



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 15/05/17 Wk 1

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION EVENT!

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

This week we held a series of Revision Days for our Year 11s to help them prepare for the exams ahead. My thanks go to the English, Maths and Science faculties for organising such thorough sessions which I hope the students found useful. Public exams start on Monday 15th May and run through to the end of June. I hope everyone is feeling ready but I always remind students to speak to their tutors, or indeed any member of staff, if they have any questions or concerns. There is also lots of information on our website. We all appreciate that this is a stressful time for students and their families and we are here to help. Of course, on behalf of all the staff, we wish everyone sitting exams the very best of luck.

At the other end of the spectrum, it was good to see so many of our Year 7 parents/carers at the Y Bank Parents' Evening this week. I hope you found the sessions with subject teachers useful and that students are enjoying their first year at Fortismere.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Year 13 Drama Exam performance on Tuesday which was fantastic. As ever, our students' talent, creativity and maturity was very impressive.

More talent and creativity will be on display this coming week at the GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition (more details below) and I would encourage you to come along to see the fantastic work produced.

Finally, today we said our official farewell to the Year 11s. We held two assemblies (three Colleges each) which were full of stories and photos from the past five years. There was lots of fun and emotion in the room, and it was a great tribute to the achievements of the Year 11s. Staff from the whole school then lined up to applaud the students as they left the site and no doubt went on to continue their celebrations! Despite the crazy costumes and exuberance in the air, it is a very moving occasion and I hope the students take away some memories to treasure.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Wellbeing Events – Ms Judge, Deputy Head & Mrs Prinsley, PSHE Co-ordinator

Mental Health Awareness Evening - Monday 15th May, 6.30pm-8pm in North Wing Hall

Who claimed that adolescence is just a phase? Who suggested that being a parent is easy? Dick Moore, the parent of four often errant children and a headteacher for almost 23 years, embarked upon a mission to discover more about what makes young people tick and what he could or should have done during the challenging times! He has a passion for adolescent mental health and wellbeing and will be exploring how young people think, why adolescence is an especially vulnerable time and about common issues which can arise when the going gets tough. Finally, he will offer some tongue-in-cheek tips for parenthood.....

Dick a trainer from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust has spoken at over 250 schools, universities and businesses in the UK and overseas, together with talks at major conferences. He ran seminars at the HMC Conference and gave a TEDx talk in April 2015. He has also appeared on BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 5 Live, various local BBC radio stations and ITN News with Mary Nightingale. Please see more information about the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust by clicking here <http://www.cwmt.org.uk/>.

We would like to ask parents to register their interest in attending this event by emailing our events email address, events@fortismere.org.uk. We hope to see as many of our parents at this important event as possible. Please indicate in the title of your email the name of this event as shown above.

There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust after the presentation. Refreshments will be provided by Team London Ambassadors who are raising money for Young Minds.

Year 10 Students' Wellbeing

As part of Year 10's Wellbeing and RS Curriculum, Dick Moore will also be delivering a presentation in connection with Mental Health to them. Year 10 parents/carers will be emailed with more information next week.

Student Wellbeing Evening – Tuesday 6th June 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

We will be welcoming Allison Havey and Deana Puccio, local mums and authors of what the Independent Online called one of the Top 10 Parent Books of 2016, 'Sex, Likes & Social Media, Talking To Our Teens In The Digital Age'. Offering practical tips and guidance, they will be speaking about how to help our children negotiate a very complex world growing up as digital natives. They will address the laws on sexual assault, consent, how hardcore pornography is affecting relationships and expectations, sexting, alcohol, and personal safety when it comes to dating, parties, and traveling on public transport.

We would like to ask parents to register their interest in attending this event by emailing our events email address, events@fortismere.org.uk. We hope to see as many of our parents at this important event as possible.

Student Wellbeing – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

We wanted to take a further opportunity to remind parents of the new [safeguarding pages](#) on our website and access to information around supporting young people. As a response to recent media coverage around rises in incidents of self-harm we wanted to recommend to our parents some useful websites on this specific issue. We think that 'Mind' and 'selfharmuk' provide really useful information and have added their links below and to our web pages.

[Mind](#)

[selfharmuk](#)

We do hope that many of our parents/carers have accessed this section of the website already and would welcome any feedback on how useful they have found the information there.

GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition – Ms Powell, Head of Art

Please come to the GCSE exhibition on Thursday 18th May to celebrate the work produced by our Art and Photography students.



[Contact the school](#)

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk

Parent Forum, Monday 22nd May – Ms Sloane, Link Governor for Communications

The next Parent Forum will be held on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in South Wing Hall. Please email parentforum@fortismere.org.uk if you would like an item to be put on the agenda.

In addition, there will be a Governors' Surgery before the Forum, from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please come along if you would like to discuss any issue with a Governor.

General Election Hustings Event for the Sixth Form: Thursday 25th May – Mr A Johnson

Prospective parliamentary candidates for the three major parties – Catherine West (Labour), Dawn Barnes (Liberal Democrat) and Emma Lane (Conservative) – will be attending a hustings event at Fortismere on Thursday 25th May. The hustings will be held in the Sixth Form study room (T19) at 3.20pm.

Candidates will discuss their respective policies and ideas before taking questions from the audience.

Some of the candidates will also be coming in to briefly talk to Year 13 students during their assembly this coming Monday 15th May.

This is a Sixth Form-specific event. However, lower school pupils can request to attend by emailing Mr Johnson at ajohnson2@fortismere.org.uk. Places for the lower school are limited and open on a first-come, first-served basis.

Year 10 GCSE Dance Performance – Ms Vangucci, Teacher of PE

Well done to our Year 10 GCSE Dance group who performed last Monday night at Friern Barnet School's 'Step into Dance Event'. Their performance of their contemporary piece stood out amongst the other eight local schools; they were true professionals and were all brilliant. Well done!



Year 13 Drama Exam Performance – Ms Overs, Head of Drama

The performances were a huge success. Congratulations to everyone!



Photos by kind permission of Will Ireland

House of Lords Visit – Ms Davey, Deputy Head & Ms Lewis, Academic Coach

Last Friday Ms Lewis and Ms Davey took a group of students to meet a Creighton Alumnus who works in IT support in the House of Lords. The students had a bespoke tour which surprised them by pointing out how diverse the history and culture of Parliament is, including Thomas More's multi-cultural coat of arms. The boys visited both chambers and got to see the crypt, hiding place of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison on Census night in 1911. As special guests, they were allowed to have a lunch in the staff canteen, which enabled them to have their usual fish and chips on a Friday! The highlight of the tour was a visit to the roof for a spectacular view of Big Ben. The students came back with a much better idea of how Parliament works and were inspired to see a former student in such an important and unusual role.



Fortismere Community Choir & Orchestra Concert – Ms Topping, Head of Creative Arts

Fortismere Community Choir is delighted to announce its next concert with the Fortismere Community Orchestra at St Andrew's Church Alexandra Park Road on Saturday 13th May at 7.30pm. The programme for the evening is: Mozart's 'Mass in C minor', Haydn's 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' and Schutz 'Magnificat'. Tickets are priced Adults: £10, Concessions: £8 and under 12s can come along for free. To purchase tickets visit our website www.fortismerecommunitychoir.org.uk

Tickets for Schools: 'Kinky Boots' Offer – Ms Keogh

Tickets for Schools have a special offer on theatre tickets for the popular show, Kinky Boots.

£69.50 tickets are reduced to £32.50 which includes the £5.00 donation to the FSA, valid Monday - Wednesday performances until 7th June (excluding half-term). Bookable using the link below:

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

The show comes highly recommended and has something for everyone!

Careers Information – Ms Phillips, Careers Advisor

I am now coordinating appointments for Year 10 students to talk over potential career plans. It is really important that parents/carers attend these appointments to help acquaint themselves with the appropriate next steps their son/daughter should be exploring concerning post-16 progression.

Also, please note that the Careers Office has recently moved and is now located on the Ground Floor of the Linc building.

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.

From the Library

We do hope you're keeping in the loop with our Carnegie Shadowing group who continue to post reviews on our special site of the books shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal <http://bit.ly/1Qp8ckW>

Our Year 7 students should by now have read at least two books from their Reading Champions booklist and be getting prepared to do their mini-presentations in English lessons over the next couple of weeks. We are really looking forward to seeing which of the 10 shortlisted books will be crowned Fortismere's Favourite on 29th June.

Recommended Reads of the Week

Move over Katniss Everdeen! And welcome to the brilliant Celestine North from *Flawed* and the sequel *Perfect*. I really recommend these novels by Cecelia Ahern; better, in my opinion, than *The Hunger Games* and brilliant for both boys and girls (don't be put off by the cover – I wish publishers would refrain from feminine covers ...)

FSA News

Fortitude on Saturday 1st July, 12 – 6pm

We want Fortitude to be bigger and better than ever! This means we want to have more going on that children and adults can enjoy. But we can't do this without your help....

Would you take on running a small part of the day? We need volunteers to do the following (maybe get a friend to help you?):

- The Bottle Tombola
- The Second Hand Clothes Stall (clothes for teenagers and Vintage Clothes for Adults)
- A Water Gun Game
- The Wang-A-Welly Competition
- Throw a Sponge at a Teacher
- A 'graffiti wall'
- A Coconut Shy
- The Plant Stall

And we are open to other ideas from you ... anything that you feel people would enjoy.

Also do you do an activity/hobby/job which might make an interesting demonstration on the day? Zumba, yoga, archery, boxing ... anything that will work on a field?

Please get in touch with Kirsty at markskirsty@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Together we can make this a Great Day!

Don't forget the **Food Market** every Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

On 21st May, we're featuring a prosecco and wine-tasting event!

Car Boot Sale: Sunday 18th June 11am – 3pm

Save the date!

It'll be in South Wing Car Park.

Cars cost £15.

If you are interested in participating please email Maria at mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your space.

