


School Leadership Messages:	Contents						
<p>Pastoral Focus for Spring Term 1 - Be Kind</p> <p>In the lead up to Random Acts of Kindness Week taking place from 10th-14th February this year, we are revisiting ‘Be Kind’, part of the Fortismere 4.</p> <p>Next week in Form time assemblies, we will be sharing messages with students about kindness (including thinking about how being nice is not the same as being kind), and will follow up with weekly sessions related to kindness.</p> <p>Students will also be reflecting on how to be kind around the school site, taking into account everyone’s different needs (including sensory needs) and feelings. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiet, calm voices in the buildings and around the school.• Kind and thoughtful behaviour in the corridors and on the walkway. <p>We will be monitoring students and will be praising and rewarding the many people who are always doing the right thing.</p> <p>You can find out more about the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation on their website including how to become a RAKtivist! www.randomactsofkindness.org/</p> <div><p>Make kindness the norm♥</p><p><small>RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION www.randomactsofkindness.org</small></p></div>	<p>CoHeads’ Weekly Roundup</p> <p>School Fundraising Event</p> <p>Departmental News & Notices</p> <p>Extra Curricular & Holiday Clubs</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table><tr><td>15.01</td><td>Y9 Options Evening 5pm-7pm: S Wing</td></tr><tr><td>29.01</td><td>Fortismere Comedy Night 6.30pm S Wing</td></tr><tr><td>29.01</td><td>Y9 Parents Evening Online (SchoolCloud) 3.45pm-6.30pm</td></tr></table>	15.01	Y9 Options Evening 5pm-7pm: S Wing	29.01	Fortismere Comedy Night 6.30pm S Wing	29.01	Y9 Parents Evening Online (SchoolCloud) 3.45pm-6.30pm
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		<div><p><i>It’s been a frosty start to the spring term but we are enjoying the view from our window today</i></p></div>					

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We have been very pleased to welcome back our students following the Winter Break. We trust that all of our Fortismere families enjoyed a relaxing break with their loved ones and that all are ready and raring to go for 2025.

We hadn't quite anticipated such a cold start to term, but as we welcomed students onto site this morning in temperatures of around -3C we were pleased that we saw that some of them had found gloves and hats to keep them as warm as possible. Our students spend quite a bit of time outside during the day as they move across our large site so warm clothing is absolutely essential. We would ask parents to remind their children of this and support them where necessary by keeping an eye on the temperatures and providing warm items of clothing.

It has been a shortened week for our students, given the fact that they did not return until Tuesday but we have no doubt that those in Year 11 and 13 will very much feel as though they have been academically challenged this week, as both these year groups have commenced their mock examinations. These will continue at pace right the way through to the end of next week. Our students appear to be extremely well-prepared and we are very much looking forward to seeing how much they have put the learning from their studies into practice in these examinations.

We have a new feature in South Wing for 2025 as a catering 'pod' has been delivered. The pod will be serving hot snack to students (KS4 students will be able to use the pod at break, KS3 students will have access at lunch time) We are very pleased to announce that it will open from next Monday (13th January) as it will take some of the pressure from our break and lunch queues and support in getting our delicious canteen food into the stomachs of our hungry students much more quickly. Our caterers work hard to deliver satisfying meals every day and as a result the hot food on offer is incredibly popular with all year groups. We are also enjoying its shiny, Americana themed presence behind the science block. It's certainly attracted a lot of attention since it has arrived.

Even though we have only been back a week there are quite a few items in this week's Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it and wish you all a restful weekend.

School Fundraising Event

Comedy Night - Wednesday 29 January 6.30pm-9.30pm

Please come and support our first fundraising event of the year and enjoy a cracker of a line-up with award winning comedians Tiffany Stevenson, Richard Todd, Sindhu Vee and our sensational host for the evening, Pauline Eyre. You will have a great night out with a lot of laughs and you'll be supporting the school to raise much-needed extra funds. What a perfect way to liven up a dark Wednesday evening at the end of January - [Book your tickets now via Eventbrite](#) Any questions please email Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk



Sixth Form Notice

Sixth Form Class of '24 Celebration

The Sixth Form team were delighted to welcome back the Class of 2024 to the Study Room on Wednesday to collect their exam certificates. It was a great opportunity for students to celebrate their achievements and reconnect with friends and staff. Over hot chocolate and some sweet snacks, they shared stories of their first term at university, gap year adventures, or new jobs. It was lovely to see our former students embracing new opportunities and thriving in their chosen paths.



We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and look forward to hearing more about their continued successes in the years to come.

Mr Lewis

Careers & Work Related Learning Notice

Please Share Your Professional Knowledge & Experience

As the Fortismere Careers Lead I am reaching out parents and carers to ask if you can please help the school by sharing your professional and work related knowledge and experience with us. We want to give all our students the best possible start to their future careerst and we think you can help with this. Would you, a family member or a friend be willing to tell the Careers Team about your professional and work related experience to see if we could work together to support students? For example, we sometimes need people with professional experience who can spare just half an hour to have a short careers talk with a student interested in that area of work, or to carry out a mock interview or just a pre application pep talk.

Do you work in an area such as the law, finance and accounting, medical, health and care related professions, engineering, science, IT, marketing, advertising or one of the many creative industries? We know that across our school community there are lots of parents, carers and family members working in a huge variety of different employment sectors and if we could tap into that we think it could be really beneficial to our students. If you think that this is something you or someone you know could help with please [fill in this Google form here](#) so we can add your details to our careers database.

We understand how busy our families are and we are not asking for lots of your time or for something that requires a lot of preparation - we just want you to share your knowledge and experience with some of our students as they start thinking about the career paths that await them after Fortismere. If you have any questions about this and what is involved please email me mrenner@fortismere.org.uk Thank you for your support it is very much appreciated.

Mr Renner

Careers Lead

Work Experience Opportunities & Weekly Careers Newsletter

There are some interesting opportunities available for work experience during the February half-term. Application deadlines are soon so don't delay. See the links below for more details:

Join the lifesaving charity Anthony Nolan for a 4-day in person placement (18th-21st Feb) in London where you will get a chance to see their work in action, meet colleagues and develop your own project. For students age 16-19 years. **Deadline for applications:13/01/2025.** [Apply using this link](#)

Thinking about a career in **technology, data, research, design or strategy**? Transform are running a one-day Career Insight event exclusively for young women and non-binary students ages 16-19 years in London on 18th Feb. **Deadline for applications:17/01/2025.** [Apply using this link](#)

Legal Access Week is hosted by Addlehaw Goddard LLP and is designed to support young people from less privileged backgrounds to develop the skills and knowledge to pursue a career in the legal sector. The virtual programme for sixth form students ages 16-18 years runs from 17th-21st Feb at 10.00am-12.30pm daily. There are specific application criteria and a competitive application process. **Deadline for applications:20/01/2025.** [Full details and how to apply can be found using this link](#)

Next week, after-school there are two 45 minute online sessions hosted by **DigData/NHS** for students to find out how the NHS uses data to improve patient outcomes and to gain virtual work experience by taking part in an online career challenge. There are more details on the challenges [here](#)

Tues 14th Jan at 4.30pm for students in Years 7-9: [Register using this link](#)

Weds 15th Jan at 5.00pm for students in Years 10-13: [Register using this link](#)

Lloyds Banking Group are running a virtual event on Tues 14th Jan 5pm-6pm for students in Years 11-13 to find out about finance technology career pathways including apprenticeships, internships and work experience opportunities. [Register using this link](#)

And finally, a reminder that our **weekly Careers Newsletter** can be found on the school website [here](#)

Library Notices

Accessit News

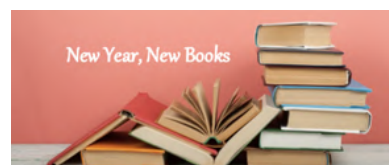
As you know, our catalogue does not just list the resources we have in the school library, it also has a wealth of other information available to the Fortismere family. Our students have been shown the review facility and have been posting numerous reviews of books that they are reading. And in true Fortismere fashion, they can be brutally honest! Some excellent ones were submitted during the Christmas break and have now been published. And every review gets at least one positive point!

Go onto the catalogue - [use this link](#) and check a review written by a Y8 student on "A Christmas Carol" for an example of a "sexy metaphor"! (And learn more about the current Children's Laureate, Frank Cottrell Boyce - watch the Paddington and the Queen video and be reminded of the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony, both of which he had a hand in creating).



CoverUp

During the first 2025 meeting of our parent/staff reading group we'll be chatting about all the great books we got for Christmas! And also "What Am I Doing Here" by Bruce Chatwin. Thursday 16th January, 7pm in the library. Refreshments available, all welcome.



Stationery

Please note that we no longer sell calculators in the library. We still sell everything else your child should have in their pencil case (including clear, exam-allowed pencil cases!) at cost price.



Recommended Reads of the Week

Beat the January Blues by reading a good book! It doesn't have to have a blue cover...



Drama Department Notices

Theatre Work Experience

Park Theatre in Finsbury Park, is running a free work experience week from 17th-21st February 2025 (10.30am-3.30pm) for students in Years 10-13. The **deadline for applications is Weds 15th Jan at 2pm**. You can find information and make an application on the Park Theatre website: [Apply via this link](#)

Working in the Arts Careers Information

See below for some great careers related information - these are all partner companies that the Drama department works with:

Royal Court Theatre Playwriting: Young Playwrights Award – a competition and support programme for 13-18 year-old Londoners writing for theatre. The award is completely free and young people can engage independently. It's a great opportunity to develop students' writing skills, creative thinking and aspiration. The entry period will be 24 March-2 April 2025, with all plays receiving feedback, and a chance for winners to be professionally published and performed at the Royal Court during a festival next July.

More information here: [Young Playwrights Award - Royal Court](#)

Alexandra Palace Young Creatives Network: Alexandra Palace's Young Creatives Network is a programme that aims to inspire those aged 16-28 through creative projects, whilst building skills and leading cultural change. Being part of the Network will bring about access to enrichment opportunities such as free workshops, networking and job opportunities, and free tickets to gigs at the venue!

Sign up here: [Alexandra Palace Young Creatives Network](#)

KS3 Drama Club is back!

Are you in Years 7-9 and enjoy being creative (and acting)? If the answer is yes, or if you're not sure and would like to give something new a try, as well as make new friends, then the Drama Department will be running KS3 Drama Club again from January 2025 - yay!

For those that attended last term, please note, it is moving from lunchtime to after school.

Sign up using the QR code on the poster or [Use this link](#)



If you have any questions contact Ms Nagaria: mnagaria@fortismere.org.uk and Ms Bailey sbailey-wright@fortismere.org.uk We look forward to welcoming you to Drama Club!

LINC Notice

Haringey SEND Power Events

Upcoming events organised by Haringey SEND Power may be of interest to some Fortismere parents and carers including:

Educational support for children/young people with SEND out of school on 14th January at 10.30am in person or at 6.30pm online - [more details and booking here](#)

Walk & Talk in Coldfall Woods on 16th January at 12pm - [more details and booking here](#)

Sport & PE Notices

Happy New Year!

We're really looking forward to 2025 here in the PE department as we're sure it is going to be another exciting, jam-packed year of sport at Fortismere. We really hope to see even more students participating in our extensive programme of extra curricular activities.

We ended 2024 with a fantastic win in the Middlesex Cup Semi Final v Chiswick School (read about it below) and so we are looking forward to a Cup Final in March. And we have also started 2025 with a very competitive and fantastic win in the Haringey Girls Cricket Competition. Fortismere played Highgate Wood in a three game extravaganza - losing the first but winning the following two games. There was some brilliant individual play - Selin (Y8) managed to get 4 players out in a single over! Felicie and Nicole made some great runs and Agam took a super catch. Really well done to the whole team - Camille, Uma, Eilidh, Sophie, Bar, Agam, Cecilia, Nicole, Felicie, Selin, Gigi, Eleanor and Carolina.



New Pickleball Club - Try it on Wednesdays After School

We are lucky to have some coaches from Lemon Pickleball Club coming into school on Wednesdays to offer their expertise in the up and coming game of 'Pickleball'. Everyone is welcome to come along and try it out.

Students who came this week had a great time. It's on Wednesdays in the Sports Hall from 3.20-4.20pm. What a great way to start a new year with a new sport!



Year 7/8 Girls Reach Middlesex School Cup Final

At the very end of last term our Y7/8 Girls Football squad travelled to Chiswick School for the semi final of the Middlesex Schools Cup. It took a while for Fortismere to get a goal as the Chiswick team were a lot bigger than us but as soon as we started scoring there was no stopping us! Leni scored a hatrick and so did Farrah and Eilidh scored a goal too! The final score was Chiswick 1 - Fortismere 7. Really well done to all our girls and we're looking forward to the Cup Final in a few months time!



Talented Hockey Players Progress

Many congratulations to Fortismere students Genevieve Castle and Tom Van Soest. Genevieve has been selected to play for Old Loughts Talent Academy and Tom has been selected for Hampstead and Westminster Talent Academy. They both represent Southgate Hockey Club and have played at county level. The talent academies are the next level up and if they are successful here, the next tier would be to represent Great Britain. We are very proud of you both. Especially Mr Kay.

New Year New Clubs New Timetable!

We've added a copy of the new **Sports & PE Extra-curricular timetable** for January to February half-term to the PE department pages on the website - you can [find a copy of it here](#)

Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

Crochet Club Needs Your Help

The Fortismere Crochet Club is looking for donations of yarn and crochet hooks please. The new year is always a good time to sort through your yarn collection! We would be really pleased to have any crochet materials and supplies that you no longer need - even small amounts will be helpful. Any donations can be dropped off at the TA Office in LINC or at NW/SW Reception.

The new year is also a good time to start a new activity so why not encourage your child to come along to Crochet Club and try it out - all skill levels are welcome! We meet on Thursday lunchtimes in DT4 and provide all the equipment needed. Thank you for your support.

Ms Pirovano



Fortismere Holiday Camps

February Half Term 17th to 21st February - Booking Now Open

Bookings are now open for the February 2025 Half Term Holiday Camps at Fortismere. There are a range of different activities on offer including cooking, pottery, drama, multisports and Irish dancing. Details and booking links can be found on the school website [here](#)

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

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using the My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

