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<p>Industrial Action: Update</p> <p>Parent Meeting at Parkview</p> <p>On Tuesday Parkview School hosted a parents and carers event to talk about the current dispute with the NEU around the issue of increased class sizes and teaching time. After the presentation we broke into school based groups and it was a really enjoyable session. We shared our group with Gladesmore parents (and one student!) and the questions asked were challenging and considered. One of the key issues concerned how schools are funded. It is quite complicated but the bulk of our funding comes from the DfE and is calculated on schools having 30 students in a class and teachers having 10% of their timetable with no teaching. We have been subsidising this for a number of years but with the increase in energy costs, pension contributions and exam fees, we will have to adopt this national formula.</p> <p>Parents and carers are understandably concerned by the suggested increased size in tutor groups and KS3 teaching groups but the evidence from the main provider of evidence in schools (The Education Endowment Foundation) suggests the impact is limited. You can read Reducing class size here</p>	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p>							
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<p>ACAS Meeting</p> <p>The five community secondary schools implementing the national formula met with their own NEU reps, two regional reps and a member of ACAS for talks to resolve the dispute on Wednesday. Haringey officials were also present at the meeting. It was a productive day, as headteachers we are keen to offer reductions in workload to mitigate the impact of the increased classes and greater teaching load. Unfortunately we couldn't reach complete agreement to prevent this week's strike but we are meeting again this Monday and will be working towards a mutually agreeable solution.</p>	 <p>1st March is St David's Day! Find out how and when the daffodil and the leek became the national symbols of Wales on this BBC page</p>							

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

After a rather chilly February half term our students returned to school this week eager to continue with their studies. We have really enjoyed this year seeing how our students make the most of the extracurricular opportunities at Fortismere and this week we have been delighted to see how members of our pressgang have been putting their journalistic skills to good use, interviewing the writer Dan Freedman. What's even more exciting is that members of the team have written an article about the interview that can be read below. We were also very proud to see our Year 10 Drama students taking their Theatre in Education performances out into the local primary school community. This is an annual event which is always well received by primary school students and something that our Drama students put a lot of work into. Please do take a moment to read the article below.

On Wednesday evening our Year 12 students and their parents attended the Futures event in South Wing. Our Sixth Form Team organised the event to encourage our students to really begin making concrete plans for their post 18 education. Families were also offered specialist sessions on applying for Oxbridge, Medical courses, Degree Apprenticeships and Art Foundation courses amongst other pathways. They were delighted with the levels of engagement at this event and have received lots of positive feedback from those who attended. WE look forward to seeing the future plans of our Year 12 students coming together over the next few months.

Our Year 11 students joined us on Thursday while the majority of our student community were working from home. Year 11 demonstrated very professional and positive attitudes towards engaging with the learning that was on offer. The team leading their learning on the day were pleased with their focus and commitment to the work they were completing and enjoyed having conversations with them about how to realise their ambitions in the summer exams. All who worked with them were incredibly impressed with how they responded to this shift in routine. We were also impressed with the levels of online engagement as our records showed this was high throughout the course of the day. We'd like to thank those who were motivating students to complete these activities from home.

Finally, we were excited to learn, about an hour after scraping ice off our windows this morning, that tomorrow is the first day of Spring. The sun has shone for us today at Fortismere and we hope it continues to do so for you throughout the weekend.

Fortismere FemSoc

International Women's Day Event - Thursday 6th March 5pm

Please come and support this student-led event and enjoy celebrating International Women's Day with the Fortismere FemSoc - we'd love to see lots of the school community at the event. Tickets can be found via: [this link](#)

School Fundraising Event

Quiz Night - Saturday 8th March 6.30pm SW Hall

There is still time to get tickets for this fun-filled night of friendly competition. Our fundraising target for Quiz

Night is £7000 which means that we really need lots of you to get a team together and to book tickets now please! Tickets are £10 per person and [available via Eventbrite here](#) Drinks will be available and you can bring your own food and snacks to share. We've got a great host lined up. Any questions please contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Sixth Form Notice

Year 12 Futures Evening

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Y12 students and their families to our Futures Evening – an event designed to help students explore their post-18 options and begin planning their next steps.

The evening began with a talk covering key pathways, including university applications, degree apprenticeships, and key updates to the UCAS personal statement process. Following this, students attended focused sessions tailored to their interests, with topics ranging from Medicine and Oxbridge applications to Art Foundation courses and competitive applications for Economics.

A key message from the evening was the importance of early research and engagement with super-curricular opportunities to strengthen future applications. We also highlighted essential resources such as Unifrog and UCAS Course Search to support students in making informed choices.



A huge thank you to all who attended—we look forward to continuing to guide and support our students on their journey beyond Sixth Form!

Jack Petchey Award

Press Gang - Journalism Workshop with Dan Freedman

On Tuesday, Press Gang (the team who produce the termly magazine *Fortistory*) were treated to an exclusive workshop with author Dan Freedman to help them with their journalism skills. This workshop was made possible due to a Jack Petchey award. All involved impressed Dan, Mrs Ward and me (Ms Brooks) with their enthusiasm, focus and excellent interview questions. Hugo and Bo agreed to put their learning into practice and to write for the Newsletter - read on for their take on the afternoon.

Daring Dan Freedman Accepts Interview from Press Gang

BY HUGO SERPA VIERA LIMA AND BO MADDOX

Famous storywriter and Fortismere's patron of reading, Dan Freedman was interviewed by the Fortismere Press gang on the 25th of February. The members of Press gang asked him many questions ranging from "What's your favourite football team?" (he couldn't reveal) to "How do you feel about the country's way of teaching creative writing". Read on to find out more.

How do you feel about the country's way of teaching creative writing? This question got nominated as the best question by Dan himself. The question was asked by Bo Maddox (Year 7) to which Dan replied, *"I think the children should have more freedom, instead of teachers telling them, Do this, Do that, they should instead change their attitude a bit and give some more leeway towards kids"*. This showed Dan's concern to the way schools teach creative writing (and other subjects).

Another great question asked by our fellow press gang members was **What do you think about the book industry?** To which Dan had a lot to say, *"I believe the book industry is in need of a disruption, there is not a lot of communication between the author, the publisher and the audience. I also feel publishers are afraid to take risks and are publishing less and less books from aspiring authors"* Dan expressed his concern for the book industry and for new authors.

In conclusion, we thoroughly enjoyed our interview with Dan Freedman and feel we have grown as journalists because of it. I feel I speak for everyone when I say, we hope something like this can happen again. Before I conclude this article I would like to thank Dan Freedman for letting us interview him.



New Parent Teacher Association

Friends of Fortismere Launch Event - Tuesday 11th March 7.00pm SW Hall

Don't miss the launch of our new Friends of Fortismere PTA which is coming up soon. We're a small group of parents who are passionate about building the Fortismere community and working together to create the best opportunities for our kids. We think that a PTA will impact positively on the whole school community.

At our launch event, you will hear about the new committee structure, and how you can be involved - this could be as a volunteer with experience of PTAs, fundraising or event planning or maybe you can support with communications, marketing, or website development. Could you be a year group rep or take part in a careers fair or just help out on the day at our events. We'd really like lots of parents and carers to come along and support us as we launch the new PTA.

To help us plan (and make sure there are enough drinks and snacks!), please fill out [this short form](#). The form also asks what your skills and interests are so please do fill it out even if you can't attend on the night.

We really look forward to seeing you on the 11th March

Jo Kaye, Jo Feary, Amelia Lasserson, Clare Melikan, Frances Price and Hagar Russ.

Music Centre Notices

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - 16th March 7pm at St Andrew's N10

Just two weeks to go till the symphony orchestra's concert. All welcome to join us for this exciting programme of passion and drama! The rich, sweeping sounds of Elgar, Wagner and Brahms will fill St Andrew's Church (the acoustics are fantastic) - there's nothing like live orchestral music to stir the soul! We've got a fabulous mezzo soprano soloist joining us for Elgar's song cycle about the sea - Annabella Vesela Ellis has performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, at the English National Opera and Glyndebourne. Fortismere students get FREE tickets – apply the voucher code FORTSTUDENT25 at checkout if booking online, or just turn up on the night. Tickets [available to buy here](#).



FCSO
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WAGNER
Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde

ELGAR
Sea Pictures

BRAHMS
Symphony No.1

MEZZO SOPRANO **ANNABELLA-VESELA ELLIS**
CONDUCTOR **THOMAS GREGORY**

SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2025 AT 7 PM

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | N10 2DD
STANDARD £16 EARLY BIRD £13 STUDENTS/UBH £8

BOOK ONLINE www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk



Careers & Work Related Learning

National Careers Week 3-8th March

National Careers Week 2025 (NCW25) runs from 3rd March to 8th March. It's a great opportunity for students and parents/carers to explore different career paths, learn about new industries, and connect with employers and education providers. Find out all about it via the [NCW website](#)

The **NCW Virtual Careers Fair 2025** begins on 3rd March - access the resources and events via this link [NCW 2025 Virtual Careers Fair](#) Access **The Parent's Guide to National Careers Week 2025** [using this link](#)

Students can improve their knowledge of career pathways and be in with a chance of winning prizes for the school by taking part in a **Springpod Unlocked competition**. The short courses are created in partnership with the DfE and focus on Apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. Create a Springpod account [here](#) and then complete one of the short courses by 21st March.

And have a look at the Careers pages on our school website to access the weekly Careers Newsletter [here](#)

Library Notices

World Book Day News

World Book Day is on the horizon, although at Fortismere every day is world book day in our opinion. All Year 7 and 8 students have received their WBD vouchers which they can exchange in bookshops for a free book or £1 off a book of their choice. We also have some spare vouchers on the front desk in the library if any other student would like to collect one. In the meantime, there's a selection of [FREE audio books here](#)



WORLD BOOK DAY
£1 BOOK TOKEN
Changing lives through a love of books and reading

SWAP YOUR £1 TOKEN AT A BOOKSHOP
CHOOSE YOUR £1 BOOK FOR FREE

World Book Day is a charity sponsored by NATIONAL BOOK TOKENS

Valid from 13 February - 23 March 2025

Win Yoto's ultimate reading bundle!
Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. With a Yoto Player plus an annual Yoto Club Collector membership which includes 24 story cards and more.
20 bundles up for grabs! See website to enter.

Recommended Reads of the Week

Excitingly the longlist has now been published for the 2025 Carnegie Medal for Writing - the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book award, which recognises outstanding reading experiences created in books for children and young people. Take a look at the list [here](#), perhaps use your WBD voucher for money off one of them, or borrow from the school library.



PE & Sports Notices

Haringey Indoor Athletics at Lea Valley Indoor Centre

Well done to our athletics teams on Monday who competed on the track at the Lea Valley Indoor Athletics Centre. We had some excellent individual performances.

Farrah won the 60m hurdles, Eliz was second in the Y10 hurdles. Genevieve, Evie and Feliceienne were all second in the 800m. Pippa was second in the Long Jump.

Overall the girls finished 2nd in the Y10 Competition, 3rd in the Y9 and 3rd in the Y8. The boys finished 5th in Y8. Well done to everyone who took part.



Haringey Basketball League

The Y7 and Y9 boys were up against APS in the Haringey Basketball League before half term. Y9 had an end to end game and played really well as a team showing great cohesion on the court. Unfortunately APS were the better team and won the match. Y7 played well but it was their first game and they lacked a little team cohesion but still a great start. There are Haringey Basketball tournaments all next week so it's a chance to build on that.



Year 8 Football v Greig City

Our grass pitches are waterlogged because of all the recent rain and while the astroturf is okay to play on it's not ideal for fixtures because of its hard surface. Greig City only has a 7 a-side pitch so they came to us for a game on the astro. We got off to a great start - Carlos having an impact down the left wing, Yunus, Sam, Ben, Keanu, Max and Gabriel



all playing solidly at the back. Max made some fantastic and brave saves in goal considering how hard the sandy surface was. We held it to 0-0 for most of the first half until they scored a lucky goal - bouncing high over Max's head and the glare from the sun inhibiting his view. We had shots at goal, Jude, Lino, Teddy, Omar, Oscar, Dempsey and Alfie all joining up play in midfield and up front to test Greig City's defence and goalkeeper but we just couldn't convert our chances into goals. Our heads went down and they took advantage. Unlucky boys.

New Extra Curricular Timetable

We shared the new extra curricular timetable in the Newsletter before half term. Remind your child that it is also displayed in the Sportshall and in North Wing and South Wing. All school clubs are free to attend and students just need to come along with their PE kit having informed their parents. The timetable is also [on the website here](#)

Upcoming Fixtures

- Mon 3rd March - Y10 Boys Haringey Basketball - APS 1.30-3.30pm
- Tues 4th March - Y7 Boys Haringey Basketball at APS.
- Tues 4th March - Y7 Girls Middlesex Cup Away at JCOS
- Weds 5th March - Girls and Boys Rugby tournament at Finchley Rugby Club 1.30-3.30pm.
- Weds 5th March - Y8 Haringey Basketball at Fortismere 1.30-3.30pm
- Thur 6th March - Y9 Boys Basketball at STM 1.30-3.30pm
- Fri 7th March - Girls U13 Middlesex Schools Indoor Cricket Finals @ Middlesex Finchley 10-3 pm

Drama Department Notices

Year 10 Students Perform to Haringey Primary Schools

Coldfall, Eden, and Muswell Hill Primary schools all had the pleasure of watching Year 10 GCSE Drama students perform to them this week. As part of our annual Theatre in Education curriculum, students experienced writing and creating a piece of children's theatre based on a primary school topic being studied.

Two of our Year 10 groups took their performances to the primary schools, travelling theatre style! Eden Primary watched a Jumanji inspired story set in Ancient Rome, and Muswell Hill Primary experienced an original devised story set in Ancient Egypt. Coldfall students visited our Fortismere North Wing theatre to watch a science based version of the Wizard of Oz.

With lots of positive feedback from the primary schools, we want to say a huge well done to all the Drama students for their innovation and creativity, learning how to perform to new younger audiences, stepping into something new, supporting the primary schools in their education through edutainment, and creating a memorable and exciting experience for all!



Extra Curricular & Clubs

Chess Success

Well done to our Fortismere chess team who played superbly this week to qualify for the last stage of the Online Repechage, as part of the English Schools Chess Championships. The next round (round D) will take place on March 10th. Good luck!



Chess club (from now until the end of May) meets in Room S11 from 1.00-1.30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. All players of all levels are welcome at Chess Club Mr Renner

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 [use this link](#) or the QR code

You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

