



# Newsletter for Parents and Carers

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### **Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher**

This week we celebrated the Year 9 'Oscars' at the Phoenix Cinema. The films displayed the talent of students and the occasion was as special as ever. It was lovely to have Reece Shearsmith hosting the awards and you can read more about the event below.

There was more creative talent on show at the Creative Arts evening which I'm glad so many of you attended. It was a fantastic tribute to the many talented students we have, across all the arts. My thanks go to the Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Photography Departments for their hard work in making it happen.

Sadly we had to postpone Sports Day because the grass was too slippery falling the heavy rainfall. I'm pleased to say that the PE Department have rearranged it to take place next Wednesday instead, so we look forward to that!

This week marked the end of our Festival of Learning and we have been so fortunate to welcome the most wonderful array of people, all experts in their field, to come and talk to students. Covering everything from comic strips to Shakespearean sword fights, performance poetry to publishing and involving several journalists and authors, the Festival has been inspirational. My thanks go to all our special guests, to the staff that have organised the events and to the students who have engaged with such enthusiasm. In particular, I'd like to thank our Patron of Reading for the past two years, SF Said, who has met virtually every student in the school and leaves all of us with a new appreciation of the written word. We have been so fortunate to have his support.

It is hard to believe that next week is the last week of the year! Tuesday is College Day and lots of students will be out and about on trips to celebrate. I hope everyone enjoys their last week before the holidays. I will be making the most of every moment, as I prepare to hand over the reins to Ms Judge and Ms Davey; in the meantime, I wish you all a great weekend.

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### **Part Time Assistant Librarian Position – Ms Davey, Deputy Head**

This post is available from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The advert, Job Description, Person Specification and application form can be found on our [website](#).

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 18 July  
Interview date: Thursday 20 July

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### **Sports Day – Mr Cox**

Sports Day has been rearranged for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The format will be the same (all Year 8 competing Period 1, Year 7 Period 2, Year 9 Period 3, Year 10 Period 4, whole school Period 5). Fingers crossed for fine weather...!

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### **Karate Club – Mr Kelsey, Teacher of Geography**

The final session with Sensei Berisha will be next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July and students will receive their new belts & certificates!

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**Ski Trip 2018 – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE**

If you were not lucky enough to get a place on February’s Ski Trip hopefully there will be another for the current Year 9’s in 2019. There is also a reserve list in case anyone drops out.

**Fortinomics – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies & Economics**

Please find attached the latest edition of Fortinomics, our economics newsletter, produced by Year 12 students.

**German Exchange – Mr Lockwood, Teacher of Modern Languages**

I would like to thank all those students who took part in the German Exchange this year. You were officially outstanding!! Thanks to the support of your parents/carers, it has been a hugely successful chapter in the school’s life. We went to see the castle at Drachenfels, Cologne Cathedral and the zoo. We have been to pay homage to Beethoven in his house in Bonn, as well as climbing in the beautiful Kletterwald. We also went on a funicular railway and sailed down (and up) the River Rhine. We tested out the rides at FantasiaLand and competed at bowling together with pupils from the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium. I hope the courage that you showed to come on the exchange and the experiences you gained will stand you in good stead for the future. Of course, a special word of gratitude to Mr Lewis and Ms Hill, who supported your every whim and worked so hard to make the trip memorable.



After 14 years working closely with our partner school and my colleague and friend, Rudi Dopstadt, it is the last exchange and as someone quite famous said, ‘Parting is such sweet sorrow that I’ll say good night until tonight becomes tomorrow’.



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### Sixth Form Talk: Professor Ann Oakley – Mr Johnson, Teacher of History & Politics

Fortismere was privileged to host the highly distinguished sociologist Ann Oakley in the Library this Monday. Professor Oakley discussed her life as a social scientist before taking questions on research, feminism and writing. The students asked highly insightful questions and enjoyed the event greatly.

A big thank you to all the staff and students who attended, especially to the school librarians Ms Ward and Ms Boswell who hosted the event.



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### Fortismere Drama Department 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Oscars at the Phoenix Cinema – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

Actor, writer and comedian, Reece Shearsmith hosted a fabulous event in which our Year 9 students were able to see some of the fantastic work they have produced this term. From Kung Fu action to artistic animation, staff and students were treated to an eclectic range of genres. Well done to all Year 9s and a huge thank you to Mr Shearsmith and the Phoenix Cinema for making it such a memorable occasion.



**Georgia Morris Photography Prize – Ms Mangan, Teacher of English and Mr Holden, Teacher of Photography**

This week we were delighted to welcome Georgia’s Dad into Alexandria and Petra’s assemblies to present prizes to the winners of the photography prize in Georgia’s memory and to commend the fantastic entries and runners-up. Thank you to all the students that entered the competition – the standard was exceptionally high. Please see attached the full list of runners-up and the winners’ entries. The Prize will be running annually, so more information will be coming next year on how to enter.



Thank you to Georgia’s parents for providing the wonderful prizes. Thank you also to Mr Holden who has worked really hard to make the Prize so successful.

**Mr Carter: 3 Peaks Challenge – Mr Carter, Head of Rhodes**

A huge thank you for all the support and donations. We have raised over £3,500 for Sarcoma UK.



**Calling all Budding Filmmakers! – Ms Overs, Head of Drama**

Our partner theatre, Jackson’s Lane, is launching a new and exciting creative heritage project, The Heritage Horror Show. They are currently looking for young participants (primarily 14-18 year olds) for the first strand of the project – the making of a documentary investigating the macabre nature of Elizabethan theatre.

This will be a really fun project with workshops and research trips to The Globe and a Thames-side actors’ secret haunts walk taking place during October half term, followed by weekly after-school film making sessions at Jacksons Lane/Alexandra Palace, culminating in a celebratory screening of the film in December.

Below is the link to Jacksons Lane’s Heritage Horror webpage:

<https://www.jacksonslane.org.uk/join-in/jl-youth/heritage-horror>

Sign up now to join Team Heritage Horror:  
email [lisa@jacksonslane.org.uk](mailto:lisa@jacksonslane.org.uk) or call 020 8347 2411

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## Auditions for Feature Film – Mr Kirkland, Teacher of English

Casting Director Lucy Pardee has contacted us with an exciting opportunity for your daughter to be considered for a role in the next feature film from Sarah Gavron, award-winning director of *Suffragette* and *Brick Lane*. *Girl Untitled* is an original film about friendship and identity that focuses a lively, diverse group of friends in a fictional girls state school in London. The film is a girls'-eye-view of life and growing up in London, putting teenage girls front and centre. Filming is expected to start in early 2018.

The filmmakers are running an inclusive casting to try to find girls from within local communities in London for a range of roles in the film. They would like to offer the opportunity to be considered for the project to all female students in **Years 7, 8 and 9**. Acting experience is not required and there is no fee charged at any point of the process. Auditions will be held locally in London over the summer holidays.

Lucy is coming into the school on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> to hold preliminary casting sessions with Key Stage 3 students. Everyone will then be contacted directly and invited to an audition over the summer break.

If you would like your child to be considered for the casting, please complete the form attached, which also gives more information.

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## Careers Information – Ms Phillips, Careers Advisor

There will be lots of information and support available when students receive their exam results over the Summer:

I will be available on both Results Days (GCSE & A-Level) to assist students should they not achieve predicted grades to take up chosen University courses or A-Level/BTEC courses. I will be based in the LINC Building (ground floor opposite the Learning Mentors' office) to see students and parents/carers to talk over next steps if students do not obtain necessary entry requirements.

Haringey Early Help and Prevention Service is offering a GCSE Results Day Drop-In service on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August at Wood Green Library from 10am to 4pm. Advice and guidance on next steps will be available to Year 11 students. The Drop-In will be found on the second floor of the Library (High Road, Wood Green, N22 6XD).

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## Reminders from the Admin Team

**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.

**Anything not collected by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 will be disposed of.**

**Uniform:** if your child has been issued with items of school uniform (shirts/trousers) this year, please can you return them, washed and ironed, to either North Wing or South Wing office asap.

## From the Library

Need ideas for holiday reads for your offspring? BookTrust have a great book finder for all ages <http://bit.ly/1NTSCeE>

Just to let you know that the next meeting of CoverUp, our parent/staff reading group, will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September when we will be talking about Noah Hawley's *Before the Fall*. We have been reliably informed that it is a thrilling holiday read! So read it! And come to the library at 7pm to discuss it. New members always welcome.

## Recommended Reads of the Week

I spoilt one of Caroline Green's slides by disclosing one of my favourite opening lines from *Uglies* ("The early summer sky was the colour of cat vomit") before she put it on the screen. This reminded me to recommend Scott Westerfield's *Uglies* series (*Uglies*, *Pretties*, *Specials* and *Extras*). Perfect to keep your dystopia loving teen occupied over the summer.

## More Festival of Learning Visitors!

Thank you so much to James van der Pool who came into the library on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July to talk to some of our Year 7s about turning facts into stories. James is a producer at the BBC and works on programmes like Horizon. He showed how stories that can be complicated or serious can be made into something that grabs the imagination (we did enjoy Brian Cox!) The students all brought in newspaper clippings and we thought about how their stories could be broadcast. An excellent session which put a different slant on creativity.



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July Chris Goodman came in to talk to around 50 Sixth Form students from Film, Media, Art and Photography about working in the film industry, particularly in concept design. Chris has designed loads of cool creatures for TV and film including for *Doctor Who*. He has also directed some short films. Chris talked about and showed some of his work, including presenting some actual prosthetics, masks and even a radio controlled animatronic gorilla head. He also spoke about the somewhat unconventional route that he took to working in film, via a fine art degree. Students asked great questions and some have already contacted Chris to ask for extra advice and to explore the possibility of getting some work experience further down the line.

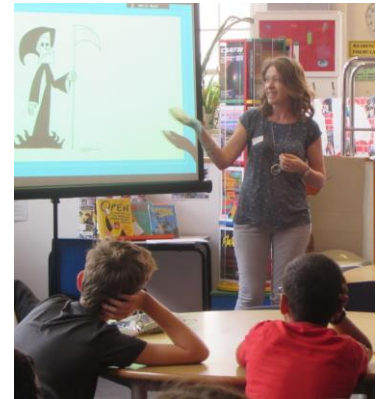
It was great to welcome Keren Darmon, who has recently completed a PhD in Feminism and Media Studies, to speak to Year 12 Media and Sociology students on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. She spoke about her PhD and experience of working in the Media before getting students to reflect on definitions of feminism, Donald Trump's election and the Women's March in January. She got students working on different newspaper articles about the Women's March, exploring different representations and the way different sectors of the press reported the march. She answered a range of questions from students who are studying Feminism as part of their A Levels. It was really interesting for staff and students – and we are grateful she gave up her time to come in. We hope more parents will volunteer to participate in our Festival of Learning next year!

Jon Brodtkin is a sports journalist and editor who writes for the Guardian. We were delighted to welcome him to the library on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July when he inspired our Y12 media students, and classes from Years 9 and 8. He talked about his work, how copy is sent to the paper during sporting events, how a late goal or an evening fixture can alter what is in the paper you get and how what you see on the online edition is pared down to fit into the newspaper. Film clips of Wayne Rooney and Usain Bolt were shown to the students and they had to pick the pertinent points to write a newspaper article. They soon learned that it's a good idea to take written notes, and this skill will be very useful for their GCSEs!



Thank you Jon for a couple of excellent sessions.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July more students from Years 7 and 10 were treated to creative writing masterclasses from Caroline Green. Caroline is the prizewinning author of novels for Young Adults and also writes adult thrillers. She's been the Writer in Residence at East Barnet School for 4 years and teaches creative writing at City University. Year 7 learned tips and techniques for creating characters (and some great ones evolved from the character questionnaire that Caroline provided). Year 10 created new worlds as part of a fantasy/dystopia/steampunk session and, again using prompts, produced some stunning work – although Ms Norton would win the prize for her dark and bizarre scenarios!



It was very gratifying to receive the feedback below from Caroline:

"[I] wanted to thank you again for inviting me in today. I had such a lovely morning and the students are a credit to you all! And can I just say, as a massive fan of school librarians in general, that they are so lucky to have you. That library is one of the most welcoming and buzzy I've come across (and I go to loads of schools)!"

That's it for this year's Festival of Learning (do look at the previous two Newsletters to remind yourself of all the amazing folk who have been inspiring our students). As promised, next year will be bigger and better! But no less exhausting....

## FSA News



The FSA Committee will need some new members next year. If you'd like to know more, please contact Kirsty at [markskirsty@gmail.com](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com) for a chat.

### 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](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.