


Friday 16th September 2022

School Leadership Messages	Contents		
<p>Ofsted</p> <p>Further to our ParentMail message sent yesterday, Ofsted spent today in school observing lessons and meeting with staff and students. We are hoping to have the final report before the end of the half term.</p> <p>Let’s celebrate!</p> <p>Today is National Teaching Assistants Day! A day to recognise the valuable contribution Teaching Assistants make to children’s education and support.</p> <p>Staying safe</p> <p>Your child may have come home this week saying that some students from another local school have been gathering at the Tetherdown entrance to school. The local school and the police have been contacted by us and the issue is being resolved.</p> <p>Please remind your child(ren) that staff are always on duty at the end of the school day at the gates. If any child feels worried or anxious while on the Broadway, the majority of our shops are ‘safer shops’ and will help any young person who asks. We have reminded our students of how to keep safe in our assemblies this week. As part of this message, we have asked all of our students to reflect on who is their ‘trusted’ adult in school. We want our students to feel confident in talking to us if they have concerns and knowing that they all have at least one trusted adult in school.</p>	Co-Headteachers Message		
	Extra Curricular Activities		
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	Calendar		
	22.9.22	Year 12 Parents Welcome Evening	
	28.9.22	Open Evening for Y6 Parents	
	29.9.22	Late start - All Years to arrive at 10.00am for 10.20am Period 2	
6.10.22	INSET day - School closed		
			
Queen Elizabeth II State Funeral Bank Holiday Monday 19 September 2022 <i>School closed</i>			

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We find ourselves in the unusual position of hosting an additional day for Ofsted. After the thorough examination of the evidence collected in April, Ofsted took the decision that it was insufficient for arriving at a secure judgement. In these circumstances, Ofsted re-visit in order to plug any gaps. The team will then put all the evidence together to write the draft report which is sent to the Co-heads for checking. Following that process, the final report is written and published. Ofsted has assured us that they will act swiftly following today and we will keep you all informed of the emerging timeline.

Although the preparation for the Ofsted visit has taken up some time this week, the Co-Heads have also been delivering Welcome assemblies to years 7-11. The theme of our assemblies have been kindness and safety (two of the Fortismere Four) and the students were a gratifyingly attentive audience. On the topic of kindness, Ms Jones, the Head of Y7, has made this a focus for her year group. We are keen that all our students take on board the messages around how we treat each other, which is both kind and safe.

We would also like to congratulate our tennis stars: our Under 15 boys have made it through to the last 16 for the national competition unbeaten (please see the article below). We are really proud of them and look forward to the next round.

The Co-Heads are planning the next parent surgeries and will be publishing the date for this half term in next week's Newsletter.

We hope you all have a peaceful weekend and we will see the students back on Tuesday.

Year 7 News

Kindness Awards

Over the last two weeks, staff have been looking out for acts of kindness from our Year 7s both in lessons and around the school site. Sixteen different students were nominated by several different teachers for going above and beyond to be kind to each other. These students have all been celebrated in their tutor session this morning. We would like this focus to continue, and I will be asking for more nominations over the next fortnight. Kindness not only makes others feel good, but makes the kind person feel good too! We encourage our Year 7s to remember this and to try to be kind every day.

Ms Jones. Head of Year 7

English Department Notice

GCSE Set Text in Performance

'An Inspector Calls' is one of the texts Fortismere students study as part of their AQA English Literature GCSE. An excellent revival production is touring the UK during 2022-23. Sadly, as it doesn't tour to any local or central London theatres, the English department won't be organising a trip to see the play. We want to make parents and carers aware in case you are able to take your child to see this landmark production and support their study of the play. [Details of tour dates and venues can be found here.](#)

Mr N Georgiou. Head of English



Extra Curricular Activities

LINC Homework Club

The LINC Department will be starting their Homework Club from Tuesday 20th September for students who wish to have support to complete their homework. Homework Club will take place every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3.20pm-4.00pm in LINC 4. If you have any questions regarding this provision, please contact Alex Dutton at adutton@fortismere.org.uk.

Ms A L Dutton

Lead HLTA/Keyworker



Are You Interested in Creative Writing?

Creative Writing will resume from next week, starting on Tuesday 20 September, straight after school (3.30pm-4.30pm) upstairs in the back of the Library. Creative writing is open to everyone and sessions will cover all types of genres and styles. This is a place to lose yourself in your imagination and write freely. There are no rules about writing, grammatical or otherwise. The only requirement is to turn up with pen, paper and a readiness to write.



The first meeting is on the 20th of September, where everyone will meet together.

The following sessions will take place fortnightly as the large group will be split into two groups - one group will be for Year 7s, and the other for Year 8s and up. If you're interested in trying it out please come along, email me: smassey@fortismere.org.uk and I will put you on the list. The numbers are limited to 10 people in each group. Hope to see you on the 20th

Ms Massey

Latin Club New Beginners' Classes

Learn the language of the Romans (and the spells at Hogwarts!) Our popular after-school Latin club will start new weekly classes for beginners on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd September, starting at 3.05pm on Weds and 3.30pm on Thurs. It is open to all ages but especially beneficial for Year 7 and Year 8 students and for sixth formers taking classical civilisation or modern languages at A level. We are offering a choice of Weds or Thurs so those with other after-school activities on one of those days can still come to Latin on the other day. New students should come to Room S12 South Wing where we will put them into groups.



If you are uncertain whether you will like Latin, it's fine to come along to try it out before deciding whether to continue. Starting in Year 7 or Year 8 will give you plenty of time to progress to GCSE if you wish to do so but, even if you just learn some elementary Latin for a year or two, it is very beneficial for developing English vocabulary as lots of complex English words come from simple Latin words and it will also give you a really good understanding of grammar which will help you with modern foreign languages.

Most Latin classes are after school on Thursdays or Wednesdays but other times may be possible, subject to the availability of our volunteer teachers. Classes are taught by a team of volunteers, including university classics students and recent graduates, led by Fortismere governor Pat Dugdale. If you are interested, please contact Pat Dugdale at pdugdale@fortismere.school or just come along on Weds 21st or Thurs 22nd September after school. We look forward to meeting you.

Garden Club for Year 7 to Year 9

Ms Lewis is starting the KS3 Garden Club next week. Tuesdays after school, meet in N25



Food Bowl Club
KS3 Garden Club
Tuesdays, 3.30-4.30
Starting 20/09/22
North Wing/N25
(door next to the lockers)

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Duke of Edinburgh Award Review 2021-22

The last academic year was a very busy year for staff involved with the DofE Award at Fortismere, partly caused by the backlog of expeditions due to Covid but also by my three month absence from school after sustaining an injury to my shoulder. I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Jackson and Mr Cox for stepping in halfway through the year and running the award for me in my absence. The DofE Team organised four expeditions over the academic year which allowed 287 pupils to pass the expedition section of their bronze award which is absolutely brilliant! The expeditions would not be able to run if it wasn't for the good will of Fortismere staff giving up part of their weekends to help out. I would also like to thank; Mr Lewis, Miss Boot, Miss Dutton, Miss Cuenca, Mrs Arrowsmith, Mr Huxley, Mr Alridge, Mr Mahmood and Mr Ward for all their support on the expeditions last year. Fortismere continues to be the biggest provider for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in North London. We are looking forward to enrolling the current Year 9 cohort onto the award later this half term and will also be introducing the silver award for the current Year 10 cohort. All information about DofE enrolment will be sent out via parentmail.



Mr Kay

Duke of Edinburgh Award Lead



Library Notice

Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth, as Patron of the Library Association, was a dedicated and lifelong champion of libraries, literacy and reading. Our condolences to the Royal Family.

Music Department Notices

Ensembles for September 2022-23

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group - Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech - MU1 School Orchestra - Concert Hall
Tuesday	Senior Choir - Concert Hall Percussion Group - MU1 Popular Guitars - MU2	Jazz Band - Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - 7pm-9pm
Wednesday	Big Band - Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	Junior Choir - Concert Hall DJ Club - MU4	KS4 Music Tech - MU4
Friday	Cello Ensemble - MU2	Classical Guitar Group - Concert Hall
Saturday	Music Theory Classes - 11:30am-12:30pm Fortismere Community Choir - 10:30am-1pm	

Welcome Back to Music at Fortismere

Fortismere Music Department is pleased to be offering a range of activities to all key stages this term and with such a wide variety of ensembles and concerts on offer there really is something for everyone! Instrumental and Vocal Lessons will start from next week and if you haven't signed up yet please get in touch with Ms Izzet by emailing mizzet@fortismere.org.uk for an application form. Alternatively, just contact the music department and we will send you a form or give your child all the relevant information. Lessons are also available on a Saturday through the Fortismere Performing Arts Centre and if you are interested in any of the activities that take place please take a look at our website www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk which has all of the concert information for the 2022/23 season.

School Concert Season 2022/23

Our concert season starts very soon so please ask your children to contact Mr Jefferies, the Director of Music ejjefferies@fortismere.org.uk if they want to get involved. For the purposes of school concerts we are offering a large variety of evenings to our students this year. Please have a look at the concerts listed below and think about how you or your child might want to get involved. There will also be masterclasses throughout the year for Wind, Strings, Brass, Percussion, Piano and Voice so please keep an eye out for these amazing opportunities to work with world class professionals. A powerpoint is attached to this newsletter outlining all concerts and groups for the year with deadlines for auditions.

- **Welcome Back Concert - 13/10/22**
- **Autumn Pure Piano - 10/11/22**
- **GCSE Recital Evening - 17/11/22**
- **Christmas Concerts - 13/12/22 & 14/12/22**
- **Charity Band Night - 26/01/23**
- **Music and Poetry - 09/02/23**
- **A Level Recital Evening - 09/03/23**
- **Summer Pure Piano - 04/05/23**
- **Summer Chamber Concert - 13/07/23**

Wider Community Events This Term

The Community Symphony Orchestra will begin to work on Tchaikovsky's *5th Symphony*, Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* and Walton's *Cello Concerto* which will be played by Norwegian Cellist Jonathan Aasgaard, the Principal Cellist of the Liverpool Philharmonic. The Orchestra meets on a Tuesday evening and we are always keen to hear from interested players of Orchestral instruments.

The Community Choir returns to start work on Mozart Coronation Mass for their Christmas Concert and meet on Saturday mornings. This is a non auditioned choir and open to all singers of any age. We are always keen to promote singing to both students and parents and would suggest that you come along at the beginning of term to a "Come and Sing" session to see how you get along.

Our newest Community Project is our **Dance Project** which will meet on a Monday evening at Fortismere and will be performing two pieces, Appalachian Spring by Copland as a Contemporary Piece and Night Dances by Thomas Gregory as a Ballet. These sessions are open to dancers of all ages and will culminate in a live performance accompanied by an orchestra in a London venue later in the year. Please contact FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk for more information.

Endangered Species

If your child would like the opportunity to play one of the endangered species instruments on offer this year please get in touch with the Director of Music as soon as possible. We have some free lessons for new starters available on French Horn, Bassoon, Double Bass and Trombone. Email ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk for more details.

Welcome Back Concert - 13th October Music Hall

There will be a concert to welcome students, staff and parents back to Fortismere in October. This event will feature many of our musical groups including the Big Band, Cello Ensemble, Junior Choir and Senior Choir as well as solos and bands from our students. If your child is interested in performing please contact the Director of Music by emailing ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk and we will set up a meeting to hear the performance. Tickets are available at www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk

Sport & PE News

Undefeated Tennis Team Into Next Round

Last week our U15 Boys Tennis Team picked up from where they left off before the summer break. On Tuesday, they made the long journey to Bedford to take on the All Boys Bedford Private school in the last 32 of the National Competition. They reached the last 32 by going undefeated in their pool and that makes it 64 matches unbeaten!. The team – Tony, Marcus, Cody and Raphael defeated Bedford 8-2 to reach the last 16 of the competition. Brilliant stuff Boys!



Tal Ready For Cross Country Season

Year 8's Tal Querfurth-Waterman started his cross-country season with a very impressive silver medal in the Middlesex County Relay Competition during the summer. Tal was one of the team of three that performed superbly to grab the runners-up spot. Well done Tal!



Emma Makes a Medal Winning Splash

I'm delighted to report that one of our new members of the school, Y7 Emma Galichyan, performed brilliantly at her first big swimming event for her club, Broomfield Park Swimming Club, winning a fantastic bronze medal at a big open meet in Putterbridge. Emma, along with her sister Lizzie, are very active not just in the pool but in a number of sports. We're delighted to have them at Fortismere. Keep it up girls!



Fortismere Squash Club Resumes

Fortismere collaborates with Middlesex Squash to encourage our students to take up this fast and exciting sport. Vickie Prow, who organises the Fortismere Squash Programme reports that she now coaches a regular ten Fortismere players as a result of our joint collaboration. Vickie wants to encourage our new Year 7 cohort to try squash if they've never played before and has a special offer for new participants. You can find more details of the club, which takes places at Stormont Tennis & Squash Club, N6 4SU, in the poster attached to the Newsletter or by contacting Vickie Prow on admin@playsquash.org



New Boxercise Sessions Y10 & Y11

One of our new members of staff, Mr Sankoh, has very kindly offered to run Boxercise sessions for Y10 & Y11 on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30pm-4.30pm in SW Gym. Boxercise is fantastic for all-round fitness so come and give it a go if you've never tried it before and would like to improve your fitness.



Hockey is Back

Mr Kay reports a great turn out at the first after-school Hockey Club of the year. It was good to see so many students and they had a great session. Hockey is a significant strength of Fortismere Sport with our teams always reaching (and even winning) the latter stages of tournaments. Come along on Tuesday afternoons (after school) if you would like to get involved. Contact Mr Kay if you want more details.

Football Off to a Flying Start

On Wednesday afternoon, Ms Vangucci held the first trial and training session for our **Y7 & Y8 Girls Football Team**. She was delighted to see well over forty girls turn up to show her their talents on the pitch. It was a great session and well done to all who attended.

Our **Y9 Boys A, B & C Football Teams** were back in action this week and travelled over to our friends at Highgate School for a lovely afternoon of football. Our teams were understandably a little rusty after the summer break and we lost by the odd goal in all three matches. However many positives were taken and we are well set up for the season ahead. Well played everyone.



Fixtures & Extra Curricular Timetable

Details of forthcoming fixtures and the extra-curricular timetable are published on the school website in the Extra-Curricular Activities area.

Fixtures For Next week (Week Beginning 19th Sep)

Tues 20th – Girls Football U13 v Highgate (H) 2.15 KO

Tues 20th – Boys Football Y9 'A' Team v APS (A) 1.45 pm KO

Weds 21st – Football 1st XI (U18) v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

Thur 22nd – Girls Football U13 v TBA (A)

Thur 22nd – Boys Football Y9 V Gladesmore Middlesex Cup 4.15 KO

Remember to let me have news of your sporting participation and achievements outside of school.

You can contact me on sorton@fortismere.org.uk

Fortismere Holiday Camps

October Half Term Holiday Camps Booking Now

Our holiday camps provide a wide range of different activities for children to enjoy including Sports, Art, Early Years Fun, Drama, Coding and Chess. Holiday Camps are from **Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October** and activities run from **9.00am to 3.00pm** each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown N10 1NE. A full week costs £80. An early, 8.00am drop-off option including a light breakfast is also available. Bookings are made via Eventbrite.

Tiny Twinkle Age 3-6 years

Led by professional actors with a love for early years! Each day the children will explore all genres of creative arts, learning songs and dances, acting out role play adventures, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of fun and games

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-tiny-twinkles-age-3-6-tickets-395094437097>

Sports Age 7-15 years

Gives children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounders, tennis and fun sporty competitions.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-sports-camp-age-7-15-tickets-395097054927>

Drama Club

Children will work on improvisation and comedy skills plus lots of drama games and exercises to develop confidence and skills.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-drama-club-age-7-15-tickets-395099943567>

Photography Age 8-15 years

Children will learn to take better photos with any camera they have, using basic composition skills. They will also learn basic history and technique of photography and get to practise their photography skills. No prior photography knowledge is required. We'll start with the basics and have fun with all of our projects. While not required, having some sort of camera (digital, a phone with a camera, disposable, etc) would allow the students to take part in all of the adventures.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-photography-age-8-15-tickets-396436120107>

Comic club Age 7-13 years

Children will learn about comics and cartoon history and how they have been used as tools for storytelling. They'll look at character design, storytelling, scripting and lettering and colouring. Using the skills gathered, students will work on their own comic strip and produce a complete 8-12 page comic.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-comic-club-age-7-13-tickets-396977940707>

Art Club Age 7-13 years

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-art-club-tickets-396978201487>

Street Dance Age 7-14 years

Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity and storytelling through dance. They will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/october-half-term-street-dance-age-7-14-tickets-396979334877>

Safeguarding at Fortismere**Safeguarding Information**

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Kirsten Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively you can contact your child's Tutor or their Head of Year:

Year 7 ejones@fortismere.org.uk

Year 8 icuenca@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk

Year 10 kjackson@fortismere.org.uk

Year 11 dward@fortismere.org.uk

Ms Sullivan

Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead