

School Leadership Messages

Gathering Your Views

A reminder that we are still keen to gather your views and ideas on some key aspects of school life including Communications; Curriculum and Learning; Pastoral Care; Extra-Curricular, Personal Development & Wellbeing; Inclusion; Sixth Form in a brief survey. The questions are quite broad and should take you no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. We appreciate that we are collecting a lot of feedback from you all at the moment but we are excited to be working collaboratively with our whole community. Please [click here](#) for the survey. The survey will remain open until 17th October.

And the **Feedback at Fortismere** link is at the bottom of this page.

Attendance reminder

Please ensure that you email attendance@fortismere.org.uk by **8.30am** when your child is too unwell to attend school. Please give the reason for their absence and send any relevant evidence if required. Parents will receive an SMS between 10.00-10.30am if your child hasn't registered for school and you have not informed us of their absence. If you have not remembered to email into school please do so at this point. As you can understand we all need to know that children are where they should be.

Start of school day

Please remember that all KS3 and KS4 students need to be in school by **8.30am** to allow them time to get to their lessons for an **8.35am** start to learning.

Contents

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup

FortisMind

Departmental News & Notices

Fortismere Holiday Clubs

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

| | |
|----------|--|
| 15.10.25 | Y7 Parent/Carer Welcome Event 4pm SW |
| 15.10.25 | Y12 Parent/Carer Information Evening 4.30pm NW |
| 22.10.25 | Sixth Form Open Evening - book here |
| 05.11.25 | Fortismere Fireworks Night 5pm-9pm - book tickets here |

*Well done Turing and Wollstonecraft
Winners of the Inter-House Drama Festival*



Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

Headteacher's Message

This week's newsletter has a strong focus on Black History Month. We have marked the occasion again by changing the colours on our Newsletter banner to mark the event. We are marking the event through a number of assemblies and curriculum based activities, some of which are being reported below.

The highlight of this week was without doubt our Open Afternoon (and evening) which took place at the school on Wednesday. We were visited by over 1000 families who took the opportunity to tour our extensive site and drop in on subject areas to get a glimpse of what life is really like as a student here at Fortismere. We know that our younger visitors love having the chance to see what learning looks like in an exciting secondary school context. Many of our students took part in the events and either supported visitors around the site or talked to them about their learning. Some of our students demonstrated science experiments and engaged our visitors in quizzes and activities. The staff were so proud of our students and how impressively they rose to the occasion. There is absolutely no doubt that they are the very best advert for our school. I was joined in South Wing Hall by Cleo Sparkes and Oliver Balsiger, both in Year 8 who shared their experiences of student life here at Fortismere. Cleo spoke about her love of maths and how maths learning here has brought her enjoyment of the subject to life and how being a student here has given her the confidence to engage in sports (she's now been picked to represent Haringey!) Oliver shared how the extra-curricular side of the school inspired him to really engage with the community and feel a sense of belonging. Oliver is a frequent contributor to our school magazine, is involved in our production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and loves attending the Dungeons and Dragons club. Both students were very impressive and gave a good window into the lives of our students. We were thrilled to see so many of you all there as well as people new to Fortismere.

Before I sign off, a reminder that today is World Mental Health day. We have shared some information about the mental health support we offer in school with the message that we can never talk too much or too openly about how we are feeling about things. We hope parents find the information useful in keeping those conversations going with their children.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Black History Month

Standing Firm in Power and Pride

Black History Month began in the U.S. in 1926, founded by historian Carter G. Woodson to ensure that the achievements and struggles of Black people would not be erased from history. It grew into a month-long celebration in 1970, and in 1987 activist Akyaba Addai-Sebo brought it to the UK, choosing October to inspire young people at the start of the school year.

This year's theme, "**Standing Firm in Power and Pride,**" celebrates resilience, heritage, and the ongoing contributions of Black communities in Britain and worldwide. It is both a reminder and a call: Black history is British history.

We will be marking Black History Month in school through assemblies and activities, however we also wanted to signpost the wide range of events, talks, exhibitions, and performances happening across London to mark the month. We would encourage everyone to "dig deeper" (the Black History Month UK motto) into our diverse past this month by reading a book, watching a documentary, attending a Black History Walk, or exploring local history. **Use these links to find BHM events in London:** [Black History Month Events in London 2025](#) and [BHM Events in Greater London](#)

FortisMind

World Mental Health Day - Friday 10th October 2025

Every year on the 10th October, we celebrate **World Mental Health Day** which is a reminder of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in your mental health. The theme this year is “access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies”.

Over the past few weeks, I have had a chance to speak to nearly all year groups (Years 10 and 13 will be happening soon) in a mental health assembly where I focussed on this year’s theme and how this relates to us at Fortismere. We are privileged to have a huge amount of support available to our students via services such as **Place2be** and **GEMHS** and the assemblies have covered how to access support in times of need and what that support might look like. However, I have also been keen to impress upon our students that Place2be is not just for students who are in mental health crisis. Every single student in the school is entitled to up to six Place2talk sessions each year, and we would love to see more students taking advantage of this before they get to a point of crisis. No matter how small a problem is, studies have shown just how beneficial it can be to have a space to talk about it with someone neutral. This is all part of looking after our mental health and as we know with any problem, prevention is better than resolution! Too often, students think that they don’t need therapy because they don’t identify with having a mental health disorder and then bottle things up until they reach breaking point.

So our message this World Mental Health Day is, please speak to your child/young person about looking after their mental health. Ask them if they have had any of their Place2talk sessions and if not, encourage them to do so! If we all commit to destigmatising talking about our mental health or asking for help then we will make Fortismere a healthier happier school where our students can thrive.

Mental Health Support at Fortismere - Wednesday 15th October 6pm Online

If you would like to hear any more about the support services that we have on offer, please don’t forget to register for the online session on Wednesday 15th October at 6pm. Myself and Nu Robinson (Place2be) will outline support for our students. **You can watch live or you can request a recording**, but please fill in the form either way to register - [register here](#)

Ms Jones

Mental Health Champion

Drama Department Notices

Inter-House Drama Festival - Well Done to the Winners

We had a fantastic time on Wednesday at our annual Inter-House Drama Festival. 68 students across years 7-12 took part to devise an original play from scratch with the stimulus of ‘Gothic’ that was provided at the start of the afternoon. At the end of the evening, all 5 teams performed their plays, which incorporated a variety of Drama techniques, students’ varying skills, and above all, their collaborative imagination!

This year’s joint winners were Wollstonecraft and Turing. Well done to them and to every single student who participated in the Festival and represented what Drama is about.

We loved and appreciated your creativity, enthusiasm, collaboration, and effort.



Jack and The Beanstalk: Notice

Cast and Crew have officially been notified and rehearsals will begin from next Monday. All cast members and Assistant Directors should come to North Wing Hall from 3.15-4.45pm on Monday. Rehearsals will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and a rehearsal schedule will be shared with the cast shortly so they'll know when they're needed. We are really looking forward to starting this journey and sharing some sneak peeks along the way!

Creative Careers: From Our Friends at Arts Depot

Summer Work Experience Opportunity - Every year, **artsdepot** offers a week-long summer work experience placement for young people in Years 10-13. Participants spend time with each department in the venue, experiencing what is required to run a busy, professional arts venue. Participants can also work towards a Bronze Arts Award qualification. The summer work experience week is from Monday 13th to Friday 17th July 2026. Applications open on 10th October **Apply [HERE](#)**.

Creative Pathways: SEN Work Experience - Creative Pathways is an empowering work experience programme for learning disabled young people aged 16-24 years, designed to open doors into the arts and creative industries. Starting with a four-month programme at **artsdepot**, participants take part in weekly workshops to uncover all areas of a professional arts venue. Participants are then offered the opportunity to take part in a bespoke placement with a creative business or organisation, carefully matched to their individual interests and strengths. Deadline for applications is 9am on Friday 17th October **Apply [HERE](#)**

PE & Sports Department News

Haringey Table Tennis

Congratulations to our table tennis teams this week. We went to APS on Monday evening, for a well attended Haringey schools competition. Our students played some very close matches and the girls really enjoyed competing and playing as a team. The Year 9s finished in 2nd place and took the silver medal and the Year 8s finished a respectable 3rd place and took the bronze medal. Highgate Wood School won both competitions - well done to them and to all our players.



Haringey Football Update

Well done to our Year 10 boys squad. They beat Heartlands in a very close game on Tuesday this week, winning 5-4.



Thank you for Your Help!

Thank you to all the students who volunteered their time on Wednesday evening to participate in our Year 6 Open Afternoon Sports Showcase. Our students were all brilliant and we really appreciate their efforts.

Extra Curricular Timetable - Latest Changes

There have been a few changes to the Extra Curricular Timetable - see below for the latest version.

| | Lunch Time | After School 3.15-4.15 pm |
|------------------|--|---|
| Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Astro MV/GK Basketball Y10/11 - SW Gym MH Badminton/Pickleball Y7/8 - Sports Hall NDF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squash Club - Sports Hall (Visiting Coach <u>Coolhurst</u>) Girls Football - Astro MV Netball Y9/10/11 - Netball Courts KJ Football Y8 - School Field GK Football Y7- School Field KR |
| Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Astro MV/GK Badminton/Pickleball Y9/10/11 - Sports Hall NDF Running Club LB Basketball - SW Gym MH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badminton/Pickleball - Sport Hall LB Netball Y7/8 - Netball Courts KW |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Astro GK Basketball - SW Gym MH Badminton/Pickleball Y7/8 - Sports Hall MV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff CPD P5: 6th Form Football training & fixtures - Field MH P5: 6th Form Badminton/Pickleball - Sports Hall MV |
| Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Astro MV Badminton Y9/10/11 - Sports Hall GK Basketball - SW Gym MH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Table Tennis - SW Hall MH Volleyball All Years - Sports Hall AB |
| Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Astro MH Badminton/Pickleball GK | |

Upcoming Fixtures

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mon 13th Oct | Year 7 Girls & Year 7 Boys Haringey 5-a-side @New River Sports Centre Year 7 & Year 9 Netball v APS @Home 3pm |
| Tues 14th Oct | Year 8 Boys & Year 9 Boys Haringey 5-a-side Year 7 & Year 9 Netball v Mulberry @Away |
| Wed 15th Oct | Year 8 Girls & Year 9 Girls Haringey 5-a-side. |
| Thur 16th Oct | Year 10 Boys & Year 11 Boys Haringey 5-a-side. Year 7 Girls v JCoss Middlesex Cup 3.30 pm |
| Fri 17th Oct | Year 10 Girls & Year 11 Girls Haringey 5-a-side |

Library

Black History Month

For Black History Month, the Library student volunteers have set up a display and handpicked books about and by some prominent people of colour.

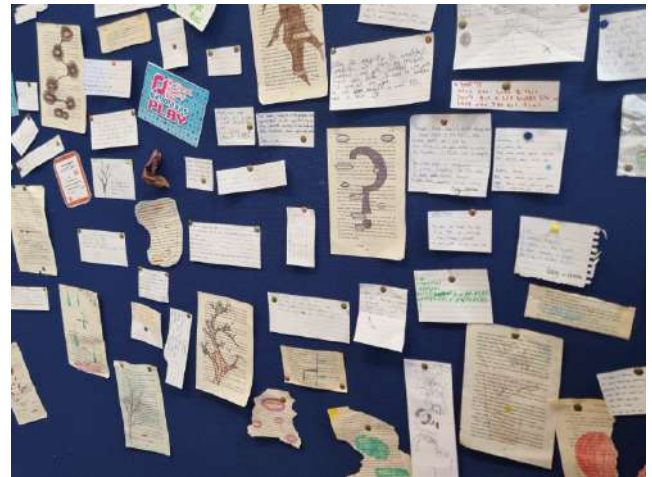
A big thank you to Ms Thompson and Ms Butcher for their input and help with this. Encourage your child to come to the library to have a look at the display.



Super Creative - National Poetry Day Display

A huge thank you to all the students who contributed poems, in so many different forms, to our National Poetry Day display; it has really shown what a creative and talented student body Fortismere has. With a little input from their teachers, students were able to create a wide range of poetry, including unique haikus, black out poems and limericks, and in all of them their personalities shone through.

During our Open Evening event this week, some prospective students and their families also enjoyed creating poetry, which promptly found its place on our display board! Students are welcome to keep on adding to it.



Recommended Reads



LINC Department Notices

SEND Information Event KS3 (Years 7-9) - Thursday 16th October 4.30pm-5.30pm Online

LINC are hosting a **SEND Information Event for parents and carers of students in Years 7-9**. This online event will provide an introduction and overview of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision at Fortismere. To attend please register using the google form link below. We look forward to welcoming many of you to this informative session!

Register [here](#)

Date: Thursday 16th October 2025 and **Time:** 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Location: Online (meet.google.com/vtv-xdzo-ivw)

Haringey SEND Parent Forum

Have you heard of SEND Power in Haringey? This is a forum for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). Via their website you can find information, support and details of workshops and sessions for parents and carers across the whole of the borough. Have a look at their website here - [SEND Power in Haringey](#)

SEND Power publish a **monthly Newsletter** - read the October 2025 Newsletter [here](#) and sign up to receive copies directly.

You can find out about a new **series of free monthly workshops on ADHD** open to any parent/carer whose children live or go to school in Haringey or have a GP in Haringey. Find out about upcoming workshops in October, November and December via [this link](#)

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Pastoral Update

KS3 Pastoral Curriculum Next Week

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been marking World Mental Health Day, 10th October, by taking part in discussions around Mental Health. Next week, Y7 are exploring how to look after our mental health and how to get support if things are challenging. Year 8 will be exploring where we can access reliable information on mental health, while Year 9 are focusing on this year's theme for World Mental Health day, mental health in catastrophes and emergencies.

Student Health & Wellbeing

Parent/Carer Drugs & Alcohol Workshop - Thursday 21st October 5.30pm-6.30pm online

Fortismere are hosting a virtual Parent/Carer workshop on drugs and alcohol use. The session will be facilitated by Andrew Smith, Senior Practitioner, Insight Platform. Insight Platform is a service commissioned by the London Borough of Haringey. The session is aimed at Parents and Carers who wish to update their knowledge and understanding of the following: Current Drug Trends; Signs of Drug use; Talking to your child about Drugs and Alcohol; Referrals to Insight and support in school.

If you would like to attend **please complete the google form [link here](#)**

Note: A link will be emailed to those who have signed up prior to the workshop.

School Holiday Clubs

Booking Open for October Half Term Holiday Clubs

Bookings are now open for the October half-term holiday camps and they are filling up fast! Full details and booking links are on the website [here](#)

Friends of Fortismere

Fortismere Fireworks Night 5th November - Can You Help Please?

Friends of Fortismere are excited to be organising the annual fireworks extravaganza this year - which promises to be a spectacular evening of **fun, food, and fireworks!**

Come along and support our school while enjoying a fantastic community celebration - we'd love to see you there on **Wednesday 5th November 2025 from 5pm to 9pm (fireworks at 8pm)** on the school playing fields, Twyford Avenue entrance.

We've got something for everyone this year, whether you're after thrilling rides, delicious food and drink, or dancing under the stars! All ages welcome - students, families, neighbours and friends! **Tickets are on [sale now here!](#)**

But.....we need your help please! We're looking for volunteers for the bar, cake stall, silent disco, sweet stall, set up and clear up. **If you can help in any way please [SIGN UP HERE](#)** we can't do this without you! Thank you for your support.

Website: [Friends of Fortismere](#)

Email: friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

Instagram: fofo.rtismere

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 [link](#) or QR code

You can also contact your son or daughter's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager about any safeguarding concerns.

