

School Leadership Messages	Contents							
<p>Covid Update: New guidance</p> <p>New guidance for schools was issued by the DfE on January 19th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From 11 January a positive lateral flow test for students with no symptoms does not need to be confirmed by a positive PCR (there are exceptions, please see the Government guidance). - From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. - Positive lateral flow tests must be reported to the NHS so that normal track and trace procedures can be followed. - We will continue to supply packs of 7 LFTs to our students. - Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. - It is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all students of secondary age and above. Fortismere will continue to provide LFT testing kits. <p>Very close contacts</p> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for 7 days: testing should start from when the first person in the home tests positive as household transmission is very likely to happen. If at any time the student becomes symptomatic, they must stay at home and arrange for a PCR test immediately (regardless of having already had a negative PCR test result).</p> <p>Face coverings</p> <p>Students are no longer required to wear masks in lessons but may do so if they wish. We are requesting students to continue to wear masks in the communal areas and assemblies so that we can continue to keep each other safe.</p>	Co-Headteachers							
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Congratulations to Y13 for the completion of their mock exams. This week it has been the turn of Y11, who are now half way through their mock exams. We have been impressed by the seriousness and maturity of Y11's approach to the exams. The students have been well organised and focused and we expect their hard work to be rewarded with the results they deserve.

It is not just Y13 and Y11 who have impressed us this week with their behaviour. On Wednesday, the Drama Department took a group of Y10 students to see the play 'Ocean at the End of the Lane'. Their attitude throughout the play was so exemplary that the Co-Heads received an email saying: "Many congratulations to your GCSE students for being so well mannered and attentive in the play tonight, it was a delight to sit with them." We often have cause to be proud of our students but it is an extra pleasure to receive such positive feedback from members of the public.

Today Y9 students are off-timetable in order to learn all they need to know about option choices, future pathways and careers. They are being treated to a variety of different activities and learning opportunities which will support them in choosing their Y10 subjects. This is followed up by meetings with parents and carers next week. Fortismere has an unusually wide choice of GCSEs and Btcs and students need guidance when trying to narrow down their interests. We encourage students to think about the breadth of their choices: the expressive and creative arts are a real strength at this school and in addition to adding balance to what are often quite academic choices, they are real fun to learn. Fortismere has a history of producing highly regarded actors, musicians and artists and it is a tradition we would seek to continue.

As the local community continues to emerge from Covid restrictions, we are aware that Muswell Hill is not always a safe place for our students. Parents have informed us of after school acts of criminality including muggings that have taken place on the Broadway. We would urge students not to linger on the Broadway after school and where possible, to be with friends. In the past, local shops have provided a haven for students who feel threatened and we will work with the local police to ensure that this is still the case.

Although sadly, these events do happen we would like to stress that most of our students thankfully do not get to experience this type of anti-social and frightening behaviour. We continue to be an area and school where young people thrive. And on that note, we wish you all a peaceful and slightly warmer weekend.

Co-headteachers Surgeries

Co-headteachers' Surgeries are taking place during the course of this and present parents who have booked an appointment the opportunity to talk directly to the Co-headteachers about any aspect of school policy or practice that they would like to comment on. It may be to share their experience or it may be to understand a little more about an aspect of the school. The Surgeries should not be used to bring up specific concerns about an individual child as such concerns should be raised by contacting the school and where appropriate, raising a complaint. We have a robust complaints process at Fortismere which is designed to escalate any unresolved concerns through the school management hierarchy and will better serve any parent who wants to raise such concerns. If there are any parents who would like to attend our first surgery on **Wednesday 2 February from 2pm-3pm**, please click the link to the online form [here](#). You will be contacted by us and assigned an appointment. There will be a limited number of appointment slots which will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. However, if these slots are all filled up for the January Surgery we will offer an appointment in one of the subsequent surgeries. **The meeting will be virtual and are calendared to take place on the following Wednesdays from 2pm - 3pm: 2 February, 23 March, 4 May, 22 June**



Absences from Mocks due to Covid

If you are absent from your mock exams due to Covid we request that you provide us with evidence which we will then be able to use in the event of the cancellation of the formal exams. The evidence should take the form of either:

1. NHS confirmation of a positive Lateral Flow Test - must include name and date
2. NHS confirmation of a positive PCR Test - must include name and date
3. Contact from NHS Track and Trace requesting that you isolate - must include name and date.

This evidence should be emailed to your Head of Year and our Exams Officer (Ruth Robson).

Mocks and Masks

Students are permitted to remove masks while writing their mocks but must wear them on entering and leaving the exam hall or room.

Parent and Carer Workshops

Fortismere is hosting two Virtual Parent/Carer workshops on **Dealing with Anxiety**. The session will be facilitated by Dr Sarah Sivers, Educational Psychologist (Place2Be) and Tania Bashar, Fortismere School Project Manager (Place2Be).

Session 1

Date: Tuesday 25th January 2022
Time: 9:00 am - 9:45 am (30 Places)
Venue: Online - Link to follow registration

Session 2

Date: Tuesday 25th January 2022
Time: 10:00 am - 10:45 am (30 Places)
Venue: Online - Link to follow registration

To reserve your place please email **Ms Harris; rharris@fortismere.org.uk** with the following information:

1. Preferred session time 9am or 10am
2. Name of your child/ren and form group.

This information is used to verify that you are a parent/carers of a student at our school.

Ms R Harris
Parent and Student Engagement Officer

Governing Body Notice

Parent Governor Vacancies

We are looking for two new parent governors to join the governing body. Parent governors are elected by other parents/carers at the school. Any parent/carers of a registered pupil is eligible to stand, except someone who is an elected member of the council or someone paid to work at the school.

If you would like to nominate yourself please email smurray@fortismere.org.uk by **Friday 4th February 2022**. An election will be held if there are more than two nominations. Candidates will be asked to write a brief statement explaining why they wish to become a parent governor and what skills and experience they can bring. You can find information about the governing body on the school website and a flyer setting out the role of a governor attached to the Newsletter. If you want to discuss the role of a parent governor in more detail or to speak with a current governor please get in touch

KS4/KS5 Work Experience Opportunity

Aspiring Medics Dentists & Vets Online Work Experience

The largest free national work experience programme for your aspiring medical, dental and veterinary students has returned. This was developed last year in partnership with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust and it is free for students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to participate in. This programme offers E-learning courses that students can complete in their own time. Students have 1 month to complete each session, and once they have completed the programme they will receive a certificate from Medic Mentor and UHB as evidence of their participation. Medical Schools are accepting virtual work experience as an alternative to in-person work experience in light of the pandemic and reduced access to placements.

Participation in the virtual work experience will also provide students (and their parents) with several opportunities to speak to doctors, dentists and vets continuously throughout the academic year. They will be able to do this on Tuesday evenings and most weekends, for free. They can also call the Mentor Helpline number 01530 417 299 from 10am-5pm Mon-Fri if they would like advice on careers or applying to medical, dental, vet school. Mostly this number is manned by Doctors. Medic Mentor is a non-profit social enterprise and all of our proceeds are reinvested in supporting students to make informed career decisions.

Registering for these programmes could not be easier, all they need to do is complete the free online application form for:

Medicine: <https://medicmentor.co.uk/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Dentistry: <https://medicmentor.co.uk/dental-live-virtual-work-experience/>

Veterinary: <https://medicmentor.co.uk/veterinary-virtual-live-work-experience/>

Students benefited greatly from these programmes last year. Here are some of our feedback videos:

Student Feedback: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVHw3K0h5S>

Modern Languages Department Notices

Year 7 - French Assessment (except for MEP students)

Year 7s have been learning French for the last 6 weeks and will be doing their French Assessment on the week of 7th of February. More information will be sent soon via ParentMail with exact dates and modules covered.

Students in general have found spelling and pronunciation slightly more challenging in French than in Spanish so we encourage all students to do some independent revision in [quizlet](#) or [linguascope](#) to help with spelling and pronunciation.

Year 8 & 9 - Hinge Assessments

All Year 8s and 9s have been completing Hinge Assessments this week. Students have performed generally well on these but it's a reminder that in languages students need to keep revising vocabulary and grammar not only from the current topic but from previous topics.

Year 11 Mocks & Targeted Revision Sessions

Students have started their mocks this week while still attending lessons. We would like to express how committed students have still been to language lessons in this period and we wish them all the best in their assessments.

Parents have been informed of targeted revision sessions for some Yr11 students. Below is a reminder of when the ML sessions run with a little amendment for the Spanish ones:

French - Thursdays Week 1 and Week 2 - Lunch time in N16

Mandarin - Wednesdays Week 1 and Week 2 - After school in N20

Spanish - Tuesdays **Week 1** - After School in N18// Fridays **Week 2** - Lunch time in LINC

Year 13 Mocks

Students are coming to an end of their mocks period and we are looking forward to seeing them in lessons next week.

Students will be having a speaking mock at the beginning of February. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to get an overview of how the real exam will be conducted in May. Students will get more information and advice in the upcoming lessons.

What's on

The new Almodóvar film, ***Madres Paralelas*** (Parallel Mothers) is out next week and it's always a great opportunity for our Spanish A Level students to get into the 'Almodóvar's mindset' given that we study one of his films in the A Level course. You can find more information and passes at the BFI [here](#)



Year 7 History

Castle Competition Winners

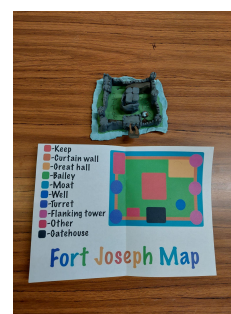
Many Year 7 students took part in a competition to build a Norman castle. There were lots of excellent entries, which were judged by a panel of Year 10 experts (who have studied Anglo-Saxons and Normans at GCSE) and teachers. Congratulations to the winners:

1st Place - Anthony Trzcinski

2nd Place (Joint) - Joseph Hannon

2nd Place (Joint) - Amber Trussell, Rose Beverley, Nadia Kosinska

3rd Place - Thea Samtani



Music Department Notices

Notice - Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Whilst the Music Department will make every endeavour to ensure that lessons can be made up or refunded if there has been absence on the part of the teacher it is the responsibility of the pupil or parent to inform us of any clashes that may arise. These include school trips, class assessments and examinations.

We adhere to this policy because we do not have enough time to go through each pupil's timetable of events during the week so we must rely upon parents and students to inform us of any issues with timetabling.

We will of course talk to the instrumental teacher and ask if there is any chance that some of the time can be made up later in the term but this is at the discretion of the peripatetic teacher and dependent upon time restraints within the school day.

Ensembles this term

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech MU1 School Orchestra Concert Hall
Tuesday	Senior Choir Concert Hall Percussion Group MU1 Popular Guitars MU2	Jazz Band Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	Big Band Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	Junior Choir Concert Hall DJ Club MU4	KS4 Music Tech MU4
Friday	Junior String Group MU2	Classical Guitar Group Concert Hall
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (11:30am - 12:30pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm)	

Concerts in the Spring Term

Our school concerts will start with **Music and Poetry on Thursday 10th February at 7pm**. Musicians that want to perform should contact the Director of Music at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk. This concert is suitable for all year groups and we would like to see a variety of musical styles from students.

On **Thursday 24th March at 7pm** you are invited to attend our **A Level Recital** evening given by our Year 12 and 13 students in the Music Concert Hall. There will be performances on Flamenco Guitar, Electric Guitar, Voice, Trombone and Cello in a vast array of styles so please feel free to come along to hear some of our most senior performers.

Tickets for all school and community concerts can be purchased at the Music Department website.
www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Tuesday Evenings

The orchestra has started again in its regular slot of 7-9pm on Tuesday evenings in the Music Concert Hall and this term they will be playing Louis Farrenc's *Overture No. 1*, Bruch's *Concerto for Viola and Clarinet* and *Symphony No. 5* by Sibelius.

The concert will take place on Saturday 26th March at St Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill at 7pm and remember that tickets for children are free!

We welcome new players young and old to the group but would suggest that as a string player you are of a grade 7 plus standard and if you play wind or brass please contact the FMC manager Joe Winters so that he can put you in touch with the groups musical director by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £40 for students or concessions.

Discarded instruments in the Music Block

We have a great deal of old instruments that have been left in the Music Block over the last few years that need to be collected by their owners. **These instruments will be donated to Music Services if they are not claimed by January 31/01/22** since they are taking up space and we have advertised their presence in the department on several occasions in the past.

Fortismere Music Centre - Saturday Lessons

The Fortismere Music Centre has opened its doors again for this term and offers lessons for both children and adults. If you are interested in lessons for either yourself or your child, get in touch by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk, it's never too late to learn!

The centre offers lessons on a range of instruments and full details can be found at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.

Fortismere Community Choir - Saturday Morning

The Community Choir will begin work on the ***Von Suppe Requiem*** from January 2022 for a concert in Easter. This is a non **auditioned choir** and we welcome members from across the Fortismere Community so get in touch if you are free on a Saturday morning and would like the chance to perform in a friendly and fun group by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £80 for fundraising membership, student participation is free and is open to Year 10 to Year 13 pupils.

New Ballet - Appalachian Spring and Ulvshale Strand

I have had several students and parents asking for more information in regards to the new dance pieces that we are producing at Fortismere.

We are looking at creating two new pieces of work for a performance at Jackson's Lane in Highgate.

- 1) A contemporary dance to Copland's Appalachian Spring
- 2) A new Ballet to a commissioned work by Thomas Gregory

Both works will involve students working with professional choreographers for a performance in November 2022 and the dancers will be accompanied by a mixture of professional and student musicians who will create a small chamber orchestra that will also appear on stage.

We will be organizing workshops in March 2022 for students to discuss and begin to work on ideas for the event and we would like as many dancers as possible involved in the project.

If this sounds like something you would like to get involved with please let me know by emailing ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk. We are also looking for funding and sponsorship for this project so if you would like to help or know of someone that might please get in touch.

PE Department Notices

Extra-Curricular & After School Clubs

Attached to this week's Newsletter is the new Extra-Curricular timetable for the next few weeks. Please try to come to as much as you can. Remember that Fixtures, matches, competitions are announced (weekly) in addition to the programme below.

We have also struck up a partnership with Middlesex Squash who have designed a programme exclusively for Fortismere. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn a new sport and be coached by the highest quality coaches. All standards of player, including absolute beginners, are welcome.

Don't forget to let Mr Orton have news of your sporting participation and achievements outside of school.

Bronze For Year 8 Athletes

On Wednesday afternoon our very finest Y8 athletes made the short trip to St Thomas More School to compete in the Haringey Borough Sports Hall Athletics Championship. Although we only managed to have one full training session our youngsters were superb with both Boys and Girls finishing in 3d position out of 12 teams. We were so proud of their performances.



Howzat Again? Cricket Silver For Y9/10 Girls

In this week's Haringey Indoor Cricket Champs the Y9/10 girls managed to replicate their Y7/8 colleagues performance and make it all the way to the final. Again just losing out, in an agonising last over, to Highgate. Many of our girls were playing for the first time and it speaks volumes for their talent that they reached the borough final. Well Done Girls!.



Good Luck To Our Table Tennis Stars

As you read this 4 of our best Table Tennis Players will be competing in the All England Schools, National Individual Table Tennis Championship first Round. We wish Dam Gabriel, Euan Hacking, Noah Hacking and Barney Mindlin all the very best of luck. Results next week.



Fortismere Runners Look Forward To Cross-Country Champs

This coming Thursday (27th) a number of Fortismere's best Cross-Country Runners will be representing Haringey in the County Championships taking place at Harrow School. We wish all our runners the very best of luck. Go Haringey!



Fixtures

FIXTURES NEXT WEEK

Monday – Football Y8 C & D v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

Tuesday – Football Y7 A, B & C V Highgate (A) 2.15 KO

Tuesday – Indoor Cricket Y7/8 Boys at Fortismere 3-5pm

Wednesday- Sports Hall Athletics Borough Champs – Y7 at St Thomas More 3.00-5.30

Thursday – Y9 A & B v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

Thursday Cross Country – County Champs at Harrow

Friday – Football Y7 C & D v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

School Clubs

Lunchtime Game Development Club

Gamedev society is a club centred around video game development. In it, students will be able to focus on learning and practising game development, using programs such as scratch and stencyl, and encouraging members to expand their perspectives on game development. Each week, there will be a presentation which will cover an aspect of development in order to stoke discussion, and there will be further activities for development outside of school. The club will meet on Tuesdays at 12:30 in S33.

Tuesday Lunchtime Club at S33 - Game Development Society - Mr Ovayol



Library Notices

Book Club News

Students in our Year 7 **Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award** Group are enjoying bookish activities and biscuits every Friday lunchtime in the library. There are still places for new members who would like to join the fun in preparation for our day out at Alexandra Palace at the end of March when we'll be meeting all the shortlisted authors (and other luminaries!) as well as students from schools around the borough.



We have now received a superb collection of books from the Historical Association. The **Young Quills Award** is unique in that it is the readers – our students – who decide the shortlist. We welcome students from any year group to join us on the judging panel and will be starting to lend out the books during our meeting on Friday 28th January, lunchtime in the library (bring your lunch!)

Fortismere was once again chosen to form a judging panel for this year's **Royal Society Young People's Book Prize** [Young People's Book Prize - Children's Science Books | Royal Society](#). Students from Y7/8 Science Club, supervised by Ms Hall from the Science department and Mrs Cockerham, enjoyed looking through the shortlisted books in the library and going back to the labs with Ms Hall to conduct experiments. Some great reviews were written and we have now sent our group's results back to the Royal Society – as you can see, Fortismere's favourite was Agent Asha (now available in the library!)



Date for your Diary

Eve Wersocki Morris (Fortismere alumnus, 2014) will be signing copies of her debut MG novel in Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop on Saturday 4th February, 3-4 pm. Hope to see you there! (The book is fantastic, by the way...)



Recommended Reads of the Week

With Friday 21st January being National Hug Day, here are some wonderful books that you can cuddle up with!



Half-Term Holiday Activities

February Half-Term Holiday Camps - Available To The Community

With Lots of fun and games to enjoy from Dance, Art, Robotics and Coding to Street Dance and multi sports, holiday camps are ideal if you find it hard to juggle work and keep the children entertained. The Camps will also support social interaction lost during the lockdown.

Activities will run between **09.00am-15.00 pm** each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The full week will cost £80*, an **08.00 am** drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Sports Age 7-15

This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounder's, tennis and competitions.

To book your child's place please click the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-multisport-age-6-15-tickets-232072835097>

Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre Age 6-12

Jo Johnston will be teaching

Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity when story telling through dance. The participants will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of

time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-half-term-camp-dance-ballet-tap-musical-theatre-age-6-12-tickets-232073507107>

Comic Course Age 7-15

1. INTRODUCTION:

Overview of comics and cartoon history and how they been used for storytelling and communication

2. BASIC ANATOMY:

Showing how the human body works and is designed to move.

3. CHARACTER DESIGN:

How to work up designs for different types of characters and how they fit into the stories you want to tell.

4. STORYTELLING:

Overview of comics storytelling, layout and structure.

5. SCRIPTING & LETTERING:

A look at the basics of comics scriptwriting and how to produce clear lettering by hand for comics.

6. COLOURING:

An exploration of different colouring techniques (including, if possible, computer colouring).

7. COMIC STRIP:

Using the skills gathered so far, students will work on their own comic stories.

8. COMPLETE FINISHED COMIC:

By the end of the course each student will produce their own complete 8 - 12 page comic strip.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-half-term-camp-one-week-comic-course-tickets-232074811007>

Art Club Age 8-15

Art Pole will be bringing art exploration to Fortismere through our limited 5 day course. Students will make life sketches, collages and cut-outs from old magazines and plain paper and will also build towers and spaceships out of cardboard and glue then turn these structures into graphics or technical drawings. These activities will open the eyes of young people to the world of artists, designers and architects.

Anyone from 8 years old is welcome. Our environment is encouraging, inclusive and non-competitive allowing students to move at their own pace and thus develop their unique skill-set.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-art-camp-age-8-15-tickets-232079474957>

Street Dance Age 7-15

Students will learn routines and steps from this popular dance style. Jakub will be running our Street Dance Club.

Jakub started dancing Hip-Hop when he was 15 years old training in North London. He trained with Zoo Nation, performing with their company and alongside this creating a company called PDK. PDK has worked in the industry for over 10 years, changing how the dance scene see Hip-Hop and Street Styles. He studied Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at the Urdang Academy. Jakub has worked in the industry for over 5 years, teaching in different countries and working with clients like : Netflix, Adidas, Jungle, Bastille, Off-White, L'Oreal, Labrinth, Emile Sande, Little Simz, and many more. Jakub specialises in Hip-Hop, Commercial, Contemporary, Jazz Funk and Improvisation.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-street-dance-age-7-15-tickets-232080508047>