

School Leadership Messages

Early Closure on Wednesday 22nd October

In order to get the school ready for our Sixth Form Open Evening the school **will be closing to students at 2.10pm** (after the afternoon Tutor Time period) next Wednesday. **School will be open** at the usual time on Thursday morning.

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 22nd October

A reminder to our Year 11 parents and carers that this important event is taking place next Wednesday. We look forward to seeing you all there and sharing with you all the fantastic opportunities awaiting your child at our ambitious Sixth Form. The evening runs from 4pm - 5.30pm in the South Wing.

Lost Property

Lost property found on site is stored in North Wing and South Wing Reception. PE-related items are kept in the Sports Hall Equipment Office. Students may check for lost items **before school, during break or lunch, or at the end of the school day**. School staff do not have the capacity to search for individual students' lost items or return them; this should be done by your child during the times listed above.

We recommend that all belongings are clearly labelled to help students identify their items when checking lost property.

Towards the end of each term, a Parentmail is sent out with times when parents/carers are invited to come and review all unclaimed items. Any items not collected after this period will be removed, as storage space is limited. Please note that the school cannot be held responsible for personal belongings that are lost or misplaced on site.

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20.10.25	Pure Piano Concert 6pm NW
22.10.25	Early school closure at 2.10pm
22.10.25	Sixth Form Open Evening - book here
05.11.25	Fortismere Fireworks Night 5pm-9pm - book tickets here



Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

Headteacher's Message

We are making our way towards the end of the longest half term of the academic year. This half term has been great for getting us all back into the swing of things; there's been so much going on already. However, we are pretty sure our students will be looking forward to the opportunity to recharge at the end of next week and that the two-week break will really give them the chance to do just that.

It was a pleasure to meet parents of Year 7 and Year 12 students who attended welcome events at the school on Wednesday evening. The Year 7 parents enjoyed a very British tea party following an information session with their child's new tutor. Year 12 parents also had the opportunity to meet their child's academic tutor. The aim of both events was to share a range of information about how we can work together in partnership with you all to support your children in getting the most out of their time here with us. We are sure that all who attended left more informed about how we deliver and support learning at Fortismere. We were also pleased that the fantastic 'Friends of Fortismere' parent group were in attendance at both events in order to gain support for their future fundraising efforts.

It was fascinating from my perspective to move between the two events and to see that no matter the phase of education, from our very youngest to our very oldest cohorts, our engagement with you all is vital. Not only that, it was just great to meet you and to be able to welcome so many new families into our Fortismere community.

As we move into the final week of this half term we are looking forward to a further opportunity to open our doors to visitors at the Sixth Form Open Evening which is taking place next Wednesday in South Wing. Given the popularity of our Sixth Form it'll be a busy one but I look forward to seeing our Year 11 parents and carers accompany their children to the event to find out more about the opportunities that await our students here at Fortismere after their GCSEs.

In the meantime I wish you all a wonderful weekend and in advance of next week I'd like to wish a Happy Diwali to all those members of our school community who will be celebrating.

Governing Board Notice

Parent Governor Election

Apologies for the delay in moving to the next stage of the process for electing two new parent governors. Candidate statements will be published on the [website](#) and sent out by ParentMail early next week.

Friends of Fortismere

Fortismere Fireworks 5th November - We Need You!

Planning is well underway and we know it will be a great Fireworks Night but we need your help please!

Can you help us on the night? We have allocated stalls to each year group: see below:

- Year 7 - Hot chocolate
- Year 8 - Sweet treats
- Year 9 - Silent disco
- Year 10 - Bar
- Year 11-13 - Any free slots ;-)

If you have already signed up feel free to stick with or change your slot - help anywhere is appreciated.

If you haven't signed up yet please use this link [Sign up here](#)

And don't forget to [buy your tickets here](#) Thank you for your support.

Bulb Donations & Planting

Can you please help us by donating some spring bulbs? Students can leave donations in North Wing or South Wing or you can leave them at the Tetherdown Gate.

The FOF Gardening Club will be planting the bulbs around the school site on 8th & 15th November - **if you would like to help with the planting** please click [here](#) and join the Gardening Club's WhatsApp group.

Thank you for your support.



Black History Month

Standing Firm in Power and Pride - Student Led Assemblies

To mark Black History Month, sixth form students have been leading assemblies on this year's theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride" which celebrates resilience, strength, and the enduring impact of Black leadership and culture. Sixth Form students from the People of Colour Society and the Student Leadership Team led assemblies for students in Years 8–13, highlighting inspiring figures and the deep roots of Black heritage in Britain. You can read about the Y10 assembly below

The sixth formers spoke about Baroness Valerie Amos, a diplomat, educator, and former United Nations Under-Secretary-General, recognised for her leadership and commitment to equality and inclusion. They also introduced Claudia Jones, a Trinidadian-born journalist and activist who founded the West Indian Gazette and organised the early Caribbean carnival events that evolved into the Notting Hill Carnival. The assemblies also reflected on the Windrush Generation and explored how Black history in Britain reaches back to Beachy Head Woman, whose remains show African ancestry in Roman Britain. Thank you to all the students who led, researched, and presented these assemblies. Their thoughtful contributions brought this year's theme to life across our school community.

Year 10 BHM Assembly

In Wednesday's Y10 assembly, the Y13 student leadership team delivered a presentation to honour Black History Month. This was an important assembly for our Year 10 students to not only learn about Black History, but for many students, an exploration and look into their own cultural backgrounds too. The presentation highlighted not only the struggles of ethnic minorities, but showed how they have been successful over time and a journey through their history. Power and pride were a significant aspect of the talk, highlighting key historical black figures, such as Baroness Amos and Claudia Jones, who are strongly representative of these themes, and whom students can be inspired by through their stories of success.



Sixth Form

Year 12 Welcome Evening

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Wednesday for our Year 12 Welcome Evening. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and to see such a strong start to the year as our students begin their Sixth Form journey. During the event, parents and carers had the opportunity to meet their young person's tutor and fellow Year 12 families. This was followed by a presentation from Ms Bailey and Mr Kenny (Deputy Directors of Sixth Form for Year 12) and Ms Common (Director of Sixth Form).

For those unable to attend, or who would like to revisit the information shared [view the presentation here](#)

Library

Halloween in the Library

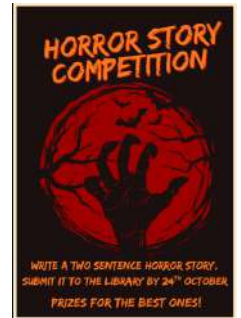
Thanks to the tireless efforts of our monitors and volunteers, the library is magnificently decorated for the spookiest month of the year, with a shelf dedicated to scary stories; read them if you dare!

If you are feeling incredibly brave and bold, why not write your own horror story? Don't worry, it doesn't have to be complicated, or the length of a novel, it can be short, impactful and absolutely terrifying - see our horror story competition below.



Horror Story Writing Competition

Take part in the Library's Horror Story Competition for the chance to win a prize. Just write a two sentence story, give it a twist and make it scary; hand it in to the Library by 24th October! If you can write something absolutely terrifying you will win a prize! Here is an example of a two sentence story from our very own school Library: *I locked the library and made sure everyone had left before I started putting books away. As I was between the shelves, looking for the right place to put 'The Haunting' a hand peaked out, took the book, and said: "I'll take that from you."*



To write a story like this, all you need is two sentences. The first sentence sets up the situation, the second provides a conclusion, and of course don't forget to add some spooky horror to it! The winners will be announced after the half-term holidays. Good luck and get writing!

Seasonal Reads



PE & Sports Department News

Haringey Football Week



Well done to all of our football representatives this week - almost 70 of our students played at the New River Sports Centre in a Haringey Schools Tournament. Y7 kicked the week off on Monday in their first ever tournament - they were very excited, showed great team spirit and had the best time! The boys took the bronze and the girls finished 5th. On Tuesday, it was the turn of the Y8 and Y9 boys who were up against some very tough competition from the other schools. They played really well but lost in the quarter finals - great effort all round. Next up were the Y8 and Y9 girls who played their matches on Wednesday - great performances saw the Y8 girls take the gold and the Y9s the bronze. Key stage 4 results next week.



Middlesex Cup News - 1st XI Progress!

Congratulations to the 1st XI team who beat Ashmole School 7-3 last Friday. This means they move on to the next round of the Middlesex Briggs Cup competition - well played all!



Netball Update

We played our first Haringey Netball fixtures on Monday versus Alexandra Park School. Well done to all the players involved - APS were very tough opponents. The Year 7s really enjoyed the match and the Year 9s, who despite having to rush back from their geography trip to Battersea Power Station, came together and played really well. Unfortunately we lost both our matches but took lots of positives from them. On Tuesday the Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams travelled to Mulberry Woodside for their matches - they played some excellent netball and the Year 8s won 17-0 and the Year 10s won 12-3. Brilliant!



New Volleyball Club Thursdays After School

Students from all year groups are welcome to join our new Volleyball Club on Thursdays 3.15pm-4.15pm in the Sports Hall. Just turn up. **Note:** Table Tennis Club has moved to Mondays in SW Hall 3.15pm-4.15pm.

Upcoming Fixtures

Mon 20th Oct	Y7 & Y9 Netball v St Thomas Moore School (A)
Tues 21st Oct	Y9 Boys v Heartlands (H)
Wed 22nd Oct	Y7 Boys v Greig City Academy (A)

Wear Pink on Thursday 23rd October for Breast Cancer

Ms Vangucci is raising money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and would love to see everyone wearing something pink on Thursday 23rd October and making a donation to support research into breast cancer. Thank you for your support.



Drama Department

Panto Rehearsals Have Begun!

We saw the start of *Jack and The Beanstalk* pantomime rehearsals this week, with Monday meet and greets followed by character explorations with our ensembles, a start of script read through, and an afternoon of full cast music and dance. A reminder for all cast that rehearsals are on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays from 3.15-5pm. We will hopefully have the full rehearsal schedule sent out to all cast and crew soon, as soon as we have worked our way through all the students' availability!

In the meantime, the rehearsal schedule for next week has been posted on our pantomime Google Classroom as well as our Drama noticeboard outside of North Wing Hall. Thanks to everyone for your enthusiasm and participation as we kicked off rehearsals this week!



Year 10 GCSE Drama Theatre Trip to Jacksons Lane

The Year 10 GCSE Drama students had their first theatre outing of the academic year to Jacksons Lane Arts Centre on Thursday to see *'The Flowers of Srebrenica'*.

Featuring actors from Bosnia, Rwanda, Ukraine and Ireland, this show fused physical theatre, projection, and personal testimony to explore memory, loss, and solidarity, asking not just how we remember atrocities — but how we carry their lessons forward.

Live theatre and analysing theatre forms a core part of our GCSE Drama curriculum, so we are glad that the students could attend and that we could support a local theatre too!



Year 7 Drama: All Things Mime

Year 7 Drama students have been having fun exploring mime (and monologues) over the term so far, developing their miming and physical skills and understanding of the art form.

Here are some of our students in action practising basic mime and physicality, solo and in groups, ready to incorporate them into scenes.

Well done to all Year 7 classes for your enthusiasm, effort, and excellent learning attitudes over the term so far. The Drama Department has noticed how much energy, strong participation, and creativity you have been putting into lessons - and it is wonderful to experience! You have started the academic year in a superb way - keep it up!



Creative Careers: From our Friends at Arts Depot

Summer Work Experience Opportunity - Every year, **artsdepot** offers a week-long summer work experience placement for young people in Years 10-13. Participants spend time with each department in the venue, experiencing what is required to run a busy, professional arts venue. Participants can also work towards a Bronze Arts Award qualification. The summer work experience week is from Monday 13th to Friday 17th July 2026. Applications open on 10th October **Apply [HERE](#)**.

Creative Pathways: SEN Work Experience - Creative Pathways is an empowering work experience programme for learning disabled young people aged 16-24 years, designed to open doors into the arts and creative industries. Starting with a four-month programme at **artsdepot**, participants take part in weekly workshops to uncover all areas of a professional arts venue. Participants are then offered the opportunity to take part in a bespoke placement with a creative business or organisation, carefully matched to their individual interests and strengths. Deadline for applications is 9am on Friday 17th October **Apply [HERE](#)**

Music Department

Christmas Concert Auditions

Students who play an instrument or sing can sign up for next week's auditions for the two Christmas Concerts via [this form](#)

Auditions will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime in Mu2.

Please encourage your child to come along and audition.

Do you **sing** or play an **instrument**?
Sign up to **audition** for the **Christmas Concert** by completing [this form](#).
Sign up for:
Monday 20th October
Wednesday 22nd October
Friday 24th October
Lunchtime in Mu2
Prepare a **section** of a **song** or **piece**
Solo or in a **group**

Christmas Concert Auditions!
Save the dates!
Monday 15th December
Tuesday 16th December

fortismere

Pure Piano Concert - Monday 20th October 6pm

Come and support our wonderful piano students at this concert on Monday!

Tickets are free for students and £8 for adults. Tickets are available [to buy here](#)



MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025 at 6.00 PM



FORTISMERE SCHOOL CONCERT SERIES
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MATT WATSON

MUSIC CONCERT HALL, FORTISMERE SCHOOL, N10 1NS

STANDARD TICKET £8 | STUDENTS FREE
TICKETS: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Key Stage Updates

KS4 - Mock Exams Revision Support

Year 11s have continued to engage meaningfully with their Poetry intervention sessions this week which will be very useful for their upcoming English mock exams. Mock exams are starting during the second week of half-term on Thursday 6th November (the timetable is on Google Classroom and the website [here](#)) so we are expecting all our Year 11 students to be in full revision mode by now. Revision planning and preparation has been taking place once a week and Room N08 is as ever, available to all KS4 students who wish to work quietly or revise for assessments or mocks every lunchtime.

Ms Herrero

School Catering Notice

Student Lunch Accounts

Please ensure that your child's lunch account has sufficient funds available for purchases from the school canteen. A ParentMail was sent this week to explain that negative lunch balances can lead to delays and problems for students when using the canteen. If your child's account reaches a negative balance of £10 or more you will be contacted to request an urgent top-up. If the balance is not topped up before break or lunchtime, your child may be unable to receive a meal from the canteen that day. Ongoing issues will be referred to Pastoral Support Managers for further follow-up.

Parentmail offers an **Auto Top-Up function** to automatically add funds when your child's balance falls below a set limit. We recommend using this feature to ensure your child can always purchase food from the canteen without disruption.

The **current Canteen Price list** is published on the website - you can [download a copy here](#)

Some families may qualify for **free school meals** which provides a daily allowance of £2.49 to spend at lunchtime only. Click [here](#) for information on FSM eligibility criteria and how to apply.

If you need to contact the school regarding your child's lunch balance, free school meals or any other catering query please email office@fortismere.org.uk

School Holiday Clubs

Booking Open for October Half Term Holiday Clubs

Bookings are now open for the October half-term holiday camps and they are filling up fast! Full details and booking links are on the 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 the My Voice [link](#) or QR code

You can also contact your son or daughter's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager about any safeguarding concerns.

