

School Leadership Messages

Staying Safe Online

We have been made aware that a large WhatsApp group has been circulating amongst young people across north London, called the 'Get to 1000' group chat and that harmful images and videos have been posted on this group. You may want to check your children's phones and advise them to only be in WhatsApp groups with friends and family who they know *well* in real life. This same advice also applies to whole year group or whole school WhatsApp groups.

Here are some links to helpful resources:

[Fortismere Website](#)

[NSPCC - Keeping children safe online](#)

[Childline - Taking control of your online safety](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre - Helping young people stay safe online](#)

[Internet Matters - Layer up for online safety](#)

If you have any concerns that you would like to bring to our attention or would like some support with, please contact a member of the safeguarding team at Fortismere via safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

Keep Sending Feedback at Fortismere

Don't forget that our Feedback at Fortismere form is live and can be accessed via the link at the bottom of this page.

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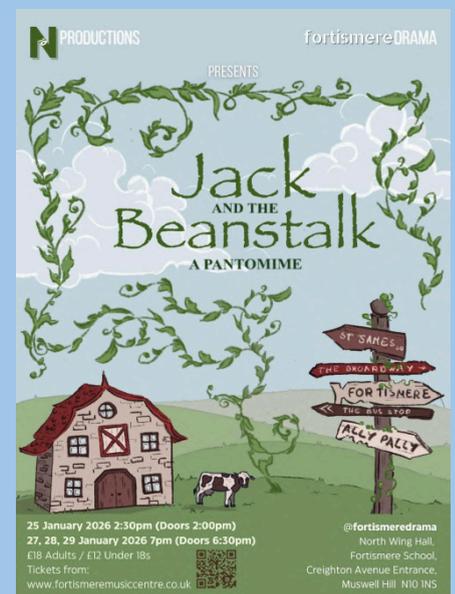
Headteacher's Weekly Roundup

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

<p>25.01 & 27-29.01</p>	<p>Fortismere Drama Dept Jack & The Beanstalk</p> <p>Buy Tickets here</p>
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Last Chance - Book Now!

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

Headteacher's Message

This week in assemblies, I've been talking to students about what our vision and values really mean in practice. I've asked students to think carefully about how we articulate what Fortismere stands for not just to ourselves, but to the wider world. When we talk about our school to friends, family, or people we meet, what do we say? Do we focus on what makes us proud? Do we celebrate the opportunities we have here? Do we talk about the incredible things happening in our classrooms, on our stages, and across our community? When we speak about Fortismere, we should be speaking with pride about a school that balances academic excellence with creative expression, where relationships matter, and where every individual is valued.

If you want to see our values brought to life in the most spectacular way possible, you need to get yourself a ticket to Jack and the Beanstalk. Performances are on Sunday 25th January and from Tuesday 27th through to Thursday 29th January. If you don't go, you will absolutely be missing out. I've seen it. It is incredibly funny. There are surprises around every corner, brilliant performances from students across all year groups, and a level of ambition that will genuinely take your breath away. This production involves three casts and hundreds of students from performers to musicians, from technical crew to backstage support. It is creativity and collaboration on an enormous scale, and it reflects everything we stand for as a school. I cannot wait to see our audiences enjoying the magic our students (and staff!) have created.

On a more serious note, I want to flag that next week, Tuesday 27th January, is Holocaust Memorial Day. We will be marking this important event across the school. Already this week, we received a very special visitor, Michael Bibring who came to speak to our JSOC (Jewish Society). He is the son of a Holocaust survivor, and his talk was powerful, moving and deeply thought-provoking (see Erykah's write up below). It was a very well-attended event, and I want to thank all the students who came along and engaged so respectfully with such an important topic. JSOC welcomes all students and has become a thriving organisation within our school community. On Monday 26th January, I will be attending a special Haringey event at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium with our JSOC senior leaders to mark Holocaust Memorial Day alongside representatives from local government, schools and organisations across Haringey. I will also be attending an event on Wednesday 28th January at Muswell Hill Synagogue along with our entire Year 9 cohort. I'm proud that our students engage so thoughtfully with these vital conversations, and I look forward to sharing more about our commemorations next week.

With that, I'll wish you a wonderful weekend.

Extra Curricular & Enrichment

JSOC

Year 12 student and JSoc Leader Erykah Golan, has written for the Newsletter about this week's lunchtime session focussed on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

To honour those lost in the Holocaust, this week's JSoc lunchtime session was based on Holocaust Remembrance Day that is coming up on January 27th. We watched a short film made by Holocaust Learning UK on the tragedies of the Holocaust which highlighted the cruelties that Jewish and many other minorities unfortunately went through. It is very important to educate our generation on the Holocaust and to raise awareness so we never forget and never repeat. It was also a great pleasure to invite Michael Bibring whose father and extended family were victims of the Holocaust. It is such a privilege to have someone come into our school and share such an upsetting story of his loved ones. The JSoc students who attended were extremely engaged and respectful and hopefully found it interesting when Michael shared documents

that his father had during the Holocaust - it was very fascinating to have physical evidence of what millions of minorities and Jewish people went through. And of course, free kosher pizza was provided for all the students by UJS!

Thank you so much to everybody who attended this important JSoc and we will see you all again on the next Week 1 Tuesday lunchtime.

And a reminder that staff and students from every year group and every religion are fully welcome. You don't have to be Jewish to attend Jewish Society. It is always a fascinating and informative lunchtime for everyone who comes.

Ms Overs



Drama Department

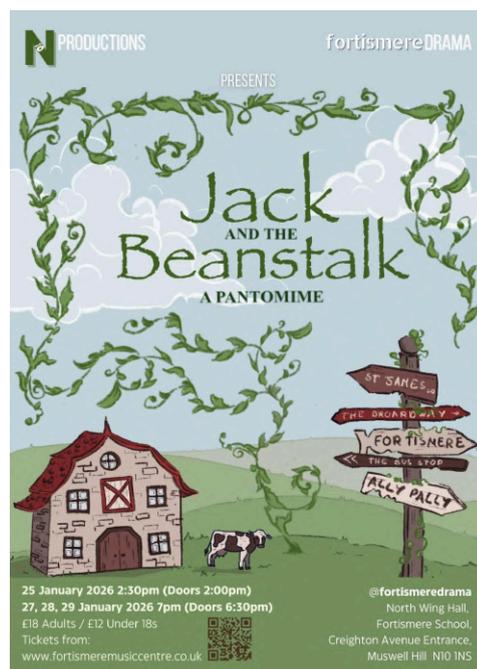
Get Your Pantomime Tickets Now!

Teachers in wigs, kids in chaos, and a giant with attitude - all raising vital funds for the school!

This January, Fortismere Drama and N10 Productions proudly presents its biggest, boldest, and most brilliantly bonkers production yet: Jack and the Beanstalk, an original pantomime written by the school's own Drama Department and packed with music, magic, mischief, and... quite a lot of teachers in questionable costumes.

This freshly written twist on the classic tale follows Jack Trott as he battles ruthless property developers, scales a sky-high beanstalk, and discovers the wonders (and weirdness) of Cloud City—all in a quest to save the Trott family farm. With a cast of over 100 talented young performers from across the school, the show promises belly laughs, big numbers and a giant-sized adventure for the whole family.

But the real surprise? Some of the show's most outrageous roles are played by the staff themselves. In the grand tradition of "things teachers definitely didn't train for", audiences will enjoy seeing their



familiar school heroes transformed into dodgy bean traders, magical misfits, Cloud City oddballs, and yes - because dreams really can come true - the Deputy Head makes a star turn as the show's glamorous Dame.

The production isn't just for fun - it's also an important fundraiser. All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly toward supporting Drama performance resources and equipment for students across the school.

Venue: Fortismere School North Wing, Creighton Avenue Entrance, Muswell Hill N10 1NS

Dates: 25th (Matinee), 27th, 28th 29th 7:00pm January 2026

Tickets: Available via <https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/concerts>

All proceeds support the school's Drama enrichment.

Modern Languages Department

MEP Chinese New Year Assembly

Today we hosted a Chinese New Year celebration assembly for Year 7, 8 and 9 students in the Mandarin Excellence Programme. The event offered students an exciting opportunity to experience Chinese culture beyond the classroom and to enrich their language learning. We were delighted to welcome performers from London Southbank University, who presented a dynamic programme of traditional Chinese arts. Students enjoyed a Chinese folk dance, followed by demonstrations of traditional instruments and an impressive martial arts performance. A lively lion dance brought energy to the hall and symbolised good luck for the year ahead. Students got to take part in hands-on workshops exploring Chinese musical instruments, painting and martial arts - the interactive sessions really helped to deepen their cultural understanding. We wish everyone a prosperous year of the horse when it arrives!



Library

Visiting Authors

We've got the first of our author visits next week and are really looking forward to hosting Jess Poppelwell who will give talks and run workshops with our students. Students and staff will also be able to meet Jess and get their books signed by the author!

We've linked with [The Muswell Hill Bookshop](#) so students can purchase books by our visiting author and get a £1 discount - make sure to use code **FORT0126**, and select **school free shipping** when ordering.

To order **Jess Poppelwell's** *The Dark Within Us* or **Kimberly Whittam's** *Quiet Storm* or upcoming new book, *Always Angel* (from [Afrori Books](#) at a special price order by 9th Feb) use the QR codes below.

Order books by our visiting authors below:



New Year Group Book Clubs

As part of our National Year of Reading activities and to just encourage a passion for books and reading, with the help of our Library Monitors, we will be hosting new lunchtime book clubs aimed at specific year groups.

- Year 7 Book Club - Monday
- Year 8 Book Club - Tuesday
- Year 9 Book Club - Thursday

If your child is interested, tell them to come and speak to me (Ms Pirovano) in the Library. Places will be limited due to the size of the room.

We are all very excited about the possibility of sharing our favourite books and discussing them amongst peers.



Sport & PE Notices

Haringey Indoor Cricket - Fortismere Borough Champions - Again!

We are officially the best school at indoor cricket in Haringey! The Year 7 and Year 8 boys played in a thrilling final against APS on Monday night - they kept their cool and were crowned champions. They join the Year 9 and Year 7 and Year 8 Girls who are also indoor cricket champions! Well done to all involved, Teo Recchia earned man of the match.



Haringey Indoor Athletics Event

This annual event is always very well attended by Haringey schools and this year was no exception. There were nine local schools competing in the event - St Thomas More, Gladesmore, Greig City, Dukes Academy, Mulberry Woodside, Heartlands, Alexandra Park, Channing and Fortismere. The atmosphere was like being at a packed out football stadium! It was a great night and our students rose to the occasion performing really well in the field events and competing with the best in the running events. St Thomas More finished 1st, APS were 2nd and Fortismere were a very respectable 3rd, taking the bronze medals. The team were delighted and really enjoyed themselves. Well done to all.



Haringey Netball Finals Year 7 & Year 9

All of our netball squads have made it through to the Haringey League finals this year which is a great achievement! Last Friday it was the re-arranged Year 9 and Year 7 finals that were cancelled before Christmas due to poor weather.

The Year 9s put in a good performance but lost in the semi-final against a very strong Channing team so they got to play against Heartlands for the 3rd/4th place playoff - we finished 3rd overall - well done.

The Year 7s played really well but also lost in the semi-final against APS. Their 3rd/4th place game was against Heartlands- this went very close but unfortunately we lost by just one goal in the last minute!

Well done to all our Netball players. **Netball training continue on Mondays after school on the netball courts 3.15-4.15 pm**



Middlesex Football Latest - Year 7 Girls

The Year 7 Girls endured a very wet afternoon of football last Thursday in their match away to JFS. It rained continually from start to finish and the team were absolutely drenched but they won 3-0! They are now through to the semi final of the Cup and have a match versus Queensmead School. Elli, Kendal and Manon scored the goals, well done all!



Haringey Basketball League v Mulberry Woodside

Our Year 11 Basketball squad travelled to Mulberry Woodside Academy on Tuesday this week, to play their next game in the Haringey Basketball League - they have won their first two games against APS and Park View Academy so confidence was high. Mulberry were certainly the toughest opposition to date.

It was a close game and our defence kept the game level for a long time but Mulberry started to get the better of us in the second half of the game. Leon did a great job and led by example but the opposition were just too strong overall and we lost to the stronger team. Well played all.



Update to Extra Curricular Timetable - New Clubs

There have been a few changes to the PE & Sport Extra Curricular Timetable - please see the latest version here [PE & Sports Extra Curricular Timetable](#)

Changes include a **new Basketball** and **Volleyball Club** and **after half-term a new Boxing Club**

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 26th January: U13 Girls v Bishop Ramsey (Home) 2.30 pm KO

Thursday 29th January: U13 Girls v Highgatewood School (Away) 3pm KO

Music Department

Charity Band Night - Thursday 12th February 6pm-8pm NW Concert Hall

Fortismere's talented bands will take the stage to support the **RSPCA** in this year's Charity Band Night. The concert is being organised by Year 13 students Lola-Rose Orr, Daria Segal, Luna Friend and Ellie Spitzer. All proceeds from ticket sales and profit from refreshments will go to the RSPCA, a charity working to combat increasing levels of abandonment and cruelty against animals.. Join us for electrifying performances from students and staff, and help to support animal welfare! Fundraising ticket £15, Standard £10, U18s £7.

Don't miss out - grab your tickets now [link here](#)



Junior and Youth Choirs - Not too Late to Come and Sing This Term!

All Year 7/Year 8 students are invited to come and try **Junior Choir** which meets on Mondays after school at 3.20pm-4.20 pm. Everyone is welcome.

All Year 9 and above students can come and try **Youth Choir** on Mondays at lunchtime.

For both choirs there is no need to be able to read music or to book a place in advance - just come and sing! Joining both choirs is free although we will email regular attendees at half-term with a request for a voluntary donation to go towards covering the costs of our wonderful professional Musical Director, Flossie Price.

School of Rock and Instrumental & Vocal Lessons

Applications for these can be made at any time - just click [here](#) for the application form.

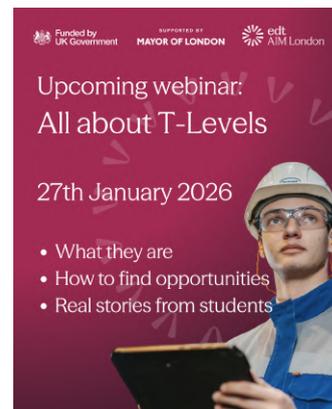
Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

T levels Webinar - Tue 27th Jan 5pm-6.30pm

How much do you know about T-Levels? Could you have an informed conversation with your child about them? This webinar is useful for students and parents/carers and will help you to learn more about these two-year post 16 qualifications. The webinar will cover:

- What T-Levels are and the range of courses available
- Information about the work placement
- How to find T-Level opportunities and when to apply
- Real stories from T-Level students

[Register here to attend](#)



Year Group Notices

Year 11 Notices

Mock Exams: The Y11 mock exam period will run from **Monday 23 February until Thursday 5 March** with the exception of these two exams:

A Maths paper scheduled for Thursday 12 February 2026

Modern Languages speaking assessment scheduled for the week commencing Monday 16 March 2026

The mock exam **timetable** is being finalised and will be shared with students and parents/carers next week.

Revision sessions: A revision session timetable was given to students last week - we **strongly advise students to attend these lunchtime and after school sessions** and to treat them as part of their overall revision timetable. You can [access the revision timetable here](#)

Y11 Yearbook & Leavers Hoodie: A reminder that you can buy the Yearbook and the Leavers Hoodie via [this link here](#) - you need to use this Unique ID: **25465YR11**

The deadline for orders are: **Hoodies by 1 March 2026** and **Yearbooks by 28 April 2026**.

Y11 Prom: This will be held on Wednesday 24 June at The Penridge Suite (N11 1NL). More information and payment arrangements will be provided in March.

Y11 GCSE Exams: GCSE Summer 2026 exams finish on 18th June, however students are expected to be in the country and available until 24th June - this is exam contingency day and is used for rescheduling any exams due to major local or national disruptions.

The **Summer 2026 Exam Timetable** will be published on the school website by mid-March.

Ms Cuenca & Ms Herrero

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.

