



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This week Fortismere hosted the first Parent Forum event of the term. The turnout was good, especially on a wet January evening and the questions were relevant and interesting. The event also highlighted an unexpected area of synchronicity: as parents and carers were asking about catering, Ms Allaway was organising a discussion about the same topic between the student leaders and our catering providers, Harrisons. Student leaders will be soliciting views from all students and feeding back, so we will compare that with the parent and carer views expressed at the Parent Forum.



The Parents Forum also raised the issue of parental voluntary contributions and how these are used by the school. The Co-Headteachers will be working with the Business Manager on providing feedback on the areas of the school where the money has been spent. The voluntary contributions make a significant difference to events and resources we can provide at school and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our parent body.

In keeping with the January resolve to do more exercise (an approach ably modelled by the Co-Heads) our students are being offered the opportunity of a Samba club and Years 11-13 yoga and Mindfulness. So it is possible for older students to be running, dancing and thinking deeply outside of lessons over the course of a week. All of these extra-curricular options give our students the chance to balance academic demands with physical activities. We know that "Pupils with better health and wellbeing are likely to achieve better academically" (Public Health England, 'The link between pupil health and wellbeing and attainment', 2014) but we also know that for many of our students, these are the activities that they enjoy and remember. In yet another example of

### Dates For Your Diary

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

- 23 Jan: Year 11 Parents' Info Evening, 7.30pm SW (parents only)
- 23 Jan: Parents' Forum Info Meeting—Go4Schools, 7pm
- 27-28 Jan: Phil the Bag, SW
- 30 Jan: Year 9 Options Fayre

synchronicity (or more likely, because as a school we pay attention), Haringey is hosting a health and well-being event at Alexander Palace on February 13<sup>th</sup> for Years 9 and above (the flyer is on our [web-site](#)). This would be a useful opportunity for students to have their voices heard on how Haringey approaches the subject with young people while also participating in an unusual array of activities.

Finally, well done to Year 13 for the successful completion of their mock examinations. As you will note further down the Newsletter, UCAS offers are coming in thick and fast and it is a bumper year for Oxbridge offers. All fully deserved by a hard-working and socially responsible year group.

Have a great weekend.

## PARENT PANEL NEEDED

A group of parents/carers is needed to have a series of informal chats with potential Headteachers on the morning of Thursday 1st February.

If you are interested, please email us a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in being on the panel. You might like to include some potential questions for candidates. Please send the email to:

[governors@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:governors@fortismere.org.uk)

We are most interested in having parents of students in Years 7 and 8, as they have the greatest stake in the school (or at least, the longest!). We are looking to have about eight parents/carers in total.

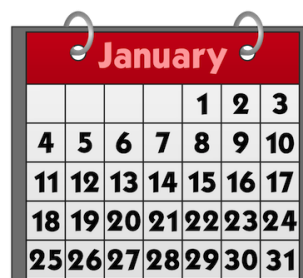
Hope to hear from you!

## PARENT FORUM MEETINGS

- Next Parent Forum School **Info Meeting**: Tuesday 23 January at 7pm.  
Topic: Go4Schools (with Sue Karp)
- Second Parent Forum School **Info Meeting**: Monday 5 March at 7pm.  
Topic: Homework (with Mark Strathdene)
- Next **Parent Forum**: Monday 14 May at 7:30pm. Governors' Surgeries: 6 – 7:30pm
- Final Parent Forum School **Info Meeting**: Monday 2 July at 7pm. Topic tbc.

## Term Dates: 2018-19

Please find attached, and on our website, the term dates for the next academic year. More details will be circulated next term.



Congratulations must go this week to our fantastic Year 13 students who have been reaping the rewards for their hard work on their university applications. There have been many fantastic offers. It's also a record-breaking year for Fortismere in term of Oxbridge offers. 17 of our students have been awarded places on courses at either Oxford or Cambridge across a range of disciplines. This is a fantastic achievement and the culmination of a lot of hard work and preparation. Well done to everyone. We are so proud of you all!

Now the real hard work starts.....

# SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

## Football

Huge congratulations to our Year 8 boys' football team who have made it through to the Middlesex Cup semi – finals with a fantastic 10-2 victory over St Thomas More! They play Claremont next month for a place in the final. Good luck!



## Indoor Athletics

Good performances from our Year 7 indoor athletes at the Haringey event. From 11 schools, boys are currently 6th and the girls lie in 3rd closely behind APS and STM. The second meet is next week so an opportunity to catch up those schools!



## Cross Country

A huge well done to the following students who qualified to run for the Haringey team at the upcoming Middlesex Schools event:

Lal Ergun, Selil Ergun, Elli Gilbride, Spike Blake, Louisa Staab, Sophia Staab, Bryn Williams, Lucas Maher, Jack Bonfield, Mimi Blake, Jasmine Horncastle and Lauren Blake.



## Indoor Cricket

Congratulations to our U13 girls' indoor cricket team who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Haringey competition.



We would like to meet with **all** of the students who auditioned/expressed an interest in being involved in this production. This includes acting, singing, dance, stage helpers, makeup and costumes, lighting, sound and set design.

The meeting will take place in the **Music Concert Hall at 3.30pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. All queries about this production should be emailed to Ms Topping, [mtopping@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mtopping@fortismere.org.uk)

## Chess Club

The Chess club meets Thursday/Friday lunchtimes. After school for longer games, Thursdays in 13T1.



How can White win quite quickly?

Answer to last week's Puzzle:

Nx (takes) f6. Qxf6 (forced), Qf8 mate (rook on f7 cannot take the Queen as it is pinned by the White bishop on c4!)



# ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Visiting Speaker: Photography

Photography Department Photographer, James Russell Cant ([www.jamesrussellcant.com](http://www.jamesrussellcant.com)) will be talking to Year 11, 12 and 13 Photography students after school on Wednesday 24th January. He is a Senior Lecturer and MA Subject Leader in Photography at Norwich University of the Arts and his commercial work has appeared in magazines such as *Esquire*, *Empire* and the weekly supplements of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *You Magazine*.

The talk would be of most use to those hoping to continue to A Level Photography and beyond, however it is always a pleasure to listen to practitioners discuss their work and students use the talk as the first piece of research for their exam project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

*Melanie Powell, Head of Art & Photography* ([mpowell@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mpowell@fortismere.org.uk))



## Art Club

The KS3 Art Club returns on Wednesday 24th January, 3.30pm-4.30pm in N6, North Wing. This term we are looking at mixed media techniques, paper craft and card making. We look forward to seeing some old faces and hopefully some new ones too. No need to bring anything apart from an enthusiasm for all things creative!



## Careers Information

Don't forget, local Sixth Form closing dates can be found on our [website](#).

Should parents require a one-one post-16 careers meeting please email to arrange an appointment Wednesday to Friday:

[nphillips@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:nphillips@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 11 students must complete a Moving On form, indicating their plans after Fortismere. The link is on our [website](#).

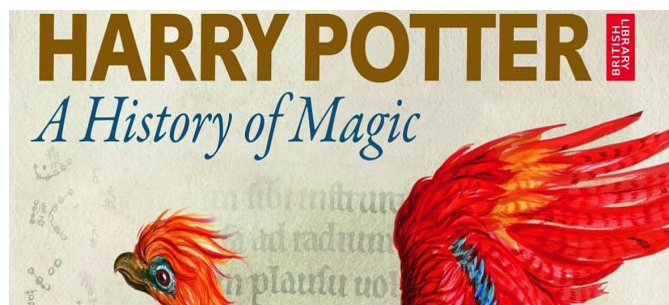
## Extra-Curricular Activities

Check out our current Extra-Curricular activities timetable for this term on our website. There are several new groups and something for everyone!

Get involved!

# FROM THE LIBRARY

## British Library Trip



We are aware that there's been some disappointment, so it's absolutely vital that if a student cannot make it or decides they don't want to go on the trip without their friends they let Mrs Ward in the library know immediately so we can slot in students on the waiting list. Lists of attendees are in the library and on the North and South Wing library boards.

## TS Eliot Prize for Poetry

A few members of CoverUp together with Ms Brooks and her Sixth Form Poetry Club had a wonderful evening at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday 14th January, listening to the ten poets shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry.

As ever, the "Barnsley Bard", Ian Macmillan, compered magnificently and we all greatly enjoyed the performance of Caroline Bird; however, everyone had their own personal favourite. The winner, Ocean Vuong, was announced the following day. Described as pretentious by some and intensely moving by others, there is no denying his incredible backstory. Take a look <http://bit.ly/2DeHdxs>.



## Advance Notice: Library Closure

The library will be closed at lunchtime on Monday 22nd January for a "private party"! We are delighted that our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, and her publishers (Barrington Stoke) are including us in the celebrations for the Book Birthday of Non's latest, *Second Best Friend*.

## CoverUp

Please don't forget the next meeting of CoverUp, the parent/staff reading group – in the library next Thursday 25th January, 7pm.

Everyone welcome, even if you haven't read *Love, Nina* and/or *Dear Lupin* – we don't just chat about the books we are supposed to have read!

## Recommended Read of the Week

In honour of the publication of our Patron of Reading's latest novella, it has to be *Second Best Friend* by Non Pratt! About self-worth, confidence, friendship – and politics! And the format makes it perfect for reluctant or slightly slower readers.



## Notes from Non

Read the things they're reading. That way you can get an idea of what interests them. You might even learn something yourself!

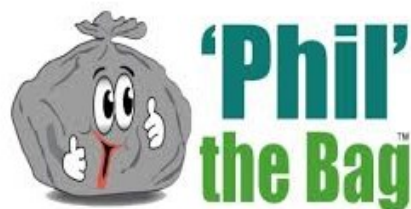
## Creative Writing Competitions

We have some incredibly talented writers at Fortismere. Attached are a couple of creative writing competitions to have a go at.

## TV Guide

Some good TV this week...

<http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>



## Phil the Bag: 27th and 28th January 2018

Donate your unwanted textiles. We have a collection area in South Wing car park on 27th and 28th January 2018 between 10am-4pm. Bring your textiles in plastic bags such as bin liners.

We accept all kinds of wearable adult and children's clothing, uniforms, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels.

We DO NOT accept: Blankets, bric-a-brac, duvets, pillows, sleeping bags, soft toys, rugs, carpet, offcuts of fabric, any wet items, tent canvas, and no ripped or stained clothing. Unfortunately we are also unable to accept towels, bedding and curtains from commercial organisations e.g. Hospitals, hotels and animal sanctuaries.

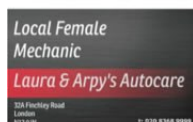
Last year we collected 880kg of textiles – let's try to do it again!

## Quiz Night: Saturday 3rd March

**fortismere**  
School Association  
charity number: 001227

## Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by  
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny  
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club  
Saturday 3rd March  
Doors 6.30 for 7pm prompt start



North Wing Hall, Creighton Avenue Entrance.  
Tickets £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people.  
Small groups will be arranged to make up a full team.  
Licensed bar. Bring food to share but please don't  
bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Tickets online from [www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com](http://www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com)

Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre, tickets 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  
but bring  
share with  
team.

**"Pauline Eyre... fabulous, funny and brilliant" Fitzroy Club**

be a bar  
food to  
your

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great opportunity to meet other parents; perhaps have a table with other parents from your child's class?

Doors open from 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

## 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.



# Volunteer Police Cadets

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) started in London in 1988. Now there's a VPC unit in every borough and it's a central component of the Metropolitan Police youth outreach programme.

Haringey Volunteer Police Cadets have places available at their Alexandra Park School group. There are two groups:

- Junior Cadets (10-13 years)—meet on a Tuesday at 4-5:30pm
- Seniors (13-18 years) - meet on a Tuesday at 6-8pm.

We go on visits to other police establishments such as the River Police, the horse team and even see the police helicopters. We assist Trading Standards Officers to do test purchase operations where we go into shops and attempt to purchase age-restricted goods such as alcohol and tobacco products.

During our weekly meetings you will learn how the police work, operate and will be shown how we use the law to carry out our duties. You will learn about things such as 'stop and search', and how we use this, how to make arrests, administer first aid and much more.

You can represent Haringey cadets in competitions and go on fun activities such as go-karting, theme parks or escape rooms.

To get in contact or find out how to join, please email me, PC Andy Frost, on

[andy.frost@met.police.uk](mailto:andy.frost@met.police.uk) or

[haringey.cadets@met.police.uk](mailto:haringey.cadets@met.police.uk)

giving your full name, age, home address and a contact phone number and email address.

**“My perceptions of the police weren't positive and I was initially reluctant to join the VPC when it was suggested to me.**

**Despite that, I really enjoyed my first evening in the Cadets. Everyone was friendly and welcoming and I couldn't wait to go back. Since then, I've done my Duke of Edinburgh Awards to Silver and I'm about to start on my Gold. And I've also volunteered at police events, music concerts and film premieres.”**  
**VPC Cadet for 6 years**



**Volunteer  
Police  
Cadets**