



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 26/09/16 Wk 2

MACMILLAN'S COFFEE MORNING BAKE SALE! YUMMY!

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, we held our Information Evening for parents/carers of students in Year 12. Some of those students know Fortismere well, having been here since Year 7, but others join us in the Sixth Form, so it is a good opportunity to welcome their parents/carers to the school. My thanks go to Ms Sullivan, Director of Sixth Form, for organising the evening, during which she gave a presentation about the opportunities and responsibilities of Sixth-Formers (now available on our [website](#)). Although the Sixth Form shares the same site and is very much part of the whole school, we do recognise that older students need more freedom and different support. The Sixth Form team is on hand should any of our new Year 12s (or indeed Year 13s) need anything.

Sadly, I was not able to be there for the Information Evening because I was in Glasgow for a national conference on the Confucius Classroom. We are one of the Institute of Education's forty-two Confucius Classrooms around the country, which means that we have Chinese firmly embedded in our curriculum. It was good to meet with other Headteachers from a range of schools (state and independent) to discuss this important work.

On Wednesday, it was time to meet prospective parents/carers and students as they toured the school as part of our Open Afternoon. It was lovely to be able to welcome so many visitors and to see the school through their eyes for a few hours! I heard lots of positive feedback which was great. My thanks go to the staff that organised the afternoon, and the many Year 8 students who did a tremendous job of representing the school.

Finally, we have just received a lovely letter from the Leader and Chief Executive of Haringey Council congratulating the school on the summer's fantastic exam results. Once again, well done to students and staff for making this possible. To see the letter, click [here](#).

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Message about Anti-Social Behaviour – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

Please be aware that Fortismere has received several complaints from the local community alleging that our students have been dropping litter on the Broadway and using the new square outside the local cinema for skateboarding. At school, we will continue to remind students about our high expectations of their behaviour in public areas and the importance of positive community relations.

Early Closure, Friday 7th October – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

A reminder that school will finish at 2:15pm on Friday 7th October to allow time for the Year 7 Deep Learning Conversations.

Mobile Phone Policy Update – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

We are pleased to report to parents that the number of incidents where staff have spotted students using mobile phones on site has diminished rapidly. We are delighted with the response to this policy and would like to thank all members of our community for their support in its effective implementation.

There are still a few points that we would like to clarify:

1. Parents who are required to collect a confiscated phone will be reminded in the email they receive that they can collect any confiscated phones from **the following school day** between the hours of **3.30pm and 4.00pm**.
2. Students who refuse to hand over their phone to the member of staff who requests it will be placed in C4 immediately. Once in C4 they will be expected to hand over the phone. Students who are placed in C4 twice for refusing to hand over a phone may be at risk of exclusion for persistently failing to adhere to the school's behaviour expectations as per page 9 of our behaviour policy document.

As mentioned previously we would be pleased to receive feedback from parents about the policy. Some feedback has already been emailed through and this will contribute towards an interim review of how the policy is working during the course of next week. However, we are keen to invite as many views as possible so would ask parents who would like to contribute their thoughts to email their comments to the following email address: feedback@fortismere.org.uk

Year 12 University Search Fair – Ms Cunningham, Acting Deputy Director Sixth Form

On Friday 30th September all Year 12 students will be attending the **UK University Search Fair** at The Emirates Stadium. Students will receive further information regarding the details of the trip in assembly on Monday 26th September. You may be interested in the attached flyer which gives details about the event. The school has booked places for all Year 12 students - please look out for a letter and reply slip which will be given to students on Monday 26th September in assembly.

Students will make their own way to the event in the morning but will be expected to return to school for Periods 4 and 5. We are very hopeful that all students will enjoy this initial investigation into the world of higher education.

KS3 Art Club – Ms Powell, Head of Art

Art Club begins next Wednesday (3.30-5.30pm) in N5, North Wing. All KS3 pupils are welcome however, Year 7 will have priority.

Extra Curricular Music Timetable – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

The updated Extra-Curricular Music timetable for this year can be found on the [website](#).

Advance Warning: late start Monday 17th October – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

There will be a late start to school on Monday 17th October to allow time for the Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations. School will start at Period 2 (10:20am). We ask that students do not arrive at school before 10:00am.

Careers Information – Ms N Phillips, Careers Advisor

A booklet giving details of local Sixth Form and College Open Evenings will be available in early October, to assist students and parents/carers with making decisions about the post-16 transition.

Karate Course – Mr Kelsey, Teacher of Geography

Karate course open to all students starting as on Thursday 29th September 3.30pm – 4.30pm with Sensei I Berisha (7th Dan) from the Muswell Hill Karate Academy. See PE department for details.

From the Library and Wellbeing

Huge thanks to everyone who brought for and bought at the Mammoth Cake Sale which we held as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st September. We are delighted to tell you that a total of £803.97 is being sent to Macmillan as a result of your generosity. Class O6 sold at break time, fielding the onslaught of famished students, and we had a wonderful team of Y7 students who kept our prospective families refreshed during Open Afternoon. Thanks must also go to our student leaders, Lucy from Macmillan Cancer Support and members of staff who helped out. (Please remember to collect your tubs and tins from the library before next Friday).

From the Library

The first meeting of the new school year of CoverUp (our parent/staff reading group) was most enjoyable and it was great getting to know new members and sharing all our summer holiday reads (as well as *Blue Monday* by Nicci French!). Put the date of our next meeting in your diaries now – on Thursday 24th November we will be discussing *Chains of Sand* by Jemma Wayne. As always, everyone welcome, 7pm in the library. Jemma is actually coming to talk to our 6th form students (and CoverUp members) the week before.

If any Year 7 students who attended our Roald Dahl party wish to collect their BFG Me photos, they are now available – for all to see! – in the library.

Recommended Reads of the Week

I really enjoyed *Strange Star* by Emma Carroll. It's based around the *Frankenstein* story and is a good introduction to how the story came to be written for our younger students. And inspired by *Oliver Twist*, Steve Tasane's *Nobody Saw No-One* is a gritty tale of modern day orphans and pickpockets; it's fun

recognising the Dickens characters in the book. All Recommended Reads are available in the school library – free to borrow!

FSA News

We are now well underway with our planning for fabulous fireworks on the field. Our next event is the AGM at the school next Wednesday, 7pm, which is an excellent place to meet Mrs Glass and the FSA exec team and hear more about what the school and FSA plans are. Do please try and join us. Please also see our newsletter which is attached to this ParentMail if you'd like more information.

Up and Coming events:

AGM next Wednesday 28th September, 7pm

Please join us at our AGM to hear from Mrs Glass (who is also FSA President) about plans for the school, from our chair about how we did last year, from our treasurer about how we all did with our fundraising and to hear about plans for this year's events. Starts at 7pm, South Wing (Tetherdown) Conference room, which is on the first floor of the main building, a side door will be open on the left of the building when you are looking at reception - just come up to the first floor and meet us there. Plenty of parking available as well. All very welcome.

Seeking a new Vice Chair(s):

We are currently looking for new Vice Chair(s) to help us on the small and friendly FSA team. If you feel you might like to get involved with the school in this time when funds have never been so stretched, please contact Maria on 07715 413 435 or at maria.demetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to find out more about the role. An updated Role Description is below for you to have a look and see if you think it might be something you would enjoy. The Vice Chair role can be split by two people if you have a friend you'd like to work with, and the roles are only for two years at a time. It's an immensely rewarding and enjoyable way to connect with other parents at the school and do your bit for the benefit of your child(ren) and the other children at Fortismere. The role(s) will be elected at our AGM on 28th September

Changing the Constitution:

We will be making small changes and updates to the FSA Constitution, in particular around the number of members and the committee, the changes will be presented for approval at the AGM.

Meet us at the **bids meetings** (dates tbc).

Save the date - **Fireworks on Thursday 3rd November**, gates at 6pm.

Please also think about helping the FSA with a regular (or one off) donation. Even £10 each month really helps. Just fill in the easy online form at: <http://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool>

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you next Wednesday at annual AGM.

FSA Team

FSA Vice Chair(s) – Up-to-Date Role Description

Role

The role of the vice chair is to assist/stand in for the chair to facilitate and promote the aims and objectives of the FSA in an open and inclusive manner. In addition the Vice Chair(s) is responsible for managing event planning (supported by the committee) as well as being a general committee member participating in the wider activities of the association.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Vice Chair(s) are the same as the Chair when the Chair is unable to attend a meeting or carry out their role as Chair for any reason. Also to co-ordinate, oversee and project manage the big fundraising events throughout the year (Fortitude and Fireworks).

In addition the Vice Chair(s) is a committee member participating in the wider activities of the association.

The specific event responsibilities of the Vice Chair(s) are as follows:

- To oversee the planning and running of all of the fundraising events.
- To develop new fundraising event opportunities.
- To manage local sponsorship opportunities with local businesses
- To delegate responsibilities for areas of each event to other members of the committee, to ensure that each event has enough people involved enabling the event to run successfully.
- To ensure that the committee is informed and are in agreement, with all proposals for the type of events held and the dates of all events
- Liaise together with the chair to ensure the Head Teacher, is informed and in agreement with all event content and dates.
- To budget for and ensure that all costs are agreed for each event.
- To arrange a sub-committee for the Fireworks and Fortitude.
- To keep in contact with all FSA members and database and enlist their help for the Fireworks and Fortitude, to ensure that they are informed of their duties.
- To arrange with Sita Macintosh for the appropriate license for events which include the sale of alcohol.
- To arrange the catering for events.
- To arrange the design and publicity of events and seek approval from the committee and school for any publicity for such events.
- Keep documentation of events and ensure that it is passed on to any successor to the position.

Any other specific responsibilities the Vice Chair may take on during their term of office will depend on their own skills and experience and will be agreed by the Committee.

Liaison

The role involves liaison with other Committee members, Head teacher, parents/carers, staff and the PTAs of local schools.

Skills

To be able to type and communicate via e-mail. To be able to organise. To be able to keep control of a meeting. To be able to communicate, delegate and motivate others. This role needs someone who is accessible to other committee members on a regular basis and is organised and resourceful.