

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

After the excitement of Aladdin it was the turn of the Music Department to wow us with Charity Band Night. The event was student-led, from the technical side to the compering and performances. It was a joy to see siblings and parents performing together and cemented the evening as a significant community event. It was a lovely blend of year groups and genres from Etta James to Jimi Hendrix. One Year 13 student, James Dylan, has been in every Charity Band Night since Year 11 and last night he sang with his sister, passing on the baton to Year 7. Well done to all our volunteers and the Music Department for such an enjoyable event. All the money collected is going to a cancer charity so thank you to all those who attended last night.

Smart phones usage amongst children and young people continues to dominate the media. Of growing concern to us at Fortismere is students using the camera function on the phones they are not supposed to have brought in to photograph or film others, including staff, without their consent. We are very careful as a school to make sure that we have the permission of all our parents and carers with regards to using the images of their children and yet this is being undermined by other students at the school. In order to ensure that we can keep our school community safe from this sort of intrusion we will be initiating random bag searches to make sure that students do not attempt to smuggle smart phones on site. We would welcome parent and carer support on this matter as keeping students safe is a concern and responsibility for us all.

Tonight is Harry Potter Night and we look forward to welcoming a number of muggles to the Library for the annual Hogwarts fest. It is always a treat to spend time with our Harry Potter fans and the levels of excitement and enthusiasm are infectious. Thank you to all those staff (especially Ms Ward and Ms Bhambra!) who make this annual event such a success.

We work closely with Blanche Nevile in a number of areas and are pleased to support them with the recruitment of new governors. We have been boasting about our parent body and the wealth of talent and expertise we can so often call on. If anyone is interested in supporting Blanche Nevile through volunteering as a governor, please contact the Headteacher, Geraldine Santiago.

We wish you all a calm, less blustery week end!



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



Dates For Your Diary

- 11 February Parent Forum North Wing 19.00
- 13 February Year 12 Parents Evening 15.30-18.30
- 13 February Year 12 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm North Wing
- 14 February Social Media Parent Workshop
- 23 March Quiz Night

DON'T
MISS
OUT

Messages

EasyFundRaising

You could be collecting free donations for Fortismere School - with no effort - whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday.

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, TheTrainLine and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!



It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fortismeremuswellhill/> and join for free
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Parent Forum: Monday, February 11th, North Wing Hall, 7pm (Governors' surgeries 5:30 - 7pm)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please come on the day to discuss with your two Co-Heads issues of interest to all parents and carers. You have until the weekend to submit questions to discuss at the Forum via email - parent-forum@fortismere.school. An Agenda will be sent by email on Monday morning.

Please remember that this is not the place to discuss personal issues pertaining to your child - the Surgeries beforehand are the place for that.

We hope to see many new - and familiar - faces at the Forum!

Yours faithfully

Wendy Sloane
Vice-Chair, Governors

Educational Visits

A Level Classics

The year 12 Classics students had a great day out on Wednesday 6th February visiting the London Mithraeum, also known as the Temple of Mithras, and the British Museum. The Roman Mithraeum was discovered in Walbrook, a street in the City of London, during a building's construction in 1954. This is perhaps the most famous 20th-century Roman discovery in London and the entire site has recently been relocated to a permanent site next to Bank DLR station. We also paid a visit to the British Museum, to consolidate our knowledge of the Principate. Whilst there, we discovered that one of the students bears an uncanny resemblance to The Meroë Head of Augustus. Who would have thought it?



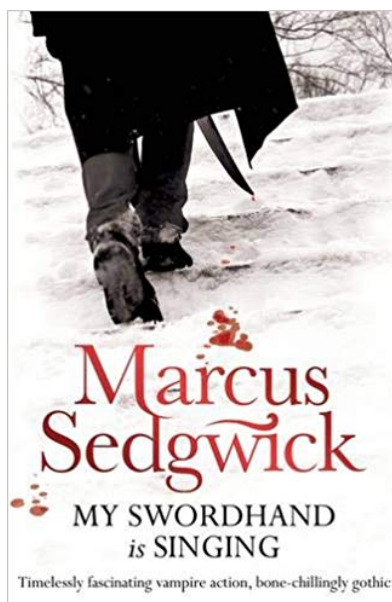
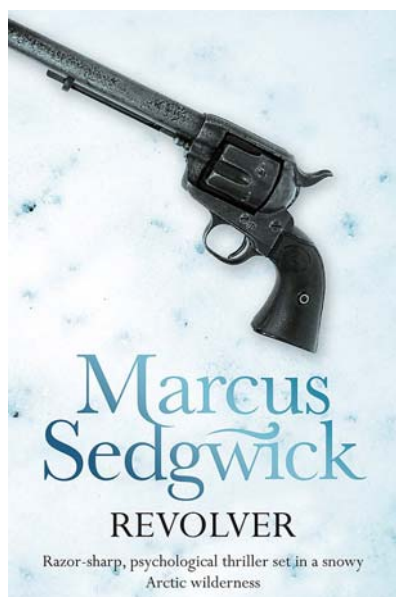
News from the Library

It's a busy time of year for library displays! Our main boards at the moment are dedicated to LGBT History Month and we're proud of our large selection of fiction and non-fiction books that students from all year groups have been borrowing. This week has been Children's Mental Health Week; again, the resources that we've put out have generated much interest. And 2019 also celebrates the RSPB's 130th year, so anything bird related from *To Kill a Mockingbird* to *Petunia Perry* and *the Curse of the Ugly Pigeon* is on the display racks. Our HP bunting is up and the floating candles have been lit in readiness for Harry Potter Night (see next week's newsletter for a report and photos). Much Blu-Tack has been used...



Recommended Reads of the Week

Marcus Sedgwick is an author we can't get enough of! His books are generally dark, unnerving and often downright difficult but always really, really clever. From the Gold Rush in America (*Revolver* – the nastiest villain and the best twist ever) to Eastern European vampires (*My Swordhand is Singing*) for younger students to his latest *The Monsters We Deserve* (the author meeting the ghosts of Mary Shelley, the Creature and his creator) which will fascinate anyone with an interest in *Frankenstein*, Sedgwick is well worth checking out.



Quiz Night



Get your tickets for our fantastic Quiz Night on **Saturday 23rd March!**

It will be hosted by the brilliant Pauline Eyre and this is why we know she's going to make the Quiz a night to remember:

Pauline quiz presenter and producer and stand-up comedian & resident MC at BoHeeHee Comedy in Finchley

"I've been standing up since...well, a long time ago. Now doing it in front of audiences."

REGIONAL FINALIST Funny Women Awards 2017/18

FINALIST Colchester New Comedian of the Year 2016

SEMI-FINALIST Leicester Square New Comedian of the Year 2016

QUARTER-FINALIST Amused Moose Awards 2016

SEMI-FINALIST Funny Women Awards 2015

"Funny Women is always seeking out new talent like Pauline Eyre. She excels as a stand-up and we have recently encouraged her to MC. The result is that this role plays to Pauline's natural level of warmth and comic ability. She instinctively engages with the audience and creates an environment that is welcoming and fun for them and the other performers. A true skill." Lynne Parker, Founder and Chief Executive, Funny Women Ltd.

"We hope to see you there!"

Tickets are £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people. Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team. There will be a bar but bring food to share with your team.

Tickets available from "Hilarious jokes, impossible poses from this original act" Heavenly Comedy

Tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-quiz-night-tickets-54343065572>

We hope to see you there!