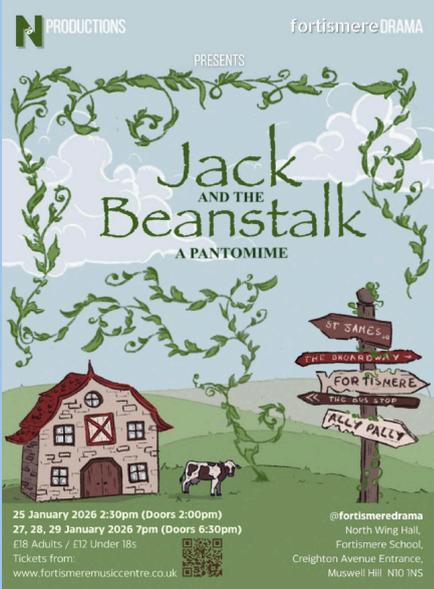


School Leadership Messages	Contents				
<p><b>Fortismere Term Dates 2026-27</b></p> <p>Please find <i>attached</i> term dates for the next academic year which are now also available to download from our website <a href="#">here</a></p> <p><b>The New OFSTED Framework</b></p> <p>Please find <i>attached</i> a letter for parents from Jane Edwards, Director of Schools and Learning at London Borough of Haringey.</p> <p>This letter contains important information about the changes to the way OFSTED grade schools in their inspections.</p> <p>We will be arranging an online session for Fortismere parents later this term with the Haringey Education Partnership on the changes to the way OFSTED inspects schools and what this might mean for parents.</p> <p>Watch this space for dates.</p> <p><b>Feedback at Fortismere</b></p> <p>Don't forget that our Feedback at Fortismere form is live and can be accessed via the link at the bottom of this page.</p> <p>It was great to see <b>Year 11 Parents</b> this Wednesday at our subject feedback evening. This was an incredibly important session given the impending examinations. We hope that parents found the evening useful and would particularly value feedback on the event via our feedback form.</p>	<p><b>Headteacher's Weekly Roundup</b></p> <p><b>Departmental News &amp; Notices</b></p> <p><b>Safeguarding Information</b></p> <p><b>Calendar</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1013 920 1150 1025">21.01</td> <td data-bbox="1150 920 1516 1025">Y12 Parents Evening (in person)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1013 1025 1150 1198">25.01 &amp; 27-29.01</td> <td data-bbox="1150 1025 1516 1198">Fortismere Drama Dept Jack &amp; The Beanstalk <a href="#">Tickets here</a></td> </tr> </table>	21.01	Y12 Parents Evening (in person)	25.01 & 27-29.01	Fortismere Drama Dept Jack & The Beanstalk <a href="#">Tickets here</a>
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## Headteacher's Message

I'd like to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I hope all of our Fortismere families enjoyed a peaceful holiday season.

We have returned to some very challenging weather and while we have been fortunate to escape snow and 100mph winds, it certainly has been pretty chilly up here. A reminder to everyone to keep an eye on forecast temperatures and ensure that your children are wearing an appropriate number of layers and winter accessories, as they do travel a lot during the day.

I hope parents have had the opportunity to read my letter (sent earlier today) outlining Fortismere's new Vision and Values statement that has been updated following our extensive engagement process last term. In case you haven't yet clicked onto this ParentMail, you can read the letter [here](#). It feels great to start a fresh new calendar year having articulated our vision as a community with a clear sense of who we are as a school and where we are going. We can't understate how valuable we have found engaging with you all throughout this process. Don't forget, we are here for your feedback! If you have any views on what we are doing here, we want to hear about them via our Feedback at Fortismere form (link on the front page of today's Newsletter).

Our vision very much encapsulates the way that ambition, curiosity and creativity are part of the fabric of our school. This is no more evident than in our incredibly ambitious pantomime. Rehearsals have been in full swing this week and things are looking incredibly exciting indeed. Having spied on some of the work going on, I know audiences will be amazed by the scale of the production and the creativity that has gone into all aspects of the show from the music, the script, the set design and the technical effects. This is a whole school event in its truest sense, so make sure you bag tickets while they are still available.

We have also noted that this new year marks the beginning of the National Year of Reading and we will be using this moment as an opportunity to inspire our students to read and take every opportunity to remind them of the benefits of reading a range of texts. Perhaps they will be inspired by the three visiting authors we have coming to Fortismere this term to talk to students about their novels: Fetin Saridneh (author of 'The Jinn's Bargain'), Kimberley Whittam (author of 'The Quiet Storm') and Jess Popplewell (author of 'The Dark Within Us') will all be joining us at some point.

With that, I'll wish you a wonderful and restful weekend.

## Governing Board

### New Parent Governors Elected

We are pleased to welcome our two new parents governors to the board - Alexa Charnley and Martin Gibbins were the successful candidates in the recent election. They will serve a four-year term of office. Thank you to all the candidates - it was really positive to see so many parents willing to stand and it shows the strong engagement between families and our school. There will be more opportunities for new parent governors later in the academic year.

### Let Us Know What You Think - Changes to Sixth Form Academic Entry Requirements

A reminder that the governing board are consulting on proposed changes to sixth form academic entry requirements and would like to hear your views on the proposals. Full details were sent in a Parentmail and are available on the school website [here](#). The consultation runs until 31st January.

## Extra Curricular & Enrichment

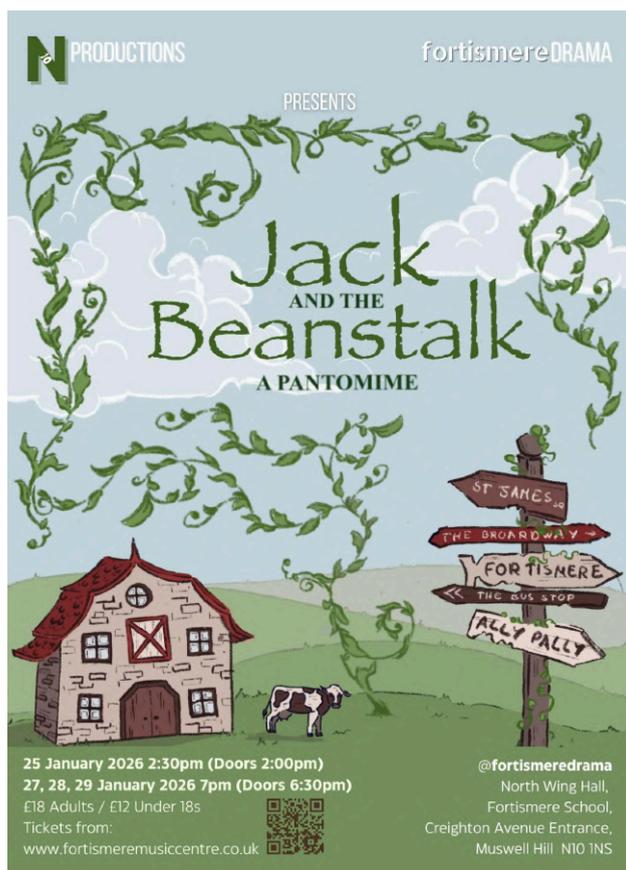
### Former Student to Speak on Climate Change - Friday 16th Jan 2.30pm SW Hall

We are really excited that one of our former students, Noam Vogt-Vincent, is visiting Fortismere to speak to students and staff about his work on climate change and coral reefs. Noam left Fortismere in 2015 and studied Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford. Since then he has completed a PhD in oceanography, spent time working in Germany and Japan and carried out research in Hawaii, finally returning to the University of Oxford in 2025 as Associate Professor of Climate Science.

Noam's talk will probably be most suited to Key Stage 4/5 students, but we would also encourage any students who are interested in this topic or in study and careers in this field to also come along and hear Noam speak as we are sure it will be an inspiring experience. Please encourage your child to take up this opportunity.

## Drama Department

### Pantomime Tickets Now on Sale!



**N10 Productions and  
Fortismere Drama present:**

### **Jack and the Beanstalk** **A giant problem...** **an even bigger adventure!**

When the struggling Trott family farm is threatened by a band of ruthless property developers determined to plonk a train station where no one wants one, young Jack Trott leaps into action. After being duped by a shady Bean Dealer Gang and losing beloved Daisy the Cow, Jack finds himself with nothing but a handful of so-called magic beans.

But when a towering beanstalk bursts into the sky, horrifying the bougie neighbours and baffling the local farmers, Jack discovers his only hope is to climb it. Alongside Jill, a cast of lost fairytale characters, and a few surprisingly helpful magical beans, Jack must outwit the Giant's mischievous minions and save the family farm before it's flattened into a railway platform.

Packed with belly laughs, big songs, wild magic, and giant-sized surprises, this is the ultimate family pantomime adventure.

Book now and join Jack for the climb of his life! Tickets: <https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/concerts>  
Our shows always sell out in advance, so buy tickets early and help us fundraise to provide more amazing opportunities and professional equipment for our students.

## Library Notices

### National Year of Reading

**Did you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading?** The National Literacy Trust, in partnership with the Department for Education are running a campaign to reignite a nationwide passion for reading. The “Go All In” campaign aims to tackle the decline in reading enjoyment amongst children, young people and adults. The key message is if you’re into it, read into it!



We are of course delighted by this initiative, and Fortismere students seem to be off to a great start; with lots of students already coming into the library to exchange and renew their books. We are looking forward to getting involved in the campaign this year and hope to find ways to encourage even our most reluctant readers to *Go All In* and enjoy the pleasure of a good read!

You can find out more about the National Year of Reading and how families can get involved at the website <https://goallin.org.uk/>

### Author Visits

The Library is looking forward to hosting three fabulous authors this term - they will be in school to give talks and run workshops with a variety of students. We do have most of their books in the library already and we will get some more copies. If your child has their own copy of books by these authors they could bring them in to school for signing when the authors visit.



## Modern Languages Notice

### Sixth Form China Trip

In December we took a group of Year 12 and Year 13 students on a 10-day trip to China. Our students gained valuable insight into both ancient and contemporary China through visits to Nanjing - China's former capital of multiple dynasties and a key centre of the modern republic; Zhenjiang - a historic Yangtze treaty port with British trade connections; and the modern metropolis of Shanghai.

During the visit, students participated in a range of collaborative activities with peers at two Chinese high schools and a university. They connected through sports, art, poetry, music, dance, and cultural showcases. Our students delivered presentations and sang in Mandarin for their Chinese peers. Esti Bergeron Jacobs (Y13) presented a beautiful painting of the view from Alexandra Palace during an art exchange. Students also formed strong friendships with their Chinese buddies, exchanging postcards, gifts and handmade artefacts, and planning to continue communicating online.

The group experienced a variety of expert-led cultural workshops, including paper quilling art, making traditional Chinese medicine bracelets, practising lacquer painting and calligraphy, and playing Chinese

musical instruments. Overall, the trip was an inspiring and unforgettable learning experience, as reflected in the student feedback below.

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of this trip, especially the traditional fan-decorating activity, visiting the Yuejiang Lou Tower overlooking the Yangtze River, and riding bikes down the Nanjing city wall. I also had an amazing time getting to know the Chinese students and learning about the differences in our cultures and education. I found every excursion and meal incredibly interesting and fun, and I am so grateful for the great number of organised activities I got to take part in."*

*"Visiting museums, seeing historical landmarks, and trying new foods allowed me to learn far beyond what a classroom could offer. Each experience helped me better understand China's history, traditions and daily life, while also encouraging me to step outside my comfort zone."*



## Sport & PE Notices

### Year 8 Indoor Cricket Champions

Congratulations to our Year 8 Cricket team who were crowned champions of Haringey on Monday! They beat St Thomas More in the final with a convincing win - Fortismere 85 v St Thomas More 30. Well done to Hannah who was girl of the match, scoring over 30 runs and Eilidh for taking a wicket on her first ball. Well done to all.



## Update to Extra Curricular Timetable

There have been a few changes to the extra curricular timetable for January 2026 - an updated version is available [on the website here](#)

## Cold Weather PE Kit

PE classes are currently being held indoors due to the cold and wet weather conditions. Please ensure that your child still has the correct PE kit for their lesson. We allow tracksuit bottoms to be worn but they must be dark blue or black, we also allow under garments to be worn under the Fortismere PE top or the Fortismere fleece. Ugg boots, pyjama bottoms and crocs are not allowed and a reminder that long hair must be tied back with a hairband. Negative points will be issued for incorrect kit.

## Upcoming Fixtures

<b>Mon 12.01.26</b>	U16 Middlesex Cup v Queen's Park at Away meet at 1.30pm. U15 Haringey Indoor Cricket at Home meet at 1.45pm. Y10 Boys v HGW at Away meet at 2.20pm
<b>Tue 13.01.26</b>	U13 Girls Football v Lea Valley at Home meet at 1.30pm
<b>Wed 14.01.26</b>	Y8 Indoor Athletics meet at 2.30pm
<b>Thur 15.01.26</b>	Y7 Girls Middlesex Cup v Brent School at Away meet at 1.00pm
<b>Fri 16.01.26</b>	Y7 & Y9 Netball Finals at APS meet at 12pm

## LINC Notice

### EBSA Parents' Conference - Haringey SEND Want Your Views

**Haringey SEND** service are organising a conference in the summer for parents whose children are out of school for emotional or mental health reasons and experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance. They want to hear from parents and carers about what kind of conference would be most useful - online or in person? And what topics would you like to see discussed? Share your views with them [here](#)

## 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 *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

