

Headteacher's Message

Last night's International Women's Day event, led by our brilliant Fem Soc, was truly inspiring. We heard from Hannah Gripton from Refuge about supporting women experiencing domestic violence, Melissa Brown (Ivy's mum and a TV executive) on navigating male-dominated career paths, and Jennifer Verson on the experiences of migrant women. Ms Duggan our Head of Social Sciences, explored the radical origins of International Women's Day itself, and Ms Common, our Director of Sixth Form, shared insights on the progression of women's rights in Canada. Our students presented powerfully on the portrayal of women in mainstream films and the riot grrrl movement. Events like these remind us why marking IWD matters; celebrating progress while recognising there's still work to do. Thank you to our amazing Sixth Form FemSoc team for organising the event and to everyone who came along to support our students.

This week has been Careers Week at Fortismere, and it's been fantastic to see how lessons across the curriculum have focused on the exciting careers our subjects can lead to. Your children have been learning how studying history could lead to roles in law, or heritage conservation, how geography connects to urban planning and environmental consultancy, how science opens doors to medicine, engineering and research, and so much more. Our teachers have also added posters to their classroom doors outlining how they made their own career choices and the paths they took to get where they are today. This has real impact because it helps students see that career journeys aren't always linear, and that the adults they learn from every day have their own stories of exploration, change and discovery. Making these connections explicit helps students understand that what they're learning now has genuine relevance to their futures.

I wanted to acknowledge that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to affect many in our community. We know that some of our families may be feeling the impact of these events, through personal connections, concern for loved ones, or the weight of seeing such suffering. Please know we are here to support you and your children. LB Haringey has put together some resources which can be accessed [here](#). At Fortismere, we are committed to being a place where every family feels valued, supported and heard. Our strength lies in our diversity and in the care we show one another, especially during difficult times.

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Safeguarding Information

Calendar

11.03	Governors Round Table Event for Parents/Carers 6pm SW Hall
19.03	Comedy Night 7pm for 8pm start SW Hall
18.03	Parenting Support Surgery 5.30pm Online <i>Details to follow on ParentMail</i>



Full details and tickets available [HERE](#)

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

International Women's Day

FemSoc

Yesterday, the Fortismere Feminist Society (FemSoc) hosted its annual International Women's Day Event. As in previous years, the evening brought together an inspiring range of speakers from both within and beyond the Fortismere community, each offering their own perspective on women's rights, history and contemporary issues. As always, the event was organised and led entirely by students.

We were delighted to welcome two external guest speakers. Melissa Brown, a television executive producer responsible for programmes including *Great British Menu* and *Glow Up*, spoke about her experiences working as a woman in the traditionally male-dominated field of media. Jennifer Verson, one of the founders of Migrant Artists Mutual Aid, shared insights into the organisation's work as a cross-national network of women, mothers, migrants, artists, academics and activists. The network supports women seeking sanctuary and campaigns for justice within the migration system.



Fortismere staff and students also contributed to the evening, with Ms Duggan exploring the radical origins of International Women's Day, while Ms Common discussed the progression of women's rights in Canada across the twentieth century through the experiences of three generations of women in her family. Year 12 FemSoc students Lily RQ and Anushka examined the portrayal of women in mainstream film, while Stella and Lily K presented on the Riot Grrrl movement and its cultural and political impact.

Hannah Gripton, representing the charity Refuge, opened the event and spoke powerfully about the organisation's work supporting women escaping abusive situations and helping them to rebuild and stabilise their lives. All profits raised during the evening will be donated to Refuge, and so far we have collected over £450 for this important cause. You can still [make a donation via our JustGiving page](#) and we would love to reach our target of £500!

Thank you to everyone who spoke, attended and supported the event, helping to make this year's event such a success and a huge well done to the student organisers.

World Book Day

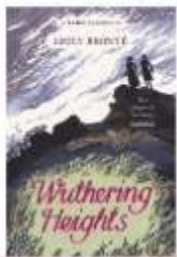
English Department do World Book Day

This week we celebrated World Book Day in English lessons. Students considered the power of books, read a short story together and did some lovely writing in response. It was excellent to hear about the influence and impact reading has had on our students across their lives and the English department enjoyed sharing the books that changed them too - see the slide below that was shared with students! How many of these books have you read?

Big thanks to Ms Adams and Ms Thompson who donned their fancy dress as characters from our Year 8 and Sixth form curriculum books. They recommend both *The Great Gatsby* and *The Haunting of Tyrese Walker!*



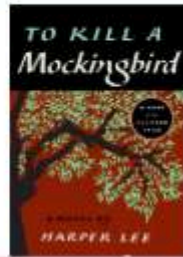
Books that changed the English department's life...



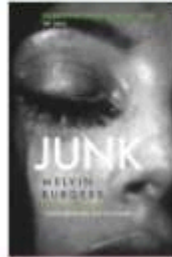
Ms Butcher



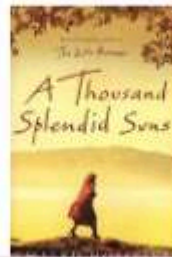
Mr Martin



Ms Cunningham



Ms Whyte



Ms Gelagotellis



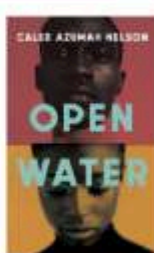
Mr Hearty



Ms Adams



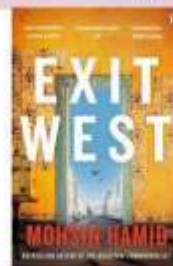
Ms Doogan



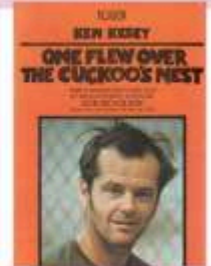
Ms Thompson



Ms Salter



Mr Dreeben



Mr Allen

We encourage students to enter the following creative writing competitions, to get their writing out there, to be read and enjoyed by others too - follow the links to find out more: [BBC Young Writer's Award 2026](#), [The HG Wells Short Story Competition](#), [Young Wild Writers Competition](#), [Stranger Sagas Creative Writing Competition](#).

Super Sparx Readers

The English department would like to congratulate the following students for their outstanding effort with Sparx Reader this week. Well done for exceeding your homework targets!

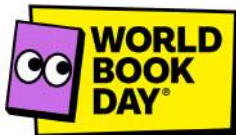
Year 7 – Eleme Khutshishvili: 814 SRP

Year 8 – Dylan Ayres: 928 SRP

Year 9 – Ishika Sharma: 921 SRP

Library

The Library do World Book Day



World Book Day 2026 has seen lots of different activities happening here in the library.

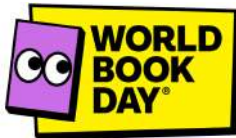
Year 7 and Year 8 students went on *speed dates with books* during their library lessons this week! They were given a set of different books and limited time to read and look at them; when the time was up, students had to decide if it was love at first read and they would borrow the book or if it was a book date-fail and it was going back on the shelf.





We also had a *blind date with a book* shelf, openly inspired by those run by book shops. This display allows students to choose a book based simply on a few words and its genre, but instead of buying it, they borrow the book. It has been a resounding success, and the shelf needed restocking within a couple of hours of launching it. Fortismere students do love a novelty, especially to do with books!

Trolley Naming Competition



Thank you to all the students who entered the World Book Day Trolley Naming Competition! We had some fabulous and creative entries and it was not an easy decision to make, however we are very partial to puns over here in the library, and we are happy to announce the winning name: **The TrolLEY under the bridge!**

Well done to our winner, Herman Joslyn in Year 7 who wins a book for coming up with such a great name.



New Library Books

The best way to celebrate World Book Day is to sit down with a good book, and despite already having plenty of books in the library, we couldn't resist acquiring a few more, and we are always very grateful to the donations we receive from our students and their families. Check out our new entries literally!



Careers & Work Related Learning

Careers Week - Opening Doors to Future Possibilities

Last week, students explored the world of work in exciting ways for Careers Week. In tutor time and subject lessons, staff brought careers to life by connecting their subjects to real-world industries and opportunities.

Students discovered careers they'd never considered before. Ms Herrero shared: "Many students have told me how useful they found it and how they have become aware of careers they had never thought about before." **Staff opened up about their own journeys too.** Teachers shared their career paths, their first jobs, and what inspired them to enter teaching – giving students a personal insight into how careers develop and change over time. The positive feedback from students shows just how valuable it is when we help them see the connection between what they're learning now and where it could take them in the future. **Talk to your child** and ask them what new career ideas they've discovered this week and what surprised them.

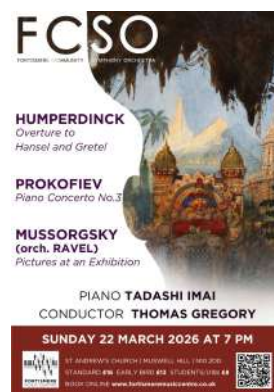
Music Department

FREE Student Concert Tickets! Sunday 22nd March 7pm St Andrews Church N10

FREE tickets for students for the **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra concert on Sunday 22nd March!**

If you've never gone to one of our community orchestra concerts, give it a go on 22nd March! You will be amazed at the incredibly high standard and it's a wonderful programme, with the ever-popular Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky (orchestrated by Ravel) in the second half, and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 in the first half.

[Click here](#) to go to the booking page. Use code FORTSTUDENT26 at checkout for free student tickets. Hope to see you there!



Piano Masterclass - Tuesday 17th March 4.30pm NW Music Hall

The soloist in the Orchestra concert on 22nd March is a long-standing associate of the Fortismere Music Centre, Tadashi Imai, who will also be giving a masterclass in South Wing Hall on Tuesday 17th March at 4.30pm.

Tadashi will be coaching some of our most talented pianists at Fortismere as well as at Queen Elizabeth's School. We strongly recommend that all students having piano lessons attend this.

Tickets for students are FREE using the code FORTSTUDENT26 at checkout.

[Click here](#) to book masterclass tickets.



Spring Concert - Thursday 26th March 7pm NW Music Hall

There's a fabulous line-up for this year's Spring Concert on 26th March, with the Youth and Junior Choirs, Samba Bateria, String Ensemble, bands, solos and more, all joining forces in the grand finale with a wonderful David Bowie medley! [Click here](#) to book your tickets

Drama Department Notices

Year 11 GCSE Exams

Our Year 11 GCSE Drama cohort has successfully completed the final practical performance of their Drama journey. After months of dedicated rehearsal, students performed two extracts from a play with confidence, professionalism, and excellence. Throughout the process, they demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and resilience, supporting one another as they refined their performances. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm they have shown, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop their talents in the future.



Nicky Gavron Legacy Project at Jackson's Lane

The Drama department always advertises castings, jobs, work experience and exciting opportunities for learning and developing talent locally. This (paid!) opportunity that we advertised a few weeks back, was taken up by one of our Year 13 students.

Jackson's Lane was looking for young people in Haringey to take part in a filmed project celebrating the political legacy of Nicky Gavron. Gavron was a prominent London politician and campaigner whose work in planning, sustainability, and cultural policy has had a lasting influence on the city. She was also one of the founders of Jacksons Lane Arts Centre.



Her estate commissioned this project to record five political speeches that Gavron delivered herself, by five young actors. Rosalie Richmond Wright in Year 13 successfully passed the screen test and writes: "I saw this opportunity to get involved with the Jackson's Lane project and I was immediately interested because I love their work and the legacy project aspect of this really interested me. I never expected to get the job but after applying and then auditioning I got an email that I was offered it. After weekly rehearsals for around four weeks we had an all day filming session at Jackson's Lane with all the other actors involved as well as the filmmakers commissioned for this project (@pinkstaticfilms on instagram). Meeting and collaborating with everyone on the shoot day was really enjoyable and has made me super excited to go into the industry in the future. Credits to @charlieflintphotography and @pinkstaticfilms for the photos taken."

Year 12 & 13 Theatre Trip to *American Psycho* at the Almeida

What a treat meeting and chatting with Arty Froushan and Oli Higginson after the matinee performance of 'American Psycho the musical' at the Almeida Theatre. Honestly, this 2026 revival is an absolute fever dream. From the second the synth-pop kicks in, you're sucked right back into that sterile, neon-drenched 80s hellscape. Arty Froushan is terrifyingly good as Patrick Bateman; he captures that hollow, 'mask of sanity' vibe perfectly—one minute he's obsessing over the font on a business card, and the next, well... things get messy.



Rupert Goold's direction is as sharp as that meat cleaver swinging across the stage. The way the ensemble moves through Lynne Page's choreography feels so mechanical and cold, mirroring the vapidness of Wall Street. Es Devlin's set remains a masterclass in minimalist chic, turning the stage into a literal killing floor that feels both claustrophobic and infinite. It's slick, it's bloody, and gave the students something exciting to write about in their A level essays!

KS3 Drama Club - The Start of Something Great!

We have had a great turnout for our first two sessions of KS3 Drama Club with lots more interest and students signing up than we had anticipated - but we are certainly not complaining. It's amazing to see so much interest in Drama and have students from across KS3 come together for this, also supported by some of our amazing Y12s who have been facilitating sessions too.

With the warmer weather, we stepped outside for this week's Drama Club and explored a mix of active, energetic Drama games, as well as scene creation, and improvisation. We can already tell it's going to be a fabulous term with Drama Club. Thanks to all who have attended so enthusiastically so far!



Sport & PE Notices

Indoor Cricket County Cup Finals

Our Y8 Girls took part in the County Indoor Cricket Finals this week. Six schools took part, each having qualified as best in their borough. The cricket was of a high standard and our girls did very well in all their matches losing by only 2 runs to North London Collegiate School and a very close match versus Godolphin & Latymer. We finished a very respectable 4th in the whole of Middlesex - well done to all involved!



Haringey Boys Basketball Week

Our teams performed brilliantly in Basketball Week! Year 7 played on Monday afternoon and really should have made it to the final losing by only 1 point to APS - they finished 3rd in the Borough. Player of the tournament was Gus. Year 9 also played really well against very strong opposition on Tuesday and they also finished a very respectable 3rd. Well played all!



More Middlesex Cup Finals!

After our senior team made it to the cup final last week it was now the girls turn. The Year 7 girls team travelled to Hillingdon to play Queensmead School last Thursday afternoon - it was a very close game but the girls worked hard and showed great resilience to win 2-1 (goals from Gracie and Viyan) and earn themselves a place in the final against APS on Thursday 19th March at Haringey Borough Football Club.



The Year 8 team also had a very tough match at home on Wednesday afternoon versus Wren Academy Finchley. The teams were evenly matched but we kept going with our attempts on goal and Etta scored twice, Arielle was strong in defence making it impossible for them to get past. The hard work paid off and the girls now have a cup final match to look forward to on Thursday 19th March. Good luck to all.



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 9th March	Haringey Indoor Athletics Year 8,9,10 at Lea Valley 12-4 pm
Tuesday 10th March	Haringey Year 7 and 8 Girls Basketball - APS 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Wednesday 11th March	U18 Middlesex Cup Final at New River 2 pm KO
Thursday 12th March	Haringey Year 9 and 10 Basketball - APS 1.30 PM - 3.30 pm

Reminder: Mini London Marathon Trials Deadline 8th March

Haringey Mini Marathon Trials 2026 - Do a 3k Run in your own time. Email your result with proof to this

address craigharingeysports@yahoo.com

Eligible if you live in Haringey or attend a Haringey School. Run anytime and submit your time by 8th March.
Age ranges: U14: 12–13 1st Sept 2012– 31st Aug 2014 Years 7–8; U16: 14–15 1st Sept 2010– 31st Aug 2012 Years 9–10; U18: 16–17 1st Sept 2008– 31st Aug 2010 Years 11–12

LINC

Dyslexia Diagnosis and Assessment - LINC Guide

LINC have written a guidance document to help parents and carers understand dyslexia diagnosis and assessment. Your child doesn't need a formal diagnosis to receive support in school as we provide appropriate support based on our own evidence and observations. However, if you are considering a private assessment, the guidance document explains what to look for, questions to ask, and deadlines to be aware of. You can access the document on the school website [here](#).

Friends of Fortismere

Fortismere Comedy Night Thursday 19th March Doors 7pm

Like a local comedy night? Like pizza?? Free on Thursday March 19th?? **Friends of Fortismere present the legendary Fortismere Comedy night sponsored by Amici Miei pizzas!**

Tickets are selling fast! Don't miss out on a fabulous night of comedy [BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

Fantastic lineup with acts confirmed so far and a new comedian announced!



Angelos Epithemiou - Unwitting star of Shooting Stars (BBC2), Dave's One Night Stand and Channel 4's The Angelos Epithemiou Show. Angelos Epithemiou is the creation of critically acclaimed performer, Dan Renton Skinner, who has starred in such blockbuster films as The Spy Who Dumped Me, High Rise, and Swallows and Amazons for BBC Films and such TV serial-classics as The Tracy Ullman Show, Friday Night Dinner, and The Wrong Mans.

Shazia Mirza - Headlining our night is Shazia, an award winning British stand up comedian and writer. In 2023 The Telegraph named her as one of the **50 defining comedians** of the century. Her TV credits include: Eastenders (BBC) 'QI' (BBC), 'Would I lie To You' (BBC) Celebrity Apprentice (BBC1)

Vlad Ilich - 2025 British Comedian of the Year! Vlad is a multilingual stand-up comedian and actor who has performed internationally and across the UK, debuted his solo show *Vladislav Baby Don't Hurt Me* at The Pleasance.

Jenny Bede - Award-winning writer, actor and musical comedian. She has appeared in numerous TV shows including Lovesick and Broadchurch, created multiple acclaimed Edinburgh shows, and built a following through her parody music videos and live musical comedy.

And more to be confirmed soon.

 **PRE-ORDER your Amici Miei Pizza-** available from 7.30pm and enjoy a fully stocked bar and snacks 

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.

