




Transforming Lives  
Through Education

Weekly Newsletter Issue: Friday 4th February 2022

School Leadership Messages	Contents							
<p><b>Covid Update:</b> New guidance</p> <p>New <a href="#">guidance</a> for schools was issued by the DfE on January 19th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- From 11 January a positive lateral flow test for students with no symptoms does not need to be confirmed by a positive PCR (there are exceptions, please see the Government guidance).</li><li>- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after <b>5 full days</b> if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.</li><li>- Positive lateral flow tests must be reported to the NHS so that normal track and trace procedures can be followed.</li><li>- We will continue to supply packs of 7 LFTs to our students. Please continue to test at home twice-weekly.</li><li>- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.</li></ul> <p><b>Very close contacts</b></p> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should take an <u>LFD test every day for 7 days</u>: testing should start from when the first person in the home tests positive as household transmission is very likely to happen. If at any time the student becomes symptomatic, they must stay at home and arrange for a PCR test immediately (regardless of having already had a negative PCR test result).</p> <p><b>Face coverings</b></p> <p>Covid case rates remain high in the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green areas so we are requesting students to continue to wear masks in the communal areas and assemblies. This will be reviewed on Friday 11 February..</p>	<a href="#">Co-Headteachers</a>							
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Year of the Tiger								

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

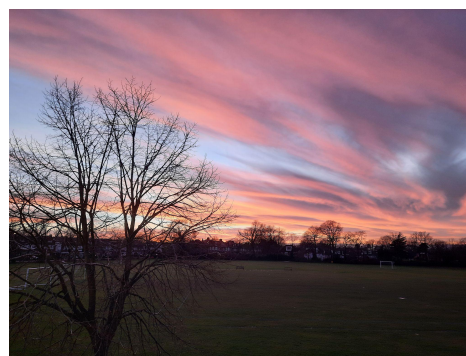
This week saw the return of the Co-Heads' surgeries. It is always interesting and informative meeting with parents and carers and Wednesday's meetings were no exception. We have taken away a number of actions from the meetings: we will revisit parent/carer communications where it is important to identify the individual student as opposed to generic mailings. We were alarmed to hear from one of the parents that some students have identified an increase in the use of vapes; please see the response of Ms Sullivan, the Deputy Head who leads on safeguarding, in this week's Newsletter.

Two weeks ago we touched on the issue of the rise in criminality in the local area in the Co-Heads' message. This was revisited during the surgery and we would reiterate the importance of the reporting of any crimes so that the police will allocate our community the resources necessary. Strategies for keeping safe are taught to students via our curriculum and we also offer support for any students who have been victims of crime. The role of the tutor (another area discussed during the surgery) is instrumental in giving our students a trusted adult with whom they can share concerns or report events which have made them feel uncomfortable. We would urge parents and carers to support us in resisting 'snitching' culture: reporting helps to keep all of us safe.

February is LGBT+ History month. A variety of subject areas, including the History Department, will be marking the month after half term. Mr McGuinness, maths teacher and LGBTQIA+ Champion, is hosting a webinar for parents and carers on issues concerning gender identity and positive conversations on 8 February. More information has been sent via parentmail on Wednesday. The talk is an annual event and the feedback from parents and carers in previous years has been uniformly positive.

Next week is the last week before half term and continues to be busy. The Music Department is hosting a music and poetry event. The last onsite music and poetry event was our last event before our closure in March 2020. We continue to be delighted that we can welcome our community back on to site, although we would still urge the wearing of masks. We hope to see many of our parents and carers at the event.

This Wednesday saw a spectacular sunset. We are very privileged to have the land and views that are the envy of more urban schools. We leave you with a picture of our site during this glorious sunset and wish you all a peaceful and relaxing weekend, and Happy Chinese New Year!



## Safeguarding Notices

### Resources for parents/carers

#### Phones, vapes and other banned items!

As you are aware we search for items that our students may bring into school which are banned from the premises. We have recently found a number of students in possession of vapes.

Please do speak with your children about vaping and the obvious dangers associated with any form of harmful substances. This article on Smoking from [Childline](#) may support you in having a conversation with your child.



### Things I Wish My Parents Had Known

The Children's Commissioner has recently published a very useful support guide for parents/carers about how to talk to your child about Online Sexual Harassment. The guide is based on the voices of young people and gives adults tips on how to tackle this subject. We highly recommend that you take some time to have a read of it - you can [download a copy here](#). If you have any concerns or need any advice please get in touch with me or email [safetalk@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:safetalk@fortismere.org.uk)

**Kirsten Sullivan**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**



## Governing Body Notice

### Parent Governor Vacancies - update

Thank you to all the parents who have expressed an interest in becoming a governor and nominated themselves. The deadline for nominations is today, 4th February, and there are already more than two people who want to stand - this means an election will be held. I will share further information on this in next week's Newsletter and via ParentMail. In the meantime, if anyone has any queries please email [smurray@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:smurray@fortismere.org.uk)

**Sam Murray**

**Clerk to governors**

## Parent and Student Engagement Notices

### Parent and Carer Webinars

#### LGBTQIA+ Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 9.30am to 10.30am

We will be hosting a parent/carers webinar on Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (or questioning) LGBTQIA+. The session is aimed at the parents/carers of students in Years 7/8/9, and will be facilitated by Mr McGuinness, Maths Teacher and LGBTQ+ Champion and will cover the following:

- Discussion of the concepts of gender and sexuality
- Terms used around LGBTQ+ identity
- Parental support/Conversation starters
- Student support

To book a place, please email Ms Harris-O'Hanlon; [rharrisohanlon@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:rharrisohanlon@fortismere.org.uk)

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

This webinar for parents/carers will be facilitated by Geminee Patel, Senior Practitioner, Insight Platform. Insight Platform is the Children, Young People & Family Service, commissioned by London Borough of Haringey. The session will help you to update your knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Current Drug Trends
- Signs of Drug use
- Talking to your child about Drugs and Alcohol
- Referrals to Insight and support in school

To book a place email your child's full name and tutor group to [rharris@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:rharris@fortismere.org.uk). A link will be sent out prior to the workshop.

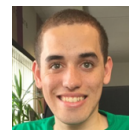
**Ms R Harris Parent and Student Engagement Officer**

## Library Notices

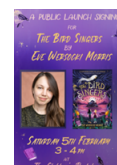
### Fortismere Alumni

Our very own Max Ferreira regularly contributes to Exposure magazine on his experiences with autism and has sent us a link to his latest article

<http://exposure.org.uk/2022/01/tv-review-our-family-and-autism/>



Eve Wersocki Morris (Fortismere alumnus, 2014) will be signing copies of her debut MG novel in Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop tomorrow, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 3-4 pm. Hope to see you there!



### Recommended Reads of the Week

February is LGBT History Month, so here are a few of the many books that we have in the library. Do come and see our big display too.



## Music Department Notices

### Ensembles this 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



Day	Lunchtime	After School
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	

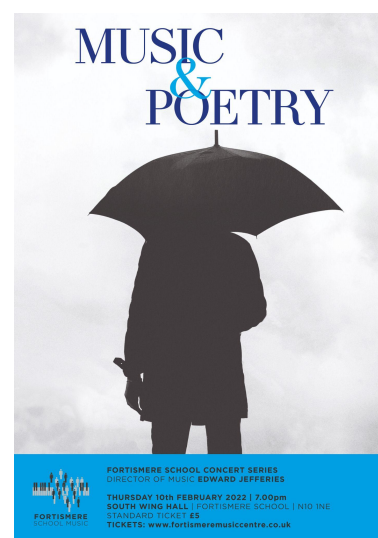
## Music and Poetry Evening - South Wing Hall Thursday 10th Feb 2022

Our **Music and Poetry Evening** will take place on **Thursday 10th February at 7pm in South Wing Hall**. Please do come along and support our young musicians and poets for this very special evening.

Students will be performing solo and ensemble pieces that they have been working on this year and reciting poems that they have written themselves.

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased at the Music Department website.  
[www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)

A communication to all parents/carers with children involved in the event will be sent out with information on dress code and timings for this event.



## Discarded instruments in the Music Block

The instruments that have been left in the Music Block over the last few years will be donated to Music Services over the next few weeks. We have advertised their presence in the department on several occasions in previous newsletters.

## Fortismere Community Choir - Saturday Morning

The Community Choir will begin work on the **Von Suppe Requiem** from January 2022 for a concert in Easter. This is a **non auditioned choir** and we welcome members from across the Fortismere Community so please get in touch if you are free on a Saturday morning and would like the chance to perform in a friendly and fun group by emailing [FMCIinfo@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:FMCIinfo@fortismere.org.uk). The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £80 for fundraising membership, student participation is free and is open to Year 10 to Year 13 pupils.

## New Dance Works- Jacksons Lane Friday October 14th 2022

Many thanks to those students and parents that have expressed an interest in taking part in the two new dance pieces that will be performed at Jacksons Lane in Highgate. The new choreography of Appalachian Spring will be led by Luis Gallo Mudarra the associate director ShipWright whilst the new commission will be led by Simone Pinchera from Central St Martins. A workshop will be taking place after the February half term where students will have a chance to meet the choreographers. We will post a link in next week's newsletter for registering interest in this exciting project!

## PE & Sports Department Notices

### Year 7 Boys In Action

Last Friday our Year 7 C & D Teams were away at University College School for matches. The 'C' team came up against strong opposition and went down 1-5. However, our D Team fought out a really close match and earned a 1-1 draw. Well played to all our boys!



### Howzat - Fortismere boys show how it's done!

Our Y9/10 Boys Indoor Cricket Team put in a fantastic performance to win the Haringey Borough Indoor Cricket Championship. In a very close battle for top spot, between APS, HWS and Fortismere, the boys came out on top with a dominant run rate. Well done Boys!



### Araya for England

On Tuesday the PE Department were very excited and proud to gather round Ms Vangucci's computer to watch Fortismere's Year 11 Araya Dennis play for England U18's against Portugal. What a fantastic achievement by Araya and a very proud day for the school. England won comfortably and Araya played really well. We look forward to seeing her in international action again very soon. Well Done Araya!



### Penalty Heartbreak

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI's fabulous run in the Middlesex Cup finally came to a heart-breaking close on Wednesday afternoon. The team travelled to St Ignatius and, after a slow start, were definitely the better team throughout the match. Unfortunately we couldn't make that count in the score line and at 90 minutes the match was level at 4-4 and that meant a penalty shoot out. Our boys only missed one penalty but St Ignatius scored all five of theirs, giving the victory to our opponents. After being the better side throughout the 90 minutes our boys were obviously disappointed but I was very proud of the way they accepted defeat and how sporting they were towards the victors. Well done to the boys for a great cup run, with many thrills and spills on the way, and I'm sure we will finish the season in style.



### U14 Girls March On

Our super U14 girls football team continued their amazing season as they safely negotiated a quarter final match against main rivals APS. They came out 5-1 winners with super striker Rosie grabbing 4 of the goals. Well done to all the girls!



## Year 9 Boys Scoring High

The Year 9 boys took part in a high scoring thriller on Thursday afternoon. The 'C' team headed off to UCS for a friendly game of football – and what a match it turned out to be. It's no exaggeration to say that the score could have been 10-10. The team endured a tough first half where they dominated possession but found themselves 4-0 down despite the opposition only entering their half about 4 times! In the second half the boys really dug deep and won the half 3-2. So although we lost the overall game 6-3 we finished positively and look forward to our next matches. Well played!



## Results and Fixtures

### Results This week

Friday (28<sup>th</sup>) – Football Y7 C & D v UCS (A) 2.30 KO **C lost 1-5 D drew 1-1**

Monday – Football U16 Girls v APS (H) **Postponed TBA**

Tuesday – Football – Y8 A, B and C v Highgate (A) 2.15 KO **A Lost 1-2, B Won 3-1, C Won 2-0**

Tuesday - Cricket Y9/10 Boys Indoor Cricket Borough Champs @Fortismere 3-5pm **Champions**

Wednesday – Football 2<sup>nd</sup> XI V St Ignatius (A) Middlesex Cup QF 2.30 KO **Drew 4-4 (lost 4-5 Pens)**

Wednesday- Football U15 Girls v APS (H) Middlesex Cup SF **Lost 1-4**

Thursday – Football U14 C v UCS (A) 2.15 **KO Lost 3-6**

Thursday - Football U14 Girls v APS (H) Middlesex Cup QF **Won 5-1**

Friday – Football Girls U13 v APS (H) Middlesex Cup SF

### Fixtures Next Week

Tuesday - Y7 Netball Champs 1-3pm at Channing School

Tuesday – Hockey U18 Hockey Tournament Ashford – All day.

Wednesday – Rugby Y9 v Latymer (H) 2.30 Kick Of

Wednesday – Hockey U16 Tournament, Ashford – All Day

Friday –Hockey U16 T/B/A

## Follow Fortismere

The Sport & PE Department has active Twitter and TikTok accounts. Twitter is where you will find the latest information on fixtures, matches and all things sport so give us a follow on Twitter – Fortismere Sport 7 PE @FortismerePE and on TikTok - @fortismeresport

Remember to let the Sports & PE Department have news of your sporting participation and achievements outside of school.

## Sporting Challenge!

### Fortismere staff football team - fancy a match?

The Fortismere Staff Football Team is victorious again! The team were celebrating another win against a local school last week, having beaten the staff of the Archer Academy 5-2. This followed wins against staff teams from Heartlands High School, The Wren Academy, and Alexandra Park School, and leaves the team undefeated for three years! Huge thanks go to The Village Green pub in Muswell Hill for sponsoring the kit, and providing refreshments after each game. The team have run out of local schools to beat, so if there are any parents or carers out there who play for a football team and would like to arrange a fixture against the Fortismere staff, please get in touch. Contact [saldridge@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:saldridge@fortismere.org.uk)

**Simon Aldridge**  
**Head of PRE**



## Half-Term Holiday Activities

### February Half-Term Holiday Camps - LAST FEW SPACES

There are only a few spaces left on our half-term holiday camps so book your child a place now to avoid missing out. The holiday camps are great fun and feedback from the children is always really positive.

Camps run from 9am-3pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The full week will cost £80\*, (8am drop off option available with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice)

**Sports Age 7-15 LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING** This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounder's, tennis and competitions. To book your child's place please click the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-multisport-age-6-15-tickets-232072835097>

**Street Dance Age 7-15 LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING**

Students will learn routines and steps from this popular dance style. Jakub runs our Street Dance Club. Jakub started dancing Hip-Hop when he was 15 years old training in North London. He trained with Zoo Nation, performing with their company and alongside this creating a company called PDK. PDK has worked in the industry for over 10 years, changing how the dance scene see Hip-Hop and Street Styles. He studied Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at the Urdang Academy. Jakub has worked in the industry for over 5 years, teaching in different countries and working with clients like : Netflix, Adidas, Jungle, Bastille, Off-White, L'Oreal, Labrinth, Emile Sande, Little Simz, and many more. Jakub specialises in Hip-Hop, Commercial, Contemporary, Jazz Funk and Improvisation.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-street-dance-age-7-15-tickets-232080508047>