

School Leadership Messages	Contents		
Identifying and Supporting Young Carers Please check your recent Parentmail regarding support for students with caring responsibilities at home. A young carer is any young person who helps look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, mental health, or addiction. We want to ensure these students receive any extra support or flexibility they might need at school. If your child has caring duties, please review the letter or reach out to us in confidence at safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk. School Photo Day: Friday 9th October Fizz Photography will be visiting us next Friday, 9th October to take individual photos of all students in Years 7 to 11. Please remind your child so they come to school prepared. Photos will take place by year group throughout the day: P1: Year 7 P2: Year 10 P3: Year 8 P4: Year 11 P5: Year 9 Details on how to order and purchase copies will be shared soon. We Value Your Feedback! We are always keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please take a moment to share your views via the "Leave Feedback at Fortismere" form - linked on the right hand side of this page	Headteacher's Message		
	School & Departmental News & Notices		
	Safeguarding Information		
	Calendar		
	06-08 /10	Open Mornings for Y6 Parents/Carers	
	08/10	Music Concert 6pm NW Music Hall	
	09/10	School Photos Y7-11	
Leave Feedback at Fortismere here			
Introducing Urban Stargazing with our new regular Science Department feature!			
<i>Discover what's visible in the N10 night sky this week - starting with Saturn. See inside for more details</i>			

Headteacher's Message
Many of you will remember that last year we spent a great deal of time articulating who we believe Fortismere is and what we stand for. Quite a few parents joined that conversation alongside our staff and students, which ultimately led to a shared articulation of our vision. Having gathered ideas from across our student body and staff team, we decided that the phrase "A Place To Belong, A Place To Achieve" truly describes who we are and what we stand for. It articulates both our

purpose and the daily culture of our school, expressed through our key values: Be ambitious, be curious, be creative, be yourself. If you have been past the school recently, you will have seen these expressions proudly displayed on the banner outside advertising our Open Evening!

Speaking of Open Evening, I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who joined us this week. We had a really wonderful evening with our community, welcoming parents and families who joined us from far and wide across North London to see everything Fortismere has to offer.

It was a joy to watch the school truly come alive. Throughout the evening, visitors had the opportunity to watch thrilling science experiments, try on an 'invisibility cloak' in our computing suite, take in energetic sports demonstrations and enjoy incredible live music performances. They were also able to talk about learning while looking at our 3D printers in action and enjoy delicious, freshly baked cheese scones. During the event, our Year 8 students were exceptionally impressive. Serving as ambassadors for our school and leading tours around the campus, they received overwhelming praise and wonderful feedback from our visitors. We could not be prouder of them!

Looking ahead, we know that many families will be joining us for our three upcoming Open Mornings. I am also very much looking forward to visiting a number of local primary schools this week to talk to prospective parents and answer questions about Fortismere, its recent successes and its bright future.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful weekend!

Building the Future at Fortismere

School Rebuild Project Update

As part of our commitment to keeping our community fully informed, we wanted to share a brief update on our ongoing School Rebuild Project.

While we are still currently towards the end of Phase 1, we want to reassure all parents and carers that the project is very much underway. It is a hugely exciting time for Fortismere, and while we don't have a full timeline finalised just yet, this academic year will see some key milestones on the horizon. Here is a glimpse of what you can expect over the coming school year:

- **Design Unveiling:** Sometime during this school year, we expect to share the actual designs of what our new facilities will really look like.
- **DfE Consultation & Engagement:** There will be an opportunity for our whole school community to engage directly with representatives from the Department for Education (DfE) during a public meeting, which we anticipate will take place during this academic year.
- **Potential Temporary Facilities:** As part of the rebuild process, there is a possibility that we may move into temporary facilities at some point during construction. While nothing is confirmed yet, we will share exact details as soon as plans are finalized. One thing we *do* know for sure is that the high-quality temporary classrooms provided by the DfE in these scenarios are actually a step up from some of our current spaces, so we would be genuinely excited to use them!
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** This once-in-a-generation investment through the DfE School Rebuilding Programme will deliver modern, high-spec learning environments across our 20-acre site to support our students all the way through to GCSE, A level and beyond.

We will continue to share developments as we have them. Thank you for your continued support.

Science Department Notice

Night Skies Over Muswell Hill

As we head into the long dark nights, stargazing becomes much easier and even in the light-polluted skies of N10 there are plenty of things to see with the naked eye, cheap binoculars or a small aperture telescope. This term we will be keeping you updated with regular suggestions of easily observable astronomy targets you don't have to leave London to see.

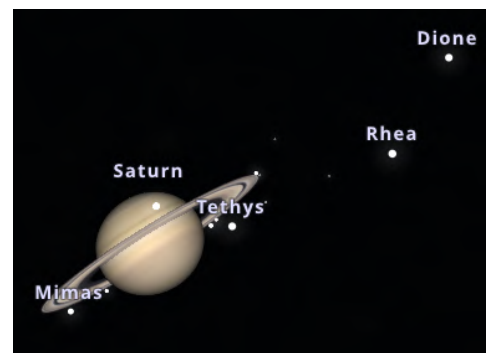
4th October 2026: Saturn reaches opposition

Good bet that Saturn is your favourite planet and this week is an especially good time to see it.

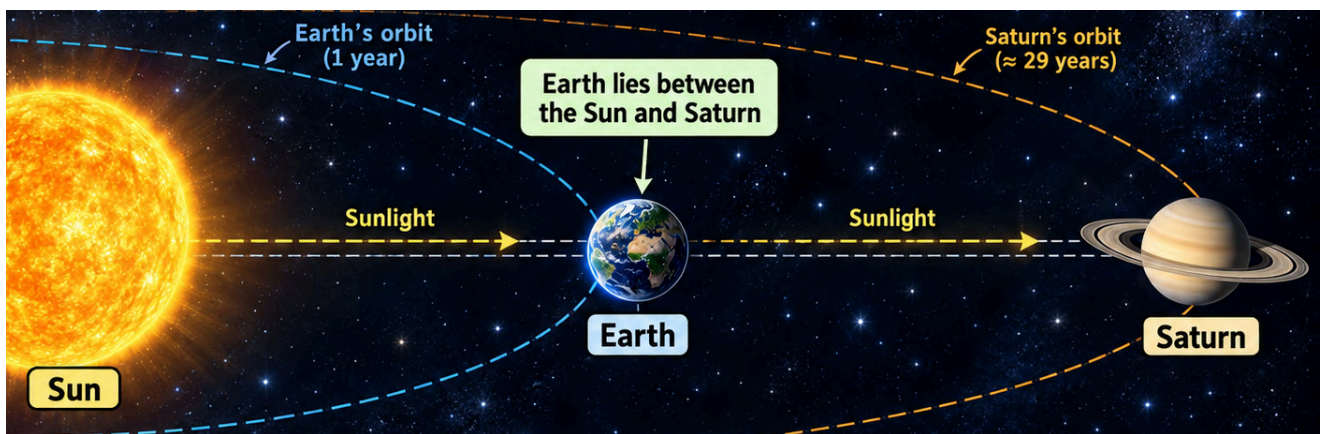
Planets are a great target in cities because of their bright magnitudes. When a planet reaches opposition it will be especially bright with a full phase visible, and when it's Saturn that means a great view of the ring system. Also in our favour on this date, the Moon is into its last quarter reducing moonlight glare and making skies darker.

Viewing with the naked eye: Looking into the south eastern sky at around 10pm, it will comfortably be the brightest object in that sector of the sky and easily visible in Muswell Hill.

Viewing with a small telescope: A magnification of x100 or above is going to make the rings visible and the larger moons (illustrated in the picture to the right). Just don't expect Hubble Space Telescope images like the one above! A larger telescope will allow you to resolve some of the ring system with more detail.



What is opposition?



A planet is in opposition when Earth lies directly between the Sun and the planet. This is the best time to observe a planet both in terms of the full phase being visible and also at convenient times that don't require early morning starts. When the Moon is in opposition it is in its Full Moon phase where the maximum surface area is visible. A truly perfect opposition results in a lunar eclipse.

Enjoy the N10 night skies this week, and keep an eye out for other suggestions in future Newsletters.

Sport & PE Notices

Senior Football Team Kicks Off Their Season

Our new senior football team launched their season this week in a hard-fought Middlesex U18 Cup match against St Thomas More. Despite a tight contest with few chances, it ended in a 0–2 defeat to STM. The team's effort couldn't be faulted, and performance is sure to build as the squad gels together.



Congratulations to Harrison Hilditch, who has been named as our team captain for the season! Next up, the boys head to Lea Valley School for a crucial Brigg up group stage match this week. Best of luck team!

Borough Cross Country Championships 2026

A huge congratulations to all our students who competed in the Haringey Borough Cross Country Event on Monday afternoon.



Facing warm weather and dry, hard ground, everyone pushed through and performed brilliantly - especially those who stepped in at very short notice.

A quick note for future fixtures: To help us field full scoring teams please always inform your PE teacher as early as possible if you cannot or no longer wish to take part. This allows us to offer the opportunity to a replacement runner.

Full results are listed below:

GIRLS RESULTS

	APS	Channing	Fortismere	Gladesmore	Heartlands	HGW	Highgate	STM
Year 7	4 th	1 st	2 nd	No Team	5 th	3 rd	No Team	6 th
Year 8	1 st	4 th	3 rd	5 th	2 nd	No Team	No Team	6 th
Year 9	3 rd	No Team	2 nd	No Team	4 th	1 st	No Team	5 th
Year 10/11	2 nd	No Team	3 rd	4 th	5 th	No Team	1 st	6 th

BOYS RESULTS

	APS	Fortismere	Gladesmore	Heartlands	HGW	Highgate	STM
Year 7	1 st	No Team	2 nd	4 th	No Team	No Team	3 rd
Year 8	3 rd	2 nd	No Team	No Team	1 st	4 th	5 th
Year 9	3 rd	2 nd	No Team	1 st	No Team	No Team	4 th
Year 10/11	5 th	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	6 th	7 th

Thank You to Our PE Volunteers

A huge thank you to all our fantastic student volunteers who helped showcase the PE Department at Wednesday's Open Evening! You did a brilliant job demonstrating our sports and activities to prospective Year 7 students and their families.

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 5th October	Haringey Boys Table Tennis Competition at APS 3.30pm-5.00pm Year 8 Boys v HGW at Home U16 Middlesex Cup v Ashmole at Away
Tuesday 6th October	Girls U13 Middlesex Cup v Lea Valley School at Away
Wednesday 7th October	Haringey Girls Table Tennis Competition at APS 3.30pm-5.00pm

Drama Department Notices

Into the Wild at Inter-School Drama Festival



We held our annual Inter-School Drama Festival this week, and what a brilliant afternoon it was. Around 50 students from across Year 7-13 participated in the festival, coming together to devise a short performance from scratch around the stimulus: Into the Wild.

Each of the four teams, led and directed by many of our A Level Drama students, spent a couple of hours creatively exploring their ideas and interpretations of the theme before performing in the final half an hour of the evening, where visiting Year 6s and their families stopped by to watch. It was fantastic to see the varying interpretations of the theme in action through each unique performance. We loved the diversity! Congratulations and well done to everyone involved, and to the winning team!

School of Rock at South Wing...Rehearsals Continued!



We've had a good set of rehearsals in South Wing this week, and though we have been missing our usual rehearsal spaces, it's been great to be kept on our toes as actors (isn't that what it's about?) and get to rehearse on the field. We also had our Marketing Team in rehearsal this week planning the marketing campaign. They came up with some amazing ideas which you'll soon see released...we are excited for that!

Thank you to all the students for adapting to the changes, for their commitment and attendance, for bringing enthusiasm to rehearsals, and to our Assistant Directors for all their hard work and input!

Half Term at NYT : Play in a Week

Create a 'play in a week'; a completely devised show based on the work created by the young people in the room and then performed in the NYT Theatre on Friday!

There are two age groups: 11-14 and 14-17 - Each group will devise a show. It is a great opportunity for anyone interested in theatre to perform and create a show and also get a taste of the National Youth Theatre, ahead of an audition.

Tickets are available to book here for 11-14s: [Book Now – October Half term Drama Club 'Play in a week' 11-14s 2026 – National Youth Theatre](#)

Tickets are available to book here for 14-17s: [Book Now – October Half term Drama Club 'Play in a week' 14-17s 2026 – National Youth Theatre](#)

Bursary applications here: <https://form.jotform.com/262512546070350>

Music Department Notice

New Date for the Welcome Concert - Thursday 8th October

All welcome to come and see the amazing range of musical talent at Fortismere! Performances from the Junior and Youth Choirs, Big Band, Samba, vocal and instrumental soloists and more. Tickets are now on sale from our website [here](#) or on the door. The bar will be open from 5.30 pm. All ticket and bar proceeds help support our music activities and music equipment.

Co-Curricular Activities

Chess Club Needs You!

A reminder that Chess Club meets on Monday to Thursday lunchtime in S05 with Mr Renner. Encourage your child to come along and try it out if they've not been before. All levels and all years are welcome.

Friends of Fortismere

Fortismere Funfair & Laser Show - Thursday 5th November 5pm-9pm - Save the Date!

Fortismere Funfair: Back with a New Laser & Quiet Fireworks Show! Join us on the Field from 5pm, with the show starting at 8pm. In response to local feedback, we're excited to try this exciting new format! Please save the date—ticket sales and volunteer requests are coming soon.

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.

