

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

We began the week on a real high as we were invited to be judges, alongside Mr Georgiou and Mr Barsby in the Year 10 Speak Out Challenge Assembly. Four incredibly confident and articulate Fortismere students who were taking part in the challenge presented their speeches to us, their tutors and their peers on a range of issues from feminism to homelessness and we were very impressed and proud to see them tackle issues that were both important and personal to them. The four students: Caleb Hyman, Otto Omell, Clementine Knowles and Jessica Bailey-Ryan really inspired (and entertained) us and we had a tough job choosing which two would go on to represent the school in the regional finals. However, we are able to announce that after deliberations Caleb and Jessica were chosen to progress to the next stage. The regional finals are taking place at Gladesmore school in February. We very much look forward to hearing more about how Jessica and Caleb get on there and we wish them the very best of luck.

On Tuesday we were judges again, this time for the Year 7 Castle building competition organised by the History department. It was wonderful to see the time and creativity involved in the work students had produced as part of this project and to meet and talk to some of the entrants themselves. They were very impressive overall. Please take time to view some of the pictures later in this week's newsletter. This project excites our Year 7 students every year and it was certainly evident in speaking with our young historians that what they had studied so far as part of the curriculum was inspiring them to learn much more. We are often bowled over by how creative our students are. This week while strolling the corridors at the Year 8 parents' evening some lovely sculptures caught our eye that had been created in Art lessons. They were delightful pots in the shape of animals that had been out on display to be collected by students

that evening. We were tempted to sneak some back to our offices if students didn't come along to collect them. Anyway, Year 8 students beware! If you don't go to the Art department to pick up your pots you may end up having to get them back from us. We also really enjoy hearing from former students who have gone on to creative careers and pastimes. This week we met up with a former student who is organising a music fundraiser near Alexandra Palace on 1st February. The majority of the line up are Fortismere alumni, with the headliners being the brilliant indie pop trio, 'Girl Ray'. Poppy, Iris and Sophie left Year 13 a few years ago but are now enjoying a stellar career as musicians appearing at some of the big summer festivals as well as touring the UK and some European cities next month. We'd thought many of you would like to support this event so will send out more details when we have them.

Before signing off we'd like to say well done to our soon-to-be alumni, our Year 13 students, who have been working very hard this week on their mock exams. We'd also like to extend particular congratulations to the students who received conditional offers at Oxford and Cambridge colleges this week.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.



Ms Zoe Judge

Ms Jo Davey



Dates For Your Diary

- 16 January Year 11 Business Trip to Madame Tussauds
- 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.**



Year 10 Speak out assembly final

Following on from the Public speaking Training Day in December, four year 10's really put their skills into action when they delivered their speech to their peers in assembly on Tuesday. The year 10 audience were fantastic at listening and showing respect and encouragement, and the four speakers were absolutely fantastic. They were Caleb Hyman, Otto Omell, Clementine Knowles and Jessica Bailey-Ryan. Our judges were incredibly impressed by the oratory skill and they way each speaker connected with the audience, the judges were Ms Davey, Ms Judge, Mr Barsby and Mr Georgiou and they unanimously agreed that the two winners were Caleb and Jessica. The regional final will be held at Gladesmore Community School on 5th Feb 2020 and we wish the Fortismere finalist the best of luck in taking part in this next challenge.



Parent/Carer Voluntary Contributions 2019/2020

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have already made a voluntary contribution, this is very much appreciated. For those who may still wish to contribute, the autumn term communication from the Chair of Governors and Co-Heads which provides more details is attached <https://www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/page/?title=Voluntary+Contributions&pid=90>

Sports News

Bronze for U15 Girls Cricket

Following on from the success of the U13 Girls it was the turn of the U15's to contest the Haringey Borough Indoor Cricket Champs. And just like their younger peers the girls played fantastically to finish in 3rd place. Whilst the wind howled and the rain lashed outside our girls put their bowling, batting and fielding skills to the test and were delighted to achieve the bronze medal position and gain 13 more valuable points towards the Haringey Schools Shield! Well Done Girls!



Y8's Turn to Run Throw and Jump!

Following on from the great performances of Y7 last week it was the turn of our Y8 Sports Hall Athletics teams to make the short trip across to STM to contest the borough champs. Both teams competed superbly and, considering we went there short in numbers, due to the clash with Y8 parents evening, scored many valuable points in the chase for the Haringey shield. The girls shone this week as they finished in a very impressive 3rd place whilst the boys, with only 5 members to contest all the events, battled bravely and fought off the fatigue to finish 7th. As the Y7 competition we are only half way through and, with full teams out next time, we hope to make up some places. Well done to all!

Our Super Y8 Sports Hall Athletic Teams!

Fortismere Sports Teams doing us proud in the race for the Haringey Schools Shield! After an extremely busy and competitive first term of Haringey Borough Schools competitions both our Girls and Boys are sitting very pretty in the latest standings. Our girls are currently in 3rd place and with the Netball results, in which we won 2 of the age groups, still to be added, we are confident of an even higher position. Our Boys lead the way with an amazing one term score of 221 points 14 points clear of our nearest challengers St Thomas More school. With many competitions still to come there is still everything to play for but 1st and 3rd places at this stage are really pleasing. Well done to each and every one of you who have represented the school so brilliantly! Go Fortismere!



Fortismere Teams Looking Good!

Don't forget that you can purchase Hoodies specific to the sport and team you play in for a very reasonable price. The link is below. There are a range of sports covered and the cost includes all printing. These 'Team Hoodies' can be worn in PE lessons. We have also designed and produced specific KS4 Sportswear and hoodies as well as the GCSE PE range. I understand money may be a bit tight after the Christmas festivities but these are well worth investing in!

<http://justteamsports.co.uk/products.php?cat=218>



Sports News

Clubs & Activities Spring Term

Our new Extra-Curricular Timetable has been put together for the new term. There are numerous and varied activities available every day! Please come and take part – our clubs are open to all!

FORTISMERE Extra-Curricular Timetable – Spring Term 2019/20

SH- Sports Hall FR-Fitness Room G&B – Girls & Boys

This Timetable does not include Fixtures – These will be announced on the weekly produced Time-Table!

Sometimes staff attending fixtures may not be able to run their normal clubs. They will try to get somebody else to cover for them but very occasionally clubs may have to be cancelled!

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.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.45-8.25		Fitness Club (FR) COSI			Friday Fun Run! All Years (Off Site) ORS
Lunch Time 12.20 – 1.10	Y9 Football (Astro) KIW All Years Badminton (SH) ORS Y10/11/6th Girls Fitness (FR) KAG 1/BAL 2 Y11/6th Form Table-Tennis (G&B) COSI (SW Gym)	Y7 Football (Astro) ORS All Years Badminton (SH) HAM 6th Form Fitness (FR) JAC Y8 Table-Tennis (G&B) COSI (SW Gym)	Y8 Football (Astro) ORS All Years Badminton (SH) VAM Y10/11 Fitness (FR) HAM Y7 Table-Tennis (G&B) (SW Gym) COSI All Years Yoga VC	Y11/6th Form Football (Astro) VAM All Years Badminton (SH) JAC1/WIK2 6th Form Fitness (FR) HAM Y10 Table-Tennis (SW Gym) COSI All Years Cross-Country (Off Site) ORS	Y10 Football (Astro) KAG Y11/6th Form Badminton (SH) ORS Y9 Table-Tennis (G&B) COSI (SW Gym)
After School 3.20-4.45	Y7 & 8 Boys & Girls Sport Hall Athletics (SH) ORS Y9 Football Training – Field/SW Gym COSI	All Years Rugby – Field ORS KS3 Table-Tennis (SW Gym) MAP Indoor Cricket (SH) (Various) All Years Fitness (FR) HAM Netball All Years (Courts) All Saints VC	All Years Handball – VC (Sports Hall) Senior Football – Field HAM/ORS	All Years Hockey (Astro) KAG All Years Badminton BAL & STD All Years Fitness (FR) HAM Y10 Basketball SW Gym Trampolining (SH) (WIK)	GONE HOME!

Music Department

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons will start again from Monday 20th January. Students may check the notice board outside the Music Office from Monday and all parents will be informed via email of the exact dates and times for the term. If you have any questions relating to these lessons please contact Mel Izzet at mizzet@fortismere.org.uk.



Music Ensembles

All musical ensembles will be running again as normal from Monday 20th January. If your child is interested in getting involved in one of these groups please email the Director of Music at ajefferies@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)

Music and Poetry

This term's concert will be the 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 ajefferies@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.



Congratulations to:

Felix Hollenbury Y11 who just achieved a high distinction for his trombone grade 8 examination



Ollie Canham Y13 who has been offered a highly coveted undergraduate place at the Guildhall Music Conservatoire as a Jazz Guitarist



Drama News

Year 10 Drama Theatre in Education Visits

Year 10 Drama GCSE students went to Martins Primary and Eden Primary school yesterday to perform their devised pieces that they had created for the students. Students spent 8 weeks creating bespoke plays for these primary schools and Year 3 and Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the shows. There was singing, dancing and important lessons being learnt. Huge congratulations to our Year 10 students who were fabulous!



Almeida Open Sessions

Open Sessions are free drama workshops for 14 – 18 year olds at the Almeida Theatre in Islington.

Everyone is welcome, no need to apply just turn up and get involved!

These are fun and friendly sessions on developing acting skills and making theatre.

Wednesdays 7pm-9pm at 108 Upper Street N1 1QN

Text 07947 705 608



Fortismere Drama on Social Media

If you would like to find out more information about what the Drama department do every day, please do follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @fortismeredrama

Art & Photography Department

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

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>

Work Experience Opportunity for students aged 14-16

S4SNextGen has places available for two work experience placements:

19th February 2020 [ITV: Insight day with ITV's Creative Team.](#)

Application Deadline 22nd January 2020. (Age 14-16)

16th – 20th March 2020 [National Theatre: Work Experience for Y10 Students.](#)

Application Deadline 22nd January 2020. (Year 10 students only)

Please contact Ms Powell (mpowell@fortismere.org.uk) for application details and links



Tate Collective: £5 gallery entry for 16-18 year olds

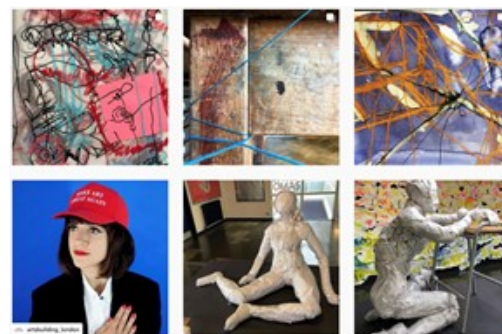
Becoming a Tate Collective member means you'll get reduced price entry to any Tate exhibition plus discounts in all Tate cafes and shops. With the Andy Warhol retrospective coming up at the Tate Modern it's an offer that cannot be missed.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/tate-collective>

Please see last week's newsletter for details regarding the **Royal Academy Student Summer Exhibition** and the **Trafalgar Square, Fourth Plinth Competition**. Both awards have great prizes!

Finally, please follow the Art & Photography Department's instagram to see the excellent work produced, events and to also see the success achieved by our creative alumni.

[@fortismere art photography](#)



KS3 Art Club

Art Club restarts on Tuesday 14th January (3.30-4.30pm). This half term we will be creating Cubist inspired masks.



News from the Library

Visit from Dr Nikesh Shukla

On Monday 13th January, several Year 10 classes were treated to a visit from Dr Nikesh Shukla, screenwriter and novelist best known for the collection of essays called *The Good Immigrant* which he compiled. Nikesh talked movingly and passionately about prejudice and stereotypes, about how he is still overcoming the fear left after a racially motivated attack and how his self-confidence is constantly improving (and how/why). Students listened to excerpts from his latest YA novel, *The Boxer* and asked sensitive and probing questions. They were fascinated to hear that Nikesh's Uncle Mahesh was the first person to have brought a case of racial discrimination under the Race Relations Act of 1968 against an estate agent who refused to sell to "coloured people". And not all of them were aware of how much hate crime has increased since Brexit. A thought provoking afternoon was had by all.



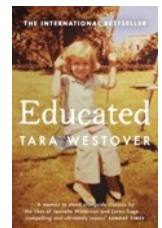
Harry Potter Night—Friday 7th February



We're already making preparations for Harry Potter Night on 7th February and have a favour to ask on behalf of Dobby. He's having his own corner and needs SOCKS. It doesn't matter if they are odd, or holey, but definitely washed. Please send to the library.

CoverUp

Don't forget the next meeting of CoverUp for parents and staff. We'll be discussing *Educated* by Tara Westover, as well as all the books we've read and films and plays we've seen. As usual. Thursday 23rd January, 7pm in the library. Refreshments provided.

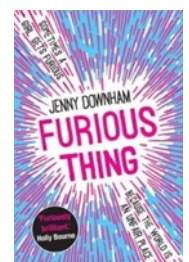


Quote of the Week

Now that Dr Who is back on the telly box, we are reminded of the wonderful, "You want weapons? We're in a library. Books are the best weapon in the world. This room's the greatest arsenal we could have" [from Tooth and Claw, series 2].

Recommended Read of the Week

If you reckon your teenager is grumpy and prone to temper outbursts, then meet Jenny Downham's *Furious Thing*. This is an excellent, absorbing YA novel, and we discover exactly why Lexi is angry (justifiably, in my opinion...)



Events

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>

