

fortismere

**Welcome booklet for parents /
carers of children joining us in
September 2019**

Contents

	page
Welcome; a letter from the Co-Headteachers	3
School Contact Details	4
Enrichment, Pastoral Care and Teaching Groups	5
Student Check List	6
Organisation of the school day	6
Curriculum	7
Setting	7
Progress and Communication	8
Homework	8
Go4Schools	8
The Library and Learning Centre	9
Curriculum Extension and Extra Curricular Activities	9
Journeys, Visits and Fieldwork	9
Special Education Needs	10
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics in the curriculum	10
PE Kit	11
Student Voice	11
Appearance	12
Behaviour	12
Behaviour For Learning (BfL)	12
Mobile phones	13
Student Attendance	13
Buildings and Playing Fields	13
School Lunches	14
Equipment	14
Money and Personal Possessions	14
Lost Property and Lockers	14
Weekly Newsletter	14
Fortismere School Association (FSA)	15
Governing Body	15
Parents' Vehicles	15
Term and Holiday Dates	16
Dates of School Closures	18
Dates of Parents' Evenings (all years)	18
Presentation Pledges	20

fortismere

Welcome from the Co-Headteachers, Ms Davey & Ms Judge

Fortismere: Transforming Lives Through Education

Fortismere is a high-attaining, mixed foundation secondary school in the heart of Muswell Hill, North London. Our school is set in 20 acres allowing students the advantage of an unusually spacious site and supporting Fortismere's sporting excellence. With a strong focus on progress, our vision champions high aspirations whilst ensuring that we all contribute to raising achievement of students, regardless of background or starting point. We believe that there should be no barriers that exclude any child from accessing the best opportunities. Our students will receive a world class education, based on high expectations that enhance their life chances and transforms lives.

Fortismere students enjoy a broad, innovative curriculum where traditional academic subjects are enriched by a strong emphasis on the creative arts. All our students will access a curriculum pathway that motivates, involves and inspires them. Approaches are personalised and reflect the School's inclusive ethos.

We have the highest expectations of behaviour, commitment to learning, character and values for our students. Fortismere students have a reputation for resilience, ambition and confidence complemented by a concern for others. They are encouraged to foster an open minded, positive approach in order to access the very best opportunities both in and outside of school. The student experience at Fortismere aims to support parents and carers in developing young people with the potential to lead happy, fulfilled lives. Through the curriculum we also foster empathy and moral responsibility, actively encouraging students to support each other and become increasingly engaged in the world around them.

Our vision for the future of our school rests on the rigorous pursuit of transformative learning which will not only enhance the educational experience of all its students, embracing diversity and different needs, but also unites our school and its wider community behind our aims.

Address: **South Wing & Tetherdown, Muswell Hill,**
 Sixth Form London, N10 1NE

North Wing Creighton Avenue, Muswell Hill,
 London, N10 1NS

Telephone: **020 8365 4400 (South Wing)**

E-Mail: **office@fortismere.org.uk**
 sixthform@fortismere.org.uk

Website: **www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk**

Chair of Governors: **Mr M Chapman**
Co-Headteachers: **Ms J Davey & Ms Z Judge**

Roll: approx. 1750 including 400 in the sixth form

Enrichment, Pastoral Care and Teaching groups

The 270 students in the year group are divided into ten mixed ability teaching groups. The students will be in these groups for most of their lessons during the first half term of year 7. The curriculum for all the groups is identical.

The school site houses the Blanche Nevile unit for pupils with hearing impairment. Some of these pupils are integrated into some Fortismere lessons across the age range.

The students meet in their tutor groups every day except Wednesday for twenty minutes. Students engage in a variety of activities. For Year 7 students, their tutor group will be the same as their main teaching group. Students are also in five colleges which will be new this year: Keats, Wollstonecraft, Turing, Selvon and Franklin.

Year 7 students will also have a session known as Enrichment, which will take place once every two weeks. In Year 7 enrichment, we will be fostering a sense of community between the students and building their resilience; the students will be developing their presentation, research and team-building skills when fundraising for a charity; and in the third term we will be encouraging students to be more mindful to improve their well-being, concentration and ability to deal with stress.

Student Check List

To our new students;

You will find your first few weeks at Fortismere both exciting and tiring. It is a good idea to make sure that you are really well organised. Check your timetable every night and pack your bag for the next morning; that way you will not end up forgetting things or carrying books and equipment to school that you do not need. Make sure you have:

- Completed Homework
- Exercise Books (the ones you need)
- Pens/Pencils/calculator/ruler (Please see the *Presentation Pledges* at the end of this document)
- PE Kit
- Musical Instruments
- Sandwiches / packed lunch if applicable (no nuts, please)

The organisation of the school day on Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday

8.35 – 9.35 lesson 1

9.40 – 10.00 tutor time

10.00 – 10.20 break

10.20 – 11.20 lesson 2

11.25 – 12.25 lesson 3

12.25 – 13.15 lunch

13.15 – 14.15 lesson 4

14.20 – 15.20 lesson 5

Wednesdays will follow a slightly different pattern, with an earlier finish for students (this is to allow time for staff training).

8.35 – 9.35 lesson 1

9:40 – 10:40 lesson 2

10:40 – 11:00 break

11:00 – 12:00 lesson 3

12:05 – 13:05 lesson 4

13:05 – 13:55 lunch

13:55 – 14:55 lesson 5

The timetable follows a two week cycle of 50 lessons.

Curriculum

The curriculum is broad, balanced and coherent, with challenge, opportunity and support where necessary. Smaller groups enable better learning, with teaching groups averaging 27 in Year 7.

The timetable consists of 50 lessons per 10-day timetable cycle. Each lesson lasts for 60 minutes.

The taught programme in Year 7 aims to deliver the National Curriculum (NC) and to provide a broad and balanced education.

Pupils will be taught the following subjects in year 7:

NC Core Subjects	NC Foundation Subjects	Additional Subjects
English Mathematics Science	Art & Design Geography History Music Physical Education Technology Information Technology Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish, Mandarin)	Philosophy, Religion and Ethics Drama

Pupils will also experience work which relates to the 5 NC cross-curricular themes

- Careers
- Citizenship
- Economic and industrial awareness
- Environmental education
- Health education

Setting

Setting will only occur in Maths during Year 7. Setting in Modern Languages takes place in year 8 and in Science from year 9.

Mathematics Setting Policy

Fortismere Mathematics Department sets the Year 7 students at half term in the autumn term. This setting places each student in one of five sets in each year half. The sets are thus quite broad. The setting is based on the best information available. This includes the results of the internal controlled assessments which the students have taken at Fortismere during the first half term. Where there is other information available, such as KS2 test results, this would also be weighed together with any issues relevant to an individual student. Because the Department is aware that there is the possibility that the evidence available paints an incomplete picture of a student and because students develop at different rates, the setting process is revisited periodically in Year 7 and in subsequent years. In Year 7 this would be at Easter and the end of the year. The Year 7 sets relate to the Fortismere Schemes of work as outlined below:

Sets 1-3 Scheme 1C
Set 4 Scheme 1B
Set 5 Scheme 1A

Progress at School and Communication with Parents

There is a continuous cycle of assessment and target setting throughout the year.

Students will be set GCSE targets on the basis of their results in the Key Stage 2. Our system then breaks these down into year on year targets.

Progress towards these targets and information about effort and behaviour will be shared during the year in a variety of ways. Parents, carers and students are able to access some of this information, including progress towards targets through a website called "go4schools".

To support your child's progress students will have a meeting with their form tutor to discuss how that student is settling into school. This is scheduled for 16th October.

In the Spring Term parents / carers will receive a Full Report in which subject teachers give more detailed feedback. These reports are published on the go4schools website. In the Summer Term there will be a Parents' Evening where teachers will give further feedback in a brief meeting. Dates for these are on page 17.

We have an on-line system which allows parents / carers to book appointment times with their child's teachers; further information will be provided nearer the time of the Parents' Evening.

Homework

The school places great importance on the setting, marking and completion of homework. To support students, homework clubs are organised by individual departments on various evenings after school as well as a regular homework club in the Library. As students progress through the school they may expect the amount of homework to increase substantially. Please see the Homework Policy on the School Website [here](#).

Homework tasks are set using Google classroom. Further information will be provided at the year 7 information evening on 12th September. You will be receiving an email in September from the site inviting you to receive the email summaries. Once you click "accept", you will receive a weekly email covering the work that has been set for your child.

Go4Schools

Go4Schools is a web based resource that the school uses for its real time tracking and recording of student events, assessments and progress. Parents / Carers have access to the site to enable them to view details about their children's progress and attainment. The site is also used to record and inform parents and carers of positive achievements (Core Values) and detentions. If an event is logged on the system, a notification e-mail is sent to parents / carers that evening to ask them to log in to Go4Schools to view the event(s).

The Library and Learning Centre

Situated between North and South Wings, the Library is open from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm daily, including break and lunchtimes. A huge range of fiction and non-fiction books is available, as well as DVDs, audio books, magazines and newspapers. There is a photocopier and two colour printers, and a small stationery shop selling essentials at cost price. 32 computers support the increasing emphasis placed on students to develop independent learning skills.

Years 7 and 8 have one library lesson a fortnight and the Accelerated Reader Scheme, with its quizzes, recommendations and rewards, inspires students to read for pleasure.

Reading events take place throughout the year with games, outings, workshops and visiting authors. There are reading clubs to suit all age groups, even parents and teachers, and booklists of recommended reading for each year are constantly updated. Library visits organised by all departments help students to know where books are shelved, how to access the right information and which books to choose. Experienced librarians are always on hand to support the students.

Fortismere Library provides a calm and pleasant space for work and relaxation.

Curriculum Extension and Extra Curricular Activities

The school is noted for its wide range of extra curricular activities; these are considered a vital part of the development of the whole individual as well as providing opportunities to nurture and develop talent and creativity.

Extensive provision is made in dance, drama and music where students have opportunities to be involved in a spectacular range of shows and concerts, art exhibitions and visits abroad, book week, fashion and food, film and theatre; national engineering awards, mathematics competitions and master classes and science weeks. The school has a long and proud tradition in a wide range of sports, with particular strengths in athletics, cricket, cross-country, soccer (full Saturday programme) and tennis.

Journeys, Visits and Fieldwork

An annual programme includes a variety of educational and outdoor pursuits holidays, both at home and abroad, day and residential field courses in Art, Biology and Geography; exchange visits to France, Germany, Spain and China, numerous day visits to galleries, lectures, museums and theatres etc., usually in connection with the pupils' school work.

Parents are asked to complete a form giving formal consent to visit local places of interest such as the library, shops and park or other studies within the locality and also sporting activities which can take place after school or over the weekend. For all other visits and trips separate letters will be sent to you to complete reply slips. The School Governors' policy statement on charges and remission of charges for such activities can be obtained from the school office. The School Association (FSA) provides the Co-Heads with a special fund to help towards the costs for pupils whose parents are experiencing financial hardship.

“Parentpay” is our online method for making payments for school trips as well as canteen food. The school operates a cashless system. Parents should receive an email from the PMX Parent Mail in August which has instructions for how to set up an account. Please contact the school office for further details.

Special Education Needs

Fortismere believes that every child is special and that the school has a responsibility to create opportunities to nurture and develop every child in a holistic sense. Where children need additional support for learning or for English as an additional language, it is normally provided through in-class support or through individual/small group work, so that students are helped to achieve their full potential. The site is also the base for the Secondary Department of Blanche Nevile School for the deaf and hearing impaired; a number of who are integrated for some of the curriculum.

This provision, known as LINC, is based in the Tetherdown building.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at Fortismere School

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) is taught to all students in Years 7-10. We attempt to answer challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self, the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

In the Autumn Term, students focus on Philosophy. We study Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume and Kant, and evaluate their answers to a variety of philosophical problems. We also learn to philosophise ourselves through discussion, debate, and essay writing. Students are encouraged to think about some of the biggest questions, and are given the tools to go about answering them.

In the Spring Term we focus on Religion. We study the history, beliefs and practices of the six major world faiths – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism – as well as looking at new religions and Humanism. We consider how religious teachings are applied and how beliefs influence people's behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn about and from different religions, while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

In the Summer Term we focus on Ethics. We study ethical theories and different interpretations of 'right' and 'wrong'. We evaluate these ideas by applying them to important and relevant situations, and through this we learn to make decisions about our own behaviour. We focus on how we treat others, and how we treat ourselves, by looking at sex and relationships, physical and mental health, and drugs and alcohol.

Students will have to show progress in terms of their knowledge and understanding of these topics, and their ability to analyse and evaluate different ideas. They will be assessed on their essay writing, speaking and debating, and independent research skills. While Philosophy, Religion and Ethics are taught in separate modules, there is significant crossover between each area, providing a rounded education and a wide skill-set. We aim to provide students with a broad range of knowledge, the desire to be inquisitive for more, and the skills with which to gain it.

If you are interested in reading further on this subject to support your child at home, these books are recommended –

What Does it all Mean? - Thomas Nagel
Introduction to World Religions – Christopher Partridge
Being Good - Simon Blackburn

P.E. Kit

Students must have a PE kit and bring it to school on days when they have a PE lesson. Our PE kit provider is School Trends. You can buy this kit online at:

www.justteamsports.co.uk.

The minimum kit that all students must have is the “Starter Uniform Package”.

Boy’s Bundle:

- Unisex elite polo
- Elite shorts
- Panelled reversible PE shirt
- Pair of socks

Costs £45

Girl’s Bundle:

- Elite fitted polo
- Elite skirt
- Performance wear fleece
- Pair of socks

Costs £45

Your child will need appropriate footwear. This is trainers for the majority of activities and studded boots for lessons on the field. Students are welcome to purchase additional items of clothing that are not on the “compulsory” list. For example, boys can wear fleeces and girls may wear the approved leggings (or shorts instead of a skirt).

Please make sure that all items of PE kit have the student’s name on. If a student loses any kit, it is their responsibility to check with lost property. There is a lost property in both receptions (North Wing and South Wing).

Student Voice

There is a student leadership system that “mirrors” the Senior Leadership of the school. The senior students in the sixth form will lead students in younger year groups in organising meetings and providing a voice for the student body on the Leadership Team of the staff and in the Governing Body.

Pupils and staff together support local and national charities and pupils make a valued contribution in the local community.

Appearance

There is no school uniform - a decision made jointly by parents, students and staff when the school opened. Part of the Fortismere philosophy is that students should develop their individuality – that includes taking responsibility for their appearance. They are expected to wear clothing which is clean, tidy and inoffensive; they should be suitably dressed for work in school and for the changes in weather which may occur during the school day. We do have a “dress code”; guidelines for students to ensure that their clothing is appropriate. This forms part of our Behaviour for Learning Policy, which is available on the school website.

Behaviour

Pupils are expected to work in a friendly but disciplined atmosphere for learning. Arrangements governing behaviour in school are displayed prominently in school diaries and around the school. Such guidelines are kept to a common-sense minimum but are effectively enforced. Great stress is laid upon the importance of self-discipline, consideration for others and care of the school environment. The school has a very low tolerance for pupils whose attitudes and behaviour interfere with their work, and that of others; they can expect their parents to be informed and requests made for the behaviour to be modified. This is most commonly undertaken by the Tutor or Head of Year, but other Senior Staff are involved in more serious cases. There is a clear structure for the management of students whose behaviour is unacceptable and those who persist in causing low level disruption. Threatening or violent behaviour, disrespectful treatment of staff and involvement in substance abuse always results in very serious consequences. Opportunities for counselling are provided. In order to facilitate good behaviour and good learning, you will be asked to sign a Home/School Agreement.

Mobile phones

From September 2018 the school will implement a policy which prohibits students bringing “smart” phones to school (i.e. internet enable devices or those with a camera). Students’ phones should be switched off and carried in their bags. Students not adhering to this policy will have their phone confiscated. Please see the statement on Mobile phone code of conduct on the school’s website for further details.

Student Attendance

The attendance of pupils is checked by class teachers / tutors each lesson using electronic registration.

If your daughter / son is absent from school for any reason, please contact the school on each day of absence by email: attendance@fortismere.org.uk (please copy in your child’s tutor) or by phone on 020 8365 4429.

If a student has to leave the premises during the day, a note will be required in advance for signature by the tutor and for reception to see before signing out. Students in years 7 – 9 should be collected by a parent or other nominated adult; the reception staff will not usually give permission for a Key Stage 3 student to leave alone.

The school has a text message system which automatically sends a message to parents if a child is marked absent in the morning.

If a child is taken ill during the school day, they will be cared for in the medical room and if necessary a member of the team will contact a parent / carer to arrange for the child to be collected from school.

We are very aware of the close link between attendance and achievement and set high targets for attendance. Please note that parents / carers should apply in advance for permission for their children to be absent from school for reasons other than illness / medical appointments (Leave of Absence). Such permission is at the discretion of the Headteacher and only granted in exceptional circumstances. Please see the Attendance Policy on the school website for further details.

Buildings and Playing Fields

There are playgrounds and social areas in both Wings of the school with wooden seats outside which the students may use in good weather. Students may come into the buildings before morning school or during break and wait in particular areas. There are designated indoor and outdoor areas for students who bring a packed lunch and at lunchtimes access is also available for use of the library, club activities and toilet facilities. The playing fields may be used at break or lunchtimes during dry weather, though this is normally only possible during the summer term. Students are expected to use break times to move between Wings and be ready to be taught before the start of the next lesson.

School Lunches

The school runs a cashless catering system. Parents add funds to students' accounts online. These funds are debited using a biometric finger scanning system in the canteen (or a PIN number system, if preferred). There is a limit to the amount any student can spend on any one day and it is possible to monitor what is being consumed. Information and instructions can be found on the school's website. Please contact the school office for further details or for help with the online funding.

If your child qualifies for free school meals, you should apply through the local authority, who will then liaise with the school.

Equipment

Pupils are expected to bring pens, pencils, ruler and rubber to class; felt tip pens or pencils for colouring will be useful as is a calculator for Maths And Science lessons. Mathematical instruments will be needed from time to time; usually these items are provided by parents but the school will make provision upon request. Please also see the "Presentation Pledges" at the end of this document.

Money and Personal Possessions

The school has cashless systems and will not be held responsible for pupils' money and they are discouraged from bringing large sums of money into school. Mobile phones and other electronic equipment should not be brought to school and the school accepts no liability for such items. We do not encourage students to cycle to school and they should not bring scooters, skateboards or similar items. The school is not insured against the loss or theft of personal belongings and does not accept responsibility or liability for them.

Lost Property and Lockers

The school cannot accept responsibility for articles lost on the premises but if possessions are clearly marked return of lost property, when found, is possible. If property is lost please contact the Welfare Officer. The Fortismere School Association has provided a number of lockers for each year group.

Weekly Newsletter

The Headteacher sends a letter to each parent/carer and pupil every week containing information about forthcoming events and other matters relevant to the school community. This is sent using the Parentmail system and is also available on the school website; www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk.

If you have not signed up for Parentmail, please contact the school office as this is our major method of communicating news and information.

Fortismere School Association (FSA)

The Fortismere School Association was founded in 1983. All parents, students and staff are members without subscription. Parents of new Year 7 pupils are particularly encouraged to become involved with the group who work hard and harmoniously together for the benefit of the students at the same time as having a lot of fun! The Association holds educational and social events, raises substantial sums of money, and provides refreshments at parents' evenings or school functions.

Governing Body

The Governors of Fortismere are a highly committed group of seven elected parents, three elected members of staff, four nominees of the Council, five community Governors, co-opted by the Governing Body, and the Headteacher, as well as two student associate Governors. They take a very keen interest in all aspects of school life, including: new initiatives, curriculum evolution, pupil welfare, finance and premises, staffing and personnel, and are a key force in the continued success of the school. Parents are invited to contact the school should they wish to discuss any matters with a Governor.

Parents' Vehicles

In the interests of safety, parents are asked not to drive on to the school premises before, during and immediately after school, including lunchtimes. If you drop your children off at school, please do not park on the mandatory yellow lines at school entrances at all times.

Changes of address / contact details

Please notify the school immediately of any change of contact details by emailing admissions@fortismere.org.uk Please also copy your child's tutor into your e-mail.

Term Dates 2018-19

fortismere

Autumn Term	
Monday 2 September 2019	Term Starts. Inset Day - School Closed
Tuesday 3 September 2019	Y7 and Y12 Students start. 10am for a 10.20am start.
Wednesday 4 September 2019	Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 and Y13 Students Start. (8.35am start)
Thursday 10 October 2019	Inset Day – School Closed
Monday 21 October 2019 to Friday 25 October 2019	Half-Term
Monday 28 October 2019	Term Starts Again (on Week 2)
Friday 20 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2019	Christmas Holidays

Spring Term	
Monday 6 January 2020	Inset Day – School Closed
Tuesday 7 January 2020	Term Starts (on Week 2)
Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020	Half-Term
Monday 24 February 2020	Term Starts Again (on Week 2)
Monday 6 April 2020 to Friday 17 April 2020	Easter Holidays

Summer Term

Monday 20 April 2020	Term Starts (on Week 2)
Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020	Half-Term
Monday 1 June 2020	Term Starts Again (on Week 1)
Friday 17 July 2020	Last Day of Term for Students
Tuesday 1 September 2020	Summer Holidays End

INSET DAYS (SCHOOL CLOSED)

Monday 22 July 2019
Tuesday 23 July 2019 (taken as twilight in Term 2)
Monday 2 September 2019
Thursday 10 October 2019
Monday 6 January 2020
Wednesday 1 July 2020
Monday 20 July 2020

BANK HOLIDAYS

Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 27 May 2019
August Bank Holiday - Monday 26 August 2019

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December 2019
Boxing Day - Thursday 26 December 2019
New Year's Day - Wednesday 1 January 2020
Good Friday - Friday 10 April 2020
Easter Monday - Monday 13 April 2020
May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 4 May 2020
Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 25 May 2020
August Bank Holiday - Monday 31 August 202

Early closures 2018 -2019

Students will be dismissed at 12.25pm on the following dates;

Friday 20th December 2019 (end of Autumn Term)

Friday 3rd April 2020 (end of Spring Term)

Friday 17th July 2020 (end of Summer Term)

Parents' Evenings always on Wednesday afternoons

Year 7; X bank (7TG, 7VB, 7EJ, 7NV, 7PH) 29th April 2020

Year 7; Y bank (7RW, 7CC, 7KF, 7KM, 7DW) 13th May 2020

Year 8; X bank 15th January 2020

Year 8; Y bank 29th January 2020

Year 9; 4th December 2019

Year 10; 18th March 2020

Year 11; 4th March 2020

Year 12; 12th February 2020

Year 13; 13th November 2019

I hope this document has been informative and useful.

Further details about the curriculum will be presented at the Year 7 information evening on 12th September.

updated 16th July 2019

fortismere

Students' Presentation Pledges

1. I will take pride in my work and present it **neatly**
2. I will treat my books with **respect** therefore **will not**

- graffiti
- doodle
- scribble
- tear out pages
- leave blank pages

3. I will have a pencil case in my school bag containing at least the



following items:

1. **two** black or dark blue pens
 2. one green pen
 3. a pencil and sharpener
 4. a rubber
 5. a ruler
 6. a calculator
 7. a glue stick
 8. a protractor
4. I will **underline the date and title** in my **covered** exercise books or folders
 5. I will use a **black pen** for writing unless my teacher asks me to write with a pencil



6. I will use a **ruler** for underlining



7. I will use a **pencil** for drawings or diagrams



8. I will use a **green pen to correct** my work before handing it in



and **proofread** it

9. I will ~~cross out~~ errors neatly with one line and not use correction fluid

10. I will **glue** my worksheets into my exercise books or store them



where my teacher says