

Headteacher's Message

This week, we had a truly lovely time welcoming our next cohort of Year 7 students for their transition events. It was a joy to see them settling in, making new friends, and adjusting to our large site. They took part in a wide variety of lessons designed to provide a genuine flavour of what it's like learning across our broad curriculum. More than anything, these days were an opportunity for them to calm those initial nerves, build confidence, and feel a sense of genuine excitement about joining us in September. We were absolutely delighted to meet them and share firsthand what a friendly, welcoming school Fortismere is. This warm welcome extends wholeheartedly to their parents and carers, who we hope thoroughly enjoyed their own first experiences with the school this week. We are very much looking forward to the years ahead, partnering with you to support your children as they discover the amazing things they are going to achieve here.

Still looking ahead to the next academic year, we are also thrilled to share that from September we will be opening our new Autism Additional Resourced Provision. The provision is being led by Ms Jackson, who introduces our provision and shares further details later in this newsletter. This is an incredibly exciting addition to our inclusive community, and we are delighted to see it coming to fruition. Our current students have also given us plenty of reasons to celebrate this week. In the English Department, we held the final of our Year 7 Reading Champions competition. We were honoured to have local author Patrick Charnley visit us to judge the event, and he was immensely impressed by the outstanding creativity and effort displayed by our Year 7 students. It is wonderful to see our young people engaging so passionately with reading for pleasure, and they should all be incredibly proud of their presentations.

Finally, we are looking forward to a fantastic weekend together at the Fortismere Summer Festival this Sunday on the school field. There will be brilliant live music from our exceptionally talented musicians, offering yet another display of Fortismere's creativity in action, as well as a variety of food, drinks, games, and much more. It will be a lovely occasion to celebrate our school community and raise important funds and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

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Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)



**Free entry for all U18s!
Buy your tickets & tokens [here](#)**

See you on Sunday

Year 7 Notice

Year 7 Leadership Team

A reminder of the new staffing arrangements for the current Year 7

Ms Brough - Acting Head of Year abrough@fortismere.org.uk

Ms Brown - Pastoral Support Manager lbrown@fortismere.org.uk

Parents/carers of any **current Year 7 students** should contact Ms Brough and Ms Brown with any queries

Inclusion

Welcome to The Fortismere ARP

We are very excited to introduce Fortismere's new Autism ARP (Additional Resourced Provision). Opening in September 2026, we will be welcoming 10 students from across Haringey into the Fortismere community. Students will join our mainstream cohort for some of their lessons, and our staff are looking forward to supporting the students in this new part of our school.

To help us set up the new space, **we would be grateful for any donations of books, Lego, or board games in good conditions**. Please send in any donations to the SW/NW Office marked for Ms Jackson. Thank you for your generosity, and please keep an eye out in future newsletters for further updates.

Student Enrichment

Less Than One Week to Go - The Great Fortismere Show & Culture Day!

With **Thursday 9th July** fast approaching, excitement is building for **The Great Fortismere Show** and our **Culture Day**!

Following last week's announcement, we want to remind families to speak with your children this weekend about how they plan to get fully involved. Thursday will be a massive celebration of our school's vibrant community and creativity, and we want every student to be a part of it. Here are the key prompts to chat about at home over the next few days:



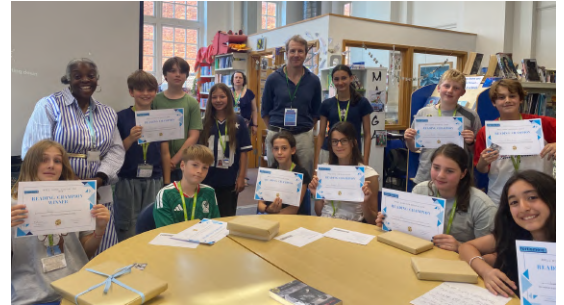
- **Get Creative for the Show:** All students are expected to submit an entry to showcase their creativity. Whether it's baking, art, photography, or a unique craft, this weekend is the time to finalise projects. *Entries must be brought to South Wing Hall before school on Thursday morning.*
- **Plan the Culture Day Outfit:** Talk to your child about wearing something that represents a group, a passion, or a community that they feel a part of - that could be something related to heritage, sports or teams, music and art subcultures, pop culture or local culture based on special cities and places (*Please remember: no political slogans, symbols, or flags*).
- **The Bring & Share Party:** Discuss what food item your child might like to bring in to share with their tutor group during our extended tutor time to represent a culture of their choice.

Thank you for your support in encouraging your children to get involved. We cannot wait to see their incredible creativity and celebrate our diverse community together next Thursday!

English Department

Celebrating our Year 7 Reading Champions!

This term, all Year 7 students participated in our 'Reading Champions' competition by creating and sharing presentations advocating for a book of their choice. Each class then voted for their favourite presentation based on the book they would most like to read. This was a wonderful demonstration of reading for pleasure, and we are absolutely delighted by the students' efforts.



In the final, the individual class winners went head-to-head and were judged by author Patrick Charnley. Our guest judge wrote a lovely letter to all our wonderful finalists, which we have shared below.

Dear Reading Champions,

It was such a pleasure listening to your presentations. I thought you all did wonderfully. Congratulations! You presented such different books with real passion, and I felt privileged to hear you speak. Thank you for having me at your school. Amelia's vlog, Esha's board-game and Eva's animations were such inventive ways of talking about books. I loved seeing creativity being used to talk about creativity.

Esha, I wish we had had time to play the game. It was so clever to manage to present that sort of book without any spoilers. Amelia, I loved the humour you brought to your presentation, and using tech to talk about a book where tech disappears was a really good idea! Eva, your cartoons were very funny, especially the blood-soaked teacher. I couldn't help but think of one or two of my own teachers from when I was at school!

Manon and Thom, your chosen books tackle the big issues of climate change and the fight against racism, and it was wonderful to hear you not only championing the issues your books highlight, but also showing the enormous power that books and reading have to create positive change. Manon, I loved hearing about the beautiful bond with the bear, and Daniel, I thought you talked about To Kill a Mocking Bird with an impressive maturity.

On that note, I was so happy to see you all focusing on the big themes in your chosen books, and it was especially heartening to see your focus on books that promote kindness, inclusion and acceptance. Cem, you picked out the characteristics "brave, kind, determined" in your Wonder presentation and it was really interesting and great to hear you talking about how the book had shown you a different point of view. That is such a good example of the power of reading, and one that came up in presentations too.

In a related point, Esha you talked about how your book invites us to try a new genre, which was a very good point to make. It's easy to develop a narrow focus, especially when you find something you love. Sometimes a new genre can give us a really nice surprise.

Not that there is anything wrong with getting really into something, and actually that can be such a pleasure. Edward, I could really see that you have been swept away by the Alex Rider series. I love spy stories too, so I will have to check it out. Thank you for the recommendation!

Warza, in your talk about Demon Slayer, you told us that it is a story of kindness and bravery, which made me think what an amazing combination of characteristics that is for a person to have. You, like others, chose to focus on kindness as something to highlight about a book's message, and I loved that.

I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the book Project Hail Mary from Thom, especially as I've seen the film. It was a good idea to show the clip and then to tell us how you came to the book after the film, as often it's the other way around. You also described how you weren't really interested in space before reading the book, but that the book changed your mind. Isn't that an amazing example of how books can influence a person's thinking?

Yuval, I could tell you were captivated by Letters from the lighthouse (and what a brilliant book title, by the way). The way you incorporated the author's background and the historical context made for an excellent, rounded presentation, and I thought your character descriptions were great.

Similarly, Herman, your presentation of your chosen book was all the more powerful because you told of the connections to real people, which really brought your presentation to life. I was also very impressed by your running in at the last minute and then presenting so calmly. You are unflappable!

And, of course, well done to the winner, Sonny. You were so articulate and I felt I could see the story you were telling. Aren't those descriptions of the wolves' names for snow, fire and people fantastic? And, of course, the book is inviting us to shift our perspective, just as others of you described in your books.

Many congratulations to you all. You are all wonderful reading champions, and I hope you continue to take great pleasure from your reading adventures.

*With best wishes
Patrick Charnley*

Science Department

Year 12 Success at the Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition!

Earlier this term, two teams of our Year 12 A-level Chemistry students travelled to Kingston University to take part in the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition. Acting as part of a police investigation into a mysterious illness, our students became analytical and forensic chemists for the day, competing against teams from all over the country. Working under tight time constraints, their practical lab skills were put to the test in a series of challenges combining forensic and cosmetic science. Teams had to work collaboratively to complete the challenges and precisely calculate and submit their analytical results, including:



Analysing the caffeine content in freeze-dried coffee; **TLC (Thin-Layer Chromatography) analysis** of lipstick; **Determining the oil content** in hand cream.

In the afternoon, the students were treated to a tour of the university's chemistry department, where they got a close-up look at advanced **mass spectrometry equipment** and a **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) machine**. It was a fantastic opportunity to use university-level equipment and put their classroom knowledge into practice in a real-world scenario.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that **one of our Fortismere teams achieved a fantastic 2nd place** out of the 16 competing teams! All of our students were brilliant throughout the day, demonstrating enthusiasm, perseverance, and sharp scientific thinking. Huge congratulations to everyone involved!
Ms Campbell

Inspiring Scientist of the Week.....

Pride month might have just ended but our inspiring scientist this week is Carolyn Bertozzi, the first openly lesbian scientist to win the Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Carolyn Bertozzi's work changed the way scientists study life inside living cells. She helped create a field called [bioorthogonal chemistry](#): chemical reactions that can happen inside living organisms without disturbing the cell's normal processes. This means scientists can "tag" and follow tiny molecules, such as the sugars coating our cells, almost like using a GPS tracker for biology.



In 2022, Bertozzi became the first openly lesbian scientist to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work on [click chemistry](#) and bioorthogonal chemistry. Click chemistry has transformed drug discovery by giving scientists a fast, reliable way to build and track molecules, helping them design more precise medicines and better understand disease inside living cells.

Her work has helped researchers design more precise cancer treatments, including approaches that target the unusual sugar molecules on cancer cells and strip away these “shields” that help cancer cells hide.

Bertozzi has also changed the culture of chemistry. As an openly gay woman in a field that was not always welcoming to women or LGBT+ scientists, she has [spoken about the importance of creating research groups where everyone is treated first as a scientist](#). Her lab became known for being inclusive, ambitious and supportive, especially for people who had historically been excluded from science. She argues that diversity helps science because complex problems need many different ways of thinking. She has spoken honestly about the barriers faced by [women and LGBT+ people](#) in science, especially earlier in her career, and has worked to build inclusive research teams where different voices are valued. Her story is a reminder that science is not only about facts and experiments: it is also about curiosity, resilience and making space for people to be themselves while solving problems that can help humanity.



Learn more about Carolyn Bertozzi's work with these resources:

Article: [Cells, Sugars and Synthesis](#) (RSC Feature)

Video Series: [Walk with me: Carolyn Bertozzi](#) (Stanford University)

Interview: [Nobel Prize Official Interview](#)

Lecture: [Carolyn Bertozzi Nobel Prize Lecture](#)

Geography Department

Year 12 Conquer the Lake District

Well done to our Year 12 A-Level Geography students for their fantastic work and exemplary behaviour during their fieldwork in the Lake District last week. They were an absolute credit to their families and the school!

With clipboards in hand, the students packed an incredible amount of practical research into the week: They investigated past glacial landforms during a scenic hike from Grasmere to Easedale Tarn. Spent a day learning how to measure carbon stores in local woodland and analysing water infiltration rates across different land uses, and the group toured Keswick to investigate its claim as “adventure capital of the UK.”



Thanks to this hands-on experience, our students are now well on their way to choosing their own independent Geography investigations, which they will begin working on over the summer holidays.

We have been incredibly impressed by the creativity and depth of their research ideas so far.



With special thanks to Louis Gauthier Spurr for providing the photographs.

Modern Languages

Year 7 LanguageNut Champions Crowned!

Our first Year 7 LanguageNut competition has now come to an end, and what a fantastic response it received! Huge congratulations to **Albie Whur Stewart**, who amassed an incredible **102,800 points** to take first place! **Zayyan Qureshi** and **Yuval Ashkenazi** also put in outstanding performances, finishing in second and third place respectively. Well done to all the students who took part and demonstrated such wonderful enthusiasm for language learning!

Drama Department Notices

School of Rock Auditions - Final Date



We will be holding a final audition on **Mon 6th July from 3:15-5pm** in **North Wing Hall** for students who were not in school on the previous dates.

Check your Google Classrooms for audition scenes and any extra information.

We can't wait to ROCK with you!

Fortismere Drama Summer Showcase - Tuesday 14th July 5pm NW Hall



Goodbye Ms Bradford!



We are sad to say goodbye to our wonderful Drama student teacher, Miss Bradford, who has been with us since March. She has been a fantastic part of our school community, and we are going to miss her very much!

Over the past few months, Miss Bradford has been an incredible addition to the Drama department. Alongside teaching classes across all year groups, she has enthusiastically embraced extracurricular Drama, playing an integral role in Drama Club and supporting the many auditions we've held recently.

Her enthusiasm, passion and kindness have made a lasting impact on both staff and students alike. We would like to thank her for everything she has contributed to our department and wish her every success and happiness as she begins her new role in September. Good luck, Miss Bradford - you'll be greatly missed!

Miss Bradford's reflection on Fortismere: *'There is something so special about the students at Fortismere. They throw themselves into everything without question and it's almost magical. I have learned a lot here and have loved the opportunities for growth within the Drama department and school community.'*

Behind the Curtain: Technical Theatre Taster Workshops August 2026

Free workshops in sound, lighting and stage management for 13 - 17-year-olds. Whether you love tech, teamwork, or just discovering something new, this workshop is the perfect first step into the creative world of backstage. No experience necessary.

You'll get hands-on experience, trying out equipment, learning the basics of each backstage role, and meeting inspiring professionals working in the industry today. You'll be introduced to the foundation of technical theatre through hands-on demonstrations and practical activities. You'll try out equipment and software used in the industry and learn how different technical departments work together to put on a show.

11 August: 13-15-year-olds

12 August : 16-17-year-olds

The Workshop takes place at Mulberry Academy UTC in East London **Apply [Here](#) by 15th July**

Sport & PE Notices

London Youth Games Aquathon Success

A massive well done to **Jake, Ben, and Max** in Year 9! They represented Haringey last Sunday in the London Youth Games Aquathon - a grueling 300m swim followed by a 2.76km run.

Out of a highly competitive field, Ben finished 23rd, Jake 25th, and Max 26th overall. These are fantastic results in what is a notoriously tough event. Congratulations, boys!



Silver Spot in Haringey Rounders Tournament

Well done to our Year 7 & Year 8 Rounders team who finished a brilliant second place in the Haringey borough competition on Wednesday afternoon.



Medal Success at Middlesex Athletics Championships

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 athletes - **Noemi, Etta, Niamh, Dave, Francesco, and Joaquin** - who represented Haringey at the Middlesex Athletics Championships on Monday at the StoneX Stadium. Competing against hundreds of athletes from eight different boroughs, the standard was incredibly high.

However, Haringey put on a dominant display across the board, achieving fantastic overall team results:

- **Year 7 Girls:** 1st Place
- **Year 8 Girls:** 1st Place
- **Year 7 Boys:** 2nd Place
- **Year 8 Boys:** 2nd Place

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Joaquin, who unfortunately tore a ligament during his race. We are all incredibly proud of everyone's efforts and sportsmanship!

Final Call: Jazz Dance Workshop - Tuesday 7th July

There are still spaces left for our 3-hour Jazz Dance workshop this **Tuesday 7th July!**

Led by a professional dancer from *Step into Dance*, this is a fantastic taster session ahead of our new after-school club starting in September. Students just need to add their name to the **sign-up sheet outside the PE office in the Sports Hall**.

Governing Board

Parent Governor Election: Reminder to Vote

Parents should have now received an email containing their unique voter number and a link to vote in our Parent Governor election.

Can't find the email? Please check your junk/spam mailbox. If you still cannot find it, please contact smurray@fortismere.org.uk for assistance.

Candidate Statements: You can read candidate election statements on the school website [here](#).

The deadline to cast your vote is **5pm on Thursday 9th July**. Thank you for taking the time to participate!

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 *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

