

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

It has been a fantastic end to a very long term and without a doubt Fortismere has enjoyed a very festive final week. Last weekend, we joined the fabulous cast of 'Rebellion in the Willows' for their production which was enjoyed by audiences over three evenings. We were so impressed not just by the performances of the actors but also the musicians whose brilliant renditions of some familiar popular music really energised the production. All involved worked very hard to make the play a success. Special thanks must go to Ms Turner who conceived the production in its entirety and every year ensures that students across the school have the opportunity to be involved in some way.

This event was swiftly followed by the Christmas Music Concert which took place in South Wing Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Our audiences on both evenings were bowled over, not only by the impressive musical talent on display but the obvious hard work that has gone into preparing for this concert during the course of the term. There were new ensembles with representation from students from Year 7 to Year 13 which really reflected the increase in participation of extra-curricular activities on a week by week basis. Thanks must go to Mr Jefferies, our Director of Music and his team for working so hard with our young musicians to produce such an inspiring end of term event.

We were also delighted to see that the first lesson on bee-keeping took place this week led by our resident bee-keeper Matthew Price (Year 13) who is professionally trained to deliver sessions on caring for bees. We are delighted that this term Matthew has installed a hive in the Vik Sharma Memorial garden and are extremely grateful, not only for his passion and energy in driving this

project, but also for the time he has spent encouraging younger students in the school to get involved.

We are going to sign off now, but not before thanking the whole community for their support of this term's events. We are delighted to announce that our fundraising to support our mental health provision exceed £18,000 pounds when it closed this week. Thanks so much to all who donated and to Maria Demetriou, for her promotion of this fundraiser.

We wish all our families a very merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah! We look forward to seeing you all in 2020.



Ms Zoe Judge

Ms Jo Davey



Messages

Year 8X Parents Evening 3.30 -6.30pm, North Wing - Wednesday 15th January 2020

Year 8 Parents Evening booking site will open at 10am on Tuesday 7th January 2020. Parents/Carers of Year 8 students will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 6th January 2020, which will contain the booking link and booking instructions. **Only 8X bank parents should book appointments.**



Booking for 8Y Parents' Evening will open on Tuesday 21st January. The 8Y parents evening is on Wednesday 29th January.

Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children Appeal

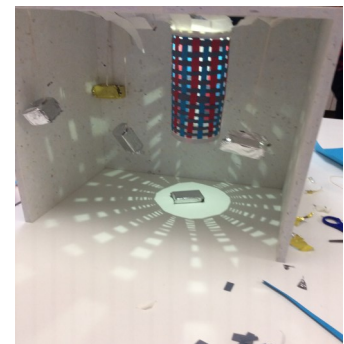
Many thanks to all the students and staff who wore a Christmas Jumper and donated last Friday.

It was great to see so many students raising money for this very worthy cause!



Year 12/13 Trip to RIBA

Our sixth-formers were given the opportunity to learn a bit more about architecture during a visit to the Headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects. During this visit, they were given a broad understanding about the role that architects play in the design of products, buildings and whole cities. They also took part in a workshop exploring the work of Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and produced light props, exploring the role of shadow, colour and light within the context of the Bauhaus movement.



On Wednesday Ms John and I took a group of Year 12 sociologists to the annual British Sociological Association talk on feminism. Panellists included Stevi Jackson from the University of York, Aisha Phoenix from SOAS University of London and Aaron Winter from the University of East London. Topics covered included feminism and Islam, transgender rights, sexuality, racism, misogyny and the rise of the far Right. The students thoroughly enjoyed branching into aspects of feminism that are not covered in the A-level specification, exploring contemporary research and ideas. They contributed to the discussion with these renowned academics with maturity and self-assurance and represented Fortismere excellently!



Music News

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Instrumental and vocal lessons will start again on Monday 13th January. If you are interested in lessons please contact Miss Izzet on mizzet@fortismere.org.uk, for those of you that are already signed up the registers will be emailed to you at the end of the first week of term. There are still places available but you will need to get in touch as soon as possible in order to secure places from January 2020.

Christmas Concerts

A huge congratulations to all the students and staff that took part in this years Christmas Concerts. There were two concerts over the week with a different programme each evening from soloists and bands in addition to items from the School Orchestra, Big Band, Flute Choir, String Orchestra, School Choir, Chamber Choir and Staff Choir. With music that ranged from Steely Dan to Vivaldi there was something for everyone with over 100 young musicians coming together to bring some festive cheer, a huge thanks must also go to Mr Cohen and his team of students that provided the sound and stage management, without their help the concerts would have not been able to go ahead. If you missed this evening of music making then you truly missed out, however be on the lookout for the other public performances coming up in the new year!



Extra Curricular Music at Fortismere

Never a Department to rest on its laurels' the Extra Curricular Activities will begin the first week back after the Christmas break. Please encourage your children to take part in these opportunities since we still have two large scale concerts left for this academic year.

Our Spring Term Concert "**Music and Poetry**" will be taking place on **Thursday 13th February** in the South Wing Hall. This concert will be a mix of spoken word and music so any genre of music is welcome for this eclectic evening. Tickets will be priced at £8 and £5 and will be available from mid January.

Auditions - Music and Poetry

There will be a sign up sheet for auditions for "Music and Poetry" from Tuesday 7th January 2020 outside the Music Office, **auditions will take place on Tuesday 21st January, Thursday 23rd January and Friday 24th January**. We are looking for performances from a diverse range of styles and age groups that showcases our young musicians and their tastes, if you have any questions about this event please email Mr Jefferies at ejjefferies@fortismere.org.uk

Fortismere Music Centre

Instrumental and vocal lessons for our Saturday Music School will begin on the 11th January. If you are interested in lessons please contact fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk or go to our website on fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

A Busy and Successful Term

As all our teams (and teachers) head towards a very well deserved Christmas Holiday it is worth a quick reflection on a term that has seen an amazing number of Fortismere students representing the school in sporting activities – and very successfully as well! We have had Football, Netball, Rugby, Cross-Country, Handball, Volleyball, Swimming, Table-Tennis, Basketball and Badminton teams, across all ages, in action in both Borough and other school competitions. As Director of Sport I would like to congratulate you all on your performances and for being so willing to represent Fortismere in the sporting arena. A massive thank you also to the Sports teachers who give up their time so willingly to train and prepare our teams, organise all the travel, and to accompany them to all the fixtures. Well done for placing Sport at the heart of our school. Have a fantastic Christmas and come back refreshed ready to go again!



Netball Champions

Many, many congratulations to our Y7 and Y8 netball teams who have dominated the Haringey school leagues this term and deservedly finished top of their respective tables. Along with their teachers the girls have worked so hard to improve and are extremely motivated to do well. This week they enjoyed a celebratory Pizza as they reflected on a fantastic season. Well Done Girls!



6th Form Leadership

Wednesday afternoons continue to see our 6th form leadership candidates develop their skills and leadership qualities. Many of our leaders have also given up their own time to assist with the running of extra-curricular clubs and the PE department really appreciate this. As we move into the next stage of the course, where our leaders now start to lead their own sessions, I am sure we will see the fantastic leadership potential start to materialise.



Extra-Curricular Clubs – Have you been yet?

Our new extra-curricular clubs and activities timetable is now in full swing and it is a real joy to see many of you enjoying the wide ranging provision put on for you. HOWEVER, there are still many of you not taking part and this is something that needs addressing. Really, what do you want to do with your lunchtimes? Hang around killing time until the afternoon lessons start OR coming along and enjoying some sport and physical activity with your friends? Come on take advantage! The timetable is displayed on the website, on the PE noticeboards and every tutor group teacher has a copy.

Parents – where do I find out what my child is doing?

Dear Parents with so much going on, and sometimes children not always the most reliable to keep you informed, it can be problematic keeping up with what your child is up to. On the new look 'Sport & PE' section of the website you will find all details of clubs, activities and fixtures for the week ahead. Under the 'Extra-Curricular' tab, which is updated every Friday, you will find all clubs and activities for the term. You will also find a weekly timetable which lists all the clubs and activities AND all fixtures for the forthcoming week. Here we will also put times of events, travel and approximate return times to school.

Here is the link to the relevant page.

<https://www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular&pid=230>

News from the Library

Please encourage your children to enter our poetry competition for our Music and Poetry concert on 13th February; a wonderful blend of music and creative writing from our students. The theme is "Nature", any format is fine. There will be prizes for the best entries! Students can work individually or in pairs/groups, and we'd like the poems by Friday 17th January 2020. PS. The prize won't be as large as the one being offered by Simon Armitage...

<https://bbc.in/34GcxPi>



At this time of year, you may get more "traditional" post than usual. Please save all your used postage stamps and send them to the library, where we collect them for the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity.

The shortlist for next year's Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award is phenomenal, so we were quite disappointed at the turnout of Year 7 students to our first meeting even though they'd heard all about it in assembly. The book group, run by Mrs Coles, Ms Gelagotellis and Mrs Ward runs every Friday lunchtime in the library where we eat lunch together (and far too many biscuits) and take part in lots of different activities related to the shortlisted books we are reading. The culmination of the event is a wonderful day out at Alexandra Palace where we meet all the authors, a surprise celebrity guest, hundreds of friends from around the borough and vote for our winner. The next meeting of the group is on Friday 10th January, lunchtime in the library (bring your lunch!) And sorry, we can't tell you the names of the shortlist until after the big Haringey public library launch on 4th January (although the students who've already signed up have copies...)



Quote of the Week

"One can never have enough socks", said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books." [J K Rowling]

Recommended reads of the Week

Let's go Christmassy! Matt Haig has written some delightfully funny books for this time of year. But if you want something a little more eerie, go for the classic *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper.



Drama Department

Rebellion In the Willows

“What do you get if you cross Extinction Rebellion, Weasels, Gilet Jaune, Toads, Boys 11 Men and Busby Berkeley choreography? REBELLION IN THE WILLOWS” (quote Ms Powell). A huge congratulations to all staff and students for this amazing show raising awareness about our climate crisis.





Y10/ Y11

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

QUALIFYING EXPEDITIONS 2019

This year has been an especially busy one for the Duke of Edinburgh programme at Fortismere. In total 154 pupils completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, this makes Fortismere one of the highest providers for the Duke of Edinburgh award across schools in London.

It was a pleasure to work with both year groups on their expeditions and great to see them outside their comfort zones and enjoying the environment they were in. All pupils demonstrated a high level of commitment not only to the expedition, but the Duke of Edinburgh Award as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the pupils involved with the Year 10/11 cohorts. I have received some lovely messages about how being part of the DofE award has helped enrich their child's experience at school.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of staff that gave up their spare time to help both the practice and qualifying expeditions. The outstanding commitment shown by the teaching staff helps keep the cost of the expeditions down and allows all pupils to access the award.

Mr Cox, Ms Jackson, Ms Vangucci, Ms Williams, Ms Gill, Ms Cruz, Ms Dutton, Ms Cuenca, Mr Richardson, Ms Stevenson, Mr Ward and Mr Rodgers (Coming back from retirement).



Special mention must go to Mr Cox who acts as the expedition assessor and the head chef.



Duke of Edinburgh



The Duke of Edinburgh programme continues to flourish at Fortismere. We currently have 80 Year 10 pupils who have completed the voluntary, skill and physical sections of their award and 150 Year 9 pupils who have enrolled onto the DofE award this term. Both year groups will be embarking on their expeditions in the summer term.



Other messages

Great turn out for the Beekeeping Club!

The first lesson on beekeeping was delivered exceptionally well by Matthew Price. Everyone was listening attentively to his every word. Matthew has his own beehive and has had professional training. We were all very grateful for Matthew and his insight on beekeeping. Matthew demonstrated to the students a concoction he produced in the science lab which he carefully poured over the bees to keep the mites off them.



Quiz Night: Saturday 29 February 6.30 pm South Wing Hall

Get your tickets for this brilliant event before half term and tick another task off your To Do list!

Don't take our word for it about Pauline, our host for the night; here are some of the reasons why we know she's going to make the Quiz a night to remember:

- "I've been standing up since...well, a long time ago. Now doing it in front of audiences."
- REGIONAL FINALIST Funny Women Awards 2017/18
- FINALIST Colchester New Comedian of the Year 2016
- SEMI-FINALIST Leicester Square New Comedian of the Year 2016
- QUARTER-FINALIST Amused Moose Awards 2016
- SEMI-FINALIST Funny Women Awards 2015
- "Funny Women is always seeking out new talent like Pauline Eyre. She excels as a stand-up and we have recently encouraged her to MC. The result is that this role plays to Pauline's natural level of warmth and comic ability. She instinctively en-

