


Friday 9th September 2022

School Leadership Messages	Contents				
<p>Wet weather</p> <p>Due to the extremely wet weather we have experienced this week we have closed the field. With better weather predicted for next week, we are hoping we can reopen it quite swiftly. This may affect some of the after school sports clubs but the PE department will be able to update students as the need arises.</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>It has come to our attention that the parental Whatsapp groups have become more active in recent months. The danger with all forms of social media is that they can become a conduit for misinformation and 'trolling' of staff. Some of the messages shared with school have been extremely unpleasant in their comments about staff. We are also concerned that parents who are part of those groups are using misinformation as a relevant point of information about school policy and practice.</p> <p>We would like to remind parents that our weekly Newsletter is the main point of communication about the school and it is pretty extensive each week. Should you have further questions about procedure or policy please direct your queries to your child's tutor in the first instance.</p> <p>We do have a complaints procedure for parents who have significant concerns which can be found on our website or by clicking here. We will also be arranging a number of opportunities during the academic year for parents to meet the Co-heads or Governors in the surgeries that they are offering.</p> <p>While we understand that whatsapp groups can be a great way for parents to socialise and can create a positive sense of community we would just ask participants to be mindful of the potential negative impacts there may be when sharing subjective comments with wider groups of people.</p>	<p>Co-Headteachers Message</p> <p>Library Notices</p> <p>Drama Notices</p> <p>Sport & PE News</p> <p>SEND Resources</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table> <tr> <td>28.9.22</td><td>Open Evening for Y6 to Y7 secondary transfer</td></tr> <tr> <td>6.10.22</td><td>INSET day - School closed</td></tr> </table> <div>  <p>21 April 1926- 8 September 2022</p> <p>Reign 1952-2022</p> </div>	28.9.22	Open Evening for Y6 to Y7 secondary transfer	6.10.22	INSET day - School closed
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Welcome back! We'd particularly like to welcome those parents who are new to Fortismere. It has been wonderful to have all students back on site since Monday. The term has gotten off to a flying start and our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled in remarkably well, have found their feet as Fortismere students and have managed to navigate our rather extensive site superbly.

It's a shame the rain came out this week as while we are blessed at Fortismere with wonderful open spaces we don't get to enjoy them as much in wet weather. Having said this, students have moved around sensibly and with a real purpose to get to their lessons and engage in their learning which is what we like to see at the start of the new academic year. At the start of any academic year there are some teething issues around groups and timetables but these are now settling. It often takes a few days at the start for timetables to completely settle and we expect to reissue timetables to students at some point in the next few school days. However, if your child has any questions about their lessons, work or any aspect of the school day please instruct them to speak to their tutor when they see them first thing in the morning.

The start of the year is challenging for those of our students (and there many) who find it difficult to adapt to new routines, particularly after a long break. Most students will need some level of support readjusting to the new school year, but for those who need more assistance it's important that we work in partnership. Please could parents whose child is struggling with organisation support them in organising their bags with the right equipment over the first few days. Please always make sure your child has a reading book with them and the right books for the lessons that have that day. We have issued students with planners this year so students who find organisation a bit of a challenge can use the diaries to tick off their homework and check what they need to do. They are also a useful tool for parental communication with tutors as tutors will be checking the diaries every week. We will be those students who make excellent use of their diaries.

We are looking forward to another year of excitement and achievements on the back of last year's academic and extracurricular successes. There is nothing we enjoy more than reporting these items to our parent body on a weekly basis. Our departments are busy compiling a timetable of lunchtime and after school activities at the moment and we will send this information home in due course. We hope our parents will be encouraging their children to immerse themselves in the wonderful opportunities that the school has on offer outside of the classroom.

We appreciate that the year has started with the very sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth. Students were offered time for reflection today. We are aware that students will feel the loss of this significant national figure and we know that loss can resonate very personally with some of us, particularly where there are other personal events in our lives that this loss brings to the fore. We will wait for further advice from the Government around the period of mourning and the state funeral and any impacts this might have on schooling and will communicate once any arrangements are clear.

We are sure many families this weekend will find time for quiet reflection and some quality time together after a very busy and eventful first week back.

Library Notices

Library Opening Times

The library is open from 8am till 5pm, Monday to Wednesday. We are currently closing at 3.30pm on Thursdays and Fridays but this is hopefully a temporary measure. If your child is staying after school, do

make sure they know to inform you first.

Stationery Shop

The library sells all the stationery your child needs, cash only! Price list *attached*.



CoverUp

The first meeting of our parent/staff reading group this school year is on Thursday 29th September, 7pm in the library. We'll be talking about "Mr Wilder and Me" by Jonathan Coe, and lots of other bookish things. Please join us even if you haven't finished/read the book – we're a friendly bunch and new members are always very welcome. Refreshments provided.



Recommended Reads of the Week

Thursday 8th September was UNESCO International Day of Literacy, which takes place to remind us of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. With the pandemic, 1.6 billion learners were affected by school closures - around 24 million learners may never return to formal education.



Drama Department Notices

Hitchhiker's Guide... Annual Drama Production

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is our Drama production this year. It will be performed in December. **Auditions** are taking place on Tuesday 13th September 3.30pm in North Wing Hall (Year 7-13). All are welcome! This is always a very popular show and a great opportunity to get involved in the life of the school, make new friends and improve your performing skills. **Dance Auditions** take place on 15th September lunch time. No preparations needed. Please see Ms Turner if you have any questions.



Collect your Drama Award!

Each year the Drama department gives awards to students that have shown hard work, outstanding achievement, incredible extra curricula effort and the most improvement throughout the school year. Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Fortismere Drama Awards! Please can the winners come and collect their award from the Drama Office in September. Congratulations to:



Y8 Ariel Strathern & Lukas Robertsson
Y10 Tye Leo Ial & Ivy Eastwood &
Y12 Ellie Doku & Sophia Smee

Y9 Eleanor Dring & Tavon Mwangi
Y11 Benjamin Slater & Bahja Shekhali
Y13 Lilja Dadadottir & Iris Lloyd

2022 Inter College Drama Festival

The Inter-College Drama Festival 2022 will take place on Wednesday 28th September 2.00-6:30pm. 50 chosen students, 10 from each college, across year groups 7-11, will spend a few hours creating a short devised play working with two sixth form directors who are studying Drama A level. These plays, from the five different colleges, will be performed at the end of the day. All five 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.



Sport & PE News

On Your Marks, Get Set - Here We Go Again!

We have enjoyed a fantastic summer of sport to inspire us all and we won't be hanging about in the Sport & PE Department before we are underway with a packed extra-curricular programme and fixtures schedule. Please see this term's Extra-Curricular timetable attached. This will also be added to the website. We will also list (weekly) any fixtures for the forthcoming week.

Mr Orton

Director of Sport



Exciting New After-School Clubs - Street Dance & Gymnastics

We have two exciting new extra-curricular clubs on offer this term on Wednesdays after school.

Street Dance

Taking place in the Sports Hall (3-4pm) we have 'Street Dance Led by a specialist dance company specialising in the street genre of dance. I am pleased to say that thanks to the excellent work of Ms Vangucci we have been able to find funding to cover nearly all the cost of this and so this club is entirely free to Fortismere students. Come along on Wednesdays and dance your socks off.

Gymnastics

Also taking place on Wednesday after school (3-4pm) is gymnastics. I am delighted to introduce RG Academy Gymnastics. A fantastic gymnastics company that teaches students all forms of gymnastics. If you

have been inspired by our wonderful gymnasts this summer, now is your time to come and see what gymnastics skills you have. There is a small cost for this activity – payment covers you right up to Christmas, and if you are interested in attending, please see the attached letter from Wiktorja Perlak of RG gymnastics academy for full details.

Well done Luca - British Judo Champion!



How about this for some wonderful news - Our very own Year 9 student Luca Abashidze is a top Judo competitor and competes regularly for England. This Summer Luca competed in the England National Championships and I'm pleased to report that he won the whole event. Luca is the National Champion! We're all so proud of him and so delighted to share this wonderful news. Congratulations Luca!



PE Kit Reminder

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please note that it is totally acceptable for girls to wear shorts in their PE lessons if they prefer them to the skorts option. We want to move away from traditional stereotypical Boys and Girls kits. As long as pupils are wearing the Fortismere PE kit they can choose the items they prefer to wear. Please remember that KS4 Y10/Y11 students can purchase a PE T-Shirt instead of the traditional Rugby and Polo shirts. Only £7 as well!! There are also Sport specific Hoodies and GCSE T-shirts and Hoodies available at very good rates. See the Link below to purchase items

<http://justteamsports.co.uk/products.php?cat=218>

Your Company Name on Our Shirts

We are looking to replace and update our sports team kits. Now that we have a large number of teams we feel that they should be kitted out properly and have a sense of pride in putting on the school shirt. Obviously being such a large school, with up to three teams in each year group for some sports, we have a large number of kits to purchase. If you would be interested in sponsoring a kit we would be pleased to have your name on the front every time we play. Please contact Ms Demetriou (mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk) Or Mr Orton (sorton@fortismere.org.uk) if this is something you may be able to help us with. We need help with our Football, Rugby, Netball, Hockey and Athletics kits.

Extra-Curricular Activities Timetable

Our extra-curricular timetable kicks into full flow next week and we also have our first football fixtures of the season as Year 9's A, B and C Teams take on our old friends and rivals, Highgate School. Make sure you are attending at least one extra-curricular activity a week. The timetable is *attached* and will also be added to the website shortly.

Follow Fortismere Sports & PE Online

The Sport & PE Department has both an active Twitter and a TikTok account. Our Twitter is where you will find the latest updates on fixtures, matches, information and all things sport so make sure you give us a follow. Twitter – FortismereSport & PE @FortismerePE Tik Tok - @fortismeresport

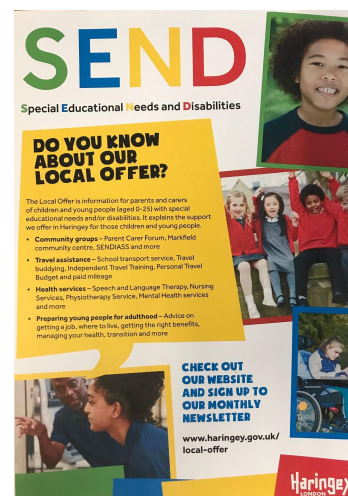
SEND Information & Resources

Haringey Local Offer for SEND

The Local Offer is information for parents/carers of children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It explains the support on offer in Haringey. Support includes:

- Community groups - Parent Carer Forum, Markfield Community Centre, SENDIASS and more
- Travel assistance - School Transport, Independent Travel Training, Personal Travel Budget
- Health services - Speech & Language Therapy, Mental Health Services, Nursing Services and more
- Preparing young people for adulthood - Advice on jobs, accommodation, benefits and more

See the website for more information - [Haringey Local Offer](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-offer)



SEND Parent/Carer Forum - Information and Events for Families

Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum is a voluntary group of local parents/carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, aged 0-25. The Forum works with Haringey council teams to help improve local services. There is lots of information on their [website](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-offer) and details of events below.

Forum Meeting - Monday 19th September, 6.30 to 8.30pm, (online) The Parent/Carer Forum aims to meet every six to eight weeks. If you would like to attend please email sendpcf@bridgerenewaltrust.org.uk

Sleep Workshop - Tuesday 20th September, 10am to 2pm, Chestnuts Community Centre N15 Does your child have difficulty sleeping? This workshop, provided by [Cerebra](https://www.cerebra.org.uk), will give you ideas and strategies to help. Download an event flyer [here](#) and book a place [via Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding in School

We will be having assemblies with all students over the next couple of weeks focusing on what safeguarding means in secondary school and how we can help students keep themselves safe outside of school. Please remember to contact us on safetalk@fortismere.org.uk if you have any concerns which you feel may be of a safeguarding nature. We will be holding an online information session for parents on safeguarding later this term.

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 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