



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 27/03/17 Wk 2

[Message from Mrs Helen Glass](#)

[Talking to Young People about Critical Incidents and Terrorism](#)

[Early Closure, Friday 31st March 2017](#)

[Fortismere Dress Code](#)

[Communications](#)

[Safer London Workshop for Key Stage 3 Parents: Tuesday 28th March, 6.30pm- 8pm](#)

[Year 11 Maths Mock](#)

[Creative Writing Workshop](#)

[Progress in English Day, Cambridge University](#)

[Oxbridge Conference](#)

[International Women's Day Celebration](#)

[Amendment to Year 11 ParentMail sent home on Monday 20th March](#)

[Voluntary Contributions Update](#)

[Facilities and Lettings](#)

[Careers Information](#)

[Reminders from the Admin Team](#)

[From the Library](#)

[FSA News](#)

Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week, like you I'm sure, my thoughts have very much been with those affected by the terrible attack in Westminster. Whilst we know that the security forces foil the vast majority of terrorist plots, it is truly shocking when one occurs. I happened to be at the House of Lords the previous day (attending the 5th Annual Senior Women's Lunch) – not something that often happens – so I appreciate even more the misfortune of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, as many of the victims were. One can't help but wonder 'what if...?'

Here at Fortismere, as in all schools these days, part of our safeguarding activity is to look out for students who might be vulnerable to radicalisation. All staff receive training on this subject and our Child Protection Officers are experienced in dealing with various challenging situations. We also have a zero tolerance of bullying of any kind and overall I think we have the balance between discipline and freedom about right.

When such tragic events unfold, we can only be inspired by the bravery of the emergency services and passers-by who step in to help. I hope we are helping to guide our young people onto the right path.

We appreciate that some students may be particularly affected by such awful events, and you may be wondering how best to support them. You will find some information/advice below which may help.

I hope you all have a peaceful weekend. We wish all our Hindu families a very happy new year next Tuesday.

Talking to Young People about Critical Incidents and Terrorism

The charity Winston's Wish has produced some really useful advice on how to talk to children about the events of this week. Click [here](#) to view it.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has also published tips for parents on how to talk to children about terrorism. It explains that when speaking to children, parents should avoid "complicated, worrying explanations" as they may struggle to process information and may be left feeling more frightened and confused. It is acceptable to agree with children that attacks are frightening and sad, and that you can't stop them. In addition, the NSPCC's guidance says that it is important to address victimisation following a terrorist attack as some children may feel targeted because of their faith or background. It explains: It's important to look for signs of bullying, and make sure that they know they can talk with you about it. Often they'll feel scared or embarrassed talking about it, so reassure them it is not their fault that this is happening, and that you will help the bullying stop. Alert your child's school so that they can be aware of the issue. More information from the NSPCC can be found [here](#).

Early Closure, Friday 31st March 2017

Students will be dismissed from school at 12.25pm on Friday 31st March as it's the last day of term. North Wing and South Wing canteens will be open at break-time only and free school meals can be collected then.

Fortismere Dress Code – Senior Leadership Team

Please find attached the Fortismere Dress Code. The school aim is to prepare our students for all aspects of life beyond Fortismere. Whilst we value individuality, students and parents/carers need to recognise that appropriate dress, along with basic etiquette, are common requirements in the workplace and professional settings. Please ensure your son(s)/daughter(s) uphold the requirements of the Fortismere Dress Code. If there is any doubt about whether a particular item is acceptable, parents/carers should check with the school before purchasing.

Communications – Senior Leadership Team

Please find attached some [email guidance](#) designed to improve the quality of our email correspondence. We have also updated our school [Communications Procedure](#), which shows who to contact on which topic and how. Both documents can be found on our website.

Safer London Workshop for Key Stage 3 Parents: Tuesday 28th March, 6.30pm- 8.00pm, School Library (Use South Wing Entrance) – Ms Judge, Deputy Head and the Wellbeing Team

With reference to the advertisement in last week's Newsletter we would like to remind parents about the very important information event taking place in the school library next week.

Safer London have approached us with an opportunity to offer a workshop here at school on 28th March specifically aimed at parents of students in Key Stage 3. They will be discussing information on Child Sexual Exploitation, online safety, healthy relationships and how best to support your child at this stage in their lives.

We appreciate that this is quite short notice but given the content of the workshop we are sure that many of our parents will want to take the opportunity to get involved in discussion around these topics. This workshop will kick start a series of events aimed at supporting our Sexual Relationships Education programme and more general issues around wellbeing and highlighting specific areas of concern for parents and carers of secondary age students. These events will take place across the rest of the academic year and will be targeted across the age range of our students. We will be informing parents and carers more about these when we have dates confirmed.

In the meantime we would like as many of our Year 7-9 parents and carers to join us on Tuesday 28th March. We would be grateful if you could let us know if you will be in attendance so we have an idea of numbers so please could you contact us on events@fortismere.org.uk to let us know if you plan to attend.

Year 11 Maths Mock – Ms Fineberg, Assistant Head

All Year 11 students will be completing a Mock Maths Exam Paper on Wednesday 29th March 2017 in the afternoon. Students will be requested to line up in Maths Groups at the SW Fire Assembly Point (PE courts behind SW Gym) at 1.10pm on that day. They will be required to have all their Maths equipment with them. The Mock will be finished by 3.20pm so all after school activities and Revision classes will run as normal.

Creative Writing Workshop – Ms Massey, Teacher of Wellbeing

The Creative Writing Workshop has been very enjoyable this term and we will be continuing it after the Easter holidays. It takes place at 3.30pm on Wednesday afternoons in the Library. If any student would like to join, they should come and see me in S05 (please note that I am not in school on Fridays), or email me. The first session next term will be on Wednesday 26th April.

Progress in English Day, Cambridge University – Ms Brooks, Teacher of English and Mrs Ward, Senior Librarian

On Monday 20th March Sixth Form English students, accompanied by Ms Brooks and Mrs Ward, travelled to Cambridge for a taster day at Fitzwilliam College. We were introduced to reading English and the admissions process, followed by a series of fascinating mini-lectures. We braved the pouring rain for tours (Mrs Ward got some great ideas during her private visit to the stunning new library!) and whilst the students took part in practical criticism discussions with Fitzwilliam English students, the staff and lecturers exchanged views and ideas. The welcome we received from the College was warm, we learnt much about interview techniques (over-preparation is the biggest problem), the need for information literacy and more and the day helped to dispel much of the mystery in applying for an Oxbridge place.

We subsequently received a lovely note from the staff at Fitzwilliam College:

“Just a note to say thank you again for taking time out to attend this event and bring your students along. It was a pleasure to meet you and talk to your pupils. We were impressed by their level of engagement in the days' activities and willingness to ask really pertinent questions both in the lecture theatre and in more informal discussion....”

Oxbridge Conference Trip – Ms K Sullivan, Director of Sixth Form, Mr Kenny, Head of Year 13 and Ms Ackerley, Teacher of English

On Wednesday we took a group of Year 12 students to the Oxbridge Conference at Epsom. This was an opportunity for them to attend subject specific information sessions and hear admissions tutors from Oxford and Cambridge discuss the application process. They seemed to have enjoyed the day although we fear the 2 1/2 hour journey home may have dampened their spirits somewhat!

It was a pleasure taking them on the trip and we look forward to working with them over the coming months.



International Women's Day Celebration – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

Many congratulations to the Year 11 students who organised Fortismere's first celebration of International Women's Day. A packed North Wing Hall experienced an evening of inspiring and thoroughly entertaining speeches from Ann Oakley (sociologist and feminist writer), Emma Lawsen (Teacher of RS and Sociology), Amelia Franklin (Oscar-winning film-maker), Roshi Woodroffe Northover (student), Catherine West MP, Nils Young (Teacher of English) and Rebecca Front (Bafta-winning actress and writer). The musical items and poetry readings were beautifully performed and the students raised over £600. The money is being donated to Women for Women International.

The students responsible for this wonderful event were:

Kezhé Julian Temir, Lydia Clay – White, Millie Arnaud, Chloe Booth, Mia Gwynne – Smith, Katya Herberg, Clemmie Mason, Kacey Quennell, Aliyah Ratcliffe, Gareth Morgan, Mila Rust and Agnes Napleton.



Amendment to Year 11 ParentMail sent home on Monday 20th March – Ms Allaway, Assistant Head

There were two discrepancies in the recent ParentMail sent to Year 11 parents about leavers' dates for students. The students' last formal school day is Friday 26th May. Prom Tickets are £24 and can be bought via ParentMail. Leavers' Hoodies are £14.95 and can be purchased via this link:

<https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/shops/SL35209>

Voluntary Contributions Update – Ms Keogh, Business Manager

As you will be aware, last term we asked parents/carers to consider making a voluntary contribution to complement the school's budget which is under significant pressure from increased costs and the National Funding Formula. You will have received a letter about this, via ParentMail, in January and it is available on our website, in case any parent/carer wishes to make a donation.

Careers Information – Ms 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! In particular, you might be interested in the

- **London Higher Education Exhibition** at ExCel on 27th and 28th March.
- **ULAS Apprenticeship Conference** in Notting Hill on Wednesday 29th March.
- **Tech City College STEM Open Evening** on Thursday 20th April.

Full details of these events, and more, can be found on our [website](#).

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.

From the Library

The CILIP Carnegie Medal is the UK's "most prestigious children's book award. Often described by authors as the one they want to win, it is the gold standard in children's literature". For the past ten years, the library has run a reading group that shadows the judges by reading all shortlisted books and posting reviews on our special website. Carnegie Shadowing started on Tuesday and over 40 Year 8 students attended the first meeting. Reviews have been written already! Put this link on your favourites <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW> and join in with the fun.

Have you ever read a book and thought it would make a great film or TV show? Follow the link to a screenwriting competition devised by ALCS for the CILIP CKG shadowing scheme. Prizes are amazing, but even if you don't want to enter take a look as there are some fascinating hints and tips <http://bit.ly/2nUCPbH> .

Recommended Read of the Week

The Sin Eater's Daughter by Melinda Salisbury is a fast paced, dystopian fantasy. The only problem is that once you've whizzed through it, you have to also read *The Sleeping Prince* (book 2) and *The Scarecrow Queen* (book 3). An excellent series.

FSA News

Fortismere Food Market Update

Thanks to all who came to the Sunday market last week and special thanks to actor, comedian and writer, Mackenzie Crook, who officially opened the market and also gave us good few laughs! A lot of stalls had sold out by 2pm! This week we can announce that Bad Brownie will also be there for your sugar rush! Why not come along on Sunday for some Mother's Day treats?!

If you wish to have a stall or know someone who does please contact – stall4alluk@gmail.com – more information about the market is being regularly added to the FSA website – www.fortismereschoolassociation.com



Photo of Mackenzie Crook with our FSA Chair, Maria Demetriou. More photos on the [website](#).

Outdoor Movie Night: Grease Singalong

Please start buying your tickets for this event, if we can start to get a realistic idea of how many people will attend it will help us plan a successful evening.

It promises to be a great event for all the family. Bring your own blankets and lawn chairs; 100 VIP seats will be available to hire for £5 (look up 'air loungers' to see what we mean).

Tickets on the gate £7, free for under 5's. £5 in advance from the library and online: www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com (bring a copy of your paypal receipt with you)

This event is being kindly being sponsored by Autowerke and we've been reliably informed that there will be a great car there for you to take a look at and to get you into that 'Grease' mood!

Any questions please email - markskirsty@gmail.com

If you can volunteer on the night please let us know - we will need a good few of you lovely parents!



is the word

GREASE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Gates open 7.00pm for a GREASE Karaoke. Film starts at 8.30pm

SAT 22ND OF APRIL on FORTISMERE SCHOOL FIELD

Popcorn with every ticket! Bar, hot chocolate, sweets and food stalls.

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets. VIP inflatable seats to hire on the night.

PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED GUY AND GAL

ENTRANCE £7 on the gate. Free for under 5's. £5 in advance from the library and

online: www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

• PORSCHE
• MERCEDES
• BMW
• VOLKSWAGEN
• AUDI
• ALL MAKES

YOUR LOCAL GARAGE

Auto

WERKE

MUSWELL HILL

UNIT 7
THE VIADUCT
ST. JAMES LANE
LONDON N10 3QX
0208 8837 339

sponsored by

Date for Diaries:

Tues 18th April, 7-9pm: Final planning for Outdoor Movie Night, South Wing Conference Room

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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