



Friday 8th September 2023

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<p><b>Measles update</b></p> <p>We continue to see an increase in measles in London. Make sure your child's Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations are up to date. Your child is up to date when they have had two doses (check their personal health record - the red book or ask your GP).</p> <p>If your child is not fully vaccinated and is in close contact of someone with measles your child may need to self isolate for up to 21 days. If your child is not up to date with their vaccinations you can make an appointment to attend a catch-up clinic. We have <i>attached</i> a letter from Public Health Haringey with more information.</p> <p><b>School minibus appeal</b></p> <p>A big thank you to everyone who donated to our minibus crowdfunding campaign - we're really pleased to be able to share a photo of our new minibus! The crowdfunding campaign is still open and we'd really like to work towards buying a second minibus so any further donations would be very much appreciated. Thank you for your support. You can make a donation <a href="#">here</a></p> 	<p><b>CoHeadteachers' Message</b></p>			
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	 <p>Sunshine over Ally Pally</p>			

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

We couldn't have predicted a heatwave would accompany the start of this academic year but it's been a sweltering start for us all. That said, our students have not been phased by the oppressive temperatures and have returned fresh, positive and ready for new challenges. It has been delightful welcoming students back on site this week. We have been particularly pleased to welcome our new cohort of students in Years 7 and 12. Our Year 7 students have made a really impressive start and have picked up new school routines very well. Their tutor team has spent quite a bit of time getting to know them this week and helping them familiarise themselves with our expansive site.

The main focus of the first week back is always on settling in for the year ahead and making plans for a year full of learning and new experiences. We are looking forward to sharing some of the developments to our pastoral routines at Fortismere at a meeting on Tuesday 12th September, 6.00pm which is taking place online. You should have all received an invite to this meeting by now and many of you have registered. If you haven't yet done so please click the link [here](#) to request a further link to join that meeting. This is an important meeting which will give us the opportunity to outline how we can best work together to ensure all young people at Fortismere thrive during their time here. Excellent pastoral care and student wellbeing is a top priority and we know that strong home-school links are key in ensuring that we are able to transform lives through education. Thanks to those who have already registered; we are hopeful that the majority of our parent body will be able to attend.

The weekend is potentially the last sizzler of the summer. We think all of our students deserve a good rest after their excellent first week back and we hope all of our families have the opportunity to relax and recharge!

## Extra Curricular Clubs

### Latin Club

Fortismere runs a popular after-school club with classes ranging from beginners to GCSE. GCSE results have been consistently excellent, averaging 70% grade 9 and 100% grades 7 - 9 over the past four years.



Latin classes will re-start this month. Classes for continuing groups will start on Weds 13th and Thurs 14th September (reminders will be sent via Google Classroom) and **new weekly classes for beginners will start a week later on Weds 20th and Thurs 21st September**. New students should come to room S28 South Wing where we will put them into groups. We are offering a choice of Weds or Thurs so that students with other after-school activities on one of those days can come to Latin on the other day. Students are not expected to attend classes on both days.

The Latin Club is open to all ages but the beginners' classes are especially beneficial for Year 7 and 8 students and for sixth formers taking classical civilisation or modern languages at A level.

If students are uncertain whether they will like Latin, it's fine to come along to try it out before deciding whether to continue. Starting in Year 7 or 8 will give them plenty of time to progress to GCSE if they wish to do so but, even if they just learn some elementary Latin for a year or two, it is very beneficial for developing English vocabulary as lots of complex English words come from simple Latin words and it will also give them

a really good understanding of grammar which will help with modern foreign languages. The Welsh exam board WJEC sets intermediate level 1 exams which students can take after a year or two of Latin to record a level of achievement about halfway to GCSE.

Most Latin classes are after school on Weds or Thurs but other times may be possible, subject to the availability of our volunteers. For more information or to register for one of the new beginners' classes please contact Pat Dugdale at [pdugdale@fortismere.school](mailto:pdugdale@fortismere.school) or students can simply come along on 20th or 21st September. We look forward to meeting our new 2022 Latin Club intake.

Finally, we are always looking for new volunteers so please get in touch if you are interested or know anyone who may be able to help.

### Creative Writing Workshops - Tuesdays at 3.35pm-4.30pm (Starting on 19th September)

Ms Massey has been running extra-curricular creative writing workshops at Fortismere since she began working at the school seven years ago. She also teaches students from Year 7 upwards on a weekly basis in the PRE Department. The aim of the creative writing workshops is to allow students to write freely and imaginatively without any academic spelling or grammatical demands. The writing can cover anything from poetry to fiction and dialogue writing in pairs. The genres go from realistic to comedy 😄, to science fiction or horror 🦋👁️. The framework for each weekly session consists of a trigger word or object(s) that lead to a form of individual and collaborative writing. Many students come back year after year. Ms Massey says she and the students find the whole experience an oasis of creative delight.

The workshops take place on Tuesdays after school (3.35pm-4.30pm in the Library, starting from the 19th September. If you have any questions please contact Ms Massey.

## Library Notices

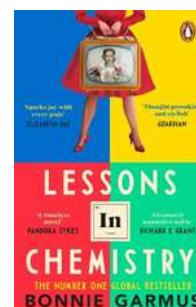
### Fortismere Signs New Patron of Reading!

On transfer deadline day, 1<sup>st</sup> September, we officially announced on social media that Dan Freedman is our new Patron of Reading. Author of the global hit Jamie Johnson series, and "Unstoppable" for slightly older fans, Dan is a great motivational speaker. We know our students will be enthralled by his anecdotes of meeting the late Queen and Nelson Mandela, and interviewing the likes of Ronaldo and Messi in his role as Managing Editor for the FA. We're excited to be working with Dan in creating a real buzz about reading at Fortismere.



## CoverUp

The first meeting this term of Fortismere's parent/staff reading group is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 7pm in the library, when we'll be talking about "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus – and, no doubt, lots of other things... We'd love to welcome new members from our new cohort of Year 7 parents and other year groups too. We're a friendly bunch, meet 6 times a year, go on the occasional outing and have made lifelong friends. Oh, and refreshments (of an alcoholic nature if desired) are provided.



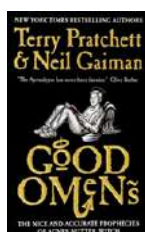
## The Original Queen of Teen Thrillers to visit Fortismere!

Sophie McKenzie is returning to Fortismere library on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September to talk about her career as a best-selling author. We know that Sophie has lots of fans here so, after workshops during Period 2, she will stay in the library at break to meet other students. We will be selling copies (at the reduced price of £7) of the just-published "Secret Sister" on behalf of Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop which Sophie will be happy to personalise for you. (Dare we say it? Potentially an excellent stocking filler...



## Listen to / watch good books...

If you missed *The Amazing Maurice* (adapted from Terry Pratchett's *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*) in the cinema you can stream the movie online [here](#)



And there's a wonderful radio adaptation of the 1990 fantasy novel *Good Omens* by Pratchett and Neil Gaiman [here](#)

(Of course, you could always borrow the books from Fortismere's library!

## Recommended Reads of the Week

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September was Roald Dahl Day (his birthday). It was also National Read Day although, as you know, at Fortismere every day is Read Day! Here's a very small selection of books you can borrow from the library to ensure you always have something on the go, and a reminder that every student should have a book in their bag at all times.



## Drama Department Notices

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

#### Friday 15th September 3.20pm in NW Hall - Dancers/singers/actors

The **audition dance** will be the Barbie movie dance "Dance the night away" in groups. See this video [here](#) for the steps.

The **audition song** will be "Don't go breaking my heart " in pairs one chorus/verse. See this video [here](#) for the song.

Then in the same pair you will **read one page of a duologue** from the play. Given to you on the day..  
*As there are lots who will want to audition, be prepared that you might be there until 5.30pm.*

twilight

#### Monday 18th September 3.20pm meeting in NW Hall

All back stage crew: 20 mins short meeting

#### Tuesday 19th September 3.20pm any remaining students in NW Hall

Audition for dancers /singers/actors (if you couldn't make the 15th Sept)

All the cast will sing/dance and act. See Miss Turner in the Drama department for more details.

### 2023 Inter-House Drama Festival

The *2023 Inter-House Drama Festival* will take place on our school Open Afternoon, Wednesday 28th September from 2.00pm-6:30pm.

Fifty chosen students, ten from each House, across the five year groups, 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 different Houses, will be performed at the end of the day to parents and students visiting the school. All five plays will be judged and the winning House will receive the Inter-House Drama Trophy.

**Students who would like to be involved should contact their form tutor next week.**



## PE & Sports News

### Welcome back and welcome to our new Year 7 students

We are excited about the new school year ahead and the many sporting events, competitions, fixtures and clubs that we will be offering and that we hope you will all take the opportunity to be involved with.

The new **Extra curricular timetable** for this half term is below - this will also be added to the website soon. Students can just meet staff at the venue and join in. (*Gymnastics* is the exception - info below and attached). PE kit is necessary after school but not required for a lunchtime activity.

**PE kit** - we understand that some PE kit orders are delayed but ask that students come to school with a change of clothes, suitable to do PE in until their kit arrives please.

**PE lessons** - If your child is unable to take part in a physical lesson please ensure that you have made the class teacher aware of the reason via email or a written note.

**Trials** for football and netball teams will take place next week:

**Boys Football Trials** - Year 8 Monday 11/9/23 - on the field 3.20-4.30pm  
 Year 9/10 Monday 11/9/23 - on the field 3.20-4.30pm  
 Year 7 Tuesday 12/9/23 - on the field 3.20-4.30pm

**Girls Football Trials**- Year 7/8- Thursday 14/9/23 - on the field 3.20-4.20pm  
 Year 9/10/11 Friday 15/9/23 - on the field 3.20-4.20pm

**Netball Trials** - Year 7 - Monday 11/9/23 - on the netball courts  
 Year 8/9 Tuesday 12/9/23 - on the netball courts 3.20-4.30pm  
 Year 10/11 Tuesday 12/9/23 - netball court outside Sports hall 3.20-4.30pm

**Cross Country Trials** - Monday Lunchtime 11/9/23 - meet at 1pm at the Sports hall with packed lunch

**Gymnastics Club** - This club is run by an outside agency and is therefore a paid for activity. If your child is interested in joining the club please complete the form *attached* and reply to the email on the form.

	Lunch Time 1pm-1.40pm	After School 3.20pm-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 Sports Hall Year 8 - AB Football Year 8 Boys Field MH Football Year 9/10 Boys Field GK Year 7 Netball -MV, KJ and external coach
<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 Sports Hall All Years- LB Year 7 Boys Football - Field -SC Year 8/9 Netball AB Year 10/11 Netball KJ sports hall playground 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 Basketball Year 10, 11,12 SW Gym - RM, Mr Richards	Gymnastics- SW Gym - external coach (Sign up/fee required) Football Year 11/12 - Astro Contemporary Dance - Sports Hall - External Practitioner
<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 Handball All Years - Sports Hall - SC Football Girls - All Years - Field MV Girls Cricket - Sports Hall starts 21/9
<b>Friday</b>	Football all years - Astro GK, AB Tennis - Tennis Courts AB Badminton - Sports Hall-MH Basketball all years- Outside Courts-SC Cross Country Club - MV Table Tennis all years SW Gym - RM	No after school clubs

## 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:

Year 7 [ejones@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:ejones@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 8 [icuenca@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:icuenca@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 9 [saldridge@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:saldridge@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 10 [kjackson@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:kjackson@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 11 [dward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:dward@fortismere.org.uk)