

School Leadership Messages	Contents								
<p>Reminder: Headteacher Surgery 30 April 2pm-4pm - Book Your Slot</p> <p>There's an online Headteacher's Surgery next half term where you can speak directly to Ms Zoe Judge about any aspect of school policy or practice. Please note: The surgery is for general school matters, not concerns about individual children. These should be raised with the relevant member of staff or through our complaints process. To book your appointment, complete the form here. Slots are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If this session is full, we'll offer you an appointment at a future Surgery. Meeting links will be sent before your appointment.</p> <p>Year 11/13 Student Lunch Accounts</p> <p>A reminder to parents and carers as we approach exam season can you please ensure all catering accounts are clear from any amounts owing prior to students leaving for the exam period.</p> <p>Super Sparks Effort</p> <p>The English department would like to commend the following KS3 students for their outstanding efforts with Sparx Reader this week:</p> <p>Year 7: Matilda Greenall 2975 SRP Year 8: Mathilda Lassen-Satherlund 1028 SRP Year 9: Diako Zare 784</p> <p>Chemistry Olympiad Success</p> <p>The Chemistry department would like to congratulate all of their A level students who participated in the highly prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad competition. Students involved showed real commitment and enthusiasm during the extremely challenging tests, demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills as well as resilience. In particular, congratulations to Maxim Hoyland, Yusuf Somunkiran and Reda Allham, who all achieved Bronze certificates and to Adam Filali, Abhijay Haldankar, Oscar Lundgaard and Udit Bhattacharjee who all gained silver certificates - a really fantastic achievement. Well done all!</p>	<p>Headteacher's Message</p> <p>Departmental News & Notices</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>18.04</td> <td>Quiz & Curry Night 6.30pm Tickets here</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22.04</td> <td>Early school closure at 2.10pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22.04</td> <td>Y8 Parents' Evening (online) 3pm-6pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30.04</td> <td>Headteacher Surgery 2pm-4pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div data-bbox="1093 1377 1500 1668"> </div> <p><i>This week, 160 Year 9 students took part in their first Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in Tring. They all did very well and Mr Kay looks forward to seeing them on the qualifying expedition in June.</i></p> <p>Feedback at Fortismere here</p>	18.04	Quiz & Curry Night 6.30pm Tickets here	22.04	Early school closure at 2.10pm	22.04	Y8 Parents' Evening (online) 3pm-6pm	30.04	Headteacher Surgery 2pm-4pm
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Headteacher's Message

As we return to school, I'm particularly excited about the environmental work happening across Fortismere right now. Next Wednesday, 22nd April, is Earth Day, and our Eco Committee is marking the occasion by launching the new Fortismere Eco Code. This has been months in the making, and our students have worked incredibly hard to create a set of pledges that will guide our whole school community in making more sustainable choices. The code is built around our Fortismere Four values: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Kind, and includes commitments like reducing waste, cutting carbon footprints, keeping our school tidy, and protecting biodiversity. Students will be discussing these pledges in tutor time, and I hope you'll read and follow the Eco Code at home too so we can all make a difference together. *See the back page*

There's also even more happening on the environmental front! Our Eco Committee and student ambassadors have started working with Transport for London on the Pioneers Challenge, exploring ways to make travel choices that are better for the environment, our health, and road safety. We'll be sharing more about this project as it develops. And this weekend, our wonderful Friends of Fortismere gardeners will be planting trees at school as part of the Veolia nationwide Orchard Scheme, a brilliant addition to our grounds that students will enjoy for years to come.

All of this connects to the idea of spring, freshness, and renewal. We're asking students to take real pride in their working and playing spaces this half term; to keep Fortismere tidy, eliminate food waste, and put all waste in the correct bins. It's about creating an environment we all feel proud of, and one that reflects our commitment to looking after the planet. Small actions such as turning off taps, switching off lights and walking to school add up to something significant when we all do them together.

Thank you, as always, for your support. Here's to a wonderful summer term.

Student Attendance & Behaviour

Attendance Reminders

Parents/carers **must notify the school on each day of any unplanned absence** and give reasons for the absence, providing evidence where required. It is important that you notify us before 8.30am each day.

All absence information must be emailed to attendance@fortismere.org.uk. The school will follow up any unexplained absences to establish the reason and ensure safeguarding action is taken if necessary. Please note that a message is sent to parents whose children have not been marked present at the am roll call/period 1 without a reason being previously emailed to the school. We expect parents to respond to this message swiftly so that any further safeguarding action can be taken.

If your child has a medical appointment which you have had to make during the school day we may require evidence of the appointment. This will need to be emailed to the attendance email address.

For more information on attendance procedures please refer to the **policy on the school website** [here](#)

We also expect your children to **maintain excellent punctuality to school**. Being late to school has an impact on their learning and that of others. Even being 10 minutes late a day adds up to 1.5 weeks off school a year. We expect all children to be in school by 8.30am to give them time to get to their period 1 lesson for 8.35am. After this time they are late to school and will incur a late detention that day.

Governing Board

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have two vacancies for parent governors from the end of April. A message was sent by ParentMail on Wednesday this week setting out the details and explaining how to put yourself forward for the role. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday 29 April 2026 by 5pm to smurray@fortismere.org.uk

We had a great response to our last parent governor vacancies and are hoping for the same level of interest again. If you haven't had a chance to read the ParentMail yet please do and if you have any questions contact the clerk to governors, Ms Sam Murray at smurray@fortismere.org.uk

Mark Chapman

Chair of governors

Student Wellbeing

FortisMind: Supporting a Child's Mental Health

It can sometimes be challenging to know how to assist a child who is struggling with their mental health. This article, written by Y12 Mental Health Ambassador Alexandra Wanty, is about offering a few ways to improve a young student's well-being by giving them a supportive environment.

Establishing routines and stability

A very common factor that contributes to mental health is stress. Which, for a student, could be caused by school. This is why creating a routine is a powerful tool to promote stability in a young student's life. Daily schedules for activities, such as meals, homework, and bedtime, can improve one's well-being greatly. This would improve anxiousness by reducing stress over missed assignments or a close date for tests. This would allow them to be fully prepared and have better time management, which would allow them more free time for outside activities without having to stress about missing school assignments. Additionally, it also creates opportunities for them to develop self-discipline and responsibility!

Encouraging open communication

Encourage your child to share their experiences as this openness will help build trust and reinforce the idea that their feelings are valid. This could lead to finding a solution to the problem. Understanding how to approach those deeper conversations is key. Making a point to engage in regular discussions about their day or any challenges they may be facing. Even simple questions about their school day can open doors. After having a small conversation about anything that troubles them, asking them to give a thought about what could be done to make them feel more comfortable would be a great step! It helps a student understand that talking openly about something can lead them to a solution. Being able to find and settle a way with the help of someone whom they trust would be a great way to help them improve their trust and give them the confidence to ask for help more often.

Activities and peers

Children need outdoor activities or time to have fun with peers, which can help relieve stress and expand their social circle. Not only Fun and socialisable activities, but also a simple walk in a park once or twice a week can be a moment of relaxation and a great opportunity to have a talk with them about their interests or anything that they might struggle with.

Eco Committee

Transport for London Pioneers Challenge

The Eco Committee and Student Ambassadors are excited to be part of the **TfL Pioneers Challenge**, a student-led programme empowering young people to advocate for safer and greener travel. The group had their first meeting this week with Michal Kitchen, a TfL Youth Travel Ambassador and TfLPioneer. The challenge will involve students exploring (and sharing with the wider school community) ways to raise awareness and make travel choices which are better for the environment, our health and recognise the importance of road safety. Through the project, students develop leadership and oracy skills while helping us earn TfL Travel for Life accreditation for our school. Watch this space for more news.....



Sport & PE Notices

Summer Term Sport & PE

Welcome back and hopefully everyone is looking forward to a packed summer term of sport and PE.

Now that the weather is becoming warmer - please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school for PE lessons. Also a reminder for students to wear Fortismere PE kit - black or dark navy - shorts or tracksuit bottoms and a Fortismere T-shirt.

We've made a few changes to the summer term **Extra Curricular Timetable** which is available on the website [here](#)

New Martial Arts Club

Are you interested in learning some martial arts?

We will be hosting a 6-week after school course starting on Monday 8th June. The course, run by James Marsh from JM Wing Chun Martial Arts School will take place on Mondays from 08/06/26 to 13/07/26 and cost £60.

If your child would like to sign up or you have questions please get in touch with James by email info@jmwingchun.com or on 07949995715

A poster for the Fortismere Martial Arts Course. It features a young girl in a white martial arts uniform with a brown belt, standing on a red mat. The text on the poster reads: 'Fortismere Martial Arts Course', 'Ages 11-18', 'Beginners Welcome', 'Course Details: 8th of June - 13th of July 2026, Mondays at 3.20pm - 4.20pm, £60 for 6-week course', and 'Contact James: info@jmwingchun.com, 07949 995 715'.

Haringey Swimming Gala - Swimmers Needed

The annual Haringey swimming gala is in two weeks time and we are looking for swimmers. If your child swims competitively outside of school and would like to represent the school as part of the Fortismere team please tell them to contact Ms Jackson.

Drama Department Notices

KS3 Drama Club - Characterisation Carousel



It was great to see so many students back in the room for KS3 Drama Club this week. There was a great atmosphere and energy of enthusiasm, encouragement, and bubbling creativity, and we love that so many students attend for a variety of reasons - to practice what they enjoy, to push themselves out of their comfort zones, to create with others and develop new bonds, to play and have a positive time, and more!

In this week's session, after a fun group warm up, we focussed on the acting fundamentals of developing characters through a rotation of 3 different exercises: Character Chairs, Family Portraits, and Party Quirks. Students shared with each other they practised about how to work with characterisation and there was good feedback about the style of the session...which means there's more to come like this!

Key Stage 3 Drama Club takes place every Thursday, from 3.10-4.10pm in NW Hall and is open to all students in Years 7-9. If your child is interested in joining, please contact Miss R Nagaria: rnagaria@fortismere.org.uk. Alternatively, your child can let their Drama teacher know they would like to join!

Y10 GCSE Drama: Devising Stimulus Exploration - Duality and Contradiction



Year 10 GCSE Drama students have begun the initial stages of their Devising exam this week through exploring and engaging in an immersive set up of their stimulus: Duality and Contradiction. Upon entering North Wing Hall, students went through a solo journey around the room experiencing art, poetry, music, a book extract, and a quote, writing down their thoughts and reflections along the way, ending with a group sharing about the pieces they felt most connected to and the reverse, and why. We were amazed by how the students engaged and their personal reflections and insights shared. Over the next couple of months, students will be creating a performance piece inspired by the stimuli, leading up to their practical exam in June. We hope the students will enjoy the devising process and look forward to seeing what they create!

LINC

Workshops & Webinars For Parents/Carers

ADHD summer term workshops run by the Haringey Educational Psychology Service & CAMHS in partnership with Haringey SEND Power - Hear about helpful information and strategies and meet other parents and professionals. Open to all parents whose children aged 4-16 years attend a Haringey school. Workshops take place at Chestnuts Community Centre N15 5BN at 10am. [Register for a place here](#)

- 21st April: Building relationships and connections with your child
- 12th May: ADHD and managing behaviour challenges at home
- 16th June: ADHD and autism/co-occurring conditions
- 21st July: Talking to your child about ADHD

Webinars delivered by Haringey EPS and Markfield SENDIASS - Sign up for free webinars on a wide range of topics relevant to parents and carers of children with SEND. Open to all parents whose children attend a Haringey school. [For full details and to register for a place - see here](#)

- 6th May 12pm-1pm: Emotional regulation and emotion coaching

Free Haringey Educational Psychologist Consultation - Parents and carers concerned about their child's development, learning, emotional well-being or behaviour can book a free 40-minute one-off consultation with an Educational Psychologist to: talk through concerns; get support in identifying strengths and needs; discuss strategies and find sources of support. These sessions are not for families that are already working with a Haringey EP or if your child already has an EHCP. [Register here](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.



Be Ready to Make a Change

- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Cut your carbon footprint:
walk to school and increase
a plant-based diet
- Value experiences over
collecting stuff

Respect the School Environment

- Keep Fortismere tidy
- Eliminate food waste
- Put waste in the correct bins
- Follow the Eco-Code

Be Kind To other people living on the planet with us

- Listening to people's
opinions – to both the science
and those impacted
- Listen to nature - consider
what is the planet telling us
- Buy local and sustainable
- Value environmental
education

Save the Earth's Natural Resources

- Biodiversity – actively reduce
the negative impacts on
nature
- Energy – reduce waste (turn
off when you can) and use
renewable energy
- Water – Turn off the taps

The Eco-Code
The fortismere four