

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Another exciting and busy week at Fortismere draws to a close; a week in which we welcomed back our sixth Form politics students from their fascinating visit to Washington where we understand they enjoyed an up-close insight in US politics. This week we also sent a group of students to enjoy a day's fun much closer to home at 'Go Ape' at Ally Pally. Students were selected, as a reward, by their Heads of Year (Yrs 7-11) to take part in a day's shoot there to help create new promotional materials for the organisation and enjoy lots of thrilling physical activity while doing so. We gather it was a great day and that the selected students represented Fortismere brilliantly, which we know our students always do.

Parents and carers may remember that over the last couple of weeks we have promoted a music fundraiser being organised by Fortismere Alumni involving a number of talented ex-Fortismere students including the popular girl band, Girl Ray. This week, Girl Ray returned to their educational roots and joined staff and students in North Wing Hall to shoot the music video for their upcoming new single. We weren't able to join in the fun as we were at Year 8 parents evening but we understand that North Wing Hall was converted into a scene from a high school prom circa 1987 and a number of our drama students made up the numbers as extras in the video. We are delighted that the band are so keen to re-engage with the school just as their musical careers are taking off and we know how inspiring it is for our aspiring performers and musicians to meet and work with them. Please do see the notice later in this newsletter for the 'Help Emily' gig which is taking place near Alexandra Palace tomorrow night. If you can go along to support we know the performers and organisers will be delighted.

As a school we have also taken time to

pause and reflect this week as we commemorated, as we do every year, Holocaust Memorial Day which this year was obviously so pertinent since it marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Over the course of the week Ms Fineberg has delivered assemblies to mark the occasion and we know that tutorials and lessons were used to discuss the importance of this event, not only in the context of remembering those who lost their lives but also understanding the conditions that led humanity to this event.

We'll sign off now at the end of what has felt like the longest January ever, a little bit sad that we won't be quite as European as we are today when we wake up tomorrow, but looking forward to the delights that February has to offer us here at Fortismere.



Dates For Your Diary

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

Messages

Greener Schools Fundraiser—27th February

We are excited and proud to announce that our Climate Change group have organised a very important event for this year's calendar. We'd like to encourage parents and carers so come along and support them and the school on this evening.

Please click on the link below for tickets.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fortismere-climate-fundraiser-tickets-90837971819>

Fortismere Climate Group (STUDENT RUN!)
PRESENTS TO YOU:
GREENER SCHOOL FUNDRAISER
27th Feb 6-8:30pm Where?
Fortismere Secondary School - South Wing Hall.
What's on?
- Authors & artists
- University lecturers
- Stalls
- Council members
- Student performances - Food!
£7 on Eventbrite search: Fortismere Climate Fundraiser OR £8 @ the door
We're raising money for:
- Solar panels
- Beehive maintenance
- Re-usable bottles
- Vegetable garden
- Tree maintenance
- Water fountains
Any questions? Contact us:
fortismereclimategroup@gmail.com @ fortismereclimategroup

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.



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>

Sixth Form Politics Trip to Washington

Year 12 and 13 politics students flew across the Atlantic to visit Donald Trump last week. Whilst he was in Washington, and speaking in public, alas our students did not get the chance to meet him. They did get to visit the Capitol Building, hours before his impeachment hearings began, along with the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the BBC Washington Bureau, the White House Visitor Centre, The National Archives and a host of Smithsonian Museums. They also met some interesting people with colourful views. Well done to everyone involved for their good cheer and enthusiasm throughout the visit.



Sports News

Y7 in Successful Basketball Debut

This week saw our Y7 Basketball team make their competitive debut. After a few weeks of training Mr Cox decided that they were ready for some competition and took the boys down to HWS for a 3 way fixture with APS also joining us. We are delighted to report that our youngsters recorded victories over both opponents and delighted Mr Cox with some excellent patterns of play. The whole squad were superb although Mr Cox did say that Rane Joe-Smith, Tyrone Abbey and Ali Illhan were particularly impressive. Well Done Boys!

Middlesex Final for U14 Girls

Last week we reported on the success of our U14 Girls Football team in making the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup and also reported that the semi-final would be played this week against our old rivals APS. And what a game it turned out to be! There really was very little between the two teams however some first class finishing from our super strikers made all the difference and the girls, I am delighted to report, ran our 2-1 winners. They are now in the Final of the Middlesex Cup – how amazing. Ms Van Gucci was delighted with her squad who also defended exceptionally well. We await news of who we will play in the final and when but we will keep you all posted. Exceptional once again girls!



Hockey County Runners Up

After weeks of hard training Mr Kay took our U14 Boys Hockey team across to West London to play in the Middlesex championships. Many schools competed on the day, including several large independent schools, but we are delighted to say that our boys made it all the way through to the final where they lost a very close game. To be the second best Hockey team in the County is an amazing achievement and we look forward to further Hockey success as the season progresses. Well Done Lads!



Sports Hall Athletics Y8 Teams Bounce Back!

Although we had team numbers affected by parents evening which clashed with both nights of the Borough Sports Hall Athletics Championship for Y8 our teams still managed to claw back some important points this week. The Y8 Girls performed superbly to finish in 3rd place overall whilst the boys, who started the day in 7th managed to climb up to 5th by the end of the night. Well done to all teams involved as these are valuable points towards the Haringey Shield !

RUGBY – Still Players Needed!! COME ON!!!!

Those of you who have got to know Mr Orton a little know that he has more than a little passion for the oval shaped ball game. However did you know that his nephew has made the England 6 Nations Squad? His name is Ollie Thorley and he plays on the wing for Gloucester. Look out for him during the 6 nations we are keeping our fingers crossed that he will get a playing opportunity. Even England players like Ollie Thorley started playing Rugby at school and this is a reminder/further plea for Rugby players at Fortismere. Rugby Training is on every Tuesday evening between 3.30 and 4.45 and absolutely everyone is welcome. We know there are Rugby Players in the school so please, please come along. You never know perhaps you could end up a star like Ollie!



Sports News

6th Form Leaders take Charge! - Mr Orton

Pupil leadership and particularly Sports Leadership is a serious target of growth at Fortismere and I am delighted to report on two different sets of Y12 Students taking charge of lessons for some of our younger students. On Wednesday afternoon our Young leaders currently taking the Level 2 UK Sports Leaders course led a wonderful session of fun and games for a Y8 class. The leaders were really amazing and our younger students enjoyed a wonderful sessions completing tasks and races overcoming all sorts of challenges. On Thursday afternoon it was over to our Y12 BTEC students who, as part of the Sports Leadership module, have to deliver a physical activity session to a group of young people. Football and Cricket were the sports of the afternoon. The youngsters involved gave great feedback about the leaders and really enjoyed the sessions. 'Can we have you every week?' one Y8 lad said to one of our leaders!

Young People in leadership roles, particularly sports, is an absolute passion of mine and the integral-benefits are numerous. Consequently I was so proud to see how the young leaders have grown in confidence over the last few weeks and looked totally at home leading sessions with our, and I must say wonderfully behaved students



Next Weeks Fixtures

Monday

Y8/9/10 Indoor Track & Field Champs – Lea Valley 4-6pm

Y7 Basketball v PVA (A)

Tuesday

Y7 Rugby Tournament – Saracens Allianz park 4-6pm

U16 Hockey Middlesex Champs

Thursday

Football Y10 7-A-Side Tournament – Frederick Knight Centre 1pm

Football Y9 v Dukes (A)

Sunday

U13 Boys Table Tennis – South Regional Final – Bristol

Academy of Sport 10am – 4.30pm

ngsters! Well Done All!

Drama Department

Girl Ray Music Video Shoot in the North Wing Hall

This week Fortismere Alumni Poppy, Iris and Sophie from Girl Ray band, filmed their music video in NW hall. It was a true Fortismere affair with the director, set dressers, extras, costume advisor all being ex-students from the last 15 years. Our Year 10 and 11 students helped tech the video and also were background artists. North Wing hall was converted into a 1987 high school prom venue and there was balloons, crazy dancing and lots of jelly.

I wanted to write a short note to thank everybody involved in today's film shoot for the music video for my band Girl Ray! North Wing Hall served as our 1980s prom hall and we were so excited when we saw the group of lovely extras all serving their finest 80s look – side ponytails and all. They were fabulous not only at pulling shapes on our fake dancefloor, but also at throwing jelly at me and my bandmates faces when the time came for it! Thank you also to the wonderful lighting tech Daniel in Year 11 who made the space look fantastic. We are forever indebted to Ms Overs for letting us take over the hall, giving up her evening to do so, and also somehow allowing us to chuck jelly all over the place and all while staying incredibly chilled out. Needless to say it was an incredibly strange experience being back. Seven of us went to Fortismere so the walk through North Wing Canteen with crimped hair and velour track-suits while students ate was especially surreal and terrifying! We'll always remember Fortismere fondly for somewhere where mad ideas are met openly – today was proof of that. A final thank you to everyone who gave up their time today for our silly video, and to the co-headteachers who allowed it! We can't wait to see it and share it with you!

Poppy Hankin, Girl Ray



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>



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

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

The Year 11s 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 2 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.

Music Department

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 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.



Thursday 13th February 7pm

South Wing Hall

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

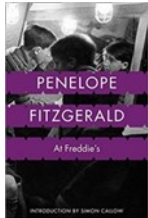
News from the Library

We had another hugely successful day with our Patron of Reading, Matt Dickinson, on Thursday 30th January. He was delighted with the two Year 7 classes that he met in the morning – they asked so many good questions about his writing process and his books, they came up with ideas for a new children's novel, they watched clips of his Antarctic documentaries with attentiveness and enjoyment and we think they went away excited about adventuring and writing. In the afternoon, Matt spent an hour with a hall full of Year 10 and Year 12 scientists. He talked about everything from how the body copes with high altitude and freezing conditions to tectonic plates and statistics. Slides and clips from his Everest documentaries, including the moving film he took of his friend reaching the top of the mountain (inspiring some spontaneous applause) really made this an event for our students to remember. It was great for the library to collaborate in this way with the science department so thanks to Mr Hann and Ms Kalantari.



News from the Library

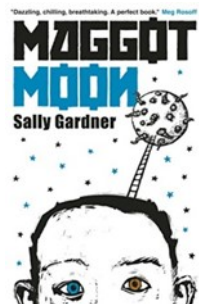
There are a few spaces left for **Harry Potter Night** on Friday 7th February. Do please get permission slips early next week – we want to manage as much mischief as possible



The members of CoverUp had an excellent evening talking about Tara Westover's autobiography, *Educated*. Pretty inspirational stuff. Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th March, 7pm in the library. We've decided on a more light-hearted book to read and discuss: *At Freddie's* by Penelope Fitzgerald. Everyone is welcome, especially new members! Refreshments provided.

Quote of the Week

"Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gifts of seeing the world through their eyes. Fiction is a lie that tells us true things, over and over" [Neil Gaiman]



Recommended Read of the Week

This week we've been reading to Year 7 and 8 library classes the opening chapters of *Maggot Moon* by Sally Gardner. Apart from being a multi award winning author (*Maggot Moon* won the Costa Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal), Sally's other main claim to fame is that her children came to Fortismere many years ago! And she is dyslexic. If you want a truly inspirational story, take a look at her website www.sallygardner.co.uk. And read *Maggot Moon*

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>