

fortismere

Transforming lives Through Education

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Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

Co-Heads' Welcome and Review of the Week

This half term has quite literally (used in its correct sense, Year 9!) started with a bang. Thank you to all the parents and members of the local community who attended last night's firework display. The FSA, as usual, did a fantastic job and the money raised will be used to enrich students' lives in Fortismere in numerous ways. There were a couple of incidents which were dealt with swiftly by security and staff members on site. Both will be followed up at school.

Last night's festivities are just one example of

the many activities to have taken place this week. On Monday there was a spooky Halloween Disco organised by the Year 11 Leadership Team for Year 7. It was a scarily enjoyable event and another opportunity for Year 7 to get to know each other and increase their confidence at Fortismere.

Following a successful bid from the Drama Department, on Tuesday actors from the National Theatre were on site: putting on a production of 'Macbeth' for the Year 11 Drama students. This included building an astonishing set in North Wing Hall and providing

musical accompaniment (some very eerie drumming). It was the perfect play for Halloween. Both these events were made possible by the extra financing made available from the FSA through the fundraising of events such as Fireworks Night.

On Thursday, the philosopher Stephen Law was invited to Fortismere by Mr Aldridge to visit the 6th Form. While here, he delivered an assembly to Year 11 on the topic of 'weird beliefs', exploring the credulity of our student body and arming them with strategies to sort fact from fiction. It was surprising

Coming up:

- 07/11/17—lessons finish at 2.20pm (for the Sixth Form Open Evening)
- 13-24 Nov—Year 11 Mocks

to see how many of our Year 11s apparently believe in psychics, flying saucers and the Loch Ness Monster. Hopefully there are now fewer than there were before.

It was also a week of impressive performances from present and for-

mer students. Niya Kirby (Newsletters passim) was part of the U17 England team who won the World Cup. Some of the more eagle-eyed visitors to the fireworks display may have noticed him in the crowd yesterday. On Thursday, Mirei Kong, Claudier Ferrier, Lily Carsley and Eva Naple-

ton in Year 9 were honoured at Park View Academy in Turnpike Lane for their entries in the Haringey Oliver Tambo competition. Two of the students won first prize and the other two received a special commendation. The first prize includes a personalised visit to the

Co-Heads' Review cont.

Houses of Parliament with David Lammy, MP. The entries were of an extraordinary high level and thank you to Ms Sullivan in the History Department both for organising the entries and inspiring our students (below centre).

Still on the topic of the multiple talents of our students, Anna Humphreys in Year 13 (below right) is one of 85 Commended winners of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year 2017. She was selected from over 6,000 entrants from across the world and as a school we are both impressed and proud

of her achievement.

On a less positive note, Fortismere was on the receiving end of a hoax phone call to the Police on Wednesday. Despite being told that it was likely to be a hoax call, the Co-Heads took the decision to err on the side of caution and initiate the Fortismere Lockdown procedures which are based on Government guidelines. We are aware that this did cause disruption to learning and that some students were very anxious during the Lockdown. As a matter of protocol we always review significant events such as this and the com-

ments received by parents (thank you) will form part of this review. We do know who the perpetrators were and sanctions have been applied, with on-going investigations.

Business as usual included Year 10 Parents' Evening on Tuesday and a big thank you to parents who braved the ghosts and the ghouls to attend. We began our new sanction for late students and have found that keeping students in detention for their lunch time seems to have had a positive impact on the number of late comers to lessons. We have even wit-

nessed students walking quickly to lessons – success!

So in conclusion, a week of contrasts. 'Educating North London' definitely has its highs and lows but is never, never, dull!



From the Senior Leadership Team

Homework Survey

We are carrying out a review of homework at Fortismere. We have had responses from over a thousand students but only 33 parents/carers. I am sure that there are more of you that have opinions about this issue and we would be very keen to hear them!

The survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete. The link is:

<https://form.jotformeu.com/72854904406359>

Early Closure 07/11/17

All lessons will finish at 2.15pm (end of Period 4) on Tuesday 7th November. This is to allow for setup of the open afternoon/evening for prospective sixth formers and their parents/carers.

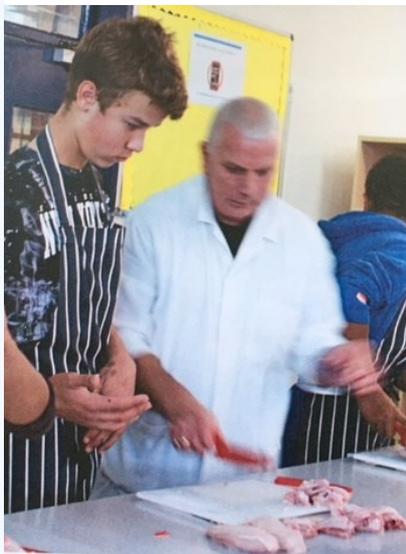
Events & Activities cont.

.Year 10 Food & Cooking

This week in Food Technology we had the pleasure of a visit from Rob, from Midhurst Butchers on Fortis Green.

He came to demonstrate how to break down a chicken to our Year 10 Food & Cooking pupils.

They were very squeamish at first but soon got over it and did an excellent job of butchering the chicken. It was a great chance for pupils to interact with a person from the industry and see them working first hand.



Christmas Concert

**Weds 13 & Thurs 14 December
7pm in NW Hall**

Rehearsals are now essential so that students learn their parts in time – join a group as soon as possible!

Orchestral members (especially Strings) – where are you? Every Monday after school 3.30pm in the Music Hall.

Auditions for solos will only be offered to students who are supporting extra-curricular music groups – please check with a music teacher if you are unsure about this.

Students can sign up to audition slots from 13 November (lunchtime and after school slots available).

Tickets available to purchase soon—watch this space!



Professor Stephen Law

On Thursday 2nd November the Philosophy Department welcomed Professor Stephen Law of Heythrop College, author of *The Philosophy Gym* and the *Philosophy Files*.

After a morning of lively debate with Year 12 entitled “Why we believe what we believe” the Professor presented a critical thinking assembly to Year 11 where they

heard about “Four Tips for Thinking About Weird Stuff”. This was followed by an interactive discussion with Year 13 about the possible existence of an “omnimalevolent” God.

Professor Law was extremely impressed with the challenging points raised by Fortismere students and the high quality of debate—even first thing in the morning! Many

thanks to staff who assisted with the Year 11 Assembly and all the library staff.



Events & Activities cont.

Oliver Tambo Centenary Competition for Haringey Schools

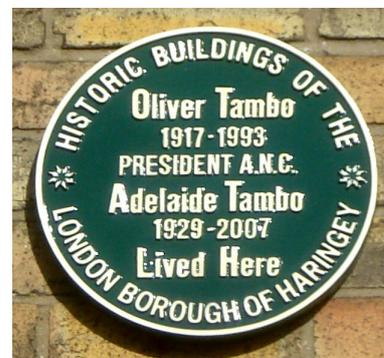
Congratulations to Mirei Kong, Claudia Ferrier, Lily Carsley and Eva Napleton for their prize winning entries in the Oliver Tambo Centenary Competition for Haringey Schools!

Mirei and Claudia's entry of a canvas painting won first prize, while Lily and Eva received commendations for their entries.

The students were up against six other schools in the borough, and their entries were described as being very creative and well thought through.

The Prize giving ceremony featured speeches from Lord Peter Hain and Rt. Hon. David Lammy, as well as a dramatisation of Nelson Mandela's funeral oration, and a performance of the South African National Anthem.

Well done to all year 9 students who submitted entries!



Sports News

FOOTBALL FIXTURES:

Monday 6th Nov:

Girls Y7/8 Haringey 5 aside football league (H)

Wednesday 8th Nov:

Y7 v St Ignatius (H)
2nd XI v Greig City (A)

Thursday 9th Nov:

Netball (all years) v Heartlands (H)



Congratulations to the Under 13 girls' football team who are through to the next round of the Middlesex Cup after beating St James' 3-0. Evie Underhill scored 2 and Livvy Miron 1.

Well done to the Under 16 girls who are also through to the next round after beating St James' 7-0.

Scorers: Maya Sutton-Patel 4, Lauren Blake 1, Lirian Silva Santos 1, Amelia Tickner 1.

Well done to Year 7 boys (right) for coming 5th in Haringey cup football competition, beating APS in the play-off game.

RESULTS:

Y7: Fort 6-1 Harris Academy

Y8: Fort 7-2 Harris Academy

Y9: Fort 8-0 Harris Academy

Y10: Fort 1-3 Harris Academy

U14 girls: Fortismere 2-2 JFS (JFS won on penalties)



From the Library

Patron of Reading

I'd just like to share the opening paragraph of the recently received Patron of Reading newsletter written by Tim, a primary headteacher in Wales who is one of the founding members. It's so important to create a buzz around reading; being part of the PoR scheme and having our "own" author who knows us and the students is really important.

It's with immense pride that I look upon the Patron of Reading movement. It's come a long way since I

first thought of an idea to combat the endless drudgery of the procession of testing children. I don't, and never will, subscribe to the idea that a reading test has any benefit to the development of children's reading. A love of reading doesn't come from trying to spot a fronted adverbial in paragraph two. Heck, I don't even know what a fronted adverbial is. I still love reading books.

Our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, returns for her second visit this term on Thursday 16th November. After working with some Year 7 students during the after-

noon, she will be hosting Non's Night in the library from 4-5.30pm. The whole family is invited – we have a huge range of picture books for younger readers too! Non will be talking about reading, fan fiction, censorship, books to share with your children, the point of reading ... and all on an informal basis. A great opportunity to chat with our PoR and librarians, and make yourself at home in our lovely library. More details of this evening will be sent out soon.

Good TV <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>

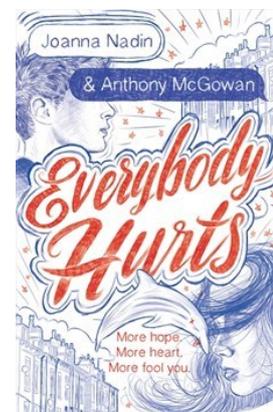


Royal British Legion poppies are on sale in the library.



I neglected to point you in the direction of the Times Educational Supplement earlier this month where some of our Year 9 girls reviewed *Everybody Hurts* (a previous Recommended Read) by Anthony McGowan and Joanna Nadin. Take a look at their beautifully written comments:

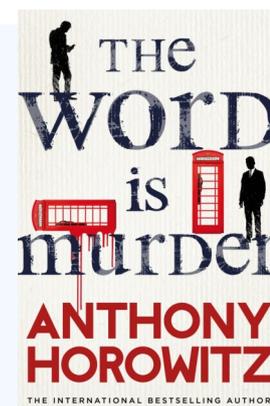
<http://bit.ly/2ifELcC> .



Recommended Read

Many of you will have heard of Anthony Horowitz via your children's love of the Alex Rider series. Not so many of you will know that he wrote *Foyle's War* and many episodes of *Midsomer Murders* for TV. His latest novel (for adults, but good for our students too if you can tolerate a few Big Swears) is *The Word is*

Murder and, to use an over-used cliché, it's a real page-turner. What makes it different is the fact that Horowitz is actually a character in the novel...



Alumni News

Nya Kirby

Former Fortismere student Nia Kirby Helps England Win U17 World Cup!

Crystal Palace development midfielder Nya Kirby helped England win the Under-17 World Cup as the Three Lions beat Spain 5-2 in the final in India.

Kirby came on in the 82nd minute to make his sixth appearance of the competition in England's seventh game, but having fallen 2-0 behind they rallied to eventually



turn the game on its head and pick up the silverware.

Liverpool attacker Rhian Brewster's eighth of the tournament gave them hope just before half-time, before strikes from Wolves forward Morgan Gibbs White and Manchester City's Phil Foden put Steve Cooper's team ahead when Kirby entered the fray.

Following his appearance from the bench, his side scored twice

more through Marc Guehi and Foden as England cruised through the final minutes to claim the trophy for the first time in their history.

Kirby more than played his part in the success, coolly slotting away the winning penalty in the last-16 shootout win against Japan to help pave the way for the country's third-ever footballing World Cup win, following on from the under-20s' victory earlier this year.

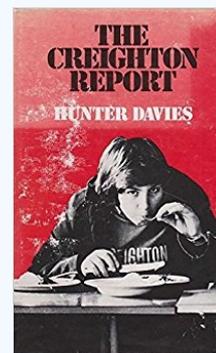
Nya is still very much a part of our local community; it was great to see him return to Fortismere at our Fireworks display last night and as an ex-Fortismere student (he graduated in 2016) we are extremely proud of all he has achieved since leaving us. We eagerly look forward to seeing how his footballing career progresses.

Searching for Creighton School Alumni

December 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Creighton School (which later became Fortismere).

We are hoping to hold an event for Creighton alumni so if you know any, please ask them to contact Miriam Clark at mclark@fortismere.org.uk

so that she can approach them with an invitation and more information.



FSA News

Fireworks Round-Up

We hope you all had a wonderful time last night and that the addition of music to the display made it a better experience!

A big thank you to all the parents who kindly helped volunteer and the pupils who were marshals last night. Events like these cannot take place without you, it helps make our school a great place to be and creates great memories for our children.



Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December

We have some wonderful stalls booked in already. Please put the date in your diary! We're promising all these very special stall holders that there will be lots of people there! So please plan to come along and support it.

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.

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