

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This week the focus at Fortismere has been firmly on raising awareness of mental health issues. This has been on the agenda all week long (including the odd socks day on Tuesday). Ms Jackson and her team from Linc have staged the Mental Health Festival which has involved a series of events on Thursday and Friday that our Year 7 and 8 students have been able to participate in. This has included workshops aimed at encouraging self-expression through the Arts where students have created origami shapes representing the people in their lives who care about them and totem poles which represent different emotions in an abstract way. They have engaged with a number of disciplines across the curriculum such as Music, Art, Drama and PE and have felt the benefits of activities such as mindfulness and Yoga. Students have also had the opportunity to engage with the natural world as part of the festival in order to promote the mental health benefits of being outside. They have created a scavenger hunt with pebbles which have been labelled #fortismerementalhealthawareness on one side and have positive motivational messages on the other. The culmination of the festivities included a visit from four celebrities including Radio1 DJ Maya Jama and plus-size model Felicity Hayward who came to speak to students about their own mental health experiences. This afternoon we are looking forward to welcoming even more visitors to our exhibition to showcase the fabulous work undertaken by the students this week.

Wellbeing is always high on the agenda at Fortismere and we are particularly mindful of this during the examination period. Year 11 students really hit the ground running with their GCSE this week and next week is an incredibly busy week of examinations including English, Science and Maths papers. Year 13 students will be joining

them in the exam hall as A levels also commence from Monday 20th May. It was a wonderful experience to be part of the Year 13 celebration assembly this morning; in advance of the impending A level final exams our students took the opportunity to reflect on their time at Fortismere. Many of them have been with us for seven years but there was a specific pause to reflect on how far they have come since their GCSEs, and how much one can change and develop in two short years. It's always an incredibly emotional moment when we say goodbye to Year 13 but we do so with wonderful memories of all that they have contributed to the school. We do like to remind them that whatever wondrous things they go on to achieve, they will always be Fortismerians and we do hope that they are able to keep in touch. We would like to thank the Sixth Form team led by Ms St.Amour, Mr Kenny and Ms Cunningham for organising such a lovely event.

Surprisingly, it's just one more week until Whitsun. Time does tend to fly during exam season. Have a great weekend everyone!



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey

Dates For Your Diary

- 23 May Parent Forum 7-8.30pm North Wing Hall
- 24 June Year 11 Prom
- 25 June Year 13 Prom
- 13 July Fortitude 12-18.00pm

Messages

“Community share launch for solar panels at Fortismere - 20th May 7.30pm at the Clissold Arms, London N2 9HR

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, over the Easter holidays local community energy group en10ergy installed 105 solar panels on the Science Block roof with a projected saving of 16 tonnes of CO₂ a year, and bill savings for the school. Most of the installation was funded by existing community investors. However, en10ergy are seeking additional investment to close a funding gap of £9,000. This is an opportunity to invest in community renewable energy and will offer a return of 3% per annum - you can see the share prospectus here www.en10ergy.org.uk. Fortismere parents will be given priority to subscribe to the share offer. en10ergy will be running a launch event for a 'mini' share offer on Monday 20th May - at **the Clissold Arms at 7.30pm**. If you would be interested in attending the launch event, or you'd like to find out more please email en10ergy at info@en10ergy.org.uk.”

Cara Jenkinson

The English department has developed a programme of extra-curricular masterclasses to offer to students of Year 12. These will be weekly until the end of the academic year and all Year 12 students are welcome to attend, whether they study English A level or not. The aim of the masterclasses is to broaden the horizons of Year 12 students and introduce them to texts and ideas they may not have encountered before. The optional sessions will be free from exam pressures, intellectually stimulating and fun! The first two sessions – ‘An introduction to Old English Poetry’ and ‘The Tragic Hero: from Achilles to Batman’ – were well-attended and very well-received by students. The next masterclass on 23rd May is ‘An introduction to Post-Colonial Literary Theory’ with many more exciting topics to follow after half term!

Dear parents/carers

Year 13 BTEC students are currently doing some research on the representation of LBGQT people in the media for their final exam. It would be appreciated if you could kindly take the time to complete the following surveys as this would enhance the reliability and validity of their results. Please follow the following links and complete the surveys:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn6S-GTLTVuPU4kqdlcE_D6M8vkvduqZBmPurE4RFG3IK88Q/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjk35LFIEQjfn-kVUN3Ay-kYiEfCgpXhs_9wcvB695eb_aSw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKiQBbFiLjhpfiKfMqQilZk0qYTig7Yk250IRvDA_CU5atA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebSnkalyV-4s9-B-VKVihD-zzaO0dbl4Riki_qVpadg0nqDg/viewform

Mr P Hearty'

Messages

Ramadan and PE lessons

During Ramadan we are aware that some students will be fasting and find PE and sport more challenging. Having sought guidance on the matter, students should still bring their PE kit as they will be able to participate in part of the lesson. We are not unrealistic and will not make students engage in physically demanding activities if they are fasting, but as stated, they can often take part in some of the lesson.

If your child cannot take part in PE then they will need a note from home stating the reason, whether it is fasting or an injury/illness.

Thanks, PE Department

Year 7 Visit St James' Church

This term the Philosophy, Religion and Ethics department are taking all of Year 7 to visit St James' Church in Muswell Hill. The first group went this week - the Youth Minister gave us a tour and explained some Christian beliefs, and how they are represented in the architecture. The students were a credit to the school (as always) asking intelligent questions and really engaging in discussion. We look forward to future visits to the Church and other local faith groups.



College News

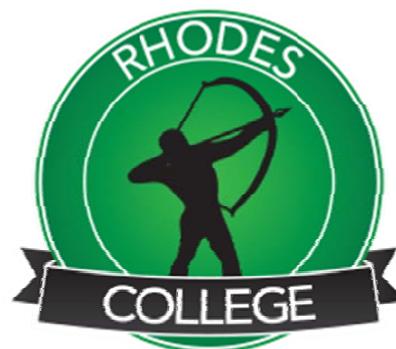
Six Rhodes College Ambassadors from years 7 and 10 went with Ms Williams to St James church in Muswell Hill to help at the Community Cafe which runs on Tuesdays from 11am - 1pm and is staffed by volunteers with a range of additional learning needs. Our students helped to make soup, participated in the music quiz, chatted with the volunteers and customers and, having done excellent tidying up, hoovered a large expanse of church carpet. The cafe is managed by Hannah Whitehead, a former Fortismere student, who was extremely impressed by our students' maturity and enthusiasm, and she looks forward to welcoming the Ambassadors from years 8 and 9 after half term. The Ambassadors agreed that it had been a fun and meaningful experience and they had enjoyed working alongside the volunteers, which had reminded them that we are more alike than we are different.



Rhodes College

Ms A Williams DHOC Rhodes College

Rhodes Student Ambassador trip to the Community Café at St James



On Tuesday 14th May, Rhodes Student Ambassadors went to St. James' Church to volunteer in the community café during the school day. The Ambassadors cleaned the interiors of the Church and interacted with members of the community by, for example, participating in quizzes as a team. The main event was when we helped out in the kitchen, making soup for the church members and the community. Overall, it was been a great event. Helping others is important, and the Rhodes Ambassadors have achieved this, through patience and an open mindset, and will carry on this charitable work in the future.

Aya Pfeufer Yr10

MUSWELL HILL FOOD BANK

The Rhodes Student Ambassadors team are collecting donations for a local food bank based in Pembroke Road, Muswell Hill. The Food Bank provides support and essential items to help people break free from poverty and resolve the crises that they face.

The Food Bank has asked for particular items which are urgently needed and we request that, if you are able to contribute, please buy from this list:

Clothes washing powder, Shampoo, Hair conditioner, Body wash, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Sanitary towels, Tampons, Tinned fruit, Tinned meat,

Tinned rice pudding, Tinned custard.



We are collecting from Monday 29th April to Friday 24th May. There will be boxes in the canteen area of North Wing.

Photography Department

DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE 3rd JUNE

Georgia Morris Photography prize 2019 - Call for entries Years 7 – 9 -

Georgia Morris was passionate about photography and always had a camera around her neck. She loved capturing the world around her and was particularly inspired by nature and wildlife.

In 2016 after a brave fight against cancer she sadly passed away, but not without making a significant impact on those she came into contact with. She was only at Fortismere for a short time but she loved the school and the creativity that thrived within it. As a fitting tribute to Georgia's memory the family have decided to create the Georgia Morris photography prize. Georgia's family really hope this will encourage other young students to take up photography and to study it at school, as she would love to have done.

Georgia loved to capture nature as it unfolded before her photographic lens. From walks across the heath to days out at Whipsnade zoo she was fascinated by the natural world. The brief for the competition this year is **Animals and Wildlife**. Think about what that means to you and what you might photograph as a response to the brief.

Georgia loved going to Park Cameras to buy her equipment and for that reason the family are keen for Fortismere's budding photographers to visit the shop. The prizes will be photographic vouchers that can be used in the shop to purchase items to help take more beautiful pictures and hopefully inspire a lifelong passion for photography.

1st prize - £150

2nd Prize - £100

3rd Prize - £50

All entries for the competition need to be emailed to Mr Holden

gholden@fortismere.org.uk

The deadline is 3rd June 2019



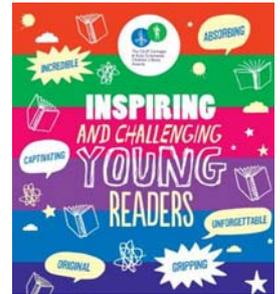
Images taken by Georgia

News from the Library



The Women's World Cup starts on Friday 7 June and the National Literacy Trust is launching a live story written by author Tom Palmer! The story will feature events as they happen and they will be publishing three chapters a week on **their** website during the tournament. Use this link to sign up <http://bit.ly/2ViPEvL>

Over 140 reviews on our Carnegie Shadowing site to date. Phenomenal! I checked and uploaded some interestingly scathing ones this week; it's fascinating to see how one book can be so loved and so hated by different students. Take a look ... <http://bit.ly/2Vqujon>



Twenty years of Children's Laureates. If you are trying to encourage your child to read more, here are some tips from some great authors and illustrators <http://bit.ly/2JEkoFy>

Mr Stewart from the History department and Mrs Ward were delighted with the number and quality of reviews written by our Young Quills Historical Fiction reading group. Shortlists have now been chosen by the Historical Association and it's pleasing to note that a lot of our reviews have now been published on their website for the entire world to see! We are wondering if one of our favourites will eventually win. <http://bit.ly/2VjJknX>



Recommended Read of the Week



Barrington Stoke publishes super-readable, accessible books for those who may find long books a bit tricky or who just fancy a short book once in a while. They work with the best authors, and local writer Keren David has just had *The Disconnect* published with them. It's about going without your mobile 'phone and social media for 6 weeks...and some of our students are reading it for the TES at the moment. Watch this space!

News from the Library

Launch Party for Voice Magazine

On Friday 10th May, the library was delighted to host the fabulous launch of *Voice*, a magazine published by our Year 12 students, led by Diyar Keyhanfar and Matilda Power. After an introduction by Diyar and Matilda, the very personable Michael Bedo from Penguin Random House Publishers spoke about the publishing industry and his role in marketing Young Adult books. It was especially interesting to hear about the opportunities Penguin has for young people leaving school and university, and we're hoping to see Michael again at Fortismere very soon. Sita Brahmachari, our very first Patron of Reading and great friend of the school took time out from writing to join us. She said she was proud to see our young people fly and how impressed she was with the quality of writing in *Voice*. She spoke movingly of teenage mental health and "Shelf Help". It was also lovely to see Alyx Price from Macmillan in the crowd of teachers, parents (and brothers) and students. A spectacular launch party, brilliantly organised by our 6th formers and made all the more enjoyable by the provision of cold wine and warm chocolate brownies!

Copies of *Voice* can be bought from the library for £1. All profits will go towards publishing the next edition...



Drama Department

Come From Away - An Audience with Joseph Smith

Our Year 10 Drama students were kindly invited to watch the hit award-winning West End musical *Come From Away* by its producer Joseph Smith. This uplifting musical told the incredible real-life story of the 7,000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Canada during the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited these 'come from aways' into their lives. Joseph took all of us backstage after the show and talked about how the musicians and actors work together onstage. For many of our students this was their first steps on an actual West End theatre stage!

Joseph came into Fortismere the next day and held a Q&A sessions all about the musical and about theatre producing; he gave top tips for getting into the industry. Thank you so much to Joseph for his kind donation of tickets and his expertise and time working with the Drama department. The GCSE students had an unforgettable experience which will no doubt help their current work devising pieces for their exam.



Drama Department

On The Red Carpet...'

Could you interview stars on the red carpet? Could you ask questions at a Press junket? Do you just LOVE FILM?

Into Film are looking for 25 passionate film enthusiasts aged 13 -18 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 6 Fortismere students join this programme.

The two-year scheme runs from Autumn 2019 to Autumn 2021. 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 27 May.

Please email lovers@fortismere.org.uk for an application form



Fortitude ²⁰¹⁹ Summer Festival

SATURDAY JULY 13th

12 - 6pm

Funfair Rides

Twister * Bumper Cars

Food Stalls

Street Food * Licensed Bar *
Cakes * Salad



Market Stalls

Gifts * Books * Clothes

Win Prizes

Tombola * Raffle

Live Music

Open to the public
Entrance £4
Via Gates on Twyford Avenue



Proud Sponsors of
Fortitude ²⁰¹⁹

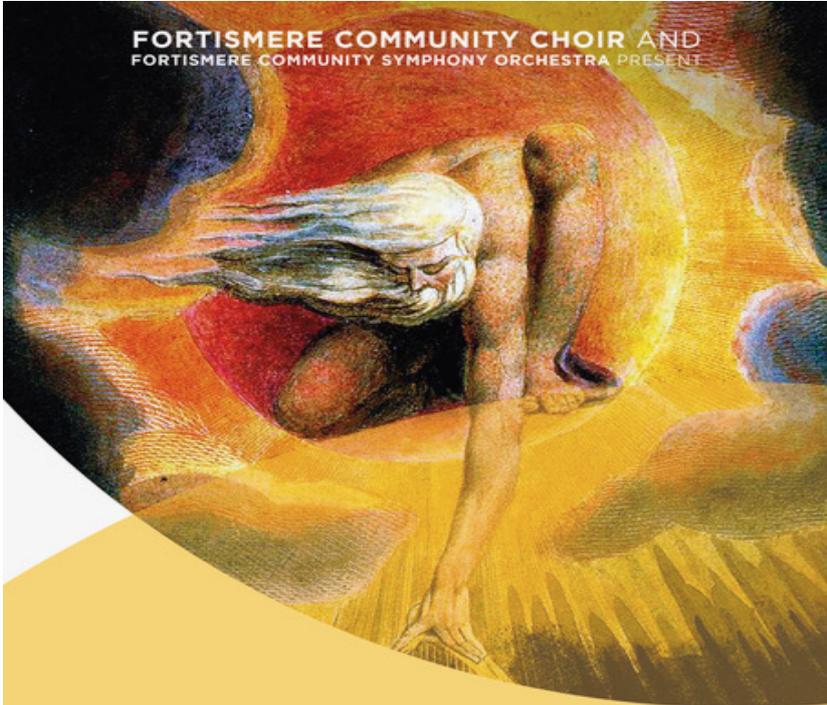
FMCInfo

Our biggest concert of the year, Fortismere Community Choir and Symphony Orchestra come together to perform Beethoven's glorious Missa Solemnis. A major work of the western classical canon, this is FMC's most daring and ambitious concert yet. Joined by four internationally renowned solo singers, this promises to be a thrilling and uplifting way to welcome in the summer.

Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, N10 2DD

£10 in advance, £12 on the door

More info and to buy tickets: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



**FORTISMERE COMMUNITY CHOIR AND
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENT**

MISSA SOLEMNIS

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

SOPRANO **ELISE LEFAY** | ALTO **MANUELLA SCHÜTTE**
TENOR **TIM KINGSTON** | BASS **THOMAS KENNEDY**
MUSICAL DIRECTOR **MARVIN L. PERROTT**

 **SATURDAY 18 MAY at 7.30PM**
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | ALEXANDRA PARK RD | N10 2DD

FORTISMERE ON THE DOOR **£12** IN ADVANCE **£10** UNDER-12 **FREE**
MUSIC CENTRE BOOK ONLINE www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk