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Update on Toilet Facilities Further to my communication at the end of the summer, we would like to thank our parents, carers, and students for your continued patience regarding our toilet facilities. While there is no immediate visibility of construction on site just yet, our £250,000 upgrade is officially underway. Over the coming weeks, you will begin to see the refurbishment of the North Wing facilities taking place, alongside the installation of two brand-new blocks of individual cubicles in the South Wing. All works remain on track for completion by mid Autumn Term. Please give us your feedback We are incredibly keen to hear regular feedback from parents and want to remind you to share your views via our feedback form on this page. This form is a very important channel for parent partnership so please click through to the form wherever you have something about your or your child's experience of Fortismere you'd like to share! Free School Meals 2026-27 If your child received FSM last year you must recheck eligibility for this school year as their current eligibility has ended. Use this link: FSM Eligibility Checker The school is automatically informed once the check has taken place and FSM will be applied if your child is eligible. If you need any help please contact Admin@fortismere.org.uk Equipment and School Books We are asking parents to regularly check that their children are bringing the right equipment with them to school. We do checks every morning so please do support your child if you can. Also, we encourage parents to ask their children about their work in their books. We have high expectations of the quality of work in books. It would be great for you to ask your child how they are doing and ask to have a look at their classwork!	Headteacher's Message		
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Headteacher's Message

It has been a fantastic first full week back, and the site has been filled with energy and purpose. Across all year groups, students have made an excellent start, settling quickly into their learning. A special mention must go to our new Year 7s who have fitted in seamlessly and navigated our large site with real confidence.

On top of all this, it has been an incredibly active week for co-curricular learning, with two major trips underway in our first full week back. Year 11 Geography completed their fieldwork trip, postponed due to last term's heatwave, which ironically ended up taking place in the pouring rain in Islington on Tuesday! Meanwhile, our Sixth Form scientists are in Geneva today, taking their studies far beyond the classroom at CERN. Under the instruction of working research physicists, our students have been making an incredible impression. They are surprising the scientists with the depth of their subject knowledge and challenging them with incisive questions, setting a standard that truly sets Fortismere apart from other visiting schools.

On Wednesday evening, it was a pleasure to meet Year 11 parents for our Information Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the success of last year's Year 11 cohort while visualising that exact same success for our current Year 11s, who have made a flying start to their final year of GCSEs. Our discussions centered on working in close partnership to keep our students ambitious, help them build crucial organisational skills, and balance hard work with wellbeing.

On Thursday evening, we held our postponed Prize Giving event in the South Wing Hall to celebrate the achievements of last year's Year 9 and Year 10 students. It was lovely to recognise these young people for their commitment to learning, progress, subject achievements, and citizenship. So many of them play a powerful role in making our school the warm and supportive community it is. Thursday night also marked the Friends of Fortismere AGM. It was a privilege to address the meeting and thank them for everything they bring to our school from funding that directly benefits our classrooms to running community events that bring vibrant energy to Fortismere. We look forward to building on this partnership and encourage as many parents as possible to connect with and support them this year.

Finally, I would like to send my warmest wishes to all of our Jewish families who will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah this weekend. *L'Shanah Tovah U'Metukah*, wishing you a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year!

Have a restful weekend everyone!

Inclusion

The First Week of FERN



This week we welcomed our new students into Fern, and they have made a fantastic start to the year! They have enjoyed a fun and varied curriculum - from Maths darts and drama games to modeling famous British landmarks, exploring Mandarin, and examining insects under a microscope.



To finish off a brilliant first week, we enjoyed a homemade celebration pizza party together in the garden! A big thank you to everyone who has contributed resources.

Co-curricular Notices

JSOC Wishes Everyone Shana Tova

Fortismere Jewish Society (JSoc) will be running throughout this year on Week 1 Tuesdays at lunchtime in the NW Hall. JSoc is **open to all students**, regardless of religion or background. Our first session will take place on **Tuesday 15th September** at 1:05pm in the NW Hall. Students interested in joining can email Elodie in Year 13 on saune087.309@fortismere.school or speak to Ms Overs.

JSoc leaders would like to wish our community a shana tova for those celebrating Rosh Hashanah this weekend.



JSOC Visit to Poland with Holocaust Learning Trust

JSoc is working with Holocaust Learning Trust to offer Fortismere sixth form students the chance to participate in their "Lessons from Auschwitz" Programme and one day Poland Visit on Wednesday 7th October.

This opportunity is open to all students in Years 12/13, not just JSoc members.

We have 6 student places available and the **application form is [HERE](#)**. Please

note students must be logged in to their school google account to access this

form. Students must **complete the application form by Thursday 15th September**



Sixth Form Notices

Fortismere Students Rise to the Challenge

Last academic year, our Year 13 students took on an inspiring range of projects through the Mark Evison Foundation - The Foundation's mission is to promote the personal development of young people through the undertaking of challenges. Our students combined adventure, creativity, fundraising and community work in their challenges.

Gil, Adam, Dominic, Adam and Fabien headed to Lake Ullswater for a hike, camp and fishing trip, while Eva and Jessica took on a Peak District hike. Noam and Noa each produced their own EP, putting their musical creativity and determination into practice. Sienna gave back to the local community by visiting a primary school and running baking lessons for Year 6 pupils.

These student-led projects have required plenty of planning, fundraising, teamwork and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of what our students have achieved. You can read their stories and see more photos on the [Mark Evison Foundation website](#)



Unraveling History - Year 13 Student Wins Prestigious Essay Prize

We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful achievement of Lily in Year 13, whose entry for the prestigious Caius Explore competition, run by Gonville & Caius College Cambridge, was selected as a winning submission. Lily's fascinating essay began with a Victorian example of hand-knitting held at the Victoria and Albert Museum, using this seemingly everyday object to explore the often-overlooked work, creativity and experiences of women throughout history.

As a winner, Lily was invited to a special celebration lunch at Caius, where she joined students from across the country to hear talks from Cambridge professors and chat with current students about their studies and university life. We are incredibly proud of Lily and the curiosity, originality and thoughtful research that earned her this recognition.

Read Lily's full winning essay here: [PDF Biography of Hand Knitting Lily K.pdf](#)

Art & Photography Notices

Fortismere Funfair and Laser Show Event - Poster Competition

The Friends of Fortismere are putting on a Funfair and Laser Show event in November and want students to create a design for the **Fortismere Funfair and Laser Show poster!**

Your design must include: *Friends of Fortismere presents Fortismere Funfair and Laser Show Thursday 5th November*

Your design could also include:

- bright lights and colour
- lasers and light effects
- fairground rides and attractions
- the excitement and atmosphere of a night-time funfair



The winning design will be used to help promote the event and will **WIN TWO FREE FUNFAIR RIDES!**

Email your design to Ms Powell (mpowell@fortismere.org.uk) or give it to your Art teacher **by Thursday 24th September**

KS3 Art Club is Back!

This half term, we'll be creating colourful and imaginative artwork inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead. Come along and get creative!

Art Club takes place every Tuesday, 3.20–4.20pm in N2



Library News

Welcome Back from Mrs Cockerham and Ms Ruttenberg

It has been lovely welcoming our new Year 7s and 8s back into their Library lessons this week and seeing so many new faces at lunch and breaktimes. In our Library lessons, we have been talking to students about the importance of reading for pleasure, introducing different genres of books to them and discussing our new book displays to tempt students to borrow more books. The current displays include - school stories, fantasy fiction, verse novels and my personal favourite - a crime and mystery display(see the photos below).

We would value your support in helping to foster a love of reading at home across all year groups, including sixth formers. Developing a habit of reading for pleasure not only supports academic growth and critical thinking, but also offers a way to relax and disconnect. Talk with your child about what you are currently reading or listening to and share what you find engaging about it. Small, regular conversations about stories and ideas can make a big difference in keeping reading alive through school and into adulthood.



Sport & PE Notices

Cross Country Competition & Lunchtime Running Club

We have been doing some cross country running in our Year 7 PE lessons this week as part of our preparation for the annual Haringey Cross Country Competition - we'll be selecting the teams soon for the

competition taking place on Monday 28th September. Ms Bailey takes a Running Club on Tuesday lunchtimes which involves taking the group offsite - please give your permission to Ms Bailey by email lbailey@fortismere.org.uk or letter if your child would like to join. Running Club meets at the start of lunch by the Sports Hall and students have time to eat a packed lunch before tutor time.

Dance Club is Back!

Step into Dance is a school dance scheme funded by The Jack Petchey Foundation and this year we are very lucky to have Pagan coming into Fortismere to deliver some Jazz Dance classes to our students. This opportunity is open to all year groups and is available from Thursday 17th September in South Wing Hall from 3.15-4.15pm. If your child likes dance then I am certain they will love this class!

Martial Arts Club

Unfortunately we did not get sufficient numbers for this club to run at Fortismere. If you are interested in taking part outside of school there is a class held at Jacksons Lane in Archway. See [this link](#) for details.

Football Training & Trials

Football training and trials are continuing from Monday. Year 8/9 Boys are on the field. All Years Girls trials will take place on the astroturf. We have lots of Middlesex Cup fixtures planned over the next few weeks. Year 7 Boys Football will continue on Tuesday next week but will change to a Monday night from September 21st due to a clash with a Mandarin Class after school.

Netball Club

Netball Club is for all Years after school on a Tuesday and also at lunchtime on Wednesdays for Year 9/10 and 11 match play. Teams will be selected at these times to represent the school

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 21st September	Under 15 Girls Middx Cup v St Annes (Away)
Tuesday 22nd September	Under 16 Girls Middx Cup v Latymer (Home)
Thursday 24th September	Under 14 Girls Middx Cup v Queens Park (Home)
Monday 28th September	Haringey Cross Country x 4 boys and 4 girls for Yr 7/8/9/10&11
Tuesday 29th September	Under 13 Girls Middx Cup v Lea Valley (Away)

Drama Department Notices

School of Rock: Rehearsals Week 1

We kicked off rehearsals with great energy in the room this week. On Monday going into Tuesday's rehearsal, we had a full cast meet and greet followed by a table read, getting stuck into blocking the first few scenes with our 3 casts not long after!

It was great to see so many new performers in the room, as well as our familiar performers too!

A reminder that rehearsals will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The full rehearsal schedule will be on the School of Rock Google Classroom this weekend for students to see exactly which rehearsal days they are needed for. (Thank you for your patience on this!)



School of Rock: Backstage and Tech Team



Students interested in being part of the School of Rock backstage team (who are not already performing in the show) should fill out this form with their preference for the production team:

<https://forms.gle/Si3BGQ23ASZBrjQp7>

Students must ensure they are logged into their Fortismere school account in order to access and complete the form.

Anyone interested in applying should read the roles carefully and apply for the ones they like the sound of. No experience is necessary, as we'll teach everyone what to do! The deadline has been extended

until next Friday (18th Sept) to ensure new students have the chance to get their logins and sign up.

Inter-School Drama Festival: Weds 30th Sept 3pm-6.30pm (Open Evening)



We are back with our annual Inter-School Drama Festival, taking place on Wednesday 30th September 2026 (Open Evening) from 3pm-6.30pm.

We are looking for at least 3 students from each form that will spend part of the day devising a performance with students from across the school. At the end of the evening, teams will take part in a friendly performance competition and the Headteacher will present a trophy to the winning play.

It is a great way for students to get creative, have fun, and meet students from across the school. Interested students should sign up with their form tutor. We look forward to having everyone take part!

LINC Notices

Introducing Our New SEND Manager: Ms Lucy Haigh

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new SEND Manager at Fortismere, working within our LINC (Learning Inclusion/SEND) department.

I am excited to work alongside students, families, and staff to ensure our young people receive the right support to access learning, make progress, and thrive. Working closely with Mr Fari (SENDCo) and Ms Nankervis (Deputy SENDCo), I oversee SEND provision across the school, with a particular focus on students with EHCPs. I also manage our Teaching Assistant team and collaborate with staff to understand each student's unique strengths, needs, and barriers to learning.

My career in education began as a Teaching Assistant, a role I held for over eight years in primary and secondary schools, before moving into specialist SEMH provision. I joined Fortismere in 2023 as a Pastoral Support Manager and later managed FINCH, our alternative provision. These roles have given me a deep appreciation for the importance of providing the right support at the right time.

My passion stems from seeing the difference that appropriate guidance and positive relationships can make. I believe young people learn best when they feel safe, understood, and valued. In my new role, my aim is to help create an environment where students feel heard and supported, while building the confidence and independence they need for their future.

A few useful reminders - As we begin the new academic year, I would also like to remind families that SEND support at Fortismere is a shared responsibility across the school. Our LINC team works closely with teachers, tutors, pastoral staff and families to identify needs, put appropriate support in place and monitor how well it is working.

If you have concerns about your child's SEND needs or support, please do get in touch with the school. Where appropriate, your child's Tutor or Key Worker will often be the first point of contact, and the LINC team can provide further guidance and support where needed.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming year and to working together to support your children during their time at Fortismere.

LINC Parent & Carer Events

Please see below the dates for some upcoming LINC parent and carer events.

KS3 SEND Information Evening

Thursday 17th September 2026: 4:30pm- 6:00pm (online) To register email lincadmin@fortismere.org.uk

Year 7 EHCP Parents/Carers Drop In

Monday 28th September 2026: 8:40am-9:30am

Year 7 SEND Parents/Carers Drop In

Monday 5th October 2026 8:40am-9:30am

Extra Curricular Clubs

Creative Writing with Weaving Words

Weaving Words Creative Writing Workshops are continuing for 2026-27. The workshops are a space where young people can express their ideas and imagination freely, without judgement, in a safe, friendly environment. Workshops are run by Ms Massey (a former Fortismere teacher) and students write alongside her as their facilitator, exploring themes and ideas through a wide mix of literary devices including prose, poetry, dialogue and song.

Ms Massey says: *I have held creative writing workshops as an extra-curricular activity for the last ten years and students report that the regular practice of creative writing has helped develop both their social and academic skills as well as exploring their imagination in a joyful environment*

The workshops take place weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays for Year 8 & above and on Wednesdays for Year 7. We meet upstairs in the back of Fortismere's excellent library straight after school from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. The cost is £170 per term. For more information please email: Weaving100words@gmail.com

Latin Club New Beginners' Classes Starting September 2026

After-school Latin club resumes soon with classes for beginners and continuing students.

Beginners: Wednesday 16th September at 3:20pm in Room S12.

Continuing Students: Classes resume the second week of term (details on the Google Classroom).

Beginners is open to all ages, but ideal for students in Years 7-8 and Sixth Formers taking Classical Civilisation or Modern Languages. Students are welcome to come and try a session before committing.

Contact pat.dugdale@hotmail.co.uk with any questions. Latin club are also always looking for volunteers to help with classes - please reach out if you can help!

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using My Voice [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

