to help!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Late Start: Monday 17th October (Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations) – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

A reminder that school will start at 10.20am (Period 2) on Monday to allow time for the Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations. Students in other years should not arrive on the school site before 10am.

Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations: Monday 17th October – Ms Mangan, Acting Head of Ephesus

Year 8 parents/carers should have received a ParentMail containing the pro-forma for the upcoming Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations. Please discuss the questions with your child and make any relevant notes ahead of your DLC with your child's tutor so the discussions can be focused and meaningful. We look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Lunchtime Rota – Mr Ward

Please see the attached revised lunchtime rota. The new rota will start for Monday 17th October. Could parents / carers please let their children know their allocations on Monday as there will be no VT time due to the year 8 Learning Conversations.

Year 9 Careers Day: Wednesday 19th October - Ms Allaway, Assistant Head & Ms Jackson, Head of Olympia

Year 9 will be involved in a Careers Day all day on Wednesday focussing on option choices, career planning and CV writing. They will all meet outside South Wing Hall on Wednesday morning. It would be great if parents/carers could talk to their children about this topic over the weekend so that they come along to the day well prepared. They will be coming home with a careers booklet on Wednesday which you may like to look through with them. We hope they will find the day informative and motivational.

Aerosol Sprays – Mr Ward

There have been a couple of incidents of members of the school being affected by aerosol spray. Aerosols should not be brought into school. Failure to observe this will result in disciplinary action.

Year 7 Halloween Disco on Thursday 20th October – Student Leaders

The student leaders are organising a Year 7 Halloween Disco, on Thursday 20th October 2016. Tickets will be available for sale from Friday 14th October for £3 each. They will be available to buy from the Year 7 Common Room in N11, North Wing. The disco will be in North Wing Hall; it is a great opportunity for Year 7s to meet other members of their year, make new friends and have fun! Everyone is encouraged to dress up; food and drink will be sold, so please bring some money. Activities will include face painting and a dance-off competition. We hope to see you there!

Canvassing Views on Establishing a Parent Council – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

You will have received a ParentMail last week seeking your views on an idea of one of our Parent-Governors to set up a Parent Council. Thank you to those of you that have already responded. If anyone would like to submit their views, or if you had difficulty accessing the email address to do so last week, please email your submissions to governors@fortismere.org.uk by Sunday 16th October 2016.

Art Department News – Ms Powell, Head of Art

This week the Art Department took 55 students to the Abstract Expressionism Exhibition at the Royal Academy. They were a real credit to the school as they discussed the work and drew from the pieces in the gallery.



On Thursday, Year 12 students spent a day sculpting a clay head from a live model. Whilst they found this incredibly difficult, students persevered and achieved refined sculptures by the end of the day. (The photo was taken half way through the day.)

CCTV (Chinese Central Television) Visit – Ms Huang, Teacher of Modern Languages

A journalist from CCTV visited our school on 23rd September to interview teachers and Mrs Glass about the Mandarin Excellence Programme. They also filmed a Year 9 Mandarin lesson. The interview and programme were broadcast on the CCTV news channel (CCTV 13) and children's channel (CCTV 14). The links are below:

1. British Government Launches Mandarin Excellence Programme
<http://tv.cctv.com/2016/09/26/VIDE5OvkGHO4vMJWSq05Ra6v160926.shtml>

2. Having a Chinese lesson together with British Children
<http://tv.cctv.com/2016/09/30/VIDEbHkIDXLC7rH8BWb2hGiH160930.shtml>

Haringey Table Tennis Competition – Mr Michael, Teacher of PE

Our very happy under-13 Boys' Table Tennis team gained 2nd place in our local Haringey Schools competition which took place at Alexandra Park School on 11th October! Well done to Pete Ross, Giulio Lotor, Maximus Arslan, Ganesh Kodikara, Marios Panteli and Smit Kotak for their excellent performances!



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!

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.

From the Library

On Tuesday 11th October, we were invited to take two of our Year 7 students to the Children's Bookshop in Muswell Hill to meet the author of *Wonder*, R J Palacio. She was in England to receive the IBW Best of the Best Children's Book Award, and we were really excited to meet the author of a book that so many of our students have borrowed and read. She told us that *Wonder* has now been filmed, so we are really looking forward to seeing it in late 2017. We came back to school with lots of photos, lots of Wonderful signed books and big smiles.



Competition time! Become a judge for the YA Book Prize – details here: <http://bit.ly/2e6nrmH>

Quote to make your heart sing (if you're a librarian) from a 6th former. "Why has it taken me all this time to discover what a wonderful library this is?" He went on to say, "Why buy books when you can borrow them? They take up so much room and collect dust". No word of a lie. Made our day!

Recommended Read of the Week

Silence is Goldfish by Annabel Pitcher is a rare and original book that will appeal to our lovers of YA fiction. It's not on our "Really, Really Depressing" booklist and the fact that the lead character is not beautiful and has friends and a loving family makes it stand out from some of the MisLit books we are occasionally asked for! All Recommended Reads are available to borrow – free – from the school library!

FSA News

This week the FSA and parents/carers meet up to continue plans for our 3rd November **Fireworks Display** – 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 for tickets purchased online).

Thank you to everyone who has said they will be able to volunteer for the Fireworks event – Kirsty will be sending out the rota after half-term. We are, however, not there yet and could still do with some more volunteers so please email markskirsty@gmail.com if you can come along on the night.

At the **Fireworks Display** we will need **25 marshalls**. Can we ask **Year 13 parents/carers** 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

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 at 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...

...Which leads us to next week's **Bids Meeting** where the FSA and parents/carers will meet the teachers and hear about what they are bidding for. This will be an opportunity for you to see first-hand what valuable work fundraising does for the school and, who knows, might inspire you to take that step and join the FSA!

Back by popular demand will be the **Christmas Fair!** We are at the beginning of the planning stages for this event. For the moment please contact everyone you can think of 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 20th Oct, 18.00-20.00: **Bids Meeting** – teachers’ presentations to FSA and parents/carers. All welcome. South Wing Conference Room.
- 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.



[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk