



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 09/01/17 Wk 2

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term! Although the weather is certainly still wintery, it is nice to think that by the end of this term, the evenings will be lighter again and it should be feeling warmer! I hope you all had a nice Christmas break and are feeling rested and raring to go!

Already we're straight back into things, with the Year 12 mocks this week and the Year 13 mocks next week. We wish all our sixth form students luck with this vital preparation. We've also got the Year 11 Parents' Evening coming up and I look forward to seeing many of you there next Tuesday.

This is also a chance to welcome our new Chair of Governors, Mr Mark Chapman. Mark has been one of our Parent-Governors for several years, and has already made a huge contribution to the school in heading up the Curriculum Committee. We are delighted that he has taken on this new responsibility. Of course, we say a fond farewell to Stephen Dunmore and send him all our thanks for his steady guidance in recent years.

I hope you have a nice weekend and I wish you all the very best for the year ahead!

From Mr Mark Chapman, New Chair of Governors

A few words of introduction from me, but firstly I must thank our outgoing Chair, Stephen Dunmore, for much hard work and wise leadership during his tenure. Stephen has made a great contribution to the ongoing success of our school and, I fear, will be a very hard act to follow. I'd also like to take this opportunity to highlight and thank my able, hard-working fellow governors who do more behind the scenes than perhaps most know.

I have been a parent governor at Fortismere now for three years, and have chaired the Curriculum committee for two. I'm also the governor for SEND provision. All three of our children attend Fortismere, and are very happy here.

I remain an unashamed fan of Fortismere. In my view there is an outstanding job being done at this school every day, by staff and leadership on behalf of all our students. Our academic programme, pastoral care and unique culture combine to give our students the very best start in life, enabling them to become confident, curious adults and successful citizens of the society in which we live.

That's not to say we can't continue to improve though! We also have a number of challenges to face in these rapidly changing and sadly, financially straitened times. As a governing body, we'll let you know how we're doing, and I personally look forward to meeting and working with many of you, as governors play their part in supporting, maintaining and developing our excellent school.

Fair Funding for Schools

Please find attached a leaflet advertising a forthcoming meeting, on Tuesday 17th January at Rhodes Avenue Primary School, organised by parents campaigning to fight education cuts in Haringey.

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

The extra-curricular sports timetable for this term is now available on the [website](#) (along with all our extra-curricular information).

Music Notes

Extra-Curricular Music Groups

There will be no rehearsals next week. They should resume the week after - tbc.

Instrumental / Vocal Lessons

These will start next week, with timetables advertised shortly on the music noticeboard in North Wing.

Fortismere Music Centre: Choir – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

The FMC Choir is looking to recruit parents, staff and pupils for this term. Please see the attached information regarding rehearsal times and this term's programme.

Fortismere Community Choir has been an important part of Fortismere School and particularly the Fortismere Music Centre for a number of years. It is an unashamedly un-auditioned choir which comprises singers of all abilities: - whether you are accomplished and are able to read music or whether you simply enjoy singing but cannot read music; a warm welcome awaits you.

The choir is incredibly lucky to have access to professional musicians - a great accompanist, conductor, orchestra and soloists all of whom further enhance the experience. Under the guidance of conductor Marvin Perrott, the choir has gone from strength to strength, performing works such as *Requiem Masses* by Mozart, Duruflé and Fauré, and more recently *Odes* and *Zadok the Priest* by Handel.

The choir rehearses in the Fortismere School Music Concert Hall (access through North or South Wing) every Saturday in term time from 10.30am until 1pm. There is also a very important coffee and cake break incorporated into the rehearsal time! The choir performs at least twice a year (usually in St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road) with an orchestra and soloists.

Above all, it is a great opportunity to get to know people from the local community who have links either directly to the school or to the locality, and to enjoy singing together with people who share a love of music. Fortismere School and its surrounding community has a wealth of musical talent and a tradition of enjoying making music at every level, and we would be particularly delighted to welcome school staff and more parents to be a part of the choir.

If you are interested in being a member of the choir, please join us at our next rehearsal on **Saturday 14th January**, or find out more from the Fortismere Music Centre. We look forward to seeing you soon.

PE News – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Congratulations to our Year 7, 8 and 10 Netball squads – they are all champions of Haringey! We went along to McDonalds to celebrate and to wish Mrs Driscoll all the best after teaching PE at Fortismere for 12 years.



Well done to our Year 9 Girls' Swimming Team who won the Year 10 Girls' competition at the Haringey Schools Gala.

The GCSE Dance group were lucky enough to go along to the V & A Museum on Tuesday to watch student, Zac Tidswell perform in a pop-up performance of 'The Nutcracker' – he was brilliant; well done Zac!



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!

Parents/carers and students should be aware of the following local Sixth Form Application Deadlines:

- Woodhouse College - 16th January
- Highgate Wood School - 20th January
- Fortismere - 27th January
- Alexandra Park School - 31st January
- Henrietta Barnet School - 1st February by 5pm

Reminders from the Admin Team

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.

From the Library

CoverUp (our parent/staff reading group) is starting 2017 with Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend*. Do come for drinks and bookish chat on Thursday 26th January, 7.00 p.m. in the library. New members always welcomed.

Please remind your KS3 students to keep an eye out and ears open for the next historical fiction group meeting; the date will be confirmed shortly (Friday lunchtimes...)

And the Haringey Children's Book Award judging group will be starting soon, so any Year 7s that are interested in joining need to talk to Mrs Ward or Mrs Coles (Thursday lunchtimes...) More information will be in the next newsletter.

We are very pleased that Melvin Burgess and (local illustrator) Jane Ray are the UK nominees for the Hans Christian Anderson Award 2018. Both have visited Fortismere library and enriched our students' education <http://bit.ly/2hUfgLP>

Congratulations to wonderful author and illustrator Shirley Hughes on being appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to literature.

Recommended Read of the Week

It's great to see all the shiny new books that our students have received for Christmas, and hearing about their favourite ones. Do remind them that they can borrow books for free from the school library! Here's one I read over the holidays that is possibly my book of 2016: *Island* by Nicky Singer incorporates a bored teenager, climate change, Inuit legends and hope. Illustrations by Chris Riddell are a bonus.

FSA News

Just a reminder of our Planning Meeting which is taking place on Wednesday 11th January 2017, 19.00 – 21.00 in South Wing Conference Room. We'll be planning our next fundraising events, so if you've got any ideas or are interested in helping out, please do come along!

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.
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