

## Headteacher's Message

We've felt extraordinarily European this week. On Tuesday we said farewell to our French exchange students from Annecy after a wonderful week together. Huge thanks to the Fortismere families who hosted so generously, and to our students who were brilliant ambassadors. We're already counting down to our visit next month. That same day, we welcomed back our long-standing German partner school, the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Gymnasium from Bornheim. Forty German students joined lessons across the school, and the England vs Germany football fixture was a particular highlight. These exchanges aren't just about language learning, they're about building understanding, forging friendships and opening young minds to the wider world. Twenty years of partnership with AvHG and still going strong.

Elsewhere, scientists have been inspiring us. New posters celebrating groundbreaking scientists from Isaac Newton to Tu Youyou now grace our lab doors, and we've launched a competition asking students to nominate the scientist who inspires them most. Our Year 7s are heading to Kew Gardens next week for geography fieldwork. Our athletes continue to make us proud at borough competitions, and congratulations to Farrah Georgiades in Year 9 who scored a hat trick to help the Haringey Girls Academy Team win the National League Cup at the weekend.

The GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition is this evening from 6-8pm in North Wing. Do come along if you can. The standard of work is exceptional.

Finally, attached to this newsletter is our updated co-curricular timetable, created in direct response to parent feedback requesting greater clarity around clubs on offer. At Fortismere, we believe that developing the whole child means looking beyond academic achievement to nurture talents, build character and open doors to new possibilities. Our co-curricular programme is central to preparing articulate, confident and socially responsible individuals who are ambitious for life beyond school. You can find out more by clicking [here](#).

Have a lovely weekend.

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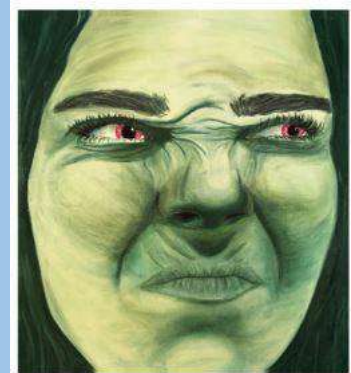
**Departmental News & Notices**

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## Calendar

<b>21.05</b>	Summer Recital 6pm NW Music Hall
<b>25.05 to 29.05</b>	Half Term Holiday
<b>17.06</b>	A Level Art & Photography Exhibition 6pm-8pm in North Wing

**Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)**



**Friday 15th May 6pm-8pm NW  
GCSE Art & Photography  
Exhibition**

## House News

### Reading for a Good Cause

We are thrilled to celebrate the success of our recent **Read for a Reason Sponsored Reading Challenge!** Between February and March, students set ambitious reading goals to raise money for the **National Literacy Trust**, an organisation that is dedicated to empowering people with the vital literacy skills they need to succeed in life.

A huge congratulations goes to **Evie Ramkissoo**, who was our top fundraiser for the event. Evie turned her passion for books into a mission to help others and raised an incredible **£210!** Evie said: *"I decided to do the read for a reason fundraiser challenge because I love reading and it was for a good cause. By the end of the challenge, I was shocked to realise that I had raised £210 for charity. Family, journalists and family friends who work with children and charities sponsored me, knowing that it will positively benefit kids around the world."* Thank you to Evie, and to all the students who took part and to everyone who sponsored students and donated books to help tackle book poverty.

## Modern Languages

### Au Revoir & See You Soon!

On Tuesday, we said goodbye to the French students from our exchange partner school in Annecy who had been with us for the past week. Thank you so much to the Fortismere families for being such wonderful hosts and making the students feel at home, to our students for being excellent ambassadors for Fortismere, and to the teachers who welcomed them into their lessons. We're already looking forward to our visit to Annecy next month!



## Willkommen Alexander-von-Humboldt Gymnasium

On Tuesday, it was a pleasure to welcome back to Fortismere our German partner school from Bornheim, the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Gymnasium. During Period 3, 40 German students took part in a wide range of lessons, and in Period 4 our Modern Languages students participated in speaking activities as part of a mutual cultural exchange. A particular highlight was an England vs Germany football fixture, overseen by Mr Kay, which helped get us ready for the World Cup this summer. It was wonderful for both staff and students to continue strengthening our connection with AvHG - a relationship that goes back more than twenty years. A big thank you to all the staff and students involved.

**Students interested in developing their German outside the classroom** can use the **Goethe-Institut's GIMAGINE Award** as part of the skills section of their DofE programme. More information can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/article/learn-german-with-the-qimagine-award/>

## Science Department

### Scientists Who Inspire Us - Now On Display

Students are encouraged to look out for the new science posters displayed on our laboratory doors, celebrating some of the greatest and most influential scientists throughout history. From the universally known and celebrated Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin to the less heralded but pioneering Jabir Ibn Hayyan and Tu Youyou. Our displays highlight the discoveries, determination and creativity through which these scientists literally changed our world, and in one case saved millions of lives. We hope the posters spark curiosity, conversations and a greater appreciation of science, while encouraging students to see how imagination, resilience and hard work can lead to extraordinary achievements. We will be profiling some of our chosen scientists each week in the Newsletter and on the Google Classrooms. This week's Inspiring Scientist profiles...

**Tu Youyou** is a Chinese scientist who led research into treatments for malaria, a deadly disease. Inspired by ancient Chinese medical texts, Tu discovered artemisinin, a powerful anti-malarial compound extracted from the sweet wormwood plant. Her breakthrough revolutionised treatment and dramatically reduced death rates around the world. In 2015 she became the first Chinese woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her work. Her achievements make her one of the most respected medical researchers of the modern era.



**Sir Isaac Newton** Arguably the greatest scientist of all and his book *Principia Mathematica* is one of the most influential scientific works ever written. Working alone he discovered and formulated the three laws of motion; derived the mathematical laws of gravitation still used today; invented integral and differential calculus in order to explain why planetary orbits are elliptical; deduced the optics laws of refraction and reflection; proved white light is composed of a full spectrum and postulated that light is composed of particles with 'finite speed and impetus' predating Einstein's photoelectric effect particle model by over 200 years. In a 'queries' appendix to *Optiks* was his original suggestion that stars are just other 'suns' but further away. Sometime later in 1668...he turned 26!



### The Scientist Who Inspires Me - Student Competition

Alongside our new science lab posters, we are launching a competition inviting students to nominate the scientist who has inspired them most. Students may choose any scientist from history or the modern world, famous or less well known, and explain in a short piece of writing why that person's discoveries, perseverance, creativity or impact on society inspires them personally. From medicine and engineering to space exploration, computing and environmental science, we encourage students to think widely about the people who have changed the world through science.

Winning entries will be featured in the Science Department and prizes will be awarded for the most thoughtful, original, personal and inspiring responses. Submissions will be through this Google Form (Fortismere School accounts only): <https://forms.gle/cDTwpxHgHSVAYkAJ6>

We hope the lab posters and competition spark curiosity, conversations and a greater appreciation of science, while encouraging students to see how imagination, resilience and hard work can lead to extraordinary achievements.

## Drama Department Notices

### Y10 Drama Students Visit Fair Verona - Romeo & Juliet at The Harold Pinter Theatre

On Monday and Tuesday, our Year 10 GCSE Drama cohort were excited to see Romeo & Juliet in the West End starring Sadie Sink and Noah Jupe. This timeless Shakespearean classic was given a modern twist with memorable character depictions, contemporary music, fast paced staging and projections.

The students were blown away with the production, commenting on the staging, characterisation and overall atmosphere. The highlight was certainly the young performers and their fantastic interpretations of the timeless characters. Mercutio was a particular hit with the students due to his comedic timing.

*"A memorable moment was when Mercutio was looking for Romeo, they really brought the comedy out with their physicality."* - Patrick.

*"Romeo was my favourite character because I thought his acting was really effective."* - Luca

*"It was really good and I loved the 'what if' montages that occurred throughout."* - Yarden

*"It was amazing! Even though it's a tragedy it included so many comedic moments that made it really interesting to watch. They include really interesting moments where they use flashing lights to show what might have been and it was just so powerful."* - Tom

*"I thought the production reflected the original writing well but the acting was so effective that it meant that modern audiences would relate and understand it."* - Timofei

#### Y10 GCSE DRAMA THEATRE TRIP



*Romeo & Juliet at The Harold Pinter Theatre*

### Coming Soon...December Show Auditions!

We are very excited to announce our December show...soon! (We have had lots of students eagerly ask us what it will be, but you're going to have to wait a little longer to find out!)

We will be holding auditions in the summer term. Watch this space and follow us on social media for announcements too!



## Fortismere Drama Summer Showcase...June Auditions Notice



OPEN  
CALL

ACTORS  
COMEDIANS  
MUSICIANS  
SINGERS  
DANCERS  
RAPERS  
MAGICIANS  
GYMNASTS  
ETC.

fortismere DRAMA

Use the QR code to sign up or [use this link](#) Students must use their School Google account to fill in the form.

## This Week in Year 9 Drama: Film Project

In Year 9 Drama this week, we have been exploring cinematography, camera angles, and shots, looking into how we can show character perspectives, film with different points of view, and create feeling and atmosphere for an audience through choice of shots such as close ups, wide shots, and tilted angles.



## Drama Club: Poetry in Pictures

This week in Drama Club, the students were given the poem 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll to bring to life. They used a mixture of physicality, soundscapes, and choral work to create their scenes and came up with some truly fantastic performances. We're really looking forward to seeing what they do next!

If you're interested in joining Drama Club, sessions run Thursday from 3.10-4.10pm. Ask your Drama Teacher for more info!



## Flamethrowers & Dreamcatchers

If you'd like to try your hand at roleplay sessions and are aged between 8-13, Flamethrowers and Dreamcatchers run sessions in Muswell Hill on Tuesdays-Saturdays. It's very similar to Dungeons and Dragons, but with a slightly more relaxed system.

If you enjoy storytelling, adventure and roleplaying then check out FTDC; it's a great way to build your characterisation skills and venture off to far off worlds!

Visit <https://www.ftdc.club/> for more information.



## Callout for Shelves

We are looking for shelves - an 8 cube and a 4 cube shelf similar to the photos. If any family has a spare one they can give us, please email [lovers@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:lovers@fortismere.org.uk)

We would be grateful for any donations - we don't mind the colour! Thank you very much.



## Geography Department

### Year 7 Trip to Kew Garden

We are really looking forward to taking our Year 7 cohort to Kew Gardens next week. A few reminders for the trip: Students to meet at **08:35am at Twyford Gate**. Students should bring their school bag, a packed lunch, their pencil case, a water bottle, their lanyard and anything else they may need.

We are hoping for sunny weather but please send your child to school wearing appropriate clothing for the day as the majority of the trip is spent outside.

Monday 18 May	Tuesday 19 May	Thursday 21 May
7X1	7Y1	7Z1
7X2	7Y2	7Z2
7X3	7Y3	7Z3

## Music Department

### Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Autumn Term

Emails about the Autumn term have gone out this week to all currently having weekday music lessons. Please contact Ms Morgan at [mmorgan@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mmorgan@fortismere.org.uk) if you did not receive one. The deadline for cancelling lessons next term is 31st May as Autumn Term invoices will be sent out the first week after half term.

Anyone wanting to start lessons in September should apply via [this form](#) - places are allocated in order of date of receipt so the sooner you get your application in, the better!

We are also inviting applications for our Saturday School of Rock and have a few spaces for guitar, bass, or drum lessons on Tuesday evenings and piano and music theory on Saturdays. Please use the [same google form](#) as above.

### Violin Masterclass with Bilal Alnemr - Wednesday 17th June

Fortismere and Haringey Music Service are excited to announce that Bilal Alnemr, the soloist in our forthcoming orchestra concert on 20th June, will be holding a masterclass in the gorgeous setting of the Creativity Pavilion at Alexandra Palace. Advanced violin students from across Haringey can apply to take part in the masterclass - complete [this form](#) for the chance to be coached by this incredible violinist! The application deadline is Friday 22nd May.

We strongly encourage all our strings students to attend this event - it is free for students and £8 for adults. Tickets can be [booked here](#)



### Fortismere Summer Recital - Thursday 21st May at 6pm

Join us for a musical evening featuring a whole range of Fortismere's musicians including pianists, instrumentalists, singers, Junior Band headlining and even an 8-hand piano piece!

Tickets available online [here](#) or on the door.



## Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Saturday 20th June at 7pm

We are really excited that our concerts from now on will be held at St James Muswell Hill - a bigger and more central venue reflecting the orchestra's increasing fanbase! Tickets are now on sale for the summer concert which is a dance-inspired programme.

For more information and to book tickets [see here](#)



**FCSO**  
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**CHABRIER**  
*España*

**KORNGOLD**  
*Violin Concerto*

**BERNSTEIN**  
*Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

**MARQUEZ**  
*Danzon No. 2*

VIOLIN **BILAL ALNEMR**

CONDUCTORS **THOMAS GREGORY**  
**HOWARD WILLIAMS**

**SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00 PM**

ST JAMES MUSWELL HILL, ST JAMES'S LANE N10 3DB  
STANDARD: £16 EARLY BIRD: £13 STUDENTS/18s: £8

BOOK ONLINE [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)



## Inside Westminster - Lord Carlile Visits A Level Politics Students

Lord Carlile of Berriew popped into school this week to speak to our A Level Politics students. As a former Liberal Democrat MP and a current crossbench peer, he gave the students a potted history of his wide and varied career, before opening the floor to questions.

Our students quizzed him on a range of topics, from the future of Keir Starmer to the future of the House of Lords, and from the electoral system for general elections to antisemitism and extremism in 21st Century Britain. Lord Carlile enjoyed the challenging questions and the students valued the opportunity to question a peer of the realm.



## Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

### Next Steps in London - A Pathway Guide

**Next Steps in London** gives a clear and accessible overview of the different routes available after school - from further education and apprenticeships to employment and training. The guide helps demystify options and supports informed decision-making. [Next Steps in London Guide](#)

There is also a special **Parent Guide - Next Steps in London** which you can access [here](#)

### InvestIN - The Ultimate Work Experience

**InvestIN delivers immersive work experience programmes** in London for students aged 12-18. With a range of competitive careers to choose from, each programme is delivered by industry experts to equip students with a 360-degree insight into their respective fields. Find out more about their work experience

programmes and access career guides and a wide range of useful resources for students and parents on the website [InvestIN | The Ultimate Work Experience](#)

## Reminder Year 10 Work Experience

Every Year 10 student is expected to undertake a week of work experience from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. Work experience is a statutory requirement from this academic year.

## Sport & PE Notices

### Haringey Schools Athletics Competition

Last Thursday, 46 of our students took to the track and field in the Haringey Schools Boys' Athletics Competition. With ten schools in attendance, the stadium was packed, and the atmosphere was buzzing. The day was marked by several standout Fortismere performances across all age groups:

**Students from Year 7 & 8** set a high bar on the track.

**Jocquin** delivered brilliant performances in both the 800m and 1500m, while **Dave** showed great speed in the 200m and

**Francesco** impressed in the 1500m. **Students from Year 9 & 10** dominated their events, with **Ray** taking 1st place in the Long Jump, **Alex** winning the 1500m, and **Spencer** winning 1st place in the Triple Jump.

**It was also a great display of Fortismere team spirit** - a highlight of the day was the camaraderie shown by the entire squad. The boys were relentless in cheering each other on and creating a fantastic team environment. Well done to everyone who took part in a great day of athletics!

**Overall results:** Year 7: 2nd place; Year 8: 3rd place, Year 9: 4th place, Year 10: 6th place.



### Haringey Girls Academy National League Success

Congratulations to the Haringey Girls Academy U14 Football Team who have won the JPL Warriors National League Cup. Year 9 student Farrah Georgiades played a big part in the win, scoring a hat trick and being awarded Player of the Match. Well done Farrah!



## LINC

### SEND Power Parent/Carer Event

Supporting your young person with SEND through puberty - led by Robyn Stewart, author and trainer with personal experience of growing up with autism. The event will run twice on **Tuesday 2nd June** as follows:

**In-person session: 10am-12pm Chestnuts Community Centre N15**

**Online session: 6.30pm-8pm**

Book a place via EventBrite [here](#)

## School Catering

### Cashless Catering Refunds Year 11 & Year 13

Refunds of any remaining balances on cashless catering accounts for students in Years 11 and 13 will be processed during July.

## Friends of Fortismere

### We Need More Families on Board!

Hopefully you've seen our Parentmail message asking Fortismere families to help support the school by having a Martyn Gerrard property board around the time of the Summer Festival (Sunday 5th July). Martyn Gerrard give the school £15 for every board!

We're aiming for 300 boards this time - that's a lot of boards but also a lot of extra money for the school. We're some way off our target so we really need you to sign up now please! It's really quick to do - **just fill in this very short form <https://forms.gle/Zi8RZ66YoiEuHZS19> by Wednesday 20th May**

If you have had a property board before you will still need to complete the form. Martyn Gerrard require this to ensure that no one gets a board who doesn't want one. Thank you for your support.

## 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.

