


School Leadership Messages	Contents						
<p>Open Evening - Changes to the school day on 8th & 9th October</p> <p>Please note that school will close early on Wednesday 8th October to prepare the site for our Open Evening Event. <u>Students will be dismissed at 1.05pm.</u> Students who are returning to support events later in the day are being contacted separately with information about when they are required. Those who are provided lunch will be able to collect this from Canteens at break or before leaving.</p> <p>On Thursday 8th October school will be open for students from Period 2 so students should aim to be on site and heading for their classrooms at 9.30am</p> <p>Feedback at Fortismere</p> <p>A reminder that we continue to welcome feedback on an ongoing basis from parents about theirs or their child's experience of the school. The link to the feedback for is still in the blue box at the bottom of this page.</p> <p>Homework</p> <p>Following feedback received from our parents and teachers, we are finding ways to make homework more consistent and rigorous. To support this, we are trialling Sparx Reader and Sparx Science. Students are already using Sparx Maths and feedback about this resource has been very positive.</p> <p>The Science and English departments will be rolling out trials in their subjects in the coming weeks, starting with Key Stage 3 for Sparx Reader and Years 8 and 10 for Sparx Science. Students can continue to use the same login as they do for Sparx Maths and will see tasks for other subjects on the interface as they are set.</p> <p>Please let us know what you think using the Feedback at Fortismere Google Form.</p>	<p>Headteacher's Weekly Roundup</p> <p>Departmental News & Notices</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1018 920 1134 1016">08.10</td> <td data-bbox="1134 920 1509 1016">Y6 Open Evening 4pm-6.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1018 1016 1134 1178">15.10</td> <td data-bbox="1134 1016 1509 1178">Y7 Parent Welcome Event 4pm SW Y12 Parent Information Evening 4.30pm NW</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1018 1178 1134 1274">22.10</td> <td data-bbox="1134 1178 1509 1274">Sixth Form Open Evening - book here</td> </tr> </table> <div data-bbox="1107 1301 1422 1765">  <p>Friends of Fortismere Present FORTISMERE FIREWORKS!! WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025</p> <p>RIDES FOOD SILENT DISCO DRINKS</p> <p>5-9 pm (Fireworks at 8) Twyford Road Gate</p> <p>Tickets: £8 in advance, £10 on door (free admission for children u-5)</p> </div> <p>Get tickets here</p> <p>Feedback at Fortismere here</p>	08.10	Y6 Open Evening 4pm-6.30pm	15.10	Y7 Parent Welcome Event 4pm SW Y12 Parent Information Evening 4.30pm NW	22.10	Sixth Form Open Evening - book here
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Headteacher's Message

October is set to be another busy month here at Fortismere with our Open Evening taking place next week, followed by two parent welcome events the following week (Year 7 and Year 12 parents) and of course October is Black History month too. There will be more to follow on Black History Month activities in next week's Newsletter.

I am delighted to see so many of our students have volunteered to showcase our school next Wednesday at our Open Evening event. Some students are participating in departmental presentations and workshops that demonstrate the varied learning activities that take place across our subjects while others will be participating in performances and competitive sports. Some students will be exercising their excellent leadership skills and supporting visitors around our extensive site. We know that our visitors will get a real sense of the excitement there is around learning here at Fortismere and will be impressed with how engaged and motivated our students are. And they'll hear about it first hand. I am sure many of our current Fortismere parents will be attending with younger siblings so I very much look forward to seeing you all there.

Last night I attended a packed North Wing Music Hall where the music department hosted our Welcome Back concert. It wasn't just the hall that was packed. The programme was full of wonderfully eclectic music and delightful performances from students from Year 13 - Year 7. It was a really collaborative event with groups of students coming together to accompany and support each other in their performances, really highlighting how the community holds and supports each other here at Fortismere. I enjoyed judging the Year 7 music group singing competitions. Seeing Year 7 students having the confidence to take the stage, perform and really sing their hearts out will undoubtedly be one of this term's highlights for me. I truly hope this has given the students a taste for musical performance and that they will continue to participate in music throughout their time here. Mr Watson and his team pulled off another lovely community event.



Poignantly, the evening's finale was a beautiful performance from the whole ensemble of students (see photo above) who sang the Harry Styles' song, 'Treat people with kindness.' We talk about kindness as being the virtue that we value the most at Fortismere. This week when we have seen more intolerance and aggression in the form of yesterday's attack on a synagogue in Manchester we hold in mind those members of our community who are feeling the impact. We will continue to support each other with kindness, acceptance and tolerance.

I wish you all a peaceful weekend.

Listening and Engagement with Parents & Carers

A Survey to Gathering More Views

Further to the Listening and Engagement event with parents and carers last week are inviting our entire parent and carer community to contribute your voices to our process of rearticulating the vision of our school. Your insights, experiences, and aspirations will help us shape the future of Fortismere, building on our strengths, championing inclusion and individuality, and creating a culture where all learners thrive. We are keen to gather your views and ideas so are asking you to spare some time to respond to a series of questions relating to the following aspects of school life:

1. Communications
2. Curriculum and Learning
3. Pastoral Care
4. Extra-Curricular, Personal Development and Wellbeing
5. Inclusion and belonging
6. Sixth Form

We appreciate we are collecting a lot of feedback from you all at the moment so have kept the questions quite broad and have attempted to make the survey as compact as possible (It can be completed in no more than 5-10 minutes).

We are excited to be working collaboratively with our whole community as we recommit to Fortismere's identity as a school of high expectations, proud inclusivity, and individual opportunity.

Please click [here](#) for the survey.

Friends of Fortismere

FOF Gardeners Need Your Help!

Can you help us bring some springtime colour to Fortismere? The Friends of Fortismere Gardening Group will be planting springtime bulbs in the next few weeks and need your support. Can you help us with any of the following please:

- **Donate some bulbs** - The more bulbs we can plant the more colourful the school will look! Daffodil, tulip and snowdrop bulbs would be good but really any bulb will be welcome!
- **Help with some of the planting** - There will be two weekend planting sessions at the end of October/early November time. If you think you could help with this, even for an hour or so, please email friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk or join our WhatsApp group - see below.
- **Join our FOF Gardening WhatsApp group** - [click here to join](#) and we'll add you to the group

Bulb donations can be left at North Wing or South Wing Reception or you can leave them with Security Staff at the Tetherdown Gate. Thank you for your support with this.

FOF Gardening Group

Sixth Form

Sixth Form Open Evening Wednesday 22nd October – Booking Open

We are pleased to invite Y11 Fortismere students and their parents/carers to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 22nd October. Our Open Evening provides an opportunity for students and their parents to hear more about Sixth Form courses and life, and begin thinking about the transition beyond Y11.

For current Y11 Fortismere students, the evening will run from 4:00–5:30pm. You will be able to visit departments, meet subject teachers, and hear from our current Sixth Form students about life in the Sixth Form. Information about pastoral systems and wider aspects of Sixth Form life will be available in the Tetherdown Building, and refreshments can be purchased from the Sixth Form café. There will be a presentation from the Headteacher and the Director of Sixth Form in South Wing Hall.

Please note that students must be accompanied by a parent or other suitable adult, and should attend wearing their school lanyard. **Booking is required and places can be reserved using the form: [here](#)**
We look forward to seeing all of our Year 11s and their families there!

Year 12 Parental Information Evening - Wednesday 15th October 4.30pm

On Wednesday 15th October, Year 12 parents are invited into school for our parental information evening. The information shared on this evening will help us co-operate effectively between school and home to support Year 12 students in successfully navigating these crucial next two years of their academic lives.

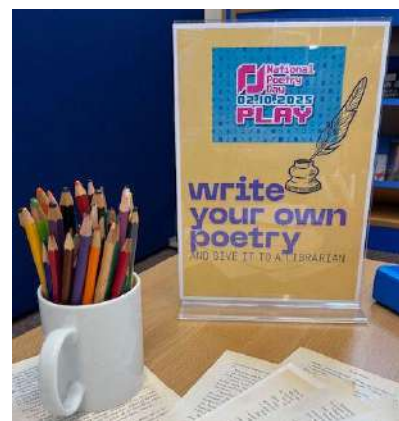
From 4.30-4.50pm, you can meet your young person's tutor and fellow Year 12 parents/carers. Parents should arrive via the North Wing entrance on Creighton Avenue at 4:20pm and will be directed to individual classrooms for each tutor group. This will be followed by a talk from Ms Bailey and Mr Kenny (Deputy Directors of Sixth Form Year 12) and Ms Common (Director of Sixth Form) from approximately 5.00-6.00pm. Please note that this afternoon is intended for parents and carers not the students themselves. Due to limited space in our NW Hall, we ask that one parent/carer attend for each student, however if this poses a difficulty for your family, please get in touch via SixthForm@fortismere.org.uk to discuss. We will also be recording the main presentation and sending it out to parents following the event if you are unable to attend. We are looking forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 15th October

Library

National Poetry Day 2025

National Poetry Day took place this week on Thursday 2nd October and the theme for 2025 was Play! Poetry like play involves imagination, creativity and experimentation. The event is coordinated by The Forward Arts Foundation - you can [read more about it here](#) and find some of their recommended poetry reads.

In the Library we have been encouraging students to not just read some poetry but to also write their own poetry and then give it to the librarian! We'd also be pleased to receive any parent/carer poetry so if you and your child want to get creative and play with poetry this weekend please remember to send any of your poems to the Fortismere Librarian!



Drama Department Notices

Exciting News: Casting for Jack and The Beanstalk!

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of sheer talent that auditioned for our upcoming pantomime '*Jack and the Beanstalk*' this year, and we can officially confirm that the cast list has now been posted outside of North Wing Hall.

We are really looking forward to starting rehearsals soon. More information about rehearsal dates, as well as backstage teams, coming soon! Thank you to everyone who auditioned and signed up to be on the production crew.



Inter-House Drama Festival: Wednesday 8th October 3.00-6.30pm

Thank you to all the students who have signed up to participate in our annual Inter-House Drama Festival taking place on Open Day afternoon next week. All students on the participant list have been emailed to confirm their attendance and to share further details about the Festival. Please ensure your child checks

their email in case they are on the participant list. We will also be emailing parents with information too, so please look out for that. We are really looking forward to a fun and creative evening with all the participating students next week!

Exploring Mask Work with Year 8

In Year 8 Drama for the first half of this term, we are studying and exploring all things Masks! The students have been learning about mask rules and how to apply them into performance, exploring mask based characterisation, as well as furthering their practise of mime and physicality.

Here are some of the Year 8 students in action, creating and rehearsing their scenes. We have seen some excellent creative work in lessons. Well done Year 8s!



Sport & PE

Haringey Table Tennis Competition

Congratulations to our Year 9/10 Table Tennis team who won the bronze medal on Monday this week in a Haringey Schools tournament. The Year 7/8 team put in a good effort and finished 5th, even though they were a few players short after some last minute drop outs. Well done to all the boys.



Middlesex Cup News Round Up

We travelled to Gladesmore School on Monday for the **first round of the U15s** in the Middlesex Cup. We were without a goalkeeper so the girls took turns - Alex did a great job in the first half and Sareiya and Salma both took a turn in the second half. There was great team spirit from everyone in what was a very close game - Leni scored first but Gladesmore came straight back to level it up. Millie scored just after the break to make it 2-1 but Gladesmore came back again and it was 2-2. Our girls showed great perseverance and determination and the winning goal finally came, scored by Millie to make it 3-2. Well done!



The **U16s** are also through to the next round after beating Ashmole 4-0 with 9 players! Well done to all of the girls. Etta Harding scored a brilliant hat-trick and Hollie and Annie linked up beautifully in a great one-two to score a fantastic goal - right in the top corner!



The **Year 8 Boys** played at home versus Harris Academy on Tuesday - it was a very lively game, with end to end action. We were losing 2-1 until late into the second half when we scored to equalise - the boys were so excited and it was well deserved but Harris Academy didn't stop and managed to score a very last minute winner. Such is sport!

The **Year 12/13 Boys** travelled to Enfield Grammar for a match on Wednesday - they had a great game and despite missing some of their key players won 7-0! Ethan Earnshaw scored a great first half hat-trick. One more game next week in the group stages against Ashmole and then hopefully progressing into the next round.



Fortismere Middlesex County Footballers

Really well done to Etta, Farrah and Arielle who have all successfully made it into the Middlesex Schools representative squad. This is an excellent achievement as there were lots of trialists, all at a very good standard. Good luck girls, I'm sure you will do us proud!



Upcoming Fixtures

Mon 6 Oct	Haringey Table Tennis Competition - Girls Year 7/8 and Year 9/10
Tue 7 Oct	Football Year 10 Boys v Heartlands KO 2.10pm
Wed 8 Oct	Fortismere Y6 Open Afternoon - <i>see below</i>
Thur 9 Oct	Netball Year 7/8 v Highgate Wood School @ Away

Year 6 Open Afternoon - Students Needed

On Wednesday afternoon we will be showing prospective students and their parents how great the Fortismere PE department is! We need some students to help us with this - if your child would like to take part in some badminton, pickleball, tennis, netball, trampolining or football displays. Tell them to come to the PE Office and collect a permission slip.

Music Department

A Wonderful Welcome Back!

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the concert last night to a packed music hall, especially Form 7YMu1 for their performance of Moving On Up by Primal Scream! Ms Judge judged them to be the winners of the singing competition!

And thank you to all the parents and carers for their amazing support.



Junior & Youth Choirs

Rehearsals start on Monday for the Christmas concerts! Any students wanting to join the choirs again or for the first time, this is a great moment to do so and you get to take part in the public concert at St Andrew's Church on 7th December, and the two festive concerts in school on 15th & 16th December. Students can just turn up - at lunchtime for Youth Choir and at 3.20pm for Junior Choir.

Instrumental & Vocal Lesson/School Ensembles

It's not too late for students to apply for lessons during the week and join the school ensembles - the application form is [here](#)

School of Rock - Spaces Available

It's been a great start to School of Rock this term! We still have space for a few more guitarists, vocalists or keyboard players in the morning session so email fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk today if you'd like to try it out on Saturday morning (9.45am-12.45 pm).

Geography Department

Year 9 Battersea Power Station Trips

We are really looking forward to the start of our Year 9 Geography trips to Battersea Power Station next week on Thursday, where we will be undertaking a variety of fieldwork techniques to find out more about land use changes in the area. Please remind your child that we will be meeting at Twyford entrance at 08:35am. Students should have their school bags, equipment, suitable clothing and a packed lunch for the day. Please see the timetable below for when pupils are scheduled to be on the trip.

Date	Class 1	Class 2
Thursday 9 October	9Z1/9LOB	9X1/9MBR
Friday 10 October	9Z2/9NDF	9X2/9TMC
Monday 13 October	9Z3/9MHA	9Y1/9KRO
Tuesday 14 October	9Y2/9LCH	9X3/9AHL
Wednesday 15 October	9Y3/9AHN	

If you have not yet filled in a **permission slip**, please do so now - [link here](#). All of the information for the trip can also be found on this link. Payment for the trip is under the 'shop' tab on ParentPay.

If you have any questions, please contact abrough@fortismere.org.uk We are looking forward to taking your child to Battersea and hope that they will have an enjoyable experience!

Ms Brough

Careers & Work Related Learning

KS4 Students - Future Choices Careers Assembly

Over the last ten days, Key stage 4 students have participated in the Future Choices Careers Assembly. The presentations have provided valuable insights into a range of professional pathways and emphasised the importance of thoughtful decision-making when considering and making post-16 choices.

As presented in the assembly, we want all our students to make good use of the UNIFROG Careers Library so they can make well informed choices about their futures. The assembly encouraged students to undertake their UNIFROG skills audit at home - the audit will help them to self-assess their skills set and begin to consider their interests and strengths to support planning their academic and career trajectories. You can support your child with this at home as all the resources from the assembly presentations and details of the UNIFROG website are in the Y10 and Y11 Google Classrooms.

Student Health & Wellbeing

Medical Tracker System

To support the health and wellbeing of our students we are introducing a new system called Medical Tracker – this will help the school to accurately log details about a student's medical condition including medication, the care plan, day-to-day incidents and any first aid given in school.

Welfare staff will also use Medical Tracker to notify and communicate with parents and carers about their child including any first aid incidents, management and administration of their prescribed medication and care plan reviews. Notifications will be sent via Medical Tracker to the primary email address that is logged on SIMS for your child. Email messages will be sent from this email address:

donotreply@medicaltracker.co.uk **Please add this address to your email address book or approved sender list to prevent Medical Tracker messages from being blocked by your spam or junk filters.**

If you want to know more about Medical Tracker have a look on their website [here](#) and if you have any questions or queries about it please contact the school office on 0208 965 4400 or email your enquiry to office@fortismere.org.uk

Pastoral Notices

Key Stage 3 Next Week

Next week, Year 7 will be continuing with their transition programme, discussing friendship and boundaries. Years 8 and 9 will both be exploring and celebrating Black History Month. Year 8 will be discussing 'What is Black History Month and why do we celebrate it?' and Year 9 will be reflecting on 'Why does it matter whose

stories we hear?' We hope all students engage in these topics and have something interesting to talk about when they get home.

Curriculum Notice

Year 11 Parents/Carers - English

In preparation for their Mock exams (and real exams), students are currently revising *the Worlds and Lives Poems* once a week as an additional intervention session. The two poems that are set every week will appear as a homework task on your child's Google Classroom English page. Please can you encourage your child to engage with the poems and undertake that homework in advance of the Wednesday Poetry Revision sessions. Thank you for your support.

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.

