

School Leadership Messages

Dress Code

A reminder of the Fortismere Dress Code and that we expect all students to be following this.

Appropriate	Inappropriate
An unbroken line of clothing from shoulder to mid-thigh.	Bandanas and other headgear except when worn for religious reasons.
Midriffs and backs are to be covered at all times.	See through or ripped clothes.
Clothing that completely covers all underwear.	Graphics and images that promote the use of alcohol or drugs, swearing, gangs or attacks on the identity of individuals or groups.
Appropriate footwear must be worn for health and safety reasons.	Underwear showing.
	Flip-flops / crocs/ sliders / bare feet.



Sparx Reader Stars!

The English department would like to commend the following KS3 students for their outstanding efforts with Sparx reader this week:

Year 7: Caroline Carneiro Freire 516 SRP

Year 8: Oliver Balsiger 900 SRP

Year 9: Jaziah Dragon 1169 SRP

Contents

Headteacher's Message

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

Calendar

04.05	Bank holiday - school closed
06.05	Early school closure at 2.10pm Y7 Parents Evening 3pm-6pm online

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)



Saoirse Edwards' winning entry in the Liana Ward History Prize

Read more about all the winners and entries inside the Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

This week's Headteacher's Surgery was a real pleasure. Thank you to all the parents who came to share their views on our school. The conversations ranged widely: from how we use technology for homework tasks, to our extra-curricular provision, strengthening communications and response times, and there were questions about our ambitious Sixth Form. I'm collecting all this feedback carefully, and as has become customary, I'll share more about the steps we've taken or are taking at the end of this half term. In the meantime, I'm delighted to say we'll soon have an updated extra-curricular club timetable ready for launch. We hope the new format will ensure many more of our students can access the impressive range of clubs available, both at lunchtimes and after school. More to follow on this soon.

This week in assemblies I have been speaking to students about one of our Fortismere Four values: Be Kind. I wanted to explore what kindness really means in our community, especially when the world outside our doors can feel so divisive. Right now, global politics and social influencers often create 'us vs them' tensions, making certain groups feel under threat. At Fortismere, our vision is different. We are a community where everyone belongs and every student is valued, regardless of what is happening beyond these walls. We don't let the outside world's divisions dictate how we treat each other in these corridors. That takes real strength and purpose, and it is all of our responsibility, not just to call out hate, but to actively support one another. At Fortismere, we hold ourselves and each other to the highest standards. Prejudicial comments or bullying are not tolerated. Our values call us to show commitment and courage; to do what's right, even when it isn't the easy choice at the moment.

And of course this messaging now feels even more vital in the wake of the recent terror attack in Golders Green, right on the doorstep of our community, I know that members of our school will be feeling less safe because of this. I want everyone to be reassured that we are mindful of this, and that our commitment to keeping Fortismere a safe and inclusive space for all of us remains absolute. Today is Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Day, the most sacred festival in Buddhism. It's a time for reflection on Buddha's teachings and a focus on compassion, peace and kindness. It felt like the perfect day to reinforce this message with our whole community.

Wishing you all a peaceful three-day weekend for the May bank holiday. We are looking forward to the arrival of our French exchange students from Annecy next so we are sure to have lots of updates for you.

Library News

Ally Pally Abuzz With Year 7 Readers

Our Year 7 Book Club was at Ally Pally recently for [BiblioBuzz - the Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award](#). We all had a wonderful time meeting authors and taking part in a workshop with Anthony McGowan, author of the winning novel, 'Beck'. We also got to meet up with Gill Ward, our previous librarian, who was given a round of applause from the whole theatre-full of students for her work setting up the competition eleven years ago. It was delightful to hear and join in poems by A F Harold and to witness the crazy antics of the host, Jack Meggitt-Phillips. It was a truly wonderful celebration of reading by students from all the borough's primary and secondary schools and a day we will never forget. Well done to the Year 7s who were excellent representatives of the school and thank you to Ms K Salter for accompanying the group!



History Department

Liana Ward History Prize Winners Announced

We're delighted to announce the winners of the inaugural Liana Ward History Prize, established in memory of Fortismere student Liana Ward who sadly died in 2024. Liana loved History, and this prize celebrates her passion by inviting students to share work on any historical topic that matters to them. The response has been extraordinary.

Liana's parents joined Ms Judge and Ms De Freitas to judge entries ranging from stop motion animations and plays to photomontages, historical cakes, and essays exploring everything from the witch trials to disability rights. The range and quality of the entries demonstrated strong student engagement across all key stages, creative interpretation of historical topics, and deep historical thinking and research - impressing us hugely and making judging incredibly difficult! **The winners are:**

- **Key Stage 3: Phoebe Kapos** for a stop motion animation of the Black Death
- **Key Stage 4: Saoirse Edwards** for a painting representing the Troubles in Northern Ireland
- **Key Stage 5: Grainne Joyce** for an essay on the Question of Genocide

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who entered. Your outstanding work has been a truly fitting tribute to Liana, an avid historian who loved her time at Fortismere.

You can watch Phoebe's animation, see Saoirse's painting and read Grainne's essay in full, as well as explore all the other entries at this link: [👉 Liana Ward History Prize](#)

Music Department

The Sound of Summer - Audition for the Summer Recital

Music is organising a **Summer Recital on Thursday 21st May** and are looking for as many amazing student performers as possible!

If your young person would like to take part, please ask them to email a recording of their audition song or piece to Mr Watson, mwatson@fortismere.org.uk - *please note* - this must be as an audio file and not video. You can make a decent recording with voice memos on an iphone or ipad.

The **deadline for audition entries is Friday 8th May**. Mr Watson will respond to every entry he receives. Successful auditions will be added to a goggle class for the Recital where they can get more information about the event. We'll share event and ticket information with you soon.

Sport & PE Notices

Fortismere Swimmers Shine At Haringey Schools Gala

Our swimmers delivered outstanding performances at the annual Haringey Schools Swimming Gala on Monday at Park Road Pool, competing against six other Haringey schools in a fantastic atmosphere.

Year 8 put in some exceptional individual performances: Francesco dominated with wins in both butterfly and individual medley; Anna won in the backstroke; and Vivienne also triumphed in the backstroke. Our **relay swimmers** showed brilliant teamwork: **Y8 Girls** were unstoppable, winning both the Medley Relay



and Freestyle Relay, and claiming **overall victory in their age group**. A special mention to Year 9's Sam Mitting who stepped up and joined the team as a late replacement.

The standard across all age groups was extremely high, and our swimmers represented Fortismere brilliantly. Congratulations to everyone who competed - you should be incredibly proud of your achievements! Our Medal Haul:

Gold: Y8 Girls (overall winners); **Bronze:** Y8 Boys; **Bronze:** Y9/10 Girls; **Bronze:** Y9/10 Boys

London Mini Marathon Success

Congratulations to the fantastic Fortismere runners who represented both our school and the Haringey Borough team at the London Mini Marathon last Saturday.



The conditions were perfect for racing, and our students, Amy Kirk, Sophia, Alex Kirk, and Jasmine Donnington, put in brilliant performances. We are incredibly proud of your effort on the course.

A special shout-out goes to Amy Kirk in Y13. This was her final Mini Marathon, marking an incredible streak of competing in every single one since she was in Year 7!

What an amazing achievement and perhaps we'll see her taking on the full 26.2 miles of the London Marathon in the future! Well done to all involved for representing the school so well.



And remember - Miss Bailey's Tuesday lunchtime running club if you fancy a future mini marathon!

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 5th May	Haringey Girls Athletics Championship
Wednesday 6th May	Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Moderation
Thursday 7th May	Haringey Boys Athletics Championships

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 *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

