

Friday 18th November 2022

School Leadership Messages

Parents' Evening Survey

Please could you take time to complete the below survey to support our research into the functioning of our Parents' Evening.

The survey should not take more than a few minutes to complete.

Please complete the survey by Monday 28 November 2022.

See the link below for access to the survey.

<https://forms.gle/ndvoe9kti1TotsWA6>

Maths Setting

The Maths Department has introduced a new setting policy, based on national research, which means that the majority of students are now taught in mixed ability groups. The policy can be found [here](#) on the website. If further information is required, please contact the Maths Department.

Homework Policy

The Fortismere Homework Policy is currently under review and will be circulated to parents and carers before the end of term. In the meantime, homework should still be set regularly in all subject areas. Fortismere parents and carers are finding that this is not the case, please could they either email their child's tutor or write a comment in their child's planner for the tutor to read. Tutors sign the planners weekly.

The World Cup: England vs Iran

Teachers will be permitted to share the score live with students. However, we will not be showing the match in lessons.

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30/11	Y8 X bank Parents' evening
7/12 & 8/12	Hitchhiker's Guide.... Drama production 7pm
11/12	Christmas Fair 11am-4pm
13/12 & 14/12	Music Department Christmas Concerts 7pm
14/12	Y8 Y bank Parents' evening

World Cup 2022



Photo by Clive Rose/Getty Image

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Another week, another music concert. This time it was the turn of our extremely talented GCSE students who performed their exam pieces live in front of a supportive, appreciative audience. From Bach to Hendrix, the pieces were eclectic, demonstrating the range of students' musical tastes and influences. Instruments were similarly diverse, including the harp and recorder. Music is a strong feature of life at Fortismere and Mr Jefferies continues to ensure that participation in music is always visible.

Next week our Y7s are off to the wilds of Kent as part of their transition to 'big school'. The Centre offers a range of activities and through these, students will become more familiar with each other and the staff. The three day trip very much ties in with the personal development aspect of our curriculum. In addition to the positive impact on transition, the trip allows students to experience different challenges and ways of working, including team building and leadership. The students who are unable to attend the trip will have a mixture of normal timetabled lessons with other experiences so that they too can have the opportunity for some extra 'character building'.

We have included a link to a parent survey in today's Newsletter looking at remote parents' evenings. Now that we are post-pandemic, we are in the process of identifying 'Covid-keepers' and areas where we should revert to pre-pandemic practices. We would urge parents/carers to complete the survey so that we have a really representative response on which to make decisions.

Sunday sees the start of the 2022 World Cup and on Monday England plays Iran at 1pm. The controversial nature of this World Cup has affected our response to how we support students' understandable excitement about the event. In the Leadership notices above you will have read how we are responding to the England game. It is our intention that this compromise position will go some way towards satisfying supporters while not condoning the attitudes of the host nation.

The unusually balmy weather has now returned to more normal temperatures. We have noticed that a number of students have not yet embraced the need for layers. Outdoor clothing is not permitted in lessons so students do need jumpers or hoodies. We did suggest cardigans but the students just looked confused.

We hope you all have a lovely (and preferably dry!) weekend.

Sixth Form Notice

Year 11 Sixth Form Applications

Our Year 11 students can apply to Fortismere Sixth Form from Thursday 1 December.

ALL of our current Year 11 students have been enrolled into our online APPLICAA system, and have been issued with their login details. All current students should use their Fortismere email address to login. We would encourage students to apply early, and we look forward to receiving your child's Sixth Form application.

Mr Robson

Director of Sixth Form

Geography Department Notice

Year 11 Geography Trips - Monday 21st & Tuesday 29th November

The second part of the GCSE Geography compulsory fieldwork takes place on the dates above. Two Geography classes will be on the fieldtrip on each of these dates - please see the class details below. This fieldtrip is to investigate how quality of life differs in different urban areas. The trips are led by local guides from the London Team of the Field Studies Council and students will practise a range of primary data collection methods. Information collected will then be used as a base for lessons about data presentation and analysis after the fieldwork.

We have reminded students that they must check with their other teachers and on Google Classroom to find out what work they will miss in their other subjects on their day out. All students should bring a packed lunch (no nuts please) and wear suitably warm and waterproof clothing and footwear for outdoor walking.

Field trip to Kings Cross

	Monday 21st November	Tuesday 29th November
Classes	11A Ms Brough 11B GG2 Ms Sheldon	11B Ms Holder 11D Mr Kelsey
Time	Students should go to form time as normal and then meet at Twyford Avenue gate promptly after this for departure.	Students should go directly to Twyford Avenue gate at 8.35am for departure.
Travel arrangements	Transport will be by London Underground from East Finchley to Kings Cross and then by foot. We return to East Finchley and then School at the end of trip. Students will be dismissed from Twyford Avenue gate at School and we ask you to be responsible for your child's arrangements home from there	

Ms Sheldon
Head of Geography

SEND & LINC Department Notices

BSL Sign Language Extracurricular Workshop

LINC is offering students the opportunity to join a BSL Sign Language extracurricular workshop starting in January 2023. This is a 6-week course for any student who is interested, at a cost of £30 and on a first come first serve basis. Each session will last an hour and take place after school. The emphasis is on practical creative learning, designed to give a better understanding of how the British Sign Language process works and what a vibrant and important language it is and will be for the years ahead. The approach will be informal and fun and provided by an external specialist, Vantage Education. More information is available on request. If your child is interested, please email lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk. Places are limited to 20 students at a time.

Dyslexia Online Information Event - Thursday 24th November at 5pm

LINC are hosting another online information event for parents and carers and this time the focus is on Dyslexia. The event will cover the following - understanding the impact of dyslexia, how the school supports students with dyslexia and what parents and carers can do to support their child at home. It is primarily

aimed at parents/carers of students with dyslexia but is open to all and might also be useful if you think your child has literacy related difficulties.

Dyslexia Information Event - Thursday 24 November 2022 5.00pm-6.30pm online

If you would like to attend please email LINCAdmin@fortismere.org.uk and you will be sent joining instructions and a link.. The event will be recorded and made available afterwards.

Mr Fari
Assistant Head

English Department News

Writing Workshop with Jacob Sam-La Rose

We were delighted to welcome poet Jacob Sam-La Rose to Fortismere earlier this month. First he led a writing workshop with a group of Year 9 students and then it was the turn of our lucky Year 12 & 13 A level English Language and Literature students. Our Year 12 & 13 students are studying his collection '*Breaking Silence*' and were able to quiz him about his poetry and learn about his motivations and inspiration for writing. Discussing what they'd learned back in class, Year 12 were keen to discuss *Ars Poetica*, the M-dash as a long pause, as well as the value of different interpretations of the poems. Many thanks to Ms Harris for organising this fantastic visit!



Philosophy & Classics Department News

Year 13 Athens Trip

Our Year 13 Philosophy and Classics students have just returned from a trip to Athens. We visited many sites from the ancient world including the Parthenon, the Acropolis, the Agora, the Pnyx, Socrates' Prison and the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. We discussed ancient philosophy, politics, literature, art, culture, myths, religion, music, and even managed to catch most of the Arsenal game. Our tour guides commented on how thoughtful, knowledgeable, engaged and well behaved our students were, and they were a real credit to the school. I'd like to thank all of them for making the trip so much fun, and their parents, Ms Cunningham and Ms Arrowsmith for making it possible. For information on the next Athens trip, please get in touch.

Mr Aldridge
Head of Philosophy, Religion & Ethics



Drama Department Notices

Hitchhiker's Guide... 7th & 8th December - 7pm Tickets on Sale

Our Christmas productions are always a SELL OUT success so get your tickets early!

Tickets are on sale NOW via ParentMail.



Library

BookTrust Christmas Charity

BookTrust's research finds that 59% of parents are cutting back on spending ahead of Christmas. With the cost of living crisis, not every child will receive a Christmas present this year. Donate and help send 16,000 surprise book gifts to children who are vulnerable or in care.

[Donate to the Book Trust Christmas Appeal here](#)



The Dark is Rising

To get you in the mood for creepy Christmas storytelling, look out for Toby Jones, Harriet Walter and Noah Alexander starring in the cult Christmas classic, "The Dark is Rising" by Susan Cooper. When the dark comes rising, who will hold it back?

[The Dark Is Rising from the BBC World Service](#)



Recommended Reads of the Week

Books make fabulous presents! At Fortismere's brilliant Christmas Fair on 11th December, make sure you visit the library stall where we will have brand new books at ridiculously low prices. Try to use our local indie book sellers for purchases instead of A**zon!. The YotoCarnegie Award nominations have just been published – if you want ideas, look at this list for quality books for young people (not a “celebrity author” in sight!) <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/writing-nominated-titles-2023/> Here are a few of the nominated books that we have in the library.



Sports & PE Department News

Year 7 ABC Boys Football v Highgate

Despite the torrential rain on Tuesday we took three excitable Year 7 squads to Highgate school. There were three really enjoyable games, but unfortunately the results went against us this time. The boys gained some good experience and kept going against tough opposition.



7A: Highgate 7-2 Fortismere
7B: Highgate 5-2 Fortismere
7C: Highgate 6-5 Fortismere

Year 7 & 8 Girls Victory in the National Cup

Grit and determination was clear to see in this very close game v Sanders School. A fantastic display of teamwork by all saw Fortismere win 2-1. Lora making a few vital saves in goal, Freia and Amber and Alex doing a solid job in defence. Eliz, Ava, Geniveive, Lola M and Mia battling hard with Mia G scoring the first and Lola M the winner. Super subs were Annie, Hollie and Lola C.



U16 Girls beat Ashmole 11-4 to progress in the Middlesex Cup

Goals scored by Tayla, Roberta, Rosie, Bella and Ella. The girls are through to the next round versus Highlands School. Well done to our super subs that saved us in the second half!

Netball v St Thomas More

All four teams travelled to St Thomas More on Monday night. There were some very close results with only our Year 9 team claiming victory and maintaining their unbeaten record. Unfortunately Dukes Aldridge Academy cancelled at short notice on Tuesday but we did travel over to them on Wednesday evening, where our Year 9 team won 15-1 and the Year 10's had an end to end fight just losing out 9-7. Our next Match is at home to Highgate Wood on Monday 28th November.



KS3 PE & Sports Students of the Month - October

Every month six students are nominated by their PE teachers in recognition of their impact, effort and attitude towards PE lessons and extra-curricular sport. Big congratulations to our October's winners, whose pictures are proudly displayed in the sports hall. Well done to all six of you!

Year 7: Alfred Pouncett & Saoirse Edwards

Year 8: Freia Contino & Elyes Alloul

Year 9: Alfie Collier & Leila Hadari Agaev



Fixtures Next Week

Monday 21st November	U18 Boys Fball v Highgate Wood (A). Meet at 2pm.
Tuesday 22nd November	U13 Girls Football v Parmiters (A)
Wednesday 23rd November	Y7A Boys Fball v Heartlands (H). Meet at 2:20pm
Thursday 24th November	U15 Boys Volleyball @ STM. Meet 3:20pm
Thursday 24th November	Y7A Boys Fball v Riverside (ESFA cup, A). Meet time 12:30.
Friday 25th November	U16 North London Table Tennis Championships (A) 3pm-7.30pm

Music Department Notices

Year 11 GCSE Recital - Congratulations to all performers!

Well done to all of the Year 11 students who performed their Solo and Ensemble pieces to parents and friends on Thursday evening. Playing to your peers and the general public can be absolutely terrifying and hats off to all of you for performing your pieces so well. As Director of Music I was so impressed that you all took part and want to remind you that having the courage to play your instrument or sing by yourself in public when you prefer to be part of a group is a very big deal!

Cello Masterclass

The cello masterclass with Norwegian Cellist Jonathan Aasgaard took place on Tuesday. There were performances from Haru Ogiwara (Yr 13), Kaon Read (Yr 11) and Xavi Branford (Yr 8) who all played extremely well and really took on board the words of wisdom and encouragement from one of Europe's finest musicians.



Community Symphony Orchestra - Saturday 19th November - St James Church N10 7:30pm

This is your last chance to get tickets for this weekend's concert for the Fortismere Community Orchestra. Come along and enjoy Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony, Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain and Walton's Cello Concerto with Norwegian Cellist Jonathan Aasgaard. It is not often that you get to hear a musician of Mr Aasgaard's calibre in your own backyard and I would urge you to take the opportunity.

Tickets are available by going to <https://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk>

Mozart and Christmas Carols - Saturday 10th December - St James Church N10 7:30pm

If Mozart's Coronation Mass with a live symphony orchestra is your sort of thing then come along on Saturday 10th December to St James Church, Muswell Hill. The Junior Choir from Fortismere will also be singing Carol of the Bells which is sure to make you feel extremely Christmassy. It's the perfect concert for feeling festive and you get to drink mulled wine and sing some carols as well!

Tickets are available by going to <https://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk>

Christmas Concerts - 13th and 14th December in South Wing Hall 7pm

On Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December we will have our annual Christmas Concerts in the South Wing Hall. These concerts are two of the biggest events in the Fortismere Calendar and will feature performances from every single ensemble that runs at school. There will also be some additional groups such as a Salsa Band and the return of **Man Choir** who will be regaling us with a football stand classic!

For this concert we also need soloists and groups from across the school year groups so if your child is interested in performing they need to get in touch as soon as possible. They can do this by emailing the Director of Music at ejfferies@fortismere.org.uk or popping into the music office for a chat.

Tickets are available by going to <https://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk>

Christmas Concert and Carol Concert Dress Code - No jeans / trainers / hoodies

Saturday 10th December Carols: All black with a splash of seasonal red. Smart attire.

Girls: Black Dress / Black Blouse/ Black Trousers / Black Shoes (Splash of Red)

Boys: Black Shirt / Black Trousers / Black Shoes (Red Tie / Red Bow Tie)

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December School Concerts: Smart Dress Only

This event is fun but since it is a public performance we ask that pupils are dressed smartly. There can be a sense of individual style but we ask that students adhere to a dress code. There is no colour scheme but think Christmas Party!

Girls: Dress / Blouse / Trousers / Sensible Shoes or Heels

Boys: Shirt / Trousers / Shoes / Suit / Jacket

Music Ensembles Autumn Term 2022/23

Another reminder to parents and carers - can you please remind your child to be prompt and prepared for all rehearsals in the lead up to the School Christmas Concerts in December.

We also ask that your child bring a packed lunch on rehearsal days since there is limited preparation time for these concerts and there will not be any extra weekend rehearsals or any time taken out of the curriculum in order to rehearse.

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 Cello Group - MU2
Friday	Male Voices - Concert Classical Guitar Group - Concert Hall	
Saturday	Music Theory Classes 11:30am-12:30pm Fortismere Community Choir 10:30am-1pm	Bands (Rooms available for practice)

School Fundraising Event

Christmas Fair - Sunday 11th December 2022 11.00am-4.00pm

The Christmas Fair is taking place on Sunday 11th December from 11am-4pm and we need your help with this please. Can you donate gifts, treats or prizes? Do you know a local shop, service provider or restaurant that might donate something to the school? Do you have any business contacts that you could put me in touch with that might be able to help?

Christmas Hampers, put together by the school, also raise a lot of money so we need lots of lovely edible treats and other items like christmas crackers, beauty and bath products, baskets, old hampers and nice boxes we can use for packaging. Wine and alcoholic drinks are always welcome but these donations must not be brought into school by students. You can contact me to collect any alcoholic donations or any large items.

Please send all other donations as soon as possible to South Wing Reception. If you have any questions or want further information please email me mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

School Community Events

Christmas Holiday Camps - Booking Now Open

Booking is now open for the Fortismere Christmas Holiday Camps. The activities will run from 9.00am to 3.00pm at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. Specific dates and prices are on Eventbrite - follow the links for each camp below

An early drop off option (08.15am) with a light breakfast is available - see this link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-early-drop-off-tickets-456909246857>

Drama Age 7-15 years

This will be taught by Adam Gillian West End Performer.

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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-drama-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-440790816197>

Tiny Twinkles Age 3-6 years

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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-tiny-twinkles-club-age-3-6-19-22nd-december-tickets-440795429997>

Sports Age 7-15 years

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-sports-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-440938457797>

Design and Technology Age 8 -15 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-d-t-club-age-7-15-19-21-december-3-day-course-age-8-15-tickets-440941677427>

Comic Club Age 7-15 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-comic-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-441469646597>

Art Age 7-14 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-art-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-441471000647>

Musical Theatre Age 7-14 years

This will be taught by Miss Dee. 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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-musical-theatre-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-44499027557>

Cooking Christmas 9-16 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-christmas-baking-cooking-club-age-8-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-444492889197>

Chess 7-15 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-chess-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-456905335157>

Contact Maria Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk with any questions about the Camps and bookings

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Information

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

Year 7 ejones@fortismere.org.uk

Year 8 icuenca@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk

Year 10 kjackson@fortismere.org.uk

Year 11 dward@fortismere.org.uk

Ms Sullivan

Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead