

Weekly Update: Monday 17th October - Friday 21st October 2016

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NEXT WEEK

Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October **Half Term**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 31 st October	INSET Day
Tuesday 1 st November	Start of Term 2 (Week 2)
Friday 4 th November	Debate Club with the Prime Minister (11am - 11.45am)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



NEWS FLASH

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT FPSS DEBATE CLUB



Prime Minister Theresa May will be the guest of the school's Debate Club on Friday 4th November, from 11-11.45am. Mrs May will give a short talk then take questions.

Yr11

PRE-PUBLIC EXAMS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Yr11

[Home](#) > [Parents](#) > [Exam Information](#)

We are entering a very important time for Year 11s, as they prepare to excel in next summer's GCSE exams. Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) are a crucial part of that preparation both testing students' progress across their different subjects and familiarising them with the rigours of exam papers and the environment of the exam hall.

Please see below for a letter with key dates and schedule of arrangements.

Mr J Sheppard (Assistant Headteacher)

PPE KEY DATES & SCHEDULE OF ARRANGEMENTS

“
'Pupils at this school achieve highly.'
- OFSTED 2016
”

Yr9

VISIT TO WWI BATTLEFIELDS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

19-23 JULY 2017

Yr10

Places are now available for the annual Years 9 and 10 visit to France and Belgium. During this exciting trip, we will visit the First World War battlefields in Ypres (Belgium) and the Somme (France), and take part in the famous Last Post commemorations. We will also have lots of opportunities to practise our French, including during a town trail at St Omer and while visiting a market at Desvres. We will enjoy learning about the life cycle of the snail at L'Esgargoterie de Choquel, before devouring some of the slimy delicacies (purely optional, but most students do choose to!), and will also try our hand at making sweets at Besouac sweet factory. The trip is particularly suitable for GCSE French and History students in both Years 9 and 10, but is open to those not studying these subjects too. The cost of £395 covers just about everything, including food, travel and accommodation in a nice hotel outside Ypres. The only things not covered by the cost are presents for parents (Belgian chocolate is a favourite; waffles don't travel so well). Although the closing date is Friday 15th November, this trip is always popular and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Further details including the trip letter and consent form can be found below.

[VISIT TO FRANCE AND BELGIUM LETTER](#)

The Raising Achievement team have just finished delivering a series of sessions on study skills to Year 11 during the past few weeks. This is to help them prepare for their GCSEs next year by equipping them with:-

A revision timetable that is adaptable to them individually and their needs and commitments.

How to revise: – teaching students the skills required to devise revision notes according to their own learning styles.

They have each been given a revision timetable to take home and use. Please ask them about this, how it's been set up and how it works.

If you would like any further information or have any queries, please contact:

Mrs D Slater, Senior Learning Mentor

debbie.slater@furzplatt.net

Extension 127

“
'Teachers use a wide range of techniques to help students expand and challenge their thinking.'
 -OFSTED 2016
 ”



SCHOOL NEWS



NETBALL TEAM UNDEFEATED IN RBWM TOURNAMENT



Many congratulations to our Year 7 netball team, successful at the RBWM Netball Tournament last night.

Well done to the team - A Gambrell – GK, P Butler – GD, M Garner – WA/WD/C, H Britton – C, E Peacock – WA, D Hellings – GA, H Thomas – GS, A Roberts – WD/WA, I Annereau – WD.

Winning 6 games and drawing 1, the girls were undefeated in the tournament and won their pool.



We are working with Fizz-Yearbooks, the UK's premier supplier of Yearbooks, and are eagerly anticipating what is sure to be a wonderful keepsake for the students to treasure throughout the rest of their lives.

We are currently in the process of collecting information, portraits, photographs, comments and memories that will fill the pages of the Yearbook. The finished book is sure to bring back many happy memories for years to come, and is the perfect way of capturing all of those priceless moments from the school years that have flown by so quickly. The professional designers at Fizz are putting together a bespoke Yearbook for us, based entirely on the students' input and ideas that will be unique to the Furze Platt Senior School Leavers of 2017.

All of the students now have the opportunity to purchase a Yearbook. It is essential that their orders are placed in plenty of time so that they don't miss out. There will only be one print run; students will not be able to place orders after. The cost for a Yearbook is £24. Payment can be made by cash or cheque and all cheques should be made payable to Furze Platt Senior School. Alternatively, you may pay by electronic transfer to Sort Code 309536, Account Number 42740560. Please label any electronic transfers with 'Yearbk' and your child's name.

If you would like to buy a Yearbook please ensure your child hands in full payment by Friday 4th November 2016. Unfortunately we will not be able to place any further orders after this date. Yearbooks will be available to order from Sick Bay at break times. Completed Yearbooks will then be available for collection in May 2017.

Miss L Lewis (KS 4- 5 Transition Coordinator)

“
'The quality of teaching and learning is strong.'
 - OFSTED 2016
 ”



SIXTH FORM RUGBY TEAM BEAT THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL



Great result by our Sixth Form rugby team who comprehensively beat The Piggott School (Wargrave) 15-0 last night.

Special mention to our try scorers B Williams (x 2) & T O'Donohue.



MY PGL TRIP

OSMINGTON BAY OCTOBER 2016

By Edwin Isted (Year 7)

My name is Edwin, I'm 11 and I'd like to tell you about my experience at PGL Osmington Bay.

I was so excited to get there and find out who I was in a dorm with and I was really pleased because I got everyone I asked for in my dorm.

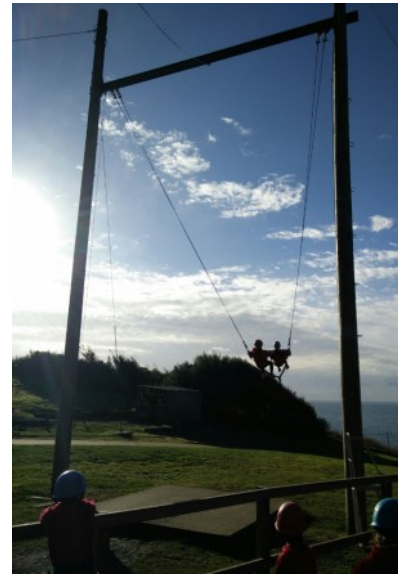
Activities – which were brilliant! Abseiling * Climbing * Indoor Climbing * Giant Swing * Trapeze * Jacob's Ladder * Archery * Zipwire. My highlights were the giant swing and going the highest you could go, and abseiling.

At PGL the choice of food was outstanding and the variety was more than ample. On the second evening we had a really big disco in the evening and I made new friends and got to know my friends a bit better. We were all being really funny and my friends and I were all getting along really well.

When we were there the weather was great but on the second day we were halfway through our third activity and it started pouring down with rain. Whilst this happened I was midway through archery. It was funny because when someone fired an arrow it would go everywhere but where you aimed it. For the rest of the trip it was sunny and bright and the rest of the weather couldn't have been any better.

It was really fun being at PGL and I think if I ever get another chance to go I'll jump up and take it because PGL is an awesome experience and if you ever get a chance to go, do go because you won't regret it.

PGL is the best in my opinion.



Our Years 10 and 11 students produced the amazing bread products pictured here. Well done to all involved and thank you to all the students who were in Food and Nutrition for the afternoon and evening who produced these and supported the department with other food related activities during the evening.

Mrs S Crisford (Head of Food & Nutrition)



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'Pupils value knowing that teachers will go out of their way to help them.'

- OFSTED 2016

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POPPY COLLECTION

As November is approaching, your house captains will be coming round after half term during form time to hand out poppies and collect your donations. Please expect them on the following days:

Tuesday 1st November - Henley and Bray

Thursday 3rd November - Dorney and Windsor

Friday 4th November - Eton and Bisham

Monday 7th November - Marlow and Cookham

This is for a good cause, please don't forget!

Many thanks

Sophie Hurst (Year 13)



I would like to invite you to an informational session about a potential two week expedition to Indonesia in summer 2018 to help with biodiversity surveys run by Operation Wallacea. The presentation will be given on Tuesday 8th November at 6.00pm in the Main Hall and is open to Year 11 and 12, but any student interested in biology, ecology and conservation is welcome to attend.

For their first week, students will be based in the endemic-rich rainforests of Buton Island in South-East Sulawesi. Here they will help scientists and academics collect data on biodiversity, which will be used to measure how well the forests are being protected under their proposed conservation management strategies. They will complete jungle survival skills training and help take part in various surveys such as forest measurement (to quantify the amount of carbon stored), butterfly surveys, bird point count surveys, herpetofauna surveys (conducting both pit line surveys and spotlight searches), large mammal and bird surveys (looking for macaques, hornbills, anoa and wild pig) and bat surveys. They will also complete a course on the Ecology of the Wallacea Forests and have the chance to learn how to access the canopy with a half day training course from the Canopy Access Ltd team.

For the second week the group will be based in either Bau Bau or Hoga. This is at the centre of the Coral Triangle – the most diverse reef systems in the world. Here they will learn to dive to PADI Open Water level, or if they are already dive-trained or just wish to snorkel, complete an Indo Pacific reef ecology course. The reef ecology course will cover the importance of the marine environment, along with underwater.

It is also possible to use the expedition to gain extra UCAS points by doing an EPQ, and the expedition covers key aspects of biology and geography syllabuses. In addition, if they are applying for UK universities then they automatically qualify by completing the expedition for a University Award that can be included on their UCAS form.

We estimate the total cost of the expedition to be approximately £2770. This price includes participation in the Operation Wallacea programme, flights, internal travel, park fees, reef fees, PADI Manual and dive hire.

Operation Wallacea have a professional fundraising team who can visit and help the school group raise a substantial proportion of the total sum needed.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Dr M Scott (Head of Science) and Mr A Molin (Head of Henley House)



Halloween 2016

A Police message for parents from PC Graham Slater
Safer Schools Partnership Officer



REMINDERS



CURRENT VACANCIES

[Home](#) > [Vacancies](#) > [Current Vacancies](#)

[Full Time Assistant Site Controller](#)

OFSTED REPORT 2016

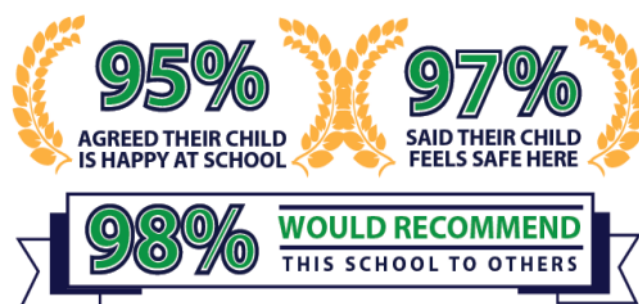
I am delighted to attach a copy (below) of the latest report from the recent Ofsted inspection which judges Furze Platt Senior School to be a 'Good' school. The report highlights the many strengths of our school, and praises the achievements and behaviour of students as well the effectiveness of teaching and leadership.

We are all extremely pleased with the report which recognises us as the high achieving and successful school we work so hard to be. Staff and students deserve to be very proud.

The many strengths identified include:

- 'Pupils in this school achieve highly'
- 'The quality of teaching and learning is strong. Teachers' strong subject knowledge and good behaviour management skills help pupils to learn effectively'
- Pupils are supported well by high quality verbal and written feedback which is clearly focused on the particular needs of the individual'
- Teachers use a wide range of techniques to help students expand and challenge their thinking'
- 'Good behaviour in lessons contributes to good learning'
- 'The behaviour of pupils is good in lessons and around school. Pupils are smart, polite and mature [and] are supportive of each other'
- 'Teachers and pastoral leaders have created a happy community where pupils are respectful of each other's views and opinions. Pupils value knowing that teachers will go out of their way to help them'
- 'Teaching in the Sixth Form is consistently good... students made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects [and] are excellent role models for younger pupils... the proportion of A* and A grades has also increased.'

Thank you to everyone who filled in the Ofsted questionnaire:



95% of respondents agreed their child was happy at this school; 97% said their child feels safe here and an overwhelming 98% of you would recommend this school to others.

Mr Gavin Tisshaw, Chair of Governors, writes on behalf of the Governing Body: 'We are pleased that findings from the recent Ofsted visit clearly demonstrate what a good school Furze Platt Senior School truly is. The commitment and support of teachers, staff, students, parents and governors alike continue to make this a safe, successful, inclusive and ambitious comprehensive school.'

As ever, we remain committed to securing the best possible education for all our students and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms T White (Headteacher)

[OFSTED REPORT 2016](#)



REPORTS AVAILABLE



[Home](#) > [Parents](#) > [Reports](#)

Please be advised that the Year 11 and 13 October Progress Reports for your children are now available via our online reporting service. The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on Parents>Reports and the "Go 4 Schools' Login Page' link, or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com. Please click [here](#) for instructions to log on. Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net. If you have any questions regarding your child's performance, please speak with their teacher. If you have any specific concerns regarding your son's or daughter's progress, please contact their subject teacher. For any general questions, please contact Mr Sheppard for Years 7-11 or Mr Dollery for Sixth Form.

Ms Watford (M.I.S. Manager)

HALLOWEEN MESSAGE

We hope you have a very enjoyable half term break and Halloween.

Please can you remind students that they must remove all hair dye, nail varnish etc. before coming back to school on Tuesday 1st November.

Thank you.

CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

We will be holding our Careers and Higher Education Fair on Thursday 24th November, from 6pm to 8pm, for students in Year 9 and above and their parents. We already have a large number of participants there, representing a wide variety of different careers, but are always keen to include more. If any parent would like to be part of the evening by coming along to represent their type of career, or can suggest someone who might be willing to do so, please contact judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net.

Thank you.

SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE EXPECTATIONS

As you may have read in our latest Ofsted report, Furze Platt's Sixth Formers are described as 'excellent role models for younger pupils'.

We take great pride in our 6th Form, however, we have noticed that our dress code rules are not being adhered to by a few of our students. Please ensure your son/daughter is aware of the school dress code and dresses appropriately. As from Monday 17th October, any student who persistently does not adhere to our expectations will be sent home to change into more appropriate clothing. Students are also expected to wear their lanyard at all times while on the school site.

Our dress code expectations are:

Male: smart shoes, smart trousers, shirt, tie and jacket.

Female: smart shoes, smart trousers or skirt, blouse, jacket. Skirts should not be too short and tops not too low.

The full dress code, including those items not permitted, can be found in the students' planner and are in the link below for your reference.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr J Dollery (Head of Sixth Form)

[SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE](#)



Half Term Sway Dance Challenge! **All Abilities Welcome!**

Friday 28th October 2016
Furze Platt Community Leisure Centre

Come down and show us your dance production and receive;

- **A Professional Dance Lesson From Sway!**

£5 per team to enter

Contact furzeplatt@legacyleisure.org.uk or 01628 308296 to register your entry!

Performances held between 10am - 12noon to dance in front of our professional Sway team!

Prizes to be won!

All entries will receive a group professional dance lesson on Friday 28th October 2016
12.30pm - 2.30pm
*T & C's apply!

Need to practice your routine?

Come down to Furze Platt Community Leisure Centre and use our Dance Studio!

Mirrors and Music! Perfect space to perfect your performance!

£1 per person per hour - to book your hour contact furzeplatt@legacyleisure.org.uk or
01628 308296

*Practice sessions are unsupervised under 8's need to be supervised by an adult.
*T & C's apply