

School Leadership Messages

Headteacher's Surgery Thursday 30th April from 2pm-4pm

There is an online Headteacher's Surgery next half term for parents and carers who would like the opportunity to talk directly to Ms Zoe Judge, about any aspect of school policy or practice. It may be to share your experience or to understand a little more about an aspect of the school. The Surgery is not for concerns about individual children as these should be raised directly with the relevant member of staff or where appropriate, through the complaints process, which escalates unresolved issues through the school management hierarchy.

To register for an appointment **complete the form [here](#)** Slots are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If this Surgery is full, we'll offer you an appointment at a future session. Online meeting links will be sent out before your appointment.

OFSTED Parent information session

On Tuesday this week, Fran Hargrove, the Deputy CEO of the Haringey Education Partnership led an incredibly informative session for Fortismere parents on the new OFSTED inspection framework. If you were unable to attend the slides are attached to the Newsletter parentmail.

Year 11 Exam & Study Leave Information

Year 11 parents/carers will receive a Parentmail today with important information about the summer exam series. The information has also been shared with students in their Google classrooms.

Reminder to feedback on our reporting systems

Thank you to those that have already completed our CosX survey - it's open until Monday 13 April so there is still time to leave your feedback. We are working closely with the CosX developers to optimise the experience for all our stakeholders and would appreciate your feedback on how the system is working from your perspective. **The link to the survey is [here](#)**

Contents

Headteacher's Message

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

13.04	Back to school 8.35am
19.04	Fortismere Quiz Night
30.04	Headteacher Surgery 2pm-4pm



*Spring term edition published
Details in the Newsletter*

**Feedback at Fortismere
[here](#)**

Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of what has been a truly eventful spring term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our students and staff. Yesterday I sent you a detailed end of term letter highlighting the many successes we've enjoyed this term. If you haven't had a chance to read it yet, I'd encourage you to do so as it captures the breadth and depth of what makes Fortismere such a special place.

From our spectacular pantomime production of Jack and the Beanstalk involving 175 students and staff, to our outstanding Charity Band Night raising over £1,000 for the RSPCA, this term has been defined by creativity, ambition and community spirit. Only last night we were entertained again by our musicians in their Spring Concert which showcased all of these things in an eclectic programme which was delivered to an incredibly high standard to a packed Concert Hall.

Our sports teams have excelled across the board, becoming Haringey champions in cricket, basketball and football, with our Year 8 Girls Football team delivering a masterclass 5-1 victory in their cup final. Academically, our students have shone too, with impressive performances in the Physics Challenge competitions and our Sixth Formers impressing fourteen universities at our annual University Fair with their confidence and curiosity.

Beyond the classroom and playing field, our students have demonstrated remarkable maturity and leadership. Our Feminist Society hosted their 18th annual International Women's Day event raising over £450 for Refuge, our entire Year 9 cohort visited Muswell Hill Synagogue to hear testimony from Holocaust survivor Martin Stern MBE, and Year 12 and 13 students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to China. During Careers Week, students explored pathways across the curriculum, and this week saw a large-scale careers event for Years 10, 11 and 12 with visitors from a range of sectors.

Looking ahead to next term, please do take the time to complete our feedback survey on the CosX reporting system. Your input helps us continually improve. This week there's also information from the leadership team on the actions we have taken from the feedback you have provided us this half term via the 'Feedback @ Fortismere' form. One response involves the opportunity for parents to speak to me directly. The Headteacher's Surgery will take place on Thursday 30th April from 2.00pm-4.00pm for parents who would like to discuss school policy or practice. Please see more detail about this on the front page.

We're also excited to share that we've created a dedicated page on our website for updates on the Fortismere School Rebuild programme. You can find this under the 'Our School' section of our website. There's more information about this below too.

As we head into the Spring Break, I hope that those of you who celebrated Eid enjoyed your celebrations. To all our families observing Easter and Passover, I wish you peaceful and meaningful celebrations. These have been unsettled times globally, and we know this can filter into our communities. At Fortismere, we remain grateful that we are here to support each other, and I hope you all enjoy a restful break with your families.

Your Feedback, Our Action

Thank you to the parents and carers who are using our Feedback @ Fortismere Form to provide instant feedback on how we are doing. We are finding this channel of communication really useful in helping us understand the positives and the aspects of the school you think could improve. Please see our roundup for this half term on the next page...

YOUR FEEDBACK, OUR ACTION

Spring Term 2026

FEEDBACK

Our Headteacher (Ms Judge) will be holding an online Surgery on 30th April. This will give parents the opportunity to speak directly to her and share feedback on the school's policies and practices. See this week's Newsletter entry to book a slot for next term

COMMUNICATION REGARDING TEACHER ABSENCE

When a teacher is absent from school it is not commonplace for schools to share information with parents. Their lessons are covered by staff and work is set either by the absent teacher or by the Head of Department. Where there is a longer term planned absence which requires an on-going change of teacher we may feel it appropriate to get in touch with parents but this is on a case by case basis

COSX REPORTS

We have received feedback from parents via a few of our communication channels about CosX reports. This is why we have an open survey to get as much feedback as possible around what parents want to see on their child's progress report. Please do take the time to share you views (link in this week's Newsletter)

Fortismere School Rebuild

We communicated with parents about the fact that Fortismere is in the Feasibility phase of the School Rebuilding Programme earlier this term. We are aware that things are moving along in the background but we have no real updates to share on this project at present. At some point towards the end of this phase

we will begin to see early designs and plans taking shape and when there are things to share about the build, timelines and what exactly is being replaced we will share them with you.

To this end, we have created a page on the school website under the 'Our School' section that is completely dedicated to updating our community on the programme. We will use this page to update you on plans and designs when they are shareable, opportunities that arise for parents to hear directly from the DfE about the project and once work begins we will share regular updates on its progress.

For now there is an introduction to the programme that has been added and can be accessed [here](#)

We'll let you all know when there are updates via this Newsletter too.

Governing Board

Parent Governor Vacancies

We will have two vacancies for parent governors from the end of April. A separate message will be sent via ParentMail shortly with details of the recruitment process and supporting information about the role of a governor at Fortismere. We were delighted to have 15 candidates standing in our parent governor election at the end of last year, which showed wonderful engagement from our parent community. We hope that some of these parents, along with others who are interested, will consider putting themselves forward for these roles. Please look out for the ParentMail message and if you have any questions contact the clerk to governors, Ms Sam Murray at smurray@fortismere.org.uk

Mark Chapman

Chair of governors

Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

Extra! Extra! Read the Latest Edition of Fortistory

Hot off the press is the spring term edition of **Fortistory**, our student magazine and it's packed with brilliant content, including:

- **The Fortismere Debate** - Is social media good or bad? Read different perspectives on this hot topic.
- **Sport** - Get ready for the World Cup with our preview, plus find out where to watch women's football.
- **Culture** - Discover recommendations covering books, music, film and drama.
- Read the latest in **Tech and Travel**
- **NEW: Fortispet!** Our brand new regular feature showcasing pets belonging to Fortismere students and staff. If you'd like your pet to feature in a future edition, get in touch with Pressgang!



Pressgang students have worked incredibly hard to put this edition together, and it's perfect reading for the Easter break - **read it here** [Fortistory Spring term 2026.pdf](#)

Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

Careers Day Success - Thank You!

This week we held a fantastic Careers Day for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students, featuring workshops and presentations covering a diverse range of careers. Feedback from both staff and students has been brilliant!

What made the day extra special was the incredible support from our own parent and carer community. Many of you gave up your time to deliver sessions, sharing your professional knowledge and experience with our students. It was wonderful to see parents in school, contributing to our students' learning and helping to strengthen the connections between home and school.

Thank you for your generosity and support - you made a real difference to our students' understanding of the world of work.



Next Steps in London Magazine - Wellbeing & Exam Special

Next Steps in London is a collection of guides to support young people, parents, and educators as they explore future career pathways across the capital. The latest edition of their magazine aims to support students in the build-up to the exam season and during the results period. Packed full of wellbeing resources, real life experiences and information. [Access it here](#)

Sport & PE Notices

Year 9 Haringey Football Champions!

Congratulations to our Year 9 Boys team who beat St Thomas More in what was an excellent Cup Final.



Boys Basketball Update

We've had a great few weeks of basketball fixtures around Haringey and also at home. We played STM on Monday in a very close match - they went on to win and were first in the league. Our Year 7s were unbeaten in the league and they finished 2nd overall. Our Year 8 and 9s played really well against Heartlands but were unlucky, losing by 8 points and finishing 4th in the league. Our Year 11's led by Leon Kent had a close - end to end game but kept their nerve and won by 12 points in the end - finishing a brilliant 2nd place in Haringey. Well done to all the teams involved. We will try to organise some friendlies after Easter.



Our Leaders Take Control

Our student sports leaders took charge this week, showing fantastic maturity as they officiated the Quick Stix Hockey Tournament with total professionalism. On Tuesday, Fortismere were host to the nine local primary schools taking part in the tournament. There was a lovely buzz of activity all afternoon - the young children enjoyed the hockey and Genevieve and the Year 9 leaders were excellent at organising and officiating. With help from Mr Kay did a great job - well done and thank you!



Year 10 Trial University Sports Science

28 of our Year 10 GCSE & BTEC students got a taste of higher education this week on a visit to Middlesex University. Hosted at the high-tech StoneX Stadium Campus, the trip was designed to inspire our students, show them what it's like to study sports science at university level and outline the diverse career pathways on offer within the sports industry. Highlights of the day included:

- **Hands-on Industry Skills:** Students used professional-grade laboratory equipment to conduct practical experiments.
- **Elite Environment:** A tour of the state-of-the-art facilities gave students an insight into the world of high-performance sport.
- **Career Pathways:** By engaging with staff and exploring the campus, students gained valuable careers advice helping them visualise the transition from school to higher education and beyond.



Extra Curricular Clubs Summer Term: April-June

With the weather hopefully continuing to improve and the field drying out, we are getting ready for a packed summer term of PE and sport. Here is everything you need to know about our updated schedule:

- **Athletics Training:** We are heading back onto the track and field after Easter! Join us as we prepare for the Haringey Tournaments coming up in May.
- **Running Club:** Ms Bailey is looking for running company! Don't let her run alone but join her every **Tuesday lunchtime** for a refreshing run.

- **More Pickleball:** Due to the popularity of Tuesday Badminton, we are expanding our **Pickleball Club** to **Thursdays** to ensure everyone gets a chance to play.
- **Weekly Favourites: Netball, Hockey, and Girls' Football** will all continue as usual.
- **Year 11 Revision:** A reminder to all Year 11s to make the most of the **Revision Club** with Mr Hawkes, held every **Tuesday**.

See the updated timetable of lunchtime and after school sports activities. Also **on the website [here](#)**

	Lunch Time	After School 3.15pm-4.15 pm
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football: Astro (MV/GK) • Basketball All Yrs: (MH) • Badminton/Pickleball Y7&8: Sports Hall (NDF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls Football: Astro (KJ) • Athletics Club All Yrs: School Field (MV) • Hockey: Astro turf (GK)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football: Astro (MV/GK) • Badminton/Pickleball Y9-11: Sports Hall (NDF) • Running Club (LB) • Basketball: (MH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton: Sports Hall (LB) • GCSE Revision Club: Room N24 (MH) • Netball Y7-8: Netball Courts (KW)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football: Astro (GK) • Basketball: (MH) • Badminton/Pickleball Y7-8: Sports Hall (MV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball Y7: Sports Hall (External coach) • Staff CPD
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football: Astro (MV) • Badminton Y9-11: Sports Hall (GK) • Basketball (MH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis: Tennis Courts (MH) • Pickleball: Sports Hall (AB)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball (MH) • Badminton/Pickleball (GK) 	

Music Department

Weekday Instrumental & Vocal Lessons Summer Term

Timetables for the Summer Term will be posted up on all the music Google Classrooms in the next day or so. New students will need to accept their invitation so they can see the timetables. Invoices for lessons will be sent out on 31st March with a payment deadline of 8th April.

Lessons will start immediately for nearly all students in the first week of term so please check the timetables carefully before term begins!

Spring Term Music Prizes

Learning an instrument takes time and dedication which our teachers like to recognise! Here are the students chosen by our team of music teachers for special mention this term. They will have received their certificate and prize this week. Congratulations to them and all our music students for all their hard work.

Rosie Price - cor anglais; Charlie Barnett - oboe; Alexander Nicholls - violin; Dominique Almeida - violin; Daniel Matthews - drums; Sasha Hayling - drums; Ellis Greaves - drums; Shayam Seeruttun - guitar; Dylan Hardiman - guitar; Isaac Muhsin - guitar; Daniel Mutlu - piano; Rian Bozek - piano; Kseniia Volkova - piano; Isadora Gunther Mustafa - piano; Stav Ben Zvi - piano; Merrily Farquharson Robinson - clarinet; Zayyan

Qureshi - clarinet; Alice Watson - voice; Eva Racos - voice; Ezra Dean - piano; Oliver Birdsey - piano; Noe Clarke - trumpet; Noah Newbold - trumpet.

Concert Successes!

The end of term has seen some fabulous concerts. Last Sunday, St Andrew's Church was packed to the rafters with a record audience of over 250 for the **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra's concert**. We were delighted to see so many students and young people in the audience as well. As these concerts are now regularly selling out, we will be moving to the larger venue of St James for future concerts.

And yesterday was our **Spring Concert** featuring an incredibly impressive range of soloists, bands and ensembles. Some of our Year 11 and 13 students were also making their last concert appearances at Fortismere so it was an especially moving occasion.

Saturday Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and School of Rock - Summer Term

The Saturday Music Centre will open again on Saturday 18th April and invoices for lessons/ensembles will go out early next week.

LINC

Celebrate Inclusion Through Chess Event - Saturday 4 April 11.00am

In celebration of International Autism Awareness Day, the FIDE Infinite Chess project invites families to a unique online event that goes beyond the chessboard to explore the real experiences of those living with autism. Taking place on **4 April at 11am** "*An Atypical Day*" offers a chance to step into a world of different perspectives, challenges and triumphs. This special awareness talk aims to foster understanding, encourage empathy, and inspire meaningful change both within the chess community and beyond.

Parents and coaches will share their personal stories, offering honest insights into daily life. A key focus of the discussion will be the impact of the Infinite Chess community. Families will reflect on how chess has helped provide structure, confidence, and new opportunities for communication and belonging. These powerful stories will demonstrate how inclusive activities can open doors and create supportive environments for every child. Attendees will have the opportunity to take part in a live Q&A session.

The event will also feature expert insights from Gulzhanar Akhaeva, a highly experienced defectologist, sensory therapist and specialist in special pedagogy. Her professional perspective will help bridge the gap between lived experiences and practical support strategies.

 **Register here:** <https://forms.gle/dA7TRwSRyCLzksoM6>

This event is open to everyone - whether you are a parent, educator, chess enthusiast, or simply interested in building a more inclusive world. It is an opportunity to listen, learn and reflect on how we can better support one another. The [Infinite Chess project](#) continues to grow, supporting hundreds of children with autism and additional needs, and welcoming families from around the world into its inclusive community.

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.

