

School Leadership Messages

Temperature Dip Expected Next week

Please could parents ensure that students are coming to school in winter wear next week. There's a lot of travelling during the day and time spent outside during break times. They will need their warm clothes and coats as we are expecting a bit of a cold snap!

Assessment at Fortismere

Parents of students in Years 7, 10 and 12 will already have received their child's first report of the academic year via CosX. Other year groups' reports will be published over the coming half-term.

We have made some small adjustments to assessment and reporting at Fortismere and details of these changes can be found on the website. We have also published detailed information about how we use external benchmarking to set ambitious targets for students at GCSE, BTEC and A Level. See the **Assessment at Fortismere** pages on our website [here](#)

Contents

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

20.11	GCSE Solo Recital Concert. 6pm NW Music Hall. Tickets here
23.11	Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Autumn Concert. 7pm St Andrew's. Tickets here
03.12	Y11 and Y13 Mock Results Published
10.12	Y13 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm (face to face)

Fireworks at Fortismere last week



Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

Headteacher's Message

As we move through November, there's a real sense of purpose and energy around the school, with our exam students demonstrating impressive focus and our community coming together in wonderful ways. Since 6th November, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been sitting their mock examinations and I'm pleased to report that they are going extremely well. It's been wonderful to see the maturity and dedication our students have shown during this important period. These mocks are such a valuable part of their preparation and learning, giving them the chance to experience exam conditions, identify areas for development, and build their confidence ahead of the summer. We're incredibly proud of how they've approached this challenge and adapted to the routines we have for exams here at Fortismere.

Beyond the exam halls, our community spirit has been thriving. A huge thank you to the Friends of Fortismere for organising our fireworks night on 5th November, which was a fantastic success. The event was brilliantly attended and raised vital funds for the school whilst bringing our wider community together for an evening of spectacular entertainment. The fairground rides were as popular as ever with our young people and it is great that residents from beyond the school community came out to support the event. We'll update you all in due course as to how the funds raised (£14K!) will be invested back into the school; you will have received an update from FOF yesterday (via Parentmail) about how the funds from the last big event are being spent across the curriculum to really enhance the student experience. Please refer to this message as FOF are inviting parents to come along to a meeting in January to be part of the next round of fundraising efforts which we can already see are having a real impact at Fortismere.

This week's Newsletter includes an update from our Eco-committee who continue to lead the way in championing sustainability at Fortismere. This month they've launched 'Cut Your Carbon Month', challenging our students and families to tackle carbon emissions through six simple actions at home. I'd encourage you all to get involved – the challenges are practical, achievable, and a great way to make a difference together as a family. In keeping with this environmental focus, we've partnered with Christmas on the Hill, a local business that combines festive magic with genuine sustainability. They offer living tree rental services and are aiming for 50% of their deliveries to be made by e-bikes. When you order through our link and select Fortismere at checkout, they'll make a generous donation to the school. It's a wonderful example of how sustainable choices can support our community too.

With warm wishes for the weekend and the week ahead. I think we'll all be needing to wrap up warm for next week!

Eco Committee News

November is Cut Your Carbon Month!

The Fortismere Eco-committee is calling on our students and their families to tackle carbon emissions, one simple action at a time. Please help your child to complete these **6 simple challenges** to raise awareness and spark change. At the end of the month, we'll count how many of you joined in, add up the estimated carbon saved, and celebrate your amazing efforts!

1. Make three evening meals plant-based across the month

Meat production is responsible for around 14% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, so make three evening meals plant-based and discover how delicious cutting carbon can be!

2. Make any three journeys 'active' across the month

Transport creates nearly a quarter of the UK's carbon emissions. Active travel - such as walking, scooting, wheeling, or cycling - doesn't emit anything! So, get active and ditch the drive!

3. Have a device-free day

Electricity makes up about 25% of your home's carbon footprint. Power down non-essential devices for one day — no gaming, no streaming — and rediscover the joy of offline fun!

4. Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week

Research suggests that the average person wastes 95kg of food per year! At each stage of the life-cycle of wasted food, from production to rotting at landfill, carbon is produced. Plan your meals, shop smart, and waste less — it's good for the planet and your wallet!

5. Lower your washing machine temperature to 30°C for three washes across the month

Washing machines are energy-hungry! Drop the temperature to 30°C for three washes this month and cut carbon without sacrificing clean clothes. Cool it to care!

6. Turn down the heating by 1°C for a week

Heating is the top source of home carbon emissions in the UK. Turn it down by just 1°C for a week, layer up, and show your love for the planet — one cosy jumper at a time!

We've got a **Cut Your Carbon Checklist** that you can download and stick up at home to help you follow the challenges and start cutting carbon today. [Get the checklist here](#) or see the very last page of this newsletter.

Thank you for your support - The Eco Committee

Friends of Fortismere

Have A Sustainable Christmas on the Hill

Linking with the Eco Committee's Cut Your Carbon Challenge we want to share a way that you can have a more sustainable Christmas and support the school at the same time - win win!

Christmas on the Hill is a local business who combine the magic of Christmas with a passion for sustainability - *read about Christmas trees and the planet [here](#)*. As well as cut trees, they offer a living tree rental service (you can even rent the same tree year on year and watch it grow!) and are aiming for 50% of their trees to be delivered by e-bikes. There is lots of information on their website.

If you order a tree from Christmas on the Hill they will make a generous donation to Fortismere and the more orders, the more they donate! You must select Fortismere from the dropdown list of schools at checkout.

Please use this link [Christmas on the Hill](#) and share it with your families and friends to help support the school

Library

Scary Story Competition Winners

Really well done to the winners of the two-sentence horror story competition that we ran before half-term. The winning entries were written by: Mateo Billeter Y9, Elizabeth Wataba Y8 and Frida Fernando Y8. These are the three stories below. And well done to everyone who took part.

I stand on one spot staring at my dismembered arm. The beast is still ripping it apart, gnawing it down in its jaws - Mateo.

A Demonic Awakening, by Elizabeth. A pair of bloodied, calloused hands grip my window sill... I live on the 16th floor.

I turn around. It's there - Frida.

Non-Fiction November

Come check out the new Library homepage [here](#) to celebrate and remind us of Non-Fiction November. On the updated homepage, you can virtually visit museums, play games and quizzes to test your knowledge, and find a list of activities to fill dark afternoons with.

The library is now hosting a display of non-fiction books spanning many genres and types, sure to please anyone. Most of us enjoy reading novels and fiction, but this is a good month to broaden our horizons and give some non-fiction a go. Despite some of our preconceptions, non-fiction can be more than just informative, it can be exciting and even revolutionary. Check out some of our suggestions below, and click on the image to see them on our library website.



Sport & PE Notices

London Youth Games Cross Country

Well done to our Fortismere runners Jonah, Alex, Amy, Ivy and Cleo, firstly for qualifying to represent Haringey at the London Youth Games and also for running so well in such challenging circumstances. It was very difficult terrain, the weather was miserable and the competition was tough.



There were teams from all 32 other London boroughs competing in the annual LYG Cross Country at Hampstead Heath so massive congratulations to all of you as Haringey Girls finished 5th overall and Haringey Boys 7th.

Alessia Cup - Thursday 6th November

Nine of our Year 8 girls gave up a day of their half term holiday last week to take part in the inaugural Alessia Cup. The Alessia Russo Foundation (set up to champion girls' participation in sport, empower young women

to reach their potential and elevate women's health) partnered with Sky and Adidas and other high profile organisations to launch the event this year.

The girls were lucky enough to get an Adidas kit, new football boots and a fleece for taking part. There were 28 teams and the standard was high - Fortismere made it through to the semi finals and then unfortunately lost to Channing School. It was a fantastic day all round and was featured on London News and Sky Sports. The girls got to meet with Arsenal and England player Alessia Russo and managed to get their shirts and boots signed. Hopefully one day some of those girls will be playing for WSL teams or their country like other Fortismere Alumni - Esther Morgan and Arraya Dennis.



Middlesex Cup News

Congratulations to our Year 8 under 13 girls who beat Latymer School 8-1 on Monday afternoon in the pouring rain! Etta scored 4, Hannah 2, Izzy 1 and Lula 1. The under 13s now progress to the 3rd round of the Middlesex Cup. Our Year 7 boys were not so lucky in the rain on Monday, sadly losing 8-4 to JCoss so their Cup run comes to an end this year.

Year 8 and 9 Girls beat APS at home 3-0, Farrah scored 2 and Millie got the last goal. Well done girls. The Year 7s got off to a great start in their campaign beating JCoss 3-0. 2 goals from Gracie and 1 from Kendal



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 17 Nov - Y8 and Y10 Netball Away at Greig City Academy Away. Y7, 8/9 Basketball v Away.
Tuesday 18 Nov - Y8 and Y10 Netball at Channing School Away. Y8 Boys football v Greig City Home.
Thursday 20 Nov - Y10 and Y11 Boys Basketball v APS Home. Y7 and Y9 Netball v Highgate wood Away

Wear it Pink - Thank you

Thank you to all of you that wore something pink and contributed to the very worthy cause of Breast Cancer Now. We raised £268.15.



Drama Department Notices

Panto Rehearsals: Taking Shape!

We are starting to see the panto take more shape this week with the first three scenes blocked and the actors getting into the feet of their characters alongside each other. We've a little bit of singing, a little bit of dancing, a little bit of acting, a little bit of comedy and are ready for more next week. It's already mid-November...the show is in January, and time feels like it's flying!



Callout for Ikea Shelves

We are looking for an 8 cube and a 4 cube Ikea Kallax shelf. If any family has a spare one they can give us, please do email lovers@fortismere.org.uk

We would be grateful for any donations - we don't mind the colour! Thank you very much.



Snapshot: Year 7 Drama - Getting Spooky!

In Y7 Drama this week, we have been venturing to Darkwood Manor and getting into spooky season!

What makes a story spooky? How do we build tension and suspense in our storytelling and acting? How do we create atmosphere and mood?

Here are a group of friends bravely about to enter the Manor...we wonder what they'll discover!



Snapshot: Year 10 GCSE Drama

Our Y10 students have started to explore the play 'Chaos' by Laura Lomas. Drawing from their work on physical theatre, students have been focusing on choral movement and speech and engaging in continued practise of physical theatre techniques, this time applied to a set script.



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.



Eco Committee

Checklist to Cut Your Carbon



- Make 3 evening meals plant-based across the month.



- Make 3 journeys active across the month.



- Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week.



- Lower your washing machine temperature to 30°C for three washes across the month.



- Have a 'device-free' day.



- Drop your heating by 1°C for a week.