

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Fortismere is fortunate in having a cohort of students who are both independently minded and articulate. This is a great combination for a student representative. The Co-Heads hosted the first School Council Meeting on Tuesday for the year reps (Y7-13) to discuss issues and concerns raised by students in their tutor groups. Students raised topics ranging from behaviour to sustainability and recycling. It was clear from the beginning of the meeting that the reps know their brief: their points were thoughtful and well evidenced and often contained a suggestion for a way forward. They were a very impressive group of students and this sits alongside the 'Speak Out' competition for Y10 last week as examples of opportunities where students get to use their voice. The work the PE Department are doing on Sports' Leadership also enables students to experience positions of responsibility and enhances students' enjoyment of school, in addition to the acquisition of some very useful skills. Student commitment of a different kind has been in evidence all week, in rehearsals for the Music and Poetry event on February 13. Students and staff were in fine form as they practised the programme, including Ms Judge on strings. Judging by the quality of the talent on show, this is an event not to be missed. We are also delighted to see the increased commitment to rehearsals (and practice in general) from our student musicians. The standard on display is noticeable and justifies Mr Jefferies tenacious approach.

Music has a strong tradition at Fortismere as shown by the numbers who opt for GCSE Music or the Btec in Music Technology. As a school, we have always supported and encouraged the creative and expressive arts and this was on show again at our Options Evening for Y9 parents and carers on Thursday. Fortismere currently offers 34 subjects at GCSE or Btec and it is

very important that students and their families have an opportunity to find out more about the different subjects and how the choices for Y10 may help their son or daughter in the longer term. Art and Photography had pride of place in the Foyer but Drama and Economics had biscuits, which always helps. The event was very well attended and there was a definite buzz round the subjects not taught at KS3, which are therefore new to the students. We look forward to meeting with parents and carers at the guidance meetings later on this half term and answering any questions which may have arisen following both the talk and visiting the subject stalls.

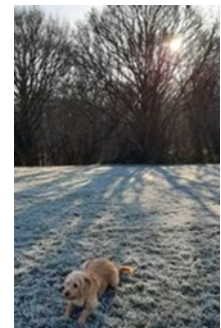
We would like to say well done to Y13 who finished mock exams this week. It's been an intense process and students have been well organised and focused. We trust that the experience will support Y13 well in planning for their A level exams but that they also take a bit of time to recover from the experience and fit in some relaxation. Meanwhile, we have been congratulating the Y11 students who made the most academic progress in their mock exams before Christmas. It's a particularly enjoyable way to end the week, sharing hot chocolate and a host of unhealthy but delicious pastries with our students in the Co-Heads Champions' Breakfast.

We would also like to wish the Y12 Politics trip to Washington 'bon voyage'. We can't think of a more exciting time to be in Washington, presidential impeachments don't come along every day. Finally, we would like to wish Edison, our therapy dog, Happy 1st Birthday. He has become a much loved member of staff and we hope he had an excellent birthday.



Ms Zoe Judge

Ms Jo Davey



Dates For Your Diary

- 29 Feb Quiz Night 6.30pm SW Hall

Messages

Consultation on proposed Admissions policy for 2021

The governing body are consulting on a proposed change to the school's Admissions policy from September 2021 onwards. The consultation runs until 30 January 2020 and governors would welcome feedback on the proposed change. The full proposed Admissions Policy for 2021 (*could you make that a link to the Admissions & Appeals page on the website pls*) is published on the school website with details of how to submit your feedback. The change relates to priority for children of staff in our over-subscription criteria. If you have any comments or queries please email governors@fortismere.org.uk

Year 8Y Parents' Evening 3.30 -6.30pm, South Wing - Wednesday 29th January 2020 – Ms Williams

Year 8 Parents' Evening booking site will open at 10am on Tuesday 21st January 2020. Parents/Carers of Year 8 students will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 20th January 2020, which will contain the booking link and booking instructions. **Only 8Y bank parents should book appointments.**



History Department- Castle Building Competition!

Congratulations to all entrants in the Castle Building competition. There were fantastic entries of either a motte and bailey or stone keep castle that showed an eye for detail and historical accuracy. The voting panel had a very difficult job voting for the top ten castles. The winners are...

Maddie Jacob-Havnen

Isabella Fitch

Jay Eastwood

Alma Segal

Billy Star

Maisie Phillips

Leon Denis-Fandre



The last two castles have mystery owners. Please email Ms Sullivan ssullivan@fortismere.org.uk if you are the creator of the castle with Lego people on it or the creator of the castle pictured above.

Your prize includes a big bar of chocolate, a certificate and trip to the Tower of London in July! Details of this will be sent out nearer the time.

Please come and collect your castle by Wednesday 29th January.

Sports News

An unbelievably busy week for Fortismere Sport which saw our boys and girls compete in Football, Cricket, Athletics, Cross- Country, Table Tennis and Rugby. Phew! Our lunch time clubs are now also seeing ever increasing numbers but still room for more. Make sure you know what's on, where and when.

U13 Boys Smash & Spin into last 16 in the Country

On Saturday our U13 Boys Table Tennis team travelled to the Docklands to contest the London & Essex Zonal finals of the National Table Tennis Championships. Having already won through the Borough and North London stages the boys were confident but knew a hard day's competition was ahead of them. This round brought together the winners and runners up from all the London and Essex finals and the standard was, as you may expect, very high. The boys sailed through their pool stage winning all their games except one in which they drew against Whitgift - a large Independent boys school that possessed the number one player in the country at U13 level. Our team contained three Y7 boys plus one Y8 so to draw with such a team as Whitgift – with all Y8 players – was a fantastic result. Onto the semi-finals and the boys played out of their skin to sail through to the final to meet, once again, Whitgift who came through the other semi-final. Both teams knew that they had now qualified through to the South Regional Final and you could understand if they took their foot of the throttle. No such thing occurred as both teams battled full out to win this Zonal stage. The match went to 3-3 with not a Table-Tennis bat between them. Unfortunately for our boys Whitgift had strength in depth and just took the final 2 rubbers to win 5-3. Although disappointed not to record the overall victory the boys were so proud of their achievement on winning through to the Regionals. There are now only 16 schools from the whole country left in the competition. The boys will travel to Bristol on Sunday 9th Feb to contest the Regional finals and we wish them all the very best of luck. We are so proud of you boys! The boys and I would like to say a public vote of thanks to Mr Gabriel (Sam's Father) who managed the boys so expertly on the



Fortismere Hockey Thriving

Mr Kay reports record numbers of Fortismere students attending the hockey club on a Thursday evening after school. 48 Boys and Girls took part this week and the rumours are that their skills are progressing at a very pleasing rate. Well done to all of you. Mr Kay does say however, that there could still be a few more Y7 students taking part and he would like this to happen. Come on Y7 give Hockey a go!



U14 Football Girls in Middlesex Cup dramatic QF Victory

Our superb U14 girls Football Team added to their already very impressive season with a hard fought 3-2 victory in the Middlesex Cup competition. In a very close fought game our girls not only displayed great skills but also heart and desire. The semi-final game is at home next week and, for added spice, it is against our local rivals APS. We wish you all the very best of luck girls!



Sports News

Bronze for U13 Cricketers

It is the turn of the boys for the Indoor Cricket competitions now and first up this week was our U13 Team. Up against some very talented opposition our Boys managed a very respectable 3rd place and yet more points for the Haringey Shield. Well Played Lads!



Y7 Run, Throw and Jump Success!

This week saw the second round of 'meets' for the Borough Sports Hall Athletics Championships. With our Boys and Girls teams lying in 3rd and 4th place respectively, after the first meeting a couple of weeks ago, we knew that we had a hard evening ahead of us to maintain those positions. The girls were excellent throughout, and were able to repeat their performance from before and held onto the 4th place slot – Well Done Girls! The boys were outstanding, particularly in the more technical field events, where their practise paid dividends, and they managed to go one better and finish in 2nd place overall behind a very strong St Thomas More team. It was a real team commitment and every single member played a significant part. Excellent stuff boys! District Silver medalists!



Football Result

Our 1st XI were back in action this week as they travelled to Enfield for a league fixture. A very close game saw nothing between the teams after 79 minutes with the score poised at 2-2. However a very unfortunate 'shot come cross' from the Enfield winger in the final minute of the game somehow managed to make its way into the back of our net. Never mind Boys always next week!

Amazing results as Girls Rugby debuts for Fortismere

On Thursday evening Ms Jackson took two girls rugby teams, U13 and U15, over to New River for their first ever taste of full contact Rugby. Not really knowing what to expect Ms Jackson reports an evening full of amazing Rugby and enjoyment. The U13 girls finished in the Runners Up position and our U15 team the bronze. How incredible is that? From nothing to medalling at a fully supported, full contact tournament. The girls loved it apparently and there may be more to come. Watch this space!



Sports News

Spike Rules the Country as he races to County Glory!

On Thursday afternoon a number of Fortismere Cross-Country Runners pulled on the Yellow vest to represent the Borough of Haringey in the Middlesex Schools County Cross-Country Championships. Fortismere had a large number of students in the squad and generally the performances were very pleasing. As I write this I am still awaiting the final placings and will let you all know in next week's newsletter. However what I can report is 2 outstanding performances that have earned places in the Middlesex Team that will contest the ESAA National Champs at Liverpool later in the year. Sophia Staab (U19 Girls) ran absolutely superbly on a very tough course to finish in 6th position of a very competitive field. Well done Sophia and I am sure you will do that County Vest proud. Performance of the day though must go to Y9's Spike Blake (U15 Boys) who got the result his season has deserved winning the race and becoming County Champion. Amazing! Spike didn't have it all his own way and was surrounded by quality runners who were all hoping to take advantage of a slightly under par Spike as he has been suffering from a touch of sickness earlier in the week. That wasn't to worry him though as he cruised into the lead at the top of the big hill and maintained his lead all the way to the line. A remarkable performance! Well done, Spike, Sophia and all our fantastic runners!



Heavy rain may lead to puddles on the Astro in which case it will be closed!

You do not need to get changed for most of the lunchtime activities – just indoor / outdoor trainers required.

You can keep up to date with all the Sport & PE news by following our new twitter account @Fortismerepe and/or @MrOofFortismere

Next Weeks Fixtures

Monday

Y8 Football v Harris (H) 3.45 Kick Off

U13 Girls Football Middlesex Cup SF v APS (H)

Tuesday

U15 Boys Indoor Cricket champs @ Fortismere

Wednesday

Y7 SportsHall Athletics Champs @ STM Return to School
6.15

U14 Boys Hockey Tournament @ Ashford

Y7 Boys Basketball v APS/HWS (A)

Y9 Football v Harris (H) 3.45 Kick Off

Wednesday

Y8 Sports Hall Athletics @ St Thomas More

Thursday

Football Y8 and Y10 v Harris (H) 3.45 KO



Holocaust Memorial Day

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. During the Autumn term a group of year 9 students created a Memorial Flame to mark 75 years since the end of the Holocaust. This will be on display in South Wing this week.



Year 9 Exhibition



The Art & Photography Department would like to invite parents and carers to see the self-portraits created by year 9 students. We will be having an informal viewing on Friday 31st January, 4-6pm.

Are you Britain's Best Young Artist?

CBBC is searching for the UK's Best Young Artist. If you're aged between **11 and 14 years old** and a talented artist (it can be any type of art!) then they would love to hear from you! Click on the link below for details and access to the application form.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/be-on-a-show-britains-best-young-artist?collection=be-on-a-show>



Royal Academy Young Artist's Summer Show

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young people aged 5 - 19 years, taking place both online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. Artworks can be submitted online by students or on their behalf by a teacher, parent or guardian by **Friday 24th April**.

The Fourth Plinth Schools Award

This Award is a chance for schools to produce a work of art inspired by the contemporary art commissions for Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth. There are winner and runner-up prizes (provided by Cass Art) for different age categories: 5-7 years, 8-11 years and 12-15 years, as well as prizes for the best work from each borough. If your child would like to enter their own piece they should contact Ms Powell. The deadline for entries is **6th March**.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/current-culture-projects/fourth-plinth-traffic-square/fourth-plinth-schools-awards-2020>



KS3 Art Club is back! Every Tuesday, 3.30-4.30.



Music Department

Music and Poetry

This term's concert will be an **Evening of Music and Poetry** on Thursday 13th February at 7pm in the South Wing Hall. If your child is interested in auditioning a piece of music please ask them to email Mr Jefferies at ejjefferies@fortismere.org.uk. The concert will be acoustic in nature and we are looking for items from a diverse range of performers, since this event is in conjunction with the Library we are also looking for original poems from students from all year groups or alternatively existing works of literature that students would like to recite. Any students that would like to be involved should email Miss Ward at GWard@fortismere.org.uk.



News from the Library



Harry Potter Night—7th February

Preparations are well underway for Harry Potter Night on Friday 7th February. Letters have gone home for Year 7 and Year 8 students, so please make sure the permission slip is returned asap as we do have a strict number limit. Please forgive the time typo – the evening finishes at 9.30pm (much as we love your children, we don't want to keep them till 9.30 the next morning!) We're still looking for socks for Dobby's corner – odd, old, holey is fine. Unwashed is not.

Quote of the Week

On the week of the 70th anniversary of his death from tuberculosis - "Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout with some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven on by some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand" [George Orwell].

Recommended Reads of the Week

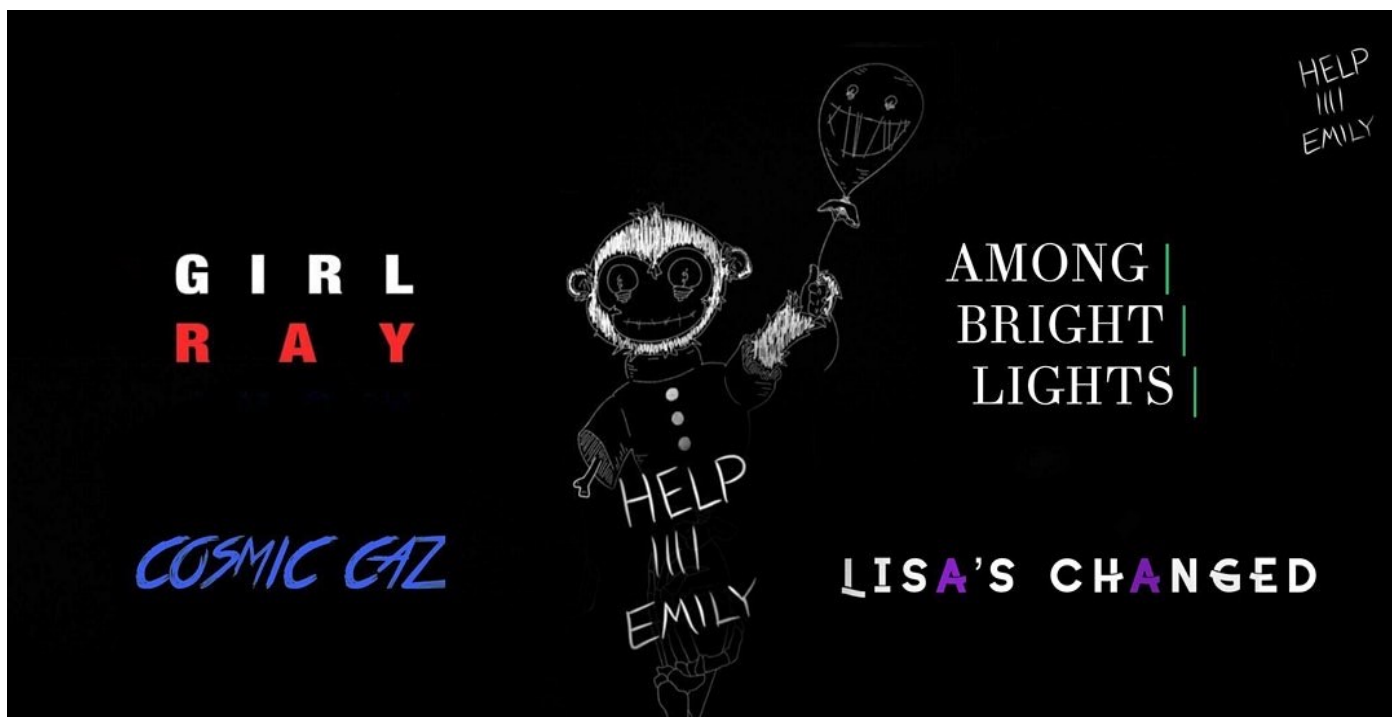
While the nights are still dark, let's read some spooky books. We loved *Seven Ghosts* by Chris Priestley, *The Wrong Train* by Jeremy de Quidt and *Thirteen Chairs* by Dave Shelton. What links these three is that they are each a series of short stories joined together by a running narrative. Plus they are bound to give your child goosebumps...



Events

Fortismere Alumni Fundraising Event

As advertised in last week's co-headteachers' message, we'd like to encourage our students and their families to support the event below including our brilliant alumni indie pop act **Girl Ray**. It should be a great night!



Quiz Night—Saturday 29 February 6.30 pm SW HALL

Get your tickets for this brilliant event and tick another task off your To Do list!

Pauline, our excellent host for the night who we know will ensure our quiz is a night to remember:

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 you.

Tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-quiz-night-tickets-86807699165>

