


School Leadership Messages	Contents					
<p>Covid Update: New guidance</p> <p>New guidance for schools was issued by the DfE on January 19th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- From 11 January a positive lateral flow test for students with no symptoms does not need to be confirmed by a positive PCR (there are exceptions, please see the Government guidance).- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.- Positive lateral flow tests must be reported to the NHS so that normal track and trace procedures can be followed.- We will continue to supply packs of 7 LFTs to our students. Please continue to test at home twice-weekly.- 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. <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> <p>Face coverings</p> <p>We are anticipated cases to rise as a result of Thursday’s relaxation of Covid rules so we are requesting students to continue to wear masks in the communal areas and assemblies so that we can continue to keep each other safe and students in school.</p>	Co-Headteachers					
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We have no doubt that Year 11 students will be pleased to see their mock examination period drawing to a close this week. Students have conducted themselves exceptionally well throughout this period. We know they will now be looking forward to the opportunity to reflect on how they did in the coming weeks to ensure they are clear on what they still need to learn and improve on in time for the summer exam series.

Now that plan B measures have ceased we are keen that we don't abandon many of the behaviours we have developed during the pandemic too soon. While we may no longer insist on mask wearing, it is clear from not just the national pictures but also locally and at Fortismere we are still seeing very high numbers of covid positive cases. Therefore we are still very much recommending that masks continue to be worn by our students and staff in communal areas at school. We talk a lot to our students about how our behaviour can have a significant impact on the safety of those we work with as exemplified in our Fortismere Four rule, 'Be safe'. While there is a general acceptance that the current variant of Covid is less severe, there are still those connected to our community who could become unwell if exposed to the virus. Furthermore, while self-isolation is still a requirement for those who test positive this will continue to have an impact on the students and staff attendance. Students have missed enough face-to-face learning in the last couple of years; we will do whatever we can to ensure they are in school with us. We would ask that parents discuss the importance of continuing covid-safe behaviours, including masks wearing until levels of the virus in the community drop further.



We were moved to see events taking place across the country yesterday to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. At this time of the year at Fortismere we pause to reflect on this period of history, to remember the millions of lives lost and to make sure we take every opportunity to understand how we can learn lessons from the past. Ms Fineberg has delivered assemblies to offer this reflection that are being delivered across our Year groups so students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to think and respond together.

We seem to have arrived at the end of January rather swiftly. We wish all of our students and their families a peaceful weekend.

Governing Body Notice

Parent Governor Vacancies

In case you missed our notice last week there are currently two parent governor vacancies. Governors are essential to the strategic leadership of the school, holding school leaders to account for student outcomes, and for continuing school development which is successful and consistent with the mission and values of the school. There are no particular qualifications required, beyond the will and capacity to engage fully in the work of the Board. That said, we would particularly like to secure additional skills in financial and estate management, and inevitably, fundraising. Please do consider standing as parent governor - if you want to discuss the role or to speak with a current governor please get in touch with me via our clerk, Sam Murray. To nominate yourself please email smurray@fortismere.org.uk by Friday 4th February 2022

Mark Chapman
Chair of governors

Parent and Student Engagement Notices

Parent and Carer Webinars

We were really pleased to see so many parents attending our two webinars this week on *Dealing with Anxiety* and *Safeguarding* - over 90 parents attended. Due to the high level of demand for places we'll be running additional sessions on *Dealing with Anxiety* soon – watch out for dates. Copies of the presentations delivered at the webinars this week will be sent to all parents via ParentMail.

Next webinar: LGBTQIA+ Tuesday 8th February 2020 at 9.30am to 10.30am

We will be hosting a parent/carer webinar on Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (or questioning) - LGBTQIA+. The session is aimed at the parents/carers of students in Years 7/8/9, and will be facilitated by Mr McGuinness, Maths Teacher and LGBTQ+ Champion and will cover the following:

- Discussion of the concepts of gender and sexuality
- Terms used around LGBTQ+ identity
- Parental support/Conversation starters
- Student support

To book a place, please email Ms Harris-O'Hanlon; rharrisohanlon@fortismere.org.uk

Ms R Harris

Parent and Student Engagement Officer

Year 9 News

Careers Day 21st January

Last Friday Year 9's took part in our Careers Day. This was designed to inform, educate and inspire them to make sensible choices about their futures. Students attended workshops focussed on looking at their strengths, how to 'sell' themselves and wrote a pitch on why they are the perfect student. They also used our careers software Kudos which gave them information about courses, careers and pathways and were given the opportunity to speak with older students who have recently studied both GCSE's, BTECs and A' Levels. In the afternoon we were delighted to have guest speakers (and even some successful past students) who spoke to them about their own career paths which covered a wide field of employment; including the NHS, the Environment Agency and self-built businesses. We hope that this day and the follow up DLC's gave our students the support and guidance that they need in making decisions about their futures.



Interested in a career in teaching?

The New River Teaching Alliance (of which Fortismere is a member) are recruiting for teacher training, starting in September 2022. If you are interested in finding out more about a career in teaching and would like to train in a North London school, then this online event is for you.

Kirsty Holder (Senior leader ITT/ECF)

Teacher Training Virtual Information morning - Tues 8th Feb 2022 8.45am-9.45am

Presentation and discussion of NRTA school direct programme with Iraj Felfeli (Director NRTA)

Places can be booked on [Eventbrite](#)

If you would prefer to have a conversation with the NRTA team, please contact Kate Dowling kdowling@alexandrapark.school or by telephone 0208 826 4914.

Modern Languages Department Notices

Year 7 - Language(s) choices

As per last week, Year 7s are coming to an end with the languages carousel and will be put in their new groups after February half term.

Next week parents will receive an email via ParentMail with a form for students to choose their preferred language(s). Students will be given a choice of language combination and in the event of oversubscription for the double language groups we will use the results of the tests undertaken in Spanish, French and Mandarin as a cut-off point. Other factors will be taken into consideration when groups are decided, such as teacher assessment of pupils' progress, homework and attitude to learning.

Please make sure you read the information carefully before submitting the form. If you have any further queries you can email our KS3 coordinator on jdabrowska@fortismere.org.uk

Year 9 - Options

Last Friday all Year 9s had an exciting day learning about all their possible options. We had some exceptional Year 10s and Year 12s helping in the ML stall sharing their passion for languages with them and we truly thank them for that!

A few questions have arisen from that day and from the DLCs. Please read these **FAQs**:

-My child speaks another language at home - can they take GCSE in that language? Yes, students will be able to take a GCSE in their home language. Occasionally we can't always provide every language so if you want to double check, please email Ms Robson on rrobson@fortismere.org.uk



- My child wants to take GCSE in their home language, will this count as an option? No, students that take a GCSE in their home language will have an extra GCSE and they still have to choose 4 options in the options process.

- My child speaks and understands another language but doesn't necessarily write it well. Can they take a GCSE? We recommend those students to go over some past papers from the exam board and/or to have some tuition to enhance those skills in order to achieve a high grade.

- My child wants to do Spanish as a GCSE but we speak French and wants to do the GCSE independently. Is this allowed? Yes, students can do a language as one of their options and take an extra GCSE independently in their home language.

- Can the students take a GCSE independently in yr 10? Yes they can given that we do not have more disruptions with exams due to COVID.

If you still have further queries, you can contact me on icuenca@fortismere.org.uk

Year 11 Speaking Mocks & Targeted Revision Sessions

Students have now finalised their mocks and we expect those invited to attend revision sessions. Once we analyse mocks results, we will invite further students to the Languages sessions.

Parents have been informed of targeted revision sessions for some Year 11 students. Below is a reminder of when the ML sessions run with a small change to the Spanish ones:

French - Thursdays Week 1 and Week 2 - Lunch time in N16

Mandarin - Wednesdays Week 1 and Week 2 - After school in N20

Spanish - Tuesdays **Week 1** - After School in N18// Fridays **Week 2** - Lunch time in LINC

We will be running a speaking mock in the last week of half term. The mocks are conducted in the Music block in North Wing by the class teacher. Given the large numbers in some groups, some classes will be split over two days. Students will be given their days and times during next week and all staff will be informed so that students are allowed to leave their lessons. Below are the days for each class:

DAY	CLASS + TEACHER
Tuesday 8 Feb	11D/FR - Ms Dabrowska 11B/SP - Mr Fari 11D/SP - Mr Lewis
Wednesday 9 Feb	11D/FR - Ms Dabrowska 11B/SP - Mr Fari 11D/MAN - Mr Li 11B/FR - Ms Bruel
Thursday 10 Feb	11C/SP - Ms Cuenca 11D/SP - Mr Lewis 11C/MP - Ms Huang
Friday 11 Feb	11C/SP - Ms Cuenca

If a student is absent on the day, we'd appreciate parents or students notifying the teacher in advance.

Year 13 Mocks

Students will be having a speaking mock at the beginning of February. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get an overview of how the real exam will be conducted in May. Students will get more information and advice in upcoming lessons.

The mocks are conducted in the Music block in North Wing by the class teachers. Students will be given their times during next week and all staff will be informed so students are allowed to leave their lessons to go to their speaking mock. Below are the days for each class:

13D/Spanish - Friday 4th of February (Ms Cuenca & Ms Partridge)

13B/French - Monday 7th of February (Ms Bruel & Ms Fineberg)

French A Level Trip to the BFI

Our Year 12 and Year 13 students attended a study day on Thursday at the BFI on François Truffaut and the French New Wave. They took part in a question and answer session and also saw clips of key films from the 1950s and 60s to further their understanding of this important film movement. The cherry on the cake was a screening of the 400 Blows by Truffaut which is the film we study for A Level French. Mr Lewis and Ms Fineberg would like to thank all students for their high levels of engagement throughout the day.



Sixth Form News

Sixth Form Societies: PrideSoc

The Fortismere PrideSoc is a community space that meets once a week to have fun and discuss issues. Before the holidays, we ran a World AIDS Day bake sale in which we raised just under £200 for the Terrence Higgins Trust! February is LGBT History Month and we're going to have an archive brought into the school as well as having form time and assembly talks.

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Hello from the Sixth Form Leadership Team! We're Imani, Smit, Meera, and Marco. Currently, we're working on enhancing the Sixth Form social space, the common room, by organising for a mural to be painted on the walls. Contact with the rest of the school is going to be increased, for example through messages in the Newsletter and messages from our societies - like the one above. A mentor scheme is going to be set up for Sixth Form students starting from next September. We also plan on making entry to the school easier for Sixth Form students.

Best wishes,

Meera Needham-Hewavisenti on behalf of the Sixth Form Head Students Team



PE & Sports Department Notices

Sports round-up

Good afternoon everyone – what a week of sport we've just enjoyed. Boys football, girls football, cricket, cross country running and sports hall athletics are just some of the many competitive events that our teams have competed in this week, and in most cases, successfully! All this is on top of our wide range of regular extra-curricular sports. Enjoy reading all about it below.

Table tennis boys do us proud

Last Friday four of our very best table tennis players went off to contest the North London Championships (Individuals) at The London Academy in Edgware. I'm delighted to report that Barney Mindlin Year 12 (pictured) finished in the runners up position and has qualified through to the All-London finals. Also through is Euan Hacking Year 7, who finished runner up in an event in which he is a year young. Incredibly we had two Year 9 boys taking part in the U16 event – an incredible 3 years young. Unfortunately the draw wasn't kind and Noah Hacking played Sam Gabriel in the semi final with Sam coming out on top. Sam went on to finish runner up and has also qualified through to the London Finals. Well done boys!



Fortismere running all the way to the National Championships

Thursday saw our elite cross-country runners head off to represent Haringey in the Middlesex Cross-Country Championships at Harrow School. An incredible 18 Fortismere athletes were selected – making up the majority of the Borough team. We haven't had the full results yet but headlines are Spike Blake (3rd), Amy Kirk (5th) and Triziano Wilson (10th) they have all made the Middlesex Team that will contest the National Schools Championships. Amy and Triziano are a year young in their respective categories. Incredible performances by all our runners! Well done all!



County final awaits our U15 girls

Many congratulations to our U15 girls football team who have made the Middlesex Final. This is the first time that U15 teams will be competing for the new Rachel Hankey Trophy. Our girls have put themselves in a great position and hopefully Fortismere's name will be the first one on the new trophy.



U14s in action

On a beautiful Thursday afternoon our U14 A & B boys football teams travelled to UCS for a set of friendly fixtures. The 'A's fought a really tough game drawing 1-1. They thought they had grabbed the win when Tom Radley slotted home in the last MINUTE! Unfortunately the referee ruled it out for an earlier offside infringement. Bizarrely the only offside decision of the whole match. Where's VAR when you need it? The boys accepted the decision without a murmur and the draw was a well-earned result. The 'B's unfortunately came up against a very strong UCS team eventually going down 1-5. Well played all!



Year 7 boys earn a set of super results at Highgate Independent

On Tuesday our Year 7 A, B and C teams travelled to Highgate for an afternoon of freezing (well it was for the fans) football. The results were really pleasing and showed how much the teams have improved. The 'A's drew 2-2 a match they lost 2-7 earlier in the season. The 'B's won 5-2 after being 1-2 down at half-time and the 'C's continued their rich reign of form with an impressive 4-1 victory. Well played to all the boys.



Howzat boys!

This week it was the turn of the boys (Year 7/8) to contest the Haringey Borough Indoor Cricket Champs. The boys didn't quite match the runners up position earned by the girls last week but they finished in 4th and gained valuable 'Haringey Shield' Points. Well played to all the boys.

Results and Fixtures

Results - this week

Monday – Football Y8 C & D v UCS (A) 2.30 KO Postponed

Tuesday – Football Y7 A, B & C v Highgate (A) 2.15 KO A's Drew 2-2. B's Won 5-2 C's Won 4-1

Tuesday – Indoor Cricket Y7/8 Boys at Fortismere 3-5pm 4th

Wednesday- Sports Hall Athletics Borough Champs – Y7 at St Thomas More 3.00-5.30 Girls 3rd Boys 4th

Thursday – Y9 A & B v UCS (A) 2.30 KO A's Drew 1-1 B's Lost 1-5

Thursday Cross Country – County Champs at Harrow Spike 3rd, Amy 5th Triziano 10th – all made the cross county team that will contest the National champs.

Fixtures - next Week

Friday (28th) – Football Y7 C & D v UCS (A) 2.30 KO

Follow Fortismere

Remember that the PE & Sports Department has active Twitter and TikTok accounts. Our Twitter is where you will find the latest information on fixtures, matches and all things sport so make sure you give us a follow on Twitter – Fortismere Sport 7 PE @FortismerePE and on TikTok - @fortismeresport

Music Department Notices

Ensembles this term

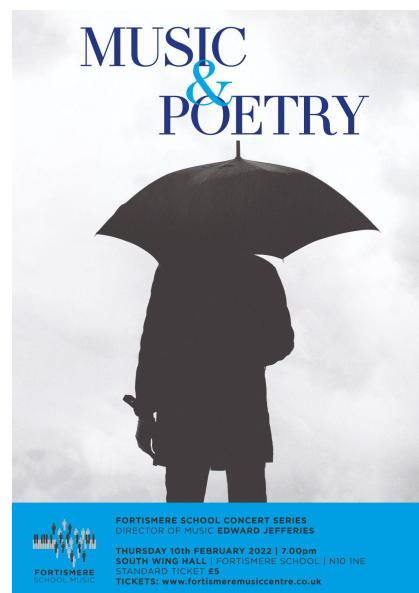
Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Senior String Group Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech MU1 School Orchestra Concert Hall
Tuesday	Senior Choir Concert Hall Percussion Group MU1 Popular Guitars MU2	Jazz Band Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra (7-9pm)
Wednesday	Big Band Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
Thursday	Junior Choir Concert Hall 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 the Spring Term

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



Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Tuesday Evenings

The orchestra has started again 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 you play wind or brass please contact the FMC manager Joe Winters so that he can put you in touch with the group's musical director by emailing FMCinfo@fortismere.org.uk. The cost for the term is £60 for 10 sessions or £40 for students or concessions.



FCSO
FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SIBELIUS
Symphony No. 5

BRUCH
Concerto for Clarinet and Viola

FARRENC
Overture No. 1

CONDUCTOR THOMAS GREGORY | LEADER SAM ALBERMAN
VIOLA HANNAH GARDINER | CLARINET CHRIS STRIPP

SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2022 at 7.30PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | NIO 20D

FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE
STANDARD £12 CONCESSION £8 UNDER-12 FREE
BOOK ONLINE www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

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FINAL NOTICE - 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 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 a **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

Library Notices

Book Club News



The next meeting of **CoverUp**, our parent/staff reading group, is on Thursday 10th March, 7pm in the library. We'll be attempting our annual "compare and contrast exercise"(!), as well as reading a book that our students have adored. *The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal last year and, although it wasn't the winner, it was Fortismere's Carnegie Shadows' favourite by a mile. *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan is a teeny, tiny book of sublime wonderfulness. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.



Although not all Year7s are members of the **Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award Group** (join us – Friday lunchtimes in the library), they can still take part in BiblioBuzz with Haringey Libraries who are launching their scheme this Saturday 29th January, 11am, at Wood Green Children's Library. Shortlisted author Anna Goodall will be there to chat and sign copies of *Maggie Blue* and *the Dark World*.



Everyone can be an Illustrator

Not everyone wants to be an author, so with World Book Day coming up at the beginning of March, why not enter ReadingZone's fab competition to make a picture book? Full details here [How to make a picture book - ReadingZone](#)



Library Catalogue

We are still finding out about all the things our new library catalogue can do, but for now students and staff can find it in school *All Programs – Library Catalogue – Accessit Library*. It can also be found on the school website: *Student – Useful Links for our Students – School Library Catalogue*. For now, please just remain as a Guest and use the Search box at the top of the screen if you are looking for something specific eg title, author or a keyword to something that's of interest. (We typed in "murder" to find over 300 murder/mystery books...) We have also started creating reading lists which you can find on the Quick Lists tab - just above the Search box. Please take a look and discover some of the things we have to offer, and watch this space for more!



Recommended Reads of the Week

27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day when we remember the victims of genocide. Here is a small selection of books that are all available to borrow from the library.



Half-Term Holiday Activities

February Half-Term Holiday Camps - LIMITED SPACES - Book now

Our holiday camps offer a wide range of fun and games but they are filling up fast and there are limited places remaining so please book now to avoid missing out.

Activities run between 09.00am-15.00 pm 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.

Sports Age 7-15 ONLY 9 PLACES REMAINING 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. To book your child's place please click the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-multisport-age-6-15-tickets-232072835097>

Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre Age 6-12 SOLD OUT

Comic Course Age 7-15 SOLD OUT

Art Club Age 8-15 SOLD OUT

Street Dance Age 7-15 ONLY 5 PLACES REMAINING

Students will learn routines and steps from this popular dance style. Jakub runs our Street Dance Club. Jakub started dancing Hip-Hop when he was 15 years old training in North London. He trained with Zoo Nation, performing with their company and alongside this creating a company called PDK. PDK has worked in the industry for over 10 years, changing how the dance scene see Hip-Hop and Street Styles. He studied Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at the Urdang Academy. Jakub has worked in the industry for over 5 years, teaching in different countries and working with clients like : Netflix, Adidas, Jungle, Bastille, Off-White, L'Oreal, Labrinth, Emile Sande, Little Simz, and many more. Jakub specialises in Hip-Hop, Commercial, Contemporary, Jazz Funk and

Improvisation. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fortismere-february-half-term-camp-street-dance-age-7-15-tickets-232080508047>