


Friday 10th November 2023

School Leadership Messages	Contents		
<p>Vaping concerns</p> <p>On Thursday, an important Parentmail was sent to all parents sharing concerns that we have about vaping (containing nicotine and illegal substances). The message also contained an information factsheet and links to some useful resources. We hope to arrange a drugs and alcohol information evening before the end of term, please look out for the date in the Newsletter.</p> <p>Late detentions</p> <p>Starting on Monday, students who are late to school will be required to attend an after school detention on the same day. Students will be dismissed from this at 3.45pm. Parents will receive notification of a late detention.</p> <p>Flu Immunisations</p> <p>A reminder that flu immunisations for students in Years 7-11 are taking place next week, Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November, South Wing Hall. A letter has been sent via ParentMail detailing the arrangements.</p> <p>Positive Points</p> <p>Well done to the following students who have all received 9 positive points this week: Sami Aziz, Hollie Brunning, Artie Curry, Amanda Dutra, Tayla Eris, Minghyun Fu, Jacob Fullagar, Farrah Georgiades, Lily Haynes, Parnia Pahlevani Majdabadi, Patrick Pearce, Hridhay Ram, Theo Saunders, Joseph Thomas, Archie Thompson</p>	CoHeadteachers' Message		
	Fortismind		
	LINC News		
	Departmental Notices		
	Music Centre Notices		
	Holiday Camps		
	Safeguarding information		
	Calendar		
	29.11.23	Y7X Parents Evening	
	6.12.23	Y7Y Parents Evening	
10.12.23	Winter Fair 11-5pm		
<div><p>REMEMBRANCE DAY <i>Let Us Forget</i></p><p>11.11.2023</p></div>			

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

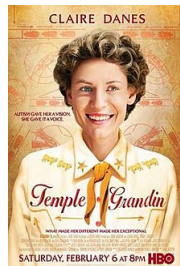
There has been much activity this week at Fortismere with two major school events on back to back evenings. We very much enjoyed meeting parents at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday and we trust that parents of Year 11 students found the opportunity to look at the broad A level curriculum choices we have at Fortismere with our staff and some of our current sixth form students helpful. This event marks the beginning of the process of application to sixth form and our sixth form leadership team will be keeping communication flowing at each stage of the process. The second event was our postponed fireworks event that took place on our school field, now Fortismere's very own quagmire, on Thursday evening. It was a very well attended event and we would like to thank all families who supported it, especially since we had to make such a last minute change on 2nd November. It was as bright and buzzy as ever, the fireworks were breathtaking and lots of fun was had by all. With around 1000 people in attendance we believe we have made almost £12,000 from the event. A special well done to everyone who didn't turn up with white trainers on! Thanks as always to Maria Demetriou, our fundraiser, for her organisation of the event.



This week we have led assemblies with some year groups on the historical hidden figure Sir Nicholas Winton, the British stockbroker who helped lead the organisation of the kindertransport just before the start of World War 2, saving the lives of 669 Jewish children. We find it unbelievable that he is not already more well known for his achievements but noted that this will potentially all change after the release of a Sam Mendes biopic about him in January. We spent some time discussing how valuable watching biopics can be in developing our knowledge of lesser known historical figures that don't always find their way onto the curriculum. We are recommending some in the images below for families to access together. Some of these are Hollywood's finest, bringing to life some of the most inspiring and uplifting narratives. Reflecting on Sir Nicholas Winton we were struck that during the most horrific of times, acts of humanity burn especially bright, a notion that may bring some comfort during these times where the impact of conflict in the world brings news of suffering and destruction on a daily basis. In this week's 'Fortismind' section of the Newsletter we are including a review from a Year 8 student, Theo Saunders, who engaged in our StandUp event that took place this week. StandUp picks up on challenging issues around discrimination and hate and supports students in talking constructively about how we can overcome these challenges in our own communities. We'd like to thank Theo for sharing his experience of that event.



Wishing everyone in our community a very restful weekend.



Fortismind - Supporting Mental Health at Fortismere

Workshops on Tolerance and Understanding

During November, students in Years 7-11 will be taking part in workshops run by the charity [Stand Up!](#) who work with schools to deliver sessions on tolerance and understanding. Stand Up! is an anti-discrimination, interfaith project which brings Muslim and Jewish educators into the classroom to facilitate informal conversations with young people. By creating a safe space and through interactive workshops, students are empowered to learn about and act against racism and discrimination with a specific focus on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate. Young people are provided with the tools on how to report hate crime, whilst developing their sense of social responsibility to their local communities and British society as a whole. Last week, students in Y7 and Y8 had their workshops. We asked one of the Y8 students, Theo Saunders, to write about his experience of the workshop.

Last week we had a visit from a company called Stand Up. Stand Up teaches children how to be aware of bullying and discrimination and the best way to deal with it if it happens. One of the important things they told us is that there are ways to help a person who is being discriminated without risking your own self-care and safety. I enjoyed this experience because they spoke openly about how people behave towards each other and I think it is important we are honest and try to make a difference. I think it is relevant that children are learning about bullying and discrimination because sadly it is quite a common fact of life that you might have to face. My hope for Fortismere is that we all make sure not to bully or make fun of others for their differences, but if it does happen that we will stand up, be kind and stop hurtful behaviour.

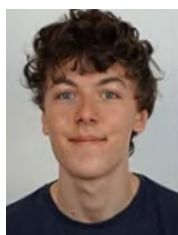
By Theo Saunders

Sixth Form Notices

New Student Leadership Team

I am delighted to share with you the names of our Head and Deputy Head Students for this academic year. The process of selection was rigorous, with each candidate showcasing their vision for student leadership along with their genuine passion for advocating on behalf of their fellow students. It was a pleasure to see them speaking in front of prospective Sixth Formers at Wednesday's Open Evening and it is clear that we have a fantastic group of leaders who are ready to make a positive impact on our school community.

Mr Lewis



Sixth Form 2024 Applications Now Open

Many thanks to those who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening this week – we hope you found it a useful opportunity to discuss courses with teachers and learn more about the vision and culture of the Sixth Form. We are pleased to inform you that applications are now [open](#) - the deadline is 31 January 2024.

The application process will be explained to students in an assembly and instructions shared with them via Google Classroom. Parents have been sent a Parentmail message with detailed instructions. Whilst we encourage early application, this is far less important for students currently at Fortismere, and there is no

benefit in submitting the application before Christmas – it is much better to take the time to make subject choices that your child is happy with. Subject information (including entry requirements) can be found on the website [here](#). This is a busy period for the sixth form team and we have limited admin support. Please refer to the Applicaa and school websites in the first instance to answer any questions. If not, please email sixthform@fortismere.org.uk

Mr Robson

LINC Department Notices

Meet The LINC Team

This week we are introducing you to our SEN Teacher and Access Arrangements Assessor, Saira Carrim.



Why do you want to work in the LINC department?

I started my teaching career as a Computer Science teacher and then completed a Masters in Special Educational Needs. I chose to specialise in SEN, as I really wanted to make an impact on young people's lives, helping them and seeing them make progress.

What's the best thing about your Job?

I think it's that every day is different and that I am constantly learning new things as well as teaching the students new skills - no day is ever the same!

What would you like to share with the school SEND community this week?

I'd like to talk about ADHD/Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) in boys and the actor Mark Ruffalo! During his childhood, the actor dealt with undiagnosed ADHD, dyslexia, and depression. "One of the things that was very difficult for me was grade school - feeling very strange and unique and freakish, feeling like I didn't fit in anywhere," he told the [Child Mind Institute](#). He added: "I would say to..my younger self that there's help and that there are ways to deal with it and to manage it and to overcome it."



Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) - Why Is My Child So Defiant?

Many oppositional teens have a loud internal voice that tells them they're a failure; they can't do things right; no one likes them. As a parent, you may have witnessed pushback resulting from this internal narrative. Your child's defiance is an unskilled and ineffective attempt to manage some of these feelings. They're trying to manage their external surroundings when things feel out of control on the inside. Oppositional teens may demonstrate these behaviours: lack of cooperation, inappropriate language, refusal to do tasks such as homework, instant anger or reactivity and destruction of property.

Defiant behaviour may signal Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) when it occurs almost without exception. PDA is characterised by an overwhelming and consistent need to avoid or resist demands. PDA is more intense and pervasive than ODD; it is not limited to certain people or situations.

Young people with PDA are obsessive in their resistance to requests that they perceive as overly assertive. They may avoid compliance by resorting to manipulative behaviours and even turn down activities they enjoy. Parents may notice sudden changes in mood that are associated with the need to control or reject a demand. PDA is not a standalone diagnosis but part of the autism spectrum disorder and is seen most often in people with autism, ADHD, and high anxiety.

For further information on ODD and PDA see [this link](#)

Ms Carrim

SEND Information Evening: Access Arrangements - Thursday 30th November 5pm Online

LINC is hosting another **SEND Information evening on Thursday 30th November at 5pm**. The topic this time is Access Arrangements. Please use the zoom link below to join the online meeting. It's a good idea to join at 4.50pm so you are ready for a prompt start at 5pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

Ms Carrim

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74893765302?pwd=bxxCr7sDEuJgyzWpvgm07KlCfj5GT2.1>

Meeting ID: 748 9376 5302

Passcode: 7sKtxd

Geography Department Notice

Year 11 Fieldwork Trips - Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November

The second part of the GCSE Geography compulsory fieldwork will be taking place next week. This fieldtrip is to investigate how quality of life differs in urban areas. Information collected will then be used as a base for lessons about data presentation and analysis after the trip. We have reminded students that they must check with their other teachers and on Google Classroom to find out what work they will miss on their day out. All students should bring a packed lunch (no nuts please) and wear suitably warm and waterproof clothing and footwear for outdoor walking in November. Forecast is currently for some rain. Students should **meet at Twyford Avenue gate at 8.35am** where they will be registered. We cannot accept permission slips on the morning of the trips.

Monday 13th November	Classes 11B (Ms Doyle) 11D (Ms Sheldon)
Tuesday 14th November	Classes 11A (Ms Brough) 11C (Mr Kelsey)
Transport will be by London Underground from East Finchley to Kings Cross and then by foot. We return to East Finchley and then School at the end of the trip. Students will be dismissed from Twyford Avenue Gate at School and we ask you to be responsible for your child's arrangements home from there.	

Ms Sheldon

Maths Department News

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

A small group of female mathematicians in Year 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad for Girls in September. They were the first group of girls at Fortismere to take part in the competition. The students sat a tough 2.5 hour paper where they attempted five challenging problems and had to write up their solutions logically. They attended sessions in the run up to the competition to help them to prepare. I have been so impressed by the positive attitude and determination of all the girls who took part.

Special congratulations to the following students who achieved certificates: **Distinction:** Olalla Montes Moreno. **Merit:** Mabel Buxton, Kate Tsui

Ms Oakley

Library News

Top Tips to Keep Your Children Reading



Top Tip 7: Audiobooks are just as valuable as written books. We have CDs in the library but if you want something a little more modern there are online audiobook services like Audible. However, if you want free, public libraries have a loan service where you can download the audio versions. Now that Haringey Libraries have joined the Libraries Consortium, you can access thousands of books to listen to – you just need a library card! Perfect for breaking up the monotony of long journeys and traffic jams.

Author Visit - Sophie McKenzie

On 3rd November we were delighted to welcome the original Queen of Teen Thrillers back to Fortismere. A regular visitor to our library, Sophie always engages the students with stories of how she became an author. Her first story, written in primary school, was so horrific and scary that her teacher stopped her reading aloud to the class. But later in the playground, her classmates gathered round to hear the ending! She now loves writing books that she would have liked to read as a student. It was wonderful to see that so many Year 7s wanted to ask Sophie questions – we ran out of time.



Screenwriter Visit

On 7th November a select bunch of our 6th formers were treated to a talk from BAFTA-winning writer, director and producer, Dan Berlinka. Dan has a connection with Fortismere - his mum was Head of Modern Languages in the 1980s and taught Ms Davey, our Co-Head. He says Muswell Hill hasn't changed that much since then with shops like the Children's bookshop, Toffs and W Martin still going strong. Dan's TV credits have included "Casualty", "Hollyoaks" and "Sean the Sheep" and we discovered that he was head writer for "Itch", an adaptation of the Simon Mayo novel which is hugely popular with our younger students. What was particularly fascinating was learning the distinctions between director, producer and screenwriter. Dan shared several tricks of the trade and suggested plenty of ways to improve our own writing.



Year 10 Volunteers Needed

We are looking for Year 10 students who are prepared to show what lovely, community-minded people they are by helping some of our younger students with their reading. This will take place during two tutor times a week. Full details have already been given in assemblies; names please to Mrs Ward or Mrs Cockerham in the library.



CoverUp

Just a reminder that the next meeting of our parent/staff reading group is this coming Thursday 16th November, 7pm in the library. As well as our usual bookish chat, we'll be talking about Malorie Blackman's fascinating autobiography, "Just Sayin'". All welcome, as always.



Recommended Reads of the Week

Monday 13th November is World Kindness Day. And as one of the Fortismere Four is "Be Kind", what better way to celebrate different kinds of kindness than through a good book!



PE & Sports News

Year 10 Boys Progress in Middlesex Cup

The Year 10 boys travelled to Park View on Tuesday for a Middlesex Cup match. Red half volleyed a cross from Louie to make it 1-0 and Kai finished well to make it 2-0. Man of the match was Harrison. Well done all and on to the next round of the cup!



Year 7 Girls Netball v Heartlands

The Y7 girls were very excited to travel in the minibus to Heartlands on Monday for their debut match! They all tried really hard and enjoyed the game but Heartlands were strong competitors and they lost 0-7. With more practice and teamwork I know they will improve. The Y9 team also played and despite coming back strongly in the last quarter, they lost 13-15 to Heartlands. No rest for Y7 who also travelled away on Wednesday for a match at Greig City, unfortunately they were outplayed by strong opposition. Our Y10 team was also playing and they fought and won against a very competitive Greig City team. Well done to all the girls for keeping your heads and playing so well.



Year 7 Football v Heartlands

The Y7 boys A & B teams travelled to Heartlands last Thursday on a very wet and windy evening. The A team won 3-2 in a very competitive match and the B team lost 1-4. Great resilience boys and well done!



1st XI On a Roll

Our first XI Team (a collaboration of Year 11, 12 and 13 boys) won 4-1 at Enfield Grammar last week and 5-0 against St Thomas More this week. Mr Cox and Mr Hawkes are really impressed with the standard of their play - well done to all but a special mention to Tyrone Abbey Y11 who Mr Hawkes said 'had an absolute worldie of a game against STM'. Well done.

Fixtures Next Week

Monday 13th November - Wednesday 15th November - 16th NovemberY

Monday 13th November	Y7 Girls Netball v Channing @ Home 3pm start Y9/10 Football Middlesex Cup v JCOS
Wednesday 15th November	1st XI v St Ignatius @ Away 2.30 KO
Thursday 16 th November	Y9 Netball v ParkView @ Away meet at 2.15

Fortismere Music Centre News

Concerts This Term

We have two special concerts coming up in November and early December - please see the details below and the *flyers attached* to the Newsletter

FSCO Concert Saturday 18th November 2023 - Syrian violinist performs Beethoven with FSCO

Don't miss out on FSCO's fast-approaching concert at St Andrew's Church, N10. The concert will start with the opening of Haydn's Creation. We will then be joined by Syrian rising star Bilal Al Nemr who will be travelling in from Berlin to play Beethoven's Violin Concerto. For the second half, we will perform Schumann's wonderful Fourth Symphony. Since 2018, Bilal has been a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra that was founded by Barenboim and Edward Said and is composed of musicians from Israel, Palestine and other Arab countries. The Orchestra's Musical Director, Thomas Gregory says: "I first encountered Bilal in 2008 in Damascus, and then again in 2009... We have tried repeatedly to get him over for a concert but travel restrictions always scuppered our plans. It is only now that Bilal has French citizenship that we can finally go ahead." Please join us for this fabulous evening! Tickets are available online in advance (£12) or on the door (£15), students/U18s £8. Tickets online www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.

Fortismere Community Choir Christmas Concert Saturday 9th December 2023

Get the festive season properly underway at the Fortismere Community Choir's annual concert at St Andrew's Church. The first half will be a performance of Zelenka's Missa dei Filii, a baroque work of many

thrills and trills! We will be joined by four fabulous professional soloists, including soprano Christine Buras who wowed the audience at the FCSO summer concert earlier this year. The second half will be Christmas carols, some performed by the community choir and school choir, but many for the audience to join in with as well. Join us for this festive and joyful event! Tickets are available online in advance (£12) or on the door (£15), U12s £8. Tickets online www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.

Fortismere School Holiday Camps

New Year Holiday Camps 2nd-5th January 2024 - Booking Now Open

The next Fortismere Holiday Camps will run from **Tuesday 2nd January 2024 to Friday 5th January 2024**. Activities on offer include Sports, Art, Drama, Cooking and Early years fun. The camps are led by experienced practitioners and offer a full day of fun and entertainment. Activities take place at Fortismere School (Tetherdown, London N10 1NE) from 9am to 4pm and cost from £80. There is an option for an early drop off and/or a late collection for an additional cost. Please contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk Extended Schools Manager, if you would like to take up this option or want more information on any of the activities. **Booking information and details for all the camps are on the school website [here - Fortismere Holiday Camps](#)**

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year: