

School Leadership Messages	Contents	
<p>Political Flyers being distributed on Tetherdown</p> <p>It has been brought to our attention that flyers are being distributed to students on the way to school on the public footpath on Tetherdown encouraging young people to stage a walkout in reaction to the visit of President Trump next week on Wednesday 17th September.</p> <p>While we are very much a school that encourages students to be curious, inquisitive and to engage with global issues, we do so very much adhering to DfE guidelines through our taught curriculum. Our lessons and tutorials give space for students to discuss and reflect their own views and thoughts in a balanced way.</p> <p>If your child has received one of these leaflets we would request that in your discussions with them you underline the importance of staying in school, where they are safe, and not being influenced or giving consideration to join or organise 'walkouts.'</p> <p>Fortismere Open Evening - Wednesday 8th October</p> <p>We are very much looking forward to welcoming visitors to our school for students in Year 6 and their parents to learn more about what it is like to learn and be part of our community. If you would like to sign up to attend or know other parents who would, please go to the school website.</p> <p>Headteachers' Welcome Presentation</p> <p>A reminder that this presentation will be delivered to parents and carers next Wednesday 17th September via Parentmail at 6pm. Parents will then be able to watch the presentation at a time convenient to them.</p>	Headteacher's Weekly Roundup	
	FortisMind	
	Departmental News & Notices	
	Safeguarding Information	
	Calendar	
	17.09	Online Headteacher's Welcome Presentation
	25.09	Parent & Carer Engagement Event
05.11	Fortismere Fireworks Night	
<p>Sunday is National Quiet Day!</p> <p>It's a day to be mindful of how sound affects us and about creating intentional pauses to reset and recharge. This could be through taking a silent walk, turning off phones and devices for a while, meditating or just some silent reading. We hope you can all enjoy some quiet time this weekend.</p>		

Headteacher's Message

Now we are coming to the end of the second week of term things are really getting back into full swing here at Fortismere. We have all been incredibly impressed with our new students who have found their feet (they use them a lot here marching between our two wings!) and have seamlessly settled into our school routines.

We are very much focussing on 'Being Ready' at the start of this school year. You will be aware that 'Be Ready' is one of the Fortismere Four rules at the school. We have been supporting students in making sure they are ready to learn by checking they have the right equipment each morning.

I have enjoyed visiting assemblies this week and talking to the students about an idea attributed to Aristotle, 'The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts.' We have thought about how there's a fantastic synergy that is created when individual composite parts come together to create something new; something bigger and even more impressive. In the assembly we contemplate the way carbon atoms are compressed to make diamonds. We apply this thinking to our school. This is a school where individual young people bring their own interests, ideas and characters and create something that is uniquely Fortismere. A large, thriving community where everyone still gets to be themselves but belong to something too.

It was also a real pleasure to see so many parents and carers of Year 11 students on Wednesday night in South Wing Hall who were attending our 'Preparation for GCSEs' event. Parents received a lot of information about how to support their children through the final phases of GCSE study, including approaches to revision with some specific subject based guidance shared. It's such a busy year for Year 11 and we know that working together in this way will effectively support our students. We very much look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 10 students next week to the 'Introduction to GCSE' event.

We know that a strong partnership between school and home is key to student success and, therefore, encourage open communication and welcome your involvement with school life. Next week 'Feedback at Fortismere' will go live and this will enable us to collect your views on a continuous basis. Look out for a Parentmail on Monday with more information about this.

Remember that the Headteachers' Welcome presentation video will be mailed out to everyone at 6pm on Wednesday. I hope you enjoy the video and reading this week's Newsletter.

FortisMind - Student Mental Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health Support at Fortismere

I hope that our students have had an enjoyable and happy first two weeks back at Fortismere. The start of every school year can be a really exciting time, providing an opportunity for growth, new connections and fresh starts. However, it's important to acknowledge the mental health challenges students may face, whether it's the stress of new routines, the pressure of academic expectations or navigating social dynamics. If your child or young person is struggling and would like someone to talk to, please consider the following options:

In school support with Place2Be who are now our sole counselling service and they work Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays. They offer two services: Place2Talk and **1:1 counselling** sessions. These services are confidential and information is only shared with the school if a safeguarding concern is raised. Place2Be outlined their services in the Newsletter last week (5th Sept) and full details are on our website [here](#). Students can self refer by calling into the Place2Be office or by email nu.robinson@place2be.org.uk

GEMHS (formally Trailblazers) are a CAMHS organisation who offer a CBT-based intervention. This is suited to students with anxiety or low mood that has not been caused by a specific event so there is not something specific that needs to be processed. This provides students with coping strategies to help manage their anxiety and/or low mood. This is a very small service (they only see 4 students at a given time) and each intervention lasts for around 8 weeks - this means that there may be a waiting list to access the service.

If you think your child may be suited to this, email me ejones@fortismere.org.uk and provide some context.

Support outside of school via Kooth - Look at their website [here](#) and watch the short video to learn more about this free, anonymous service where young people have access to online counsellors 7 days a week. Everything is typed and uses a username so a young person's identity is protected. This can be useful for students who feel worried about accessing support in school and anxious about face to face conversations.

World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on 10th September every year and serves as a powerful reminder of the critical need to raise awareness about mental health and to encourage open conversations surrounding suicide prevention. With more young people than ever before suffering with anxiety and depression, this feels particularly important for our students. Factors like academic pressures, social struggles, and personal challenges can sometimes feel overwhelming which is why it's essential that we, as a school and a community, create an environment where students feel safe, supported and heard. Being open about mental health and seeking help when needed can make a huge difference. If you or someone you know is struggling, there are several UK-based support services available. The Samaritans (116 123) offer free, confidential support 24/7, while Mind (0300 102 1234) provides mental health advice and support. For more urgent concerns, Papyrus (0800 068 4141) offers a helpline for young people experiencing thoughts of suicide.

Ms Jones

Mental Health Lead

Science Department

A Level Trip to Cern

Last week, Mr Commons, Ms Hall and 20 A-Level science students departed London very early on Tuesday morning for a flight to Geneva for a visit to CERN, the home of the Large Hadron Collider and research involved in gaining a better understanding of the universe. At CERN scientific breakthroughs such as the discovery of the Higgs boson require experimental machines on a large scale, and the students were able to see these and gain an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that the international experimental scientists at CERN face. Our students also took part in interactive sessions that enabled them to create cloud chambers to detect unseen moons that are passing through us all the time.

As well as CERN, students were privileged to visit the Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne. Here again, we got the opportunity to experience live testing at the nuclear fusion test facility and speak to research scientists about their work. Whilst in Geneva, students also visited the United Nations and observed live discussions, they also visited the beautiful History of Science Museum.

This amazing trip gave everyone a deeper understanding of the demands of being a research scientist and the mindset required to take that career pathway. It was great to see the students return home inspired by the experience - new Y12 students can look out for the next opportunity to take part in this trip.

Mr Commons



Drama Department Notices

Singing Recalls for Jack and The Beanstalk

We are holding singing recalls for 'Jack and The Beanstalk' next Monday and Tuesday lunchtime in North Wing Hall. Please check the list outside NW Hall to see who needs to attend and what you need to prepare. Students have also been emailed. If you are a Y11 student who is being recalled and have DofE next week, please ensure you attend the Monday lunchtime recalls.



Interhouse Drama Festival

Our annual Interhouse Drama Festival will be happening on Weds 8th October, 4pm-6.30pm as part of our Open Afternoon event. This is a fantastic festival where students from across the school collaborate to create a devised performance. We are looking for 3 interested students from *each* form to take part!

If you are interested, show your best Drama skills today and sign up with your form tutor over the next couple of weeks!



Music Department

Music Notices

Community Choir & Orchestra - Rehearsals begin again for our community choir and orchestra next week! Orchestra starts next Tuesday at 7pm-9 pm and Choir starts next Wednesday at 7pm-9pm. What's more there is FREE tea/coffee and cake at half time! Both are held in the NW Music Concert Hall. Please email Ms

Morgan if you're planning to attend, at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The orchestra has spaces for strings, and the choir has spaces for all voices.

Weekday Instrumental & Vocal Lessons - Final timetables will be posted on each teacher's Google Classroom over the weekend with details of the teacher, room, and time so please can parent/carers prompt their young people to keep an eye out for an email notifying them of an assignment. If there is an error on the timetable please email Ms Morgan at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk as soon as possible. Please note a few new students may have a different teacher and day from the emails sent earlier this week – this will not be an error if the instrument is still correct.

School of Rock & Pop - Both Saturday sessions are virtually full. An email will go out early next week to all parents/carers with further information about the first session.

Junior and Youth Choir - Both choirs had great first rehearsals but it's not too late to join and be part of the first concert of the term! Just turn up (lunchtime for Y9+, after school for Y7/8).

Ensembles - Guitar Ensemble (Monday lunchtimes) and Junior Strings (Tuesday lunchtimes) are beginning next week. Students welcome to join all other ensembles

Ensembles at Fortismere		
	Lunch (1.05-1.50)	After School (3.10-4.20)
Monday	Youth Choir (Y9+) Music Hall Guitar Ensemble Mu2	Junior Choir Music Hall (£50 per term) Senior Band Mu2 Year 9+
Tuesday	Samba Music Hall Junior Strings Mu2	GCSE Coursework Mu3
Wednesday	Senior Strings Music Hall	
Thursday	Junior Band Music Hall	GCSE Coursework Mu3 Music Theory Mu2
Friday		Music Technology Mu3 (2.30-3.20)

Welcome Back Concert on Thursday 2nd October at 6pm - Don't miss the first concert of term! Tickets now available online [here](#)

Sport & PE Notices

PE Kit

Below is a link for our PE kit supplier. If you are still waiting for kit to arrive please ensure your child brings a change of clothes for PE and any sports clubs.

[Link to Fortismere PE Kit supplier](#)

If your child has a PE lesson in period 1 or period 2 they can come into school wearing their PE kit. Make sure they bring a change of clothes to change into in case they get wet during the lesson. Kit must also be worn for all after school clubs. If students forget kit or part of it, they will receive a negative point and a 15 minute same day detention.

Haringey Cross Country

If your child would like to represent the school in a Haringey Cross Country Competition taking place on

Monday 22nd September please tell them to speak to Ms Vangucci. Taking part in this event is a pathway to representing Haringey in the London Mini Marathon Event in April.

Running Club is on Tuesday lunchtimes - all students welcome to come along.

New Squash Club

The first ever Squash Club at Fortismere was a huge success earlier this week. There is still space for a few more participants if your child would like to come along and try something new. Squash club is Mondays after school.



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 15th September: DoE Silver Expedition

Tuesday 16th September: DoE Silver Expedition

Tuesday 16th September: Year 9 Boys Middlesex Cup Football v JFS (H) 2.15 KO

Wednesday 17th September: DoE Silver Expedition.

Wednesday 17th September: 1st XI v St Ignatius (H) 2.30 PM KO

Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

Crochet & Knitting Club

Crochet and Knitting Club will start again on Thursdays (from 18th Sept) from 3.10pm-4.00pm in the Library. All levels are welcome from complete beginner to expert!

We are always looking for donations of yarn and crochet hooks please (we have plenty of knitting needles). If you have anything spare to donate, please send it to Ms Pirovano in the Library. Please also encourage your child to come along and have a go at crochet if they have never tried it before.

Thank you. Ms Pirovano



Chess Club

The Chess Club meets at lunchtime (bring a packed lunch) and is looking for new players of all levels. Week 1: Monday to Thursdays (1.05pm-1.35pm) in Room S11. Week 2: Monday to Wednesday (1.05pm-1.35pm) and Fridays (12.50pm-1.20pm) in Room S11. If students have any questions about chess club they can talk to Mr Renner.

Latin Club

A reminder that the introductory latin classes are starting next week **in room S28 at 3.20pm on both Monday 15th Sept and Tuesday 16th Sept** so students can come along on either day, find out about Latin Club and let us know their likely schedules. We will also offer an early morning class at 8.00am on Tuesdays, starting Tuesday 16th Sept in room S12, for early birds and those who are unable to come to the after-school class. We look forward to meeting our new 2025 Latin Club intake. For more information please email pat.dugdale@hotmail.co.uk

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

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

