



Transforming Lives
Through Education

Newsletter: Friday 13th June 2025

School Leadership Messages:	Contents					
<p>A Fond Farewell</p> <p>Today marks the last day that Chynaka (known to adults and students alike as Chyna) will be providing security for us at the Tetherdown entrance. Chynaka has been with us for 7 years and in that time has provided an invaluable service. He has been far more than security: he knows many of the students by name, he looks after lanyards for some of our most disorganised students, he challenges lateness and is a calm and welcoming presence at the gate. We will all miss him: Chynaka's warm and friendly demeanour has been an asset to the school when welcoming visitors so we know our parents and carers will miss him too. We received the news of his departure on Wednesday so many students will not know that Chynaka is leaving; those that have found out are inundating him with chocolate! He is moving into a new, more senior role and we know he will be extremely successful. But if he ever wants to return, he is part of the Fortismere family and we would love to see him back at our school.</p> <p>Warm weather: expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress code Years 7-13 <p>The number of dress code violations has significantly increased this week so we would like to remind parents and carers that there is a dress code at Fortismere. Fortismere is a place of work and the work is learning so our expectation is that students will be dressed appropriately for school work. We expect all students to wear clothes with an 'unbroken line': i.e with no gaps so no crop tops and low cut trousers, skirts or shorts. We also have a minimum length for shorts and skirts - these should reach below fingertips. We also expect underwear not to be visible. If it would look good on a beach, it's not appropriate for school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to water <p>Students are not permitted to leave lessons to use the water fountains. These can be used at break and lunch time and there is tap water available in both canteens at lunch time. We would recommend that students bring water bottles that can be refilled when not in lessons.</p>	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p>					
	<p>Departmental News & Notices</p>					
	<p>Safeguarding Information</p>					
	<p>Calendar</p>					
	<table><tr><td>16.06</td><td>Y10 & Y12 Exams begin</td></tr><tr><td>20.06</td><td>A Level Art & Photography Exhibition NW 6pm-8pm</td></tr><tr><td>06.07</td><td>Fortismere Summer Festival 12-4pm</td></tr></table>	16.06	Y10 & Y12 Exams begin	20.06	A Level Art & Photography Exhibition NW 6pm-8pm	06.07
16.06	Y10 & Y12 Exams begin					
20.06	A Level Art & Photography Exhibition NW 6pm-8pm					
06.07	Fortismere Summer Festival 12-4pm					
	<div><p><i>Treat the whole family to a sci-fi and space-themed concert this Father's Day and hear music from ET, Star Wars and Superman! Fortismere students go free!</i></p><p><i>St Andrews Church N10 at 7pm.</i></p><p><i>Tickets and full details available here</i></p></div>					



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

It definitely feels like the last half term when the year group trips start. Straight out of the traps was Y7 with their trip to Stubbers Activity Centre yesterday. A great day was had by all: Kayaking, archery, paddleboarding and 'leap of faith' were just some of the outdoor pursuits on offer. It was great to see the children having so much fun and at times conquering their fears! Thanks also to the fantastic staff members who accompanied the trip. You can tell a successful trip by the number of smiley, sweaty faces - much in evidence as they disembarked the coach!

Year trips are a celebration of the year but also provide an excellent opportunity for year group bonding; students often meet new people in their activity groups and their sense of belonging at school can be noticeably enhanced. The Y7 trip took place on [Empathy Day](#) and offered an opportunity for our students to put their empathy into practice; supporting each other with trying something new, perhaps not being good at something, making sure that no student was left out. Empathy links closely with all of the Fortismere Four and particularly Be Kind: it is a key part of our vision that we produce young adults who are kind to themselves and each other so we consciously select activities that support the development of empathy.

We were delighted to note that another trip that took place this week, the Mandarin trip to the LSE, resulted in such positive outcomes for our Y10 Mandarin Excellence students (see article below). Well done to our prize winners and all those who entered the competition. We are really proud of the number of Fortismere students who choose to continue studying languages at KS4, despite the national decline. Our Mandarin Excellence Programme students go a step further - this was a commitment they made in Y7!

We would like to add to our list of congratulations Ms Holder's Eco Committee students. Litter picking can be a community service sanction for students but on Wednesday, the Committee volunteered to do a litter pick with Mr Commons. This is a valuable school service, it not only benefits the site staff and PE department by keeping the field and pathways clear but also the animals we share our site with. We have young fox cubs at the far end of the field, and voles and mice. Living on a diet of discarded pasta pots isn't necessarily a good thing for them!

We're not sure if there's a bit of stereotyping going on here: Fathers' Day and Star Wars! We're sure that mothers and daughters would love the music concert programme just as much as fathers and sons. So, if you fancy a journey through space and sound on Sunday evening, the orchestra's summer concert features some iconic themes from sci-fi films. It also includes movements from Holst's The Planets including the 'anthem of space' as recently transmitted by the European Space Agency into the outer reaches of the universe. You only need to go to St Andrew's Church N10 to hear it! Details on the front page.

We wish all our families a lovely weekend, it looks set to be a little less humid but still with plenty of sunshine!

Friends of Fortismere

Gazebo Appeal

Hopefully you saw our ParentMail earlier this week asking for help with gazebos for the Summer Festival but just in case you didn't or need a reminder of the details - we need gazebos for the festival and want to avoid the additional expense of hiring them. Ideally we would like to own some and make it easier for future events. We need quite substantial ones and even with a discount they are about £160 each to buy. Hiring

one costs about £70. For this year's festival, we have a twofold request:

Please will anyone who can consider donating the cost of all or part of a gazebo. If you are a taxpayer, this donation would attract Gift Aid (and has tax advantages for the donor). You can pay directly to Friends of Fortismere, A/C 29759927, Sort code 50-21-08, include your name and gazebo as a reference (and fill in the attached form for Gift Aid or [use this link](#)) The link is easier but the direct payment is more efficient as there are no fees - but it's up to you and all donations are gratefully received.

Do you have a gazebo which we can borrow for the Festival this year? Ideally it would be great if people could put up and take down their gazebos, but we can definitely help with that if it's a problem.

Please let us know - the usual suspects by WhatsApp, or email friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

And while we're here - **another shoutout please for tombola donations (chocolate and bottles) and any volunteers to help us out on the day itself.**

Thank you so much for your support - we're hoping that this will be an amazing Festival both to make money for the school and for everyone to enjoy an opportunity to come together as part of the Fortismere community. Book your tickets [here](#)
Friends of Fortismere

Sixth Form Notices

End of Year 12 Exams Reminder

As a reminder, end of Year 12 exams begin on Monday 16th June and continue until Friday 27th June. All students need to ensure that they come to school fully equipped and on time. Morning exams start promptly at 8:45 and afternoon exams start at 1:30.

These exams are an opportunity for students to demonstrate the progress they have made across the first three terms of Sixth Form study as well as to gain confidence in writing assessments under formal exam conditions. Furthermore, the grades achieved in the end of year exams play an important role in informing UCAS predicted grades.

During the end of year exam period, Year 12 A Level students may organise their own study schedules, including studying at home should they so choose. However, teachers will make themselves available in their regular classrooms with revision materials and exam style questions to support students who attend around their scheduled mock exams. We strongly encourage students to take advantage of this as personalised feedback from teachers makes a significant difference to students' confidence and supports them to achieve their best.

Students on the BTEC Creative Digital Media production course should attend lessons as normal as, after the Unit 1 Media Representation exam they sat on 2nd June, they are continuing to complete non-examined assessed work.

Lessons will resume as normal for all Year 12 students on Monday 30 June. In many subjects, this marks the formal beginning of Year 13 content, and it is essential that all students attend fully from this date in order to begin the final phase of their A Level studies on a strong footing.

Sixth Form Transition and Taster Days Reminder

We are looking forward to welcoming back our Year 11 students as Sixth Formers for the first time on the A Level transition day, taking place from 9:00-2:20 on 23rd June, or the BTEC transition day, taking place from 9:00-12:30 on 26th June. On the A Level transition day, students will have the opportunity to meet their future tutors and classmates, take part in taster lessons for their chosen subjects, and collect important bridging work designed to support a strong start to their Sixth Form studies this September. On the BTEC transition day, our future Creative Digital Media Production students will be completing an Apprentice-style marketing challenge with one of their teachers for next year.

Students can register to attend the taster day and choose subjects to attend via Applica, once they have accepted their Sixth Form offer. We would ask that they register by **Thursday 19th June at 6:00pm** to support us in ensuring we have prepared sufficient resources for all students attending.

If students are unable to attend the transition day, please don't worry -- this will not affect their offer or their place at Fortismere. All bridging work will be made available electronically via the Sixth Form section of our website on or shortly after the taster days.

Art & Photography Notices

A-level Art & Photography Exhibition

Please come to the A Level Art and Photography Exhibition, a highlight of the school calendar. This year's cohort is particularly exceptional, and their creativity and dedication promise a fantastic show. The exhibition showcases a diverse range of artistic talent and offers a wonderful opportunity to support and be inspired by our students' impressive work.



**Fortismere School
A level Art & Photography Exhibition**

Friday 20th June, 6-8pm

**Fortismere School, Creighton Avenue,
Muswell Hill. N10 1NE**

Prizes at 7.15. Please bring cash for the bar!

KS3 Art Club Returns

KS3 Art Club is Back! We're excited to announce that KS3 Art Club finally returns on **24th June, 3:30–4:30pm**. We have four weeks to work on a **top secret project**, and we can't wait to get started! Looking forward to making exciting and creative work together—don't miss it!



Modern Languages News

Year 10 Mandarin Tourism Project Trip

Our Year 10 Mandarin Excellence Programme students went to the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) on Tuesday this week to celebrate their achievement in the MEP tourism project. The project involved MEP students from schools across the country in making videos in mandarin to promote UK cities. During the trip, students learned about language courses that are available to them at LSE and how learning about cross-cultural communication could be beneficial for their future careers. The hosts and the judges of the event spoke highly of our students' behaviour on the trip and were impressed by the high-quality videos our students had made.

I'm very pleased to share with you the great news that our students won two prizes among the six schools that attended the event: *The Overall Best Video award* went to Joseph Hannon, Diego Montenegro, Maeve Gaia Curry and Abigail Sinclair. And Frederick Farrar and Aril Strathern won *The Best Use of Mandarin prize!* Well done to our winners and all the other students who participated in the project.

Mr Li

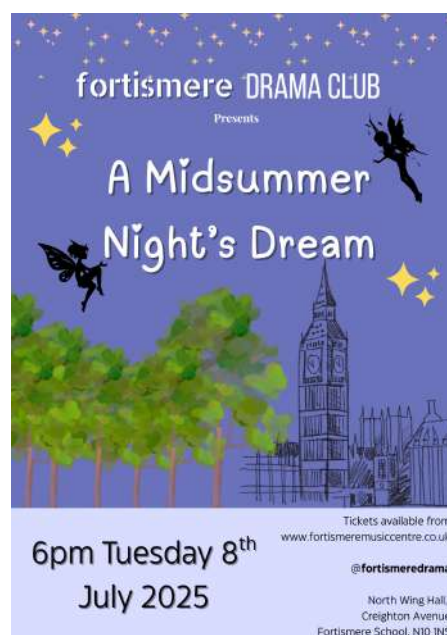
Drama Department Notices

KS3 Drama Club performs A Midsummer Night's Dream (Reimagined) - Tuesday 8th July

Tuesday 8th July, 6pm, North Wing Hall:
Fortismere Drama Club presents:
'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Reimagined!)

KS3 Drama Club will be performing their version of
'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
for ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Tickets are £5 and are now available from
<https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/>



Reminder Year 9 Parents: Please Complete Oscars Trip Form

The annual school trip to the Phoenix Cinema for the Fortismere Year 9 Oscars is on Thursday 3rd July 2025. The event will include a screening of the films students have been producing in Drama lessons this term and there will be awards for the best films. The entire year group will be attending and the trip presents a unique opportunity for pupils to view their own work on the big screen in professional surroundings.



Parents must complete the consent slip electronically by Monday 16th June.

Please use the link below or scan the QR code.

[Year 9 Cinema Trip Consent Form](#)

Funded Bursaries for BRIT kids in Kings Cross

BRIT Kids was set up by The BRIT School to offer performing and creative/media arts classes to the local community at the weekend. Horizons and HEP have created a new partnership and can offer 10 funded bursaries to students who will be in Year 8 or 9 (next year) and who meet the criteria below. If you meet these criteria and are interested please email Ms Overs on lovers@fortismere.org.uk

- Open to current Year 7 and 8s only (will be Year 8 and 9 next school year)
- Children in receipt of Free School Meals
- Have the means to travel to Kings Cross each Saturday of term
- Have an interest in either the Creative/Media or Performing Arts

Courses on offer include: specialist theatre, specialist singing, screen acting, fashion, art and music production. Read the course outlines [here](#)

Hackney Empire Auditions

Calling all 14-19 year-old actors, dancers, instrumentalists, designers, singers, rappers, and spoken word artists. Join the ADP 2025 company! The Artist Development Programme is a company of young artists aged 14-19 years old, chosen through an audition process, who will spend two weeks creating an exciting new piece of musical theatre to perform on the Hackney Empire Main Stage on Saturday 9 August 2025.

Audition Dates and Times please note you can apply to audition for more than one discipline:

Band Auditions: Fri 27 Jun, 5pm-8pm (any instrument/beatmaker/producer)

Dance Auditions: Sat 28 Jun, 10am-2pm (any style of dance)

Drama & Vocal Auditions: Sat 28 Jun, 3pm-7pm (singers, rappers, spoken word, acting & devising)

Drama & Vocal Auditions: Sun 29 Jun, 10am-7pm, (singers, rappers, spoken word, acting & devising)

Design Applications: Deadline to apply is Mon 23 Jun

Deadline to apply: Thur 26 June. Apply here: [Artist Development Programme Auditions 2025 | Hackney Empire](#)

The ADP runs from 25 July to 9 August with an intro workshop on 3 July from 6-8pm. You must be available for all the programme dates to join the company.

National Youth Monologues Competition: Enter a Monologue and Be a Part of NYM!

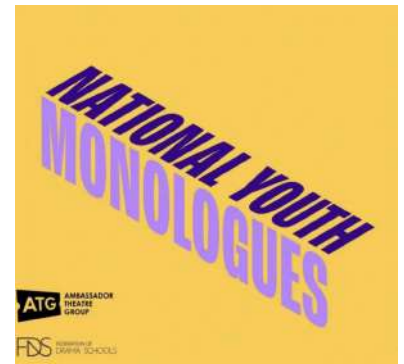
In conjunction with *Ambassador Theatre Group* - the world's largest live-theatre company - and the *Federation of Drama Schools*, National Youth Monologues are running a new competition for young

people from 9 to 19 years old. Have you got what it takes to be crowned the best actor in the country?

There are four categories to choose from: Contemporary, Classical, Screen, and Devised – and four age groups, so you'll be competing with others your own age. Perform on a West End stage. Win amazing prizes. Grow as an artist and develop your craft. Go for it!

Full information, including deadlines and how to enter:

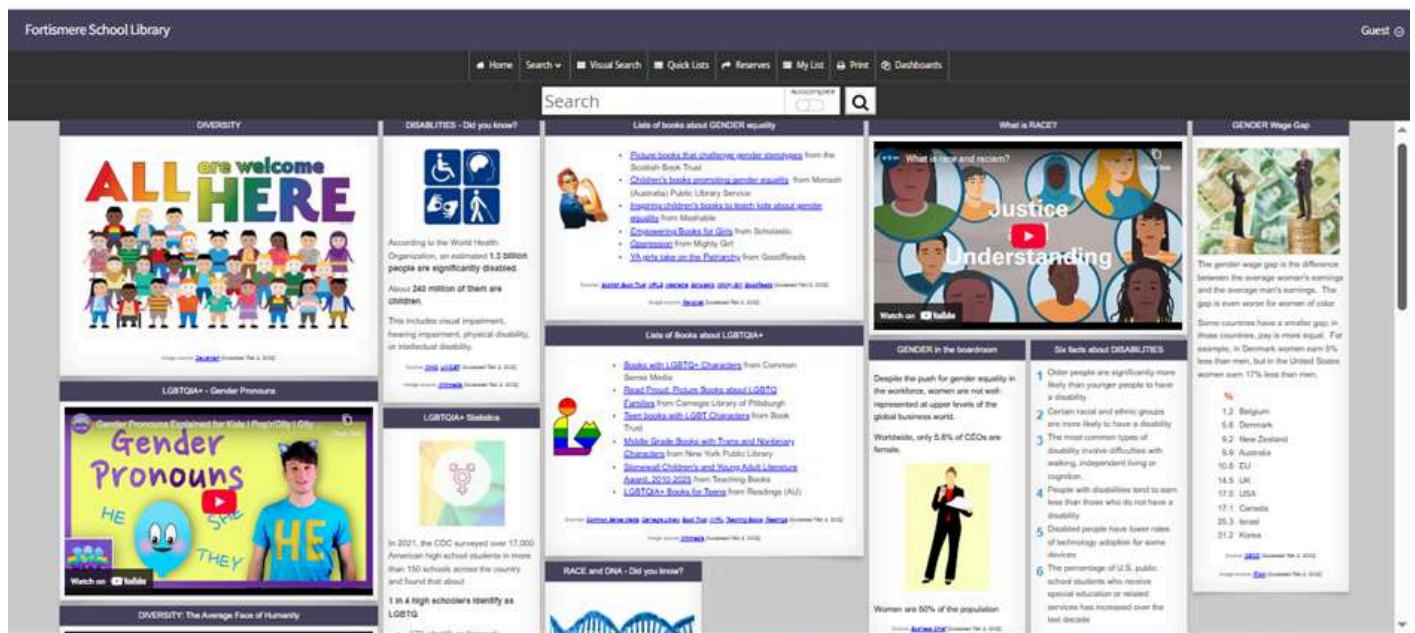
<https://nationalyouthmonologues.com/>



Library Notices

Accessit

Here's a reminder that our brilliant library catalogue is available to access at home. By using the Search box you can find books by your favourite author or about a topic that interests you. The Quick Lists are useful if there's a particular genre you fancy. On the school website, go to the student tab (parents can use it too...) and there you are (or just use this link) <https://uk.accessit.online/frt05/> You can help your students find suitable books so they don't come to school with something grabbed off the home shelves at the last minute! And remember, it's free to borrow books! Please take a while to look at our amazing dashboard; as it's Pride Month, we're focussing on diversity.



Stationery

Huge apologies to all those students who rely on the library for cost-price equipment purchases, but I can no longer accommodate them in the future. All stock has been taken to South Wing, and students will be able to buy their necessary stationery from the main Reception desk.

Recommended Reads of the Week

12th June was Empathy Day, and there's a big display in the library inviting students to "jump into someone else's story". And as one of the Fortismere Four rules is Be Kind, I'm expecting lots of books to be borrowed!



Sport & PE Notices

Girls Cricket News

Well done to our Year 7/8 team who played a very close match against King Alfreds School at The Walker Ground on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, our U13 and U15 Girls Cricket Teams travelled to Winchmore Hill to play in a Middlesex Schools Cricket Competition. We had to use some of our Y8 girls in the U15 team as that was depleted due to exams but they all did brilliantly finishing overall second in the group.

Our U13 team were super and drew 1st place with Acland Burghley School. Everyone who took part played well but a special mention to Sophie and Seline who took lots of wickets



Dance Workshop Monday 16th June Period 5

Sarah from **Thrive Dance** is coming into school to give Year 7 students a taste of the style of dance that is taught by Thrive. If your child would like to attend the dance workshop on Monday 16th June during period 5 please contact Ms Vangucci. mvangucci@fortismere.org.uk

Thrive are also holding auditions for new members to join the dance company from September 2025 at Fourth Monkey Studios, Seven Sisters Road N7 7QP on 7th & 14th July from 5pm-7pm. Contact Sarah sarah@thrivedance.co.uk or on 07907536650 for more details.



Netball and Cricket Club Opportunities Outside School

Young Fincs Netball Club are holding trials on 10th July for players in Y8-11 at Wren Academy 6-8pm. Email: youngfincs@gmail.com



Winchmore Hill Cricket Club

Run Boys and Girls Cricket Training Sessions at their ground in N21

Enquiries to Cricket Development Officer, Jim Clark at whcccd@outlook.com or on 07885995414

Middlesex School Athletics

Congratulations to Alex Kirk who has qualified for the 1500m and Jonah Morris for the 800m. They will compete at the Middlesex Schools Athletics Competition taking place this Saturday at the Allianz Stadium. Good Luck!

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 16th June	Year 7 Girls Haringey Rounders Competition on the Field 2.30 pm start Year 7 Boys Football v APS 2 pm Away
Tuesday 17th June	Year 8 Girls Haringey Rounders Competition on the Field 2.30 pm start Year 8 Boys Tennis v Wren Away
Wednesday 18th June	Year 7 and 8 Boys Haringey Rounders Competition on the Field 2.30 pm start
Thursday 19th June	Year 9 Girls Haringey Rounders Competition
Friday 20th June	Year 10 Girls Rounders Competition 2.30 pm on the Field

And a date for your diaries - School Sports Day is on 15th & 16th July. Details to follow!

After School Clubs This Term

The current PE & Sports Extra curricular timetable is available [on the school website here](#). We're running a new Table Tennis Club after school on Thursdays.

Holiday Camps

Summer Holiday Camps - Booking Now

Fortismere Holiday Camps are running during the first four weeks of the summer holidays (Week 1: 22/07, Week 2: 28/07, Week 3: 4/08, Week 4: 11/08). There are different clubs running in different weeks and we're offering a wide range of activities, led by experienced practitioners that provide a full day of fun. **Full details and links to book via EventBrite are on the school website [here](#)**

Fortismere Alumni

Can You Support Former Student Frankie Reach Her Target

Former Fortismere student Frankie (now a student at the University of Leeds) is taking on a huge challenge in August and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for a mental health charity called [Student Minds](#). Frankie is asking for your help with this and writes below.....

Mental health is something I've personally struggled with, and it's impacted people close to me - especially during school and university. Even when you're surrounded by a supportive community, I know it can be incredibly hard to know who to turn to or how to ask for help. That's why I'm so passionate about what Student Minds is doing in changing the way mental health is supported in education across the country and making sure students aren't left to struggle alone. Our team is aiming to raise over £50,000 for this amazing, Leeds-founded charity. Fortismere played such a huge part in shaping who I am. Being part of the school's sports teams helped build the strength, resilience and confidence I'm now using to take on this challenge. If you're able to donate – even a small amount – or if you can share my story and fundraising page with anyone who might want to support this cause, that would be amazing. Thank you so much for the support! This is a link to [my Justgiving fundraising page](#) Frankie Dennis

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.



FRIENDS OF FORTISMERE PRESENT



FORTISMERE

SUNDAY 6TH JULY

SUMMER

12PM- 4PM

FESTIVAL

**MUSIC STAGE FEATURING
PUPIL & TEACHER BANDS AND THE
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA**

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
DOG SHOW
ARTS AND CRAFTS STALLS
FAIRGROUND RIDES
CANDYFLOSS
DELICIOUS FOOD
HOMEMADE CAKES
PIMMS & STRAWBERRIES
DRINKS BAR

**SCAN FOR
TICKETS**



**ADULTS £3 IN ADVANCE, £5 ON THE DOOR
UNDER 18 FREE!**

