

School Leadership Messages

Covid Update

Lateral Flow Tests

Given the high number of cases of Covid both locally and nationally we must remind parents of the importance of their children taking twice weekly lateral flow tests.

We have sent students home with new LFT kits and were disappointed to learn that testing kits had been found disposed of in local bins. Given the high rates of cases in Haringey in 10 - 14 year olds last week (625.5 per 100,000 people) it is essential that we do what we can to monitor the virus in our community. The DfE has recommended that schools ask for proof that students have tested prior to the start of the new half term. We believe that we can trust our families to ensure that testing does take place.

Controlling cases

We are still experiencing a steady stream of positive Covid cases. Please see below for our Covid control guidance.

- Students encouraged to wear masks in the corridors and communal areas
- Use of hand sanitiser on entry to classrooms
- Regular hand washing
- Good respiratory hygiene (tissues disposed of in a lidded bin)

Vaccinations

We are circulating the NHS [link](#) for parents and carers who missed the opportunity for the school-based vaccinations to access the 12-15 year olds vaccinations in the community.

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 3rd November,

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students and their parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening.

Further information to follow to parents of students in Year 11.

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Calendar

25-29. 10	Half term holiday
02.11	Pure Piano Concert
03.11	Sixth Form Open Evening
04.11	Fortismere Fireworks
11.11	Black History Month event 5pm
01.12	Yr 8 X Bank Parents Evening
15.12	Yr 8 Y Bank Parents Evening



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

As is often the way in the last week of the half term, it has been very busy. From poets to high profile feminists, we have offered our students a range of visitors this week.

We have continued to hold events for our celebration of Black History Month (please see the separate item below). On Tuesday we were delighted to be able to offer Marva Rollins OBE, who was in school conducting a review of our provision for BAME students, the superb food our caterers supplied for BHM. She was as impressed as the rest of us with the quality and deliciousness of the food produced.

On Wednesday we welcomed acclaimed poet and former Blanche Nevile and Fortismere student Raymond Antrobus MBE as part of our Black History Month celebrations. 140 Year 9 students were both engaged and inspired by his readings and workshop. Feedback from students is quoted below in this week's round up of Black History Month but suffice it to say that students made the most of the experience.



Yesterday, Students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 (and 2 from Year 9) were able to meet Laura Bates during Period 5. Laura is the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project website and writes regularly for the New York Times, Guardian, Telegraph and many others. Her talk was inspirational and she gave her time generously to students who showered her with questions at the end of her presentation. The quality of the questions was impressive and showed not only student interest, but their desire to see everyone included in improving the lives of women and girls in partnership with boys and men. We very much hope to invite Laura back to Fortismere and are grateful to Mrs Ward for organising the event.

Earlier on in the day, the Co-Heads got the opportunity to celebrate the success of two of our Year 7 Mandarin Excellence students. Wilf Wallace and Etan Ellison Glynne were both shortlisted for the Chinese Bridge Competition and joined us for a hot chocolate on Thursday morning to talk us through the event. In Etan's words: *"My experience of the Chinese Bridge competition was amazing, although it was on zoom the atmosphere was still there. Wilf and I were in the top 6 of the country's best mandarin speakers and two of them were from Fortismere!!!! Over 250 entrants did not get through to our stage and I was very proud to be able to speak mandarin at a national level. Overall the competition was a fantastic experience and I wish to do it again next year. I hope this inspires others to learn mandarin too and one day have the chance to speak it at a national standard as well"*. We are extremely proud of both of them and deeply impressed by the fluency of their Mandarin.



The clocks got back during the second weekend of half term. Winter is definitely approaching and we hope that all our families have a restful half term and an enjoyably spooky halloween!



Sixth Form

UCAS Applications 2021

This has been a busy half term for Year 13 students. On Friday 15th October we sent 55 early entry applications. Early entry applicants are applying for medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford. We are extremely proud of the way that the students approached the application process and wish them all well in the next stage of the application process.

Head Student Team

This half term we have also elected our head students and deputy head students. We had twelve candidates standing for election. The candidates took part in hustings assemblies for Year 12 and Year 13 and ran interesting and positive campaigns.



We are pleased to announce that our two head students are: Imani Williams-Brown and Smit Kotak. Our two deputy head students are: Meera Needham-Hewavisenti and Marco Baschiera-Sabe



Black History Month

Weekly Roundup

Year 9 English students had an inspiring and moving time during the poetry sharing session delivered by the talented poet Raymond Antrobus. Raymond Antrobus MBE is an ex-student of Blanche Nevile and Fortismere, of mixed heritage, English and Jamaican. In March 2019 he won the Ted Hughes Award for new work in poetry. Comments from some of the students who attended:

- 'I think it was a really unique experience and I really enjoyed finding out how and why he wrote his poems and the inspiration behind them.'
- 'It was thought provoking'
- 'I think it was inspiring because you could really relate to him because he went to this school and he was in the same place as us right now; and he got so far with his poetry.'
- 'I thought it was really interesting to hear someone talk about what it is actually like to be a poet because it is not a very common job and it's not something you hear about.'
- 'I really enjoyed hearing about his childhood and growing up going to Fortismere because I found it really inspiring how he wrote poetry everyday in his book.'
- 'I like how he depicted his father and how they communicated and how his dad supported him with his reading and I found the poem, 'Happy birthday moon' sweet.'

In Modern Languages, students have been learning about cultural figures of African descent in the Francophone and Hispanophone worlds. For example, in year 7 Spanish students had to read biographical texts in Spanish on people such as Celia Cruz, Lupita Nyong'o, Victor Cruz and Mariah Carey and use the vocabulary they have gained in Spanish this term to pull out key information and share what they learnt. In GCSE Spanish, students have been looking at why speaking different languages are important and the influence of different cultures on language and how language as a result changes over time.

In Year 7 PSHE, there is currently a poster competition where students have been encouraged to explore the themes of Black History Month independently looking at history, culture, achievement, anti-racism and significant people as part of their work on Modern Britain and our British Values.

Lastly, on Tuesday, our caterers, Harrisons, put on a special Black and Black Heritage Cultural theme lunch for all staff and students to enjoy. This included African and African Caribbean dishes, such as rice and peas, jerk chicken, fried plantain, curried stew, seasoned couscous and more. The opportunity was very well received as the canteen saw some of its best attendance!

Remember that you are invited to come and see the work that students have produced at our Black History Month Celebration Exhibition event on Thursday 11th November at 5pm. It would be great to see lots of our Fortismere community in attendance. We have arranged special guest speakers, performers and food in addition to the exhibition of work. Come along and enjoy!

Charity Notices

Just Giving Page

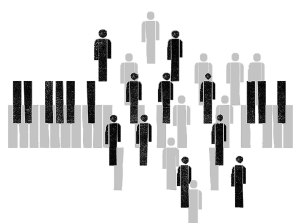
Melissa Vangucci is fundraising for Breast Cancer Now, and they'd really appreciate your support.

You can donate to their JustGiving page: [Click Here](#)

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Breast Cancer Now, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

Music Department Notices

Ensembles 2021/22



FORTISMERE
SCHOOL MUSIC

Please encourage your children to get involved in the Music Department by joining an ensemble or an activity. Please remind your children that Senior Choir is now on a Tuesday lunchtime in the Concert Hall, Popular Guitar Group will also be on a Tuesday in MU2 and Classical Guitar Group is now on a Friday Lunchtime in the Concert Hall.

Also it is important that your child brings in a pack lunch for rehearsals so that we can start on time. Please impress upon them the need for regular attendance, punctuality and practice of parts.

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior Strings (G5+) Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech MU1 School Orchestra (Gr2+) Concert Hall
Tuesday	Percussion Group MU1 Popular Guitar Group MU2 Senior Choir (Yr 10-13) Concert Hall	Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	MusicalTheatre Group MU1 Big Band (Gr3+) Concert Hall	Bands (Various) Gospel Choir Room A
Thursday	DJ Club Top Studio	KS4 Music Tech MU4

	Junior Choir (Yr 7-9) Concert Hall	
Friday	Junior Strings (G1-4) MU2 Classical Guitar Group Concert Hall	
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (10am - 12pm) MU1 Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm) Concert Hall	Afternoon (1 - 4pm) Chamber Groups Rock Bands

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Endangered Species

If your child would like the opportunity to play one of the endangered species instruments on offer this year please get in touch with the Director of Music as soon as possible.

We still have some free lessons for new starters available on French Horn, Bassoon, Double Bass and Trombone.

For more information please email: ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk

Pure Piano Concert - Tuesday 2nd November South Wing Hall 7pm



On Tuesday 2nd November we will be having our annual piano recital evening in South Wing Hall at 7pm. All pupils that are taking part in this event have been added to a google classroom and should finalise their choice of repertoire with the Music Department over the half term break.

Tickets for this concert can be bought at: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Christmas Concert Auditions - Deadline Friday 5th November

Preparations for the Christmas Concerts are in full swing at the moment and there will be plenty of music on offer from a variety of our ensembles. Orchestra, Big Band, Senior Strings, Junior Strings, Percussion Group, Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Guitar Group will all be taking part but we are interested in students in solo and group performances for the two nights.

Please ask your child to talk to their music teacher if they are interested or email Mr Jefferies: ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk and they will be added to a google classroom.

The deadline for auditions will be **Friday 5th November** and we will be asking for video submissions students can submit online. Please note that students will only be offered solo spots if they are actively involved in one of the ensembles on offer during the week at Fortismere.

Tickets for this concert can be bought at: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 27th November

The next concert for the FCSO will take place on **Saturday 27th November** in St Andrews Church, Muswell Hill at 7:30pm.

The programme for this event is a real treat for lovers of the *Romantic* repertoire with Khachaturian's *Adagio from Spartacus*, Dvorak's *8th Symphony* and Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*.



Our soloist for this concert will be Japanese pianist Tadashi Imai who has performed all over the world including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall and The Royal Festival Hall.

The orchestra were lucky enough to have Mr Imai join them for a run through of the Theme of Paganini this week and we can promise you that you will not want to miss this concert.

Tadashi will also be conducting a masterclass for piano students at Fortismere in the week before the concert, interested students should contact the Director of Music by emailing ejfferies@fortismere.org.uk if they wish to take part.

Tickets for this concert can be purchased at: www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Sport & PE Notices

Weekly Roundup

Well what a half-term of sport we have enjoyed. After the frustrations of COVID restrictions Fortismere students have returned to clubs and competitive sport with avengence. I have been so delighted with the number of Boys and Girls, from Yrs 7-13, who have been so willing to keep fit, active and represent the school.

We have had some amazing results and many of our teams are in latter stages of competitions - so great to see. This term we have had over **40 clubs** and extra-curricular activities on offer, every week, and an incredible total of over **60 fixtures** and events that we have competed in.

Keep on going Fortismere - more of the same after half-term please!

Fixtures Roundup

Another very busy week of Football with Fortismere Boys and Girls Teams involved in Middlesex and English Schools cup games.

The U13 girls got us started with a convincing win over St Thomas More as they safely sailed through to the 3rd round of the Middlesex cup. Y9 Boys didn't fare so well going out of the competition to St Thomas More.

Our 1st XI were involved in a stunning comeback as they came through to a 5-4 win from a 2-4 deficit against St Ignatius. They now qualify through to the Knockout stage of the Middlesex Brigg Cup. Well done boys - amazing never say die attitude.

Netball also saw a return to active fixture with our Y10/11 girls starting the season with a great win over heartlands. Y9 girls unfortunately were beaten but made a good comeback in the last 2 quarters of the game. Both teams were in action afghan on Wednesday as we hosted

This week also saw DodgeBall make its inaugural debut in the list of borough competitions and I'm delighted to report that our U13 girls are the first ever champions. Our boys managed 5th place. Well done to all our representatives this last week.

Pictures: left (U13 Girls Football Team), center (U13 Dodgeball Team) and right (1st XI Team)



Fixtures

This Week's Fixtures

Monday 18th October

- Netball Y9/10/11 v Heartlands (A) Y9 - **Lost 5-15 Y10/11 Won 21-3**
- Football - Y9 v St Thomas More (A) Middx Cup 2nd Round **Lost 3-6**
- Football U13 Girls v St Thomas More (H) ESFA Cup 1.30 KO **Won 6-2**

Tuesday 19th October

- DodgeBall - Y7/8 Borough Champs at APS 1.30-3.30 **Girls 1st Boys 5th**

Wednesday 20th October

- Netball Y9/10/11 v APS (H) 3.20
- Football - U18 XI v St Ignatius (A) Middx Brigg Cup - Final Pool Stage Game 2.30 Kick Off

Thursday 21st October

- Dodgeball Y9/10 Borough Champs at APS 1.30-3.30
- Football Y11 Boys v STM (A) Middlesex Cup
- Football Y10 Boys v Heartlands (H) Haringey League

Friday 22nd October

- Football Y8 Boys 'A' v St Thomas More (A) 2pm KO Middlesex Cup Rnd 2

Next Week's Fixtures

Monday 1st November

- Football Y7 'A' v St Clements Danes (A) ESFA 1st Round KO 2.15

Tuesday 2nd November

- Football Y7 Boys and Girls Haringey 6-a-side tournament at Powerleague 11-3
- Football U16 Girls v Queens School (H) ESFA Round 3

Wednesday 3rd November

- Football Y8 Boys and Girls Haringey 6-a-side tournament at Powerleague 11-3
- Football 1st XI v Orleans Park (H) ESFA Round 2
- Football 2nd XI v Chigwell (H) ESFA Round 2

Thursday 4th November

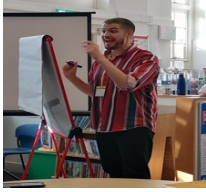
- Football Y9 Boys and Girls Haringey 6-a-side tournament at Powerleague 11-3
- Football Y8 Boys 'A' v Hurstmere (A) ESFA 3rd Round (2.15 Kick Off)

Friday 5th November

- Football Y9 Boys and Girls Haringey 6-a-side tournament at Powerleague 11-

Library

National Poetry Day



National Poetry Day was on Thursday 7th October. Unfortunately, that was also an INSET day, so the buoyant and bubbly award winning Lewis Buxton came to work with some students from Years 7 and 8 the following week (Friday 15th October).

His enthusiasm and energy were infectious. He asked the students to write a verse that was either true (“How do you feel?” “Tired”), a lie (“How do you feel?” “Angry”) or strange (“How do you feel?” “Two cats and a post box”). And he encouraged strangeness, which produced some quirky and ridiculously brilliant pieces of work from our students. All their poetry will be bound in a book to remain in the library for posterity, and when one of them is shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry, just like alumnus Raymond Antrobus who was with us again this week, we will look back on their efforts and be proud...

Half Term Activities

Two bookish events we recommend.



On Saturday 23rd October at 2pm Little Amal will be on the South Bank as part of Welcome Wishes, a free event based around “Swallow’s Kiss” by Sita Brahmachari and Jan Ray. Other notable authors will be there too...

To find out more about the Welcome Wishes event:
[Click Here](#)



On Saturday 30th October you can meet the amazing and popular author Onjali Q Rauf at the Muswell Hill Children’s Bookshop, 11.30am-12.30pm.

Recommended Reads of the Week



We have a huge supply of grimly gruesome books in the library, and a few are attracting attention on our Hallowe’ en display, along with severed limbs and an evil Mona Lisa. Here are some to get you in the mood for 30th October.





JEKYLL & HYDE

**FORTISMERE DRAMA
PRESENT
AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE**

**MONDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2021
TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2021**

6:00PM & 7:30PM 2 SHOWS EACH NIGHT

**CHOOSE BETWEEN A STEAMPUNK TICKET OR A
VICTORIAN TICKET**

**LIMITED TICKET AVAILABILITY DUE TO IMMERSIVE
NATURE OF THE SHOW. ADVANCE SALES ONLY**

**£6.50 A TICKET AVAILABLE ON PARENTMAIL
SEE PAYMENTS AND THEN SHOP**

**AUDIENCE ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR EITHER
STEAMPUNK OR VICTORIAN DRESS ACCORDING TO
YOUR TICKET CHOICE. PLEASE BE WEATHER
PREPARED AS SOME PARTS OF THE PERFORMANCE
WILL BE OUTSIDE. PLEASE ARRIVE AT SOUTH WING
TETHERDOWN ENTRANCE, 15 MINUTES BEFORE
YOUR PERFORMANCE TIME.**



ALL ENQUIRES TO MS TURNER DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Fortismere Holiday Activity Camp

October Holiday Camp Book Now! Open to the Community

With lots of fun and games to enjoy from D&T, Chess, Robotics and Coding to Drama and Multi Sports, holiday camps are ideal if you find it hard to juggle work and keep the children entertained. Activities will run between 9:00am-3:00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The full week will cost £80*, an 8:00 am drop off option will be offered, where the children will be provided with a light breakfast of toast, cereal & juice.

Please contact Maria Demetriou for information on subsidised places: mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Holiday Club Activities: Limited Spaces

Monday 26th October Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre: SOLD OUT

[Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre Tickets](#)

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. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Chess Club: SOLD OUT

[Chess Club](#)

[Tickets](#)

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the recent Netflix TV series The Queen's Gambit. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills needed also in the classroom.

This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.

Monday 26th October Drama Club: 1 Space Available

[Drama Club Tickets](#)

The children will work on improvisation and comedy skills. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Drawing Animation and Comics Club: SOLD OUT

[Drawing Animation and Comics Club Tickets](#)

Overview of the comic and cartoon industry and how they have been used as tools for storytelling and communication over the years. Children will be shown how the human body works and is designed to move. As well as character design for different types of characters and how they fit into the stories you want to tell and overview of comics storytelling, layout and structure. The children will also look at writing comics and how to produce clear lettering by hand for comics and different colouring techniques both traditional and digital. Using the skills gathered so far, children will work on their own comic stories. By the end of the course each student will produce their own complete 8 - 12 page comic strip. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Little Imaginations: SOLD OUT

[Little Imaginations Tickets](#)

Our camps cover all areas of creative arts, as well as active play and science experiments. *This holiday club is open to children aged 3-6 years.*

Monday 26th October Multi Sports: SOLD OUT

[Multi Sports Tickets](#)

This will give the children the opportunity to have fun and interact with others through a range of sports such as football, rounders, tennis and competitions for the chance to win a fabulous prize. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Robotics: SOLD OUT

[Robotics Tickets](#)

Children will gain an overview of how robotics is used and integrated in computer science, IT and STEAM. The children will look at the robotic creation, design, operation and the use of robotics in everyday life and in the professional working world. *This holiday club is open to children aged 9-15 years.*

Monday 26th October Street Dance: 3 SPACES

[Street Dance Tickets](#)

Students will learn

routines and steps from this popular dance style. *This holiday club is open to children aged 7-15 years.*