



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey



Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Following our recent OFSTED inspection we are now pleased to be able to share the Inspectors' findings which can be read in their letter which is attached to this week's Newsletter but can also be viewed [here](#) on our website.

The inspectors came to conduct a Section 8 Inspection with a specific safeguarding focus. For such inspections the school could be found to be either 'effective' or 'not effective', there is no grading scale, and we are pleased to announce that we were judged to be 'effective'. We are also incredibly pleased that the inspectors recognised the high standards relating to safeguarding our students within the school and the effectiveness of our staff in supporting student wellbeing.



We are particularly delighted that the Inspectors also compliment our students on being 'confident and knowledgeable' but they also celebrate the notion that their voice is powerful within their school community which is something of which they should all be very proud.

At Fortismere we find so many opportunities to be proud of our students. We have been particularly impressed with those students who regularly take advantage of the opportunities to immerse themselves in reading provided by Ms Ward our Senior Librarian and members of our English department. We have had the pleasure of visiting the Year 7 Reading Award group and the Year 9 Book Group who meet on a weekly basis in the library to discuss their love of reading. It is fantastic to see the levels of engagement and passion these students have with their reading and really impressive to listen to their literary debates! Thanks must go to Ms Ward, Mrs Coles and Ms Adams for leading these sessions and we'd like to encourage all of our students to keep an eye on events and clubs run by the library as there really is so much on offer!

It was a real pleasure to see our Year 11 parents/carers on Tuesday at the Parents' Evening. We are embarking on that very important final stretch before exam season begins and this event was timely in this respect. Parents and carers of

Dates For Your Diary

DON'T
MISS
OUT

- 15-19 Jan: Year 13 Mocks
- 15 Jan: Parent Forum—7.30pm
- 27-28 Jan: Phil the Bag, SW
- 30 Jan: Year 9 Options Fayre
- 01 Feb: Headteacher Recruitment Parent/Carer Panel

Year 11 students should now be up to speed on the various revision opportunities that will be available to their sons and daughters and students should be clear on their own specific areas for focus in each subject. If students or parents and carers need advice please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor.

Finally, we'd like to wish our Year 13s the very best luck in their mock exams next week.

Wishing everyone a restful weekend.

PARENT PANEL NEEDED

A group of parents/carers is needed to have a series of informal chats with potential Headteachers on the morning of Thursday 1st February.

If you are interested, please email us a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in being on the panel. You might like to include some potential questions for candidates. Please send the email to:

governors@fortismere.org.uk

We are most interested in having parents of students in Years 7 and 8, as they have the greatest stake in the school (or at least, the longest!). We are looking to have about eight parents/carers in total.

Hope to hear from you!

Year 10 Subject Changes

We are still receiving requests from students to change their GCSE subjects.

I am afraid that with effect from today, Friday 12th January, no more changes will be authorised.

With a term's worth of work already covered, it will prove incredibly difficult for both the student and the member of staff to ensure a successful integration into the new Option class.

PARENT FORUM

Monday 15th January, 7.30pm-9pm

North Wing Hall (*NOTE: not SW, as previously advertised*)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Ofsted visit feedback
3. Mobile Phone Policy update
4. Feedback from parents on School Website, in preparation for upcoming survey
5. Discussion about homework (led by Mr Strathdene)
6. Fundraising item with Mrs Clark
7. New topics for discussion (as suggested by parents):

- High teacher turnover. Is this related to the general gloomy situation in education (cuts and austerity) or is it Fortismere-specific? Related to this issue, there is also a very high number of cover teachers every week. The learning outcome in these lessons generally seems to be fairly low. Can cover teachers be briefed in more detail about what the class is supposed to be learning?

- Could children eat their lunches in the big halls in North and South Wings (or would this involve too much re-arranging of furniture - and cleaning afterwards)?

- The vertical tutor system is excellent. Would it make sense to have a teacher who is responsible for each of the teaching groups (at least in the lower classes, maybe Y7-9)? If there is an issue in the actual class, the group in which children spend most of their learning time, there is nobody who is in charge. This could be anything from bullying issues to cover teacher problems.

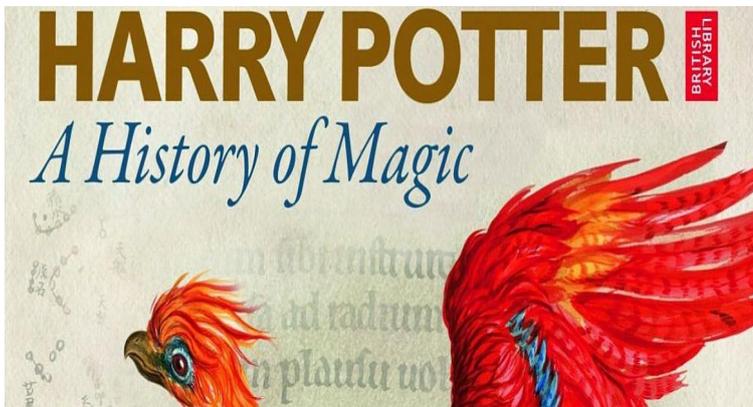
[Ms Judge and Ms Davey to leave]

8. Brief update on Headteacher recruitment (Parent Panel)
9. AOB
10. Date of next meeting

* Please note, a discussion on Go4Schools will be held on 23rd January in keeping with the Parent Forum topics programme.

FROM THE LIBRARY

British Library Trip



The response to the British Library *Harry Potter: A History of Magic* trip was phenomenal; by close of play on Wednesday we had filled all 120 places and now have 40 students on a waiting list (the letter went out on Monday afternoon...) A list of students who will be coming will be posted in the library, on the North Wing library board (outside the English office) and on the South Wing library board (outside SO1). It is really important that a) students check the list and b) if they are unable to come for any reason they let us know so we can move up students from the waiting list. Apologies for any disappointments – if I could, I'd take everyone!

Patron of Reading Visit

The next visit from our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, is on Monday 22nd January. As well as working with some of our students, it is also the publication date of her latest Barrington Stoke book, *Second Best Friend*. She would love to celebrate this special day with Fortismere students so we will be having a private party in the library with Non and some representatives from the publishers during lunchtime. If your child is a fan, please tell them to get their name put down on our invitation list which will be restricted to students who've borrowed Non's books from us in the past. Or who can produce proof of ownership of a Non Pratt book! Exciting times...



CoverUp

A reminder that the first CoverUp meeting of 2018 will be on Thursday 25th January, 7pm in the library. Refreshments provided, everyone welcome.

We will be looking at *Love, Nina: Despatches from Family Life* (Nina Stibbe) and *Dear Lupin: Letters to a Wayward Son* (Roger and Charlie Mortimer).

Recommended Read of the Week

How to Stop Time by Matt Haig is a love story. And it's historical fiction. And it's really original. A fantastic read. But not as good as *The Humans*... So actually, that's two Recommended Reads this week!

Notes from Non

Books are not the only fruit. Does your teen read magazines? Games? Fanfiction? Cereal packets? If so, then they're reading. Build on this, don't tear it down.



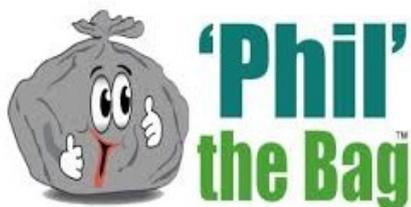
TV Guide

Here's the latest educational TV guide.

Looks like I'll be spending my week with Michael Palin...

<http://bit.ly/2y8zpk9>

Phil the Bag: 27th and 28th January 2018



Donate your unwanted textiles. We have a collection area in South Wing car park on 27th and 28th January 2018 between 10am-4pm. Bring your textiles in plastic bags such as bin liners.

We accept all kinds of wearable adult and children's clothing, uniforms, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels.

We DO NOT accept: Blankets, bric-a-brac, duvets, pillows, sleeping bags, soft toys, rugs, carpet, offcuts of fabric, any wet items, tent canvas, and no ripped or stained clothing. Unfortunately we are also unable to accept towels, bedding and curtains from commercial organisations e.g. Hospitals, hotels and animal sanctuaries.

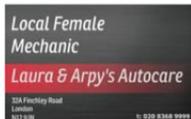
Last year we collected 880kg of textiles – let's try do it again!

Quiz Night: Saturday 3rd March

fortismere
School Association
charity number: 001227

Quiz Night

Designed and hosted by
Pauline Eyre, "Fabulous, funny
and brilliant!" Fitzroy Club
Saturday 3rd March
Doors 6.30 for 7pm prompt start



North Wing Hall, Creighton Avenue Entrance.
Tickets £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people.
Small groups will be arranged to make up a full team.
Licensed bar. Bring food to share but please don't
bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Tickets online from www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre, tickets will be £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.

"Pauline Eyre... fabulous, funny and brilliant" Fitzroy Club

be a bar food to your

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great opportunity to meet other parents; perhaps have a table with other parents from your child's class?

Doors open from 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

Help the FSA to Help Fortismere!

Please consider supporting Fortismere with a regular donation to the FSA:

www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool

Even £10 each month really helps. We are also very grateful for one-off donations.

