



# Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 05/12/16 Wk 1

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## Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

I hope you've all had a good week. Those of you that came to the Drama Department's production of 'The Shard' will I'm sure agree that it exceeded expectations; a fantastic and thought-provoking evening's entertainment. Well done to everyone that took part. Next up is the Christmas Concert, on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December. A great way to celebrate the festive season! More information below.

In the meantime, next Sunday afternoon (11<sup>th</sup> December), the FSA are bringing back the Christmas Fair by popular demand! I do hope you can join us for this event.

In amongst all these special Christmas events, work continues as usual. Next week it's the Year 9 Parents' Evening, and I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Have a great weekend!

## Parent Forum: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, South Wing Hall – Ms W Sloane and Mr M Chapman, Parent-Governors

A reminder that our first discussion Forum for parents and carers will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December in South Wing hall (Tetherdown). We hope the Forum will further facilitate good communication between parents/carers and the school, providing the school with an effective consultation mechanism, and allowing the school to hear first-hand the thoughts and concerns of parents/carers. Members of the senior leadership team and Governors will always attend.

Any topic can be raised and discussed (though not individual student, family or staff issues please). To kick things off, this first meeting will include a discussion, with input from the school, on the impact of the new mobile phone policy. This is due to be formally reviewed by the School and Governors at the end of this year.

## 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.

## Music Notes

1. Fortismere School Christmas Concert – Weds 13 & Thurs 14 December 2016, North Wing Hall 7pm

- a. Tickets will go online from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. A ParentMail will circulate as to how tickets can be purchased online (£6 adults and £4 student plus 0.50p transaction)
- b. The programme and a rehearsal schedule will be available from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from the music department. Students must collect a copy asap.
- c. Rehearsals start more intensively from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December during the school day
- d. Please note advance orchestral rehearsals are on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December Periods 4 and 5 and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 1-3pm for ALL players please.

2. Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert – see flyer attached

3. Advance notice for any parents/professionals that would like to perform at our Charity Band Night in early February!!! Last year the evening consisted of fantastic performances from parents, friends, ex-students and current students.

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**Advance Warning: Lessons Start Period 2 on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 – Ms Davey, Deputy Head**

Students begin lessons promptly at 10.20am (Period 2) on the first day of the Spring Term (03/01/17). It will be Week 1.

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**Creative Writing Workshop, January 2017 – Ms Massey, Teacher of Wellbeing**

Please find attached a poster advertising our new Creative Writing Workshop for students, which will begin in the New Year.

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**Sporting Success! – Mr Cox, Head of PE**

**Handball Champions**

Congratulations to the U13 boys' handball team who joined the U13 and U15 girls to become Haringey Champions! The boys beat St Thomas More and Greig City to win the competition. All 3 teams will now represent Haringey in the next round, with the London Finals to be played at the Copperbox Arena on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Cross Country**

Congratulations to the runners who represented the school in the Haringey Championships last Friday afternoon. Our Year 7 girls came 3<sup>rd</sup> and our Year 8/9 girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Unfortunately, the boys' teams were hit by illness/injury but Alfie Zak and Lucas Maher led the way coming 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in their respective age groups.



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

Many thanks to everyone that came along to see our production of 'The Shard' recently. I hope you agree that it was a fantastic production from our very talented students. Well done and thank you to everyone that put in so much effort to make it such a success. Here are a few pictures:



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

After 12 classical chess games, World Champion Magnus Carlsen (Norway) and Challenger Karjakin drew 6-6. Extra time ensued:

4 (dramatic) 25 minutes+ rapid games, with Carlsen retaining his title by winning 3-1. Game 2 (stalemate) and Game 4 were fantastic (see below).

Carlsen finished the game by playing Qh6!! (Queen sacrifice). If the Queen is captured by King or pawn, either rook gives checkmate! A superb finish (with both players having seconds to finish the game)!

### **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, I'd like to draw your attention to the Skills London, which is London's biggest jobs and careers event for young people and takes place at EXCeL London 9-10 December 2016. Aimed at 15-24 year olds, this two day event will provide young people and their families with a rare chance to discover careers through interactive, inspirational activities and demonstrations, and help young people visually bridge the gap between what they enjoy doing and what they could potentially do as a career.

If parents/carers and students want to find out more about the variety of educational providers and employers available, visiting Skills London would be a good starting point.

## 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.

## From the Library

Inspired by Hemingway's response to the challenge that it's impossible to write a story in 6 words, we want you to do just that! Not just a sentence, but something that has a beginning, middle and end and makes the reader THINK about the content. Here are a couple of examples: "Coffee before art. Goodbye straight lines", "I leave. Dog panics. Furniture shopping". And Hemingway's story was "For Sale. Baby shoes. Never worn"... As it's coming to Christmas, something about winter, cold, happiness and celebrations would be perfect. Prizes! Email entries to [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk)

As you know, our Patron of Reading S F Said spent an afternoon working on creative writing with a couple of our Year 8 classes recently. Here's a link to his blog, with some examples of the students' flash fiction <http://bit.ly/2gvXGqI> Impressive stuff!

CoverUp, our parent/staff reading group, enjoyed our Jemma Wayne discussion last week and is looking forward to the next meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January when Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* will be scrutinised over wine and nibbles. We always welcome new members, so do come along if you enjoy bookish chat.

Don't forget to send used postage stamps to the library for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity.

## Recommended Reads of the Week

I'm letting the wonderful charity BookTrust do my work for me this week! I've had great fun playing with their Bookfinder and have already enjoyed lots of its recommendations <http://bit.ly/2fOqEYD>

## FSA News

### Christmas Fair: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 12– 4pm, Creighton Avenue Entrance (NW)

That's it - we now have no more stalls available at the Christmas Fair! But with just over 80 stalls it's going to be a great day!

Have a look at our website to see who's going to be there – [www.fortismereschoolassociation.com](http://www.fortismereschoolassociation.com) and connect with our twitter account - [@FortismereEvent](https://twitter.com/FortismereEvent)

We urgently need your help with **volunteering on the day** and with **hampers**. If you can volunteer, please contact - [markskirsty@gmail.com](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com)

Please donate any Christmassy food items we can include in the hampers such as mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalades, Christmas Puddings, chocolates and treats, Christmas Crackers, teas etc ... and even unwanted Christmas Gifts from last year, such as beauty items and bath products! Please note that we cannot accept meat or cheese products. Baskets and old hampers are needed too.

**Please send all items in as soon as possible (and no later than Friday 9th December) to the library or to the Parents' Forum on Wednesday 7th December (in South Wing Hall).**

Wines and drinks containing alcohol are very welcome but must not be taken into the school by students. Please contact Maria Demetriou on [mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk) to arrange to deliver alcoholic drinks to her or give to the FSA team at the Parents' Forum on Wednesday night.



Fine tune your voices – we will be having Karaoke at the Christmas Fair!

#### **Other Ways to Fundraise for the School:**

- Donations to the FSA for the school can be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismerschool> – 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.