

Newsletter: Friday 2nd May 2025

School Leadership Messages:

Year 11 celebrations this week....



Y11 are expected back to school for normal lessons from
Tuesday 6th May.

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05.05	Bank holiday - school closed
08.05	Spring Music Concert NW Hall 6.30pm Tickets here
14.05	Y8 X bank Parents' Evening



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

After the nail biting conclusion to last Friday's staff vs Y11 football match (see the match report in the PE & Sport section), today saw the Celebration Assembly for the year group. As you will see from the photographs above, it was a brilliant morning. Yesterday Y11 had organised themselves to bring in white tee-shirts for signing. It was lovely spending lunch time with the Y11 students as they asked friends and staff to sign their tee-shirts. This was followed by the handing out of the Y11 sweatshirts causing great excitement. It was far too hot for students to actually wear the sweatshirts but some did try. This morning Y11 arrived in the customary Fortismere fancy dress. In addition to our usual collection of bananas and dinosaurs were an interesting array of cowboys and cowgirls, cartoon characters, an Elton John and an Elvis. The assembly was lovely and all the speakers spoke about the kindness of the year group. They had spent Y7 in zones, being taught all their lessons in one room. They also experienced the winter lockdown and the loss of learning that despite the best efforts of remote teaching still impacted them. Despite all this, they have emerged as a thoughtful, considerate and very entertaining year group. Ms Williams noted how they will be missed by all of us and there were a few tears amidst the laughter.

The week wasn't entirely dominated by Y11: the Y12 Politics students were given the opportunity to grill a former Conservative MP on Tuesday, the Junior Maths challenge took place on Thursday and Mr Commons has taken a group of Y12 to a lecture on nanotechnology at the Royal Society today. So a typical busy week at Fortismere!

We are also looking forward to a variety of activities next week. This May 8th marks 80 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Government has asked us to commemorate with a 2 minute silence at 12 noon. As this is at the end of our P3 lesson, we may adjust the time. Please see the Library article about the recommended read for a fuller understanding of VE Day plus other books which shed more light on this major historical event.

Also on May 8th is the Spring Music Concert, which is always a delight. The Music Department has been working hard with students to produce music of the highest quality from different musical genres and we would highly recommend buying a ticket!

Next Friday we are also celebrating Y13 in their final assembly. These moments are always bittersweet and for those students who have been with us for the whole seven years, they are also poignant.

The weather is set to cool down over the weekend so we expect to see everyone more wrapped up next week. We hope you all have a lovely bank holiday and look forward to seeing students back on Tuesday.



Y11 in all their glory

Student Success

Well done Deniz

Huge congratulations to an amazing creative writer and storyteller: Deniz Güven in Year 11 who, earlier this year, had her very special familial story, written in Turkish, with her grandma and her grandma's life and experiences in mind, published in Rengin Göcmen Kadın Öyküleri by Sakli Cekmece. Deniz's story was part of a collection of wonderful stories in the book and was originally submitted for the Migrant Women Story Competition, organised by the Women's Choir of Colour. It is inspiring to see our students embrace their passion, creativity, and craft (Deniz is also a wonderful visual artist!) and journey with creativity. We hope you go on to write and create more after you graduate from Fortismere in the coming months, Deniz. All the best!

Year 7 News

Fundraising Multi-Event is a Big Success!

Well done to the Year 7 Ambassadors who have raised an incredible £433.60 for their chosen charity, the RSPCA! The Ambassadors decided that they wanted to organise a disco, film, arts and crafts, bake sale, raffle event all in one evening - so there would be something for everyone! The Ambassadors very generously baked and brought in some excellent prizes for the raffle. Thanks to Ms Fox, Mr Ward and Ms Brooks, as well as the older Ambassadors and Year 12 students who helped out at the event on Monday. Thank you also to the parents/carers of the ambassadors who supported the event with their donations.



Politics Department News

A Level Politics Students Question Former Minister Anthony Browne

Former Conservative MP and government minister Anthony Browne came to speak to A Level Politics students this week. He gave an account of his life as an MP and took questions on a range of topics from the students. The students were most interested in his views on Brexit (and the fact that, despite voting for Brexit, he did not publicly advocate for it), and the high murder rate for Members of Parliament and the abuse they face. His previous career as a journalist was also discussed, with many students expressing surprise that he had taken a pay cut to become an MP. Students said that they appreciated his candour, even when they knew his views were different to the majority of theirs (especially on Brexit!)



LINC Notices

Webinars for Parents & Carers - Haringey Educational Psychology Service

The Haringey Educational Psychology Service is offering a free online webinar this term.

- **Social and Emotional Development:** a webinar on the stages of social and emotional development children typically go through, what you might see at each stage and how parents can help children to navigate the challenges that these stages bring - for parents of children of all ages **Tuesday 10th June from 12pm-1pm** [Book a place here](#)

Library Notices

Creative Writing Competition

It's very easy to enter the competition by submitting entries online at:

<https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/2025-competition-enter/> The deadline to submit entries is Thursday 22nd May. Entries will be judged by a fantastic panel of celebrities, refugees, and journalists with the top 30 entries going on display in The British Library during National Refugee Week (16th–22nd June 2025). They will also be featured in a special national online assembly, in the press and elsewhere. The Sanctuary Foundation hopes this competition will not only inspire creative expression but also foster conversations about the importance of community and compassion towards displaced children.



The British Library is hosting an exciting event and prize giving ceremony on World Refugee Day (Friday 20th June 2025). **For full details of the competition, please visit:** <https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art/>

Dan Freedman's Vote

Thank you to everyone who's given me persuasive paragraphs to influence Dan's vote for the Premier League Footballer of the Year (see last week's Newsletter). Here's one of them – which unfortunately doesn't have the name of the writer! Please come to the library and remind Mrs Ward who you are!



"This year in the Premier League there have been many stars that have burst onto the scene: Liam Delap, Alexander Isak, Matheus Cunha, but really there's only one pick of the bunch and that is the Egyptian king Mo Salah. With an astonishing 49 goal involvements in just 48 games, Salah also brings fair play with him, receiving just one yellow card in all comps."

Want to persuade Dan to vote for anyone else? Deadline for me to send your ideas to Dan is Tuesday 6th May gward@fortismere.org.uk

Recommended Reads of the Week

"8 May 1945 – VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) – was one that remained in the memory of all those who witnessed it. It meant an end to nearly six years of a war that had cost the lives of millions; had destroyed homes, families, and cities; and had brought huge suffering and privations to the populations of entire countries. Millions of people rejoiced in the news that Germany had surrendered, relieved that the intense strain of total war was finally over. In towns and cities across the world, people marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing.

But it was not the end of the conflict, nor was it an end to the impact the war had on people. The war against

Japan did not end until August 1945 (VJ Day), and the political, social and economic repercussions of the Second World War were felt long after Germany and Japan surrendered" *[From the Imperial War Museum website]*

Here are a few of the many books we have on display marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



Sport & PE Notices

Year 11 v Staff Charity Football Match Report

Friday's game was certainly entertaining to watch, with ample excitement and an incredible atmosphere. The game started off with end to end action with the students and teachers trying their hardest to tip the scales in their favour. However it took until the first few minutes of the second half for a goal to be scored. Noah scored an absolute cracker of a goal putting the students 1-0 up, which kicked the teachers into gear, and unfortunately this led to the students' excitement being short lived as the score was soon levelled with a goal from Mr Siaka. The game was then a constant back and forth between the two teams leading to all the players' endurance levels being tested. In the end the match had to be decided by sudden death penalties resulting in a lucky win for the teachers!

Year 11 spectator



London Mini Marathon

Congratulations to our Fortismere runners - Alex Kirk, Amy Kirk, Ivy Gray and Jessica Lappin. They were

representing Haringey in the London Mini Marathon last Saturday and all put in great performances on the course. The atmosphere was great and they even got a selfie with Joe Wicks!



Netball Friendly v Highgate Wood and Dukes Academy

Tuesday saw a chance for some of our Year 7 netball players who have been so committed to the after school club but haven't had the opportunity to play as part of the school team, to experience an away fixture. We travelled to Highgate Wood School and took part in a mini friendly tournament against Highgate Wood and Dukes Academy. The atmosphere was great with everyone really enjoying themselves and having a very positive experience of inter school competition. Well played all.



Haringey Schools Swimming Gala

The annual Haringey Schools Swimming Gala is the only chance that our students get to swim for Fortismere and we certainly have some talent in the pool. Our swimmers shone at the event - the Year 7 Girls and the Year 8 Girls won the trophy as did the Year 9 and the Year 10 Boys! The Year 9 and Year 10 Girls finished a close 2nd place to Highgate Wood School and the Year 7 and Year 8 Boys missed out by 1 point. Well done to all involved you were brilliant!!



Coronation Cup

Last Friday Fortismere took part in the annual Coronation Cup at the New River Sports Centre. We took two teams to take part in the competition, made up of a mix of Year 7 and Year 8 girls. Both teams did well and

qualified for the semi-finals, with one team making it to the cup final but sadly losing out on penalties to APS. Well done to all involved -you represented the school brilliantly and showed excellent team spirit and team work. That's the end of our football season now until September.



Upcoming Fixtures & Events

Mon 5 May - DofE Expedition 1 Y9 (Bronze Award) North Wing Reception 8.30am sharp
Tue 6 May - DofE Expedition 1 Y9 (Bronze Award) North Wing Reception 8.30am sharp
Wed 7 May - DofE Expedition 2 Y9 (Bronze Award) North Wing Reception 8.30am sharp
Wed 7 May - GCSE & A Level PE Practical moderation
Thu 8 May - DofE Expedition 2 Y9 (Bronze Award) North Wing Reception 8.30am sharp

Drama Department Notices

Shakespearean Rehearsals with KS3 Drama Club

Drama Club got straight back into action with play rehearsals after a break for Easter and a sporadic spring term of sessions. The actors in Drama Club are currently working on an abridged version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare, to hopefully be performed in the summer term!

This week's rehearsal was with the magical kingdom: none other than Queen Titania, King Oberon, Puck, and the band of Fairies. We almost have a full cast for our play and are so lucky to be working with interested, talented, and enthusiastic students - including our two fantastic committed Year 9 co-directors!

There are still one or two parts left to cast, so if there are any keen Key Stage 3 students looking to act and perform more, we meet every Tuesday after school!

Contact Miss Nagaria and Miss Bailey-Wright in Drama for more information.



Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

Virtual Work Experience Opportunities All Year Groups

See these virtual work experience opportunities with **Experian** that are taking place in May for students in Year 7-9 (First Step) and Year 10-13 (Next Step).

FIRST STEP (Year groups 7-9): Tuesday 13th May at 4.30pm (virtual session hosted on MS Teams)

Free Skins or Fake Wins? Exposing Fake Gaming Giveaways!

- A 45-minute virtual briefing with the Experian team
- Complete the career challenge at your own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- [Register now!](#)

NEXT STEP (Year groups 10-13): Wednesday 14th May at 5pm (virtual session hosted on MS Teams)

Get Rich Quick... or Get Caught? The Dark Side of Influencer Money Scams!

- A 45-minute virtual briefing with the Experian team
- Complete the career challenge at your own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- [Register now!](#)

Friends of Fortismere Notice

Still Time To Help Us Reach Our Target

Hopefully you already have **Sunday 6th July, 12-4pm** in your diary for the all new Fortismere Summer Festival and have already signed up to help us raise upwards of £3500 for the school with the smallest amount of effort by agreeing to have a Martyn Gerrard board outside your property. We will receive £15 for every board. There's still time to sign up by filling out this short form <https://forms.gle/jczZbdLzXHLLW7JD6> by 26th May.

Look out for a Parentmail message next week about raising funds for the school through company matched funding schemes.

If you have any questions or suggestions please email friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

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 My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

