

Headteacher's Message

Earlier in the week, I had the pleasure of welcoming visitors to the school from the Chinese Embassy. Thanks to Zhong who joined me in meeting with the Education Minister Counsellor, Zhou Wei who had nothing but compliments for our school and our students. Fortismere's reputation for teaching Mandarin is well known in educational circles in China so we frequently welcome quite high profile guests who want to see our school and how we deliver our curriculum. The embassy also made a generous donation of a range of beautiful books which we will display in the library for our students to access, some in English and some bi-lingual.

Today is World Environment Day and our Eco Committee has been working with TfL on an Eco Active Project focusing on Walk to School Days. Please look out for more details further on in the Newsletter.

I also wanted to remind you about respectful car parking. We have been receiving reports from residents on Creighton Avenue who are experiencing issues with parking at drop-off and pick-up times. Please can I ask that you are mindful of our neighbours and ensure that driveways are not blocked and that parking restrictions are observed. We really appreciate your cooperation with this.

I'm delighted to draw your attention to our upcoming Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert on Saturday 20th June at 7pm at St James in Muswell Hill. This is our first concert in our new bigger venue and we have free tickets available for Fortismere students. The programme includes wonderful pieces by Chabrier, Korngold, Bernstein and Marquez, and we're thrilled to welcome Syrian violinist Bilal Alnemr travelling from France to perform with us. We're hoping to see lots of parents and students there. Booking details are in the Music section of the Newsletter.

Finally, a reminder that parent governor candidate statements are now available on our website [here](#) - please do take a look. You'll receive your voting instructions next week.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend!

Contents

Headteacher's Message

Co-Curricular Notices

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

17.06	A-Level Art & Photography Exhibition 6pm NW
15.06 to 19.06	Y8 Celebration of Learning events Period 5
22.06 To 29.06	Y7 Celebration of Learning events Period 5

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)



Ticket details in the Music section

Eco Committee News

Get Eco Active and Walk to School

This term the Eco-Committee and some of our Year 7 Ambassadors have been working with TfL on an Eco Active Project. Next Tuesday, all students will have an assembly to launch the project which encourages everyone to consider walking (or part walking) to school on our three **Eco Active Days (Fri 12th, Mon 14th, Tue 15th June)**



Students can take part by walking to school on Friday 12th June and checking-in with staff at designated checkpoints around the school's 10-minute walk zone (between 8.00am-8.10am). Students will collect a Reward Card and earn their first stamp. Ms Holder, Mr Commons, Ms Jones, Ms Brough and Y7 Ambassadors will be at the checkpoints again on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th June for students to collect two more stamps. Full details of the checkpoints will be shared in the assembly next week.

Steps and stamps mean prizes! Students who walk to school and collect all 3 stamps will be entered into a prize draw to win eco-friendly water bottles, London Transport Museum stationery, or a much sought skip-the-lunch-queue pass for a week.

This project supports our commitment to climate action, promotes healthier travel habits, and helps reduce pollution around the school. Please encourage your child to participate and make a positive difference for their health and our planet. With today being World Environment Day it seems a fitting time to consider ways in which we can all reduce our carbon footprints as well as embrace the benefits of walking.

We will be reminding students of the importance of road safety but please can you also do this at home too.
Ms Holder

Co-Curricular Provision

New KS4 Book Club - Starting Friday 12th June

The English Department is starting a new lunchtime book club - encourage your child to come along.

When: Lunchtime on Fridays

Where: N23

Who: Ms Whyte and Ms Salter

At each session, the group will discuss that month's book and how it connects to themes, ideas and other books in the genre, period and culture. During the first session (12th June) there will be a discussion of personal favourites and the first book club pick will be selected.

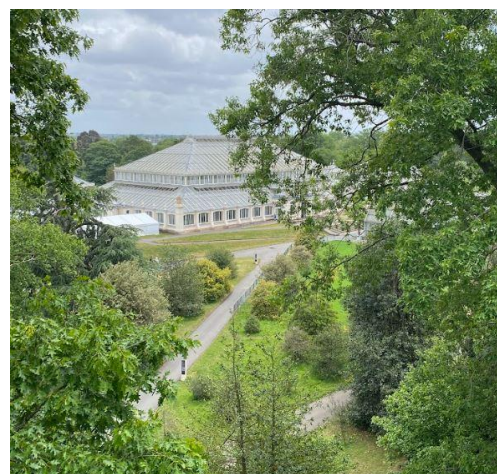
All Year 9 & 10 students are welcome. There might even be biscuits to go with the books!



Geography Department Notice

Bringing Biomes to Life - Year 7 Explore Kew Gardens

The Geography department really enjoyed taking the whole Year 7 cohort out to Kew Gardens before the half-term break. Students are currently studying the Biomes and Biodiversity topic in their Geography lessons, so it was a fantastic opportunity for them to see what they are learning in the classroom come to life. We spent the day looking at ways in which plants have adapted to living in different biomes, such as the desert and the tropical rainforest. Students enjoyed walking through the Palm House, the Princess of Wales Conservatory and along the X-Strata Walkway, completing learning tasks in each of these locations. The students showed exemplary behaviour on the trip and represented the school in a very positive way.



Modern Languages Notices

¡Qué delicioso! A taste of Spain in the Year 12 Classroom

As part of the A-Level Spanish curriculum, students learn about the rich culture and regional variation of food from Spain. It has now become a Year 12 tradition to organise a lesson where all the students cook a dish and then bring it into class to share. Before tucking in, students must explain in Spanish to the class, the origins of their dish and how they cooked it. The creativity and culinary skills on display this year were exceptional - well done everyone!



Mandarin Students Welcome Chinese Visitors to Fortismere

This week, we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Chinese Embassy, led by Ms Zhou Wei, Minister Counsellor for Education. They were impressed by the quality of Mandarin provision at Fortismere and praised our students' enthusiasm and engagement in their language learning. They met with Ms Judge to discuss opportunities for further collaboration. The Embassy generously donated a collection of newly published bilingual Chinese-English books to our library, which will be a valuable resource for our students.



Last term, we welcomed a delegation from the Nanjing Municipal Education Bureau. This was a return visit following our Sixth Form trip to Nanjing last December. Ms Judge and Ms Common thanked the delegation for hosting our students in Nanjing and for providing such a rich and rewarding learning experience. Discussions focused on strengthening school partnerships and exploring both virtual and in-person exchange opportunities with Nanjing schools.



During both visits, our Year 12 Mandarin learners played a key role as student ambassadors, giving tours of the school and presenting in Mandarin. Their enthusiasm, confidence and language skills were highly praised by our visitors and reflected the strength of Mandarin learning at our school.

Music Department Notices

Violin Masterclass with Bilal Alnemr - Weds 17th June 5.30pm at Ally Pally Creativity Pavillion

We encourage any students having music lessons to attend this masterclass. Bilal Alnemr, the soloist in our orchestral concert, will be coaching three of Haringey's most advanced violin students in pieces including Bruch's Violin Concerto. Bilal Alnemr will end the masterclass with a brief talk about the Korngold Violin Concerto he will be performing the following Saturday and giving some of his personal insights into the work. Don't miss this amazing opportunity! **Tickets for students are free and just £8 for adults.- [Book here](#)** or pay on the door.

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - Sat 20th June at 7pm

You are warmly invited to St James in Muswell Hill for this exuberant summer programme. It's our first concert in this bigger, central venue and there are **FREE TICKETS** for Fortismere students! We hope to see many parents and students there. The concert opens with Chabrier's dance-like *España*, followed by the Violin Concerto by the great film composer Korngold. Syrian violinist Bilal Alnemr travels from France to play with us for the second time, conducted by Howard Williams, one of Britain's most experienced international conductors.

The second half continues the dance and film theme with Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, ending with Marquez's gloriously lush *Danzon No. 2*. Wonderful music in a wonderful venue, so book now:

Early Bird online: £13 Students & U18s: £8 Fortismere students: FREE with code FORTSTUDENT26 **Book [here](#)**



Instrumental & Vocal Lessons - Autumn Term Invoices

Apologies for the delay in sending out invoices for the Autumn Term for students continuing with lessons. They will be sent out as soon as we have received the fees for 2026/27 from Haringey Music Service.

Music Tech Success - Big Release for Former Student

We are delighted to celebrate the success of former student Oli Raiss, who attended Fortismere from 2016 to 2023. Oli studied Music Tech, Computer Science and Maths. Since leaving Fortismere, Oli continued to develop his passion for electronic music production at university and now has a release on the renowned electronic music label mau5trap, home to some of the most influential artists in the scene. Founded by deadmau5, the label has helped launch and support many leading names in electronic music, making Oli's forthcoming release a remarkable achievement. It has already gained recognition from some of the biggest DJs in the world. We congratulate Oli on this exciting accomplishment and look forward to following his future success in the music industry. Ricey - Years is available to listen to via [this link here](#)

Drama Department Notices

Coming Soon...December Show Auditions!

We are very excited to announce our December show...soon! We have had lots of students eagerly ask us what it will be, but you're going to have to wait a little longer to find out!

We will be holding auditions on **Wednesday 24th** and **Thursday 25th June** at **3:10pm** in North Wing Hall.

Watch this space and follow us on social media for announcements too!

@fortismeredrama



Fortismere Drama Summer Showcase...Auditions Notice



ACTORS
COMEDIANS
MUSICIANS
SINGERS
DANCERS
RAPERS
MAGICIANS
GYMNASTS
ETC.

Use the QR code to sign up or [fill in this form](#). Students must sign in to their school Google account to use the form.

fortismere DRAMA

Y10 GCSE Devising Exams - Next Week

All the best to our Y10 GCSE Drama students who have their first GCSE practical exam next week! (We can't believe the time has come so quickly!) You've all worked so hard and we look forward to seeing your final pieces on stage!

Science Department

Inspiring Scientist of the Week

Each week we are celebrating some of the greatest and most influential scientists. We are aiming to spark curiosity, conversations and a greater appreciation of science, while encouraging students to see how imagination, resilience and hard work can lead to extraordinary achievements. This week it's....

Rosalind Franklin - a brilliant British-Jewish scientist whose work was essential to **discovering the structure of DNA**, the greatest biological discovery of the twentieth century. Born in London in 1920 she won a scholarship to study Natural Sciences at one of only two Cambridge colleges for women. After graduating in 1942 she returned to London to complete her National Service researching micro-structures of carbons to **improve the effectiveness of gas masks, and volunteering as an Air Raid Warden** in Putney. Her research during the war formed the basis of her PhD thesis.



As her research career developed she specialised in **X-ray crystallography**, a technique used to study molecules. Her team's famous "Photo 51" image provided **crucial evidence that DNA has a double-helix structure** which is key to its reproduction. **James Watson** and **Francis Crick**, working separately at Cambridge, were struggling with their work on DNA until **Maurice Wilkins** showed them Franklin's "**Photo 51**" without Franklin's permission - something that would now be considered highly unethical! Watson recognised immediately the significance of it but what they needed was far more than an image confirming the double helix shape, they needed precise observations from the X-ray crystallography. Those numbers were unwittingly provided by Franklin herself in a report given to a colleague of Watson and Crick at Cambridge who passed it along to them. They did not tell anyone else what they were doing and they **did not ask Franklin for permission to interpret her data**. Ironically, this same data was previously presented by Franklin at King's College when James Watson was in the audience. Had he bothered to take notes of the data instead of comments on her looks ("not unattractive") and dress sense ("all the imagination of English bluestocking adolescents"), he could have provided Crick with the vital numerical evidence 15 months earlier. Crick referred to all of this years later as being "**guilty of a patronizing attitude towards her**".

After her DNA research she continued to study the molecular structures of viruses, coal and graphite. On the day before she was to unveil the structure of **tobacco mosaic virus** at an international fair, in 1958, she died of ovarian cancer. Her work laid the **foundations for the entire field of structural virology**.

Further reading/viewing on Rosalind Franklin and the discovery of DNA: *The Secret of Life: Rosalind Franklin, James Watson, Francis Crick and the Discovery of DNA's Double Helix* by Howard Markel (WW Norton & Co); *Life's Greatest Secret: The Race to Crack the Genetic Code* by Matthew Cobb (Profile Books); Royal Institution lecture *The Race to Crack the Genetic Code with Matthew Cobb* (You Tube) <https://tinyurl.com/4arvtek> .

Sport & PE Notices

Basketball in Haringey - Free training at Mulberry Woodside School

Borough of Basketball believe that the sport can change lives - their vision is to make basketball a driving force for unity, opportunity, and personal growth across London. They believe the game is a platform for building confidence, developing life skills, and breaking down social and cultural barriers.

And they are offering **free training sessions at Mulberry Woodside School**.

For more details email Coach Jason
boroughofbasketball@outlook.com



Martial Arts/Self Defence After School Course

A reminder that James from **JM Wing Chun Martial Arts** is running a 6-week course at Fortismere. Sessions started on Monday 8th June but students can still join. The cost is £6 a session and is held in the Sports Hall after school. Students will get the chance to learn a few easy self defence moves. For more info please call or email James sinfo@jmwingchun.com or 07949995715

PE & Sports Extra Curricular Timetable - Summer 2026

See the latest version below and [on the website here](#)

	Lunch Time	After School 3.15-4.15 pm
Monday	Football - Astro MV/GK Basketball - Outdoor Courts Badminton/Pickleball Y7-8 - Sports Hall NDF	Martial Arts - Sports Hall (Outside Coach) Volleyball - Sports Hall Rounders - School Field MV
Tuesday	Football - Astro MV/GK Badminton/Pickleball Y9-11 - Sports Hall NDF Running Club - LB Basketball - Outdoor Courts MH	Badminton All years - Sports Hall LB Netball Y7-8 - Netball Courts KW Tennis - Outdoor Courts MH Cricket All years - School field GK
Wednesday	Football - Astro GK Basketball - MH Badminton/Pickleball Y7-8 - Sports Hall MV	Staff CPD Basketball Y7 - Sports Hall (Outside Coach) Boxing Club (Outside Coach)
Thursday	Football - Astro MV Badminton Y9-11- Sports Hall GK Basketball -MH	Pickleball - Sports Hall MV
Friday	Basketball - MH Badminton/Pickleball - GK	

Upcoming Fixtures

Mon 8 June	Y7/8 Girls Tennis Fixture v APS (Home) Y10 Boys Tennis Fixture v Merchant Taylor School (Away)
Tue 9 June	Y9 Boys Cricket Match 2 pm
Wed 10 June	Y7/8 Boys Cricket Tournament at North Middlesex Cricket Ground 10-2 pm Hard Ball.
Thur 11 June	Y9/10 Boys Cricket Tournament at North Middlesex Cricket Ground 10-2 pm Hard Ball.

Parent Information Event

Reminder: Screentime & Online Safety Webinars

Haringey Council is offering free online workshops to help parents and carers to understand the impact of screentime and support children and young people to use technology in a healthy, safe and positive way. Workshops are online and last an hour. **Dates: Tue 23/06 (7pm); Mon 29/06 (7pm); Thurs 09/07 (10am)**
[Book free tickets – Haringey Screentime and Online Safety Webinars for Parents](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

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.

