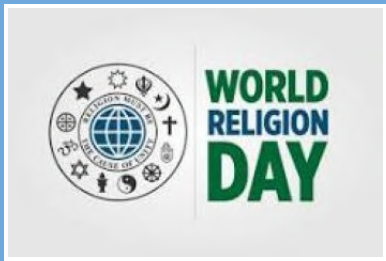


Friday 19th January 2024

School Leadership Messages	Contents						
<p>Important notice: Parent Surveys launched today</p> <p>Today we are launching two very important parental feedback surveys with our community:</p> <p>The first is to hear views on the improvements we have made to the school's pastoral provision this academic year and can be found here.</p> <p>The second is to take feedback from parents on their children's experience of Teaching and Learning at our school which can be found here.</p> <p>Please also read the Co-headteacher's message this week (see below) which provides more information about why we are carrying out these surveys. The surveys will both close at 12pm on Monday 5 February</p> <p>Dropping children off at school</p> <p>Please could parents be reminded that cars are not allowed on site during the school day without prior arrangement with a senior member of staff. This includes driving up to the Tetherdown entrance. Parents are also asked not to use the yellow lines or zig zags as drop off or collection points. We would encourage all our students, where possible, to walk to school.</p> <p>Smartphone Ban</p> <p>Fortismere does not allow Years 7-11 to have a smartphone or any internet enabled device onsite. We will confiscate any smart devices and will continue to conduct random bag searches. Confiscated items will be retained by the school for 5 school days and can only be returned to a parent or nominated adult.</p> <p>Y11 and Y13 Mock exams</p> <p>The weather next week is due to be less cold and students will not be permitted to wear their coats in the exams. However, it is still winter so please could parents ensure that students are dressed appropriately.</p>	<p>CoHeads' Weekly Roundup</p> <p>House News</p> <p>Charity Event</p> <p>Departement News & Notices</p> <p>Community Events</p> <p>Safeguarding information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1067 1077 1241 1155">24.01.24</td> <td data-bbox="1241 1077 1525 1155">Y9 Options Evening</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1067 1155 1241 1285">07.02.24</td> <td data-bbox="1241 1155 1525 1285">Y11 Parents' Evening (Face to Face)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1067 1285 1241 1386">09.02.24</td> <td data-bbox="1241 1285 1525 1386">Y11 & 13 Mock exams report</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div data-bbox="1098 1400 1485 1659">  </div> <p>Sunday 21st January is World Religion Day.</p> <p>Its purpose is to promote understanding and tolerance among those of different faiths. People are encouraged to explore the teachings and principles of different religions. See here</p>	24.01.24	Y9 Options Evening	07.02.24	Y11 Parents' Evening (Face to Face)	09.02.24	Y11 & 13 Mock exams report
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Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

At Fortismere we are always keen to gather views from our parent community on the experiences their children have as students at our school. This week we are asking all of our parents and carers to take some time to feed back on the two key aspects of their child's experience by completing our Pastoral Provision survey and our Teaching and Learning questionnaire over the next couple of weeks.

Parents who have children in Year 8 or above will remember that we asked parents to complete an extensive survey last year on our pastoral provision as part of our Pastoral Review 2023. The feedback from our review was used to develop a number of improvements to our pastoral systems which we wrote to you all about in July. We explained that from September 2023, Year Groups in Years 7-11 would be led and supported by Heads of Year working in partnership with newly appointed Pastoral Support Managers. Our Pastoral Support Managers are non-teaching members of staff with a range of knowledge, experience and expertise in supporting young people in accessing their education. We also shared that we were increasing the time given to tutoring at Fortismere to allow our teams of tutors to provide the best holistic support for our learners to enable them to thrive at our school. Our Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Managers have been supporting tutors in setting the highest expectations with regards to student engagement. This has involved re-setting the culture at Fortismere around the importance of attendance and punctuality and programmes and systems that support all students to learn how to self manage and develop the optimum behaviours for study and self development. This letter was followed up by an online meeting in September that was led by us to relaunch our pastoral systems and can be viewed again [here](#).

Since we are approaching the midpoint in the year we are keen to come back to you, our parent body, in order to hear your views again on a number of aspects of our Pastoral Provision. This will enable the leadership at Fortismere to judge the impact our new systems have had on the experience of our community and consider our next steps. Please note that we are gathering feedback on our Pastoral Provision from our staff and students at the same time. Please click [here](#) to complete the Pastoral Provision Survey Spring 2024.

At the same time we are sharing a link to our Teaching and Learning questionnaire to ask parents and students about their experiences of how we deliver our curriculum. The information obtained from this questionnaire will be used to support our planning to ensure that our taught curriculum meets the needs of our students and gives them all the opportunity to realise their potential. To complete this survey please click [here](#).

We appreciate this will take time so we are keeping both surveys open until the 5th February for parents to complete them. The information in both surveys will provide a very full view of the quality of the provision at our school and we are asking for this information from both surveys to give us the opportunity to identify our strengths and areas of improvement and thank you all in advance for sharing your views.

We haven't felt quite so cold at school for some years, the -5 degrees that welcomed staff and students into school on Thursday was pretty challenging but by and large our students have coped very well with the cold snap. We are not quite out of the wintry weather so we wish you a cosy weekend and therefore hope you all find some time this weekend to relax somewhere warm to enjoy the contents of this week's Newsletter which contains some lovely House and Charity news.

House News

Rubik's Cube Competition

On Monday this week, students took part in the annual Inter House Rubik's Cube Competition. It was an incredibly exciting and nail-biting event and there were a very impressive number of students, 23! who were all able to solve the cube in less than the 4 minute time limit! A huge well done to all of these students and to everyone who took part. The results were as follows:



1st	Jed Coster	21.85 seconds	Selvon
2nd	Hayri Yakup	22.1 seconds	Keats
3rd	Timofei Paraev	28.57 seconds	Selvon

Special mention also to the 4th-10th place students who all solved the cube in under 30 seconds: Arkady Flurry; Jack Poormand; Sergei Akulov; Omarr Asamoah-Brown; Sam Murphy; Cecilia Padovani; Emile Huckle. And a thank you to Sabri Yakup who diligently recorded all the times throughout the competition. House points will be awarded and to everyone not on the leaderboard this year, you now have a year to hone your skills!

Ms Jones

Student Led Charity Event

Charity Band Night - Thursday 8th February 7.00pm NW Concert Hall

Year 13 students, Aaron Franks and Lizzie Wells, are organising this year's edition of the Fortismere Charity Band Night. It will be a fantastic night with great music and a lively atmosphere.

Performers include the student band 'The Showerheads', the teacher band 'Cover Lesson', and a mystery teacher's dad's band!

All ticket proceeds will go to Crisis, the national charity for people experiencing homelessness.

Please head over to [Fortismere Music Centre](#) to buy your tickets [now](#) - £10 for a standard ticket and £5 for students and all for a very good cause. Thank you for your support.



Student Voice

Form Captains - New Role

We are lucky at Fortismere to have so many young people in our school who are keen to get involved in different activities and contribute to the school. With this in mind, we are launching a new role (with an old fashioned name!) to enable students to contribute their voice more fully to the school.

Form Captains will be role models for their form and will also have an important role to play in contributing to different student voice groups. For the coming year, the groups in the table below will be our priority.

Please discuss this role with your children and encourage them to stand for Form Captain, particularly if they have an interest in any of the groups below. We will be recruiting two students per tutor group in the coming weeks.

Safeguarding committee
Olive Branch Award: We have joined the Olive Branch Award which pledges that Fortismere will become a school that is a safe and compassionate place on Israel – Palestine.
Climate crisis and sustainability group
Diversity committee

Ms Brooks
Assistant Headteacher

LINC Department

Meet the Team

Continuing our series of staff introductions, this week please meet Venessa Ingerslev who is our English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator.



Why did you want to work in the LINC department? Language learning has always been an enjoyable pursuit for me. I am privileged to be born into a multicultural society and grew up learning no less than three and a half languages (Creole with family and French, English and German as part of the curriculum at school in France). Later, I took up Danish and Mandarin, while studying in those countries. Now I use English as my primary language in LINC, where I thrive. Grosso modo, my language learning never stopped and right now, I am learning Korean, besides constantly improving my English accent. What is it about acquiring new languages that I can't get enough of? Ironically, words elude me! but there is a certain "je ne sais quoi" about it and it makes me feel happy.

What's the best thing about your job? A sense of accomplishment on repeat! My students illustrate the best things about my job: every new word they master gives me a sense of accomplishment. From successfully memorising vocabulary to understanding grammar rules and forming full sentences, each achievement is akin to going up a level in a game, travelling to a new country or finding a new friend. Successful completion of even the smallest language goals (learn the words for colours in English, write an email to a teacher or their statement for Higher Education) gives a satisfying sense of achievement. It brings me "la joie de vivre"!

What would you like to share with the school community this week? Practise speaking to learn your new language! I have a few strategies to share that can give your language learning a real boost. They can help you develop one of the essential skills for speaking: organising what you already know into sentences so that you can express yourself fluently. Firstly, find a language buddy to communicate with, teaming up with other learners is a great way to get started and gives you plenty of opportunities to try stringing sentences together with empathetic listeners. Secondly, talk about it! A simple way to add a bit of speaking practice to your language learning is to record yourself giving a quick 3 minute summary of something you've just heard or read, I know it is tough "but be careful how you speak" (see [Gerard Nolst Trenité's poem The Chaos](#) for irregularities in english pronunciation!). Applying what you've just learned in real speech makes it easier to use in your future conversations; and you can re-listen and correct your mistakes. It can feel a little strange at first, but the more you do it, the easier it gets. Simply set your phone timer to 3 minutes and start talking! Lastly, talk to yourself. The benefits of this are similar to an internal monologue (remember Macbeth), with the added bonus of pronunciation practice. Alternatively, if you've got a pet at home, why not try speaking to your furry friend in the language you are learning. Et voilà! I hope these strategies have left you feeling inspired and ready to get chatting away in English or any other language you are learning.

Supporting SEND & Neurodiversity at Home - Tuesday 23rd January 4.00-5.30pm

Parents and carers are invited to an information session being delivered by our educational psychologists. The session is aimed at parents/carers of children with SEND but all parents are welcome to attend. The session will focus on neurodiversity in young people and will provide strategies and advice about what parents can do to help, encourage and reinforce from home. There will be an hour long presentation and 30 minutes for general questions. The session will be held in North Wing. If you would like to attend, please email lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk. In order to plan for the event we need to know how many parents are interested in attending. Depending on numbers, places may be limited so please respond promptly.

Mr Fari

Library

Top Tips to Keep your Children Reading



Top Tip No.14: If your child loves comics/graphic novels/manga, that's OK. Please don't say, "That's not a proper book" because it is. Remember that not only do they have to understand the words, they have to interpret the pictures too.

CoverUp

We had a great time discussing "Room", the Booker and Orange Prize shortlisted novel by Emma Donoghue and this year's Carnegie winner "The Blue Book of Nebo" by Manon Steffan Ros. Wine and conversation flowed. Get ready for the next meeting of our parent/staff reading group on Thursday 7th March, 7pm, when we'll be chatting about Alex Michaelides' "The Silent Patient" – it looks to be quite a thriller.



Year 10 Book Club

Just wanted to share a big hurrah for the Year 10 reading group which meets once a week in the library. Started by Camille Turner, the group is student led, library staff have no input (apart from buying the books!) and is an example of just how brilliant our students are.



Recommended Reads of the Week

In preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, when we remember the millions of people murdered under Nazi persecution and in genocides which followed in Darfur, Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda, here are some suggested reads. More can be found by following [this link to our catalogue](#)



Music Centre

Fortismere Community Choir & Orchestra Open Rehearsals - 13th & 20th January 10.30am

Rehearsals have started for the new term but it's not too late to join the choir or orchestra for a rehearsal if you fancy trying us out! Our next choir concert is going to be the wonderful Mozart Requiem, something that is on most singers' bucket lists! The orchestra is also looking to recruit extra string players and brass players. Please contact fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk if you are interested. Both the choir and orchestra are open to students, staff and the wider community. More details can be found on the Music Centre [website](#)

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons on Saturdays at Fortismere

Check out the opportunities at the Music Centre for learning an instrument or singing on Saturdays - open to all ages, and to anyone in the community, not just Fortismere students and staff. Our singing teacher, Andrew Woodmansey, and one of our piano teachers, Izabella Bako, have just a few available sessions on Saturdays. See www.fortismere.musiccentre.co.uk/lessons for more information and the online enquiry form.

PE & Sports Department

Haringey U15 Girls Cricket Champions

Well played to our Year 9 and 10 girls who represented the school on Monday night. They won all of their games and are through to the next round of the Middlesex Indoor Cricket Competition.



Gymnastics Club - Wednesdays after school

Please come along if you want to try out the Gymnastics club on Wednesdays after school.



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 22nd January	U13 Boys Cricket Haringey Competition at Fortismere
Tuesday 23rd January	U13 Girls & Boys Middx Cup away at Highgate School meet 1pm
Wednesday 17th January	Year 7 Indoor Athletics Competition at St Thomas More School
Friday 26th January	U15 Girls Football away at St Thomas More - meet at 1pm

Community Events

Dance for Ukraine Fitness Fundraiser - Saturday 3rd February 11am-1pm at Fortismere

Gemma B Fitness is raising money for an East Finchley based organisation called [Driving Aid to Ukraine](#). They are hosting a fun two hour fitness fundraiser at Fortismere School on Saturday 3rd February in SW Hall. This is their third event and there will be great music, amazing zumba and a relaxing cool down to finish. Places are limited so book now. Booking information can be found [here on their crowdfunder page](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

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 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