

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

This week a number of students have been busy representing the school at sporting events and conferences. From KS3 table tennis in Bristol via KS4 boys' hockey competition to Y7 rugby at Saracens, our students have been flying the flag for Fortismere across London. In addition, we are developing a link with Gaelic football in London and have been lucky enough to have access to coaching for our students. The range of sporting opportunities has exploded at Fortismere and it is deeply pleasing to see so many of our students both participating in sport at every level and representing the school at local, regional and even national competitions.

Conferences deepen knowledge and enable students to experience a subject or topic at a higher level. This week Year 11 dancers have been to a dance conference, the photographers have been to the Photographers Gallery and our Classics students attended a Classics lecture. Drama took Year 11 to see 'Touching the Void' and Art took their Year 11 to the Royal Academy. The academic enrichment offered by these experiences is invaluable; not just for GCSE performance but to engage and excite the students, leaving an indelible memory.

Year 7 & 8 will be having their own memorable event with the annual Harry Potter night which takes place tonight. It is a fantastic experience and the students who attend really enjoy it. Ms Ward and Ms Bhambra pull out all the stops to make sure that our ardent Harry Potter fans have a fully

immersive experience. 5pm to 9.30pm will fly by for our happy muggles.

Several weeks ago we wrote about the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' challenge and the Year 10 students who had made it through to the regional final hosted by Gladesmore School. We are delighted to report that Jessica Bailey Ryan won the regional competition and will now be representing Fortismere in the semi-final. Her speech was superb; we are so impressed in the growth of her confidence and are very proud of her performance. We will keep you posted about how she fares in the next round.

Since becoming Co-Headteachers we have often drawn attention to our school aim of transforming lives through education. Weeks like this one, with so many positive experiences available for our students, demonstrate the commitment of the staff to ensure that this is a reality for our students.

We wish all our families a lovely weekend; we are battenning down the hatches for Storm Ciara!



Dates For Your Diary

- 12 Feb Y12 Parents Evening
- 29 Feb Quiz Night 6.30pm SW Hall

Messages

Year 12 Parents' Evening 3.30 -6.30pm, North wing - Wednesday 12th February – Ms St-Amour

Year 12 Parents' Evening booking site will open at 10am Tuesday 4th February. Parents/Carers of Year 12 students will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 3rd February, which will contain the booking link and booking instructions.

Exam fees for Additional Languages Students

All students wishing to re-sit or take additional languages must have a completed form and exam fees to me no later than 10 February.

No entries will be made after this date.

Drama Department

Fortismere Alumni Billy Barrett on the BBC with Award Winning Show

Breach Theatre was established by Billy Barrett whilst he was at Warwick University having left Fortismere in 2010. His show ***It's True, It's True, It's True*** will be broadcast on television this weekend **BBC Four at 11pm on February 9th**. The production, which Billy wrote and directed, won The Stage Edinburgh award and a Fringe First award when it ran at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2018. Telling the story of the 1612 trial of the painter Agostino Tassi, who was accused of raping fellow artist Artemisia Gentileschi, the play is based on transcripts from the trial. The show will be on at the Barbican as well

Tue 31 Mar—Thu 9 Apr 2020.

Don't miss it!



Technical Team

Are you interested in stage Lighting or Sound? The Drama department is offering 6 lucky students a chance to be trained by a West End Lighting and Sound Designer. We are looking for a team to be able to run all audio and visual in the NW hall during productions. High level of commitment and maturity is required and Year 9 and up. Training will be provided after school and certain dates after school in March. Please fill in this google form if interested - <https://forms.gle/xRGsQEdhHye987qz6>



Year 11 Exam Evenings – Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 5:00pm

The Year 11 Drama students will be performing their GCSE exam pieces on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 5:00pm in the NW hall. There will be 13 different extracts from 13 different plays over two nights. Parents will be notified which night their child is performing on. The tickets for the evening will be available on Parentmail shortly. Tickets can also be purchased on the door.

Sports News

Eddie Jones – Are you watching?

Y7 Rugby Team Make Fantastic Strides!

Our Y7 Boys Rugby Team travelled to Allianz Park on Tuesday evening to compete in the Challenge Cup tournament hosted and organised by Saracens Rugby. This is the second of such tournaments for schools who are developing their Rugby and/or have very few players of previous experience. You may remember the boys competed in the same event back in November. That night was a bit

of a baptism of fire for our boys, and our team contained only one player who had experience of contact rugby. Unsurprisingly we failed to win a game but did manage to score our first ever try. We came back from that experience with a determination to improve and learn the game and my word how hard the boys worked – through all those freezing, wet evenings. So this time we travelled with a little more optimism. WOW sums up our performances. The boys were incredible and our, rucking, mauling, tackling and running with the ball had improved beyond recognition. We amazingly won 3 out of our 4 matches drawing the other in a game we should have won as well. The boys were ecstatic, as was a certain team manager, and were so delighted all their training had paid off. We look forward to more matches as Rugby slowly, at last, becomes more established at Fortismere. Well done Y7 Boys!



U16's Hockey Team Equal the U14's achievement!

Last week we reported on the incredible performance of our U14 Boys Hockey Team as they recorded incredible runners up spot in the Middlesex County Championships. This week was the turn of the U16 Boys team and, we are so delighted to say, they equalled their younger peers to finish in the exact same Silver medal position. Both sides will now go through to the South regionals and Mr Kay is absolutely thrilled with the boy's efforts and performances. Well done lads!

AP Saints reach National Finals

Our amazing local Netball team – the AP Saints – who train at Fortismere most evenings and have many Fortismere students as players, are well known as having immensely strong teams throughout all their age groups. However their U16 team recently recorded an amazing success even for this club. They have stormed through the East London and Essex leagues to finish in top position and qualify through to the national finals. The National finals are held in East London this year, so the girls won't have that far to travel, and they will be up against the very best teams in the country. The event is in the first weekend of May and the girls take with them the very best of luck from all of us at Fortismere school sport.



Y10 Football

Well done to our Y10 Boys Football team who finished in 4th place in the Borough 7-a-side Competition this week!

Next Week's Fixtures

Sun 9th - U13 Boys Table-Tennis - 'South' Regional Final – All Day.

Mon – Y7 Basketball v STM (A)

Tuesday – Football Y9 v Park View

Thurs -Football Y8 v Dukes Academy (A)



Music Department

Music and Poetry – Thursday 13th February 2020

On Thursday 13th February please come along and support our students for the **Evening of Music and Poetry** at 7pm in the **South Wing Hall**. Tickets are available on the door or through the link below. The evening will include poetry written by students from a range of year groups as well as readings from works selected by our pupils. There will also be musical performances from our students that range from Beethoven through to Don McLean.



Tickets: £8 Adults £5 Children Tickets via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-and-poetry-tickets-92346385525>

Music Ensembles

Please remember that musical ensembles are running again. If your child is interested in getting involved in one of these groups please send them along or for more information just email the Director of Music at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk. There are lots of opportunities for players of all standards throughout the week and we welcome all year groups.

Monday - Flute Choir (Lunchtime) Cello Ensemble (Lunchtime) Orchestra (After School)

Tuesday - Chamber Choir (Lunchtime)

Wednesday - Big Band (Lunchtime) Ladies Choir (Lunchtime) Gospel Choir (After School)

Thursday - Choir (After School)

Friday - String Orchestra (Lunchtime) Staff Choir (After School)

Congratulations

Well done to Haru Ogiwara who won the North London Area Rotary Club Young Musicians Competition on Saturday 1st February, he will now go on to the Greater London Final on Saturday 29th February.

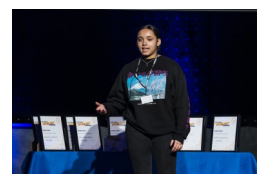
Haru has also been chosen to perform at the Royal Academy of Music on the 1st March 2020 as part of the London Cello Society Cello Power Event.



Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge!

Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge!

A huge congratulations to Jessica Bailey-Ryan (year 10) who came first in the regional Speak Out challenge hosted by Gladesmore Community School on Wednesday 5th Feb. Jessica delivered a speech that has stood out at every stage of this competition and she is now among the top 0.2% of young public speakers in London and Essex. Jessica will be in the local papers and her video has been up-loaded to Youtube, Facebook and Twitter. You can see her delivery of the winning speech here <https://youtu.be/KvgQebbDxEk>. The next stage of the competition is where the judges watch all 37 videos of the regional finalists and then select the top 15 to take part in the Grand Final on 6th July. Fingers crossed for Jessica.



Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme - Winners

Well done to Moutaz Helmi, Sarp Coskun and Max Szczech who were nominated and selected for the Jack Petchey Achievement Award by their peers in recognition for their perseverance, teamwork, hard work and efforts.

News from the Library

Children's Book Awards

Our Year 7s are having so much fun during the Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award meetings (library, lunchtime, Fridays) and that's not just because of the surfeit of lunch and biscuits! The books this year – shortlisted by school librarians from Chestnuts Primary, Greig City Academy, Highgate Wood and Fortismere – is the best yet, and our students love them. We are all looking forward to the Award



Ceremony at Ally Pally at the end of March, which will be a great day out meeting students from 40 other schools around the borough, all the authors, attending workshops, having lunch, exploring the theatre, being entertained by a Surprise (not really a surprise) Host... If your Year 7 loves reading, there is still time to join the group. (By the way, this photo has caught some of the students very seriously pondering one of Mrs Coles' questions. Usually they are much more raucous and smiley!)

In the build up to the Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award, local libraries are holding a series of free workshops, performances and author readings. This Saturday 8th February, your child can learn how to breathe life into their stories with stop motion animation. Lily Ash Sakula is an artist and animator and will be at Coombes Croft Library between 10.30am and 12pm.

Quote of the Week



The value of reading had a big mention in last week's BAFTAs. In accepting his award for *JoJo Rabbit*, Taika Waititi thanked his mother for introducing him to books and as the person who **"made me read, taught me how to read, and insisted that I read – I love you for making me read"**. We love his mum!

Recommended Read of the Week

Highly recommended this week is a new library addition to our graphic novels section, *White Bird* by R J Palacio (author of the ever popular *Wonder*). Written and beautifully illustrated by Palacio, *White Bird* looks at the Holocaust from the point of view of a French Jewish child in hiding. Anyone inspired by the story of Anne Frank will love this.



Harry Potter Night



Find out if mischief was managed in next week's newsletter....

Fortismere Robotics

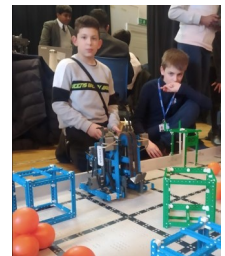
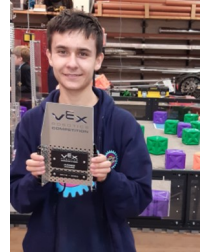
It's been a very eventful half term and set to get even busier before we break up for the half term holiday. Fortismere Robotics teams have competed in the following regional events:

Tuesday 5th October 2019 GCA London VEX IQ Tournament
Saturday 12th October 2019 East of England VRC Tower Takeover Tournament
Saturday 30th November 2019 QE North London VEX IQ Regional
Wednesday 11th December 2019 HBS VRC Tower Takeover Regional 2019
Saturday 11th January 2020 East Kent VRC Tower Takeover Regional 2019
Friday 17th January 2020 HBS VRC Tower Takeover Tournament
Saturday 1st February 2020 Cranleigh School VRC Regional

Up and coming events:

Saturday 8th February 2020 Brunel University West London VRC Tower Takeover 2020
Friday 14th February 2019 GCA London IQ Regional Tournament
Saturday 15th February 2019 Fortismere International
The VEX IQ Challenge UK Middle School National Championship 2020

Fortismere teams have again been successful in winning prizes, a Judges award from the recent EDR Cranleigh School competition. The Vex IQ teams have earned National places at the Vex UK National Final. Max Szczech has been leading the Vex EDR Robotics this year and has made excellent progress. The Vex IQ team members have also been equally as impressive!



IET Faraday Challenge

This week STEAM@fortismere hosted an IET Faraday Challenge award day. 36 Year 8 students competed. In teams of 6 students worked together in specific roles to Engineer a prototype that could be launched from an Airbus plane to help save lives out from a disaster! The winning team included Harry Power, Rhea Jungeblut-Pearce, Alexander Atureliya, Tommaso Preka, Toby Yorston and Tom Rought-Oram. Well done to all involved!



Events & Fundraising

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 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>



Fortismere Family Food Corner—Ms Bhambra

Introducing the Fortismere Family Food Corner, the idea behind this is that parents, careers and pupils can get together and cook a meal. The hope is that this will bring the family together as well as help our pupils to build on their cooking skills as well as their confidence. Cooking is an important life skill that we all need to know!

All the recipes featured will either be existing recipes that have been adapted or simplified for the whole family to follow or secret family recipes from the staff at Fortismere. So I start this off with one of my family favourites – Lamb Keema & Naan.

Lamb Keema

Ingredients

250g mince lamb or soya mince
200g tinned tomatoes
1 large onion
75g frozen peas
20g fresh coriander
5cm ginger
3 garlic cloves
1-2 green chillies
15g butter
1tbsp olive oil
1tsp cumin seeds
1 tsp garam masala
½ tsp crushed fenugreek seeds
½ tsp turmeric powder
1 black cardamom
2 cloves
¼ tsp black pepper
¼ tsp salt



Method

Peel and finely chop the onion, ginger, garlic and chillies.

Heat the oil and butter in a saucepan until the butter has melted and is sizzling.

Add the cumin seeds, crushed fenugreek seeds, black cardamom, cloves and the black pepper.

Add the onion, ginger, garlic, chillies and cook until golden brown.

Stir in the rest of the spices.

Add a splash of water and the tomatoes, cook for 2 minutes

Mix in the Mince lamb, reduce the heat to medium and cook for 25 minutes until the lamb is cooked.

Stir in the fresh coriander and serve with fresh naan bread or rice.