

### School Leadership Messages

#### Messages for Students

Parents and Carers will no doubt appreciate that our busy School Office receives a large number of daily communications. In order to assist the team, we would kindly ask that any telephone message requests for students are restricted to those that are urgent. We are not in a position to constantly issue reminders to students. Parents should email [attendance@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:attendance@fortismere.org.uk) regarding all attendance matters and [office@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk) for all other matters. Please note there can be up to a 48hour turnaround to respond to emails.

#### Cashless Catering Only

A reminder that our school canteen operates a **cashless catering system**. Please ensure your child's cashless catering account is topped up regularly so they can purchase food and drinks at break and lunchtime. Our canteens are not equipped to handle cash payments, so students will need sufficient funds in their account to make purchases.

You can top up your child's account online at any time and if you need any assistance or have questions about the system you can contact the school office [office@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:office@fortismere.org.uk)

#### Feedback at Fortismere

Don't forget that our Feedback at Fortismere form is live and can be accessed via the link at the bottom of this page.

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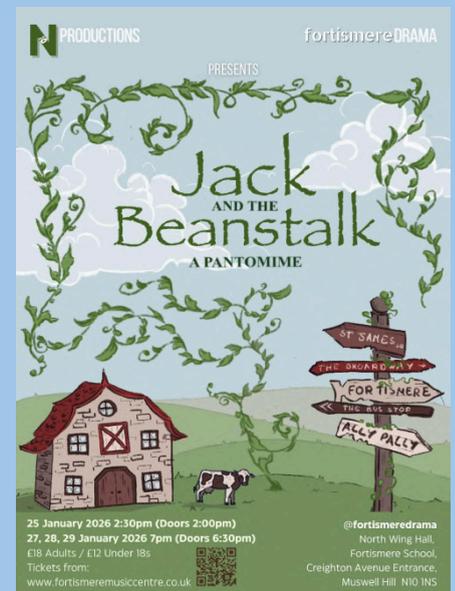
Headteacher's Weekly Roundup

Departmental News & Notices

Safeguarding Information

### Calendar

21.01	Y12 Parents Evening (in person)
25.01 & 27-29.01	Fortismere Drama Dept Jack & The Beanstalk <a href="#">Buy Tickets here</a>



**Tickets are selling fast - don't miss out!**

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

## Headteacher's Message

Earlier this morning, I wrote to you about two significant developments for our school: our involvement in the Department for Education's School Rebuild Programme and the opening of our new Autism Additional Resource Provision from September 2026. Both represent important milestones for Fortismere. These developments reflect our commitment to the values we articulated last week, particularly our ambition for every child and our celebration of diversity and belonging. As we move forward with both projects, we do so with confidence that they will enable us to realise our vision even more fully: creating a high-achieving, creative community where academic ambition and personal growth go hand in hand.

We certainly have much to look forward to as a school. This term, I've been leading assemblies with students exploring what it truly means to be a Fortismere student. We're thinking carefully about how we articulate ambition, curiosity, creativity and belonging not as abstract concepts, but as lived experiences that shape our daily life together. Our students will be taking time to consider our future strapline for Fortismere amongst themselves and feeding back their ideas to me via their ambassadors who will be meeting with members of the Senior Team again this term. These ongoing conversations with students have been energising and I'm excited to see how they continue to influence our culture and practice.

As always, we welcome your feedback via our Feedback at Fortismere form (link on the front page of today's Newsletter) so please do take every opportunity to use it to let us know how we are doing.

There has been lots going on in school this week. Our classrooms have been incredibly busy and focussed places of learning and our students really got back into extra-curricular life as well. Year 7 organised an impressive bake sale this week for their charity, Cancer Research and our young sportsmen and women have been back competing as usual. You can read more later in the Newsletter about their achievements. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given it is January indoor sports have been high on the agenda with our indoor cricketers being crowned Haringey champions and our Year 8 Athletes team representing us locally too.

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

## Student Fundraising Activities

### KS4 Ambassadors Cold Weather Collection - Donations Needed

We are running a cold weather collection this term to help rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness in our local community. The collection is being organised by our KS4 Ambassadors, who are keen to make a practical difference to those in need. To make sure we gather a range of useful items, year groups have been allocated a specific donation (see below) but any donation will be much appreciated.

Students should bring donations into school on **Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd January** and leave them in the collection boxes in the North Wing and South Wing foyers. All items will be passed on to organisations that directly support rough sleepers during periods of cold weather.

Y7	Wet wipes or Hand sanitiser	Y8	Toothbrush or Toothpaste
Y9	Small/Travel bottles of soap or shampoo	Y10	Lip balm/Chapstick or Deodorant
Y11	Small Combs/Brushes or Packs of tissues	Y12/13	Bottled water or feminine hygiene products

## Cake Sale Supports Cancer Research

The Year 7 Ambassadors ran a cake sale yesterday to raise money for Cancer Research. There was a delicious mouth watering array of bakes including forest fruits cheesecake, Biscoff cheesecake, cookies, muffins, flapjacks and much more! We are very pleased to announce that the bake sale raised £124.62 for Cancer Research! Thank you to everyone who generously baked, donated and bought cakes and a very big thank you to the Ambassadors for running the event.

Ms Brough

## Charity Band Night 12th Feb 6pm-8pm

A date for your diaries - the student led **Charity Band Night 2026** is on Thursday 12th February. This year it's all in support of the RSPCA so expect a wild night of musical performances! More details to follow soon.



## FortisMind

### Become a Fortismere Mental Health Champion

This week, students from all year groups have been invited to apply to become a Mental Health Champion for the school. The role involves meeting once a week during tutor time to follow a programme of deepening understanding and myth-busting around mental health in order to then share their knowledge and understanding with their peer group. They will also participate in projects which will help to shape the mental health provision within the school. I have already received some excellent applications from students, particularly those in Year 12, but I would really like representation from all year groups across the school. If you think that your child would enjoy the role and would have ideas to contribute, please encourage them to apply (by Monday 19th) at the latest. Details of how to apply have been posted on google classrooms.

Thanks in advance and I look forward to working with them!

Ms Jones

Mental Health Champion

## Extra Curricular & Enrichment

### News from JSOC

**Last week at JSOC** we were very privileged to welcome Esther Rose from Keshet, a Jewish LGBT+ education and training charity which ensures that LGBT+ Jews and their families are included throughout Jewish life in the UK. Esther led us through a series of informative and extremely interesting activities where we matched LGBT+ terms to their definitions and Esther told us her amazing life story of growing up in an extremely orthodox family where she wasn't even aware of what it meant to be LGBT+ to discovering her

sexuality in secondary school and eventually marrying her wife last year. The students at JSOC were extremely engaged and respectful towards Esther and asked some very insightful questions at the end. And of course JSOC wouldn't be JSOC without everybody munching on a lot of pizza throughout the session! Thank you so much to everybody who attended

**Next week at JSOC** we are welcoming Holocaust Learning UK with visiting Holocaust Survivors. Holocaust Learning are a charity that makes short films about the Holocaust designed for schools. This is an extended JSOC session and students will stay after lunchtime for their tutor time as well. All registers will be done. **JSOC Tues 20th Jan 1.05-2.10pm with Holocaust Learning** Please speak to Ms Overs or email Elodie Saunders [saune087.309@fortismere.school](mailto:saune087.309@fortismere.school) if you wish to join JSOC.

## History Department News

### Year 7 Castle Building Competition Winners

Well done to everyone who took part in the Year 7 castle competition. The task was to build a model of a Norman castle. We had a difficult time judging them, as the standard was so high this year! The winners are:

1st Place - Cem Agir

2nd Place - Esme de Jonquieres & Evie Butter

3rd Place - Kasra Niknafs & Ettore Casavecchia

They will all be receiving a chocolately prize and a certificate. Other 'highly commended' students will also receive a certificate. The winning castles will now go on display in the history department and be shown to visitors during open evenings.

Ms Garnett

## Design & Technology News

### Food Tech Students Benefit from FOF Funding

Friends of Fortismere recently gave the D&T Food Tech department the funds to buy an Ice Cream Maker.

This has been a huge help as some of our KS4 Hospitality & Catering students were able to use it recently to produce gelatos and ice creams for their practical exam in December.

As well as learning the key skills of making ice cream, they were also able to use it to make an anglaise custard. Students are graded on the complexity of their dishes and the techniques they use so having the ice cream maker has allowed them to access more marks and hopefully higher grades.

The iced delights included vegan coconut ice cream, raspberry ripple ice cream and vanilla gelato.

Thank you to the Friends of Fortismere as without your support this would not have been possible.



## STEM News

### Inspiring Women into STEM Talk

Yesterday we were lucky enough to have Dr Anastasia Sofroniou from the University of West London visit Fortismere. Dr Sofroniou came to speak to some of our female Year 11 and 12 students about her passion - getting more women into STEM. She was an incredibly engaging speaker who told our girls about her own career journey and famous women over the ages who have made amazing and often unrecognised contributions to STEM. She outlined future STEM degrees and career opportunities they could consider and talked about the organisation she has set up called Winstem, which has already nearly doubled the intake of women into STEM-based courses at her university. It was a great, and very inspiring afternoon and I hope that the girls left feeling empowered to continue with their education in STEM subjects and to know that they should absolutely not feel intimidated as there are women like Dr Sofroniou working tirelessly to shatter glass ceilings for them.



Dr Sofroniou has also very generously offered for us to maintain a working relationship with her so our Year 12 students can benefit from her expertise when applying to STEM subjects at university. She offered to look over applications and provide advice to ensure that our students get onto the courses they want. I hope that many of them will choose to take her up on this incredibly generous offer!

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the girls for their impeccable behaviour, listening and engagement. Dr Sofroniou was very impressed by all of you!

Ms Jones

## Drama Department

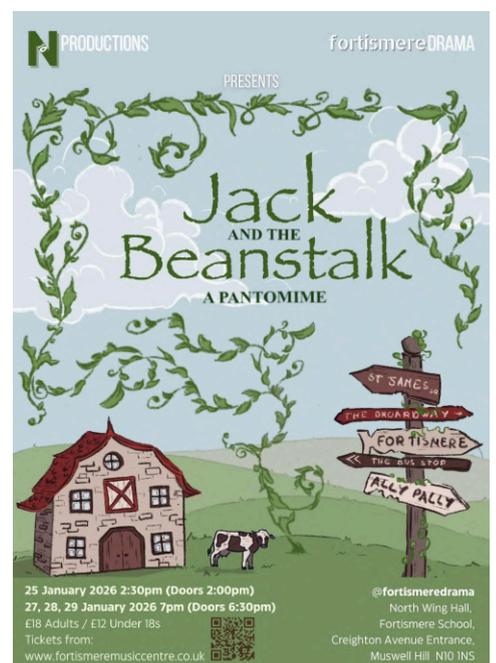
### Pantomime Tickets Now on Sale!

**Teachers in wigs, kids in chaos, and a giant with attitude — all raising vital funds for the school!**

This January, Fortismere Drama and N10 Productions proudly presents its biggest, boldest, and most brilliantly bonkers production yet: *Jack and the Beanstalk*, an original pantomime written by the school's own Drama Department and packed with music, magic, mischief, and... quite a lot of teachers in questionable costumes.

This freshly written twist on the classic tale follows Jack Trott as he battles ruthless property developers, scales a sky-high beanstalk, and discovers the wonders (and weirdness) of Cloud City—all in a quest to save the Trott family farm. With a cast of over 100 talented young performers from across the school, the show promises belly laughs, big numbers and a giant-sized adventure for the whole family.

But the real surprise?



Some of the show's most outrageous roles are played by the staff themselves. In the grand tradition of "things teachers definitely didn't train for", audiences will enjoy seeing their familiar school heroes transformed into dodgy bean traders, magical misfits, Cloud City oddballs, and yes - because dreams really can come true - the Deputy Head makes a star turn as the show's glamorous Dame.

The production isn't just for fun - it's also an important fundraiser. All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly toward supporting Drama performance resources and equipment for students across the school.

### Show Details

Venue: Fortismere School North Wing, Creighton Avenue Entrance, Muswell Hill N10 1NS

Dates: 25th (Matinee), 27th, 28th 29th 7:00pm January 2026

Tickets: Available via <https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/concerts>

All proceeds support the school's Drama enrichment.

### Panto Rehearsals: Snapshots

This week, we had our first full tech and we are now preparing for our full day weekend rehearsal as we enter the final week before showday! It's an incredibly busy time on and off stage, and we are truly starting to feel the production atmosphere as lights, sound, band, and set come together.

Come and see us at our shows and meet all the cast and crew!



### Library

#### New Year, New Books

We are still celebrating the new year by reading our way through all the new books that Santa brought us! A small selection of this term's new books can be found below, and if you want to know more search for the details on our [AccessIt](#) library website.



## Dyslexia-Friendly Books

Many people with dyslexia find it difficult to discover the joys of a good book until later in life and sometimes never. Because in the library we are a bit biased towards books and we love them dearly, we always try to promote the dyslexia-friendly section of our library. This area has books with a font that makes it easier to read, bigger spacing between the lines, and slightly coloured paper - they have been a game changer for a great number of students. Students can find a story to fit any taste and a wide variety of genres, but because we want to encourage readers to challenge themselves we are expanding this section by adding some of the most famous classics, as well as those that students will study in KS3/KS4. Encourage your child to come and see what is available and discover some new exciting stories.....



## Sport & PE Notices

### More Haringey Indoor Cricket Champions

Congratulations to our Year 9 Cricket Team who were crowned champions of Haringey on Monday beating St Thomas More in the final with an impressive scoreline of Fortismere 128 - St Thomas More 54. Both the Year 8 and Year 9 squads will go on to represent Haringey in the Middlesex Schools Competition next month. Well done to both squads.



### Year 8 Haringey Indoor Athletics Championships

Well done to the Year 8 Girls and Boys that represented the school in the Haringey Schools Indoor Athletics Competition on Wednesday evening. It was very tough and the competition was of a very high standard. Very well done to Izzy, Etta, Cleo and Aaliya who won many of the races and helped the girls to finish in an overall bronze position. The boys also did brilliantly and put in some great performances. Well done all.



### Middlesex Football Latest

The Girls U16 Football team travelled to Queen's Park Community School last Monday for their match in the 3rd round of the Middlesex Cup. Unfortunately we were short of players and only had a squad of 12.

We conceded early on but fought back to 1-1 with a great goal from Farrah. Morgan picked up an injury and had to come off leaving our defensive line weak. At half time it was all level at 2-2, with Mia scoring just before the break. Queens Park were just too strong for us in the second half and Eliz and Rose both picked up injuries. It ended 4-2. Well done to the team for a great effort.



## New - Year 7 Basketball Club

There is a new after school Basketball Club run by an outside coach on Wednesdays after school from 3.10pm-4.20pm.

## Upcoming Fixtures

<b>Mon 19.01</b>	Y7 & Y8 Boys Cricket Tournament. Away at APS. Meet at 1.45 pm Y10 Boys v HGW. Away. Meet after school.
<b>Tues 20.01</b>	Y10/11 Basketball v Mulberry Woodside. Away. Meet at 1.45 pm
<b>Wed 21.01</b>	Y7 Indoor Athletics Competition. Meet at 2.30 pm
<b>Thu 22.01</b>	Y7 and Y8/9 Basketball v Mulberry Woodside. Away. Meet at 1.30 pm

## LINC Notices

### Haringey SEND Upcoming Events for Parents & Carers

The **Educational Psychology Service** and **CAMHS** in partnership with **SEND Power** are running in-person **ADHD workshops for parents and carers**. These interactive workshops will provide the opportunity to hear from a range of professionals and meet with other parents.

**Tues 20 January: ADHD diagnosis and beyond**

**Tues 24 February: ADHD and screen time**

**Tues 17 March: ADHD and emotion coaching**

Held at Chestnuts Community Centre N15 5BN from 10am-11.30am. [Full details and sign up here](#)

The **Educational Psychology Service** in partnership with **Markfield** are running online webinars for parents and carers on a range of topics

**Mon 2 February at 12pm-1pm: SEND and support in schools** - to help parents to understand the types of strategies, approaches and interventions that can be used in schools through high quality teaching.

**Tues 10 March at 1pm-2pm: Navigating screen time with children and adolescents** - to support parents to manage time and boundaries around technology use at home including practical strategies.

[Full details and to sign up 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](mailto: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.

