


School Leadership Messages:	Contents	
<p>A message from the Co-Headteachers</p> <p>Possible Industrial Action</p> <p>As you may be aware from previous correspondence, Fortismere has been forced by funding pressures to take the difficult decision to increase class sizes at Key Stage 3 to 30 and ask teachers to increase their teaching load from 80% to be more in line with the DfE's 'National Funding Formula'.</p> <p>Due to the proposed changes, the NEU has successfully balloted for industrial action against 4 of the 5 schools. Yesterday, Fortismere received formal notification of the plan for strikes with information about the dates of the action. The first proposed date is Thursday, 27 February. If the dispute is not resolved at this point, there are a further 5 days of action planned for March.</p> <p>We are still engaged in constructive talks with the NEU and are very hopeful that the action above can be averted.</p> <p>We are making contingency plans in case strikes do take place. We would prioritise the exam year groups of Y11 and Y13 and would aim to invite vulnerable learners to attend alongside these two year groups.</p> <p>We will communicate further as soon as we have more information for you.</p>	CoHeads' Weekly Roundup	
	School Fundraising Event	
	New PTA Launch Event	
	Departmental News & Notices	
	Safeguarding Information	
	Calendar	
	24.02	P2 (9.30am) start for students.
08.03	Quiz Night 6.30pm	
11.03	PTA Launch event 7.00pm	
<div><p>Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.</p></div>		
<p>Library Lovers' Day is celebrated on 14th February each year to celebrate libraries, librarians, book lovers, and lovers of libraries.</p> <p>We love our school library!</p>		

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

The last six weeks have flown by and as is customary at Fortismere, this week has been packed with events. Yesterday, the Mandarin Department took a group of Y7 and 8 students off timetable in the morning for a Chinese New Year celebration. Students were introduced to folk dance, martial art and traditional musical instrument performances and got to practice some of these through workshops. Particularly impressive was watching a group of Y7s learning a fan dance in the North Wing playground, there was a lot of hard concentration in evidence!

Also taking place yesterday was Charity Band Night, led by the students but ably supported by the Music Department. The quality of the music was excellent, from original compositions played by the very impressive Y13 band Boxer to an awe-inspiring rendition of 'Say a Little Prayer' by another group of 6th formers. The Y8 cover of a Rage Against the Machine classic was great; it would be hard to believe they were Y8 if it weren't for the very talented drummer wearing his lanyard throughout the performance! The Teachers' Band change of lyrics for both their tracks delighted both students and parents and got the entire audience participating, culminating in a standing ovation. All the acts were superb and Ms Nagaria's talk to the audience about the work of Young Minds, the charity being supported by the event, managed to be both sobering and uplifting at the same time. A big thank you to all the parents, carers and family friends who attended (and spent generously at the bar!) - by the end of the evening over £1000 had been raised, a very impressive sum.



Fundraising is an important feature of all schools and Fortismere has a strong tradition of raising money for charities and for the school. Ms Demetriou in particular has been adept at securing a steady income stream for the school. We were therefore very excited when we were approached by a group of parents wishing to resurrect the Fortismere PTA. We had an excellent meeting a couple of weeks ago and not wanting to lose any momentum, the group has organised a launch event on March 11th in Fortismere. We hope to see many of you there and we are really looking forward to working with the new 'Friends of Fortismere' who will add an extra dimension to our already strong relationship with our community.

Not all our events involve students. In reviewing the half term, we uncovered Mrs Ward's ongoing relationship with the British Library. At the end of January, the work that Mrs Ward does in her capacity as coordinator of the Haringey School Librarians' Group, was shared with the Library Services of both Islington and Camden at an event hosted by the British Library. The event was so successful that the British Library has suggested that the event become a more regular occurrence and that Mrs Ward continue to share her experience across the other boroughs. Not only is this a richly deserved recognition of Mrs Ward's experience and ways of working but also an opportunity of departments and students. The Hlstory and English Departments have already benefited from resources and Mrs Ward has been contacted by the British Library since the event about the possibility of [Jason Reynolds](#), a very highly regarded writer of young adult fiction, working with the Haringey group. We're very proud!

In celebration of the end of the half term the sun has come out. We hope this continues for as much of half term as possible and we wish all our families a lovely break and look forward to seeing your children return to us for P2 on Monday 24th February.

School Fundraising Event

Quiz Night - Saturday 8th March 6.30pm SW Hall

Get your tickets now for this fun-filled night of friendly competition. This is a Fortismere Quiz Night so it's extra special and we've lined up a brilliant host for the evening in Pauline Eyre. We can't guarantee that you will win a prize but we are sure that there will be lots of laughs! Our fundraising target for Quiz Night is £7000 which means that we really need lots of you to get a team together and to book tickets now please! Tickets are £10 per person and [available via Eventbrite here](#) Drinks will be available and you can bring your own food and snacks to share. Any questions please contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk



New Parent Teacher Association

Join Us for the Launch of Friends of Fortismere - Tuesday 11th March 7.00pm SW Hall

We are a small group of parents whose children span Years 7-13 who have been meeting regularly over the past year to explore how to revive the PTA at Fortismere, with support from the Senior Leadership Team. You may be aware that there has not been a formal PTA at Fortismere for several years, and we feel strongly that reinstating a PTA will impact positively on the children. We will be calling this association the '**Friends of Fortismere.**' We are very excited to be holding a launch event on **Tuesday 11th March at 7.00pm** in the South Wing Hall for all parents and carers.

At this event, you will hear about the new committee structure, and how you can be involved. This can be in many ways - from volunteers with experience to join the committee as treasurer and events coordinators, to people who can support with website development, communication, year reps, careers fairs, or even just helping out at fundraising events - plus everything inbetween. We are really passionate about building the Fortismere community and working together to create the best opportunities for our kids.

To help us plan (and make sure there are enough drinks and snacks!), please fill out this short form: <https://forms.gle/nd8dNgDC18WYC9PdA>. The form also asks what your skills and interests are so please do fill it out even if you can't attend on the night.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jo Kaye, Jo Feary, Amelia Lasserson, Clare Melikan, Frances Price and Hagar Russ.

Governing Board

Raising Awareness of School Governors

Thursday this week was National School Governors Awareness Day - did you know school governors are the largest volunteer group in the UK and that there are over 300,000 people giving their time to support schools in this way? It's an opportunity for us to say thank you to our governors and to highlight and celebrate the contribution that they make to Fortismere - we have a great team on our board and really value their commitment and support. We asked one of our governors what they enjoyed about the role. *"I've learnt a huge amount about the complex strategic and operational challenges involved in running a school. I feel privileged to represent the perspective of parents, students and the wider community, and really enjoy working with school staff and the governing board towards maintaining the Fortismere ethos and achieving positive outcomes for all"* If you want to know more about our governors and their work, they hold regular

drop-in surgeries for parents and carers and aim to hold a session each term - keep a look out for future dates in the Newsletter.

We don't have any current vacancies for Parent governors on our board but **we are looking to recruit governors** who are not parents of Fortismere students as Co-opted or Partnership governors. We're not looking for any particular specialist knowledge or skills but for someone who is committed and can give their time and energy to actively support governance at Fortismere. We're looking for someone who can listen and analyse and work in partnership to build positive relationships with other governors, with school leaders and staff, with parents and students and the wider community. Do you know someone like this? Have you got a friend, colleague or family member who might be interested? We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who'd like to explore whether being a Fortismere governor is something they'd consider. If you would like to introduce someone, please pass their contact details to Ms Sam Murray, Clerk to the Governing Board smurray@fortismere.org.uk or tell them to contact me directly. Thank you for your help with this.

Sixth Form Notice

Supporting Year 13 Students at Home

This week marks twelve weeks until the start of the A Level exam period for Year 13s. Students received their mock exam results two weeks ago and have had feedback from their teachers on what to work on moving forward in order to improve between now and the summer. Although it is of course important to rest and take time to catch up with friends over February half term, Year 13 students should also be investing a good amount of time across the next week both on assigned work and on revision.

To help our Year 13 parents and carers understand what support is available in school, what Year 13 students should be doing to effectively revise, and what they as parents can be doing to help at home, please [see this video](#) from the Director of Sixth Form, Ms Common. The slides of the presentation are also available to download from the Sixth Form section of the website [on this page](#)

Business Studies Department News

Year 10 Marketing Trip to Madame Tussauds

Mr Renner took a group of Year 10 Business Studies students on a trip to Madame Tussauds this week to support work they are doing in class on marketing and advertising. A group of the students have written about the trip for the Newsletter.

This week we went into central London on a business studies trip to Madame Tussauds. We had a great time. We learnt about the marketing of Madame Tussauds and McDonalds and how their marketing and advertising has helped the companies to expand.

We also saw lots of the wax figures including all the James Bonds, Kendall Jenner, Mo Salah, The Rock, The Beatles and lots of Royals. We think this was a really educational as well as fun experience and everyone enjoyed it.



Sustainable Futures

Fortismere Eco Committee Update

This term we have been working on improving recycling practices across the school. We have ordered new green bins for classrooms; spoken with the school cleaning team; designed labels to advise people on what they can recycle and shared this with staff and students. Next term we are looking to be part of Eco-Schools 'Great Big School Clean 2025' - You can [read more about it here](#)

We would also like to share an event being run by the **Muswell Hill Sustainability Group on Sustainable Fashion** which is being held on Tuesday 26th February at 7.30pm. More details and [booking info here](#)
The Eco-Committee will be arranging a viewing of the post-event YouTube recording in school on Friday 28th February for staff and students to attend.

Library Notices

Writing Competition

The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition is now open for entries from anyone under 19. This year the judges are looking for stories, poems, song lyrics or raps that make them laugh. You can find the competition details [here](#)



Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award Group

Since December this amazing group of Year 7s have been reading our six shortlisted books and joining in with fun and creative activities every Tuesday lunchtime. (They've also loved eating lunch in the library and scoffing biscuits provided by Mrs Coles!) After half term, they will be voting on their favourite book – such a hard choice as they are all brilliant – ready for Awards Day at Alexandra Palace on 14th March when the whole building will be overrun with over 800 students from Haringey schools. They will then meet all the authors, have a workshop with one of them, join in musical and bookish activities, buy books and get them signed, eat of course and be treated to a performance from this year's star guest, John Agard.



Recommended Reads of the Week

It is Library Lover's Day AND International Book Giving Day on 14th February! These celebrations of the importance of libraries and the love of reading tie in nicely with the recent Mental Health Week as reading has a profound impact on well-being. It can reduce stress by up to 60% in 6 minutes, easing muscle tension and reducing heart rates. But beyond relaxation, books help young people make sense of the world, develop empathy and see themselves reflected in stories, something that can be life changing.

Years 7 and 8 have been given their World Book Day vouchers in library lessons: these can be exchanged for free books in participating bookshops or as £1 off a different book of their choice.



Music Department

Charity Band Night Success

Well done to all the performers who contributed to a great evening last night in aid of YoungMinds – the event raised over £1,000 for the charity which was a fantastic achievement! A big thank you to our two Y13 students, Lydia and Kiran, who organised the event, to all the staff who helped, and of course to all the friends and family who came along and were so generous with their donations.

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - Sunday 16th March 7pm St Andrews

Online booking is now open for our fabulous orchestra's next concert. If you've never been to one of these concerts thinking it won't match up to the London Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, give it a go – you will be amazed!

Fortismere students get FREE tickets – just apply the voucher code FORTSTUDENT25 at checkout. Early bird tickets cost £13.00 and Students/U18s £8.00 [Tickets available here](#)

A concert poster for the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (FCSO). The background is a dramatic landscape with a person standing on a rocky outcrop. The text on the poster includes:
FCSO
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
WAGNER
Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde
ELGAR
Sea Pictures
BRAHMS
Symphony No.1
MEZZO SOPRANO **ANNABELLA-VESELA ELLIS**
CONDUCTOR **THOMAS GREGORY**

Fortismere Community Choir

Choir will resume after half-term on 26th February and welcomes all friends and family to come along and join us for an informal and friendly sing! Contact fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk if interested

Modern Languages Department

A Level Students Immerse Themselves in La Nouvelle Vague

Our A-level French students attended a study day at the British Film Institute last week, where they explored the style and themes of the French New Wave and its impact on contemporary French cinema. Conducted entirely in French, the session analysed key films and scenes from the movement, helping students deepen both their language skills and their understanding of the films studied for A-level.



Sport & PE Notices

Year 10 Haringey Football League

The Year 10 boys were in action again this week and travelled to Highgate Wood School to play on their 4G astroturf on Tuesday afternoon. Once again Fortismere got off to a flying start - Sachin scoring quickly to put us ahead. HWS soon came back with an equalizer so it was game on but our boys didn't let that last long, Lucas got through their defence to score and put us ahead again. It was very competitive and HWS came back to make it 3-2. James scored a great freekick right into the far top corner and we stretched our lead. James scored again and so did Sachin and the score was 6-2. Yaya's goalkeeping was fantastic and his agility and reaction times were brilliant. HWS got a late penalty which was converted to make the final score 6-4. Well done boys, it was a great performance. "Gucci's on fire!"



Year 10/11 Basketball League

The team travelled to APS on Tuesday to play our second league fixture. It was end to end action, a really entertaining game with baskets galore being scored. A very competitive and close game as the score suggests - we lost by one basket 67-69. Well fought boys!



Haringey Badminton Competition

Our Key Stage 4 Badminton Teams took part in the Haringey Competition last Friday, thank youtube Miss Jackson for taking them. The boys team came really close to winning as they finished in joint first place but unfortunately lost on points scored so finishing in a very respectable second place. The girls did really well too, finishing in 4th place. Well done to all.

London Mini Marathon 2025 - Haringey Trials

Haringey are recruiting for this prestigious event. If you are interested please see the poster for details and how you can qualify to represent Haringey.

For more details you can email craigharingeysports@yahoo.com



Upcoming Fixtures

- Monday 24th February - Haringey Indoor Athletics at Lea Valley Year 8,9 and 10 12 -4 pm
- Tuesday 25th February - Year 8 Boys Football v GCA @ Home 2.30 pm KO
- Wednesday 26th February - Year 9/10 Girls Football v APS @ HOME 2.30 pm KO
- Thursday 13th February - GCSE Netball Moderation at Fortismere netball courts 2 pm

After School Clubs & Extra Curricular Timetable Spring Term 2

There are a few changes to the After School Clubs on offer after the February half term break. Dance Club starts up again on Mondays in SW Hall and there is a new Gymnastics Club on Tuesdays in SW Gym. Girls Cricket Club will definitely be happening on Mondays in the Sports Hall. You can download a copy of the Extra Curricular Timetable from the school website [here](#)

Golf Tournament

There is an exciting opportunity to take part in an English Schools Golf Association Tournament on 14th April. Open to any students attending a Middlesex school. **Scan the QR code** for more details.



PRE Department Notice

Year 10-13 Students Essay Competition

We would like to encourage all students in Years 10,11,12 and 13 to enter the Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Competition. The competition is available to all students between the ages of 15 -18. The winning essay will be published alongside articles from leading philosophers from across the world in the journal 'Think' Details of essay titles and entry requirements are available via this link - [Think Essay Prize details](#)
For further details please contact [Ms Kaye](#) or [Mr Aldridge](#)

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 the My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

