

### School Leadership Messages

#### Safeguarding Reminder

Further to our note to parents last week about a political group leafleting our students on Tetherdown and encouraging them to attend a protest we wanted to draw parents' attention to the fact that the leaflet they were distributing contained a QR code which could be scanned by students who were interested in getting more politically involved. Part of this involved ordering leaflets and posters via a link which asked for an email address and mobile phone number.

We just wanted to flag this as a potential opportunity for parents to remind their children to think carefully and take advice before sharing their contact details online.

#### Parent & Carer Listening and Engagement Event - Thursday 25th September, 6pm - 7.30pm, South Wing Hall

A final reminder to those parents who are interested in joining this event that the link for signing up is still live until Monday. Please click [here](#) if you'd like to join us.

We are approaching our capacity for numbers so the event is likely to fill up during the course of this weekend so it will be important to register as soon as possible.

If the event reaches capacity and you'd still like to share views watch this space for further opportunities this half term or use the newly launched 'Feedback at Fortismere' Form [here](#). For future reference a link to the form will feature every week on the front page of the Newsletter. It will always be live and we will give feedback to you all on actions that we have taken as a result of all the suggestions we receive towards the end of each term.

#### Year 6 Open Afternoon - Thurs 8th October

If you know people with children in Y6 who would be interested in attending, or if you are a Y6 parent yourself, please share the QR code to register for the event.



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### Calendar

25.09	Parent & Carer Engagement Event from 5.30pm
02.10	Music Concert 6pm
08.10	Y6 Open Afternoon 4pm-6.30pm
15.10	Y7 Parent & Carer Welcome Afternoon 4pm

**Shana Tova to all members of our school community observing Rosh Hashanah next week. Wishing you all a good and sweet new year!**



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## Headteacher's Message

This week we have started to see students taking up places in our extra Curricular groups increase. As students are gaining a solid footing in the academic year they are starting to make time for all the extras on offer which is great to see. We know that our musical students are busy preparing for their first concert of the year on October 2nd and that many students are keen to get involved in our show Jack and the Beanstalk which is currently at the audition stage. It's been great to bump into students either on their way to the 'Robotics' and the 'Science' club or the 'Crochet' group reminding us that there is a real range of offers available to suit all interests. We have been incredibly impressed by the determination of our Latin students who are attending lessons both before and after school to develop their grasp of the language.

It was lovely to see a packed hall of Year 10 parents on Wednesday who came to learn more about how to support their children in their learning as they embark on GCSE studies, having already met with their tutors who spoke about the pastoral support on offer for each child. Also on Wednesday, I shared my Headteachers' Welcome Presentation with you all via parentmail. I can see that a good number of parents have already viewed the presentation. I hope you found the viewing useful in re-engaging with the school, learning about our recent achievements and as a reminder of our routines. We thought you might enjoy some of the clips of the school in action so that you get a real sense of where it is that your children spend their days. If you have not yet viewed the presentation it can be accessed [here](#).

Community engagement is very high on my list of priorities as we start the new school year so I have been delighted to see that a number of you have signed up to join our parental engagement event on Thursday 25th September at 6pm. I'm looking forward to meeting you all. If you wanted to join in but haven't yet signed up please use the link [here](#) (or the one on the front of the Newsletter. In the interest of hearing more from our parent community we have also launched 'Feedback at Fortismere' which is a simple short form; a mechanism for parents to quickly give feedback on things they have noticed or want to share (link [here](#)). We welcome positive feedback but are also keen to hear about any suggestions for improvement. A reminder that we will monitor and feedback generally on the feedback shared but will not issue individual responses to comments on this form. If parents do want to raise a query and would like a response they should do so by contacting either the tutor or Head of Year in the normal way.

Before I sign off this week I'd like to wish 'Shana Tovah' to all of our families marking Rosh Hashanah next week and wish the whole Fortismere community a restful weekend.

## Governing Board

### Parent Governor Vacancies

We've had a really good response to our request for nominations to join the governing board. We will definitely need an election as there are already more than two nominations. The deadline for nominations is 22nd September. There will be a further update in the Newsletter and a ParentMail next week.

## Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

### Autumn Term Timetable

There are so many different activities for students to get involved in before, during and after school! Have a look at the current timetable with your child and encourage them to go along and try some out. The timetable will also be added to the website.

	<b>Before school 8.00-8.25am</b>	<b>Lunch time - bring lunch 1.05-1.40pm</b>	<b>After school Times vary</b>
Mon	<b>Linc Breakfast Club</b> - LINC 8	<b>Chess Club</b> - S11 Mr Renner <b>Eco Committee</b> - S12 Ms Holder <b>Youth Choir Y9+</b> - Music Hall <b>Guitar Ensemble</b> - Mu2 <b>LINC Lunch Club</b> - LINC 4	<b>Maths Workshop Y7-11</b> (3.20-4.20pm) <b>Mad Science Club</b> - Lab6 Ms Hall (3.20-4.20pm) <i>starting after half term</i> <b>Junior Choir</b> - Music Hall (3.10-4.20pm) (£) <b>Senior Band</b> - Mu2 (3.10-4.20pm) <b>LINC Homework Club</b> - LINC 4 (3.10-4.00pm)
Tue	<b>Early Latin Club</b> - S12 Ms Dugdale <b>Linc Breakfast Club</b> - LINC 8	<b>Samba Club</b> - Music Hall <b>Junior Strings</b> - Music Hall <b>Chess Club</b> - S11 Mr Renner <b>LINC Lunch Club</b> - LINC 4	<b>GCSE Music Coursework</b> - Mu3 (3.10-4.20pm) <b>Beginners Latin Club</b> - S28 Mr Macaulay (3.20-4.20pm) <b>Library Club</b> Ms Pirovano (3.10-4.00pm)
Wed	<b>Linc Breakfast Club</b> - LINC 8	<b>KS3 Press Gang School Magazine Club</b> - S33 Ms Brooks <b>Chess Club</b> - S11 Mr Renner <b>Senior Strings</b> - Music Hall <b>LINC Lunch Club</b> - LINC 4	<b>Manga Club</b> - Library Ms Pirovano (3.10-4.00pm) <b>Weaving Words Creative Writing Club</b> - Library (upstairs) Ms Massey (£) (3.20-4.20pm) <b>LINC Homework Club</b> - LINC 4 (3.10-4.00pm)
Thu	<b>Linc Breakfast Club</b> - LINC 8	<b>Chess Club</b> - S11 Mr Renner (week 1 only) <b>Junior Band</b> - Music Hall <b>LINC Lunch Club</b> - LINC 4	<b>GCSE Music Coursework</b> - Mu3 (3.10-4.20pm) <b>Music Theory</b> - Mu2 (3.10-4.20pm) <b>Crochet &amp; Knitting Club</b> - Library with Ms Pirovano (3.10-4.00pm) <b>Art Club</b> - N2 Ms Powell (3.20-4.20pm) <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Club</b> - S11&S13 Mr Kelsey (3.20-4.30pm) <b>KS3 Drama Club</b> ( <i>starts after Christmas</i> ) Ms Nagaria & Ms Bailey-Wright <b>LINC Homework Club</b> - LINC 4 (3.10-4.00pm)
Fri	<b>Linc Breakfast Club</b> in LINC 8	<b>Junior Strings</b> - Mu1 <b>Chess Club</b> - S11 Mr Renner (week 2 only) <b>LINC Lunch Club</b> - LINC 4	<b>Music Technology</b> - Mu3 (2.30-3.20pm) <b>LINC Homework Club</b> - LINC 4 (3.10-4.00pm)

## Latin Club - Beginner Classes

Students now have a choice of two beginner classes. Students who are not free after school on Tuesdays can come to an early morning lesson at 8.00am instead:

- Tuesdays 3.20pm in Room S28 with Mr Macaulay; and
- Tuesdays 8.00am in Room S12 with Ms Dugdale.

It's not too late to join the latin club, even if you didn't come to one of the introductory lessons. Please email [pdugdale@fortismere.school](mailto:pdugdale@fortismere.school) if you would like further information or are keen to learn latin but unable to attend either of these classes.

## Sixth Form Notices

### Year 12 EPQ Induction

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students into the start of their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) journey last week. At Fortismere, we are proud that every Year 12 student is given the opportunity to apply to do an EPQ, in addition to their A Level or BTEC studies.

The induction took place across two whole-year sessions. The first was led by our in-school EPQ coordinator, Ms De Freitas, who introduced the principles of the qualification and the skills of independent research. Students then attended a session led by Dr Specht from Westminster University. His lecture covered the importance universities place on the EPQ as it demonstrates the passion students have for their chosen subject. He was impressed with our students' engagement and is looking forward to supporting our Year 12 cohort with further visits to Fortismere and welcoming them to Westminster University.

We are excited to see how students take forward their projects this year. From research essays to creative artefacts and performances, the EPQ gives students the chance to explore their interests in depth. We are confident this year's cohort will rise to the challenge and can't wait for the end of year EPQ seminar evening where they will be presenting their work to an audience of teachers, parents, and friends.



### Sixth Form Societies Fair

This week, the Sixth Form corridor came alive with the buzz of our annual Societies Fair. Our Year 13 students ran stalls for the wide range of student-led societies on offer and warmly welcomed our new Year 12s, who enthusiastically signed up to join.

The fair showcased the extraordinary breadth of student interests at Fortismere, with societies ranging from Engineering to Fem Soc and from Model UN to Basketball, the fair showcased something for everyone.



Many students signed up for multiple societies, and some even began exploring the possibility of launching new ones of their own. We are immensely proud of our Year 13s for stepping up as leaders within the Sixth Form, taking responsibility for shaping the wider life of the school. Equally, it was inspiring to see our Year 12s embrace the opportunities on offer, showing such enthusiasm for getting involved. Events like this highlight the strength of our Sixth Form community and the importance of collaboration and creativity alongside academic study.

## Library Notices

### Welcome Back

It has been great seeing so many new Year 7 students coming to borrow books, some have even finished them and checked out new ones. It has also been really nice to see the older students coming back, and bringing their overdue books with them! There are still more overdue books to come back so please do remind your child to check return dates on any items they have borrowed.

### Student Library Volunteers Year 8-10

The Library is currently seeking enthusiastic student volunteers (Years 8-10) for the role of Library Assistant. The role involves: Assisting with library events; Maintaining a tidy and organised library space; Helping create displays; Supporting the running of clubs and other library activities. Students need to show the following personal qualities: Reliable and punctual; Friendly and polite; Helpful to others; Organised and tidy; Respectful of books and people; Able to work in a team; Happy to get on with tasks.

If your child is passionate about books, organisation, and helping others please encourage them to apply. To apply students should complete [this online form](#)

### Manga Mania

This week in the library has been dedicated to manga!. We recently used a Jack Petchey grant to buy lots more manga books and a dedicated 'manga tower' to house them. This is all now in place in the library and looks great. We purchased some Shakespeare plays in manga form so if your child loves manga and finds Shakespeare a bit tricky please encourage them to come and have a look in our manga tower.



## Modern Languages Notices

### Get Ready for European Day of Languages with Gimagine

Next Friday (26th September) is the European Day of Languages. If students would like to explore the German language, they can do so by taking advantage of the Gimagine Award, which is a self-learning online platform. By taking part in this programme, students can earn the Gimagine Award Certificate, issued by the Goethe-Institut London. The Gimagine Award is suitable for both beginners and those who already

have some knowledge of German, and could also be used by students as evidence for a skill for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students can register on the website by following this link: [GIMAGINE AWARD](#) Viel Spaß beim Lernen!

Mr Lewis

## Drama Department Notices

### Singing Recalls for Jack and the Beanstalk

If your child missed their singing recall, please tell them to check their emails early next week for when to attend a rescheduled recall. Please note: these are singing recalls only. The show has not been cast yet. If your child has not been recalled for singing, it does not mean we are not considering them for the show!



### Interhouse Drama Festival

Our annual Interhouse Drama Festival will be happening on Weds 8th October, 3pm-6.30pm (Y6 Open Afternoon). This is a fantastic festival where students from across the school collaborate to create a devised performance. We are looking for 3 interested students from *each* form to take part!

If your child is interested, tell them to sign up with their form tutor or Drama teacher.



## Sport & PE Notices

### Football - Middlesex Cup Results

The Year 11 Boys team kicked off the season with a match against Finchley Catholic last week. They got off to a positive start with a great goal - a lob of the keeper by Sachin. It was 1-1 at half time but unfortunately they lost their thread in the second half allowing the opposition to dominate and it ended at 1-5. There were some positives to take away and lots to work on.

The 1st XI played their first match at home on Wednesday afternoon this week against St Ignatius School. It was an excellent first performance by the new Year 12/13 team who have gelled very quickly. This great teamwork showed in a fantastic 8-0 win and on to the next round of the cup.



## Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

The Year 11 DoE silver award expedition to the Peak District this week was a huge success, despite the very damp conditions!

A huge well done to all the students who took part and showed great resilience.



## Lunchtime & After School PE and Sports Activities

	Lunch Time	After School 3.15pm-4.15pm
<b>Monday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football: Astro (IS/GK)</li> <li>Basketball: Y10/11 – SW Gym (MH)</li> <li>Badminton/Pickleball: Y7/8 - Sports Hall (NDF)</li> <li>Table Tennis: SW Hall (MV)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Squash Club: Sports Hall (Visiting coach from Coolhurst)</li> <li>Girls Football: Astro</li> <li>Netball: Y9/10/11 – SW Courts (KJ)</li> <li>Football: Y8 - School Field (GK)</li> <li>Football: Y7- School Field (KR)</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football: Astro (IS/GK)</li> <li>Badminton/Pickleball: Y9/10/11 - Sports Hall (NDF)</li> <li>Running Club: (LB/MV)</li> <li>Basketball: SW Gym (MH)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Badminton/Pickleball: Sports Hall (LB)</li> <li>Netball: Y7/8 - SW Courts (KW)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football: Astro (IS/GK)</li> <li>Basketball: SW Gym (MH)</li> <li>Badminton/Pickleball: Y7/8 - Sports Hall (MV)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period 5: 6<sup>th</sup> Form Football training &amp; fixtures - Field (MH)</li> <li>Period 5: 6<sup>th</sup> Form Badminton Pickleball - Sports Hall (MV)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football: Astro (IS/MV)</li> <li>Badminton: Y9/10/11 - Sports Hall (GK)</li> <li>Basketball: SW Gym (MH)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table Tennis: Y9 - SW Hall (AB)</li> <li>Badminton: GCSE Y10/11 - Sports Hall (MH)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football: Astro (MH/IS)</li> <li>Badminton/Pickleball - Sports Hall (GK)</li> </ul>	

## Upcoming Fixtures

**Monday 22nd September** - Haringey Cross Country - All years. Meet 12.45pm Sports Hall.

**Tuesday 23rd September** - Year 10 Boys v APS Middlesex Cup (H) 3.30pm KO

**Wednesday 24th September** - Year 8/9 Girls v Highlands School (H) 2.00pm KO

## Safeguarding at Fortismere

### Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on [safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk)

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

