

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #54.8



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

You will have heard the news earlier in the week that Ms White will be leaving us at the end of the Summer this year. It was with mixed emotions that, on behalf of governors, I recently accepted her resignation. Mixed because as a then new Year 7 parent I remember her arrival some 14 years ago and have seen the school go from strength to strength under her leadership ever since. So I personally (as indeed will many of you) will be sorry to see Ms White leave.

The school is very fortunate however to have in place excellent and committed governors, senior leaders, teachers and support staff covering all aspects of our community. We are about to embark on a £7 Million + building and expansion plan including a significant upgrade to our dining facilities which should be of tremendous benefit to both current and future students when completed.

This means that we now need to find an exceptional new Head to lead the school forward over the next few years. Rest assured that the process to find such an individual is underway. Our aim is to be offering the position to the right person by the end of the first week back after the Easter holidays for a start in September. Should any of you know of such a person do please ask them to contact the school for further information as word of mouth can often be the best form of advertising.

As soon as we have any further news for you I will be in touch.

Gavin Tisshaw, Chair of Governors

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - SENT ON 26TH FEBRUARY

I am writing to inform you that I have taken the decision to retire from my post this summer (August 2018). The decision has been an extremely difficult one but after fourteen years of headship I feel that it is time for me to step down.



It has been a privilege to be the Headteacher of Furze Platt Senior School and I am very proud of what we have achieved. However, I know that much of our success is



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ALL EVENTS
- SPORTS CALENDAR
- SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

Next Week (Week 2)

TUE 6 MARCH	PTFA AGM	6pm - 7pm
THU 8 MARCH	Year 10 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events

THU 15 MARCH	Year 7 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 16 MARCH	Late school start	9.10am

down to the highly talented and committed staff and governors at the school and I am very confident that the school's future is in safe hands.

The process to appoint a new Headteacher is already underway and Mr Tisshaw, Chair of Governors, has provided parents with more information in the article above.

I would like to reassure you that I remain wholeheartedly committed to the school and will work as hard and as passionately in maintaining our high standards in the last few months as I always have.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the unwavering support that you have provided for your sons and daughters, for the school and for me. It is very much appreciated. Furze Platt Senior School is a very special place and I am confident that this is a fantastic opportunity for a new Headteacher.

Ms T White, Headteacher

ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2018

We are delighted to announce we have a full complement of students for September from our highest ever number of applications. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead handle all applications and will require responses by Friday 16th March 2018.

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING
Thursday 8th March 2018, 4.15pm – 7.15pm



On Thursday 8th March there will be a consultation evening for Year 10 parents.

We request that parents limit conversation to a maximum of five minutes with each member of staff. If you feel that you need to have a more in depth discussion, please would you make a separate appointment with the individual teacher. Attendance by your son/daughter is not compulsory.

Parents who book up first will have the most flexibility. If you do not have easy access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

Please follow the Parents' Evening Bookings link under News and Events on the school website, or click on the link below:

BOOK APPOINTMENTS

Appointment slots are available to book from 6pm on Tuesday evening (27th February) and will very quickly fill up. We advise you to book as soon as possible. Please note that one teacher will cover the three sciences (and will appear under Biology).

If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes,

Mr J Sheppard, Deputy Headteacher

IMPORTANT GCSE DRAMA DATES AND INFORMATION



I am writing to inform you of some important dates for our GCSE Drama students. These are different for students in my class and Miss Satterthwaite's class – please see the letters below for the specific dates your son/daughter needs to attend.

Thank you.

Mrs A Bradley, Head of Drama

DRAMA LETTER FOR CLASS 11C1 - MRS BRADLEY

DRAMA LETTER FOR CLASS 11B1 - MISS SATTERTHWAITE

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD INFORMATION



Your child will shortly be nearing the end of their three month section. When participants have completed the minimum time requirements and achieved their goals, the DofE requires a written report, which is a record of their progress. This is called an Assessor's Report, and it is mandatory in order to complete each section.

With this in mind, please access the Assessor Report pack in the link below, which gives information about how to approach the Assessor to complete the report.

You will also see a link for the Expedition Information Pack, detailing the necessary information for the upcoming expedition.

Please note, that in order for your child to attend the expedition and ultimately complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award, the assessor's report for the three month sections must be submitted, and payment for the Award must be received in full.

If you have not already done so, please pay your outstanding balance on Box Office, which can be accessed via the school's website. BXM will shortly be invoicing us for the expedition, therefore we require full payment from you no later than Friday 9th March. If we have not received full payment by this date, unfortunately we cannot permit your child to attend the expedition.

I would be grateful if you could complete and the enclosed Medical Consent form as soon as possible. These can be handed into reception, and we require them no later than Friday 2nd March.

Please read the information carefully. For any information regarding the Assessor Reports contact Desrene Carty at desrene.carty@furzeplatt.net; for any information regarding the expedition contact Leigh Rose, from BXM at leigh@bxmexpeditions.co.uk.

BRONZE BXM MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

BRONZE ASSESSOR REPORT PACK

BRONZE EXPEDITION PACK

SILVER BXM MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

SILVER ASSESSOR REPORT PACK

SILVER EXPEDITION PACK



SCHOOL NEWS

NETBALL CLUB



Last Thursday (22nd February) we had over 60 girls participating in Netball Club. We look forward to an equally successful club next week when the weather will hopefully be less bitterly cold.



FURZE PLATT STUDENTS EXCEL AT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Last weekend there were two significant England Athletics Championships in which our students were very successful.

England Indoor Athletics Age Group Championships – Sheffield EIS

Orla Brennan (Year 11) – Silver medal U17 300m – 39.56 sec. This time puts Orla 13th on the UK All Time indoor 300m performances by an U17 athlete.

Harrison Thorne (Year 11) – Bronze medal U17 High Jump – 1.89m (both pictured).



English National XC Championships – Parliament Hill, London

Frank McGrath (Year 8) – 51st out of 570 runners in the U13 National XC Championships.

The following students competed in the XC race on Saturday 18th February with Ben Reynolds and Frank McGrath winning in their categories and Beth Murray finishing in 3rd place. Well done to all students involved in the races (which were held on a particularly cold and muddy racecourse).

- Beth Murray
- Imogen Shaw
- Frank McGrath
- Euan Russell
- Nick Holdsworth
- Callum Bleazard
- Sid Baker Smith
- Louie Seamons
- Kensa Horner
- Ben Reynolds

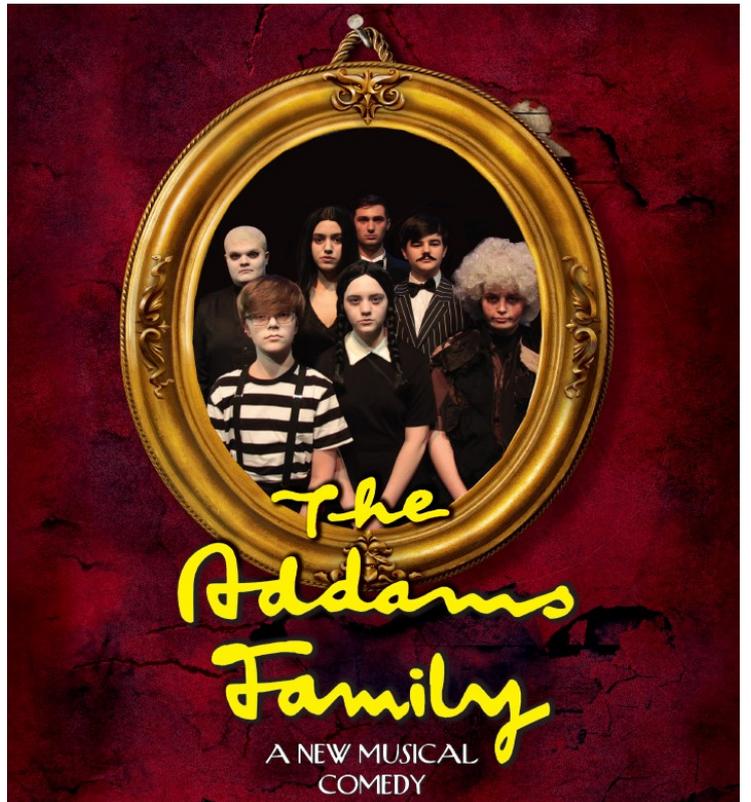
YEAR 12 PULSE8 / NIRVANA SPA VISIT

YEAR
12

Our Year 12 students had a very interesting careers talk from the staff at Pulse8 (Nirvana Spa). Thank you to everyone involved.



THE ADDAMS FAMILY - DRAMA PRODUCTION 2018



ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY



HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL ALUMNI SUCCESS

We were delighted to hear that our Head Boy and Head Girl from 2013 have both achieved Firsts from the University of Oxford.

Max Fishwick, who studied Engineering Science at Somerville College and Lisa Hibbitt, who studied Experimental Psychology at St Hilda's College, have been kind enough to answer some questions about their experience at school and university.



What did you most enjoy about school?

Making a great set of friends and studying subjects at A-Level that I was really interested in, particularly Psychology & Biology which went on to influence my degree choice.

What did you study at A levels and why?

Psychology, Geography, Biology & ICT

What is your greatest achievement at school/something you are most proud of?

Being Head Girl was a massive achievement, as I never believed it was something I'd be able to do - it helped so much with my self-confidence.

What did you enjoy most about being Head Girl?

I really enjoyed the responsibility and organisational aspect - I feel these skills really helped when applying to university.

What did you study at university and why did you choose Oxford?

Experimental Psychology, St Hilda's College, Oxford

What was the application/interview process like?

A benefit of applying to Oxbridge is the earlier UAC deadline - so you can just get it done and out of the way. There isn't

too much preparation you can for the entry exams, but you can find past papers online which will give you an idea of what to expect. The interview process can last 1-3 days, which gives you the opportunity to get to experience the city first hand. It is quite a challenging process, however, it definitely worth the effort of applying.

Do you have any advice that you think would help our current students?

Just try your best and enjoy the school experience.



What did you most enjoy about school?

Like most students, I enjoyed the social and sports parts of school more than the academics. With the exception of a few teachers who were particularly inspiring, I didn't really begin to enjoy the academic side until Sixth Form.

What did you study at A levels and why?

In Sixth Form I studied 4 A-levels (Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry) and an Extended Project qualification. I have always had a natural aptitude for Maths & Science and I much prefer working on projects that require a problem solving, analytical approach.

What is your greatest achievement at school / something you are most proud of?

One of my proudest moments at school was when I led Furze Platt to victory at the Berkshire Schools Army Day against 40 other schools in Year 10. It was a full day event, where a team of 20 of us completed a combination of head-to-head mental and physical team exercises.

What did you enjoy most about being Head Boy?

As Head Boy I felt that I was forced out of my comfort zone, to gain skills such as public speaking, team leadership and most importantly the confidence to voice my opinion in high-pressure situations. These skills have been invaluable in both my degree and my career.

What did you study at university and why did you choose Oxford? What was the application / interview process like?

Cont. on page 5

I have always enjoyed working hard and expanding my knowledge, so it felt like the right step for me to go to university. I applied to go to Oxford mainly because of its reputation and the challenge that it represented, however I was very apprehensive about actually attending Oxford for 4 years. I cannot express how happy I am that I chose to go. Not only did I get to work alongside and learn from some of the finest minds in science, I also met an incredibly eclectic mix of people, many of whom will be friends for life, and that pushed me to become a much more confident and well-rounded person.

Looking back on the Oxbridge interview process, I'd be lying if I said that it wasn't stressful. Especially when you consider the lack of experience and preparation that we had compared to applicants that have attended a private school. However, if you prepare correctly and learn from someone who has been through the experience, you can considerably reduce the pressure. Once you know what to expect, I would actually consider it to be less stressful than a traditional job interview.

Did you do activities out of school that you feel helped you and if so, what were they?

Outside of school I did a lot of sport including rugby, swimming and fitness training. I also had guitar lessons for 8 years. I believe that having the opportunity to do activities that required me to apply myself to something more practical than school work, helped me to be more focused during my academic studies. Additionally, I used to tutor some of my classmates before exams, which helped a great deal in improving my understanding of the subjects.

Do you have any advice that you think would help our current students?

My general advice to those students who are considering applying to university, is that university isn't for everyone but I would suggest at least trying the first term to see if it might be for you. I had the best 4 years and I am so glad that I went.

For anyone considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge, they are fantastic universities with opportunities to excel in what ever interests you most but you have to be prepared for more pressure and more work than you would experience elsewhere.

Finally, you should really consider the subject that you are applying for. Some easy questions to ask yourself when you are choosing your subject are:

Would you choose to read around the subject in your free time?

What career path would allow you to enjoy your day-to-day work? Does the subject help you to get there or at least leave that path open?



EXAM INVIGILATORS

We will shortly be looking to add to our team of Exam Invigilators. Information is now available on our website under 'Current Vacancies'.

CURRENT VACANCIES



EASYFUNDRAISING UPDATE

The total raised so far is over £2800, thank you to everyone who has supported us so far.

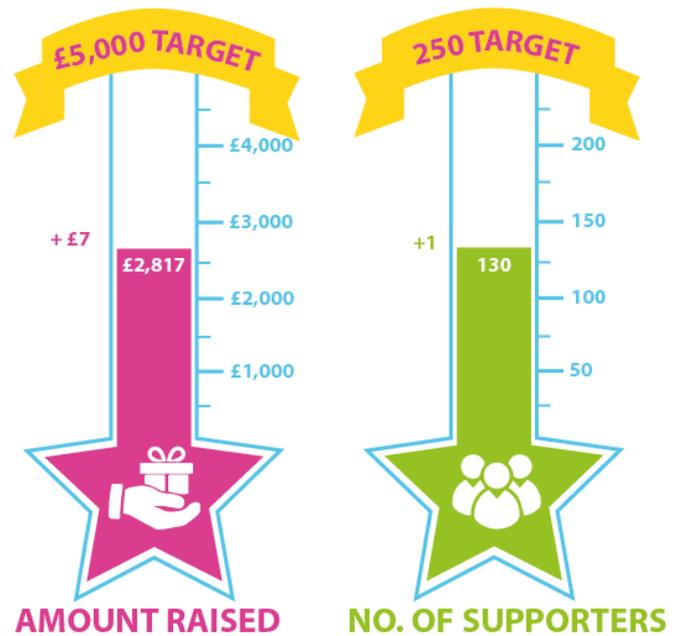
Remember, it doesn't cost you a penny more. Simply:

1. Log in to easyfundraising.org.uk and choose Furze Platt Senior School as your cause
2. Choose your retailer or shop

Carry on with your online shopping as normal

Thank you.

EASY FUNDRAISING TOTALISERS



EASYFUNDRAISING WEBSITE

BIG QUIZ 6

7.30pm, Friday 11th May

After the record-breaking turnout of 20 teams for Big Quiz 5 make sure you book early for our next quiz on Friday 11th May. Jeff and Oz will be your quizmasters, with questions, music and fun team challenges. Teams of up to six, food and bar available. The next 200 Club winners will be drawn at the quiz, see the article overleaf for details.

CLICK HERE TO BOOK TICKETS

Cont. on page 6



COMMUNITY NEWS

PTFA AGM

Tuesday 6th March 6-7pm Meeting Room

All welcome, refreshments will be available.





REMINDERS

LATE SCHOOL START

Friday 16th March at 9.10am

I am writing to inform you that school will start at 9.10am on the following occasions:

- Friday 16th March
- Friday 23rd March

Students should go straight to period 2 which starts at 9.10am. The reason for this late start is because on these occasions, there are Year 7 or Year 8 parents' evenings taking place on the previous evening.

Mr E Towill, Associate Headteacher

200 CLUB - MATCH FUNDING

Fantastic news from our PTFA, who have raised over £1500 through Match Funding of funds for the 200 Club. Thank you to Rhian Sturdy for all her hard work and to Three for their generous donation.

Many congratulations to our three 200 Club Winners who are £170 richer after our last draw which took place just before the Finale performance of The Addams Family.

To be in with a chance of winning hundreds of pounds by joining our 200 club, please click the link below.



200 CLUB

**Winning numbers for Draw 2
on Thursday 8th February 2018**



HOW DOES THE 200 CLUB WORK?

ANNUAL PAYMENT

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

INFORMATION PROJECT

We are looking at the different ways in which we as a school communicate with you electronically and how we collect online payments, and the different systems we use to do this. If you have any comments or feedback on this please click and complete the attached survey or send comments to mila.coombs@furzeplatt.net. Thank you.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION SURVEY

EXAMS INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

Key Dates

Year 9: 26th February - 9th March 2018 (in class lessons)

Year 11: Maths 13th March 2018, English 9th and 14th March 2018

Year 12: 2nd - 4th July 2018

EXAMS HANDBOOK - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

EXAM INFORMATION WEBPAGE

YEAR 9 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMS

The Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) will take place from Monday 26th February to Friday 9th March. They take place during the normal school day. Unlike in Years 10 and 11, where PPEs run as formal exams in the Sports Hall, Year 9 PPEs will take place in their normal classrooms during normal lesson times.

The purpose of these exams is to start to familiarise students with the rigours of busy exam programmes and the structures of exam papers. The PPEs will also provide an initial assessment of where students are after the first 6 months of their GCSE studies.

Your son/daughter's teachers will tell them when their exams will be during the exam fortnight and will be providing them with specific information about what is going to be assessed in each of their exams.

Please may I ask you to work with your son/daughter to ensure that they prepare appropriately for these PPEs. They should be following a revision timetable and working steadily and sustainably towards the exams. While it may still seem in the distant future, these PPEs are an important part of the preparation for their final GCSE exams in Year 11.

PPE results will be published with the main progress reports due out at the end of March.

Mr J Sheppard, Deputy Headteacher



SKI TRIP TO LA THUILE, AOSTA VALLEY (CONT.)

- Exciting après ski programme
- Travel to and from the resort on a luxury coach

Open to all current Year 7-12 students who will still be at the school in April 2019.

Application form and deposit due by 23rd March 2018.

SKI TRIP 2019 LETTER AND APPLICATION FORM



LOST PROPERTY

Please remember to clearly mark your child's uniform, PE kit and other belongings so that lost property may be quickly returned to its owner.

Students who have lost items should go to school reception and ask for access to the lost property cupboards.

Lost property is kept for a period of six weeks, after which it is disposed of.



NEW ENGLISH SOCIETY-THURSDAYS BREAK 2 IN E4 FOR YEARS 10-13

Explore a variety of poems, book and play extracts whilst delving into literary movements and the work of authors from all periods.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you need any further information please speak to Gaby Ford (Year 12).



DEADLINE FOR YEAR 11 PHOTOS IS MONDAY 5TH MARCH

PHOTO COMPANY WEBSITE



SKI TRIP

TO LA THUILE, AOSTA VALLEY

Saturday 13th – Sunday 21st April 2019

Skiing - £1,015

Snowboarding - £1,025

This includes:

- Extensive 6 day lift pass that covers both La Thuile in Italy and La Rosiere in France
- Five hours of ski lessons per day
- Full board accommodation including dinner out at a different restaurant every night



ADVERSE WEATHER - THANK YOU

Finally, thank you to all parents for your support this week during the adverse weather. We hope to be open Monday 5th March and look forward to seeing your sons and daughters then.

SKI TRIP 2019

TO LA THUILE, AOSTA VALLEY

SATURDAY 13TH – SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2019

Skiing £1,015
Snowboarding £1,025

This includes:

- Extensive 6 day lift pass that covers both La Thuile in Italy and La Rosiere in France.
- Five hours of ski/snowboard lessons per day.
- Full board accommodation including dinner out at a different restaurant every night.
- Exciting après ski programme.
- Travel to and from the resort on a luxury coach.

Open to all current Year 7-12 students who will be at the school in April 2019.

Application forms available from Reception, PE department or Drama department.

[CLICK HERE FOR PDF SKI TRIP 2019 LETTER AND APPLICATION FORM](#)

Deposits due by 23rd March 2018



THE BIG QUIZ



6

Friday 11th May 2018

7.30pm - 10.30pm

At Furze Platt Senior School in the Main Hall

Featuring music, trivia, and picture questions as well as two 'team challenges'.



per person



people per table

But you can book in any numbers from 1-6 and we'll find teams for you.



Giant Pan Catering from Ashridge Delicious
Paella, Tartiflette, Champignons Forestiere and Cassoulet



bar & prize raffle

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK TICKETS](#)

