




Transforming Lives
Through Education

Newsletter: Friday 20th June 2025

School Leadership Messages:	Contents					
<p>I ❤️ Fortismere!</p> <p>One of the most attractive features of Fortismere is its amazing site. We are very fortunate as a London school to have the acreage we do and during the summer months we can all enjoy space. The site always looks at its best when it is being well looked after and that includes no litter! As reported in the CHTs' message last week, Ms Holder, who oversees the Eco Committee, has been working with the group to raise awareness of litter at Fortismere. Last week the students volunteered to do a litter pick and this week Ms Holder has been spreading the message via assemblies. You can access the Eco Committee powerpoint here (slightly amended from the assemblies) as we thought you may like to support us with this message.</p> <p>Our students really appreciate the site and are keen users of the field and the sporting areas. Litter is often an afterthought and careless rather than deliberate. Yesterday, following on from Ms Holder's assemblies, the Co-Heads were impressed by seeing how tidy the field was at the end of lunch. We really hope that this is a sign of things to come!</p> <p>And while we're talking about litter please see the community message from Coldfall Primary School at the end of this Newsletter. They are organising a litter pick in Coldfall Woods on 25th June and would appreciate any help Fortismere students and families could provide.</p>	CoHeads' Weekly Roundup					
	Friends of Fortismere					
	Departmental News & Notices					
	Safeguarding Information					
	Calendar					
	<table><tr><td>23.06-27.06</td><td>Y7 Celebration of Learning</td></tr><tr><td>06.07</td><td>Fortismere Summer Festival 12-4pm</td></tr><tr><td>10.07</td><td>School Summer Music Concert 6-8pm NW Music Hall</td></tr></table>	23.06-27.06	Y7 Celebration of Learning	06.07	Fortismere Summer Festival 12-4pm	10.07
23.06-27.06	Y7 Celebration of Learning					
06.07	Fortismere Summer Festival 12-4pm					
10.07	School Summer Music Concert 6-8pm NW Music Hall					
	<div>Refugee Week</div> <p>This week is Refugee Week and the theme is "Community as a Superpower." Community is the incredible everyday. Simple acts of shared generosity. Kindness multiplied to become an unstoppable force</p> <p>Read more here</p>					

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Even though Muswell Hill is somewhat at altitude, we at Fortismere have had to work quite hard this week to keep cool in the high temperatures. We are pleased to report that our students have heeded good advice and most have sought the shade on our site in the latter part of this week and have generally managed themselves very well in the heat.

Year 8 Celebrations of Learning have been taking place this week and we have enjoyed listening to and talking with our students as they explore some of their learning highlights from the academic year. We noticed how they have grown in confidence as orators since Year 7 and also how reflective they are about the process of learning, with many talking about how they overcame specific challenges or made changes to the way they approach their studies and how this has paid off. It's clear that students are able to immerse themselves in whatever excites them personally in our curriculum which is wonderful to see. Thank you to Ms Boot, Mr Miller and the team of tutors for their hard work in preparing students for these events. We'd also like to thank parents who joined us and engaged in these learning discussions. Well done Year 8!

Also at this time of year our teams are busying themselves with preparations for our next cohort of Fortismere students. This week we have been busy preparing for our next cohort of Year 12 students who will be joining us on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of next week to sample life as a Fortismere Sixth former. We will be challenging our students to engage with the kind of academic learning they can expect next year, whether they are choosing to study A levels or Btec courses and will be introducing them to the learning materials they need to engage with over summer and before the start of their A level courses in September. We have lots to keep their minds active and ready to leap back into academia during their long summer breaks. We are very much looking forward to seeing our Year 11 students on Monday, not least so we can congratulate them on completing their GCSEs which they all finally finished this week.

Some lovely news reached us today about one of our sporting alumni, Esther Morgan, who has just found out that she has been selected to represent Wales in the upcoming Women's Euros 2025. We have been following Esther's footballing career since she left Fortismere and are incredibly excited to see her represent her country in the sport she loves at a national level. This is a great achievement and we look forward to being able to cheer her on in the competition over the next few weeks.



Meanwhile, we had the pleasure of congratulating one of our newer members of Fortismere, Christian Thomas, Year 7, who has been named runner up in Oxford University 2025 French Flash Fiction Competition for his age group. This annual competition invites pupils to write a short story of no more than 100 words showing their imagination, narrative flair and linguistic accuracy. Christian's creative piece of writing was one of a few out of over 800 entries that was recognised by the judging panel. This is exceptional. 'Felicitations' Christian!



We are delighted that Christian is engaging so impressively with his language learning, like our Year 10 students who have been part of the French exchange with our partner school in Annecy. This weekend our Fortismere families who were hosting visitors said 'Au Revoir,' to our French guests and we look forward to seeing them back at Fortismere next year.

With that, we think we'll leave you all to enjoy, 'Le Weekend!'

Friends of Fortismere

Bring All Your Friends to the Summer Festival - Even the Four-legged Ones!

We really want the Summer Festival to be a family event and that means all members of the Fortismere Family - students, staff and parents and carers. But we also want to include our extended family and to see lots of friends, neighbours and local businesses and organisations joining us for a great community day of music, food, fun and more. Please help us with this by sharing the details of our Summer Festival far and wide and also by gathering all your extended family together and booking your tickets online - remember all under 18s are free.

And this year, extended family means that you can even bring your four-legged canine friend with you and enter them into the Dog Show! There are some great classes to book and we'll make sure we've got lots of treats and water on hand for them. It's sure to be a lot of fun for you and your furry friend and imagine the pride in seeing them awarded Best Boy or Best Girl! Book early to make sure you get a place. Ticket link below.

Please all buy your **ADVANCE TICKETS, RAFFLE TICKETS, BARGAIN RIDE TOKENS** and **DOG SHOW** entry [HERE](#)

We are still looking for donations to buy our own **GAZEBOS** and have had a great response so far (Thank you!). Donate [here](#) or pay directly to Friends of Fortismere, A/C 29759927, 50-21-08 with your name and gazebo as the reference. Offers to **LEND GAZEBOS** are also very welcome - please email friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk if you have one for us.



We will be in touch again soon asking for donations to stalls and also for more volunteers. We look forward to seeing you (and your extended family and the dog!) on the 6th July! Thank you for your support.

House News

The Great Fortismere Show! Friday 11th July

Get ready for a fantastic celebration of creativity and all the quirkiness that makes Fortismere special! On Friday 11th July, students in Years 7-10 will take part in The Great Fortismere Show! This is an inter house competition consisting of 19 different creative competitions and there really is something for everyone!

Entries from decorated cupcakes to poetry, pasta art and photography, and even, inspired by the Lambeth County Show, the best vegetable animal! Entries will be made ahead of time and then displayed at school for all to admire. All students will need to enter at least one competition and will be discussing this in tutor time. On the day, students will have the chance to explore all the amazing creations, and certificates, prizes and house points will be awarded to the best entries. The winning house will proudly take home the coveted cup!

Competitions include bake-offs, crafts, art, writing, upcycled fashion, and much more. We can't wait to see Fortismere's creativity shine! Please keep an eye out on Google Classroom for more information and encourage your child to participate, have fun and get creative.

Year 7 News

What A Super Year 7 Day Out at Stubbers!

Last week the lucky Year 7s had a trip to Stubbers Outdoor Activity Centre. Rather than asking students to write a traditional review of the trip, Ms Fox asked them for a piece of descriptive writing about different activities they had had taken part in. Here are four wonderful pieces of writing by Year 7 students.

Thank you to Ipek, Francesco, Rose and Evie for writing for the newsletter

The most fun was kayaking. We picked a kayak and then a paddle. We nudged ourselves into the sea. It was quite funny and when we splashed into the water I knew that I wanted to jump in straight away. Rowing the kayak was easier than I thought and when I went to the middle I stood up with Alice and counted down from three. The cold water engulfed me. It was thrilling. I threw myself back into the kayak and all I wanted to do was jump again. All of the memories bring me so much joy. *By Ipek*

The howling wind enveloped me as I pushed higher up the vertical challenge. The comforting whisper of shifting pebbles and dancing grass was gone, replaced now by the rhythmic drumming of my chest. I looked down. Oh god! The clear white helmets stood like specks of dust in a vast, wide desert. I could see green fields stretching far out in all directions and the little blue kayaks splashing about on the rippling lake. Now the wind pushed even harder, tugging and shoving my frail body in its attempt to overthrow me. My knuckles clenched white and aching as I gripped the thin rope with all my might. How I longed to be splashing with the kayaks now. I gulped again. My vertigo washed over me as I closed my eyes. My legs were on the edge of giving way. I heard my name shouted from below. I jumped. Relief rushed over me as safety wrapped its soft, comforting arms around me. *By Francesco*

A really fun moment on the Stubbers trip was the raft building. After the barrels were pushed under the wooden planks, we were off! Off into the freezing lake. After a fun game of 'Simon Says' on the raft, the time came...the time most of us were dreading. It was time to jump in. Some girls had already fallen in, their screams ringing in my ears. Finally I jumped. The freezing water burned my skin like I was on fire. My eyes were screwed shut tightly, my nose pinched so hard like it was going to fall off. After what felt like forever, I rose to the surface, gasping for breath, legs paddling as fast as I could. *By Rose*

Next was axe-throwing. Katie, our guide, showed us how to throw them. I was very pleased because out of everyone's first shot, mine was the only one that stuck. I was very proud of myself. At the end, we did a girls vs boys game of Zombies vs Humans. We were the Zombies. It was elating! In the end we won 14-12 and we were so happy. We even created a team name: The Human-Slayers! *By Evie*



Drama Department Notices

Year 10 GCSE Drama Practical Exams

The Year 10 GCSE Drama students did their Practical Exams this week. The energy, hard-work, commitment, enthusiasm, and kindness that the students showed each other and demonstrated on the exam day was amazing. Throughout their exam day, some classes were lucky enough to watch the dress rehearsals and also provide feedback which was really helpful for our performers. Their pieces were of their own devising and truly captured the creativity of our students. Well done all!



Exercise one press junket

A circle of chairs and a circle of chairs facing.

The ones sitting in the inner circle are being interviewed about their films and stay sitting

The ones in the outer circle will change place and ask three questions of the film maker before moving clockwise on to the next.

Suggested questions:

What was the initial idea for the movie and did you realise what you hoped from the film

What was your favourite moment from the making of the film?

What was the hardest part of making the film? Or make up your own



Group Task: Short Scenes (Groups of 4)

Using this image to inspire your storyline, create a short scene.

INCLUDE:

- Varying use of space to clearly show what is going on in the scene and the meaning, the character relationships, and how the characters are feeling
 - A still image
 - Mime and physicality
 - Clear emotion
 - A storyline that has 2 lines of dialogue only
- Clear use of different physical skills

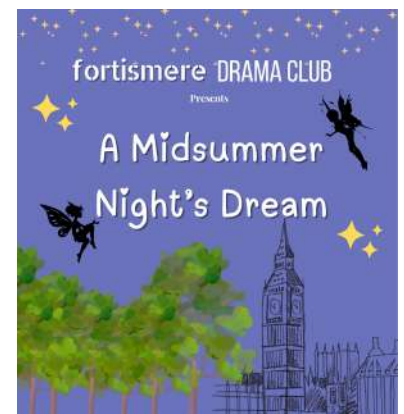


Challenge: Include an individual exaggerated emotional statue somewhere in your piece

KS3 Drama Club Perform A Midsummer Night's Dream (Reimagined) - Tuesday 8th July

On Tuesday 8th July at 6pm in North Wing Hall the Fortismere KS3 Drama Club presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Reimagined!) for **ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

Tickets are £5 and are available via this link [Fortismere Music Centre](#)



Upcoming Auditions for Next Year's Show!

We're already planning for next year in the Drama department!

Calling all students....no preparation needed!



Year 12 Performance Evening - Thursday 10th July 5pm in NW Hall

Please see details of the upcoming Year 12 Performance Evening.

Year 12 A level Drama students present extracts from musicals:
Sweeney Todd and London Road

Complimentary admission and note adult content



Year 9 Parents: Complete Oscars Trip form

The annual school trip to the Phoenix Cinema for the Fortismere Year 9 Oscars is on Thursday 3rd July 2025. The event includes a screening of the films students have been producing in Drama lessons this term and there will be awards for the best films. The entire year group will be attending and the trip presents a unique opportunity for pupils to view their own work on the big screen in professional surroundings.



Parents must complete the consent slip electronically now - the deadline was Monday 16th June. Please use the link or scan the QR code. [Year 9 Cinema Trip Consent Form](#)

Modern Languages

Au Revoir From Fortismere

Today we said goodbye to the French Exchange students from Collège Saint Michel in Annecy who have been here since last Wednesday.

While in London, they enjoyed watching *Back to the Future* at the Adelphi Theatre, a visit to the Imperial War Museum among others and a weekend with their host families. They also attended a few lessons at Fortismere, thank you to all the teachers who welcomed them in their lessons. We would also like to thank all of Fortismere parents and enthusiastic students who took part in the exchange. We are looking forward to hosting another successful exchange next year!



English Department Notice

Reading Champions Finale!

On Thursday a group of 14 Year 7s flexed their literary skills taking part in this year's Reading Champions Finale. There was strong competition amongst a range of reading material from: *The Inheritance Games Trilogy*, *Invincible* and *Junk*; showing the wonderful range that our youngest members of our school are engaging in. Though an extremely difficult decision, our top three champions were:

1. ***Dread Wood* - Elizabeth W. 7Y5**
2. ***The Hidden Oracle* - Francesco B. 7X1**
3. ***A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* - Anna L 7X4**

The judges (The wonderful Ms Fox, Mrs Ward, Ms Whyte and Patron of Reading Dan Freedman) also wanted to bring special mention to **Ivy H. 7Y2** for her presentation on *The Phone Box at the Edge of the World*. Well done to all the students that took part.

Ms Thompson



Library Notices

CoverUp

The date of our next parent/staff reading group meeting is Thursday 17th July, 7pm. As is traditional for our final meeting of the school year, we'll be outside the library watching the sun set over the field, drinking Pimms and enjoying cheesy balls. And of course we'll be talking about the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2025, just announced, "*The Safekeep*" by Yael van der Wouden.



Stationery

I have had lots of students come into the library this week to buy cost price equipment, especially calculators. Huge apologies - as stated in last week's Newsletter I can no longer accommodate them. All stock has been taken to South Wing, and students will be able to buy their necessary stationery from the main Reception desk.

Author Visit

We had a wonderful session in the library on Thursday 18th June when author Sita Brahmachari came in to work with one of our Year 7 classes. Sita was our first (and third!) Patron of Reading and has got to know our school and students really well.

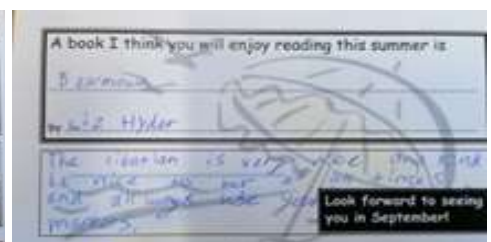
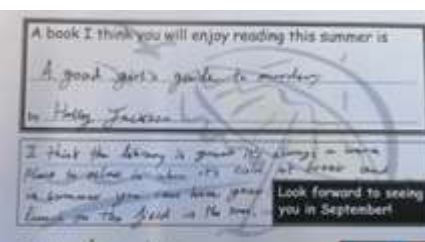
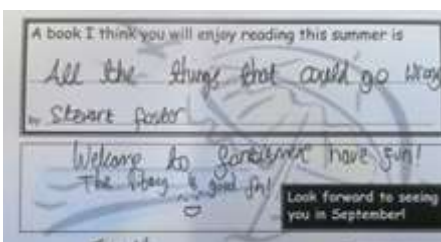
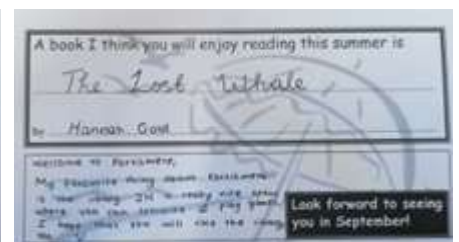
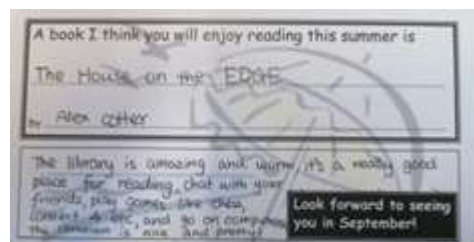
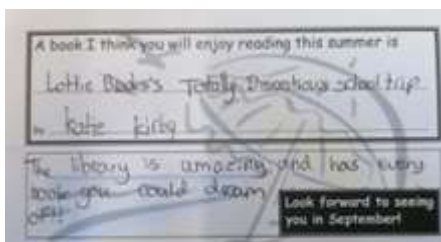
Her latest book, *Phoenix Brothers*, revisits Amir and George (Orwell!) – from a short story that is now studied in schools nationwide - and draws on her experience of working with Amnesty and the Islington Centre for Refugees where she has been Writer in Residence for many years.

Our students were each given a pre-publication copy of *Phoenix Brothers* which they read before the visit and they were charmed by Sita (especially because they were ordered to doodle whilst she was talking). Many of their comments will now be appearing on the OUP website and Sita told me this morning, "I loved the young folk".



Year 7's Postcards

In recent library lessons our Y7 students have been writing personalised welcome postcards to the Y6 students starting here in September. It's interesting to see what they are telling our new cohort to look forward to, from trampolining club to flapjacks in DT. Being biased, here are a few that mention the library. My favourite is "...be nice to (the librarian) at all times and all ways (sic) use your manners"! Although I'm flattered by "the librarian is nice and pretty"...



Recommended Reads of the Week



Refugee Week (16th-22nd June) is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking asylum.



Sport & PE Notices

Dance Workshop

Sarah from Thrive (a local Dance Company based at Fourth Monkey Studios) came into Fortismere on Monday afternoon to offer a free contemporary dance workshop. It was a huge success and we definitely identified some talented dancers. If you are interested in joining the Dance Company or would like some more information please contact sarah@thrivedance.co.uk



Rounders Week

We certainly picked a good week for a rounders tournament in terms of the weather! The teams had the best time playing against all the other Haringey schools in glorious sunshine. There was some fantastic teamwork and excellent sportsmanship on display. Well done to all the teams involved.



Football Friendly vs APS

Year 7 played a friendly football fixture on Monday. It was extremely hot to be running around a football pitch but our students had a great time, even though they lost! There was a great sense of teamwork and resilience throughout the game. Well done all.



Middlesex Schools Athletics Event

Congratulations to the following Year 7 and Year 8 students who have qualified (by coming first in Haringey) to be part of the Haringey Schools Team at the Middlesex Schools Athletics Event on Monday 30th June at the Allianz Stadium.

Sharon James - Hurdles; Cleo Sparkes - Long Jump; Francesco Barra - 800m; Ben Inwards - Javelin
Farrah Georgiades - Long Jump & Hurdles; Aaliya Gordon - 100m; Hanna Robertsson - 800m;
Etta Harding - 1500m; Oscar Heald - 800m; Lino De Ostros - 100m

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 23 June - Haringey Schools Girls Cricket @ North Middlesex Cricket Club 10-2 pm

Monday 23 June - Year 7/8 Cricket v King Alfred @ Away

Community Events

Community Litter Pick in Coldfall Woods

Coldfall Primary is organising a litter pick of the woods and we would love some Fortismere students to join them! There will be litter pickers for the first 30 people who arrive. Details below:

Wednesday 25th June from 3:45pm-4:30pm Place: Enter the woods by the gate opposite Eden Primary and walk straight on along the top path until you reach the blue railings. Walk to the end of the blue railings. We will be waiting there at the gate into Coldfall Primary. Bring gardening gloves if you have them.

Holiday Camps

Summer Holiday Camps - Booking Now

Fortismere Holiday Camps are running during the first four weeks of the summer holidays (Week 1: 22/07, Week 2: 28/07, Week 3: 4/08, Week 4: 11/08). There are different clubs running in different weeks and we're offering a wide range of activities, led by experienced practitioners that provide a full day of fun. **Full details and links to book via EventBrite are on the school website [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

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.

