



Transforming Lives
Through Education

Newsletter: Friday 19th June 2026

Headteacher's Message

We have an exciting update from the arts this week following a visit from the Donmar Theatre. Our Year 8 students absolutely loved the dynamic sessions they participated in centered on the Jekyll and Hyde text, *Hyde*. Our Drama Dept really enjoyed seeing them engage so deeply, creatively, and enthusiastically with the production.

This set the stage for a truly magnificent Wednesday evening celebrating music and art - starting with a lovely Violin Masterclass held at the Alexandra Palace Creativity Pavilion. A group of Haringey musicians had the opportunity to learn from the phenomenal Syrian violinist Bilal Alnemr, and it was fascinating to hear the immediate, inspiring impact the session had on our talented students' playing. This was followed by our phenomenal A-Level Art & Photography Exhibition. The standard of artwork on display was nothing short of breathtaking, highlighting the immense creativity, hard work, and dedication of our students.

On the topic of exceptional artistic achievement, I am delighted to celebrate Mr. Cristiano, whose own painting has been accepted into the prestigious Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. His artwork is currently on display in a room curated by Humphrey Ocean, positioned alongside renowned contemporary artists. We are incredibly proud to see his talent recognized on such an illustrious stage. There is a photograph of him alongside his piece featured below.

It has also been a busy week for school trips as we strive to create exciting developmental opportunities outside of the regular curriculum. This week, it was a pleasure to see our Year 7 students full of enthusiasm on their trip to London Zoo. They had a fantastic time exploring the exhibits while actively collecting data for their maths curriculum, beautifully demonstrating how practical learning can be brought to life.

It has also been a pleasure to meet with so many Year 8 parents and carers who came to school this week for our Celebration of Learning afternoons. It was wonderful to listen to the children speak so confidently and with real passion about their projects this academic year. They have truly marked themselves out with their dedication, bringing pride to our school community. For our Year 7 parents, a reminder that your Celebration of Learning afternoons begin next Monday, 22nd June. .

I wish you all a wonderful, restful weekend!

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Feedback at Fortismere
[here](#)



Student Online Safety

Proposed Under-16 Social Media Ban

You may have seen the recent government announcement regarding plans to introduce a social media ban for children under 16, *Internet Matters* has put together a straightforward guide outlining what the proposals involve, the potential timelines, and practical ways you can support your child's online safety right now. You can read the full breakdown here: [UK Social Media Ban Guide](#)

And a reminder that Haringey are running online workshops to help parents and carers to support their children and young people to use technology in a healthy, safe and positive way. Workshops last an hour on: **Tue 23/06 (7pm); Mon 29/06 (7pm); Thurs 09/07 (10am)** [Book a place here](#)

Eco Committee

TfL Pioneers Project - Winning Walkers Announced

Tuesday this week was the grand finale of our **'Stamps for Steps'** campaign! These Eco-Active Days have been a fantastic success, with students swapping four wheels for two feet to boost both their own wellbeing and the planet.



On Wednesday, the Eco-Committee used a digital prize wheel to randomly select our lucky winners from everyone who took part in the campaign. A massive congratulations goes to the following students::

- 1st prize Skip the lunch queue pass for a week - Arthur Goldwater
- 2nd prize London Transport Water Bottle - Aurelien Gallais-White
- 3rd prize London Transport Museum Stationary - Lily Kopaliani

Next week, some of the Eco-Committee members are off to the Transport for London Museum to take part in an Eco-Seminar with other schools from across London who also took part in the event.

Art & Photography Notices

Mr Cristiano Celebrates Royal Academy Achievement

Congratulations to Mr Cristiano, whose painting has been accepted into the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. We are extremely proud of his success and delighted to see his work recognised on such a prestigious stage.

"That's me then at the Royal Academy Summer Show, in a room curated by Humphrey Ocean. The right of the Tracey Emin, to the left of the Christopher Le Brun, just above the Humphrey Ocean car, just behind Gavin Turk's bronze flat tyre."

The Summer Exhibition runs from 16 June to 23 August and entry is free for children under-16 when accompanied by a paying adult.



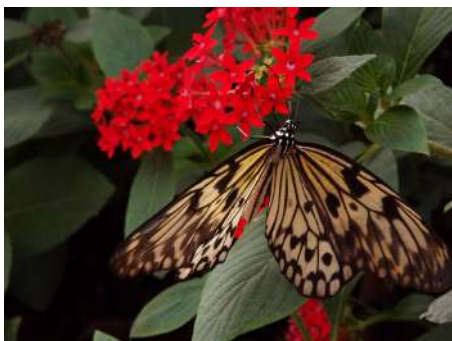
Enter The Georgia Morris Photography Prize 2026

A reminder for students in Years 7-9 that there is still time to enter this year's Georgia Morris Photography Prize before the deadline. Georgia was a Year 7 student at Fortismere who loved photography and was passionate about nature and wildlife. After her brave fight against cancer in 2016, her family created this annual prize in her memory to inspire young photographers at Fortismere. **The theme for 2026 is Nature and Wildlife** and students can submit their photos of animals, plants, landscapes or anything from the natural world that inspires them. Prizes are amazon vouchers from £150-£50.



Email all entries to Mr Holden gholden@fortismere.org.uk by the 30th June.

Here are some of Georgia's photos to inspire you.



Read the full article and see more of Georgia's photos on the [Art & Photography Extra-Curricular page here](#)

Frida Kahlo at the Tate Modern

This term, our Year 7 students have been studying Frida Kahlo's life and artwork as part of their art curriculum, exploring her distinctive style and powerful themes.

We would encourage parents and carers to visit the exhibition, *Frida: The Making of an Icon*, if they can, as it offers a wonderful opportunity to see her work first-hand and gain a deeper insight into what the students have been learning in class. The exhibition is running until 3 January 2027 at the Tate Modern.



Modern Languages

Fortismere en France - Exchange Highlights

A huge thank you to the students who took part in this year's French exchange with Saint-Michel in Annecy, and to the parents and carers whose support helped make the trip possible. During our stay, students enjoyed a wide range of activities across the Haute-Savoie region. Highlights included a cruise on Lake Annecy, exploring the village of Talloires, visiting the Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard (the inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty Castle), and enjoying a traditional Savoyard lunch at the Col de la Forclaz. We also hiked on the Plateau des Glières, learning the sacrifice of the French resistance in this region.

Students spent a day in Lyon, where they explored the Old Town and visited the museum of cinema and film miniatures. Another day took us to Grenoble for a bilingual escape room challenge and a trip on the



city's famous cable cars, offering spectacular views across the Alps. Our students are also now well aware of the scale of the G7 summit which took place in nearby Evian!

The students were excellent ambassadors for Fortismere throughout and made lasting friendships. We are very grateful to our colleagues, students and host families at Saint-Michel for their warm welcome and hospitality, and we look forward to continuing this valued friendship between our schools next year.

Music Notices

Violin Masterclass

Yesterday's masterclass by Bilal Alnemr was a lovely event featuring three talented Haringey students (pictured with our accompanying piano teacher, Sonja Cvetkovic).

Thank you to the Haringey Music Service for letting us use the Alexandra Palace Creativity Pavilion, and to Bilal - it was fascinating to see the immediate, inspiring progress the students made in such a short time.



Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - 20th June St James Church N10

The orchestra's summer concert is nearly here and we have been hosting the eminent Howard Williams at rehearsals - someone more used to conducting in the Royal Albert Hall than our music concert hall!

Here's a 'then and now' of our soloist Bilal and conductor Howard - the first way back when they first met in 2008 in Syria, and this week at rehearsal.

Tickets are free for students with code FORTSTUDENT26 and adult tickets are just £16.



As well as the violin concerto, the rest of the programme has a theme of Spanish and Mexican dance with the film music from *West Side Story*. Drummers should definitely come along - there'll be five percussionists playing around 30 different percussion instruments! [Book tickets here](#).

After School Concerts by Instrumental & Vocal Students

Family, friends and fellow music students are invited to come and celebrate the achievements of our instrumental and vocal students at three informal after school concerts. Students who'd like to perform should tell their instrumental teacher or [sign up via this form](#). No tickets required, just turn up at 3.30 pm at the Music Concert Hall (Creighton Avenue and Tetherdown entrances will be open). Tea/coffee provided - and chocolates for all performers!

- **Piano & Voice Concert - Thurs 25th June** (students of Izabella Bako, Sonja Cvetkovic and Raphaëlle Topenot)
- **Guitar Concert - Tues 30th June** (all students of Jakub Klimiuk)
- **Piano & Flute Concert - Tues 7th July** (students of Nick Lacey and John Eady)

Drama Department Notices

School of Rock Auditions!



After much speculation, we are very excited to announce auditions for our next production **SCHOOL OF ROCK**.

We will be holding auditions on **Wednesday 24th June** and **Thursday 25th June from 3:15-5pm** in North Wing Hall.

Check your google classrooms for audition scenes and any extra information.

We can't wait to ROCK with you!

Follow us on instagram/fb/tiktok @fortismersedrama

Donmar Warehouse presents HIDE!

The Donmar Warehouse visited the Drama department this week with their show 'HIDE'. A deeply gripping and darkly funny play, inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

Filled with laughs and scares alike, the Year 8s thoroughly enjoyed the overall experience and we are so grateful to The Donmar for picking Fortismere for their debut performance before embarking on their schools tour!



Young Creatives and Technicians 2026 - Free 5 Day Theatre Course 10-14th August 2026

Explore a week in theatre with the Donmar Warehouse & Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Gain hands-on experience with industry experts and take the next step towards a career in Set and Costume Design, Lighting, Sound, and Stage Management & Stage Technology. Discover how artists apply artistic and technical skills in real productions, explore pathways into work including apprenticeships, Higher Education and early career employment opportunities. You'll build a portfolio of work, meet top industry professionals, and watch a performance at the Donmar.

The programme is open to applications from all young people aged 16–19 in London, and anyone is welcome to apply. A proportion of places are reserved for young people who have historically had less access to training and creative opportunities, and those who are local to the Donmar & Royal Central.

[Click for more details](#) and apply [HERE](#) by 9am on Monday 13th July 2026.

Science Department

Inspiring Scientist of the Week.....Mary Anning

Mary Anning was a British **fossil collector and palaeontologist** whose discoveries changed the understanding of prehistoric life, providing important evidence for the developing sciences of geology and extinction. Born in 1799 on the Dorset coast, from a young age, she searched the cliffs for fossils. She discovered some of the **first complete ichthyosaur and plesiosaur skeletons** found, helping other scientists learn about extinct marine reptiles. Although women were rarely recognised in science during her lifetime, today she is celebrated as one of the most important fossil hunters in history and a **pioneer in palaeontology**. The **Natural History Museum** houses **significant fossils** including her ichthyosaur, plesiosaur and pterosaur skeletons found along the Dorset coast.

Further reading/viewing on Mary Anning: *Ammonite* a 2020 film starring Kate Winslet (Lionsgate Pictures) ; *The First Female Fossil Hunter: The Life and Legacy of Mary Anning* by Jayson Kowinsky (Pen & Sword History); *Mary Anning: Victorian Fossil Hunters Stolen Fame* (You Tube) <https://tinyurl.com/ykz3zuee> .



Going For Gold in the Physics Olympiad

Our Year 10 GCSE Physics students recently took part in the national British Physics Olympiad Online Challenge. We are absolutely thrilled to report that Fortismere achieved a higher percentage of Gold awards than the national average! Huge congratulations to everyone who earned a certificate, with a special mention to Carys Jenner for achieving the highest score in the school. We hope this is just the first of many successes as these talented students continue their physics journey.

Gold award winners: Ahmed Hussein; Alex McKendry; Alyssa Ros; Andrei Volkov; Angus Thorburn; Anna-Louise Wheatley; Anthony Marton; Arthur Appleby; Aurelien Gallais-White; Ben Brown; Berke Binkaya; Carys Jenner; Ethan Moreno Fernandez; Goktay Tujen; Huxley Behagg-Elphick; Inigo Pearce; Jackson Layton-Henry; Jude Ward; Lucas Seth; Neave Mitchener; Petr Rotchev; Ralph Haigh; Rasul Bedretdinov; Samadhi De Alwis; Samuel Kohler; Sylvie Kayesekar; Talya Eris; Tom Sharp; Zeki Yakup

Sport & PE Notices

Silver Medal Winners in the London Youth Games

Well done to Hanna, Etta and Arielle (Year 8), they represented Fortismere and Haringey last Saturday in the London Youth Games Girls Football. There were 32 entries from all London Boroughs - Haringey made it all the way to the final but unfortunately lost in a penalty shootout. Silver medalists - Brilliant work!



Double Cricket Success for Fortismere Girls

Huge congratulations to our Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 girls' cricket teams! They enjoyed a highly successful day at the North Middlesex Cricket Ground on Thursday, **winning tournament titles in both age groups**.

I was incredibly impressed by the fantastic team spirit, determination, sharp tactics, and excellent fair play on display throughout the day. A truly brilliant achievement - well done to everyone involved!



Jazz Dance Workshop - Tuesday 7th July

We are excited to host **Step into Dance** for a fantastic 3-hour, Jazz-themed workshop! This is a special taster session ahead of the launch of our new after-school Dance Club this September. All years welcome. If you would like to take part, please add your name to the sign-up sheet **outside the PE office in the Sports Hall** as soon as possible.

Sports Day - 8th July 2026

We're very excited to let you know that Sports Day this year is on **WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY**.

More details to follow next week.



Geography Notice

Year 10 Geography Trips - Thursday 25th & Friday 26th June

The first part of the compulsory GCSE Geography fieldwork takes place next week, investigating how quality of life differs in urban areas. The data collected will form the foundation for upcoming data analysis lessons.

- **Meeting Point & Time:** Twyford Avenue gate at **8:35am** for registration.
- **Forms:** All permission and medical forms must be handed in before the day of the trip.
- **What to bring:** A packed lunch (strictly no nuts) and plenty of water.
- **What to wear:** Check the forecast the day before and wear suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor walking.
- Students must check Google Classroom and speak with their teachers to catch up on any work missed in other subjects while away.

Thurs 25 June: Classes 10D Ms Sheldon and 10C Mr Beaumont

Fri 26 June: Classes 10B Mr Kelsey and 10A Ms Brough *Please note although the normal School day finishes earlier on Friday, the students on this trip will return as close to 3pm as possible.*

Travel: We will travel by London Underground from East Finchley to King's Cross, and then by foot. All students will return to school as a group and be dismissed from the **Twyford Avenue Gate** at the end of the trip. Please ensure arrangements are in place for your child's journey home from school.

Year 11 Notices

Exams & Celebrations!

GCSE Exams - Huge congratulations to our Year 11 students on completing their GCSE exams. It was wonderful to see so many happy, relieved faces following the final exams this week. Throughout this exam season, students have demonstrated exemplary maturity and dedication. They have truly earned their long summer break and we wish them all fantastic holidays!

Celebration Assembly - A reminder that we will be holding the Year 11 Celebration Assembly this **Monday 22nd June** in the South Wing Hall. Students should **arrive between 2.45pm and 3.00pm** for a **prompt start at 3.10pm**. All students are invited to follow the Fortismere tradition and dress up for this fun celebration - we look forward to seeing everyone in their creative costumes on Monday!

Year 11 Prom - Prom is being held at **The Engine Rooms (East Finchley) on Wednesday 24th June from 6pm-10pm**. This is an alcohol-free event and any student seen under the influence will be banned from entering the venue. We are really looking forward to seeing all Year 11s for an evening of fun to celebrate their time at Fortismere and to wish them best of luck for the future!

Year 7

Celebration of Learning Events 22nd-26th June

Our Year 7 Celebration of Learning afternoons are taking place next week. The timetable for the week is below - note the different start time for Friday 26th June.

For parents of children in 7SPE, 7MYA, 7PSI, 7TAD, 7MBE, 7JPR, 7DRI & 7NCO - Come to the South Wing entrance (Tetherdown Gate) for 2pm where Ms Brooks and Ms Fox will meet you, and take you to your venue. Estimated end time is 3.30pm (slightly later than the end of school at 3.10pm).

For parents of children in 7VMO - Come to the South Wing entrance (Tetherdown Gate) for 1.40pm where Ms Brooks and Ms Fox will meet you, and take you to your venue. Estimated end time is 3.10pm (40 minutes after the official end of school on Friday (2.30pm)). The late finish allows us to accommodate this special event - thank you, in advance, to the children and parents of 7VMO, for your flexibility.

Mon 22nd June 2-3.30pm	Tue 23rd June 2-3.30pm	Wed 24th June 2-3.30pm	Thurs 25th June 2-3.30pm	Fri 26th June 1.40-3.10pm
7SPE/X1 7MYA/Z1	7PSI/Y1 7TAD/X3	7MBE/Z3 7JPR/Y3	7DRI/Z2 7NCO/Y2	7VMO/X1

The Celebration of Learning brings tutor groups and parents together to watch each child present their best work from the year. Due to space limitations, we kindly ask that **only one parent or carer** attends per child. However, you are very welcome to film your child's presentation to share with other family members

This is also a great opportunity to meet Ms Antonia Brough, who will be your child's Head of Year from Year 8 through to Year 11. Ms Brough takes over the year group at the end of June while I prepare for the arrival of the new Year 6.

Now in its fifth year, parents and carers consistently tell us how much they enjoy coming in to connect with teachers, meet other families, and discover more about their child's school experiences. We do hope you will join us!

Ms Brooks (Assistant Headteacher KS3) and Ms Fox (Year 7 Head of Year)

Student Catering

Student Lunch Accounts

As we approach the end of the academic year, please ensure that any outstanding balances on your child's catering account are cleared as soon as possible. If you require any clarification or have any questions regarding catering accounts, please contact the school office at office@fortismere.org.uk or call 020 365 4400.

Please also note that from September, if a student catering account is overspent by £10 or more, they will be required to bring a packed lunch or top up their account before purchasing meals.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Friends of Fortismere PTA

Fortismere Summer Festival - Sunday 5th July 12pm-5pm

Don't forget to get your tickets and tokens in advance! Tokens are 25 for £20 only in advance!

🐕 Only 10 dogs per category for the ***dog show*** so sign your pooch up now and don't miss out!

All tickets and bookings here - [Book here](#)

Help Spread the Word!

We're looking for volunteers to help distribute festival flyers in the local community. Could you spare a little time to help? Flyers can be shared in lots of places :

- On your street and with neighbours
- In local community spaces
- Along the high street and in local businesses
- At primary schools

Every flyer helps us reach more families and make this year's festival a great success. If you, or your kids can help, please get in touch: [:friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.
Friends of Fortismere

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.



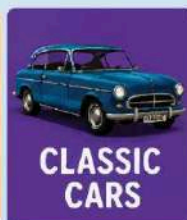
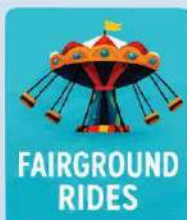
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FORTISMERE SUMMER Festival!

SUNDAY 5TH JULY

12pm - 5pm



FESTIVAL ENTRY PRICES:

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ON THE DOOR

OR **£3**
IN ADVANCE

UNDER 18'S
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