

# fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

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Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

The half term break is fading into memory as we return for the second half of the optimistically named Spring Term (although we have spotted snow drops and crocuses blooming around the site). The rescheduled Year 13 Parents' Evening took place on Tuesday and for some parents and carers this marked the end of their time with the School. It was lovely for teachers to hear the range of positive comments parents made about the time their sons or daughters have had at Fortismere. We also reminded students that they may be leaving but we aim to keep in touch with all our alumni and have every intention of putting them to good use in the future. In fact, Ms Cunningham has arranged for some of our female alumni to lead a 'raising aspirations' event for our Year 11 girls next Friday.



Sir Ridley Scott struck a chord during his speech at last Sunday's BAFTAs on the importance of teachers ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0SZSB\\_5cO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0SZSB_5cO4)), describing teaching as "the most important profession". Listening to some of the Year 13s on Tuesday night reminded us of the very privileged position teachers can occupy in a young person's life and the difference that good teaching makes.

## Dates For Your Diary

- 26 Feb Deadline for Year 9 Options
- 27 Feb Year 10 DLCs
- 1 March World Book Day
- 3 March FSA Quiz Night
- 5 March Parent Forum Info Evening: Homework
- 6 March Year 8 Band X Parents' Evening
- 13 March Students with Additional Needs: Info Eve.
- 15 March Exam Anxiety Info Evening

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT!

Yesterday Fortismere hosted the Music Department's Charity Band night. It was a fabulous event which showcased talent both past and present, including some of our most gifted staff. One of the aspects we enjoyed most was the range of musical genres on display, and the impressive back catalogue of pop. From Year 9s singing Chris Isaacs to a rousing rendition of 'Mustang Sally', the students displayed an eclectic variety of songs and singing styles. The audience were appreciative and the atmosphere was jolly, supported by a well-stocked bar and an interesting selection of snacks (mango flavoured poppadums, anyone?). Thank you to all those who attended for their generosity; early signs are that a considerable amount of money has been raised for charity.

cont...

# NEWS

**O**n a more worrying note, parents/carers have been sharing information about the recent rise in muggings in the local area. There is more information below including a statement from the Police which we urge you all to read carefully. We will continue to support students in every way possible, including passing on advice from the police about keeping safe. Please do inform us of any incidents or events of note.

**N**ext week sees World Book Day, a significant event for our focus on 'every child a reader'. We continue to emphasise the central importance of reading to our students, and would urge our students to grab the opportunity of World Book Day to pick up a book. As the weather forecast for next week isn't great, lying on a sofa with a book sounds an excellent way of avoiding the cold.

We hope you have a great (and warm!) weekend.

## Parent Forum Info Evening: Homework

**Monday 5th March, 7pm - 8:30pm,  
South Wing Hall**

Join Mark Strathdene, Director of Learning (Progress and Attainment), for a discussion about everything homework-related.

Give the School your views about your children's homework.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Important Message from our Safer Schools Police Officer

**I**n the last few weeks there has been a spate of robberies around the Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Highgate area. We are asking parents to talk to their sons and daughters about being extra vigilant about their movements, particularly after school. Please be assured that there is an increased police presence in these areas at present. However, the points below are useful tips for Fortismere Students.

### Staying safe from robbery:

- If you have to walk alone at early evening take extra care. Stay on roads that are well lit and relatively busy
- Plan your route in advance (walking or taking public transport)

- Avoid short cuts that involve alleyways or walking across parks or commons unless they are well-lit
- Be aware of your surroundings and stay alert to what's going on around you
- Be careful with your electronics; talking on a mobile phone, listening to an MP3 player shows thieves that you have something to steal
- If you think you are being followed, cross the road or go into a shop and stay there until you're sure you're safe.

**T**he local Police Team will continue to work closely with Fortismere School to offer advice and guidance to the students over the coming weeks.

## Year 11 Visits to 6th Forms etc.

It is that time of year already and your children are going to visit Sixth Form/College provision for post-GCSE education. You do not have to complete and submit a Leave of Absence Form for this but please send an email to [attendance@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.org.uk)

Clearly put your child's name, year group and tutor group in the email and let us know the date of the interview together with what time they need to leave school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



# Student Wellbeing

## Children's Mental Health Week 2018

Last week students took part in assemblies, activities and charity events to acknowledge Children's Mental Health week. Collectively we raised nearly £500 which we will be donating to a Children's Mental Health Charity chosen by our students.

Congratulations to everyone who took part / contributed to this!

### Exam Anxiety Evening Session

15th March, 5.30 – 6.30, South Wing

We would like to invite parents/carers of Year 11 students to a talk by our Educational Psychologists on how to support your child with anxiety through their exams. The Educational Psychologists are brilliant and we are sure they will be able to give some excellent advice on how to help your child through this stressful time. Please look out for further information on this via Parentmail.



If you are a parent of a student who is not in Year 11 but feel that this would specifically benefit you/your child please contact their Head of College/Learning Manager who will be able to add your name to the event. As part of this work we will also be running workshops for 20-30 Year 11 students to support them directly with this issue.

### Students with Additional Needs: Parent Information Evening

13th March, 5.30pm – 7pm

We will be running an informal information evening for parents of students with additional needs. This will give parents an opportunity to come and speak informally with our Teaching Assistants, Learning Mentors, Drugs and Alcohol Counsellors, Place2Be, Careers Advisor and SENCo.



Please look out for further information regarding this evening.

### LINC Coffee Morning

23rd March, 8.45am – 10am, Library

Parents/carers are invited to join us for coffee/cake in the library to talk about anything you may wish to discuss. We hope to see lots of you there!

### Year 8X Parents' Evening

Tuesday 6th March 3.45 – 7pm, South Wing

This will open for booking on Monday 26th February. All Year 8 parents/carers will receive a Parentmail that day with the booking link and instructions. Only 8X Parents should book appointments for 6th March.

Booking for 8Y Parents' Evening will open on Monday 12th March. The 8Y Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 20th March.



# OUT AND ABOUT



## Ski Trip

Forty-one Year 10 and 11 students had a fabulous time skiing in Italy. Well done to every single one of you for being so good and representing the school so well!

## Year 12 Geography Field Trip

Our Year 12 Geographers have been a real credit to the school this week while on their A-Level Geography Field Trip to Pembrokeshire, South Wales. They have been developing their field work skills by investigating the possible extent of ice cover in Pembrokeshire by looking at glacial deposits and landforms on the beaches of Abermawr and Manorbier. They have also been investigating the varying perceptions of place in Milford Haven and Tenby.

Well done Year 12 on working so hard and being an absolute pleasure to take away.



## History Trip to Berlin

The week before half term saw the History Department taking 55 Year 10 and 11 students to Berlin, a city that features heavily in our GCSE course. It was a fantastic chance for the students to deepen their understanding of Germany, the context of Europe in the 1920 and 1930s, the build-up to World War Two, and to learn about the city's turbulent history during the Cold War years.

The students benefitted from a series of excellent guides leading them around locations such as the Reichstag building, the Berlin Wall Memorial, the German Historical Museum, the Wansee Conference Centre, and Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Students also visited the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and the Topography of Terror museum, which gave them the opportunity to reflect on how the terrible crimes of Nazi Germany are represented and remembered today.

An additional highlight on the trip was a visit to Berlin's Thursday night market in the Mitte area of the city. This gave the students the chance to sample a variety of German and international food within a beautifully lit warehouse.



All of the teachers accompanying the trip felt that it was a resounding success, in large part due to the excellent behaviour and engagement by the students throughout the four days. As a group and as individuals, the students on the trip were a real credit to themselves and to the school. We hope that every student enjoyed the trip as much as we did.

# MORE TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

## Drama Trip to New York

21 students plus Ms Overs and Mr Holden, flew stateside to enjoy the wonders of the Big Apple over half term. We danced on Broadway, meandered along the Highline, skipped in Central Park, climbed the Trade Centre Freedom Tower, ran around Sleep No More Punchdrunk's Immersive theatrical experience, chatted with actors, sung and danced with the Harlem Gospel Choir, gazed at David Hockney, filmed a NBC broadcast on the Winter Olympics, laughed at Comedy Improv Theatre, spun around the Ice Rink at the Rockefeller centre, puppeteered Jim Henson Muppets, gorged on 24/7 Diner feasts, shopped at Macys, photographed to Statue of Liberty and walked until the soles of our feet were burning. All of the students were great fun and made this a really special trip they will never forget.



## Ephesus Student Ambassadors

The student Ambassadors have shared another video of what they do in the school (link below); look out for more of these in the future. They have raised money through selling doughnuts, collected food for a food bank, they have mentored Year 7's doing a variety of activities with them in VT time and are now focusing on giving the students a voice in the school.

[Ephesus Student Video](#)



## New Volleyball Club

An addition to the Extracurricular timetable: we are now pleased to offer Volleyball on Wednesdays after school. This will be run by an external coach and is open to all ages and abilities.

Please note that indoor cricket club will therefore now be moved to Friday.

## A Talk by Former Fortismere Students

Some lovely former Fortismere students have approached us about talking to girls in Years 11 to 13 about potential careers. Some of the former students work in industries that would be considered male dominated and they are keen to share their experiences post Fortismere with our girls. The former students left Fortismere in 2011; they are:

Zainab Kwaw-Swanzy – works in finance  
Ruby Marlow – works in football coaching  
Nnena Nwakodo – works in advertising  
Bridie Wilkinson – works in magazine publishing  
Chloe Kane – works for the Civil Service  
Emily Dean – studying for a Biology PhD

The former students will be in school on Friday 2nd March. They will be talking to all Year 11 girls in SW Hall during Period 2. They will be talking to all Year 12 and Year 13 girls in SW Hall during Period 3. They will also be seeing some Year 9 and Year 10 girls during Period 4.



# FROM THE LIBRARY

## Visit from Non

On Monday 19th February our Patron of Reading Non Pratt got Year 11s doing the dialogue with Hansel and Gretel and Year 7s getting down and dirty with truth or dare antics! Two workshops in the morning with our older students got them thinking about dialogue and how it affects plot and characterisation. We had great fun writing fairy tale chats between (for example) a rapping Hansel and a bodybuilding Gretel (whose heart's desire was to win the Great British Bake Off). Six Year 7 classes and a Year 8 class joined Non in the hall in the afternoon when she talked about identity, being yourself and the difference between fact and fiction. How we laughed! Non will be one of the speakers at the International Women's Day event taking place on 7th March, so get your tickets and come and meet her.



## Year 7 Haringey Children's Book Awards

Our Year 7 Haringey Children's Book Award group is still enjoying riotous Friday lunchtimes discussing the six shortlisted books. Many of the group have now finished reading them all, so we have to be strict about spoilers! We are looking forward to meeting groups from 28 other schools at Heartlands High

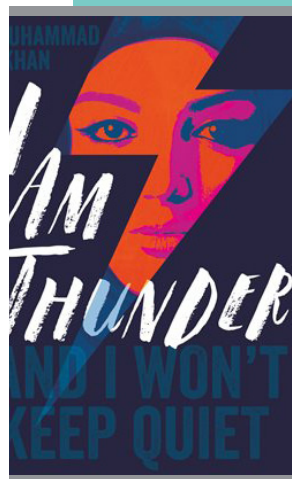
School on 27th March to vote on our favourite and meet the authors!

## YA Shot Event

If you love reading and want a fabulously bookish day out, then get tickets for YA Shot on 14th April. 50 of the top young adult and children's authors in the country will be there and there are over 20 separate events to enjoy (eg author panels, in conversation events and writing workshops, plus signings with all the authors). Last year I found I didn't even have time for lunch because there was so much to do. Note to self – take a flask this year!

Full details are available on the website at [www.yashot.co.uk](http://www.yashot.co.uk). If you click the YAShot2018 dropdown you can see the full programme.

There are some gift tickets available for anyone aged 12-18 who would like to go but has difficulty finding the full ticket price. Contact me [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) if this is the case and I will see what I can do....



## RECOMMENDED READ

**I Am Thunder**  
by Muhammad Khan

Muhammad Khan recently joined Non Pratt on one of her visits and his debut novel has since received huge critical acclaim. *I Am Thunder* looks at the lives of young British Muslims. Islamophobia, terrorism and radicalisation are explored, but the story is funny and uplifting, the characters are real and I think the book will be one of the smash hits of 2018. It certainly asks - and answers - many questions.

## Notes from Non

Non's latest blog entry on writing...

<http://bit.ly/2EFkV8X>



## Good stuff on telly

Have you been following Mary Beard's series? That and more on the telly box this week  
<http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>

# FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE

## World Premiere Concert for Fortismere Music Centre

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra will perform their next concert on 17 March at St. Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill (poster attached). The concert will feature the world premiere of 'Cinematic Overture' by Rohan Stevenson (a parent at Fortismere), conducted by Thomas Gregory. This is the first new commission by Fortismere Music Centre in its 9 year history, and marks the first of 3 new commissions by local composers over the next year. The piece will accompany Sibelius's 'Violin Concerto' and Vaughan-Williams' 'London' Symphony.

Fortismere Music Centre Manager, Joseph Winters, said: "This is a very exciting time for Fortismere Music Centre. As we approach our ten-year anniversary it is thrilling to see the scale and reach of the Centre grow at every level. Premiering original compositions gives the Symphony Orchestra a unique sense of purpose and adds a whole new level to our commitment to support local musicians. Our concerts are always bound together by a **"Community music-making should be bold and ambitious."** belief that community music-making should be bold and ambitious, tackling an expansive theatrical and a sense of fun. This concert, in which a brand new piece will shine alongside two popular classics, will be entertaining and engaging for audiences and performers alike. Above all else, this music invites everyone to join in: they are an exciting and accessible entry point to the world of classical music, as wonderful for the novice as the expert. At Fortismere Music Centre we believe that it is in such an experience of joining in, either as an instrumental student or singer, as an orchestral player or an audience member, that the truest sense of our community flourishes."

Composer, Rohan Stevenson, said: "This piece is unapologetically written in a cinematic orchestral language, familiar in the work of John Williams [composer of Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Harry Potter]. It uses a broad tonal palette, flourishes, and sweeping gestures. It was originally titled 'Goonies' after the 1985 film which I saw when I was growing up, not because of the score, but because it has something of the character of the film as I remembered it: a slightly breathless and innocent sense of adventure! This is the sort of fun music a serious composer might write when he thinks nobody is watching... or listening."

## VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS 'London' Symphony SIBELIUS Violin Concerto STEVENSON Cinematic Overture

VIOLIN KAMILA BYDLOWSKA

LEADER REBEKAH ALLAN | CONDUCTOR THOMAS GREGORY



FORTISMERE  
MUSIC CENTRE

SATURDAY 17 MARCH at 7.30PM  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | N10 2DD

PHOTO: KAMILA BYDLOWSKA

STANDARD £12 CONCESSION £8 UNDER-12 FREE  
BOOK ONLINE [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)



**fortismere**  
School Association  
charity number: 801227

## Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by  
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny  
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club

Saturday 3rd

Doors 6.30

**SOLD OUT**

Devised and  
Pauline

**March**

hosted by  
Eyre, tick-  
ets will be

£10 per person to  
make up teams of 8-10 people.

Smaller groups will be arranged to make  
up a full team.

There will be a bar but bring food to share with your  
team.

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great  
opportunity to meet other parents; perhaps have a table

## Fun Run, Sunday 18th March

X Factor finalist Talia Dean will be joining us at this event to  
raise money for Student Mental Health and the Vik Sharma  
Memorial Garden.

The sponsored 2k Fun Run and Easter Egg Hunt through East  
Finchley will be on 18th March. Registration will start at 10am  
and the Run begins at 11am at Twyford Avenue Gate. You can  
run, jog or walk the course in fancy dress - you decide! There'll  
also be plenty of entertainment with refreshments and an Easter  
Egg Hunt after the run. The perfect event for the whole family  
for a wonderful cause - there are some great prizes up for grabs  
too (£50 for the winner and a Kindle for 2nd place)!

Registration Fee: Adults £20. Students £10. Under 5s free.

Register now [www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com](http://www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com)

Deadline to register: 16th of March

Sponsorship forms and a route map available on the FSA  
website, or from the school library.

Dust off those trainers...!



## Help the FSA to Help Fortismere!

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

[www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool](http://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool)

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