


School Leadership Messages	Contents				
<p>Voluntary Contributions</p> <p>In addition to the parentmail, we are attaching the voluntary contributions information to the Newsletter</p> <p>Y11: Key Dates</p> <p>Please find attached the key dates for Y11 from this month until the end of June. This will also be sent by parentmail and available on our website.</p> <p>2024-25 Holiday & Term Dates</p> <p>Please find attached holiday and term dates for 2024-25 these will also be published on the school website.</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>There has been a recent increase to acts of vandalism across the Fortismere site. We deal with these incidents severely and in addition, may invoice parents or carers for the cost of the damage.</p> <p>Positive Points</p> <p>Well done to the following students who are the top achievement point scorers this week</p> <p>Nil Cetinkaya Y7; Nicholas Chau Y9; Aylin Dereli Y7; Hugo Fluckiger Y7; Talia Greenberg Y8; Ilgaz Guven Y8; Ray Harris Y7; Andre Liang Y7; Jonah Liu Y7; Jonah Morris Y8; Ines Puente Y7; Claudia Sanch Y7; Samaya Scheideler Y7; Sidney Shurmer Y10; Danny Spitz Y8; Anna-Lou Wheatley Y8; Tali Wilmhurst Y8;</p>	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p> <p>House News</p> <p>Fortismind</p> <p>Department News & Notices</p> <p>LINC Department</p> <p>Easter Holiday Camps</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1067 1151 1177 1247">07.03</td> <td data-bbox="1177 1151 1525 1247">International Womens' Day Concert 6pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1067 1247 1177 1317">20.03</td> <td data-bbox="1177 1247 1525 1317">Y12 Parents' Evening</td> </tr> </table> <div data-bbox="1123 1350 1461 1809">  </div> <p data-bbox="1134 1850 1449 1982">Spring has arrived at Fortismere Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus Happy St David's Day</p>	07.03	International Womens' Day Concert 6pm	20.03	Y12 Parents' Evening
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

The weather this week has made it a more indoor week than usual. Students have been very good at adjusting to the weather and spending lunch times chatting in either the S Wing Hall (KS3) or the N Wing corridor (KS4). After a week of assemblies on the negative impact of social media there is something joyous about seeing our students communicate face to face. The atmosphere in both wings has been lovely and shows what pleasure our students can take in each other's company (though they do really miss the running about!). Our commitment to enabling students to practise their social skills away from mobile phones has been recognised in the DfE guidance on mobile phones in schools. The DfE have helpfully made the following point for parents and carers:

“Parents have an important role in supporting the school’s policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.” ([DfE](#))

This week we parentmailed this year’s voluntary contributions letter. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parents and carers. There are many ways that we can enrich the quality of the education we offer thanks to the extra money provided. From additional outside furniture to subsidised trips and visits, the contributions received make a tangible difference to the students. With schools’ budgets predicted to get tighter in the immediate future, we are increasingly dependent on fundraising and contributions to maintain our mental health and extra-curricular offers.

One of the growing pressures on schools’ budgets is the increase in students’ needs since Covid. National funding has failed to keep pace with demand and schools are looking at increasingly creative methods to ensure that the needs of all learners are met. At Fortismere, much of this is delivered via staff training and we are looking forward to our second tranche of Autism training before the end of term. One of the areas we are keen to explore further is how we can best signpost parents and carers to support them. Many of you will have encountered the ‘oxygen mask’ analogy; that before we can take care of others, including our children, we need to take care of ourselves. Therefore, we are currently compiling a directory of organisations that we will share on the Fortismere website that hopefully will support parents and carers to find the support they may be seeking. This will supplement the Haringey Local offer as some of these organisations are outside of the local authority. We will put a link to the directory in the Newsletter when we have completed it.

We are hoping that now we have officially started Spring, the rain will ease a bit. At the moment the site is bathed in sunshine as you can see in the photograph above. We hope this remains for at least the rest of the weekend.

Student Led Charity Event

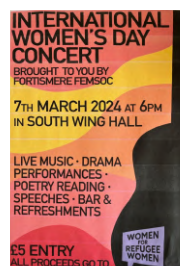
International Women’s Day Concert - Thursday 7th March 6pm-8pm SW Hall

The Fortismere FemSoc are organising an International Women's Day Concert on Thursday 7th March. The evening will consist of external speakers and student performances.

All proceeds from the event will go to the charity '[Women for Refugee Women](#)'

Students, family, friends and teachers are welcome and tickets are just £5 - you can buy them online [here](#) via Eventbrite or pay at the door (card and cash). A bar and refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Laney Harris, Freya Bielby, Sian Flanigan, Lucy Hawkes (Y13)



House News

Franklin Easter Raffle - Donations Needed Please

In a few weeks Franklin House are holding their Easter-themed raffle to raise money for the West London Rape Crisis Centre. We need donations for prizes please. All donations should be Easter themed - we are looking for lots of Easter eggs and easter sweet treats as well as things like egg decorating kits, bunny toys, chicks etc. Any donations you can make will be gratefully received and all the money raised will go to our charity. If you are able to help us with something, please ask your child to come and see me (Ms Jones) in the South Wing staff room either before school, at break time or lunchtime any day next week.

Thank you in advance for your support.,
Ms Jones (Head of Franklin House)



Geography Inter-House Competition Winners

We recently ran an Inter-House Geography competition and have been so impressed with the amazing collection of entries by our students. The materials they used included cake, Lego, slime and polystyrene. Students worked really hard to showcase their understanding of coastal erosion and sea defences! The Geography department has really enjoyed seeing all the entries and house points will be given to all students who entered the competition! The winner of the competition was Ava Connolly Y7, who created her edible masterpiece from cake and chocolate! A few other favourites included Maxime Ropiquet Knight's polystyrene model (which looked very realistic) and Nina Mendes Richardson's slime made sea model! Miss A Brough



Fortismind

Kooth - Online Mental Health Support

Last week, parents and carers joined us for a virtual session with the online mental health platform Kooth. I am aware that some of you were unable to attend at the scheduled time but wanted to know more about the service. Kooth have kindly sent us a link to a pre-recorded session which talks you through how to use their platform. You can [watch it here](#)



If you have any questions that you would like to ask Kooth after watching the video, please feel free to submit these to me and I will pass them on.

Ms Jones
Mental Health Lead

Extra Curricular & Clubs

Chess Club Reach Regional Finals

Congratulations to the Fortismere Chess team in winning their semi-final match vs Woodhouse College by 4.5 to 1.5 to reach the final of Region 15 in the National Secondary Schools Chess Team Competition. It was sweet revenge after losing to the same team by 4-2 last year and a fine team performance. This is the first chess regional final since 2010, when Fortismere came 16th nationwide. The Fortismere team consists of Frankie Badacsonyi (Year 13) , Stanley Badacsonyi (Year 9) , Theo Mears (Year 7) Mia Wang (Year 7), Sam Murphy (Year 7), Rafael Weisfeld (Year 9).

Mr Renner

Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

National Careers Week - 4th-9th March

National Careers Week is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways. We have *attached* a copy of the **NCW Parent Guide** to this week's Newsletter.

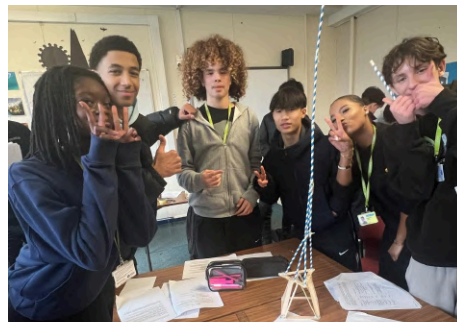
National Careers Week 2024 - [access to events and resources here](#)

The **NCW Virtual Careers Fair** will go live on 4th March - [access to events and resources here](#)

Mr Renner

Mace Group Big Build Competition

As part of our work to bring companies and businesses into the classroom to help students to learn more about career paths and employability skills we have been working with the Mace Group. A big thank you to Mace for running the Big Build Competition for our Y10 and Y11 business classes. Y11 business students show off their winning design.



Library

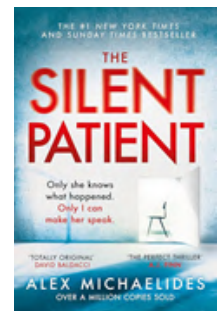
Top Tips to Keep your Children Reading



Top Tip No: 19 Remind your child that there are experienced librarians in the school library. They are book wizards. If your child tells them what they are interested in, what sort of genre they like, the librarians can usually find something that suits. They will also know at what level your child is reading, so may be able to suggest shorter reads, verse novels and super-readable books published for students that struggle with the written word. Or students reading well above their years.

CoverUp

We are looking forward to our next meeting of the parent/staff reading group on Thursday 7th March when we'll be chatting about "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides and plenty of other bookish stuff besides. We'll also be celebrating the fact that it's World Book Day AND dropping in to the International Women's Day concert that our 6th Form FemSoc have arranged. A busy evening!



North London Book Festival

The website for the North London Book Festival 21-24th March – is now live. Please take a look, there's something for everyone, including Alexandra Shepherd, Eve Wersocki Morris and Michael Rosen for children (and the young at heart) and Frank Paul, Jay Owens and Stuart Turton for the grownups. Get as many people to come as you can – and with the discount codes (below) that the Festival Director has given us, you can book twice as many events! [See What's On here](#)



For 50% off book fest events in the Theatre please use NLBFCLOFF50

For 20% off book fest events in the other spaces please use NLBFCLOFF20

Recommended Reads of the Week

"Empathy is the skill to understand another and the ability to create space for someone to reveal their authentic self while reserving judgement". Or as a previous Fortismere Patron of Reading, Sita Brahmachari, put it "The ability to walk in someone else's shoes". This Empathy Week, read some books that promote and create empathy.



Sport & PE Notices

Lea Valley Indoor Athletics Meeting

As a borough we are lucky to have access to Lea Valley which is such a fantastic facility to use for our borough athletics meetings. On Monday night we took a squad of athletes Lea Valley to represent Fortismere. Athletics is well known for being at a high standard in Haringey Schools and this year was no exception. Our athletes performed brilliantly and we had some excellent individual performances by Genevieve Castle Y9 who won the 800m, Melissa Asare Y10 won the hurdles and came 2nd in the high jump, Jonah Morris Y8 was 2nd in the 800m, Izzie Doku Y10 2nd in long jump, Hayden Y8 1st in high jump and 2nd in 60m, Elkie Baker 1st in 800m and shot putt. Fortismere Y10 Girls were 1st in the Borough and Y10 Boys 7th - well done to Noa and Kai for representing the team, Y 9 Girls 4th, No Y9 Boys (disappointing!!), Y8 Boys 4th and Y8 Girls 4th. It was a really great evening of brave performances from our up and coming athletes of the future.



GCSE Rock Climbing Exhibition

The GCSE Rock Climbing Exhibition has been a real success with 40 of our Year 11 GCSE PE students gaining a grade in the sport and really enjoying the experience. Well done to all and thank you to Ms Jackson and Mr Hawkes for organising the 4 days of activity.



Basketball Results Haringey Basketball Week

Congratulations to our Y8 Basketball Team for reaching the final v Greig City last Thursday. Team effort and collaboration was excellent but unfortunately they lost in what was a very competitive match. Well done boys.



Upcoming Fixtures

Tue 4th March: Y8 A/B v Highgate Away 2.45 pm KO Badminton match v Heartlands home 3.20 pm start
Wed 6th March: Middlesex Cup semi-final Girls Y9/10 v Highlands School
Fri 8th March: Y7/8 and 9/10 Girls v Channing School Away 4pm KO

Music Department Notices

Fortismere Community Orchestra Concert - Saturday 9th March 7pm St Andrews N10

All are welcome to join us for this evening of music dedicated to Brahms, his teachers and his influences. Beethoven and Schubert in the first half will be followed by the Brahms Piano Concerto no.2 in the second half, performed by Tadashi Imai. Early Bird tickets £12 [Book tickets here](#) or £15 on the door. Tickets for GCSE and A Level Music students are again free.

Piano Masterclass - Thursday 7th March 6.30pm NW Concert Hall

Tickets for this event are free for all Music GCSE and A Level students and teachers. Three of the school's talented pianists will be joined by one of Tadashi Imai's students for this masterclass. At the end, Tadashi will give some of his insights into the wonderful Brahms Piano Concerto No.2 that he is performing two days later with the Community Symphony Orchestra. [Book tickets here](#) or on the door on the night.

Music & Poetry Night - Thursday 21st March 7pm NW Concert Hall

The annual evening of music & poetry from students at Fortismere is nearly here again! Tickets are available now - [book here](#)

Fortismere Community Choir Concert - Saturday 27th April 7pm St Andrews N10

A wonderful all-Mozart programme performed by Fortismere Community Choir and Symphony Orchestra. Mozart's beautiful Ave Verum Corpus, followed by his fifth Violin Concerto played by the orchestra leader Alexander Casson, will be the first half. Then the second half will be a performance of one of Mozart's best-loved works, the Requiem. Early Bird tickets £12 [Book tickets here](#)

LINC Notices

Meet One of the Team.....

This week it is the turn of Francesca Pirovano, a Teaching Assistant in LINC.

Why did you want to work in the Fortismere LINC department? I believe that every student deserves to access education tailored to their individual needs, and working in the LINC department gives me the opportunity to support students in a variety of ways. By working in the LINC department, I hope to have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these students, helping them overcome barriers and reach their full potential.

What's the best thing about your job? Creating relationships with the students is a wonderful reward in and of itself. Knowing that a student has gained more confidence, improved their skills, and overall achieved something thanks to the work you have put in together is a very fulfilling experience and it sticks with you.

What would you like to share with the school community this week? The importance of inclusion in the education of students with special needs and disabilities. Some people may view special needs as a hindrance to everyday life, mainly due to the fact that the world around us is built for able/neuro-typical people, others view special needs as a superpower: hyper-focus, intense passion for specific subjects, and keen attention to detail are just a few examples. I believe the truth, like most things, lies in the middle. When you start observing certain behaviour patterns you can see them within everyone, which makes you think that maybe there are varying levels of special needs among all of us. Certain autism traits make it very difficult to form friendship bonds with people, but when that friendship is formed it is solid, it is truthful, and it

is reliable. We have an inclination for considering anything that deviates from our society's norm, something we would rather stay away from or not associate with, but if we do this we will gain nothing and have a plethora of experience to lose. If we approach differences with an open mind and a willingness to learn from one another, we not only break down barriers but also unlock the potential for deeper connections and understanding. Every interaction becomes an opportunity for growth and enrichment, as we celebrate the diversity of human experience. By embracing inclusivity and recognising the value of neurodiversity, we pave the way for a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Rather than viewing differences as obstacles, we can see them as valuable contributions to the mosaic of humanity, each adding depth, colour, and texture to the fabric of our shared existence. It is in this spirit of acceptance and appreciation that we truly harness the power of diversity, creating a world where all individuals are recognised, respected, and celebrated for who they are. [See this link for more information](#)

Fortismere School Holiday Camps

Easter Holiday Camps - Booking Now!

Fortismere Holiday Camps are running during the two weeks of the Easter holidays. Bookings will be for Week 1 (2nd-5th April) or Week 2 (8th-12th April). Booking information and full details of all the camps are on the school website - See [Fortismere Holiday Camps](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please use the My Voice [link](#) or QR code alternatively contact your child's Head of Year

Year 7	Ms Fox kfox@fortismere.org.uk
Year 8	Ms Jackson kjackson@fortismere.org.uk
Year 9	Ms Cuenca icuenca@fortismere.org.uk
Year 10	Mr Aldridge saldrige@fortismere.org.uk
Year 11	Ms Boot aboot@fortismere.org.uk

