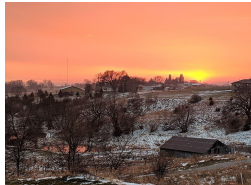


| School Leadership Messages | Contents | |
|--|---|----------------|
| <p>Covid Update: New guidance</p> <p>New guidance for schools was issued by the DfE on January 3rd. Further guidance has been issued this week on lateral flow tests and PCRs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- From 11 January a positive lateral flow test for students with no symptoms does not need to be confirmed by a positive PCR (there are exceptions, please see the Government guidance).- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.- Positive lateral flow tests must be reported to the NHS so that normal track and trace procedures can be followed.- All staff and secondary aged pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting. aged children LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.- It is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all students of secondary age and above. Fortismere will continue to provide LFT testing kits. <p>Very close contacts</p> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should take an <u>LFD test every day for 7 days</u>: testing should start from when the first person in the home tests positive as household transmission is very likely to happen. If at any time the student becomes symptomatic, they must stay at home and arrange for a PCR test immediately (regardless of having already had a negative PCR test result).</p> | Co-Headteachers | |
| | Co-headteachers' Surgeries | |
| | Absences from Mocks due to Covid | |
| | Year 9 Options | |
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|  | | |

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

While Y13 are busy completing their mock exams the rest of school got fully back into the swing of learning this week. It's also incredibly pleasing that despite the cold weather our sports fixtures are underway and in general activities outside lessons are taking place across the curriculum, some of which are reported in this week's Newsletter.

Every year, in January the focus turns to Year 9 students as they begin at this point in their education to consider their next steps as students. This is a big moment for them; the first real point where they are able to have a say in how their own curriculum looks as they decide which subjects to pursue alongside the core subjects of English, Maths and Science at GCSE. The first step in this process took place on Wednesday during the Parents' Evening and over the next few weeks we will be working closely with our Year 6 students to help them consider their futures, their aspirations and the choices that are ahead of them. While this is incredibly exciting for Year 9 we appreciate that it can also be quite daunting. Rest assured we are setting aside a day of activities to support this process next Friday and then conducting conversations on a one to one basis with students and parents the following week to ensure all students feel they have the right guidance to make the most informed decisions about their options for KS4. We know the decisions are made so much more challenging by the great wealth of subjects on offer here at Fortismere!

Safety is still very much in our minds and while we are pleased to note that Covid cases are easing off locally there is clearly still the need to ensure that we are all masked at school in order to prevent transmission. On the whole our student population has responded well. We don't underestimate how uncomfortable it can get being in a mask for so long but as always our students understand why and are responsive and generally well-organised with their masks. We'd be grateful if parents could support by reminding their child each morning to have their masks ready for school.

January can often feel like a very long month after the holiday celebrations. We hope that your children are enjoying getting back into the routine and are all finding the time to look forward positively to what 2022 has in store. Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Co-headteachers Surgeries

Co-headteachers' Surgeries are taking place during the course of this and present parents who have booked an appointment the opportunity to talk directly to the Co-headteachers about any aspect of school policy or practice that they would like to comment on. It may be to share their experience or it may be to understand a little more about an aspect of the school. The Surgeries should not be used to bring up specific concerns about an individual child as such concerns should be raised by contacting the school and where appropriate, raising a complaint. We have a robust complaints process at Fortismere which is designed to escalate any unresolved concerns through the school management hierarchy and will better serve any parent who wants to raise such concerns. If there are any parents who would like to attend our first surgery on **Wednesday 2 February from 2pm-3pm**, please click the link to the online form [here](#). You will be contacted by us and assigned an appointment. There will be a limited number of appointment slots which will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. However, if these slots are all filled up for the January Surgery we will offer an appointment in one of the subsequent surgeries. **The meeting will be virtual and are calendared to take place on the following Wednesdays from 2pm - 3pm:**



2 February , 23 March, 4 May, 22 June

Absences from Mocks due to Covid

If you are absent from your mock exams due to Covid we request that you provide us with evidence which we will then be able to use in the event of the cancellation of the formal exams. The evidence should take the form of either:

1. NHS confirmation of a positive Lateral Flow Test - must include name and date
2. NHS confirmation of a positive PCR Test - must include name and date
3. Contact from NHS Track and Trace requesting that you isolate - must include name and date.

This evidence should be emailed to your Head of Year and our Exams Officer (Ruth Robson).

Mocks and Masks

Students are permitted to remove masks while writing their mocks but must wear them on entering and leaving the exam hall or room.

Year 9 Options

The New Year marks a very exciting chapter for our Year 9's during which they will begin the process of choosing their options for Key Stage 4. As part of this process tutor time will be dedicated to learning more about the subjects available and a greater detail about each course, the content and the assessment framework. Students will be given help, support and guidance along the way to ensure that the choices they make are right for them and give them the qualifications they need for future employment / study. Students and parents will be offered a Deep Learning Conversation (guidance meeting) with a member of staff on the 26th January, this will give an opportunity for them to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of how it works.



Alongside this on Friday 21st January the usual year 9 timetable will be collapsed and students will spend the day being given detailed information about this process, will have access to our career software Kudos and will complete workshops aimed at supporting positive choices for their futures. We will also be hosting external speakers, alumni and professionals who will speak about their careers, choices they made and how their education impacted on their career. Parents and carers will receive more information about this in the coming weeks.

Parent and Carer Workshops

Fortismere is hosting two Virtual Parent/Carer workshops on **Dealing with Anxiety**. The session will be facilitated by Dr Sarah Sivers, Educational Psychologist (Place2Be) and Tania Bashir, Fortismere School Project Manager (Place2Be).

Session 1

Date: Tuesday 25th January 2022
Time: 9:00 am - 9:45 am (30 Places)
Venue: Online - Link to follow registration

Session 2

Date: Tuesday 25th January 2022
Time: 10:00 am - 10:45 am (30 Places)
Venue: Online - Link to follow registration

To reserve your place please email **Ms Harris; rharris@fortismere.org.uk** with the following information:

1. Preferred session time 9am or 10am
2. Name of your child/ren and form group.

This information is used to verify that you are a parent/carers of a student at our school.

Ms R Harris

Parent and Student Engagement Officer

Sport & PE Department Notices

Howzat? Cricket Silver for Y7/8 Girls

Fortismere hosted the first Haringey Borough competition of the new year on Tuesday as our Y7/8 girls competed in the 8-a-side Indoor Cricket competition. I am delighted to report that the girls made it all the way to the final only just losing out to a strong Highgate school team. Well done girls!



Fortismere Runners Star in Middlesex Cross-Country Champs

Last weekend saw the Middlesex (Clubs) Cross-Country Championships at a very wet and Muddy (proper Cross-Country) Horsenden Hill. There were a number of Fortismere runners representing various clubs and some very successful performances. Y11's Spike Blake was 5th in the U17's helping his club, Shaftsbury Barnet win the team title. Y11's Selin Ergun was also a member of a winning team as she helped Highgate Harriers to the title. Y8's Ben Redland finished 9th in the U13 Boys race and Amy Kirk finished 5th in the U13 girls race leading Ivy Gray, Jessica Lappin and Elkie Baker home to claim the team title for London Heathside. Spike and Amy, along with Ben (Reserve) will represent Middlesex at the Inter Counties race in Loughborough in March. We are so proud of all our great runners. Many of whom will be representing Haringey at the County Schools Championships which is now scheduled for the 27th January!

Results and Fixtures

Results

Indoor Cricket Y7/9Girls Borough Championship Runners Up

Football 2nd XI v St Ignatius Middlesex Cup Postponed (new Date TBA)

Fixtures Next Week

Tuesday – Indoor Cricket Y9/10 at Fortismere 3-5pm

Wednesday- Sports Hall Athletics Borough Champs – Y8 at St Thomas More 3.30-5.30pm

Thursday – Football Y8 A & B v Latymer (A) 2.30pm KO

Music Department Notices

Ensembles and Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Music lessons, ensembles and extra-curricular groups have all started back. **Instrumental and Vocal lessons** timetables have been sent out to parents and if you have yet to pay for this term please get in touch with Mel Izzet as soon as possible to make sure your child is included. Email mizzet@fortismere.org.uk. Please bear with us whilst your child's name is added since this does take a few days.

Ensembles this term

| 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 (7-9pm) |
| Wednesday | Big Band Concert Hall | Bands (Rooms available for practice) |
| Thursday | DJ Club MU4 | KS4 Music Tech MU4 |
| Friday | Junior String Group MU2 | Classical Guitar Group Concert Hall |
| Saturday | Music Theory Classes (11:30am - 12:30pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm) | |

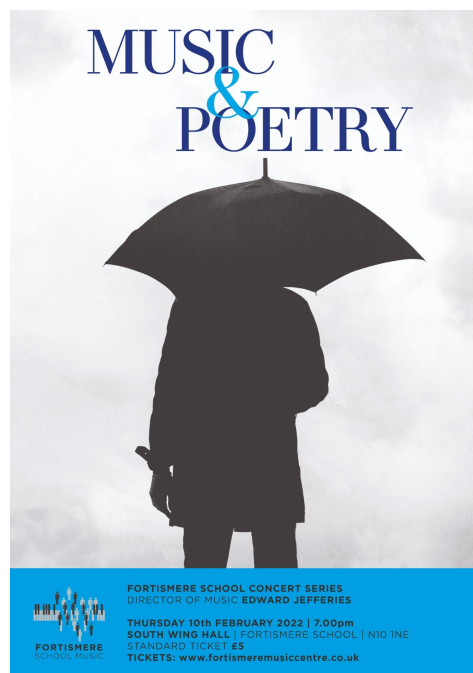
Concerts in the Spring Term

Our school concerts will start with **Music and Poetry on Thursday 10th February at 7pm**. Musicians that want to perform should contact the Director of Music at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk. This concert is suitable for all year groups and we would like to see a variety of musical styles from students.

On **Thursday 24th March at 7pm** you are invited to attend our **A Level Recital** evening given by our Year 12 and 13 students in the Music Concert Hall. There will be performances on Flamenco Guitar, Electric Guitar, Voice, Trombone and Cello in a vast array of styles so please feel free to come along to hear some of our most senior performers.

Tickets for all school and community concerts can be purchased at the Music Department website.

www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Tuesday Evenings

The orchestra has started again in its regular slot of 7-9pm on Tuesday evenings in the Music Concert Hall and this term they will be playing Louis Farrenc's *Overture No.1*, Bruch's *Concerto for Viola and Clarinet* and *Symphony No.5* by Sibelius.

The concert will take place on Saturday 26th March at St Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill at 7pm and remember that tickets for children are free!

We welcome new players young and old to the group but would suggest that as a string player you are of a grade 7 plus standard and if you play wind or brass please contact the FMC manager Joe Winters so that he can put you in touch with the groups musical director by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £40 for students or concessions.

Discarded instruments in the Music Block

We have a great deal of old instruments that have been left in the Music Block over the last few years that need to be collected by their owners. **These instruments will be donated to Music Services if they are not claimed by January 31/01/22** since they are taking up space and we have advertised their presence in the department on several occasions in the past.

Fortismere Music Centre - Saturday Lessons

The Fortismere Music Centre has opened its doors again for this term and offers lessons for both children and adults. If you are interested in lessons for either yourself or your child, get in touch by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk, it's never too late to learn!

The centre offers lessons on a range of instruments and full details can be found at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.

Fortismere Community Choir - Saturday Morning

The Community Choir will begin work on the *Von Suppe Requiem* from January 2022 for a concert in Easter. This is an **non auditioned choir** and we welcome members from across the Fortismere Community so get in touch if you are free on a Saturday morning and would like the chance to perform in a friendly and fun group by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £80 for fundraising membership, student participation is free and is open to Year 10 to Year 13 pupils.

New Ballet - Appalachian Spring and Ulvshale Strand

We have decided to create a performance opportunity for the dancers of Fortismere School and we would like to hear from anyone interested in taking part in two new ballets that are being choreographed as part of the Fortismere Music Centre 2022/23 Season. We will be creating new dance pieces to the music of *Copland* and *Thomas Gregory* and would ask that any dancers of any style get in touch with us if they would like to be a part of this exciting new project. The music will be performed in a small chamber group consisting of Violins, Violas, Cello, Double Bass, Piano, Flute, Clarinet and Bassoon which will be integral to the performance and we are very much looking forward to creating a piece of work that brings the art forms of music and dance together. Please email the Director of Music Edward Jefferies at ajefferies@fortismere.org.uk if you are interested in taking part.



Physics Department

COMPETITION SUCCESS - Mr Commons, Head of Physics

Congratulations to Marcus O'Brien in year 13 for achieving a bronze certificate in round 1 of the British Physics Olympiad. This a tremendous first for Fortismere School. For those not aware this is a competition set by the University of Oxford and designed to recognise elite excellence in Physics problem solving.



For any year 11 and 12 students who aspire to Physics greatness they should contact Mr. Commons before the end of January to start training for the year 11 intermediate or year 12 senior physics challenge competitions. These competitions take place at the start of March where a 1 hour paper is completed in exam conditions at school. Success in such competitions certainly help a university application stand out.

Library

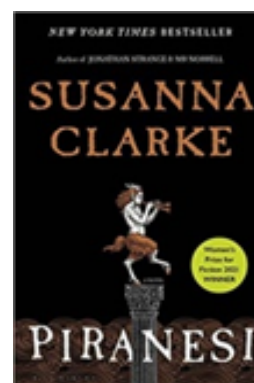
Author Visit

We were delighted to welcome our first visitor of the new year to the library on Thursday 6th January. Ewa Jozefkowicz gave a brilliant presentation to some Year 7 classes, totally engaging the students with her stories of how she became an author and offering them some excellent ideas for their own creative writing. We had really interesting discussions about how colours make us feel (inspired by one of Ewa's books "The Mystery of the Colour Thief") with the Year 7s coming up with some amazingly original ideas. And, as always, our students behaved impeccably and enjoyed asking Ewa some occasionally challenging questions.



CoverUp

The next meeting of our parent/staff reading group is next Thursday 20th January, 7.00pm in the library, when we'll be discussing *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke, winner of last year's Women's Prize for Fiction. All welcome, even if you haven't read/finished the book. Refreshments provided.



Recommended Reads of the Week

Here are a few 2021 award winners! All available from our library.



Community notices

LOCAL COMMUNITY BASED CAFE

We are an inclusive, community based cafe based in the United Reformed Church on Tetherdown, offering yoga, art, vegan food and delicious cakes. We would love to see more people in the local community to come along and see what we offer, everyone is welcome.



Where we are all valued equally.

Thursdays 9am to 5pm
Fridays 9am to 3pm

At the United Reformed Church Building,
Queens Avenue
N10 3NU
www.wavecafe.org
info@wavecafe.org
Follow us @WavecafeN10



January Events

Thursdays
£5 donation
(Families £12 for 3)*

Inclusive Yoga 11-12
Inclusive Art 11-3
After School Art Club 3:45-5:00

This month we will continue to
add to our Wave Cafe Banner!
Come join us!



Fridays
£5 donation
(Families £12 for 3)*

Inclusive Art from 11am to 2pm

7 January: Burcu Marois, Crafts
14 January: Ceci Mont, Plastic
Bag Art
21 January: Rosalind Freeborn,
Collage Art
28 January: Jane Ray, Paper Art



Wave Cafe Supper Club
20 January, 2022
7pm-9pm
£25 per ticket (dinner and dessert)*

* For tickets, scan QR Code or visit www.wavecafe.org 'Wave Cafe Events' page to access link!