

School Leadership Messages

Covid Update

Vaccination Programmes in Schools

Covid-19 vaccinations took place on site on Wednesday. The students who had consent in Years 11,10 and 7 were all vaccinated. Schools in Haringey had been guaranteed 300 vaccinations but as our consenting numbers are in excess of this, we have been given a follow up date of 10 November. All consenting Year 8 and 9 students will be vaccinated then.

There was some confusion over the electronic consent system. It would seem that some parents gave their consent before the Sunday midnight deadline (48 hours before the vaccinations) but this did not appear on the Vaccination UK list. For any parents/carers who have queries about consent, we recommend you contact [Vaccination UK](#). The electronic consent will not re-open for the 10 November vaccinations but we expect to receive information on how parents and carers can organise vaccinations for their children in the community soon.

Controlling cases

We are still experiencing a steady stream of positive Covid cases. Please see below for our Covid control guidance.

- Students encouraged to wear masks in the corridors and communal areas
- Use of hand sanitiser on entry to classrooms
- Regular hand washing
- Good respiratory hygiene (tissues disposed of in a lidded bin)

Setting work for students with a positive PCR:

Students who are experiencing symptoms will not be required to complete classwork as they are unwell. Asymptomatic students will be set work via Google Classroom.

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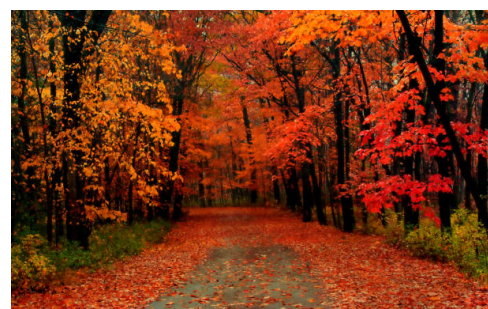
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Calendar

21.10	Year 8 Information Evening
25-29.10	Half term holiday
03.11	Sixth Form Open Evening
04.11	Fortismere Fireworks



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Mornings are steadily growing darker and days feeling distinctly shorter as we move towards the final week of this half term. On Wednesday of this week, Covid vaccinations took place on site. The team leading the programme, Vaccine UK informed the school that they would not have capacity to deliver all of the vaccinations for those students who had consented on the one day. They will return to administer vaccinations to Year 8 and Year 9 in November if they have already received consent. Vaccine UK have advised us that they accept no further consent forms at this point. For any students who didn't submit their consent this time but would still like to receive the vaccine there will be further information in due course as to how it can be accessed in the community. We apologise for the last minute communications on vaccinations but hope our parents and carers all appreciate that we have been reliant on receiving information from an external body which has impacted on our ability to communicate arrangements in a timely manner. We would like to thank our Welfare Officer Ms Izzet who coordinated the programme on site, supported by Ms Brown and Ms Demetriou. It was certainly a very busy day for the school and Ms Izzet and her team were complimented by the visiting medical staff on how well it had been organised.

This week a number of our Year 13 students have been busy preparing UCAS applications in time for the early entry deadline which is today. Today's deadline has seen our budding medics, dentists and vets submit their applications along with any students who have decided to apply to either Oxford or Cambridge. We know that students have put a great deal of thought into their applications and the sixth form team have been incredibly impressed with the calibre of the applications. We look forward to hearing how these applications progress and wish all those who have submitted and are planning to submit their applications this month. Thanks must go to the 6th form team who have provided a great deal of guidance to support the students through this process and will continue to do so over the coming weeks as our Year 13 students explore university courses and organise their applications. Congratulations must also go this week to Stanley and Frankie Badacsonyi who have both taken part in a chess tournament (UKCC 2021) at Blenheim Palace last weekend. Stanley in 7TG came 2nd in the U12 section and Frankie in 11JN came 8th in the U18 section. Over 2000 children from over the UK entered the first stages of the tournament back in June, so they did really well to be in the final 12 in their age group for this event. We have chess club every Wednesday lunchtime in S05 where students and teachers can enjoy being thrashed by Stanley and Frankie in under five minutes.

With just one more week to go until half term we hope everyone has the opportunity to relax this weekend.

Black History Month At Fortismere

This week we would like to share some activities that have taken place as part of the work staff and students have been doing for Black History Month:

Ms T Gelagotellis – English Teacher and Year 7 Form Tutor

7TG (my form) have been celebrating BHM by creating presentations on a chosen Black hero they feel inspired by. Every student in the class has created a power point and shared with me. The students are expected to stand at the front of the class and present for 5 minutes. The students then have the opportunity to ask questions on the presentations and find out more. 6 presentations have been showcased so far on: Stormzy, Amanda Gorman, Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama,

Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Sheku Kanneh-Mason is a cellist. He passed grade 8 at age 9 and he won BBC's Young Musician of the Year contest in May 2016. Kanneh-Mason also played for Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's wedding in 2018. He has 6 siblings and they are all musicians and play with him. For example, he and his siblings performed on Britain's Got Talent in 2015. His dad is from London and his mum is from Sierra Leone.

I chose to write about Sheku Kanneh-Mason because I play the cello and he is the only black musician to have won the BBC Young Musician of the year. I think he is inspiring.



Marcus Rashford and Anthony Joshua. All students have prepared presentations!

Mr L Higgins – Head of History and Politics

We hosted a viewing of a lecture entitled 'Black Tudors: Three Untold Stories' given by Dr Miranda Kaufmann based on her seminal book that radically changed understanding of ethnic diversity in Tudor England. Sixth form students had also researched and created presentation on influential figures from Black British History and these were exhibited before the lecture. These included fascinating presentations on Poly Styrene and Lilian Bader, who reached the rank of acting corporal as the only black woman in the Women's Auxiliary Airforce during the Second World War. Attendance was great with over 30 students attending and we hope to host more events in the future and share the presentations across the school.



Nicole Butcher – Key Stage 3 Lead in English

This week Tuesday in English, a group of Year 9 students took part in a poetry workshop with John Osunkoya. The students, who were nominated by their teachers to take part in the workshop, focused on using rhythm and rhyme. Each student wrote their own poem birthed out of prompts provided by the workshop leader. The students' glowing feedback is a testament to the enriching and inspiring time they had. Thank you John for working with Fortismere students.



We continue next week to engage across the curriculum in all year groups with ideas and themes related to Black History Month. I would like to remind you that we will be hosting a Celebration and Exhibition Event looking at the work and activities that students have completed in honour and support of BHM on Thursday 11th November. As mentioned before we have a number of special guest speakers and specially prepared performances as well as food and drinks! It would be great to see a lot of parents there to join in our celebration.

Sixth Form

Year 12 Charity Society



The Year 12 Charity Society is running Wear it Pink Day to raise money for breast cancer awareness on Friday the 22nd of October. We are encouraging everyone to wear pink on the day and bring £1 to donate, there will be people collecting on the gate!

There will be a bake sale on the day at break and lunch outside South Wing and throughout the week students can guess how many sweets there are in the jar for the chance to win the sweets.

Calling all Year 12 and Year 13 Students!

English, Media and Film Masterclasses

Who can come?
Anyone in Y12 or Y13. You don't need to study one of these subjects!

Where?
N12
(North Wing upstairs)

When?
Tuesday
week 1
3:30

Why should I come?
To broaden your knowledge and learn about topics not always covered by the curriculum

The English and Media department are running a series of *Masterclasses* to enrich your studies.

These will run for 30-40 minutes on a Tuesday in N12 from 3:30pm. Please see the dates and topics below.

You are welcome to attend even if you don't study A Level English or Media.

Any questions please contact Ms Mangan: kmangan@fortismere.org.uk

Date	Topic
12.10.2021	Scriptwriting for TV
19.10.2021	The Eighteenth Century - not what you think
2.11.2021	Postcolonial Literature
16.11.2021	Postmodernism
30.11.2021	Ecocriticism
14.11.2021	History and Queens in 3 Shakespeare's plays. The Queen's Two Bodies.
11.1.2022	Cultural analysis
25.1.2022	An introduction to Old English Poetry

Modern Language Department Notices

Year 7 Spanish Sitting Test

Year 7 students are getting closer to the end of their Spanish lessons. As previously explained, students will sit a sitting test in order to check and analyse their progress and ability in the language. This test will be on the w/c 15th November. Ms Dabrowska (KS3 Coordinator) will be sending an email through ParentMail soon specifying details of the exam as well as what content students should revise.

Year 11 French and Spanish Revision Guides

A ParentMail has been sent this week with information regarding the purchase of these guides. Remember these are not mandatory but highly recommended for revision.

- **The cost is £5.00 (£4.50 + £0.50 charge from ParentMail).**
- **Deadline to place an order is 31st of October.**

London Film Festival

The festival runs from Wednesday 6th October - Sunday 17th October and includes a selection of films from different countries. The department is especially proud of a group of Year13 Spanish students who took the initiative to go and see a documentary on Sunday evening which was extremely relevant for their curriculum. Not only did they watch the film in Spanish but they also asked a series of questions in Spanish to the director!

More information can be found here [BFI London Film Festival – 6 to 17 October 2021](#)

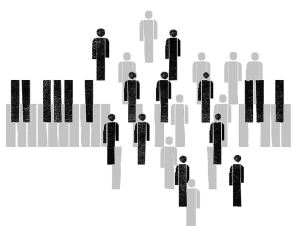
Music Department Notices

Ensembles 2021/22

Please encourage your children to get involved in the Music Department by joining an ensemble or an activity. There really is something for everyone!

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior Strings (G5+)	KS3 Music Tech School Orchestra (Gr2+)
Tuesday	Percussion Group (All welcome) Electric Guitar Group (All Welcome)	Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	MusicalTheatre Group Big Band (Gr3+)	Bands (Rooms available for practice) Gospel Choir
Thursday	DJ Club Junior Choir (Yr 7-9)	KS4 Music Tech Senior Choir (Yr 10-13)
Friday	Junior Strings (G1-4) Classical Guitar Group	
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (10am - 12pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm)	Afternoon (1 - 4pm) Chamber Groups Rock Bands

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Endangered Species



FORTISMERE
SCHOOL MUSIC

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 free lessons for new starters available on Oboe, French Horn, Bassoon, Double Bass and Trombone.** Email: ejfferies@fortismere.org.uk for more details.

Black History Month in Music lessons

As part of Black History Month the Music department are celebrating Black Composers on each day of the month. For further information please see the pdf attached to this week's Newsletter.

Pure Piano Concert - Tuesday 2nd November South Wing Hall 7pm

There are still some spaces available for this event and we would really like to a variety of ability levels, styles and year groups getting involved.

Email: ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk if you want to get involved.

Tickets for this concert can be bought at www.fortismerecentre.co.uk



see

Christmas Concert Auditions - Deadline 5th November

Preparations for the Christmas Concerts are in full swing at the moment and there will be plenty of music on offer from a variety of our ensembles.

Orchestra, Big Band, Senior Strings, Junior Strings, Percussion Group, Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Guitar Group will all be taking part but we are interested in students in solo and group performances for the two nights.

Please ask your child to talk to their music teacher if they are interested or email Mr Jefferies: ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk and they will be added to a google classroom.

The deadline for auditions will be Friday 5th November and we will be asking for video submissions students can submit online. Please note that students will only be offered solo spots if they are actively involved in one of the ensembles on offer during the week at Fortismere.

Tickets for this concert can be bought at: www.fortismerecentre.co.uk

Sport & PE Notices

Weekly Roundup

What a week of Sport at Fortismere. Football was at the forefront this week as many of our teams, boys and girls, were in friendly, Middlesex and National cup action. We celebrated some wonderful results (read below). We also celebrate Triziano Wilson signing for the Spurs academy and Alison Bibby, Sophia Georgiades, Jessica Plimley being selected for the elite London Pulse Netball squad. Fortismere students continue to show their passion for sport and keeping active, whether it's being excited for PE lessons, attending extra-curricular sports clubs and representing the school, at all levels, in matches and competitions. On top of all the normal club attendees, over 150 Fortismere Boys and Girls, Y7-Y13, have represented the school this week in matches! Just Wonderful!

Triz Joins Spurs

We are delighted to report that Triziano Wilson in Year 8 has been asked to sign for the Spurs U13 Academy. Triz was at Cambridge but will find Tottenham a little easier to get to for training and of course will be a step up. We are all so proud of him and wish him luck on his Football journey. Congratulations Triz!



Picture: Triz signs his official papers to join the Spurs Academy

Y10 and 1st XI Bow Out of Middlesex Cups

Unfortunately two of our sides exited the Middlesex Cups this week. Y10 lost to a very strong St Thomas More Side whilst the 1st XI suffered at the hands of a very good UCS side.

Boys and Girls Safely through to 3rd Round of National Cup

In the final fixtures of an extremely busy yet exhilarating week of Cup matches, Thursday afternoon saw our U13 Boys and U15 Girls make it safely through to the 3rd round of the ESFA Cups.

The girls had little opposition and ran riot scoring 18 goals. The boys match was a little closer but. After a shaky start, the result was never really in doubt and the boys beat King Solomon 3-0.



The boys travel to North Kent for their next match while the girls await the winners of a still to be played second round tie. Well Done Fortismere Players!

U13 Girls Continue Winning Run

Our U13 girls continued the amazing start to the season by Fortismere Girls Football Teams, yet to lose a single match, our U13 team saw off Gladesmore with a comprehensive victory in the Middlesex Cup - well done girls.



Tennis Boys Middlesex Champions



Many congratulations to our U13 Boys Tennis Team who won their first Knock Out Match to secure the Middlesex 'B' League.

What a wonderful season - well done Boys!

2nd XI show resilience in 1st Round Thriller

On Wednesday afternoon our 2nd XI travelled over to Edmonton to play The Latymer school in the first round of the Middlesex Cup for U18 'B' teams. And what an amazing game it turned out to be.

For the first 20 minutes it seemed we hadn't got off the bus as Latymer swarmed as all over the pitch and raced to a 3-0 lead. It seemed we were in for a disappointing, one sided, loss but I had reckoned without the resilience and determination of our boys.



We fought back to 3-2 down at Half-time and started the second half on top. Our possession was rewarded with a Penalty which was converted and we had clawed back to be level. Surely we would go on to win it now? But within minutes, after a couple of lapses of concentration, Latymer came storming back and regained a, what looked like, decisive 2 goal lead (5-3).

Back came Fortismere and quickly halved the deficit (5-4). However as the game neared the final whistle it looked like our efforts would be in vain.

However a last minute corner gave us hope and unbelievably we managed to head it in to once again level the scores (5-5). Into extra time and a cagey first half saw no change in the scoreline but the second half saw the Fortismere boys dig deep in their energy levels and scored 2 quick goals to seal the win. What a Match (and a few more grey hairs for me).

Pictured: Our Victorious (eventually) 2nd XI after their Middlesex Cup defeat of Latymer.

U13 A, B and C Teams in Action



Tuesday afternoon saw a coach full of excited U13 boys heading over to the lush playing fields of Highgate school for football matches for our A's B's and C". Captained by Lucas Christensen, Balthazar Partridge and Oscar Shortall the boys performed and behaved admirably and were a credit to Fortismere.

Indeed our captains were praised by the Highgate staff. We had 3 high quality matches with A and C teams recording victories and the B's involved a thrilling 2-2 draw. Well Done all Players.

Picture: Our super U13 A B and C Teams at Highgate this week.

U16 Girls March on

Our U16 Girls Football team continued their ESFA National Cup journey with a close 3-2 win over Coloma Convent School from Croydon. The game was played on a very small pitch, which did not suit our style of play, and the opponent scored a freak goal straight from a goal kick, but our girls dug deep, showed resilience and came through a sticky tie.

Well done girls. We face Queens School from Watford in the next round at Fortismere.

Fortismere Girls make it through Elite Netball Trial

I am delighted to announce Fortismere Netball Stars - Alison Bibby, Sophia Georgiades, Jessica Plimley - all selected for the elite London Pulse Netball.

Around 300 players attended the recently held trials so, for 3 of our girls to make it through, speaks volumes about the quality of Netball at Fortismere. Well Done Girls we are so proud of you!

Fixture Results

Last Weeks Results

Monday 4th October

- Football Y10 Boys v St Thomas More (Middlesex Cup 1st Round **(Lost 4-7)**)

Tuesday 5th October

- Football U16 Girls v Coloma Convent Girls Croydon (A) ESFA Cup 2nd Round **Won 3-2**
- Football Y8 Boys A, B, C Teams v Highgate (A) Friendlies **A won 5-1, B Drew 2-2, C Won 8-2**

Wednesday 6th October

- Football 2nd XI U18 v Latymer School (A) Middlesex Cup 2nd Round **Won 7-5 (AET)**
- Football U13 Girls v Gladesmore (H) Middlesex Cup 1st Round **Won 11-0**

Thursday 7th October

- Football - 1st XI v UCS (A) Middlesex Knock Out Cup 1st Round
- Football Y8 Boys v King Solomon (A) ESFA Cup 2nd Round

Next Week's Fixtures:

Monday 18th October

- Netball Y9/10/11 v Heartlands (A)
- Football - Y9 v St Thomas More (A) Middx Cup 2nd Round

Tuesday 19th October

- DodgeBall - Y7/8 Borough Champs at APS 1.30-3.30

Wednesday 20th October

- Football - U18 XI v St Ignatius (A) Middx Brigg Cup - Final Pool Stage Game 2.30 Kick Off
- Netball Y9/10/11 v APS (H) 3.20

Thursday 21st October

- Dodgeball Y9/10 Borough Champs at APS 1.30-3.30
- Football Y10 Boys v Heartlands (H) Haringey League

Friday 21st October

- Football Y8 Boys 'A' v St Thomas More (A) 2pm KO Middlesex Cup Rnd 2

Library

We met JK Rowling!



On Tuesday 12th October, 35 lucky students went to Alexandra Palace to meet JK Rowling, who was promoting her latest book, "The Christmas Pig". The group consisted of last year's Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award group (who'd missed out last year because the Award was presented virtually instead of at the Palace) and some Year 7s whose names had been drawn out of a hat. And Mrs Coles, Ms Cunningham and Mrs Ward, who were just as excited as the students!

From our front row stalls seats in the magnificent theatre, we were really close to JK, who was being interviewed by TV presenter, Konnie Huq. It was interesting to hear how she was inspired to write the book (her son had a beloved toy pig) and how she only once got "writer's block" (when she was writing the second book about The Chosen One!)



Most of us bought the book and were able to read with JK – she read brilliantly. And it was great fun drawing along with illustrator Jim Field in the notebooks we received in our goodie bags. After the event we joined the massive queue to get our books signed; no photos were allowed sadly, but it was nice to say hello and get a smile! Despite the long wait for signing, our students behaved impeccably throughout the evening and were a joy to be with.

Recommend Read of the Week



From our Patronus of Reading, Sita Brahmachari : “For Black History Month, I recommend this brilliant story, in turns moving, funny and bold. A story that requires you to follow deeply hidden clues of family and friendships and fragments of truth, told in the moving, humane and funny voice of award winning author Patrice Lawrence.”

Fortismere Holiday Activity Camp

October Holiday Camp Book Now! Open to the Community

With lots of fun and games to enjoy from D&T, Chess, Robotics and Coding to Drama and Multi Sports, holiday camps are ideal if you find it hard to juggle work and keep the children entertained. Activities will run between 9:00am-3:00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The full week will cost £80*, an 8:00 am drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Please contact Maria Demetriou for information on subsidised places: mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Holiday Club Activities: Limited Spaces

Monday 26th October Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre: **Sold Out**

[Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre Tickets](#)

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 when storytelling through dance. The participants 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. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Chess Club: **Sold Out**

[Chess Club](#)

[Tickets](#)

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the recent Netflix TV series The Queen's Gambit. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills needed also in the classroom.

This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.

Monday 26th October Drama Club: **4 Spaces Available**

[Drama Club Tickets](#)

The children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Drawing Animation and Comics Club: **SOLD OUT**

[Drawing Animation and Comics Club Tickets](#)

Overview of the comic and cartoon industry and how they have been used as tools for storytelling and communication over the years. Children will be shown how the human body works and is designed to move. As well as character design for different types of characters and how they fit into the stories you want to tell and overview of comics storytelling, layout and structure.

The children will also look at writing comics and how to produce clear lettering by hand for comics and different colouring techniques both traditional and digital. Using the skills gathered so far, children will work on their own comic stories. By the end of the course each student will produce their own complete 8 - 12 page comic strip. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Little Imaginations: **5 Spaces Available**

[Little Imaginations Tickets](#)

Our camps cover all areas of creative arts, as well as active play and science experiments. *This holiday club is open to children aged 3-6 years.*

Monday 26th October Multi Sports: 10 Spaces Available

[Multi Sports Tickets](#)

This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounders, tennis and competitions for the chance to win a fabulous prize. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Robotics: SOLD OUT

[Robotics Tickets](#)

Children will gain an overview of how robotics is used and integrated in computer science, IT and STEAM. The children will look at the robotic creation, design, operation and the use of robotics in everyday life and in the professional working world. *This holiday club is open to children aged 9-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Street Dance: 6 Spaces Available

[Street Dance Tickets](#)

Students will learn routines and steps from this popular dance style. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*