

Transforming Lives Through Education

Weekly Newsletter Issue: Friday 25th February 2022

School Leadership Messages

Covid Update: New guidance

New guidance for schools was issued by the DfE on February 21.

Please see the attached letter for a summary for parents/carers from Public Health Haringey.

From February 24 Covid restrictions have been lifted but we will continue to promote good practice for hand and respiratory hygiene. We are aware that some students still wish to wear face coverings in the communal areas and we will allow them to do so.

Ukraine

We are aware that some of our students are experiencing anxiety and concern relating to the events in Ukraine. We will be using tutor time in the coming weeks to explore and explain the conflict. As part of this we will be directing students to age appropriate sources of information. We will also link this to our programme of study concerning fake news and disinformation.

Please let us know if your son or daughter would like some extra support as a result of what is happening via safetalk@fortismere.org.uk.

Attendance and punctuality to lessons

Please could parents/carers remind your sons and daughters of the importance of attending school everyday. We would also like to emphasise the importance of punctuality to all lessons, not just at the start of the school day. This is relevant to all year groups, including Y12 and 13 students.

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Calendar

25/2/22	Y9 Options deadline
8/3/22	International Women's Day
18/3/22	Red Nose Day
24/3/22	A Level Music Recital
30/3/22	7X Parents Evening
27/4/22	7Y Parents Evening



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We began the week with a pandemic and we're ending it with an epidemic. The new Covid guidance from the DfE gives more details for schools on 'living with Covid'. There are still some areas of confusion relating to testing and self-isolation but broadly, we are back to where we were in February two years ago. This is reflected in the type of opportunities which are once more emerging for our students. On Thursday, Y12 A' level English Literature students visited the British Library for a talk on Angela Carter. We've even had a GCSE PE rock-climbing trip. We're now looking forward to the Y12 Further Maths group going to the Science Museum, the Y13 English trip to Hamlet at The Globe and the Sixth Form Spanish trip to the BFI. Events like these immeasurably support interest and engagement and we welcome the return of these opportunities.

As we begin our return to normal, we are revisiting school systems and expectations. Covid has had a significant impact on student attendance which in turn, impacts on progress. We anticipate that the changes to self-isolation will improve attendance and we remind our families that students should not miss term time for holidays. We would also expect dental and medical appointments to be made outside of school hours wherever possible.

The news from Ukraine has been on everyone's minds this week. Our students have been asking questions and some are concerned and worried by a war starting on the continent where they live. We will be addressing these concerns via the curriculum and enabling students to discuss anything which may be causing them distress. Aside from any anxiety, Fortismere students are always very engaged with the wider world and they want to know what is going on and why. It has been brought to our attention that some of the information that students are



accessing online is inaccurate or deliberately misleading. We will cover this in lessons but we would also ask our families to be mindful of the sources your sons and daughters use for information.

We hope that despite the shock and sadness at the outbreak of war in Europe, you all have a peaceful and storm-free weekend. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine and the members of our local community directly affected by these events.

Governing Body Notice

Parent Governor Election

There are five parents standing for election to the two current vacancies on the governing body. Candidates have written an election statement - these are attached to the Newsletter. You will receive a ParentMail message next week with details of the timetable and the election process.



An online election will be held using Survey Monkey and an electronic link will be sent to all registered parents via email. If you have any queries please get in touch smurray@fortismere.org.uk

Sam Murray Clerk to governors

Parent and Student Engagement Notices

Parent and Carer Webinars

Drugs and Alcohol Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 6.00pm to 7.00pm

This webinar will be facilitated by Geminee Patel, Senior Practitioner, Insight Platform and will help you to update your knowledge of current drug trends, signs of drug use and talking to your child about drugs and alcohol. To book a place email your child's name and tutor group to rharris@fortismere.org.uk.

Ms R Harris

Parent and Student Engagement Officer

Art & Photography Notices

Winter Olympics 2022

Did you watch the opening credits of the BBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics? Ex-Fortismere Art student, Reuben Dangoor, was one of the creatives responsible for the design and production. Watch it here: BBC - Winter Olympics | LBBOnline

Reuben was also responsible for some of the innovative promotional material for BBC's adaptation of 'Dracula' last year. See more of Reuben's creations via his Instagram account: @reubendangoor



Royal Academy: Young Artists' Summer Show

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4 - 19 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of passionate artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

You can choose to enter the competition independently or speak to your art teacher who can submit your work on your behalf. Find out more here: Young Artists' Summer Show



Picture Book Competition

The ReadingZone Picture Book Competition 2022, in partnership with World Book Day, is challenging those aged four to 18 years to make their own picture book for World Book Day.

The competition closes on Friday 22nd April 2022, and the winners will be announced in June. Prizes include £100 of books for each winner's school or library, plus a free online author event for the overall winner.

Picture books can be made by individuals, groups or whole classes, using any media and covering any subject or theme. Each picture book should be up to 24 A4 pages in length (or less), including covers. Books should be in portrait style (upright) rather than landscape.

PICTURE BOOK CANSELLION

Visit <u>How to make a picture book - ReadingZone</u> for more details.

National Portrait Gallery Youth Forum

14-18? Interested in art, history and portraiture, meeting new people and getting involved in the future of the National Portrait Gallery? If so you can Join the National Portrait Gallery Youth Forum!

The benefits of joining the Youth Forum:

See behind the scenes

Explore the Gallery, find out more about what goes on and learn about creative careers

Have your say

Share your views on our Inspiring People project – from displays and refurbishment to events

Get creative

Try your hand at art activities inspired by the collection and meet artists

Add to your CV

Get involved and grow your skills and experiences

Talk about topics that matter to you

Discover inspiring stories in the Collection and connect with contemporary themes like LGBTQI+, equality, diversity and mental health.

Visit the website: National Portrait Gallery Youth Forum for more information.



Art Club will restart on Thursday 3rd March. We look forward to seeing students for a new theme and new project!

Please come to N6, (3.30-4.30)



Modern Languages Department Notices

Year 7 - Choice of language(s)

All year 7s have now chosen their language(s) and parents will be contacted within the next couple of weeks to confirm what language their child has been assigned.

Please note that if we did not receive any response back, we will allocate the student the language we think suitable after talking to them. In the meantime students are being taught both French and Spanish to keep up with the curriculum.

Year 11 and Year 13 speaking mocks

The department wants to congratulate all students in Year 11 and Year 13 for their exceptional hard work on their speaking mocks. For all of them it was the first time they had been through this nerve wracking process but all the teachers were very impressed with their performance.

Well done to all of them!



Year 11 Revision Sessions

All students are now invited to Revision Sessions in the three languages. We are still targeting certain students and their parents will be informed via ParentMail to let them know that we are expecting these students to attend. Below are the days and rooms where Revision sessions are run as well as a schedule of what will be covered every week.

<u>French</u> - Tuesdays **Week 1** - After School in N16// Thursdays **Week 2** - Lunch time in N16 <u>Mandarin</u> - Wednesdays Week 1 and Week 2 - After school in N20 <u>Spanish</u> - Tuesdays **Week 1** - After School in N18// Fridays **Week 2** - Lunch time in LINC

W/B 28th Feb: Topics 1 & 2	W/B 18th April: Higher - L&R
W/B 7th March: Topics 3 & 4	W/B 25th April: Foundation Speaking
W/B 14th March: Topics 5 & 6	W/B 2nd May: Higher Speaking
W/B 21st March: Topics 7 & 8	W/B 9th May: Foundation Writing
W/B 28th March: Foundation - L&R	W/B 16th May: Higher Writing

What's going on in Languages...

Some of you may remember the French Eurovision entry from last year, Barbara Pravi. She's a great example of the *chanson* tradition in French music and is well worth seeing. She is coming to London on the 1st of March for a concert at Cadogan Hall. For more information, see here: https://cadoganhall.com/whats-on/barbara-pravi/. To relive her Eurovision performance click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uni9WbeLzRU.



For a different side of Francophone music the Congolese-French artist Gims is going to be performing at the O2 Arena on the 8th of May. He's an incredibly successful artist, having sold over five million records – it should be a great evening! For more information, see here: https://www.axs.com/events/426804/gims-tickets?aff=ukaffsongkick



This week Duolingo shared the fantastic news that Haitian Creole is now available as a language to learn! It's spoken by around 10 million people and is a fascinating combination of French, Portuguese, Spanish, English, Taíno and West African languages such as Fon, Igbo and Ewe. There's a really interesting article here were you can learn more:



https://blog.duolingo.com/haitian-creole-duolingo/

And let's not forget next Tuesday is 'Mardi Gras', the perfect day to eat pancakes all day long!



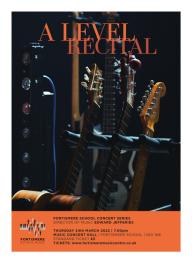
Music Department Notices

Ensembles this Half 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 - 7pm-9pm
Wednesday	Big Band - Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	Junior Choir - Concert Hall 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	

A Level Recital Evening - South Wing Hall - Thursday 24th March 2022 - 7pm

On **Thursday 24th March** you are cordially invited to come along to listen to our Year 12 and 13 A Level Students performing their recital pieces in the **South Wing Hall.** There will be musical items from our very talented students that will span a number of genres with pieces performed by Rock Guitarists, Classical Guitarists, Trombonists, Cellists and Vocalists. This promises to be an evening of exceptional music making at Fortismere and we very much look forward to showcasing our Key Stage 5 students in this intimate evening. Book your tickets now at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - St Andrew's Church N10 - Saturday 26th March 2022 - 7:30pm

On **Saturday 26th March** the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra will be performing at St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill. The concert will start with an Overture by Farrenc followed by a Double Concerto for Clarinet and Viola by Bruch featuring two local soloists, Chris Stripp and Hannah Gardiner. The performance will end with the 5th Symphony by Sibelius, a piece of epic proportions that encapsulates the sound of the Finnish Composer. Tickets for this event can be purchased at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk (£12 for Adults / £8 Concessions / Under 12's Free)



NEW DANCE WORKSHOP - Saturday 18th March - Music Concert Hall

If you are interested in your child taking part please email the Director of Music Mr Jefferies at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk and they will be invited to take part in a workshop on Saturday 18th March from 2-5pm at Fortismere School. There will be no charge for the initial workshop but the overall cost of the project will be £90 per student which will include all sessions and participation in the final performance in October. Please let us know if there are any issues with participation for financial reasons via email and concessions can be made, many thanks to those students and parents that have expressed an interest in taking part already.

The project is an adventurous one for Fortismere Music and will see the creation of two new dance pieces that will be performed at Jacksons Lane on Friday 14th October. The new choreography of Appalachian Spring will be led by Luis Gallo Mudarra the Associate Director at ShipWright whilst the new commission by Thomas Gregory will be led by Simone Pinchera from Central St Martins.

An Evening of Song - Thursday 21st April - St Andrew's Church 7pm

On **Thursday 21st April** there will be a choral concert at St Andrew's Church which will include performances from all year groups as well as the Fortismere Community Choir and invited professional soloists.

As part of this event we will be offering students the opportunity to be coached in a masterclass by Soprano Deborah Norman who has performed all over the world in global events such as the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra as well as being a regular featured soloist for various Raymond Gubbay productions.

If any students are interested in being involved in this concert as a soloist and would like to take part in the afternoon masterclass that will form part of this event then they should contact the Director of Music Mr Jefferies in person or via email at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk



For this event we are also asking Year 7 to participate in a mass choir which will involve as many students as possible with the song "You're Welcome" from Moana. Rehearsals will take place in lessons and after school on a Monday in the Music Block.

Library Notices

World Book Day

It's World Book Day next Thursday 3rd March. As well as dressing up (if you want to) and celebrating all things bookish, it's a day when every child in full time education in Britain is given a voucher to spend on books. We've already started giving these out in Year 7 and 8 library lessons, and other year groups can pick theirs up from the library. The vouchers can either be swapped for a free book (see picture) or used as £1 off any other book of your choice. Use one of our local indies if you can - Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop, Pickled



Pepper in Crouch End or All Good Books in Wood Green. WH Smith, Waterstones and some supermarkets have limited supplies. The vouchers are only valid till 27th March, so don't miss out.

Recommended Reads of the Week

The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's longest running book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustrating in books for children and young people. We'll soon be opening our prestigious Carnegie Award Shadowing Group for Year 8 students. This is an international reading for pleasure initiative that engages thousands of young people in reading the books on the shortlist and voting for their favourites alongside the judges. There will only be 40 spaces in our group so listen out for when we tell you all about it in library and English lessons. The longlist was recently announced – see how many you've already read, and see if you can guess which will be shortlisted on 16th March



Sports & PE Department Notices

Become a Sports Captain and join the Sports Council

I was delighted this week to be able to visit many students in their assemblies to talk about two exciting new initiatives. We strongly believe that our students should play an important part in PE & Sport at Fortismere and have a strong voice with regard to our offering. We are introducing Sports Captains into every tutor group who will relay information, coordinate teams, and generally be the PE Department's voice throughout the school. From the Sports Captains we will elect a Sports Council that will meet half-termly to put forward comments, opinions and suggestions from the student body about Sport & PE at Fortismere. These are important and exciting new initiatives for us and I was delighted that they were received so enthusiastically by our students.

Details about both roles and how to apply were explained to students in their assemblies but please contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Mr Orton

Director of Sport



Your PE Department Meeds Youl



- Volunteer at key events

APPLY TO THE SPORTS COUNCIL TODAY!
SEE MR ORTON FOR MORE DETAILS

U16 Hockey Boys are London Champions

Following on from the recent success of our U18 Boys Hockey team our amazing U16 Boys have only gone and won the London sub-area finals as well! This is a fantastic achievement by both our U16 and U18 teams in a sport, traditionally, dominated by independent schools. It speaks volumes for the quality of Hockey here at Fortismere and we would like to offer a special 'well done' to Hockey teacher Mr Kay. We have created a special Hockey Google Classroom with news of results, fixtures and more.



Calling all Fortismere Swimmers

The Haringey Schools Swimming Gala is taking place after Easter and now is the time to put your name forward if you want to be part of the Fortismere Swimming Team. You should be swimming at a club and have experience of competing or high quality training. There are two age groups: Years 7/8 and Years 9/10. If you would like to take part please see Ms Jackson or email me kjackson@fortismere.org.uk.



Kayakers Wanted!

Continuing the water theme this week, the Team Manager of Haringey water events is looking for students in Years 7-12 to compete at the London Youth Games in kayak slalom and sprint events. Naturally you will need to be an experienced kayaker (I know there are some in the school). This is a great opportunity to represent Haringey in a high profile competition. There will be a 'try out' afternoon before the event. If you would like to be considered please email me sorton@fortismere.org.uk with your name, year group and relevant experience and any qualifications.



Netball Girls in Action

On Tuesday our Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 Netball teams travelled to Greig City Academy to take part in Haringey League games. Our Year 7's struggled against a very mature opposition and were on the wrong side of a heavy defeat. However, the girls kept up their efforts all the way through the game and never gave up. The Year 9's enjoyed a thrilling match and just got pipped 2-3. The Year 10's were on top form and won their match 11-8.







Anyone for Cricket?

Alex Hughes the Participation Officer at Middlesex Cricket has been in touch to let us know about an opportunity for students to play some Indoor 'Tape Ball' cricket every Saturday morning (10am-12pm) at The Selby Centre, London N17 8JL. You don't need to bring any extra equipment and all abilities are very welcome. This is for students aged 8 to 15 years old.. Please email Alex.hughes@middlesexccc.com for further information.

Good luck to our Hockey Teams

Next week our U16 and U18 Hockey teams compete in the regional finals after qualifying through their London areas. The event takes place at Southgate Hockey Club and we wish all our players the very best of luck. Come on Fortismere!

Results & Fixtures

Results This Week

Friday 11th Feb –Hockey U16 - Champions Tuesday 22nd – Netball Y7, Y9 & Y10 v Greig City (A) Y7 1-10, Y9 lost 2-3 Y10 won 11-8

Fixtures Next Week

Monday - Football Y8 v HWS & Heartlands (A) Depart after Lunch

Monday – Basketball U13 & U16 v APS (H)

Monday – Hockey Y7 Tournament at Haberdashers School all day

Tuesday – Hockey U16 Regional Final at Southgate – all day

Wednesday - Football - 1st XI & 2nd X1 v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

Thursday – Football – U16 Girls Middlesex Cup Semi-Final (H) 2.30 KO

Fortismere Easter Holiday Activities

Fortismere Easter Holiday Camps

With lots of fun and games to enjoy from Sports, Photography, Drama and Comics to Chess, the Fortismere holiday camps are ideal if it's a struggle to juggle work and keep your children entertained during the holidays. Our holiday camps will help children to develop new skills but also will also support their social interaction and development.

Activities will run during both weeks of the Easter holidays (not 15th April, Good Friday). Holiday camps start at 09.00 am -15.00 pm each day and take place at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. A full week costs £80. There is also an early drop-off option (8.00am with a light breakfast) for an extra charge.

WEEK 1 ACTIVITIES

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Tiny Twinkles for age 3-6 years

Perfect for 3-6 year olds and led by professional actors with a love for the early years! Each day the children will explore different aspects of the creative arts - learning songs and dances, acting out role play, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of games and fun.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-camp-tiny-twinkles-early-year-age-3-6-tickets-249184877677

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Photography for age 9-15 years

Children will learn to take better photos with any camera they have by using basic composition skills. They will also learn about history and different photographic techniques and get to practise their photography skills. No prior photography knowledge or experience is needed. We'll start with the basics and have fun with all our projects. While not required, having some sort of camera (digital, phone with camera, disposable, etc) would allow your child to take part in all the adventures. The course is run by Maria V Kaz, a branding and events photographer who works with a variety of corporate clients as well as people from the art world. She is passionate about art, books, film and photography.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-photography-club-age-10-15-tickets-257894658867

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Comic Club for age 7-15 years

Children will learn a wide range of skills and produce their own comic strip. The course content covers: INTRODUCTION: An overview of comics and cartoon history and their role as tools for storytelling and communication over the years.

BASIC ANATOMY: Showing how the human body works and is designed to move.

CHARACTER DESIGN: How to work up designs for different types of characters and how they fit into the stories you want to tell.

STORYTELLING: Overview of comics storytelling, layout and structure.

SCRIPTING & LETTERING: A look at the basics of comics scriptwriting and how to produce clear lettering by hand for comics.

COLOURING: An exploration of different colouring techniques (including, if possible, computer colouring). Using the skills developed over the week, children will work on their own comic stories and by the end of the course will have produced their own complete 8-12 page comic strip.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-comic-club-age-7-15-tickets-257787628737

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Chess Club for age 7-15 years

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the chess scenes in the recent Queen's Gambit TV show. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills which are also important in the classroom. The chess course will look at tactics, strategy, chess openings and endgame play, helping participants to become better players.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-camp-chess-age-6-15-4-day-course-tickets-255991175497

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Sports Club for ages 7-15 years

Children will have the opportunity to have fun interacting with others through a range of different sports including football, rounders, tennis and lots of fun competitions.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-camp-multi-sports-age-7-15-tickets-249192139397

Mon 4th April-Fri 8th April

Drama Club for ages 7-15 years

During the fun-filled week children will work on learning improvisation and comedy skills. There will be lots of drama games and exercises to help children develop their confidence and learn new skills. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-cap-drama-age-7-15-tickets-260140636647

WEEK 2 ACTIVITIES

Mon 11th April-Thurs 14th April

Tiny Twinkles for age 3-6 years

Perfect for 3-6 year olds and led by professional actors with a love for the early years! Each day the children will explore different aspects of the creative arts - learning songs and dances, acting out role play, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of games and fun.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-tiny-twinkles-early-years-club-tickets-249186983977

Mon 11th April-Thurs 14th April

Sports Club for ages 7-15 years

Children will have the opportunity to have fun interacting with others through a range of different sports including football, rounders, tennis and lots of fun competitions.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-camp-multi-sports-age-7-15-tickets-249247956347

Mon 11th April-Thurs 14th April

Comic Club for age 7-15 years

Children will learn a wide range of skills and produce their own comic strip. The course content covers: INTRODUCTION: An overview of comics and cartoon history and their role as tools for storytelling and communication over the years.

BASIC ANATOMY: Showing how the human body works and is designed to move.

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https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-holiday-comic-club-age-7-15-tickets-257788270657

Mon 11th April-Thurs 14th April

Drama Club for ages 7-15 years

During the fun-filled week children will work on learning improvisation and comedy skills. There will be lots of drama games and exercises to help children develop their confidence and learn new skills. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-drama-club-tickets-260142321687

Message from the Leader of Haringey Council

Event for parents/carers of children with SEND - 9th March 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing on behalf of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Peray Ahmet, and Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families to invite you to a meeting to discuss services to children with special educational needs and disabilities. Councillors Ahmet and Brabazon want to hear directly from you about your experiences of services, much in the style of a truth and reconciliation commission. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th March from 10.30am – midday and will be held at Alexandra House, Station Road, N22 7TY. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

If you would like to attend the meeting then you will need to register on Eventbrite by following the link <u>here</u>. There are three types of tickets available:

In person

Online – for virtual attendance via Microsoft Teams and

Observer – which will allow you to watch the event but with this ticket you will be unable to participate in the event.

Places are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. We look forward to seeing you at the event.

Regards
Nick Hewlett
Principal Advisor for Early Years Quality
Head of Early Years