



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 02/05/17 Wk 1

Christine Hamill, Winner of the Haringey Children's Book Award

[Message from Mrs Helen Glass](#)

[Wellbeing Events for Parents/Carers](#)

[Mental Health Conference for Education Staff](#)

[Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies Exam Performance Evening](#)

[Classics University Challenge](#)

[Year 7 First Give Final](#)

[Fortismere Community Choir & Orchestra Concert](#)

[Opportunity for Young Cyclists](#)

[Tickets for Schools: 'Kinky Boots' Offer](#)

[Facilities and Lettings](#)

[Careers Information](#)

[Reminders from the Admin Team](#)

[From the Library](#)

[FSA News](#)

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

I had the honour of being one of the judges at the First Give Final on Wednesday after school. Our Year 7s have been working with the charity, First Give, as part of their Enrichment programme, learning about local charities and why it is important to support them. The Final was the culmination of their work, and groups of students gave presentations about their chosen charities in order to secure a donation for the winners. The presentations were informative, creative and persuasive and I felt really heartened by the students' dedication. You can read more about the Final, and the winning charities, below.

We also hosted a Mental Health workshop this week, for local school staff from the Boroughs of Barnet and Haringey. As many of you will know, Fortismere has been working with the charity Place2Be to provide emotional and therapeutic support to students since 2015, and we wanted to share our experiences with other schools because we all know how important good – and early – support is. We had a great turn-out and the Place2Be's Educational Psychologist, Julia Clements, gave a fascinating insight into how best to support emotional wellbeing in educational settings.

Ensuring our younger students are coping with the move to secondary school is just one of the things that we discuss at the Year 7 parents' evenings, and I enjoyed meeting some of you at the first of these (for X Bank students) on Tuesday. I hope you found the conversations with tutors and subject teachers useful.

Finally, our Spanish students have been enjoying their exchange visit to Barcelona this week – I hope they've had better weather than we have!

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Wellbeing Events for Parents/Carers – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

Mental Health Awareness Evening - Monday 15th May, 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

We have invited a speaker, Richard Moore, a trainer from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust to lead a discussion on how young people can be supported when struggling with such issues and how parents can identify warning signs. Please see more information about the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust by clicking here <http://www.cwmt.org.uk/>. We would like to ask parents to register their interest in attending this event by emailing our events email address, events@fortismere.org.uk. We hope to see as many of our parents at this important event as possible. Please indicate in the title of your email the name of this event as shown above.

Student Wellbeing Evening – Tuesday 6th June 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

We will be welcoming Allison Havey and Deana Puccio, local mums and authors of what the Independent Online called one of the Top 10 Parent Books of 2016, 'Sex, Likes & Social Media, Talking To Our Teens In The Digital Age'. Offering practical tips and guidance, they will be speaking about how to help our children negotiate a very complex world growing up as digital natives. They will address the laws on sexual assault, consent, how hardcore pornography is affecting relationships and expectations, sexting, alcohol, and personal safety when it comes to dating, parties, and traveling on public transport. We would like to ask parents to register their interest in attending this event by emailing our events email address, events@fortismere.org.uk. We hope to see as many of our parents at this important event as possible.

Mental Health Conference for Education Staff – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

On Wednesday, Fortismere hosted a Mental Health Conference delivered by the Place2Be to an audience of teachers and support workers from schools across Haringey and Barnet. The aim of the Conference was to raise awareness of the well-being and mental health issues which face children and young people in Britain today. Amongst the information shared was the alarming statistic that 1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 - 16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder and that 50% of adults with mental health difficulties had diagnosable difficulties by the age of 14. The Place2Be focus on early intervention which supports the Fortismere approach and resonated with the attendees at the Conference.

Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies Exam Performance Evening – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

Tickets for this performance will be available on ParentMail from Monday 24th April. The event takes place on Tuesday 9th May at 6pm in North Wing Hall. Tickets are £4 and are non-refundable. The performances contain adult themes and language and it recommended for Year 11 and upwards.

Classics University Challenge – Mr Strathdene, Head of Colosseum

Fortismere students battled their wits against students from Alexandra Park School and Channing. Congratulations to Imogen Front, Eddie Knight, Izzy Chappell and Izzy Nendick (below, centre)! They were a great team. Thanks also for the many supporters. Fortismere came second to Channing in an honourable defeat. Training for next year starts now!



Year 7 First Give Final – Mr Strathdene

Massive congratulations to the winners of the First Give Final: Beatrice Wright, Rita Laczney, Leila Wilson, Edie Gutteridge, Emma Stannard and Katie Mercer. Their presentation was judged the best and so they have secured £1000 for their chosen charity: Solace Women's Aid. Congratulations also to the two runners-up groups. They were: Munro Black, Hugo Bulleid, Livia Cooper, Ethan Raine-Dunk, Luisa Staab who won £250 for their charity, Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre; and Nyika Dutson, Eden Changai, Ziba Ogunbiyi who won £250 for their charity, also, Solace Women's Aid.

Thanks also goes to the judges who gave up their time to make this difficult decision. The judging panel comprised Katie Purcell (Grants Officer, The Jack Petchey Foundation), Kawika Solidum (Chief Executive, BeyondMe), Helen Glass (Headteacher, Fortismere), Maria Demetriou (Chair of the Fortismere School Association), Agnes Chapman-Wills (Year 13 Head Girl, Fortismere) and Ella Carsley (Year 11 Student

Leader, Fortismere). They all spoke very highly of the amazing research, creativity and passion that went into the presentations.

Thank you and congratulations also to the teachers of Year 7 Enrichment who taught this totally new project and managed to elicit such fantastic presentations from their students. Their professionalism and enthusiasm has made all the difference.



Fortismere Community Choir & Orchestra Concert – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

Fortismere Community Choir is delighted to announce its next concert with the Fortismere Community Orchestra at St Andrew's Church Alexandra Park Road on Saturday 13th May at 7.30pm. The programme for the evening is: Mozart's 'Mass in C minor', Haydn's 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' and Schutz 'Magnificat'. Tickets are priced Adults: £10, Concessions: £8 and under 12s can come along for free. To purchase tickets visit our website www.fortismerecommunitychoir.org.uk

Opportunity for Young Cyclists – Mr Cox, Head of PE

We are putting together a cycling team to represent Haringey in The London Youth Games at The Olympic Velopark on the 24th June 2017. There are currently places for boys and girls who were born between 2001-2005 that either go to school or live in Haringey. If you're interested, please e-mail fabienne canale@yahoo.com with your child's name, date of birth and level of cycling experience. We hope to organise training and time trials. The programme/event is supported by Haringey Sports Development Trust and Haringey Cycling Club.

Tickets for Schools: 'Kinky Boots' Offer – Ms Keogh

Tickets for Schools have a special offer on theatre tickets for the popular show, Kinky Boots.

£69.50 tickets are reduced to £32.50 which includes the £5.00 donation to the FSA, valid Monday - Wednesday performances until 7th June (excluding half-term). Bookable using the link below:

<http://tickets4schools.com/fortismere-school>

The show comes highly recommended and has something for everyone!

Careers Information – Ms 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/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

On Monday 24th April, Mrs Coles, Ms Orton and Mrs Ward had great pleasure in taking 20 Year students to Heartlands High School in Wood Green for the third annual Haringey Children's Book Awards ceremony.



We have been meeting weekly to read the six shortlisted books, discuss them and take part in fun activities (and eat vast quantities of cake and biscuits) since January. Because we were such a large group half of the group enjoyed an animation workshop with Peter Bunzl (author of *Cogheart*) and the other half worked with Christine Hamill (*The Best Medicine*). After lunch in the park, we met all the shortlisted authors and other local writers and got books personalised by them. Catherine West MP and Joanne McCartney, the Deputy Mayor for London, gave short and bookish speeches and Sean Edwards introduced the Summer Reading Challenge on behalf of Haringey Libraries. Each shortlisted author spoke to the audience (400+ Y5, 6 and 7 students from around the borough). The "gobby" – her words – Emma Carroll talked about using Frankenstein as inspiration for *Strange Star*. Jo Cotterill, resplendent in a lemony dress, read a delightful extract from *A Library of Lemons*. Karen McCombie, author of 84 books, described how Haringey and Wood Green is the backdrop to *Catching Falling Stars*. Christine Hamill read a hilarious section from *The Best Medicine*. The splendidly bonkers AF Harrold (*The Imaginary*) is always being asked about his inspirations, so he read his poem, "They ask me where I get my inspiration. I say, 'From a shop'..." Peter Bunzl read from *Cogheart*. Our very own Patron of Reading and winner of last year's HCBA with *Phoenix*, SF Said, gave a short speech and announced the winner (drum roll): Christine Hamill for *The Best Medicine*.

We would like to thank the dedicated readers of our HCBA group who have come to the library every week and behaved so well at the Award ceremony. They were a credit to Fortismere.



We're close to 100 reviews on our Carnegie shadowing website, and one of our Year 8s has already finished all six shortlisted books <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW>

A reminder that the library sells all the stationery a student could need, including calculators at £6.50. Not that you need reminding that it's getting close to examination time...

Ha! I told you so... <http://bit.ly/1TBQWKp>

Recommended Read of the Week

It has to be *The Best Medicine* by Christine Hamill! The HCBA shortlist is put together by a small group of Haringey school librarians, and the winner is voted for by the students of shadowing groups around the borough. Christine's first school visit was to Fortismere and we were hugely impressed by the book, inspired by her own experiences of breast cancer. It's an emotive topic, but dealt with in a sensitive and, at times, hilarious way.

FSA News

Comedy Night with Harry Hill, 4th May at Alexandra Palace

Only a few days left to get your tickets!!

Avoid disappointment – get your tickets from www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com. All profits will go towards our fundraising for the school.

For more information go to the FSA website – www.fortismereschoolassociation.com

LIVE AT THE PALACE
THE PALACE SUITE, ALEXANDRA PALACE

fortismere
School Association
charity number: 801227

THURSDAY 4TH MAY
DOORS/BAR 7PM
SHOW 8PM

HARRY HILL
WITH
Bob Mills, Raymond & Mr Timpkins, Pauline Eyre

MC MARK MAIER

WILL CONTAIN ADULT HUMOUR AND STRONG LANGUAGE. 10+ UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TICKETS CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED FROM FORTISMERE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

TICKETS £25 FROM www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Fortitude on Saturday 1st July, 12 – 6pm

We are having a revamp this year – more festival, more music, more fab rides, more fun (and more much-needed money for our school hopefully)! Can you help?

Music: Do you know the next Jess Glynn, Michael Kiwanuka, Girl Ray or the Kinks (all alumni of Fortismere)? Whatever the musical talent, we would love to see it on our stage.

Stalls / Games: We need people to take on running different things. Some of the things we need help for are: the bottle tombola (which is a great fundraiser), the raffle and a voucher tree. We'd also like to run different fun things – Wild Water Warriors, Wang A Welly, a football-focused game to name but a few. Could you take on organising one of these? We would help you all the way. Organising one of these events shouldn't take up too much of your time - a few hours before the event and then being there on the day. We will be able to get volunteers to help you out at the event.

Student-Run Stalls and Events: We'd love to have more students doing more things at Fortitude. If your child wants to run a stall or a game or has any ideas about how to make Fortitude even better please do ask them to get in touch.

For all of the above, please get in touch with Philippa at philippastonebridge@hotmail.com or on 07722 883098.

Raffle / Silent Auction: We are now collecting prizes for this and we would be ever so grateful for your continued support with this. If you have a prize you could contribute or have any ideas for this then please get in touch with Miriam at mirriec Clark@gmail.com or on 020 8365 3860.

Volunteers: We do need all the help we can get. If you can volunteer on the day, please email markskirsty@gmail.co.uk with the times that will work for you.

Remember that the whole event is designed to be fun for the school and local community, and will also raise money for our children, so please do get involved if you can!