

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

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Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

We are now in the mid-point of the second half of term and both students and staff are feeling the effects of colder, darker days. We have had more colds and sore throats and requests to keep coats on in lessons. Apparently no-one says any more that "if you wear a coat indoors you won't feel the benefit outside". Old wives' tale possibly, but students still need to shed their outdoor clothing inside lessons. We have suggested the wearing of cardigans, but many of our students are unsure what item of clothing that is (answer: a hoodie without a hood with the possible addition of buttons).

With the colder weather we have been making sure that the Year 11s do not suffer through their mock examinations. We have been impressed with the hard work they have put into their subjects and their general attitude to their exams.



One of the activities that students use to enrich their time at Fortismere and balance their academic studies is joining The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at School. On Thursday, the Earl of Wessex visited Haringey to talk to Headteachers about the important role the award can play in developing young people's skills and experiences. At Fortismere it is a popular award but we would welcome more of our young people putting their names forward. In addition to the expeditions, students taking the award also volunteer for a charity and participate in regular exercise; very much a healthy mind in a healthy body.

The week was rounded off by the Year 13 A-Level Drama exam productions. The performances involved a range of accents (and a great many words!) and an impressively high standard was maintained throughout. The pieces were funny, physical and very political, particularly the final performance which centred on the experience of two young refugees. Tears were spotted in the audience.

After such a busy week, we could do worse than watch The Leonids this evening. Apparently you need to avoid light pollution and look to the South East. On a cold clear night, a meteor shower may be just the thing to get the weekend started (thank you Mr Hann, our resident astronomer).

Dates For Your Diary

- 13-24 Nov Year 11 Mocks
- 21 Nov School to close at 11am to allow staff to attend Mr Sharma's funeral.
- 25 Nov Auditions for school production - see article
- 28 Nov Year 9 Options Focus Day
- 29 Nov Fortismere's Equality Fair 5:30pm - 9pm
- 3 Dec Fortismere Christmas Fair, 11am - 4pm
- 5 Dec Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 18 Dec GCSE Mock Results published to parents

DON'T MISS OUT!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Behold a vintage computer

FREE: Computer Masterclasses!

We have been invited to nominate five pupils to attend Saturday morning Computer Science Masterclasses at Gladesmore Community School. The lucky selected students will meet on the following Saturday mornings: January 20th and January 27th; February 3rd and February 24th, and March 3rd and March 10th. These fantastic classes are offered free of charge to interested students, so please sign up!

Ri Computer Science Masterclasses are a series of

workshops which are led by experts from industry, academia and education. They offer students in-depth investigations of topics in Computer Science combining theory with interactive exploration.

We will open their eyes to the world of Computer Science and hope to inspire them to continue their engagement with the subject. If your son or daughter is interested in taking part, please email myakup@fortismere.org.uk to nominate them as soon as possible. Don't miss out!

Peer mental health support group: get help when you need it

Parents in Mind
Parental/Carers Peer Support Group

Do you live in Haringey?	Are you concerned about a young person (age 10-18) in your care?	Are they experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Parents in Mind will:

- Give you information about mental health and wellbeing.
- Offer you support, guidance and advice about your child & their needs.
- Give you an opportunity to share your experiences.
- Provide an opportunity to lead/facilitate groups sessions.

Join our 12 month peer support group

Give us a call or send us an email for a brief chat. Self-registration are welcome — the form can be found on our website.

"We aim to offer a safe, non-judgemental and confidential space for parents to come and talk about their experiences and meet other parents who have had similar experiences."

www.facebook.co.uk/parentsinmind

Mind in Haringey have set up a peer to peer support group for parents and carers with children that have mental health issues. The group is not only available to students residing in Haringey but is

Worried about your child? We can help

also available to Barnet residents that have children in Haringey schools.

If you are interested or would like further information please see the attached flyer or contact Mr Ward at the school. He can be reached on award@fortismere.org.uk.

A wicked time was had by all

Forty-eight Yr 9 students had a *Wicked!* time at the Apollo Victoria Theatre this Wednesday and gave the amazing cast a standing ovation. It's National Anti-Bullying Week (13th-17th November) so it was great and relevant to see a musical that contains elements of diversity and acceptance of people who are different – as well as being a cracking story! Our students contributed generously to a collection for the Stop Bullying Campaign at the end of the show.



Yr 9 students enjoyed themselves at the Apollo

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Students of the Week

Mary and Joey Sixth Form

Mary and Joey are our Head Students in the Sixth Form. They have worked tirelessly as ambassadors of the school, meeting prospective Yr 12 students at Fortismere and across Haringey, and have been hugely impressive representing the voice of the peers that voted for them. They regularly meet with our Co-Headteachers and the Sixth Form Leadership and have both shown huge dedication, warmth and professionalism in their roles. They are a credit to us.

Joey Gold studies Maths, Further Maths and Comput-

ing at A level and is applying to read Computer Sciences at university. He has been a key part of our school's success in the National Vex Robotics Competition and set up and leads our team in the National Cipher Challenge, a code-breaking competition in which we are currently joint leaders (from 65 teams).

Mary Bonsu studies French, Politics and History and hopes to study Law with French at university. As Head Student she has been involved in charity projects, talking to Yr 12s, helping to shape safe guarding policy and running Culture Club - an open space to discuss social issues.



Book of Condolences

The School is compiling a book of condolences to give to Mr Sharma's family. If you would like to add a tribute, please email Marie Haines at headspa@fortismere.org.uk, and we will put them in the book.



Congratulations to our Year 7 basketball team!

Congratulations and well done to our super Year 7 basketball team. They came 2nd in the Haringey Schools Tournament on Tuesday. Well done, team, and keep up the good work! Good luck with the few final games - you are winners!

Upcoming fixtures

- Monday 20th Nov: Y7/8 Girls 5-a-side Football Haringey league (H)
- Tuesday 21st Nov: Junior Netball v STM (TBC)
- Tuesday 21st Nov: U14 basketball event, boys and girls (@ GCA)
- Wednesday 22nd Nov: 2nd XI v Preston Manor (H)
- Thursday 23rd Nov: Y8 v Compton (A)
- Thursday 23rd Nov: Senior Netball v STM (TBC)
- Friday 24th Nov: Cross Country Championships (qualifying students). New river at 1:30.



Netball and Football Results

- Netball : Y7: Fort 5-6 Heartlands
- Y8: Fort 9-6 Heartlands
- Y9: Fort 16-9 Heartlands
- Football: Y7: Fort 5-2 St Ignatius
- Y9: Fort 1-3 Mill Hill
- Y10: Fort 1-6 St Ignatius

FROM THE LIBRARY



Heroes and Villains with our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt

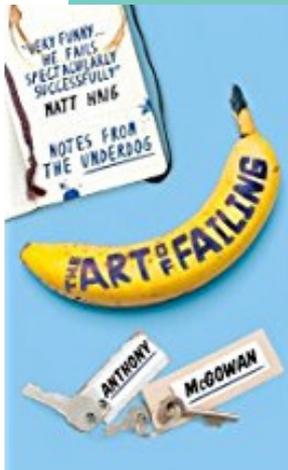
Two delightful Yr 7 classes met with our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, on Thursday 16th November in the library. They learnt a different way to write about heroes and villains by taking the weaknesses of well-known characters like Medusa or Spongebob Square Pants and using them to create the opposite of how they are usually portrayed. The students really enjoyed the interactive exercises and groaned when it was time to finish (always a good sign!). And there was a real competitive element – we worried about fisticuffs between teams at one stage...!

The workshops were followed by Non's Night. When we were discussing what she would like to do during her tenure as Patron of Reading at Fortismere, Non suggested that she would like to run an evening event where whole families could come to the library to discuss ways of creating a buzz about the pleasures of reading.

“There is no wrong way to read” - Non Pratt

She talked about her plans for the next two years (competitions, themed days, quizzes, Dr Non's Book Surgery, workshops and much more) and then

spoke generally on how to encourage reading for pleasure. We'll try to incorporate some of her suggestions in forthcoming newsletters, but for starters: “There is no wrong way to read, and no wrong book! Read anything and everything!” she told the students. Some excellent discussion and questions followed and it was wonderful to see younger siblings curled up on cushions devouring books (and doughnuts) or being read to by older brothers and sisters. Thank you so much to everyone who came, and I know Non is keen to host similar events in the future.



RECOMMENDED READ

The Art of Failing

by Anthony McGowan

For grownups this time, because no-one under age 30 could understand the angst and trauma of the little irritations encountered in adult life! This book picks up on everything from the oddities of escalators in the British Library to why you shouldn't attempt removing blockages from washing machines with sticks. Warning: sudden unexpected guffaws can cause embarrassment on public transport.

Good stuff on telly



If you're looking for something fantastic - and educational - to watch, look no further. From Blue Planet II to Venus Uncovered: Ancient Goddess of Love, these great shows are not to be missed. Visit <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>.

NEWS IN BRIEF

COLLEGE NEWS



Colosseum news

Notice Board competition winners are announced

Thank you to tutors and VT groups for their creative entries into our Colosseum notice board competitions. The winners are ... C2 and C7 with C6 and C10 as close runners-up. Well done, you will receive your prizes next week!

Colosseum Ambassadors - Applications are now open!

We are excited to announce a relaunch of the Colosseum Student Ambassadors. And we are encouraging and welcoming all interested students to apply. Ambassadors will meet throughout the year to discuss school issues, plan charity fundraising opportunities, and assist the whole school community with school events.

This is a great opportunity for students to meet new people, gain confidence working in a team and become more involved in school wide events and decisions. Application forms are available from the HOC office in North Wing. Deadline is Wednesday 22nd November.

Ephesus news

Student Ambassador video newsletter

Ephesus Student Ambassadors have launched a video newsletter from this week, where short videos will be made about events in the school and charity events. It has just one video completed so far and here is the link: <http://bit.ly/2jx8sdr>. Look out for more in the near future. We would like to develop this for the whole school, any parents who are in Media who would like to help run this with the Student Ambassadors, please contact DTurner@fortismere.org.uk for details.

DRAMA NEWS



Yr 13 Drama evening showcases talent

Yr 13 Drama students really shone last night at their performance evening for family and friends. Hard-hitting didactic theatre pieces, political farces and black comedy dominated. Audiences were confronted with issues such as immigration, police corruption and sexism. The students created some visually stunning theatre that showcased their talent. They will perform for the Exam board next week and we wish them luck. Thank you for everyone's support.

Auditions soon open!

We were delighted to see so many students attend our introductory meeting for Into the Woods (July 11 - 14). Auditions for the show will be on Saturday November 25th in South Wing Hall. Due to the large numbers of students expressing interest, we will organise year groups as follows:

- 09.00 – 10.00: Years 7 and 8
- 10.15 – 11.15: Years 9 and 10
- 11.30 – 13.00: Years 11 – 13

Students who have not received audition materials should email Ms Topping at (mtopping@fortismere.org.uk). Students who would like to be involved without a lead role also email Ms Topping as they will not be required for audition. Information relating to musicians, set design, wardrobe, hair and makeup, technical support will follow in January.

USEFUL ADVICE



Donate to help the Whittington

Lucy Searle is a mum of a Y11 student and is hoping you can help. “My younger Yr 6 daughter was taken very ill a few years ago and as a result has severe epilepsy. She receives lots of treatment at Great Ormond St, but we have spent lots of time at the Whittington.

“In March I’m undertaking a 300 km cycle fundraising trek in Kerala with the paediatric lead at the Whittington for their children’s play space, which currently is depressing and almost unusable.

“You can find out all the details here (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittington-hospital-childrens-play-space>) - it’s all officially signed off by the Whittington.

“I’m hoping you can help - it occurred to me that many parents may, like me, have spent time on the ward staring miserably at this space and might be interested in helping transform it.”

YR 9 NEWS



Yr 9 Careers Day – 28th Nov

With Yr 9 GCSE Options just a few months away, the purpose of this day is to give our Yr 9 students the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities that will help them develop an understanding of what to expect

in the future when applying for jobs .

It will introduce them to the process of exploring the choices of professions based on their subject choices, writing applications and CVs and preparing for interviews.

SPOTLIGHT ON PARENT FORUM

Parent Forum needs you

The Parent Forum is looking for a Chair to oversee the Forum, moderate speakers and coordinate topics to put on the agenda.

Candidates will be required to:

- Coordinate with governors
- Curate items for agenda
- Write agenda
- Attend Parent Forum meetings three times a year

If you are interested, please email Wendy on parentforum@fortismere.org.uk.

Please also email if you would like to put an item on the agenda for the next Forum, which will be on January 15th.

Go4Schools evening

Confused about Go4schools? Thought so! In response to questions brought up at the Parent Forum, the school is preparing an information evening to explain how Go4Schools works in more detail. The evening will most likely take place in either December or January.

Interested in knowing more about how to log on, navigation, tracking data or marking schemes? Anyone with questions about this system should email governors@fortismere.org.uk, so their issues can be put on the agenda for the upcoming talk.

Equality Fair: November 29th

Sixth-former Oscar Morris is arranging an ‘Equality Fair’ on 29th November. This will involve discussions run by students on topics such as “Will Britain ever have a Black prime minister?” After this there will be a Q&A with public figures involved in achieving equality such as Hornsey and Wood Green MP Catherine West (right), Solace Women’s Aid and Age UK’s Opening Doors. The event is free but please book your ticket here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fortismeres-equality-fair-tickets-39857634257>.



Change to Leaves of Absence

In an effort to streamline our process for student absences we have altered our system slightly, introducing an electronic form for parents to fill in online for leave

of absence applications which are outside of the list below. The online form will be automatically be delivered to your child's Head of College for processing once you

have submitted it, cutting out the need to keep reminding your child to deliver it! The form can be found on the school website via this link Student Leave of Absence form, or paper copies are available from South Wing. We are now also authorising the following absences without the need to fill in a request for student Leave of Absence form.

- Medical Appointment – hospital/orthodontist - half a day
- Music exam -- half a day
- Language exam - half a day
- Ballet exam - half a day
- Local funerals - half a day
- Religious festivals

Please be aware that doctor and dentist appointments will not be authorised, unless they are an emergency - we would expect that these appointments could be booked outside of school hours. Our expectation is that we would still require a short handwritten note or email (Attendance@fortismere.org.uk , cc'ing the tutor in too) and evidence of the appointment. This all should be handed in to South Wing reception prior to the absence. Requests for any longer time must be applied for using the new online form.

ATTENDANCE CODING SYSTEM

Colour Code	Annual attendance	Result – This is for the whole academic year.
GREEN	100%	Not missing any lessons.
	99%	Missing around 10 lessons.
	98%	Missing around 20 lessons.
	97%	Missing around 30 lessons.
AMBER	96%	Missing about 8 days of school. This equates up to 40 lessons.
	95%	Missing about 2 weeks of school. This equates up to 45 lessons.
	93%	Missing 14 days of school – a significant amount of education to lose.
RED 1	90-92%	Missing more than three weeks of education – a significant amount of education to lose.
RED 2	86% -89%	Missing between 4 and 6 weeks. A serious loss of learning which is likely to have a detrimental effect on achievement and life chances. 95 Lessons missed.
RED 3	81-85%	Missing between 6 and 8 weeks. A serious loss of learning which is likely to have a detrimental effect on achievement and life chances. 145 lessons missed.
RED 4	80% and below	Missing more than 8 weeks. A serious loss of learning which is likely to have a detrimental effect on achievement and life chances. 190 lessons missed.

Anti-Bullying Week: Ms K. Allaway

This week is Anti - Bullying week and also marks the start of a fortnight at Fortismere thinking about and discussing our Bullying policy with students. In assemblies I've talked about our uniqueness as individuals and how we should acknowledge and understand differences in each other not by bullying but celebrating our wonderful diverse community.

Last year the KS3/4 Student Leaders wrote a student-friendly version of our Bullying policy and this year our current KS3/4 and KS5 leaders hope to revisit this with students. Therefore next week we are holding a special extended VT focusing on anti-bullying, our policy, how we can improve it and a project to mark the acknowledgment of Anti-Bullying week

In my assemblies I've introduced this year's KS3/4 leaders who have stepped up to leadership and responsibility in their last year, working on four areas: 1) Yr 7 transitions and welfare – helping to run the Yr 7 common room at lunchtimes, being an older

student Yr. 7s can talk to, writing a transition booklet.

- 2) Communications – Putting together their own newspaper, updating the College and student area on our website.
- 3) Events – organising Yr. 11 events Prom/Hoodie, helped out at Halloween, organising other events.
- 4) Policies – Reviewing content of Anti-bullying policy, working with staff looking at our BFL changes.

All student leaders wear a bright neon lanyard. Meet them next week in the newsletter.

Finally my assemblies had a lot to do with keys! As part of the anti-bullying project we are doing next week we would like families to hunt out their old keys and donate them to Fortismere. Buckets will be available in both receptions to drop them in - more details to follow next week!





Christmas Fair - 3rd December

Put the date for the Christmas Fair in your diary and come along! We are promising stall holders that there will be lots of people eager to buy their wonderful festive gifts, so make our dream come true. Planning for the Fair has already begun, and with the annual fireworks now over, preparations are stepping up a gear.

Please get in touch with FSA Chair Maria at 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. And if you know of any orchestra/ choir/entertainer who would like to perform at the event, email Maria. Hope to hear from you!

- Christmas Fair, Sunday 3rd December, 11am-4pm

Holiday hampers needed!

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 such as mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalades, Christmas puddings, chocolates and treats, Christmas crackers, teas etc - even unwanted Christmas Gifts from last year, such as beauty items and bath products (no meat or cheese products please).

Baskets and old hampers are needed too. Send all items in as soon as possible (no later than Friday 1st Dec.) to the library (South Wing Hall). Wines, bubbly and drinks containing alcohol are very welcome but must not be taken into the school by students. Contact Maria on mariademetriou70@hotmail.co.uk to deliver alcoholic drinks to her.



Successful budding means rosy future

This Tuesday we had a fantastic, interactive session with the FSA and teachers to run through the school bids for the coming academic year. Teachers get to bid to undertake exciting and innovative projects they would like the FSA to fund over the coming year.

On the back of that, we were able come to a decision on how appropriate to fund a large portion of the bids. Watch this space to learn where the money is going - and what exciting plans the techers have for the students in the near future.



Gifts for Grotto

This year, Santa and his elves will be visiting the Christmas Fair. We would love all pupils in Colosseum to buy a gift costing no more than £5 for a child. It must be new and be wrapped in festive paper with a gift tag attached saying "Boy", "Girl" or "Unisex". Leftover presents will be donated to a homeless children's charity and hospices. The deadline for all the gifts is Wednesday 29th of November. Please hand in the gifts to Ms Bhabra in DT2. Thank you.