



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 14/11/16 Wk 2

Contents:

[Message from Mrs Helen Glass](#)

[Message from Stephen Dunmore, Chair of Governors](#)

[Parent Forum: Wednesday 7th December](#)

[GCSE German Candidates](#)

[Shadow Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee Survey](#)

[Year 11 Prom Theme](#)

['The Shard'](#)

[Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra](#)

[Chess Club](#)

[Reminders from the Admin Team](#)

[Careers Information](#)

[From the Library](#)

[FSA News](#)

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week we welcomed prospective students to our Sixth Form. It was great to see so many of our own students, and those from other local schools, interested in undertaking further study with us and I hope they enjoyed the afternoon, so well organised by Ms Sullivan and our Sixth Form team.

It's a busy time for Year 11s as, next week, they start their mock exams. Although probably a bit nerve-racking, this gives them the opportunity to practice their revision and exam techniques, and rehearse their subject knowledge, so it is very important. We thank you for your support in preparing them.

Today, 11th November, marks Remembrance Day and we observed the two-minute silence in school to reflect on those caught up in conflicts past and present. With what feels like a major shift taking place in world politics, it is more important than ever that we encourage our young people to be thoughtful and united for peace, and this is certainly something we strive for at Fortismere.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Message from Stephen Dunmore, Chair of Governors

I wanted to let you know that I will be standing down as Chair of Governors at Fortismere at the end of this term. I am grateful to my fellow Governors, Helen Glass, the SLT, Sam Murray, Marie Haines and many other staff at Fortismere for all the support they have given me during my time both as Chair and Vice-Chair. I am confident that, with the quality and commitment of its staff and the leadership provided by the SLT, Fortismere will continue to deliver excellent education for its students.

Mark Chapman, currently Chair of the Curriculum Committee, will be taking over from me as Chair and Cara Jenkinson will continue as Vice-Chair. I wish them well.

Parent Forum: Wednesday 7th December at 7pm, South Wing Hall – Mrs W Sloane, Parent-Governor

The first meeting of the Parent Forum will be on Wednesday 7th December at 7pm in the South Wing Hall.

The Forum is an initiative of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team. Its aim is to seek and take account of parents'/carers' views, giving you a greater sense of involvement in the life of the school.

Please note that the Forum is not the place to raise issues about individual teachers or students. There is also a process on the school's website for making and handling complaints.

The Governing Body has also decided to reintroduce Governors' surgeries, where individual parents/carers can raise issues of a more personal nature. More information about these will be circulated soon.

We look forward to seeing you at the first Forum.

Year 10 Options – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

Parents and students are still requesting to swap /drop options. I am afraid we cannot facilitate any more requests.

Year 11 Mocks – Ms Allaway

Good Luck to all Year 11 students who start their mocks on Monday! Attendance will be closely monitored, please be punctual and any clashes / missed exams please report to Ms Ozturk our exams officer in South Wing to see if your paper can be rearranged.

GCSE German Candidates – Mr Lockwood, Teacher of ML

This is an important message for those students who wish to take their German GCSE and who are not currently in a German GCSE class with Mr Lockwood. Can you please come to N17 after school, on Wednesday 16th November, for a brief meeting to explain what we need to do. The meeting with Mr Lockwood will last 20-30 minutes. Bis dann.



Shadow Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee Survey – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies & Economics

Fortismere's Shadow Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee team of 6 students would be very grateful if you would spare a few moments to complete a questionnaire on your expectations about inflation and the economy in 2016. The questionnaire link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LKYQ3YZ>

Our students would like to conduct [anonymously] a survey of parents/carers, students and teachers to find out what their expectations are of inflation and on the economy in 2017.

We would be very grateful if you would **complete this by 18th November**. Bank of England Target 2.0 Competition marks are awarded for primary research and we know this is an area we can work on before the Regional Heat. We need a lot of responses to make the data more valid. Thanks in advance for your help.

Year 11 Prom Theme – Student Leaders and Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

Please can you encourage Year 11 students to complete the short survey below, to help establish the theme for their Prom.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N7XRBLC>

'The Shard' – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

The Drama department proudly presents a new adaptation of Shakespeare's most terrifyingly cut-throat play. 'The Shard', adapted by Ms Turner, re-imagines Macbeth in the City of London in 2016. Set in the post-Brexit business world, this mixed-media production with around 100 students from across the whole school will excite and immerse you in this evil supernatural world. With live and original music composed by Mr Lavelle, it will be performed in North Wing Hall on 29th and 30th November at 7pm. Tickets available via ParentMail. Limited availability! Book soon!!

£5 Adults
£3 Students

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra – Fortismere Music Centre

The FCSO rehearses every Tuesday evening and is holding its concert on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church N10. The programme includes a piano concerto by Grieg (with a superb concert pianist as soloist), music from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* (made more famous as the theme to *The Apprentice*) and Sibelius' *Finlandia*. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions and under-12s are free). We hope you can join us!

Chess Club – Mr Renner

On 11th November, World Champion Magnus Carlsen (aged 26, Norwegian) and challenger Sergei Karjakin (aged 26, Ukrainian / now Russian) will play the first game of their World Championship in New York until 30th November. Twelve games will be played and the winner will be the player to reach 6.5 points (where winner of a game gets 1 point and 0.5 for a draw).

Both are child prodigies: Karjakin is the youngest ever Grandmaster (GM) at 12 years and 7 months, while Carlsen became a GM at 13 years and 5 months (the third youngest ever). Carlsen became World champion in November 2013 and achieved the world's highest highest ever rating of 2882 (where 2500 is the minimum standard to become a GM). For more details, see <https://worldchess.com/nyc2016/>

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!

Thank you to everyone that has applied to take part in an Application Form Filling session on 1st December. I'm afraid that session is now full, but there are others on 8th December and 15th December. They will also begin again on Thursday 5th January 2017 and take place every Thursday until March 2017. If you would like you son/daughter to attend a session, please complete the consent form (found on our [website](#)), stating which date/s you would prefer.

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.

From the Library

We have taken delivery of the BookBuzz books and have started to give them out to our very excited Year 7s. These books are theirs to keep and read (then swap if they wish) – an early Christmas present or a late “Welcome to Fortismere” gift from the library and the FSA, whose generous donation paid for the books. Please encourage your children to look at the website www.bookbuzz.org.uk where they can write reviews of the books and read content and blogs from the authors.

Public libraries provide a lifeline for millions of people every day. Everyone benefits – even if you don't use one on a regular basis, you benefit from the stronger community it helps to create. Please take a look at this petition <http://bit.ly/2eEu56R>

On Thursday 16th November, Orange Prize and Not the Booker Prize nominee Jemma Wayne will be coming to the library to talk to 6th form students. A few classes have been invited, but if there are any 6th formers who are interested in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, journalism, life at university or even what it is like growing up with Jeff Wayne (*War of the Worlds: The Musical*), please contact Mrs Ward or Ms Cunningham.

We collect used postage stamps in the library all year round which we send to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity. It's coming to that time of year when you may receive some extra post, so please tear off the stamps and send them in.

Recommended Reads of the Week

Alex Wheatle, the Brixton Bard, has written some gritty stuff which will really appeal to some of our older readers. What I loved about *Liccle Bit* and *The Crongton Knights* is that they are funny too. If you saw the documentary on Damilola Taylor recently, I'd also recommend *Pigeon English* by Stephen Kelman. All Recommended Reads are free to borrow from the school library!

FSA News

Phil the Bag – Saturday 12th of Nov – 1pm-4pm – South Wing Car Park

Tomorrow is Phil the Bag – please donate your unwanted textiles. We have a collection area in **South Wing car park**, so bring your textiles in plastic bags such as bin liners.

We accept all kinds of wearable adult and children's clothing, uniforms, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels.

We DO NOT accept: Blankets, Bric-a-Brac, Duvets, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Soft toys, Rugs, Carpet, Offcuts of fabric, any wet items, tent canvas, and no ripped or stained clothing. Unfortunately we are also unable to accept towels, bedding and curtains from commercial organizations. E.g. Hospitals, hotels and animal sanctuaries.

More information [here](#)

Last year we collected **880kg of textiles** – let's do it again!



fortismere School Association charity number: 501227

**We Raise Money with
A 'Phil' The Bag Textile Collection**

Please bring your bags of unwanted clothing, linens & shoes

- ◆ Fill bags with your unwanted clothes, shoes, household linens, belts, hats and handbags and bring them to Fortismere, South Wing car park
- ◆ The more it weighs, the more we earn...
- ◆ Please use any type of bag, black sacks are best!

on Saturday 12th November between 1pm and 4pm.
FORTISMERE SCHOOL, SOUTH WING CAR PARK, TETHERDOWN

GREEN FIBRE AWARD WINNER For more information on the recycling process go to www.philthebag.co.uk Official Textile Recycling Partner of Eco-Schools

Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who has passed on our details to potential stall-holders – from combined efforts we now have over 50 stalls! A reminder that the stalls are £35 each. More details on stalls coming next week.

We are however not finding it easy to get some entertainment if you know of any orchestra/choir/entertainer who would like to perform at the event – email markskirsty@gmail.com

Here's the first stall, and a great offer, we'd like to tell you about – **Stella & Dot**:

A chance to win some gorgeous jewels & accessories by style icons Stella & Dot!
How? Simply shop the Fortismere Christmas Market link BEFORE Sunday 11th December:

<http://www.stelladot.co.uk/ts/4odpn1>

OR shop with our Stella & Dot stylist, Amanda Allen, on the day of the Christmas Fair.... at her sparkly pop-up shop!

Prizes on offer from Stella & Dot:

Once total purchases on the Fortismere link reach £300, one lucky winner will earn a £30 Stella & Dot gift voucher PLUS an option to purchase any two items at 40% off. OR....

Reach £500 total purchases, two lucky winners will earn each a £40 Stella & Dot gift voucher PLUS an option to purchase one item each at 40% off OR

Reach £650 total purchases, two lucky winners will earn each a £50 Stella & Dot gift voucher PLUS an option to purchase one item each at 40% off OR

Reach £800 total purchases, three lucky winners will earn each a £50 Stella & Dot gift voucher PLUS an option to purchase one item each at 40% off.

One entry in the prize draw for each individual transaction. Transactions over £50 receive 2 entries in the draw. You'll also be able to shop top-selling items at 50% off, once your total purchases reach £50. All details on the link: <http://www.stelladot.co.uk/ts/4odpn1>

Dates for Diaries:

- Saturday 12th Nov, 13:00-16:00: **Phil the Bag**. Start clearing those cupboards!
- Tuesday 15th Nov, 19:00-21:00: **Planning Meeting** for Christmas Fair and other events. South Wing Conference Room
- Sunday 11th Dec, 12:00-16:00: **Christmas Fair** – back by popular demand! North Wing Hall.

PS Don't forget donations to the FSA for the school can also always be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool>
