



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

**T**his week we received news that Fortismere has moved from 12th to 9th on the Sunday Times Best Schools' list for Comprehensives in London. In addition, the sixth form is placed 113th nationally. This is fantastic news for the school and a testament to all the hard work of students, staff, parents and carers (with the most emphasis on our students). Although we are delighted to receive such a prestigious accolade, it only gives a partial picture of the success of Fortismere. The list is based on the significantly high proportion of our students who gain the top grades at both GCSE and A' level but this reflects only one aspect of the school. This week saw reminders of the other areas of importance within the School. On Tuesday, all Year 9 students were involved in a Careers' Day, exploring the different opportunities which exist post-16. The



options discussed including straightforwardly academic choices, vocational options and apprenticeships. All the different varieties of learners within Fortismere were addressed and their aspirations catered for.

**I**n addition, Year 13, ably led by Oscar Morris, hosted an Equalities Evening on Wednesday. Despite a smaller than expected turnout from parents, the event was a resounding success. The workshops were informative and enjoyable and the speakers provided an overview of some of the most important aspects of equality. The speakers gave their time and expertise for free: a generous act for which the School is very grateful.

**B**oth these events echoed the theme of the Co-headteachers' assemblies this week; the celebration of fifty years of comprehensive education in Muswell Hill. In the assemblies we revisited the comprehensive ideals of non-elitism, equality and respect for diversity, not least within our own school and local communities. So while we are proud of the recognition granted to us by the Sunday Times, we are even more proud of the tradition that Fortismere maintains as a comprehensive school within the heart of its community.

**H**ave a lovely weekend,  
*Ms Davey and Ms Judge*

## Dates For Your Diary

- 1 Dec Last day to donate: Xmas hampers
- 3 Dec Christmas Fair, 11am - 4pm
- 5 Dec Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 7 Dec Parent Governor election ballots due
- 7 Dec After School Chess Club, 13T1
- 18 Dec GCSE Mock Results published to parents
- 19 Dec May Song play - 7pm, North Wing Hall
- 21 Dec Last day of term before holidays

**DON'T  
MISS  
OUT!**

## FROM THE LIBRARY



### Literary agent Chloe Seager impresses Yr 10 and 11 students

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students are not only thinking about how to improve their creative writing for their GCSEs but also their future careers. And a visit to the library from the delightful Chloe Seager ticked both boxes. Chloe gave our students lots of hints on writing and it was great to see our teachers taking notes too! As a literary agent, she was also able to give us an incredibly detailed insight into the publishing world – she gets 150 submissions for books a week, so she reinforced Fortismere’s mantra that reading stamina is extremely important both in school and in the “real world”. We still have some signed copies of Chloe’s hilarious and cringeworthy *Editing Emma* for sale in the library at the reduced price of £7 – a must for the older teenager.



### YA Festival

If you are looking for the perfect gift this year, then YA Shot has you covered! What’s a better present than books, authors and a great day out (14th April 2018)? Tickets are now available – I’ve got mine!

## HELP THOSE IN NEED



### Gift a child a book

If you are feeling charitable during this festive season, here is a particularly lovely initiative by the BookTrust charity for children in care. The charity will provide a suitable book as well as a poster and post-card to children over the holiday season. To help make a difference, visit: <http://bit.ly/booktrust>.

## NOTES FROM NON

### A weekly tip from our Patron of Reading



“Start a dinner table book club. Once a week, everyone discuss what they’re currently reading.”

## RECOMMENDED READ

### Home Lab: Exciting Experiments for Budding Scientists

Here’s a hefty non-fiction tome that our Royal Society Children’s Book of the Year 2017 group highly recommends! Our Year 7 /8 judging panel actually tried some of the experiments in Sir Robert Winston’s *Home Lab: Exciting Experiments for Budding Scientists*. And we’re delighted that it is now the RS Book of the Year. We helped to make that happen!





## Congratulations to our sports teams!

Congratulations to the Senior Girls' Football team, they beat Capital City Academy 4-2 to reach the quarter finals of the Middlesex Cup competition. Esther Morgan scored twice, Jade Jones 1 and Lirian De Santos 1.

Congratulations as well to our Year 7 and 8 netball teams, they beat St Thomas More 7-1 and 5-4. The Year 8's remain unbeaten in the league.

And well done to our girls and boys cross country teams who ran really well last Friday in the Haringey Schools'

championships. Here are the results from the day:

- Yr 7 Girls - 1st
- Yr 7 Boys - 2nd
- Yr 8/9 Girls - 3rd
- Yr 8/9 Boys - 1st
- Mimi Blake 1st in Yr 10
- Bryn Williams 2nd in Yr 9
- Lucas Maher 4th in Yr 9
- Spike Blake 1st in Yr 7

In total, Fortismere had six runners qualify for the Haringey Cross Country team - excellent!



## After School Chess club to start - December 7th

Please mark the date: December 7th will be the inaugural After School Chess Club meeting in 13T1. Minimum thinking time per player per game: 25 minutes. If you are interested, please just show up. For more information, feel free to contact Mr Renner or Mr Zhang.

## Football news

### Football results:

Y8: Compton 0-6 Fortismere – Fortismere through to the quarter finals of the Middlesex cup!

### Football fixtures:

Wed 6th December: Y8 v STM (A)

Wed 6th December: 2nd XI v St Ignatius (A)



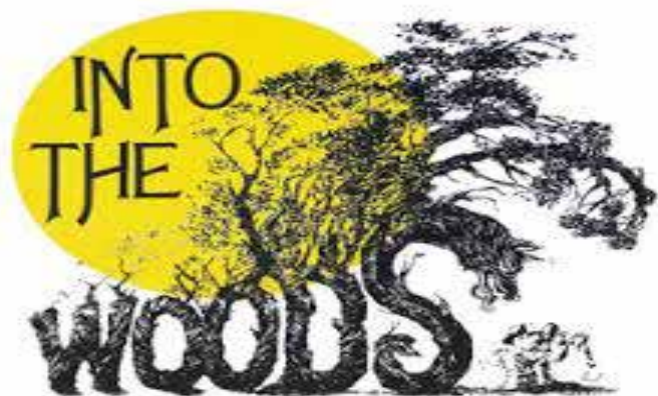
## Basketball news

Congratulations to the U14's boys who came 5th in the Haringey Basketball Cup on Monday. They performed well against some very well drilled (and taller) sides.



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

## DRAMA NEWS



### “Into the Woods” audition

To all the students who gave up their time to prepare and audition on Saturday we would like to say a massive thank you for your patience and for auditioning. We know some of you had to wait a long time and for this we sincerely apologise. If you have not heard from us then we will be in touch in 2018 to arrange the ensemble aspect of the show. We want everyone who auditioned to be involved in the production - and we also look forward to a full house!

As expected, the standard was very high and once again we would like to thank you for trying. If you have any questions or comments, then all correspondence about the show should be sent to Mr Kirkland at [tkirkland@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:tkirkland@fortismere.org.uk). Thank you, Mr Kirkland, Mr Strathdene and Matt White



### Fortismere Symphony Orchestra's winter concert a triumph

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra gave its winter concert on Saturday. The orchestra performed Rachmaninoff's mighty Symphony Number 2, along with Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Fidelio Trio playing the solos and Glinka's "Ruslan and Ludmilla" Overture. It was one of the orchestra's more challenging programmes, the Rachmaninoff demanding a massive brass section alongside four double basses - a record for the orchestra. It was a great evening and we are grateful to everyone who came. Next term the orchestra will be playing Sibelius' Violin Concerto with soloist Kamila Bydlowska, Vaughan-Williams' "London" symphony and the world premier of Rohan Stephenson (Fortismere parent!) 's "Cinematic March".

## EVENTS



### Buy your tickets for May Song today!

Don't miss out - here is the chance to see the play **May Song** by our own budding playwright, Izzy Chapelle. This talented Year 13 student wrote and directed this Gothic play about 16th century witches, and tickets are selling fast! Get yours via ParentMail today. The play will be shown on 19th December 7pm in North Wing Hall and it promises to be good - there's a reason Izzy was long-listed for New Views (the National Theatre playwriting competition). See flyer on last page!



### New Views

Professional writer Elinor Cook visited the New Views students to do a practical two-hour workshop on playwriting techniques. Elinor is the writer of *Lady From the Sea* currently at the Donmar Warehouse and is part of the National Theatre New Views team. The students will now write their 30 minute plays to be submitted in April 2018.

**fortismere**  
School Association  
charity number: 801227

FORTISMERE SCHOOL  
SOUTH WING HALL,  
ENTRANCE VIA  
TETHERDOWN.

*Christmas*  
**FAIR**  
**OVER 50 STALLS...**  
**GORGEOUS GIFTS**  
LOCAL MAKERS & DESIGNERS.  
ARTISAN FOODS, SOAPS, JEWELLERY, ART.  
LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, DRINK, TEA AND CAKES.

*Sunday 3rd December*  
*11am - 4pm*  
*Magical*  
VISIT SANTA'S GROTTO

Entrance £1 Adults Children 50p  
FORTISMERE SCHOOL, TETHERDOWN, MUSWELL HILL, N10 1NE

## Musicians and Junior Choir members - come perform at the Christmas Fair this Sunday!

Junior Choir members and ALL musicians Y9-13! If you can make the Winter FSA Fair on Sunday at 1-1.30pm in SOUTH WING HALL that would be great! We have a performance slot between 1-1.30pm. Choir can sing Titanium and we can add any other group songs we want. Please bear in mind this is background music to stalls / people in the hall therefore solo songs won't work. Please email me if you have a group that wants to perform – especially groups that auditioned for the music department Christmas Concert!. Thanks! S Ogilby, Head of Music & Music Technology [sogilby@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:sogilby@fortismere.org.uk).



## Become a lifesaver!

If you are in general good health and between the ages of 18-55 you can become a potential blood stem cell donor. Pre-registration is possible from age 17.

Please join us:

- \* Date: Saturday 9th December
- \* Time: 10am - 4pm
- \* Location: St James Church, St James Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 3DB

If you can't attend on the day please register online at <https://www.dkms.org.uk/en/donor4evie>

## Parent Governor elections

You should have received your parent governor election papers by now. If you have not received a ballot paper let me know. There are two vacancies so you can vote for two candidates. Please note that one of the candidates listed has withdrawn – please do not vote for Andrew Rayner as these votes will not be counted. Supporting statements from all candidates have been added to the website (<http://bit.ly/2Afh12Q>). You must return your ballot paper to the school by Thurs 7 Dec 2017 3.30pm. If you post your completed ballot paper you will need to fully address the return envelope and add postage. If you have any queries about the election process please email [smurray@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:smurray@fortismere.org.uk)

## Ephesus Christmas appeal

### There is still time to help a local Foodbank

Please keep in mind that Student Ambassadors are still collecting for the local foodbank. It would be amazing if you could empty out your cupboards and please bring tinned food and dried foods to the foyer in North Wing Hall. Help make someone else's holiday season a little bit brighter with your much-needed donations.

*D. Turner, Deputy Head of College*



# Rapping teacher spreads the word about Mandarin

By Wang Mingjie/China Daily UK

*This article originally appeared in China Daily UK on Nov. 27. To see the original, visit <http://bit.ly/2Brqz96>*



Staff and students at Fortismere School in North London are finding new ways to learn Mandarin. [Photo/China Daily]

Mandarin can be a massive challenge for people trying to pick it up as a second language but a London teacher has introduced a novel way to teach it by rapping in Chinese to make classes both memorable and fun.

Adam Moorman, a Chinese language teacher at Fortismere School in North London, said rapping makes things easy to remember, and Chinese has a good rhythm, so it is natural to combine them.

“As Chinese words are monosyllabic, and there’s a very limited number of sounds in Chinese, many words rhyme with each other. If you discount tones, there are about 400 sounds in Chinese, compared with more than 10,000 in English, so it’s more easy to come up with rhymes in Chinese than in English,” he said.

Moorman first got his class to rap in Mandarin as a way to prepare

students for their speaking exams. He said rap made it easier to memorize longer pieces of text. Writing and performing rap gives students motivation to find new ideas, learn new words, and express their meaning. Rapping requires students to be creative and independent, all of which helps fluency.

Tamzin Sherzad, a sixth-form student at Fortismere, likes the new way of learning. “Through the process of creating rap lyrics, I have familiarized myself with so many new, popular phrases and I feel that I have really extended my vocabulary of the modern language Chinese young people use,” she said.

As a result, Sherzad feels more confident chatting with her Chinese friends and feels more prepared and excited about her gap year in China.

Moorman said that introducing

rap to sixth-form students improves their fluency “by combining rhythm, rhymes and repetition in an enjoyable and memorable way that shifts the focus from painstaking book-based learning, but achieves the rewards of independent research, drafting and practicing”.

Keisha Asare, another student who has studied Mandarin for five years, said: “In order to write the rap I had to learn and search for new vocabulary that I otherwise would not have known. The raps are also very catchy and this makes it easier to remember the new phrases and vocabulary that I learned.”

With the funding he recently won from the London Teacher Innovation Fund, which is financed by the Mayor of London and run by education charity Shine, Moorman launched the Mandarin Rap Podcast to help students learn Chinese with rap.





## Fortismere Robotics

teams were top of both the Vex IQ and Vex EDR leader boards. The competition was very good and our highest positions were third in Vex EDR and IQ.

All is not lost as we'll compete in many more events, including one we will be hosting in SW Hall on Saturday 9th December and Saturday 16th December, 9am to 4pm.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out on the day or even sponsoring the event, please contact Mr Yakup [myakup@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:myakup@fortismere.org.uk) For more information on the current Vex Robotics competitions see: Vex IQ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7suUU7fsU> Vex EDR: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Yo\\_mIR1VJU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Yo_mIR1VJU) Fortismere Robotics extra curricula club runs every lunchtime and Wednesday after school in S35. If you're interested in joining come along to find out more.

*Mr M Yakup*

I am pleased to report that, with continued funding from the FSA, Fortismere school is now able to field 2 Vex EDR teams and 4 Vex IQ teams!

Last Sunday the following Fortismere Robotics students - Milad Sherzad, Mabel Buxton, Joshua Hudson, James Reeves, Aaran Mitra, Oscar Dodd, Derrin Coktay, Maximillian Szczech, Robbie Buxton, Akhil Ramdany, Oliver Smith, Cameron Zeki, Lorenzo Shepherd, Tyler Adams, Rosa Scott Tatam, and Sam Poirier - accompanied me to the North London Regional event, hosted by Henrietta Barnet

School (HBS) at the University Of Hertfordshire new Sports Village building.

Both competitions were being held at the event, Vex IQ (KS2 and 3) and Vex EDR (KS4 and 5). The Vex IQ event had 19 teams competing from East Barnet School, HBS, Greig City, and Welwyn Garden City Primary School. The Vex EDR event had a total of 16 teams competing from HBS, The John Warner School, Greig City, and Queen Elizabeth School for boys.

The day was extremely eventful and at one stage Fortismere

## A calendar of kindness

Advent begins on 1st December on Friday and if you wanted to think about this period of time in an alternative way, look at our "kindness calendar". It comes from "Action for Happiness" and simply suggests acts of kindness that you can do each day in December.

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY REVIEW

It has been a year since our last review of the school mobile phone policy (last review December 2016) so we'll be arranging a further review of this policy in the coming weeks. Parental views, as always, will form an important part of the review. We will also be consulting staff and students on their views on the policy. Therefore, we have suggested that the policy is an item at the Parents' Forum (subject to approval by the Forum) on Jan. 15th. There will be a parent survey in due course.



**MAYSONG: SEE PARENTMAIL FOR TICKETS (AND P. 4)**

# MAYSONG



**SUPERSTITION, HERESY, WITCHCRAFT**

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2017

7.00PM

NORTH WING HALL  
FORTISMERE SCHOOL