

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This week saw perfect synchronicity between weather and school events. Christmas may have passed but the snow arrived just in time for the Fortismere Panto season. Those of you who have already seen the show will know that the performances of both staff and students are amazing. One student emailed us to say 'It was honestly one of the best things I have ever seen (above Shakespeare and Hamilton)'. We may suspect hyperbole but it is quite an accurate review of the show. It would be both wrong and extremely difficult to single out any specific performances (it is after all, an ensemble piece) but the leads do deserve a special mention for the sheer volume of learning – getting all those words in the right order is quite a feat! The singing, dancing and acrobatics are also noteworthy, although obviously the real stars of the show are the Co-Heads, demonstrating that their real talents lie in the world of domestic engineering.

Ms Overs and Ms Turner (script doctor) have produced and directed an extraordinary piece of amateur dramatics and we are delighted at the community support this has achieved. Thank you to all those who have purchased tickets and given such encouraging and positive feedback. We would also like to include Maria Demetriou for coming up with such a smart idea and her tireless work in supporting Drama and the school.

We have been reading with interest the recent reports on young people, screen time and social media use. We are concerned with the growing body of evidence concerning the sometimes detrimental impact of social media on the well-being and mental health of our children and young people. This includes not only on-line bullying but also the current concern regarding the ease with which students can access suicide and self-harm websites. While on-screen habits are mainly

the concern of parents, we are supporting limiting screen time by our ban on smart phones. Years 7-11 do not need internet access or a camera while they are school and can communicate with parents or carers if necessary outside of school hours via 'brick' phones. We value working in partnership with our families in keeping our students safe and would impress upon parents and carers the school expectation that the school's code of conduct for mobile phones is adhered to.

Life next week is going to seem strangely quiet post panto but we have no doubt that the usual school events will keep us very busy. With an upper school drugs event on Tuesday and the second Year 8 parents' evening on Wednesday, we will keep up the pace!

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy weekend,



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey

Dates For Your Diary

- 26 January Aladdin Panto 18.30
- 30 Jan 8Y Bank Parents Evening 15.30-18.30 South Wing
- 7 February Charity Band Night
- 8 February Harry Potter Night Year 7 and 8
- 11 February Parent Forum North Wing 19.00
- 23 March Quiz Night

DON'T
MISS
OUT

Messages

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

Year 8 Y Bank Parents' Evening – 30 January 15.30 – 18.30 South Wing

Year 8 Y Bank Parents' Evening will open for booking Tuesday 22 January. All Year 8 Parents/Carers will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 21 January with the booking link, however only Year 8 Y Bank will have access to the booking site.

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

Year 8 X Bank Parents' Evening was held on Wednesday 16 January.

Yoga Club

This term we are introducing Yoga Classes for students twice a week on **Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes SOUTH WING HALL**. Classes will start on the **28th January**. There are 30 spaces available and these will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Full details of the course are provided below and if you would like your child to attend please make the appropriate payment via Parentmail. Each session costs £6 and therefore the total cost until February half term is £36. All proceeds will go to the school. Sessions will be led by Vesna who is an experienced and passionate Yoga instructor with over 17 years of teaching. Vesna hopes to ignite a passion for yoga in her students so that it becomes a part of their everyday life and a refuge from the stresses of modern life. Vesna brings together several aspects of classical yoga: the understanding of structural alignment in the asana practice, the refinement of mental and emotional patterns through the practice of pranayama, and access to a place of stillness, relaxation and meditation. The teaching is based on applying the eight vital principals in yoga practice:

1. The meditation state of mind (the no –doing of the mind)
2. Relaxation (the not-doing the physical body)
3. Intent
4. Rooting
5. Centring
6. Aligning
7. Breathing
8. Elongating



Messages



Harry Potter Night – 8th February 2019 – Library & DT

Fortismere Library and the Design and Technology department would like to invite **50 Year 7 and 8** pupils to an evening of Harry Potter themed fun and frolicking. It will take place on **Friday 8th of February 2019 between 5pm and 9.30 pm**. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please see attached letter for more information. Any pupils wishing to take part must complete the permission letter and return it to Ms Ward or Ms Bhambra before 31st of January 2019. Thank you

Sports News

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 Girls Football Team. They are through to the semi- final of the Middlesex County Cup after beating St Thomas More School 4-0 last Friday. Araya Dennis and Ellie Gilbride were the goal scorers.



U13 Cricket Competition

Congratulations to our U13 boys who came 2nd in the Haringey U13 cricket event.

A narrow defeat in the final against Highgate but an excellent team effort, well done!

Olympia Student Ambassadors

We are happy to announce that the Olympia student ambassadors will be selling their Valentine's Day roses again on the 28th and 29th of February! This is our annual fundraising event for our ambassador charity, Young Minds. If students would like to send a rose of their friends they should bring £1 on Monday or Tuesday next week. They will be able to find us in NW Canteen and SW outside reception. I'd like to pass on a big well done to all ambassadors involved!



Chess News

Congratulations to Fortismere's Chess team on winning their match (4-2) versus UCS Team B.

Our team consisted of: Charlie Sprung, Frankie Badacsonyi, Oscar Rampley, Daniel Shapiro, Zaki Bawany and Maxsud Badalov.

Fortismere now proceed to Round 2 of London Zone 1 of the National Schools Chess Competition – an away match to UCS A team.

The Chess club meets in 13T3 Wednesday to Friday.



Languages

Home languages

If you would like your son or daughter to be entered this academic year for a GCSE or A level language that they do not study here at Fortismere, please contact Peter Rainey at prainey@fortismere.org.uk by Monday the 11th February. If you have already been in touch then there is no need to email again.

News from the Library

Cover Up

Despite the snow and Aladdin, there was still a decent turnout to discuss *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* at our CoverUp meeting on Thursday. The next book for reading and discussion will be *Old Baggage* (not, as some have suggested, my autobiography) by Lissa Evans. Hope to see lots of members and new faces on Thursday 14th March, 7pm in the library. Refreshments available.



Young Quills

Young Quills, our historical fiction reading group, got off to a flying start last week with all 23 of the Historical Association's shortlisted books being lent out to our enthusiastic students. Please remind them that we expect to see them every Tuesday at lunchtime in the library, either to check in briefly or to stay and have lunch and a bookish/historical chat with Mr Stewart and Ms Garnett.

Harry Potter Night

Wands at the ready - there are still a few spaces left for witches, wizards and muggles to attend our Harry Potter Night on Friday 8th February. Full details are on the attachment to last week's Newsletter.



RECOMMENDED READ OF THE WEEK

I was a loud supporter and promoter of *I Am Thunder*, Muhammad Khan's debut novel. I am now spreading the word about his latest, *Kick the Moon*. It's a unique and powerful story about a Muslim boy who wants to be a graphic artist and a "middle class" girl who wants to be different. It's not a romance, but a tale of gangs, prejudice, peer pressure and friendship. Muhammad speaks the language of young people. This could be my book of the year, and it's only January...



Drama Department

Aladdin

This week there has been a very special buzz in Fortismere. All departments across the school have come together to be part of Aladdin, our first panto. Students have gasped and cheered in shock and elation as they have seen their teachers take to the stage. There has been 6 months of hard work behind this show and I have been amazed and humbled by the dedication and commitment of all of the staff and students who have helped put this together. Their professionalism and attitude has made it a pleasure directing the show. The musicians showcased their brilliant talents and I have been overwhelmed with the technical and backstage crews who have all the tricky, complicated and sometimes boring jobs to do. They have made the show look and sound fantastic. Each night the house is packed to the brim. There really is something truly special about how the Arts can bring community together.

L Overs, Head of Drama and Aladdin's Director



Music Department

Charity Band Night – Thurs 7 February 2019, 6.30pm Music Hall, north Wing

Any students, parents, friends, staff, ex-students, neighbours; in fact anyone from our local community that want to perform at our fabulous Charity Band Night, please get in touch with Head of Music & Music technology, Ms S. Ogilby sogilby@fortismere.org.uk

To purchase tickets please go to www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

We are looking for variety and a range of performances which will generate profit for charity.

Performances can be instrumental and/ or vocal in any popular/ world genre.



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 "Hilarious jokes, impossible poses from this original act" Heavenly Comedy

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

We hope to see you there!