

Friday 30th September 2022

School Leadership Messages

Congratulations!

Well done to Year 9, as so far this term, they have the most positive points of any year group in the school with a very impressive 2826 positives!

This week's top scoring students from across the school are listed below

Alfie Collier Y9 Anastasia Radomane Y9 Moushka Maidens, Y9 Isobel Elkan Y9 Maeve Gaia Curry Y8 John McDonagh Y7	Oscar McGuirk-Wynne Y10 Emily Wood Y10 Max Chau Y8 Cooper Watson Y7 Steph Diaz del Rio Y7 Florence Hall Y7	Moss Keane Y7 Liv Gwinner Y7 Tajun Morris Y7 Xander Haga Y7 Ziggy Schlusssel Y7
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Timetables

The new timetables were uploaded on Monday afternoon and hard copies given to students on Tuesday morning. There have been 'snagging' issues for some students that Mr Barsby has been dealing with but we are not anticipating further changes.

Student ambassadors

Over 100 students have volunteered to be 'student ambassadors' for the school. These students will help the school in a variety of different ways while developing their own leadership skills. It's a great opportunity for the students and very much valued by the staff. The numbers volunteering are very impressive.

Signing student planners

All students in years 7-11 have been given a school planner (homework diary). Please could parents and carers sign this weekly. The planners are a useful addition to home-school communication (please see the section on school communication in last week's Newsletter).

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6.10.22	School closure
12.10.22	Y13 Parents' Evening
19.10.22	Y11 Parents' Evening

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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

On Wednesday Fortismere opened its site to prospective parents. As always, it was a highly enjoyable occasion. The site looked stunning in the autumn sunshine and the different departments offered a range of exciting, engaging activities, from 3D printers to maths work for parents! The student guides were very impressive: many of the parents commented on how confident, assured and friendly our Y8 and Y9 guides were and the Sixth Form were great at supporting the flow of the whole evening. Special thanks go to Year 8 ambassadors Lola Currie and Phoenix Law and two of our Year 13 student leaders, Santini Holness Peart and Abby Broido, who contributed impressively to the evening, speaking alongside the co-heads to our visitors. We were also accompanied by a series of very talented musicians; Lizzie Wells, Mia Chau, Louie Barnett and Lydia Morgan.

The Co-heads spoke to quite a few parents during Open Evening and were intrigued to hear some of the rumours circulating in the local community regarding our unusual Ofsted inspection. Some of the rumours were quite extreme! As you know, Ofsted failed to collect sufficient evidence in April to arrive at a secure judgement. Indeed, we were privileged to receive a letter of apology from Caroline Dulon, Regional Commissioner for London, stating: "***this inspection found that there are elements of the inspection evidence base that are not sufficiently secure. Please accept my personal and sincere apology for this. This is a very rare occurrence and as such is being treated very seriously by Ofsted.***" This led to the 'Day 3' inspection on Friday 16 September. We have now seen the draft report and we hope that the publication date will happen before half term.

Tomorrow sees the start of Black History Month and, as always, Fortismere will be joining in with the national celebration of Black and Black Heritage history, achievement and influence in British society. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities both in lessons and around the school to learn about historical and contemporary figures as well as related ideas and issues. The opportunities will include subject specific activities linked to their current curriculum plan, tutor time discussions and projects, year assemblies, displays and research competitions. We have invited guest speakers to present and talk to our students including a BAFTA winning actress, two poets and more. We have also taken out two exhibitions on loan from Bruce Grove Castle, one on Black Georgian Londoners and the other on Windrush: Legends and Legacies which will be on display for the duration of the month. There are a range of other interesting and exciting opportunities planned for the month and we will keep you informed as the month progresses.



For our Families observing Yom Kippur on Wednesday we wish you all 'an easy fast' or Gmar tov.

We wish everyone a lovely and hopefully less windy weekend.

Sixth Form Leadership Message

Year 12 & Year 13 Independent Study Hours

We have explained in recent assemblies to our Year 12 & Year 13 students the level of independent work that research ([A Level Mindset – Oakes & Griffin](#)) suggests will give them the best chance of success in their Sixth Form studies. This equates to 20 hours of independent work per week in Year 12 (approx. 6 hours per A Level course), rising to 30 hours per week in Year 13 (10 hours per A Level course). This includes time spent doing homework, revision, past paper practice and wider reading. This is on top of their classroom contact time.

An example of a Year 12 achieving this would be using eight of their ten “free” periods as study sessions; working 3.30pm-5.00pm in the school library each day (some students may prefer mornings instead); and working 9.00am-1.30pm on Sunday with a short break.

Our teachers are delivering this as a consistent message to all Sixth Form students and we would appreciate parents reinforcing this at home and supporting students in managing their lives to accommodate this level of independent study. We hope that by quantifying this figure it is helpful to parents in supporting students in their A Level courses.

Open Evening Event

Thank you to our Students Helpers

It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors to Fortismere’s Open Evening earlier this week, and we hope that they were impressed with all they saw. But what was perhaps even more wonderful was the participation of so many of our students in making the evening a success. From taking part in sport, singing, playing instruments, doing drama, playing chess, demonstrating robotics, doing experiments, talking about different subjects and about their experiences of school, we had many enthusiastic young people on site. Key among them were our army of guides, from Year 7-13 who enthusiastically led groups around our twenty acre school, talking about all that is on offer to Fortismere students. Our Y13 leaders, Pixie-Lou Thompson-Vidal, Clementine Knowles and Daisy Rought-Oram did a sterling job, organising the tour guides and groups around the school. Many thanks to them. At the end of the evening, some were asking if they could do it again next year - the answer is of course, ‘yes please!’. We mustn’t forget the contribution of Harrison’s catering staff in north wing, who served up tasters of chicken and vegetable curry, lemon drizzle cake and cherry and vanilla cheesecake - an essential pitstop on all of the tours. It was wonderful to see the community spirit of the school extended to the welcome of potential new students.
Ms Brooks

Fundraising Event

Fireworks Display - Thursday 3rd November 2022 ~~November 2022~~

The annual Fortismere Fireworks display is taking place on Thurs 3 Nov 2022, 5pm-9pm. Please come and support us as this event can generate much needed extra funds for the school. There will be food, drinks, music and fireworks. Buy your tickets early (£5 each) and save money (£8 on the gate). Students can purchase tickets from the Library or book online via [Eventbrite](#). Contact Ms Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk with any queries.



Drama Department Notices

Hitchhiker’s Guide... Annual Drama Production

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is our Drama production this year. We are delighted that over **190** students have signed up to be involved in some way; either acting or backstage. **This is over 10% of the entire school!** Our annual winter productions are a highlight of the year and it is wonderful that so many students want to be involved and see this as a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and collaborate on this show. Any questions about the production please contact Ms Turner in the Drama department.



Inter College Drama Festival 2022 Winners

The Inter-College Drama Festival 2022 took place on Wednesday as part of our Open Evening event. Ten students, chosen from each college, spent four hours creating short devised plays working with sixth form directors who are studying A level Drama. The theme this year was memory and it was wonderful to see the students collaborating together. Congratulations to the winning colleges **Franklin, Turing and Wollstonecraft!**



Library Notices

Poet in Residence

To celebrate National Poetry Day (next Thursday, 6th October) we are delighted to be inviting Lewis Buxton back to Fortismere library to be our Poet in Residence for the first three days of next week. He'll be working with the whole of Year 8. We know from his time here last year that he is incredibly lively and engaging; students were surprised at how entertaining poetry can be and how brilliantly they could write it! Please remind your child when they are due in the library.



Monday 3rd October: Period 1: 8X1/TGE; Period 2: 8X2/PBA; Period 3: 8Y3/GKA ; Periods 4 and 5: 8X5/JAR

Tuesday 4th October: Period 1: 8Y1/LDO; Periods 2 and 3: 8X3/SCH; Periods 4 and 5: 8Y5/JDB

Wednesday 5th October: Periods 1 and 2: 8Y2/RCH; Periods 3 and 4: 8X4/ETE; Period 5: 8Y4/MBA

CoverUp

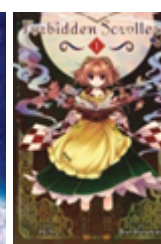
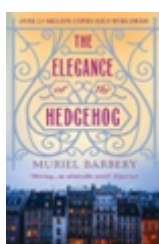
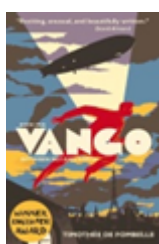


We had a great time at the parent/staff reading group on Thursday talking about *Mr Wilder and Me* and soon digressing into lots of other bookish chat. It was also fun eating some of the food described in the book (in this case, brie – thanks to one of our new members!) Our next meeting will be on Thursday 17th November when we'll be celebrating late greats Hilary Mantel and/or Iris Murdoch – more details to follow so watch this space.



Recommended Reads of the Week

26th September was European Day of Languages. Take a look at the few of these books in our library.





Music Notices

Thank you to our Musicians

A huge thanks goes out to those students that were able to attend rehearsals as part of the Open Day event on Wednesday this week. We know how busy our students are so we really do appreciate that so many of them made the effort to come and rehearse Junior Choir, String Orchestra, Big Band and Cello Ensemble as part of the open evening.

Special thanks goes to our solo performers for this event; Louis Barnett, Mia Chau, Lydia Morgan, Lizzie Wells and Lorcan Callaghan who all performed brilliantly!

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Instrumental and vocal lessons have started but if your child hasn't signed up yet please get in touch with Miss Izzet by emailing mizzet@fortismere.org.uk for an application form. Alternatively, contact the music department and we will send you a form or give your child all the relevant information.

Lessons are also available on a Saturday through the Fortismere Performing Arts Centre and if you are interested in any of the activities that take place please take a look at our website www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk which has all of the information for the 2022/23 season

Welcome Back Concert - Thursday 13th October Music Hall

Our welcome back concert takes place in October and will feature many of our musical groups including the Big Band, Cello Ensemble, Junior Choir and Senior Choir as well as solos and bands from our students. If your child is interested in performing please contact the Director of Music, ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk and we will set up a meeting to hear the performance. Tickets for the concert can be purchased at www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk

School Concert Season 2022-23

Our concert season starts in two weeks time so please ask your children to contact the Director of Music, ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk if they want to get involved. For the purposes of school concerts we are offering a large variety this year. Please have a look at the concerts listed below and think about how you or your child might want to get involved:

- Welcome Back Concert - 13/10/22
- Autumn Pure Piano - 10/11/22
- GCSE Recital Evening - 17/11/22
- Christmas Concerts - 13/12/22 & 14/12/22
- Charity Band Night - 26/01/23
- Music and Poetry - 09/02/23
- A Level Recital Evening - 09/03/23

Summer Pure Piano - 04/05/23
Summer Chamber Concert - 13/07/23

There will also be masterclasses throughout the year for Wind, Strings, Brass, Percussion, Piano and Voice so please keep an eye out for these amazing opportunities to work with world class professionals.

A document was attached to last week's newsletter outlining all concerts and groups for the year ahead.

Wider Community Ensembles

The Community Symphony Orchestra has begun work on Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony, Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain and Walton's Cello Concerto which will be played by Norwegian Cellist Jonathan Aasgaard, the Principal Cellist of the Liverpool Philharmonic. The Orchestra meets on a Tuesday evening and we are always keen to hear from interested players of Orchestral instruments.

The Community Choir has started to work on Mozart Coronation Mass for their Christmas Concert and meets on Saturday mornings. This is a non auditioned choir and open to all singers of any age. We are always keen to promote singing to both students and parents and would suggest that you come along at the beginning of term to a "Come and Sing" session to see how you get along.

Dance Project - Appalachian Spring and Night Dances

Our newest Community Project is our Dance Project has started but there are still places available. On Monday Evenings between 7 and 9pm Luis Callo Mudarra is working with dancers on a reimagining of Appalachian Spring by Copland as a Contemporary Piece. Whilst Saturday afternoons from 3:30 - 5:30pm see's Simone Pinchera working on a Ballet for a newly commissioned work by Thomas Gregory called "Night Dances".

These sessions are open to dancers of all ages and will culminate in a live performance accompanied by an orchestra in a London venue later in the year. Please feel free to encourage your child to join the project or attend yourselves since this is multigenerational.

Please contact FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk for more information.

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 have some free lessons for new starters available on French Horn, Bassoon, Double Bass and Trombone. Email ejefferies@fortismere.org.uk for more details.

Ensembles September 2022/23

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 - 7pm-9pm
Wednesday	Big Band - Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)

Thursday	Junior Choir - Concert Hall DJ Club - MU4	KS4 Music Tech - MU4
Friday	Cello Ensemble - MU2	Classical Guitar Group - Concert Hall
Saturday	Music Theory Classes 11:30am-12:30pm Fortismere Community Choir 10:30am-1pm	

Sport & PE News

Incredible Cross-Country Medal Haul

The first big cross-country event of the season kicked off in fine style as our runners headed to New River to contest the **Haringey Borough Championships**.

Fortismere Teams won an amazing five out of the eight groups and came third in two others! Total domination by our fantastic runners. Our Y7 Boys, with many making their debuts for the school, took the title ahead of APS

and Heartlands. Our Y8 Boys led by the impressive Tal and Rafael (2nd and 3rd individually) also took the Gold medal seeing off Gladesmore and Heartlands. The Y9 Boys smashed their event winning Gold by an incredible 103 points with Woodside (2nd) and APS 113 points behind us in 3rd. They were led home by an amazing run from Triziano – who won the individual Gold – with Ben, Lucas and Joly all securing top 10 places. Our Y7 Girls, again with many making their debuts for Fortismere finished third and their Bronze medal position was matched by the Y8 Girls who were led home by Genevieve. The Y9 Girls finished in Gold Medal place with Amy Kirk – winning the Individual Gold - leading them to victory. Y10/11 Girls, not wishing to miss out on all the medals, also took 1st Place. What an amazing set of results for Fortismere and just reward for the incredible time and dedication they put into their training. I'm very proud of them all.



More Cross-Country Success

After less than two days rest our runners were back in action at the English Schools Cross-Country Cup first round, hosted by Harrow School, our runners were competing against mostly large independent schools. Once again, Triziano Wilson and Amy Kirk led their teams brilliantly. Both of them a year young (racing against Y10s) put in fabulous performances. Amy won the Inter Girls (Y9/Y10) race leading home nearly 100 runners and Triz was just second (pipped on the line by a strong Harrow Y10 Runner) again in a race with nearly 100 runners. Our Junior Boys, without our main star, Tal, put in the team performance of the day to qualify through to the Regional final. They were led home by Rafael Tancred who stepped up to the plate in Tal's absence, it was a great team performance, including three Y7s.. An Incredible week for Fortismere Cross-Country!

Cup Victory for U13s

Last Thursday our U13 Girls headed West to compete in the 1st Round of the ESFA National Cup and recorded a fantastic victory over Burlington Danes winning by 3 goals without reply. Three Y7 girls made their Fortismere debuts with Lottie Broadway opening the scoring with a great goal. Well Played Girls!



Football & Netball Teams in Action

It's also been a very busy week for our Football and Netball Teams. The Y9 Boys 'B' team played in the ESFA Cup and the Y10 'A' Team were also in ESFA cup action. Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 Netball teams all played local rivals APS. Results below. Well Played Everyone!

Luka Strikes Gold Again!

Our judo star Luka Abashidze was at it again last weekend taking the Gold medal at the NHC Area Open 2022 Competition. Luca had three bouts and won them all, adding yet another medal to his impressive tally. Brilliant stuff Luca!



Year 9 & 10 Students - Tell Us Your Views

Childwise are carrying out a national questionnaire as part of their 'Project Buzz' research. They would like as many Y9 and Y10 students as possible to complete their online questionnaire. Your answers will go towards planning schemes and projects for young people in the future. The survey will take around 10 minutes to complete.

[Year 9 Survey](#) & [Year 10 Survey](#)

Results & Fixtures

Last week's Results



Thurs 22.09	Girls Football U13 v Arc Burlington Danes – ESFA 1st Round – Won 3-0
Tues 27.09	Cross-Country – All Years Borough Champs at New River 4pm-5.30pm - See report
Weds 28.09	Football Y9 'B' Boys v Bishop Challoner (A) ESFA Cup 2.30pm KO- Lost 1-6
Thurs 29.09	Football Y10 'A' Boys v St Augustine's (H) ESFA Cup 2pm KO - Won 8-3 Cross-Country ESAA Cup 1st Round - JB 3rd IG 4th, IB 5th Amy 1st Triz 2nd Netball v APS: Y7 v APS – Lost; Y8 v APS - Lost; Y9 v APS - Won; Y10 v APS - Lost

Next week's Fixtures

Tues 4.10	Football Y7 Boys A, B and C Teams v Highgate (A) Friendly
Weds 5.10	Football 1st XI (U18) v St Ignatius – Middlesex Brigg Trophy Pool Stage Game 1 (H) 2.45 KO Football 2nd XI (U18) v Forest School – ESFA Cup 1st Round (H) 2.15 KO Football U16 Girls v London Academy (H) 2pm KO
Thurs 6.10	Table Tennis – U15 Boys Borough Champs @ Gladesmore 3-6pm

Fortismere Holiday Camps

October Half Term Holiday Camps - Booking Now

Our holiday camps provide a wide range of different activities for children including Sports, Art, Early Years Fun, Drama, Dance and Photography. This half-term our Holiday Camps run from **Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October**, activities are from **9.00am to 3.00pm** each day at Fortismere School, Tetherdown N10 1NE. A full week costs £80.00. An early (8.00am) drop-off option including breakfast is also available. Bookings are made via Eventbrite. Full details of all the activities and booking details are published on the school website - [see here for details](#)



Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Information

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively you can contact your child's Tutor or their Head of Year:

Year 7 ejones@fortismere.org.uk

Year 8 icuenca@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 kwilliams@fortismere.org.uk

Year 10 kjackson@fortismere.org.uk

Year 11 dward@fortismere.org.uk

Ms Sullivan

Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead