



## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

It has undeniably been a very difficult week for the school and our students and we are writing separately to you all today with updates and further information about the dispute, partly in response to information and questions that have been brought to our attention but also because we have promised transparency and regular detail. We would ask that you all take a moment to read this important communication.

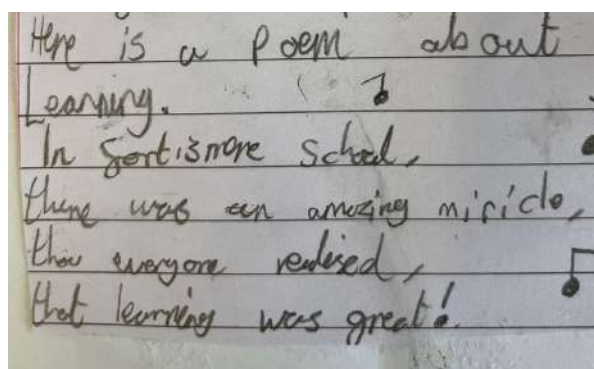
However, we do want to take the opportunity to write about this week's highlight for us, the launch of the newly formed and formally established 'Friends of Fortismere.' We were approached earlier this year by a group of parents, who wanted to resurrect our Parent Association and had lots of ideas about what we could do as a school to fundraise but also celebrate our community and our students. The energy and enthusiasm that this group of parents has brought to this initiative has been wonderful and we have enjoyed listening to their ideas around how we can do so much more to bring the community together on a regular basis, to celebrate the fact that the school is at the heart of the local area and to benefit our students while doing so. While we are grateful that the 'Friends' will take the lead on this year's summer fair, we are also very excited by a range of initiatives that they are suggesting around harnessing the strengths and skills in our parent and local community to develop great learning experiences for our students.

This feels like a fresh start for school fundraising and community building which was very well supported by the numbers of parents who gave up their Tuesday Evening to come and talk about how they could get involved and share ideas about how this organisation could evolve over time. You can read more about this on the Friends of Fortismere page at the back of the Newsletter. Thank you so much to the 'team' who have worked so hard to get to the position to launch the new association and to all who attended. There is no doubt the school will benefit from your engagement and as we said on the evening, 'This feels like the beginning of a beautiful friendship.'



We also really enjoyed this poem created during a Y7 History lesson delivered by Ms Common during Thursday's strike day. We love the sentiment! Thank you to Deniz, Christian, Oscar and Alex.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



## Library Notices

### Library Visitors [Part 2]

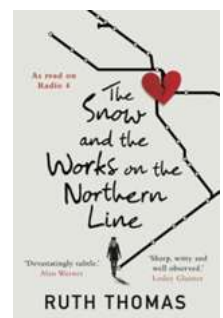
More members of staff came to our library lessons to share their reading journeys with our students. Head of Maths, Mr Nagata, was quizzed by Year 7s about all the manga he reads; Detective Conan (Gosho Aoyama) led to Agatha Christie and now Mr Nagata reads lots of football and maths books too. His

message was read about your passions! Mr Scott, our Deputy Headteacher, read and talked about contrasting excerpts from some amazing classics – The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (C S Lewis), The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (Samuel Taylor Coleridge), Hard Times (Charles Dickens) and The Subtle Knife (Philip Pullman). Watership Down (Douglas Adams) was Mr Aldridge's book of choice; he described how it has influenced his life, and even his most recent summer holiday!



## CoverUp

A reminder that the next meeting of our parent/staff reading group is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm in the library. All welcome, refreshments available.



## Recommended Reads of the Week

It was International Women's Day last weekend, and our display under the theme, "For ALL women and girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment" is garnering much attention.





## PE & Sports Notices

### Basketball Domination

After the Year 7 boys' success at the Haringey Basketball Tournament last week, the girls had a point to prove and that's just what they did!

Undefeated they made their way to the final to face our local rivals APS! The final was a tense game, finishing level and going to an exciting golden goal - we had a few shots, they had a few shots, then Etta flew in the air and made an incredible interception. Etta dribbled in and out of their defence - we held our breaths as she put the ball up, and then watched it caress off of the backboard and swivel into the net!! Amazing!

Well done to our determined, resilient squads - you are champions!



### Haringey League Competition Update

Fortismere are through to a number of semi finals after finishing top or second in the split Haringey leagues.

In the **Girls Football league** - Our Year 7/8 team have a semi final match against Highgate Wood School next week (Thur 20 March 1.30 pm). The Year 9/10 team are also playing against Highgate Wood on the same day (Thur 20 March 2.30 pm).

In the **Boys Football league** - Our Year 7 team and our Year 10 team have semi final matches coming up - details to be confirmed.

In the **Boys Basketball league** - Year 7 have a semi final against Greig City Academy (Weds 19 March 2.00pm) and the Year 8/9 team are up against Woodside High (Tues 18 March 2.00pm).

### Middlesex Cup Finals - Come and Support Fortismere

The Year 7/8 Girls U13 Middlesex Cup Final match against Highgate School is being played on Monday 24th March at the Rectory Park Football Hub in Northolt UB5 6AU. Time of kick-off to be confirmed. Parents and carers are welcome to come along and support our team.

The Year 7 Girls U12 Middlesex Cup Final match is against Channing School - time and location is yet to be confirmed. Good luck to all our teams.

## Golf - Middlesex County Championship Event

If you're a keen golfer read on - Hosted by Fulwell Golf Club (Twickenham TW12 1JY) the English Schools Golf Association Championship is open to any student attending a Middlesex school and takes place on Monday 14th April in Twickenham. For full details use the QR code.



## Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

### Latest Opportunities & Sources of Information

#### Schroders Apprenticeship Programme September 2025 start

Part of the Investment 20/20 programme which offers a wide range of roles across the business. Full details can be found [here](#) (apply by 31/03/2025)

Sign up for the **Unifrog Virtual Students Fair** with 30 over Universities sharing information and resources on 26th March 4pm-6.30pm. Full details and [Sign up here](#)

Lots of useful **Apprenticeship information** available on the UCAS website [here](#)

Join a Lloyds Banking Group **Virtual Insight Evening 'Get into Finance'** on Tuesday 1st April 2025, 5pm-6pm for students in Year 11-13. Sign up [here](#)

Find out about the **Tesco Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship Programme** which is now open for applications. More detail via this link [Stronger Starts Retail | Tesco Apprenticeships & Graduates](#)

And remember to have a look at the Careers pages on our school website to access the weekly Fortismere **Careers Newsletter** [here](#)

## LINC Department Notice

### Haringey SEND Power

Read SEND Power's latest Newsletter [here](#) and see links for upcoming events below

- Coffee morning for SEND parents, Tuesday 25th March. [More information](#)
- Walk and Talk in Highgate and Queen's Woods, Monday 7th April. [Link to flyer](#)
- Coffee morning for SEND parents, Tuesday 29th April. [More information](#)

## Fortismere Holiday Camps

### Easter Holiday Camps - Now Booking

Bookings are now open for our Easter Holiday Camps. Bookings are for Week 1 (7th April) or Week 2 (14th April). There are lots of different activities on offer but do book now as places fill up fast. See [this page](#) on our website for booking links.

## 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](mailto:safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk)

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using the My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.



## Friends of Fortismere PTA

### We're Official! Thank You & Next Steps

#### Key Takeaways from the Friends of Fortismere Launch Meeting:

- We're Official! Friends of Fortismere was officially registered as a charity as of 4pm on Tuesday.
- School Support: Co-Headteacher Zoe Judge welcomed the initiative, and we introduced Louise Prodromou (Director of Operations) and Sam Murray (Comms & Governance Lead), who will be our main school contacts.
- Summer Fair 2025 is ON! Date to be confirmed ASAP – we're going big with new ideas
- Fundraising: The focus will be on big-ticket, strategic, fundraising that makes a real difference to the school. To do this we need to develop a clear, targeted fundraising strategy, balancing school priorities with parent-identified needs in agreement with the school.
- Careers & Work Experience: We want to support the school to offer a stronger programme for students, improving access to work experience, careers advice, and networking opportunities.
- Get Involved! There are lots of ways to take part – and no one will be asked to take on anything alone unless they want to! Some roles (like Year Reps) are light-touch, and everything will have the support of the PTA committee.
- To start off, we're forming groups to drive: Summer Fair; Careers & Work Experience; Fundraising & Alumni Network; Gardening Club; Year Reps – helping to amplify PTA updates and organize year-based events

#### More Detail – Meeting Recap & Actions

- **A Revamped Summer Fair as Our First Big Event!** Everyone agreed that an ambitious, exciting Summer Fair in July 2025 would be the perfect way to kick-start the PTA's work. Ideas flowed, including: Ensuring students help shape what the fair includes; Making school bands central to the event; A dog show (yes really!!); A writers' tent; A classic car display
- **Fundraising – Aligning with School & Parent Priorities** We discussed how PTA fundraising will be complementary to school fundraising efforts. The primary focus will be on high-impact, strategic

fundraising that makes a real difference to the school – we need to develop a clear and targeted fundraising strategy, balancing school-identified priorities with parent-identified needs in agreement with the school. A great example raised by a parent was the idea of a dedicated SEND space/refuge for students who need it. Other fundraising ideas included: Exploring salary sacrifice schemes, corporate sponsorships, and match funding. Focusing on high-impact events that maximize fundraising potential while respecting everyone's limited time

- **Strengthening Careers & Work Experience for Students** A key goal is to support the school build a stronger programme that improves work experience placements, careers advice, and networking opportunities for students. A couple of recruitment experts volunteered to help shape this work. Starting point is a database of parents/carers willing to provide opportunities.
- **Website & Comms Support** One parent has volunteered to support a PTA web presence and possibly wider school-related website improvements. Another to help design flyers and posters.
- **Gardening Club** Lots of enthusiasm for a gardening group that involves students in improving the school's green spaces.

### Action Points – Here's How to Get Involved!

We're now looking for volunteers to join or help coordinate the following groups:



Summer Fair Team – Event planning, logistics, fundraising ideas



Fundraising & Alumni Network Team – Fundraising strategy, exploring new funding sources, engaging former students



Careers/Work Experience Team – Supporting school to provide students with networking and career advice opportunities



Year Reps – Keeping parents informed and helping organize year-based events as well as year specific volunteering opportunities at other events



Gardening Club – Helping to transform school green spaces

If you're interested in any of these, please reply to [friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk) First meetings will happen this month. Thanks again for your support – we're off to a fantastic start!

### Friends of Fortismere PTA

Contact us: [friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk)