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<p>School photos</p> <p>Insight Vape Information Evening</p> <p>We were very pleased to have been able to offer parents an awareness presentation on vaping this week. Insight led the session for parents and shared some of the latest research and the dangers associated with vaping. Thank you to those who attended and stayed for the very useful Q&A afterwards. This session followed staff training earlier in the week where staff were tested on our knowledge of the dangers of vapes and Insight gave us advice on how best to approach conversations with our students. Please find attached the presentation shared on Tuesday with some very interesting slides on the cost of vapes.</p> <p>School photographs</p> <p>Fizz photography, who have produced our year book for the last few years, are coming into school on Tuesday 19 March to take photos of students in Years 7-11. These photos will be available to purchase, and students will bring home a photocard in approximately two school weeks. We'll inform you when this happens.</p> <p>The year group order is as follows: Period 1 – Year 11 Period 2 – Year 7 Period 3 – Year 8 Period 4 – Year 9 Form time/Period 5 – Year 10.</p> <p>Tutors will speak to their forms on Monday about expectations for the day.</p> <p>School term and holiday dates 2024-25</p> <p>The term dates and holiday dates for the next academic year 2024-25 have now been published on the website - see here</p>	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p>	
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	<p>20.03</p>	<p>Y12 Parents' Evening</p>
	<p>21.03</p>	<p>Music and Poetry Night</p>
<div data-bbox="1086 1379 1506 1928" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1098 1935 1485 1995"><i>Fortismere blossom on a sunny day this week</i></p>		

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

We started the week feeling the cold and wet and ended it bathed in blossom and sunshine - what a difference a week makes! The change in the weather always has a significant impact on our students. Although the field is still waterlogged, they have greater access to the hard courts and Y7 have the run of the area behind the Science block. Being able to spend both break and lunch times outside generally lifts everybody's spirits and allows our students to enjoy the benefits of our site. This has also fed into our review of the new school day and the allocation of key stage wings. Having a shorter afternoon works well with a more physically active lunchtime and the ability of the younger year groups to have their own areas supports their confidence. The last couple of days have given us a glimpse of the Summer Term and we are looking forward to seeing our students making the most of our site.

The improved weather also enabled some of our House activities this week. Students from Franklin House were out and about selling raffle tickets to raise money for the West London Rape Crisis Centre under the guidance of their Head of House, Ms Jones. Ms Jones also led the Pi-reciting competition yesterday - we will leave it to her to explain the drama and exciting (and awe-inspiring!) outcome of the competition in Ms Jones' report in this Newsletter. The Houses continue to offer many unusual and interesting ways for students to get involved with the life of the school. We would encourage as many students as possible to participate in the activities on offer as the experiences enrich and enliven the school experience for those who take part. As today is Red Nose Day, it is great to see students getting involved in fun fundraising activities.

During the week we hosted an evening on-line event for parents and carers from Insight on the significant issue of vapes. Ms Sullivan has supplied information on the first page. Events like this are an important way for us to share information and to establish ways of working with our parents and carers. Staff received information from the same team last week and for many of those present, the information was alarming. Not everyone had realised the extent of the potential danger of vapes. We will continue to send this message to our students without being alarmist and we value the part played by our families in talking to their sons and daughters and supporting the school in our response to vaping, including the use of random bag searches.

As is customary at school, we will be packing in as much as possible before the end of term. Next week sees both guidance meetings for Y11, when every student will have a conversation about their plans post-16 with either a member of the Y11 Team, our Careers' Advisor or a member of the SLT. To keep us busy we are also photographing years 7-11 next Tuesday (see above). Ms Brooks organises the day with military precision but as always when dealing with young people, we're sure there will be a few surprises!

Last week we wrote about World Book Day. Readings have continued this week and Ms Davey was surprised (and pleased!) when reading to a Y7 group this week how interested the students are in the past history of Fortismere. As you know, this year marks our 40th anniversary and we will be celebrating with a range of activities. Given the interest in our past, we will explore with our students how they would like to commemorate the history of this school and its predecessors and let you know. We may also be seeking out some of the alumni who we know make up part of our parent body....

We very much hope that the lovely Spring weather holds over the next few days and we wish you all a peaceful and warm weekend.

House News

Pi Day Inter House Competition

On Thursday, we celebrated Pi Day (March 14th-3.14) with a competition to see who could recite the most digits of pi. It was a really fun competition with some amazing participation from lots of students! Everyone who entered did brilliantly, but I wanted to give a special mention to our podium scorers. In 3rd place was Louis Barnett (Y11) representing Selvon who knew an impressive 87 decimal places. Louis thought that he had won as for a long time no one could catch him. Then, from our last couple of participants emerged Megan Liu (Y10) representing Franklin, who finished in second place with an amazing 96 decimal places.

However, the overall winner was the last student to compete. Abdul-Fareed Oluwatosin (Y7) representing Keats, who swept in and blew us away with an incredible 104 decimal places! A huge well done to everyone who took part. It was great fun and we hope that Abdul-Fareed enjoyed his prize - a big apple pie!

Ms Jones



Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

New German Language Clubs

A reminder that there are now after school clubs giving all students the opportunity to learn or improve their German. Mr Lewis runs a beginners class on **Tuesdays after school in N18**. And for those with more experience with German (GCSE level) Ms Dugdale is running a class in **N17 on Tuesdays after school**. Students



Extra Curricular Achievements - Gold Medal for Luka

Huge congratulations to our Year 10 student, Luka Abashidze who won a gold medal in the British Schools Judo Championships last week. Luka had five events and won them all! What a fantastic achievement Luka - we're all really proud of you. Luka is second on the left.



Careers & Work Related Learning Notices

Year 10 & Year 11 Students - Future Skills Questionnaire

All Key Stage 4 students have been sent a link in their school email accounts to the **Compass+ Future Skills Questionnaire**. The Future Skills Questionnaire gives students the opportunity to reflect on their career-related knowledge and skills and is designed to capture the learning outcomes of careers guidance

based on learner perceptions. The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your child[ren] should complete the questionnaire at home, on their own and will need access to a device with internet, for example a laptop or mobile phone. **Could all parents and carers please ensure that their child completes the questionnaire by Friday 29 March 2024**

Mr Renner
Careers Lead

Politics Department Notice

Visit from Lord Carlile of Berriew

Lord Carlile, a crossbench peer in the House of Lords and former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation visited Fortismere this week to speak to sixth form students about his life in the law and politics. He spoke of his upbringing in Burnley (and his support of his local football team), his times as a barrister and an MP and his career in the upper house. As a crossbencher he is not bound by party loyalty and honestly answered questions from our students on his career choices, our electoral system, his role as a crossbencher, and the government's Prevent programme, as well as what he thinks of Liz Truss and Sir Keir Starmer. Many thanks to Lords Carlile and all of those who attended.

Mr Riddell



English Department Notices

A Level English Enrichment - Live Q&A Session

All A Level English students (Y12 & Y13) will be attending a special event during Tutor Time and the start of period 5 on Wednesday 20 March with Helen Hackett, Professor of English Literature at UCL. Students should register with their tutors as normal and then come straight to T19 at 1.50pm. Professor Hackett's Masterclass for A Level students, 'Shakespeare's Sisters: Early Women Writers in Westminster Abbey' is available to [watch here](#)

A Level English Enrichment - Cambridge University Women's Reading Group

Year 12 A level English students have been invited to join an online reading group, supervised by Dr Sean McEvoy and Dr Leo Mellor from Murray Edwards College, Cambridge and led by English undergraduate students. There will be an introductory meeting with Dr McEvoy at 1.45pm on Thursday 21 March in the library. If any other students would like to join, please email Ms Adams (radams@fortismere.org.uk).

Year 11 Walking Talking English Language Mock

Year 11 will have the opportunity to sit an English Language Paper 2 mock exam, with the Head of English providing guidance next week, on the following dates:

X Bank: Wednesday 20 March 2024 - Period 3 & 4 in SW Hall

Y Bank: Friday 22 March 2024 - Period 1 & 2 in SW Hall

Sport & PE Notices

Middlesex Cup Run comes to a Halt

After retaining the Middlesex Rachel Yankey U15 Cup for the last two consecutive years, our current campaign sadly came to an end last Thursday. The girls fought and showed some brilliant play but unfortunately Highlands were the stronger team on the day. Sophia Reed was fantastic in goal and was the reason why the final score was only 1-2. Well done all for reaching the semi final - we'll try again next year!



Also on a very wet Tuesday afternoon this week, we went to Highgate Wood School for a Year 9/10 tournament. It was raining heavily but the girls did brilliantly - winning against Channing 9-1 and Woodside 6-0 and drawing against Highgate Wood and APS.



Year 7/8 Girls Team Reach Semi Final of Haringey League Cup

We travelled to play Channing School last Friday on St Aloysius' lovely pitches in Highgate. They arrived late and were two players short so our girls did the sporting thing and took turns to play on their side so that both the teams had even numbers. It was a great game with lots of goals - finishing with Fortismere scoring 9 goals and Millie scoring 2 for the opposition! The final score was 9-3 and the scorers were Annie, Hollie, Farah, Evie, Selin. Onto the semi-final now and well done all.



Year 7 Boys win v Highgate Wood School

Well done to our Year 7 Boys who beat Highgate Wood last Thursday 3-1. Our man of the match was Alex Rimbolt.



Fixtures Next Week

Monday 18th March: Y7 & Y8 Girls Football v Heartlands @ home
Thursday 20th March: Y7/Y8 and Y9/Y0 Basketball v Woodside @ home

Library Notices

World Book Day Week(s) in the Library

We finished our World Book Day Week(s) celebrations on Friday after another week of SLT and other members of staff coming in to talk in our library lessons. Mr Kenny described books as "the original internet but better" and introduced the students to the delights of Ursula le Guin's *Earthsea* books. Ms Judge remembers loving Judy Blume books for their wonderful renditions of growing up, friendship, family, puberty

and constant blushing– *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* went down well. Mr Robson said books make you feel good and keep you healthy in the same way that going for a run and eating well do, reading tasters from *Doughnut Economics* and *Lessons in Chemistry*. Ms Jackson took Year 8s back to their early childhood with Oliver Jeffer's picturebook *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Mr Rainey lost a teddy bear book from his village mobile library and was so terrified of the librarian that he never returned! We loved hearing about books he's read and how much he has learned and been influenced by them.

Mr Allen took us from *Hairy McClary* (from Donaldson's Dairy...) through *Just William*, *Watership Down* and *The Hobbit* and finished a highly entertaining session with that gorgeous passage from 1 Corinthians, *Love is patient and kind...* Every year Ms Brooks shares fabulous books from her bookshelves, and this year was no exception. She read from Daisy Ashford's *The Young Visitors* (sic), first published in 1919 when the author was 9 years old and reprinted 18 times that year. She also extolled the virtues of graphic novels, showing the students one that was illustrated by Isabel Greenberg, a Fortismere alumnus. Mr Ward loved the blood and gore in *The Legend of Drizzt* books when he was a teenager (things don't change!) and, complete with handouts, read from and talked about the fantasy world-building of the Forgotten Realms. Ms Fox's life in three books - *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Little House on the Prairie* and *Jane Eyre* was a good lesson in the power of transformation and how you can change to be anything you want to be. It's been a great fortnight of library lessons – students have also been offered the WBD vouchers and free books!



Carnegie Shadowing

The Carnegie shortlist was announced on Wednesday - [see the list here](#) and our Carnegie Shadowing group will be having its first meeting at lunchtime next Tuesday 19th March. This is a great opportunity for 40 keen Year 8 readers to be the first to borrow the books and have their say on our dedicated webpage on which book they think should win. The winner is announced on 20th June when we close the library for a party and watch the award ceremony live streamed from the British Library.



Year 8 English teachers should have spoken to their classes and sent lists of students to the library, but if your child has missed this please get them to see Mrs Ward in the library (or email gward@fortismere.org.uk).

Manga Club

Following the death last week of iconic Japanese manga artist and character designer Akira Toriyama, some members of Wednesday's Manga Club created drawings to celebrate one of his most famous series, Dragon Ball.



Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is one of the biggest and most prestigious poetry competitions for 11-17 year olds in the world. Our talented creative writers have the chance to be published in the Foyles anthology and be among the 100 winners of great prizes. Enter your poems by 31 July 2024. For full details and entry information see here [Foyle Young Poets](#)



Early Closing

The Library will close at 4pm on Monday 18th March.

Recommended Reads of the Week

Our latest display in the library asks if you're feeling blue – then suggests lots of blue books for you to read! Some might even cheer you up... Here are just a few selected by our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

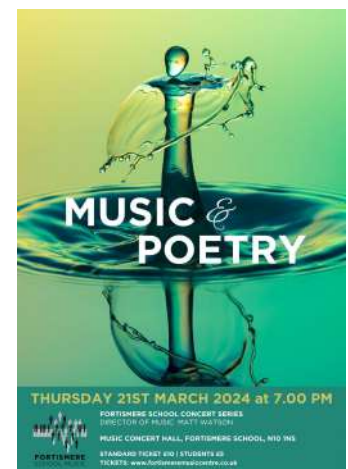


Music Department Notices

Concerts Coming Up

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

The annual evening of music & poetry from students at Fortismere is nearly here! This is always a really special event so please come along and support the students. Tickets are available now [book here](#)



Fortismere Community Choir Concert - Saturday 27th April St Andrew's Church 7pm

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](#)



Fundraising Notice

Donations by Direct Debit

Direct Debit is a really convenient way to set up a regular donation to support the school. By setting up a direct debit, your recurring monthly donation will help ensure the continued success and growth of Fortismere. Support from our families is invaluable and will make a real difference to our students.

Setting up a direct debit - use the following link and ensure you select Bacs Direct Debit as your payment method: [Set up a Monthly Direct Debit](#)

You can also arrange a regular monthly payment or make a one-off donation via our school website: [See this page](#)

Thank you in advance for your support - your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Ms Demetriou

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 saldridge@fortismere.org.uk
Year 11	Ms Boot aboot@fortismere.org.uk