



# Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 07/11/16 Wk 1

PATRON OF READING, SF SAID, MEETING NEW YEAR 7S

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### **Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher**

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break. If you came along to the wonderful Fortismere Fireworks event last night, I'm sure you'll agree that this half-term has got off to a bang! My sincere thanks to the whole FSA team who, as ever, put together a truly fantastic event to raise funds for the school. A great time was had by all and it was lovely to see so many of you there!

I also attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening on Tuesday (in my capacity as a Year 10 Parent myself!), and it was good to see so many other parents/carers taking this valuable opportunity to talk to subject teachers.

We're now sprinting towards Christmas, and as you'll read later in the Newsletter, our Music Department, in particular, has lots for us to look forward to nearer the time.

In the meantime, next week, we are holding our Sixth Form Open Day, which is a great opportunity to showcase the fantastic work of our staff and students. It means an early closure on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, with students leaving at 12.30pm. I know that many of our current students are hoping to stay on for their A-Levels and I look forward to seeing them at what promises to be an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

Finally, you might be interested to know that we are supporters of East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) which seeks to bring the local community together and reduce isolation by creating opportunities for people of all ages to get involved and share their skills. You can read their latest newsletter on our [website](#).

Have a great weekend!

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### **Attendance Text Messages – Ms Davey, Deputy Head**

We would like to apologise to those of you who may have received attendance text messages regarding your son/daughter in error this week. We have been experiencing some technical issues with this and our IT department have been working to rectify the problem.

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### **Statement on Voluntary Contributions – Ms Keogh, Business Manager**

Please find attached a copy of the letter that was sent to all parents/carers on 1<sup>st</sup> November, regarding voluntary contributions.

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### **Chess Club – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies & Economics**

The Chess Club meets Thursday/Friday, either outside (SW Reception entrance, weather permitting) or in 13T1. All welcome!

There will be a lunchtime meeting in 13T1 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November for those interested in playing for the School Team (of 6) in a competition later this month.

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## 'The Shard' – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

The Drama department proudly presents a new adaptation of Shakespeare's most terrifyingly cut-throat play. 'The Shard', adapted by Ms Turner, re-imagines Macbeth in the City of London in 2016. Set in the post-Brexit business world, this mixed-media production with around 100 students from across the whole school, will excite and immerse you in this evil supernatural world. With live and original music composed by Mr Lavelle, it will be performed in North Wing Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. Tickets available via ParentMail. Limited availability! Book soon!!

£5 Adults  
£3 Students

## Music Notes – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE LAST WEEK OF TERM – TUES 13 & WED 14 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

#### Christmas Concert Rehearsals & Auditions:

- 1. Orchestra – rehearsals every Monday after school in the Concert Hall 3.30-4.10pm**  
If you are unable to come on Mondays, please collect the music from Ms Ogilby asap. There will be a couple of longer rehearsals closer to the concert dates where all orchestral students will be required to come if they intend to play at the Christmas Concert in any capacity - dates tbc
- 2. Vocal A Cappella Group – Thursday lunchtimes in Mu1**  
2 x Y12 music students are looking for about **12 female singers Years 9-13** to join them and prepare for a vocal item (Keep Us Together) in the Christmas Concert
- 3. Brass Ensemble – Friday lunchtimes in Concert Hall**  
Isabelle Patterson Y12 is looking to rehearse brass players for a piece in the Christmas Concert. Approx grade 4-8 players please – any brass instrument
- 4. Year 7-8 Choir Wednesday lunchtimes 12.30-1pm in Mu1**  
There are still lots of spaces to join with Year 7-8 singers (boys and girls) for the Christmas Concert and a couple of other performances later in the term. Please come with a packed lunch!
- 5. Senior Ladies Choir (Years 10-13) - Wednesday lunchtimes 12.30pm-1pm in Mu3**
- 6. Senior Men's Choir (Years 10-13) - Friday lunchtimes 12.30pm-1pm in MU3**
- 7. Guitar Group – Tuesday lunchtimes 12.30pm-1pm in NW Hall**
- 8. AUDITIONS week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November** – if students would like to audition for the Christmas Concert, they will take place the week after next in Mu1/Concert Hall (ground floor of music dept). Students will be able to sign up for times from Monday next week (7<sup>th</sup> November). Any piece/song/style/year group – just make sure it shows preparation!

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## Royal Institute (Ri) Computer Science Masterclasses at Gladesmore Community School – Mr Yakup, Head of Enterprise

We have been offered a very limited number of places for **Year 9** students only. If your Year 9 son or daughter is interested in attending the Ri Computer Science Masterclasses at Gladesmore Community School and are committed to attending on Saturdays next term (21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03) between 10am and 12.30pm, please email Mr Yakup at [myakup@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:myakup@fortismere.org.uk) by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

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## New Views – Ms Turner, Teacher of Drama

The writer Elinor Cook came to work with the Year 12 and 13 students taking part in the New Views project with the National Theatre. The students will now write thirty-minute plays which, if chosen, could be performed at the National Theatre! The session with Elinor was extremely informative and the students really enjoyed it.

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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!

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## Reminders from the Admin Team

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

**Appointments:** please remember to send an email to [office@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk) to report your child's appointments, and copy in their Tutor (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.

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## From the Library

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Fortismere's Patron of Reading, S F Said, met all our Year 7s for the first of his visits over the next year. They shared their favourite books with him, and he with them; *Watership Down* (Adams) and *The Earthsea Quartet* (le Guin) will be very popular loans from the library for the next few weeks! Our students now know that drafting and re-drafting is essential to create a prize winning novel, and all good writers are good readers. They discovered that *Phoenix* would not exist without the influence of the film Star Wars (before it became Part IV) and that it's necessary to persevere even when you've been rejected by publishers (80 times!) There wasn't enough time for SF to answer all the questions that the delightful audience wanted to ask so he encouraged them to go onto his website [www.sfsaid.com](http://www.sfsaid.com) and post questions there. He answers everything, and says it's easier than writing a book...!

Did you see this? Annoying on so many levels, but the statistics were interesting/appalling and the fact that empathy and imagination is cultivated through reading was emphasised <http://bbc.in/2flxPJH>

We have a new DVD player in the library and have re-started our mini film club. Selected films are now shown in our film corner every lunchtime – Film of the Week is posted on the library door every Monday. Next week we'll be watching Spielberg's *War Horse*.

Poppies for the British Legion appeal are in the library – please encourage your child to make a donation towards this wonderful charity.

### Recommended Read of the Week

*The Bone Sparrow*. Zana Fraillon. Life in a detention centre. Glorious writing. Enough said. Read it.

### FSA News

#### Fireworks

It was an absolutely brilliant night for the Fireworks last night – we could not have wished for better weather. We'd like to thank the 200 parents who helped make this event a success, starting with the regulars who attend the FSA meetings - the absolute backbone to the success of these events and also to everyone else who helped: the designer, the PR, the households who displayed the boards, the leaflet distributors, the student marshals, the photographers, the on-the-night volunteers, Tesco's for their £50 donations for the doughnuts, Martyn Gerrard for their sponsorship and the wonderful Fortismere facilities team! We hope we haven't forgotten anyone – we are so grateful for everyone's support; it truly was a community event.



#### Phil the Bag: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 1pm – 4pm in South Wing Car Park

With just over a week to go, we now start our next project – please 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 organizations. E.g. Hospitals, hotels and animal sanctuaries.

Last year we collected 880kg of textiles – let's do it again!

[Contact the school](#)

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

## Bids Evening Allocation

On Monday night (7<sup>th</sup> November) we will be meeting to allocate the £55k we have available to the different departments. This year we have had requests for just over £105k - a 50% increase on last year. It won't be an easy task! Please take some time and read the documents that the teachers have submitted; there are many great ideas/initiatives but sadly demonstrates the challenging financial situation that most schools are finding themselves in at the moment. This is why your support is essential in helping with events and any projects the FSA would like to do for this year.

All the relevant documents have been uploaded [here](#)

## Christmas Fair

Planning for the Christmas fair has already begun, and, with the Fireworks event now over, preparations will now start stepping up a gear. 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/entertainer who would like to perform at the event – email [markskirsty@gmail.com](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com)

## Dates for Diaries:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 13:00-16:00: **Phil the Bag**. Start clearing those cupboards!
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 12:00-16:00: **Christmas Fair** – back by popular demand! North Wing Hall.

PS Don't forget donations to the FSA for the school can also always be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool>

**fortismere School Association** charity number: 801227



## We Raise Money with A 'Phil' The Bag Textile Collection



Please bring your bags of unwanted clothing, linens & shoes

- ◆ Fill bags with your unwanted clothes, shoes, household linens, belts, hats and handbags and bring them to Fortismere, South Wing car park
- ◆ The more it weighs, the more we earn...
- ◆ Please use any type of bag, black sacks are best!

on Saturday 12th November between 1pm and 4pm.  
FORTISMERE SCHOOL, SOUTH WING CAR PARK, TETHERDOWN



GREEN APPLE AWARD WINNER 2011



For more information on the recycling process go to [www.philthebag.co.uk](http://www.philthebag.co.uk)

Official Textile Recycling Partner of Eco-Schools

