

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

Volume 1, Issue 6

13th October 2017



Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

Co-Heads' Welcome and Review of the Week

This half term has flown by and we now have only one week until half term. Despite this, the pace of activities at Fortismere has not let up. The Year 7 campers arrived back at Fortismere on Saturday morning after their camp. For many of them (including most of the teachers) the splendour of the Friday evening meal and the Saturday breakfast rounded off what had been a perfect day of activities. In fact, staff enjoyed it so much and the feedback from students was so positive that Ms Arrowsmith has already booked a date for next year for the

new intake. We are very grateful for the work that Ms Arrowsmith and her team of volunteers put into making it such a successful event, matched by the enthusiasm, good humour and excellent social skills of Year 7.

Non Pratt, the school's Patron of Reading, made her first visit to Fortismere on Tuesday 10th. She worked with Year 10s and Year 8s definitely becoming a well-used resource! This ties into the school's aim of promoting 'every child a reader' at Fortismere and the emphasis on students making sure they have a reading

book with them every day. Visiting VT groups during the last two weeks has shown the range of books our students are selecting, from the ghoulish (or Zombie-ish) Charlie Higson series to modern classics such as the 'Handmaid's Tale'. We have been very impressed by how well students talk about their books and how much obvious enjoyment of reading there is in school, even when using such low grade technology as a book!

Students once more proved the breadth of their talents at the Piano Recital hosted by the Music Department on

Coming up:

- 16/10/17: Year 8 DLCs—late start for all other years (10.20am)
- 23/10/17—Half-Term

Wednesday. It was a varied programme of Classical, Jazz and Blues and showcased a range of ages and musical tastes. As Co-Heads, we had the best seats in the house: serving from behind the bar. It provided another opportunity to meet parents and catch up with how students

are settling into the academic year. The event was packed and the response from parents to the event and the school more generally were very encouraging to hear. Well done to the Music Department and the students taking part.

Both Co-Heads will be

attending the Parents' Forum next Monday and will be on hand to answer queries on any aspect of life for students at Fortismere. We will also be present at the FSA AGM next week and are looking forward to hearing about future plans for the support of Fortismere.

Parent Forum

Please come to the Parent Forum this Monday!

**16th October 7.30-9pm NW Hall
(Governors' Surgery beforehand, from 6pm)**

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Follow-up from last meeting – reiteration that personal issues to do with your child should not be brought up at the Forum. Governors' Surgeries and other avenues are the place for this.

3. Fundraising item with Miriam Clark, Head of Fundraising

4. BFL (Behaviour for Learning) update with Zoe Judge and Jo Davey, Co-Headteachers

5. Sixth Form Admissions: post-16 options

[Ms Judge and Ms Davey to leave]

6. Discussion of new Headteacher recruitment

7. New topics for discussion:

- Lost property and PE kits
- Discussion of outside lunch breaks for Year 10 upwards

8. AOB

9. Date of next meeting



From the Senior Leadership Team

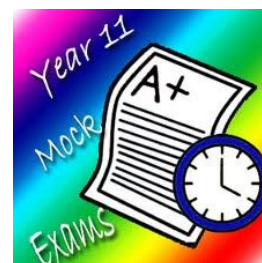
Late Start: Monday 16th October

A final reminder that school will start at 10:20am (Period 2) on Monday, to allow time for the Year 8 DLCs. Parents and carers are asked to ensure that their children to not arrive on site before 10am.

Year 11 Assembly

There will be an Assembly for Year 11s on Wednesday 18th October about Mock Exams and next steps. The Assembly will take place in North Wing Hall.

The Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable is now available on our [website](#).



Parent-Governor Recruitment

A last reminder that nomination forms for our two vacant Parent Governor positions need to be with our clerk, Sam Murray, by Wednesday 18th October 5pm. If you'd like to apply and haven't yet done so, please email Sam at smurray@fortismere.org.uk.



Careers Information

There is lots of information being added to our [website](#) all the time about open days and opportunities that might be of interest to our students, so don't forget to take a look!

Problems with ParentMail

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are not receiving ParentMail electronic communications into their inboxes even though they have verified and registered their PMX ParentMail accounts.

If this is the case for you please look in your Junk/Spam boxes to see if those communications have arrived there. If this is so you need to add ParentMail to your Safe Senders List, the email you need to add is Info@parentmail.co.uk.

Without an example email address in your inbox:

1. Select Actions from the toolbar at the top of the screen.
2. Select Junk E mail.
3. Select Junk Email Options.
4. Click the Safe Sender tab.
5. Click Add.
6. Type in the email address you wish to add to your safe sender list.
7. Click OK

Ms Anne Greenwood, ParentMail Co-ordinator



Communications

Media Consent

Further to the ParentMail that was issued last week, please email communications@fortismere.org.uk by 5pm today if you do NOT wish photographs of your child/ren to be used in Fortismere communications (eg on our website, in our Newsletter). Thank you.



Key Dates for 2017/18

You can find a list of term dates, school closures, parents' evenings, late starts and more on our website within [Our School / Key Dates](#).

A list has also been included at the end of this Newsletter.

Ephesus Student Ambassador Team

I would like to say a big welcome to our new student ambassador team! We have some students from last year returning and lots of fresh faces for this year!

I am very excited to see the students work together on lots of projects this term including; our newsletter, charity events and student

voice. We have a great mix of students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 11. I look forward to working with you all.

Go team!

Ms Williams, Head of Ephesus



Sports News

RESULTS:

Boys' Football

Y8: Fort 4-1 Highgate Wood
Y9: Highgate wood 4-2 Fort
Y10: Fort 0-3 Highgate Wood
2nd XI: Finchley 5-0 Fort

Girls' Football

Congratulations to our senior girls 5-a-side football team who have won the Haringey league competition!

Netball

Y8:Fort 12-1 Dukes Academy
Y9: Fort 15-2 Dukes Academy



Netball Teams

Cross Country

More success in the second Haringey Cross Country meet – this week our boys won the U13 event! Well done to Spike Blake, Lucas Maher, Tobin Herberg, Lucas Radley, Adam Pemberton, Ellis Wantman and Bryn Williams (pictured Above Right).

After winning the first meet last week, the girls put another strong showing in finishing 2nd (U13) & 4th (U15).



Table Tennis

Congratulations to our U13 boys table tennis team who won the Haringey competition this week!

Reuben Lees, Thomas Horncastle, Sam Harris, Barney Mindlin and Martin Siekiera (pictured Below Left)

FOOTBALL FIXTURES:

Wed 18th October:
Y8 v Harris (H)
Y10 v Harris (H)

Thurs 19th October:
Y7 v Harris (H)
Y9 v Harris (H)

Fundraising for Tommy's

A massive thank you to staff and parents who donated on behalf of Tommy's charity. My wife ran the Royal Parks half marathon in 2 hours and 10 minutes and raised nearly £1,500 for Tommy's. Your donations are very generous and greatly appreciated. Thank you.
Mr Kirkland

**Tommy's exists
to save babies' lives**

We fund research into miscarriage, premature birth & stillbirth, and provide free pregnancy health information to parents-to-be

Events & Activities

Year 8 Music Trip: *Annie*

The Music department will be taking 48 Year 8 students to a matinee performance of the musical *Annie* on **Thursday 2nd November**. The cost of the trip (which includes coach fare, the ticket, insurance and the parent-mail booking fee) is **£30.50**.

Parentmail will be set up from **Friday 13th October** and payments must be made by **Friday 20th October**. It will be 'first come first served'.

Please do not send any payments to school to reserve tickets. Full details of the trip can be found in the attached letter. All students must sign and return all documents to **Ms Topping** by **Friday 20th October**.



Year 9 Music Trip: *Wicked*

The Music department will be taking 48 Year 9 students to a matinee performance of the musical *Wicked* on **Wednesday 15th November**. The cost of the trip (which includes coach fare, the ticket, insurance and the parent-mail booking fee) is **£33.00**.

Parentmail will be set up from **Friday 13th October** and payments must be made by **Friday 20th October**.

20th October. It will be 'first come first served'.

Please do not send any payments to school to reserve tickets. Full details of the trip can be found in the attached letter. All students must sign and return all documents to **Ms Topping** by **Friday 20th October**.



Last Call for New Views

Come along next Wednesday after school at 3.30pm if you would like to write a 30 minute play for the National Theatre!

You get a free theatre visit and a professional writer working with you to improve your writing.

See Ms Turner in Drama for details.

Haringey Schools History Competition: Oliver Tambo Centenary

Could all Year 9 students who are taking part in the Oliver Tambo competition be reminded that the deadline is Monday 16th October. Please drop your entry off to the History Office by the end of the day and ensure that your name has been written some-

where on your entry. Good luck!



Year 7 Overnight Camp

We had a really fun and very successful event on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October and hope that the year 7s enjoyed themselves as much as the staff did. The weather was fantastic and the food was delicious. We certainly hope to repeat this additional transition activity for our Year 7s next year. Thank you for the kind emails that we received; it's always nice to be thanked!

If you have found any additional items in your child's "luggage" or your child has left anything behind then please send your child to Ms Arrowsmith in the South Wing Heads of College Office (which is next to Lab 10 in South Wing) to collect or return.



Whilst not as prestigious as the Oscars or Brits, we did recognise certain achievements from our Year 7s on this trip.

Congratulations if your child made it to the list, but please note that *all* of the children were fantastic and the staff at Tolmers were very impressed with them, as were the teachers.

Luca Recchia – perseverance on the coconut climb

Jessica Vanheerden - overcoming her fear of Go-Karts (?)

Andrew Keesham – being a really supportive member of his fellow group members

Demir Bibezik - conquering his claustrophobia in tunnels

Adam Pemberton – Aeroball skills

Oleksii Arsientiev – Several effortless ascents of the climbing walls

James Davis and Rudy Marcuson – putting up Mr Strathdene's tent

Nelle Baker, Spike Blake and Jack Finer – getting bullseye at Archery

Selin Ergun – Go Karting skills

Elliott Westley, Ella Babbar and Dora Melis – Impressive Gladiators

Maisie Rainey – Determination on the bungee run

Mingus Clark – For throwing himself into practically everything

Grace Downey – for doing the caving even though she was petrified

Faheem Mahmood – for constantly challenging Ms Jackson in all activities

Lottie Wilson – amazing archery skills

Ollie Batt – being amazing at the air rifles

Evie Underhill – beating Ms Jackson on the gladiators



Year 7 Overnight Camp cont.

A big congratulations to a number of students who had camped for the first time and managed to make it through to the morning..

Special praise for those students who wore their lanyards for the entire time (even in bed)!



Amongst many things, these teachers were also awarded for:

Mr Yakup and Mr Leith – a fine Bro-mance

Ms K Williams – amazing air rifle skills

Mr Aldridge for looking and acting like Robin Hood

Mr Cox – overcoming his fear of small enclosed spaces

Ms Cuenca – Queen of the Jungle

Mr Kay – building an awesome bon-

fire

Mr Huxley – getting 225 children to sing camp fire songs



From the Library

Our new Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, came to Fortismere on Tuesday 10th October. She did two workshops with Year 10 classes, working on creating dialogue in creative writing. We had a lot of fun deciding on characteristics for Hansel and Gretel and then writing their conversations argumentatively and despairingly using different speech tags (it was trickier writing in “can’t be bothered” mode!)

One student told us that he wished they could have more exciting workshops like this one – watch this space, your wish may

be granted over the next couple of years with Non....



In the afternoon, five Year 8 classes enjoyed a “Truth or Dare” session in the hall. Lots of excitement and audience participation was involved and, without realising it, the students learnt a lot about identity, internet safety and the difference between fact and fiction. Non’s next visit will be on 16th November when, after an afternoon with students, she will be hosting a family event in the library after school (pop the date in your diary now...) We can al-

ready see that Non is going to be a magnificent successor to our previous Patron of Reading of two years, the lovely S F Said.

If you would like to hear Non speaking, here she is on a recent YA panel event for the Scottish Book Trust with the legendary Melvin Burgess (just nominated by the International Board for Books for Young People as Great Britain’s representative for the Hans Christian Anderson Award 2018) <http://bit.ly/2xZpzYA> And here’s a blog

Recommended Read

she wrote about books “that capture teens perfectly” which all should actually belong in my Recommended Reads section

<http://bit.ly/2hBfPMo>

Will Hill’s *After the Fire* is a stunning story of mental and physical survival, and about power and corruption. Moonbeam is born into a cult, but rebels against the charismatic leader who twists faith to serve his own ends. This is a well-written YA book that’s

similar to Emma Cline’s *The Girls* and was “inspired” by the horrific Waco siege of 1993.



FSA News

Fireworks Evening

Thursday 2nd November

This year we are giving Ally Pally a run for their money and we are going to have the fireworks synchronised to music!

Savings to be made if you buy your tickets before the event: £5 if bought before 2nd November or £7 on the night. Have dinner and a few drinks before the start, dance to keep warm and get dizzy on the

rides before the Great Fireworks display!!

Tickets available online at:

www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Or from the school library from 3rd October.

We can't put on the event without help. If you can volunteer, please contact Philippa by email - philippastonebridge@hotmail.com



Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December

We have some wonderful stalls booked in already. Please put the date in your diary! We're promising all these very special stall holders that there will be lots of people there! So please plan to come along and support it.

Contact Philippa for more details - email:

philippastonebridge@hotmail.com



Help the FSA to help Fortismere!

Please consider supporting Fortismere with a regular donation to the FSA:

www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool

Even £10 each month really helps. We are also very grateful for one-off donations.

JustGiving™

Key Dates 2017-18

School Closures:

Monday 4th September 2017 – INSET
 Thursday 12th October 2017 – INSET
 Wednesday 3rd January 2018 – INSET
 Friday 27th April 2018 – INSET
 Monday 9th July 2018 – INSET

Events:

Year 7 Information Evening: 14th September 2017
 Prospective Parents' Evening: 26th September 2017
 KS5 Information Evening (Y12 parents/carers only): 19th September 2017
 6th Form Open Day: 7th November 2017
 Year 9 Options Focus Day: 28th November 2017
 Transition Year 6: 19th, 26th & 27th June 2018
 Transition Year 12: 2nd July (external); 3rd July (internal)

Deep Learning Conversations (10.20am start for other Years):

Year 7: 6th October 2017
 Year 8: 16th October 2017
 Year 9: 6th June 2018
 Year 10: 27th February 2018
 Year 11: 15th March 2018

Parents' Evenings (3.45pm start; information circulated in advance):

Year 7: X Bank – 24th April 2018; Y Bank – 1st May 2018
 Year 8: X Bank – 6th March 2018; Y Bank – 20th March 2018
 Year 9: 5th December 2017
 Year 10: 31st October 2017
 Year 11: 9th January 2018
 Year 12: 6th February 2018
 Year 13: 21st November 2017

Term Dates:

Monday 4th September: Autumn Term Starts (INSET Day)

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October: Half-Term

Thursday 21st December: End of Term

Wednesday 3rd January: Spring Term Starts (INSET Day)

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February: Half-Term

Thursday 29th March: End of Term

Monday 16th April: Summer Term Starts

Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June: Half-Term

Thursday 19th July: End of Term

