




School Leadership Messages	Contents																					
<p><b>Co-Headteachers’ Awards</b></p> <p>Well done to the following students who all received a special Co-Headteachers’ Award this term for going above and beyond the Fortismere Four.</p> <table><tr><td>Year 7</td><td>Tia Lytton</td></tr><tr><td>Year 7</td><td>Artie Curry</td></tr><tr><td>Year 8</td><td>Lora Vida</td></tr><tr><td>Year 8</td><td>Talya Eris</td></tr><tr><td>Year 9</td><td>Edie Goodfellow</td></tr><tr><td>Year 9</td><td>Carl Peanberg King</td></tr><tr><td>Year 10</td><td>Zach Whittaker</td></tr><tr><td>Year 10</td><td>Minghyun Fu</td></tr><tr><td>Year 11</td><td>Daren Uludag</td></tr><tr><td>Year 11</td><td>Viktorija Peniaz</td></tr></table>	Year 7	Tia Lytton	Year 7	Artie Curry	Year 8	Lora Vida	Year 8	Talya Eris	Year 9	Edie Goodfellow	Year 9	Carl Peanberg King	Year 10	Zach Whittaker	Year 10	Minghyun Fu	Year 11	Daren Uludag	Year 11	Viktorija Peniaz	<b>CoHeads’ Weekly Roundup</b>	
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<div><p>Merry Christmas from all at <b>finch</b></p><p>Card designed by The Finch Students</p><p>Merry Christmas to all</p></div>																						

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

It has been a short but busy final week of term. We were fortunate to be entertained by our students on Monday and Tuesday evening in a concert that was packed with musical items from across genres: from Joni Mitchell to Miles Davis and Taylor Swift to Janacek, our students reminded us of the eclectic nature of the music that inspires them and thus delivered an audio christmas feast that delighted and excited its audience. We were thrilled to witness the inaugural performance of our Samba drummers who delivered their performance (of a Samba!) with immense energy that had the walls and floors vibrating. The programme was slickly delivered, revealing the amount of effort that they had put into rehearsing and making sure they were performance ready exhibiting as much in organisational prowess as in their stunning musical talents. We'd like to congratulate Mr Watson on delivering such a wonderful first Christmas concert after just a term at the school and extend our thanks to his team for all of their hard work in motivating our musicians to produce such a display.

Also, this week we congratulated ten students across Years 7-11 who were recognised by the school for their exceptional contribution and efforts this term. The ten students selected represent precisely what it means to be a Fortismere student demonstrating a range of virtues such as hard work, dedication, kindness and community spirit. We invited these students and their proud parents to join us for Hot Chocolate and tasty treats as a way of recognising their achievements and thanking them for being part of what makes Fortismere such a wonderful place to be. We took a photo so you could see them in all their glory below.

This week we are pleased to announce the winner of our Fortismere Christmas Christmas Card competition and to share some of the top entries. The theme this Christmas was 'Forty Years of Fortismere' or 'Fortiesmere' which this big event has now become known as and our students did not disappoint. The first prize goes to Talia Greenburg (8 MYA) whose beautiful design of Fortismere Christmas Baubles was loved by the judges. We use the winning design on our official Christmas e-cards which travel to friends of the school all across London so Talia's work will be enjoyed by plenty of people this holiday season. You will see from the designs in this week's Newsletter that we had a great choice to pick from this year. We'd like to thank and congratulate all those students who entered the competition this year. As always we very much enjoyed your ideas. Also, please do find some time this weekend to read the excellent news publication 'Fortistory' which has been produced by our school press gang and is attached to this week's Newsletter parentmail. There are some fabulous reviews, interviews and poetry which will move and entertain you. Well done to our young journalists for such a brilliant read.

All that is left for us now is to wish you all a happy and restful holiday season with the very best wishes from us to you and your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024!



## Art & Photography Department

### Christmas Card Competition Winners

We were overwhelmed by the quality of the entries this year however the winner is **Talia Greenberg's (Year 8)**. It was felt that Talia had successfully combined the theme of Christmas with this important moment in the school's history.

As Fortismere's official Christmas Card for 2023, Talia's design will be sent all over the borough. She will also receive a bumper pack of Art materials just in time for Christmas (fingers crossed).

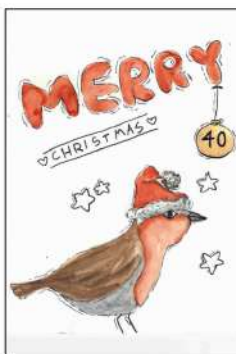
We would like to thank all the students who entered and made it very difficult for us to choose a winner



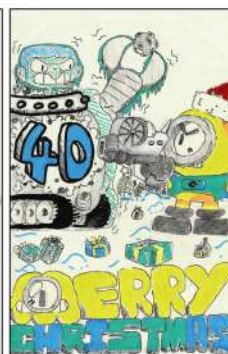
2nd Prize:  
Rosie Price (10SA)



3rd Prize:  
Felicienne Castle (7Y1)



Highly Commended  
Saule Rimkeviente  
(7X1)



Highly Commended  
No name.  
Contact Ms Powell



Highly Commended  
Tamar Goldberg 9JDR



## Student Achievement

### Rewards and Celebration Assemblies

At the end of this term, Heads of Year have been holding celebration assemblies to reward and recognise our students who have impressed over the last term, both in their learning across the curriculum and also in form time and their Year group. We have also rewarded students for achievement points, getting no (not a single one!) behaviour points and for being excellent students. Winning students have received badges to wear with pride on their lanyards. Congratulations to all of this term's winners! We are looking forward to celebrating more of our student body next term.

Ms Brooks

## Student Magazine

### Fortistory - New School Magazine

Every Wednesday lunchtime since the start of October a dedicated band of school journalists have been meeting to put together the first edition of our new school magazine - Fortistory. It's packed with articles, poetry, reviews and photographs and comes with a joke and puzzles supplement. We hope you enjoy this first edition which is *attached* to the Newsletter. Any student who wishes to join the magazine team should come along to our next meeting at lunchtime on 10th January in Room S33.

**Can you help us please?** We're looking for sponsors for our school magazine or maybe you'd like to advertise a local business in the next edition. Sponsorship will mean that we can buy a subscription to Affinity Publisher and improve our desktop publishing skills. Please get in touch with Ms Brooks ([ebrooks@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:ebrooks@fortismere.org.uk)) if you can help us. Thank you

## House News

### Around the Houses

There have been loads of house events happening over the last few weeks. Last Wednesday, the Franklin and Keats charity ambassadors organised a Christmas movie night for Years 7, 8 and 9 where we watched Home Alone and ate popcorn and other treats. The event was a huge success and raised a whopping £528.35 which will be split between the two house charities: The West London Rape Crisis Centre and Centrepont. A huge thank you also to the Year 12 and Year 11 students who volunteered their time to help out and ensure that the event ran smoothly!

On the Thursday of the same week, the Franklin ambassadors then organised a bake sale for our Key Stage 4 students where they sold a huge number of cakes, muffins, brownies, cookies, gingerbread and other delicious sweet treats. Thank you to everyone who supported with this and helped to raise a further £90 for the West London Rape Crisis Centre.

Finally, students across Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a festive quiz last week; the winning team from each form progressed into the Inter House Christmas Quiz competition which took place yesterday. The students were brilliant and the results are in (see the table below). A big thank you and well done to everyone who took part - it was, as always, a lot of fun! Please keep an eye out for all the great House activities that will be taking place next term!

Ms Jones

	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7		Overall	
1	Franklin (13)	Keats (10.5)	Keats (12)		Keats (32.5)	
2	Turing (12.5)	Franklin (8)	Franklin (10)		Franklin (31)	
3	Keats (10)	Wollstonecraft (7)	Wollstonecraft (9)		Turing (24.5)	Wollstonecraft (24.5)
4	Wollstonecraft (8.5)	Turing (4)	Turing (8)			
5	Selvon (N/A)	Selvon (N/A)	Selvon (6)		Selvon (6)	

## Selvon Lucky Dip Success

Well done to the Selvon Ambassadors who raised nearly £30 for Cancer Research UK with their lucky dip on Monday - a good amount raised and good effort by the ambassadors as all of the items were kindly donated and wrapped by the ambassadors themselves! There were some lovely prizes like perfume, a purse, a pencil case and of course some edible items! There were lots of happy students who got a bargain and also helped to raise money for charity! It was so popular that we were sold out of items in no time, and had students asking if we had any more. We will be planning a much bigger lucky dip in 2024 - watch this space! Thank you to the Selvon ambassadors and to their parents and carers for all their support this year.  
Ms Garnett

## School Attendance

### Supporting Attendance at Fortismere

Geminee Patel: Attendance Improvement Lead - it's a pleasure to connect with you all. My role at Fortismere is dedicated to fostering a culture of regular and consistent attendance and creating an environment where every student feels inspired to be in school and engaged in their learning journey. My previous experiences of working with young people have equipped me with insights and a deep commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of our students. I'm excited about my role and the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of attendance across the school. To make this work, the school, students and families need to work together to build a community where attendance isn't just a routine but a reflection of our shared dedication to education. Please see below for a reminder of school attendance procedures ready for the start of next term.



#### Prompt Reporting of Illnesses and Emergencies:

- Illnesses and emergencies must be reported via email to [attendance@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.org.uk) or by telephone on 0208 365 4429 before 8:30 am on the day of absence.
- If leaving a voicemail, please state the student's full name and year/registration group.

#### Timely Notification of Appointments:

- Parents are required to email any medical or other appointments to [attendance@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.org.uk), copying in the Form Tutor, a minimum of 24 hours in advance to avoid daily detention for the student in case of tardiness.
- Failure to comply with this timeframe may result in a detention if the student arrives late.

#### Doctor and Dental Appointments:

- Routine doctor and dental appointments, with the exception of emergencies, should be scheduled outside of school hours.
- In the case of emergency appointments, please provide evidence such as appointment letters to [attendance@fortismere.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.uk)

### Leave of Absence Requests:

- Planned absences, including holidays, medical appointments (hospital/orthodontist), music exams, language exams, ballet exams, local funerals, and religious festivals, require submission of a Leave of Absence Form via <https://form.jotformeu.com/fortismere/loa201920>
- Approval for all requests must be sought from the Co-Headteachers.

## Sixth Form Notice

### Medicine at Cambridge - Access Day

This year, Gonville and Caius (Cambridge) Medical Society will be running an Access Day on 20th January. This day intends to introduce students to Medicine at Cambridge University, through a range of different events. All events will be held online, and students must register their interest if they wish to be considered for a place. The sessions running include:

- Medicine at Cambridge Talk
- Personal Statements for Medicine Talk
- Interview talk (with general tips for medical school interviews)
- Admissions Assessments Talk
- Taster Lecture from Dr Fraser (Caius' Director of Studies in Medicine)
- Q&A session with current undergraduate students
- Mock small group teaching session

To register interest students must [complete this form](#) by midday 8th January 2024. We expect that this will be a highly subscribed event, and as such cannot guarantee all students a place on the Access Day. Students can expect to hear the outcome of their application by 12th January.

Mr Lewis

## LINC News

### Meet The Team

This week I'm pleased to introduce you to one of our Teaching Assistants - Junior Matti.

**Why did you want to work in the LINC department?** Throughout my time at school, I always found it hard to stay focused and complete work and would avoid tasks that involved reading or writing, because of this I was regularly labelled as 'troublesome' by many of my teachers. A few took the time to properly understand me and because of those teachers I was able to eventually succeed and do well. It wasn't until I got to university that I was diagnosed with dyslexia and potentially ADHD; this made everything a lot clearer and explained why I had experienced such a troubled time at school. As I got older, I realised that I wanted to work in education and to be the staff member that I had needed when I was struggling at school.



**What's the best thing about your job?** There are many things: being part of a student's development and helping them to discover their superpower so they can achieve and succeed; the fact that no two days at work are the same; and working with my brilliant co-workers in LINC.

**What superpower would you like to share with the school community this week?** I'm talking about **autism spectrum disorder (ASD)** - ASD presents differently in boys than in girls and this creates unique challenges and opportunities for understanding and supporting those with the disorder. Boys are more frequently diagnosed with autism leading to a gender disparity. Girls with autism often exhibit subtler

symptoms, such as social withdrawal and intense interests, which may be misinterpreted. Consequently, girls may receive diagnoses later in life or be misdiagnosed with other conditions. Understanding gender-specific manifestations is crucial for early identification and for tailored interventions.

I think it is interesting to see the amount of people with autism in the world of sport; the focus and discipline required in many sports can serve as a channel for individuals with ASD to showcase their talents. Sports personalities, like football player Greg Halford and professional basketball player Jason McElwain, have shattered stereotypes and demonstrated the incredible potential within the autism community. Engagement in sport not only provides physical benefits but also develops social skills, teamwork, and self-esteem. Recognising and celebrating these achievements contributes to a more inclusive perspective on autism, challenging stereotypes and preconceptions about the limitations individuals face and inspiring others with ASD to pursue their passions.



**For more information and advice on ASD please see the following websites:**

- [The National Autistic Society](#)
- [Helping your child with autism thrive](#)
- [Haringey Services & Support for children and young people with autism](#)

## Supporting Autism During the Festive Period

The Haringey Language and Autism Support Team have put together some information for what might work best for autistic people during the festive period. See these links below

[Christmas tips for autistic people and their families](#) - Lots of suggestions including ideas for planning and preparation like having a calendar or timetable prepared for outings and visits and organising a quiet space.

[Sensory overload](#) - Loud noises, bright lights and smells can be overwhelming for many people.

[Advice for an autism friendly Christmas](#) - Pete Wharmby, an autistic teacher and author shares his advice.

[Autism friendly cinema screenings](#) - find a local screening for a film over the festive period.

**Some top festive tips from the Haringey Autism Youth Club Members** include - Plan a marathon of christmas movies this is essential for any successful holiday season! Have some indoor and outdoor activities planned for the festive period. Make a christmas playlist on Spotify in case of emergencies. Don't expect your autistic child to take part in christmas rituals, they will join in if they want to.

## A Lego London Skyline

A huge well done to our group of three Year 8 students who have built this wonderful London skyline out of Lego. The students worked on this project together as part of their lego therapy sessions, which supports development of social, communication and interaction skills, as well as helping them to manage social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Everyone in LINC is extremely proud of how this group of students worked together to successfully complete this project.

Miss Nicholls





## Haringey SEND Parent Event - Autistic Well Being: Weds 6th February 2024 10.00am

This event for parents and carers - *Autistic well-being: how to understand and support good emotional regulation* will share useful strategies to promote autistic joy from other families and practitioners.

**Wed 6 Feb 2024 10am-12pm at Autism Hub, Chad Gordon Campus, 20B Waltheof Gardens, N17 7HS**

[Book a place using this link](#) and if you have any queries contact the Haringey Language and Autism Support Team by email [last@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:last@haringey.gov.uk)

## PE & Sports News

### Another Busy Term of Sport

It's been a really busy term in the PE Department. Our clubs have been buzzing with activity every night after school - it's wonderful to see. Students that are attending the clubs have had enormous fun and as well as improving their sporting skills and abilities, they've also made new friends and team mates on the way. Students have taken part in some great matches home and away and there have been some wonderful team and individual performances this term with the our girls winning the Y8 and Y10 Netball Leagues as well as the Volleyball Cup. The Year 11/Sixth Form boys are through to the quarter finals of the Middlesex Cup as are the Year 7, 8,10 and 11 girls teams. Well done to all the students who have taken part and represented Fortismere so well. Thank you to all of the visiting coaches and to the PE department staff for your commitment after school and at lunch time.

We're already looking forward to the spring term with indoor cricket on the first day back and then indoor athletics, badminton and basketball coming up.





## 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 Head of Year

<b>Year 7</b>	Ms Fox <a href="mailto:kfox@fortismere.org.uk">kfox@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 8</b>	Ms Jackson <a href="mailto:kjackson@fortismere.org.uk">kjackson@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 9</b>	Ms Cuenca <a href="mailto:icuenca@fortismere.org.uk">icuenca@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 10</b>	Mr Aldridge <a href="mailto:saldridge@fortismere.org.uk">saldridge@fortismere.org.uk</a>
<b>Year 11</b>	Ms Boot <a href="mailto:aboot@fortismere.org.uk">aboot@fortismere.org.uk</a>