



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend. Even though it has been a shorter week, we've still packed a lot in here at school. Year 10 exams have begun, which is useful preparation for the public exams which will start in Year 11, and GCSE Art and Photography students have been doing their practical exams.

Next week, we will be holding Revision Days for Year 11s in English, Maths and Science. Those departments have worked hard to prepare some really useful sessions, designed to give the students more confidence when sitting their GCSEs later this term.

In complete contrast, on Thursday night, we enjoyed the FSA's fantastic Comedy Night, in aid of the school. What a treat to have the support of Harry Hill and others! It was a great evening and my thanks go to the FSA for all their hard work in putting it together.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Review of Arrangements for the Locking of Toilets During Lessons – Senior Leadership Team

As previously suggested it is our intention to review the above arrangements this term and we would like to ask parents/carers to formally share their views on this by completing a brief survey.

As a reminder, the decision to close the toilets was based on the following:

- Specific safeguarding concerns
- Serious vandalism which resulted in considerable damage and associated cost of repair
- Offensive graffiti written about fellow students
- Use of mobile phones

It is also the case that whilst toilets are supervised during break and lunchtimes by duty teams, this is not possible during lessons when the significant majority of staff are teaching classes. We would like parents and carers to note that this arrangement is completely in line with a good number of other local secondary schools.

Students who require access to toilets for particular medical reasons are issued with passes and we recognise that for some of our girls that is necessary if they are having to deal with menstruation that is particularly problematic. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to inform the school of any medical needs so that students are spared any embarrassment they may feel if having to request passes themselves and we understand that youngsters can feel highly self-conscious about a range of issues they find themselves dealing with. One of several positive outcomes from this change in arrangements has been that we have been made aware of a number of students whose needs had not been flagged up before.

As part of our review of this particular approach, we are also exploring alternatives that can achieve the key goals of:

- Maximising time in class for all students
- Eradicating the possibility of behaviour that is unsafe and/or antisocial
- Minimising the opportunities for students to breach the mobile phone policy

To this end we would like to ask you to complete a very brief survey (there are only 3 questions). We would value your input to that so that we can incorporate your suggestions in the final agreed procedure for the next academic year.

Click [here](#) for the survey. We will be gathering views on this on Wednesday 10th May so would appreciate all returns by then.

Year 11 Celebration Event and Late Opening for All Other Year Groups, Friday 12th May – Senior Leadership Team

On Friday 12th May we will be celebrating with Year 11 their achievements and time at Fortismere before the examination period starts. As has now become something of a Fortismere tradition all staff will be sharing this celebration with Year 11 students during Period 1. Year 11 will then leave school and will have no further lessons that day. They should be reminded that lessons will resume as normal on Monday 15th May. Further details about the examination period will be shared with Year 11 students and their parents and carers in a separate communication next week.

Consequently, the school will be closed during Period 1 for students in all other year groups. Lessons start as normal Period 2 and students are due in from 10.00am onwards.

Wellbeing Events – Ms Judge, Deputy Head & Mrs Prinsley, PSHE Co-ordinator

Mental Health Awareness Evening - Monday 15th May, 6.30pm-8pm in North Wing Hall

Who claimed that adolescence is just a phase? Who suggested that being a parent is easy? Dick Moore, the parent of four often errant children and a headteacher for almost 23 years, embarked upon a mission to discover more about what makes young people tick and what he could or should have done during the challenging times! He has a passion for adolescent mental health and wellbeing and will be exploring how young people think, why adolescence is an especially vulnerable time and about common issues which can arise when the going gets tough. Finally, he will offer some tongue-in-cheek tips for parenthood.....

Dick a trainer from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust has spoken at over 250 schools, universities and businesses in the UK and overseas, together with talks at major conferences. He ran seminars at the HMC Conference and gave a TEDx talk in April 2015. He has also appeared on BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 5 Live, various local BBC radio stations and ITN News with Mary Nightingale. Please see more information about the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust by clicking [here](http://www.cwmt.org.uk/)<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.

There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust after the presentation. Refreshments will be provided by Team London Ambassadors who are raising money for Young Minds.

Year 10 Students' Wellbeing

As part of Year 10's Wellbeing and RS Curriculum, Dick Moore will also be delivering a presentation in connection with Mental Health to them. Year 10 parents/carers will be emailed with more information next week.

Student Wellbeing Evening – Tuesday 6th June 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

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.

Year 13 A-Level Devised Exam, Tuesday 9th May 2017 6pm – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

This year we have two fantastic creative adaptations created by our talented Year 13 students. *The Wasp Factor* and *10 days in a Mad House* have been re-imagined from page to stage. Please note these performances contain shocking images, very mature themes and strong language and will only be suitable for a 16+ audience. Tickets are available on the door and on ParentMail. Ticket price £4 each. The performances take place in North Wing.

Year 10 Mocks, Friday 12th May – Ms Ozturk, Exams Officer

Due to the late start on Friday 12th May the exam start time has now changed to 10.30 am. Students involved must gather at the South Wing basketball courts by 10.15 am. Many thanks.

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. Several parents have already emailed to say they would like to discuss the Toilet Policy. Hope to see you there!

Sixth Form Head Student Team – Ms Cunningham, Head of Year 12

This week, Year 12 and staff have voted in the new Sixth Form Head Student Team:

Head Students: Mary Bonsu and Joey Gold

Deputy Head Students: Layla Nathan and Kafui Okpattah

The election attracted an 85% turnout and I know that the new team are looking forward to their roles. We are attaching the photos of the new team. They will take up their duties in full after their AS examinations.



Mary Bonsu & Joey Gold



Layla Nathan & Kafui Okpattah

Haringey Swimming Gala – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to our Year 7 Girls' and Boys' Swimming Teams which came first in the Haringey Gala on Monday 24th April! Year 8 Girls came second by just one point to Highgate Wood and Year 8 Boys came 3rd with two Year 7 boys representing them. Well done everyone!



Engineering Education Scheme – Mr Bower, Teacher of DT

The Engineering Education Scheme in England & Scotland is an EDT Programme which links teams of four/six Year 12s and their teacher with local companies to work on real scientific, engineering and technological problems. The scheme provides students with an in-depth experience in science, engineering and technology that will enable them to make an informed decision about their future studies and career.

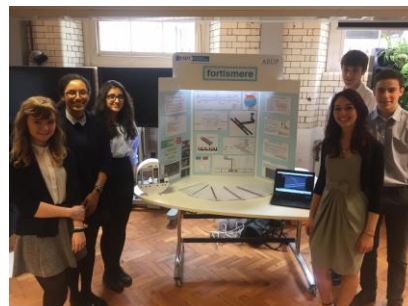
Fortismere entered a team of six Year 12 students: Huda Ahmed, Kelis Rossi, Sasha Andreeva, Connor Napleton, Nat Hodge and Jolene Incontrada. The team spent six months working with three ARUP engineers on a project entitled 'Finding Life in an Old Building'. The project focused on rebuilding Down Street Tube Station (a disused station between Hyde Park Corner and Green Park) into a homeless shelter. They focused on three main areas of Fire Safety, water/heating and ventilation. They also gave consideration to working with outreach groups to help support the continual rehabilitation of a homeless individual.

They produced a stunning report and spoke professionally and with real confidence in front of a panel of experts. I was very proud of their achievements throughout the term of the project. Below is just one of many pieces of advice they received from the panel and their mentors from ARUP:

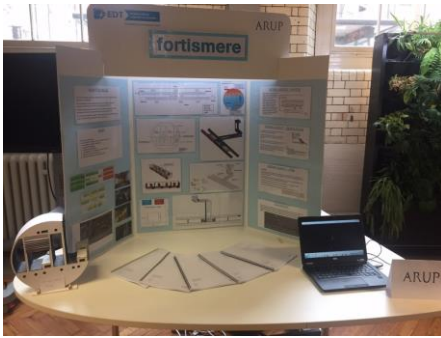
“Try to take some time to reflect on the whole experience – what you enjoyed, didn't enjoy, and what you can learn for the future. Maybe make some notes, so that it will be easier to write/talk about in UCAS applications etc. Remember to sell this experience as it was extra-curricular, linked to industry (a real life problem), it involved report-writing, a presentation, compiling a poster board, and involved learning several software packages.”



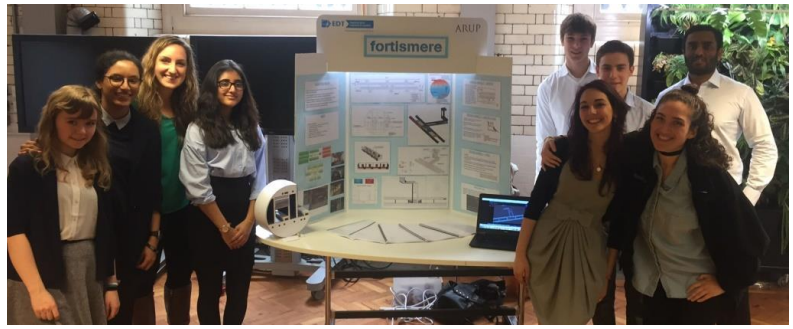
The Presentation



The Team



The Display Stand



The Team with their Mentors

Media Coverage – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

You may have seen Fortismere featured twice in this week's Ham & High newspaper! The first article covered the Mental Health Conference for local education staff hosted by the school and Place2Be; link here:

<http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/education/fortismere-school-determined-to-play-pivotal-role-in-supporting-students-struggling-with-mental-health-1-4999769>

The second was an item about Mrs Glass's forthcoming departure, and featured some highlights of her 7-year tenure; link here:

<http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/education/headteacher-of-outstanding-fortismere-school-resigns-1-5000931>

Fortismere Community Choir & Orchestra Concert – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

Fortismere Community Choir is delighted to announce its next concert with the Fortismere Community Orchestra at St Andrew's Church Alexandra Park Road on Saturday 13th May at 7.30pm. The programme for the evening is: Mozart's 'Mass in C minor', Haydn's 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' and Schutz 'Magnificat'. Tickets are priced Adults: £10, Concessions: £8 and under 12s can come along for free. To purchase tickets visit our website www.fortismerecommunitychoir.org.uk

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.

Also, please note that the Careers Office has recently moved and is now located on the Ground Floor of the Linc building.

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

Once again, our Year 8 Carnegie shadowers are pulling no punches (read Jonty's review of *Sputnik!*) <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW>

Please remind your students that it's best not to leave the purchase of necessary equipment for exams until two minutes before they need to be in the hall!

Recommended Read of the Week

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas is a superbly written story of a girl who witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend. I was really impressed by this story of communities and gang culture in America (sounds grim, but worth reading).

FSA News

Last Night's Comedy Night

A big thank you to everyone who came along last night! We think you'd agree it was a roaring success! It's our pleasure to do a big shout-out to the two fathers who have successfully organised this event for the last two years: comedian, Mark Maier and Andy Nairn. We thought last year's event was great, however you both excelled last night - profit up 30% and £5,300 raised for the school AND a standing ovation!! What more could you want from an event?!!!



Food Market

To date the market has helped raise over £1,000 for the school and with your help we can continue to raise more. We'd love to get your feedback on the market: are there any new products you would like to see? Children's entertainment or musicians? Perhaps you'd like to get involved and have a stall of your own? We're looking to create a place for everyone in Muswell Hill to enjoy whether you come for a bite to eat or your entire weekly shop.

Email: stall4alluk@gmail.com with any feedback.



Emma Spitzer, MasterChef Finalist 2015 is back with us this Sunday, so do come along!

Fortitude on Saturday 1st July, 12 – 6pm

Our next Fortitude planning meeting is this Wednesday 10th May at 7pm. Do come along – let's make this the best Summer event of 2017!

Can you help?

Music: Do you know the next Jess Glynn, Michael Kiwanuka, Girl Ray or the Kinks (all alumni of Fortismere)? Whatever the musical talent, we would love to see it on our stage.

Stalls / Games: We need people to take on running different things. Some of the things we need help for are: the bottle tombola (which is a great fundraiser), the raffle and a voucher tree. We'd also like to run different fun things – Wild Water Warriors, Wang A Welly, a football-focused game to name but a few. Could you take on organising one of these? We would help you all the way. Organising one of these events shouldn't take up too much of your time - a few hours before the event and then being there on the day. We will be able to get volunteers to help you out at the event.

Student-Run Stalls and Events: We'd love to have more students doing more things at Fortitude. If your child wants to run a stall or a game or has any ideas about how to make Fortitude even better please do ask them to get in touch.

For all of the above, please get in touch with Philippa at philippastonebridge@hotmail.com or on 07722 883098.

Raffle / Silent Auction: We are now collecting prizes for this and we would be ever so grateful for your continued support with this. If you have a prize you could contribute or have any ideas for this then please get in touch with Miriam at mirriec Clark@gmail.com or on 020 8365 3860.

Volunteers: We do need all the help we can get. If you can volunteer on the day, please email markskirsty@gmail.co.uk with the times that will work for you.

Remember that the whole event is designed to be fun for the school and local community, and will also raise money for our children, so please do get involved if you can!