

### Headteacher's Message

This middle half term is such a busy one. Not only is it the shortest, so we tend to pack more in, but it's also the point in the year when students and staff are really in their stride and working hard on all the things we're trying to achieve. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are approaching further assessments to check in on their progress since the mock examinations in November. We always have incredibly high academic ambitions for all of our students, challenging them to engage deeply with their learning and to extend their thinking wherever possible, encouraging that curiosity for learning that we talk so much about here at Fortismere.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 9 Options Evening. It was wonderful to see so many families there. Students had the opportunity to meet teachers and current students from across the very wide range of subjects available at Key Stage 4, helping them make informed choices about their future studies. Please do take time to read through the information about the options process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ms Boot or Mr Scott.

We always love hearing about our amazing alumni, and this week we've had some wonderful news about former Fortismere student, Imogen Greenberg. Her much loved graphic novel, *100 Nights of Hero*, has been adapted for film and is on release this weekend. The film stars Emma Corrin and looks fantastic. Fortismere has produced so many highly successful individuals across various fields, and we're immensely proud of each and every one of them.

Perhaps if it continues to rain, the cinema might be a good place to be this weekend!

### Contents

**Headteacher's Weekly Roundup**

**Departmental News & Notices**

**Safeguarding Information**

### Calendar

<b>11.02</b>	Year 12 Futures Evening
<b>12.02</b>	Charity Band Night 6pm <b>Buy tickets <a href="#">here</a></b>
<b>16.02-20.02</b>	Half Term Holiday



**Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)**

## Sixth Form

### Year 12 Futures Evening - Wednesday 11th February 5.30pm-7.00pm SW

A reminder that our Year 12 Futures Evening will take place on Wednesday 11 February 2026, from 5:30–7:00pm. This event is designed to support Year 12 students and their parents and carers in exploring post-18 options and planning next steps beyond Sixth Form.

The evening will include a carousel of sessions focused on different post-18 pathways and competitive applications. These sessions have been planned in response to students' survey responses about their future aspirations to ensure the information shared in the evening is relevant to them.

Sessions will cover a wide range of topics, including an overview of post-18 options, degree apprenticeships, competitive applications to Oxford and Cambridge, and subject-specific sessions such as STEM, Film/TV, Medicine, and Law.

We strongly encourage all Year 12 students, and as many parents and carers as possible, to attend. We look forward to welcoming you at South Wing reception from 5:15pm for a prompt 5:30pm start.

## House News

### Sponsored Reading Challenge

To support the National Year of Reading and to raise money for the National Literacy Trust students will be taking part in a Sponsored Reading Challenge - Read for a Reason! Starting on 9th February and ending on 27th March. For the challenge students will set themselves a reading goal and ask family and friends to sponsor them for the number of books they can read. During the final week of the challenge there will be a book collection to support the Children's Book Project who collect books to tackle book poverty

#### How the Challenge Works

- Students will choose a realistic reading goal (number of books to read)
- Students can be sponsored per book read or with a fixed total donation
- Reading can take place at home and at school (when appropriate)
- Students will record completed books, plus a star rating and thoughts about the book [here](#)

#### How You Can Help

- Support your child in choosing a realistic and achievable reading goal.
- Encourage regular reading at home.
- Help your child collect sponsorships and ensure the form is completed clearly.
- Sign the sponsorship form once the challenge is complete.
- Help find books for the book collection

We'll keep you updated during the challenge with news and details of a Book Swap and the Book Collection. For now just get your child reading! Thank you for your support

Ms Brough, Ms Jones, Ms Garnett, Mr Ward  
Heads of Houses

## Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

### Fortismere Careers Fair Tuesday 24th March - Can You Help Us?

Hopefully you will have seen the ParentMail message sent out earlier this week telling you about the whole school Careers Fair taking place on 24th March. If you haven't had a chance to read this message yet please do so as we are really excited about this event. **We're looking for parents and carers who could help in the following ways:**

- If you work for a company or organisation that could host a stall at our fair, we'd really love to hear from you.
- Could you put us in touch with colleagues or contacts in your workplace who would be willing to participate in our event?
- If you run your own business, could you speak to our students about your journey and experiences?
- If you work in a particular profession or industry, could you run a session to share insights about your career path and what it takes to succeed in your field?

We hope to showcase a wide range of careers and professions at the event, and we know that our parent body holds an incredible depth of knowledge, expertise, and connections that could inspire and benefit our students. Any support would be very much appreciated.

For more details and a sign up form please see the Parentmail message sent earlier this week. You can also email Ms Herrero at [careers@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:careers@fortismere.org.uk) if you have any queries.

### Next Week is National Apprenticeship Week (NAW 2026) 9th-15th February

**NAW 2026** is a great opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about apprenticeships so that you can have informed conversations with your child about this possible future study pathway. Apprenticeships have broadened and diversified in recent years with more options available and a growth in higher-level apprenticeships. **Watch a short film [here](#) about NAW 2026** and how to get the most out of it.

Students will be exploring apprenticeships during their PSHE lessons.

**NAW Parent & Carer information webinar: Mon 9th Feb 6.30pm-7.30pm. [Register here](#)**

**NAW events** are taking place online and across England. See [NAW events map](#)

Locally **Barnet & Southgate College are hosting an Apprenticeships open event** at their Wood Street Campus on Tuesday 10th Feb 4pm-6.30pm [Register here](#)

**Students in Y10-Y13 can take part in a 1 hour Springpod Sprint on Apprenticeships.** Sprints are short online courses that include an industry expert brief followed by a brief task. Students upload their work and then receive access to a debrief and model answer - they are a great interactive way for students to learn more about a specific area or pathway. [An Introduction to Apprenticeships - 1hr Sprint](#)

### Unifrog Virtual Apprenticeship Fair - Wednesday 11th February 4pm-6pm

**Join this virtual Apprenticeship Fair** to explore a range of apprenticeship options and hear from industry experts. There are live sessions with employers from across the UK including Astra Zeneca, BBC, Aldi and EDF plus **sessions on Using AI successfully in applications, SEND and apprenticeships and Finding work experience.** [Register here](#)

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#### How the Challenge Works

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Ms Brough, Ms Jones, Ms Garnett, Mr Ward  
Heads of Houses

## Modern Languages

### Translation Challenge - Translate and Win!

Fortismere ML would like to invite students from all year groups to participate in the Anthea Bell Prize, a competition run by The Queen's College, Oxford. You can read more about it [here](#). This is a fantastic opportunity for students of all ages to showcase their creativity by translating a set text into English, either independently or in a pair, with a focus on balancing accuracy and imaginative flair. Resources are currently available for French, Spanish, and Mandarin, and interested students should speak to their Modern Languages teacher to get started. Additionally, there are resources available for Italian, German, and Russian. Students wishing to compete in these three languages should contact Mr Lewis for the materials. Please note that all entries must be the student's own work without the use of AI or machine translation as the Oxford judging panel is looking for a human touch that software cannot replicate. Completed anonymous entries should be submitted to a ML teacher **by March 20th** for a chance to win regional certificates or national book prizes.



## History Department

### Take Part in the Inaugural Liana Ward History Prize

The History Department has launched the inaugural Liana Ward History Prize in memory of Fortismere student Liana Ward who sadly died in 2024. Liana loved her time at Fortismere, and in particular, her History lessons. Liana's family are kindly sponsoring the amazing prizes.

We are inviting students from all year groups to take part. Students need to share a piece of work on a period of history, or a historical event, person, country, community, invention or movement which they think is important. This can be a topic they have studied in school or learnt about outside of school. There are three age categories: Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11), and Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13).

Students can work individually or in pairs or teams and present their entry in whichever way they wish. The **deadline is 4th March**. For more details refer to the letter that was sent by ParentMail last week. If students have any questions they should speak to Ms DeFreitas. Please encourage your child to take part.

## Library

### An Amazing Author Visit with Jess Popplewell

Last Monday, we had the honour to receive author Jess Popplewell on a visit to the Library. Jess held workshops with groups of students and answered lots of their questions on her books, her creative journey and getting published. Jess also talked about the inspiration for her books, and made us all realise that anything can inspire us to pursue a creative endeavour. The workshops were fun and students were captivated as they thought about releasing their own creativity and channeling it into their work. I am sure it gave the students much to think about in terms of approaching their own creative writing tasks and goals.



It was such a great visit that we have invited Jess to Fortismere for another day of workshops so she can meet and inspire more of our students and staff. She will join us again on Monday 23rd February.

You can purchase a signed copy of her book, *The dark within us*, Scan the QR code below, or click on the book cover image, use code **FORT0126** for a discount, and select **school free shipping** to have it delivered to school.

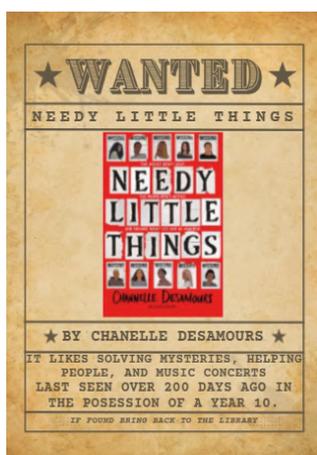
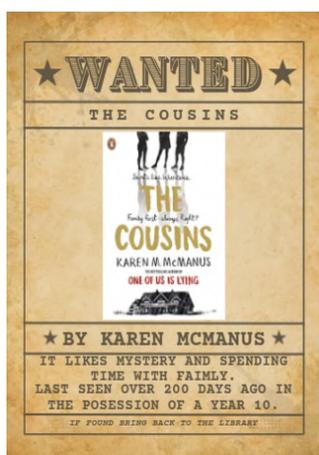


The Dark Within Us



## Wanted Books

We are looking for some books that have not been returned to the library in a long long time. Could you please have a look for us, at home or in the bottom of school bags. We would love to have them returned and are eager to reunite them with their friends! Details below.....



## Books In Need of Support

If you are a regular newsletter reader, you will have noticed how the library is working to expand its dyslexia friendly book collection. It's an ongoing project and something we are very proud of doing as with every book we add we hope to involve another reader in discovering the joy of a good book.

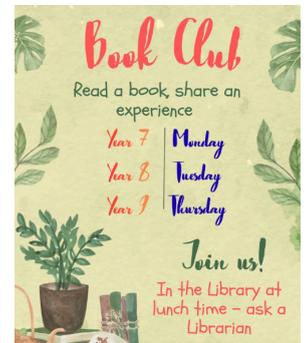
Unfortunately, one of our shelves couldn't handle the pressure this week and collapsed! We are looking for a sturdy bookcase to host these wonderful books; if you need to rehome one, please consider donating it to Fortismere Library.

Please email me [fpirovano@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:fpirovano@fortismere.org.uk) with any offers. Thank you.



## Student Book Clubs Up and Reading!

The new student Book clubs are up and running at lunch times, and each year group has decided on a book to read from a choice of different genres; what wonderful choices they have made. Year 7 is reading: *When Mr Dog Bites*; an emotional book that highlights some of the struggles of living with Tourette syndrome. Year 8 has opted for: *Guantanamo Boy*; the very modern story of an innocent boy mistaken for a terrorist and held in a prison, where he loses his freedom and is forced into growing up. In the meantime, Year 9 is trying to get a few more people before they commit to a book (many different preferences), so if your child enjoys reading and would like to join a group of their peers from Year 9, please send them in the direction of the library at lunch time on a Thursday.



## Drama Department Notices

### KS3 Drama Club

**KS3 Drama Club is BACK!**  
**Starting Thursday 26th Feb.**

Are you in Years 7-9 and interested in developing your Drama skills, being creative, building confidence, making new friends, and taking part in workshops, as well potentially performing in a showcase? If the answer is yes, or if you're not sure and would like to give something new a try, then Drama Club is the place for you!

Everyone is welcome to join. Please fill out the interest form link below (*using your student school Gmail*) so we can gauge numbers.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Interest form: [sign up here](#)



## Half Term Opportunities from our Friends at The Roundhouse

### February Half-Term Creative Opportunities for Young People at The Roundhouse

Drama, music, animation, and more - our creative projects give young people the chance to explore their passions, learn new skills, meet friends and have fun.

#### Stage Combat and Devised Theatre

*Mon 16-Wed 18 February | Ages 11-14 & 15-17 | £10*

Ever wondered how actors make fight scenes look so real? In this three-day half-term workshop, young people will learn safe beginner stage combat skills, create short scenes, and explore how movement, imagination, and teamwork bring stories to life. We've got two workshops for the two age groups:

Ages 11-14 (10.30am-1pm) - Sold Out | Join Wait List

Ages 15-17 (2-4.30pm) - Spaces available | [Book Now](#)

Led by experienced theatre tutors. No previous experience needed. Spaces are limited, book early!

Lots more from them - Drama clubs, singing, Radio, Musical theatre and more! **Browse [HERE](#)**

## Sport & PE Notices

### Haringey Badminton Competitions

Congratulations to our Year 8 Badminton squad - Matilda Tay, Anna, Ivy and Etta won the Haringey Girls Competition at Dukes Academy last Monday. Gael, Oscar, Rhys and Robbie finished 3rd overall and took the bronze medal. The Year 10 girls finished 4th - Alba Sureiya, Evie and Maya and Year 10 boys finished a well deserved 3rd - Dash, Jacob, Connor and Tom. Well done to all our badminton players and thank you to Ms Bailey for running the after school badminton club in the Sports Hall every Tuesday without fail, it certainly helped with our success.



### Haringey Football League News

Our Year 7 girls team travelled to Park View School on a cold and wet Tuesday afternoon this week. The opposition team were strong and we went 1-0 down, but the girls showed character and resilience and Gracie scored just before half time to make it 1-1. Nia scored early on in the second half and Kendal scored a great goal from a goal kick that the keeper couldn't save. The girls were elated with their 3-1 win.



## Middlesex Cup

The Year 8 girls team played against Bishop Ramsey on Wednesday afternoon this week. It was a great match - Hanna Robertson scored a brilliant hat-trick, (sadly not in the photo as she had to rush off!) Maria and Etta also got onto the score sheet in a convincing 5-0 win. The girls are through to the semi finals and a match against Wren Academy in Finchley. Fantastic effort by all involved.



## NEW! Y7 & Y8 Boxing Club

We were really pleased to see twenty eight students attend the new Boxing Club Trials on Wednesday after school this week. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and got a great workout! If your child would like to join, please sign up online. See details on the JabFirst website [www.jabfirstbxnacademy.com](http://www.jabfirstbxnacademy.com)

## Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 9th Feb	Year 9 Boys Football v APS (H) Year 8 Girls Football v STM (A)
Tuesday 10th Feb	Year 8 Girls Football v Channing
Thursday 12th Feb	Netball GCSE Moderation
Friday 13th Feb	Year 10 v Greig City Football

## Extra Curricular Clubs Timetable

Use the link to access the timetable from the school website. [Extra Curricular Sports & PE Clubs Timetable](#)

## Music Department

### Charity Band Night - Thursday 12th February 6pm-8pm

Fortismere's talented bands are performing in support of the RSPCA in this year's Charity Band Night. This student-led event is being organised by sixth formers Lola-Rose Orr, Daria Sega, Luna Friend and Ellie Spitzer. They are working together to organise what is sure to be an electrifying night of student and staff performances.

They want to raise as much money as possible so would really love to see lots of students and families at the concert on 12th February. So please come along and support not just our students but also animal welfare. Fundraising ticket £15, Standard £10, U18s £7. **Don't miss out - grab your tickets [here](#) or via the QR link on the poster on the front page**

### Calling All Our Amazing Panto Singers!

Did your child sing in the recent pantomime production? If yes, encourage them to keep their voices in gear and join in with Youth Choir (Years 9 and up) or Junior Choir (Years 7 & 8) on Mondays! Choir is free to join -

just turn up to the Concert Hall in the Music Block lunchtimes for Youth Choir, and straight after school for Junior Choir. Free biscuits as well every rehearsal!

## Fortimere Community Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert - Booking Now Open!

Online sales for the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra's Spring concert on **Sunday 22nd March** are now open. Our Community Orchestra's concert is sure to be one of its most popular ever so get your tickets early! The programme includes the popular Ravel orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, as well as welcoming back pianist Tadashi Imai to play Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.3*. **Early bird tickets** [here](#), and tickets for **Fortismere students are free** with the coupon code FORTSTUDENT26.

## School of Rock - Band Members Wanted!

FREE place in School of Rock for the rest of this term for a guitarist, bass and/or drums as one of our Year 7 bands and a Year 8 band are looking to recruit! Contact [fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk) if interested.

## LINC

### Parent & Carer SEND Survey - Please Share Your Views

We would like to invite you to take part in a short, anonymous survey about your experience of our SEND provision at Fortismere. As a school, we are proud of the support we offer our students with SEND and were recently recognised for our provision in July 2025. However, we are always keen to reflect, improve, and ensure that we are listening carefully to the views of our parents and carers. Your feedback is hugely valued and helps us to continue working in a collaborative and responsive way. The survey should take no more than a few minutes to complete and focuses on your experiences of working with the LINC department. All responses are anonymous. [LINK TO SURVEY HERE](#)

The questions include:

1. What do you feel is working well in the support provided by LINC?
2. How clear and effective is communication between you and LINC?
3. How supported do you feel in understanding your child's needs and provision?
4. Is there anything LINC could do better to support you or your child?
5. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your views. We truly value your input and look forward to using your feedback to further strengthen our provision.

## School Travel

### Bus Route W7 on Diversion From 9th February - Allow More Time

For any students who travel to and from school using bus route W7 please see the following message from Transport for London. Students should allow extra time for their journey.

**From Monday 09 Feb 18:00 to Monday 05 Oct 18:00**, route W7 is on diversion in both directions via Crouch End Hill, Hornsey Rise and Hanley Road due to road closures for utility works. Buses towards Finsbury Park Station will not serve stops 'Cecile Park' to 'Crouch Hill Station'. Buses towards Muswell Hill Broadway will not serve stops 'Crouch Hill Station' to 'Dickenson Road'.

# Read for a Reason!

## Sponsored Reading Challenge

**READ BOOKS • RAISE FUNDS • SUPPORT THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST!**

### How the Challenge Works

- Set a Reading Goal & Get Sponsored!



- Read Books at Home & School
- Complete the Online Form!

### Important Dates

- Starts: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Book Swap: 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Ends: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Book Drive: 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

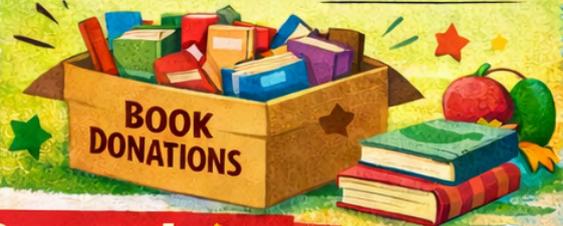
### What Can Be Read?

- Storybooks
- Non-Fiction
- Library Books
- School Reading Books



### Book Collection

- Donate "Gently Used" Books To Help Children's Book Project



## Celebrate Success!

- Raise Funds & Reach Your Reading Goal!



- Prizes & Awards for Participants!



**Let's Make a Difference Through Reading!**

**Help Give Books to Kids in Need!**



Supporting The

**National  
Literacy  
Trust**

