



## Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 23/01/17 Wk 2

**STUDENTS MEETING FILM-MAKER & ADVENTURER, MATT DICKINSON**

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## Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week we welcomed a group of science students from Rotterdam, as part of our annual exchange programme. Such exchanges present a great opportunity for students to make friends from other countries and cultures. Our relationship with the school in Rotterdam goes back several years now and has proved a real success. My thanks go to all the families hosting a student this year. I hope you've all had a fantastic time!

Also this week, the Governors hosted a Surgery which was well-attended. I hope all parents/carers welcome this opportunity to meet the Governors and talk about any concerns they may have. The Surgery was followed by the Parent Forum Working Group meeting and I know lots of good ideas came out of that. Parent-Governor, Wendy Sloane, provides more information below.

We received some good news this week when the league tables of secondary schools were published. Haringey are ranked 10<sup>th</sup> best local authority nationally for their Progress 8 score of +0.28. (Hackney were top with +0.35). Within Haringey, Fortismere is the top school, based on X5 A\*-C GCSE grades. This is the first time the new Progress 8 scores have been reported on but I am delighted with Fortismere's achievement.

Coming up next week, we begin the process of discussing Options with Year 9 students. There is a full programme of events/activities/tasks coming up to help ensure Year 9s feel able to make positive decisions about their GCSE choices. It's an exciting time!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

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## Advance Warning: late start to school on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

Advanced notice that lessons will start at 10:20am on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February to allow time for the Year 10 Deep Learning Conversations which take place that morning. Students should not come onto the school site before 10am.

Parents/carers with children in Year 10 will receive a letter confirming their appointment time next week.

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## Parent Forum – Ms Sloane, Link Governor for Communications

The next Parent Forum will meet on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 7:30 – 9pm in South Wing Hall.

At the Working Group meeting this week, parents and carers decided it makes sense to ask YOU what you would like discussed. Please email brief topics of anything you would like the Forum to concentrate on to [parentforum@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:parentforum@fortismere.org.uk). Remember, the Forum is not a place to discuss personal issues to do with your child.

We will publish topics beforehand in the Newsletter and via ParentMail, so hopefully something will strike a chord and entice you to attend the next Forum.

Also, the minutes of the inaugural Parent Forum, held last month, are on the school website, under the Parents/Carers tab.

Finally, look out for dates of the next Governors' Surgery, which will be held next term. The most recent Surgery, held earlier this week, was well attended. Thank you to everyone who came – we learned a lot and are already considering some practical responses to what we heard.

### Go4Schools – Ms Karp, Assistant Head

A reminder that all parents/carers should have logins for Go4Schools. On Go4Schools you will see your child's Progress, Behaviour, Homework and Full Reports as they are written.

Go to [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com)

Under **First Time User** enter your email address that is on our school database (please note, they must be the same). Go4Schools will then send a password to your email address and you login where it says **Welcome**.

If the system does not recognise your email address then it must be different on our system. Please contact Ms Larsson at [plarsson@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:plarsson@fortismere.org.uk).

### Students returning to School during the day – Ms Greenwood, Administrator

When students come back into school after any appointments/sickness during the school day please can they come in through South Wing Gate (on Tetherdown). This applies even if their next lesson is in North Wing.

### Holocaust Memorial Day Event for Year 9s, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Ms Arrowsmith, Head of SPE

All Year 9 students will be attending the local synagogue to listen to Bernard Koshland, a Holocaust survivor. They will be visiting the local place of worship during school hours and will be under the supervision of their classroom teachers and members of the Synagogue. The visit will take place during Periods 2 and 3 and all students will return to school in time for lunch. It is expected that all students attend. If you have further enquiries, questions or objections to this visit then please contact me at [jarrowsmith@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:jarrowsmith@fortismere.org.uk)

Group	Where students will be sitting	Lesson Period 2	Lesson Period 3
9X1	Seated upstairs	HISTORY – MR BREARLEY	WELLBEING AND RS – MS MASSEY
9X2	Seated upstairs	WELLBEING AND RS – MS KAYE	ENGLISH – MR STRATHDENE
9X3	Seated downstairs	ENGLISH – MS MORRIS	COMPUTER SCIENCE – MR TIBBLE
9X4	Seated up-stairs	WELLBEING AND RS – MS PRINSLEY	ENGLISH – MS MORRIS
9X5	Seated downstairs	MUSIC – MS TOPPING	ART AND DESIGN – MS WILLIAMS
9Y1	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR RAHAT	MANDARIN – MS XIAO
9Y2	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MS DANIELS	SPANISH – MR RAINEY
9Y3	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MS GWYNN JONES	SPANISH – MS BRUEL
9Y4	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR HUXLEY	SPANISH – MS FINEBERG
9Y5	Seated downstairs	SCIENCE – MR RICHARDSON	SPANISH – MR MOORMAN

All students must line up at the end of break in their teaching groups, with their teacher to be registered. They will walk sensibly to the Synagogue in their teaching group with their teacher. The schedule will be as follows:

**10.25 – 10.35am** – students arrive and are settled. Students in the Y bank will sit downstairs with 9X3 and 9X5. This is a visit to a place of worship in the local community and all students are representing the school. BFL will be used if necessary. Brief welcome from Rabbi David to the synagogue itself followed by a brief talk from Ruth Jampel contextualising Bernard's story within the Holocaust by going over key facts and events.

**11.00-12.10pm** - Bernard will give his talk followed by a minute's pause to digest his story. This will be followed by a question and answer session from the students. There will be a summary of the event followed by the presentation of a thank you gift to Bernard.

**12.15 – 12.20pm** - dismissal of students – students downstairs will be dismissed first; those students sitting upstairs will be dismissed last. Chance for students to come and ask further questions if they wish. Students return to school for lunch and then go to Periods 4 and 5 as usual. All teachers will escort and remain with their classes during the times that they would be teaching them.

Whilst in the Synagogue, students will not be able to use the toilets so they must make sure that they go to the toilet during break time.

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### **Harry Potter Evening, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 – Ms Bhambra, Teacher of DT and Mrs Ward, Senior Librarian**

Fortismere Library and the Design and Technology department would like to invite 50 Year 7 and 8 pupils to an evening of Harry Potter themed fun and frolicking. It will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 between 4.45pm and 9.30 pm. The places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Pupils are to meet outside the Library in their Professor of Hogwarts costume, or their best muggle attire (warm and appropriate), and bring a pair of slippers and a blanket. Broomsticks must be left at the door, and wands must be ready!

There will be readings from the series of the Harry Potter books by pupils and teachers alike as well as loads of other Harry Potter activities - the Sorting Hat Ceremony, Professor Sprout's Greenhouse of Horrors, Diagon Alley Hunt... and more. The night will end with a showing of one of the Harry Potter films voted for on the night by the attending pupils. We will provide an evening meal of a Vegetarian Pasta Bake and Garlic Bread.

Please return by Owl or by hand the completed permission slip (circulated last week) by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January to either Mrs Ward in the Library or to Ms Bhambra in North Wing DT only.

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### **KS3 Art Club – Ms Powell, Head of Art**

Art Club returned this week! This term we are looking at developing drawing styles. We hope to develop the drawings into lino prints, mono prints and collographs if we have time. Art Club is every Wednesday, 3.30-4.30pm in N6. It is open to all KS3 students of any ability.

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## Extra-Curricular Activities – Mr Michael, Teacher of PE

The school runs a wide range of extra-curricular activities from sports clubs to art and music. All the details of our activities for the Spring Term can now be found on our [website](#).

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## Place2Be – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

Sejal Chad has replaced Tina Sims as the Placement Manager of the Place2Be at Fortismere. Please find attached a letter which explains the service and enables parents and carers to opt out of the Place2Be if they so wish.

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## The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness Exhibition at Muswell Hill Synagogue – Ms Arrowsmith

23<sup>rd</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – exhibition opens from 12 to 2pm  
29<sup>th</sup> January – exhibition and speaker from 6pm to 9pm.

The F Word Is a thought-provoking collection of over twenty arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity. The Exhibition draws together voices from South Africa, America, Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland and England. The stories challenge our notions of justice and revenge and reveal forgiveness as a potential process for transformation and healing. Please see the attached poster for further details and how to buy tickets.

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## Cricket Success – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 cricket team who won the Indoor Cricket Borough Final and are now through to the County Final on 22<sup>nd</sup> February!



Congratulations also to the Year 9 and 10 girls who beat APS on Tuesday and are through to the Indoor Cricket Borough Final being played on 1<sup>st</sup> February!

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## Year 10 Exams – Ms Karp

Year 10 exams have been moved from the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. They will now commence on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and run until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This is due to the Year 10 Spanish Exchange taking place the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April.

[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 [office@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk)

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## Festival of Learning: July 2017 – Ms Brooks, Teacher of English & QTL Team Lead

Perhaps you have made a New Year resolution to get involved with your community more or contribute to the school – this is your chance!

We are planning a Festival of Learning – with workshops, competitions and visitors – in July this year with the aim of developing the ‘cultural capital’ of our students. We want them to be exposed to ideas and possibilities beyond the world of the school, and have already invited writers, producers and photographers in for this week to speak to students and to engage them in different activities.

We are looking for parents or other members of the community who would be happy to come in to speak to a class or lead a workshop for a group of students. If you are a journalist, writer, artist, curator, computer programmer, doctor, psychiatrist, counsellor, set designer, poet, charity worker or indeed anything else...in fact if you have an enthusiasm for sharing what you do and are happy to give up your time speak to our students or engage them in an activity then we would love to hear from you – it only needs to be an hour but we would love you to be involved.

We have a loose theme of ‘One World’ – but we are open to suggestions regarding topics and content.

Please email Ms Brooks [ebrooks@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:ebrooks@fortismere.org.uk) if you would be willing to get involved.

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## 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!

Parents/carers and students should be aware of the following local Sixth Form Application Deadlines:

- Fortismere - 27<sup>th</sup> January
- Alexandra Park School - 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Henrietta Barnet School - 1<sup>st</sup> February by 5pm

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## Reminders from the Admin Team

**Absences/Appointments:** please remember to report your child's absence/appointment before 8:35am by calling 020 8365 4429 or email [attendance@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.org.uk) and copy in your child's Form Tutor.

**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.

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## From the Library

We know that lots of people have read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, so we'd be delighted if they came along to CoverUp, the parent/staff reading group, even if it's the first time – new members always welcome. We're meeting this coming Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the library.

What a day we had in the library on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January with author, film-maker and Everest-summiteer Matt Dickinson. Our Year 7s and Year 8s were enthralled by his tales of danger and adventure and - this may worry you - the majority would be prepared to risk a 4% chance of death to climb Mount Everest. They heard about the dangers of operating tiny camera buttons (frostbite – with pictures!) and peeing (don't ask!) at minus 72 degrees. They learnt that Toffee Crisp bars explode on Everest (the air in the puffed rice expands in the thin air) and that squatters can take over your tents at base camp. Matt also got the students to empathise with the Nepalese porters who carry loads of over 100kg for £8 a day and, when talking to a Year 9 group about climate change and global warming, the problems caused by trekkers, climbers and tourists to the local communities. He was also kind enough to talk to our VT reading group about how reading inspired him to travel all around the world. Very few of our students know of Brian Blessed, but Matt was the cameraman/journalist who filmed Brian's ascent of Everest; he also filmed on the North Face during the ill-fated summit attempt in 2016. He's off to Everest again at the end of March to film backdrops for a play he's been commissioned to write. What a man! What a day!

Busy busy for reading groups next week! The first meeting of the Haringey Children's Book Award reading group (Year 7) is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, and Young Quills (the historical fiction reading group – Years 7-9) is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Both clubs take place in the library at lunchtime, and students have special dispensation to bring their (non-smelly please!) lunch into the library.

Just a reminder that students can buy stationery and equipment from the library at cost price, from pencils at 5p to calculators (£6.50). We also sell filled pencil cases with everything needed – apart from the calculators – for £3. And at this time of year, the packets of tissues (10p) sell like hot cakes. Actually, it'd be quite nice if they were hot cakes...

### Recommended Reads of the Week

Well obvs, Matt Dickinson books! We have the *Mortal Chaos* series on the shelves, as well as the first two *Everest Files* books (Matt's writing the third at the moment). *Lie Kill Walk Way* is his latest book, a great dual-narrative thriller set around bio-weapon conspiracies. And one of his non-fiction books *The Death Zone: Climbing Everest through the Killer Storm*. Cracking adventures!

### FSA News

**Hold the Date: Quiz Night – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
Doors open from 6.30pm – North Wing Hall

Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre ("Fabulous, funny and brilliant!", Fitzroy Club), tickets will be £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people. Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team. There will be a bar but bring food to share with your team.

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great opportunity to meet other parents; perhaps have a table with other parents from your child's class?

### Dates for Diaries:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 19.00 – 21.00: Planning for our next fundraising events; if you have any ideas or are interested in helping out come along to South Wing Conference Room



### Other Ways to Fundraise for the School:

- Donations to the FSA for the school can be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool> – also allowing us to benefit from Gift Aid!
- The Giving Machine – go to [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.

