


Friday 15th December 2023

School Leadership Messages	Contents																										
<p>Celebrations</p> <p>Years 7 and 8 have had their Celebration assemblies and Years 9 and 11 will be having theirs on Monday, with Y10 on Tuesday. The students selected will be collecting badges from their heads of year recognising their contributions during form time.</p> <p>The Co-Headteachers will be meeting with the students who have gone above and beyond all aspects of school life including progress, behaviour and participation on Monday. These students will each receive a certificate.</p> <p>Y13 (2022-23) Certificates will be handed out to last year's Y13 at a social event in Tetherdown next Wednesday at 4pm. We are all looking forward to catching up without former students.</p> <p>Positive Points</p> <p>Well done to the following students who are the top scorers this week for positive points</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Talya Eris</td><td>Jacob Fullagar</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hazel Pelling</td><td>David Grunhut</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lora Vida</td><td>Awesta Jewayni</td></tr> <tr> <td>Berke Binkaya</td><td>Lupe Madrid Paez</td></tr> <tr> <td>Miriam Jeschke-Shokrai</td><td>Crystal Martinone</td></tr> <tr> <td>Connor Dixon</td><td>Nadja Mimic</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jack Kyriacou</td><td>Jessie Muhsin</td></tr> <tr> <td>Oscar Cajone</td><td>Tom Sharp</td></tr> <tr> <td>Alberto Cherin</td><td>Danny Spitz</td></tr> <tr> <td>Miya France</td><td>Goknil Tujen</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Talya Eris	Jacob Fullagar	Hazel Pelling	David Grunhut	Lora Vida	Awesta Jewayni	Berke Binkaya	Lupe Madrid Paez	Miriam Jeschke-Shokrai	Crystal Martinone	Connor Dixon	Nadja Mimic	Jack Kyriacou	Jessie Muhsin	Oscar Cajone	Tom Sharp	Alberto Cherin	Danny Spitz	Miya France	Goknil Tujen	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p> <p>Fortismind</p> <p>House News</p> <p>Department News & Notices</p> <p>Safeguarding information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>18 & 19.12</td><td>Christmas Concert</td></tr> <tr> <td>21.12.23</td><td>End of term. Dismissal 12.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>8.1.24</td><td>Term starts at 8.35am. Week 2</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <div>  <p>Chag Hanukkah Sameach to all members of our school community who have been celebrating the eight day Jewish Festival of Lights that ends today. We hope it has been full of light and hope.</p> </div>	18 & 19.12	Christmas Concert	21.12.23	End of term. Dismissal 12.30pm	8.1.24	Term starts at 8.35am. Week 2
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

The end of term is always very busy and this week started with the School Christmas Fair last Sunday, the School play on Tuesday, Christmas Lunch on Thursday and all manner of celebrations and competitions in between.

The Christmas Fair was great fun. The range of stalls, both from local businesses and parents, was excellent. The hampers were as popular as ever and the food stalls were all doing brisk business. Despite the wet and miserable weather, we had a good turnout and Ms Demetriou, our fundraiser, was impressed by the school's profit margin so thank you to all who contributed.

Tuesday's play, 'Nearly Night: The Musical' took the Twilight series as its inspiration and in Ms Turner's creative hands (ably assisted by her daughter) turned it into fast-paced, action-packed camp extravaganza. All the cast played both chorus and leads in a truly inclusive performance and all of us in the audience found ourselves tapping our feet along to well-loved numbers such as "Reach for the Stars". The musicians, solo artists and technical crew were excellent, it was very much an ensemble effort.

While whole school events such as the Fair and play were happening, House competitions continued. During the week, Turing hosted a seasonal biscuit decorating competition for Year 7. Students huddled together under the South Wing canopy and piped coloured icing onto reindeer, elves and Father Christmas. The students were also very restrained, resisting the temptation to scoff the biscuits.

Christmas lunch is always a 3-line whip for staff at Fortismere, we all chip in to support lunchtime staff with the busiest lunch of the year. Both Ms Sullivan and Ms Prodromou donned their festive headgear and served students in the South and North wing canteens. Mr Fari and Mr Robson helped in the kitchens and the rest of us supported 'front of house'. The canteens work hard to make this an enjoyable event for our students and despite the queueing, our students behaved extremely well, although Year 10 struggled to contain their excitement. It's one of the times of the year when the Sixth Form students mysteriously reappear in the student queue...

We have begun the end of year celebrations for students who have excelled at meeting the Fortismere Four of 'ready, respect, safe and kind'. Year teams started the assemblies this week and the Co-Heads will be doing a special celebration for the CHTs' Award on Monday. It is always a joy to meet with students and their families to recognise the successes of our cohort and we are looking forward to it.

Next week will be a mixture of business as usual and some form-time fun. We hope all our families have a peaceful and cosy weekend: there will be a final festive Newsletter next Thursday.

Fortismind - Supporting Mental Health at Fortismere

We have another piece this week written by one of our Sixth Form Mental Health Leaders. Here, Alara Walsh Y12, talks about the effects of mental health on teenagers - Mental health refers to a person's mental wellbeing. Their emotional, psychological and social wellbeing are the main factors that control one's mental health. It affects how we feel, act and also highly influences how we handle situations. Taking care of our mental health should be the top priority, however many people do not do so. Therefore increasing numbers

of our younger generation suffer every day. American author John Green once said *"There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn't."* Mental health can have a significant effect on teenagers, whether it be on their school performance, ability to maintain relationships, or future prospects. A lack of a positive mindset can change a person's plans and ideas creating a sense of lost hope, which evidently will not guide them down the right path. There are many ways to improve one's mental health for example, self-care, engaging in activities you enjoy and ensuring you maintain a balanced lifestyle. Additionally if your own actions are not benefiting your mental health it is generally advised to seek professional help. Professional help such as counselling, guidance or therapy can provide tools to help manage and overcome mental health challenges. What our young generation needs to realise is that seeking professional help is a sign of strength and to acknowledge your struggles will make a positive difference in your mental health journey.

Miss Jones

Mental Health Champion

House News

Wollstonecraft Update

Wollstonecraft students have been busy raising money for all sorts of good causes recently.....House Captains, Victoria and Calliope supported by Isabel, a Student Ambassador, ran a Gingerbread Decorating stall at the Fortismere Winter Fair last weekend to raise money towards the next Year 11 Prom.



Other Student Ambassadors have so far raised £110 for the charity War Child through various events this term. You can still donate via [this link](#)

Fundraising events to look forward to next term include a Nail Varnish Bar and an "As many clothes as you can wear Fun Run" to name just a few. Thanks to all our Student Ambassadors for a great first term.

Miss Turner

Turing Update

On Tuesday, the Turing Charity Ambassadors held a Gingerbread Decorating Competition at lunchtime. There were some excellent entries from students across all the year groups! The winner of the competition was Sienna Y8, who received a prize of a large bar of chocolate! Well done Sienna!



The Turing Charity Ambassadors have raised **over £100 this half term for Cancer Research UK**, through the Gingerbread decorating competition and a cake sale last half term. Well done to all our Ambassadors for their hard work and effort.

Miss Brough

Selvon Update

Well done to the Selvon Ambassadors who raised over **£75 for Save the Children on our Christmas Jumper Day** last week. It's not too late to donate if your child did not have any cash with them - please donate online [using this link](#) Thank you for your support

Selvon Ambassadors have also organised a **Lucky Dip to raise money for Cancer Research**. This will take place in South Wing on **Monday 18th December at lunch time**, underneath the canopy. Remember to bring in cash - small prizes will cost £1, bigger prizes will be £2! There are lots of exciting prizes to be won!



Thank you to all our Ambassadors for their great fundraising efforts this term and to Selvon parents and carers for their support. Ms Garnett

LINC Department

Meet The LINC Team



This week I'm pleased to introduce to you Jen Irving, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant in charge of literacy support.

What would you like to share with the school community this week?

I want to talk about auditory processing disorder (APD) - APD is a hearing problem that affects about 3%–5% of school-age children. Children with this condition, also known as central auditory processing disorder (CAPD), can't understand what they hear in the same way that other children do. This is because their ears and brain are not always coordinated. APD causes a disruption in the way that an individual's brain understands what they are hearing. It is not a form of hearing loss, despite showing difficulty with hearing-related tasks, but a disorder of the auditory system at the level of the brain.

The condition varies from person to person and symptoms often overlap with other neurodiversities and neurodevelopmental diagnoses, such as ADHD and Autism. Symptoms include distractibility, inattention, poor listening skills and difficulty following instructions. It could be considered a profile of autism, similar to Pathological Demand Avoidance. Strategies that might help include:

- Improving the acoustics: closing a window, shutting a door, eliminating other unnecessary noises.
- Using visual cues: make a habit of using visuals in instruction. Try and use the same visual cues each time to establish a non-verbal lexicon.
- Emphasising key words: slow down speech and put the emphasis on keywords, to bring attention to important pieces of information.

Amanda Gorman is an American poet, with auditory processing disorder and speech articulation issues. At age 22, she became the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, when she read her poem, "The Hill We Climb" during President Biden's inauguration. She is an award-winning writer and cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she studied sociology. She has written for the New York Times and has three books forthcoming with Penguin Random House. Her words have won her invitations to the White House and to perform for Lin-Manuel Miranda, Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, Malala Yousafzai, and others.



For more information on APD see [this link](#) and also [this link](#)

Haringey Parent SEND Newsletter

Sign up to receive regular copies of the [Haringey SEND Parent Newsletter](#) using [this link](#) - the newsletter gives local families useful information in an accessible format. Haringey would love to receive your feedback on the newsletter once you've had a look at it.



Extra-Curricular & Enrichment

Astronomy Club Year 9

The Physics Department is starting a weekly astronomy club for Year 9 students in January - the club will meet on Tuesdays after school (3:30-4.30pm) in Lab 10. Students will get a guided insight into our solar system, stars, our universe and how to observe them. They will have access to our school telescopes and will learn about what is being observed. Students will be required to complete some work during these sessions and regular attendance is vital to keep up to speed.



This is a tremendous opportunity and will certainly help students who are looking towards separate sciences (astronomy is a topic in separate GCSE Physics) and potentially A-Level Physics (astrophysics is the option taught at Fortismere). However, most crucially it is for those who are inspired by what we see in the night sky. If your child would like to attend please complete this form: [Astronomy club confirmation](#) or email

Mr. Commons ncommons@fortismere.org.uk

Mr. Commons

Head of Physics

LINC Breakfast & Homework Clubs

LINC Breakfast Club runs on Monday to Fridays from 8am-8:30am and provides an opportunity for students to use the computers and do independent work, with some adult support. There are limited spaces available - if you would like your child to attend please email Lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk with your child's details and the days required

LINC Homework Club runs on Mondays to Fridays from 3.20pm-4.00pm in Linc Room 4. The Club is run by a Teaching Assistant who can provide individual support to students. If you have any questions, please contact LINCadmin@fortismere.org.uk

Mrs Hudson

Philosophy Religion & Ethics Department

Year 7 Poster Competition Winners

Every year the PRE Department runs a competition for Year 7 students in October to celebrate Black History Month. This year it was particularly difficult to pick a winner from the many entries submitted by our talented Year 7 students, in fact so difficult that we had to pick two and several runners up!

This year's winners are: Sumaya Hersi and Emmy Edwards. **Runners up are:** Iris Holden, Mateo Butler, Romy Williams, Jamie Sanders. Congratulations to all the winners and indeed to all our entrants. Prize winners will receive a prize in the Assembly this week and their posters will be on display in the South Wing for the rest of the year.

Ms Kaye

Modern Languages Department Notices

German Language Opportunity - The GIMAGINE Award

The Fortismere ML Department is pleased to announce that it has been selected to work alongside the Goethe Institute to trial a new German language learning platform next year. The GIMAGINE Award is a digital self-learning project which aims to introduce young learners to the German language. Students who complete the project will be awarded with an official certificate from the Goethe Institute.

There will be a range of levels available so this would be suitable for beginners, students already independently studying German and students who speak some German at home. If your child is interested in this please email Mr Lewis glewis@fortismere.org.uk who will compile the list of Fortismere Germanists for when we are ready to launch the GIMAGINE Award next year.

Mr Lewis

Drama Department Notices

NEARLY NIGHT (TWILIGHT THE MUSICAL) Christmas Production

This week nearly 100 students from across every year group collaborated to perform 'Nearly Night', our Christmas Drama Production. This musical adaptation of the hit film franchise Twilight, was written by Ms Turner and Essie Turner.

"I would like to thank the cast and crew for working so hard and performing with such great enthusiasm and talent. It was great to see them work as such an inclusive community and team.

As always we are lucky to have such a wonderful band led by Musical directors Lydia Morgan and Louis Barnett. Choreography was by Ivy Eastwood and assistant directors Elsa Wright, Olivia Letford, Rosalie Richmond Wright, Ella Forest, Lucia Haines Palmer on

lights and the Year 13 Music Technology students on sound helped the show run so smoothly. The whole team takes ownership of the show, which allows me the honour of just watching and being very proud of each and every one of them. I was very touched by thanks at the end of the show. Now to start thinking of next year....." Ms Turner

Congratulations to all!



Blanche Nevile Visit

Each year we are honoured to welcome the entirety of Blanche Nevile secondary school into our dress rehearsal for Nearly Night. The wonderful sign language communicator, David Paquette Land, signed the entire show, which he communicated with rhythm and dancing to the whole of Blanche Nevile School. It was a fantastic opportunity for the cast to prepare for the show, and we love welcoming our community into all our events.



Year 10 Trip to see Billy Goats Gruff

Year 10 Drama students enjoyed a last-minute trip this week to see a piece of children's theatre at Jackson Lane Arts Centre. The students are preparing their own piece of children's theatre to take to Colesville School in February for a performance. It was a great opportunity to see professional children's theatre in action and to help support their studies. The students all enjoyed the piece that had political undertones about Brexit and immigration.



Library

Top Tips to Keep your Children Reading

Top Tip No 12: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe is an Iranian-British citizen who was imprisoned in Iran for a long time. Share [this speech](#) (made at the Booker Prize 2023 ceremony) with your child to inspire them to read. *"Books helped me to take refuge in the world of others when I was incapable of making one of my own. They salvaged me by being one of the very few tools I had, together with imagination, to escape the Evin walls without physically moving".*

The
Booker
Prize

Nazanin
Zaghari-Ratcliffe on
the power of fiction



Christmas Reading Times

Behind most good films there's often a great book! Every year, a librarian colleague from another school produces an amazing document with all the best of Christmas TV. Take a look - *attached to the Newsletter*



Library Festivities

We're having a lovely raucous time in Year 7 library lessons with our traditional Christmas library bingo. Who knew that our youngest students could be so competitive?! And we're enjoying terrifying Year 8s with a Christmas ghost story from Charles Dickens – "The Signalman" was filmed in 1976, so no CGI, no clashing music warnings, but many, many questions asked and brilliant discussions with the students at the end.



Recommended Reads of the Week

So not a read, but a listen. The BBC's phenomenal adaptation of Susan Cooper's "The Dark is Rising" [Listen here](#). Thirteen episodes, each about 15 minutes long, starting on Midwinter Eve. Headphones are a must to experience the fully immersive atmospheric brilliance. *This night will be bad, tomorrow will be beyond all imagining...*



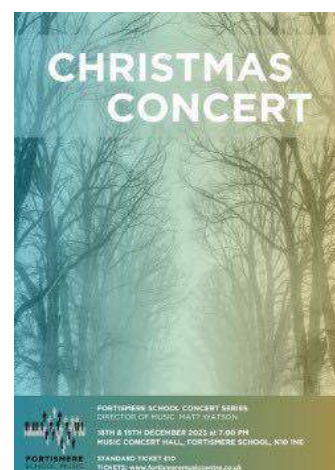
Fortismere Music Centre Notices

Record Numbers Enjoy FCC Concert

Fortismere Community Choir's concert last Saturday broke the record for the Music Centre's biggest ever audience in St Andrew's! It was a fabulous evening - many thanks to everyone who attended, helped organise it and of course to the choir, soloists and orchestra, together with the choir's Musical Director Marvin Perrott.

Student Christmas Concerts - Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December 7pm

A busy end of term packed with music-making culminates with the traditional student Christmas Concerts this coming Monday and Tuesday. The line-up will include the Jazz Band, Senior and Junior Choirs, Big Band, Samba, String Ensemble, solos and more... [Book Mon 18th Dec tickets here](#), and [Book Tues 19th Dec tickets here](#).



A Level Music Technology & Music Open Morning - Saturday 13th January 2024 10am-11am

We are holding an open morning from 10am-11am on the first Saturday of next term to give potential students a chance to look round the Music Department, to see the facilities on offer, and to ask any questions about studying A Level Music subjects at Fortismere. All Fortismere students are welcome and the session is also open to non-Fortismere students as well. Register for the event using [this link](#)

School of Rock starting Saturdays 2024 - Almost Fully Booked

There are not many places left on our new Saturday School of Rock! Please send in the registration forms as soon as possible to ensure you get one of the last places for your child, especially if they are applying with friends. Names will be added to a waiting list once all the places have been taken. More information and forms are available on the Fortismere Music Centre website [here](#)

PE & Sports News

Year 9 Boys v Heartlands

The Year 9 boys played a great game on Tuesday away at Heartlands. It was an end to end match with a final score of 5-3.



1st XI Unbeaten Run Continues

The 1st X1 boys team travelled to The Hive on Thursday to play against Nower Hill in the U18 Brigg Cup. It was an entertaining game, with some excellent team play and great goals from Joey, Anthony and Kiran. Man of the match was Lukas Otis. And on to the next round they go!



Tottenham Coaching

The Tottenham Coaches are taking a break in January but will resume straight after the February half-term. Our girls are loving the Club, which takes place on a Wednesday after school, and have made so much progress under the excellent coaching. And the wonderful Coaches have very kindly given us 80 tickets for the Tottenham Ladies v Arsenal Ladies match this Saturday. A VERY BIG THANK YOU - COME ON ARSENAL!!!



Year 10/11 Girls in the Haringey Final

The Year 10/11 Girls played a feisty match against St Thomas More on Wednesday afternoon this week. Our girls were brilliant and kept their cool winning 17-5! Player of the match was Sarah Aina.



Year 8 Netball Team Reach Haringey League Final

The Year 8 Girls Netball Team had a very convincing win v Heartlands on Monday this week - 18-1! Players of the match were Tiger, Alice and Lottie. The next match is against APS.



Gymnastics Club

The Wednesday after school Gymnastics club will resume after Christmas in the Sports Hall due to exams taking place in the Gym. The girls have made outstanding progress and are loving the club. If your child would like to join please email Ms Vangucci mvangucci@fortismere.org.uk



PE Notices

Extra Curricular Clubs Timetable - Please look out for changes to the PE timetable in next week's Newsletter.

Correction from last week's newsletter - Izzy Jenkins was accidentally missed out of the Year 7 match write up last week. She was a valuable member of the team and did a great job in defence.

Fortismere School Holiday Camps

New Year Holiday Camps 2nd-5th January 2024 - Last few places

Fortismere Holiday Camps are running from **Tuesday 2nd January 2024 to Friday 5th January 2024**. Places are still available for Multi Sports (ages 7-15) and Drama Camp (ages 7-15). All other camps are now sold out. **Booking information and details on the school website - [Fortismere Holiday Camps](#)**

Children (age 5 to 16) eligible for free school meals will be able to access free activities during the school holidays via the **DfE Holiday Activities & Food Programme** - [see the Haringey information here](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively contact your child's Head of Year

Year 7	Ms Fox kfox@fortismere.org.uk
Year 8	Ms Jackson kjackson@fortismere.org.uk
Year 9	Ms Cuenca icuenca@fortismere.org.uk
Year 10	Mr Aldridge saldridge@fortismere.org.uk
Year 11	Ms Boot aboot@fortismere.org.uk