

School Leadership Messages

Mock Exams - Thursday 6th and Friday 7th November

Parents will receive communications today from the Year 11 team and Sixth Form team regarding arrangement for students sitting mock examinations on the final two days of half term. Parents should read this communication carefully as it has information about arriving for and sitting exams, expectations, signing up for supervised study between exams and catering provision on those two days.

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 - 'Power for Good'

Anti-bullying week 2025 takes place from Monday 10th November. We will be marking the week with a series of activities. See the entry further on in the Newsletter for more about what we will be doing at Fortismere. In the meantime the link from the 'Power For Good' website [here](#) is a useful starting point for parents who want to see how this week is being marked nationally.

Feedback at Fortismere - Your Feedback, Our Action

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who have taken the time this half term to share their views either via our Feedback at Fortismere Form or our Listening & Engagement activities.

With reference to the 'Feedback at Fortismere' form we are pleased to provide a response today in the section below, 'Your Feedback, Our Action'. We have shared an info-graphic poster detailing the actions we have taken already or are intending to take as a result of the queries and suggestions you have raised.

Please keep using the form to engage with us. It's on the bottom right of this page.

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05.11.25	Fortismere Fireworks 5pm-9pm Tickets here
06.11.25 to 07.11.25	School open for Y11 and Y13 students only
10.11.25	All students return to school 8.30am



Year 7 Halloween disco fun!

[Feedback at Fortismere here](#)

Headteacher's Message

Last night the school was buzzing with the screams of ghosts, ghouls, witches and werewolves at our Halloween disco for Year 7 students which took place in South Wing Hall. The event was very well attended and lots of fun. We were delighted that the disco was supported by a number of our Year 12 and 13 students who took leadership roles in the organisation and the running of the event. They did a wonderful job. We are incredibly proud of how the new Year 7 cohort have adapted to Fortismere life and they deserved a night of fun together celebrating at the end of the half term.

This week our senior staff ran Listening and Engagement activities with students from Year 7 - 13. This took the form of a series of focus group sessions where students shared their experiences of Fortismere with us. They were given space to talk about what they valued about being a student here and shared some interesting feedback on the aspects of learning and school life that they perhaps found more challenging or just wanted us to be aware of.

These sessions were part of our Listening and Engagement activities that many of you, our parents and carers, have been part of. We'd like to thank you all once again if you either attended the focus group sessions or took the time to fill in either our survey or our Feedback at Fortismere form. Your views have been and will continue to be valuable in shaping Fortismere. This week we are able to provide a response to some of the matters raised by parents via the 'Feedback at Fortismere' form including the actions we have taken, or intend to take to improve the experiences of our students. There's more on this in our 'Your Feedback, Our Action' poster which is shared below and also attached in the parentmail alongside this Newsletter. We always welcome your feedback and should you ever have anything you wish to share about the school please click the link that appears on the front of our weekly Newsletter.

We have certainly enjoyed the opportunities there have been to welcome visitors to Fortismere this half term and this week we were pleased to see our Year 11 students and their families at our Sixth Form Opening Evening. Our visitors spent time meeting staff and students and sampling the exciting range of Sixth Form courses that are on offer at our ambitious Sixth Form. Applications for our Sixth Form opened at 5pm Wednesday evening and we are delighted to say we have received a flurry of eager applications already. We are very much looking forward to supporting our students in Year 11 as they transition into our Sixth Form next summer.

In the meantime we are looking forward to a bit of a break and we are sure you all are too. We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 and Year 13 students on site from 6th November as they begin their mock examinations and then seeing the rest of our students on 10th November.

With warm wishes to you all for a well earned rest.

Governing Board Notice

Parent Governor Election

Election statements from the 15 candidates were sent out to all parents via ParentMail and are also published on the [website](#) here. Please take some time to read them over the half term break, ready for an election in November. Thank you to all the parents who have put themselves forward for election.

Your Feedback, Our Action

fortismere

YOUR FEEDBACK, OUR ACTION

Autumn Term 2025

COMMS

We have introduced CosX, which has up to date information about academic aspects of school, including detailed curriculum maps, reports and your child's timetable. We will be working to streamline systems in the course of this year.

FACILITIES

We have spoken with Haringey Council to seek support to upgrade our toilet facilities. In the meantime we have increased our site maintenance checks during the day to ensure clean, safe spaces.

HOMEWORK

We have made this a focus for teachers and continue to set appropriate work that aids learning. Following the popularity of SparxMaths, we are trialling SparxScience and SparxReader to make homework more consistent and easy to find.

WELLBEING

We have built into the Pastoral curriculum more opportunities for students to discuss wellbeing and to be signposted to support in school and out of school.
We have increased the number of days Place 2Be are in school

Use the link to the Feedback at Fortismere form on the weekly newsletter to share your ideas with us.

We'd like to sincerely thank all parents and carers who have taken the time to share their views via our 'Feedback at Fortismere' form.

Your views have very much informed many of our next steps here at Fortismere and we are pleased to today to share some of the steps we have already taken in response, as well plans we are intending to put in place.

Please be assured that your feedback is read regularly and while we are unable to reply to individuals who have shared their views we are using them very much to improve the school experience for our community.

We are planning to launch a similar mechanism for students to use to share their feedback after the half term break.

FortisMind

Mental Health Support Presentation

Thanks so much to those of you who attended the recent talk on Mental Health Support. Myself and Nu Robinson, from Place2be, set out what we can offer here at Fortismere along with some useful sources of external support. If you were not able to attend the talk you can [access a recording here](#)

A reminder that you can also find mental health information on the school website [here](#) and the contact details for our school Place2be counsellor Nu Robinson nrobinson@fortismere.org.uk

Ms Jones

Mental Health Champion

LINC

KS3 SEND Information Event

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent **KS3 SEND Information Event** on 16th October. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you online, and we appreciate you taking the time to join us.

At the event, we shared information about the Fortismere approach to supporting students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and this was followed by a great Q&A session with insightful questions from parents and carers.

We have emailed the presentation to everyone who attended - if you haven't received this yet please check your spam folder or contact us at LINCAdmin@fortismere.org.uk If you didn't attend the event and would like to receive the presentation please email LINC Admin.

More LINC information events are planned including these upcoming sessions:

- Educational Psychologist Workshops
- Managing Exam Anxiety
- Understanding and Managing ADHD
- SEND Parent Forum

Dates will be sent out in due course - keep an eye on the Newsletter and your emails for more details.

And finally a reminder about the **Haringey SEND Power Parent Forum** - a great way to connect with other parents, share experiences, and get access to resources and information [see here for details](#)

Thank you again for your ongoing support and engagement - by working together, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for all our students. If you have any questions or queries please **contact us at** LINCAdmin@fortismere.org.uk

Library

New Books & Half-Term Must Reads



A batch of new books has arrived in the library this week, just in time for the half-term. It is nice to see how there is something for almost everybody, from the lovers of modern classics to those who appreciate a good spooky tale. Some of these books barely made it onto the shelf before they got snatched up by curious readers. We have heard that the Five Nights At Freddie's Choose Your Own Adventure book has already been read multiple times by the same student; it almost seems like a blast from the past moment as this type of book was incredibly popular during the late 80s and early 90s.

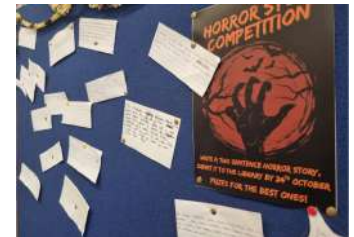
With the extra long half-term coming up, the library has displayed a selection of books that can see any student, and adult, through two well-earned weeks of half-term break; here are some of those recommendations:





Halloween Story Competition

The Halloween two sentence story competition was a great success, over 100 entries were received, some were incredibly spooky and frightening! The winners will be announced after the half-term break, giving the judges enough time to consider all the entries that have been received.



If, like me, you can never get enough of everything Halloween-y, come and check out our Library Dashboard theme [here](#). It's full of seasonal quizzes, videos, and more to keep the spooky spirit going as long as possible, or at least until we come back in November!



Music Department

Instrumental & Vocal Lessons

Well done to all our students who are having instrumental and singing lessons this term - it has been a busy half-term with over 200 lessons being taught every week! To recognise all the hard work that goes into learning an instrument, every teacher will be awarding prizes at the end of the term for things like 100% attendance and most progress made, so look out for announcements towards the end of term!

Unless notified otherwise, we will assume that all students will be continuing with their lessons and invoices for the Spring term will be sent out in the week beginning 17th November. The deadline for applying for new lessons or for giving notice that your young person wishes to stop lessons is 9th November. The application form for new lessons is [here](#).

Junior & Youth Choirs

The choirs gave great performances at the Welcome Back concert just a few weeks into term and now they're busy rehearsing for the Christmas Concerts. There are spaces for a few more singers, so students are welcome to just turn up and try it out! Youth Choir (Year 9 and up) is on Monday lunchtimes from 1.15-1.45pm, and Junior Choir (Year 7 & 8) is on Mondays after-school from 3.20-4.20 pm. Just £25 sub for the rest of term for the Junior Choir. Email Ms Morgan at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk for any more information. First rehearsals after half term are on Monday 10th November.

Upcoming Concerts

Our next concert is the **GCSE Recital on 20th November in the Music Concert Hall**, where our GCSE students will be performing their solo pieces. Tickets available [here](#).

This will be closely followed by the **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Autumn Concert on 23rd November** - a programme of Sibelius, Shostakovich (with soloist Haru Ogiwara who studied here) and Tchaikovsky. Tickets available [here](#).



GCSE SOLO RECITAL

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025 at 6.00 PM

FORTISMERE SCHOOL CONCERT SERIES
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MATT WATSON

MUSIC CONCERT HALL, FORTISMERE SCHOOL, N10 1NS

FORTISMERE SCHOOL MUSIC

STANDARD TICKET £8 | STUDENTS FREE
TICKETS: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



FCSO
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SHOSTAKOVICH
Cello Concerto No.1

SIBELIUS
Karelia Overture

TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No.2

CELLO **HARU OGIWARA**
CONDUCTOR **THOMAS GREGORY**

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7 PM

FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | MUSWELL HILL | N10 2DD
STANDARD £16 | EARLY BIRD £13 | STUDENTS/U18s £8
BOOK ONLINE www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



Sport & PE Notices

Haringey Football Update

Our Year 10 and Year 11 boys squads both made it to the quarter finals last Thursday - they both played very competitive matches and came out on top! Well done boys.



Well done to our Year 11 girls who finished 3rd on Friday. The Year 10 girls made it to the quarter finals - very well played all.



The Year 7 boys are off to a flying start in the Haringey League beating Gladesmore 8-0 in their first game! Many thanks to Mr Rooney for training and managing the team - your commitment is paying off!



And congratulations to the Year 9 boys, they beat Heartlands School 5-3 on in their match on Tuesday after school. Thank you to Ms Jackson for taking the match.



Volleyball Players Needed

If you play volleyball please come to see Ms Vangucci after half term as there is a competition coming up in November.

Extra Curricular Clubs

	Lunch Time	After School 3.15-4.15 pm
Monday	Football (Astro) MV/GK Basketball Y10/11 (SW Gym) MH Badminton/Pickleball Y7/8 (Sports Hall) NDF	Squash Club (Sports Hall) Visiting coach Table tennis Club (SW Hall) Visiting Coach (17/11) Netball All Years (SW Netball Courts) KJ Y8 Football (Astro) GK Y7 Football (Astro) KR
Tuesday	Football (Astro) MV/GK Badminton/Pickleball Y9-11 (Sports Hall) NDF Running Club LB Basketball (SW Gym) MH	Badminton/Pickleball (Sports Hall) LB Gymnastics Club (SW Gym) KW
Wednesday	Football (Astro) MV/GK Badminton/Pickleball Y7/8 (Sports Hall) NDF	Staff CPD P5: Sixth Form Football (Field) MH P5: Sixth Form Badminton/Pickleball (Sports Hall) MV Girls Football with Tottenham Coach (Sports Hall)
Thursday	Football (Astro) MV/MH Badminton Y9-11 (Sports Hall) GK Basketball (SW Gym) MH	GCSE Handball (Sports Hall) MH Volleyball All Years (SW Gym) AB (17/11)
Friday	Basketball (SW Gym) MH Badminton/Pickleball (Sports Hall) GK	

Upcoming Fixtures

Mon 10 Nov: Y7 & Y9 Netball v St Thomas Moore (Home) 3.10pm
Mon 10 Nov: Y8 Middlesex Cup v Latymer (Away) & Y7 Boys v JCoSS (Home)
Tue 11 Nov: Y8/9 Girls Middlesex Cup v APS (Home) 2pm & Y10 Boys v Greig City (Home) 2.30pm
Wed 12 Nov: Y7 Girls v JCoSS Middlesex Cup (Away)
Thu 13 Nov: Y9/10 Girls v APS Middlesex Cup (Home) 2pm

Careers & Work Related Learning

Green Careers Week

Green Careers Week which takes place from 3rd-8th November is an opportunity to provide students with insight and information into careers that protect the environment. Have a look at the **Parent Guide to Green Careers** [here](#) and use this to have a conversation with your child about future careers and study pathways that make a difference. And remember the weekly **Careers Newsletter** on the website [here](#).

English Department

Year 13 English Literature Trip to the National Theatre

On Tuesday last week a group of 27 Year 13 students and their teachers went on a trip to the National Theatre to watch a new production of 'Hamlet', one of their A level exam texts. The production was fantastic and there were some really interesting production decisions which students will be able to discuss in their essays. Students were very engaged and seemed to get great benefit from seeing the play performed on stage. They represented the school very well. The rest is silence.



Drama Department Notices

Panto Rehearsals: A Look Into Beginnings!

It's the end of the first two weeks of panto rehearsals and we've already off to a brilliant start! We're really getting into the swing of the first act with lots of great energy towards acting, singing, and dancing, and a positive atmosphere in the room. We hope everyone has a restful half term and don't forget to check the rehearsal schedule on Google Classroom for the first week back.

PS. Keep an eye on our Fortismere Drama social media (Instagram, Facebook, and Tiktok) for photos and videos of rehearsals along the way...and don't forget to give us a follow!



Physical Theatre with Year 10 GCSE Drama

Well done to all of our Y10 GCSE Drama students for completing their first assessment on Physical Theatre. Thank you for all of your hard work, creativity, and effort over the past few weeks in coming together to create a city inspired piece, incorporating lifts, contact, and physicality in your storytelling.

We loved watching the final pieces across the three classes, each unique and inventive, and hope you've enjoyed your first half term of doing GCSE Drama.



Snapshot: Years 7, 8 & 9 Drama

Along with mime, our fab Year 7s have been working on improvisation these past two weeks and our Year 9s have been working on stage combat with Macbeth, two fun and exciting units!

Our Year 8s (not pictured), have been continuing and coming to the end of their mask work and have been creating some great group scenes, practising 'clocking' and mask skills.

It's great to see the students inventing, in action, and for many of them, trying out something new.

Well done to all!



Drama at Sixth Form Open Evening - Thank You!

Thank you to all the students who came along to help out at the Drama stall during Sixth Form Open Evening this week. It was great to see so many of your Y11 students thinking about continuing with Drama, and to meet some potential students from other schools too!

Don't forget to follow [@fortismere drama](#) on social media platforms for all the latest news.



Sixth Form

Sixth Form Opening Evening

We were absolutely delighted to welcome over 800 families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday, including both families of our current Year 11 students and those visiting from other schools.

During the evening, families had the chance to explore subject stands, each showcasing the breadth and depth of learning on offer at Fortismere Sixth Form, from experiment in Science, to impressive student films in Media, to the outstanding Art & Photography exhibition in the foyer, and more. They were also able to learn about our super-curricular offer, including the Extended Project Qualification, the KS5 Mandarin Excellence Programme, and Latin that many of our Sixth Formers pursue alongside their core studies.

Families also attended a talk by the Headteacher and the Director of Sixth Form, which began with a fabulous musical performance by two of our Year 12 students, Sol and Noa. The presentation slides from the evening will be added to the sixth form pages of the website after half-term.

We were really proud of our Sixth Form student helpers, whose enthusiasm and maturity left a lasting impression on visitors. They spoke passionately about their subjects and their experiences at Fortismere, so a huge thank you to all the students who supported the event and represented the school so brilliantly.

Open Evening marks the first of many opportunities for our Y11 students to learn more about Sixth Form life and to have conversations with our current students before the application deadline of Monday 23 February.

Applications to the Sixth Form are now open with an application deadline of Monday 23 February 2026. You can begin filling out [the application form here](#)

Ms Common

Pastoral Curriculum

Anti-Bullying Week 10th-14th November

Anti-bullying week this year runs from 10th-14th November (our first week back after half term)) and this year's theme is 'Power for Good'. In form time, students in Key Stage 3 will be exploring this topic and discussing how they can be a power for good, as well as focusing on the importance of using power responsibly. We all have choices to make, and a responsibility to use our power positively, encouraging kindness, support, and standing up for others. Students can read more about the theme [here](#) and start back at school on Monday 10th wearing Odd Socks!



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

You can make a safeguarding referral using the My Voice [link](#) or QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support about any safeguarding concerns.

