

## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This week has seen the school turning its attentions to the centenary of Armistice day which we remember this Sunday. Our History department has organised an array of opportunities (see later in this newsletter) for students to reflect on and discuss the end of the Great War, via lessons, out of class debates and drop-in sessions which our students have been making the most of including the opportunity for some of our older students to view Peter Jackson's film, 'They Shall Not Grow Old,' a copy of which was distributed to every secondary school in the country. The film will also show on BBC2 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November so any of our students who missed it this week may want to catch with their families at home. In English lessons our Year 8 students were focussing on the significance of poppies and reading the poem, 'In Flanders' Fields' by John Macrae, a particularly pertinent piece for our students given the fact that Macrae was born in Muswell Hill.

We were delighted to meet this week with our Year 11 parents who attended the Open Evening for Sixth Form on Tuesday. The evening offered opportunities for our parents to talk to our teachers about subjects delivered at A level and to consider what might be the right choice of subjects and specific post-16 pathway for their child to follow. We know that Year 11 are really gearing up for their mocks next week (Good luck Year 11!) and once they have the outcomes of these our students will have a much clearer idea of where they are doing well and what type of subject or course will suit them best at A Level. At Fortismere we want our students to flourish in the Sixth Form and will always encourage them to study courses that inspire them and suit their interests, giving them the very best chances of success and this year we have made sure that there is an

incredibly diverse curriculum offered for students to consider opting for post-GCSE.

Finally, we have just about come down from our 'Strictly' high. Parents may be aware that we welcomed a couple from 'Strictly Come Dancing' to our Fireworks display last week; we were joined by Dr Ranj and Jenette, who had a great time at the event enjoying our rides, candy floss and some sparklers! Their time at Fortismere was documented on the show on Saturday night and although they were sadly knocked out the next day we were delighted that we got to meet such a friendly and positive couple of celebrities who were so enthusiastic about being in our wonderful school.

We are going to be on the lookout for any potential ex-Fortismere students this evening as the BBC are showing Haringey vs AFC Wimbledon on BBC2 this evening; Haringey have made it through to the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the FA cup. We are certain it will be a pies and hot bovril for lots of Haringey residents this evening!

Enjoy the game and the rest of your weekend.



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey

## Dates For Your Diary

- 21 November Year 13 Parents Evening
- 5 December Year 9 Parents Evening
- 6 December Year 11 Macbeth Trip
- 6 December Year 10 Information Evening
- 09 December Christmas Fair
- 21 December End of Term
- 7 January Inset Day
- 8 January All Students 8.35am Start

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

# Strictly comes to Fortismere and Fireworks

**Dr Ranj and Jenette, Strictly come Dancing Contestant 2018**



## Messages from LINC Department

### **A message from LINC – Ms Jackson**

We have hosted two anxiety workshops for parents this month. These have been really successful and parents have described them as very useful and said that they give excellent information about how to support your child with anxiety. We plan to host another session after Christmas and we will also be hosting a venue for parents to come together and discuss their children's anxiety with other adults in the same situation, so please look out for these events in future newsletters. We have attached the presentation from the session for your information....A big thank you to Freya Austin for leading this.

### **Year 11 Mocks – Pre-exam meditation – Ms Jackson & Ms Williams**

The heads of college and I will be running 15 minute meditation sessions in the library from 8.15-8.30 am before all of the Year 11 mock exams. The idea is to provide a calm and relaxing start to their exams and be a place students can come if they are feeling stressed/anxious. We are trialling this for the mock exams and, if successful, we will run these sessions during the summer exams.



# Messages

**Christmas Annual Silent Auction** went live on [jumblebee.com](https://www.jumblebee.com)

**New items added Amazon Voucher, Boot Camp, Laser Printer and Supper for Four**

[https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction\\_id/2735](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2735)

Please bid generously, all money raised goes directly to Fortismere to fund essentials the school cannot. At the Summer Auction we raised over £6,000, we are hoping to match that this year.

You will find everything from meals and cakes to a Arsenal signed shirt and Apple watch series 3.

If you have prizes to donate, please get in touch with [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk) Thank you for your support.

## Christmas Hampers/Christmas Fair

Due to popular demand the Fortismere Christmas Fair is back on Sunday 9 December, 11am - 4pm. Please put the date in your diary and plan to come along and buy your Christmas presents, there will be some fabulous stalls!

Christmas Hampers, put together by us, raised a lot of money last year. Please can you help us this year?

### We need

Food: mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalade, biscuits, Christmas Puddings, teas and coffee, chocolates and treats (but not meat or cheese products).

Other things: Christmas Crackers, beauty items and bath products.

Baskets, old hampers and nice boxes to put the things in.

Please send all items in as soon as possible (and no later than Friday 7 December) to the Library or to the South Wing reception.

Wines and drinks containing alcohol are very much welcome but must not be taken into the school by students. Please contact Maria Demetriou to arrange delivery of alcoholic drinks to her address. [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk)



## History Department

*This Sunday is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the First World War. This month we commemorate those involved in the first 'total war,' from the British soldiers, to the Indian Sepoys, to the Chinese troops who helped build the trenches. From the housewife who continued bring up her children, to the underage soldier who went to the front line, and the woman who dressed up as a male soldier to see what was happening at the Somme. A range of activities, organised by the History department, will be going on all month in tutor times, lunch times, and after school. Please encourage your child to get involved! We would also encourage you to watch or take part in some of the many remembrance events around London this weekend and all month long.*

## Ephesus Student Ambassadors launches the Student Ambassadors Anti bullying buddy badge. For Anti Bullying Week.

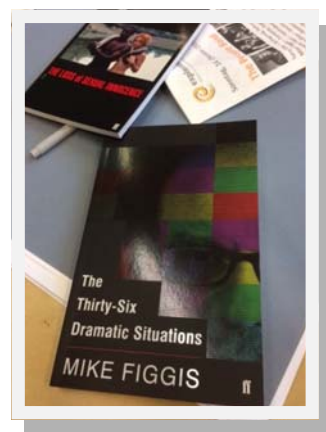
ABB for short. Students will be able to go up to any of the Student Ambassadors wearing the badge and ask for advice or confide in them about bullying. The students will listen and then give advice and will go with the student to a teacher to report the incident if necessary. Although this is launching this week, it is hoped the buddy system will spread throughout the school in future. The original idea for a buddy came from student Ambassador Issay Hain. If you would like to get involved or want more details please contact D.Turner DHOC.



## News from the English Department

Hollywood film director, Mike Figgis ('Internal Affairs', 'Leaving Las Vegas' and 'Timecode'), ran a session here with us on his career in filmmaking. He spoke to Y12 and Y13 Media and Film students in a two hour workshop about how to break into film as a young filmmaker and discussed his own cinematic passions citing Godard's 'Weekend' and Hitchcock's 'Notorious' as two of his favourite texts. He spoke about the importance of storytelling as a sometimes lost aspect in the current Hollywood film output and took questions from our film and media students who are about to submit their own short films about how to avoid clichés. Thanks to the library for hosting this event.

Eden Nathenson, Y13





# News from the Library

On Friday 2nd November the Forest Forge Theatre Company came to Fortismere to perform an adaptation of Miriam Halahmy's book *Hidden*. The play was quite extraordinary; the acting was top-notch and the set brilliantly designed. It helped the students think about all aspects of racism, whether it was obvious name calling and bullying or the more tacit acceptance of others' opinions on refugees and asylum seekers. After the play there was a talk-back session where the students could interact with the actors and production manager, and we were also delighted that the author was present to chat with the audience (along with a previous Patron of Reading, our friend Sita Brahmachari). Before the play started, one of our Y8 classes was invited to a workshop with Kirsty, who played Alix in the production – great fun which engendered open discussions about British values. Since the show, we have been very moved by the comments of our students. And to hear from the actors that Fortismere's Year 8s were the most engaged, positive audience they had had on the tour made us very proud.



Reminder: the next meeting of CoverUp, the parent/staff reading group, is on Thursday 22nd November, 7pm in the library. Two books: *This is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay and *Do No Harm* by Henry Marsh. Compare and contrast...!

**Notes from Non :** A weekly tip from our Patron of Reading

"Worried that they're reading something problematic? Use it as an opportunity for (gentle, non-judgemental) discussion. Never shut curiosity down".

## Recommended Reads of the Week/Month/Year

This week saw the nominations for the Carnegie Medal, possibly the most prestigious award for books for children and Young Adults. The judges will have to read all the books between now and February, when the longlist is announced. In the meantime, take a look – some amazing titles just perfect for Christmas gifts (there you are, the first mention in the Newsletter of the dreaded C word...) <https://bit.ly/2PB3I59>

# News from the Drama Department

## Drama Notices

### Year 13 Exam Evening – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 5:30pm

The Year 13s will be performing their Alevel exam pieces on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 5:30pm. There will be 4 extracts from 3 different plays. The Almeida Production of *The Twilight Zone*, Martin McDonagh's *The Hangmen* and The Hampstead Theatre recent smash *Everyday I make Greatness Happen* are being presented. The tickets for the evening will be available on Parentmail. Tickets can also be purchased on the door.



### Panto Backstage Team required

We are looking for Props assistants, Runners and Backstage crew for Aladdin our Pantomime that will be staged in January. Please come and sign up outside the Drama Office!

### KS3 Drama Club

KS3 Drama club has begun! Every Tuesday Lunchtime in NDRS2 at 12:25 – please bring a packed lunch.

### Fortismere Drama Online

If you would like to find out more information about what the Drama department does every day, please do follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** or **Instagram** @fortismeredrama



# News from the PE Department

## Year 7 Haringey Cup Event

Another excellent outing from our footballers, this time the Y7 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 9 Haringey schools at the recent 7 aside competition.

The team played 8, won 5, drew 2 and only lost narrowly to the eventual winners, Alexandra Park School.

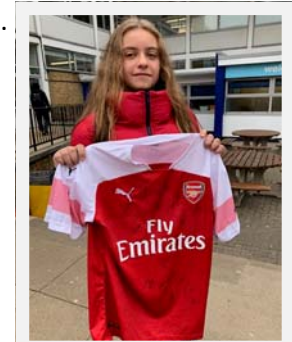
Fortismere player of the tournament, Beniamino Scagliola with 8 goals in 8 games!



## Wear it Pink

Thank you to all that contributed to our 'Wear something Pink' campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness we made a total of £245.25.

Congratulations to Nejda Minga, P5 who won the raffle for the signed arsenal shirt.



## Inter-College Sports Results – Half term 1

The first round of inter-college results are in and Alexandria lead the way!

Half term 1 involved Football & Netball across years 7-10.

1 <sup>ST</sup>	ALEXANDRIA	
2 <sup>N</sup> D	PETRA	1200
3 <sup>RD</sup>	EPHESUS	1160
4 <sup>TH</sup>	RHODES	1060
5 <sup>TH</sup>	COLOSSEUM	1040
6 <sup>TH</sup>	OLYMPIA	980

# Anti-Bullying Week: 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November



**COLOSSEUM, RHODES & OLYMPIA STUDENT AMBASSADORS ARE JOINING FORCES TO SPREAD AWARENESS OF ANTI BULLYING WEEK**



**-JOIN US! ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER SIMPLY WEAR ODD SOCKS TO SCHOOL AND BRING IN £1!**

**-ALL STUDENTS WILL THEN MEET IN **NORTH WING HALL** DURING VT FOR AN ODD SOCKS GROUP PHOTO!**

**-BULLYING HAS NO PLACE AT FORTISMERE – SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**



# Fortismere Extra—Curricular Activities

**Extracurricular activities play a vital part in the healthy growth of a young person (or any animal for that matter), and are a critical component of your university /6<sup>th</sup> form college application, and any other employer you need to impress, in life, with your interests.**

Some of you might not know what extracurricular activities look like or what you should be spending a great deal of your time on; They are all very important!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

When you're looking/applying for a job, you need to have more on your CV than just your academic achievement, so make the most of any opportunities and pursue extra-curricular activities as soon in your life as you are able to do so. You will be very pleased you have done so!

Getting involved in sports clubs, societies, volunteering and part-time work are great ways to meet new people, enjoy your time and ensure you strike a healthy balance between studying and your social life. It will also make you a better candidate for many 'life' roles, by giving you lots of practical examples you can use in job applications to show off your skills.

## Sports clubs and societies

At Fortismere we are known to host countless clubs and societies that you can join. The three main types are:

- sports teams
- subject-based groups

social clubs organised around a shared interest.

Activities cover everything from arts and crafts, drama, general interest, specialised interests, languages, politics, religious and cultural groups and sports clubs.

There will often be **different groups for different abilities** too - for example, separate sports clubs for those who want to play competitively and for those who want to play more casually for fun or to get fit.

Whether you aim to continue with a hobby you've been enjoying for some time or try something completely new, you're almost certain to find a club or society that fits the bill.

At school, check notice boards, our school 'pods', college information boards and our school website to discover what's on offer... Don't forget that your tutors are always there to help you with a prepared 'PowerPoint' presentation. Subject teachers also will explain what is available to you in their particular subject. Don't think about cost; almost all our clubs and societies are free to join and while others do charge a small fee if you are going on a visit or need to buy anything special, that is most probably affordable, or our school would hopefully help you out.

By taking part you'll build long-lasting friendships and connections, meet students from different backgrounds and gain transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation, problem solving, time management and many more. It will also improve your confidence which is so important in all walks of life.

Many times, by having held positions of authority eg, team captain, 'warm up leader', game organiser, games official, activity promoter, will really improve your references.

Alternatively, if there's nothing available that matches your interests, you could set up your own club or society outside of school; Your teachers can help you!

## Increase Your Impact in a Few Activities

**Remember to not spread yourself too thin**, especially if you are above your first year. It's more important to spend significant time in each activity than it is to have a long list of activities. **Choose activities that will allow you to make a meaningful impact, either in your own development, or in the school community and family**

## ACADEMIC extra-curricular

These activities are based on a certain academic subject, and include both clubs (groups to discuss and practice certain subjects) and competitive teams. Academic teams have competitions that take place at all levels, from school, local and to national.

# Fortismere Extra—Extra Curricular Activities

## Clubs

- Chess Club
- Economics Club
- Electronics Club
- Engineering Club
- English Club
- History Club
- Literary Magazine Club (See your English teachers)
- Literature Club
- Maths Club
- Peer Tutoring (Older pupils helping the younger ones during tutorials)
- Physical Education/Sports' Clubs
- Poetry Club
- Psychology Club
- Robotics Club
- SCIENCE CLUBS
- Trivia and Quiz Clubs (See your Librarians)
- Web design/Computer coding club
- Writing Club



## Academic Competitive Teams

- Academic Quiz Tournament
- Intel International Science and Engineering (see your science teacher)
- Language competition
  - Maths League?
  - National Spelling Bee
  - Other Trivia and Quiz Competition for College Quizzes
  - Poetry Out Loud
  - Robotics Competition

These activities will allow you to express yourself artistically - on paper, through a lens, on stage, and through several other media. Unleash your creativity! Believe in your abilities!

- Animation
- Art: drawing , painting
- Cartooning
- Ceramics Community Theatre
- Drama Club
- Fashion design
- Graphic Design
- Jewellery Making
- Photography



# Fortismere Extra—Curricular Activities

- School Theatre
- Sculpture
- Sewing
- Weaving
- Woodworking

## Cultural and Language

These activities may help you reconnect with your roots, or allow you to get a taste of the world's diversity without ever leaving home. There are many other cultural and language-related activities that you can participate in. Some of the most common ones are listed below.

- English Sign Language
- French Club
- German Club
- International Food Club
- Latin Club/ Latin Language club/Modern Greek Club/Ancient Greek Club
- Mandarin Club
- Other Community Language classes (Maybe after school)
- Spanish Club

## Community

These activities will allow you to get involved in your community.

- Community Festivals/Club organized Outings
- Mountaineering/Climbing, Outdoor Education Clubs
- Swimming



## Government

Interested in making a difference in your school, community, or on a larger scale, through policy? Try a government-related activity to see if this could be a career interest for you!

- Community Government
- Community Youth /Charities
- Student/Council Leaders

## Leadership

In Peer Leadership Group, you will experience activities which could suit you as natural leader, because you learn skills at motivating, directing, and inspiring others.

## Media

If you love writing and communicating, consider getting involved in a media activity to help bring news and information to your school or community.

- School or local magazine/journal
- School or local newspaper
- School or local web site
- Work on a movie
- Year book Committee so that you can organize our Y11 Farewell book





# Fortismere Extra—Curricular Activities

## Music

If you want to try playing an instrument or singing, there are many opportunities to try music-related activities. These are usually available both in our school community and in your wider community.

- Church Chorus/Choir
- Community Chorus/Choir
- Concert Band
- Ensembles
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band ?
- Orchestra
- School Chorus/Choir
- Singing Lessons
- Solo music
- Your own band



## MORE Volunteer groups

There are a lot of ways to make a difference in your local community. Look for volunteer groups in your school, your church, or elsewhere in your neighbourhood. There are many websites, such as Volunteer Match, that can help you find a local community service project that is of interest to you.

- Animal rescue
- Best Buddies International
- Church outreach
- Hospital volunteer
- International volunteer program
- Red Cross Club
- UNICEF Secondary School Clubs
- Volunteer Fire Department
- Work with a local charity
- Work with a local soup kitchen



## FINALLY...

### **The earlier you start extracurricular activities, the better.**

If you start before SECONDARY school, you're more likely to reach levels and earn awards that will impress your family, peers, school, universities /colleges. Also, the lessons and skills you learn from extracurricular activities can help you in every aspect of your life, even if you might not become aware of this until that moment arises!

Know that **almost any hobby can be turned into an extracurricular activity which will offer you a great number of benefits, especially good health?**

**You will become a responsible, useful member of our community!**