

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

Volume 1, Issue 3

22nd September 2017



Jo Davey



Zoe Judge

Co-Heads' Welcome and Review of the Week

It has been another incredibly industrious week at Fortismere and it really does feel now that the new academic year has got fully under way. Students are settled back into their school routines and are becoming immersed in new topics and programmes of study.

In the last week we have enjoyed visiting students in Years 7 -11 in their College assemblies to explore with them the opportunities presented to them by the new academic year. We have reflected with them on how, for those of us who work in a school community, September feels like the real start to the next year of our lives; as school staff and students we tend to measure out

our years from September to July. We talked about the inevitable challenges or stepping into a new school year such as working with new people, facing more academically demanding content in their lessons and developing new and more complex skills. We also took the opportunity to talk about how we would like school to feel for them under our leadership this year. For us it is so important that our students immerse themselves in every opportunity that Fortismere offers them whether it be inside or outside of the classroom and there is no better time than the beginning of the new academic year to do this. We are also mindful of the fact that there have been new

year celebrations this week for our Jewish and Muslim students and their families so it really is a time to reflect on the past year and think about new beginnings for us all.

We had the real pleasure of meeting the parents of our Year 12 students on Tuesday evening who attended an evening aimed at informing parents of how their sons and daughters will be supported by their teachers and the Sixth Form team as they embark on their 2 years of A level and BTEC study. It was lovely to catch up with parents / carers of students who have continued on with us from last year's Year 11 and wonderful to meet the parents/carers of students

Coming up:

- 27/09/17: 10.20am start (owing to Open Evening on 26/09/17)
- 28/09/17: National Poetry Day

who have joined us from other schools. It seems that our Year 12 students really have made a flying start to post-16 study. It is an incredibly exciting time for them and we have enjoyed chatting to them about how they have found their new courses. Those we have spoken to have talked about their

enjoyment at being able to specialise in their preferred subject areas and are looking forward to the opportunity to challenge and immerse themselves in their studies.

We will be opening our doors to our community again on Tuesday evening (26th September) for our

Open Evening for prospective students and their families. We look forward to meeting parents/carers again at this event. Please be reminded that there is an online booking system for families who wish to attend, which you can find on our [website](#).

From the Senior Leadership Team

Late Start!

Wednesday 27th September

Lessons will start at 10:20am on Wednesday 27th September, to provide time for staff to prepare their classrooms following the Open Evening the previous day.

We would ask parents and carers to ensure that their children do not come onto the school site before 10am.

Students on Site after School

Students should leave the site as soon as they have been dismissed, unless they are taking part in a supervised activity such as clubs, workshops or detention. Students hanging around unsupervised will be asked to leave the site and will face disciplinary sanctions if they do not co-operate.

A reminder that the Twyford Avenue gate is only open between 08:10 and 08:35 in the morning and 15:20 and 15:35 in the afternoon.

Year 10 Options

The deadline for Year 10 students wishing to change their GCSE Options is Friday 29th September. All requests should be emailed to Ms Topping:

mtopping@fortismere.org.uk

From the Governors

Join our Governing Board

We currently have two vacancies for Parent Governors, to which we'd like to recruit this term. Sam Murray, Clerk to the Governors, will be in touch soon to formally begin the process. Should we receive more than two nominations an election (amongst all parents and carers) will be run.

Please consider standing. The only qualification needed is that you're a current parent at the school. Otherwise, bags of energy, a passion for the education of our students at Fortismere, and some time both in and out of school hours are the only essentials. Full training and ongoing support is provided. When we launch the process, there'll be more about the responsibilities and expectations

of our Governors. In the meantime, if you're thinking of standing and you'd like to have a conversation with one of the serving Governors about what's involved, please get in touch with Sam at

governors@fortismere.org.uk.

Mark Chapman,

Chair of Governors

Parent Forum

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE/TIME!

The next Parent Forum will be on Monday 16th October at **7.30pm** in **NORTH Wing Hall**. Among other items, we will discuss the timing and process of appointing a new Headteacher, and YOUR

views on what the School should be looking for.

There will also be a discussion of the Behaviour Policy, with Zoe Judge and Jo Davey, Co-Headteachers.

In addition, there will be a Governors' Surgery before the Forum, from 6pm to 7:30 pm. Please come along if you would like to discuss any issue with a Governor.

Parent Forum cont.

For those of you new to Fortismere, the Forum is an initiative of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team. Its aim is to seek and take account of parents'/carers' views, giving you a greater sense of involvement in the life of the school.

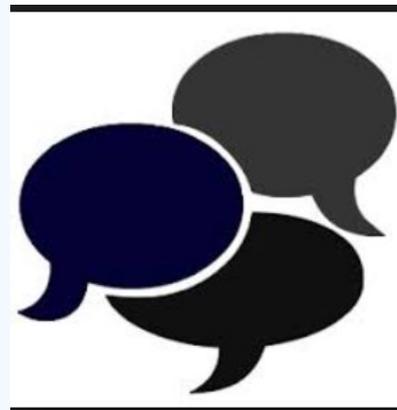
Please note that the Forum is not a place for complaints about individual teachers, pupils, parents or individual issues, (these can be raised at the Governors' Surgery, or you can discuss with the relevant teacher or Head of College).

Please email

parentforum@fortismere.org.uk

if you would like an item to be put on the agenda, or if you cannot attend and would like us to know your views about Headteacher recruitment. Minutes of the meeting (and previous meetings) can be found on the School website, under the Parents/Carers tab. The full agenda will be published on ParentMail in advance of the Forum. Hope to see you there!

Wendy Sloane -Link Governor for Communications



Department News

Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip: Monday 25th September 2017

Year 13 Geography students will be on a field trip on Monday 25th September as part of their A-Level fieldwork requirement. This is a compulsory component of their course. This trip is intended to help support students with

their preparatory work for their Independent Investigations as well as the topic, Diverse Places. All students are reminded that they must catch up on the work for any other subjects that they might miss on this day.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Timetable

We are fortunate to be able to offer students a wide range of extra-curricular activities, from art to karate, table tennis to ancient Greek. The full list, including times and locations is attached and can also be found on our [website](#).

Ancient Greek

Camden School for Girls is again offering Fortismere students the chance to join them for the study of Ancient Greek. Lessons are every Monday and Thursday from 4pm to 5pm and started on Monday (18th September). They under-

stand that Fortismere students have a long way to come and therefore might be a bit late. All materials (exercise book, textbooks) are provided. For more information, contact Mr. Strathdene, Director of Learning:

mstrathdene@fortismere.org.uk.

Extra-Curricular Activities cont.

Karate Club

The Fortismere Karate Club is now up and running! Thursdays, 3.30-4.30pm in SW Gym. All year groups and levels of experience welcome! Instruction from Sensei I Berisha (7th Dan I.T.K.F.)

More info:

<http://www.muswellhillkarate.org.uk/>

KS3 Art Club

Art Club begins on Wednesday

27th September in N6, 3.30-4.30pm. Everyone is welcome but priority will be given to Year 7. This term we are making rain sticks!

Drama

Year 12 and Year 13 Students:

Last year two students were longlisted for their excellent plays through the New Views/National Theatre programme. One of the students will be directing her play this term. So if you would like to write your own 30-minute play

and have guidance from a professional writer and the National Theatre, get involved! Please see Ms Turner in Drama for details and come for a short meeting in NDRS2 at 3.20pm on Wednesday 27th September. You don't have to be a Drama student to apply.



Audition Opportunity: Friday 29th September 3.20pm North Wing Hall:

Izzabelle Chapelle, Year 13, will be directing her play "May Song" (longlisted by New Views) about 16th Century witch craft. It is a whole school production with parts suited to KS3- KS5 students. If you would like to audition, come along prepared to work with a partner and sight read some of the text at 3.20pm on Friday 29th

September in North Wing hall. This production will be supported by Ms Turner, Teacher of Drama.

Music Notes

Piano Concert: Wednesday 11th October 6pm, Music Hall, North Wing

Any pianists that would like to perform please see a music teacher as soon as possible to discuss and audition. Any level or year group welcome to play. Poster

attached.

Extra-Curricular Music

All new members welcome! The timetable can be found on the [website](#).



Chinese Language Assistant Seeking Accommodation

Our Chinese Language Assistant will arrive on Sunday 24th September. We are looking for accommodation for her urgently.

Could you please contact us if you are happy to rent out a room in your house/flat, or if you know anyone locally who is willing to rent a room out? Please email Ms Huang, Teacher of Modern Languages:

hhuang@fortismere.org.uk



From the Library

Here's a link to some (ssshh – educational) TV over the next week <https://online.clickview.co.uk/24-7/tv-guide>

This year we were chosen by the Royal Society to form a judging panel for the Young People's Book Prize 2017. This "celebrates the best books which communicate science" – take a look at the shortlist here <http://bit.ly/2yfS5Eh>. Most of the books are written for younger children so we have been delighted by the maturity and perceptiveness of the comments made by the group

which was formed last term. This week saw our grown up Year 8 students pair up with Year 7s which was quite delightful. Next week we will be meeting in the science labs to try out some of the

experiments from Dr Robert Winston's (shortlisted) book. We'll report on the fun in the next Newsletter!



On Thursday 20th December the lovely author Nikki Sheehan, creator of *Swan Boy* and *Who Framed Klaris Cliff?* came to Fortismere library to talk to some really appreciative Year 9 students. She kept them enthralled with her take on creativity and they learned that perfection is only achieved after lots of mistakes have been made! They were particularly interested in the subject matter and research that went into her latest YA novel *Good-*

night, Boy and asked lots of pertinent questions (Nikki later tweeted that they were a perfect audience!) If you'd like a signed copy of *Goodnight, Boy* please bring £7 to the library before Wednesday.



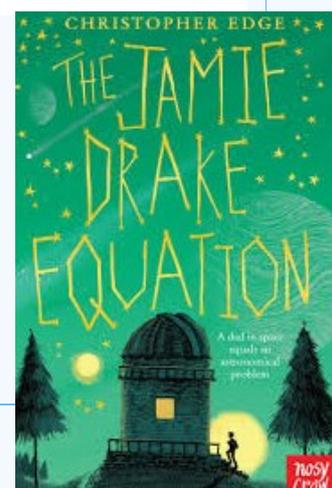
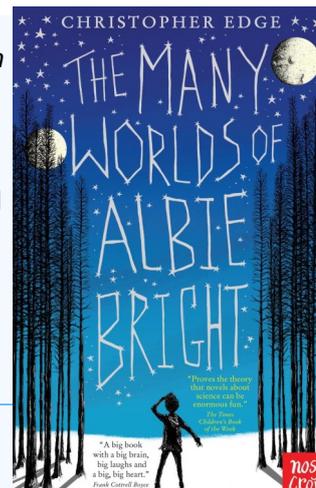
The library will soon be holding its annual cake sale as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Trust. Please watch this space – and Parentmail – for details.



Recommended Reads

Love astrophysics? Explosions? Science? Quantum physics? Alongside some real belly laughs and moving family drama? Then you'll love Christopher Edge's books. *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* is a delightful tale of a boy in search of his mother and Edge's latest (and my favourite)

The Jamie Drake Equation has the protagonist attempting to save the International Space Station. Both rollicking good reads that will appeal to the whole family



Sports News

RESULTS:

Football

Y7: Fort 5-2 St Thomas More

Y8: St Thomas More 3-4 Fort

Y9: Fort 8-1 St Thomas More

U13 Tennis

Congratulations to our U13 boys' tennis team who won their respective Middlesex Tennis division last summer.

The boys had a playoff against University College School this week to be crowned Middlesex



champions but sadly lost against very strong opponents.

FIXTURES:

Football

Y8 v NPS (A)– Weds 27 Sept

Y9 v NPS (H)– Thurs 28 Sept

Y10 v NPS (A) – Thurs 28 Sept

2ND XI v Highgate Wood (H) – Weds 27 Sept

Girls U13 v HGW (H) – Thurs 28 Sept

Netball

Y7-10 Netball v APS (A) – Tues 26 Sept

Haringey Cross Country Event

Tues 26 Sept

Fortismere Girls' Extra- Curricular Champions!

Well done to all of the girls that represented Fortismere last year in any of the extra -curricular competitions: the teams are Haringey Champions for 2016-17, coming 1st out of the 17 schools in the borough for the following sports combined:

Badminton (Year 7, 8 & 9): 2nd

Handball (under 13, under 15): 1st

Sports Hall Athletics (Year 7): 6th

Netball (Year 7): 1st, (Year 8): 1st, (Year 9): 2nd, (Year 10/11): 1st

Cross Country (Year 7): 2nd, (Year 8): 2nd

Football 5-a-Side (Year 7 & 8): 1st, (Year 9, 10 & 11): 1st

Swimming (Year 7): 1st, (Year 8):

2nd, (Year 9): 2nd, (Year 10): 1st

Cricket (Year 7 & 8): 1st, (Year 9 & 10): 1st

Trampoline (Year 7): 1st, (Year 8): 3rd, (Year 9): 1st

Rounders (Year 7): 1st, (Year 8): 1st, (Year 9): 3rd

Track & Field (Year 7): 3rd, (Year 8): 2nd, (Year 9): 3rd

Fortismere Girls Extra-Curricular Champions cont.

We won the Haringey Shield and a £300 cheque towards extra- curricular sport. Well done girls!!



PE KIT REMINDER

If you have ordered PE Kits to be delivered to the school, please come and collect them from SW Office asap. There are several waiting which means there are students with no kit!

FSA News

FSA Welcoming Evening – Monday 25th of Sept – 7.30pm

Please come to the FSA's First Meeting of 2017/2018 – all Parents/ Carers WELCOME!!

Where: South Wing Conference Room, Tetherdown entrance (South). As you approach the reception, on the left are water fountains, go through the glass door and up 1 flight of stairs – follow the sound of chatting! – last door on your left down the corridor.

Drinks and snacks provided (not that we are trying to bribe you or anything!)

The FSA carries out a vital role at Fortismere - both raising much needed funds (over £60,000 last academic year) and putting on events that bring our community together. You are warmly invited to come along to find out more about the work of the FSA. We will go through planned events and talk about any new ideas people might have about how to raise funds and have fun at the same time.

We would love to see new faces. We are looking for new members to join and contribute, in whichever way suits you. You might want to have a formal role on the committee, be able to offer your skills from afar (promotional expertise, event man-

agement, musical skills etc.) or just be a 'loose' committee member who can help out at the events. Whichever suits you and whatever you can offer, we would love to see you at the meeting.

Please do come along and meet us! We are a friendly group and you don't have to commit to attending every meeting; we appreciate that people have busy lives!



Fireworks Evening

Hold the Date

Fireworks Evening

Thursday 2nd November

This year we are giving Ally Pally a run for their money and we are going to have the fireworks synchronised to music! Savings to be made if you buy your tickets be-

fore the event. Have dinner and a few drinks before the start, dance to keep warm and get dizzy on the rides before the Great Fireworks display!!



Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December

Last year we had 98 stalls, this year we want to have more... if you are interested in having a stall or know someone who might be, please contact Philippa for more details - email:

philippastone-bridge@hotmail.com

Have a great week!



Alumni News

Lives Transformed Through Education



My name is Joe Winters, and I joined Fortismere in September 2006, eventually taking my A Levels in 2013.

I chose to study English Literature, History, French and Government & Politics as well as a Pre-U qualification in Global Perspectives and Research (which was like an academic version of the Extended Project). I decided to carry all five subjects into Year 13, and achieved A*s in French and Politics, and As in English and History. I got a Distinction in GPR (which

was the equivalent of an A*).

After Fortismere I went on to study English at Cambridge University, with a full choral scholarship. In my first and second years I also took the French degree simultaneously, and in 2014 I spent the summer living and studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 2016 graduated with a Double First Class degree in English, as well as winning the University Prize for English in my year. Cambridge offered amazing opportunities outside of the classroom, which I loved. I sang in choirs and played in orchestras; I

wrote articles for the University newspaper and plays for the student theatre.

I got particularly involved in student comedy and in 2015 I wrote for and produced the Footlights International Tour Show, which took a sketch-show around the UK, the Edinburgh Fringe, Europe and the US for four months.

I've just got back from the Edinburgh Fringe, where I co-wrote

and directed three shows this year, one of which won best joke of the Fringe*, and another of which has just been picked up for a series on Radio 4. For the rest of the year since I graduated I've worked a lot in theatre, most recently as the Assistant Director of the Pulitzer Prize finalist play, GLORIA, at the Hampstead Theatre. I'm just about to start rehearsals as the Assistant Director on the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of The

Duchess of Malfi.

I learned how to love my work at Fortismere, as well as a commitment to working in the Arts as a possible and worthwhile career. Since leaving the school I've often been back to talk to students and teachers, and to maintain a link with the community that nurtured me to where I am now. I doubt I'd have made it into Cambridge or into Footlights, or into my current job if I hadn't started out with

such a solid foundation from Fortismere.

*** "I'm not a fan of the new pound coin, but then again I hate all change..."**



