


School Leadership Messages	Contents	
<p>Covid Update: New testing guidelines for contacts of cases</p> <p>From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result - All staff and secondary aged pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting. aged children LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). - Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. - It is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all students of secondary age and above. <p>As part of the control measures introduced by the DfE we will be testing students with lateral flow tests on January 4th and 5th . We will confirm year group dates and timings via parentmail.</p> <p>Very close contacts</p> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should in addition to arranging a PCR test also take an <u>LFD test every day for 7 days</u>: testing should start from when the first person in the home tests positive as household transmission is very likely to happen. If at any time the student becomes symptomatic, they must stay at home and arrange for a PCR test immediately (regardless of having already had a negative PCR test result).</p>	Co-Headteachers	
	Year 7 News	
	Year 8 News	
	Modern Languages Dept Notices	
	STEM News	
	Sport and PE Notices	
	Music Department Notices	
	Drama Dept Notices	
	Library	
	Fortismere Holiday Camp	
	<h3>Calendar</h3>	
17/12/21	Last day of term End of P3	
4/1/22	Staff Training Y9-13 in for testing	
5/1/22	Normal start Y7 & 8 testing	
<p>Design: Rebecca Grunhut 7ET</p> 		

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We always look forward to that Christmas feeling at Fortismere and therefore were delighted that the Christmas fair took place on Sunday in South Wing (with risk management measures in place, of course!). It was a lovely event which brought our community together to purchase some last minute gifts, most of which are produced by local small businesses. We would like to thank Maria Demetriou and her team for organising the event itself, the hampers and the online auction which has all gone towards raising important funds for the school.

We are delighted to announce the winner of our annual Christmas Card competition. Congratulations must go to Rebecca Grunhut from 7ET for her beautiful design which adorns the front page of our Newsletter this week. It has also been sent as an e-card to all of Fortismere's friends and partners so her talent is being shared far and wide.

Our staff have gone the extra mile this term to ensure that students have been able to embrace a wide range of opportunities as part of their school experience. You will be able to read in the pages of this week's Newsletter all that has been achieved in a term that saw us return to almost 'normal' measures with students learning once again in specialist classrooms and really grasping opportunities to create, explore, perform and compete as they have always loved doing. During the latter part of this term we have responded to the increasing necessity to make adaptations to our behaviours to keep the community at large safe from Covid and we are proud that our students have responded sensibly and maturely to these measures. With the recent news about the spread of the Omicron variant we are reminding students to put being safe first. As parents and carers, please look out for the parentmail that has been sent about testing students at the start of time. We appreciate engagement with this programme to ensure that we can open school for everyone safely in January.

We would like to end by thanking our staff, students and you as parents for your engagement and support this term. We know we will all be glued to News headlines over the Christmas period and may again find ourselves having to make difficult decisions about who we see and what we do over the festive period. Whatever you do, we hope you find time to rest, recharge and enjoy the company of family and friends and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2022.

Contingency Planning in the case of Public Exam Cancellation 2022

A few weeks ago the government published its [guidance](#) on contingency plans that should be in place in the unlikely event that Year11 and Year13 exams are cancelled this year. It is important to note that this is a contingency plan and the DfE are confident that exams will take place this year. The government has stated that all schools must assess students three times across the academic year and keep this evidence in the unlikely event that the contingency process replaces public exams. In response to this we have moved an assessment to just after Easter, in addition to those already in our plans for year 11 and 13: PP1 from November and the upcoming mocks in January.

We believe that this contingency planning should not impact the purposes of our normal assessments/mocks which are both preparing students for the experience of sitting a full paper and providing valuable information to teachers and students about what students know and areas for improvement.

It is important to note that elements of the assessments will be used in the highly unlikely event that the exams are canceled. Going forward, we will inform you which elements of each assessment could be used along with which topics will be assessed. It is vitally important that students revise for whole assessments as this will replicate the real exams which are likely to be the way students are assessed in the summer. Revision topic areas and mock exam timetables are being sent home shortly and students will be preparing for these assessments in their lessons. Please also click [here](#) for further information on our website.

Year 7 News

Message from Ms Arrowsmith - Head of Year 7

Well done to all of the year 7's who have now done their first full term at Secondary School. I have been so impressed by the year group and in particular the ambassadors who helped to raise £286.18 for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper day. We also had a team of dedicated ambassadors who ran the cake stall at the Christmas fayre on Sunday. Some of the year 7's have written Christmas cards and letters to our neighbours in the Care Home and many of them have written reviews of the extra-curricular clubs and books that they have engaged with this term. I am pleased so share some of the club reviews below. Well done all of you!

Year 7 School Clubs - Reviews by Year 7 Students

Craft club: Craft club is a great club. it's where kids go to meet new people and learn how to sew. The first term we make stuffed animals and stocking/cushions. Most of the fabric we make things out of is felt. It's on every Monday after school to 4:30. After Easter we are going to make some pencil cases which is really fun. Sewing is such a hard hobby but this club makes it so much easier and more fun I would give this club a 10 out of 10. I am always so excited to go there and it always brightens my day on a bad day. I really recommend it.

School Orchestra: I have been attending the school orchestra, I play the viola and have been playing since I was 6. I think it's really fun because you get to play with people from all the different school years. I'm really looking forward to the concert and I think our piece is sounding really good!

Netball and Latin: Since the start of Fortismere I have been attending the netball and Latin club. Both of these hobbies began before I came here. My fondness of netball started in year five and I have loved it ever since. Netball at Fortismere is amazing even though it is a big group. I love how much attention you get and also it is free! Also you get a chance to play matches and get experience when playing more professional netball. I love all of the warm ups and different exercises that we do. So I enjoy it so much and look forward to doing it every Thursday.

Drama Club: Every Friday at lunch time in North Wing Hall, Drama club is run by Ms Teevan. Around 15- 20 students currently go and I think all of them will agree that it is a lot of fun. It is quite a low-key club that is as much about making friends as acting and drama. Usually, every one shows up straight after lunch and eats it in the hall whilst having a whole group conversation. Then once people have finished we move onto games such as acting out funny scenarios in character and splat. As the winter term is coming to an end, the club is going to work up to performing a poem. It is definitely my favourite club I have joined so far and plan on carrying on going next term. It would be brilliant to see more people in the club and I would encourage any one who is interested to come along.

Science Club: My favourite after school club is the science club. It is on Thursday at 3:30 in lab 6. We do loads of experiments like making crystal gardens, or writing in invisible lemon juice and heating up the paper to see what we wrote. But my favourite is when we changed the colour of a Bunsen burner flame. We dipped splints in special liquids, set the Bunsen burner to a roaring flame and put the splint in the flame. The splint didn't catch on fire immediately but instead it changed the colour of the flame and we saw some amazing green, red and orange flames! I'm sure there are many more experiments to do and I can't wait to do them!

Music Tech Club: If you are looking for something to do with music editing well you're in luck because that is exactly what it is. Mixing beats is fun. Another great thing about it is it can help you understand what noises go together. This can help in making and learning music. These are only a few things that are good about music tech. I also love the fact that the school is doing so many extra activities for free! So if you have some spare time then maybe think about doing an extracurricular class.

Year 8 News

Year 8 student Ambassadors Breakfast celebration

The year 8's were rewarded for their hard work this term as Student ambassadors where they have raised 900 pounds for the Nick Webber Trust and are starting new mentoring projects with other students in form time on a Tuesday after Christmas. They are a fantastic and dedicated group and deserve such a lovely celebration.



Modern Languages Department Notices

To All Languages students

The ML Department wishes all students and their families a lovely and peaceful winter break. We hope everyone enjoys the festivities as well as finds time to relax and 'recharge batteries'!

See you all in the New Year.

¡Feliz Navidad!

聖誕快樂

Joyeux Noël!



What's on...

The BFI is showing *Les Quatre cents coups* by François Truffaut; a film that our French A Level students are currently studying. Here is the link to book tickets if they wish to have a full cinematic experience!

[Whats On at the BFI](#)

Tickets are now on sale for ; an enchanting world of light, colour, and beauty awaits you when enjoying the paintings of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, the powerhouse duo who inspired one another to become the two of most influential figures in Mexican art. This exhibition is great for ALevel Spanish students and could be an inspiration for their Speaking Independent Research Project.

More info regarding tickets and location (currently secret!) can be found here <https://mexicangeniuses.com/london/>



STEM at Fortismere

Message from Mr Yakup - Stem Co-ordinator

With the lifting of restrictions STEM activities have been revived and now taking place at Fortismere. Many new initiatives will also be starting after the new year to give every student an opportunity to find a STEM activity to take part in and work towards a STEM certification!

STEM activities this term and New initiatives for 2022

Robotics

Key stage 3 students have been busy working on their ideas for Robots this year. Creating lots of different types of Robots. The focus this year has been on autonomous robots and programming.



STEM Society

Ms J Cox in Science has been busy working with Year 9 this year, establishing a STEM society and committee. Students have designed and built a fully working wave machine!



New initiatives launching in the new year:

F1 in schools <https://www.f1inschools.co.uk>

'The F1 in Schools competition is split into 4 classes spanning Primary and Secondary education, Primary Class (9-11), Entry Class (11-14), Development Class (11-19) and Professional Class (11-19). All classes are judged on the day of one of our Regional Finals. A school is allowed to enter a maximum of 5 teams which can be a mixture of classes in the secondary competition. Teams may only compete for 1 year in both the Entry and Development Classes, 2 years in Primary Class, but can return as many times as they like as a Professional Class team.'



Water rocket <https://www.npl.co.uk/water-rockets>

'The challenge is to land an air pressurised rocket, using water as a propellant, exactly 70m from launch point, three times, with extra points for flight duration. We have a big annual festival on our site where teams compete.'



Crest Bronze, Silver, Gold awards <https://www.crestawards.org>

'CREST is the British Science Association's scheme for STEM project work that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. CREST Awards help school students to undertake projects in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) related areas.'



Sport & PE Department Notices

Autumn Term Review

PHEW - Time to Take Breath!!

What an amazing Autumn Term of Sport we have enjoyed. We are so proud of our students who have attended clubs and represented the school in Matches, Tournaments and events in their droves. The fact that so many of our wonderful young people have had the chance to be active and/or to represent the school is something the department is very proud of. Every week there have been at least **45** Extra-Curricular Clubs and activities put on by the department and attended by the students. On top of this we have taken part in an incredible **80** Fixtures and **20** Stand Alone competitions covering a wide array of sports including, Football, Netball, Tennis, Volleyball Cross-Country Running and Table-Tennis. All in 14 weeks! Well done to everyone - Y7 to Y13 - who has represented Fortismere Sport so proudly and so well. The whole department wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and try to fit in some activity if you can. We will see you in the new year when we go again. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Looking Good For Larissa

One of Fortismere's star athletes Larissa Wilson has been taking part in some Indoor competitions to give her some indication of how her Winter Training is going. At a recent event, at Lea Valley, Larissa ran an incredible 42.88 seconds for the 300 meters and 1min 42 for the 800. These times equate very well for ESAA qualifying times and gives her exciting prospects for next summer. Watch This Space!

SPORTS STARS OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER

I am delighted to announce the Sports Stars of the month for December. The students are nominated for reasons varying from exceptional performance, to great Leadership to amazing attitude. Decembers Winners are:

Y7 Boys - Kasuka Mutukwa

Y7 Girls - Genevieve Castle

Y8 Boys - Alex Hector

Y8 Girls - Cece Mensah

Y9 Boys - Oscar Helfgott

Y9 Girls - Lola Rose

Well Done all!

Y8 Sports Reporter Checks in with the 1st Team

We had a guest with us when we travelled to Laymer school recently for an 1st XI friendly match. Y8's Milo Burnage aspires to be a sports reporter when he gets older and, to gain some invaluable experience, Milo accompanied us for the afternoon. He chatted (interviewed) players during their warm up and kept a blow by blow account of what turned out to be a good victory. Milo's log of the game is printed below. Well done Milo from all the 1st XI players.

1st XI v Latymer (Away) Match Log by Milo Burnage Y8:

First team match: Fortismere vs Latymer

KICK OFF

Slow start from both teams, mainly staying

in the midfield. chance for fortismere gone wide.

A chance for latymer but skied over the crossbar.

GOAL Charles getting past the keeper slotting it in.

GOAL two quick goals from Charles getting past the
defenders with ease.

GOAL another goal from Charles chipping it over the keeper.

HALF TIME 3-0

Some close chances for latymer but none quite getting there.

A close chance for fortismere but tipped over the bar.

GOAL number Benji sltts it in from a long ball.

GOAL Zach glides it into the bottom corner for a great goal.

GOAL Zach gets two quick goals he chips it top bins.

PENALTY our goalie makes a mistake and latymer receives a penalty.

but our goalies up for it and made a great save.

FULLTIME 6-0 to fortismere.

A great game from the whole fortismere first team

My man of the match has to be charles.

This week's results

Friday - Rugby 9X v 9Y **9X 45 9Y 5**

Weds - Football 2nd XI v Plume (A) ESFA 4th Round 1pm Kick Off **Lost 2-5**

Thursday - Football 1st XI v Ashmole (A) Middlesex Cup QF **Lost 1-4**

Thursday - U15 Girls V Compton (A) Middlesex Cup **Won 11-1**

Music Department Notices

Christmas Concert Photos



Jai Sharma - Year 13

Congratulations to Jai Sharma in Year 13 who has been offered places at the Royal Welsh College of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to study Classical Guitar. He has worked incredibly hard during this Autumn's audition process and the Fortismere Music Department could not be more pleased for him.



Ensembles next term

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech MU1 School Orchestra Concert Hall
Tuesday	Senior Choir Concert Hall Percussion Group MU1 Popular Guitars MU2	Jazz Band Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	Big Band Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	DJ Club MU4	KS4 Music Tech MU4
Friday	Junior String Group MU2	Classical Guitar Group Concert Hall
Saturday	Music Theory Classes (11:30am - 12:30pm) Fortismere Community Choir (10am - 1pm)	

Concerts in 2022

Our school concerts will start with **Music and Poetry on Thursday 10th February at 7pm.** Students wanting to present their own poetry should please get in touch with Miss Ward in the library by emailing GWard@fortismere.org.uk. Musicians that want to play in small groups or have a solo spot need to email the Director of Music at ejfferies@fortismere.org.uk

On **Thursday 24th March at 7pm there will be an A Level Recital** evening given by our Year 12 and 13 students in the Music Concert Hall. This promises to be a very exciting night of music making from our older students and we hope that you will come along to support them.

Tickets for all school and community concerts can be purchased at the Music Department website. www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra

The orchestra will be starting again in January in its regular slot of 7-9pm on Tuesday evenings in the Music Concert Hall and this term they will be playing Louis Farrenc's *Overture No.1*, Bruch's *Concerto for Viola and Clarinet* and *Symphony No.5* by Sibelius.

We welcome new players young and old to the group but would suggest that as a string player you are of a grade 7 plus standard and if you play wind or brass please contact the FMC manager Joe Winters so that he can put you in touch with the groups musical director by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk.

Fortismere Community Choir

The Community Choir will begin work on the *Von Suppe Requiem* from January 2022 for a concert in Easter. This is an auditioned choir and we welcome members from across the Fortismere Community so get in touch if you are free on a Saturday morning and would like the chance to perform in a friendly and fun group by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk.

New Ballet - Appalachian Spring and Ulvshale Strand

We have decided to create a performance opportunity for the dancers of Fortismere School and we would like to hear from anyone interested in taking part in two new ballets that are being choreographed as part of the Fortismere Music Centre 2022/23 Season. We will be creating new dance pieces to the music of *Copland* and *Thomas Gregory* and would ask that any dancers of any style get in touch with us if they would like to be a part of this exciting new project.

The music will be performed in a small chamber group consisting of Violins, Violas, Cello, Double Bass, Piano, Flute, Clarinet and Bassoon which will be integral to the performance and we are very much looking forward to creating a piece of work that brings the art forms of music and dance together.

Please email the Director of Music Edward Jefferies at ejjefferies@fortismere.org.uk if you are interested in taking part.

Drama Department Notices

Year 11 Drama Trip - Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime



The Drama department were delighted to take our Year 11 GCSE Drama students to the National Theatre's award-winning play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. This play brings Mark Haddon's best-selling novel to life on stage, adapted by two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright Simon Stephens and directed by Olivier and Tony Award winning director Marianne Elliott. The novel has won more than 17 literary awards and is widely studied in schools. Year 11 Drama students were wowed by this production and the National Theatre's casting of a neurodiverse lead actor was an excellent decision. The Drama department are always looking for inclusivity and wide representation in theatre and the industry is starting to make changes.

Drama Clubs

Year 7 and 8 Drama club is on Friday lunchtimes.

NEW Showreel Workshops will be held after school on **Thursdays**. Drama Students from Year 10 and up are welcome to join. Students will be encouraged to make their own actors showreel and voice reel over several weeks. Workshops will be based around :

How to create a self-tape?

Green Screen work

Monologues

Voice Work



Drama Advent Calendar

Please enjoy a few examples of our Drama advent calendar you can find on Instagram @fortismere drama

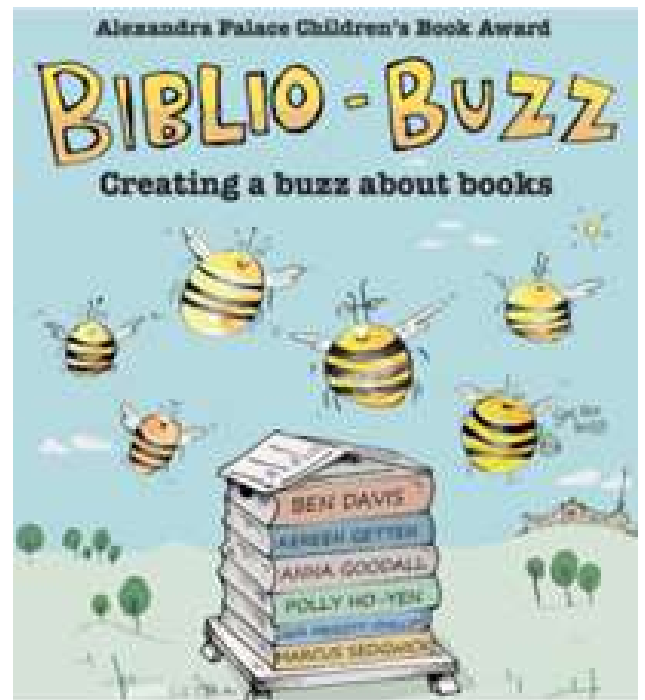


Library

Book Group News

The winners of the 2021 Young Quills competition have been announced by the Historical Association. The judging is based on the reviews written by our (and other) students – you can see the winners and read the reviews here [Young Quills 2021 – the winners / Secondary / Historical Association \(history.org.uk\)](https://www.history.org.uk/young-quills/2021-winners) . In other good news we have been chosen to be a reviewing school for the 2022 Young Quills competition and so we will have lots of new books arriving in the new year!

Mrs Coles and Mrs Ward were delighted to welcome so many Year 7 students to the first Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award meeting this week. There are still a few places left – our next meeting will be on Friday 7th January 2022, lunchtime in the library.



Christmas present idea – and support your local bookshops!

If your child doesn't wish to commit to the book club but loves reading, we have arranged a stunning discount on the APCBA shortlist. You can buy the pack of these 6 books for just £30 from the Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop, Pickled Pepper Books in Crouch End and All Good Books in Wood Green. They are perfect for the Y5, Y6 and Y7 children in your life!



Christmas TV

Behind many good films there is usually a great book! Take a look at the attached downloadable TV Guide from a school librarian colleague.



Recommended Reads of the Week

It'd be rude not to mention a few books dedicated to the festive season that we have in our library!



Fortismere Holiday Activity Camp

Christmas Holiday Camp Book Now! Open to the Community

We are pleased to announce we are running a four day Christmas Camp. If you have been struggling to find a spare moment to buy and wrap Christmas presents without the kids looking, this is the perfect opportunity. Give your child the opportunity to have a fun filled day, whilst you spend a day or two relaxing before the Christmas madness.

These activities will run between 9:00am- 3:00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. The 4 day 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: mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk

Holiday Club Activities: Limited Spaces

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Art Club: Spaces Available

[Art Club Tickets](#)

This Christmas, Art Pole will be bringing art exploration to Fortismere. Our students will make life sketches, collages and cut-outs from old magazines and plain paper and will also build towers and spaceships out of cardboard and glue then turn these structures into graphics or technical drawings. These activities will open the eyes of young people to the world of artists, designers and architects. Anyone from 8 years old is welcome. Our environment is encouraging, inclusive and non-competitive allowing students to move at their own pace and thus develop their unique skill-set.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre: 5 Spaces Available

[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.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Drama Club: 4 Spaces Available

[Drama Club Tickets](#)

This week, the children will work on improvisation and comedy skills.

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Little Imaginations: 4 Spaces Available

[Little Imaginations Tickets](#)

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 fun!

Monday 20th December -Thursday 23rd December

Multi Sports: Spaces Available

[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, rounder's, tennis and competitions.