


Friday 9th December 2022

School Leadership Messages	Contents	
<p>Leave of Absence</p> <p>Illness: if your son or daughter is not well enough to attend school please email Attendance@fortismere.org.uk before 8.30am, letting us know the reason. If your child requires more than one day, please email every day of the illness.</p> <p>Sixth form absence: Sixth form attendance is non-statutory so please use Sixthform@fortismere.org.uk when reporting the absence of a sixth former.</p> <p>Requests for Leave of absence: please complete a leave of absence request form. In line with DfE guidance we do not grant permission for holidays taken during term time. For all other requests, please add sufficient detail for the Co-Heads to make a decision.</p> <p>Public Health Notice - Group A Strep, Scarlet Fever & Invasive Group A Strep</p> <p>We just wanted to draw parents and carers attention once again to the letter that was sent home via Parentmail this week from Haringey's Director of Public Health. We will resend this today as an attachment to the Newsletter Parentmail.</p> <p>Mobile phones</p> <p>There has been a recent surge in smartphones being brought to school. Please could you remind your sons and daughters that smartphones are not allowed on site and will be confiscated for a week. Please be aware that any smartphones confiscated this week will not be available until next term. 'Brick' phones may be brought to school but must be switched off and left in school bags during the day. If these are used during the day, they will be confiscated for 24 hours. Confiscated items need to be collected by a parent or other designated adult.</p> <p>Cold weather</p> <p>Please could we repeat our earlier messages that during the colder months, students need to dress appropriately for the weather. We would recommend jumpers and coats.</p>	CoHeadteachers' Message	
	Year Group News	
	Departmental News	
	Holiday Camps & Activities	
	Safeguarding Information	
	Calendar	
	11/12	Christmas Fair 11am-4pm
	13/12 & 15/12	Music Dept Christmas Concerts 7pm
	14/12	Y8 Y bank Parents' evening
	16/12	Last day of term
3/1/23	School closed for Staff Inset	
4/1/23	1st Day of term for students	
 <p>SW Foyer looking festive</p>		

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

As we race towards the end of term we have enjoyed a week at Fortismere bursting with activities. On Monday the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge took place in South Wing Hall with a large group of Year 10 aspiring public speakers taking part. The students engaged extremely well with the event and all proudly delivered their speeches to the group at the end of the day's programme. We do not underestimate how difficult some of that group found the challenge of public speaking and are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for participating in the event. Thank you to Mr Allen for his leadership of the Speak Out Challenge.

On Wednesday and Thursday evening audiences were delighted by the long awaited production of 'A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.' It was a wonderful production involving a range of students from across all years groups in a variety of roles from acting, singing, dancing, lighting, backstage and running. Each and every one of them carried out their role to perfection. Ms Turner wrote, produced and directed the production which also involved those members of staff who don't mind dressing up and treading the boards. We value the opportunities that such events provide to bring our community together to celebrate the achievements of our students. A reminder that we have two Christmas music concerts next week. We look forward to seeing many of you at these performances.

We have been pleased to note that the majority of the student community have reacted to the bracing cold weather this week by wearing warm clothing. It looks as though we are not out of the woods yet with regards to lower temperature so please do encourage your children to bring their coats. Our students are exposed to the elements a number of times throughout the day thanks to the travelling that takes place between the wings and we are keen that they don't become more vulnerable to infections that might affect their holiday season.

Hopefully we will see many of you at the Christmas Fair on Sunday. If not, we wish you a relaxing weekend.

Sixth Form

Year 13 Mocks Period - Plan for Lesson Times

The Year 13 mocks follow a two week Christmas break. As such, we want students to be in school and regularly engaging with their teachers during their mock exam period. Students are expected to attend all lessons unless they have an exam. This is a change to previous years, and is happening to enable all students to have access to their teachers as they prepare for these important exams.

Lessons will take place as follows:

- Wed 4th Jan to Fri 6th Jan (before mocks) - all students will be present and teachers will use this time as guided revision/exam technique sessions.
- During Mocks - Before the subject exam: Guided revision which may include answering some exam-style questions; work on exam technique; 121/group time reviewing students' independent prep revision homework with them
- During Mocks - After the subject exam: Supervised revision for other subject exams. Some students may wish to ask teachers about their subject exam and those conversations will be helpful.

- From Monday 16th January: if no students have exams, A-Level teaching will resume. All students must attend lessons unless they have an exam.
- Year 13 Mock exam season lasts eight school days - normal teaching will resume for all subjects by Thursday 19th January.

Mr Robson

Year 10 Notice

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On Monday, Twenty five Year 10 students spent the day taking on the *Speak Out Challenge*. They threw themselves into lots of games and activities before planning a speech on a subject that they felt passionate about. At the end of the day all twenty five of them delivered a speech (without notes!) to the whole group, Ms Ward and the Co-Headteachers. Every student did themselves proud as they spoke on a fascinating range of topics and the trainer commented on how intelligent our students were.

We were so impressed by Rayn Joseph-Smith's powerful speech on systemic racism, Clara Moretti's clever speech on the act of public speaking itself and Noah Burleigh's confident speech about the importance of learning a new language. But the finalists who go through the next round to deliver their speech in an assembly to the whole year group are...

Freddie Furlong - convincingly argued for more theme parks to help address the mental health crisis.
Rehaan Bawany - gave an inspirational speech on how to become successful.

Maddie Jacob-Havnen - spoke passionately about the importance of football in society

Nik Fysekis - told us that life isn't fair (and what to do about it)

Ece Uckun - eloquently explained the importance of 'The Big Issue' magazine

Romanos Hiotis-Sklavenitis - convinced us all that school should start at 10am!

Well done to all the students who took part and delivered a speech: Clara Moretti, Hugh Griffin, Nik Fysekis, Romanos Hiotis Sklavenitis, Emily Wood, Maddie Jacob-Havnen, Melisa Radoncic, Noah Burleigh, Ella Erdogan, Thomas Stannard, Silva Parmar Wickham, Calliope Doukas, Abesha July, Freddie Furlong, Ece Uckun, Beatrice Schurman, Rosa Price, Francesca Miller, Coco Smith, Leo Zanetta, Rehaan Bawany, Milo Adams, Rayn Joseph-Smith, Olivia Parvizi, Zeynep Ozgur, Anna Rowe-Kosary.

Mr Allen



Drama Department Production

Hitchhiker's Guide...

Our Christmas Drama production was a great success this week. Professional photos are coming next week but here is a sneaky peek of some onstage action!



And a thank you message from our Brilliant Director Ms Turner: *I want to thank all the staff who have given up their time to support or be in the show. To Ms Powell and Mr Slater for creating my set and all of the Art Club for helping with that. To Nesta, for dealing with all my unreasonable requests to the Site Team. To Ms Cole for creating and chasing me for names for the Programme. To Ms Overs for always supporting me and being a great producer and Head of Department. To my Assistant Directors, Musicians, Sound and Lighting, Stage management, and Costume, without you there is no way this show would happen. And lastly the actors, you have all been so patient with me, you are a great cast. Thank you so much!*



Year 8 Ambassadors

Christmas Jumper Day Fundraising Success

Well done to the Year 8 ambassadors who have raised an impressive £232.93 for Save the Children with their Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser! The ambassadors asked me to give a special mention to Year 7, who they said were particularly generous! Thank you to everyone who donated. If you did not have £1 on the day, it's not too late! You can still donate online using [this link](#)
Ms Garnet



Year 7 Ambassadors

Super Team Effort by Year 7 Charity Ambassadors

Today the lovely Year 7 charity ambassadors as well as a few extra fabulous helpers ran a bake sale to raise money for our year group charity, The Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. The bakes were amazing and included a whole array of festive treats including gluten free and vegan options. I have not yet had a chance to count the money that we raised properly but it was looking in the region of around £150. Some of them were particularly busy this week as they were also starring in the school performance of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy but they still found time to get involved and help out. They also stood in the cold flogging cakes during break and lunchtime and worked on their sales techniques - I think we may have some future wheeler dealers in our midst! A huge well done to everyone involved, they will be recognised in next week's celebration assembly. Thanks too to any parents/carers/siblings who helped out with baking, everything was delicious and there were rave reviews from everyone who bought something! And finally, big thanks to Ms Brough who gave up her free period and lunch to help oversee the sales.

Ms Jones

English Department

'Write By You' Anthology

I have just received the beautiful 2022 'Write By You' anthology of creative writing contributed to by a number of Fortismere students last term. Many congratulations to Adwoa Boateng, Maria Marsh, Pixie-Lou Thomson-Vidal, Ella Forrest, Yoko Dempsey, Anushka Rosenberg and Sophie Smith for their impressive contributions to the publication. The students were accepted onto the Write By You writing programme, which is aimed at 'diverse, young, female writers to empower them to find their unique voice and to help them on the path to publication.' They worked with award-winning professional writers and poets to hone their skills. The next course is in 2024 and applications are open. More information on the programme can be found [here](#).

Copies of this year's anthology can be purchased [here](#)

Mr Georgiou



Extra Curricular Clubs

KS3 Garden Club - Autumn Term

The very mild weather earlier this term meant we were able to grow some autumn veg - used to make some delicious food bowls.

We were also busy gathering all the fallen autumn leaves to make our own compost to use over the year ahead.

Ms Lewis



Library Notices

Author Visit

On the morning of 2nd December three Year 7 classes had a wonderful time with our Patron of Reading, Sita Brahmachari. They had great fun doodling whilst she talked about her books and why they were written; Sita told them that she always starts her books with lots of doodles before getting down to the nitty gritty of writing. This was followed by a spot of origami where the students created little pockets to keep their inspirations – and a bookmark - in! We're planning events over the next couple of terms to ensure that every Year 7 class gets to meet Sita (and perhaps Billie too...) In the afternoon, some Year 9s and 10s were treated to sessions based on Sita's latest novel, "When Shadows Fall". This is a gorgeous YA verse novel and it's illustrated by Natalie Sirett. As Sita talked the students created surprising and moving charcoal responses which Sita took with her to form part of the Raven Treasure Exhibition – see details [here](#). Our students' work will be on display during a special event for Refugee Week 2023.



Haringey People

When you get your copy of the borough's magazine Haringey People through your letterbox, take a look at page 21. We were pleased to be asked to contribute an article about our involvement in the Patron of Reading scheme and we think our page looks very impressive! Read it online [here](#)



Christmas Library Lessons

For the last couple of weeks of this term library lessons can get quite loud and boisterous! We are showing the atmospheric, spooky ghost story The Signalman to Year 8s. The film, made for television in 1974, is based on a short story by Dickens. There's no CGI, no loud music and a lot of conversation to listen to, so we are always pleased that our students get involved in interesting and perceptive discussions afterwards. It's also great to see them jump out of their skins a couple of times!



Year 7s are playing the traditional Library Bingo! Cue much excitement, shouting, leaping out of chairs, arguing with the quizmaster and some real competitiveness! Plus lots of genuine and very impressive literary knowledge. And as our Christmas present to them, each Year 7 receives a Bookbuzz book which they actually chose back in October and had forgotten about. So no excuses for not reading over the holidays...



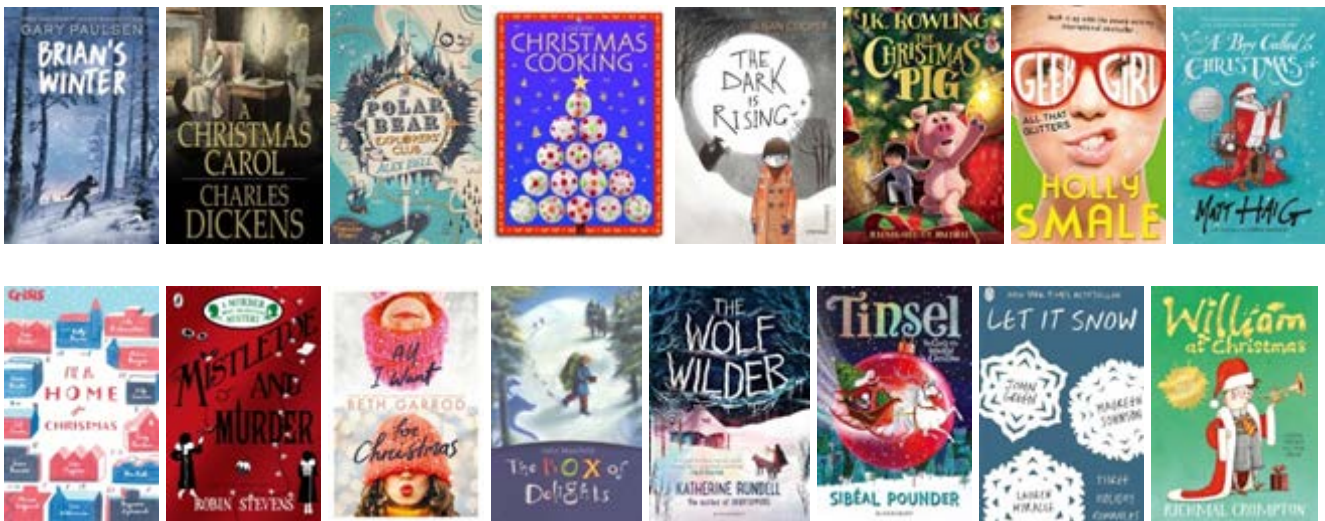
Christmas Poetry Competition

For something to keep our creative writers busy in the holidays, here's an amazing competition run by the Young Poets' Network of the Poetry Society – writing a poem that will be turned into song lyrics. This link tells you all about it, together with lots of useful writing tips and videos - [see here](#)



Recommended Reads of the Week

It's (nearly) Christmas!! And it's already Christmas with all the books in our library. [Don't forget to visit our stall at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 11th – brand new books for £1-2 each!]



Music Department

Final preparations for the Christmas Concerts - 13th & 15th Dec SW Hall 7pm

The Christmas concerts take place on Tuesday 13th December and Thursday 15th December in South Wing Hall at 7pm. The final rehearsal schedule is outlined below - please encourage your children to be prompt for anything that they are required for. These concerts are two of the biggest events in the Fortismere Calendar and will feature performances from every single ensemble that runs at school. Tickets are available by going to www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk

This event is fun but since it is a public performance we ask that pupils are dressed smartly. There can be a sense of individual style but we ask that students adhere to a dress code. There is no colour scheme but think Christmas Party!

Girls: Dress / Blouse / Trousers / Sensible Shoes or Heels

Boys: Shirt / Trousers / Shoes / Suit / Jacket

A **Rehearsal Schedule** is *attached* to the Newsletter.

Junior Choir rehearsal for this weekend's concert

Can members of the Junior Choir please be at St Andrews Church N10 at 4:15pm to begin their rehearsal with the orchestra promptly at 4:30pm. This is an amazing opportunity to sing with professional musicians and I very much hope that you enjoy this weekend's music making!

Remember the Dress Code: ALL BLACK with a Splash of Red

Girls: Dress / Blouse / Trousers / Sensible Shoes or Heels

Boys: Shirt / Trousers / Shoes /Jacket Optional

Fortismere Community Choir Concert - St Andrews Church N10 7:30 pm Sat 10th December

If Mozart's Coronation Mass with a live symphony orchestra is your sort of thing then come along on Saturday 10th December to St James Church, Muswell Hill. The Junior Choir from Fortismere will also be singing Carol of the Bells which is sure to make you feel extremely Christmassy. It's the perfect concert for feeling festive and you get to drink mulled wine and sing some carols as well!

Tickets are available by going to <https://www.fortismereperformingartscentre.co.uk>

Concerts next term!

Whilst I am aware that we haven't even finished this term yet it is important that students are planning ahead for next term's concerts! With this in mind we have the following opportunity to either come along and listen to or perform in.

January 26th 2023: Charity Band Night - this is an amazing evening being organised by the 6th Form to raise money for charity 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 please contact the Director of Music, Mr Jefferies

February 9th 2023: 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

March 9th 2023: 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.

Congratulations and well done to Haru and Nathan

A huge congratulations to both Haru Ogiwara (Cello) and Nathan Joseph (Trombone) in Year 13 who are presently applying to Music Conservatoires in London and around the country. Whilst they are still waiting on the results of auditions from the majority of their chosen colleges both students have been offered a place at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Nathan has also been offered a place at the Royal College of Music with a Scholarship.

Sport & PE Department News

A Bumper Week of Sport

It's been a bumper week of fixtures and events in the PE Department - students have been taking part in an impressive range of different sporting activities both in and outside of school - including Football, Netball, Dodgeball, Hockey, Badminton, Volleyball & Cross Country. Read all about it below

Haringey Dodgeball Tournament

On Monday afternoon we travelled to Hornsey School for girls for the Haringey Schools Dodgeball Tournament. It may sound like an easy friendly game - but believe me - it is fierce and competitive! Our Year 7 and 8 teams were brave, they fought well and really enjoyed it. Well done all!



U15 Hockey Tournament - Lola Scored a Cracker!



Badminton Fixture v Heartlands

Ms Bailey welcomed Heartlands High School to Fortismere on Tuesday for a friendly badminton fixture.

The students, across a number of age groups, were split into A & B teams. Heartlands won the B fixture 12-4 in matches, with Fortismere claiming the A victory, 10-6. It was a really enjoyable event.



British Judo Champion 2022!

Congratulations to Luka Abashide - what a fantastic achievement! Remember the name, we may well be celebrating Luka at a future Olympics!



Swimming success for Huseyin!

What a great couple of weeks for Huseyin Ilhan! Huseyin competed at the "ESS County Qualifier Swimming Competition" winning a Silver medal and two Bronze medals (in three different strokes!). Huseyin then competed at the "Harrow Christmas Cracker Swimming Competition" at Barnet Copthall winning two further Bronze medals! Congratulations, great results!



Further Results This Week

The Y10 football team unfortunately came off second best in the league game v St Thomas More on Tuesday. Despite the score line going the wrong way, the player of the match was Antony Michael whose effort levels were exceptional and he scored a well deserved goal.

2nd XI senior team came through a hard fought Middlesex Cup match beating Ashmole School 2-1. Player of the match Luke Murgatroyd, put in a solid midfield performance and won the match with an exquisite chip in injury time.

Give Us (And Sport England) Your Views!

Fortismere and Sport England would like to find out about the sports and physical activities that our students take part in, both in and out of school. The information collected will be used to provide a report to our school to help us understand what our pupils are doing and what we can do to support them. It will also help Sport England to invest in opportunities for children and young people to take part in and benefit from sport and physical activity.

Fortismere has agreed to take part in this research. **If your child is in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 10, they can take part in the survey.** This involves completing an online questionnaire which will take about 20 minutes. Please see the letter *attached* to this week's Newsletter with the survey links for each Year group. Thank you for taking part.

Netball Results v Park View

We travelled to Park View School on Tuesday with just the Year 10s and Year 8s as they didn't have a Year 7 or Year 9 team. The Year 8s were 3-3 at half time but came back in the second half to **win 8-3**. Amelie was the player of the match. The Year 10s got off to a great start, gelling well and leading 7- 0 at half time, they went on to **win 17-1**, Isabella was the player of the match. Well done girls!



Haringey Volleyball Champions

Congratulations to our Year 8/9 Volleyball Team - they showed excellent technique, skill, team collaboration and ability beating all of the other schools in Haringey to be crowned **champions of 2022!** Melissa, (who by the way did not wear Uggs to play in!) Cece, Leila, Elkie, Lara and Ela - Great job!



School Community Events

Christmas Holiday Camps - Last Few Places Available

Activities run from 9.00am to 3.00pm at Fortismere School, Tetherdown London N10 1NE. Details of dates, prices and booking is on Eventbrite - follow the links below. An early drop off option (08.15am) with a light breakfast is available - [see this link](#)

Sports Age 7-15 years (5 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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-sports-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-440938457797>

Musical Theatre Age 7-14 years (3 places remaining)

This will be taught by Miss Dee. Each day the children will explore different styles of dance with an emphasis on ballet and tap. Children will work on technique, dance routines and choreography, as well as projects designed to encourage creativity when storytelling through dance. The participants will work towards final pieces and will be given plenty of time to interact with others and make lasting friendships! Leaders are professional performers with a background in theatre and dance.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-musical-theatre-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-444499027557>

Chess 7-15 years (3 places remaining)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-camp-chess-club-age-7-15-19-22nd-december-tickets-456905335157>

Contact Maria Demetriou mdemetriou@fortismere.org.uk with any questions

Community Holiday Activities

Spurs Winter Football Camps - Tues 20th & Weds 21st December

The Tottenham Hotspur Foundation are running free winter Football Camps on Tues 20th & Weds 21st Dec at the Duke's Aldridge Academy, N17 0TU for 5-7 year olds 10.30am-12.30pm and 8-14 year olds 11am-3pm Hot lunch will be provided for each player. If it rains on the day, sessions will be held in the Sports Hall so please bring appropriate footwear. See the *attached* Flyer for booking details or email thf.activities@tottenhamhotspur.com

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