

School Leadership Messages

COVID: Student home testing arrangements

We would ask that parents spend some time this weekend going over the details of this with their child including watching the self-testing video in advance so they know what to expect. Please click the link [here](#) for the video.

What to do in the event of a positive lateral flow test

If a student receives a positive reading using the lateral flow home test they need to confirm the result with a PCR test. Students should contact Fortismere (Ksullivan@fortismere.org.uk) to let us know the result of the lateral flow test and then the result of the PCR. Students are required to self isolate while waiting for the PCR result. If the PCR result is negative, the student can stop self-isolating and return to school. If the result is also positive, we will need a list of contacts and the student will need to self-isolate for 10 days. Further detailed information is available on our [COVID webpages](#).

Masks in lessons: Update

Students have adapted well to wearing face coverings in lessons. However, wearing masks for a prolonged period of time can lead to discomfort. PH Haringey has advised us that students will benefit from bringing two masks into school and changing their mask during the day. If possible, therefore, could parents/carers send students to school with two masks. The government is reviewing this recommendation on April 12.

GCSE and A Level arrangements

Ofqual released its guidance on awarding grades for GCSEs and A Levels at the end of last month. This guidance is important and gives us some principles to work to but does not contain all of the subject specific details we need. Ofqual have directed the exam boards to provide us with this no later than 23rd March. Please expect an update next week.

The final grades for students will be arrived at from a range of evidence that will vary from subject to subject and could include prior work, Non-Examined Assessments (coursework) and future assignments. The week before we break up for the Easter holidays we aim to share with you the evidence that each department will use to arrive at the grade. In this communication we will also aim to inform you of the timing of any assignments that the departments have planned in order to gather evidence for the grade as well as the topic areas.

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Calendar

31.03	End of term (1pm)
19.04	Summer Term begins
13.05	CoverUp Reading Group



Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Our COVID testing centres closed their doors this Tuesday which we have viewed as an early step towards Fortismere feeling more like our school again. As always, our students have got back into the swing of things very quickly and we are nothing short of impressed by their positivity and adaptability. It's clear that the frustrations of learning in bubbles and being based in the same classrooms for much of their learning time is starting to wear a bit thin but we know that our students are resilient and optimistic young people who will continue to work within the COVID guidelines. The transition to learning in the classroom has been remarkably smooth given the return to face-to-face learning occurred mid-term with students sharing work that has been truly inspirational. English teachers have shared some incredibly moving, powerful and brilliantly reflective rhetorical speeches that were prepared by Year 9 students during lockdown covering topics from political corruption, body image in the media and creativity in the education system. Well done Year 9! We hope we are able to share some of this work more publicly in due course.

This week we were delighted to have been invited by Ms Ward, our librarian to read extracts from two of the novels that have been selected to be part of the Alexandra Palace Book award which are being judged by an eager group of Year 7 readers. Ms Ward and her team are so committed to developing exciting reading opportunities for our students (and their parents) through a variety of book groups detailed later in this week's Newsletter. We would highly recommend that all of our students find that silver lining to the frustrations of current social restrictions to escape reality through the pages of a novel. We can't do much right now but we can certainly enrich ourselves through literature and the benefits of this on our wellbeing should never be under-estimated.

We hope you all have the opportunity to relax and perhaps curl up with a book too this weekend.

COVID updates: Please see a summary of the new advice given to schools this week

We were pleased to accept the generous donation of £4,409.35 from our commercial sponsors Martyn Gerrard this week. Our local property agents have been supporting the school for some time now by donating a percentage of the fees made in local property sales to the school where the seller has indicated they would like them to support Fortismere. They are also very much involved in publishing Fortismere's fundraising events throughout the year.

We continue to be grateful to Martyn Gerrard for choosing to work with Fortismere in this partnership knowing that their support does help to make a difference to the educational experience of our students.



Easter Holiday Club

Key Information

We have now opened the Easter Holiday Club to everyone having given priority already to our more vulnerable students and also our critical workers so they can attend or seek work, attend medical appointments or undertake training or education.

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. The Fortismere Holiday Club will also support the social interaction lost during the last lockdown.

These activities will run between 09.00 am -15.00pm each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. **The full week will cost £80***, an 08.00 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: Tuesday 6th April

Camp Ballet, tap musical theatre Week 1: 6 Spaces available

[Ballet, tap and Musical theatre Week 1 Tickets](#)

- West End actress Charlotte Scott will be running this camp.
- Charlotte is originally from Norwich and trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts graduating with a BA (hons) in Musical Theatre.



April 6th Chess Camp Week 1: 5 Spaces Available

[Chess Week 1 Tickets](#)

Chess has been growing in popularity (online), boosted also by the popularity of the chess scenes in the recent Queen's Gambit TV show. This course aims to develop students' chess skills which can also indirectly help analytical and evaluative skills needed also in the classroom. The chess course will look at tactics, strategy, chess openings and endgame play, helping to become a better player.

April 6th Camp Sports Week 1: [Camp Sports Week 1 Tickets](#) SOLD OUT

April 6th Little Imaginations Week 1: [Little Imaginations Week 1 Tickets](#) SOLD OUT

April 6th Drama Week 1: [Drama Camp Week 1 Tickets](#) SOLD OUT

April 6th D&T Week 1: [D&T Week 1 Tickets](#) SOLD OUT

April 6th Robotics week 1: [Robotics Week 1 Tickets](#) SOLD OUT

Holiday Club Activities: Monday 12th April

April 12th Camp Sports Week 2: **5 Spaces Available**

[Sports Easter Camp Week 2 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 for the chance to win a fabulous prize.



April 12th camp Ballet, tap musical theatre Week 2: **4 spaces Available**

[Ballet, tap and Musical theatre Week 2 Tickets](#)

- West End actress Charlotte Scott will be running this camp.
- Charlotte is originally from Norwich and trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts graduating with a BA (hons) in Musical Theatre.



April 12th Drama Week 2: **10 Spaces Available**

[Drama Camp Week 2 Tickets](#)

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

April 12th Little Imaginations Week 2: **SOLD OUT**

[Little Imaginations Week 2 Tickets](#)

Year 11 Notices

Post 16 Guidance Meetings

Starting from next Tuesday the 6th form team will be having meetings with Year 11 students to discuss their plans for next year. The meetings will be taking place during lesson time and will last about ten minutes.

Year 11 tutors will have shared the appointment times with their tutees, and they are also available on the Year 11 Google classroom. Parents and carers with children in Year 11 should have received a parent mail with this information. Please remind your child about their appointment.

Drama Department Notices

'Head's Off' Trailer

Coming in May 2021
Fortismere Drama Presents

Head's Off

A spoof murder mystery film, starring staff and students from Fortismere School

The Co-Heads' bodies are discovered in their office one morning. Can Inspector Lewis find the culprit? Too many suspects... too little time.



Watch the Trailer [HERE](#)

20 FREE Tickets to Old Vic The Lorax



Win a **free ticket** to the streamed performance of The Lorax on **Thursday 22 April, 7pm** by the Old Vic.

The irrepressible, big-hearted, moustachioed critter is back. Following rave reviews and an Olivier nomination for Best Entertainment and Family show, Dr. Seuss's The Lorax returns to The Old Vic stage.

Any student can request a ticket by 28th March via this form: [The Lorax Tickets](#)

Winners will be notified over Easter.

Unique Opportunity for 6th form Cinema Enthusiasts

In partnership with Into Film, Bertha DocHouse is looking to work with young people **aged 16-19** who are passionate about documentaries. Are you interested in learning to:

- Produce an online film event
- Learn about careers in film exhibition, marketing and curation
- Build experience in event production, digital marketing and managing a budget.
- The project will comprise 3 x 1-hour online sessions (30 March, 20 April, 27 April) facilitated by Into Film and Bertha DocHouse.

Please email Ms Overs lovers@fortismere.org.uk or Mr Hearty if interested PHearty@fortismere.org.uk



Year 7 Drama Club

Year 7 Drama Club will be in **LAB4** on **Friday lunchtimes**.
Email if you would like to attend - rcoleman@fortismere.school

**YEAR 7
DRAMA
CLUB**

Music Department Notices

Virtual Concerts

There will be a joint **Year 8 and Year 9 Concert on Friday 26th March**. If you have missed any of the events please feel free to watch them at your leisure by going to

<https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/>

If your child is interested in taking part please contact Mr Jefferies at ejjefferies@fortismere.org.uk

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Face to face Instrumental and Vocal classes have started again. If you would like more information about lessons at Fortismere please contact Mel Izzet at mizzet@fortismere.org.uk

Virtual Choir

Fortismere Lockdown Choir. The materials for Mr Blue Sky are now available for the Fortismere Community at [Fortismere Music Centre](#). Remember that you don't have to be a brilliant singer, just enthusiastic and up for learning something fun. Interested students, parents and staff can email Miss Ugboma to find out more details at eugboma@fortismere.org.uk

Ensembles

Our school ensembles will return in the Summer Term. We will be offering the following groups to students:

Monday	String Orchestra Percussion Group KS3 Music Tech Club	3:30 - 4:15	
Tuesday	Junior Choir	3:30 - 4:15	
Thursday	Senior Choir KS4/5 Music Tech Club	3:30 - 4:15	
Friday	Big Band Classical Guitar Group	3:30 - 4:15	

Sport & PE Department

Fortismere Sports on Social Media

The Sport & PE Department has both an active twitter and TikTok account. Our Twitter is where you will find latest fixtures, matches and all things sport so make sure you give us a follow.

Twitter – FortismereSport & PE @FortismerePE

Tiktok - @fortismeresport

Don't forget to let us have news of your sporting participation & achievements outside of school. sorton@fortismere.org.uk



Extra Curricular Sports Timetable

Although we had some disruption and loss of facilities due to the mass testing programme, I am proud to say that the PE & Sports Department put on 25 extra-curricular sessions this week. That allowed 100's of Fortismere students to take advantage of opportunities to play sport, keep fit, dance and generally keep active.

Were you one of them? Congratulations if you were. If not, check out the timetable for next week and make sure you attend at least one physical activity session. **There really is something for everyone!**

Mon	Table-Tennis Club with Zoltan 3.30-4.30 SW Gym Y7 Girls Football with Ms Vangucci – 3.20-4.30 Astro Y7 Cricket with Mr Cox – 3.20-4.30 Astro (or Sports Hall) Y8 Rugby – with Mr Orton – 3.20-4.30 Field – Boots and Mouth Guards Y8 Netball with Ms Boot – 3.20-4.30 Netball Courts
Tues	Y7 Boys Football with Mr Orton 3.20-4.30 School Field – Boots & Shin pads needed. Y10 Football with Mr Hawkes – Astro – 3.20-4.30 Y8 Girls Football with Ms Vangucci – 3.20-4.30 Astro Y8 Girls Dance with Ms Williams- SW Hall 3.20-4.30 Y9 Girls Netball – with Ms Boot – 3.20-4.30 Netball Courts
Wed	Y8 Boys Football with Mr Orton – 2.55-4pm School Field – Boots & Shin pads needed. Y7 Table Tennis with Mr Cox – 2.55-4pm – SW Gym 6th Form Netball with Ms Boot – 2.55-4pm Netball Courts 6th Form Football - Astro or Field
Thurs	Y7 Cross-Country with Mr Orton – School Field Spikes/Football boots 3.20-4.15 Y9 Cricket with Mr Cox 3.20-4.30 Astro or Playground outside SH (or Sports Hall) Y9 Football with Mr Hawkes – 3.20-4.30 Astro - Trainers required Y7 Netball with Ms Bailey 3.30-4.30 – Netball Courts Y9 Hockey with Mr Kay – Astro Trainers and Gum Shields 3.20-4.30 Y10 Volleyball - SW Gym 3.20-4.30
Fri	6th Form Badminton - Sports Hall 12.30-1.15

Easter 3k Run



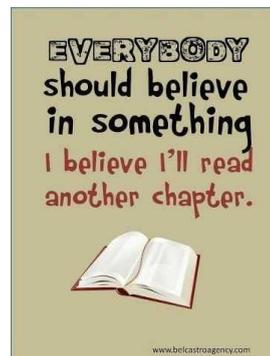
You may remember our 'Santa Run' just before Christmas. Well, the department is delighted to announce that we will be running an Easter 3K event – look out next week for full details.

Library

Book Groups

The Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award group of Year 7s meets once a week on Fridays. We are loving the shortlisted books, and our Co-Heads have just been filmed reading from a couple of them – we'll let you know when they go live on Ally Pally's website! [Biblio-buzz > The Alexandra Palace Children's Book Awards](#)

Carnegie Shadowing: The shortlist for the most prestigious book award for young people, the Carnegie Medal, has just been announced [The CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2021](#)



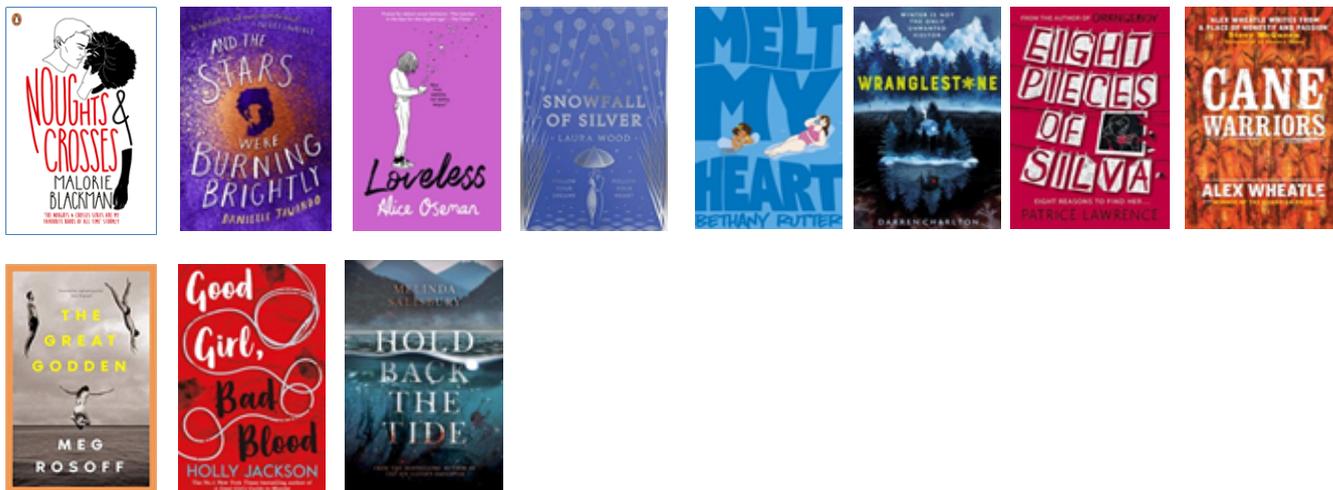
We will have a Year 8 group shadowing the award, starting next Tuesday – 8 books to get through in 14 weeks. We'll keep you posted with links to our special webpage.

Young Quills: This group, run with Mr Stewart from the history department, specialises in historical fiction and is for any student who is interested! The fabulous shortlist has been provided by the Historical Association.

CoverUp: After an excellent meeting of our parent/staff reading group last week when we discussed Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell and A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf, our next book for reading and discussion is A Pale View of Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro. We'll be getting together (Zoom? In Real Life??) on Thursday 13th May, 7pm. Everyone welcome.

For more information on joining in with any of these groups, email gward@fortismere.org.uk

Recommended Reads of the Week



The shortlist for the YA Book Prize has been announced, together with the news that Malorie Blackman is the recipient of this year's YA Book Prize Special Achievement Award. This marks the 20th anniversary of the first novel in her Noughts and Crosses series. All these books are available from the library – use the Click and Deliver service.

