

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the start of the new academic year! It has been an absolute joy welcoming our students back into school this week. The site is once again full of energy, purpose, and enthusiasm, and we are so excited for everything the year ahead will bring. We have taken every opportunity this week to celebrate our exceptional exam results with our students. These outstanding achievements provide a brilliant springboard for the new school year and set the bar high for all of us. At the same time, we have reminded our students that academic success goes hand-in-hand with their personal growth and wellbeing. Please see the next entry below for more information.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students, as well as those joining us in Year 12. Our Year 7 cohort has already made a huge impression on us - they have been wonderfully sensible, mature, and open when talking with staff. They are settling in remarkably well and already feel very much a part of the Fortismere family. To all our parents and carers, old and new, we place a high value on strong home-school partnerships. There will be many opportunities to meet and engage throughout the academic year. However, if you ever wish to share your thoughts, we have an ongoing online feedback form. You can find the link on the right-hand side column of the front page of this week's newsletter. We welcome both positive feedback and suggestions for improvement, and we would particularly love to hear from our Year 7 and Year 12 parents on how your children have found their very first week with us.

At the start of this term, we have experienced an unprecedented technical issue with our IT systems that has affected some of our email delivery and communications. We take great pride in our operational efficiency and we are so sorry that as a result of the issue some parents have not received communications from us. Please be assured that resolving this is currently our single highest operational priority. Our IT team and specialist engineers are working tirelessly to rectify the underlying infrastructure issue, and we expect to have normal service restored swiftly.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we embark on another successful year together.

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10/09	Friends of Fortismere AGM 7pm SW Hall

Leave Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

You are warmly invited to the Friends of Fortismere Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th Sept in South Wing Hall

The bar will open at 7pm so come along for refreshments and a chat with other parents and committee members before the meeting starting at 7:30 pm.

Hear what we achieved last year, see what's ahead, and learn how we support the school. Everyone is welcome!

See you there
Friends of Fortismere Committee
E: friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

fortismere

A Level, GCSE & BTEC Results

2026

Celebrating an
extraordinary year
of academic
success at our high
performing school



A Community To Be Proud Of

This has been an exceptional year of results for Fortismere. We are incredibly proud of our students, who have shown extraordinary dedication, resilience and ambition to achieve these outstanding outcomes.

In true Fortismere style, they have shown us what they are made of, setting the bar high for all of us and opening the door to exciting next chapters.

These achievements show what being part of a vibrant, ambitious, caring and supportive school community can lead to. They reflect the hard work of our students, the commitment of our staff and the strength of the community we build together.



GCSE OUTCOMES

- Attainment 8 score: 59.8
- 42.6% Grade 7+
- Top grades at double those achieved nationally

A-LEVEL & BTEC OUTCOMES

- ALPS 2
- Exceptional progress (top 10% nationally)

Co-Curricular Activities

JSOC is back!

Fortismere Jewish Society (J-Soc) will be running throughout this academic year on Tuesdays (week 1) at lunchtime in the NW Hall. Supported by the UJS Schools' Programme, J-Soc offers students the chance to explore Jewish life from a variety of perspectives - traditional, progressive, cultural and spiritual. The society provides a valuable way for the school to develop students' Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural education and promote the values of tolerance, inclusion and mutual respect.

J-Soc is **open to all students**, regardless of religion or background. Over the year, students will hear from a range of fascinating speakers, including Holocaust survivors, charities, Rabbis and even collaborate with Eden Primary school next door etc.

The first J-Soc 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 Visit to Poland with Holocaust Learning Trust

J-Soc is working with Holocaust Learning Trust to offer six Fortismere sixth form students the chance to participate in their "Lessons from Auschwitz" programme and a one day Poland visit on Wednesday 7th October.

Lessons from Auschwitz comprises two seminars, five self-guided learning modules hosted on a new, bespoke online learning platform and a one-day visit to Poland. For the final stage of the course students will be expected to undertake a Next Steps project to pass their learning on to our school and community.

This is open to all students in Year 12 or 13 not just J-Soc members. We have 6 student places available and the application form will be published next week. Please note students will need to be logged in to their school google account to access this form.



Co-Curricular Activities

Latin Club New Beginners' Classes Starting September 2026

Fortismere's popular after-school Latin club resumes soon! Last summer, 58% of our GCSE candidates achieved top 9/A* grades.

Beginners: Wednesday 16th September at 3:20pm in Room S12. An early morning option may also be

offered if there is enough interest.

Continuing Students: Classes resume the second week of term (details will be shared with students via the Google Classroom).

Who Can Join?

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

Why Learn Latin?

Starting early in Year 7 gives students time to reach GCSE level, but even a year or two of learning Latin expands English vocabulary, strengthens grammar, and supports modern language learning. Students can also sit intermediate WJEC Level 1 exams prior to GCSE.

Get in Touch

For any questions, contact pat.dugdale@hotmail.co.uk We are also always looking for volunteers to help with the classes - please reach out if you can help!

Music Notices

Music Ensembles Autumn Term

There are a host of music clubs to join at Fortismere. We expect all GCSE and A Level students to play in at least one ensemble and/or join the choir. Students having instrumental lessons should also join an ensemble so they make the most of their private lessons. All the music clubs/ensembles are free but we expect regular attendance - registers are taken every week.

- **Wind Ensemble** will be run by our wind music teacher Mr Norris on Monday lunchtimes in Mu4 starting 21st September. All clarinet, flute, oboe and sax players are welcome.
- **Senior Band** will start this Monday (7th September) at 3.10 to prepare for the Welcome Back Concert which will be on the 1st October.
- **Samba Bateria** will be run by Mr Watson on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Music Hall starting 8th September. Please bring a packed lunch to eat in the Music Hall prior to the rehearsal.
- **Junior Guitar Ensemble** (Years 7 and 8 only) will be run by one of our guitar teachers, Mr Klimiuk in Mu2 on Tuesday lunchtimes starting 22nd September
- **Senior Strings** will start this Wednesday (9th September) at lunch time to prepare for the Welcome Back Concert which will be on the 1st October.
- **Junior Band** will start on Thursday (10th September) at lunch time. It is open to all year 7 and 8 instrumentalists. If you would like to join, please just turn up on Thursday with a packed lunch to eat prior to the rehearsal and your instrument.
- **Music Tech Club** will be run by Mr Cohen on Fridays after school in Mu3, starting 11th September.

Ensembles at Fortismere

	Lunch (1.05–1.50)	After School (3.10–4.20)
Monday	Youth Choir (Y9+) Music Hall Wind Ensemble Mu4	Junior Choir (Y7/8) Music Hall Senior Band Mu2 Year 9+
Tuesday	Samba Music Hall Junior Guitar Ensemble (Y7/8) Mu2	GCSE Coursework Mu3
Wednesday	Senior Strings Music Hall	
Thursday	Junior Band Music Hall	GCSE Coursework Mu3 Music Theory Mu2
Friday		Music Technology Mu3 (2.30–3.20)

Practice Rooms at Fortismere

Students **MUST** ask before using the practice rooms at these times
– knock on the staffroom door or find a member of staff to ask.

	Lunch (1.05–1.50)	After School (3.10–4.20)
Monday	Mu2 and practice rooms along the corridor from Mu2	
Tuesday		Mu2, practice rooms along the corridor from Mu2, 1A & 1B
Wednesday	Mu2 and practice rooms along the corridor from Mu2	
Thursday		Mu2, practice rooms along the corridor from Mu2
Friday	Mu2 and practice rooms along the corridor from Mu2, 1B	

All New Instrumental & Vocal students Information Meeting - Tuesday 8th September

All Year 7s and other new students starting instrumental and vocal lessons for the first time this term should come along **on Tuesday (8th Sept) straight after school to the Music Concert Hall** for a run-through of how the lessons work, see where they take place, and how to get the most out of them. Mr Watson and Ms Morgan will be there to explain it all and answer any questions.

Reminders: Instrumental & Vocal Lessons - Autumn Term

Timetables for all our weekday, after school and Saturday music lessons plus School of Rock will be finalised over the next week or so. All parents/carers will be emailed when the timetables have been published.

- **Year 8 students and above** - please ensure the invoice (on ParentMail) for the termly fees is paid ASAP.
- **New Year 7 students** - you will be sent an invoice for the balance of the termly fees today or early next week via ParentMail.

Please email Ms Izzet (mizzet@fortismere.org.uk) with any queries about invoices. Payment is due by **Friday 11th September**.

Still Places Left For ...

- Harp and Violin lessons (during the school day)
- Piano/Cello lessons on Saturdays
- Tuesday afternoon/evenings - drums/guitar/bass

Email Ms Morgan at mmorgan@fortismere.org.uk if interested in any of the above

Junior and Youth Choir start Monday!

- **Youth Choir** is for Years 9 and up, at lunchtime in the Music Concert Hall.
- **Junior Choir** (Years 7 & 8) is straight after school in the Concert Hall in the Music Block. If you haven't signed up yet, just turn up!

Both choirs will be preparing for the **Welcome Back concert on 1st October**.

Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra - Rehearsals Start Next Week

Our excellent Community Orchestra is starting rehearsals on Tuesday 8th September for our next concert and is inviting any string players who are grade 6+ to join. It's a great programme of Brahms and Beethoven this term. Contact Ms Morgan at mmorgan@fortismere.org.uk if interested in attending a couple of rehearsals on a trial basis.

Drama Department Notices

School of Rock: First Rehearsal

We are back and READY TO ROCK!

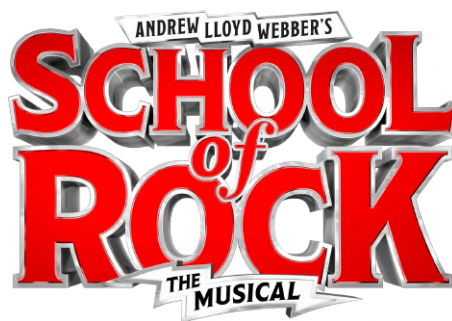
As a reminder, the cast list is up and outside North Wing Hall.

We will be holding our **first rehearsal and welcome session on Monday 7th September in North Wing Hall at 3:15pm**.

Rehearsals will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays and a rehearsal schedule can be found on Google Classroom!

We look forward to welcoming everyone involved!

Year 7's - if you auditioned, you'll be part of the show, so please do come along too!



School of Rock: Backstage and Tech Team

If you would like to be part of the backstage team (and are not already performing in the show), please fill out this form with your preference for the production team. No experience necessary, as we'll teach you what you need to do.

Please read the roles carefully and apply for the ones you like the sound of and do make sure you're logged into your fortismere school account in order to access the form! <https://forms.gle/Si3BGQ23ASZBrjQp7>



Geography Department Notice

Year 11 Geography Trips 11A & 11B - Tuesday 8th September

A reminder that this trip is the one postponed (for Geography classes 10A & 10B) from July 2026 due to the heatwaves. The above classes will now be going on Tuesday 8th September with their Geography teachers (Mr Kelsey and Ms Brough). This trip is the first part of the GCSE Geography compulsory fieldwork and is to investigate how quality of life differs in urban areas. Information collected will then be used as a base for lessons about data presentation and analysis after the fieldwork.

We will remind students that they must check with their other teachers and on Google Classroom to find out what work they will miss in their other subjects on their day out. All students should bring a packed lunch (no nuts please) and wear suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor walking. Please check the forecast the day before. Students should meet at Twyford Avenue gate at 8.35am where they will be registered. All permission and medical forms must be handed in ahead the day of the trip. Students will return to school between 3.10-3.30pm or as close to these times as possible.

Transport will be by London Underground from East Finchley to Kings Cross and then by foot. We return to East Finchley and all students will return with their group to the School at the end of the trip. Students will be dismissed from Twyford Avenue Gate at School and we ask you to be responsible for your child's arrangements home from there.

Sport & PE Notices

New Starts in PE!

Miss Boot is now on maternity leave after giving birth to a beautiful baby girl in the summer. Mr Oliver is our new addition to the PE department - welcome! Ms Vangucci is the new Head of PE. We are looking forward to the new year and the fresh start in the department. At Fortismere we aim for our offer of Physical Education to be inclusive, with a focus on respect, integrity, responsibility, teamwork, resilience and well being. Our vision for all is 'Active minds, healthy bodies, lifelong habits'.

PE Clubs Timetable

Please have a look at the PE Clubs Timetable (attached to this newsletter). It is a very comprehensive list of sports and activities available at lunch time and after school. Most of the clubs are free to attend - just turn up in the right place at the right time with the right PE kit.

Boxing Club and Martial Arts will need signing up to and have a fee. Volleyball is new on Mondays in the Sports Hall and Dance is back - with an excellent teacher from Step into Dance on a Thursday in South Wing Hall.

PE Kit Policy

At Fortismere we do not have a uniform but we do have a PE kit. This is for safety, hygiene, identity within the borough and in Middlesex when competing. The kit comprises a t- shirt, shorts or tracksuit/sports leggings and suitable footwear for the activity. All year groups have to adhere to our policy including Year 11 students.

If your child forgets all or part of their kit for a PE lesson they will receive a negative point, if they forget it a second time they will receive a break or lunch time detention and after a third time will be a detention after school and an email home. We will lend out kit for those that forget. New kit can be purchased via the link on the school website and second hand kit can be purchased from the school office. If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact the PE department.

Please email or send a written note addressed to your child's PE teacher if they are unable to take part in a lesson due to illness or injury.

Friends of Fortismere

Welcome & Annual General Meeting - Thursday 10th September 7.00pm SW Hall

You're warmly invited to this year's Friends of Fortismere Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 10 September in the South Wing Hall from 7.00pm. We will have a bar that opens at 7pm so come along beforehand for a drink and a chat with other parents and committee members. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

It's a great chance to catch up with familiar faces and meet new ones, hear about everything we got up to over the past year, and find out what's planned for the year ahead. We'll also run through the finances, so you can see exactly where the funds have gone and the difference they've made.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or just curious about what the Friends of Fortismere does, we'd love to see you there.

Best wishes,

The Friends of Fortismere Committee

Email: friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

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.

