

Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

Weeks really don't come busier than this. There's been much to enjoy this week at Fortismere and right at the top of the list was our Firework display that took place on the field on Tuesday Evening. It was wonderful to see so many members of our school community that evening as well as many more local residents who know that this is the best family fireworks event for miles around. The atmosphere was incredibly vibrant; there was a lot on offer and once again we must thank Maria Demetriou, our fundraiser for her brilliant organisation of what we can safely say was our busiest and best Fireworks event yet. The next fundraising event is the Christmas Fair on 8th December. We look forward to seeing lots of our families at that event too.

The following evening we staged our Sixth Form Open Evening which was another successful and well-attended event. It was great to have the opportunity to remind our Year 11 students and their families about the superb Sixth form provision right on their doorstep, with an incredible reputation not just for outcomes (better than all local competitors!) but also for its curriculum and the enriching and memorable student experience. This year our guests were treated to an accomplished performance of 'Libertango,' by Astor Piazzola, given by our newly formed senior string group. Thanks to Mr Jefferies, our Director of Music for helping them prepare this piece. The audience were left in no doubt that Fortismere Sixth Form celebrates and encourages creativity as much as it nurtures aspiration. Parents also met Mr Orton, our Director of Sport who promoted the importance of sport participation and keeping healthy which is very much part of our vision for supporting learning at all ages. We would like to thank Ms St-Amour and the Sixth form team for their organisation of this event. Year 11 students have much to think about at the moment; we wish them all well as they are preparing for their GCSE mock examinations which begin on Monday.

We are also celebrating today the sporting achievements of our under 13 Boys' table tennis team who last night won the English Table Tennis Association - National Qualification Tournament held at London Academy School. London Academy is a specialist TT school and our amazing competitors beat them in the final match 5-0. We are very excited to see how they do on the next stages. Well done to all involved! A group of students from Years 8-11 also attended a theatre workshop as part of Black History Month organised by Haringey Council and Kick it Out; English football's equality and inclusion organisation. The workshop was based on Getting the Third Degree, a play about former Haringey resident and legendary black footballer Laurie Cunningham. As part of the workshop pupils were given the opportunity to watch scenes from the play performed by the cast and engage in a panel discussion on the play and the life of Laurie Cunningham. After school today we are rounding up Black History Month with a celebration event attended by writer, Kevin Munga. Thanks once again to Ms R Williams for leading the Black History Month events.

After such an exciting week we are looking forward to a quiet weekend.



Ms Zoe Judge

Ms Jo Davey

Dates For The Diary

13 November

School Closure Study Day

8 December

Christmas Fair 11-4pm

Message from School Leadership

Anti-Bullying Week 2019 from Monday 11th – Friday 15th November

At Fortismere we will be raising awareness of bullying through Anti-Bullying Week. Anti-Bullying Week 2019 is taking place from Monday 11th – Friday 15th November and has the theme 'Change Starts with Us'. Bullying is still a problem in the world today. It affects us both in our schools and online and many young people will be affected by it in some way.

This year at Fortismere we want to inform our young people, parents and carers and staff that collective responsibility is required to reduce bullying both online and offline. We will give students the chance to have a say and share their ideas for changes, big or small, that could make a difference to bullying. Students will be involved in a range of activities through tutor time and assemblies that will increase their awareness of the different types of bullying and what to do about it if they are a victim of it or witness it within school. Students will have the opportunity at lunchtime to visit 'Place2Be' to enable them to discuss any concerns they may have and will receive information, advice and guidance on what to do if they are being bullied inside or outside of school.

Odd Socks Day forms part of Anti-Bullying Week. It is a chance to celebrate that we are all unique. All we ask is that you wear odd socks on Tuesday 12th November. Millions of children and adults will be taking part across the country. Wear odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November Donate £1 to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work

Although we are raising awareness of bullying this week it will remain an ongoing focus in our school throughout the year through the reviewing of policies, educating students in lessons and inviting experts from outside to come in and speak with our students.

Parents and Carers please take this as an opportunity to talk to your children about what they're doing online. Being engaged with what your children are doing online will make it easier for you to understand what they're up to and for you to support them with any concerns they may have. It is also an ideal opportunity to make time to discuss with them, how they are feeling, who their friends are and what is happening at school?

Everybody can make a difference to bullying, no matter how big or small. What change are you going to make today and every day to help challenge bullying?

If you would like to discuss any of this in more detail please contact pmaloney@fortismere.org.uk

WOOHOO... TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER IS ODD SOCKS DAY!

"We can't wait to see everyone rocking their odd socks for Odd Socks Day!"

WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?
Odd Socks Day forms part of Anti-Bullying Week. It is a chance to celebrate that we are all unique. All we ask is that you wear odd socks on Tuesday 12th November. Millions of children and adults will be taking part across the country.

We are delighted that Andy & the Odd Socks (ASBS) / @asbs are with us again this year. Have a listen to the song they have written especially for Anti-Bullying Week!

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?
The day sends an important message to people that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU? It's so easy! Here's what you do:

1. Wear odd socks to school, work or wherever you are going on the Tuesday 12th November
2. Donate £1 to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work
3. If you want to, you can share a photo online using #oddssocks #antibullyingweek

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Every penny goes to the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help continue all their work. We can't wait to see all the Odd Socks on Tuesday 12 November.

SafeToNet is an online safety solution for families, and they are supporting Odd Socks Day this year. The app collects cyberbullying and harmful content on children's smartphones and notifies parents of potential risks.

FREE FOR 60 DAYS
SafeToNet are offering access to their app FREE for 60 days. Use the promo code 'ABA2019' www.safetonet.com/oddssocksday

CHANGE STARTS WITH US #ANTI-BULLYINGWEEK

Anti-Bullying Alliance DISABLES

SafeToNet OFFICIAL SUPPORTER

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Year 13 Parents' Evening 3.30 -6.30pm, North wing - Wednesday 20 November – Ms St-Amour

Year 13 Parents' Evening booking site will open at 10am Tuesday 12 November. Parents/Carers of Year 13 students will receive a Parentmail communication on Monday 11 November, which will contain the booking link and booking instructions.



Exam support for students

International stress awareness week – Ms Jackson

The focus of the assemblies this week has been International Stress Awareness week. We are aware that this is something that many of our students struggle with from time to time. Please see attached some useful guidance on what happens when you are stressed and how to manage it. I have also attached some useful links for parents and students. There are many mechanisms available within school to support those who are struggling such as Place2be, Place2talk and a counselling service. Students should speak to their tutor / Head of Year if they would like further information about this.

Links:

<http://www.studentminds.org.uk/examstress.html>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-stress/>

<https://youtu.be/xkmCZgbZv1o>

For parents:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/exam-results-stress-advice-for-parents/>



Drama Department

Rebellion in the Willows TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

The earth is dying, there is no planet B.

How will Moly, Ratty, Toady and Badger deal with their habitat destruction?

Rebellion in the Willows

Thursday 12th December 7pm

Friday 13th December 7pm

Saturday 14th December 7pm

Adult Ticket £12.50, Concession Ticket £8.50

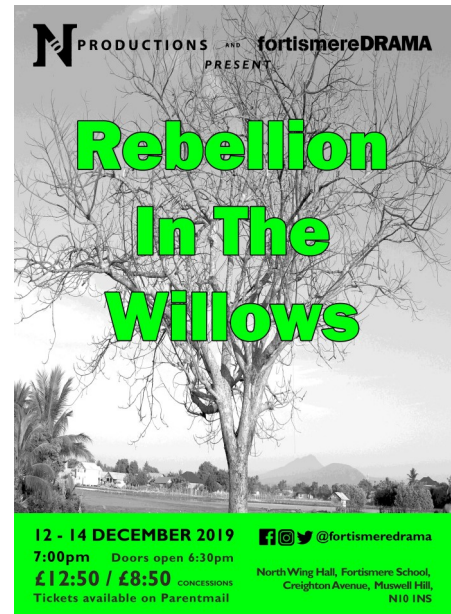
Please see the 'Shop' section on the Parentmail payment system.

Terms and Conditions –

PARENTMAIL PROOF OF PURCHASE REQUIRED ON DOOR.

Concessions for over 65s, students & children 4 and under. Tickets

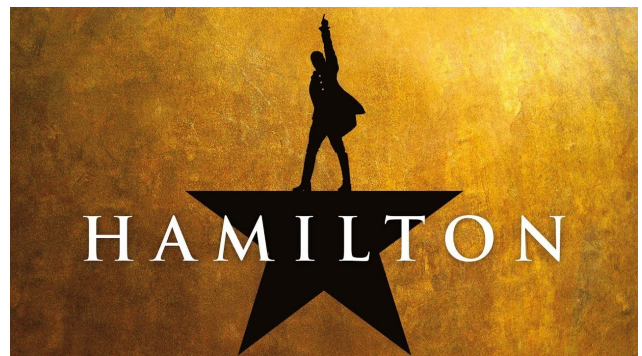
are non-transferable/ non-refundable. There will be some loud music/flashing lights. Contact the Drama Dept if you require access arrangements.



Hamilton Theatre Trip

The Drama department are very grateful to Cameron Mackintosh Education Department for organising some school tickets for us to see Hamilton this week. 28 very lucky students had the chance to see this hit musical; Book, Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda and inspired by the book "Alexander Hamilton" by Ron Chernow. The actors gave a Q&A at the end of the matinee. Students said:

Katie – 'I've wanted to watch the show for years now, so I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and I loved every second of it!'



Iris - 'I thought it was amazing, and I never thought I would see it but to have the chance to see it at the theatre was great. Best Musical ever!'

Lilja – 'Having had the opportunity to hear from the cast about what they think of the musical in the QnA was really great and inspiring.'

Esme – 'I am so grateful to have seen such a phenomenal and inspiring show. The Q and A was so wonderful to experience and hearing the actors speak from their hearts and give such great advice was brilliant.'

School Sports News

U13 Boys Table Tennis Team North London Champions!

An amazing end to the week as our U13 and U16 Boys Table Tennis teams travelled to the London Academy of Thursday evening to contest the English Schools Table Tennis Association National Championship qualifiers. A competition that saw the very best Table Tennis schools in North London battle it out for a place in the regional finals taking place later in the season. The winners from this would represent North London against the champions from South, East, West Central London and Essex. In an amazing competition, that went deep into Thursday evening and night, I am delighted to report that our U13 Boys came out on top and were the Winners. The team consisting of Sam Gabriel, Ishay Hain, Noah Hacking and Cody Sweet-Purcell totally dominated their competition and after battling through the pool stages, quarter Finals and semi-finals they reached the final where they met the host school, London Academy - a centre of Table-Tennis excellence. On paper a very tough match turned out nothing of the sort as the boys raced to an unassailable 5-0 lead and with it the championship trophy. Absolutely superb from the boys! Our U16 team – Michael Smith, Frankie Badacsonyi, Barney Mindlin and Jack Horton - also competed excellently ending up second in their extremely tough pool and just missing out on qualifying through to the knock out stages. The Fortismere spirit was much in evidence as the older boys stayed to encourage their younger team-mates. A very late but highly successful and enjoyable evening!

Our 13 Boys Table Tennis Team Champions



Our U16 Boys Table Tennis Team



Y10 Basketball Team off to Winning Start

Our Year 10 Basketball players travelled to Heartlands School for their first competitive fixture of the year and, although they played against a Y11 team I'm very pleased to say that they ran out the winners. Well Done Boys



School Sports News

Great week for Netball (as usual!)

This week saw all our Netball teams travel to Dukes Academy for a bumper night of fixtures and, as you may have come to expect by now, there were wins for all our teams. The girls are having an amazing season and long may it continue. Well done girls keep up your amazing record!



Kick It Out!

On Monday Morning we took a varied group of Fortismere students to a joint workshop put on by Haringey Council and the FA Backed 'Kick it Out' organisation exploring the many challenges including extreme racism that pioneering black footballers had to endure on their journeys to become professionals. The event, put on as part of the Black History Month celebrations, was centred around a play about the talented footballer and former Highgate Wood student Laurie Cunningham. The workshop created was very thought provoking and opened up many eyes to the horrendous racism that was so prevalent in the days of those young, black players. Thankfully things have improved massively over the years but it is still extremely sad to hear that Kick it Out still receives hundreds of reports of racist behaviour, at all levels of the game, each Year. The Fortismere students were a pleasure to accompany to such a worthwhile event.



School Sports News

Y7 in Cup Thriller

The year 7 Football team travelled to a very tough opponent, Enfield Grammar, on Thursday for a Middlesex County Cup match. The boys played superbly particularly Jordan Neaimi who bagged a wonderful Hat-Trick – and there was nothing to separate the teams at full time as they shared an 8 goal thriller. Unfortunately an injury to our inspirational Centre Half – Jason Braune – early in extra-time upset our rhythm and Enfield finished strongly notching 3 extra time goals. We were so proud of the boys efforts and am sure that this team will continue to grow into a very successful one!

ESAA Cross-Country Cup Regional Final

This Saturday our Intermediate girls travel to St Albans for the Regional final of the English Schools Cross-Country Cup competition. Having already performed amazingly to reach this stage – the final 11 schools out of North London, Middlesex and Hertfordshire, we are confident of a strong performance and believe that our girls will be extremely competitive even at this high level Good Luck Girls. I will report how they got on in next week's newsletter!

Badminton Teams in Action

Our penultimate competition of the week sees our U16 boys & girls Badminton teams in action as they contest the Haringey borough Championship. Good luck our teams and I will report how they performed next week.

Fixtures and Activities Next Week Mon 11th – Fri 15th

Monday

Fortismere Cross-Country Race Series – Race 1 School Field 3.30 – 4pm

Y7 Rugby Training School Field

Y7/8/9 Football Training Astro

Tuesday

Morning Running Club – 7.45-8.20 Sports Hall

Y8/9/10 Rugby Training – 3.30-4.45 School Field

All Years Table-Tennis 3.30-4.30 SW Gym

Y10/11 Fitness – Fitness Room – Lunch Time

Y7 Rugby Competition @ Saracens Allianz Arena 4-6pm

Wednesday

Study Day

Thursday

Cross-Country Club Lunch Time – Coldfall Woods & Fields

Badminton After School – All Years Welcome

Friday

Y11/12/13 Badminton – Lunch Time



News from the Music Department

Fortismere Music Department and Music Centre

Extra-Curricular Ensembles at Fortismere

We are now preparing for the Christmas Concerts that are taking place in December so we are asking you to encourage your children to attend the weekly rehearsals that are taking place in preparation for these events. **Please have a look at the timetable attached and remind our young players to support the Music Department over the next five weeks.**

If you have any questions about these ensembles please email Mr Jefferies at: ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk

Christmas Concert Auditions

The auditions for the Christmas Concerts will take place the week of 18 November. There is a sign up sheet posted outside the Music Office. We would like to hear from all young musicians from across the school in any style or combination. You have two more weeks to prepare and we look forward to hearing what you have to offer!



Upcoming Concerts – Autumn Term

Saturday, 23 November:

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra play Boulenger, Schumann and Tchaikovsky - St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill (7:30pm)

Saturday, 7 December:

Fortismere Community Choir present a *European Christmas* - St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill (7:30pm)

Tuesday, 17 December:

Christmas Concert 1 – SW Hall (6:30pm)

Wednesday, 18 December:

Christmas Concert 2 - SW Hall (6:30pm)

Tickets for the Christmas Concert will be on sale from Monday, 18 November. We will post the link next week so that you can buy seats online.

News from the Library

On Monday, the Carnegie Award nomination list was published (see below) and we were delighted to spot *Gloves Off* by Louisa Reid on it. Why? Because she was already booked to come to see us in the library on Wednesday 6th November! Although Year 10s tend to be somewhat reticent when it comes to engaging with an outside speaker, it was great to see how Louisa kept them interested with her talk which included the topics of feminism, body image, empowerment, poetry and boxing. And she was stunned at the maturity, confidence and brilliant answers from the group of Year 8 students who met her later in the day. Louisa had travelled from Manchester to get to us, and we were so pleased she did.



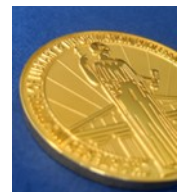
Quote of the Week



“Aren’t libraries strange, sitting there with quiet menace as if they were just a big room and not an entry point to 30,000 different universes?” [Matt Haig]

Recommended Reads of the Week

162 excellent books this week! The Carnegie Medal is the UK’s oldest and most prestigious children’s book award recognising outstanding writing in books for children and young people. Some of our Year 8 students will be shadowing the award in 2020. The nominations have just been announced and, with Christmas on the way, why not take a look at the list for ideas for presents? <http://bit.ly/33Azinr>



Year 7 Library Lessons

Our Year 7 library lessons are currently finishing on a high as the students are receiving their free BookBuzz books. These are slightly subsidised by the Booktrust Charity and we are delighted to give them to our newest students as a “Welcome to Fortismere Library” present (and, maybe, an early Christmas present...!)



Other Messages

JustGiving

The Fortismere School Association

The Fortismere School Association (FSA) exists to support the school through fundraising activities.

The school benefits greatly from donations to the FSA. A small monthly donation can help the science department to run its science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) club for years 7, 8 and 9, fund poet and author visits to the library, buy books for the English department and mics for the music and art departments. Last year we also managed to fund some new laser printers for the DT labs as well! All these things help to enrich our kids' education and make Fortismere a fantastic school for our kids to learn at. The easiest way to give is to set up a monthly donation of £10 (or any amount you feel you could spare) or make a single gift at our [Justgiving page](#).



<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/student-mental-health-1>

Currently one in four Children and Young People are treated for mental health problems. Donations to our school will provide support for our students as they transition to adulthood .

Youth Cafe

The Youth café is a great place to meet up during the week afterschool.

We have snacks, music, Xbox and retro video games, chilli out space, a homework corner and a chance to explore Christianity. What more could you want?

Bring your friends and hand out with us.

School Years 6-13

3.30-5.30pm

During term time

St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10 3DB



GARDENING CLUB!

Every Wed lunchtime & every Thursday after school in Vik Sharma's Memorial Garden (entrance by the Astro turf) Check news on the Climate Group page ([eym4q2c](#)) on Google Classroom if you are keen to join – or meet us on the Astro turf!



Ms Gwynne-Jones, Ms Paul & Miss Larsson

Parents with Media Contacts?

The BTEC Creative Media Diploma team are looking for any parents/carers who work in the media or have contacts within the media. We are looking for suitable work experience placements for our Year 12 students for two weeks work experience between 15th and 26th June 2020. We're hoping that any parents/carers who are able will be able to give our students a meaningful and engaging introduction into working in the media.

We'd love to hear from any parents who may be able to help. Don't hesitate to e-mail us at phearty@fortismere.org.uk

Events and Fundraising



Fortismere Christmas Fair - Sunday 8 December

Due to popular demand, the Fortismere Christmas Fair is back on Sunday 8 December, 11 am - 4 pm. Please put the date in your diary and plan to come along and buy your Christmas presents, there will be some fabulous stalls!

Christmas Hampers, put together by us, raised a lot of money last year. Please can you help us this year?

We need

Food: mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalade, biscuits, Christmas Puddings, teas and coffee, chocolates and treats (but not meat or cheese products).

Other things: Christmas Crackers, beauty items and bath products.

Baskets, old hampers and nice boxes to put the things in.

Please send all items in as soon as possible (and no later than Friday 6 December) to the Library or to the South Wing reception.

Wines and drinks containing alcohol are very much welcome but must not be taken into the school by students. Please contact Maria Demetriou to arrange delivery alcoholic drinks.

Donation requests (drop off in South Wing): 2 Tombolas: bottles & 'stuff' (biscuits, beauty products, etc) and chocolate & sweets

Teenage and Vintage Clothing: vintage or interesting clothing, outgrown clothes from your teenager Also any hats, bags, sunglasses, jewellery, must be in CLEAN, WEARABLE condition

VOLUNTEERS: It won't happen without you. We really need volunteers. Please get in with mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk if you can help set up, help run a stall during the fair or help with clear up at the end of the day.

Bake sale Wollstonecroft

Wollstonecroft student ambassadors got off to a great start this year as they raised £70 with their bake sale in aid of cancer research at break and lunch.

