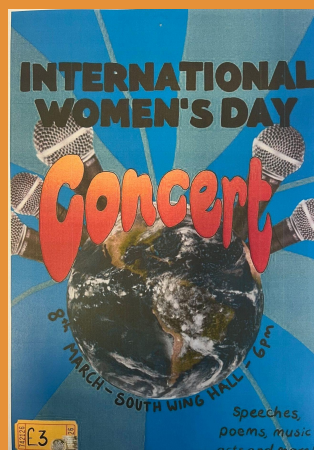


Friday 24th February 2023

School Leadership Messages	Contents		
<p><b>NEU Industrial Action: March 2nd</b></p> <p>Please see the letter <i>attached</i> for arrangements for Y11 and Y13 for next week’s proposed strike day.</p> <p><b>Vaping:</b> It seems that increasing numbers of students are purchasing and using vapes. Findings from a recent <a href="#">NHS Digital Survey</a> also show the same trend with nearly one in five 15 year-olds using vapes. There are strict rules on safety, labelling and advertising and selling e-cigarettes or vapes to children under the age of 18 is illegal in the UK. However, the survey found that the majority of children who use vapes obtain them from other people, mostly friends. Our recent Insight Platform information session for parents covered vaping – you can access the presentation <a href="#">here</a>. See also this <a href="#">Resource for parents on THC vaping</a>. Please remind your children that it is illegal for those under the age of 18 to purchase vaping products and that all vaping products are banned items at school.</p> <p><b>Mobile phones:</b> We continue to conduct random bag searches for mobile phones in school. We are concerned that many students are bringing them into school and even using them during the day. We will continue to confiscate them for a week and will increase the time for those who have previously had their phone confiscated. We do allow students to have non-smart phones if you need to be able to contact them after school. Our mobile phone code of conduct is available on the school website <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>We also recommend that you regularly check what your children are accessing and sharing on their phones, that you know who their contacts are and what groups they belong to. Having regular conversations with your child about this is really important - <a href="#">this link</a> to information on the Young Minds website will support you in conversations around social media</p>	CoHeadteachers’ Message		
	School Events		
	Year Group & Departmental News		
	Library Notices		
	Sport & PE News		
	Music Notices		
	Safeguarding Information		
	Calendar		
	25/2	Quiz Night Fundraiser 7pm SW Hall	
	1/3	Year 12 Parents’ Evening	
8/3	International Women’s Day event 6pm SW Hall		
			

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

We trust that all of our students enjoyed the break from school last week. We went swiftly back to business on Monday morning with a busy week of lessons and activities and for some year groups, vaccinations.

We are sure you have all noted that there is a planned strike day next week. This week's Newsletter is accompanied by a letter outlining the provision that we will be able to offer on that day. We appreciate that breaks from learning can be difficult, particularly for those students who find organisation difficult, a disruption to the routine can require a lot of support. There will be work posted for students in their google classrooms on that day so we hope that engaging with their learning will support those who find the disruption more challenging.

In our messaging to parents this week we are keen to underscore the importance of home-school relationships in providing strong messages around making good choices and keeping our young people safe. We have become increasingly concerned by the pressure that young people are currently being subjected to socially. We know that there is an increase of students vaping and that some of our local young people have been contacted via social media to purchase vapes that contain THC (Please carefully read the important safeguarding notices from Ms Sullivan above). We have significant wider concerns about the power and influence of social media and mobile phones on the safety and wellbeing of students and we want to reinforce with our families the importance of closely monitoring and checking mobile phone use, and talking openly to children about the pressures sometimes imposed on them by older children and children in the local area. Please do let us know anything you hear that worries you as we take all such concerns seriously and we are able to reinforce messaging via our pastoral systems.

Thank you to all parents who have filled in our Pastoral Provision Survey. For those who haven't yet found a moment we will now close this Survey on Monday morning. Please click the link [here](#) to complete it.

Wishing all of our families a restful weekend

## School Fundraising Event

### Quiz Night - Saturday 25th February 2023 6.30pm SW Hall

The **Fortismere Quiz Night** is tomorrow evening (Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb) at 6.30 pm in South Wing Hall. So this is our last chance to ask for your help in reaching our fundraising target of £7000 for this event. If you have no plans for your Saturday evening please come along and support the school! Tickets are only £10 per person. It will be a fun evening and don't worry if you're not part of a larger group as we will combine small groups into teams. **Tickets available from [Eventbrite](#)**



## Inter-College News

### Youtube Philosophy Video Competition - Most Likes Win!

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been working hard and having fun making videos about Philosophy for a college competition. The videos are now live on the [Philosophy at Fortismere Youtube Channel](#). Colleges will earn points for the most likes, so please do watch, like and subscribe!



Mr Aldridge

Head of Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

## School Catering Notice

### Canteen Fruit & Vegetable Supply

As widely reported in the media there is currently a shortage of some fruit and vegetables. Many supermarkets have low stock and are limiting what customers can buy. Our fruit and vegetable supplier is also experiencing the same problems and while the shortages continue I wanted to make you aware that we may be unable to offer our usual menu choices in the school canteen.

Kirsty Davis

Chef Manager

## Modern Languages News

### Y12/13 French Trip to British Film Institute

It was a real pleasure to take a group of Year 12/13 students to the BFI recently to attend a lecture on French New Wave cinema.

Students attended a morning session which compared key works of French cinema from the 1950s and 1960s with contemporary films from the 1990s and 2000s. Students had the opportunity to learn about film language and expand their vocabulary. The afternoon session was a screening of *La Haine* by Mathieu Kassovitz (1995).



Mr Lewis would like to thank all of the students who attended for what was a great day.

## German Club

There have been quite a few keen linguists who have asked for an opportunity to learn German in the form of an after school club.

Mr Lewis would like to invite students of all ages to give German a go on **Tuesdays after school in N23 at 3:30**. If there are any German speaking students who would like to help out they can get in touch with Mr Lewis at [glewis@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:glewis@fortismere.org.uk)



## STEM News

### Whole School Computing Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. The challenge, organised in over 50 countries, is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. The challenge involves a national, online problem-solving competition held each year. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

**UK Bebras**



938 of our students took part in the Fortismere Bebras Challenge 2022-23 and everyone that participated received a certificate, which included over 200 Distinctions and over 200 Merits!

The top 10% of students were then invited by the Oxford University Computing Challenge to go on to the next round held recently. This round involved complex programming and logic problems, which were very challenging.

Special congratulations to the following students: Huxley Behagg-Elphick (Y7), Natsuko Tanokashira, Oliver Richmond/Zach Lazarus/Riccardo Gagliardi (Y8), Dylan Zwikker/Abhijay Haldankar/Thomas Banisar (Y9), Evelyn Wallace (Y10), Nadia Kennedy (Y11) and Oliver Smith (6th Form).

And huge thanks to Mr Silk for organising the competition and all the certificates.

Mr Yakup

STEM Co-ordinator

## Year 7 News

### Jessica Selected for English Youth Ballet Production

In November, Year7 student Jessica McDonough, was selected to be part of the cast of English Youth Ballet's production of Coppélia. Since then Jessica has been experiencing the life of a professional dancer in rehearsals and this Sunday (26th February 2023) will perform alongside international professional dancers in the production at The Beck Theatre. You can watch a trailer for the production [here](#) - it looks great. A big well done to Jessica as this is both a superb achievement and a great opportunity for her to develop her talent. We really hope she enjoys the performance on Sunday.



## Year 7/8 Notice

### Budding Bakers in Year 7/8 - Bake Off Needs You!

The production company behind *Junior Bake Off* are looking for young bakers in Y7/Y8 (aged 9-12 years old) for the next series of the show. If you haven't seen it before, it's a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talents and ambition of young bakers in Britain. Filming will take place in July 2023.

Interested bakers can apply online at [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk) The deadline for applications is Sunday 12th March 2023





## Careers & Work Related Learning

### Latest Opportunities

Students across the whole school enjoyed a range of different activities in the week before half-term during Apprenticeships Week, this included whole year group presentations from external speakers.

We continue to update the website with details of the latest careers and work related learning opportunities for students so please keep checking [here](#)

*Speakers for Schools* has lots of information on their [work experience opportunities page](#) You can search for a specific employer or find online placements based on age or industry.

Mr Renner



## Library Notices

### Big Book Bonanza

The lure of books for (a minimum donation) of 20p each has proved too hard to resist for some of our students, and our ex-stock book sale is proving very popular at break and lunch time. And, because the proceeds are going to a Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal, many are putting their spare change in the collection tin. The sale is running daily until the end of February, and we are topping up the stock constantly. And you don't have to buy a book to make a donation...



### STAR Reading Tests

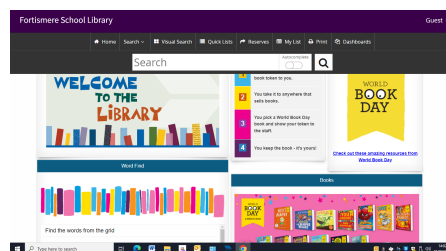
The results of the Year 7 and Year 8 Spring term STAR Reading tests are now entered on Cloud School under Assessments. Year 9 are currently doing their tests.



### World Book Day

Attached to the Newsletter is your World Book Day digital book token. This can be exchanged for one of the free WBD books or used to get £1 off a full priced book or audio book at any participating retailer (although we recommend using an independent book shop, obviously!) It can be used until 26<sup>th</sup> March.

And take a look at the very snazzy front page of our library catalogue in honour of World Book Day ([access it here](#)) There are games, films, details of the free WBD books and much more - even a Big Bonanza Quiz!



## Recommended Reads of the Week

The longlist for the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Award was published over half term. The shortlist will be out on 17<sup>th</sup> March and we'll then be ready to start our Carnegie Shadowing Group meetings for Year 8 students on 21<sup>st</sup> March. There is only space for 40 students in this prestigious group, and English teachers will be letting us know who wishes to be involved over the next couple of weeks. The highlights are 1) first dibs on some amazing YA books 2) the Red Carpet Party on 21<sup>st</sup> June! In the meantime, see how many of the longlist you've read.



## Sports & PE News

### Haringey Schools Indoor Athletics Competition

We are very lucky to have the opportunity to use the Lea Valley Indoor Athletics Centre for the Haringey Schools Competition and our students certainly made the most of it earlier this week.

There were some fantastic individual performances on the track and field on Monday night including:

Melissa Asare won the 60m hurdles

Izzie Doku won the 200m and the Long Jump

Elke Baker won the shot putt

Lucas Christensen won the 800m

Noah Helfgott won the Long Jump

Year 9 Girls - Haringey Champions

Year 9 Boys - Bronze

Year 8 Girls Bronze



## Best in Borough Basketball

Our Girls Basketball teams were on a roll this week. The Year 9s and Year 7s travelled to St Thomas More School on Tuesday afternoon for some competition matches.

Our Year 9s were up against some tough opposition, made up mostly of players from the year above, but they played with determination and great skill, and won all of their games taking the trophy for the best in Haringey!

Our Year 7 team also faced some tough opposition, again mostly older players. The team gelled and played well together, only losing one game and ending up with bronze medals!

Well done to all our players.



## Fortismere and Blanche Nevile Team Up

Well done to all of the boys that represented the school in the basketball squads for the Haringey Schools Basketball Competition this week. Haringey Schools are well known throughout London for their high basketball ability and talented players, so the competition facing our teams was of a very high standard. There were some excellent team and individual performances from all of our squads. And well done to our Blanche Nevile students William and Samir who both did a great job playing alongside Fortismere students. Year 10 - 4th; Year 9 - 3rd; Year 8 - 6th; Year 7 - 5th



## Swimmers Needed for Haringey Gala

If you are a club swimmer and would like to represent Fortismere in the Haringey Schools Swimming Gala taking place on Monday 6th March - please speak to Ms Vangucci.

## Extra Curricular Clubs - Spring Term 2

Please see timetable *attached* to the Newsletter



## Music Department Notices

### Ensembles

Ensembles are back up and running and there are still lots of opportunities to take part in concerts this academic year. Please encourage your children to come along to the groups!

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

### Composition Workshop with Mark Anthony Turnage

We were very lucky this week to have Mark Anthony Turnage CBE come in to work with the Year 13 A Level Music Students. It is not often that we have a composer of his repute willing to give up their time to help young musicians but Mr Turnage was kind enough to listen to each of the students compositions and give them valuable feedback.



### Violin Masterclass - Friday 24th March Concert Hall

Please get in touch with Mr Jefferies if you are interested in taking part in the Violin Masterclass with Darragh Morgan. Students should be prepared to play a piece of music that they have been working on in front of an audience. Parents and students are welcome to attend.

### A Level Music Recital - Thursday 9th March SW Hall 7:00pm

Please come along to support our very talented A Level students who will be performing their A Level pieces to the general public on Thursday 9th March at 7:00pm in South Wing Hall. These students are some of our very best musicians at Fortismere so this will be an intimate night of some electrifying performances on a variety of instruments. Tickets are available [here](#)

## **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Saturday 25th March - St Andrews Church N10 7:30pm**

Tickets are available for the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 25th March in St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill. The programme includes works by Britten, Debussy and a new commission by local composer Laura Druce. Our soloist for the evening will be Violinist Darragh Morgan playing the Barber Violin Concerto. Tickets are available [here](#)

## **Upcoming Concerts - Summer Term**

### **Pure Piano 2 - Thursday 4th May SW Hall 7:00pm**

Students are invited to play in this academic year's second piano concert. Please contact Mr Jefferies if you would like to take part.

### **Fortismere Community Choir- Saturday 13th May - St Andrews Church N10 7:30pm**

Fortismere Community Choir will be performing Rachmaninoff's Vespers as part of this concert and there will also be performances from Fortismere School Choirs, including Mendelssohn's *Verleih' uns Frieden*.

### **Summer Music Festival - Saturday 8th July Fortismere School**

This year we are kicking off a week of concerts with the Fortismere Music Festival. We are looking for local bands to come and join us as well as choirs so if you know anyone that would like to get involved please contact Mr Jefferies as soon as possible. There will also be sets from some of our very homegrown bands from various year groups as well as our Peruvian visitors who will be entertaining us with their Big Band. This promises to be great entertainment for all the family so please come along!

### **Summer Concert - Wednesday 12th July - St Andrews Church N10 7:00pm**

There will be a joint concert with our visitors from Peru, Markham College on Wednesday 12th July at St Andrews Church. This will include all ensembles and some solos. We very much look forward to this collaboration with our South American guests and hope that you will come along to join in the music making.

### **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra- Saturday 15th July - St Andrews Church N10 7:30pm**

Our final concert of the year will include the Brahms Piano Concerto no.1 and we are very lucky to have the world renowned pianist Tadshi Imai rounding off the concert season with this epic piece of music.

As always tickets are available by going to <https://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk>

## **Safeguarding at Fortismere**

### **Safeguarding Contacts**

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email [safetalk@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:safetalk@fortismere.org.uk) alternatively contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year:

Year 7 [ejones@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:ejones@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 8 [icuenca@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:icuenca@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 9 [kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 10 [kjackson@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:kjackson@fortismere.org.uk)

Year 11 [dward@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:dward@fortismere.org.uk)