

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

There are over 100 Scottish words for rain and today it could be 'smuggy' or we are having a 'dreach day'. Either way, November is definitely upon us. One excellent way to avoid November in London is to head for France. The French Exchange left last Wednesday (7th November) and returned this Wednesday, full of the joys of their Gallic experience. The time spent with host families is a marvelous opportunity for our students culturally as well as linguistically and we are looking forward to hosting our French counterparts.

Year 11 have successfully managed their first week of the GCSE mock examinations. Students have, on the whole, been well prepared and mature in their approach to the exams.

However, we would remind parents that we do not authorise study leave before May half term and we expect Year 11 students to be in lessons between exams. We wish Year 11 well for week two of their exams: the end is in sight!

It has been anti-bullying week this week and a number of events have been held to challenge bullying and promote kindness and empathy. On Monday, students showed their creativity by wearing very odd socks (matched by the more sartorially challenged staff) in support of anti-bullying week and student ambassadors ran stalls in the North Wing Foyer to raise awareness. Our students always respond extremely well to activities and information around bullying and this year is no exception. Although challenging bullying is not confined to one week of the year, it is heartening to see students so vocally and enthusiastically rejecting meanness and spite and encouraging consideration and positive relationships.

Planning for the Christmas Fair is at full throttle and the bidding for the Silent Auction has begun. The items and services on offer are excellent and we anticipate some fevered auctioning going on. We are very impressed by the generosity of our parents, carers and local community in donating such a varied and exciting range of goods and experiences and are very grateful, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

Hopefully over the weekend we won't have any 'goselets' or 'lums' and we wish you all a pleasant and relaxing weekend.



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



DON'T
MISS
OUT

Dates For Your Diary

- 21 November Year 13 Parents Evening
- 5 December Year 9 Parents Evening
- 6 December Year 11 Macbeth Trip
- 6 December Year 10 Information Evening
- 09 December Christmas Fair
- 21 December End of Term
- 7 January Inset Day
- 8 January All Students 8.35am Start

Christmas Fair 9th December & Silent Auction

Christmas Annual Silent Auction went live on [jumblebee.com](https://www.jumblebee.com)

New items added 3 Night Stay at the Four Seasons Cyprus, Tea for two with Local MP Catherine West, 3 x Yoga Sessions, Tour Drury Lane Theatre and Tickets to 42nd Street

https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2735

Please bid generously, all money raised goes directly to Fortismere to fund essentials the school cannot. At the Summer Auction we raised over £6,000, we are hoping to match that this year.

You will find everything from meals and cakes to a Arsenal signed shirt and Apple watch series 3.

If you have prizes to donate, please get in touch with mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk Thank you for your support.

Christmas Fair 9th December

Put the date for the Christmas Fair in your diary and come along! We are promising stall holders that there will be lots of people eager to buy their wonderful festive gifts, so make our dream come true. Planning for the Fair has already begun, and with the annual fireworks now over, preparations are stepping up a gear. Please get in touch with Phillipa at philippastonebridge@hotmail.com if you are able to volunteer for an hour or more and help on the day with set up during the Fair or clear up at the end. And if you know of any orchestra/ choir/entertainer who would like to perform at the event, email Maria. Hope to hear from you!

Christmas Fair, Sunday 9th December, 11am-4pm



Holiday hampers needed! Gifts for Grotto Put the date for the Christmas Fair in your diary and come along! We are promising stall holders that there will be lots of people eager to buy their wonderful festive gifts, so make our dream come true. Planning for the Fair has already begun, and with the annual fireworks now over, preparations are stepping up a gear. Please get in touch with Phillipa at philippastonebridge@hotmail.com if you are able to volunteer for an hour or more and help on the day with set up during the Fair or clear up *at the* end. And if you know of any orchestra/ choir/entertainer who would like to perform at the event, email Maria. Hope to hear from you! Christmas Fair, Sunday 9th December, 11am-4pm Selling hampers at the Christmas Fair raised a whole heap of money last year and we would like to do the same this year. Can you help? Please donate any Christmassy food items we can include such as mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalades, Christmas puddings, chocolates and treats, Christmas crackers, teas etc - even unwanted Christmas Gifts from last year, such as beauty items and bath products (no meat or cheese products please). Baskets and old hampers are needed too. Send all items in as soon as possible (no later than Friday 7th Dec.) to the library (South Wing Hall). Wines, bubbly and drinks containing alcohol are very welcome. Contact mdemetriou@fortimere.org.uk to arrange delivery.



Fortismere Panto

Aladdin

N10 Productions and Fortismere Drama proudly present our first Panto! Aladdin flies into Muswell Hill on his magic carpet for some festive fun.

23rd – 26th January 2019

Tickets on Sale next Week!!!



Music Department

Music Notes:

Fortismere Stars!

We are cheering on Seth Tackaberry (ex-student) who has become a bass guitar finalist in the BBC Young Jazz Music of the Year 2018. Seth is currently studying Jazz in his second year of his degree course at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and on Sat 24 November will compete at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre. The event will be televised on 25th November at 7pm, BBC 4.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2018/young-jazz-final>

Extra curricular music rehearsals

More students are invited to join in the weekly rehearsals – there must be many vocalists and instrumentalists who have not yet signed up! Please come along!!

Orchestra and Concert Band – Mondays after school in the north wing concert hall with Ms Ogilby

Year 7 choir – Wednesday lunchtimes with Ms Ogilby

AUDITIONS for the Christmas Concert

The sign up sheet is nearly full, but if any students has not yet signed up and wants an audition slot, please email or see Ms Ogilby, Head of Music & MTech sogilby@fortismere.org.uk

Christmas Concert – the countdown is on!!!

Weds 19 and Thurs 20 December, 7pm North Wing Hall.

Book your tickets for a family event with the music department www.fortismeremusicentre.co.uk

£8 standard, £5 restricted view, free for Under 11s



Community Music:

There is a wonderful evening of opera taking place at St Mellitus Church Hall on the 30th November at 7:30pm. It is a programme of Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River* paired with a new opera based on the story of Cain and Abel, all told through puppets with a live orchestra and opera singers living in the local area.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/tollington-park/st-mellitus-church-hall/curlew-river-cain-and-abel/2018-11-30/19:30>

News from the Library

Sad face time. Destroyed and badly damaged books are being returned to the library more and more frequently. In many cases, they are water-damaged from leaking bottles. Could we suggest that your child puts his/her library book into a plastic bag to protect it from the elements? Spines are being broken, pages are missing or in poor condition from dog-eared page-keeping (use a bookmark!) It's distressing for us, especially when we are spending our hard-earned budget on up to date resources, only to receive them unfit for others to borrow. Please tell your child that it's no good dropping them into the book returns box and thinking they'll get away with it – we know who they are! And don't talk to us about the number of books that are being lost! Just saying...

Important: please note that the date of the next CoverUp, the parent/staff reading group, has changed from Thursday 22nd November to **Tuesday 20th November**. Everyone is obviously still welcome – the books are *This is Going to Hurt* (Adam Kay) and *Do No Harm* (Henry Marsh). Library, 7pm.

On Thursday 15th November we were privileged to welcome to the library Dr Thomas Ruys Smith from UEA's Department of American Studies. The first part of his talk was about studying at UEA, how degrees can be shaped to interests and experience and how critical, analytical and creative skills are developed. Our 6th form English students study American Literature 1880-1940, so Tom then spent two hours discussing Realism, Naturalism and Modernism, spending time explaining the cultural and social context and the literary development of the period. It was fascinating see how novels varied throughout the era and how the perception of them changed from being trash in the early 1800s to high art later in the century. An engaging and enjoyable morning and one that will greatly assist our students in understanding the contexts of *The Great Gatsby* and *The Age of Innocence*.



Something to do at the weekend! I'm an old fogey. I know nothing about video games. But I was transfixed and captivated by the exhibition *Design/Play/Disrupt* at the V&A. Take your gaming child and pretend it's educational. On until 24th February <https://bit.ly/2ID8KY0>. (Mind you, I didn't spend long in the arcade at the end -some things remain a mystery).

Recommended Read of the Week

Hans Christian Anderson's *The Little Mermaid* is such a forlorn fairy tale. Read a feminist twist by the always brilliant Louise O'Neill, *The Surface Breaks*. Reimagining so often spoils the original story (Disney??), but this one adds a lot – the fantasy is still there, but the morals have been twisted.



News from the PE Department

Self Defence Classes Year 11

Year 11's have had the opportunity in their PE lessons over the last two weeks to learn some self-defence technique. Sensai Berisha visited us from Muswell Hill Karate Academy to teach some simple but very effective ways of defending and protecting yourself on the street. Those that took up the opportunity now have the knowledge and know-how to do so. Thank you to Haringey Sports Development for funding this opportunity.



Odd-Socks Day- Ms A Williams, Mr Hawkes and Mr Lewis

On Monday, students from Rhodes, Colosseum and Olympia gathered in the hall to mark Odd-Socks Day. They proudly presented their odd socks and paid a donation to fundraising for anti-bullying week. Well done for supporting such an important cause.



News from the Modern Languages Department

French Exchange

The ML department would like to congratulate students on a successful French Exchange. It was great to see students embracing the experience, developing their linguistic skills and absorbing the French culture. We look forward to March when we will be hosting the French students at Fortismere.

