

Headteacher's Message

I'm writing with ringing ears after attending last night's loud but outstanding Charity Band Night. It was a wonderful way to end the half term. The energy, teamwork and talent of our musicians (both students and staff!), alongside their excellent organisation of such an eclectic event, was Fortismere at its best. Thanks to Mr Watson and the music team for supporting the students in bringing this event to life. Following on from the pantomime a couple of weeks ago, it's been wonderful to see so many students engaging in such experiences and making memories, whether through large-scale performances or the weekly clubs, groups, fixtures, charity events and trips.

While it's great to celebrate the big events that have been taking place this half term, it is also important to mark individual successes. This week, letters are being sent home to parents to let them know that their child has achieved over 100 positive points so far this academic year. This is a wonderful achievement, celebrating the positive approach these students are showing to school, their studies and our community. We are proud of all these students and hope they get the opportunity to celebrate at home.

In this week's Newsletter we are feeding back to parents and carers on how we have acted on the comments and ideas they have shared with us this half term (See below 'Your Feedback, Our Action'). I want all of those who have used the form and encourage anyone who has anything they'd like to share with school leadership to do so by using the link at the bottom of this page.

Finally, a reminder that we are beginning the next half term with a focus on organisation and presentation of work for all our students. We will be conducting equipment checks and continuing to monitor work in books as we move into the next half term. Parents can support this by ensuring that students have everything they need with them at the start of the school day. On that note, I'd like to thank all of our parents and carers for supporting their children through these grey winter months. We look forward to the coming of spring on their return and trust that you all enjoy the half term break.

Contents

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

23.02	Return to school 8.35am
25.02	Early school closure at 2.10pm Y9 Parents Evening Online 3pm-6pm
11.03	Governors Round Table Event for Parents/Carers <i>Start time tbc</i>
19.03	Friends of Fortismere Comedy Night Doors 7pm

Thank you for supporting KS4 Ambassadors with their cold weather collection - they collected lots of essential items that have been delivered to Homeless Action Barnet.



Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)



YOUR FEEDBACK, OUR ACTION

Spring Term 2026

REPORTS TO PARENTS

We have implemented a new system using CosX that allows teachers to closely monitor student progress. However, we will be seeking further parental feedback and will make any appropriate adjustments next half term.

OUR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

During the course of this academic year we plan to review our communications protocol. To start this we will be surveying parents next half term so please look out for this. In the meantime please continue to raise any concerns or give any positive feedback via the feedback form.

OUR FACILITIES

Parents will have seen earlier this term that we are expecting a whole new school in the next few years but should be reassured that we are working hard to keep our buildings in the best shape possible until we move into the new ones. We are still in discussion with the LA about a new toilet block

Use the link to the Feedback at Fortismere form on the weekly newsletter to share your ideas with us.

OFSTED Information Session for Fortismere Parents - 26th March 6.00pm online

We are pleased to announce that Fran Hargrave, Deputy Chief Executive of Haringey Education Partnership is delivering an online session, specifically for Fortismere parents and carers, about the new OFSTED framework. Please put this date in your diaries as Fran will be sharing important information about the 'what' and the 'how' of inspection, how parents and carers will be involved and what information the new report cards will share. **Register in advance for this meeting:** [Register here](#)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FortisMind

Children's Mental Health Week at Fortismere

This week, 9th to 15th February, has been Children's Mental Health Week. Students across all year groups have spent time in their tutor periods discussing different issues that can affect the mental health of students in their age groups. Please do ask them about these discussions - it is so important to normalise talking about mental health as much as possible.

Place2Be is behind the event and the theme for this year is 'This is My Place', which focuses on the systems around children and young people that help them feel they belong. You can find out more and access useful information and resources on the Place2Be website [here](#)

Our Mental Health Champions have been working on posters this week about misconceptions that people often have around mental health. These will be on display next half-term - thank you to Ivy Helliwell, Tay-Anna Mitchell, Mathilda Lassen-Satherland and Alexandra Wanty for their hard work researching and producing the posters.

Ms Jones

Mental Health Champion

Sixth Form

Futures Evening 11th February 2026

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended Futures Evening this week. We were very pleased with the excellent turnout, particularly on a dark and rainy Wednesday, and appreciate the commitment shown by families in supporting students as they consider their next steps. We are extremely grateful to the wide range of teachers, former students and volunteers who gave up their time to lead sessions. The programme offered guidance on areas such as building a strong super-curricular profile, Oxbridge and competitive applications, Medicine, Law, STEM, the creative arts, and degree apprenticeships.

Parents who attended have told us that they found the evening useful and informative, and we are pleased that it provided clarity and practical advice.

Over the next half term, we encourage students to fully engage with their Wednesday Futures tutor sessions and 1:1 meetings with their form tutors to discuss the Post-18 pathways they are considering alongside the super-curricular activities they are undertaking to support their applications. These conversations will provide students with valuable, personalised guidance and ensure tutors are well placed to write detailed and supportive references when the time comes to apply.

In addition, further optional Futures sessions will take place after school for students interested in applying to Psychology, History or Politics, and international universities. Details of these will be shared via the Year 12 Google Classroom. Finally, Year 12 students will also be attending the Fortismere Careers Fair and Sixth Form University Fair to continue to refine their plans, deepen their understanding of potential pathways, and strengthen their preparation to make competitive and well-informed applications.

If you were unable to attend and would like to receive a copy of the main presentation email us on sixthform@fortismere.org.uk



English Department

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Last week the Haringey Regional Finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge took place at Greig City Academy.

Fortismere was represented by Year 10 students, Asya Uckun and Anthony Marton. They took part in specialist workshops to hone their public speaking skills before taking to the stage to speak to a packed audience. Our students performed beautifully, but sadly due to stiff competition their Speak Out journey ended that night. Nonetheless we are proud of how these students represented the school. Well done Aysa and Anthony!



Modern Languages

Y12 Students Attend a Mandarin Learners Day at UCL

On Tuesday this week, our Y12 Mandarin learners attended a university fair for Chinese and related learning pathways. This event, hosted by the UCL IOE Centre for Chinese Language Education, provided an opportunity for students to meet representatives from 15 universities across the UK and explore opportunities for continuing Mandarin.

The morning began with engaging talks from university students and alumni, who shared their experiences of studying Chinese, spending up to a year in China as part of their courses, and their diverse career pathways. Students then visited university stalls, taking part in conversations with staff about the range of degree options available, study-abroad programmes, internships and work placement opportunities.



The event was informative and inspiring and helped students to get a clearer understanding of how they might continue their Mandarin journey beyond sixth form.

Library

New Book Inspired Movie Club

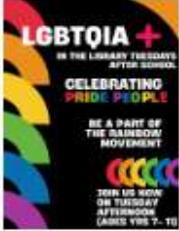
If your child enjoys a good movie, send them in the direction of the Library on a Friday afternoon. From 2.30pm to 4.00pm we will be showing a movie or TV show inspired by a book. If you are curious to see the line-up, head to our [Accessit page](#)

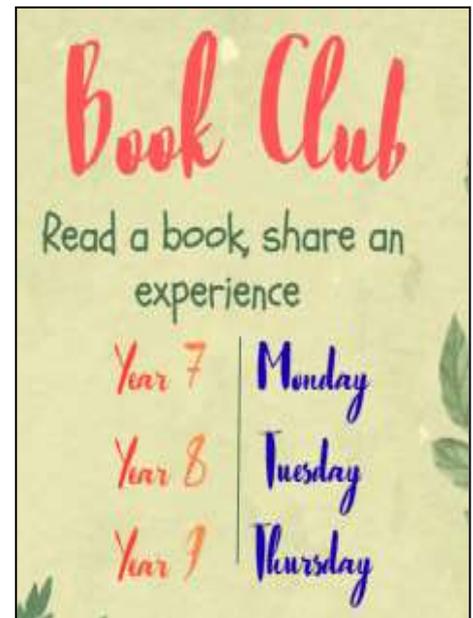
All the movies and TV shows that will be shown are available in book form from the library!



More Library Clubs

There are so many weekly clubs hosted by the library and new supplies to make them ever engaging and never boring are acquired regularly. The **Crochet and Knitting Club** has just got some new crochet hooks, so we are keen to teach more newcomers how to crochet, we have also acquired two new books on knitting and crochet. The **Arts & Craft Club** has got a new glue gun, coloured papers, and more ideas than we know what to do with! **Pride Club** now takes place twice a week, at lunchtime on a Friday (bring your own lunch), and in the afterschool on a Tuesday. Plus there the **Lunchtime Year Book Clubs**

Tuesday afterschool & Friday lunchtime	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			
Come talk with like-minded people on how to improve the experience for the LGBTQIA+ community at our school.	Draw together, read together, or discuss your favourite mangas.	Bring your projects or start something new; come and learn a new craft.	Do you like decorating and crafting? This is the club for you.



Drama Department

Goodbye Miss Morse!

We are sad to say goodbye to Miss Morse, our PGCE Drama student teacher who has been with us since October. Miss Morse has been a wonderful addition to the Drama Department over these past few months. As well as teaching and supporting in classes, getting to know students, and doing all things teacher training, she was one of our staff star cast in our recent pantomime! (What a perfect time to join Fortismere!)

Her students will be sure to miss her positivity, care, and warmth, and we know that they will remember her impact forever. We wish her all the best as she moves on to her new school placement. Here's a sharing from Miss Morse about her time here at Fortismere:

'Thank you, Fortismere Drama, for showing me kindness, thoughtfulness, ambition, and curiosity over these past few months. I cherish the memories made getting to know the outstanding student body both in-class and during the pantomime - a first panto experience that I don't think will ever be topped! I am truly inspired and impressed by the students at Fortismere; there is an immense amount of talent and dedication here. The commitment to learning from feedback and daring to explore is unlike any drama environment of which I've been a part. I have learned so much from the above-and-beyond staff and will truly miss this proudly inclusive, energetic department. Y'all are truly rays of Florida sunshine!'



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 for 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](#)

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

Sport & PE Notices

English Junior Squash Championships

Fortismere student James Penn competed at the English Junior Squash Championships in Nottingham last weekend. This is a prestigious event and only a limited number of players in each age category qualify for this important tournament in the squash calendar. James did brilliantly and achieved 11th in the country in the Boys under 13s category. Congratulations James!



Haringey Football League News

The Year 7/8 Girls team beat Highgate Wood 4-1 last Friday with Hanna Robertson scoring another hat trick! They played again on Monday afternoon and this time beat St Thomas More 9-1! There were goals from Etta (a fantastic shot outside the box right in the top corner!), Jess (an amazing free kick curled in top right), Eildh (a great confident first goal of the match), and Viyan (chasing not one but two goals into the net). They were fantastic and loved it and it was a joy to watch!



The Year 9 Boys also had a fantastic game this week, against APS on Monday - they were on a roll with Ms Jackson as super coach! They won 7-0 with goals from Lino, Omar, Teddy (got 2), Ben, Oscar and Jude. They are through to the Haringey Schools semi-finals.



Middlesex Cup News

Congratulations to our Sixth Form boys - they came back from 1-3 down with 20 minutes to go against St Thomas More to end the match winning 4-3. Great goals from Joe Barron, Noah Helfgott and Jason Braun. They are now through to the semi-final against Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.



NEW! Y7 & Y8 Boxing Club by JabFirst Boxing Academy

Starts Wednesdays after half-term on the 25th February from 3.15pm-4.15pm in SW Hall cost £50 for 5 weeks. Students must sign up if they want to attend jabfirstbxnacademy@gmail.com See more on the JabFirst website www.jabfirstbxnacademy.com

Middlesex Cross Country Trials

Well done to Amy and Alex Kirk who represented Fortismere and Haringey at the Middlesex Schools Cross Country Trials at Harrow School this week. As you can imagine it was a very muddy and wet course! Alex finished 12th and Amy 2nd. Amy will now go on to represent Middlesex at the English Schools National Cross Country Championships next month in Liverpool.



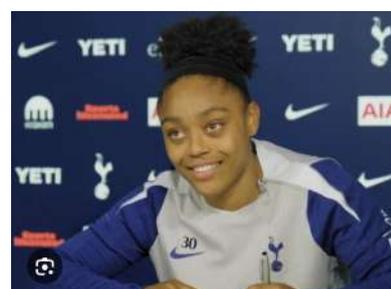
Badminton Friendly v Heartlands

Well done to our very committed badminton players who have attended Badminton Club every Tuesday after school without fail. Their dedication is impressive and is certainly paying off - they beat Heartlands 22-14 in a friendly match this week. Thank you to Ms Bailey for running the club.



Fortismere Alumni - Araya Dennis

Araya came on at the weekend in the WSL match at White Hart Lane v Chelsea Ladies. She is doing brilliantly having signed for Tottenham in February 2024 and has made many first team appearances. We are very proud of you Araya!



Upcoming Fixtures

Tue 24th Feb	1st VI Middlesex Cup Semi Final (Away)
Thur 26th Feb	Year 7 Girls Middlesex Cup v Queensmead (Away)

Music Department

Charity Band Concert Success

Well done to our Year 13 student organisers for last night's amazing Charity Band Concert! Thanks to the generous support of everyone who came, this event has raised over £1,000 in aid of the RSPCA and it showcased our fabulous student and staff bands - what a brilliant night.

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Summer Term

Applications are open until 20th February for students wishing to start new instrumental or vocal lessons in the Summer Term. Use [this form to apply!](#) The deadline for discontinuing lessons is also 20th February.

Saturday Music Centre Holiday Opening

Saturday Music Centre - will be open this Saturday, 14th February for School of Rock and piano, drum, guitar and theory students but closed the following week.

LINC

Still Time to Share Your Views in the SEND Survey

Thank you to parents and carers who have already completed the short anonymous survey about experiences of SEND provision at Fortismere. If you haven't responded yet please use the link below. 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. Thank you [LINK TO SURVEY HERE](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Online Safety - Unsafe Website Alert

We recently wrote to Year 7 parents and carers to alert them to a large Whatsapp group with harmful videos and images that we had been told about (*see details in 23rd January newsletter if you missed it*). We've had a helpful message back from a parent and share details below of a concerning website - it's called Uhmegal or Uhmegle. The uhmegal websites (there seem to be a few variations on the spelling) appear to be becoming a 'thing' as lots of YouTube, Instagram and TikTok videos seem to be mentioning them currently. It's live video chat with strangers and is dangerous and completely inappropriate. In school we have filters and monitoring systems to pick up online concerns, we suggest that you check your children's devices to ensure that you are happy with what they can access.

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.

