



Ms Zoe Judge

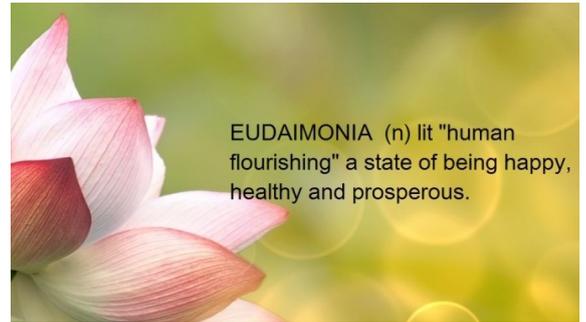


Ms Jo Davey



## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

We have had the pleasure of speaking to students in assembly this week about how important it is for us that they are able to 'flourish' at Fortismere. We know how important it is that students feel at their best as they access their studies and develop positive relationships as they go about their daily life. We often like to draw on Aristotle and this week we have been talking to them about 'Eudaimonia' which literally translates as 'having good demons' but is also taken to mean 'flourishing' in a modern context. We have been speaking to students that the need to take care of their health, be mindful of what their emotional needs are, spend plenty of time doing what they enjoy (which includes enjoying the company of good friends) and make sure they seek plenty of opportuni-



ties while at school to thrive on being creative, developing knowledge and using rational thought processes as these all contribute to this idea of being at their best and 'flourishing.'

We were all mindful this week that it will soon be the time for our Year 11 students to truly flourish as they prepare for their GCSE exams in the summer. Our Directors of Learning and our Heads of College, led by Ms Jackson, hosted a fantastic evening on Tuesday for parents of Year 11 students to attend workshops and presentations on what the next few months will involve for their sons and daughters and what they can do at home to support them in preparing for what is sure to be a testing time. It was wonderful to see and meet so many of our parents on this evening. For those who attended we are grateful for your feedback as this was the first evening in this format that we have hosted at Fortismere and we are keen to know what you felt was most useful for next time.

Next week we are looking forward to welcoming the parents of our Year 9 students to our Options Fayre which will take place from 3.30pm – 6.30pm in South Wing. This will be a great opportunity for our parents to learn more about curriculum pathways and opportunities available to students starting Year 10 but with a view to thinking about possible future careers/options once they have left

### Dates For Your Diary

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

- 27-28 Jan: Phil the Bag, SW
- 30 Jan: Year 9 Options Fayre
- 02 Feb: Harry Potter Sleepover
- 06 Feb: Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 12-16 Feb: Half-Term
- 20 Feb: Year 13 Parents' Evening

school. We will also be sharing some very important information about GCSE subject choices so it is a not-to-be missed event.

We have all managed to survive a gloomy January rather well at Fortismere, the clouds and rain certainly have done little to dampen our enthusiasm. Wishing all of our families a bright and sunny weekend ahead!



## Year 9 Options

All parents will have received an email today detailing the events of next week which begins the Options process. The Options booklet and the calendar of events can all be found online from Monday 29th January.

Please remind students to line up in colleges outside South Wing Hall at 8.35am on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January for their assembly introducing new subjects for GCSE.

The Options Fayre that is taking place on **Tuesday, 30th January from 3.45pm** will be an excellent opportunity for parents and students to speak to staff about the GCSE / Vocational courses and decide whether they are viable options. There will be talks in South Wing Hall from Ms Allaway and Ms Karp who will explain in detail the 'buckets' and how to complete the Options forms. Please check your letters carefully to find out where you should go on arrival in the school.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.



## Sixth Form University Applications

All our Sixth Form students have now completed their mock examinations and are in the process of reflecting and learning from these. Like all of our Year 13s, our 18 students in receipt of offers from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford have a significant challenge ahead, but will be supported ably in their efforts to achieve and surpass their required outcomes.



## Year 10 Deep Learning Conversations

Advanced warning that these meetings will be taking place on the morning of Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Parents/carers with children in Year 10 will be receiving their appointment times next week.



Please note that there will be no lessons until 10:20am (Period 2) that morning. We ask that students do not arrive on site before 10am.

# SPORTS NEWS

## U13 Indoor Cricket

Congratulations to our U13 boys who finished second in the Haringey competition!



## Football

More success for our junior football teams!

Following in the footsteps of the Year 8s, the Year 7 team have won through to the semi-finals of the Middlesex Cup, beating Uxbridge school 6-2!



A great achievement and fingers crossed for some silverware this season...!

## Year 9 Netball

Congratulations to our Year 9 Netball team who recently beat Highgate Wood School 10-3.



## Girls' Cricket

Good luck to our senior Girls' Cricket Team who will be representing Haringey in the Indoor Regional Schools Tournament next Thursday!



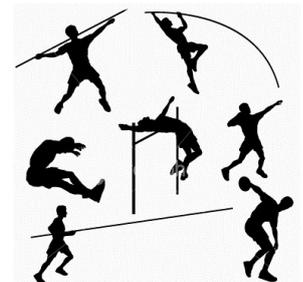
## Cross Country Running

Well done to the following who ran for Haringey in the Middlesex Schools Cross country Championships: Bryn Williams, Mimi Blake, Louisa Staab, Ellie Gilbride, Lal Ergun, Selin Ergun. Special mention to Spike Blake and Sophia Staab (pictured) for coming 2nd place in their races. They (along with Mimi Blake, 4th after losing her shoe in the muddy conditions!) will run for Middlesex at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships.



## Indoor Athletics

Some excellent individual performances from the Year 7 boys and girls at the second indoor athletics meet.



Overall, boys finished 5<sup>th</sup> & girls claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. Well done to both teams!

# Departmental Activities

## History: Castle Building Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Year 7 Castle Building Competition! Their entries showed great creativity and skill and made it a difficult task for our Year 10 volunteers to choose the top ten. Their prize includes a trip to the Tower of London in the summer.

The winners are:

- ⇒ David Ortega
- ⇒ Richard McLaren
- ⇒ Sian Flanigan
- ⇒ Nelle Baker
- ⇒ Rose Lewis
- ⇒ Josh Miller
- ⇒ Siri Contino
- ⇒ Noah Leigh
- ⇒ Luca Recchia
- ⇒ Ali Rosa Khan



## Into the Woods

We were so pleased to see so many students at Wednesday's ensemble meeting. However, we are aware that so many more were not able to attend. If your child wishes to be in this incredible production, please send them along to Wednesday's rehearsal in the Music Concert Hall at 3.30pm or email me so that I can add them to the ensemble list: [mtopping@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mtopping@fortismere.org.uk)



## Careers Information

Choosing GCSE Options in Year 9 can be a daunting experience for parents/ carers and students. Should you require a careers advice and guidance appointment to talk over GCSE options with a careers advisor concerning potential career routes, you can contact the careers service via email, from February onwards, to arrange an appointment Wednesday—Friday.

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

## Looking for Newspaper Expert

Our Year 13 Media Studies class will be studying the newspaper industry in the second half of the Spring Term. I wondered if there were any parents out there who work in the newspaper industry who would be willing to come into school to share their expertise with the class. For the exam, students will need to know about issues including production, distribution, marketing, promotion, regulation, global implications and audience targeting. The class would really enjoy hearing from someone with hands-on experience in the field. If this is you, please contact [mstrathdene@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mstrathdene@fortismere.org.uk)



# FROM THE LIBRARY

## Patron of Reading Visit

Our Patron of Reading, Non Pratt, made Monday 22nd January very special for a lot of Fortismere School students. Two Year 9 classes joined her for a session on the Power of Stories and became engrossed in discussions based around the Bechdel Test (look it up; fascinating and eye-opening).

This was followed by a very keen Year 7 class who created some amazing heroes and villains by turning them on their heads – making (for example) Captain Hook a goodie and Dora the Explorer a baddie! Some great imagination there!

And our Year 11s astounded us with how engaged and hilarious they could be in a dialogue workshop. Each student was Hansel or Gretel, they had different characteristics and...well, you just had to be there!



We were also proud to celebrate the publication of Non's latest, *Second Best Friend*, with representatives from Barrington Stoke at lunchtime. Such a shame that so few of the invitees turned up (invitations went via ParentMail to every student who'd borrowed a Non Pratt book) but we still had an excellent time with the publishers providing Excellent Celebratory Cake! Non and cake. A perfect day!



## Reading = Relaxation

We all know this. But it never does any harm to repeat that “losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation” (Dr David Lewis, Cognitive Neurologist at University of Sussex). And if you have tweens and teens, this is a sobering article <http://bbc.in/2DBDNEh>

## British Library/Harry Potter Trip

There have been a few changes to the list for Harry Potter at the British Library on Tuesday 30th January. Do make sure that you check as you may have been bumped up from the waiting list!

## Recommended Read of the Week

Sarah Crossan writes wonderful, gritty, teen-friendly novels and then pares them right down to form books that look like poetry but read like stories. We love *One* and *Moonrise*.



Her latest, written with Brian Conaghan, is *We Come Apart*, a tale that's bound to resonate with young people. Just don't expect a happy ending...

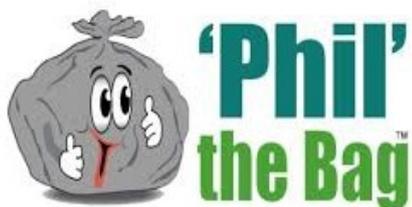
## Notes from Non

“Books can be bridges connecting people”. Actually, this was said by our last Patron of Reading, S F Said, but Non would like it repeated!

## TV Guide

Why watch rubbish on the TV when you can watch good stuff?! <http://bit.ly/2y8zpK9>

## Phil the Bag: **THIS WEEKEND!!**



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.

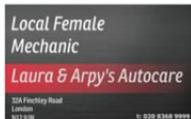
Last year we collected 880kg of textiles – let's try do it again!

## 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](http://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](http://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool)

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



# Children's Mental Health Week 2018

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#beingourselves

Children's Mental Health week is taking place the week after next. Fortismere will, of course, be supporting this through assemblies, charity events and curriculum time. This is an issue that we are passionate about and are constantly looking for ways to improve our practice and ensure that our students and their families have access to the very best support and guidance available.

It would be fantastic if you could discuss this as a family and look out for further information about the events we will be hosting which include; wear a onesie day charity event, a Krispy Crème doughnut sale, a sponsored skip for K3S and assemblies. Also, please keep an eye out for some evening events which we will be hosting on this issue.



#beingourselves

# ALEXANDRA PALACE

Many of you will be familiar with this local landmark and its fascinating history. In recent years, parts of the Palace have been restored to their former glory, and now it is the turn of the Victorian theatre. This beautiful 150 year old theatre is going to be a tremendous asset to the local community when it opens later in the year, especially for local schools who will be invited to use the facilities for productions and events.

The Theatre fundraising team have lots of exciting activities planned this year and you can find out more, and make a donation here: <http://support.alexandrapalace.com/>

