

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This has been a strong week for student voice at Fortismere. Mr Maloney has got the new year councils up and running with representatives from each tutor group. The minutes from the Year 9 Student Council Meeting showed a range of concerns from students as well as useful and important feedback on the aspects of school life they really enjoy, such as Wednesdays and no school uniform!

On Tuesday 28 Year 10 students worked with Ms Arrowsmith on the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge workshop. The students participated in a variety of different activities focused around the headings of content, delivery and structure. They got to practise striding, standing, smiling, speaking and staying put; all key elements of successful public speaking. The students responded extremely positively and the winners of the day were Caleb Hyman, Otto Omell, Jessica Bailey-Ryan and Micheal Smith. Commendations were given to Noah Brogan and Ibrahim Radonocic. There will be an assembly final for the four winners (which will take place in January 2020) and one (or two) of them will go forward to a regional competition at Gladesmore in February 2020, which is very exciting.

A different sort of public speaking was on display yesterday evening with the first performance of 'Wind in the Willows: Extinction Rebellion'. The cast were excellent and it is great fun to be included in the production. We don't want to give anything away but we would say that if you have not yet bought tickets, the play is on both this evening and Saturday so you still have time to catch a performance.

Year 11 have successfully concluded their mock exam experience with a GCSE- style results collection on Monday afternoon.

The students were extremely well behaved when they came to the hall to collect their results and the lead invigilator fed back how well almost all of them had been during the exams. We are very pleased with how sensible and well- mannered the year group were in their approach . Parents and carers of Year 11 students will have had the results by now and from next term we will be sharing the after school revision timetable and any interventions necessary with you.

This morning saw one of the highlights of our term with the second Co-Heads' Champions Breakfast with the students. The first one saw us congratulate students for a variety of activities from sports to mentoring and this one saw us focus on progress in lessons. We invited the students with the best progress across all subjects and their parents /carers from years 7-10 to a special breakfast. In addition to all their hard work, many of the students had also participated in different school activities and opportunities since September and it was lovely to spend time with students who have made such excellent use of their time in Fortismere since September.

Today is Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner so we are now off to join in the lunch time festivities. We hope you all have a warm and not too windy weekend!



Messages

London Chess Classic – Mr Lewis and Mr Nagata

We would like to congratulate Frankie Badacsonyi for his excellent performance at the London Chess Classic which was held last week. Out of 69 other participants Frankie finished rank 11 with the 3rd highest score, well done from all in the Year 9 team. We wish him luck for the U14 London Junior Chess Championships this weekend.



Speak Out Challenge

On Tuesday 10th December, 28 year 10's took part in public speaking training with AC from the Jack Petchey Foundation. The students all learnt the valuable skills that make someone a good public speaker. They all delivered an impromptu speech, learnt how to give feedback to each other and then planned and delivered a 2 minute speech on a story or topic that they were passionate about. All students were moved out of their comfort zone but they all embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and good humour. The winning speakers of the day were **Caleb Hyman, Otto Omell, Michael Smith and Jessica Bailey_Ryan**. Highly commended speakers were **Noah Brogan and Ibrahim Radonocic**. There will be an assembly final where all 4 winners will speak to their year group and one (or two) of them will be able to take part in the regional final in Gladesmore in February 2020. Well done to all year 10's who took part.



Fortismere Mock Elections

With teachers and some sixth formers able to vote in this week's general election, the History and Politics department decided we should come out of the fridge and listen to the voices of the whole school. So for the last few weeks, we have been busy organising hustings, assemblies and form time activities to educate and engage pupils in the political process. On Thursday we held a whole school election, with pupils from years 7 to 13 and teachers casting their votes. The enthusiastic responses from all ages (even some teachers) were inspiring, and so, without further ado, to the result.

This is the declaration of the result of the election for the Fortismere constituency. I, Mr Riddell, the returning officer for the Fortismere constituency declare that the total number of votes given to each candidate was as follows:

The Labour Party 494 votes

The Conservative Party 55 votes

The Liberal Democrats 307 votes

The Green Party 141 votes

The Brexit Party 67 votes

I declare that the Labour Party are duly elected as the representatives of the constituency.

Thank you to everyone involved!

Overview - Just Like That - Magic Monday

We've had Super Saturday & Wonderful Wednesday at the Olympics but this Week Fortismere enjoyed an unbelievable 'Magic Monday' as we banked an incredible 81 shield points in the space of a few hours. First of all it was our swimmers with a pretty dominant performance in the water and then it was the turn of our boy's handball teams as we, for the second week in a row, hosted the Haringey borough championships. This week our Champions (read about it later) Y7 Netball Team was also in action and we enjoyed a trip to Drayton Manor where our 1st XI were in action. On top of that we had well over 30 extra-Curricular clubs and activities – plenty to keep everyone fit, healthy and having fun!

Wave after wave of points for Fortismere Swimmers!

The sporting week got off to a wonderful start as our Y9 & Y10 Swim teams contested the annual Haringey Borough gale. The points towards the Haringey shield flooded in as first our Y10 boys took the Gold medal position quickly followed by our Y10 girls who also were the overall champions. The Y9 boys weighed in with a fantastic silver medal place and the Y9 girls, although with a team depleted by illness, still managed a worthy 5th place. Well done to all for being so switched on and focused at the start of the week.

Y10 Boys – Champions

Y10 Girls – Champions

Y9 Boys – Runners Up

Y9 Girls - 5th Place



Bronze for Handball Teams

After the girls competitions last week it was the turn of the boy's handball teams to contest the Haringey borough championships. And they didn't disappoint. First of all we were all so delighted how many boys turned up to support and represent the school. A pleasure to see! As for the event itself our teams were competitive throughout and both U13 and U15 teams finished in the Bronze medal position. A great evenings work boys well done!



Sports News

Y7 & Y8 Netball 1 word – CHAMPIONS

What a season for our Y7 and Y8 Netball teams who have finished their respective seasons on top of their leagues. The girls have played some outstanding Netball on their way to their titles and to finish as champions was well deserved. Their domination was underwritten by the last game of the Y7 season which saw them thrash Hornsey School for Girls 23-1. We are so proud of you girls not just for winning the leagues but for your dedication to training and matches. Well Done Indeed!



Senior Football

Well done to our 1st XI who defeated Drayton Manor 2-1 in a friendly football match this week! Glad to see the boys keeping the cobwebs off until the season resumes in February.

Fortismere Runners selected to represent Haringey.

After our extremely successful borough Cross-Country Championships I am delighted to announce that an impressive 17 Fortismere students have been selected to represent the borough team that will contest the Middlesex Championships on Thursday 23rd January at Harrow school. Selected runners (listed below) should come and get an information letter from Mr Orton and Ms Vangucci as soon as possible. We are so proud of you all and know that you will give your all for the Haringey team. Let's hope some of you make the Middlesex team that will contest the ESSA Nationals later on in the year.

Spike Blake U15

Bryn Williams U17

Oliver Underwood U19

Lucas Maher U17

Marco Milnasi Smith U19

Dylan Darby U19

Ben Sharpe U19

Jordan Neaimi U12

Anthony Michael U12

Sophia Staab U19

Louisa Staab U17

Lal Ergun U15

Annie Ackerman U17

Selin Ergun U15

Caroline Van Soest U12

Sophie Games U15



Sports News

Sports Hall Athletics – Come to Training!

It may be dark, it may be cold, it may be December but next week our attention switches to Athletics. In particular SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS. We have competitions almost immediately when we come back and so I need all you athletes out there to come along NEXT WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY to see if you have what it takes to represent Fortismere in these important events. Can you throw? Can you Jump? Can you Sprint? Can you run for a sustained period of time? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, or even if it is 'Don't Know' please come along next week to give sports hall a try. Training takes place in the warm and dry sports hall on Wednesday from 2.55 until 4pm and on Thursday from 3.20 until 4.30pm. Let's see all you Y7 & Y8 Boys and Girls come along!



Victor Selected for Saracens Rugby Pathway

As reported earlier our Y7 team attended their first ever Rugby tournament on Tuesday. We are delighted to report that, on the back of his performances, our captain Victor Broye-Engelkes has been asked to attend Pathways Training Nights, laid on by Saracens for players with promise and potential. Well Done Victor!

Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen: Sixth Form Charity.

Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen: Sixth Form Charity

We are very pleased to continue the sixth form link with the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen this Christmas. Year 12 students are collecting Christmas comfort food: chocolates, sweets, nuts, raisins & bananas. Year 13 students are collecting warm clothing: coats, jumpers, blankets, sock, shoes & trainers. Martin from the Soup Kitchen is attending the Y12 assembly on Thursday 19th December. The picture shows the 9 students that we needed last year to carry our donations to the Soup Kitchen! If you are able to donate, please ask students to take donations to the sixth form office area or hand in to SW reception.



News from the Music Department

Christmas Concert

With only a week to go please ask your children to come and collect a letter this Monday from 3:30pm regarding the logistics for the Christmas Concerts on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December and the rehearsals that are taking place over the next ten days. We have Solo and Band items in a variety of genres as well as pieces performed by the School Orchestra, Whole School Choir, Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir, Staff Choir, Big Band, String Orchestra and Flute Choir.

Tuesday 17th December: Christmas Concert 1 - 7:00pm SW Hall

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Concert 2 - 7:00pm SW Hall

Tickets for the Christmas Concerts are on sale now priced at £8 for Adults and £5 for Children. Please click on following link to purchase your ticket <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-concert-2019-tickets-82172256431>



FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE (FMC)

On Saturday 7th December the Fortismere Community Choir entertained a packed St Andrews Church in Muswell Hill with a selection of festive songs from across Europe, there was even a World Premier of a new setting of Carols by the choir's resident pianist John Eady who created a seamless set of musical gems all set in Hungarian. A huge congratulations to everyone that took part!

Next term

If you are interested in joining either the Community Choir or Symphony Orchestra next term please visit our website fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk for more information about how to get involved. Next term concerts will see the Symphony Orchestra perform works by Copland, Ives, York-Bowen and Strauss whilst the Choir will be tackling the amazing Passion according to St. John by Bach.

The Choir will start preparations for its next concert on Saturday 11th January whilst the Orchestra will resume its rehearsals on Tuesday 14th January.

News from the Library



Patron of reading visit

6th December saw another amazing day with Matt Dickinson, our Patron of Reading. Career tips and interesting clips were snapped up by our Year 13 Media Studies students. Matt talked to Year 8 students about great women explorers and showed parts of documentaries he'd filmed whilst following in their footsteps. We hope he's inspired lots of our girls to become more adventurous. He finished the day with a great session with some of our Year 7s who just couldn't stop asking him questions (which he loved)!

The Forbidden Planet

The Forbidden Planet Comic Book Store in London stopped off in Fortismere library on 12th December. Gorgeous George (the book store genius, not the wrestler) ran two sessions with Year 9 art students talking about potential careers, showing how comic strips actually work and getting the students to create ("steal ideas and mash them together") their own heroes/villains. It was fascinating stuff and the students were really engaged – there are quite some imaginations in Year 9! George emphasised the importance of art qualifications, and not just for being an artist. He was joined by his colleague Lee when downstairs was turned into a pop up book shop which enticed hundreds of students into to library. Much money was spent (thank you parents/carers) and we're delighted that so many students are into their graphics/manga. We also spent quite a lot on new books for the library's graphic novel section...



Alumni News



Ex student and self-styled "Autism Author" Max Ferreira sent me a link to an article he's written for Exposure magazine <https://bit.ly/2PicOTv>. It's great to see that Max is still writing and celebrating his autism.

Behind good films there's often a great book! Take a look at the attached Christmas Reading Times to see what you should be watching over the holidays, courtesy of school librarian Helen at Eckington School.



Quote of the Week



"A book is a gift you can open again and again" [*Garrison Keillor*].

Recommended Read of the Week

The Space We're In by Katya Balen is a glorious tale of how a 10 year old boy deals with his younger brother's autism. It's sad and funny and perfect for creating empathy and understanding. Have a box of tissues handy.



College News

College Logo Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the College Logo Competition! There were some excellent designs submitted and it was a difficult task to choose our winners. Congratulations to

Caleb Hyman

Brain: To represent deep thinking and imagination

Rainbow: to represent tolerance and respect and is in recognition of the fact that Turing was part of the LGBTQ + community and was prosecuted for that.

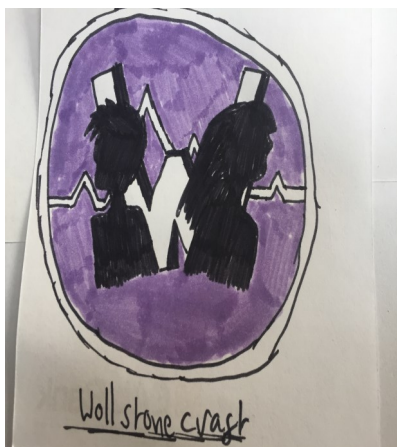
Code in the background: to represent him solving the enigma code.

Quote: An inspiration quote by turing about the dreams of every in turing college

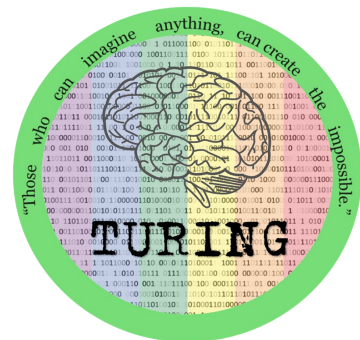
Keats - Ahmet Ozbay 8AK



Wollstonecraft – Grace Lilley 7NV



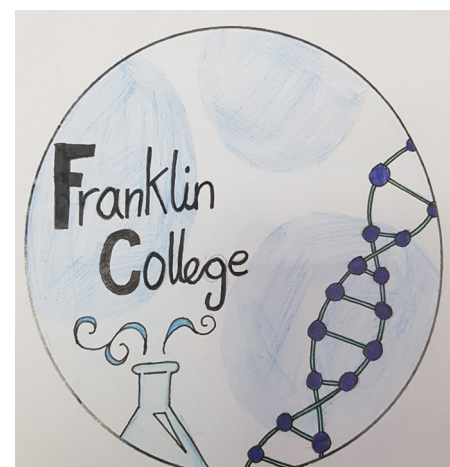
Turing – Caleb Hyman in 10BL



Selvon-Kleio Liody 7DW



Franklin - Isabella Jones in 10DL





Y10/ Y11

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

QUALIFYING EXPEDITIONS 2019

This year has been an especially busy one for the Duke of Edinburgh programme at Fortismere. In total 154 pupils completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, this makes Fortismere one of the highest providers for the Duke of Edinburgh award across schools in London.

It was a pleasure to work with both years groups on their expeditions and great to see them outside their comfort zones and enjoying the environment they were in. All pupils demonstrated a high level of commitment not only to the expedition, but the Duke of Edinburgh Award as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the pupils involved with the Year 10/11 cohorts. I have received some lovely messages about how being part of the DofE award has helped enrich their child's experience at school.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of staff that gave up their spare time to help both the practice and qualifying expeditions. The outstanding commitment shown by the teaching staff helps keep the cost of the expeditions down and allows all pupils to access the award.

Mr Cox, Ms Jackson, Ms Vangucci, Ms Williams, Ms Gill, Ms Cruz, Ms Dutton, Ms Cuenca, Mr Richardson, Ms Stevenson, Mr Ward and Mr Rodgers (Coming back from retirement).



Special mention must go to Mr Cox who acts as the expedition assessor and the head chef.

