

# fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

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Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

**A**t the end of a bitterly cold week with some real weather challenges we'd like to begin our message by praising our students and staff for their valiant efforts in braving the cold to get to school so that we could keep learning moving. Many of our staff have travelled some distance in difficult conditions in order to keep the school open. As expected our students demonstrated excellent behaviour despite being excited by the vast covering of white stuff and appeared to be taking sensible precautions in their journeys to and from school. We have been very impressed. Also, the efforts of our site staff have truly been Herculean, working all hours to keep our site safe so thanks must go to them too.

**W**e were also impressed to learn of the achievements last week of our VEX robotics team who



returned from a competition in Istanbul having won three awards (picture above)! This week they have headed to Telford to take part in the UK finals where they have set their sights on winning the UK heats. We are sending our very best wishes to Mr Yakup and his team of robotics experts and willing them to win. We have heard that our Key Stage 3 team came joint first yesterday. It's great to see that our VEX team have not lost their thirst for success!

## Dates For Your Diary

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

- **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
- **20 March** Year 8 Band Y Parents' Evening
- **29 March** Last Day of Term

**T**his week we also celebrated World Book Day. The event was marked by a visit from the wonderful author and poet Steve Tasane. Steve has performed at Glastonbury and Latitude and was even Writer-In-Residence at Battersea Dogs' Home! Our Year 7 and 8 students were fortunate enough to spend time with him in workshops and listening to him talk about and read his works. It's fantastic for our students to have the opportunity to meet yet another writer this year. Ms Ward does a super job of contacting a range of authors to come and meet with our students on a regular basis, not least our fabulous Patron of Reading, Non Pratt. There are countless opportunities to celebrate a love of literature and reading at Fortismere but it's always nice to mark this on 1st March each year. We also loved the splendid display in the

# NEWS

library of the favourite reads of our staff. We hope many of our students have taken the opportunity to get some reading inspiration from this.

A quick reminder to get your tickets for the International Women's Day event next Wednesday, 7th March. On the back of last year's fantastic event we are really looking forward to an evening of entertainment and thought-provoking speeches and it would be great to see a full house.

We are collectively keeping our fingers crossed for an upturn in the temperature next week. Until we get there we would like to wish you all a restful weekend, preferably with a rug by the fire!

## Parent Forum Info Evening: Homework

**This Monday 5th March, 7-8:30pm, 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.

## Nominations for a Partnership Governor

The governing body is currently looking for a Partnership governor. Partnership governors are nominated by parents of students, members of staff and the local community and are appointed on the basis of their skills and experience. Parents of students, members of staff and elected members of the council cannot be partnership governors.

If you know someone who is willing to put their name forward and may have the skills required to contribute to the effectiveness of governance and the success of the school please email the Clerk to governors [smurray@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:smurray@fortismere.org.uk) with their contact details.

Information about the role of a governor at Fortismere can be found on the [website](#).

## Visit from Alumni

Today we were inspired by the visit of 5 of our Alumni who graduated from Year 13 in 2011 who came to speak to our Year 11, 12 and 13 girls about how they have carved out careers in a diverse range of industries since leaving Fortismere. They were full of fantastic advice and our students leave with a powerful message which combined the notion of chasing your dreams and pursuing things that fascinate and interest you, developing resilience and believing in yourself. It was a fantastic opportunity and we'd like to thank Ms Cunningham for organising this for our students.

## Year 7: Raising Awareness and Money for Crisis



Year 7s are following a programme from "First Give" which aims to encourage group work, research skills, presentation skills and social action. Each class is choosing one local charity for which they want to raise money.

Over half term, Amar-Jai Gosai Jay (O7), Lal Ergun (C9), Maisie Graney (A7), Megan Dady (C1), Matilda Cowley (P10), Grace Downie (P4) and Lily Roche (R6) baked and decorated cakes and organised a cake sale in aid of homelessness charity, Crisis. This was all done independently and in their own time and they showed great enthusiasm. The cake sale took place on Thursday 15th February, first outside their house, then in Muswell Hill.

Restaurant "Miller and Carter" kindly agreed to let them use their forecourt. It was a long and cold day and the girls worked so hard. They managed to raise £250 in total.

This is a fantastic achievement and really shows how compassionate and proactive our students can be.



# Trips

## Photography Trip

**Y**ear 11 Photography students worked brilliantly in freezing conditions on Monday. They visited the Andreas Gursky exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (well worth a visit) and photographed the area around Southbank and Waterloo in preparation for their exam unit, Fragments.

**W**e were impressed by their maturity, sophisticated responses to the work in the gallery and enthusiasm.

**C**heck us out on Instagram: [fortismere\\_art\\_photography](#) and Twitter: [@Fortismere-photo](#).



## Robotics Success in Turkey!

**F**ortismere Robotics Vex EDR Sixth Form team took up an invitation from the Vex Robotics Partner in Turkey to compete in the Turkish Vex EDR National Championship held in Istanbul on Saturday 24th February.

**H**aving spent a day seeing the wonderful sights Istanbul has to offer such as the Topkapi Palace, the Hagia Sophia, the Sultan Ahmet Mosque, the Grand Bazaar, and Hippodrome, the team of students – Robbie Buxton, Joshua Hudson and Sam Poirier – were pleasantly surprised to find they would be competing in one of Istanbul's newest and prestigious multi-faceted shopping centres. The event was held at the Zorlu Performing Arts Centre where 17 EDR teams were competing alongside 37 Vex IQ teams. The atmosphere throughout the day was inspiring! The event was without doubt the best hosted event the team had ever been to, including a mic controller, music, a huge LED display on stage, a superb field set up and the food and drink for staff and competitors was provided free throughout the whole day.

**T**he team thoroughly enjoyed themselves, exchanging strategy for game play and ideas as well as making new friends from Turkey, Kazakhstan and Malaysia. To top it all the

students came away winning the Skills Award, the Design Award and Tournament Champions Award with Cosmos Wonderland, a team representing Bahçeşehir Science School.

**F**ortismere Robotics both Vex IQ and Vex EDR teams will be competing this Thursday, Friday and Saturday (weather permitting) at the UK National Championships being held at the Telford International Centre.



# Activities

## Into the Woods

There will be no rehearsals for the Ensemble on Wed 7th or Friday 9th March. All Principals should look on Google Classrooms for their rehearsal times. Please note that rehearsals will always be announced in advance for the Ensemble - they are not called for every rehearsal.

If your child is in the ensemble but hasn't yet signed up to the google classroom for the show, please encourage them to do so. The class code is jemx2aa.



Matt White (Director)

## Chess Club

Chess Club meets in 13T3 Thursdays/ Fridays lunchtime.

A chess puzzle to solve (look for forcing moves: checks, captures, threats)...

**B to checkmate in 2**  
– this is a useful idea  
to know in actual  
games!



## 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 7s 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](#)



## International Women's Day Concert

Tickets for this event which is taking place on Wednesday 7th March are available via the parent booking system. The price of tickets is £5 and includes the booking fee. The concert will start promptly at 7.30pm in North Wing hall and therefore we ask that students and parents arrive in plenty of time so that tickets can be allocated.

The concert will consist of speeches, music and poetry. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Womankind.



## FROM THE LIBRARY

If you love reading and want a fabulously bookish day out, then get tickets for YA Shot which is being held 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 (which include 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.

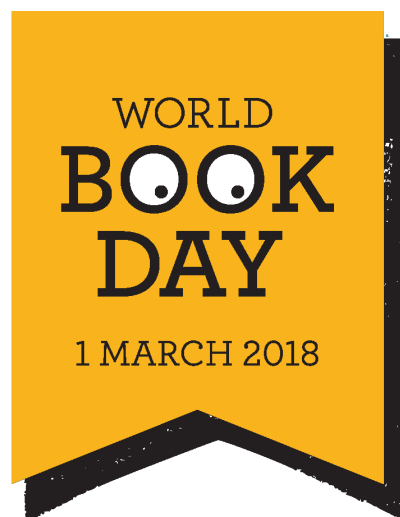
There are some gift tickets available for anyone aged 12-18 who would like to go but has difficulty finding the full ticket price – please contact me [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) if this is the case and I will see what I can do..



## World Book Day

It was World Book Day on Thursday 1st March (although we think that every day is World Book Day at Fortismere...)

We are currently giving out book tokens to students in Year 7 and 8 library lessons. They can be used as £1 off any book or exchanged for one of the special WBD books – look at this link <http://bit.ly/1n6rb6Y> (we would highly recommend the £2.50 books ie. £1.50 + token – an absolute bargain).



## RECOMMENDED READ

There are hundreds of recommendations on the library's latest display! Our staff have shared titles of books they have loved in honour of World Book Day. Remind your child to come and take a look...

## Notes from Non

If there's a special book or series that your child loves, suggest he/she talks to Mrs Ward about buying for the school library.

And then suggesting their friends borrow them!



## Good stuff on telly

At the time of writing, "The Caribbean with Simon Reeve" is where I'd like to be, and who I'd like to be with! This week's TV guide <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>





## Quiz Night: This Saturday!

The Quiz Night is this weekend. It is a sell out!

We are delighted to be able to offer some special items for auction, a top one being a fabulous print 'Take Care', donated by Emma Franks. To see more of her work, you can visit [www.emmafranks.co.uk](http://www.emmafranks.co.uk), or she will be exhibiting her work at Queens Wood Cafe from Wednesday 28th March to Tuesday 17th April.

**SOLD OUT**

## 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.