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<p>Homework discussion group</p> <p>Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to join Mr Scott’s Homework discussion group. Mr Scott is looking forward to working with a number of you over the coming weeks and he will be in touch soon.</p> <p>January Top Achievement Points</p> <p>Well done to the following students who are the top ten scorers this month</p> <table><tr><td>Felix Cunnington-Deibel</td></tr><tr><td>Iggy Cameron</td></tr><tr><td>Viktor Haga</td></tr><tr><td>Reece Goldband</td></tr><tr><td>Emmy Edwards</td></tr><tr><td>Arthur Goldwater</td></tr><tr><td>Jaimie Ssesanga</td></tr><tr><td>George Ayers</td></tr><tr><td>Alberto Cherin</td></tr><tr><td>Bianca Chilosì</td></tr></table>	Felix Cunnington-Deibel	Iggy Cameron	Viktor Haga	Reece Goldband	Emmy Edwards	Arthur Goldwater	Jaimie Ssesanga	George Ayers	Alberto Cherin	Bianca Chilosì	<p>CoHeads’ Weekly Roundup</p>	
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<p>05.02</p>	<p>Y11 Parents Evening Face to face. 3.45pm-6.30pm</p>											
<p>13.02</p>	<p>Charity Band Night 6pm In support of YoungMinds Tickets from FMC here Standard £10 Students £5</p> <p>Please come and support our student bands</p>											
<div></div> <p>Our new Food Pod looking lovely and shiny in the sunshine earlier this week</p>												

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

It was Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday and the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As a school, we commemorated with a variety of thought-provoking and reflective events.

Years 12 and 13 attended HMD themed assemblies, giving them the space to think about what the Holocaust represents to all of us and the modern resonances. Year 9 made their annual visit to the Muswell Hill Synagogue. It is always at this time of year to coincide with HMD in order to enable students to engage more deeply with the events of the Holocaust. It was a real privilege for students to meet with a survivor and to hear his story first hand. Our students were very thoughtful on their return and clearly gained a great deal of insight from the talk.

The Drama Department took Y10 and Y11 GCSE Drama students off time table, joined by the Year 9s who didn't attend the Synagogue, for workshops and to see the performance of *Kindness: a Holocaust Legacy*. This is a powerful play based on the testimony of Susan Pollack OBE, who was sent to Auschwitz at the age of 13. Interwoven is the love story of [Mala Zimetbaum and Edek Galinski](#), which adds further poignancy and resonance to the play. The students were totally enthralled and deeply moved; it was a very special experience for all those involved.

Next Friday, the History Department has invited Y10, 12 and 13 History students to an exceptional assembly delivered by a Holocaust survivor. We are very fortunate that most of our Y9s and a significant number of our older students will have had the opportunity to hear these accounts and we know that our students value these opportunities highly.

By way of a total contrast, the 'Pod' was launched on Thursday. The sleek silver machine will be augmenting the capacity of our canteens at break and lunch time. The students were intrigued and according to Ms Judge, the cookies sold like hot cakes! We know that given the restrictions of our site our students spend far too long queueing for food rather than having the breaks they need to unwind after lessons. The pod should help ease the queueing and make both break and lunch time a more leisurely experience for students.

When not eating, our students are philosophising. We would urge you to scroll down to the article on the inter-House Philosophy competition. The videos are a delight and explain some complex ideas with brilliant graphics. Well done to all the students who took part.

Next week is a busy one for students: we are welcoming in Y9 parents and carers on Monday for guidance meetings around option choices; on Tuesday afternoon our Year 11 and Year 13 collect their mock results and on Wednesday, it's Y11 parents' evening. They'll need a restful weekend before so much activity! We hope you all have a lovely, dry-ish weekend and we look forward to seeing many of you next week.

School Fundraising Event

Quiz Night - Saturday 8th March 6.30pm-10pm

Our Comedy Night earlier this week was a great success - there were lots of laughs and also lots of money being raised to support the school. Thank you to everyone who came along. We're now moving on to our next fundraising event - Quiz Night. Book your tickets early for this fun competitive night out. - this is not just a Quiz Night, this is a Fortismere Quiz Night and we've got a brilliant host for the evening in Pauline Eyre who will make sure that our Quiz Night is extra special.

We've set ourselves a fundraising target of £7000 for this one so we really need your support to reach this amount - £7000 will help us to provide some much needed additional wellbeing support for our students. Tickets are £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people so round up your most knowledgeable friends and family to be in with a chance of winning. Don't worry if you are part of a smaller group as we will organise small groups into bigger teams on the night. **Tickets available [via Eventbrite here](#)**

Drinks will be available (please do not bring your own alcohol onsite) but you can bring your own food and snacks to share. Any questions please contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 News

Year 9 Mark Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 9 students visited Muswell Hill Synagogue this week to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The students were taught about the events leading up to and during the Holocaust by Martin Stern MBE, a holocaust survivor. It was a privilege to hear his first-hand account, and the students were attentive and engaged throughout, asking some really thoughtful questions. I would like to thank Martin for sharing his story, Muswell Hill Synagogue for inviting us, and all of the Year 9 students for behaving so respectfully. It is sure to be an experience that they will remember for a long time.



English Department Notice

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Over the past two weeks a select few Year 10 students have been taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. They first took part in an expert led workshop where they practised key public speaking and communications skills. Some highlights from these speeches were: Charlie Barnett - *Normalising Running to Events*; Sylvie Hammersley-Fox - *GCSE Exams*; Elise Butcher - *Mental Health in black teenagers*; and Diego Montenegro - *Bathroom Restrictions at school*

All the students were absolutely brilliant and the following four students were chosen to compete against each other in their assembly final last Thursday:

- Alice Hawkins - Rise in Consumerism
- Maximillian Mavric-Neal - AI in Creative Fields
- Sam Balint-Kurti - Rise in Anti-Semitism
- Carl Peanberg-King - Benefits of being Vegan

It was a really tough decision, but the following students are now going on to represent Fortismere at the Regional Finals on Tuesday 4th February:

Maximillian Mavric-Neal - AI in Creative Fields

Sam Balint-Kurti - Rise in Anti-Semitism

Carl Peanberg-King - Benefits of being Vegan

Well done to all the students who took part and good luck to our three finalists.

Drama Department Notices

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

On Wednesday we had the company **Voices of the Holocaust** come to school with their show 'Kindness'. Kindness is a verbatim play based on the testimony of survivor Susan Pollock, when she was aged only 13 and sent to the notorious Auschwitz-Birkenau in the summer of 1944.

Year 10 drama students were lucky enough to have a workshop with Cate Hollis, the founder of Voices of the Holocaust and to experiment with choreographed movement and creating atmosphere. The workshop was an incredible insight into the company's creative process and the Year 10s really made the most of it.

Later, students watched the incredible show and were visibly engaged throughout as they witnessed what life was like for Susan and the atrocities that took place. A truly important piece of theatre, Lora in Year 9 said 'it was the best acting I have ever seen'. After the show, Year 11 drama students participated in a Q&A session with Cate to discuss the creative process as well as focusing on theatrical elements such as sound, lighting, props and scenery - the session really gave them an insight into every element of putting on a show.

It was a really successful, moving and inspiring day and we hope to collaborate with them again in the future! You can read more about [Voices of the Holocaust](#) here.



Creative Careers Afternoon

We were very lucky to have Jacksons Lane Theatre and three amazing creatives visit us on Thursday this week to hold an after school session all about creative careers for students in Years 9-13.

Actor, playwright, dramaturg, and events curator - Rhianna Ilube, actor - Juyddah James, and writer, director, and actor - Tatenda Shamiso shared their insights into the industry that they are a part of, their journeys into the profession, and their backgrounds. This was accompanied by showings of plays and films that they have been a part of both on stage and off. With a Q&A throughout where students, teachers, and the performers themselves asked each other poignant and reflective questions, we had the opportunity to discover what keeps the three of them creating, being a part of the world of acting, directing, and writing, their creative processes, and their naturally emerging wisdom. It was an amazing and eye-opening afternoon, full of kind interactions, humility, professionalism, insight, inspiration, and open sharing. We'd like to leave the readers of this newsletter with some of the sentiments we were gifted:

"Acting in its truest sense is theatre. One should definitely enjoy and relish in the freedom and joy that theatre gives first. Art is a channel into who you are." - Juyddah James

"Once you realise that no one is going to invite you to do it, you end up doing it yourself. And there's a beauty in having to do things yourself." - Tatenda Shamiso

"To actually see a project through takes so much emotional focus. The more you mine anything, the more you can find stories. I had an experience that felt so theatrical that I could not forget it." - Rhianna Ilube

We look forward to future collaborations with Jacksons Lane and Juyddah, Tatenda, and Rhianna, and thank them so much for coming to Fortismere. What an amazing afternoon!



Philosophy Department Notice

Philosophy Video Competition - Vote Now!

Every year, we organise an Inter-House competition to see who can make the best video about Philosophy. This year's entries are out and you can [watch them here](#) on the [Philosophy at Fortismere Youtube Channel](#).

It's most likes wins, so have a look and like your favourites! They are all great.

While you're there, you could also explore some of the other videos made by students and staff, and for more information about studying Philosophy at Fortismere in Years 7-9, at GCSE, or at A Level, contact Mr Aldridge saldridge@fortismere.org.uk



Library Notices

Recommended Reads of the Week

It's Chinese New Year – the Year of the Snake. We are celebrating by reading!



Careers & Work Related Learning Notice

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week is coming up from 10th-16th February and we've got lots of interesting information and opportunities that we will be sharing with students in school. We'll also be adding information to our Careers pages on the website [here](#).

And another reminder that you can access the **Weekly Careers Newsletter** [here](#) - you can use this content to start careers related conversations with your child.

Mr Renner

Sport & PE Notices

Year 8 Middlesex Cup v St John's Senior School

We took a squad of 11 to Cheshunt Football Ground last Monday to play on a 4G pitch as St John's pitch was waterlogged. The boys were apprehensive as they had heard that St John's had beaten APS 10-1! They also have some academy players. It was pouring with rain and hail and extremely windy but the opposition had hired the pitch and the fixture had to be played to meet the deadline. The Fortismere team was brilliant! They fought the wind and the rain and Jude managed to score first but it was ruled offside. It was 0-0 for a while and Karlos had to make a few great saves in goal. St John's managed to score 2 before half time. Luckily the rain stopped after the half-time break.

Teddy played a great ball through to Lino just after kick-off and Lino scored a super goal. The final score was 1-4. Well done to all involved - your character and resilience was excellent. You really played as a team. .



Y10/Y11 Basketball v St Thomas More School

Our senior boys basketball team kicked off their league matches last Friday with an away fixture against St Thomas More School. Tommy More had some very tall players and the level of play was of a very high standard. The score was 24-21 to us. Well played all!



Dance Club is Nearly Back!

Dance Club will resume on the first Monday back after half term (24th Feb) in the South Wing Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Holiday Pickleball Camps

Our school Pickleball Club is proving to be very popular! So much so that we have had to cap the numbers but there are still opportunities for students (and parents) to try out this new sport locally.

Lemon Pickleball who run our club also organise holiday camps and after school/weekend clubs in various locations in North London for both children and adults. Find all the details on their [website here](#)

Junior Pickleball Half Term and Easter Holiday Camps in Finchley - Our junior pickleball holiday camps are perfect for kids of all ages as pickleball is easy to learn but hard to master! Children learn a different shot everyday, play lots of games and end the week with a tournament with prizes. Let us know if your child has never played before and would like to have a trial session first.

Half Term Camp (Christ's College School) Mon 17th Feb-Fri 21st Feb 10am-3pm. [Details & Booking here](#)

You can also book our Easter Camps for Week 1: 7th-11th April and Week 2: 14th-18th April

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 3rd February	Year 10 Boys v APS (if the pitch is not water logged) 2 pm
Tuesday 4th February	Haringey Badminton KS3 @Dukes Academy
Wednesday 5th February	Year 7 Girls v TTA @Home 1-3 pm
Friday 7th February	Haringey Badminton KS4 @Dukes Academy 1-3 pm

Fortismere Holiday Camps

February Half Term 17th to 21st February - Book Now

Bookings are open for the February 2025 Half Term Holiday Camps at Fortismere. Details and booking links can be found on the school website [here](#)

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 the My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

