

Friday 13th January 2023

### School Leadership Messages

#### Attendance and Punctuality

Parents and carers are reminded good attendance and punctuality are central to students' progress and achievement. We need students to arrive at school by 8.30am for an 8.35am start. Students who arrive after this time will not be able to enter via the Twyford or North Wing entrances as these will be shut by 8.35am.

#### Term dates: 2023-24

We will be able to publish next year's holiday dates next week on the Fortismere website. The Inset dates will be agreed at a later date.

#### Top Positive Points

Sophie Yufit Y8  
 William Draper Y9  
 Willian Kennedy Y8  
 Dylan Zwikker Y9  
 Maya Serri-Leggatt Y9  
 Mikaeel Dahag Y9  
 Christian Gilmore Y9  
 Lily Kholer Y9  
 Lora Vida Y7  
 Amad Chowdhury Y9  
 Cy Brien-Kato Y8  
 Oscar Vinet Y8  
 Rory Thorburn Y7  
 Jamie Gilbride Y9  
 Julia Guerra-O'Hanlon Y9  
 Yuras Gokcan Y9  
 Noels Bruno Augulis Y8  
 Lucien Howard Y7  
 Talia Greenberg Y7  
 Verran Sangha Y7

#### Parent and Carer survey - reminder

We are inviting you to share your views about your child's experiences in their lessons at Fortismere school. If you haven't already done so please complete a short questionnaire by clicking on the [link](#) here.

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### Calendar

18/1 Y9 Options Evening

19&20/1 Flu vaccinations Y7, 8 & 9



Image: Kew Gardens

*Positive News* from 2022 included discovery of a new-to-science species of giant water lily. Researchers from Kew Gardens were involved in the discovery and visitors to Kew can see an example of this species in the Conservatory.

## Co-Headteachers

### Weekly Roundup

It is lovely to end the week bathed in winter sunshine after the heavy rain and strong winds we endured for most of the week. Extremely wet weather is challenging for our students. Our indoor facilities, particularly in the South Wing, are not as accommodating as we would like and students can find it difficult to manage their lunch in a confined space. We do urge students to tidy up after themselves and only use the designated spaces but we are all relieved when we can make better use of our site. We have also had students complain about being cold and wet so we are repeating the message that students need to wear the clothes to school appropriate for the weather and that includes footwear.

Despite the inclement weather, the snow- postponed Year 9 trip to Kew went ahead and as you can see below, the students had a brilliant time. We are proud of the way our students conducted themselves during the trip and also, impressed by the additional knowledge they acquired while there.

Year 13 began their mock examinations on Monday and it is obvious from speaking to them how focused they are and how hard they have prepared for the exams. The rest of the school are being mindful and taking care not to disturb either the exams or Year 13s revising in the Library. Year 11 mocks will begin immediately after Year 13 and we are anticipating the same level of commitment from the year group.

The use of the hall space for examinations has interrupted assembly times and the Co-Heads returned to our Lockdown practice of pre-recording assemblies for the Year 12 assembly yesterday. Much of the narrative around 2022 has been negative and we felt strongly that this should be balanced with a range of 'good news' stories' from last year. From breakthroughs in nuclear fusion to successes in re-wilding and species protection, it wasn't all doom and gloom. We are aware that for many of our young people the world can feel complex and dispiriting and we urged Year 12 to seek out and recognise the good things that happen. The US Supreme Court may have rowed back on women's reproductive rights but Sierra Leone and Malta moved forwards. We introduced the students to [Positive News](#) and we hope that they will visit the site and find news stories that inspire and bring joy.

And in a similar joyous vein, we wish all our families a peaceful and at least moderately dry weekend!

## Governing Board

### Vacancy for a Co-opted Governor

We have a vacancy on the Governing Board for a co-opted governor and in this case we are particularly looking for an individual with estate-related skills and experience. These might include estate development, maintenance, health & safety and compliance matters, and procurement and/or project management of capital works.

Co-opted governors are appointed on the basis of their skills and experience and can be parents, or not. As always the most important factors in the appointment are relevant skills and a commitment to the role and to the work of the School. Please get in touch with the Clerk to the Governors, [smurray@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:smurray@fortismere.org.uk) if you or someone you know would like to know more about what the role entails.

Mark Chapman. Chair, Governing Board

## Intercollege Activities

### Year 7 Inter-College Castle Building Competition

Year 7 took part in a History intercollege competition this week. Year 7s created a Norman castle, and teachers and students voted for their favourite - the most accurate and impressive. Competition was stiff and there was even a castle made of cake! Perhaps we will see Lara, Lily and Zahra (Franklin) on Bake Off in the future? Despite everyone enjoying a slice of cake, they were narrowly beaten by Alyssa (Wollstonecraft) with her impressive motte and bailey castle. Well done to all the winners and everyone who took part - you have earned participation points for your college! The winners will be receiving a prize and certificate next week, as well as college points! The winners are:

1st - Alyssa Rosenberg - Wollstonecraft

Joint 2nd - Lara Allen-Davis, Lily Topham and Zahra Nawab - Franklin and Arlo Mockridge - Keats

3rd - Goktay Tujen - Keats



### Participation Equals Points!

There are more intercollege activities taking place this half-term including the **PRE competition** with entrants creating a video on philosophy for a youtube channel - most likes wins! And a **Chess competition** - students should ask their tutor to email their names to Mr Huxley as soon as possible. In PE lessons there will be **hockey and basketball competitions**

**The current leaderboard....** 1st: Selvon (3108 points); 2nd: Keats (2852); 3rd: Wollstonecraft (2476); 4th: Turing (2272); 5th: Franklin (2128)

Mr Huxley

## Geography Department

### Year 9 Trips to Kew Gardens

The Geography Department have really enjoyed taking the Year 9 students to visit Kew Gardens over the past couple of months and we were thrilled to finally be able to take the remaining four classes on Tuesday this week - the snow in December meant we had to reschedule some visits. It was extra special to be able to give this Year 9 cohort the opportunity to visit Kew Gardens, as we know that they have missed out on school trips over the past few years.



We spent the day looking at the ways in which plants have adapted to living in different biomes, such as the desert, tropical rainforest and the temperate biomes. We also looked at how climate change might affect some of these in the future. Students enjoyed walking through the Palm House, the Temperate House and the Princess of Wales Conservatory and completed tasks in each of these locations.



The trip really helps to consolidate the Year 8 learning on the Biomes topic, whilst also linking to the current Year 9 topic of Glaciation and Climate Change, with a particular focus on our changing climate. There was exemplary behaviour by our students during the trips and we were really pleased that they represented the school in such a positive way. Please enjoy the photos, which were taken by Rayan Kahn



## Extra Curricular Clubs

### Chess Club - S05 lunchtime

The Chess Club meets Wednesday to Friday lunchtime. Monday is set aside for prospective/team members preparing for the Knockout Round of The National Competition starting in late January. Just a reminder that canteen hot meals are not permitted in S05. As chess is a thinking game, talking loudly is inappropriate. Contact Mr Renner with any queries.



## Library Notices

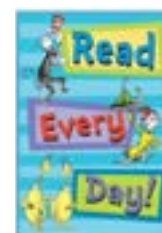
### Cover Up

The next meeting of our parent/staff reading group is next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January in the library. We'll be talking about Anthony McGowan's "The Truth of Things" quadrilogy, award-winning, short novellas published by the brilliant Barrington Stoke. Obviously other topics will be discussed! Refreshments provided, and everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read/finished the books.



### And another thing...

Spotted on social media: "Did you know a child that reads for 20 mins a day will read around 1.8 million words in a year? The more our kids read the more vocab they absorb & the easier they will find it to articulate themselves, both now & in the future. Plus it develops critical thinking skills too!" All true. We would have added "escape", "empathy" and "enjoyment" to that list! We would have also increased the time to at least 30 minutes every day. ...



## Recommended Reads of the Week

Next Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, is the anniversary of the day that Captain Scott reached the South Pole in 1912. Here are some more chilly adventures taking place in the library...



## Music Department

### Upcoming Concerts This Term

**Thursday January 26th: Charity Band Night** - This is an amazing evening being organised by the 6th Form to raise money for SHELTER and whilst there will be some performances from various school ensembles the night is a chance for our school bands to put their best foot forward. If you would like to perform or know of any bands both adult and student that might like to get involved please contact Nathan Joseph (6th Form Organiser) on [josen083.309@fortismere.school](mailto:josen083.309@fortismere.school)

Tickets for this event are available at: [www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk](http://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk)

See the concert poster *attached* to the this week's Newsletter

**Thursday February 9th: Music and Poetry** - This is a concert that features music and poetry from across the school. There will be some outstanding performances and we look forward to Haru Ogiwara's Haydn Cello Concerto amongst various other performances. If you would like to perform please contact the Director of Music, Mr Jefferies

**Thursday March 9th: A Level Recital Evening** - this concert will feature performances from our A Level students who will be playing their final recital pieces. This group of musicians are really quite outstanding and I would urge you to come along to hear them.

**Saturday March 25th: Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra Concert** - This concert will feature the Barber Violin Concerto performed by Darragh Morgan. If you would like to know more about this terms soloist please visit [www.darraghmorgan.com](http://www.darraghmorgan.com)

## Instrumental & Vocal Lessons

**Lessons start on Monday 16th January.** If you have not yet paid for this term please do so as soon as possible to enable us to timetable your child.

If you are interested in your child starting lessons please contact Mel Izzet at [mizzet@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mizzet@fortismere.org.uk).

## Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Tuesdays 7pm-9pm

The FCSO has resumed and meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the Music Concert Hall. If you or your child would like to join then please get in touch. We are always keen to have new players but be advised that we require players to be of the following standard in order to play the repertoire:

Strings - Grade 7+

Brass - Grade 7+

Woodwind - Grade 8+

Percussion - Grade 7+

We are particularly keen to hear from Violinists, Double Bass, Bassoonists, Trombonists, French Horns.

## Appalachian Spring Dance Project - Monday Evenings 7pm-9pm

The Appalachian Spring Contemporary Dance Project has resumed and meets on Monday evenings 7-9pm in the Music Concert Hall. This is a cross generational piece and open to all dance styles and all standards (Beginner to Advanced). It is a new choreography by Luis Gallo Muddera and will result in a public performance with a live orchestra of twenty three musicians later this year. Please contact the Director of Music for more details by emailing [ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk](mailto:ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk)

## Night Dances- Saturday Afternoons 3.30pm-5.30pm

The Night Dances Project has resumed and meets on Saturday afternoons from 3.30-5.30pm in the Music Concert Hall. This is a cross generational piece and open Ballet dancers. (Beginner to Advanced). It is a new choreography by Simone Pinchera and will result in a public performance with a live orchestra of 23 musicians later this year. Please contact the Director of Music for more details by emailing [ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk](mailto:ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk)

## Fortismere Community Choir- Saturday 10.30am-1.00pm

The Fortismere Community Choir resumes on Saturday 14th January and welcomes new members. This term they are preparing for their Easter Concert of Rachmaninov's Vespers. If you are interested in singing please come along - it is a non audition choir and everyone is welcome!

Please contact the Director of Music for more details by emailing [ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk](mailto:ejefferies@fortsmere.org.uk)

## Ensembles This Term

Please remind your children to be prompt to rehearsals. Repertoire for the term will appear in Google Classrooms and should be looked at before attending a rehearsal.

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	String Group - Concert Hall	KS3 Music Tech - MU1 Chamber Orchestra - Concert Hall

<b>Tuesday</b>	SSA Choir - Concert Hall Percussion Group - MU1 Popular Guitars - MU2	Jazz Band - Concert Hall Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - 7pm-9pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Big Band - Concert Hall	Bands (Rooms available for practice)
<b>Thursday</b>	Junior Choir - Concert Hall DJ Club - MU4	KS4 Music Tech - MU4 Cello Group - MU2
<b>Friday</b>	Male Voices - Concert Hall Classical Guitar Group - Concert Hall	
<b>Saturday</b>	Music Theory Classes - 11:30am-12:30pm Fortismere Community Choir - 10:30am-1pm	Bands (Rooms available for practice)

## PE & Sport News

### Football Referee Course

If you are interested in becoming a football referee. There will be a course running at New River Sports Centre possibly in March/April. They are looking for more female referees. Please email [Lauren.Redman@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Lauren.Redman@haringey.gov.uk) to register your interest or to get further information.

### Haringey Netball League Results

Congratulations to all of our netball squads - every team in the top three! So everyone gets a medal!

Year 7 Netball	Year 8 Netball	Year 9 Netball	Year 10 Netball
1st APS <b>2nd Fortismere</b> 3rd Heartlands 4th St Thomas More 5th Hornsey 6th Dukes 7th Gladesmore	1st Greig City 2nd APS <b>3rd Fortismere</b> 4th St Thomas More 5th Heartlands 6th Park View 7th Gladesmore 8th Highgate Wood 9th Dukes 10th Hornsey 11th Woodside	<b>1st Fortismere</b> 2nd APS 3rd Highgate Wood 4th Heartlands 5th Gladesmore 6th St Thomas More 7th Dukes 8th Hornsey	1st APS 2nd ST Thomas More <b>3rd Fortismere</b> 4th Greig City 5th Heartlands 6th Park View 7th Gladesmore 8th Dukes 9th Woodside 10th Highgate Wood 11th Hornsey

## Basketball Club - New days & times

Due to high the high numbers coming for Basketball Club on Mondays we are changing arrangements to accommodate everyone as follows:

**Monday after school 3.20-4.30 pm in Sports Hall - Year 9 and 10 Girls and Boys and Blanche Nevile**

**Friday after school 3.30-4.30 pm in the Sports Hall - Year 7 and 8 Girls and Boys**

## Haringey Cricket - Last Minute Winners

A fabulous result for our Year 7/8 Girl's Cricket Team - they picked up the bronze medal in a very close competition on Tuesday night, beating APS on the last ball! Great performances by all - thank you to Ella for stepping in at the last minute. Lola Currie made some fantastic catches behind the stumps! Genevieve and Mia have both been selected to represent Haringey in the London Youth Games.



## National Cup Result

We're very proud of our Year 9/10 Girls football Team who have reached the 5th Round (last 32 teams) of the National Schools Cup - over 600 entries. They played a great first half managing to defend brilliantly - Lola made a few great saves and Leila was everywhere in defence. In the second half we conceded a goal and we lost our momentum. POM goes to **Leila Hadari**.



## Safeguarding at Fortismere

### Online Safety Resource for Parents & Carers

This week I've been told about a really useful online resource for starting discussions with your children about online safety [Thorn - Be your kid's safety net](#). At the moment content is focussed on conversations with children up to the age of 13 (information for older children is being developed), however, I think that it could still be beneficial for some older children. A reminder that I also I previously shared the [Children's Commissioner's report](#) about how to talk to young people about online sexual harassment. This report gives clear advice and background information to help parents discuss these issues with their children.

Please get in touch with me [safetalk@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:safetalk@fortismere.org.uk) if there are any issues you would like support with, alternatively you can contact your child's Tutor or their Head of Year

Ms Sullivan

Designated Safeguarding Lead