

School Leadership Messages

Y10 and Y11

There was an incident yesterday at lunchtime between a Y10 student and a Y11 student. Contrary to students' rumours, this is a rare occurrence. Any incident of this nature is upsetting to other students and we will be using tutor time to ensure that students have the opportunity to have their concerns listened to and addressed.

Phones

A reminder, that parents and carers can support the school, and their children's progress, by keeping their children's smart phones at home. If you require your son or daughter to have a phone this must be a non-smart device and it must remain switched off during school hours and kept in their bag. We continue to have significant concerns that students are bringing smart phones into school despite these being banned. We believe that having smart phones can place young people in vulnerable situations, whether it be negative influences on social media or in public places where they can be targeted for expensive devices. We have dealt with serious cases in recent times where student safety has been significantly compromised by continuing misuse of smart phone devices both in and out of school.

We will continue to conduct random searches. All phones confiscated will be kept for a minimum of one week (this may be longer if we have previously confiscated a phone from the student).

Below is the policy from the DFE which indicates our right to search for banned items without consent:

[Searching, screening and confiscation: Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies](#)

Please support our promotion of good behaviour in school by ensuring that your children are not bringing in with them any banned items and that whilst in school they conduct themselves in a manner which you would be proud of; this includes being punctual to school and all lessons during the day.

If you have any concerns around safety in school please do not hesitate to get in touch with me using the following email address: safetalk@fortismere.org.uk

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Calendar

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 20/5/22 | Y11 Last day of formal teaching |
| 27/5/22 | Y13 Last day of formal teaching |
| 27/5/22 | Half-term holiday begins |



Year 11 Leavers

Co-Headteachers

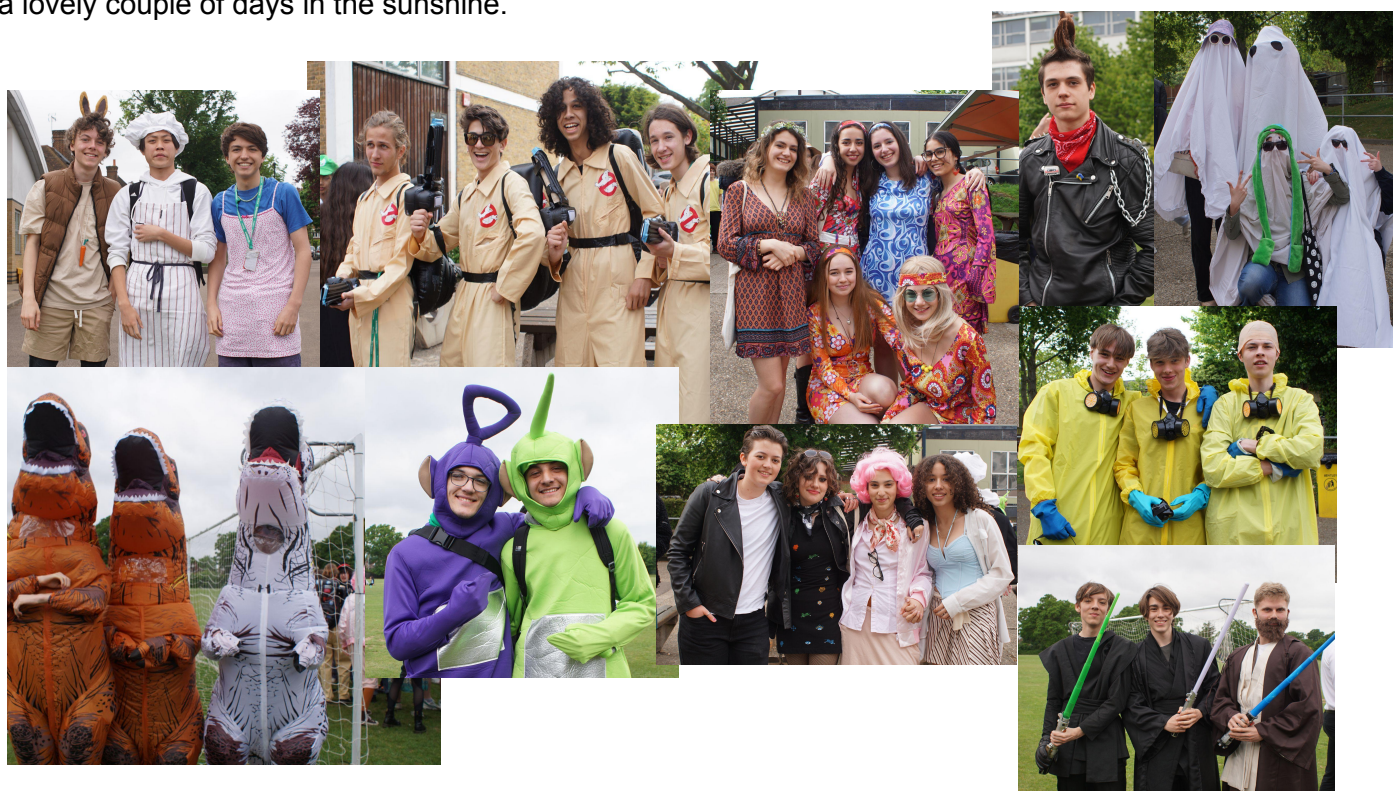
Weekly Roundup

We very much enjoyed celebrating with our Year 11 students this morning. It's always a very special event and our students looked wonderful as they arrived in some very creative and amazing costumes (see photos). We have been impressed with the hard work and commitment that Year 11 have shown in their determination to be prepared for their GCSEs. A reminder that they haven't finished their learning yet and will continue attending all lessons next week and throughout the subsequent weeks their teachers will still be in classrooms leading revision tasks and offering advice and support. We would strongly advise students to attend every lesson they can when not in exams to have access to the best support.

There's much to read in this week's Newsletter. We would urge you to find time to see the wonderful activities taking place in school at the moment. There's a lovely account of the Year 8 Student Ambassadors' mentoring project written by Isobel Elkan in Year 8. On the subject of mentoring, there's an update on the Foresight Mentoring programme which has started with Year 9 students which supports Black and Black Heritage students in aiming high and encourages them to begin thinking about pathways to university.

We are also looking forward to our summer music festival and are beginning the process of recruitment from our talented base of musicians to deliver the entertainment that will be on offer on what we know will be the event of the summer! Please do encourage your musical sons and daughters to look out for auditions in the coming weeks. This is an important fundraising event for the school. In the meantime you can support our fundraising efforts by visiting our online shop and donating or buying items (link at the end of today's Newsletter). In other community news we'd like to highlight a project being promoted by our admissions officer Ms Gonzalez. The 'icandacne' project is a fantastic project which helps local disabled children learn through dance and movement and our community can support these students by attending their showcase event in June.

Enjoy digesting our newsletter this weekend. We hear there's some BBQ weather on the way so wish you a lovely couple of days in the sunshine.



Year 11 Notice

Celebrating our Year 11s

It was with great pleasure that we celebrated Year 11 students' time at Fortismere today at their Leavers' Assembly. I have thoroughly enjoyed being their Head of Year and look forward to supporting them in this upcoming examinations period. I would like to thank Year 11 students, parents and carers and tutors for their help and support over the past three years. We look forward to seeing Year 11s back at school on Monday for guided revision with their teachers. Good luck Year 11!

Best wishes,
Mr Lewis

Year 8 Notice

Student Ambassadors mentoring project

Last term Year 8 students and ambassadors were involved in a mentoring project. One of the students involved in the project, Isobel Elkan, has written about it for the Newsletter.

Last term the student ambassadors began an exciting mentoring project. This project brought selected year 8 students together with the student ambassadors to take part in a number of activities, with different groups of people for each activity. The things to do were of a broad range including, sign language, guitar, art, dance and basketball.

Across the course of the project the year 8 students learnt new skills, working towards showing their work to Ms Turner and at the end of the project each group had come up with something different to share, be it a dance routine or a sign language demonstration. This project was immensely fun, providing an engaging opportunity to learn in a fun way! Next we're doing another fundraising project for charity!



Year 9 Notice

Foresight Mentoring Programme

An excited group of Y9 students recently started the Foresight mentoring programme. This eight week programme aims to help black heritage students understand university options, learn practical ways to be better students, and start making plans for the future. The students have been assigned a mentor who will coach them over the eight week programme and share with them their experience of university.

One of the students on the programme commented:

'Being on the Foresight mentoring programme is beneficial for me because I hope to get a preview of what university life is like. I like the way I can ask questions about how to plan for life after GCSEs. Having someone who is knowledgeable to coach you is good because although I didn't know what to say to my mentor he was reassuring and helpful. In our first conversation we talked about my GCSE options and study skills. Overall I am interested in seeing how the programme progresses. I am especially looking forward to spending a day at SOAS University as part of this programme.' Kayla (Y9)



Sixth Form Notice

Year 13 Leavers Assembly - Monday 16th May 9am

The Year 13 Leavers' Assembly will take place in the North Wing hall at 9am on Monday 16th May.

Timetabled lessons will continue for Year 13 until Friday 27th May. On days that students do not have exams, we expect them to attend their timetabled lesson up until this date. Teachers will be delivering revision lessons to help students to prepare for their upcoming exams. The study room and library will be available for Year 13s to use throughout the examination period.

Ms St Amour

Art & Photography Department

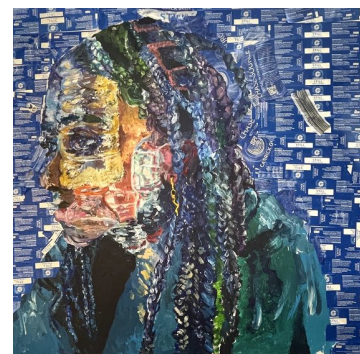
GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition - Friday 20th May 6pm-8pm

Please join us to celebrate the work and achievements of our GCSE Art & Photography Students on Friday 20th May 2022

The exhibition will be in North Wing (Creighton Avenue) from 6pm - 8pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ms Powell



Library Notices

APCBA Party

It's hard to believe that 7 years ago four Haringey School Librarians (from Greig City/Heartlands, Highgate Wood, Chestnuts Primary and...Fortismere) got together to form the Haringey Children's Book Award. We outgrew our Award Ceremony venue at Heartlands and in 2018/19, after much negotiation, we partnered up with Ally Pally – hence Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award. The four librarians still spend their summer holidays reading at least 100 books each before the really hard task of whittling down to a shortlist of 6.

The Year 7 students in our APCBA book groups at Fortismere have always been amazing, happy, eager readers, and Mrs Coles suggested that we have a little library party to celebrate the fact that our very first members are now in Year 13.



So on Friday 6th May, we had a Biscuit and Book gathering. Mrs C provided a scrummy chocolate cake - our first Award Ceremony at Alexandra Palace in 2019 was hosted by Michael Rosen who obviously performed "Chocolate Cake MmmMMmm!"

Recommended Reads of the Week

It's National Numeracy Day on 18th May! To celebrate, borrow one of these lovelies!



Music Department Notices

Ensembles

| Day | Lunchtime | After School |
|------------------|--|---|
| Monday | Senior String Group - Concert Hall | KS3 Music Tech - MU1 School Orchestra - Concert Hall |
| Tuesday | Senior Choir - Concert Hall Percussion Group - MU1 Popular Guitars - MU2 | Jazz Band - Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - 7pm-9pm |
| Wednesday | Big Band - Concert Hall | Bands (Rooms available for practice) |
| Thursday | Junior Choir - Concert Hall DJ Club - MU4 | KS4 Music Tech - MU4 |
| Friday | String Group - MU2 | Classical Guitar Group - Concert Hall |
| Saturday | Music Theory Classes - 11:30am-12:30pm Fortismere Community Choir - 10:30am-1pm | |

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Rehearsals every Tuesday from 7-9pm

Fortismere Community Orchestra has restarted and there are some awesome pieces to be played this term! Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*, a new commission by young composer Jared Bennet, Rossini's *Overture to William Tell*, Verdi's *Overture to Nabucco* and American Violinist and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Concert Master Justin Brun's playing Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* and Vaughn-Williams' *The Lark Ascending*.

The concert is taking place at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 16th July so please come along and get involved.

Appalachian Spring - Starts Saturday 14th May

We begin our rehearsals for the new choreography of Copland's Appalachian Spring on Saturday 14th May from 2pm. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Joe Winters by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk

Fortismere Community Choir Concert - Franz Von Suppe's Requiem

A huge congratulations to the Fortismere Community Choir for their performance of Franz Von Suppe's Requiem which took place on Saturday May 7th at St Andrews Church. This rediscovered piece of music is rarely performed and we were extremely excited that the choir had the chance to showcase this work since it has not been part of a concert programme since 1970. It really was an incredible night of music making and we were thrilled that a packed out audience also enjoyed this work.

Year 6 Transition Concert - Summer Term

If your child is in Year 7-9 and would like to perform in the Year 6 transition concert later in the term please get in touch with the Music Department. We would love to see a diverse range of performers at this event and it would be lovely for our key stage 3 students to be able to talk to the incoming students about what music is like at Fortismere.

Fortitude - Saturday 9th July

We are looking for Bands and singers to take part in the annual Fortitude Music Festival that will be held on Saturday 9th July at Fortismere School. Students from all key stages are welcome at the event and we would like a really diverse range of music! Additionally, if you are a parent or carer that would be willing to sing or perform at the event, either as a soloist or as part of a group, please contact the Director of Music Mr Jefferies.

String Masterclass - Thursday 14th July

There will be a String Masterclass on Thursday 14th July led by Justin Bruns the ConcertMaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra who will be the Music Department guest during our *Music Week* in July. If your child would like to take part please contact the Director of Music for more details.

Charity Fundraising

International Evening Brings Our Community Together

Last week on Thursday evening (5 May) saw Fortismere hosting our first of what we hope will be an annual fundraising International Evening. Two Year 7 students, Xavi and Estelle Branford came to Ms Arrowsmith with the idea of raising money for a charity working in conflict zones and our response was - build it and they will come. The result was an amazing evening with fabulous student performances, delicious food, an enthusiastic audience and our school and wider community pulling together for a good cause.

Our first act comperes, Max Maveric-Neal and Phoenix Law introduced Ms Arrowsmith who introduced the meaning of cosmopolitanism and emphasised that we are all better off together, and then Mrs Ward passed on a message from our Patron of Reading, Sita Brahmachari, explaining her work with the Islington Refugee Centre.

The music department picked up the tempo with impressive performances from the String Group accompanied by Lizzie Wells and Lydia Morgan, Guitar Ensemble, Big Band and a solo performance from

Jai Sharma. Thanks to Mr Jefferies for all his hard work in ensuring such a high standard of musical excellence.

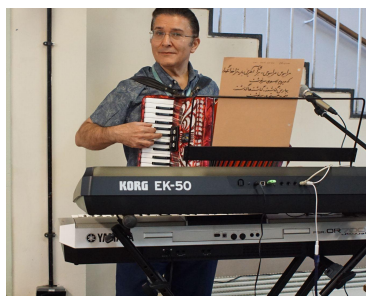
After the interval, our second act comperes, Joseph Hannon and Braylen Bangert entertained the audience whilst also introducing the Junior Choir who sang (beautifully) "Can't help falling in love" and "When I grow up" and 7MB who performed (with all the actions and great enthusiasm!) "How far I'll go" from Moana. Thank you to Ms Patel for these performances.

We were also treated to a number of solo performances - Anna Arsentieva movingly singing a Ukrainian song; Sam Balint-Kurti performing 'Close every door to me' from 'Joseph' unaccompanied (what a voice!) and Melissa Hansen who played guitar. Eve Hannon in year 11 then recited a poem she had written (well, she is a Foyle's Highly Commended Young Poet).

The evening was also very much about the food. Ms Demetriou had organised an incredible array of tasty treats. Lebanese/Syrian food was donated by Saleh Alhoulani and Abdul at [Taste of Nawab](#) donated the Indian food. Sharon Fernee and Kirsty Davies from Harrisons (our school catering company) donated the pasta, Victoria sponge cake and brownies. [Aroma](#) in Palmers Green donated all the Baklava and [Despina Foods](#) from Arnos Grove donated all the Greek dips and halloumi. Many thanks also to our parents who donated Polish, Ukrainian, Greek, and Turkish foods and lots of desserts.

Thanks also to Ms Oddi, Ms Bailey and Ms Cunningham for their support getting everything set up and also behind the bar!

Our chosen charity is **CanDo**, a humanitarian medical charity. Their CEO, Dr Rola Halam, spoke at the Evening via Zoom and we were all impressed and moved by the work they do. You can find out more about the charity on their website <https://www.candoaction.org/>



Fundraising at Fortismere Notices

New Online Fortismere Fundraising Shop

We have recently launched our new online 'shop' which allows members of our community to donate to specific areas of the school. We know that many parents who have donated to the school in the past have been keen to either know where their donations have gone or been keen to sponsor a particular department, subject or project via their donations. Other parents like to make one-off donations and don't mind where their money goes. Our online donation shop allows parents flexibility in how they donate to the school. Please click [here](#) to see our shop and the current fundraising projects. We really appreciate the generosity and continued support of the school by our parents. We cannot understate the difference your support makes to our ability to give our learners the transformative education experience they deserve.



Summer Festival - Saturday 9th July 2022

We are delighted that our **Summer Festival** is going ahead this year on Saturday 9 July 2022 from 12-6pm. We are looking forward to coming together with our community to have fun, to celebrate and be entertained by some of the best talent that North London has to offer including many of our own and former students. We're planning now and there will be more information as things progress. However, in order to make the event the best it can be we are asking our parent community to help us. While this is a school festival, and we will certainly be entertained by a host of our talented musicians on the day, we would also like to use the event as an opportunity to cement our school's position at the heart of its community.

To make the Festival a truly fabulous event can you help us with any of the following:

- **Time!** Can you support the planning of the event, or help to run a stall on the day?
- **Skills!** Can you help with setting up, are you terrific with ticket sales?
- **Talent!** Can you perform, host a stage or know any performers who would be willing to perform alongside our own very talented students?
- **Prizes!** We rely on our local community for donations.

Your donations make a great difference and this year we need the following:

- Bottles, biscuits, sweets and treats plus books and beauty products and other goodies for hampers and tombola prizes.
- Vintage clothing and accessories and anything fun, quirky and a bit old but new again!
- Prizes or experiences like massages, makeovers or meals out
- Festival food to sell on the day

We are also looking for parents who will have a **Martyn Gerrard board** placed outside their property to advertise our Summer Festival - this is a really easy way to help us to raise money.

Please contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk if you can get involved in any of the above.

Fortismere Holiday Camps July & August 2022

Summer Holiday Camps

With lots of fun and games to enjoy from Sports, Art, Drama, Coding to Chess and multi sports, our holiday camps are ideal if you find it hard to juggle work and keep children entertained. Activities will run between **09.00 am-15.00 pm** each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE.

The full week will cost £80*, an early **08.00 am** drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Tiny Twinkles Age 3-6

Perfect for 3-6 year olds led by professional actors with a love for early years! Each day the children will explore all genres of creative arts- learning songs & dances, acting out role play adventures, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of games and crafts.

Week 1 25th July Tiny Twinkles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-tiny-twinkles-age-3-6-week-1-tickets-314464641207>

Week 2 1st Aug Tiny Twinkles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-tiny-twinkles-week-2-tickets-314494540637>

Week 3 8th Aug Tiny Twinkles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-tiny-twinkles-age-3-6-week-3-tickets-314497449337>

Week 4 15th Aug Tiny Twinkles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-tiny-twinkles-age-3-6-tickets-314501020017>

Sports camp Age 7-15

This will give children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports activities such as football, rounders, tennis and fun competitions.

Week 1 25th July Sports camp Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-sports-age-7-15-week-1-tickets-316382397267>

Week 2 1st Aug Sports camp Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-multi-sports-age-7-15-week-2-tickets-316450470877>

Week 3 8th Aug Sport camp Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-multi-sport-age-7-15-week-3-tickets-316459548027>

Week 4 15th Aug Sports Camp Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-multi-sports-age-7-15-week-4-tickets-316620950787>

Chess Camp Age 7-15

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the chess scenes in the recent Queen's Gambit TV show. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills needed also in the classroom. The chess course will look at tactics, strategy, chess openings and endgame play, helping to become a better player.

Week 1 25 July Chess Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-chess-age-7-15-week-1-tickets-316622876547>

Week 2 1st Aug Chess Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-chess-club-age-7-15-week-2-tickets-327900568427>

Dance Age 6-12

Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity when storytelling through dance. The participants will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance.

Week 1 25th July Dance Age 6-12

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-dance-tap-jazz-and-musical-theatre-age-6-13-tickets-316626748127>

Week 2 1st Aug Dance Age 6-12

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-dance-tap-jazz-musical-theatre-age-6-13-tickets-316655915367>

Gardening Age 7-15

Garden planning outdoors and in, designs, types of plants and soils, videos, research and drawing activities, digging and planting of plants and more.

Week 1 25th July Gardening Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-gardening-camp-age-7-15-week-1-tickets-315264523677>

Week 2 1st Aug Gardening Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-gardening-camp-age-7-15-week2-tickets-315271153507>

Drama Age 7-15

This week the children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. Lots of drama games and exercises with the children to develop their confidence and skills.

Week 1 25th July Drama Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-drama-age-8-15-tickets-318698494777>

Week 2 1st Aug Drama Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-drama-age-8-15-week-2-tickets-318699036397>

Week 3 8th Aug Drama Age 7-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-drama-age-8-15-week-3-tickets-318702025337>

Art Age 8-15

Students will make life sketches, collages, and will also build structures out of cardboard and glue using these in graphics as an inspiration for their own streetscapes. These activities will open the eyes of young people to the world of fine artists, designers and architects. Anyone from 8 years old is welcome. Our environment is encouraging, inclusive and non-competitive, allowing students to move at their own pace and thus develop their unique skill-set

Week 3 8th Aug Art Age 8-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-art-club-age-7-15-week-3-tickets-321226997597>

Week 4 15th Aug Art Age 8-15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-art-camp-week-4-age-7-15-tickets-321228802997>

Community Events

ICanDance

Noelia, our Admissions Manager, volunteers with a North London charity that supports disabled children and young people and below she tells us about the work of the charity and a local event they have coming up soon.



I have been volunteering for a charity called ICanDance since January 2019.

Their work is about helping disabled children and young people through dance and movement, so I go and dance with them every Saturday morning. They believe strongly in the power of dance and its ability to support well-being and provide various opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to engage. It's such an inspiring community and I love being part of it. They do a big performance every year and after two years of not being able to have one, are very excited to be going back to Alexandra Palace Theatre on Saturday 25th June! Tickets for the event can be purchased [here](#)

If you want to read more about the charity or find out about their dance and movement sessions for your child, have a look at their website: www.icandance.org.uk

Noelia Gonzales

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Want to know more?

In school we work closely with families to support our students to develop as happy, healthy and resilient young people. In order to support this we work with Place 2 Be, local borough Children's Services, our School Nurse, CAMHS and Community Police to enable us to get targeted support as needed. We also deliver formal lessons both in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics and through our pastoral curriculum enabling our students to be able to make informed choices about how they can keep themselves safe.

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Kirsten Sullivan) about any safeguarding concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively you can speak to your child's tutor or Head of Year:

Year 7 jarrowsmith@fortismere.org.uk

Year 8 kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 kjackson@fortismere.org.uk

Year 10 dward@fortismere.org.uk

Year 11 glewis@fortismere.org.uk

If you require safeguarding support about specific issues you may wish to visit our Safeguarding page on the school [website](#). We add new links and information often so it is worth checking this regularly.

Ms Sullivan

Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead