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<p>Covid Update: New guidance</p> <p>New guidance for schools was issued by the DfE on January 3rd. Further guidance has been issued this week on lateral flow tests and PCRs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- From 11 January a positive lateral flow test does not need to be confirmed by a positive PCR (there are exceptions, please see the Government guidance).- Positive lateral flow tests must be reported to the NHS so that normal track and trace procedures can be followed.- A positive lateral flow test means a minimum self isolation of 7 days. Anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive 2 negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7.- 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>Very close contacts</p> <p>Students (from reception age or above) who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should 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	
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the new term. We hope that all our families managed a peaceful and relaxing break and we look forward to the lengthening days and warmer weather (although it was an unusually mild holiday!). As we are all aware, the Omicron variant made its presence felt in London during the holiday and schools have been directed to re-implement mask wearing in classrooms. We are aware that some students are exempt and those that do not already have cards attached to their lanyards will be identified by their tutors for access to a card. We would remind parents and carers that exemption is for an underlying medical condition, not as an ideological statement. We are guided by the DfE and will enforce guidance designed to keep our community safe.



In addition to masking, there is new guidance on self-isolation which is above in the Covid update. It appears to be a rapidly changing landscape with regards to testing and self-isolation and we will keep our families informed of any changes which come to us via the DfE or Public Health Haringey.

We would like to say thank you to our families for your support during the testing process at the start of term. This caused minimal disruption to learning and by Wednesday breaktime all our students were where they need to be: in classes and learning.

So far, the Government's 'Plan B' has not placed restrictions on our curriculum and we are looking forward to a term packed with our usual activities; from sporting success to music for the masses, we anticipate there being opportunities for everyone this term. There is also an emphasis on Year 9 around the Options process. Please could the parents and carers of Y9 students keep a close eye on the calendar for the upcoming events designed to give Year 9 students maximum support and information for this process.

The Co-Heads will also resume or 'Co-Headteachers' Surgeries' this term. These are an opportunity for parents and carers to raise issues to do with policies of practice rather than individual students (this is best discussed with a tutor or head of year). We will publish the dates and times in next week's Newsletter and provide a link to the pro-forma for the surgeries.

We wish you all a happy and not too damp weekend and look forward to seeing many of you this term.

Absences from Mocks due to Covid

If you are absent from your mock exams due to Covid we request that you provide us with evidence which we will then be able to use in the event of the cancellation of the formal exams. The evidence should take the form of either:

1. NHS confirmation of a positive Lateral Flow Test - must include name and date
2. NHS confirmation of a positive PCR Test - must include name and date
3. Contact from NHS Track and Trace requesting that you isolate - must include name and date.

This evidence should be emailed to your Head of Year and our Exams Officer (Ruth Robson).

Year 9 Options

The New Year marks a very exciting chapter for our Year 9's during which they will begin the process of choosing their options for Key Stage 4. As part of this process tutor time will be dedicated to learning more about the subjects available and a greater detail about each course, the content and the assessment framework. Students will be given help, support and guidance along the way to ensure that the choices they make are right for them and give them the qualifications they need for future employment / study. Students and parents will be offered a Deep Learning Conversation (guidance meeting) with a member of staff on the 26th January, this will give an opportunity for them to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of how it works.



Alongside this on Friday 21st January the usual year 9 timetable will be collapsed and students will spend the day being given detailed information about this process, will have access to our career software Kudos and will complete workshops aimed at supporting positive choices for their futures. We will also be hosting external speakers, alumni and professionals who will speak about their careers, choices they made and how their education impacted on their career. Parents and carers will receive more information about this in the coming weeks.

Music Department Notices

Welcome back to another busy term!

Music lessons, ensembles and extra-curricular groups will all start back on again from Monday 10th January in preparation for another exciting term of music making at Fortismere.

Instrumental and Vocal lessons timetables will be sent out to parents over the next few days and if you have yet to pay for this term please get in touch with Mel Izzet as soon as possible to make sure your child is included by emailing mizzet@fortismere.org.uk.



Our school concerts will start with **Music and Poetry on Thursday 10th February at 7pm**. Musicians that want to perform should contact the Director of Music at ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk. This concert is suitable for all year groups and we would like to see a variety of musical styles from students.

On **Thursday 24th March at 7pm** you are invited to attend our **A Level Recital** evening given by our Year 12 and 13 students in the Music Concert Hall. There will be performances on Flamenco Guitar, Electric Guitar, Voice, Trombone and Cello in a vast array of styles so please feel free to come along to hear some of our most senior performers.

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

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)	

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Tuesday Evenings

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.

The concert will take place on Saturday 26th March at St Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill at 7pm and remember that tickets for children are free!

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. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £40 for students or concessions.

Discarded instruments in the Music Block

We have a great deal of old instruments that have been left in the Music Block over the last few years that need to be collected by their owners. **These instruments will be donated to Music Services if they are not claimed by January 31/01/22** since they are taking up space and we have advertised their presence in the department on several occasions in the past.

Fortismere Music Centre - Saturday Lessons

The Fortismere Music Centre opens its doors again for this term on Saturday 8th January and offers lessons for both children and adults. If you are interested in lessons for either yourself or your child, get in touch by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk, it's never too late to learn!

The centre offers lessons on a range of instruments and full details can be found at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.



Fortismere Community Choir - Saturday Morning

The Community Choir will begin work on the *Von Suppe Requiem* from January 2022 for a concert in Easter. This is an **non 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. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £80 for fundraising membership, student participation is free and is open to Year 10 to Year 13 pupils.

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 ajefferies@fortismere.org.uk if you are interested in taking part.



Library

Recommended Reads of the Week

Love science, technology, maths? Try these brilliant books in our library.

