

## School Leadership Messages

### Christmas Card Competition Results

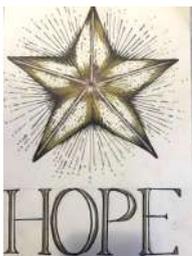
Congratulations to all the students who entered this year's Christmas Card Competition! We were delighted by the creativity, care and festive spirit shown in every design.

**We are pleased to announce this year's winner is Phoebe Kapos Y7.** Phoebe's design will be the official Fortismere Christmas card for 2025.



**Runners-up are Alice Watson (Y8), Henry Schultz (Y8), Luce Vizzini (Y8) and Theo Ogden (Y8)**

We would also like to give a special mention to Alana Lee Y7 for her wonderful pop-up card, which brought an extra touch of festive magic. Well done to everyone who took part!



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## Calendar

**15.12** School Music Concerts  
**16.12** NW Concert Hall

**19.12** School finishes. Students will be dismissed from 12.30pm onwards

**05.01** School starts 8.35am



Designed by Freepik [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

Wishing a Peaceful and Happy Hanukkah to all members of our school community who are celebrating the Festival of Lights.

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

## Headteacher's Message

As we reach the conclusion of the penultimate week of term, it's fair to say that the festive spirit has well and truly arrived at Fortismere.

The week began with a wonderful prelude at St Andrew's Church, where we were treated to enchanting performances from both the Fortismere and Coldfall Primary School choirs. The atmosphere was truly magical as we joined together in singing traditional Christmas carols. Both choirs delivered stunning renditions of 'O Holy Night', which gave us all goosebumps. It was particularly special to see our choir united with our friends from Coldfall – a moment we hope will become a cherished annual tradition. The quality of our students' performance was exceptional, and it was wonderful to see them take the lead in this year's carol concert.

I had the distinct pleasure of judging this year's Christmas card competition, which once again showcased remarkable talent. We invited our students to explore the themes of 'Hope' and 'Light' in their designs. The decision was incredibly difficult, but ultimately the winner was Phoebe Kapos in 7Y1, whose depiction of a beautiful wintry scene was wonderfully evocative of the season. I particularly loved the symbol of a flower blooming amongst the snow as a powerful representation of 'Hope'. My warmest congratulations go to Phoebe, as well as to our runners-up, who created a superb series of designs which we're delighted to share with you in this newsletter. You'll see what a challenging task it was to select the winning card. Phoebe's design is being used on Fortismere's e-card this year.

We have been overwhelmed once again by the extraordinary generosity of our community this week as we concluded our food collection for the Muswell Hill Food Bank today. We collected more donations this year than ever before, so we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all Fortismere families who contributed. Our student ambassadors have been working tirelessly to organise the food and arrange its delivery. Following the winter coat collection, it's heartening to see our students making such a concerted effort to support those less fortunate this season.

The festive atmosphere reached its peak today with Christmas Jumper Day, which happily coincided with our school Christmas meal. We extended the lunch break to allow students the opportunity to enjoy a full Christmas dinner with their friends, and they're spending the final part of the day in their tutor groups enjoying seasonal activities.

We return next week for two Christmas music concerts and, of course, plenty more learning to complete. In the meantime, I hope you're able to find some time to relax this weekend amidst all the festivities

## Governing Board

### Parent Governor Election Update

Thanks to everyone so far who's taken the time to vote for two new parent Governors to join Fortismere's Board. If you haven't already, please have a look at the list of candidates and their statements [here](#), and place your votes by 2nd January 2026. We're fortunate to have attracted a great list of volunteers, and now have every prospect of further increasing the strength of our Board. School governance is a demanding job sometimes, requiring diligence, resilience, and quite a lot of capacity. On behalf of all the Governors, we look forward to welcoming whoever you vote for. Finally, our thanks once again to everyone who put themselves forward! Have a great holiday season.

Mark Chapman

Chair of Governors

## Student Fundraising

### Christmas Jumper Day Fortismere Style

Thank you to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day today and helped to raise money for **Save the Children**.

There were some brilliant jumpers on display - classic, alternative, cute and fun! It was difficult to pick the overall winners but a special well done to these students.



1st place - Amber Charnley Y10; 2nd place - Eva Racos Y7; 3rd place - Aleks Dodokin Y9; Highly commended - Sasha Naletova Y8 and Thibaut Penman Y7

**So far we have raised a whopping £497 for Save the Children and it's still not too late to donate online - [use this link](#)**

Thank you so much for your support.  
Ms Brough and The Heads of Houses



## Extra Curricular & Enrichment

### JSoc Celebrate Chanukah

Year 12 student, Isabelle Noah has written about this week's JSoc session for the newsletter - As many of you know, Chanukah is coming up this weekend. Therefore this week's JSoc lunchtime session was Chanukah themed! Chanukah is the celebration of the miracle of light in which the Maccabees defeated the Greek army led by King Antiochus IV and somehow oil that should have only lasted one night gave them light that lasted 8 whole days! To celebrate Chanukah and remember this miracle, we light candles each night of the 8 days as well as eating oily foods such as doughnuts, potato latkes etc.

We thank Ruben Persey from UJS who came in to run our session as well as Ms Overs who supported us in organising this session where we devoured delicious jam doughnuts and played an exhilarating Chanukah pop quiz which everyone loved! Ruben spoke to us about all the UJS leadership opportunities that students can access at universities around the country. Thanks to all the students who came, along with Ms Cohen and Mr Allen who enjoyed this session with us.

We'll see everyone again week 1 Tuesday 6th January when we are back after the holidays for our next lunchtime session in the North Wing Hall - everyone is welcome to join us!! Email Elodie Saunders [saune087.309@fortismere.school](mailto:saune087.309@fortismere.school) or speak to Ms Overs to book in.

## Music Department

### School Christmas Concerts - Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm

Fresh from an uplifting and joyous carol concert at St Andrew's last Sunday, the Music Department will be finishing the term off with the usual flourish!

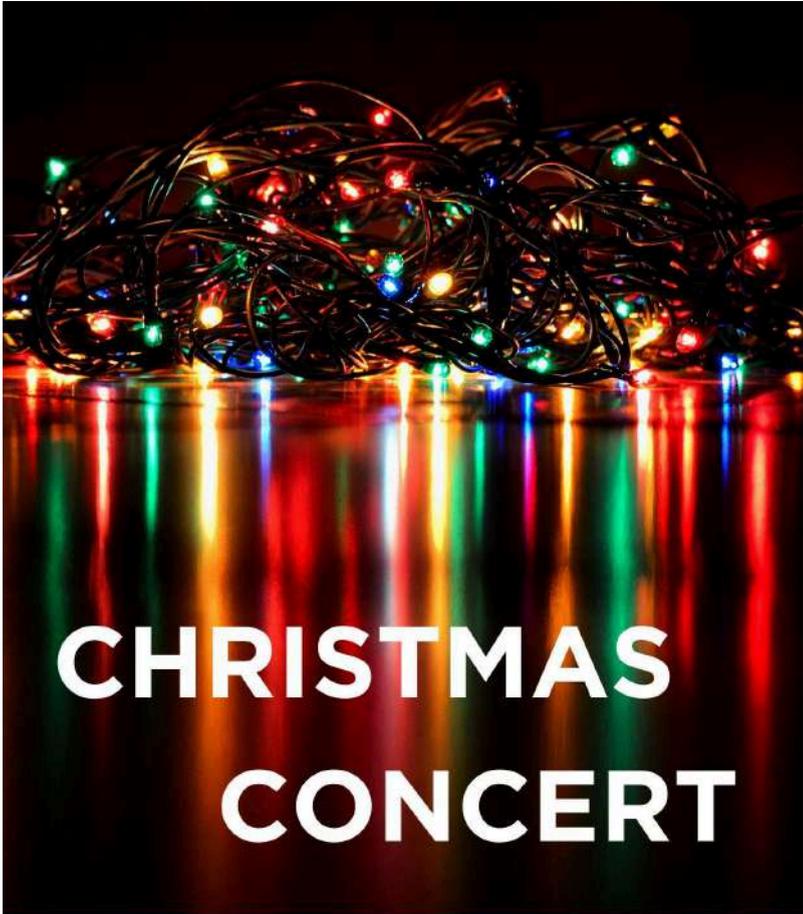
Don't miss the chance to hear all the School Ensembles - Senior Band, Junior Band, Junior and Youth Choirs, Guitar Ensemble, Senior Strings - plus different soloists on each night.

Listen to this taster from [All I Want for Christmas is You](#) as performed last Sunday by Fortismere and Coldfall choirs (plus audience) which will be part of both nights next week!

We will also be presenting certificates to our instrumental and vocal students who have won a prize for their attendance, progress or effort this term. Learning an instrument takes real dedication so congratulations to all our students who have worked so hard this term.

Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December  
6.30pm Music Concert Hall, North Wing,  
Fortismere School  
Fundraiser ticket £10 Standard £8  
Students/U18s £3 **Tickets available online [here](#).**

We look forward to seeing lots of you there next week!



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**15TH & 16TH DECEMBER 2025 at 6.30 PM**

**FORTISMERE SCHOOL CONCERT SERIES**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MATT WATSON

**MUSIC CONCERT HALL, FORTISMERE SCHOOL, N10 1NS**  
FUNDRAISER £10 | STANDARD £8 | STUDENTS/U18s £3  
BOOK ONLINE: [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)



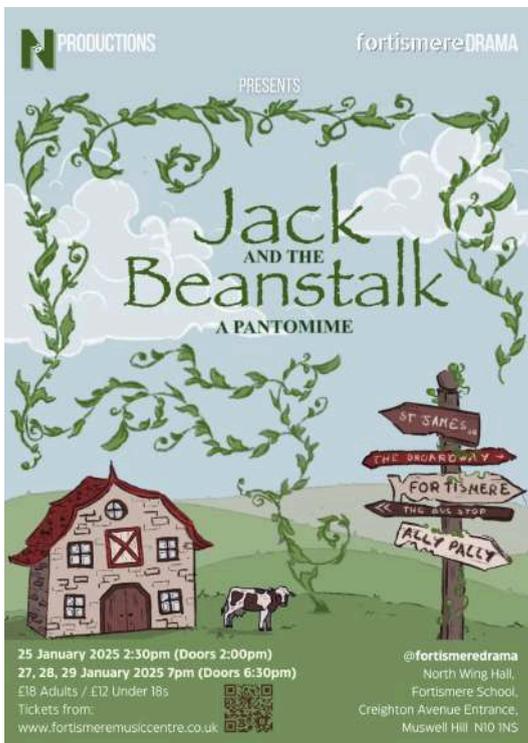
## School of Rock (And Pop) - Saturdays Mornings

There are some places available in the morning session for School of Rock. We are pleased to welcome Elijah Aduu as School of Rock's tutor from January. Elijah is a guitarist and graduate of The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance with over a decade of experience in the music industry. Born and raised in North London, he has built a strong reputation both as a performer and an educator. Elijah has worked extensively with young people through organisations such as the Hackney Empire and Access Creative College, where he has supported aspiring musicians in developing their creative skills.

Apply via [this form](#) if interested - students can come for a taster session on January 10th before committing.

## Drama Department

### Pantomime Tickets Now on Sale!



**N10 Productions and Fortismere Drama present:**

### **Jack and the Beanstalk A giant problem... an even bigger adventure!**

When the struggling Trott family farm is threatened by a band of ruthless property developers determined to plonk a train station where no one wants one, young Jack Trott leaps into action. After being duped by a shady Bean Dealer Gang and losing beloved Daisy the Cow, Jack finds himself with nothing but a handful of so-called magic beans. But when a towering beanstalk bursts into the sky, horrifying the bougie neighbours and baffling the local farmers, Jack discovers his only hope is to climb it. Alongside Jill, a cast of lost fairytale characters, and a few surprisingly helpful magical beans, Jack must outwit the Giant's mischievous minions and save the family farm before it's flattened into a railway platform. Packed with belly laughs, big songs, wild magic, and giant-sized surprises, this is the ultimate family pantomime adventure.

Book now and join Jack for the climb of his life! Tickets: <https://www.fortismerecentre.co.uk/concerts>  
Our shows always sell out in advance, so buy tickets early and help us fundraise to provide more amazing opportunities and professional equipment for our students.

## Sport & PE Notices

### Thank You for New Gym Mats

Thank you to the Friends of Fortismere for funding our lovely new gym mats. We intend to make great use of them - not only during curriculum time but also for a Gymnastics Club after school starting in the New Year. We will also be using them to train for a competition against Channing School. Thank you so much



## Year 7 Boys Haringey League - Football

Well done to our Year 7 Football Squad - they travelled to Highgate Wood on Monday and played a great game, which Mr Kay says they deserved to win but unfortunately they lost in the last minute to a late goal. Unlucky but well played.



## Squash Club at Fortismere

Unfortunately the Squash Club at Fortismere has come to an end after a fantastic term of squash in the Sports Hall. Thank you to Coolhurst and the coaches that made the squash club so fun and enjoyable. We hope to have them back for some more coaching in the future.

## Tottenham in the Community at Fortismere

We have been very lucky to have coaches from Tottenham Hotspur Football Club visiting Fortismere on Wednesday afternoons to offer coaching for our very keen girls. They have loved the sessions and have improved their skills as well as their bond with one another, on and off of the pitch.



## Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 15 December: Y9 Boys Haringey Football League v St Thomas More Away  
Tuesday 16 December: U14 Girls Middlesex Cup v Chiswick @Home 2pm  
Tuesday 16 December: Y7 v Harris Academy Away

## Library

### New Library Books

We are only a few days into December and the Library has already acquired a bunch of new books, without counting the ones we just bought for Biblio-buzz 2026. We want to extend a huge thank you to the students who have donated new and preloved books; these small acts of kindness keep our library growing and remind us of what the students like to read and engage with. Some of the books have been so popular that the moment they are returned someone is waiting to check them out again, it is a true pleasure seeing our students so interested.

As usual, click on one of the book covers below to learn more about it through our [library system](#).



## Overdue Book Returns

An Elf has been spotted in the library. Is he spying for Santa? We are not sure, but you should return any overdue books by the end of term just in case, as you don't want to end up on Santa's naughty list! And, for good measure, while returning any books, check out something to read in the holidays, something to fill those dark food-filled days with good stories and food for your brain.



## Classics Department

### Fortismere Host King's College Lecture

Year 12 and Year 13 Classical Civilisation students attended a lecture by Dr Pavlos Avlamis of King's College London held here at Fortismere. They were given a very engaging talk on xenia (hospitality) in their set text and Homer's use of patterns across 'The Odyssey'. This year we were able to host the event and welcomed students from APS school. We look forward to next term's lecture by the Professor of Ancient History at Cambridge on the 'Aeneid'.

## 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](mailto: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.

