

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

Volume 1, Issue 1

8th September 2017



Co-Heads Welcome and review of the week

Only three days in to the new school year and already Fortismere is very much back in business. It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our students for the start of the new year and it has been a particular pleasure to meet those who have joined Fortismere this week.

We are so impressed with our students who have joined us in Year 7. We do have a slightly confusing site to navigate for a newcomer so please do reassure your sons and daughters that they will find their way round in no time. We have both found it incredibly enjoyable to talk to Year 7 students that we have met about their early experiences of secondary

school life and it does seem like in most cases nerves have calmed fairly quickly. We wanted to remind parents and carers of Year 7 students that the Year 7 common room is open at lunchtimes in N11. Please talk to your sons and daughters about the room which offers a great space for our new students to socialise with each other in a vibrant but friendly environment.

Similarly we are absolutely delighted that we have welcomed almost 250 students into our new Year 12 this week. It has been fantastic to have our 6th form full of students with so much energy, enthusiasm and excitement around commencing their studies once again. Our Year 12

students will be discovering quite quickly the change in pace of learning at A level and the need to establish a consistent routine that balances attendance at lessons and private study (both at school and at home) with that all-important work-life balance. Our Sixth Form Team are always on hand during the course of the day to support students with any questions, worries or concerns they have. We'd like to extend a particularly warm welcome to Year 12 students and their families who have joined Fortismere from other school. We are mindful that it can be difficult to adjust to a new school setting and encourage those students to look out for opportunities to

Coming up:

- Week commencing 11th September Yr 7 CATS tests— those involved will be informed
- 14th September— Information Evening for Yr7 parents and carers.

mix with other 6th form students outside the classroom - more news to follow from the Sixth Form Team.

Tutors have spent time this week discussing the revision to the BFL system that were communicated via parent mail to all parents on Monday. We are really pleased to note that stu-

dents have understood the new system but even more pleased to have received such positive feedback from the student body around the changes, particularly with regard to C3 and detentions. We were very much informed by student opinion on how the system could be improved.

A short week, but there's no doubt that re-establishing the routine requires a lot of energy. We hope all of our students and their families have the opportunity to relax and re-energise over the weekend.

Celebrating Success

We are delighted to announce recent sporting achievements of some of our current and former pupils (and staff!)

Esther Morgan has been selected to represent Wales Under-17 national team in the Euro Qualifiers at the end of this month. Esther has also been signed by Chelsea Youth Team- a huge achievement and we are all extremely proud of her success. We are also delighted that in between all of this success Esther continues to

play her part in the school sports teams.

Former student Nya Kirby has been selected for the England's Under 18 football squad. He currently plays for Crystal Palace and we wish him every success in the upcoming games against Brazil and South Africa.

And congratulations must also go to Dominic De Almeida, who has recently completed A levels at Fortismere, as he won a gold medal in fencing at the 2017 School Games.

And finally, congratulations must go to Mr Young who successfully swam the Channel as part of a relay team. They achieved the fastest time on record for a 5 person relay.



Esther Morgan

'On the red carpet...' - Ms Overs

Into Film are looking for 25 passionate film enthusiasts aged 13 -19 to join the Young Reporter Programme, which offers an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to get closer to the world of film than ever before! In previous years we have had 3 Fortismere students join this programme.

The two-year scheme runs from Autumn 2017 to Autumn 2019. Being a Young Reporter gives you the chance to

interview big-screen talent and discover what goes on behind the scenes. You will get to cover exclusive industry events, premieres and festivals, and use your reporting skills to open up the world of film to other young people! Our Young Reporter Programme provides children and young people with the opportunity to become the voice of Into Film. Members of the programme are given the opportunity to develop film reporting and reviewing

skills, receive media training and attend exclusive behind-the-scenes events. All travel and food expenses for your reporting assignments and training are covered by Into Film - there is no cost to you for taking part. You will need to create a 2-3 minute vlog to apply. The deadline for applications is 12pm, **Monday 2 October**. Please email Ms Overs if you are interested in applying and you will receive an application form lovers@fortismere.org.uk

Communications – Ms Westley, Communications Officer

Just so our new families are aware, we circulate the Newsletter for Parents/Carers every Friday afternoon by ParentMail, and it includes important notices, instructions and updates. It also features short articles and photos from the exciting activities that

take place at school. We hope you find it informative and useful! Don't forget, you can also follow us on Twitter - @Fortismere_Sch. Finally, check out our website, www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk, which contains lots of information about the school, curriculum,

policies and procedures, key dates and events. The Contact Us page provides a list of all staff, with their email addresses, and advice on how best to reach them. The FAQs section is also useful for identifying who to contact about what.



College News

Hello from Olympia. My name is Ms Arrowsmith and I am the new Head of College for Olympia. I have been at Fortismere since 2002 and have previously been a head of department and head of faculty, and with my new role, I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the students in Olympia. Our assembly this week was about the origins of the college names and a little more about the wonders of the ancient world and why Olympia was the best!! I hope that Olympia can maintain its precedence as the winning college for the sports inter-college competition but I also hope that our students are successful in other aspects of school life. I hope to meet regularly with the

student ambassadors and continue with the fantastic work that they did last year in raising money for "Young minds" in conjunction with Team London. If there are any students who wish to be part of this group then we will aim to meet regularly for one VT session a week and one lunch-time (days still to be confirmed).



Year 7 camping trip

Many thanks to the parents who have already filled in the on-line permission slip for this trip and to those who have paid. The dead-line for the final payment and permission slip has been extended to 22nd September. This is so that I can give final numbers to Tolmers and the coach company and can make up the groups for the day and the evening.

Department News

New Department – Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

From September, all year 7-10 students will now study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. This will appear as PRE on timetables, and will be taught 3 times a fortnight. PRE retains many of the elements of the subject it has replaced, Wellbeing, but includes a more academic approach to

the study of philosophy and ethics, and a more detailed examination of world religions. Further details can be found on the school website, or by emailing Mr Aldridge saldrige@fortismere.org.uk

Science Department– Mr Richardson

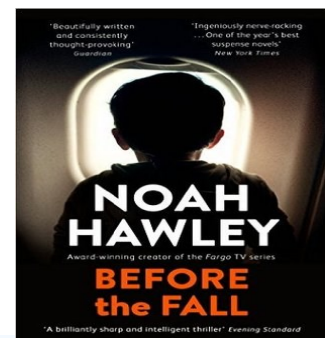
Fortismere donated over 1700 science text books to School Aid. The books will be going to African schools.



CoverUp– Parent Reading Group, Mrs Ward

Our new parents (and current ones!) might be interested in our parent/staff reading group (CoverUp). We meet once a half term in the library, refreshments are provided together with good company and lots of laughs – we're a friendly bunch. The first

book for reading this year will be *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley and we'll be discussing it (amongst other things...) on Thursday 21st September, 7pm in the library. Everyone welcome.



From the Library

At the end of last term we were sad to say goodbye to our Patron of Reading, S F Said, the author of the *Varjak Paw* books and *Phoenix*. Here's a link to his blog <http://www.sfsaid.com/> where he says a big thank you to all the lovely students he's worked with over the past two years.

HOWEVER, we are delighted to say hello to our new Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, who will be extending our reading for pleasure culture and creating a buzz about books at Fortismere. After working for several years as an editor in children's publishing, Non became a full time author when her debut YA novel *Trouble* was published in 2014. Three books later, with another soon to be published, Non is really looking forward to spending time with

our students – and parents! See more on the school website and watch this space for details...

One of the services offered by the library is the sale of stationery – so our students are always able to honour their Presentation Pledges! Attached is a price list, together with details of our very popular filled pencil cases.

Do they watch too much TV? Here's some educational stuff... <http://bit.ly/2x77Q3l>

If you care about children's library services in Haringey, please click on this link <http://bit.ly/2gGHgaW>. There is further information about an event on Saturday if you "click here to save Hari".

A bit of light relief... in 1930, the Nottingham Post reported strict library rules to be imposed by the Hyde Institute Library in Barnet. Library users in future must not: *Enter the library if their faces are offensively dirty; fall asleep at the tables; eat their lunches whilst reading papers, books etc; smoke in the building; leave their business cards behind; make themselves a nuisance; kick or damage the furniture; bring dogs within the portals; tell lies to the librarian; enter when they are in an inebriated condition; enter if they have smallpox.* We agree with all of

Sixth Form News - Mr Carter

It has been a highly successful summer for our Sixth Form students, with our departing year 13 students attaining both exceptional progress and attainment across their examinations. We are delighted to see them move on to the exciting next steps in their lives. Not to be outdone, our new year 13 students achieved some

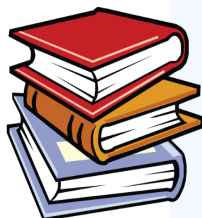
of our best ever AS grades, overall boding well for their imminent UCAS applications and final year's study. On Tuesday we welcomed around 250 new year 12 students to our Sixth Form. Our cohort is drawn from a wide range of secondary schools across the area, with two uniting factors; their recent GCSE success and their desire

to begin their next challenge. Speaking to them on Tuesday, the sense of excitement was clear, if tinged with a touch of nerves. As the new Director of Sixth Form (acting), I understand the emotions of starting something new and wanted to reassure that supporting our students pastorally and academically is fundamental to

Reminders!

Reading books:

Please make sure your son/ daughter have a reading book in school every day. Reading is required in English lessons, VT sessions and in C3 detentions.



Lanyards:

Please check your son/ daughters lanyards. If you can not read their name or see their picture then they must order a new one from Ms Oddi who is based in the South Wing foyer. Not having a suitable lanyard may result in a C3.

Meetings:

Please remember that in line with our safeguarding procedures you will only be allowed on site if you have an appointment with a member of staff. All meeting will be held in the South Wing so you will need to enter via Tetherdown entrance.

Presentation Pledges and Routines

– Ms Fineberg

Could all parents/carers kindly ensure that their child/children comes to school with:

1. A **fully equipped pencil case** as per description in 2017/18 Presentation Pledges attached,

2. **Covered exercise books.**

Some covers will be provided by a number of subject departments but not all. Therefore, some exercise books will need to be covered at home by students if the subject department does not provide it. Clear sticky plastic film or a clear plastic exercise book cover, are

both good options to cover students' exercise books.

Please note that the **Fortismere 5 Routines for Learning** below have been shared with all students this week. These outline expectations for all and support outstanding learning for all

1. **In Place and On Time**
2. **Ready to Learn**
3. **Follow Instructions First Time**
4. **Be Respectful**
5. **Always Aim High**

Creative Writing Workshop– Ms Massey

STARTING Wednesday September the 20th 2017!

Ms Massey will be running a weekly creative writing workshop It will be held in the Library from 3.40pm-4.40pm.

(Upstairs in the back room)

You can write any way you wish:
Poetry, The Spoken word, Play-

writing, Narrative, Stories, Diary. Journal writing, Lyrics etc
Please see Ms Massey to join up (S05) before the end of term. She will inspire you to express your creativity and find your own unique writing voice!

Maximum of 10 participants



Absence Texts– Ms Greenwood

From Monday 18th September we will be sending out texts if your Year7 child has not registered for school that day. (These texts will begin for Years 8 – 11 on Monday 11th September). This will be sent by PMX ParentMail between 10:45 – 11:15am. Please call the School Attendance Line on 020-

8365-4429 after you receive the text to let us know why your child is not in school. Thank you.

To avoid receiving a text in error, please inform the school (either by phoning the Attendance Line or emailing attendance@fortismere.org.uk)

in advance if your child will be absent.



FSA News

The FSA is a charity aimed at raising funds for the school. In the last year we hope to have raised over £45,000 by organising fun things: a fab fireworks display, a Christmas Fair with just under a 100 stalls, a great sell out quiz night; a car boot sale, an outdoor movie night, comedy night and Fortitude, the best summer fair in North London. All the events were planned and run by volunteer parents and carers. Then we decide how to spend the money raised the previous year within school: How do we do this? Well

it's a bit like Dragon's Den in November, Fortismere style! At the bids meeting you get to meet the most fantastic, enthusiastic teachers in the school who come along and pitch for a slice of an agreed budget, and then we decide where to allocate the funds as fairly as possible. Full details on where the money was allocated last year is on the School's FSA website. And this is where you come in! We have some vacancies on the FSA committee and would love you to join the team – please contact markskirsty@gmail.com

for more information about the roles. We really need new members to continue to raise the much needed funds for school.

Others 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

FSA - Yr 7 Reception

Y7 Reception – Next Thursday 14 of September

We are looking forward to meeting and welcoming the new year 7 parents and carers over drinks next week after Mr Ward's information presentation. This will be an informal gathering where you will have the opportunity to

meet other parents in your child's class. Last year there was so much chat it was hard to be heard making announcements and people really did enjoy themselves. So stick around and get to know some new parents and enjoy a drink with the committee!



FSA - Volunteers needed!

Volunteers needed

Year 7 Reception Evening

An a few parents please come along next Thursday to help organise and work behind the bar. It's a relaxed evening and committee members will be on

hand to discuss the roles available on the committee if you also wish to discuss– contact

markskirsty@gmail.com





Year 12
First Art lesson -
creating a sculpture of
members of the group
and compromised
drawing activities!

