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<p>What a week this has been. Today we said farewell to our Year 13 students at their Leavers Assembly as many of them head into their A Level examinations. It was a joyful occasion, made all the more special by the fact that so many students arrived in costume, ready to mark this milestone with characteristic Fortismere flair. This year group's journey through secondary school was quickly interrupted by the Covid lockdown when they were in Year 7, and yet they have shown remarkable grit and determination to reach this point. We are immensely proud of them all, and knowing our Fortismere students as we do, we're confident their futures will be as varied and exciting as our impressive Fortismere Alumni. We cannot wait to see what they do next.</p>	<p><b>Headteacher's Message</b></p>	
<p>Also today, Year 11 began their first written GCSE examinations. They arrived prepared and calm, and from what I understand, the first paper went well. This is such an important time for both Years 11 and 13. We want them all to know that their school is firmly behind them, supporting them through the next few weeks.</p>	<p><b>Friends of Fortismere</b></p>	
<p>Earlier today I had the privilege of attending a session in our temporary planetarium, 'The Wonder Dome', which has been set up in the North Wing Music Hall. It was a truly out-of-this-world experience, with facts and visuals that were genuinely mind-blowing. I joined a Year 7 tutor group, and their questions were really impressive, reminding me once again what curious thinkers we have here at Fortismere. This was such a special opportunity, made possible by the efforts of all of you and the Friends of Fortismere, whose fundraising paid for this wonderful co-curricular experience for our students.</p>	<p><b>Departmental News &amp; Notices</b></p>	
<p>Bringing us back down to Earth, I'll join the rest of the planet in wishing Sir David Attenborough a very happy 100th birthday. A century of inspiring us to care for our natural world, and still going strong. What better way to celebrate a week that has been about looking up at the stars, looking forward to bright futures, and remembering to look after the world we all share.</p>	<p><b>Safeguarding Information</b></p>	
<p>Have a wonderful weekend.</p>	<p><b>Calendar</b></p>	
	<p><b>15.05</b></p>	<p>GCSE Art &amp; Photography Exhibition 6pm-8pm in North Wing</p>
	<p><b>17.06</b></p>	<p>A Level Art &amp; Photography Exhibition 6pm-8pm in North Wing</p>
<p><b>Feedback at Fortismere <a href="#">here</a></b></p>		
<p><b>Sparx Reader Stars</b></p> <p>The English department would like to commend the following KS3 students for their excellent efforts with Sparx reader this week:</p> <p><b>Y7: Libby Harris 728</b>  <b>Y8: Hannah Biedermann 1016</b>  <b>Y9: Lux Scott 749</b></p> <p>Keep up the good work!</p>		

## Friends of Fortismere

### Get on Board to Help Raise Funds for Fortismere!

Would you like a chance to donate £15 directly to the school by doing very little?

The Summer Festival is coming up on Sunday 5th July and Martyn Gerrard is once again supporting the school. Martyn Gerrard will donate £15 for every one of their property boards that a Fortismere family have outside their property. **All you have to do is FILL IN THIS FORM:** <https://forms.gle/Zi8RZ66YoiEuHZS19> **by Wednesday 20th May**

Even if you have had a board before (thank you!) and have previously filled in the form (even if it is several times) Martyn Gerrard insist it is completed again to ensure no one gets a board who doesn't want one.

We got 225 boards for the fireworks, but think we can do much better than that! We would like to aim for at least 300 this time which is a significant amount of money for the school. Thank you for your support.

## Eco Committee

### Happy 100th Birthday to Sir David Attenborough!

The Eco-Committee would like to wish Sir David Attenborough a very Happy 100th Birthday today!

He continues to inspire millions of us to be interested, explore and care for the natural world. Why not try the CBBC quiz and learn more about his impressive career here: [The Legendary Sir David Attenborough Quiz](#)



## Science Department

### The WonderDome Lands at Fortismere

On Friday 8th May students left their classrooms for an immersive cosmic journey exploring the wonders of the Universe. The mobile planetarium shows, captivantly presented by Mark Wheeler from WonderDome, were designed to both inspire an interest in astronomy and support the Year 7 and GCSE Physics curriculums.

- Year 7 classes went on a whistle stop tour of our solar system and explored the rugged landscapes of neighboring planets and investigated the moons that scientists believe could potentially support life.
- Year 10 students tackled the "Big Ideas". How Earth and space based telescopes have revealed the violent origins of our expanding Universe. The sessions helped students visualise the complex life cycles of stars from their birth in nebulae to their dramatic endings.

For both year groups it was an unforgettable opportunity to bring the marvels of space right into our school; hopefully inspiring future space explorers like the Artemis II crew or astrophysicists following in the footsteps of Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Hawking. We want to make this a yearly event that all Year 7 and GCSE triple scientists can look forward to!

A very big thank you goes to the Friends of Fortismere for generously funding this visit. It is their support that allowed the Science Department to bring this high-impact, memorable learning experience directly to our students.

Further thanks go to our WonderDome guest Mark Wheeler and our Fortismere 'space travel agent' Mr. Commons.

Mr. A. Hann, Head of Science



## The Schools Geology Challenge National Finalists

Two of our Year 12 students, Rosie Price and Lilia McDonough, qualified for the national final of The Schools Geology Challenge, organised by the Geological Society. Their short documentary on meteorites was very well received by the judges who praised their creativity and humour. *"A great entry, you took a lesser-known crater that your audience may not have heard of and explained the process of its formation really well. The use of images was great, helping to explain your points and the style of visuals were very engaging, well done!"*



In the final, held at the society headquarters in Mayfair, they were tasked with creating a proposal for a tunnelling project to provide a new theme park with water. Their plan had to safely and sustainably construct a utilities tunnel to bring water from a source to the park to sustain the supply with clear costing and evaluation of environmental impacts. All in less than 2 hours!

They were the only finalists to reach the final who were not studying for an A-Level in Geology and also the smallest team!

Rosie and Lilia reported back that: *"It was a great trip and a super fun day out. The problem solving challenge was unique and the people we met were engaging and creative. It was a super cool new experience, and we would recommend more people to participate - especially if they have any interest in geology, palaeontology, or archeology!"*

We are immensely proud of the girls' achievement and they have already said that they will be coming back next year for 'the win'.

Mr. A. Hann, Head of Science

## Art & Photography Notices

### Upcoming Art & Photography Exhibitions



### GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition

**Friday - 15th May - 6pm until 8pm**

**Fortismere - Creighton Avenue - Muswell Hill - N10**



### fortismere

#### A-level Art & Photography Exhibition

**Wednesday 17th June  
6pm-8pm**

**Creighton Avenue, Muswell Hill  
N10 1NS**

**Speeches & Prizes - 7.15pm**



### KS3 Art Club Project

Art Club continues next week with artist Alex Helfgott. Work is inspired by her practice of collecting and reworking everyday materials.

Students are working towards creating cyanotypes from their recent creations. It's not too late to take part.

**Art club: Thursdays 3.20pm-4.20pm in N2**



## V&A Upstart Careers in Art & Design Festival - Saturday 23rd May

This is a great opportunity to expand your creative practice and meet inspiring artists and designers. Expect workshops, talks, displays and free food.

Learn how to turn single-use plastic into multi-use with creative studio Are You Mad, discuss building a creative practice with I LIKE NETWORKING, create your own mini publication with PageMasters, collaborate on a design brief with the Rule of Thirds podcast team and more!



Click [here](#) for more information and to see the breadth of the workshops and drop-ins you can take part in for **FREE**.

## Sixth Form

### Year 13 Celebration Assembly

This morning, we gathered in North Wing Hall to celebrate our wonderful Year 13 students before A Level written exams begin in earnest on Monday.

In characteristic Fortismere style, many students took the opportunity to dress up in imaginative fancy dress outfits, including everything from Henry VIII's wives to Beanie Babies to a knight, dragon, and damsel in distress (*photos on the last page of the Newsletter*). It made for a wonderfully colourful event as we reflected with pleasure on all they have achieved during their time at school, from their academic and extra-curricular successes to the friendships, trips, and experiences they have shared both in the UK and abroad.

The assembly featured speeches from Ms Judge, Ms Common, and Mr Lewis, along with messages from each of the tutors for their groups. Everyone shared their appreciation for the students' hard work and commitment throughout their time in the Sixth Form and wished the students well for the upcoming exams. Over 50 subject awards were also presented to students who had been nominated by their teachers for their outstanding effort and engagement across their studies. It was great to see so many students recognised for their dedication across a wide range of subjects. Year 13 have made such a positive contribution to our school community and we will miss seeing them around Tetherdown.

While we had a lot of fun celebrating our amazing Year 13 students, we'd also like to remind both students and parents that teachers will continue to be available for support right up until the last exam. As Ms Common often says, "practice makes permanent, not perfect," so feedback from teachers continues to be important in pushing students to continue to progress as they prepare for their exams.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 13s and look forward to supporting them through these final weeks. We wish them every success in their exams and look forward to celebrating with them again on results day.  
Mr Lewis and Ms Common

## Sport & PE Notices

### Haringey Girls' Athletics Success

Last Tuesday, 43 of our students headed to the New River Sports Centre for the Haringey Girls' Athletics Competition. With ten schools in attendance, the stadium was buzzing with energy. It was a successful and enjoyable day, with not just brilliant athletic performances, but also displays of outstanding resilience and determination by our students.

Fortismere athletes shone on the track and in the field:

**Y7: Eleza** dominated the track and field, winning both the 100m and the Long Jump.

**Y8: Aaliya** secured a fantastic victory in the 100m.

**Y9: Farrah** took first place in the 60m Hurdles, **Felicienne** earned 2nd place in a very close race

**Y10: Jasmine** won the 1500m, while **Evie** claimed a double victory in both the 200m and the Hurdles.



Thanks to the collective effort and team spirit of all 43 students, our year groups placed highly in the overall standings: **Year 10: 2nd; Year 9: 3rd; Year 8: 3rd; Year 7: 4th.** Congratulations to everyone involved.

### GCSE PE Moderation

Well done to our Year 11 GCSE PE students who were chosen to be examined in the practical exam on Wednesday this week. The day ran smoothly and the students all performed to the best of their ability - well done. Next up is their theory exam on 22nd May - good luck!

### New Karate Club

A reminder that a new beginners martial arts course is starting on 8th June. The 6-week course will run after school on Mondays from 3.20pm-4.20pm from 8th June to 13th July and costs £60

For more information or to sign up please contact **James** at [info@jmwingchun.com](mailto:info@jmwingchun.com) or on **07949995715**



### Upcoming Fixtures

Tue 12th May	Netball friendly v APS (H)
Thur 14th May	Y8 & Y10 Boys Tennis match v Latymer (H)

## Library News

### Summer Reads, Big Birthdays and Laughing Out Loud!

This week we have been changing over our book displays with the help of our brilliant and hardworking Library Monitors and Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers. We are celebrating Summer Reads, David Attenborough's 100th Birthday and books that make us Laugh out Loud - some of our favourites are below.

**We also want to wish Michael Rosen a very Happy 80th Birthday** this week! As a former Fortismere parent and Children's Laureate, Michael Rosen is a library favourite. We heard him on BBC News on Wednesday talking about his new book in collaboration with MC Grammar, *Ridiculous Raps and Rhymes*. I'm sure we will be ordering a copy of this to add to our Library Poetry Collection and Prose novels which students are increasingly discovering and enjoying.



## 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.



# Celebrating Our Year 13 Leavers

