

### School Leadership Messages

#### Covid Update

While masking in school corridors and communal areas is not mandatory it remains highly recommended to avoid a rise in cases at Fortismere. School staff will be actively encouraging students to bring masks to school and to wear them in corridors. We would ask parents to support this approach in order to work with us to keep new cases down to a minimum. This is not only to protect the safety of our students, their families and staff but also to minimise the potential risk to students missing further schooling due to needing to isolate.

We must continue to work together as a community to keep case rates as low as we can. Good hand and respiratory hygiene also continues to be important to ensure that students and staff remain safe. We ask parents to reinforce these critical messages with their children.

#### Vaccination Programmes in Schools

Parents will have seen in the media this week that the government has authorised vaccination of 12-15 year olds. You may also be aware that they are planning to carry out this programme in schools.

School leadership will inform staff about arrangements as soon as we have that information. However, we want to be clear that Fortismere school is hosting NHS staff to deliver these vaccinations as part of a government directive. We do not intend to promote the vaccines or offer advice to any members of our community about whether or not our students should receive them. This is strictly a matter for public health to lead on, not schools.

#### Open Evening

**Please note that our Open Evening is taking place from 5:00pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.** Students will finish school at 1:05pm to enable school staff to prepare for this important event in our calendar. In order to allow time to prepare the site for teaching, school will open on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September for students from 9:35 am for registration.

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### Calendar

<b>17.09</b>	Fortismere Instagram Launch
<b>22.09</b>	Fortismere will close for lessons at 1:05pm.  Fortismere Open Evening 5:00pm-7:30pm <a href="#">(click here for more details)</a>
<b>23.09</b>	Late start: 9:35am for students



## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

We all returned to school this week buoyed up by the performance by Emma Raducanu last weekend. Her brilliance really shone a light on the potential of our younger generation to achieve great things and is certainly perfectly timed to inspire our learning community at the start of a new academic year. If Emma can walk away from her A levels and a few months later show the poise, grit and mental strength to succeed in the way she has then we know that Fortismere students can put their own minds to being the best they can be and seizing opportunities now as we return to our post Covid normality.

We have seen this in action in the way our own students have embraced the sporting opportunities on offer at Fortismere. We were reliably informed by Mr Orton our Director of Sports that even on the first week of school this term students filled the 41 extra-curricular sports clubs that are on offer. We are delighted to know that they are not only seizing these opportunities to participate in sport but also that they are continuing to achieve local success. Some fantastic sporting outcomes are celebrated later in this week's Newsletter such as Amy Kirk and Elkie Baker's wonderful track and field achievements and the impressive display put on by our cross-country runners this week. We hope that all students do something sporty with their time outside of class but know that there are other wonderful opportunities for our students to enrich their school experience whether it be getting involved in the upcoming European day of Languages, taking part in the Intercollege Drama Festival or joining one of our book groups. We know there is something for everyone on offer.

It's a very busy week next week at Fortismere as we host our annual Open Evening for prospective parents. We are aware that many of our students are joining us to give tours of the school or join in on presentations; we are looking forward to welcoming large numbers of guests on site. A reminder that school will commence from 9.35am on the following morning (Thursday 23rd September)

We'd like to say "G'mar chatima tova" to everyone who observed Yom Kippur this week. Finally, we would like to wish all of our families a restful weekend.

### Year 11 Yearbooks



Thank you to all the parents who have paid for the Year 11 yearbook.

It is on it's way! The content for the year book has now been transferred to the company and the first draft will need to be proofread before it is printed and distributed.

## Fortismere on Instagram

### Fortismere Instagram Launch

Fortismere is delighted to announce the launch of our school Instagram account on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September!



This is an exciting time for Fortismere's Communications department as we plan to restructure our communications strategy over the next few months.

The purpose of our Instagram account is for all members of the school community to be informed and entertained by the latest content, events, news and updates that are taking place in Fortismere.

Please follow our Instagram page as we plan to post some exciting content over the next few weeks.

**Our Instagram Account: fortismereschooln10**

## Extra-Curricular

### Latin Club: Change to Wednesday Start Date



Latin classes (on Wednesdays) will start on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**, rather than on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** as indicated in last week's newsletter. This is because next Wednesday is an Open Day and students go home early in the afternoon.

Latin classes (on Thursdays) will start on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** as planned.

- **Students should meet in S12 AT 3:05pm to register on Wednesday**
- **Students should meet in S12 at**

**3:30pm to register on Thursday**

Please contact Pat Dugdale: [pdugdale@fortismere.school](mailto:pdugdale@fortismere.school) if you would like further information.

## Year 12 Societies Fair



Thank you to Ms Cunningham and her wonderful Year 13 students who put on a great Societies Fair for the Year 12 students last week.

It was lovely to see so many Year 12's engaging in conversation with our Year 13 students and about subjects they're so passionate about. There were also students playing chess and others looking at EPQ projects, what a great start to sixth form life.

Year 12 students should sign up for at least one club or society whether it be Medsoc, Femsoc, Chess Club, True Crime Society, Zoology, Debating Society or an array of Sports Clubs all of which will be advertised on Google classroom.

It's a great way to meet new people and always good to develop new ideas and interests. If there's a new society you want to start please see Mr Kenny or Ms Bailey.

## Book Club

We are starting to organise our book clubs – there's something for everyone. In all cases you can bring your lunch as long as it's not hot or smelly! There are usually biscuits.

Contact Gill Ward: [gward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:gward@fortismere.org.uk) if you would like more information



**Young Quills:** is our historical fiction reading group run by Mr Stewart from the history department and Mrs Ward. We read fiction set in different periods of time and later on in the year we help the Historical Association decide on the best writing for young people. If you like history and love reading, come to the library on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September** at lunchtime to find out more. **Any year group is welcome.**

We have been asked by the Royal Society to form a judging panel for the **2021 Young People's Book Prize**. This award is designed to inspire young people to read about science and to support the writing of excellent, accessible STEM books for under 14s. We are one of 537 groups from around the UK and would welcome anyone from Years 7 and 8 to join Mrs Cockerham from the library and Ms Hall from the science department on Thursday lunchtimes, starting 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The next meeting of **CoverUp**, our parent/staff reading group, is on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00pm** in the library, when we'll be talking about (amongst other things) "A Bit of a Stretch: The Diaries of a Prisoner" by Chris Atkins, a journal of his time in HMP Wandsworth. It'll be an interesting evening!

Other reading groups include the **Alexandra Palace Book Award** (Year 7 - meetings will start in December) and the **Carnegie Shadowing Group** (Year 8 - meetings will start in March) – watch this space. Should anyone feel they are not represented and would like to start a reading group of their own, we'd be very happy to hear about it and help out.

## Modern Languages Notices

### Welcome Back



The ML Department wants to give a warm welcome to all of our students.

We hope the summer went well for everyone and hopefully some students had the chance to practice another language.

### Year 7 Languages

There has been some confusion with the timetable due to the naming of the classes.

**Please note that ALL Year 7 students will be studying Spanish for 10 weeks with a week in between of Mandarin (3 lessons).**

After the 10 weeks, students will have a test and then will start 10 weeks of French with another 3 lessons of Mandarin. A test in French will be done after 10 weeks.

**More information regarding this will be found in upcoming Newsletters and also sent through Parentmail.**

**The first set of Mandarin lessons will start on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Students in 7X1 and in 7Y1 will do 3 sessions of Mandarin during this week.**

After that, they will go back to carry on with their Spanish lessons. Students do not need to bring anything extra to the sessions. These sessions are in order to enable all students to have access to the language and to see if they would be interested in taking Mandarin alongside French or Spanish.

### MEP Programme: Year 7



**Mandarin  
Excellence  
Programme**

Students who were interested in the Mandarin Excellence Programme had the chance to take the Aptitude Test on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Ms Huang will be emailing soon all parents affected to inform of results and next steps.

## European Day of Languages: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September** is European Day of Languages. We want to celebrate all languages week commencing **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** so students will have extra assemblies, quizzes and a few other activities around the school during that week.

If you are interested on knowing more about other languages: [Click Here](#)

## Music Department Notices

### Ensembles 2021/22

Music Ensembles are back up and running. If you are interested in joining please come along to the music block and we will see you there!

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group	KS3 Music Tech School Orchestra
Tuesday	Percussion Group	Junior Choir Wind Band Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	MusicalTheatre Group Big Band	Bands (Rooms available for practice) Gospel Choir
Thursday	DJ Club	KS4 Music Tech Senior Choir
Friday	Junior String Group	Classical Guitar Group
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (10am - 12pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm )	Afternoon (1 - 4pm) Chamber Groups Rock Bands

## Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - IN SCHOOL



Instrumental and vocal lessons will begin on Monday 20/09/21 for students.

If you are interested in your child taking part in these classes please contact Mel Izzet:

[mizzet@fortismere.or.uk](mailto:mizzet@fortismere.or.uk).

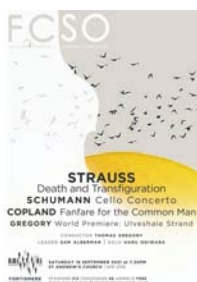
Timetables will be sent out to parents the week before lessons start.

## Welcome Back Concert - Thursday 30th September

Our first school concert of the year will take place in the Music Concert Hall on Thursday 30th September at 7pm. Tickets are £5 and available from [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)

There will be performances from Senior Choir, Big Band and various bands as well as solo items from a huge range of musical styles.

## Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 18th September 2021 7pm



The Fortismere Symphony Orchestra will be performing *Ulveshale Strand*, *Death and Transfiguration* and the *Schumann Cello Concerto* performed by our very own Haru Ogiwara at St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 18th September 2021 at 7:30pm. Tickets are available online from [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk) for £12 (£8 concession) and under 12 are free.

## Fortismere Music Centre - CONCERTS 2021/22

There are three performances for our community groups this term. On Saturday 27th November the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra will perform the *Adagio from Spartacus*, *The Paganini Variations* by Rachmaninov and Dvorak's *8th Symphony*. This will be followed by a performance of Bach's *Magnificat* on Saturday 4th December and then you are all invited to come and join us for drinks and merriment for our annual *Come Caroling* on Saturday 11th December at Fortismere.

Tickets and further details can be found for all of our concerts at [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)

## Fortismere Music Centre - Saturday Centre

The Fortismere Music Center is open for business from Saturday 11th September, if you would like to take lessons please get in touch! The Community Choir is also meeting again in the mornings and is socially distanced so come also and enjoy singing safely with like minded people. Contact the Music Centre manager Joe Winters at [FMInfo@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:FMInfo@fortismere.org.uk) if you want to get involved.

There are also instrumental and theory lessons available and we will be acting as a centre for students that wish to take their Theory Exams in November 2021.

## Drama Department Notices

### Inter-College Drama Festival 2021



The 2021 Inter-College Drama Festival will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 2:00pm-7:00pm.

50 chosen students, 10 from each college, across 5 year groups, will spend a few hours creating a short devised play working with 2 Sixth form directors who are studying A Level Drama.

These plays, from the 5 different colleges, will be performed at the end of the day. All 5 plays will be judged and the winning college will receive the Inter-College Drama Trophy.

Students who would like to be involved should contact their form tutor.

### Year 8 Drama Club!



Friday lunchtimes in the NW Hall. Please bring a packed lunch if possible so we can start on time.

New members please register with Ms Teevan: [iteevan@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:iteevan@fortismere.org.uk)

### Jekyll and Hyde Auditions for Actors and Crew



We held 2 successful audition days last week for the annual Winter Drama Production.

We had 170 students sign up to be involved!

If your students missed out and are still really interested in getting involved please email: [dturner@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:dturner@fortismere.org.uk) as soon as possible.

## Sport & PE Notices

### Sport is Back

Firstly, welcome back to the first news of the year from the Sport and PE department. I am delighted to say that Sport has bounced back with a vengeance at Fortismere. The first 2 weeks of



term have seen the department offer over 40 extra-Curricular clubs and activities, which, I am delighted to say, have been well attended by fortismere students. However, there is still room for a lot more participation so lets see many more of you enjoying these sporting opportunities. The Extra-Curricular timetable is published with the newsletter every week and is also sent to all Tutors. Both SW and NW sports areas also have the Timetable displayed. Make sure you know what's on, and where, and get yourself along!

As well as the weekly clubs & activities, competitive fixtures have also returned this week. We had Tennis and Cross-Country (see below for full reports) and both Boys and Girls Football gets underway next week.

**You will find all the reports, results and reports here and latest news is sent out on our Twitter: @FortismerePE**

Elsewhere the department has rolled out our new PE curriculum across all year groups. This curriculum is based around PE concepts and is designed for all students to access, make progress and, most importantly, to enjoy. These concepts are delivered through both traditional and some not so traditional activities.

**Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Orton (Director of Sport) if you have any questions or comments: [SORton@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:SORton@fortismere.org.uk)**

### **Elike Enjoys Success on Track and Field**



Elkie Baker in Year 8 had a very busy summer competing for her Athletics Club. In the Middlesex Championships, held at the famous Lea Valley Athletics Centre Elkie won Gold in the Discus, Silver in the Shot Putt and Bronze in Javelin.

She has also been doing a lot of running, in preparation for the Cross Country season, and this paid off as she ran for London Heathside in the Middlesex Road Relays (3 laps of 3000mtrs) and was part of the winning Middlesex Girls U13 Team. What an all-rounder. Well done Elkie.

### **Tiziano Leads the way for Fortismere Cross-Country Teams**

In the first Cross-Country meet of the season - the Haringey races for the mini marathon trials - Triziano Wilson in Year 8 put in a stunning performance to win the first race of the day - crossing the line well ahead of the nearest competitor (Luca Christensen of Fortismere) - and so setting the tone of what was to be a dominating afternoon by the Fortismere runners.

The results are still being compiled and have not yet been sent out - but it was pretty clear on the afternoon of how well we were doing. Race after race saw Fortismere runners pack the top places. Fortismere had complete teams all the way up to Year 12 and Year 13 and it is so pleasing how many are prepared to represent the school in such a tough discipline.

Full results will follow - as will the list of our runners who have made the Mini Marathon places.

There are plenty of Cross-Country races in the next few weeks - so it's never too late to come and join us. Monday and Thursday after school and a Thursday Lunchtime woodland jog.

### Superb Run by Tennis Teams finally comes to an end!



After an incredible summer of Tennis in which both our U13 and U15 Boys and Tennis Teams reached the regional playoffs, our U15 Boys and U13 Girls bravely bowed out of the competition this week. Both teams enjoyed close matches with Private schools that have many pupils at Tennis academies and the fact that we were able to push them so close speaks volumes about the quality of our players. Well done all players.

### Swimming Success For Romanos capped by national call up!

Having enjoyed an extremely successful season. representing the prestigious Barnet Copthall swim club, Romanos Hiotis-Sclavenitis in Year 9 has been selected for the Swim England National Development programme. What a wonderful achievement for Romanos and we will follow his progress with interest. Adam Peaty Watch Out!!!

### It's All Gold For Amy



Amy Kirk in Year 8 has enjoyed a very successful summer of Athletics. Amy was also part of the Gold Medal winning Heathside U13 Team that won the Middlesex Road Relays alongside Elkie. Amy also went on to record an amazing time of 5 mins 33 for the 1500 meters smashing her personal PB. With these two stars we are very hopeful of good cross-country performances in the season ahead.

### Fixtures

#### Last Weeks Results:

- U15 Boys Tennis v Clares Court (A) Regional Knock Outs - Lost 2-4
- U13 Girls Tennis v City Of London Girls School - Regional Knock Outs - Lost 1-5
- Haringey Borough Cross-Country & Mini Marathon Trials **FULL RESULTS TO FOLLOW**

#### Next Weeks Fixtures:

- Tues - U15 Girls Football v St Margarets ESFA Cup Round 1 3.15 Kick Off @ Fortismere
- Weds - Y8 'B' Boys Football v St Pauls Academy Greenwich ESFA Cup for 'B' Teams 1st Round - 2pm Kick Off @ Fortismere
- Weds - 1st XI (U18) Boys Football v Christ College Finchley - Middlesex Trophy Group Stage  
3.45 Kick Off @ Fortismere
- Thurs - U16 Girls Football v Sidney Russell ESFA Cup 1st Round - 3.45 Kick Off @ Fortismere.

## Library

### Patron of Reading

We have subscribed to the Patron of Reading initiative since it started, and have had some amazing authors working with our students including SF Said, Matt Dickinson and Non Pratt.

Our first Patron was Sita Brahmachari – she will be familiar to our Year 7 students as they all got a signed copy of her latest book, “When Secrets Set Sail”, before the summer holidays.

Sita writes: *“I’m so happy to be returning to Fortismere to champion reading and creative writing across the school as part of the National Patron of Reading scheme. It works like having a writer in residence.*



*This is a reunion tour between librarian Gill Ward and me and a brilliant library dog called Billie! It was lovely to visit the library for a planning meeting recently to be greeted by a 6th former making a documentary who remembered me from my first tour as Patron when I worked with him in Year 7. This connection over reading, formal and informal in the school is so valuable. After this time of huge disruption Billie and I feel really honoured to be invited back to offer lots of reading and writing inspiration from Year 7 to 6th form.*

*This year sees the tenth anniversary of writing my first novel 'Artichoke Hearts' that won the Waterstones Children's Book Award and was the start of writing many novels and plays that have emerged since. I'm looking forward to lots of creative engagements, whether that be to read with Billie in the library (he's a great listener!) or working cross curricular exploring the power of reading and the arts to expand worlds, express, learn, heal and be a catalyst for transformation, recurring themes in my stories.*

*I look forward to meeting students in the story hive of Fortismere Library and out on location too! My reading and writing has led me to many experiences in life. It has given me anchors, sails and offered endless portals of expanded opportunity. It has led me to becoming an Amnesty Ambassador for the rights of children and young people and Writer in Residence at the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants. These are just two of the life changing and fulfilling experiences I explore in my fiction and through work with readers and aspiring writers.*

*Reading for pleasure is the biggest single factor that can improve a young person's chances of living a fulfilled and successful life in which their dreams and aspirations are within their reach - whatever hardships they face or have faced.*

*In Fortismere library we intend to offer those anchors, sails, bunting and portals of possibility to every student and if a port in choppy waters is ever needed Billie can always be relied on as a trusty reading companion”.*

#### **You can follow Sita's writing and events:**

- **Twitter:** @Sita Brahmachari
- **Instagram:** @Sita.Brahmachari

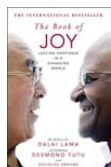
## Summer Reading Challenge



Congratulations to Sarah Stone in 7JD for completing this year's public libraries' Summer Reading Challenge during the holidays. As promised, she was able to choose a lovely prize from Fortismere library.

Anyone else got the completed form to bring in?

## Recommended Reads of the Week



Comes from our Patron of Reading, Sita, who says, 'The Book of Joy' is non fiction/profound/ funny/ soul searching at a time when it feels like the big questions need asking. I loved it because of the laughter as well as the deep thinking and extraordinary insights into humanity".

## Fortismere Holiday Activity Camp

### October Holiday Camp Book Now! Open to the Community

With lots of fun and games to enjoy from D&T, Chess, Robotics and Coding to Drama and Multi Sports, holiday camps are ideal if you find it hard to juggle work and keep the children entertained.

Activities will run between 9:00am-3:00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE.

The full week will cost £80\*, an 8:00 am drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Please contact Maria Demetriou for information on subsidised places: [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk)

### Holiday Club Activities: Limited Spaces

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre: **5 Spaces Available**

##### [Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre Tickets](#)

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. **This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.**

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Chess Club: **5 Spaces Available**

##### [Chess Club Tickets](#)

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the recent Netflix TV series The Queen's Gambit. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills needed also in the classroom.

**This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.**

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Drama Club: **5 Spaces Available**

##### [Drama Club Tickets](#)

The children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. **This holiday club is open to children**

aged 7-15 years.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Drawing Animation and Comics Club: 4 Spaces Available**

[Drawing Animation and Comics Club Tickets](#)

Overview of the comic and cartoon industry and how they have been used as tools for storytelling and communication over the years. Children will be shown how the human body works and is designed to move. As well as character design for different types of characters and how they fit into the stories you want to tell and overview of comics storytelling, layout and structure.

The children will also look at writing comics and how to produce clear lettering by hand for comics and different colouring techniques both traditional and digital. Using the skills gathered so far, children will work on their own comic stories. By the end of the course each student will produce their own complete 8 - 12 page comic strip. **This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Little Imaginations: 5 Spaces Available**

[Little Imaginations Tickets](#)

Our camps cover all areas of creative arts, as well as active play and science experiments. **This holiday club is open to children aged 3-6 years.**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Multi Sports: 10 Spaces Available**

[Multi Sports Tickets](#)

This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounders, tennis and competitions for the chance to win a fabulous prize. **This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Robotics: SOLD OUT**

[Robotics Tickets](#)

Children will gain an overview of how robotics is used and integrated in computer science, IT and STEAM. The children will look at the robotic creation, design, operation and the use of robotics in everyday life and in the professional working world. **This holiday club is open to children aged 9-15 years.**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Street Dance: 10 Spaces Available**

[Street Dance Tickets](#)

Students will learn routines and steps from this popular dance style. **This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.**