

### Headteacher's Message

I hope you've all been keeping warm this week. Our students have coped remarkably well here given the amount of outside travelling they do. We are so proud of our Key Stage 3 student ambassadors who are organising a collection of Winter Coats as part of the 'Wrap Up Winter Coat' Collection for those in need this winter. Please note that we are receiving donations of coats in South Wing Hall on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th November. We will let you know how many we managed to collect in next week's Newsletter

My assemblies this half term have been particularly focused on how we have been listening to student experience as part of our ongoing 'Your Feedback, Our Action' engagement activities. I've been delivering assemblies across all year groups, sharing the feedback on the actions we have taken as a response to matters raised by student focus groups in October. It's been wonderful to see students engage with this process and understand that their voices genuinely matter in shaping their experience at Fortismere.

Students told us about what they value; their enjoyment of learning, the supportive staff they can turn to, and our wide range of extracurricular activities but they also shared some challenges, including concerns about toilet facilities, site safety, consistency in behaviour management, and extracurricular communication. We're taking concrete action on all of these areas. With regard to toilet facilities we are in conversation with Haringey Council about expanding facilities. As a school we are investing in new doors and employing more cleaners employed on site during the day. I also outlined changes we have made to staff duty points for improved site safety, how we are working on a clearer, regularly updated extracurricular timetable, and a commitment to continued work on consistent application of our behaviour expectations. Importantly, we've now launched our **'Feedback at Fortismere' form** for students, which is accessible in all their google classrooms. I'd really encourage you to remind your children about it at home. If they raise any concerns or suggestions with you about school life, please encourage them to complete the form. It ensures we hear directly from them and can respond appropriately.

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### Calendar

<b>23.11</b>	Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Autumn Concert. 7pm St Andrew's. <a href="#">Tickets here</a>
<b>03.12</b>	Y11 and Y13 Mock Results Published
<b>10.12</b>	Y13 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm (face to face)

### CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

We told you last week about an easy way to support the school. Order a tree from Christmas on the Hill (select Fortismere from the dropdown menu) and they will give us a generous donation.

[Use this link to order](#)

**Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)**

Despite the cold, spirits were certainly high on the Year 9 trip to see Hamilton this week! The students had an absolutely wonderful time, and it was fantastic to see them experiencing such great quality theatre together. We are lucky to have so much on our doorstep. Looking ahead to January, rehearsals are now in full swing for our school pantomime, which will be performed in the new year and that will obviously be even more on our doorstep. It's been brilliant to see students and staff collaborating so enthusiastically on this production, and I can promise you there are lots of surprises in store for our lucky audience members. Tickets will be available to purchase soon. Watch this space!

While we are familiarising ourselves with the winter temperatures we also have one eye on next spring and are very much looking forward to seeing the amazing 1200 bulbs planted by the Friends of Fortismere Gardeners blossom in the new year. It's certainly something for us all to look forward to and once again we'd like to thank the parents who gave up their time to plant the bulbs over the last few weekends. We will all appreciate your efforts when the school is in bloom in a few months.

With warm wishes for the weekend ahead.

## Student Charity Ambassadors

### Wrap Up Winter Coat Collection - Thursday 27th & Friday 28th November

Next week, we would like as many students as possible to bring in any unwanted or 'grown out of' coats for our charity coat collection. These can be any warm coats or jackets for adults or children.

Student Ambassadors are collecting for the **Wrap Up Campaign**, which collects unwanted coats to give to homeless and vulnerable people in winter. You can [read about the campaign here](#).

Please check at home to see if you have any coats or jackets that you no longer need, and send them into school on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> or Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Students can leave the coats in SW Hall before school or at break time.



## Governing Board

### Parent Governor Election Update

Apologies for the delay in sharing more details of the election process. A ParentMail will be sent out on Tuesday with full details and a link to cast your vote online - please look out for this. A **reminder that you can read the statements from the 15 candidates [here](#)** - you will be able to vote for two people.

## Music Department

### Wonderful GCSE Solo Recitals

Well done to all our GCSE Music students who performed their solo pieces last night. They should be very proud of what they've achieved with many hours of effort and commitment!

## Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - Free Tickets for Students

Tickets are selling fast for the concert on **Sunday, 23rd November, 7pm** at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road.

We're welcoming back an ex-Fortismere student, Haru Ogiwara, as soloist in Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 – one of the most challenging in the repertoire! Haru says "A great thank you to the FCSO for inviting me to perform the Shostakovich *Cello Concerto*. It is a thrilling piece which I'm truly grateful to be able to play with and give to the community."

Book [here](#) and use coupon code **FORTSTUDENT25** to get free tickets for Fortismere students.



**FCSO**  
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**SHOSTAKOVICH**  
*Cello Concerto No.1*

**SIBELIUS**  
*Karelia Overture*

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
*Symphony No.2*

CELLO HARU OGIWARA  
CONDUCTOR THOMAS GREGORY

**SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7 PM**

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | MUSWELL HILL | N10 2DD  
STANDARD £16 EARLY BIRD £13 STUDENTS/UBS £8  
BOOK ONLINE [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)

## Community Christmas Concert - Sunday 7th December 7pm St Andrew's Church N10

We are really excited to present our annual carol concert this year jointly with the choir of Coldfall Primary and N10 Youth Voices!

Fortismere's Junior and Youth Choir will be singing some Christmas classics, and there'll be lots of singalong carols for the audience to join in with as well as performances by Coldfall's choirs.

**Tickets £10 and £5 for students available online [here](#).** Families eligible for FSM can get half price tickets with the code FSM/PP50%. This is always a lovely festive family event so make sure to get your tickets early.



**FCC**  
FORTISMERE COLDFALL CAROLS

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**AUDIENCE CAROLS**

**FESTIVE MUSIC**  
performed by the choirs of Fortismere School and Coldfall Primary

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 7 PM**

THE CHOIRS OF FORTISMERE & COLDFALL SCHOOLS  
CONDUCTED BY FLORENCE PRICE & KATE VETCH  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | N10 2DD  
TICKETS £10 | STUDENTS/UBS £5  
BOOK ONLINE [www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk)

## Instrumental and Vocal Lessons Spring Term

All parents/carers have been emailed a reminder of which weekday lessons their young people have been timetabled for and invoices have been sent out, so please check your ParentMail accounts. The deadline for payment is **8th December** so that we can publish the timetables before the end of term. We are hoping that we will have a new guitar teacher starting in January as well. Lessons in January will begin the first week back (5th January).

It's not too late for your child to apply to start an instrument in the Spring Term! We have availability in **Piano, Flute, Guitar, Violin, Singing, Classical Guitar, Trumpet and Horn**. The deadline for submitting [the application form](#) is **1st December**.

## School of Rock Spring Term

We have the capacity for some new students to join the Saturday School of Rock and form a band. There is space in the morning sessions (9.30am-12.30pm) starting in January. Application form [here](#).

## Careers & Work Related Learning

### Year 11 Visit What Careers? What University? Event

This week we took forty one Year 11 students to the What Careers? What University? live event at Olympia where they had the chance to meet with over 80 different recruiters and universities. Students were able to find out about and discuss the full range of school leaver options such as apprenticeships and training, job opportunities and higher education choices. Students explored careers in different fields by talking to recruiters and people working in areas like finance, engineering, tourism, the Armed Forces and the NHS. Students particularly enjoyed visiting the STEM hub and a USA universities hub.

Feedback from students who attended the trip was really positive with comments such as *“it was helpful to talk to people who work in the real world”* and *“I’m still not sure what I want to do but this trip has really got me thinking”*. One student commented *“the trip opened my eyes to many more opportunities”*

Mr Renner who led the trip said that the students represented the school really well and thanked Ms Herrero and Ms Izzet for their support with the trip.

Parents and carers will find these links useful when discussing career and study options at home::

- Access a copy of the **Options Guide to Apprenticeships and Universities** [here](#).
- The weekly Fortismere **Careers Newsletter** is available on the school website [here](#).
- Students have access to **our Careers Portal** through their **Google Classroom** account [here](#).

## Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

### New Lunchtime Coding Club

Does your child want to learn how to **make video games**? Are they curious about coding, design, or game development? If the answer is yes, then encourage them to come along to the brand-new **Godot Coding Club**. Students can learn to program using **Godot**, a powerful and beginner-friendly game engine used by developers around the world. No experience is needed - just enthusiasm and a willingness to create! Whether they want to build platformers, puzzle games, or something totally unique, this is the perfect place to start. Bring ideas, meet like-minded students, and begin the journey into game development! Everyone is welcome - come and code with us!

 **Join the Godot Coding Club! – Lunchtimes on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room S3**

## LINC

### SEND Power Parent Events

Please see the details below for two parent/carer sessions organised by Haringey SEND Power:

**Advice for SEND Families: Housing - Tue 25th November at 6.30pm (online)**

Are you a parent/carer of a young person with SEND? Would you like to find out more about your housing rights and entitlements? Including disability adaptations and advice on private rental issues. This online session is delivered by Citizens Advice Haringey. [Book a place here](#)

**ADHD workshop: Support in school – Tue 16<sup>th</sup> December 10am-11.30pm (in person)**

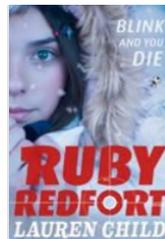
Come along and hear about helpful information and strategies, and meet other parents and practitioners. This session is led by CAMHS and Haringey's Educational Psychology Service and takes place at Chestnuts Community Centre, 280 Saint Ann's Road, London N15 5BN [Book a place here](#)

## Library

### New Books Waiting To Be Borrowed

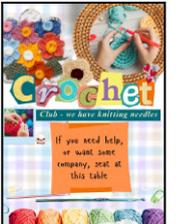
We received a lovely bunch of new books just this week, some are presents from publishers, or donations from students, others we purchased with the help of students' begging, ehm recommendations... There is a very wide array of genres and reading levels, and definitely something to suit everyone's taste.

If you want to know more about some of them click on the image below and the link will take you to the Access-it Library catalogue page, where you can read a summary, and any student reviews.



### Library After School Clubs

This year the library is running quite a few after school clubs. Here is a reminder of what is on and when:

<p>Wednesdays 3.10pm-4.00pm</p>	<p><b>Manga &amp; Comic Book Club</b> - Draw or read together with a focus on manga and graphic novels, and make new friends</p>	
<p>Thursdays 3.10pm-4.00pm</p>	<p><b>Crochet &amp; Knitting Club</b> - Work on your own projects with people with similar interests, or learn a new craft with the help of your peers, but mostly come and have fun!</p>	
<p>Fridays 2.30pm-4.00pm</p>	<p><b>Arts &amp; Crafts Club</b> - Give your creative input to the library by working together to make decorations and displays for the library area. We have an array of projects that we are working on.</p>	

## Crochet & Knitting Club Donations Needed Please

With the popularity of Channel 4's 'Game of Wool Britain's Best Knitter' programme, we have had huge levels of interest from students who want to learn to knit! This is great news but we are running low on supplies. If you have any spare yarn and/or crochet hooks that you no longer need, the Crochet & Knitting Club could really use them. Ask your child to drop them off in the Library or email me to arrange a donation [fpirovano@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:fpirovano@fortismere.org.uk) Thank you so much for your support.



## Drama Department Notices

### Panto Rehearsals: This Week's Glance

It's been a busy week in the rehearsal room with multiple scenes being put together at the same time, actors having to hop rooms for scenes, songs, and choreo, and more of our surprise cast members joining us. Thanks to everyone for turning up with enthusiasm and energy!



### Snapshot: Year 8 and Year 10

Year 8: Exploring physicality with Miss Morse in their comedy work

Year 10: Exploring Berkoff through the play 'Chaos' by Laura Lomas



## Hamilton Theatre Trip

We had a great time watching Hamilton this week with some of our Year 9 students. This performance was a special matinee performance put on for schools and was an excellent opportunity for students to watch live theatre with an accompanied Q&A after, which shone the light on backstage and technical elements of the show, surprised us with fun facts, and gave us insight into the actors' journeys and creative careers.

Thank you to Victoria Palace Theatre and Delfont Mackintosh for the opportunity, and thank you to the students who attended for being excellent throughout the whole trip!



## Callout for Ikea Shelves

We're still looking for an 8 cube and a 4 cube Ikea Kallax shelf. If you have a spare one to donate please email [lovers@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:lovers@fortismere.org.uk)



## Sport & PE Notices

### Haringey Basketball League

We played the first game in the Haringey Basketball League versus Alexandra Park School on Monday this week.

The Year 8/9 Boys played really well but they were up against a very strong side of county basketballers in the APS team. They battled hard and scored a few baskets but unfortunately lost the game.

The Year 7s had a very entertaining game and played really well. Omar was the player of the match and scored some fantastic baskets, and they won 20-8.



## Haringey Netball Update

It's been a busy week of netball.. On Monday the Year 8 and Year 10 teams played Greig City, Year 10s had a tough game against strong opposition and unfortunately they lost. The Year 8s were successful and won their match. On Tuesday, the Year 7s and Year 9s were at home to Woodside and both teams won.



The Year 10 and Year 8 teams were away again to Channing School, they played very well but unfortunately Channing got the better of us. Well done to all our netball team players.

## Football Roundup

The Year 8 Boys played a great game against Greig City Academy on Tuesday afternoon this week. They won 5-3 and man of the match went to Gabriel who played brilliantly in goal. Well done all.

The Sixth Form team travelled to Highgate on Wednesday afternoon to play their quarter final match in the Middlesex Cup. It was an end to end match with lots of goals. We were 4-0 down at half time. Mr Hawkes obviously said something special during the break as we managed to get the scores level at 5-5 in the second half. Unfortunately, there was a last minute winner for Highgate and the match ended 6-5. Well played everyone.



## Upcoming Fixtures

**Monday 24 November:** Y7 Boys Football v Highgate Wood (Away)

**Tuesday 25 November:** Haringey Y7 & Y8 Netball 2.30-4.20pm (Away)

**Wednesday 26 November:** Y8 Boys Football v Enfield Grammar (Away)

**Thursday 27 November:** Haringey Y9 & Y10 Netball (Home)

## 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.

