



Friday 29th September 2023

School Leadership Messages	Contents							
<p><b>Parents and carers of EHCP students:</b></p> <p>The Linc Department is developing their processes for more regular communication between key workers and parents and we will share this with you next week.</p> <p><b>SIMs Update</b></p> <p>We are currently trialling the parent app with our teachers who are parents to complete the 'snagging' process. This should be complete by early next week. Once the system is ready to be activated universally across all parents and carers, you should receive an email from SIMs that will guide you through the activation of the app.</p> <p><b>SEND Information Evening - Thursday 5th October</b></p> <p>The Linc Department is holding a SEND Information Evening on Thursday 5th October at 4:15pm . This will be an online meeting - see the LINC entry below for full details.</p> <p><b>Black History Month at</b> </p> <p>The national theme of this year's Black History Month is 'Celebrating our Sisters'. We will be sharing our programme of events in next week's Newsletter.</p> <p><b>Covid absence from school</b></p> <p>The latest advice from the Department for Education is for children and young people aged 18 and under who test positive for COVID-19 to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days. For adults the advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with others for five days.</p>	<p><b>CoHeadteachers' Message</b></p>							
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	 <p><b>Celebrating our Sisters</b></p> <p>Read about BHM 2023 <a href="#">here</a></p>							

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

This Wednesday the Co-Heads hosted the Fortismere Open Evening. We were extremely fortunate that Storm Agnes swerved Muswell Hill and apart from a few gusts, we enjoyed quite pleasant autumnal weather. The site staff had done us proud and the school looked lovely. Departments went out of their way to show Y6s how much life can be at secondary school. From listening to the Big Band to activities (with sweets as prizes!) in Geography to a plethora of exciting science experiments, there was something for everyone. As usual, each Co-Headteacher was accompanied by students who shared their experiences at Fortismere with the parents. We were both very touched by the speeches this year, it's clear that many of our students feel passionately about their school. There was a eulogistic feel to the Y13 speeches, as they reflected on the entirety of their time at Fortismere that was extremely moving.

The singing that began the Co-Headteachers' presentations was superb and the feedback from the parents and carers was uniformly positive. Every year the best praise is for our guides and this year was no exception. We were really impressed by the way our guides conducted themselves and the confident way in which they spoke to parents and carers about their school. We also had some Y7 volunteers, not bad for students who have been at the school for less than a month!

Next Wednesday we will be meeting the new Y7 parents and carers at the Y7 Welcome Event, a really sociable occasion that we're looking forward to. It's always helpful to hear some of the early impressions and feedback from our new parents and carers. It is also a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet each other and develop that sense of community of which Fortismere is so proud.

We're beginning to see the start of the colds and flu season. Can we remind parents and carers that we are happy for students with colds to attend school, unless there is an underlying medical need. If your child does need time at home to recover from illness, we will not be providing work for them to complete at home. Children and young people too ill to attend school need the time to focus on getting better, not getting anxious over missed work. We will work with them on their return to support with any catch up necessary.

Good luck to Scotland in the Rugby World Cup on Saturday and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

## LINC Department Notices

### SEND Information Evening - Thursday 5th October 4:15pm online

We are pleased to invite you to a SEND Information Evening on Thursday 5th October 4:15pm. This is an online meeting. The focus will be on providing parents and carers with an overview of how students with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are supported here at Fortismere. The event is not appropriate for the parents/carers of children who already have an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) as support mechanisms are quite different. Please note that this is a repeat of the session that was offered this time last year. As such, it is perhaps best situated for new and prospective parents/carers of students with SEND. However, there are some updates and so it might also be useful for those who would like to refresh their knowledge about how SEND support is provided at Fortismere. **If you would like to attend, please email <mailto:lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk> with the name of your child by Tuesday 3rd October.** You will then be provided with a link to the virtual meeting, nearer to the event.

## School Holiday Clubs

### Booking Open for October Half Term Holiday Clubs

Bookings are now open for the October Half Term Holiday Camps at Fortismere - these will run from **Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October**. Activities take place at Fortismere School, Tetherdown, London N10 1NE from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

The cost for clubs for a full week starts from £80.00. There is also an early drop-off option (8am) which includes a light breakfast and a late pick up(4pm) option. Booking details are below.

**Tiny Twinkles Age 3-6:** 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. [Book a place here](#)

**Multi Sports Age 5-6:** This club will give children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sporty activities. [Book a place here](#)

**Multi Sports Age 7-14:** Children will have the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of different sports and take part in fun competitions. [Book a place here](#)

**Drama Club Age 7-15:** This week the children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. There will be lots of drama games and exercises with the children to develop their confidence and drama skills. [Book a place here](#)

**Musical Theatre Age 6-12:** 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. [Book a place here](#)

**Art Camp Age 7-15:** Experiment and explore core techniques in art using print, paint, pastels, pencil, plus more. The focus is to encourage children to engage with exciting materials, release their inner creativity and have fun. Themes across the week include Portraiture, Landscapes, Pop art and Typography. [Book a place here](#)

**Clay and Pottery Camp Age 7-15:** Children will have the chance to explore and experiment with clay and pottery and learn basic techniques during this camp. [Book a place here](#)

**Comic Camp Age 7-14:** Children will learn about comics and cartoon history and how they have been used as tools for storytelling and communication over the years. They'll look at basic anatomy and character design and how to fit this into stories. Storytelling including layout and structure, scripting and lettering and colouring are also covered. Using the skills gathered, students will work on their own comic strip and produce a complete 8-12 page comic. [Book a place here](#)

Please contact Maria Demetriou [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk) if you have any queries or need more information about the camps. Early starts and late pickups must be booked in advance.

## School Fundraising Event

### Fortismere Fireworks Night - Thursday 2nd November 2023 from 5.00pm

It's already Firework time again so please remember remember the 2nd November! Put the date in your diaries because we will be putting on another spectacular firework display on the school field. Gates on Twyford Avenue will open at 5pm so you will have plenty of time to enjoy the Fun Fair, the bar with mulled wine, hot drinks and various hot food stalls before the fireworks start from 7.30-8.00pm. The event closes at 9pm.

Apart from being a great night out you will be supporting the school to raise much needed extra funds so please buy your tickets now. If you purchase tickets in advance you can save money: Tickets are £7 each in advance or £9 on the gate. Tickets are on sale now from the school library (during break and lunch) or online via [Eventbrite here](#)

We also need help on the night so if anyone would like to volunteer please get in touch with me [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk)

## Year 7 Notices

### Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening: Wednesday 4th October 6-8pm South Wing Hall

This is an annual event where we welcome Year 7 parents and carers and give them a taste of what is on offer at Fortismere. There will be a bar and snacks. Talks will be given by the Co-Headteachers: Ms Judge and Ms Davey, Assistant Head: Ms Brooks, Head of Year 7: Ms Fox, our Librarian: Ms Ward, Music Director: Mr Watson and Heads of P.E: Mr Hawkes/Ms Vangucci. Year 7 parents will have received a Parentmail about this event from the Head of Extended School, Fundraising and Development, Ms Demetriou. We're really looking forward to seeing you next week.

### Year 7 Common Room Up and Running

Many thanks for all the fabulous donations from Fortismere families to our Year 7 Common Room. We now have a well stocked cupboard full of board games, arts and crafts, an indoor table tennis kit, books and magazines. Year 7 students are really enjoying using this exclusive space! The Year 7 Common Room is in S02 (near the water fountains). It is open every lunchtime for a maximum of 27 students. Lunch needs to be eaten in the canteen or outside first.

## Sixth Form Notices

### EPQ Update

This week Year 12 students attended their first EPQ and study skills sessions. It was great to see so much positive engagement in the sessions and hear about the initial EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) ideas of many of the cohort. Our next session will be with Dr Specht from Westminster University in two weeks' time. He will be speaking to students about how Universities positively view the EPQ and how Westminster University can support our students with their EPQ journeys.

Ms De Freitas



## Drama Department Notices

### NEARLY NIGHT (TWILIGHT THE MUSICAL ) Christmas production

The rehearsals have started for "Nearly night" with a read through last Friday and the first scene and dance on Tuesday. The rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Fridays after school from now on and students involved must check the rehearsal schedule every week on the drive to see when they are needed. Costume design meetings are on Monday lunch times.



### 2023 Inter-House Drama Festival Winners

The 2023 Inter-House Drama Festival took place on Wednesday of this week during our Open afternoon. 10 chosen students from each college spent 4 hours creating short devised plays working with Sixth form directors who are studying Drama A level. Congratulations to the winning Houses: **Franklin/ Wollstonecraft**

This was a joint collaboration and the plays focussed on the theme of "The future of Fairy Tales". This has launched the new House system this year with a bang. The level of performance was stunning from all participants. Thank you to our wonderful sixth formers who directed the younger students so well. Well done all.



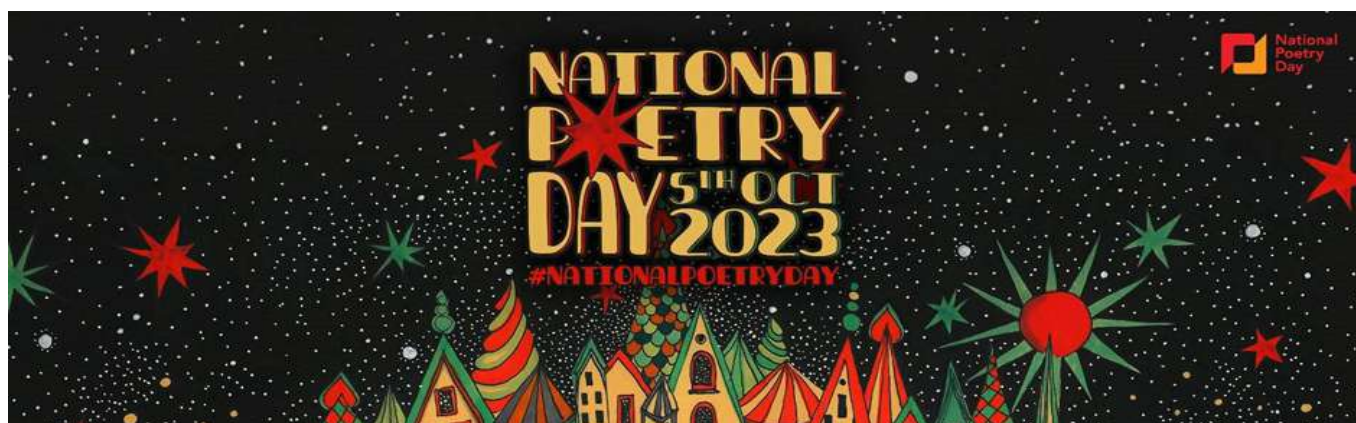
## Library Notices

### Top tips to keep your children reading



Top Tip 2: Give them lots of options – borrow books from your local library or the school library, buy them books for Christmas and birthdays. The more books you expose them to, the more chance one might hook them. We recently converted a very reluctant reader by telling her to read the first page of Jason Reynolds' "Long Way Down" – she read the book overnight, then borrowed the graphic version and is now a real verse novel aficionado!

## National Poetry Day 2023



It's

National Poetry Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. To celebrate, we have once again invited our favourite poet, Lewis Buxton, to the library to work with the whole of Year 8 on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Poetry that the students produce will be immortalised in a printed anthology and the best will be chosen for performances at the Music and Poetry Concert in February. Please check to see when your child will be meeting Lewis – and remind them!

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October : 8X1 Periods 1&2 / 8Y2 Periods 3&4 / 8Y4 Period 5

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October : 8Y5 Periods 1&2 / 8X5 Periods 3&4 / 8X4 Period 5

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October : 8X2 Periods 1&2 / 8X3 Period 3 / 8Y3 Period 4 / 8Y1 Period 5

## CoverUp

It was great welcoming so many new members to our parent/staff reading group last week. The next book for reading and discussion will be Malorie Blackman's autobiography, "Just Sayin'" which fits in nicely with Black History Month in October. We're meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm in the library – all welcome.



## Macmillan Cancer Support Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who sent in some amazing goodies for the charity cake sale. Our Year 7 team helped by Iole Hunter-Carver from the 6<sup>th</sup> form sold a vast quantity to very appreciative crowds during the Open Evening, while Sam Mhilli worked tirelessly on the liquid refreshments until 7pm. More cakes were sold during Thursday and Friday lunchtime, and donations are still coming in. We'll let you know next week the final amount sent to Macmillan. (Please remind your child to collect your containers from the library).



## Recommended Reads of the Week

In honour of National Poetry Day on Thursday, we want to remind you of the amazing array of verse novels that we have – we find that the brevity of content in a chunky looking book really appeals to many of our students.



## PE & Sports News

### Extra Curricular Timetable

Apologies for the confusion concerning our PE clubs timetable - we had to make some changes, so here is the up to date version:

	Lunch Time	After School 3.20-4.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK, AB Tennis Years - Tennis Courts MV Badminton Years 9,10,11 - Sports Hall-MH Basketball all years- Outside Courts-SC Cross Country Club All years - LB Table Tennis all years SW Gym - RM	Trampolining Year 8 - Sports Hall AB Football Year 8 Boys - Field MH Football Year 9/10 Boys - Field GK Year 7 Netball - MV, KJ and External Coach Step Into Dance - South Wing Gym - all years
<b>Tuesday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK, AB Tennis - Tennis Courts MV Badminton Years 7 and 8 - Sports Hall-MH Basketball all years- Outside Courts-SC Table Tennis all years SW Gym - RM	Badminton All Years - Sports Hall LB Year 7 Boys Football - Field SC Year 8/9 Netball - Netball courts AB Hockey All Years - Astro GK, NC
<b>Wednesday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK KJ Tennis - Tennis Courts MV Badminton Year 9,10,11 - Sports Hall-MH Basketball all years- Outside Courts-SC	Gymnastics - SW Gym Visiting Coach (sign up/fee required) Football Year 11/12 - Astro Girl's Football - Visiting Coach from Tottenham Hotspur Football Foundation

<b>Thursday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK, AB Tennis - Tennis Courts MV Badminton Year 7 and 8 - Sports Hall-MH Basketball all years- Outside Courts-SC Table Tennis all years SW Gym - RM	Table Tennis Year 7,8,9 - SW Gym MH Volleyball - Sports Hall SC Girls Cricket - Astroturf (starts 21/9) Year 10/11/12 Netball - Sports Hall court KJ, MV
<b>Friday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK, AB Tennis - Tennis Courts SC Basketball - Sports Hall-MH Cross Country Club - MV Table Tennis all years SW Gym - RM	Basketball Years 10,11 12/13 - Sports Hall 3.20-4.30pm

#### Upcoming Fixtures:

- Monday 2nd October -Boys Table Tennis @ APS
- Tuesday 3rd October - Boys Year 8 A & B v Highgate. Girls U15 v Highlands Away
- Friday 6th October - Year 9 Leaders helping at Haringey Primary Schools Competition

## Music Department Notice

### Ensembles Starting This Week

Students have received a letter advertising the following ensembles which will start next week in the Music Hall. Please encourage your child to speak to me (Mr Watson, Director of Music) if they would like to join a group but are unsure about anything.

	Lunch time 1.10-1.40pm	After school
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Senior Strings</b> - At least grade 4 violin, viola or cello.	<b>Training Orchestra 3.25-4.25pm</b> - All instrumentalists are welcome, but please note there is a limit on the number of pianists, guitarists and percussionists we can cater for.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Samba Bateria Brazilian Drumming</b> - Recommended for all drummers and also for anyone who enjoys beats!	<b>Jazz band 3.20-4.00pm</b> - Jazz band with our drums and guitar peris.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Big Band</b> - Woodwind and Brass grade 4 and higher. Rhythm section by invitation only.	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Junior Choir</b> - Singers from Years 7-9	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b> - Singers from Years 10-13	

Mr Watson  
Director of Music

## Safeguarding at Fortismere

### Safeguarding Contacts

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

<b>Year 7</b>	Ms Fox <a href="mailto:kfox@fortismere.org.uk">kfox@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 8</b>	Ms Jackson <a href="mailto:kjackson@fortismere.org.uk">kjackson@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 9</b>	Ms Cuenca <a href="mailto:icuenca@fortismere.org.uk">icuenca@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 10</b>	Mr Aldridge <a href="mailto:saldridge@fortismere.org.uk">saldridge@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 11</b>	Ms Boot <a href="mailto:aboot@fortismere.org.uk">aboot@fortismere.org.uk</a>