

# fortismere

Transforming lives Through Education

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Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

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

As the first half term of this academic year draws to a close we know that at the end of a busy few weeks our students and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Many of our 6<sup>th</sup> form Art and Photography students however, will be continuing their studies into the half-term break as they have been visiting the sights and galleries of Berlin at the moment, having departed from Fortismere on Wednesday at 3.30am! Despite an incident involving EasyJet losing a bag (thanks Ms Sullivan and Mr Lockwood for

their heroic 48 hour quest to reunite that bag with its owner) the students are having a fantastic time in Berlin and we look forward to seeing some of their work on their return.

This week we both attended the Parents' Forum on Monday Evening. It was a great opportunity for us to listen to our parents' views on some of our new and developed systems within the school. The event was very well attended and it is fantastic that so many of our parents are willing to give up their evening to engage with us to discuss policy and practice at Fortismere.

One of the key areas that we have been developing as you are all aware is the BFL system. Having developed a new approach to BFL it has become clear that punctuality is an area that we need to work with our students. There are a significant number of students who are either coming to school late or are not getting to their lessons on time during the course of the school day. Since we updated the process at the start of September we have noticed that lateness has not improved as a result of our adaptations, in fact the reverse has been the case. In most cases around 65%

### Coming up:

- 31/10/17—Y10 Parents' Evening
- 07/11/17—lessons finish at 2.20pm (for the Sixth Form Open Evening)

of students in the C20 detentions are there for lateness. We have therefore decided to further develop our system and will be running late detentions from 30<sup>th</sup> October at lunchtime.

The purpose of any behaviour system is to sup-

port and encourage students in developing good learning habits. We are sure our parent body will agree that good punctuality is an essential part of demonstrating readiness to learn and we hope that by encouraging reflection at lunchtimes on this important learning

behaviour for those students who are late will help improve this. Please see the section later in the Newsletter about when these detentions will be starting, what our expectations will be for students who are attending them and mostly importantly how they will be able to ac-

## Co-Heads' Review cont.

access lunch provision if they need to and they are on detention. The parents we met on Monday made some pertinent points about the C20 detention as an effective and developmental sanction, as have many of our students, and this has really informed our thinking around this new adaptation.

It has been a really enjoyable start to the year at Fortismere. Inevitably we have begun to notice morning and afternoons getting darker and there has been a distinct change in the seasons.

For this reason, we have now closed our field at lunchtime to students. Please be aware that as we have done this we have opened up more sports pitches so that students who do want to run around energetically and play football and other sports are still able to.

We hope that all of our students and their families are able to unwind during the half-term break and that we all avoid the potential

bad weather at the start of the break in the form of Storm Brian.

We look forward to welcoming our students back through our gates on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.



## From the Senior Leadership Team

### Early Closure 07/11/17

All lessons will finish at 2.20pm (end of Period 4) on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is to allow for set-up of the open afternoon/evening for prospective sixth formers and their parents/carers.

### Leave of Absence Form Procedure

The Leave of Absence form can be found on our [website](#). Please keep submitting the form for any Leave of Absences known about in advance. As all parents are able to see if students have authorised or unauthorised absences we are only going to reply to requests

that are **not** going to be authorised. All other authorised absences will show as such on Go4Schools.

This process can sometimes take a week or two to flow through our system so please bear with us. Also the school database used initially for attendance is not Go4Schools and attendance marks can take up to or slightly over 24 hours to go through to Go4Schools.

### Lost Property

We have a large number of items in the Lost Property box at South Wing Reception. Please could you ask your son/daughter to visit Reception if they think they may have lost any personal items whilst at school.

Any items left unclaimed by 4pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October will be donated to charity.



### Homework Survey

We would be very grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete a survey of parents/carers about homework at Fortismere. The link is: <https://form.jotformeu.com/72854904406359>

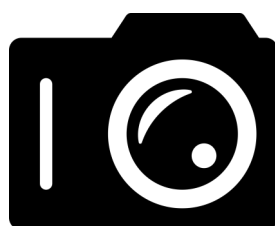
## From the Senior Leadership Team cont.

### Parents in Mind

*Mind in Haringey* is setting up a peer to peer support group for parents and carers with children that have mental health issues. They plan to have their first meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October. If you are interested or would like further information please see the flyer at the end of this Newsletter or contact Mr Ward at school.

### School Photographs— Years 8-13

We have the school photographer in on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for Years 8-13 so please do make sure they come in ready to be photographed! Year 7s have already been done.



### C20 Detentions

In response to parental feedback at the Parent Forum we are changing some aspects of the C20 detention. From Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, students who are late to lessons will have a lunch time detention from 12.30pm-1.10pm. Students may bring in a packed lunch or buy lunch during break time to eat during the detention. For students who are not able to organise this, there will be a limited selection of sandwiches and bottled water available.

## From the Governors

### Headteacher Recruitment

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Monday's Parent Forum, and who contributed to the Governor's consultation on Headteacher recruitment.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we're keen to get as many views as possible so we're inviting all parents and carers to respond to a brief, written questionnaire—attached to this Newsletter.

Please take a moment to give us your views. Responses should be with Governors, by email or hard-copy by Friday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thank you.

*Mark Chapman*

*Chair of Governors*



# Georgia Morris

## A Message from Richard, Selena and Charlie Morris

It is now a year since we lost our beautiful Georgia. We have thought about her, missed her and loved her for all of that time. And we have received incredible support throughout, from so many people, from Fortismere, and in lots of different ways.

We have also done a few things in that time to remember Georgiaby, including: planting a tree at Tetherdown, memorial cricket matches at North Middlesex CC and setting up an annual girls'

batting prize. And, of course, the Georgia Morris Photography Prize at Fortismere, which was a great success and we hope will run and run. We believe a few children have decided to study photography as a result - she would have loved that. We have also supported a wolf conservation project in Spain in her memory.

We have been very moved by the generosity so many people have shown to Georgia's Fund, which we set up in her memory. We are on target to have raised around £100,000 by the end of the year, which for a relatively rare cancer

like Neuroblastoma is a fantastic sum of money and will really make a difference to the research that is being done into more effective treatments. We know the day will come when children like Georgia can be saved, and we want to help to get to that day as soon as possible, for her.

So we're determined to keep going, and if anyone did want to help in any way whatsoever then we'd be delighted. The link is below:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/georgiasfund>

Thank you.

## Department News

### History Department:

#### Year 9 Oliver Tambo Schools History Competition

Good luck to all our Year 9 students who entered the Oliver Tambo Schools History Competition! Schools from across the Borough have entered and we will find out the results on 30<sup>th</sup> October, with a ceremony taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

#### Year 8 Renaissance Re-creation Competition

Can all Year 8 students who are taking part in this voluntary competition be reminded that the deadline is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October by 3:20pm. Please hand your entries into the History Office clearly marked with your name. Only paper entries will be accepted - do

not email these through. Good luck!

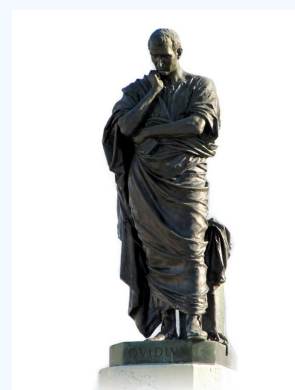


### Classics Department:

Year 12 and 13 Classicists enjoyed a fantastic talk by Natalie Haynes about Ovid and his influence held at South Hampstead High School. As well as being an author and classicist, Natalie Haynes is also a stand-up comedian so the talk was extremely lively and funny.

She was clearly impressed with Fortismere students' knowledge of Ovid and myths. She left the f

of Ovid and myths. She left the students with a lot to think about. Is Bob Dylan the modern equivalent of Ovid? Did Mark Antony's wife really put a pin through Cicero's tongue after he'd been executed? In a week dominated by the news about Harvey Weinstein, how should we approach an author with such appalling attitudes towards women and consent?

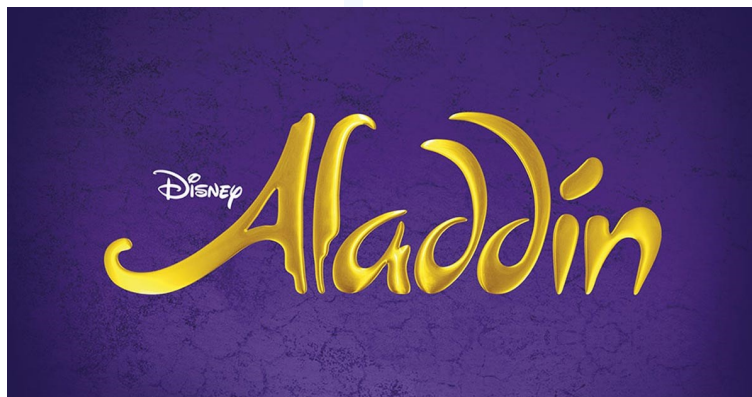




## Events & Activities

### Year 7 Music Trip: *Aladdin*

A trip has been organised for 48 Year 7 students to go and see the matinee performance of *Aladdin* on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**. Payments can be made on Parentmail from approximately 5.30pm onwards (20/10/17). Please do not email the Music department to reserve tickets or assume that presenting the permission slip will secure your child a place. Payments should be made by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.



### Year 13 Art/Photography Trip

Here's a postcard from our Year 13s in Berlin. They have been there since Wednesday and are having a fantastic time by all accounts!



## Sports News

### FOOTBALL FIXTURES:

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>: Y8 v Compton (A)

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Enfield (A)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>: Y9 v PVA (A)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>: Y7 v Highgate Wood (A)



### RESULTS:

#### Girls' U13 Football:

Fortismere 4-1 Highlands

## From the Library

### Football-Loving Readers

For boys and girls who love football, take a look at Tom Palmer's books. And, brilliantly, Tom has put his *Diary of a Football Detective* online via the Literacy Trust so they can be dipped into. Take a look <http://bit.ly/2yRQFnF>

### Used Postage Stamps

I'm not going to mention the celebration in December that begins with a C, but you may find you're getting more post ... We collect used postage stamps (all year round) in the library on behalf of

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, so please collect them up and send them in.

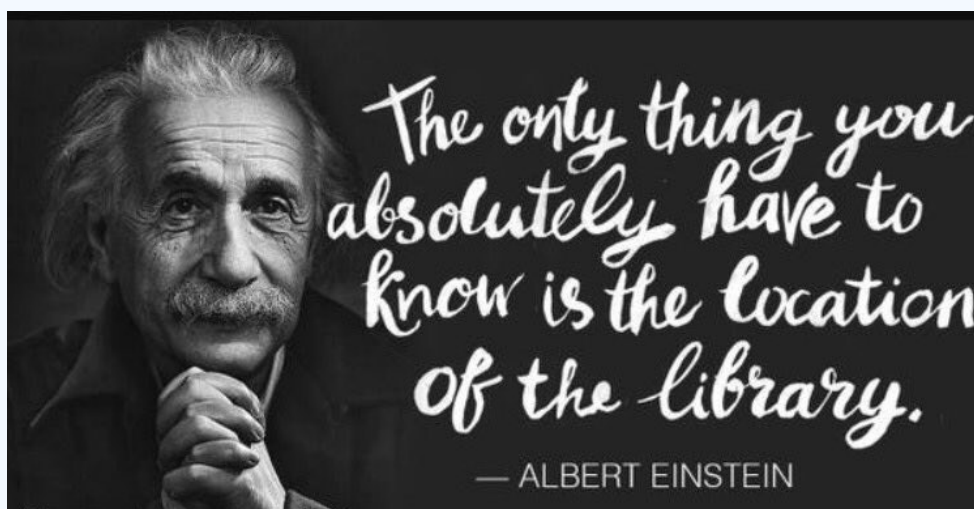
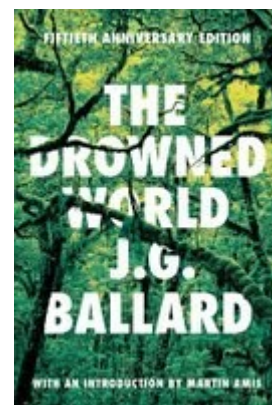
### TV Guide

Sorry for the omission of the TV guide last week. Here's something to keep their brains ticking over during half term! <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>

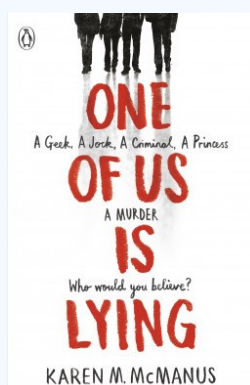
### CoverUp

Just a reminder that the next meeting of CoverUp (our parent/staff reading group) is on Thursday 23rd November, 7pm in

the library. Plenty of time to read J G Ballard's *The Drowned World*. There will be mince pies...



## Recommended Read



I love it when students recommend books to me!

*One of Us is Lying* by Karen M McManus is an American high school thriller/mystery and is a superb example of (four) unreliable narrators. It's a real page

turner with short, snappy chapters and a surprising end.

## Alumni News

### Zoe Yang:

After leaving Fortismere, I did a Foundation course at Leeds College of Art where I fell in love with printmaking. Ultimately, I decided that English was the degree I wanted to do and I'm now in my third year at UCL. The whole experience taught me that it's completely fine to change your mind!

At the moment I'm keeping busy with my dissertation, TEDxUCLWomen (more details below) and by interning at publishing houses!

### Isabel Bertschinger:

After I finished sixth form, I went to UCL to study History. Along the way I travelled a lot during the summer, tried to pick up a new language or two, and eventually graduated with a First in September of this year. I am now doing a graduate law course, and am hoping to become a barrister (fingers crossed). At the moment my interests lie in criminal and immigration law.

I had amazing teachers at Fortismere who inspired me to pursue what I love at university, and



taught me how to debate well, which should help me in my future career! It's also where I met my best friends, including Zoe. We both got really early buses to school, and bonded over reading books and drinking coffee on the Broadway before first period!

TEDxUCLWomen celebrates the achievements of women and girls, and showcases work that breaks down barriers caused by gender and its intersected oppressions.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we're putting on our fourth event, at the People's Palace (Queen Mary, University of London). It will be a day of talks and workshops, with an art exhibition and some food and drink.

Our speakers this year include academics, journalists, activists, a theatre-maker, an 'astronaut translator,' and a YouTuber.

There's more info on our ticket page: <https://www.tickettailor.com/all-tickets/33226/ca38/> and Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/855610547924056/>

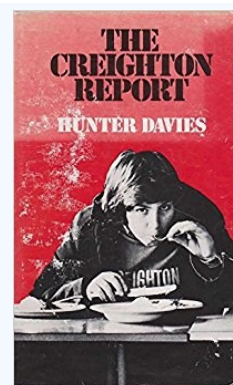
Fortismere Sixth Formers would be really welcome to come along. Tickets cost £5.

**TEDx**  
**UCLWomen**  
x = independently organized TED event

## Searching for Creighton School Alumni

December 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Creighton School (which later became Fortismere). We are hoping to hold an event for Creighton alumni so if you know any, please ask them to contact Miriam Clark at [mclark@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mclark@fortismere.org.uk) so

that she can approach them with an invitation and more information.





# FSA News

## Fireworks Evening

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:philippastonebridge@hotmail.com)



## Christmas Fair

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:philippastonebridge@hotmail.com)



## 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.

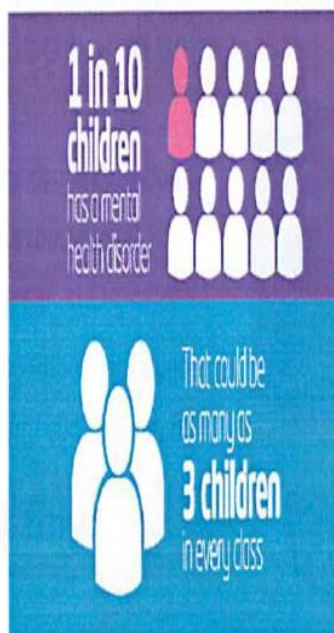
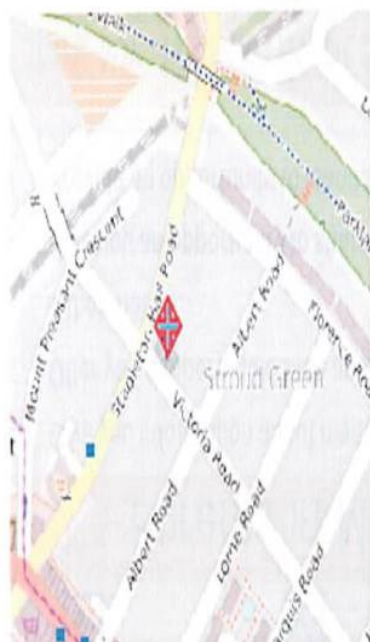
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# Parents in Mind

## Parental/Carers Peer Support Group

### How to find us:



Mind in Haringey  
Station House  
73C Stapleton Hall Road,  
London,  
N4 3QF  
[www.mindinharingey.org.uk](http://www.mindinharingey.org.uk)

We run two groups on a fortnightly basis. Parents/carers are welcome to choose which group to attend according to availability.

#### Day time group:

Date: Every two weeks on Tuesdays starting from 31st October 2017  
Time: 11-1pm  
Venue: Station House, Mind in Haringey. \*Daytime group location subject to change.

#### Evening group:

Date: Every two weeks on Wednesdays from the 3rd January 2017  
Time: 5-7pm  
Venue: Station House, Mind in Haringey.