



**Newsletter
for Parents
and Carers**

Week beginning: 06/03/17 Wk 1

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

I must commend the Year 12 Drama students on their amazing performances at their exam on Tuesday evening. The variety and high quality was excellent. The feedback I've received all referred to the intelligent and unique interpretations of familiar pieces as well as the more unusual works. Congratulations to everyone involved.

It was good to see so many parents/carers in school for the Year 10 Deep Learning Conversations this week. I hope you found the opportunity to discuss progress with tutors useful.

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday with our Patron of Reading, SF Said, working with Year 7s. SF has visited the school several times already this year and is a hugely inspiring and dedicated supporter. Along with a number of other authors that have come to work with students of all ages in the Library, he effortlessly encourages them to read and write which obviously benefits all their studies. As Dr Seuss said,

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

Have a great, book-filled weekend!

Message from Mark Chapman, Chair of Governors

A reminder that we have upcoming vacancies for three parent governors. Information about the role, and the process by which Parent Governors are appointed has been circulated by ParentMail. The process will be run by our Clerk, Sam Murray, and nominations need to be placed with her by Friday 10th March at 5pm.

We welcome applications from any parent/carer and from all parts of the community, however at this time we would particularly like to add to our skills in legal, finance, fundraising (corporate and charitable sources) and premises matters (estate management, procurement and project/contractor management).

Year 8 Parents' Evenings – Mr Ward, Assistant Head

The Parents' Evening for 8X classes is next Tuesday 7th March in South Wing. We look forward to seeing parents and carers with their children then.

The Parents' Evening for 8Y classes is Tuesday 21st March in South Wing. The system for parents and carers to book their appointments will become available during the previous week; parents and carers will receive a ParentMail to inform them when they can start making their bookings.

Late Start: Thursday 16th March – Mr Ward

Lessons will start at 10.20am (Period 2) on Thursday 16th March, to allow time for the Year 11 Deep Learning Conversations. Please ensure that your child does not come on to the school site before 10am.

Parents and carers with children in Year 11 will receive their appointment time early next week.

ASCL Twitter Campaign re Funding Cuts – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) are launching a twitter campaign on Sunday 5th March, ahead of the Chancellor’s budget on 8th March, which we will be taking part in. We will be tweeting pictures of the range of great activities that take place in school with the hashtag #WhatWouldYouCut, to highlight the financial threat we face. If you are on Twitter, please do help by following us and retweeting the messages that go out on Sunday, and throughout next week. The aim is to raise awareness of the great work that schools do, and how this is being jeopardised by the Government’s decisions.

@Fortismere_Sch

Under-15 Girls’ Cricket – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to the Under 15 Girls’ Cricket Team who came fourth in the Middlesex County Cricket Finals on Tuesday!



Drama News – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

The Year 12 A-Level Drama Exam on Tuesday night this week was simply stunning. The students excelled themselves and a packed North Wing Hall saw remarkable performances ranging from a visceral emotive Medea filled with music and movement to comic verbatim piece about The Battle of the Beanfield.



Boys' Hockey Success – Mr Kay, Teacher of PE

Both Fortismere Under 12 and Under 13 boys' hockey teams won the Middlesex County Schools' Hockey Tournament and qualified for the South Schools Finals. The girls' Under 12s played really well but didn't make it to the qualifying stages after coming up against some really strong opposition. Well done everyone!



Voluntary Contributions Update – Ms Keogh, Business Manager

As you will be aware, last term we asked parents/carers to consider making a voluntary contribution to complement the school's budget which is under significant pressure from increased costs and the National Funding Formula. You will have received a letter about this, via ParentMail, in January and it is available on our [website](#), in case any parent/carer wishes to make a donation.

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! In particular, you might be interested in the following:

- National Apprenticeship Week, and the **Apprenticeship Fair** that is taking place at Tottenham Hotspurs' Football Ground on Wednesday 8th March.
- Studying abroad, the **Student World Fair** takes place at the Emirates Stadium on 18th March.
- Tech City College is celebrating **STEM Fest** on 15th March.
- **London Higher Education Exhibition** at ExCel on 27th and 28th March

Full details of all these events, and more, can be found on our [website](#).

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

During his last visit to Fortismere on 7th February, our Patron of Reading, S F Said, spent an afternoon working on creative writing with students from Years 9 and 10. He was really impressed with the work they produced as you can see by his latest blog entry <http://bit.ly/2mOhT4J> which also includes some examples of their exceptional work.

An unashamed advert for the fab Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green – Children’s/YA Takeover Day this Saturday 4th March. “To mark the end of World Book Day Week, the shop is going to be taken over by the cream of the Children’s and Young Adult literary world. Throughout the day a number of amazing authors will be at the shop and you’ll have a chance to meet and chat with them and get signed copies of their books too!” Do take a look at the schedule for the day – loads of my favourite authors will be there and I can guarantee a fantastic time: <http://biggreenbookshop.com/>

World Book Day was on Thursday 2nd March: an afternoon with SF Said for our Year 7s, and the launch of this year’s Reading Champions competition. Full details in next week’s Newsletter.

FSA News

SOLD OUT - Quiz Night, Saturday 4th March (sponsored by sola*kitchens) - SOLD OUT

Quiz Night Auction

We are delighted that local artist and parent, [Emma Franks](#), has donated a first print of a limited edition (along with a signed card congratulating the winner on the back) for auction. If you’d like to enter a bid before 2pm tomorrow (Saturday 4th March), please email – markskisty@gmail.com



Fortismere Food Market



It's happening!! Muswell Hill is getting its own food market!

We hope that it is a real winner with the locals and will continue to grow each week with the support of the community.

Proceeds from the market will go to the FSA and ultimately the students.

If you wish to have a stall or know someone who does please contact stall4alluk@gmail.com

Dates for Diaries:

- Wednesday 8th March, 7pm-9pm: Planning for our next fundraising events, South Wing Conference Room
- Sunday 19th March, 11am-3pm: Food Market
- Saturday 22nd April: Outdoor Movie Night! More information coming soon...

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 for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.