

### School Leadership Messages

#### Black History Month

Departments are making different contributions to the Fortismere celebration of Black History Month. Highlights include the English Department introducing KS3 classes to a range of Black and Black heritage authors. The History Department is commemorating the contribution of non-White people to the world wars and the Art Department has a stunning display of black British artists, photographers and designers on art room doors. These artists are being discussed within the lessons. We will be sharing a more detailed overview next week.

#### Parents' Evenings Dates 2023-24

Dates for Parents' Evenings for all year groups have been added to the website - [see this page](#)

#### Top Positive Points This Term

Well done to the following students, our top scorers so far this term

Zach Whittaker	Martha Appleby	Minghyun Fu
Helder Lozano	Oscar Shortall	Stella Yildiz
Max Cooper	Anagha Anand	Liam Kennedy
Tia Lytton	Sami Aziz	Lily Changai Gibson
Bill Moreten Spencer	Noah Plender	Ben Whiteley
Beth Ingber	Amber Charnley	Saskia Frances Georgianna
Ilgaz Guvendik	Amelia Laskowska	Ella Meshulam
Tom Orton	Lora Vida	Carl Peanberg King

### Contents

CoHeadteachers' message

Departmental & Year Group Notices

School Holiday Clubs

Fundraising Events

Safeguarding Information

### Calendar

18/10	Y13 Parents' Evening 3.30pm
23/10-27/10	Half term holiday
30/10	Y7 Halloween Disco 5.30pm
2/11	Fortismere Fireworks Display



**Today is World Smile Day**  
The message is to do an act of kindness and help one person smile!

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

It's been a full week of activities here at Fortismere. There were two parental engagement events: The Year 7 Welcome Evening for parents and our SEND information Evening for parents which took place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings consecutively. Both evenings were well attended. It is always a delight to welcome Year 7 parents en masse to Fortismere in the Autumn term as it presents an opportunity for us to introduce key members of staff and importantly to engage our community in the opportunities that take place outside the classroom. We have already stated clearly this year in our communications that the twin notions of 'Belonging' and 'Connectedness' are high on our agenda so events such as these that bring the community together both to share information and to connect parents are vital.

We are looking forward to welcoming Key Stage 4 parents (both Year 10 and 11) to separate information and study events later this term as we know the benefit that working together has on student progress. As you will see from our recent examinations results, successes at Key Stage 4 outcomes for Fortismere students are going from strength to strength at Fortismere. The degree of progress we make with our students from their starting point is a key indicator of our academic success and this year at Fortismere the early indications from an organisation called FFT (Fischer Family Trust) and the DFE is that our progress 8 score for GCSE in 2023 was our best ever. This is certainly a cause for celebration for those students and the school. We are determined to build on this strength with successive cohorts and we are convinced working in partnership with parents and ongoing discourse around high expectations of attendance, engagement and study is critical in ensuring that students in future cohorts are able to achieve outstanding education outcomes too.

We were pleased to see the whole of Year 12 work on their 'connectedness' this week as our new A level cohort went to Cambridge on Wednesday to spend the day in their tutor groups getting to know one another in a different (excitingly academic!) setting. We understand the students valued the opportunity to explore a new setting together and build those relationships that we know will carry them through the next two years and beyond.

It's also been a week of poetic events as you will see from items in this week's Newsletter. Our Year 8 students were lucky enough to spend time in poetry workshops led by our Poet in Residence, Lewis Buxton while Year 13 students went on a trip to the Barbican to meet Inua Ellans, the poet whose text 'The Half God of Rainfall' they are studying as part of their A level English Literature coursework. We are delighted that so many of our students experience the privilege of engaging with contemporary poets and having the opportunity to explore their craft and the impact of their work.

We are now in October, which is Black History Month (you will have spotted that our communications pantone has changed this week to mark this event.) Staff across the curriculum are organising lesson resources and activities to commemorate Black History month and we look forward to sharing more about this, including students' work over the next few weeks.

We trust that our Fortismere families enjoy the upcoming unseasonably warm weekend.

## Student Health & Wellbeing

### World Mental Health Day 2023

**Tuesday 10th October** is World Mental Health Day. This year, Young Minds are running a #helloyellow campaign encouraging as many people as possible to wear yellow and to donate to the amazing work that

they do. Yellow is a happy colour, and the aim is for children to look around and see a sea of yellow and feel positive, supported and not alone. Please encourage your child to wear yellow to school and either bring a £1 donation on the day or donate through [this link](#). Together, we can show our young people that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what!

Ms Jones - Mental Health Champion

## LINC Department

### SEND Information Evening - Thank you & FAQs

It was really great to see such a good turn out for the SEND Information Evening yesterday, 5th October and feedback from those who attended has been really positive. We will be uploading the slides to the LINC page on the school website in due course so that any parents and carers who were unable to attend can access the information that was provided.

We are also preparing a **Frequently Asked Questions document** that will go together with the presentation. We are asking for your support with this please. If you have any general questions regarding SEND provision and LINC at Fortismere, please email these to [lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk) with the subject heading *FAQ* and where appropriate or possible we will feed this into the final document. Please can you forward these general questions by Thursday 12th October.

Lastly, please can I remind you to keep a lookout in the weekly Newsletter for additional events for parents and carers being offered by LINC.

Mr Fari

## Sixth Form News

### Year 12 Go to Cambridge

On Wednesday this week, 204 Year 12 students went on a day trip to Cambridge escorted by Ms Bailey, Mr Kenny, Year 12 tutors and other members of the Sixth Form Team. The day was part of our programme to help the Year 12 students bond and get to know each other and the sixth form team better. The weather was glorious and students enjoyed punting down the river, wandering the historic streets and visiting the museums. Two of our students even managed to meet up with their older siblings (and ex-Fortismere students) who were enjoying their freshers week at university! Thank you to all the staff who attended and helped make the day such a success and to the students who were a pleasure to spend time with and showed mature, responsible and respectful behaviour throughout.

Ms Bailey



## Science Department News

### Science A Level Trip to CERN

Last week, twenty four excited A-Level Science students along with three teachers (Mr. Commons, Mr. Nano and Mrs Morrison) departed London very early and flew to Geneva for a visit to CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider and a range of experiments involved in better understanding the universe. At CERN the

scientific breakthroughs, such as the discovery of the Higgs boson, require large scale experimental machines. During the visit students gained an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that the multinational collaborations at CERN face. Whilst there we were lucky to visit the ALICE experiment where data was being collected as large ions were being collided. As well as CERN, students were privileged to visit the Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne.

Here we had the opportunity to experience live testing of the nuclear fusion test facility and speak to research scientists about their work. Whilst in Geneva the students also visited the United Nations where we saw active documentation of human right atrocities and international discussions on how to govern autonomous cars in the future. Students also visited the Science Museum. This was an amazing trip that certainly inspired everyone who attended. Current Year 12 students should look out for details of the next trip to CERN in March '24. Mr Commons



## English Department News

### English Literature A Level Trip

A level English Literature students recently visited the Barbican. Year 13 student, Carolina Ribo Ramirez, writes about the visit for us:

*Last Friday, our English class went on a trip to the Barbican. Here, we met Inua Ellams, the writer of 'The Half God of Rainfall,' which we are currently studying for coursework. Hearing him read his poetry inspired us and taught us more about his life. He read beautiful pieces about his Mum, moving from Nigeria to England, the death of his friend and an unreleased poem still in the making. It was a splendid opportunity to be able to meet one of the writers we are currently studying.*



## Library News

### Top Tips to Keep Your Children Reading



**Top Tip 3:** Read to them. Or with them. Our students always enjoy it when we read to them in library lessons – just because they are now in “big school” doesn’t mean that you should stop sharing books. For those who need a little more persuasion, hearing a snippet of a book, or a sample from an online shopping website (you can usually download the first chapter for free) might be enough to draw them in.

### Patron of Reading

The first official fixture of our new Patron of Reading, Dan Freedman, was on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September when 2 Year 7 classes had so many questions that we ran out of time! Dan, author of the Jamie Johnson series, gave a magnificent talk on how his determination to somehow have a career in football led him to landing a brilliant job touring the world with the England football squad, interviewing famous people and working as a



journalist with the FA. Even those without the faintest interest in the Beautiful Game were riveted and inspired. Dan will be making regular visits to Fortismere over the next 2 years to meet as many of our students as possible.



## Poet in Residence



To celebrate National Poetry Day on 5<sup>th</sup> October, we invited the extraordinary Lewis Buxton back to Fortismere library to work with every Year 8 class over three madcap, exhausting and utterly brilliant 5 period days. Lewis has this great ability of building a rapport with every student and got them all writing unusual, beautiful, bizarre, hilarious and moving poetry. Of course, in usual Lewis fashion, the writing was interspersed with “What’s your favourite potato product/breakfast?” “Describe how tired you are”, cliché –bashing, ask your friend weird questions and games of Waffle or Pancake and word tennis. Little did the students know how much this seemingly random playing with words was improving their writing which will eventually be collated, printed and in the school library for future generations to admire...

## Macmillan Cake Sale Update

Huge thanks to all those who provided cakes and goodies for our Macmillan Cancer Trust sales, and to the students who ran the stalls on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week. We’re delighted to say that we sent a total of £448.79 to the charity. PS. Please collect your cake containers from the library!



## Recommended Reads of the Week

The theme of **Dyslexia Awareness Week** this year (2-8 October) is celebrating individuals with dyslexia. Fortismere alumnus and author Eve Wersocki Morris is a great example of disproving her primary school teacher's announcement of "Eve is the worst speller in the school", as is the bestselling, Carnegie medal winner Sally Gardner who had no idea what C-A-T spelled when her teacher removed the picture. Here too are some Barrington Stoke books which are printed to be "dyslexia friendly" with a specialist font and coloured paper and which are also super-readable, written by top authors and really popular with all our students who prefer a shorter read. Plus some empathetic books with dyslexic characters.

*"I strongly believe that dyslexia is like a Rubik's Cube: it takes time to work out how to deal with it but once you do, it can be the most wonderful gift."* [Sally Gardner]



## PE & Sports Department News

### Haringey Cross Country Competition

Congratulations to all of our cross country runners who competed in the recent Haringey schools event representing Fortismere. Amy Kirk Y10, won the girls race, beating 121 other competitors from seven Haringey schools.

The team results were impressive:

Year 7: Boys 3rd & Year 7 Girls 3rd

Year 8: Boys 1st & Year 8 Girls 5th

Year 9: Girls 2nd



### Y8 A&B Boys Football v Highgate

The Y8 boys put on a good show this week against Highgate School. Our Y8 A team won 3-0 with two excellent goals from Ben Cawley. The Y8 B team ran out convincing winners with a 7-3 scoreline, which was especially impressive as they were actually 0-3 down at one point! Some inspirational tactical changes from Ms Jackson turned the match around (so I'm told). Well done to both squads!





## U15 Girls Through to Next Round in Middlesex Cup

Year 9/10 girls travelled to Highgate on Thursday to play in the first round of the Middlesex Cup. It was a brilliant performance by all involved and there were some excellent goals. We won 10-0! Goal scorers were Lilly, Ava, Genevieve, Leila and Mia G. Well done all of you!



## U14 Girls Middlesex Cup

The Y8/9 U14 Girls team played a very tough game on Tuesday this week against Highlands School. Unfortunately, Highlands were the stronger team and beat us 2-0.



## Senior Football Trials & Y8 Football Training - Monday 9th October

Senior football trials will take place on Monday 9th October at 3:20pm - this is open to all Y11,12 & 13 students. The trials will be on grass so boots and shin pads are required. Please also note that **Y8 training will not take place on Monday 9th** and will return on the 16th.

## Haringey Table Tennis Competition

Well done to the boys that represented the school in the Haringey Table Tennis Competition on Monday. The Year 7 and 8 boys finished 4th with only 3 players and the Year 10 team also finished 4th against some very strong opposition.



## Next Week's Fixtures

Monday 9th October	Year 7/8 & 9/10 Table Tennis Competition - 3.30 pm APS Senior Football Trials - 3.20pm Grass pitch
Wednesday 11th October	Football Senior XI v STM (H) 2:45pm KO.

## PE Kit Supplier / KS4 PE T-Shirts

Please note that our kit supplier has rebranded their website and can now be found at [ORC Printwear Fortismere School](#)

We would like to remind parents and carers of students in KS4 that there is a KS4 t-shirt (£8) for those students who may have outgrown their previous kit. Further optional items include KS4 Sports hoodies and GCSE t-shirts that may be of interest.



## Music Department Notice

### Ensembles This Term

Please encourage your child to speak to me (Mr Watson, Director of Music) if they would like to join a group but are unsure about anything.

	Lunch time 1.10-1.40pm	After school
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Senior Strings</b> - At least grade 4 violin, viola or cello.	<b>Training Orchestra 3.25-4.25pm</b> - All instrumentalists are welcome, but please note there is a limit on the number of pianists, guitarists and percussionists we can cater for.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Samba Bateria Brazilian Drumming</b> - Recommended for all drummers and also for anyone who enjoys beats!	<b>Jazz band 3.20-4.00pm</b> - Jazz band with our drums and guitar peris.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Big Band</b> - Woodwind and Brass grade 4 and higher. Rhythm section by invitation only.	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Junior Choir</b> - Singers from Years 7-9	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b> - Singers from Years 10-13	



## School Holiday Clubs

### Booking Open for October Half Term Holiday Clubs

Bookings are now open for the October Half Term Holiday Camps at Fortismere - these will run from **Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October**. Activities take place at Fortismere School, Tetherdown, London N10 1NE from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

The cost for clubs for a full week starts from £80.00. There is also an early drop-off option (8am) which includes a light breakfast and a late pick up(4pm) option. Booking details are below.

**Tiny Twinkles Age 3-6:** Perfect for 3-6 year olds led by professional actors with a love for early years! Each day the children will explore all genres of creative arts-learning songs & dances, acting out role play adventures, exploring arts & crafts plus lots of games and crafts. [Book a place here](#)

**Multi Sports Age 5-6:** This club will give children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sporty activities. [Book a place here](#)

**Multi Sports Age 7-14:** Children will have the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of different sports and take part in fun competitions. [Book a place here](#)

**Drama Club Age 7-15:** This week the children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. There will be lots of drama games and exercises with the children to develop their confidence and drama skills. [Book a place here](#)

**Musical Theatre Age 6-12:** Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity when storytelling through dance. The participants will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance. [Book a place here](#)

**Art Camp Age 7-15:** Experiment and explore core techniques in art using print, paint, pastels, pencil, plus more. The focus is to encourage children to engage with exciting materials, release their inner creativity and have fun. Themes across the week include Portraiture, Landscapes, Pop art and Typography. [Book a place here](#)

**Clay and Pottery Camp Age 7-15:** Children will have the chance to explore and experiment with clay and pottery and learn basic techniques during this camp. [Book a place here](#)

**Comic Camp Age 7-14:** Children will learn about comics and cartoon history and how they have been used as tools for storytelling and communication over the years. They'll look at basic anatomy and character design and how to fit this into stories. Storytelling including layout and structure, scripting and lettering and colouring are also covered. Using the skills gathered, students will work on their own comic strip and produce a complete 8-12 page comic. [Book a place here](#)

Please contact Maria Demetriou [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk) if you have any queries or need more information about the camps. Early starts and late pickups must be booked in advance.

## School Fundraising Event

### Fortismere Fireworks Night - Thursday 2nd November 2023 from 5.00pm

It's already Firework time again so please remember remember the 2nd November! Put the date in your diaries because we will be putting on another spectacular firework display on the school field. Gates on Twyford Avenue will open at 5pm so you will have plenty of time to enjoy the Fun Fair, the bar with mulled wine, hot drinks and various hot food stalls before the fireworks start from 7.30-8.00pm. The event closes at 9pm. Apart from being a great night out you will be supporting the school to raise much needed extra funds so please buy your tickets now. If you purchase tickets in advance you can save money: Tickets are £7 each in advance or £9 on the gate. Tickets are on sale now from the school library (during break and lunch) or online via [Eventbrite here](#) We also need help on the night so if anyone would like to volunteer please get in touch with me [mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:safetalk@fortismere.org.uk) alternatively contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year:

Year 7	Ms Fox <a href="mailto:kfox@fortismere.org.uk">kfox@fortismere.org.uk</a>
Year 8	Ms Jackson <a href="mailto:kjackson@fortismere.org.uk">kjackson@fortismere.org.uk</a>
Year 9	Ms Cuenca <a href="mailto:icuenca@fortismere.org.uk">icuenca@fortismere.org.uk</a>
Year 10	Mr Aldridge <a href="mailto:saldridge@fortismere.org.uk">saldridge@fortismere.org.uk</a>
Year 11	Ms Boot <a href="mailto:aboot@fortismere.org.uk">aboot@fortismere.org.uk</a>