

## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Last weekend began in 'Hogwarts' Library, where a group of lucky muggles were treated to quizzes, activities, a feast, chocolate frogs and a Harry Potter movie courtesy of Professors Ward and Bhambra. It was a wonderful event as ever and fantastic for our students to become wizards and witches for the evening. Their knowledge of the Harry Potter canon is truly awe-inspiring (and a little scary). It was a perfect way to celebrate the literary world of JK Rowling and kick-start another weekend. Last weekend also saw our Vex robotics teams back in action and we were delighted to learn that our Key Stage 3 boys teams were crowned champions of the session and very pleased to be the hosts of the senior student tournament which took place in South Wing Hall on Saturday where we hosted visiting teams from Kazakhstan! Thanks to Mr Yakup for continuing to organise these events.

Also, the First Give project where Year 7s raise awareness of a local charity is currently underway. Our current Year 7 Enrichment groups are gathering momentum for other Haringey charities and will be starting their social actions and fundraising projects in and around the school. We have been thanked by MIND charity for the results of our Social Action last year bearing financial fruits. This is thanks to the First Give project and the enthusiasm and dedication of year 7s last year who worked so hard to raise awareness and funds.

On that note, we have had many discussions with students about the climate change protest this week. We are proud that our community consists of such actively engaged young people and support the notion that urgent attention should be paid to the climate crisis as discourse on this matter is currently being drowned out politically with youngBREXIT dominating the debate. As educators we are keen to respond to the need for our people to

use their voice around this issue and are planning a series of sessions to be delivered via VT and assemblies to develop discussion around the climate crisis and discuss safe and impactful actions that young people can take, not just to raise awareness but also play a role in creating change by considering their own lifestyles and choices. We would also support any efforts that students or groups of students would like to make as part of the school community to fundraise for, or organise debate around this issue. We would ask that they approach their Heads of College or Learning Managers if they would like to lead on something in school.

We are sure our students and their families are looking forward to the half term break. It's rather warm and sunny for February. Fingers crossed it will stay this way next week!



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey

## Dates For Your Diary

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

- 25 February Term Starts
- 28 February Parents Workshop 09.00-10.00am  
Dealing with Anxiety
- 6 March Year 11 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm  
North Wing
- 12 March Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening 5.30-7.30pm
- 23 March Quiz Night
- 29 March LINC Coffee Morning 9.00-10.00am

# Messages

## Year 11 Parents' Evening, North wing - Wednesday 6 March

Year 11 Parents' Evening booking site will open at 10am Tuesday 26 February. Parents/Carers of Year 11 students will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 25 February, which will contain the booking link and booking instructions. We look forward to meeting with you and your child for this important evening.

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### Cake Sale Ephesus

Ephesus student ambassadors managed to raise 52 pounds at break today with a valentine cake sale in aid of Noah's ark. They made the cakes themselves and sold them in the north wing canteen. (The photo isn't one of the actual cakes! They were all sold!)



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## A-Level Trip to Granada

A-Level Spanish students have just returned after having had a fantastic time in Granada. Apart from visiting some of the most iconic Spanish monuments, they also took lessons in a school, participated in a conversation exchange with Spanish students and even did a treasure hunt in the city centre of Granada. Both the host families and the school were extremely impressed by the excellent level of Spanish these students have!! I hope they are totally recovered and had time to catch up with their work missed. Thank you all for such an amazing trip.

Ms Lorente & Ms Cuenca

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## Parent/Carer Voluntary Contributions 2018/2019

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have already made a voluntary contribution, this is very much appreciated. For those who may still wish to contribute, the autumn term communication from the Chair of Governors and Co-Heads which provides more details is available [HERE](#)

# 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!

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## Fortismere Mental Health Literacy

Please see the link below to read about one of the largest mental health trials launched in 370 schools in the UK. Fortismere is one of these schools and lessons have been delivered to three year 9 classes this term in their PRE lessons. This trial is funded by the DfE and led by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families in partnership with University College London. The programme that we have delivered at Fortismere is based on the work of Dr Stan Kutcher. News of this trial has also featured in many local, national and even international newspapers, as well as on Good Morning Britain, [Channel 4 News](#) and Sky News.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-of-the-largest-mental-health-trials-launches-in-schools>

They have started recruiting secondary schools for Wave 2 of the programme. If any parents are teachers in a mainstream secondary school who may be interested in Education for Wellbeing, do let them know!

<https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/schools-in-mind/our-work-with-schools/education-for-wellbeing/>

# Gardening Club



Starts Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March at lunchtime in Vik Sharma's Memorial Garden

Come and see Miss Larsson in SW Office if you are keen to join, or  
email: [plarsson@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:plarsson@fortismere.org.uk)

**Wellie Boots & Walking Boots please!**



Any size gratefully received for our upcoming Gardening Club and ongoing work in Vik Sharma's Memorial Garden.

Please drop off at South Wing reception (Miss Larsson).

**Thank you!**

## Duke of Edinburgh

Huge congratulations to the forty four Y11 students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award qualifying expedition over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June in the Chilterns. All 8 groups completed the two day route carrying all their equipment, cooked their own meals and displayed excellent teamwork skills in very hot conditions.

I would also like to say a big thank-you to Simon Cox, Kat Jackson, Ian Richardson, Irene Cuenca and Paul Rodgers for giving up their time to help the expedition run smoothly. If you would like to help in with expeditions at the school please feel free to contact me.



## Yoga Club

Yoga Classes for students twice a week on a Monday and Wednesday lunch time in the South Wing Hall.



Classes will start on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February for 6 weeks and the cost for this will be £72 for 12 sessions.

You can book your child's sessions via Parentmail

# News from the Library

## Harry Potter Night in the Library

45 Year 7 and 8 trainee witches and wizards left their broomsticks at the library door on Friday 8th February and joined an evening of magic and mayhem for our annual Harry Potter Night. After being sorted into houses (why does no-one want to be Slytherin?) they took part in an inter-house Big Wizarding Quiz run with great aplomb by Mr Ward (no relation). Their knowledge was almost supernatural! Did you know that Albus Dumbledore has a scar above his left knee in the shape of the London Underground map? They did! Lots of activities followed, including the Identification of Potions (scratch and sniff!), decorating buns for the Great Feast (which were eaten long before the great feast arrived; how did Ms Topping also get decorated?) and listening to Mrs Ward reading about troll bogies. After a huge feast of pasta and garlic bread made by Ms Bhambra – which would hopefully keep the dementors at bay – and ice-cream, they retired upstairs to watch a HP film. They were even served with hot chocolate! An excellent evening, and thank you to everyone who sent in a donation; this meant that we could send £113 to JK Rowling's Lumos charity – see more details here <https://www.wearelumos.org/>. Ms Bhambra and Mrs Ward would like to thank all the members of staff who helped make this event such fun. And the wonderful Potterheads who came and joined in. Mischief managed.



## COMPETITION TIME!

On 20th July 1969, astronauts walked on the moon for the very first time. To celebrate 50 years since the Apollo 11 mission we would like you to write a “**Twelve Word Story**” based on the moon, space, aliens, time travel... So, no more than 12 words, and with a beginning, middle and end. Send your entries to [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) or bring them to us in the library by 6th March.

If writing's not your thing, then “**Get Caught Reading**” – send photos of you reading in an unusual, cute, peculiar position/place to [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) by 6th March.

Parents and school staff are also invited to enter; there will be BIG prizes! Don't forget to put your name and tutor group on all entries. Both competitions will be judged by our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, when she is here on World Book Day (Thursday 7th March).

# Fortismere Robotics update

The VEX IQ teams 10640A, 10640B, 10640C, and 10640D have been extremely busy competing in local regional events to qualify for the Vex Robotics UK National finals. The first of two regional events the teams participated in was held at Grieg City Academy last Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. The event was packed and Fortismere teams performed superbly! Team 10640C were crowned tournament Driving and Autonomous Skills Champions and teams 10640B and 10640A were crowned Tournament Champions. An amazing achievement for our 16 key stage 3 students. Last Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 the same teams competed at the East Barnet School regional, over 30 teams were in attendance. The Fortismere teams were performing consistently well and two of our four teams went head to head against one another in the final, where team 10640D finally won after a tie break to become tournament champions. Three out of our four Vex IQ teams have qualified for the UK National final to be held at the Telford International Centre on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.



# News from LINC

## News from LINC:

### Parent/Carer Information

The first term of scheduled Parent/Carer workshops were very well attended and we have received excellent feedback and recommendations for future topics. Topics covered last term include:

Inclusion – What we do?

Dealing with Anxiety

Drugs and Alcohol

Understanding Dyslexia

Anxiety Parent Support group

How to work with the school to support your child attending school

Due to high demand, we will be running a third session; Dealing with Anxiety, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Please find further information below on the topics we shall be covering next term, please click on the following the link to book [here](#)

**Dealing with Anxiety Thursday 28 February 2019 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

**Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening Tuesday 12 March 2019 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**LINC Coffee Morning Friday 29 March 2019 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email:

[rharrisohanlon@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:rharrisohanlon@fortismere.org.uk)

Ms R Harris-O'Hanlon

Parent & Student Engagement Officer





# Year 9 visit to the Synagogue

Following on from the year 9 visit to the Synagogue for HMD. The feedback is that it was wonderful that the pupils were in listening attentively to the talks given. The speakers have said that it was a real pleasure to deliver this to such a well behaved group of students. It is not easy to take it in and they were a respectful and considerate audience. Jenny Gough passed on the questions to her Moshe Nurtman (whose story she told). She read to him every comment/question received (very thoughtful and thought provoking). Moshe was deeply moved and touched by the kind and warm comments he received. He was elated to the point of telling all the carers and his friends what your students had written to him. It really had a deep affect on him.

Moshe commented:

***Thank you all very much for appreciating what I have gone through. I am pleased that it has made students aware what has happened, especially at this time of life where people are so cruel by denying the Holocaust. At least by hearing my story, I feel I can reinforce what happened. Please don't forget it and don't allow it to happen again.***

Questions posed by Fortismere pupils and answered by Moshe:

**Did you make any friends or have any fun times? – Arthur**

***Yes, I have made friends with those who arrived in England and we are related to each other like a family.***

**Were any of the German soldiers ever nice to you or anyone you knew – Tom Gilmore**

***No, no I did not see anyone be nice. They wouldn't communicate with you. If they saw you, they would ignore you. As a Jew, you were the enemy.***

**Did you ever forgive the Nazis for all the devastation they caused?**

***I don't forgive, I don't forget.***

**What was the education like for you during the Holocaust?**

***I didn't have any education as such - it was very poor. I only had the Talmud (a Jewish religious book) and read that for myself. That's was it.***

**Did any of your friends manage to escape.**

***Yes, some did, but many got shot trying to escape.***

**How old were you when you came to England?**

***18 years old.***

**Did you ever meet a Nazi that was against what they were doing but too scared to do anything?**

***I didn't discuss anything like this – one day I was on a trip in a wagon with the German in charge of our camp. He was going to Germany for Christmas. The whole way he sat behind me and said absolutely nothing. He got off by a station and went to Germany. I thought to myself "don't speak to him otherwise he might kill me". This high ranking officer was so vulnerable that anything I say might endanger me – I thought that I dare not speak to him because I didn't know how he would react or what he would do. I was not treated like a human being amongst human beings.***

**What was your scariest story and the most traumatic moment for you?**

***When I jumped on the wagon (eventually finding my father by accident). Though at the time, it was the scariest moment because I never travelled into places where I could get killed. Travelling at night and running away from the Ghetto, I could have and would have been shot.***

**Why do people not believe that the Holocaust was real?**

***Well, that's why I have done my testimony so that you all know what happened.***

**Have you ever known of Leonard Alexander Rosner, my Grandad's Cousin? He was on Schindler's List and I wanted to know if you knew him? - Ben**

***Yes I did. Sadly, most survivors are not with us anymore.***

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

We hope to see you there!