



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 06/02/17 Wk 2

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FSA News

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, our Year 9s had the opportunity to visit our neighbours at Muswell Hill Synagogue, to hear the story of Mr Bernd Koschland, who escaped Nazi Germany in 1939 on the Kinder Transport. Mr Koschland gave a moving and fascinating talk about his experiences at this Holocaust Memorial event. In these uncertain times of political unrest, Mr Koschland's inspiring words of peace and unity were most welcome. You can read more about the event below.

As I write this, the Library and DT teams are preparing for Friday's Harry Potter Night. The perennial popularity of J K Rowling's books and the world of wizardry that she created has made this annual event for Year 7s and Year 8s a real highlight! My thanks go to everyone donning hats and capes and whipping up spells to make it so much fun.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you at next week's Year 12 Parents' Evening and, on Thursday, at the Charity Band Night. Last year's inaugural Band Night was fantastic, and it was great to see so many staff, students and parents/carers (past and present) taking part. I can't wait to see the line-up next week!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mobile Phone Policy Update – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

We would like to thank parents/carers for their contribution to the development of this policy through engagement with the Parent Forums that have been taking place. We have updated the policy to incorporate suggestions from parents/carers on the wording of aspects of the policy and have attached the final updated version.

Further to discussions that took place at the surgeries we would also like to offer clarification on point of contact during after school clubs. We have now extended our office opening hours to 4.45pm so that any parent/carer who wants to get a message to their child while they are at a club is able to do so. Should any student want to communicate with home either prior to or during an extra-curricular activity they can do so by going to South Wing office who will phone on their behalf, or by approaching the teacher leading the activity who will have close access to an outside line.

Many thanks to our parents and carers for their support for this policy.

Year 9 Options – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

Well done to our Year 9 students who have shown such a high level of commitment and maturity in their questioning during the recent Options Evening and for their inquisitiveness and understanding in their guidance meetings. They have been a real pleasure to talk to – it reminds me of why I chose this profession!

This week there will be a number of activities going on surrounding Options – Taster Lessons, an assembly on Wednesday in North Wing during VT and the online Options Form will go live. For those parents who were unable to attend the presentation that was given last Tuesday it is now available on our website, along with the presentation about new subject areas given to students on their Focus Day last October. Also, look out for a ParentMail on the Taster Lessons we are running next week.

Wellbeing and RS: SEX FM Presentation, Tuesday 7th February – Ms Prinsley, PSHE Coordinator

As part of the school's commitment to deliver a comprehensive Sex and Relationship Education, all year 9 students will be watching SEX FM which will be presented by the Theatre in Education group, Face Front. Annie Smol, founder of Face Front Inclusive Theatre Ltd, based in Edmonton, North London was honoured with an MBE for services to Theatre and Inclusion in Drama in the Queen's New Year's Honours list 2017.

This event runs every year for all of our Year 9 students and it complements the Sex and Relationship Education that students also receive in their Wellbeing and RS lessons. Year 9 students from Blanche Nevile School will also be watching the presentation.

Our Year 9 Students will be building on their previous subject knowledge and skills enabling them to develop healthy relationships.

SEX FM addresses:

- Qualities of a positive relationship
- Gender identity
- Consent
- Sexual health, STIs, Safe Sex and Contraception
- The negative impact of alcohol abuse on wellbeing and happiness
- The negative impact of sexting, body image and pornography

Year 9 parents have been emailed a letter containing all the arrangements. Please see attached for information.

Want More Drama? – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

Year 7 and 8 Drama Club is back up and running: Tuesday lunchtimes in NDRS2, starting 7th February. This is an excellent opportunity for any student in Year 7 or 8 to come along and improve their skills and make new friends. Students need to bring a packed lunch with them.

Charity Band Night, Wednesday 8th February – Ms Ogilby, Head of Music

Charity Band Night takes place next week on Wednesday 8th February at 7pm in the Music Concert Hall. We are looking forward to performances from students and staff to raise money for school college charities. We hope you can join us for a lovely and entertaining evening from students across years 7-13, and staff from various departments. Tickets are £5 adults and £3 children.

Olympia Valentine's Day Roses – Ms Jackson, Head of Olympia

As always we will be selling red roses for £1 to be delivered to students on Thursday 9th February. They can be bought on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes. All money will go to our charity.

Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies Exam Performance Evening – Ms Overs

This will take place on Tuesday 28th February at 6pm in North Wing Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and see what our students have been working on. Please note, however, that some performances may contain adult themes and the evening is recommended for Year 11 and upwards. Tickets are £4 and are non-refundable. They are available via Parentmail now.

School Leaders Training

As Strategic Partner school within the NRTA Teaching School Alliance responsible for the delivery of School Leader Training, and in partnership with the Institute of Education, Fortismere has seen the successful completion this week of two flagship courses in School Leadership (NPQML and NPQSL). These help shape the school leaders of the future. Thank you to Ms Fineberg, Ms Karp, Ms Davey and colleagues from APS, Haringey LA and Lordship Lane Primary School for delivering such high quality training to our participants this year. The IOE is keen to continue to work with Fortismere and the NRTA to further cement partnerships that benefit students across Haringey.

Cross Country Running – Mr Cox, Head of PE

Congratulations to Sophia Staab (4th place) and Mimi Blake (7th place) for getting into the Middlesex Cross Country Team following a fine performance in a very cold race at Harrow School.

Congratulations also to the other Fortismere runners who ran for Haringey but did not qualify on this occasion: Lucas Maher, Fred Bonfield, Lucas Porter, Bryn Williams, Alfie Zak, Thalia Morrison, and Jasmine Horncastle.

Year 9 Visit to Muswell Hill Synagogue – Ms Arrowsmith, Head of SPE

Many thanks to Rabbi David and community members of Muswell Hill Synagogue for inviting all of the Year 9s to their place of worship on Monday. We listened to the testimony of Holocaust survivor, Bernd Koschland who, at the age of 8, travelled from Nuremberg whilst it was under Nazi persecution of the Jews on the Kinder Transport. He arrived in the UK in 1939 and his sister followed him a few months later. His story was one of triumph in a time of terror and his message to our students was that individual acts that show solidarity with others can make the world a better place. The students were incredibly well behaved and were a credit to the school.

Mr Koschland's inspiring story can also be found here - www.hmd.org.uk/resources/stories/bernd-koschland

There are some photos from the event below:



Chinese New Year Performance – Ms Huang, Teacher of Mandarin

A Chinese New Year Performance was organised for all Year 7 students on 30th January. The artists from the Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine (CITCM) performed a variety of things, including Chinese martial art, traditional dancing, folk songs and Chinese musical instruments. Students also interacted with the artists on stage, learning to conduct the Kongfu fans. They had a nice time!



Cancer Research Fundraising – Dr Daniels, Head of Science

I am running the Brighton Marathon on the 9th April for Cancer Research. My form, O5, are supporting with this and putting on various events which will feed into my JustGiving page. We have a pizza and cookie sale on Friday 3rd February ahead of World Cancer Day on Saturday. If you are able to donate, please, please do so! Thank you!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Nicole-Daniels1>

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

Student 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 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.

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

Discussions about Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* has inspired further research by many of the CoverUp group! It's great when a book does that. Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th March, and we'll be looking at *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* by Max Porter and *Crow* by Ted Hughes.

Recommended Read of the Week

It's rare that obesity is dealt with in YA fiction. For an occasionally shocking but always excellent read about how depression affects not only the sufferer but also family and friends, read *Panther* by David Owen.

FSA News

We found this lovely article online and thought it might help explain what drives people like ourselves to join a PTA. The article isn't very long and can be found [here](#). Below are two points from the article that summarise our points of view in a nutshell:

The Belfast Telegraph is reporting that parental participation in education has a direct impact on how well children do at school, whether that be primary or secondary.

[She] says: "Evidence tells us how much parents matter, and we know that parental participation in education has a direct impact on how well children do at school."

"Showpiece events like school fairs help resource important extras for the school that otherwise it wouldn't be able to afford. But what's driving the parents in the PTAs is that they want their child's school to be brilliant, not that they want to be a fundraiser."

Please do come along and meet us! We are a friendly group and you don't have to commit to attending every meeting; we appreciate that people have busy lives!

Quiz Night: Saturday 4th March Doors from 6.30pm in North Wing Hall (Creighton Avenue)

We are going to have an auction/raffle if you have anything to contribute – please contact: markskirsty@gmail.com

Tickets are selling at a steady pace but we are not there yet, so do come along to this great event. It's a lovely opportunity to meet other parents/carers; perhaps have a table with other parents/carers you're your child's class?

Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre ("Fabulous, funny and brilliant!", Fitzroy Club) tickets will be £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people. Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team. There will be a bar but bring food to share with your team. The event is being sponsored by Sola Kitchens.

Tickets – www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

fortismere
School Association
charity number: 801227

sponsored by SOLA*KITCHENS

Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club

Saturday 4th March
Doors 6.30 for 7pm prompt start

North Wing Hall, Creighton Avenue Entrance.
Tickets £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people.
Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team.
Licensed bar. Bring food to share but please don't bring your own alcoholic drinks.
Tickets online from www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com



Date for the Diary:

Wednesday 15th February, 19.00 – 21.00: Planning for our next fundraising events. If you have any ideas or are interested in helping out come along to South Wing Conference Room.

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.

[Contact the school](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk