



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 04/09/17 Wk 1

Message from Mrs Helen Glass

Fortinomics

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

Karate Club

Go4SET Project Success

London Youth Games

Barnet Cricket League

Sixth Form Trip to Europe House

Dynasty Art&Culture Exchange Exhibition 2017

Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) Intensive Learning Day

Communications Notice

Careers Information

Reminders from the Admin Team

From the Library

Tickets for Schools: *An American in Paris*

FSA News

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

As this is my last week at Fortismere, and my final entry in the Newsletter, I agreed to be 'interviewed' by our Communications Officer, Jo Westley. Her questions and my answers are below:

Q: As you prepare to leave Fortismere, can you recall what impressed you about the school when you joined?

When I first joined Fortismere, one of the things that impressed me and still does seven years later, is its particular 'DNA' by which I mean the very diverse and complex histories and connections that exist within the school. This is at least in part due to it growing out of several schools that combined over time and its political background and origins, particularly in its Creighton days. I have yet to come across another school with a book written about it (*The Creighton Report* by Hunter Davies) and I am proud to have been to date, the only other substantive female Head of this school since Molly Hattersley back in the 1970s.

Q: And what did you feel the school needed?

I felt that Fortismere needed to become a key player again in the wider community of Haringey schools and seven years on, Fortismere is a significant leader and partner in many local networks including the Secondary Heads Forum, the New River Teaching Alliance and our local Network Learning Community, to name but three.

Q: What have you enjoyed about working at the school?

I have enjoyed being Head of a school where we go 'up' to the south and 'down' to the north, can claim some of this country's finest musicians as former students and where the changes made have resulted in better progress and outcomes for literally thousands of young people over the last seven years.

Q: What have you found challenging about working at the school?

Fortismere is unique in many ways and I say that based on having worked in a wide range of schools. The key challenges have been to constantly raise the bar in terms of outcomes and support for our students, create and maintain structures that help to make a very large organisation a safe and supportive place to learn and work, and to ensure that the requirements of the most needy and vulnerable are championed and that the quiet voices are heard.

Q: What have been your proudest moments?

My proudest moments have been the 'Outstanding' Ofsted in 2011, last summer's results which were Fortismere's best to date and hosting the visit by Madame Peng, China's First Lady.

Q: Knowing what you know now, is there anything you'd do differently?

Our Year 11 leaving events have been an absolute pleasure to participate in and witness over the last five years and represent a sharp contrast to the rather unpleasant traditions of unruly behaviour that I inherited when I became Head in 2010. If I had my time again, I would have changed those traditions in my first year but it is of course easy to be wise in retrospect!

Q: What will you miss?

I will miss walking to work in the morning amongst my students, spending time with colleagues, many of whom have become friends over the years and the sublime and ridiculous moments that can happen at any time when you're a Head.

Q: What won't you miss?

Wet break and lunch duties!

Q: If you could give parents/carers, students and staff one piece of advice for life at Fortismere, what would it be?

To parody a famous saying.....Ask not what Fortismere can do for you but what you can do for Fortismere.

So it just leaves me to wish you all the very best for the future. I am sure that Fortismere will continue to go from strength to strength, despite the changing political and social landscape and I leave with some very happy memories.

Have a wonderful summer break!

Fortinomics – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies & Economics

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

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs – Mr Hawkes, Teacher of PE

We are pleased that extra-curricular sports clubs have continued to be extremely popular this year. The final attendance percentages across Key Stage 3 are:

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Term 1	52%	38%	28%
Term 2	63%	46%	34%
Term 3	72%	58%	50%

Please continue to encourage your children to attend Fortismere Sports Clubs in 2018 – there’s lots to choose from!

Karate Club – Mr Kelsey, Teacher of Geography

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the recent karate grading:

Yellow Belt (9th Kyu): Munro Black, Yuvraj Desai, and Sarah Jafarzadeh

Red Belt (8th Kyu): Igor Bochentin, Olivia Cameron, Marcus O’Brien, Nusayba Ali, Mikhail Lunin, Oliver Kan, Ruya Kaneko, and Mennatallah Helmi

Well done for your dedication and hard work this term. Oss!!! [Martial arts greeting/celebration]

Go4SET Project Success – Mr Bower, Teacher of Design & Technology



Fortismere entered two teams for this year’s Go4SET Project: Year 8 consisting of Nathan Yaol, Eva Djurasinovic, Louis Millar, Eva Napleton, Manus McKay-Dalton and Abigail Dennon below left. From Year 9, Kate Amos, Isabella Dodd, Nisha Gwynne-Smith, Ellis Peek, Eusebi Vickers and Manu Goswami below right.

I am delighted to say that our Year 8 team won the ‘Best Overall Project’ award! Both teams were mentored by two Engineers from Symmetry’s in Crouch End: David Snaith and Craig Morgan. Both offered their expertise and support for twelve after-school sessions every Monday from 3.30pm – 5pm. This is the second time the company have mentored Fortismere students. Last year Bilal El-Shaweesh and Camille Corvec guided our Year 8 team throughout the twelve weeks. The Year 8 support teacher was Mr Richardson who like the Engineers gave up his own time to support the project!

All who participated should be very proud of what they have achieved and learnt throughout the twelve week experience. Well done Year 8!



[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

London Youth Games – Mr Cox, Head of PE

Haringey came fourth in Diving at the London Youth Games. Harry Thomson, Year 8, was one of four divers who competed at Crystal Palace over the weekend. If you would like to find out more about trying this exciting sport at Park Road Pool, contact Richard on hading@ gmail.com.



Barnet Cricket League – Mr Kay, Teacher of PE

Many congratulations to our Year 10 Barnet Cricket League winners!



Sixth Form trip to Europe House – Mr A Johnson, Teacher of History & Politics

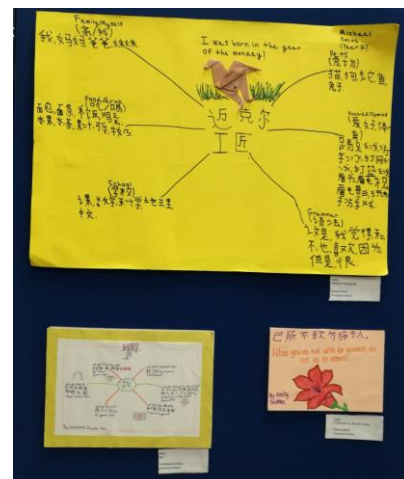
A-Level Politics students visited Europe House, the home of the European Union in the UK (for now!), on Tuesday. The students undertook a workshop exploring issues surrounding the European Union's institutions before giving speeches about their preferred approach to the Brexit negotiations.

[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

Dynasty Art&Culture Exchange Exhibition 2017 – Ms Huang, Teacher of Modern Languages

Some Chinese posters and art work, which have been made by our Year 7 MEP and Year 9 students, have been selected for display in the Dynasty Art&Culture Exchange Exhibition 2017. The Exhibition aims to promote the China-UK exchange. The event has been reported in the *China Daily* as well. Our school has been credited with a certificate, and individual certificates to students involved.



Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) Intensive Learning Day – Ms Huang

Twenty-two Year 7 MEP students participated in the MEP Intensive Learning Day in the UCL Institute of Education (IOE). It is organised by the IOE Confucius Institute, which deliver the MEP programme authorised by the DfE. Our students joined around 400 Year 7 MEP students around the country in different activities, including 'Talent on TV' Chinese workshop, treasure hunt, discussion session with A-Level / university Mandarin students, Chinese talent show and group singing at the end. They had a great time!



Communications Notice – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

This is advanced notice that the arrangements for circulating the Newsletter to parents/carers will be slightly different in the first few weeks of next term:

Edition for w/c 11th Sept

Will be circulated on Wednesday 6th (not Friday 8th).

Edition for w/c 18th Sept

Will be circulated on Monday 18th (not Friday 15th).

Edition for w/c 25th Sept

Will be circulated on Friday 22nd as usual.

Any urgent notices will be sent out by ParentMail during this time, if necessary. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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 (A-Level: 17th August and GCSE: 24th August) 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 24th 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).

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 28th 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

The 20 most memorable moments of Harry Potter – I love this! <http://bit.ly/2tePhbU>

If you're stumped for what to do over the hols that doesn't involve something with a plug or screen, take a quick look at the World Book Day website for competitions, booklists, extracts, podcasts (OK, some of these actually need a plug and a screen...) <http://bit.ly/2uhmoLJ> Please ensure your child keeps reading during the holidays so those brains are kept exercised!

It needs to be made official. Huge praise to Year 7 student Naimo Abduraham Aboushakur who has just borrowed her 150th book this year from Fortismere library.

Make sure you support your local library over the hols. If you have littlies (or Y6/7 children) get them involved with the Summer Reading Challenge <http://bit.ly/2vHEwMx>

The library will be open from 8am on both Results Days.



This will be me. Although probably not there.

Tickets for Schools: *An American in Paris*

You may be interested in the following theatre ticket offer, which will help raise funds for Fortismere:

Half-price Band A seats at the beautiful West End show, *An American in Paris*, at the Dominion Theatre. Band A seats are normally £72 each but this deal offers them at £35 each, including a £5 donation to the school.

The deal is live and bookable now for all performances until the 14th August so there are plenty of dates to choose from!

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

FSA News

Silent Auction

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to your help, we will have made just over £6,000 from the Silent Auction this summer! We send a massive thank you to all the very kind donors and bidders, winning or otherwise, who got involved and supported us in this way: we are very grateful.



Mark Blake picking up his prize, the Red Letter Day experience of dinner for two plus theatre tickets.



Bryn Williams manfully picking up the Beats Headphones for his dad, despite the damaged shoulder!

Volunteers

The FSA Committee will need some new members next year. If you'd like to know more, please contact Kirsty at 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/fortismere-school> – 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.

Thank You!

Parents & Carers for all your help this year, we couldn't have done it without you!!!!

FSA Committee