

## Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

One of the most noteworthy features of Fortismere is the opportunities afforded to our students. This week Year 7 were the privileged recipients of a performance from the London Sinfonietta, organised by Mr Jefferies. The performance, which took place on Tuesday, delivered pieces from across the world. The music reflected different musical genres attached to different stories, led by harp, cello and flute. The Year 7 audience were mesmerised, leading one guest to comment on how impressively engaged the students were and how musically creative the school is. This would seem to be a fair description of Fortismere.

Another accurate depiction of the school was reported in the Sunday Times last weekend. Fortismere has emerged as the 100<sup>th</sup> best school in the country for A level and number 30 in London for A level and GCSE combined. If selective schools are removed from the list (and yes, that is precisely what we did!) Fortimere is the 9<sup>th</sup> best school in London. While we would not engage in league table competitions, it is still very pleasing to have the hard work of students and staff recognised and celebrated in a national newspaper.

Creativity at Fortismere is internally generated as well as externally provided. The Year 13 Drama students delivered their exam pieces to a live audience on Thursday morning.

The Year 13 performances are always amazing to watch and this year is no exception. The students managed to combine complex dramatic narrative with bawdy humour, entertaining the audience while challenging ideas and perceptions. Well done to all the students and Drama teachers for delivering such a riveting and sophisticated experience.

Much of what we achieve as a school is based on the positive relationships between staff and students. When we reviewed the Behaviour for Learning Policy we wanted to ensure that the centrality of positive relationships was captured. The new Behaviour Policy (which is now on the website) is based on the principles of the development and maintenance of good relationships. The plethora of rules which characterise most behaviour policies has been replaced with the 'Fortismere Four': ready, respectful, safe and kind. The policy also outlines the rewards and recognition principles of the school and more will be added via a 'Rewards' appendix in the New Year after Mr Maloney, the assistant head for Inclusion, has finalised the new system. We will be introducing the new policy to a parent forum meeting early in the new term.

Last night saw Fortismere's first ever competitive rugby match. Although we lost, we are expecting a great future for the team. The players, on the other hand, are hoping for a fixture involving less mud. And on that note, we wish you a dry and sunny weekend.



## Messages from School Leadership

### Go4Schools and Progress Points

Parents can now see progress reports for their son or daughter on Go4 Schools.

In order to view these, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the 'View Report' button which will take you to your child's individual report. We will be sending a parentmail to explain each report as each Year Groups is slightly different. It is very important that parents read the information in the parentmail carefully in order to fully understand the report.



### Student Voice Elections—Mr Maloney

Student Voice is the set of systems through which young people at Fortismere are enabled to give their opinions and suggestions on school life in an open, honest, secure and constructive way. At Fortismere we believe that all students are entitled to contribute actively in shaping the educational experience that they and their fellow students receive. Next week during tutor time students will find out more about the opportunities available to become actively involved in the decision making process of the school as we will be holding Student Council Elections. These will give students the chance to represent the views of their year group, receive training and develop their confidence and improve their communication and organisational skills. Below sets out the responsibilities of the role and the skills required to carry it out effectively.



Suitable candidates will be:	Suitable candidates will have the opportunity to:
Responsible and reliable	Find out and represent the views of other students
Good at debate, decision making and finding solutions	Research and lead projects
Fair: able to represent others' views	Raise awareness on important issues
Good listener and communicator	Deliver presentations to students, staff and parents
Willing to give up their own time	Take part in decision making
Able to get on well with others	Develop reasoned argument
Independent as well as a good team player	Work in a team
Empathetic to others' needs	

#### Person Specification

#### Role Description

## News from the Music Department

### Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

We are pleased to announce that the Music Department will be joined by three additional new I & V teachers in the Spring term. Julia Singleton will be offering Viola and Violin lessons, Julia is freelance musician who plays in West End Shows as well as numerous Orchestras. AmyBeth Beel will be joining the Singing Faculty, she is the Vocal Coach and Musical Director of Hertfordshire Music Service as well as many other choirs, as will be offering singing lessons as well as coaching the School Choir. The final new member of staff is Thomas Gregory who will be teaching Cello and conducting the School Orchestra. Thomas is a well-known musician in North London, as well as being the creator of the world renown *Vamoosh* teaching books he is also our resident Musical Director for the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra. If you are interested in lessons with any of these new teachers or indeed you would like to sign up your child to the Instrumental and Vocal Scheme please email Mel Izzet at [miz-zet@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:miz-zet@fortismere.org.uk)

### Visit from London Sinfonietta Trio

This week the Year 7 pupils were treated to a concert from three of the members of one of London's best Orchestras. Silvija Scerbaviciute (Flute), Zoe Martlew (Cello) and Alex Rider (Harp) gave our students an insight into some fascinating 20<sup>th</sup> century compositions and demonstrated how these instruments can be used to replicate musical traditions from across the world. There was music from Iran, France, Japan, Argentina and Wales – a truly eclectic mix!

### Concert Dates

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Concert 1 - 7:00pm SW Hall

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Concert 2 - 7:00pm SW Hall

Tickets for the Christmas Concerts are on sale now priced at £8 for Adults and £5 for Children. Please click on following link to purchase your ticket <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-concert-2019-tickets-82172256431>

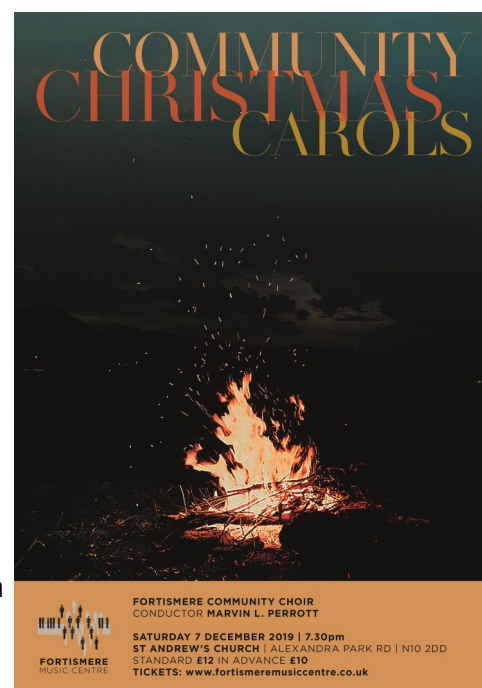


### FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE (FMC)

Saturday 23rd November saw the first concert of the Fortismere Music Season with the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra at St Andrews Church in Muswell Hill. The programme started with *D'un Matin Printemps* by Lili Boulanger followed by the Clara Schumann *Piano Concerto* which was played by the 16 year old Pianist Deniz from the Purcell School of Music. The concert finished with a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony* which rounded off an incredible night of music making.

The next concert to take place will be the Community Christmas Carols on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December also at St Andrews Church. This concert will be made up of songs from across Europe and will also give the audience the opportunity to join in with some familiar festive carols. Tickets for this event are available at [www.fortismerecommunitychoir.org.uk](http://www.fortismerecommunitychoir.org.uk) priced at £10 for Adults with Under 12s free, tickets will be available on the door at the price of £12.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## School Sports News

### Active Fortismere!

Our new extra-curricular timetable was put into operation this week. We had 39 clubs and activities on offer to all of our students from Y7 to Y13. This didn't include fixtures! We are determined that Fortismere becomes one of the most physically active schools, not only in the borough, but in London and we want to see as many students as possible taking advantage of these FREE opportunities. Please make sure that you look at the activities & fixtures for the week ahead timetable, which is posted on the school website (PE & Sport section) every Friday. The Timetable can also be found on the PE noticeboards and all tutors also have copy.

In a busy week of extra-Curricular activities we still enjoyed fixtures with the Netball teams, Girls Football teams and all Cross Country teams in action. AND Year 10 Rugby team!!!!

### Netball Girls Power On

Monday saw all 4 girls' netball teams in action against Gladesmore School. Y11 got the ball rolling with a cagey 4-1 victory and then Y7 edged an extremely competitive and close game 1-0. Our Y9 team also then got in on the winning act with our unstoppable Y8 team rounding a very successful evening of with a convincing victory. Brilliant stuff as always girls!



### Girls enjoy Haringey Cup success.

Our U13 Girls Football team was in Haringey Cup action this week with their final Pool game against Mill Hill. In what was a thoroughly enjoyable game, and one that threatened to go either way, I'm delighted to report that the Fortismere girls just grabbed victory. Winning by the odd goal in 7! The girls have now played all 3 of their pool matches, drawing 1 and winning 2 which should be enough to see them qualify through to the knock out stages. Well Played Girls.



### Runners in Action

On Friday all of our Cross-Country runners headed to New River for, what is one of the biggest events in the calendar, the Haringey Borough Cross-Country Championships. Our teams have been training well and I am so proud that Fortismere will field teams in every age group for both Boys & Girls. This newsletter will already be published by the time we have the results but I will give you a comprehensive report in next week's newsletter.

### Rucking & Mauling at last!

Since arriving at Fortismere Mr Orton has been determined to get Rugby going and establishing it as one of our main competitive winter sports. Last Thursday we made a significant step in achieving that ambition as our Y10 team headed off to Park View for the school's first Rugby match in quite a while. We were not on the right end of the scoresheet but the boys didn't disgrace themselves at all. They showed real grit and determination and their spirit was fantastic to see.





# School Sports Fixtures and Extra –curricular

## Fixtures Next Week

**Monday**- Girls U13 & U15 Handball Haringey Championships at Fortismere 3.20-5pm

**Tuesday** – Y7 Rugby Development Tournament at Saracens Allianz Park 4-6 Return to school 6.45pm

**Thursday** - U14 A & B Football v Highgate School (A) 2.30  
Kick off – Return to School 4.30

**Thursday** - U14 Girls Football v Mill Hill – Middlesex Cup  
Kick off 2.30 Finish 3.35



## FORTISMERE Extra-Curricular Timetable – Autumn Term 2019/20

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.45-8.25		<b>Fitness Club (FR)</b> COSI			<b>Friday Fun Run!</b> All Years (Off Site) ORS
Lunch Time 12.20 – 1.10	<b>Y9 Football (Astro)</b> KIW <b>Y7/8 Boys Badminton (SH)</b> ORS <b>Y10/11 Fitness (FR)</b> KAG 1/BAL 2 <b>Y11/6<sup>th</sup> Form Table-Tennis (G&amp;B)</b> COSI (SW Gym)	<b>Y7 Football (Astro)</b> ORS <b>Y9/10 Boys Badminton (SH)</b> HAM <b>6<sup>th</sup> Form Fitness (FR)</b> JAC <b>Y8 Table-Tennis (G&amp;B)</b> COSI (SW Gym)	<b>Y8 Football (Astro)</b> ORS <b>Y9/10 Girls Badminton (SH)</b> VAM <b>Y10/11 Fitness (FR)</b> HAM <b>Y7 Table-Tennis (G&amp;B)</b> (SW Gym) COSI <b>All Years Yoga VC</b>	<b>Y11/6<sup>th</sup> Form Football (Astro)</b> VAM <b>Y7/8 Girls Badminton (SH)</b> JAC1/WIK2 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Form Fitness (FR)</b> HAM <b>Y10 Table-Tennis (SW Gym)</b> COSI <b>All Years Cross-Country (Off Site)</b> ORS	<b>Y10 Football (Astro)</b> KAG <b>Y11/6<sup>th</sup> Form Badminton (SH)</b> ORS <b>Y9 Table-Tennis (G&amp;B)</b> COSI (SW Gym)
After School 3.20-4.45	<b>All Years Cross-Country – Field</b> ORS <b>Y7 Rugby Training</b> ORS <b>Y8/9 Football Training – Field</b> MAP/COSI/HAM <b>Girls Football All Years (Astro)</b> VAM/JAK/WIK <b>Y10 Basketball (SH)</b> ALS	<b>Y8/9/10 Rugby – Field</b> ORS/COSI <b>KS3 Table-Tennis (SW Gym)</b> MAP <b>All Years Fitness (FR)</b> HAM <b>Netball All Years (SH)</b> All Saints VC	<b>All Years Handball – VC</b> (Sports Hall) <b>Senior Football – Field</b> HAM	<b>All Years Hockey (Astro)</b> KAG <b>All Years Badminton</b> BAL & STD <b>All Years Fitness (FR)</b> HAM	<b>GONE HOME!</b>

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 these activities – just indoor / outdoor trainers required.*

## News from the Library

### Stocking filler suggestions!



We're firm believers in educational Christmas presents, so here's an idea for anyone of like mind! We love Christopher Lloyd's 6 foot long Wall-books, and there's a current offer for 3 for £24.95. Take a look <https://bit.ly/2QXmSSL>

### Visit from the Forbidden Planet Comic Book Store - 12th December

We are really excited to be hosting a visit from the enthusiastic and wonderful people of the Forbidden Planet Comic Book Store on Thursday 12th December. They will be running a couple of workshops for some Year 9 art students and then... this is why you need to put the date in your diary... there will be a pop up shop during lunchtime in the library. We know that many of our students are really into their graphics/manga/comics (we can tell by our depleted shelves) so it's a grand opportunity for them to come and purchase their own books as a pre-Christmas treat! The books will cost between £6.99 and £12.99 but most will be included in a 3for2 deal.

They've asked us to let them know if there are any books or series currently in print that students would like to request – so talk to your offspring and let us know [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk)

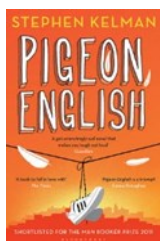
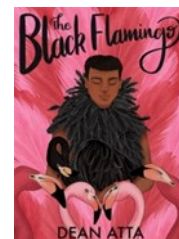


### Quote of the Week

From the cheesy and fabulous film *The Mummy*, we always cheer when Evelyn says, "I may not be an explorer, or an adventurer, or a treasure-seeker, or a gun-fighter, Mr. O'Connell, but I am proud of what I am. I... am a **librarian**".

### Recommended Reads of the Week

Following on from the CoverUp revelation that YA verse novels are brilliant, we'd like to recommend *The Black Flamingo* by poet and LGBTQ+ activist Dean Atta. It's about the power of embracing your uniqueness and is a beautiful, gritty and moving read.



And as the anniversary of the murder of Damilola Taylor is this week, we are reading the opening pages of *Pigeon English* by Steven Kelman to our Year 8 students in library lessons. An unusual book because it was not only nominated for the very adult Man Booker Prize back in 2011, it is also studied in some schools and has an Accelerated Reader quiz on it.

## Drama Department

### Rebellion in the Willows, 12th-14th December North Wing Hall

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!! (on parentmail)

*The earth is dying, there is no planet B.*

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



## Other messages

### Life Drawing

The Art department has planned, prepared and paid for resources and life models for the current five week block of life drawing. Unfortunately no students turned up on Thursday 28th November and we had to send the model away, wasting money and valuable resources.

Drawing from life is a valuable skill and crucial for portfolios required to apply for an art based degree or art foundation course. GCSE and A level students who are basing current coursework on the figure should also be making full use of this opportunity.

We are re-opening the offer to all students in years 11-13. There are only three sessions left before Christmas. Please contact Ms Powell for further information or to book a place on the course, [mpowell@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mpowell@fortismere.org.uk) (Please note, we have both male and female models.)

### The Youth Café, Years 6-13, 3.30-5.30pm, during term time, St James Church, Muswell Hill

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 hang out with us.

### Gardening Club Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Miss Larsson & Ms Gwynne-Jones

On a very wet day, the following students not only turned up to work in Vik Sharma's Garden, they also carried large Raspberry and Gooseberry bushes (given to the school by Elise and Leon Denis-Fandre's mum thank you so much!) from the bottom car park to the garden: Faheem Mahmood and Hannah Stone (and thank you to Louis Iacuzzi for training Edison the school dog on his agility course)

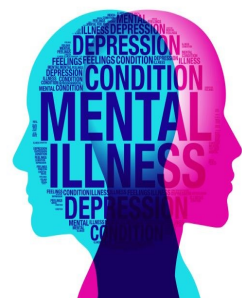


### CrowdFunding

Please support our crowdfunding request to enable us to maintain and improve our Mental Health provision by clicking on the link below

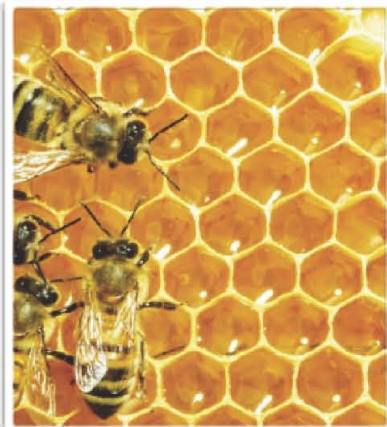
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/student-mental-health-1>

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.





## Beekeeping Club



# Fortismere School's Beekeeping Club

If you are keen to sign up or to find out more, please go to either NW or SW reception and put your name on the Beekeeping Club list, and you will then be contacted with a time and date to meet where more details and information will be given.

Fortismere now has its own bees, located in Vik Sharma's Memorial Garden, and are looking for students to join the new club to learn beekeeping. This is happening thanks to the enthusiasm, knowledge and planning of Matthew Price in Year 13 who will run the club, with the support of staff.

It will need a commitment of staying in the club for at least an academic year (ideally for your whole school career here!) and on average 1 hour per fortnight but the great part is that you will receive training in beekeeping which is a great skill to learn, for yourself and for the environment.



# Events: Fortismere Christmas Fair

## 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

Please bring all donations to South Wing Reception

**VOLUNTEERS:** It won't happen without you. We really need volunteers. Please get in touch with [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto: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.

