

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup



Ms Zoe Judge



Ms Jo Davey

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our parents and carers.

This term has begun peacefully, in contrast to the weather and our students have settled in quickly. Year 12 have spent the last two days focused on in-class revision in preparation for next week's mock examinations and Year 11 are in the process of digesting the tailored feedback from their own mocks.

There have been some IT glitches with the Year 11 exam data but this should all be sorted by next week (apologies to parents and carers who have been monitoring Go4schools for the updated, correct data).

While exam preparation continues apace, we are continuing to work with students on opportunities away from the classroom. College ambassadors will be



involved in designing the student quizzes for tutor time and the PE department has established a running club, so far the membership mainly consists of key stage 3 students (possibly due to a start time of 7.45am!) but we are sure that older students could be convinced of the benefits (and staff perhaps...?).

As part of our continued focus on student engagement and enjoyment of school, Fortismere has revisited its rewards system with a view to recognising how excellent our students are more often. Over the coming weeks your son or daughter may be coming home with badges or post cards (more fridge magnets). Students have played a pivotal role in telling us how they would like their achievements recognised and we will spend this term trialling some of their ideas.

The term ahead is short but extremely busy so please keep a lookout for school trips and visits and other, less usual activities (maybe something to do with Harry Potter...). We would like to see as many students as possible involved in the extra-curricular activities on offer, and a bit of parental nudging always helps!

Have a good weekend.

Dates For Your Diary

DON'T MISS OUT!

- 8-12 Jan: Year 12 Mocks
- 9 Jan: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 15 Jan: Parent Forum
- 15-19 Jan: Year 13 Mocks
- 23 Jan: Go4Schools info evening

Student Absence



Please be reminded that no formal application form is needed for the following reasons:

- Medical Appointment – hospital/orthodontist - half a day only
- Music exam - half a day only
- Language exam - half a day only
- Ballet exam - half a day only
- Local funerals - half a day only
- Religious festivals

School still requires an appointment card together with written note / voicemail or an email from a parent/ carer (email attendance@fortismere.org.uk - cc'ing the form tutor), which must be handed in to our Attendance Administrator, Ms Greenwood, in South Wing reception, as soon as possible before the absence, otherwise students will be marked as having an Unauthorised Absence.

Year 11 Student Leadership Team

The Year 11 student leadership is made up of 12 students: Merle Aylott, Zach Bouchami, Chloe Glynn, Adriana Beattie, Miayla Marcus, Jake Jones, Sophie Dutton, Rosie Bullwood, Amelia Tickner, Zoe Hubbard, Dylan Tapper, Oryna Goichuck and Abigail Wengrow.

“We are here to be the voice of students - not only from Year 11 but for all years. If anyone has any concerns, worries or problems and they would like to have someone to confide in then come and talk to us. We are happy to help and can easily be spotted by the bright yellow lanyards we wear.



We have already been busy as we start to put together our end of year hoodies and plan our Prom for Year 11. We have been raising money by running a stall at the Christmas fair and selling tea and biscuits at the Year 9 Parents' Evening. This is to ensure that everyone will have the chance to go to the prom and get a hoodie if they wish. We will be doing many events like these throughout the year, so keep your eyes peeled! However we don't just help and plan Year 11 events; the team helped out at the Year 7 Halloween Disco too. So if any of you have an idea or event that you would like to take place come and talk to us and we will do our best to make it happen. Just remember, look out for the yellow lanyards...



We will soon start to look for the next round of Student Leadership (from our current Year 10) to take over as we move towards our GCSEs. Initially they will be acting as our deputies/support so if you would like to be a Student Leader or if you have any questions about what the role involves, ask one of us or Ms Allaway.”

INFORMATION CONTINUED...

Year 9 Options

Please see below the Spring Term Timeline of events for the Year 9 Options.

During the course of the term, students will be receiving regular advice and sup-

port from staff so that they are better informed when making their final choices in February.

Please put January 30th in your diaries. This is the

Options Fair which a very important event where you will be able to talk to staff at length about your child's preferences and how to complete the final forms.

SPRING TERM TIMELINE 2018		
JANUARY	Mon 08 - 26	Tutor chats- (3 weeks in VT)
	Mon 22	Y9 Assembly 1 – NWH - Choices and timetable of time
	TBA	Taster lessons/ small group talks for students by request
	Mon 22	Options Booklet published on website
	Tuesday 30	Options / Careers Fayre + Talks 3.30-6.30 pm TALKS ⌚ 3.45 – 4.30 Alexandria/Colosseum/Ephesus ⌚ 5.45 – 6.30 Rhodes/ Olympia/Petra
FEBRUARY	Wed 31/1 Thurs 1 Fri 2	Guidance Meetings during school with SLT
	Wed 7	Y9 Assembly 2 -Options
	Thurs 8	Options forms ONLINE
	Mon 26	Options forms DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION
	TBA	Follow-up Guidance Meetings for some students

Ephesus News

A big thank you to Student Ambassadors and Ephesus College parents and students for their contributions to the Food bank. The boxes were delivered to St Barnabus Church in North Finchley. This was a very successful collection and we are sure families will benefit from your help.



FROM THE LIBRARY



Recycle Old Christmas Cards

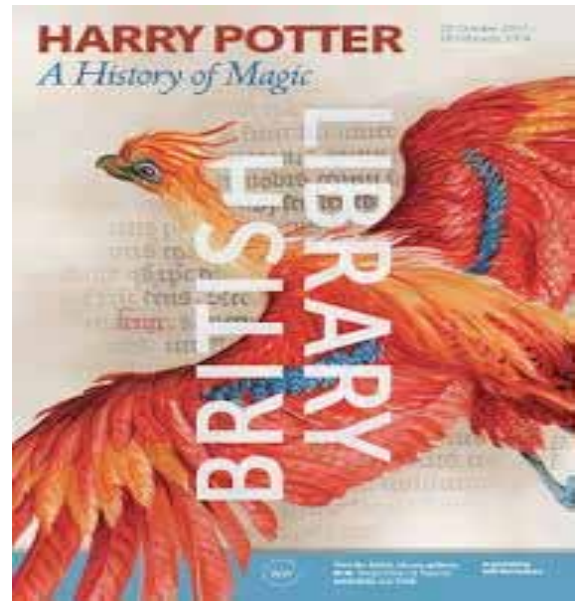
Spotted on Twitter, and another way to recycle: “Please send picture halves of your old Christmas cards to:
Women in Prison
Elmfield House
5 Stockwell Mews,
London SW9 9GX.

Next December women will be able to make Christmas cards for their families and children”.

Notes from Non

Teenagers are often perceived as reluctant readers, even when they're not. That's usually because the adults around them don't value what they are reading.

“There is no wrong way to read” - Non Pratt



History of Magic Exhibition Trip

We are currently organising a trip to the British Library to participate in the Harry Potter History of Magic exhibition and workshops. Places will be issued on a first come, first served basis, so please keep an eye out for ParentMails...



RECOMMENDED READ

The Dark is rising
by Susan Cooper

During the Christmas break I had a marvellous time revisiting Susan Cooper's The Dark is Rising sequence. I'd forgotten quite how dark and atmospheric the books are – perfect for lovers of adventure, fantasy, magic and subtle horrific twists. Quite a storm has been generated on Twitter: #TheDarkIsReading.



Student Book Review

Omer Erdem (Y7 E4) has just had his book review of Dream Land by Lily Hyde published on the International Committee for Crimea's website. You can read it by following this link:

<http://www.iccrimea.org/reports/dreamland2018.html>

EVENTS

FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE



Fortismere Music Centre Starts back again this week for Instrumental Lessons on Saturday (6th).

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra starts up on Tuesday 9th at 7pm, and Fortismere Community Choir begins on Saturday 13th. This choir start date is one week later than previously advertised.

This term the Orchestra will be playing Vaughan-Williams 'London Symphony', Sibelius 'Violin Concerto' and a new piece by local composer, Rohan Stevenson.

The Choir will be singing Haydn's 'The Seasons'.

More info is online at: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

CHESS CLUB

Chess Club meets Thursday and Friday in 13T1.

After School Club meets Thursday after school.

Checkmate occurs when the King is in check and is unable to move. Attempt the 2 puzzles (W mates in 2 moves)



Congratulations



Helen Kursten-Holmes in 13AJ attended the Journalism Insight Day at Sky

Helen wrote about her experience and Sky have used her article on their website. We're really proud of her.

<http://www.workforsky.com/behind-the-scenes/people-behind-sky/interested-journalism-why-not-come-along-one-our-insight-days>

EVENTS CONTINUED



Dreamgirls

Original Price: £99.50
Offer Price: £40.00



The Ferryman

Original Price: £64.50
Offer Price: £34.50

Tickets4Schools Offers

Tickets4Schools have got some fantastic offers in place for Fortismere parents/carers and staff:

Dreamgirls and The Ferryman

A great way to cheer yourselves up in January!

Dreamgirls is the hit musical about success and rivalry in a 1960s music trio.

The Ferryman is set against the backdrop of the Irish Troubles in the 1980s and is directed by Sam Mendes.

Full details and booking here:

<http://tickets4schools.com/fortismere-school>

SPOTLIGHT ON PARENT FORUM

Date: January 15th

Time: 7:30 - 9pm

Place: South Wing Hall

NB—Governors' surgeries take place beforehand, at 6pm

Please note that personal issues to do with your child should not be brought up at the Forum - governor surgeries and other avenues are the place for this.

Among items for discussion at this term's Forum are:

- Brief update on Headteacher recruitment
- Ofsted visit feedback, if available
- Mobile Phone Policy update
- Feedback from parents on Fortismere School Website, in preparation for upcoming survey
- AOB brought up by parents/carers

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

Go4Schools evening

In response to questions brought up at the Parent Forum, the school is preparing an information evening to explain how Go4Schools works in more detail. The evening will most likely take place on January 23rd.

Interested in knowing more about how to log on, navigation, tracking data or marking schemes? Anyone with questions about this system should email governors@fortismere.org.uk, so their issues can be put on the agenda for the upcoming talk.