

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Fortismere has fully hit its festive stride this week. We began on Saturday with the FMC Carol Concert at St Andrews Church. The repertoire included pieces by female composers and showcased the range and versatility of the choir, as well as enthusiastic audience participation for the more traditional carols.

Sunday saw the third Fortismere Christmas Fair. It was extremely well attended and the variety of products on sale, from hampers to Peruvian jumpers, was impressive. Particular favourites included the artisan fudge and very beautiful handbags – there was definitely something there for everyone. A reminder that you still have a few more days to bid in the Silent Auction; the goods and services on offer are marvellous.

The Christmas play took place on Thursday evening. While Oedipus may not be the most seasonal of plays, the performances were breathtaking. The diverse cast were by turns eerie and familiar, moving from chorus to characters and back again via the spell binding choreography. It was very movingly performed and the talent our students display continues to surprise and delight us.

Today is both national Christmas Jumper Day and the school Christmas Lunch. The catering staff excelled themselves with the food on offer, especially the very appetising vegetarian option. The serving staff donned their elf hats and the atmosphere in both canteens was extremely jolly, with the decorations matching the array of Christmas jumpers.

The end of term traditionally involves celebrating the success of our students. The celebration assemblies are in full swing and this morning was the 'Champions' Breakfast'; an opportunity for the Co-Headteachers to recognise and reward the students in years 7

through to 10 for their exceptional progress in lessons. Members of the Senior Leadership served croissants, pain au chocolat and mince pies with a generous serving of hot chocolate to apparently very hungry students. It was a lovely event and a great opportunity to spend time with such an interesting and varied group of students. Year 11 will get their own recognition after the Christmas holiday.

The celebratory theme will continue next week with an event on Monday morning to recognise the students from the 2018 Year 11 who achieved the best grades and the best progress in their exams. On Tuesday we will be welcoming back the 2018 Year 13 who will collect their certificates and stay to share some mince pies and mulled wine in the Sixth Form. Apparently the over 18s prefer mulled wine to hot chocolate. Very surprising!

We wish you all a warm and peaceful weekend and look forward, with all of you, to the start of the holidays next week.



Ms Zoe Judge



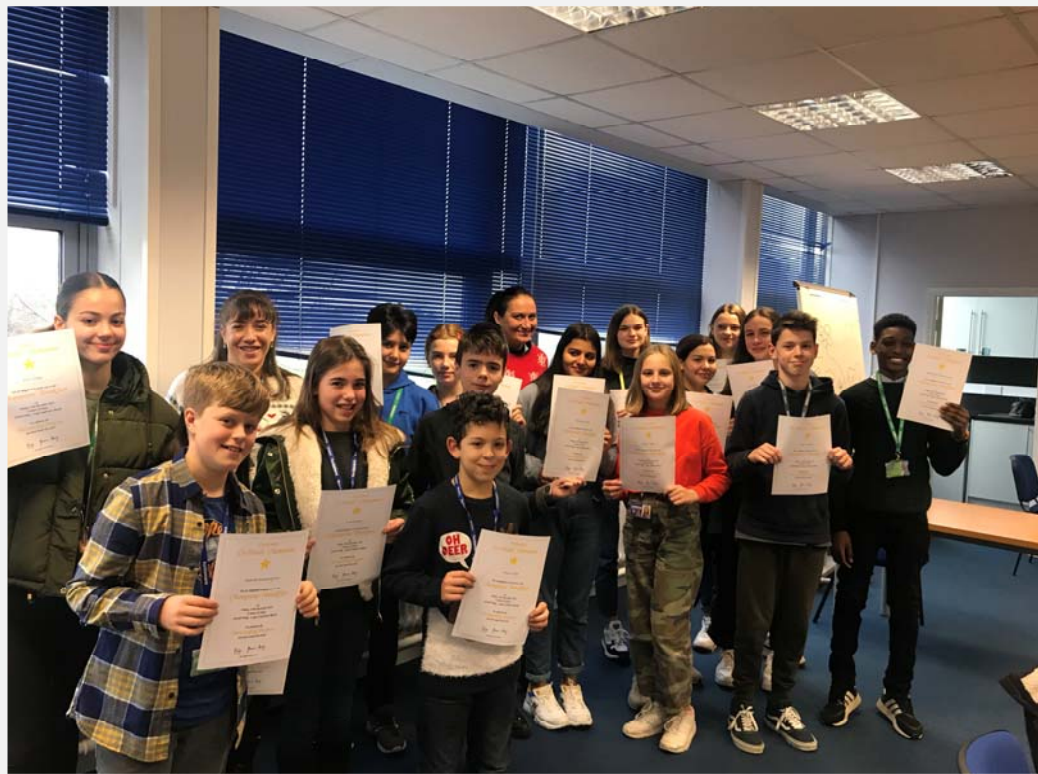
Ms Jo Davey

Dates For Your Diary

- 19 December Christmas Concert 7-9pm
- 20 December Christmas Concert 7-9pm
- 21 December End of Term will be dismissed at 12.00
- 7 January Inset Day
- 8 January All Students 8.35am Start
- 16 January 8X Bank Parents Evening 15.30-18.30 South Wing
- 30 Jan 8Y Bank Parents Evening 15.30-18.30 South Wing

DON'T
MISS
OUT

Champions' Breakfast



Silent Auction and Fundraising

Christmas Annual Silent Auction went live on [jumblebee.com](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2735)

Hear ye! Hear ye! The Annual Silent Auction went live on [jumblebee.com](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2735) (link below):

The auction closes on 19 December at 11.00pm.

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.

Another way to help your school – Fortismere in partnership with Martyn Gerrard

If you or anyone you know is looking to sell or let a property, house flat or business premises (these all include both residential and commercial properties) pop into one of Martyn Gerard's local branches. All you have to do is tell them the name of the school when you book your market appraisal. If you do choose to sell with Martyn Gerrard they will donate between 5% and 10% of their fee straight to back to the school.

Absolutely anyone can use this offer, not just parents at the school. So please remember to shout about it! Tell your friends, family and neighbours.

This is a potentially very lucrative partnership for the school so we would encourage you to spread the word.

Help support Fortismere with Martyn Gerrard Estate Agents.

'Easyfundraising' - Online Donation Website

Easyfundraising is online donation website; it works in a similar way to many other loyalty shopping sites, but instead of earning points when you shop, you raise a donation for your cause instead. We have registered Fortismere School up as a cause and are now simply awaiting your support. With an array of leading retailers including, Amazon, popular supermarket chains, clothing shops, electronic shops and hotel brands, there is an abundance of donation opportunities.

Easyfundraising can turn your everyday online shopping into free donations for Fortismere. How? Just start online shopping first at Easyfundraising, then shop as normal. The retailers will then make a small donation to say 'thank you' to Fortismere.

Easyfundraising have 3,564 retailers to choose from and so far have raised over £23 million for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across UK Easy!

Here is the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/> find your favourite shop and when you buy, money is donated direct from the shop to the school.

Messages

Alexandria Ambassadors Christmas Tombola!

On Tuesday 18th (South Wing) and Wednesday 19th (North Wing) Alexandria ambassadors will be holding a Christmas tombola in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. Tickets cost 50p and there will be a guaranteed prize for every ticket purchased! Please come along and support this fantastic charity.



Christmas Tombola!



Tues 18th Dec—South Wing foyer

Wed 19th Dec—North Wing canteen

All profits going to



Date for Your Diary

Parent Forum Monday, February 11th, 7pm. North Wing Hall

Come to the Parent Forum on Monday, February 11th, 7pm - 8:30, North Wing Hall

(Governor's surgeries beforehand, from 5:30pm)

If you would like any topic to be discussed, please email your thoughts, ideas and concerns to the following email address: parentforum@fortismere.school

Hope to see you there!

Wendy Sloane

Vice Chair Governors

Messages

Congratulations to the boys and girls that represented Fortismere in the Haringey Schools' Swimming Gala last Monday.

They came second place in a very competitive competition there were some excellent individual and team performances. Well done.

Congratulations to our Under 13 boys who came in 3rd place at the Haringey Schools Handball competition held at Fortismere on Monday. Our Under 15 boys came 5th and played with admirable vigour against some tough opposition.

There is no netball practice after school on Tuesday 18th December or Handball practice on Wednesday 19th December.

These clubs will resume after the Christmas Holidays.

Year 8 Parents' Evenings – 8X Bank 16 January, 8Y Bank 30 January – 15.30-18.30 South Wing

Year 8X Bank Parents' Evening will open for booking Tuesday 8 January. All Year 8 Parents/Carers will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 7 January with the booking link, however only 8X Bank will have access to the booking site.

Year 8Y Bank Parents' Evening will open for booking Tuesday 22 January.

We look forward to meeting with you and your child for this important evening.

Fortismere Christmas Concert 19 and 20 December 2018 North Wing Hall

Fortismere Music Department's annual Christmas concerts are always a great night out for the whole family. We are bringing together the diversity of the school and local community in one irreverent and electric programme. These concerts are guaranteed to have audiences on their feet. From orchestral works made famous on film, to rising stars in Fortismere's great tradition of popular music, come along to see out 2018 in style.

Tickets are now on sale!! 19-20 December 2018. Hurry – we expect it to sell out early! Book your tickets online www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



Messages

Fortismere Robotics

The 2018-19 season Vex Robotics has started and is set to be a very exciting. Fortismere will be hosting two competitions this year, [Vex IQ Next Level](#) on Saturday 12th January and [Vex EDR Turning Point](#) on Saturday 9th February 2019 in SW hall. Fortismere Robotics teams in IQ and EDR have made excellent progress and are looking forward to the upcoming competitions, both home and away. The competitions have attracted a lot of interest and we currently have waiting lists for both! A number of teams visiting are International teams; one school in particular from Kazakhstan will be visiting who we met last year at both the Istanbul and Louisville competitions.

The club runs every lunchtime and Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays after school in S35

For further information speak to Mr Yakup or email myakup@fortismere.org.uk

Catering Arrangements – Friday, 21 December 2018

Usual arrangements for end of term apply; NW/SW canteens open for breakfast and at break-time only – free school lunches to be collected at break-time.

Concert rehearsal schedule

Please find attached the rehearsal schedule for next week and also a draft list of which performances are in which half of the concert programme.

YR 9 OPTIONS

Please see below the timeline of events for our Yr 9 students as they begin the process of choosing their KS4 Options. All information relating to Options is being updated and will not appear on the website until 21st January 2019.

fortismere		
OPTIONS: Time line of events for 2019		
SPRING TERM 2019		
JANUARY	Mon 07 - 25	Tutor chats- (3 weeks in VT)
	Mon 21	Y9 Assembly 1 – NWH - Choices and timeline explained
	TBA	Taster lessons/ small group talks for students by request
	Mon 21	Options Booklet published on website
	Wed 23 rd	Options Fayre and Talks 3.05 – 5.05pm TALKS in South Wing Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.05 – 3.45 Alexandria / Colosseum / Ephesus4.00 – 4.40 Rhodes / Olympia / Petra (Arrive at 3pm onwards for tours)
FEBRUARY	28 th Jan- 1 st Feb	Guidance Meetings during school with SLT
	Wed 6	Y9 Assembly 2 –Options – SOUTH WING HALL
	Thurs 7	Options forms ONLINE
	Fri 1 st March	Options forms DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION
	TBA	Follow-up Guidance Meetings for some

...learning on the hill


ALADDIN PANTO

Tickets are on Sale!!! 23-26 January 2019. Hurry - we expect it to sell out early! Tickets here – www.fortismere-drama-aladdin.eventbrite.com

N PRODUCTIONS AND **fortismereDRAMA**
PRESENT AN AMATEUR ADAPTION OF...

Aladdin

BY
JOEL HORWOOD



23 - 26 JANUARY 2019
7:00pm Doors open 6:30pm
£15 / £10 CONCESSIONS

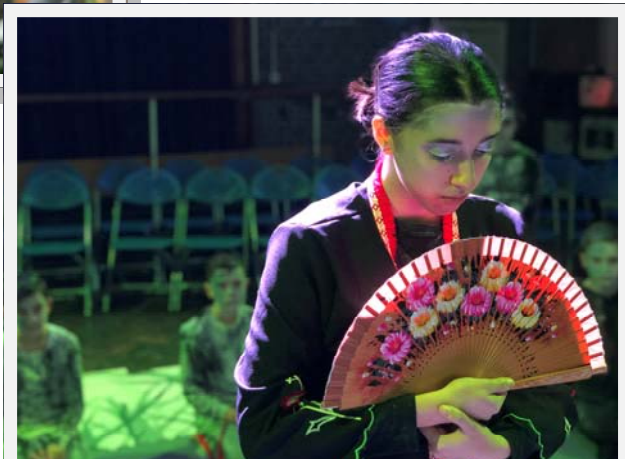
f i t @fortismere-drama
North Wing Hall, Fortismere School,
Creighton Avenue, Muswell Hill,
N10 1NS

Tickets available at fortismere-drama-aladdin.eventbrite.com Supported by **TATLERS**

Drama Department

Oedipus Drama Christmas Production

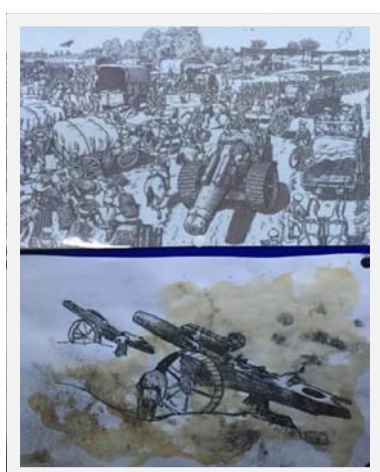
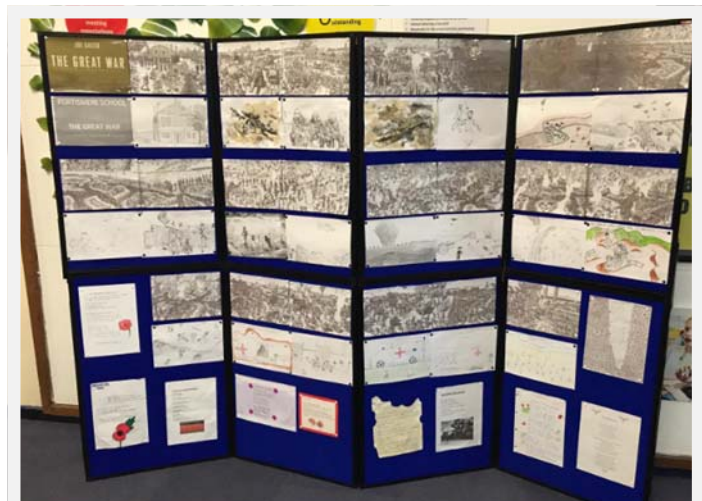
Fortismere Drama Christmas show was a sell-out success last night. Using Korean theatre techniques from Oh Tae-suk, the internationally renowned stage director from Seoul, students retold this powerful tale of King Oedipus of Thebes investigating the mysterious plague that has struck his city. Traditional Korean aesthetics, language, and expressions were displayed beautifully as the audience were expected to understand the meaning through hidden emotions, movement and gestures. Congratulations to Debby Turner (Writer, Director), all of the student technical and assistant director teams and the cast.



History Department

Recreation of the Joe Sacco panorama:

Throughout November, Fortismere students commemorated the First World War by recreating the Joe Sacco illustration of the Somme. Based on information about a particular stage of preparation or battle, students were asked to work in their form groups to recreate part of the panorama. The 24 foot long illustration reflects on different parts of preparation and battle, highlighting its chaos and magnitude. Student versions were displayed underneath the original and showed incredible creativity- well done to all involved!



year 9 trip to the Imperial War Museum

To support their study of World War One and in recognition of their consistent hard work in lessons, fifty year 9 students were taken to the Imperial War Museum. They explored the exhibitions on World War One, the armistice, World War Two and modern conflict. The students were a credit to the school as they explored the museum, asking interesting and relevant questions and taking time to consider the experience of the individual at different times of total war.



Year 7 Castle Building Competition: All entries must be handed in to your History teacher or to the History office by Thursday 20th December. They must have your name on it. The student judging panel will take place on the first week back after the Christmas break. Good luck year 7!

Year 12 Trip to the British Sociological Association

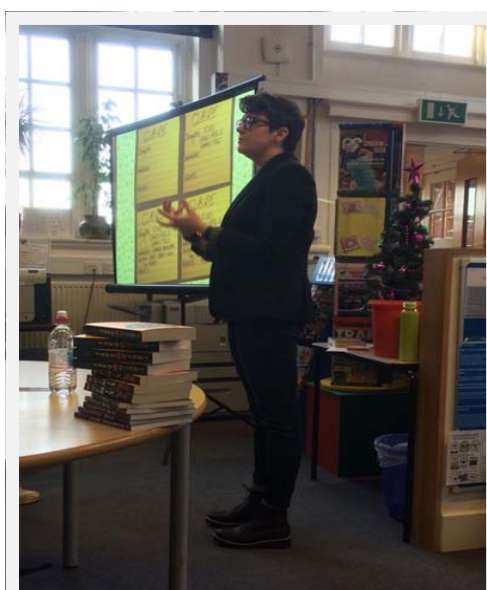
Year 12 Trip to the British Sociological Association

On Tuesday Ms Akinbode and I took a group of Year 12 sociologists to visit the annual British Sociological Association talk on feminism. Panellists included, Karen Ingala-Smith from the Counting Dead Women project, Co-founder of Femicide Census (with Women's Aid) and CEO of NIA, Stevi Jackson from the University of York, Aisha Phoenix from SOAS University of London and Aaron Winter from the University of East London. Topics covered included feminism and Islam, transgender rights, femicide, sexuality, racism and misogyny. The students thoroughly enjoyed branching into aspects of feminism that are not covered in the A-level specification, exploring contemporary research and ideas. They contributed to the discussion with these renowned academics with maturity and self-assurance and represented Fortismere excellently!



News from the Library

On Tuesday 11th December our lovely Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, returned for a day of entertainment, inspiration and jollity with some of our students. Year 8 students were treated to a session based around Non's book, *Truth or Dare*. As well as explaining the importance of honesty, identity and bravery, Non encouraged volunteers in the audience to take part in some truth/dare challenges which led to much hilarity, mild shock and total revulsion! Non then had lunch with the members of Ms Massey's creative writing groups, talked to them about writing and publishing and took away some of their work which she will read and offer advice on (in a previous life, she was a publishing editor at Usborne Books). In the afternoon, Non met with a small group of Year 13 English language/literature students, and gave a writing masterclass based on her adaptation of John Allison's *Giant Days* graphic novels. A wonderful day during which many Jaffa cakes were devoured and much fun was had.



We have had the first meeting of the Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award group (formerly the Harin-gey CBA). Thirty excited Year 7s have signed up, and most took away a book from the shortlist to read over the Christmas holiday. Our next meeting will be on Friday 11th January at lunchtime in the library. It occurred to Mrs Coles and I that a set of the shortlisted books would make a fantastic Christmas present for any Year 5 -7 child, and if you want a major discount of 47% (and would like to support indie bookshops) you can buy the 6 books for £35 from Pickled Pepper Books in Crouch End or the Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green. Just say we sent you! It's a diverse and brilliant selection chosen by Harin-gey school librarians, and we know what we're talking about: *Kick* by Mitch Johnson, *Kat Wolfe Investigates* by Lauren St John, *Will You Catch Me?* by Jane Elson, *The Magician* by Piers Torday (hardback), *Child I* by Steve Tasane and *Tin* by Padraig Kenny.

News from the Library

A reminder that CoverUp will return in the New Year when we shall be discussing Stuart Turton's *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*, which looks like it will be a great Christmas holiday read. Tuesday 22nd January, 7pm in the library.

One more week to go of festive library fun. Our (very competitive) Year 7s are enjoying Library Bingo, and Year 8s are pretending it's Christmas Eve and being treated to the Victorian tradition of sitting in the dark and telling ghost stories...



Hearing Dogs Used postage stamps to the library please, so we may forward them to the
for Deaf People Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity.

Festive fact: In the 12th century, a man known as Roland the Farter (probably a professional jester) was given Herringstone Manor in Suffolk, along with 30 acres of land, by King Henry II, in payment for his services. He was obliged to perform "Unum saltum et siffletum et unum bumbulum" - "A jump, a whistle and a fart" – at the royal court each Christmas. (from *BBC History magazine*). Another tradition to start at home? Perhaps not...



Recommended Reads

Stuck to find a bookish present for your young people? Use the BookTrust Bookfinder

<https://bit.ly/2ASCCjJ> .

Start an Icelandic tradition – in Iceland, books are exchanged as Christmas Eve presents, then you spend the rest of the night in bed reading them and eating chocolate. This tradition is called Jolabokaflod, or "the Christmas Book Flood", because Iceland, which publishes more books per capita than any other country, sells most of its books between September and November due to people preparing for the forthcoming holiday.



Colosseum Crisis Appeal

Colosseum Crisis Appeal



Colosseum ambassadors and students are collecting on behalf of the Crisis campaign to help homeless people over the Christmas period.

Crisis shelters across the country not only provide a safe place to spend Christmas but also a range of health and educational services.

If you wish to donate, form tutors will be collecting during VT until Wednesday 19th December.

Many thanks.

Mr Hawkes



Together
we will end
homelessness