

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

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6th October 2017



Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

Co-Heads' Welcome and Review of the Week

It has certainly been a week of real excitement at Fortismere and it has been wonderful seeing our students not only giving their best in their lessons but also in making the most of the opportunities there are at Fortismere beyond the classroom. It is not the first time in the school's history that Mr Yakup and his team of student robotics specialists have represented Fortismere and have tasted success having been winners at the Vex IQ national finals in 2016. This week the team spent Saturday at the John Warner School (JWS) in Hoddesdon competing at the first regional Vex robotics event in the UK and our students were victorious again. We would like to thank Mr Yakup for in-

spiring our students to take part in this event and congratulate all students who were involved. We wish them the best of luck in the next stages.

Most of Year 7 have departed from the school gates at the start of the day travelling to Tolmers campsite in Cuffley where they are spending the day setting up camp and engaging in team building activities. It was a fantastic sight this morning to see them gather in anticipation of what is sure to be a memorable event for them all and we both have had the opportunity to spend time with them today at Tolmers taking part in various challenges. We are so impressed with the way our new Year 7 students

have not only settled into their new academic routine but we are amazed at how well they have embraced taking this step into the next phase of their education. This is the first trip of this size that we have arranged for Year 7 students and we would like to sincerely thank Ms Arrowsmith, Head of Olympia college, who has organized this fantastic opportunity which really has been no mean feat. We would also like to thank all of the staff who have accompanied her on the camping trip and will be staying overnight this evening – our committed staff know that is this type of event that can really make the difference to how our students feel about their school.

Coming up:

- 11/10/17: Piano Concert (6.30pm Music Hall)
- 12/10/17: School Closed for Inset Day

During the course of this week and next week Ms Sullivan, Interim Deputy Head is giving assemblies to the six colleges on how our students can keep themselves safe. From knowing how to let a teacher know if they feel unsafe at school to understanding how they can unwittingly put themselves at risk through misuse of

the social media, developing our students' knowledge of personal safety is an extremely high priority for all of us at Fortismere. Please do take the opportunity to discuss the assembly with your children and ask them what they have learned about how to keep themselves safe. There is a section on safeguarding in this

week's newsletter which we would urge all parents to read carefully. This also has a link to the safeguarding pages of our website where the assembly slides will be accessible.

At the end of a busy and eventful week at school we would like to wish all of our students and their families a restful weekend.

Safeguarding our Students

Keeping our students safe is probably our highest priority at Fortismere. This is not just about ensuring their safety while they are with us during the course of the school day but we are also committed to ensuring that they learn as they are with us about how to keep themselves safe.

As mentioned in the Co-headteachers' message this week, Ms Sullivan who is one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads, has been leading a series of assem-

blies on keeping safe to our students. However, we are very much of the belief that we can be most effective in educating our students on safety if we work in partnership with their families. Last year we ran a series of parent events on student wellbeing and mental health which were extremely well attended by our parents who found them useful. We are organizing a series of similar events for this academic year and a calendar of these will be shared with you once we have dates con-

firmed. In the meantime we would like to draw your attention to our [safeguarding pages](#) of our website which contain extremely valuable information about how you can support your child from the various risks that there are out there for our teenagers. We know that many of you are concerned about issues connecting young people and mental wellbeing and there has been much documented in the press recently about this issue. There has been a particularly worrying increase in

young people self-harming in the UK and we have put links on our safeguarding pages to the websites of some really useful organisations.

The topic of safeguarding our young people can be one that raises anxiety amongst parents but we really believe that if we work in partnership and talk regularly to our young people about

these issues we can help them make informed decisions about their safety. We hope that you find these pages useful and as always welcome feedback from our parents.



From the Senior Leadership Team

Late Start Monday 16th October

A reminder that lessons will start at 10:20am on Monday 16th October. The late start is to allow time for the Year 8 Deep Learning Conversations.

Parent and carers with children in Year 8 should have received a letter with their appointment time. Please contact the school office if this is not the case.

Option Group Changes

Students who have changed their GCSE Option groups should go to **South Wing** reception on Monday 9th October, where they will be able to collect a new timetable.

Parent-Governor Recruitment

We are looking for two new parent governors to join the governing body from November 2017. Parent governors are elected by other parents/carers at the school. Any parent/carer of a registered pupil is eligible to stand, except someone who is an elected member of the council or someone paid to work at the school.

If you would like to nominate yourself please email the Clerk to the Governors, Ms Sam Murray at smurray@fortismere.org.uk by **Wednesday 18th October 2017 5pm.**

An election will be held if there are more than two nominations. Candidates will be asked to write a brief statement explaining why they wish to become a parent governor and what skills and experience they can bring. Statements will be circulated with a ballot paper to all parents/carers.

You can find information about the governing body and a flyer setting out the role of a governor and what is expected at Fortismere on the school [website](#) and at the end of this Newsletter.

All governor appointments are

subject to a vetting process and identity check.

If you want to discuss the role of a parent governor in more detail or to speak with a current governor please get in touch.



Sports News

RESULTS:

Football

Year 9: Fort 2-3 NPS

Year 10: NPS 1-5 Fort

2nd XI: Fort 5-2 Highgate Wood

U13 Girls: Fort 0-0 Highgate Wood

FIXTURES:

Tuesday 10th October:

Y7/8 & Senior Netball v Parkview (A)

U13 Boys Table Tennis Competition (@ APS)

Wednesday 11th October:

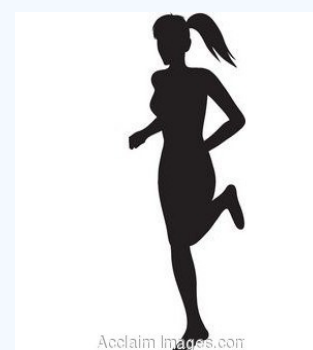
U13 Girls Football v Highlands (H)



Fundraising for Tommys —Mr Kirkland

My wife is running a half marathon on Sunday in London for the baby charity Tommy's. The link is attached and if anyone could spare anything at all for her fundraising then it would be greatly appreciated.

<http://m.virginmoneygiving.com/mt/uk.virginoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=RunKaylaRun>



Acclaim Images.com

Events & Activities

Year 7 Harry Potter Studio Visit

Please see on the attached the list the 60 lucky pupils who will be coming on the visit to the Harry Potter Studios on Wednesday 6th December 2017!

May I have permission slips placed in my tray in North Wing staffroom or emailed to me as soon as possible please.

Ms Bhambra:

vbhambra@fortismere.org.uk



Concert Band

Concert Band will now rehearse on Thursdays in the Concert Hall from 3.30pm to 4.15pm.



Chess Club

Chess Club meets on Thursdays and Fridays

If the weather is fine, we play outside SW Reception on the benches. If not, we play Blitz chess in 13T2.



Year 7 Halloween Disco

Please make sure you purchase tickets for the Year 7 Halloween Disco via ParentMail before half term.

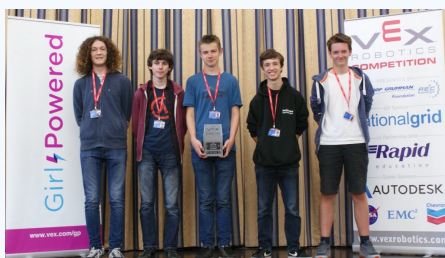
The Disco is an annual Fortismere event and is always really good fun for students. It takes place on Monday 30th October at 5pm until 7pm in North Wing Hall.

There will be music, dancing, games, prizes for fancy dress and snacks!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Success in Robotics!



On Saturday 30th September 2017 two Fortismere Vex Robotics teams entered the first regional VEX EDR competition in the UK at the John Warner school in Hoddesdon. Over 20 teams had entered to compete for the two top places that would guarantee a place at the National UK final. We are delighted to report that team 72477B made up of Robbie Buxton, Sam Poirier and Tom Power were successful in winning the regional event (achieving the current top UK score!) and securing a place in the UK National Final!

If you're interested in Robotics, the club runs every lunchtime and Wednesdays after school in S35.

From the Library

Our Year 8s had a whale of a time with author Anthony McGowan on Thursday 6th October. An excellent speaker, Tony kept them engaged with stories of his school in Leeds (where expelled kids got sent), how he avoided the bullies (by being good at football, although cricket is his main love now) and the terrible thing that happened to him 18 years' ago (no, not puberty – one of the suggestions given to him – but having his first child! And then looking after him!!)

Having been a professional author for many years now, Tony had a

plethora of books to read from, but we loved the farting excerpt from *Hellbent*, and the library was totally hushed when he read from *The Knife that Killed Me*. The books are a wonderful mixture of vulgarity, philosophy, darkness and hilarity, and we didn't have enough time at the end of each session for all the questions the students wanted to ask.

We "won" Tony in the amazing "Authors for Grenfell" auction,

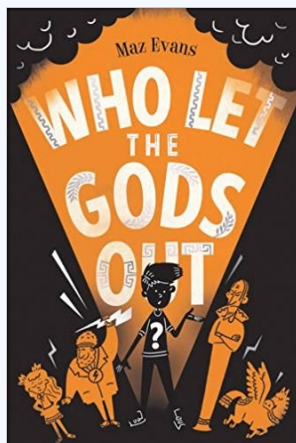
which eventually raised over £185,000 for the victims of the disaster. So this visit helped a really good cause.



Don't forget to buy your tickets for Firework Night (2nd November) from the library - £5 in advance, £7 on the gate. No brainer, really.

There are some excellent half term family activities coming up at Pickled Pepper Books in Crouch End – calling all illustrators, scientists and creative writers! <http://bit.ly/2x9hwq9>

Your weekly dose of educational TV <http://bit.ly/2x77Q3l>



Recommended Reads

Who Let the Gods Out? by Maz Evans is great for younger students because it's a cracking adventure/quest full of belly laughs.

It's also great for older ones because so much knowledge and research has gone into it.

Brilliant for our Classics students – see if they can spot all the "in-jokes" ...

FSA News

Fireworks Evening

Thursday 2nd November

This year we are giving Ally Pally a run for their money and we are going to have the fireworks synchronised to music!

Savings to be made if you buy your tickets before the event: £5 if bought before 2nd November or £7 on the night. Have dinner and a few drinks before the start, dance to keep warm and get dizzy on the

rides before the Great Fireworks display!!

Tickets available online at:

www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Or from the school library from 3rd October.



Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December

Last year we had 98 stalls, this year we want to have more...

If you are interested in having a stall or know someone who might be, please contact Philippa for more details - email:

philippastone-bridge@hotmail.com



Help the FSA to help Fortismere!

Please consider supporting Fortismere with a regular donation to the FSA:

www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool

Even £10 each month really helps. We are also very grateful for one-off donations.

JustGiving™

Tickets For Schools

Extended offer on *An American in Paris* and a new, amazing offer for tickets to *Wicked* – get in quick before they go! Better than half-price tickets, plus they make a donation to Fortismere!

Our friends at Tickets for Schools have very kindly extended their offer on tickets to *An American in Paris* at the Dominion Theatre. They are offering the Fortismere community the chance to buy Band A tickets (up to £72.50) available for just £35.00 (which includes a £5.00 donation to Fortismere). *An American in Paris*,

the Tony® Award-winning Broadway musical about love, hope and living your dreams, has taken the West End by storm, with standing ovations from the public and a record-setting 28 five-star reviews from UK critics with the Guardian describing it as "A truly, ravishing version of the Hollywood musical" and the Radio Times calling it "A joyous, colourful and heart-warming musical". This offer will be available for all performances from Monday 2nd - Tuesday 31st October, 2017. Evening performances are at 7.30pm and

Wednesday and Saturday matinee performances are at 2pm.



Now also open an offer for tickets to the incredible ***Wicked!*** Band A tickets (up to £69.00) available for just £39.00 (which includes a £5.00 donation to Fortismere). Now celebrating 11 spellbinding years at London's Apollo Victoria Theatre, *Wicked* is already the 16th longest running show in West End theatre history. Experience this unforgettable, multi award-winning mu-

sical and discover that you've not been told the whole story about the Land of Oz...This offer will be available for all Monday - Thursday performances from now until Thursday 23rd November 2017 (excluding w/c 23rd October). Evening performances are at 7.30pm and Weds matinee performances are at 2.30pm. Get in quick before these go!



Just click the link here to buy tickets for both shows:

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

Year 7 Camp at Tolmers Activity Centre

We thought you might like to see some hot-off-the-press photos from today's Year 7 camp at Tolmers Activity Centre in Cuffley. It looks like the students are having a wonderful time, and thankfully, the weather has been great so far....

If any Year 7 parent/carer needs to make contact with the group, you can do so by emailing Ms Arrowsmith at jarrowsmith@fortismere.org.uk

(the trip phone is struggling to accept incoming calls at the moment).





No.	First Name	Surname	VT Form
1	Thomas	Halton	A10
2	Toby	Stevens	E1
3	Lucy	Houston	O1
4	Noah	Leigh	A1
5	Mingus	Clark	E8
6	Maximilian	Fairhead	C9
7	Harry	Mildren	E10
8	Leo	Colley	C8
9	Luke	Murgatroyd	C10
10	Felix	Standen	P8
11	Erin	Uludag	P9
12	Linus	Wainwright	R4
13	Rudy	Marcuson	O4
14	Daniel	Shapiro	A8
15	Isaac	Allaway	E9
16	Polly	Edge	P2
17	Adrian	Testa	E7
18	Oleksii	Arsientiev	E7
19	Isabelle	Groom	A8
20	Elliott	Westley	E3
21	Zaki	Bawany	A4
22	James	Barnes	E3
23	Hannah	Barnes	C3
24	Eleanor	Bunyan	O8
25	Franklyn	Gallichan	C6
26	Madeline	Gallichan	E6
27	Loic	Thuillier	C1
28	Izabella	Hioti-Sklaveniti	R10
29	Amelia	Graham	E8
30	Amy	Smale	R8
31	Jack	Finer	E5
32	Ellis	Wantman	R2
33	Elke	Grynfeltt	C6
34	Alisha	Mubarak	A5
35	Jacob	Rich	C8
36	Grace	Downie	P4
37	Lara	Degirmencioglu	A2
38	Georgina	Howarth	P9
39	Anna	Miller	C10
40	Siri	Contino	E9
41	Zakary	Cohen	O5
42	Freya	Bielby	R3
43	Maeve	Lock	R7
44	Lucy	Hawkes	C10
45	Charlotte	Townson Meade	E1
46	Elliot	Burcher	R5
47	Polly	Knights	O2
48	Maisy	Morris	P5
49	Keira	Chakraborty	P1
50	Jessica	Vanheerden	C2
51	Sophia	Saul	E8
52	Adam	Munir	A10
53	Isabelle	Coles	A10
54	Daisy	Dawes	A1
55	Nathan	Roberts	P5
56	Biba	Betteridge	R9
57	Giulio	Primicino	R4
58	Elin	Johannessen	P2
59	Constance	Hansard	A4
60	Oliver	Loyez	A6

YEAR 7: Harry Potter Studio – Student List

Could all pupils on the list to go on the trip please ensure that all permission slips are either handed in to my tray in **North Wing** Staffroom or are emailed to me on vbhambra@fortismere.org.uk

All 60 places have been filled as well as waiting list places.

If there is a large enough demand for a second trip then this will take place in the summer term.



Being a Governor at Fortismere

Thank you for your interest in our school, and becoming a Governor at Fortismere. This briefing contains a summary of key points about our school, and the expectations we have of our Governors.

About Fortismere

Fortismere is a high achieving, dynamic, mixed foundation secondary school, and is highly regarded by the local Muswell Hill community that it serves. We have a strong focus on outstanding progress and attainment for all of our students, as well as cultural enrichment. In our last Ofsted report we were rated as Outstanding. Additionally, in 2016 The Times newspaper rated our school as 12th out of the 20 best non-selective comprehensive schools in the country.

Our sixth form has 450 places over two years. There is a broad range of subjects to study, including traditional A levels, BTEC and subjects like Further Maths and Economics. We also provide excellent guidance for students towards further education of all kinds, as well as additional mentoring for those making Oxbridge applications or preparing for Medical or Law entrance exams.

Our examination results are outstanding but we are never complacent and each year we seek to raise attainment and ensure outstanding progress for every student from the time they join us to the time they leave. At GCSE, results over the last two years have been consistently above 85% in terms of students gaining five or more A* to C grades. Maths and English have been consistently high in the 80+% range. At A level, 70% of students' grades were A* to B grades last year.

We believe that outstanding progress and attainment will be achieved by:

- constantly challenging and raising the aspirations of all students;
- insisting on the highest standards in terms of attendance, punctuality and behaviour;
- providing the right support and teaching strategies;
- and timely, well planned interventions.

We place great importance on traditional values in terms of courtesy towards and consideration for others, and respect and acceptance of others' differences. Our intention is to develop young people that are well-educated and capable of benefitting from and contributing to society when they leave school. We endeavour to provide a curriculum that will provide students with the skills, knowledge, experience and imaginative and understanding for a lifetime of independent learning and enjoyment, as well as an awareness and respect for moral values and the community.

The School Vision

Fortismere will continue to be an outstanding, popular and successful school. It will win hearts and minds through adding value to its students and staff, playing a key role in its wider community and leading innovative practice that impacts nationally and internationally. All staff from both, teaching and non-teaching teams will share this vision and be committed to contributing to a dynamic learning environment which results in significant and measurable year on year improvement in all key stages. Fortismere will have an active mind, a finger on the pulse and a big heart.

Governors Role

Purpose

To contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils which involves the setting of a strategic plan for the school, acting as a critical friend and holding the school to account for student outcomes, and use of public resources.

Who we are looking for

We want to recruit Governors who share our vision and passion for the continuing success of the school, and have the capability, commitment and capacity to be effective. Sometimes, we will be looking for particular skills and experience which we think we need. In other cases, we welcome candidates and new Governors from all backgrounds and with any or no specific experience of education or governance.

Accountability

Our governors are accountable to each other and to the entire school community – parents, students and staff, whom we serve. There is a written code of conduct which we all agree to abide by. Additionally, some Governors are elected or nominated to particularly represent specific parts of the community, for example our staff, parents or the London Borough of Haringey.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The role of the governing body is a strategic one. It is responsible for the conduct of the school, and must promote high standards of educational achievement. All governors at Fortismere recognise that they should focus on three key strategic areas:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.

Tasks

Individual governors are expected to:

- To work as a member of a team.
- To speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school .
- To respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public.
- To act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements.
- To commit to training and development opportunities.
- To get to know the school: its needs, strengths and weaknesses.
- To learn and interrogate financial and performance data.

Time commitment and availability

Being a Governor at Fortismere involves significant commitments of time and work. At a minimum, you will be asked to

- Attend meetings of the Full Governing Body
- Attend and participate in more detailed subcommittees for example in the area of student progress and achievement, finance, estate management and admissions
- Attend appropriate training
- Specialise in particular aspects of the school's work, for example safeguarding, special educational needs or financial control.
- Be regularly in school in your role as governor, monitoring school development and participating in relevant panel work such as admissions, complaints, behaviour and staff matters
- Undertake 'desk based' preparation for, and work in support of the above

The required time commitment varies, but is unlikely to be below 15 hours per month during termtime, some of this in school during and around the school day.

Confidentiality

All governors will be required to work in a way that protects and respects confidentiality of pupils and school business. The proceedings of committee meetings are mostly a matter of public record once minutes are agreed, but there are many occasions where you will be party to confidential discussions and data about the school, students and staff.

Child protection and safeguarding

Fortismere has a duty of care to implement effective policies and procedures to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. In order to achieve this all staff and Governors must share this commitment and the Governing Body is ultimately responsible for safeguarding staff and students.

This commitment includes accepting a responsibility for ensuring that all concerns about a child's safety or well-being that come to the attention of Governors, staff or volunteers in the course of their work will be followed up and dealt with as quickly and as sensitively as possible. It also includes ensuring that all activities are provided in a safe environment.

Because Fortismere is committed to safeguarding all children, a criminal record disclosure will be required prior to appointment of Governors – a DBS check. Governors are also expected to undergo formal training in the safeguarding of young people.

Term of Office

The term of office for any governor is four years. Governors may then be re-appointed or re-elected. Should personal circumstances change, governors may also resign by giving written notice to the Clerk.