


Friday 2nd February 2024

School Leadership Messages	Contents
<p>Important notice: Parent Surveys still open</p> <p>A reminder that we have launched two very important parental feedback surveys with our community:</p> <p>The first is to hear views on the improvements we have made to the school's pastoral provision this academic year and can be found here,</p> <p>The second is to gather feedback from parents on their children's experience of Teaching and Learning at our school which can be found here.</p> <p>These surveys will close on Monday 5th February at 12 noon.</p> <p>Healthwatch Haringey: School Superzone Vaping Project</p> <p>On Thursday we were visited by Haringey Healthwatch and Haringey Public Voice as part of their research into school superzones: <i>A School Superzone focuses on engaging with schools to improve the environment within the local radius of the school gates. School Superzones focus on identifying community priorities to establish innovative initiatives to create healthier and safer places for children and young people to live, learn and play.</i></p> <p>During their visit they spoke with members of staff and conducted focus groups with students. Our students received high praise from the visitors who emailed us to say: <i>The participants were all superb! We are starting to piece together key themes and a lot of insights were explored today. The students were confident, frank and expressed themselves superbly.</i></p> <p>Thank you to those students who either volunteered or who were selected by their Heads of Year. They will be receiving a small token of thanks from Haringey in due course! We look forward to sharing with you the outcome of the project once complete.</p>	CoHeads' Weekly Roundup
	School Fundraising Project
	Houses & Extra-Curricular
	Department News & Notices
	School Charity Event
	Safeguarding information
	Calendar
	06.02.24 Y9 Guidance Meetings
	07.02.24 Y11 Parents' Evening (In-person)
	09.02.24 Y11 & Y13 Mock exams report
	12.02.24-16.02.24 Half term holiday
	24.02.24 Quiz Night 6.30pm
	 <p><i>The view from our window on Thursday</i></p>

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We have arrived at the end of another busy week of learning at Fortismere. It's hard to believe we only have one more week before half term! Following on from Holocaust Memorial Day last weekend our Year 9 students took part in the annual visit to our neighbours at the Muswell Hill synagogue where they learnt more about the Holocaust and were able to ask questions about what Holocaust Memorial Day means to the Jewish community and why it's so important for us all, regardless of background to mark the event. Our friends at the synagogue commented on our students' excellent behaviour and participation. Year 9 have impressed us this year with their conduct as a year group so we were proud to send them out to represent the school.

We regularly visit classrooms to see how our students are progressing with their learning. We have been struck by the positive learning behaviours and commitment from our students to their learning. We have also seen them really engaging with the content of the curriculum, responding incredibly positively to their teachers and in truth we have found classroom environments really inspiring places. Our teaching staff have designed and are delivering an ambitious curriculum and it is great to see our students doing their bit and taking responsibility for their learning. Over the last couple of years we have reviewed and developed our curriculum, our teaching and our pastoral provision so it's great to see students doing their bit and engaging so brilliantly with the learning on offer. We are always keen to hear from parents (and of course students) their own experiences so we wanted to remind parents for the last time that we are collecting views in our two surveys on our pastoral provision and teaching and learning at Fortismere. We will be closing these surveys on Monday at noon. Thank you to those parents who have already taken the time to share their views. Links to the survey are on the first page.

Before we sign off we'd like to also offer congratulations to two of our teams who have taken part in competitions this week. Our VEX robotics team took part in a regional competition at Greig City last weekend and our chess team beat Latymer B and secured themselves an opportunity to play in the final of our region of the national Chess Championship. They just need to win their next game against Woodhouse College. Well done to both teams. We are looking forward to seeing what you all achieve next.

Wishing all of our families a restful weekend.

Safeguarding

Reporting concerns - My Voice

We have set up a new system called **My Voice** for parents/carers and students to use to inform us of any safeguarding concerns they may have. We will no longer be using the safetalk@fortismere.org.uk email

If you want to report something please complete a form on My Voice - this is a short and easy form and can be accessed via this [link](#) or by the QR code. You can report your concerns anonymously but we do ask that you share as much information as you can to enable us to provide support to any student who may require it.

My Voice will be monitored during school time with limited monitoring during non-school time. If you are concerned about an immediate risk of harm to a child you should report it to Police or Social Services ([Haringey](#) / [Barnet](#)).

Ms Sullivan - Designated Safeguarding Lead



School Fundraising Project for Student Well-being

Feeling Fit For Study at Fortismere

We are asking for help from our parents and carers to support student well-being and mental health at Fortismere. This fundraising project will support all aspects of our wellbeing programme, including Place2be and our sixth form counsellor, these services offer onsite counselling for our students. We are extremely proud of our provision but maintaining this is a challenge in the current financial climate. We know that students have benefitted from this contact with the counsellors and we want it to continue to be available.

Place2be has been working in partnership with schools to support children's mental health for 24 years and with Fortismere for over 6 years. They believe that children are less likely to suffer from serious mental health difficulties later in life if they receive support at an early age. Their research has found that three students in every classroom in Haringey have a diagnosable mental health problem, with half of those going on to develop a lifetime of mental health issues having first experienced symptoms by the age of 14 if left unsupported. This helps to provide a context for why we feel the need for this service is so great. We are looking for around £15,000 at present to fund the project this year at current levels, any extra raised will mean that we can increase capacity and help support more students.

Unfortunately, this is the type of vital extracurricular project which gets squeezed when school funding is so tight, and Haringey is unable to provide the additional support that we and other schools need. Both the Place2Be and our counsellor have increased their fees this year in line with inflation and so the need for us to fundraise to support this service is even more important than ever.

We suggest a donation of £50 but anything, smaller or bigger, will be very much appreciated. [This is the link to our Crowdfunding page](#) Thank you for your support.

House News

Turing Charity Pancakes - Weds 7th & Thurs 8th February

The Turing Charity ambassadors are hosting a Pancake Sale on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February in South Wing (under the canopy). A pancake + 1 topping will be 50p, with options to buy more toppings for 10p each. All proceeds will go to Turing's Charity: Cancer Research UK. Please encourage your child to bring some cash and purchase some pancakes! Thank you for your support.

Ms Brough - Head of Turing House

PANCAKE SALE

Wed 7th and Thu 8th February
South Wing Canopy



TOPPINGS ON OFFER
(one included, each extra topping 10p)
Jam | Chocolate spread (nut free)
Maple syrup | Lemon + Sugar

All money goes to
Turing Charity



Wollstonecraft Fun Run - Weds 7th February & Valentine Lucky Dip Fri 9th Feb

A reminder that Wollstonecraft student ambassadors are organising a **Fun Run on Weds 7th Feb** at tutor time (on the astro turf) make sure to wear as Many Clothes As You Can! Anyone can enter and help us to raise money for the WWF, World Wildlife Fund for Nature - [donate on the JustGiving page here](#)

Students are also running a **Valentines Lucky Dip on Friday 9th Feb** in South Wing (under the canopy). Come and pick out a pink heart to win a prize, also in aid of WWF.

Ms Turner - Head of Wollstonecraft.

Extra Curricular

Chess Club News

Congratulations to the Fortismere chess team on narrowly defeating Latymer B on Tuesday this week - there were some brilliant performances by Mia Wang Y7, Stanley Badacsonyi Y9 and Frankie Badacsonyi Y13. The win means that Fortismere will play Woodhouse College next for a place in the Final of Region 15 (North East London) of the National Schools Chess Championship.

A reminder that the Chess club meets lunchtime on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in S05. Our google classroom code is g2z oaai where there are over 300 chess lessons for beginners, intermediate and advanced players and if you want to know why playing chess is so good for you [see here](#).

And finally, we would really like to enter at least one girls team into the ECF National Girls' Chess Championships next year so please come along to Chess Club, even if you have never played before, and give it a go.

Mr Renner

STEM News

Fortismere VEX EDR Lord Flashheart Blasts into Top 10 at Greig City Academy!

Our very own Fortismere VEX EDR team brought the heat (and the sparks!) last Saturday, 27th January 2024, at the Greig City Academy VEX EDR Over Under regional competition. Competing against twenty one other teams, Fortismere roared through the qualification matches and landed themselves in the coveted quarter-finals! Not only that, but they secured a stellar 7th place in the Skills Challenge, showcasing their robot's precision and programming prowess. This achievement is a testament to the team's dedication, teamwork, and, of course, their love of robotics. They've been working tirelessly for weeks, refining their robot's design, honing their driving skills, and strategising like masterminds. Their hard work and passion for STEM were on full display at Greig City, and it paid off in a big way!

The qualifiers were a nail-biter, with each match filled with intense competition and innovative robot design. The Fortismere team held their own, showcasing their robot's agility and scoring capabilities. They navigated the game field with precision, completing challenges with remarkable efficiency and speed. Their quick thinking and strategic alliances helped them secure a spot in the top 8, earning their place in the quarter-finals. While they didn't reach the Finals this time, their 7th place finish in the Skills Challenge was an impressive feat. This competition focuses on the robot's autonomous skills and programming, and the Fortismere team's robot performed flawlessly, executing complex tasks with impressive accuracy and speed. The students' programming skills truly shone, proving their mastery of robotics technology. This is just the beginning for our Fortismere VEX EDR team. They've already achieved incredible success, and with their dedication and talent, there's no doubt they'll continue to soar to new heights. We're incredibly proud of them, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next! Well done to Y11 Anton Brinkman, Y8 Goktay Tujen, Berk Demir, Zeki Yakup, Patrick Pearce, Talya Eris, and Y7 Khalid Mathor.

Mr Yakup



Careers & Work Related Learning

National Apprenticeship Week 5th-11th February 2024

Next week sees the start of **National Apprenticeship Week** - have a look at the [main website here](#) as there are lots of resources and live events to sign up for and lots of supporting information on apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are designed by employers so they reflect the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need for a particular occupation or sector. As an apprentice, students work in a real job and spend 20% of their working hours training, some apprenticeships include a qualification, including degrees. All of the training is free, so there is no student debt to worry about. School leavers can apply for university or college and an apprenticeship at the same time and make a final decision on their chosen pathway later.

Parents and Carers can use this helpful [Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships](#) to support their children in finding out and applying. The main government [Apprenticeships website](#) also has lots of information. We encourage you to have a look at these and then discuss them with your child. If students have any questions they can contact the Careers Advisor, Ms Andreou.

Mr Renner

Music Centre News

Charity Band Night - Tuesday 8th February at 7pm NW Concert Hall

A reminder that it's only a week to go till this year's Charity Band Night, organised by Y13 students, Aaron Franks and Lizzie Wells. It will be a fantastic night with great music and a lively atmosphere, all in a very worthy cause. This year's performers include the student band 'The Showerheads', the teacher band 'Cover Lesson', and a mystery teacher's dad's band! All ticket proceeds will go to Crisis, the homelessness charity. Tickets are only £10 adults, £5 students. [Book tickets at Fortismere Music Centre](#)

LINC Department

Meet the Team

LINC is lucky to work with a range of individuals and external agencies who help us to support our students; over the next few weeks we'll introduce you to some of these people. This week it's Nuria Robinson, School Project Manager & Counsellor for Place2be.



What inspired you to work with and support young people in schools? When I was young I sometimes struggled to understand and make sense of what was happening to me. There were no counsellors in schools back then and it was hard to know where to go for support. As I got older I realised that the mental health issues I went through coincided with a diagnosis for dyslexia and ADHD. This coupled with the changes we all experience as adolescents meant it was a challenging time for me. Once qualified I thought how valuable it would be if I could be there for others navigating adolescence and all that it brings. I decided to specialise in counselling young people and providing them with a service that I hope gives them the opportunity to feel supported and accompanied during their challenging times.

What's the best thing about your Job? Seeing the shifts in the young people I work with and the growth they undergo, as a result of having the courage to ask for help and a safe place to be heard and seen - this is rewarding and inspiring.

What would you like to share with the School community this week? That **asking for help** can do wonders for our self-esteem, make us feel more connected to those around us and enable us to claim the reasonable adjustments we may need in life with assertion and pride. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness but instead demonstrates strength and courage. *Illustration from The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse" by Charlie Mackesey (2019)*



Most people who have gone through a difficult time emotionally feel alone. No one can possibly understand what we are going through and it feels frightening to expose our vulnerability to others. We choose instead to cope alone or simply ignore the issues in the hope they will just go away. However, when we do take the plunge and speak from our heart, this vulnerability, when shared in a safe and trusting space, with trustworthy individuals, can in fact build our trust and sense of connectivity with others, so that we not only feel less alone but are less alone. Struggling along is not the more courageous thing to do; realising we need help and knowing where to go to get it, asking for it and receiving it, takes courage and can be deeply empowering. When we ask for help, not only are we reaping the benefits of this support for ourselves, but we also model to others how important it is to do this, encouraging the view that asking for help is nothing short of a superpower!

Autism Support Team Parent Event - Wednesday 7th February 2024

Haringey Autism Support Team are running a free session on **Autistic well-being: How to understand and support good emotional regulation**. The session is for parents/carers of autistic young people in Haringey schools and will provide an opportunity to learn about effective strategies and hear insights from families and practitioners. Details: Weds 7 Feb 2024, 10am-12pm at Autism Hub, Chad Gordon Campus, 20B Waltheof Gardens, London N17 7HS. [Book a place here](#)
Any queries about the event or a booking please email last@haringey.gov.uk

Autism Awareness Webinar - Thursday 29th February 2024 12.30pm-1.30pm

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, diagnosis and differences in communication and social interaction. The aim of this webinar is to focus on the strengths autistic individuals have and how to increase understanding through education and raising awareness. Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates: Thursday 29th February 12:30 to 13:30pm; Friday 29th March 12:30 to 13:30pm; Friday 26th April 12:30 to 13:30pm. The cost of the webinar is £5.50! To book a place go to: www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training

Library

Top Tips to Keep your Children Reading



Top Tip No 16: Talk about what they are reading. Get them to predict, question and explain. If you're not sure what something means, look it up together. Occasionally you'll find that they can decode the words but have little clue about what is actually happening – and this is a skill that is vital not only for English Lang/Lit but also for every other written exam they will do at GCSE where they will have to pick information from unseen texts. Show an interest. Tell them about what you're reading too.

Young Quills

Fortismere's historical fiction reading group is on Friday. Reading historical fiction is a fantastic way to deepen understanding of fascinating events from the past whilst also getting engrossed in exciting and dramatic stories. Students in Years 7 and 8 already have the full details on their Google Classroom, but we'd be delighted to welcome more members during lunch on Fridays. They can bring their lunch (as long as it's not hot or smelly!)

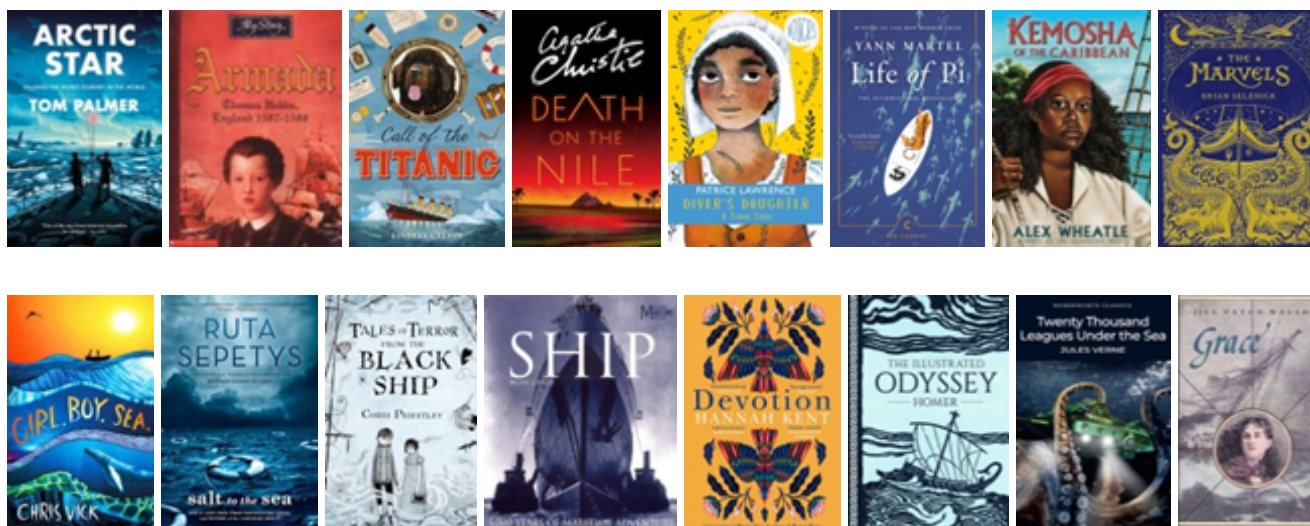


Early Closure

The library will not be open after school on Friday 9th February.

Recommended Reads of the Week

In honour of the 200th anniversary this year of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (and noting that the first custom built lifeboat was tested on the River Tyne on 30th January 1790), here are some boat related books from our current transport-themed display.



PE & Sports News

Middlesex Cup Semi-Final

Congratulations to our Y9/Y10 girls who are through to the next round of the Middlesex Cup - they beat St Thomas More 8-1 last Friday - there were super goals from Leila Hadari, Genevieve Castle and Mia Goldstone.



Brigg Cup Semi-Final

Well done to our 1st X1 team who beat Christ's College 8-1 on Tuesday to progress through to the semi final of the Middlesex U18 Cup. There were some excellent individual performances and an overall great team effort.



Haringey Basketball League

Our Y8 and Y10 Boys played their first league fixture last Friday v Alexandra Park School. The Year 8s played a very end to end game which finished with our team winning by 1 point. The Year 10s started off well and had gained the lead by halftime but APS came back strongly in the second half and beat us convincingly. Well done all and thank you to Ray, Reg and friend who helped with coaching and officiating the matches.



Football U12 Girls Run Comes to an End

Unfortunately the Year 7 Girls Team are now out of the running as they lost to Highgate 2-3 in a well fought effort this week. Unlucky girls, but it's all good experience for next year!



Hockey Team

Well done to the boys hockey team - they played against St Harolds on Tuesday but were unlucky against very tough opposition.



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 5th February	Y8 & Y10 Boys Basketball v Greig City Away meet 2.15 pm
Tuesday 6th February	Middlesex Borough Cross Country at Harrow School. Haringey Badminton Y7/8/9 Boys & Girls at Dukes Academy meet 12 pm
Thursday 8th February	Y9 Boys Football v APS at home meet at 1.30 pm GCSE Rock Climbing Moderation
Friday 9th February	Haringey Badminton Competition Y9/10 Boys & Girls Y9 Hockey Tournament Away

School Fundraising Event

Quiz Night - Saturday 24th February 6.30pm

Remember to put this date in your diary and book your tickets for the annual Fortismere Quiz Night! Our host for the night is the wonderful Pauline Eyre and it is sure to be a very fun night out! Gather together a team of 8-10 people but don't worry if there are only a few of you as we will make up bigger teams. Tickets are £10 per person. There will be a cash only bar and bring food to share. This is our main spring fundraising event so please buy a ticket, have a great night out and help us raise money for the school.

[Book tickets here – Quiz Night](#)

Fortismere School Holiday Camps

February Half-Term 2024 - Last few places

Fortismere Holiday Camps are running from **Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024**. Drama Camp and Comic Club still have a few places remaining. Booking information and full details are on the school website - [Fortismere Holiday Camps](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please use the My Voice [link](#) or QR code alternatively contact your child's Head of Year

Year 7	Ms Fox kfox@fortismere.org.uk
Year 8	Ms Jackson kjackson@fortismere.org.uk
Year 9	Ms Cuenca icuenca@fortismere.org.uk
Year 10	Mr Aldridge saldridge@fortismere.org.uk
Year 11	Ms Boot aboot@fortismere.org.uk

