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<h3>Covid Update</h3> <p>Please find attached advice to parents and carers from Haringey Public Health.</p> <p>As part of the control measures introduced by the DfE we will be testing students with lateral flow tests on January 4th and 5th . We will confirm year group dates and timings via parentmail.</p> <h3>Very close contacts</h3> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should in addition to arranging a PCR test also take an <u>LFD test every day for 7 days</u> while they continue to attend school: testing should start from when the first person in the home tests positive as household transmission is very likely to happen. If at any time the student becomes symptomatic, they must stay at home and arrange for a PCR test immediately (regardless of having already had a negative PCR test result).</p> <h3>Increased Control Measures</h3> <p>The DfE published updated guidance for schools last week. Masks are once again mandatory in all communal areas for all staff and students except those who are exempt. Please could you make sure that your son or daughter brings a mask to school.</p> <h3>Safeguarding Notice</h3> <p>Safetalk@fortismere.org.uk is a confidential email address for students (and parents) to use when they have a safeguarding concern. This email is only read by the Safeguarding Lead in school and enables students to raise a concern which they may not feel able to do in person. Whilst it is confidential, students will still need to identify themselves so that we are able to support them. This inbox is also checked during school holidays.</p>	Co-Headteachers	
	Sixth Form Charity Notices	
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	<h3>Calendar</h3>	
	12/12/21	Christmas Craft Fair
15/12/21	Year 8 Y Parents Evening	
17/12/21	Last day of term End of P3	
4/1/22	Staff Training Y9-13 in for testing	
5/1/22	Normal start Y7 & 8 testing	
<h3>Fortismere in the News:</h3> <p>The Sunday Times has recognised Fortismere as number 25 in its list of the best schools in London.</p> <div></div> <p>We are also the highest ranked non-denominational, mixed comprehensive school on the list.</p>		

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... This week parents, carers, students and staff braved Storm Barra to attend the Christmas Concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was a joy to welcome a live audience (who were extremely good at Covid compliance) and the atmosphere was celebratory and appropriately festive. The talent on display was, as ever, extraordinary. Whether singing or playing an instrument (or in some cases, both) the students were superb. The repertoire covered classical to Metallica with all genres in between. There were even opportunities for audience participation. The concerts were a testament to the creativity and hard work of Mr Jefferies, the rest of the Music Department and the peripatetic music tutors, some of whom performed during the concerts with their students. Both performances were a great way to begin the countdown to the end of term.



Storm Barra also failed to dampen the spirits of our sporting superstars. As Mr Orton describes later on in the Newsletter, kits may have been dampened but not spirits as Fortismere students continued their winning ways. The resilience and good humour shown by our students in these circumstances continue to show the importance of sport in developing these attributes in our cohort.

Today is Christmas Lunch Day and as ever, we have tied this in with Christmas Jumper Day. Year 7 have been out and about collecting money for Save the Children. The variety of jumpers on display is impressive. From spangly reindeer noses to flashing lights, there is hardly a sign of good taste anywhere. Many of the staff ate with the students at lunch time, comparing festive clothing and headgear over mince pies.

Although next week is the last week of term, teachers will be teaching and students will be learning. However, we anticipate that during tutor time there may be some festive opportunities. We wish you all a very happy weekend and hope to see as many of our parents and carers at Sunday's Christmas Craft Fair as possible!

Contingency Planning in the case of Public Exam Cancellation 2022

A few weeks ago the government published its [guidance](#) on contingency plans that should be in place in the unlikely event that Year 11 and Year 13 exams are cancelled this year. It is important to note that this is a contingency plan and the DfE are confident that exams will take place this year. The government has stated that all schools must assess students three times across the academic year and keep this evidence in the unlikely event that the contingency process replaces public exams. In response to this we have moved an assessment to just after Easter, in addition to those already in our plans for year 11 and 13: PP1 from November and the upcoming mocks in January.

We believe that this contingency planning should not impact the purposes of our normal assessments/mocks which are both preparing students for the experience of sitting a full paper and providing valuable information to teachers and students about what students know and areas for improvement.

It is important to note that elements of the assessments will be used in the highly unlikely event that the exams are canceled. Going forward, we will inform you which elements of each assessment could be used along with which topics will be assessed. It is vitally important that students revise for whole assessments as this will replicate the real exams which are likely to be the way students are assessed in the summer. Revision topic areas and mock exam timetables are being sent home shortly and students will be preparing for these assessments in their lessons. Please also click [here](#) for a link to our assemblies on this matter.

Sixth Form Charity Notices

Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen

The Charity Society in sixth form are asking for Calendars, big or small, for the soup kitchen in Muswell Hill to hand out to the people who use the soup kitchen at Christmas.

These need to be brought to Ms Bailey & Mr Kenny's or Ms Knight's office in the Sixth Form Block (Tetherdown) by Tuesday 14th December. This would be a massive help, thank you very much.

Year 7 News

Year 7 Ambassadors

The year 7 ambassadors have now been allocated roles within the school and we look forward to working with them. The students showed their passion for reading, charity, the environment, helping the new cohort next year to settle in and showing visitors around the school. Please find attached a book review from one of the ambassadors, I hope that this will be the first of many contributions to our weekly newsletter from the year 7's.

Sport & PE Department Notices

Cross-Country - Y8 Boys Easy as 1,2 3

At the recent Haringey Borough trials for the County Championships fortismere Y8 boys finished in the first 3 positions in the U15 Event. They are also a Year Young in the age group. Awesome just Awesome.

Triz Wilson (Middle 1st) Ben Redland (right 2nd) and Louie Broadway (Left 3rd) after their incredible performance at the county trials.



Freezing, Soaking but Smiling

On a horrendous afternoon, braving freezing rain and winds, our Y8 A & B Teams traveled over to Latymer school for football matches. The 'B's having drawn a 3-3 thriller the week before with the same opposition still could find nothing to split the teams and, incredibly, produced the same scoreline. On an awful afternoon of weather the 'A's played some of their best Football I have seen them play. They were mesmerizing at times and comfortably ran out the winners. Well done all.



Y7's Say farewell to ESFA Cup

The Y7 B team bowed out of the ESFA Cup at the 4th round stage, losing to a very good Shenfield team. The boys have done very well to reach this stage and will have gained much from the experience. Well done all players.

1st and 2nd XI's in Action away to Latymer

A scintillating performance by our 1st XI saw off a spirited latymer team 6-0 in an afternoon that saw Y11's Charles De-Bruce steal the headlines with a wonderful first half hat-trick. We were dominant in all areas of the pitch and now look forward to our QF Middlesex cup clash with Ashmole School next Thursday. Our 2nds were involved in a thrilling game just losing out 5-6 in a high scoring match. The 2nds are in ESFA cup action next week away to Plume School in Maldon Essex.

Romanos in the Medals Again

Y9's Romanos Sklaveniti is still making great waves in the swimming Pool and he added to his medal collection with some excellent performances at a recent Rally. Ramonos won Silver in the 1500m freestyle race and, displaying his range of talent, gained a Bronze in the 100m sprint race. He completed his weekend in style adding a bronze in the 400m Freestyle and breaking the 5 minute barrier. Well one Ramanos.

Y10 A & B in Control at Highgate!



On Thursday afternoon our Y10 A and B teams travelled to Highgate for an afternoon of Football. The A's ran out 7-0 winners with the B's turning in a great effort to record a 3-0 win. Well played Boys.

So Close For Hockey Girls

Our U14 Girls Hockey Team traveled to Southgate last Friday for a Winter Tournament organized by Mr Kay. The entries were, as usual, dominated by school from the independent sector, but Fortismere girls more than held their own, losing one game only all day, and finished in a fantastic second place. Well done girls.



Younger Netball Girls in Action

Last week saw our Y7 and Y8 Netball teams in action as we hosted Heartlands School for a double fixture. Y8's played in an exciting game eventually losing by 7 -4 but the Y7's were able to post a great win as they scored 3 against heartlands with no reply. Well Played Girls



This Week's Results

Last Week's Fixtures and Results:

Thursday (last Week) Netball Y7 v Heartlands (H) **Won 3-0**

Thursday (last Week) Netball Y8 v Heartlands (H) **Lost 4-7**

Thursday (last week) Hockey U14 Tournament - **Runners Up**

Tuesday - Football Y8 A & B v Latymer (a) 2.30 **A won 5-0, B Drew 3-3**

Tuesday - Football Y7 'B' v Shenfield (a) 3.30 **Lost**

Wednesday - Football 1st & 2nd XI v Latymer (A) 2pm **1st Team won 6-0 2nd Team Lost 5-6**

Thursday - Football Y9 A & B v Latymer (A) 2pm **A's Lost 1-7 B's Lost 2-6**

Friday - Rugby 9X v 9Y

Next Weeks Fixtures

Weds - Football 2nd XI v Plume (A) ESFA 4th Round 1pm Kick Off

Thursday - Football 1st XI v Ashmole (A) Middlesex Cup QF

Music Department Notices

Autumn Term Round Up - Mr Jefferies

A huge congratulations must go out to all of the musicians that have made this term the most musically productive in the history of Fortismere! We have always had a great department in the past but what you have managed to achieve since September is nothing short of incredible.

You have created music for a Welcome Back Concert, the FCSO featuring Haru Ogiwara as a soloist, the Pure Piano Evening, a GCSE student recital, a piano master class with Tadashi Imai, the Romantic composers concert for the FCSO, the FCC performance of Bach's Magnificat and two School Christmas Concerts not to mention providing music for the Drama Departments *Jekyll and Hyde* and musical items for the celebration of Black Heritage. **That is an incredible 16 hours worth of music performed to a very high standard over a short amount of time** and as a Music Department we could not be prouder.

As we go into the Spring term there are exams for our older students in KS4 and KS5 but rehearsals will still be going ahead for the concerts that are taking place in February, March and April so we wish you the very best of luck and look forward to seeing you whenever you have the time to come along.

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Endangered Species

If your child would like the opportunity to play one of the endangered species instruments on offer this year please get in touch with the Director of Music as soon as possible. **We still have some free lessons for new starters available on French Horn, Bassoon, Double Bass and Trombone.** Email ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk for more details.



Christmas Concerts - 7th and 8th December

A huge congratulations to all students that took part in the two Christmas Concerts this week. The standard of musicianship and camaraderie of our students was excellent and made both evenings an absolute joy to be a part of for both performers and the audience. There will be pictures in next week's newsletter of the event.

A personal thankyou to Miss Patel for conducting the School Orchestra and Junior Choir, Mr Cohen for organising sound and lights and Ms Topping for her logistical expertise, amazing decorations, fully stocked bar for the parents and of course one of the most over the top Senior Vocal Ensemble items I have ever witnessed.....utter genius!

Ensembles next term

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech MU1 School Orchestra Concert Hall
Tuesday	Senior Choir Concert Hall Percussion Group MU1 Popular Guitars MU2	Jazz Band Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	Big Band Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	DJ Club MU4	KS4 Music Tech MU4
Friday	Junior String Group MU2	Classical Guitar Group Concert Hall
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (11:30am - 12:30pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm)	

Concerts in 2022

Our school concerts will start with **Music and Poetry on Thursday 10th February at 7pm**. Students wanting to present their own poetry should please get in touch with Miss Ward in the library by emailing GWard@fortismere.org.uk. Musicians that want to play in small groups or have a solo spot need to email the Director of Music at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk

On **Thursday 24th March at 7pm there will be an A Level Recital** evening given by our Year 12 and 13 students in the Music Concert Hall. This promises to be a very exciting night of music making from our older students and we hope that you will come along to support them.

Tickets for all school and community concerts can be purchased at the Music Department website. www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Library

Christmas in the Library

Apologies to 6th formers trying to study, but you were warned! Library lessons are louder than usual. Year 7s are enjoying the very competitive and noisy game of Library Bingo, occasionally astonishing us with their bookish knowledge. (But do children no longer learn nursery rhymes?!). Year 8s are being treated to a Charles Dickens ghost story, the BFI version of "The Signalman".



An unashamed advertisement – the Library has a stall at this Sunday's Christmas Fair. We will be selling brand new books at ridiculously low prices (paperbacks £1, hardbacks £2)! Do make sure you spend a few minutes with us when you come to what will be a wonderland of Christmassy stuff – South Wing Hall, Sunday 12th December, 11am-4pm. Note: we are partial to mulled wine, if you're buying...

The Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award

Now that the shortlist of 6 fabulous books has been finalised, we are delighted to invite our Year 7 students to join our book award group. It will be a literary journey into the imaginations of six fantastic authors ably assisted by Mrs Coles and Mrs Ward. *"We have all been through so much over the past couple of years, but it's the stories we tell about ourselves and the world we live in that can make all the difference, inspiring love, joy and hope. This year's shortlist, selected by a team of 4 Haringey school librarians, are remarkable stories of kindness, magic, friendship, adventure and identity told with humour, daring and wonder. Young people from across the borough are set the challenge of reading the six texts, before heading to Alexandra Palace on 25th March for the awards ceremony and workshops/talks with the authors"*.



Our meetings take place on Friday lunchtimes (bring a packed lunch, biscuits provided). There will be a range of challenges and literary activities for everyone to enjoy and there will be much discussion and friendly disagreement. Our very first meeting, however, when the group members will be able to pick up their first book for the holidays will be this coming MONDAY 13th December, 12.30pm in the library.

Bookbuzz

During their first library lesson at Fortismere, Year 7 students were invited to order a book from a huge selection put together by Booktrust. These were intended to be a "welcome to Fortismere Library" gift from us. But, due to printing problems at the various publishers, we have only just received them. Which is brilliant, because now all our Year 7s are receiving a "Happy Christmas from Fortismere Library" present instead! Here are students from 7MB, 7AP and 7GK with their books – more to be given out next week.



Recommended Reads of the Week

Truth and lies...



Christmas Craft Fair

Christmas Craft Fair

Our Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Sunday 12th December from 11:00am-4:00pm. This Silent Auction is set up to help raise funds for Fortismere. We will have an online shop where you will be able to bid on our fabulous silent auction. Could you donate some of your time, skills or another type of prize to raise money for the school? Christmas Hampers, put together by us, raised a lot of money last year.

Please can you help us this year?

We need food: mince pies, preserved fruits, jams and marmalade, biscuits, Christmas Puddings, teas and coffee, wine, chocolates and treats (but no meat or cheese products).

Non edibles: Christmas Crackers, beauty items and bath products



Fortismere Holiday Activity Camp

Christmas Holiday Camp Book Now! Open to the Community

We are pleased to announce we are running a four day Christmas Camp.

If you have been struggling to find a spare moment to buy and wrap Christmas presents without the kids looking, this is the perfect opportunity. Give your child the opportunity to have a fun filled day, whilst you spend a day or two relaxing before the Christmas madness.

These activities will run between 9:00am- 3:00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The 4 day week will cost £80*, an 8:00 am drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Please contact Maria Demetriou for information: mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Holiday Club Activities: Limited Spaces

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Art Club: Spaces Available

[Art Club Tickets](#)

This Christmas, Art Pole will be bringing art exploration to Fortismere. Our students will make life sketches, collages and cut-outs from old magazines and plain paper and will also build towers and spaceships out of cardboard and glue then turn these structures into graphics or technical drawings. These activities will open the eyes of young people to the world of artists, designers and architects. Anyone from 8 years old is welcome. Our environment is encouraging, inclusive and non-competitive allowing students to move at their own pace and thus develop their unique skill-set.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre: 5 Spaces Available

[Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre Tickets](#)

Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity when storytelling through dance. The participants will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Drama Club: 4 Spaces Available

[Drama Club Tickets](#)

This week, the children will work on improvisation and comedy skills.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Little Imaginations: 4 Spaces Available

[Little Imaginations Tickets](#)

Perfect for 3-6 year olds led by professional actors with a love for early years! Each day the children will explore all genres of creative arts- learning songs & dances, acting out role play adventures, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of games and fun!

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Multi Sports: Spaces Available

[Multi Sports Tickets](#)

This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounder's, tennis and competitions.