

School Leadership Messages:

Updated Start of Term Arrangements for September 2025

We are updating details on our website for the start of term in September 2025.

Monday 1st September	Year 7 only (start time tbc)
Tuesday 2nd September	Year 7 and 12 only (start time tbc)
Wednesday 3rd September	All Years (start time tbc)

This has altered slightly from the original arrangements (only impacts Year 7) due to changes that we needed to make to our calendar resulting from an agreement with staff following a dispute resolution

A more detailed letter detailing the start of term arrangements will be sent out by Ms Judge before the end of term.

Objects brought into school

Please may we remind parents and carers that footballs and basketballs need to be brought to school in bags. Golf balls are banned from site and may not be brought into school.

Sports Days - Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July

Please could students come into school wearing their PE kit and if possible a t-shirt in the colour of their House. Remember a sun hat, water bottle and sun cream.

Franklin - Blue

Turing - Green

Selvon - Red

Keats - Yellow

Wollstonecraft - White

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08.07	KS3 Drama Club Present A Midsummer Night's Dream 6pm NW Hall
10.07	School Summer Music Concert 6-8pm NW Music Hall
15 & 16.07	School Sports Days



**See you at the Festival!
Sunday 6th 12-4pm!**

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

The week began with a heat wave. Our buildings are not well suited to extremes in temperature and we had to make full use of our contingent of fans plus the room changes available due to the lack of both Y11 and Y13. For Y10s still doing their end of year exams, the Hall and Gym were two of the coolest places to be! We appreciate that for students being on the walkway in this kind of heat can be very unpleasant. They were very sensible; drinking lots of water, quite a few in hats and staying out of direct sunlight when walking between wings, were possible. The heatwave is over for now (although we do hope for good weather at the Summer Festival on Sunday!) and we hope that we have more normal temperatures until the end of term.

It was still very warm yesterday when Y9 marched up to East Finchley en masse for the annual Y9 Oscars at the Phoenix cinema. The quality of the films produced by the students was as high as ever but the final film, based on spaghetti westerns, was a hilarious parody of the Sergio Leone films with the sound track to match. There was also a very funny reinterpretation of our relationship with Henry the Hoover... All 10 films shown demonstrated the creativity and technical expertise our students acquire in KS3 Drama and is a really unusual and special way to celebrate the end of the key stage.

The improved weather also added to the enjoyment of the Y6 to Y7 transition days. It was lovely meeting the new cohort and watching them begin to accustom themselves both to the site and Fortismere's routines. Lunch time is always an interesting one for them. For some of the new students, their new year group of 270 is bigger than their entire primary school so navigating a lunch time with so many other students can feel both daunting and exciting.

The Y6s enjoyed a range of activities designed to support their confidence with regards to stepping up to secondary school and also to alleviate any worries or concerns some of the students may have. The other year groups were also excited to see the Y6s: we seem to have a high number of siblings and of course many of the current Y7 were involved with transition activities. The Y7s we spoke to were very pleased to present themselves as 'old hands' at supporting new students getting to grips with a large site and other children.

Today the Y6 parents and carers have been in school to find out some more about what to expect from Fortismere, be that support, the curriculum or how their children will be taught. Ms Judge, who will be the sole headteacher from September, also reacquainted herself with the parents and carers as well as their children. The two days have been uniformly positive, the children seem to have really enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to starting school in September. They will have the site to themselves on September 1st which will also support their transition.

At the opposite end of the spectrum from transition are the students who leave and then return. This Saturday, Fortismere is hosting a reunion of the class of 2011. A former student from that cohort has organised the reunion, inviting staff who taught the year group as well as other alumni. It is a wonderful testament to the school that former students do keep in touch and wish to celebrate their time as students with us.

Despite the cooler weather, we are very much looking forward to the Summer Festival on Sunday. The Friends of Fortismere have put together a wonderful array of different activities and we think it will be a hugely enjoyable event. See you there!

School Catering

Cashless Catering Accounts

As we approach the summer break, please ensure all catering accounts are fully settled with no outstanding balances owed to the canteen.

Please note that starting in September, we will be closely monitoring all negative balances to ensure that debts are kept to a minimum. It is preferable that negative balances do not exceed £5.00 as Harrisons Catering Services will pursue the school for outstanding funds.

To make managing accounts easier, ParentMail offers an **auto top-up feature** – please log into the app for further information and instructions.

Also, for those who may be eligible for **Free School Meals** – please use the [online eligibility checker](#) and forward proof of eligibility to admin@fortismere.org.uk so we can update our records accordingly. Further information on Free School Meals can be found on the school website [here](#).

If you have any queries please contact admin@fortismere.org.uk

Friends of Fortismere

Summer Festival Countdown Continues on Instagram

It's almost time and to keep yourself updated with news and all the latest festival information **follow the Friends of Fortismere on Instagram: [@fofo.rtismere](https://www.instagram.com/fofo.rtismere)** Thank you for your support and see you on Sunday!

House News

The Great Fortismere Show - Friday 11th July

Only one week to go until our fantastic celebration of the creativity and quirkiness that makes Fortismere so special! On Friday 11th July, students in Years 7-10 will take part in The Great Fortismere Show, an inter House competition consisting of 19 different creative competitions - there really is something for everyone! Students can choose to decorate cupcakes, write poetry, create pasta art, take photographs, and even, inspired by the Lambeth County Show, make the best vegetable animal!

Entries will be made ahead of time and displayed at school for all to admire. All students will need to enter at least one competition. On the day, students will have the chance to explore all the amazing creations, and certificates, prizes and house points will be awarded to the best entries. The winning House will proudly take home the coveted cup!

We can't wait to see Fortismere's creativity shine! Please encourage your child to get creative, earn some points and have fun!. Have a look at the [google slides here](#) for more information.



Drama Department Notices

Year 9 Oscars at the Phoenix Cinema

The 19th Annual Oscars Ceremony took place at the beautiful Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley this week. This always feels like the Year 9 Key stage three graduation! Congratulations to the Year 9s who made some fantastic short films.

The whole year group was excited to watch the winning films in the beautiful 115 year old Phoenix Cinema. Thank you to all the staff who made this trip possible and the Drama department whose hard work and creativity make the Film Project a yearly success.

Congratulations to the winning groups, but well done to all of Year 9 for creatively working together on this term long project.

If you don't know the Phoenix Cinema already - read about its history [here](#) and go and watch a film to support this wonderful old cinema.



KS3 Drama Club perform A Midsummer Night's Dream (Adapted) - Tuesday 8th July

Tuesday 8th July, 6pm, North Wing Hall:

For ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Fortismere Drama Club presents:

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Adapted)

Tickets are £5 and available from

<https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/>



A Midsummer Night's Dream Rehearsals

Rehearsals have been in full swing this week in preparation for Tuesday's performance.

Our cast have been working very hard (even in the heatwave!). We're very excited to welcome you all, so make sure you get your tickets!



Upcoming Auditions for Next Year's Show!



Year 12 Performance Evening

Year 12 A Level Drama students present extracts from musicals: **Sweeney Todd and London Road**

Thursday 10th July, 5pm in North Wing Hall.
Free admission (Adult content)



Music Department Notices

Last Concert of the Year - Thursday 10th July 6pm-8pm

Join us on Thursday for the final school concert of this academic year showcasing the amazing range of musical talent amongst our students! The programme will include Big Band, Senior Strings, Samba Bateria, Choir, Rock Bands and solos. [Tickets available here](#)

Music Making at Fortismere 2025-26 - Instrumental Lessons & Ensembles

Now's a good time to sign up yourself or your young person for music lessons and ensembles in September! Have a look at our information booklet *attached to the newsletter*, which contains all the details you need.

To register your interest or to book a place, just [complete this Google Form](#) and we'll be in touch with more information over the summer.



Library Notices

Recommended Reads of the Week

You're loading up your e-reader ready to take on holiday (because your suitcase just isn't big enough to carry all the books you're going to read...) Here are the first books of some brilliant series to keep you hooked in the cottage/by the pool/up the mountain/in the garden – or wherever you are spending your summer. You can obviously borrow the paperbacks from our library too.



Sport & PE Notices

Haringey Athletics - Best in Middlesex!

Monday was the Year 7/8 Middlesex Schools Athletics Competition which took place at the Stonex Allianz Stadium. This is a prestigious event with the best athletes from schools across the whole of Middlesex.

Haringey were outstanding and won the Year 7 Boys, Year 8 Boys and Year 8 Girls categories. They also came 2nd to Hillingdon in the Year 7 Girls category. Very well done to our Fortismere representatives - Farrah

(Long jump and hurdles), Lino (100m), Ben (800m and javelin), Oscar (800m), Aaliya, (200m and javelin), Cleo (Long jump), Ettta (150m) and Francesco (800m) - they played a big part in the Haringey success!



Cricket - Barnet League

This year at Fortismere, our Year 7/8 Cricket Team have played three matches. We've won two and only lost one. We won against Finchley Catholic and King Alfred School and the game we lost was against Ashmole. Against King Alfred we didn't score a high total but we bowled really well and we stopped them chasing our score and ended up winning by just over 20 runs. Our best bowler was Alex Duthie - he got 2 wickets in the match and one was first bowl. Against Finchley Catholic, we started off by bowling and in the first 4 overs we

had limited them to 20 runs and we got four wickets. At the end of the innings they got 98 runs and one of our bowlers, Selin got a fiver (five wickets). Then we chased that pretty easily and Max Inwards got 30 runs and retired. (By a Year 8 team member).

Genevieve Selected for Hockey Talent Academy

Year 10 student Genevieve Castle has been selected for the Hockey Talent Academy. Genevieve will play at the Talent Academy Festival in Nottingham from 22nd-27th July where she will have the opportunity to then be selected for the England Hockey squad. Good luck and very well done Genevieve. Amazing!

AST Volleyball Academy

The AST Volleyball Academy (who run training at Fortismere) travelled to the United World Games in Austria in June. Fortismere students, Olivia and Ella represented the school as part of the AST Team. The team had a great experience filled with friendship, true team spirit and unforgettable memories. Find out more about AST Volleyball Academy on their website [here](#)



Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 8 July	Haringey Boys Y9/10 Cricket at North Middlesex Cricket Club 10am-2pm
Wednesday 9 July	Y7/8 Middlesex Cricket Competition at North Middlesex Cricket Club 10am-2pm

Sports Days - Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th July

We're looking forward to our annual Sports Days in the last week of term. Students should come into school wearing their PE kit and if possible a t-shirt in their house colour. Remember a sun hat, water bottle and sun cream.



Careers & Work Related Learning Notice

Summer Work Experience Opportunity

Is your child in Year 11, 12 or 13 interested in a legal career? If yes, alert them to this summer work experience opportunity...

On Thursday 31st July and Friday 1st August from 10am-3pm, The **University of Law is hosting a Careers in Law Hybrid Work Experience Event**. Participants will take part in mock legal lectures, work on projects and exciting legal tasks, and have the opportunity to ask questions and network with professionals.

Day 1 will be a virtual event, allowing students to participate from anywhere. Day 2 will be in person at one of the campuses in Nottingham, London, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, or Bristol. Students can choose which campus they'd like to attend. Please note that spaces at the venues are very limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Click [this link](#) to sign up

LINC Notice

Haringey SEND Power - July Newsletter

Have a look at the SEND Power Newsletter for July - there's lots of news, information and details of local events for parents and carers of SEND children and young people. [SEND Power July 2025 Newsletter](#)

Extra Curricular and Community Clubs

Weaving Words Creative Writing Club

This is a missive from Ms Massey, teacher of the Weaving Words after School Creative Writing Club. The first year of Weaving Words is drawing to a close at the end of this term. I've had three classes of ten students and their attendance and enthusiasm has remained consistent for the whole year and we've all had enormous fun! The students have told me they look forward to the weekly lessons as a way of letting their imagination flow freely from their pens and onto the page. My fine writers have said that the club has enabled them to make a new friendship group and has also helped their written academic work to flourish too. Many have told me their grades in English have shot up. The practice of writing freely is such a great way to enjoy and improve the process both creatively and academically. We write from a trigger word or a theme and create prose, poetry, dialogue and, occasionally, nonsense rhymes. The group writes collectively, sharing their individual pieces - only if they feel comfortable doing so - and receiving feedback.

If you think your child would enjoy this, I will be restarting the writing club from September (after school on Monday and Tuesdays: Year 8 and above and Wednesdays: Year 7). We meet in the Library every week from 3.30pm-4.30pm. The cost is £160 pounds per term. If you would like more information, or to sign up please contact me at Weaving100words@gmail.com I hope to meet many more wonderful writers again next academic year. All the best.

Ms Massey

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.

