



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 28/11/16 Wk 2

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

It was lovely to see some of you at the Year 13 Parents' Evening on Tuesday. I'm sure it's hard to believe that this is the last year at Fortismere for some students! I have been lucky enough to see this cohort through from when they started in Year 7 in 2010, and it's great to hear about all their plans for life beyond Fortismere. I hope you found the evening useful in helping to prepare students for the next few important months.

Coming up next week I am very much looking forward to the Drama Department's production of 'The Shard'. One thing Fortismere students are not short of is talent, and I am always amazed by the quality of all the school's productions. I am sure this one will be excellent and I do hope that you can come along too. More details below.

Have a great weekend!

Parent Forum: Wednesday 7th December at 7pm, South Wing Hall – Mrs 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 7th 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 1st November, regarding voluntary contributions.

Christmas Concert: NW Hall, 7pm Tues 13 & Weds 14 December 2016 – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

- Auditions end on Monday 28th November and a final programme will be published from Wednesday next week
 - Tickets will go on sale from Monday 5th December (online)
 - Rehearsal schedules will be available for all participants from next Wednesday (available from music staff and on the website)
 - Attendance to rehearsals is now crucial!
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Girls' Handball Team Success! – Mr Cox, Head of PE

Congratulations to the U13 girls Handball team who won the Haringey Handball Tournament, beating St Thomas More 7-3, despite being 2 players short! They go on to represent Haringey in the Youth Games.

Congratulations also to the U15 girls Handball team who became Haringey Champions by default, as no other school dared take them on for the Title!



Safe Drive Stay Alive Event – Ms Cunningham, Acting Year 12 Learning Manager

On Wednesday 23rd November 210 year 12 students attended the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' event in Haringey. This is a London wide initiative to educate young people who are about to start driving or who may be a passenger in a car driven by a young driver.

The experience was both harrowing and uplifting, reminding all staff and students about the heroism of the emergency services and the responsibilities that we all share as drivers and passengers.

The picture features Lily Grossman 12AN and a student from Southgate College.



Chess Club – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies and Economics

With World Champion Carlsen winning last night, the score is 5-5 in the World Championship. The challenger, Karjakin, won game 8. The last two games are on Saturday and Sunday. The match, which is being held in the South Street Seaport in New York City, has a prize fund of about \$1.1 million.

Now that the match is tied, there is a greater possibility that the match may go beyond the regulation 12 games (if 6-6) and into tie-breakers of rapid and even blitz games.

On a more local level, congratulations to Fortismere's Chess team for winning their match versus North Bridge House, 3 1/2 - 2 1/2!

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!

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

Appointments: please remember to send an email to 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.

Fortismere Community Choir Presents...



From the Library

On Saturday 12th November a small group of our Year 10 students attended a writing workshop at the Chocolate Factory Open Studios. They toured a variety of artist studios to get inspiration to write flash fiction. The organisers have since told us that the work produced in response to the artworks was interesting, diverse and perceptive. We will keep you informed of future events.

[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

We know there are lots of talented young people with a passion for writing at Fortismere (see above!) The Wicked Young Writer Award is now open – a prestigious competition with sections for ages 5-25. Here's the link <http://wickedyoungwriterawards.com/> which has loads of writing tips and interesting stories even if you don't want to enter. But if you do – the deadline is 13th March, so you have lots of time to create something fantastic!

Our Year 7 students have now received their free BookBuzz books which they can consider an early Christmas present (or a late Welcome to Fortismere present). It was a great selection to choose from this year, and we hope they really enjoy reading them. Many thanks to the FSA for enabling us to give our newest students the special gift of a book.

Please remember to save your used postage stamps which the library forwards to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity.

Recommended Reads of the Week

So glad that recent RRoW have been in the news recently, with Alex Wheatle winning the Guardian Childrens' Fiction Prize 2016 with *Crongton Knights*, and Patrice Lawrence's *Orangeboy* appearing on the Costa Childrens Book Award shortlist earlier this week. Good to see that great minds think alike! Brian Conaghan is also on this shortlist: I would recommend one of his previous books, *When Mr Dog Bites* (which was on the Carnegie shortlist). The lead character has Tourette's Syndrome, so only read if you can cope with Really Big Swears and laughing out loud in public places.

FSA News

The Giving Machine

Today is 'Black Friday', when online retailers typically begin their pre-Christmas sales. The FSA have a great new fundraising initiative which costs nothing but which, if you shop online, could raise much-needed funds for the school.

By joining The Giving Machine (a simple registration process) to buy your purchases online, money will be donated, by the retailer, to the school. A simple but effective way to help, and many of the major stores including Amazon, John Lewis and Ebay are involved. Go to: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.



Christmas Fair

We can proudly announce that we now have over 60 stalls that will be at the Christmas Fair!

We are putting together some festive hampers to sell on the day, and we need your help.

We are asking parents to 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 Wednesday 7th December) to the library.

Wines and drinks containing alcohol are very welcome but must not be taken into the school. Please contact Maria Demetriou on mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to arrange to deliver alcoholic drinks to her or have them collected.

A reminder the stalls are £35 each – email: markskirsty@gmail.com

We have set up a website for the Christmas fair - www.fortismereschoolassociation.com – it is being updated daily with new stall information – please forward the link to all who will be interested in attending!



Dates for Diaries:

- Wednesday 30th Nov, 19.00 – 21.00: Continued Christmas Fair planning – South Wing Conference Room
- Wednesday 7th Dec, 19.00 – 21.00: Final preparations for the Christmas Fair - South Wing Conference Room
- Sunday 11th Dec, 12.00 – 16.00: **Christmas Fair** – North Wing Hall!!!

P.S. Don't forget donations to the FSA for the school can also be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool> – also allowing us to benefit from Gift Aid!