

# fortismere

Transforming lives Through Education

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Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

## Co-Heads' Welcome and Review of the Week

As we come to the end of a very sad week at Fortismere we would like to thank all members of the community who have contacted us to offer the school thoughts and condolences following the tragic loss of our friend and colleague, Vikash Sharma last Friday.

The school came together on Monday morning to talk about Mr Sharma, his passing to share memories and to process the news. We are reminded at times like this just how strong Fortismere's community is and just how much we care about each other.

There is no doubt that the loss of Mr Sharma will be felt very deeply by all of us for some time. We know that staff and students have found comfort this week in finding opportunities to share their memories about Mr Sharma. They have been able to do this by posting a notice on our memorial wall which has been set up in the library. This space has been created to offer those who knew and worked with Mr Sharma an opportunity to sit in a peaceful space and reflect on their memories of him. Staff and students have been able to write their messages, memories,

thoughts and condolences on paper doves which they have then pinned to the board. It is a moving experience to read these messages which are now being added daily and they really do remind us of the impact he had on those he taught. We will be presenting these to Mrs Sharma in due course. There is also a book of condolences that has been circulated by the Science Department who are in the first place collecting messages from Mr Sharma's Tutor Group and teaching groups. This will be placed in the library should visitors want to add their messages.

### Coming up:

- 13-24 Nov—Year 11 Mocks
- 21 Nov—Year 13 Parents' Evening



As we pull together as a community our thoughts continue to be with Mr Sharma's wife and family. We will be passing on the lovely cards and message sent to us by our parents and carers. We are in discussion with staff and students at the moment about more permanent

# Co-Heads' Review cont.

memorials and further opportunities to come together to remember Mr Sharma and we will keep you all informed of this. We would like to extend our thanks to Haringey EP service, Place2Be, our Learning Mentors and excellent Linc staff who did so much this week to support students and staff.

This week was an important week for the school in that we opened our doors on Tuesday evening to welcome in our prospective 6<sup>th</sup> Form students for September 2018. It was a fantastic evening.

We are very proud of our Year 12 and 13 Equalities Groups who have been promoting some of the issues around the unfairness in the gender pay gap which is marked today, 10<sup>th</sup> November, as the point from which women are essentially working for free because of the gender pay gap. Gender inequality is a topic that Fortismere students feel very passionate about so please look out

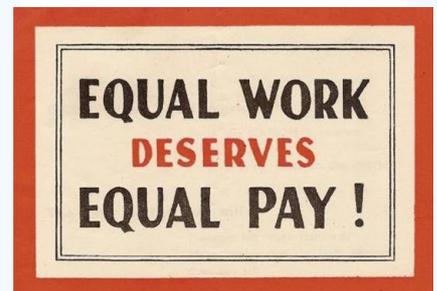
The North Wing was full of visitors who had the opportunity to talk to staff and current 6<sup>th</sup> Form students about the very broad curriculum that is on offer to students at Fortismere, to help them think about their options after GCSEs.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form team will be spending a lot of time over the coming weeks and months offering advice and information to support every Year 11 student in thinking about their next steps. We have a wealth of resources in terms of careers and options advice and would wholeheartedly encourage

parents to contact their child's tutor in the first instance if they feel they need specialist guidance. We have a Careers Officer on site who will offer bespoke guidance, as well as a very experienced 6<sup>th</sup> Form leadership team who will be offering times to speak to individuals. There is also a wealth of information on our website.

for events in the coming weeks and months led by our students to highlight this issue. There is a feature about their campaign later in the Newsletter.

We wish all of our students and their families a restful weekend.



## Lunchtime Rota

A temporary rota will be in place from Monday to give priority to Year 11 students while they sit their mock exams.

Please share with your children so that they know to which wing they are allocated on Monday.

lunchtime rota from 13nov17

	12:25-12:35		12:35-12:45		12:45-12:55	
	SW	NW	SW	NW	SW	NW
Mon	11	7	8	9	10	A C E O P R
Tue	11	10	9	7	8	A C E O P R
Wed	11	8	7	10	9	A C E O P R
Thu	11	9	7	8	10	A C E O P R
Fri	11	9	10	8	7	A C E O P R

## Events & Activities

### Whole-School Musical: 'Into The Woods' (July 2018)

After the success of 'Guys and Dolls' and other amazing musicals from previous years it has been decided that Fortismere will once again stage a musical to give the West End a run for its money. This year the musical will be directed by Matthew White, director of the Olivier Award Winning "Top Hat" and many other West End hits.

We will shortly be auditioning for Stephen Sondheim's mercurial 'Into the Woods'. There are many roles up for grabs and characters

sing both parts. (This is in E major). The most useful You Tube clip is probably the original Broadway production - it's very clear. This should be the first option that comes up when you Google it.

Girls: "Children Will Listen" from the top to "Careful before you say, 'listen to me', children will listen". (30 bars) (This is in C).

The most useful YouTube clip is Barbra Streisand singing it—

that you will recognise from childhood fairy tales but, as you know, fairy tales come with much darkness...

Auditioning for the main roles will require you to show that you have a very strong singing voice and an ability to act. You must be committed and dedicated to the show and be a team player.

If you would like to be part of the show but not necessarily a lead character then you should look out for a general meeting/ audition post-Christmas.

closest to the original, but there's a long spoken preamble.

There will be piano accompaniment at the audition and your audition will be filmed.

You will also be given part of the script and expected to read this in role, more information on this will be available next week.

Recalls will be on Saturday 9th December from 10am-2pm. If you are cast you will be expected to start rehearsing straight after

Anyone wishing to be considered for a main part will need to be available on Saturday 25th November. The auditions will be from 9am until 12pm in the music block (MU4). You will be expected to come prepared for singing the following songs:

Boys: The first section of "Agony" - from the start to "What's as intriguing, or half so fatiguing, as what's out of reach." (40 bars in all). The section is shared by both Princes so the singer should

Christmas but may well be given songs and dialogue to work on over the Christmas period.

Everyone who auditions will be part of the show!

Look out for info on posters and the pods over the next few weeks...

*Mr Kirkland. Ms Topping. Mr Strathdene. Matthew White*



## Sports & Extra-Curricular News

### FIXTURES:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov:

Girls 5 Aside Football (ends at 5:30pm)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov:

Y8/9 Netball v GCA (A)

### RESULTS:

#### Football

2<sup>nd</sup> XI: Enfield 5-1 Fortismere

Y9: PVA 3-3 Fortismere

Y7: Highgate Wood 4-5 Fortismere

#### Netball

Y7: Fortismere 4-9 Highgate Wood

Y11: Fortismere 31-1 Highgate

Wood

### Netball & Handball Clubs

Netball Club for all year groups will now be held on a Tuesday after school in the Sports Hall until 4.45 p.m.

Handball is on a Thursday after school should Years 7 and 8 still wish to attend a club on Thursdays.



### Chess Club

Chess Club meets in on Wednesday to Friday. In 13T2.

Prospective team members should attend!



## From the Governors

### Parent Governor Elections

We apologise for the delay in this process which was mainly due to a simple lack of capacity, which of course we're trying to address partly by holding this election! This from our clerk, Sam Murray, on what to expect:

*ments from all the candidates. If you have any questions on the election process you can contact Sam Murray, Clerk to Governors: [smurray@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:smurray@fortismere.org.uk)*

Please take the time to vote. We're really pleased that we have so many parents and carers willing to stand for what's

*We have received nine applications for the two parent governor vacancies so an election will now be held. Ballot papers and copies of the election statements will be sent home via your child or posted to you by the 24th Nov 2017. Every parent/carer has the right to vote in the election. There are two vacancies so you will be able to vote for two candi-*

an important and sometimes demanding role in the school's work. Each candidate will present to you a brief personal statement which will help you decide who to vote for. It's up to you, but from our part we hope that the successful candidates will have bags of passion, plenty of personal capacity, and the ability to both support and in time lead key work of the

*dates. You will only receive one ballot paper per parent/carer regardless of how many children you have at the school. Voting will close at the end of the school day on Thursday 7th December 2017 and counting will take place the next day. Instructions for voting will be sent with the ballot paper and posted on the website along with the election state-*

Governing Board, including oversight of curriculum, academic outcomes, budgetary control and staff matters, and of course the wellbeing and safety of our students.

## From Our Student Leaders

### Equal Pay Day: 10th November

Today is Equal Pay Day, marking the point at which women in the UK effectively work for free until the end of the year because of the gender pay gap. A group of Sixth Formers have teamed up to raise awareness.

Thirty-seven years after the Equal Pay Act, it is incredibly disheartening to see women still earning 86p for every pound earned by a man. And the pay gap is even more pronounced for BME women. In light of recent stagnation on the issue

(the pay gap has stayed the same for three years in a row) and the BBC pay controversy, we decided to mount a poster campaign around the 6<sup>th</sup> Form to raise awareness and open up a discussion within the Fortismere community of the persistent challenge of institutionalised sexism.

#### *Key Facts:*

Britain has the 5th largest gender pay gap in Europe.

Despite the Equal Pay Act of 1970, the pay gap still stands at 14.1% for full-time workers and has stayed the same for the past 3

years, according to the Fawcett Society.

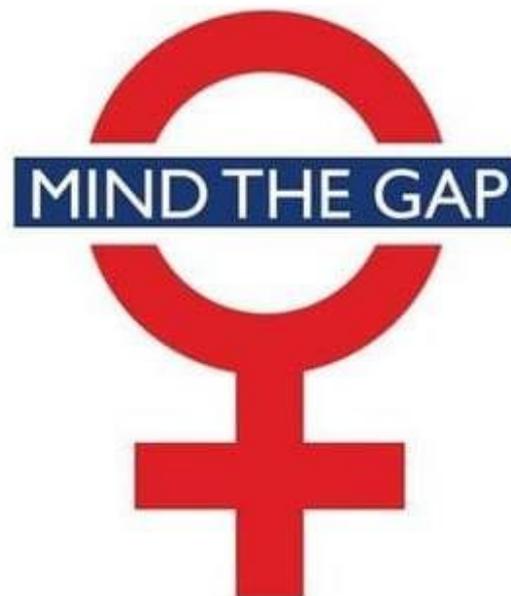
The government recently introduced a policy that means businesses employing over 250 people must disclose information on staff pay.

The gender pay gap doesn't make economic sense - a 2016 report found that bridging the gender pay gap could add as much as £150 billion to the UK economy by 2025.

Women's experience in the workplace is extremely varied:

- Black African women have seen virtually no progress since the 1990s in closing the gender pay gap with White British men, with a full-time pay gap of 21.4% in the 1990s and 19.6% today.
- Pakistani and Bangladeshi women experience the largest gender pay gap at 26.2%.

We hope to develop a community-wide discussion about this important issue with a view to closing the gap.



The average female full-time worker in the UK earns 14.5% less than her male counterpart.

Isn't it time we closed the gap?

# From the Library

## Open Library: Non's Night

In the last Newsletter we suggested you keep 16th November free for Non's Night! We are having an "Open Library" from 4pm till 5.30pm and our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, will be giving a short talk at 4.15pm about everything to do with reading. Come and enjoy this wonderful space, bring younger siblings and talk to Non and me about inspiring our children to read for pleasure – one of the single most important things they will ever do. Space is limited, so please email [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) to "book".

Good stuff to watch on the telly box <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>

## Recommended Read

Anything by Frances Hardinge! The Carnegie and Costa Book Award winner writes exquisitely and her stories are unusual and quite unique. Her latest, *A Skinful of Shadows*, is my new favourite. Set in the English Civil War, it's about a family who can possess ghosts of their dead ancestors and the wild and resilient Makepeace Lightfoot, who needs to escape from them. She is possessed

by spirits of her own. I told you it was unusual... *A Skinful of Shadows* is still in hardback, but is available to borrow from the school library, as are all our Recommended Reads.

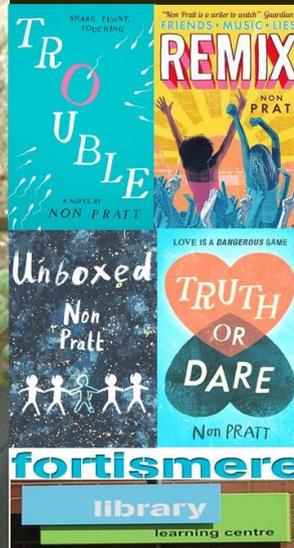


[www.nonpratt.wordpress.com](http://www.nonpratt.wordpress.com)

@nonpratt

## PATRON OF READING

### Non Pratt



After working for several years as an editor in children's publishing, Non became a full-time author when her debut Young Adult novel was published in 2014. TROUBLE received critical acclaim, shortlisting for the YA Book Prize, the Branford Boase Award and longlisting for the Carnegie Medal. It didn't win anything, but she says it was still all rather fun.

Since then Non's written another novel REMIX, with Walker Books and a novella UNBOXED with Barrington Stoke, who specialise in publishing super-readable YA tailored to suit reluctant and dyslexic readers, or anyone who fancies a shorter read.

Her new novel TRUTH OR DARE was released on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and she's already working on the next...

Together with Robin Stevens – author of the bestselling *Murder Most Unladylike* series – Non also runs events to help writers trying to break into children's publishing.

***The Patron of Reading is a designated children's author with whom the school has a special relationship. The idea is for the Patron of Reading to help develop a reading for pleasure culture and create a buzz about books at Fortismere.***

## FSA News

### Tuesday 14th November: Teachers' Bids

6pm – 9pm – Conference Room,  
1st floor, South Wing

Meet the enthusiastic Teachers who have projects they would like us to fund, hear them talk about their exciting and inspiring ideas, and come along to the funding meeting afterwards on 21st to decide who can have how much. Please email [mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk) if you cannot attend or would like to discuss the bids (attached to the main email).

### 21<sup>st</sup> November: Teachers' Bids Decision Making and Event Plan- ning Meeting

6.30pm – 8.30pm, Conference  
Room, 1st floor, South Wing

We have separated the Teachers' presentations from the decision making process, to make it more possible to have considered discussions. Come along to help us decide how to spend the funds the FSA has raised for the kids and to help us plan out our events for this year.



The FSA are currently looking for new parents to help out on the team, particularly with some of the admin, publicity and secretarial roles. If this is something you might be interested in please contact Miriam on [mirrieclark@gmail.com](mailto:mirrieclark@gmail.com) or Kirsty on [markskirsty@gmail.com](mailto:markskirsty@gmail.com) who can provide further details.



### Christmas Fair

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 11am-4pm

Planning for the Christmas Fair has already begun, and, with Fireworks now over, preparations are stepping up a gear. Please get in touch with Maria [mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk) if you are able to volunteer for an hour or more and help on the day with set up,

during the Fair or clear up at the end.

Also if you know of any orchestra/choir/entertainer who would like to perform at the event, email Maria.

Please put the Christmas Fair date in your diary and come along! We are promising stall holders there will be lots of people there eager to buy their wonderful festive gifts.

### Hampers for the Christmas Fair

Selling hampers at the Christmas Fair raised a whole heap of money last year and we would like to do the same this year.

Can you help?

Please donate any Christmassy food items we can include in the hampers such as mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalades,

Christmas Puddings, chocolates and treats, Christmas Crackers, teas etc ... and even unwanted Christmas Gifts from last year, such as beauty items and bath products! Please note that we cannot accept meat or cheese products. Baskets and old hampers are needed too.

**Please send all items in as soon as possible (and no later than Friday 1st December) to the**

### library or to the Parents' Forum on Weds 7th December (in South Wing Hall).

Wines, bubbly and drinks containing alcohol are very welcome but must not be taken into the school by students. Please contact Maria on [mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk) to arrange to deliver alcoholic drinks to her or give to the FSA at the Bids meeting on Tues 14<sup>th</sup> or at the Parents' Forum on Weds 7th.