



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning:10/07/17 Wk 2

PATRON OF READING, SF SAID'S LAST DAY AT FORTISMERE

Message from Mrs Helen Glass

Year 7 and 8 Group Changes

Position Available: Head of Fundraising and Development

Part-Time Librarian Post

Sports Day, Wednesday 12th July

Creative Arts Evening Re:mixed

Fortinomics

Ancient Greek Classes

Noah's Ark Rainbow Run

Careers Information

Reminders from the Admin Team

From the Library

FSA News

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week we held our transition days for students joining our Sixth Form in September. Of course, many are familiar with the school, having been here during years 7 to 11, but others are completely new to life 'on the Hill'! In any case, studying at Sixth Form is quite different to the lower school, and brings with it new opportunities and experiences. I hope all our new Year 12s found the transition activities helpful and are looking forward to starting their studies with us next term.

We've got some exciting 'end of year' events coming up next week: on Monday, it's the Year 9 'Oscars' at the Phoenix Cinema which has become a wonderful tradition, and on Wednesday, it's Sports Day. I must admit, as we are coming to the end of term and my last day at the school, such events are even more meaningful, summing up, as they do, all the humour, hard work and talents of our students and staff. I'm sure the last few weeks of term will be fantastic!

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Year 7 and 8 Group Changes – Senior Leadership Team

We would like to inform you that after careful consideration and consultation with our Pastoral Heads we have decided to change the groupings of Year 7 and 8 this year, with new groupings to start in September. This is for two reasons:

- The Year 7 Mandarin Excellence Programme will be run solely in X bank next year in Year 8. Therefore students who follow this programme in Y bank need to move over to X bank. This would mean that we would have to pick students to move into Y fairly.
- In-Year admissions this academic year to both year groups has meant that classes have become unbalanced in their makeup and this has impacted on progression of learning in some cases.

Please be assured that at the very core of our decision to change Year 7 and 8 we have the wellbeing and education of *all* of our students. Our students are already taught in a variety of combinations, for example, in Maths, DT and VT so the number of teaching classes affected is relatively small. At Fortismere we subscribe, as far as possible, to mixed ability teaching and creating young people who are confident and self-assured. We are confident that the changes we are making will impact on the year groups positively. Lessons are for learning and students still have breaks and lunchtime to meet up with friends. The aim is the continuation of highly effective teaching to engaged and enthusiastic learners. Your support in the maintenance of high standards is appreciated

Group lists will be posted up in the last week of term in both North and South Wings for students to see before their summer break.

Position Available: Head of Fundraising and Development (Temporary for 6 months with the possibility of becoming permanent) – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

Applications are welcomed for the temporary post of **Head of Fundraising and Development**. Payment Scale: P02. The job description and person specification are available from Marie Haines, Head's PA. Please submit a letter of application to Mrs Glass (copy to Marie Haines), outlining how your skills and experience equip you for the role.

Closing date: Applications to be received by Monday, 17 July
Interviews: Tbc

Part-Time Librarian Post – Ms Davey

Advance notice: the position of part time Librarian (permanent) will be advertised next week on the Fortismere website.

Sports Day, Wednesday 12th July – Mr Cox, Head of PE

Sports Day is on Wednesday 12th July. The outline of the programme is below. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the weather (sunscreen etc) and they can wear College Colours to support each other. We also advise students NOT to bring valuable items to school that day as, unlike in PE lessons, we cannot lock their valuables away when they are competing.

P1 – all of Year 8 do athletics OR rounders* OR tennis*

P2 – all of Year 7 do athletics OR rounders* OR tennis*

P3 – all of Year 9 do athletics OR rounders* OR tennis*

Lunch as normal

P4 – all of Year 10 do athletics OR rounders OR tennis OR basketball*

2.10pm – buzzer to signal end of P4 and all students to be escorted to the field by their P4 teachers and then sit in their Colleges to spectate/participate in...

- Sprint Finals**
- Tug of War*
- Presentations

*Rounders/tennis/basketball/tug of war – you **need to sign up** in the Sports Hall Office (limited numbers, so be quick!)

** Sprint Finals – you have to have qualified for this in the morning

Athletics – no need to sign up (do as many events as you can)

Creative Arts Evening Re:mixed – Creative Arts Faculty

The Creative Arts Faculty invites you to a night of multi-disciplinary performance, dance, music and art! Join us to celebrate the diverse and vibrant creative talents of Fortismere students from Year 7 to Year 13. This year we encourage you to come and see incredible work produced over a range of topics, where we showcase the unique creative community within our school. We want you to engage, discuss and respond to the mixing and layering of these different art forms. We hope you are ready for an exciting and interactive arts event!

Thursday 13th July: doors 5:30pm

Ticket prices: £4 adults, £3 children – tickets are now on sale via Parentmail.

Fortinomics – Mr Renner, Head of Business Studies & Economics

Please find attached the 3rd edition of our economics newsletter produced by Year 12s.

Ancient Greek Classes – Mr Strathdene, Head of Colosseum & Teacher of English & Classics

Camden School for Girls is offering Ancient Greek classes to Year 9 and Year 10 students from Fortismere next year. See attached letter for details.

Noah's Ark Rainbow Run – Ms K Williams, Head of Ephesus

A massive thank you to all the wonderful staff and students who came along recently and participated in the Rainbow Run at Allianz Park. We reached our £500 target and had a fantastic time getting covered in all the paint!

If you still want to sponsor us please visit www.justgiving.com/ephesus



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 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).

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.

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

Just a couple of weeks left till the end of term so please check for any library books at home that should be returned.

We have several boxes of beautiful books left from our stall at Fortitude and are selling them at the reduced rate of 3 for £1! Please tell your children to come and browse – we have children's/YA fiction, study guides for various subjects and lots of stuff for grownups too!

Don't forget our last meeting of CoverUp – the parent/staff reading group. Over Pimms and snacks, we will be talking about *The Power* by Naomi Alderman. 7pm, Thursday 13th July, the library. Still happy to welcome new members!

If you are off to the Edinburgh Festival this year, check out Matt Dickinson's play! <http://bit.ly/2uRoG1v>

S F Said's Day in the Library

On Thursday 29th June Fortismere's Patron of Reading, S F Said, spent the afternoon and evening with us. He had lunch with some of Ms Massey's creative writing group. These lovely students have been working with Ms Massey in the library every Wednesday after school and have produced some phenomenally imaginative work which they then illustrated and which we have now made into a book to be on display in the library for posterity! (See image on front page)

SF then spent an hour working with one of our Year 9 classes on flash fiction. He explained that the three things which most good stories need are characters, setting and plot. He suggested ways to create these and then gave the students five minutes to write, without stopping, their first drafts. He gave them a break, talked about his own writing and then got them to think about ways to improve their stories. Five minutes re-drafting produced some superb flash fiction.



Period 5 was spent with our Carnegie Shadowers. Last year SF judged the Carnegie Amnesty Prize and enjoyed it so much that he read the shortlist this year specifically to be able to discuss the books with our Shadowers. This was an incredible session. Our students had so much to say and all views differed (although I still dispute the suggestion that *Railhead* is a “train wreck of a book”!) This is the essence of the Carnegie book group – students reading novels they wouldn’t usually pick off the shelves and then forming their own passionate opinions of them. And not being afraid to voice them!



Our Reading Champions evening was glorious. Since March, our Year 7 students have been reading books from a list originally created by S F Said, English teachers and the librarians. They had to present the book they enjoyed the most to their English classes and each class then chose their favourite. (Please see each class’s Champion and favourite book under Recommended Reads later in the newsletter). On Thursday evening, each book was championed in front of an invited audience of family and friends and the presenters were questioned by the Chairman, S F Said (just like the Baileys’ Prize for Fiction or Man Booker...) We were stunned by the quality of the presentations, the imagination that had gone into films and visuals and the maturity and confidence of our students. Winning by a very narrow margin was Luca Turner with *The Enemy* by Charlie Higson, but in our opinion, everyone was a winner. Big thanks to everyone who supported the event, to the whole of Year 7 who took this competition so seriously and to Ms Ackerley who was a tower of strength and IT skills on the night.



This was the last event for our current Patron of Reading. S F Said has been with us for two years and has produced a real buzz around reading which is one of the main points of the scheme. His humour, anecdotes and patience have inspired our younger students and the Reading Champions competition was his idea – it will live on as his legacy! He has enjoyed his time with us and we are delighted that he is already asking to return to work with next year’s Carnegie Shadowers and to attend our Reading Champions evening. He will be our honoured guest. And just to let you know that negotiations are now under way for our next PoR – watch this space!

More wonderful visitors since the last Newsletter!

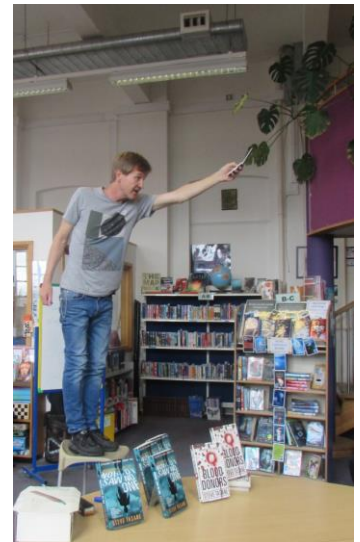
On Friday 30th June we were delighted to welcome back our old friend, Kev Sutherland. Kev is a comedian and comic strip creator and has drawn for a huge variety of publications including Beano. Once again, he worked with two groups of Year 10 art students, proving to them that everyone can draw and everyone can create. Each child went away clutching their sides, a comic containing the class’s artwork and a 30 second caricature of themselves (yes, Kev is also a master photocopier). A wonderful day, packed with energy, which left us all exhausted in the library! We were also honoured to have Emma from Beano (I’m still finding it tricky not to call it The Beano – it’s not a typo!) and Tom, who is the Senior Digital Content Editor at Beano Studios. They encouraged the students to work on character creation and asked that anything they produce be sent in for consideration, which is very exciting. More news to follow...



Helen Donohoe is the author of *Birdy Flynn*, an incredible novel set in the early '80s in Ireland. She came to talk to some Year 8s and Year 9s in the library on Monday 3rd July and was astounded at our students' knowledge of "cultural references". Who would have guessed that they would know so much about pound notes, the IRA, cassettes of UB40 and tank tops? We had a couple of excellent interactive sessions and *Birdy Flynn* looks set to be a powerful and popular addition to the library shelves.



We first met Steve Tasane, author and performance poet, as part of the YA Shot scheme when we took classes to Muswell Hill library. So impressed were we by his rapport with the students that we invited him in for the day on Tuesday 4th July. He did four sessions with Year 7 and Year 8 classes and his enthusiasm never flagged throughout. Some clever tongue twisting rapping got the audience going, readings from his excellent books (*Blood Donors* – guts and gruesome and *Nobody Saw No One* – present day thriller based on *Oliver Twist*) and games kept our students on their toes. Even the most jaded Year 8 students became very competitive in the Obedience Game! Another action packed and fun filled day.



Many thanks to Louise Parsons who gave two fantastic high energy workshops in Year 8 English lessons on Tuesday 4th July. Students loved finding out about Shakespearean insults and by the end of the session were performing the opening of *Romeo and Juliet* and stage-fighting like pros! We were really glad Louise was happy to give up her time to work with students.



It was also fantastic to welcome former student Eve Wersocki Morris back on Tuesday 4th July to talk to Year 12 English and Media students about working in the publishing industry. Her talk was incredibly useful and she guided students through the process of getting work experience, and advised them of practical steps they can start taking now in order to plan for a career in publishing. Thanks Eve.

Yes, there has been a veritable plethora of visitors to Fortismere over the past couple of weeks with more to come. This is because of collaboration between Ms Brooks and the library to form a Festival of Learning. Thanks to the FSA who have helped to fund some of the activities. We are planning to go bigger and even better next year!

Recommended Reads of the Week

As promised above, here are Year 7s' favourite books as presented during our Reading Champions Evening. Brilliant reads, every one of them! And if you saw the presentations, you'd want to read them too!

7x1	Daisy Rought-Oram	<i>Five Children on the Western Front</i>	Kate Saunders
7x2	Luca Turner	<i>The Enemy</i>	Charlie Higson
7x3	Haru Ogiwara	<i>Mortal Engines</i>	Philip Reeve
7x4	William Bentley	<i>White Fang</i>	Jack London
7x5	Iris Lloyd & Coco Marcus Martha van der Pool & Beatrice Frost	<i>One The Bunker Diary</i>	Sarah Crossan Kevin Brooks
7y1	Stephen Harden-Wilson	<i>Inkheart</i>	Cornelia Funke
7y2	Kacper Kwasow	<i>Once</i>	Morris Gleitzman
7y3	Kathleen Delaney & Gracie Ferreira	<i>Wonder</i>	R J Palacio
7y4	Livia Mullen	<i>How We Live Now</i>	Meg Rosof
7y5	Salke Kristinsdottir	<i>Geek Girl</i>	Holly Smale

FSA News

Fortitude 2017 Update

Many, many thanks to everyone who came along to fabulous Fortitude on the Field last Saturday! It was an amazing day and so lovely to see so many of our kids and community getting together and having fun. The music was fab, the food was amazing, and the ale and bar was superb as always, we are so very grateful to everyone who had a Martyn Gerrard Board, who made salads or cakes, donated bottles, donated prizes, donated books, clothes, can along to the event, bought a raffle ticket, volunteered to help at the event in any way, we thank you all very, very much, because without you the FSA team cannot make these events happen or be a success.



We are very proud to say we think we have made around £15,500 from Fortitude, including the raffle, an amazing achievement and all with your help! Well done everyone, this will really help the school.



Also, don't forget, the **silent auction is still going until Sunday at 9pm**, so still time to grab a bargain at <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/fortitude2017>





The FSA Committee will need some new members next year. If you'd like to know more, please contact Kirsty at marks-kirsty@gmail.com for a chat.

Food Market Update

We'd like to thank everyone who supported the food market over the 12 weeks it was in operation. It raised £1,845 for the school.

Other Ways to Fundraise for the School:

Donations to the FSA for the school can be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismerschool> – 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.

