

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

It's been a week of celebrations here at Fortismere as the Autumn term draws to a close. We began the week recognising superstars from our last Year 11 cohort (our GCSE students from 2018) as we invited the students who achieved the highest attainment and the highest progress, along with their parents to a special celebration breakfast. It was a relatively informal affair in the library but it gave us the opportunity to congratulate these students on their GCSE outcomes which were achieved following so much hard work and commitment to their studies. Our current Year 11 students collected their GCSE mock results today and will have the opportunity to reflect over the coming weeks and months on how they can capitalize on their current performance and work with their teachers to aim for the outcomes they want and deserve next summer.

It was also lovely to catch up with our former Year 13 students who completed their A levels last summer as they returned for mulled wine and mince pies and a catch up with their former teachers. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to find out how they were enjoying their courses or employment and how some of them were planning to spend the rest of the year globe-trotting. We were so pleased to be able to finally celebrate their phenomenal achievements with them. Yesterday, we joined the current Year 12 and 13 students who had organized a send off for Mr Carter who will be spending some time away from Fortismere for the rest of this academic year and therefore relinquishing his role as Acting Director of Sixth Form. It was clear from the effort the students had made to surprise him and give him such a great send off how much they have valued his leadership of the 6th form since September 2017. We would like to thank Mr Carter for

all he has done to support our 6th Form students over the past 15 months and we look forward to seeing him when he returns in September. He will be replaced by Madeleine St.Amour as permanent Director of Sixth Form from January 2019. She is joining us from the London Academy of Excellence and we are delighted that she is bringing her skills and expertise to the leadership team at Fortismere

At the end of term we would also like to thank others who are leaving us including Ms Tomlinson one of our Learning Mentors and Mr Sokolov who has been teaching Music Technology since January 2018. We wish both well in their new ventures..It is always fitting to end the term with the Fortismere Christmas concert and the last two nights our music department showcased the wonderful musical talent with a rousing and eclectic programme of musical treats. Thanks to Ms Ogilby, the music department and all of the students involved in both evenings. A brilliant finale to an incredibly busy term.



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



Dates For Your Diary

- **7 January** Teacher Training Day (School Closure)
- **8 January** All Students 8.35am Start
- **16 January** 8X Bank Parents Evening 15.30-18.30 South Wing
- **23-26 January** Aladdin Panto 19.00
- **30 January** 8Y Bank Parents Evening 15.30-18.30 South Wing
- **11 February** Parent Forum North Wing 19.00

Silent Auction and Fundraising

Another way to help your school – Fortismere in partnership with Martyn Gerrard

If you or anyone you know is looking to sell or let a property, house flat or business premises (these all include both residential and commercial properties) pop into one of Martyn Gerard's local branches. All you have to do is tell them the name of the school when you book your market appraisal. If you do choose to sell with Martyn Gerrard they will donate between 5% and 10% of their fee straight to back to the school.

Absolutely anyone can use this offer, not just parents at the school. So please remember to shout about it! Tell your friends, family and neighbours.

This is a potentially very lucrative partnership for the school so we would encourage you to spread the word.

Help support Fortismere with Martyn Gerrard Estate Agents.

'Easyfundraising' - Online Donation Website

Easyfundraising is online donation website; it works in a similar way to many other loyalty shopping sites, but instead of earning points when you shop, you raise a donation for your cause instead. We have registered Fortismere School up as a cause and are now simply awaiting your support. With an array of leading retailers including, Amazon, popular supermarket chains, clothing shops, electronic shops and hotel brands, there is an abundance of donation opportunities.

Easyfundraising can turn your everyday online shopping into free donations for Fortismere. How? Just start online shopping first at Easyfundraising, then shop as normal. The retailers will then make a small donation to say 'thank you' to Fortismere.

Easyfundraising have 3,564 retailers to choose from and so far have raised over £23 million for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across UK Easy!

Here is the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/> find your favourite shop and when you buy, money is donated direct from the shop to the school.

Christmas JUMPER DAY



Christmas charity day Friday 14th December. Thank you so much to students from all year groups who dressed up brilliantly and brought in generous donations. We managed to raise £506.21, which is a fantastic. The money will go towards Save the Children's work provided education, healthcare and nutrition for children around the world.

Messages

Date for Your Diary

Parent Forum Monday, February 11th, 7pm. North Wing Hall

Come to the Parent Forum on Monday, February 11th, 7pm - 8:30, North Wing Hall

(Governor's surgeries beforehand, from 5:30pm)

If you would like any topic to be discussed, please email your thoughts, ideas and concerns to the following email address: parentforum@fortismere.school

Hope to see you there!

Wendy Sloane

Vice Chair Governors

Year 8 Parents' Evenings – 8X Bank 16 January, 8Y Bank 30 January – 15.30-18.30 South Wing

Year 8X Bank Parents' Evening will open for booking Tuesday 8 January. All Year 8 Parents/Carers will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 7 January with the booking link, however only 8X Bank will have access to the booking site.

Year 8Y Bank Parents' Evening will open for booking Tuesday 22 January.

We look forward to meeting with you and your child for this important evening

Consultation on Admissions policy

Governors are consulting on proposed changes to the school's Admissions Policy to apply from September 2020 onwards. The consultation runs until Tues 29 January 2019. The proposed policy can be found on the school website <https://www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/page/?pid=72&action=saved>

with details of how to respond to the consultation. Governors would welcome feedback on the proposed changes.

The proposed changes relate to sibling links in the over-subscription criteria and in relation to fraudulent or misleading applications. The proposed changes will mean:

The sibling link will not apply if the older child joined the school in Year 12 as an external student.

The sibling link will not apply if a place was obtained for an older child using fraudulent or misleading information.

Messages

Fortismere Robotics


The 2018-19 season Vex Robotics has started and is set to be a very exciting. Fortismere will be hosting two competitions this year, [Vex IQ Next Level](#) on Saturday 12th January and [Vex EDR Turning Point](#) on Saturday 9th February 2019 in SW hall. Fortismere Robotics teams in IQ and EDR have made excellent progress and are looking forward to the upcoming competitions, both home and away. The competitions have attracted a lot of interest and we currently have waiting lists for both! A number of teams visiting are International teams; one school in particular from Kazakhstan will be visiting who we met last year at both the Istanbul and Louisville competitions.

The club runs every lunchtime and Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays after school in S35

For further information speak to Mr Yakup or email myakup@fortismere.org.uk

YR 9 OPTIONS

Please see below the timeline of events for our Yr 9 students as they begin the process of choosing their KS4 Options. All information relating to Options is being updated and will not appear on the website until 21st January 2019.



OPTIONS: Time line of events for 2019

SPRING TERM 2019		
JANUARY	Mon 07 - 25	Tutor chats- (3 weeks In VT)
	Mon 21	Y9 Assembly 1 – NWH - Choices and timeline explained
	TBA	Taster lessons/ small group talks for students by request
	Mon 21	Options Booklet published on website
	Wed 23 rd	Options Fayre and Talks 3.05 – 5.05pm TA LKS in South Wing Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.05 – 3.45 Alexandria / Colosseum / Ephesus• 4.00 – 4.40 Rhodes / Olympia / Petra (Arrive at 3pm onwards for tours)
FEBRUARY	28 th Jan- 1 st Feb	Guidance Meetings during school with SLT
	Wed 6	Y9 Assembly 2 –Options – SOUTH WING HALL
	Thurs 7	Options forms ONLINE
	Fri 1 st March	Options forms DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION
	TBA	Follow-up Guidance Meetings for some

...learning on the hill


ALADDIN PANTO

Tickets are on Sale!!! 23-26 January 2019. Hurry - we expect it to sell out early! Tickets here – www.fortismere-drama-aladdin.eventbrite.com

N PRODUCTIONS AND **fortismereDRAMA**
PRESENT AN AMATEUR ADAPTION OF...

Aladdin

BY
JOEL HORWOOD



23 - 26 JANUARY 2019
7:00pm Doors open 6:30pm
£15 / £10 CONCESSIONS

f i t @fortismere-drama
North Wing Hall, Fortismere School,
Creighton Avenue, Muswell Hill,
N10 1NS

Tickets available at fortismere-drama-aladdin.eventbrite.com Supported by **TATLERS**

News from the Library

We've just had a look at end of year statistics and are delighted to report that, since the beginning of the Autumn term, 2863 fiction books have been borrowed by our students. Fortismere truly is a reading school! I'll wait till the New Year to mention the 88 books that are overdue...

The date of the next get together of the Alexandra Park Children's Book Award group is Friday 11th January, 12.30pm in the library. Please impress upon your children that it is not a race to get all 6 books finished – the Award ceremony is not until 2nd April, and several students have already returned their second book!



APCBA shortlisted books are available from Pickled Pepper Books in Crouch End and The Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green for a discounted price of £35 for all 6 books (including one hardback).

Delighted to spot Fortismere students reviewing books in the TES again. Scroll down to the bottom of the article... <https://bit.ly/2ErBNOZ> ... and say hello to Hector and Alice!

Note from our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, and all of us in the library...



Rhodes and Colosseum Colleges



Secret Santa Christmas Cards – Ms A Williams DHOC and the Rhodes Ambassadors

This week, the Rhodes Ambassadors were busy delivering secret Santa Christmas cards. The fantastic pop-up cards were made by 8Y3 DT Graphics students.

Colosseum Crisis Appeal

We are very pleased to announce that Colosseum students raised £286.60 for the Crisis at Christmas Homelessness Campaign!

This is enough money to support **10 homeless people** across the Christmas period, who will benefit from a wide range of health and support services.

A big thank you to all the students, parents and carers that donated.



Petra End of Term Assembly

Well done to the Petra Ambassadors in particular Lily (P10), Laura (P10), Tae (P4), Owen (P6), Jeta (P7) and Zeynep (P4) for successfully organising the sale of secret candy canes to raise money to go towards Mr Sharma's garden.

You raised £41 in just 2 days of sales!!!

Thanks to all that supported by buying and donating.
Miss Akinbode



News from LINC

LINC has been a hive of activity this term; providing in class and extra-curricular support, targeted teaching sessions, setting up and delivering new therapeutic groups, parent and carer workshops and daily 1:1 mentoring sessions.

I would like to thank the team for their hard work and continuous dedication to our students and their families.

Finally a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for working with us to support your child, I would

It has been a busy term in the SEND department. I have enjoyed my first term as SEND-CO, working with the different members of the LINC team and getting to know them better. It has also been a pleasure to meet and communicate with so many current Fortismere parents as well as prospective parents and year 6 children.

We have a fantastic TA team who work closely in class and in 1:1 lessons with our students, providing support both academically and socially. Ms Carrim, our SEN teacher is running targeted interventions for KS3 students to develop literacy and reading skills, and we are developing resources to support the learning of students who need extra support. Ms Carrim is also the access arrangements coordinator -please contact her if you have any queries about access arrangements.

We are also running Readingwise with year 7, an intervention to boost comprehension skills, which was very successful when we trialled it last year. More students will have the opportunity to do this fun and effective programme next term.

TTRS club has been running every week with a determined cohort of students learning to type. We have provided a revision support session for dyslexic year 11 students and will be providing further support for students with additional needs in the coming months.

Next term, we are starting a handwriting group to support handwriting improvement and work on motor skills. We're also starting an autism group to begin next term, and KS3 dyslexia support lessons. We've also got plenty of staff training planned so that we can continue to develop what we offer in the school to enable all students to reach their potential.

I'm always grateful to Gill Ward and the library team for their support and commitment to inclusion. I'm proud to have been involved with Chapter 2 Year 8 reading group, and loved the visit from Raymond Antrobus, the amazing D/deaf poet who worked with our Hearing Impaired students. Mrs Ward and I have plans for more inclusive work in the library!

Want to get involved?

I'm keen to start a SEND parent forum, to meet once a term, so that we can plan together to move special needs forward at Fortismere. Please email if you'd like to be involved ebrooks@fortismere.org.uk

Student Support:

We have a range of highly qualified and skilled professionals offering support to our students either on a one to one basis or in a group setting:

Positive Aspirations Group, Practitioner: Ms M Allen

“Act on it” Practitioner
Practitioner: Ms F Austin

Anxiety Group
Practitioner; Ms F Austin

Place 2 Be Counselling

Place 2 Talk Counselling

Insight, Drugs & Alcohol Counselling

Parent/Career Information:

The first term of scheduled Parent/Carer workshops were very well attended and we have received excellent feedback and recommendations for future topics. Topics covered this term include:

Inclusion – What we do?
Dealing with Anxiety
Drugs and Alcohol
Understanding Dyslexia
Anxiety Parent Support group
How to work with the school to support your child attending school

Due to high demand, we will be running a third session on Dealing with Anxiety, Thursday 28th February 2019, 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Please find further information below on the topics we shall be covering next term, please click here <https://www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/news/>

Parental Sessions:	Date:	Time:
How to support your child with self-harm	Thursday 17 th January 2019	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Social Media	Thursday 14 th February	9:00 am – 10:00
Dealing with Anxiety	Thursday 28 th February	9:00 am – 10:00
Year 11 Parent Information Even-	Tuesday 12 th March	5:30 pm – 7:30
LINC Coffee Morning	Friday 29 th March 2019	9:00 am – 10:00

Ms R Harris O’ Hanlon, Parent and Student Engagement Officer