



High hopes: Fortismere boys' U13 table tennis team Noah Hacking, Sam Gabriel, Ishay Haim and Cody Sweet Purcell. Photo by Stewart Orton

## Table tennis boys storm into final

By Stewart Orton

**Fortismere School's under-13 boys' table tennis team defied Storm Ciara last month to head off to the West Country to compete in the Table Tennis England national schools championship. They had already performed amazingly just to reach the final 16 schools in the country.**

In their South regional final in Bristol, they were up against last year's beaten finalists, Hampshire's Westgate, Midlands champions John Hampden and independent school Millfield, so they knew they were in for a tough day.

After some professional performances in a run of tense

victories throughout the day, Fortismere's final opponents were Millfield, a specialist sporting independent school with a fantastic sports reputation.

With the echoes of an inspirational team talk still ringing in their ears, the Fortismere boys went into the game on fire and

raced to a half-way 3-1 lead before repeating that in the second round of matches to storm through 6-2.

Their victory means they are now one of the best four schools in the country and will compete for the national title in Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Saturday 14 March. Good luck, Fortismere!



Wow factor: The Archer Academy dance team who impressed the Barnet judges.

## Dance team brings home gold

Archer Academy students from years 10 & 11 danced their way to first place at the annual Barnet Dance Competition in January, the fourth year in a row the school had taken home gold medals. The judges said they were "transfixed" all of the way through the Archer Academy students' performance, so much so that they hadn't been able to look down to write any comments.

They will now go on to fly the flag for East Finchley and represent Barnet at the London finals later this month. Well done to the whole team!

## Kids go inside out to highlight mental health

Children and staff at Highgate Primary School, along with the school dog Horace, enthusiastically took part in Inside Out Day on Thursday 6 February as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

Everyone wore items of clothing 'inside out' to inspire everyone to stop and think about how appearances can be deceptive. Although someone may look fine on the outside, on the inside they may be feeling sad or worried so the aim was to remind everyone to be kind.

Teacher Billie-Jean Daniels said: "I am thrilled by the children's response to Inside Out Day; throughout the school,

it has ignited conversations around children's mental health and raised awareness of some of the problems faced by young people today."

In 2017 Highgate Primary School's pastoral care model won The Guardian Public Service Awards for Health and Wellbeing. Drama therapy is also in place for children, thanks to a three-year grant from BBC Children in Need.



Your label's showing: Pupils and staff dress inside out and back-to-front at Highgate Primary, with PHSE leader Billie-Jean Daniels, headteacher William Dean and Horace the school dog.

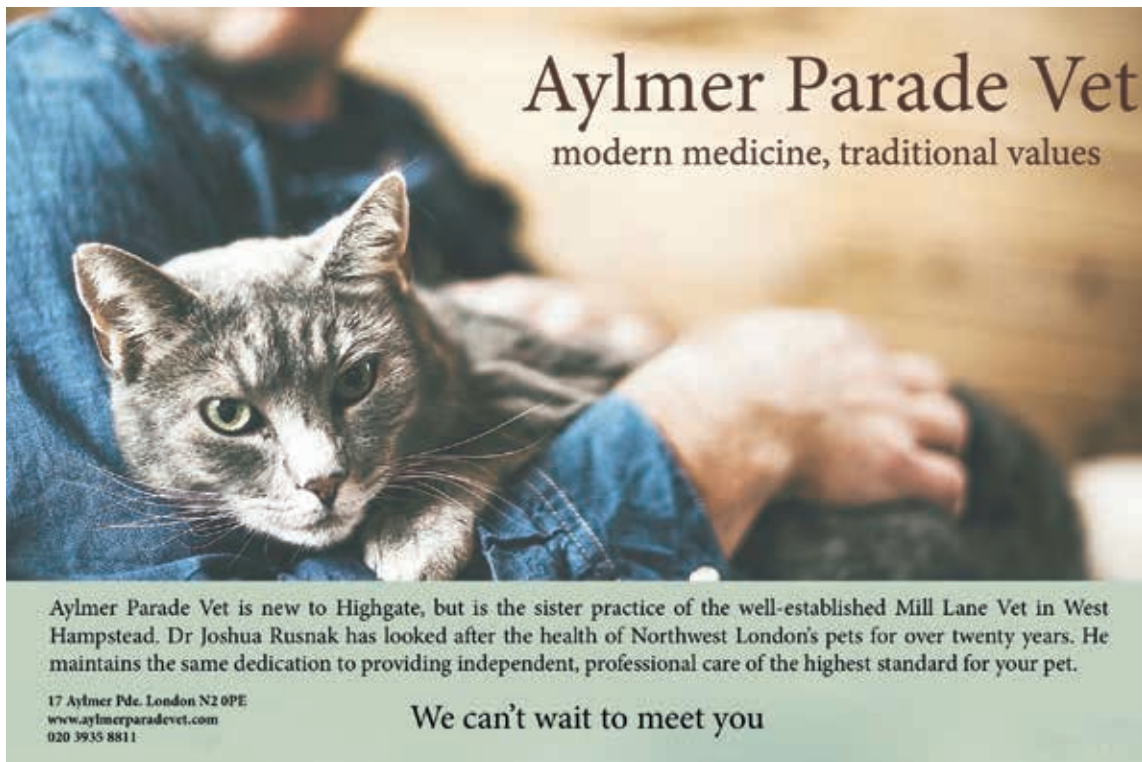
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