

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Guys and Dolls

Rehearsals are nearly done, and we look forward to a highlight of the school year, our school musical Guys and Dolls. The set looks resplendent and performances sound superb. I am massively looking forward to attending the show (several times) next week and look forward to seeing you all there. Good luck to all the cast and crew!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Forthcoming Events

MON 5 - THU 8 FEBRUARY	Guys and Dolls (Matinee only on Monday 5th for local schools)	7-9pm
FRI 9 FEBRUARY	END OF TERM (TERM 3)	3.15pm finish
MON 12 - FRI 16 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
MON 19 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 1)	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

priority now is obtaining the grades this summer, so they give themselves opportunities and choice.

Sixth Form UCAS Applications

As the UCAS deadline passed this week 120 of our Sixth Form students had applied for university places. Good luck to each of them with their interviews and offers.

RAF Band

Last week we were lucky enough to have the RAF Band into FPSS to play for our students. It was great to see the event covered in the Maidenhead Advertiser.

MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER ARTICLE

Take care,

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)

"Our musical is one of the highlights of the school year showcasing our students' superb talents. Having had glimpses of rehearsals I know that we can look forward to some fantastic performances that remind us all why we are proud to belong to the FPSS community."

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW



Sixth Form Interviews

Over the last few weeks, the Senior Leadership and Sixth Form Teams have been interviewing Year 11 students from FPSS and other schools following their applications to join our Sixth Form. It has been a pleasure to meet some thoughtful and mature young people and hear their goals and ambitions. They have represented themselves and their families very well.

Offers for Sixth Form will be sent out in a few weeks and I wish students every luck in securing those places. The

YEAR 8 'PREPARE TO SUCCEED'



Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Prepare to Succeed' evening for Year 8 parents and carers on Tuesday. Please could you complete this very brief feedback survey by Wednesday 7th February:

FEEDBACK SURVEY

If you were unable to attend, please see the attached presentation below which contains useful information including key contact details.

YEAR 8 'PREPARE TO SUCCEED' PRESENTATION

U14 BOYS' FOOTBALL COUNTY CUP SUCCESS



Fantastic result by our Year 9 boys who beat Kings Academy 5-1 in their recent County Cup fixture against Kings Academy (Binfield). Each player contributed to a very well thought out match, with excellent attacking and defending throughout.

The Team:

James Balfe	Matheus Mussatto
Finlay Briggs	Leo Russell
Alexander Davison	Casey Schuck
Alfie Everson-Plant	William Spinks
Ethan Heywood	Ethan Terry
James Maher	Tommy Tucker
Oliver Murray	Yvan Wilson
	Luke Wise



GUYS & DOLLS JR.



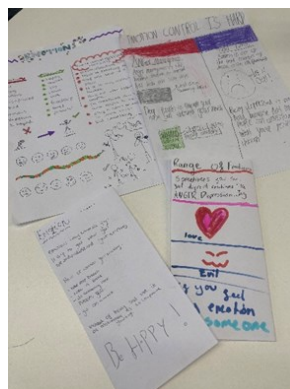
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

TUE 6 – THURS 8 FEB 2024

7PM – 9PM, DOORS OPEN 6.30PM



YEAR 7 PSHE – MANAGING EMOTIONS



This week our Year 7 students created a poster campaign on how to manage various emotions. This is extremely important as being able to control our emotions can help with difficult situations and allow us to come to reasonable solutions. Great work from Year 7!

YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS

YEAR
11

Subject	When	Times	Where
Maths (Foundation)	Monday and Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	M1
Maths (Higher)	Monday and Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	M2
English Language	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	E4
English Literature	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	E3
Biology	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S12
Chemistry	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S1
Physics	Tuesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S11
Business	Monday after school	3.20 to 4.20	BS2
French	Wednesday BR2	1.45 to 2.15	MFL4
German	Monday BR2	1.45 to 2.15	MFL4
Spanish	Monday after school	3.15 to 4	MFL1
Music	Monday Tutor-time and break-times (composition)	8.45 or 11.15	MU2
Drama	Monday after school	3.15 to 5pm	DS1
Philosophy & Religion	Tuesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	P2
Geography	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	H3
History	Tuesday after school	3.30 til 4.30	H7
Art – catch up clinic	Friday after school	3.15 to 4.15	Art
Product Design – catch up clinic	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	TEC1

YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLES AND HOW TO REVISE SESSIONS

YEAR
11

The Raising Achievement department has been into every tutor and PSHE session over the past few weeks to deliver sessions on 'Setting up a Revision Timetable' and another on 'How to Revise'. This has given every Year 11 student the opportunity to set themselves up with a an adaptable plan on when revision sessions will take place as well as walk and talk them through a revision session from highlighting key words to producing a mind-map or cue card, through to checking their learning with questions. If you would like to find out more, the PowerPoint presentations used are below. In addition, the links below show videos which can be used for students who may have missed the session or for any parent/carer who wants to know more.

CREATING REVISION TIMETABLES

HOW TO REVISE

FIND OUT MORE

FIND OUT MORE

ELEVATE EDUCATION'S FREE WEBINAR: HOW YOU CAN MAKE TECHNOLOGY AN ALLY (& NOT THE ENEMY!) TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 6-7PM

YEAR
11

Many parents associate phones and technology with procrastination and distraction, seeing them as a threat to their child's productivity – and success at school. But what if technology could be used to boost productivity and improve focus?

Elevate's upcoming webinar on making technology the ally shows parents how they can help their child to build a healthy relationship with their phone and use app blockers to remove distractions. Register by clicking the link below and for more information please see their advertisement on page 13 of this newsletter.

PARENT WEBINARS





Spelling Bee THE FINAL



The Spelling Bee final is taking place during tutor time next week. Students will have received an email if they are taking part.

- Monday 5th February – **Year 7** – Dance studio
- Tuesday 6th February – **Year 8** – Dance studio
- Wednesday 7th February – **Year 9** – Dance studio
- Thursday 8th February – **Year 10** – Dance studio
- Friday 9th February – **Year 11** – Dance studio
- Friday 9th February – **Sixth Form** – S3

Prizes:

- 10 points for taking part in the final
- 25 points for position 2, 3 and 4 in your year
- 50 points for 1st place in your year
- £10 Amazon voucher for 1st place in your year
- Sweet treats and queue passes for top 4 in the year

Good luck to
spellers!



all our super

GUYS & DOLLS JR.

"We have over 80 students involved in this year's musical 'Guys and Dolls' and it has been a brilliant process putting together this classic musical. As always, my favourite thing about a whole school musical is seeing the Furze Platt community coming together and seeing the performers grow in confidence. It will definitely be an entertaining evening with showstopper classics such as 'Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat' and 'Luck Be a Lady'."

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW



TERM 3 CLUBS 2024

Clubs for next term (Term 4) will be sent out on Friday 9th February. Please do not delete this email as more clubs may be added through the term.

Next week's clubs can be found on the link below:

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK

5-11 FEBRUARY 2024

#NAW2024

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

MONDAY 5TH – SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Next week is National Apprenticeships Week, the 17th annual celebration of apprenticeships with the theme this year of 'Skills for Life'.

The websites below have more details on apprenticeships for students and parents/carers.

NCTU APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION

BBC BITESIZE APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION

APPRENTICESHIPS.GOV.UK

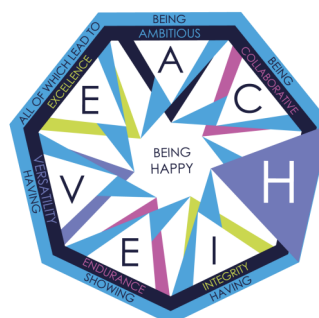
YOUTHEMPLOYMENT.ORG.UK

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

BUCKS SKILLS HUB

RATE MY APPRENTICESHIP



Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: [click here to access](#)

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

Your PTFA needs YOU!

'How can I help?' we hear you cry.

Well ...

The 200 Club, which is basically a quarterly prize draw, is one of our biggest sources of fundraising to support your children at school – not only the 'extras' but also some vital equipment they need for their courses.

We really need a **200 Club coordinator**. You will need access to a laptop or PC with internet access but no other equipment or skills. It's a very light touch job taking a couple of hours a month – keeping an eye that everybody's subscriptions are coming in, updating the spreadsheets, allocating numbers to new subscribers and (the best bit) telling the lucky winners that they have each won £200! Plus knowing that you are helping to make a huge difference to children at our school and supporting their education and social development.

There is no obligation to attend meetings but if you want to, then that's great.

If you would like to know more about the role, please email ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net.

Can you help?

200 Club Co-ordinator required

Email: ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net



If you can't help out that way right now, please consider joining the 200 Club. For just £5 a month you can be in with the chance of winning £200 (tax-free!) at the quarterly draw. Please sign up here:

200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION



Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net
facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: [click here to access](#)

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week will take place 5th-11th February 2024. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'.



My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health.

This year, we want to empower children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. Our aim is for Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters."

Families, parents and carers can get involved too! Please find some resources on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter to support your conversations.

Miss R Lake - Deputy Headteacher



Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £14.15 per hour
(inclusive of holiday pay)

Furze Platt Senior School is looking to add to their bank of dedicated Exam Invigilators, who will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking both pre-public exams and actual GCSE/A Level exams, as necessary throughout the school year.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Are available to work regularly during the official exam season during May and June and on an ad hoc basis to cover pre-public exams which take place at various times during the academic year
- Can work under pressure, remain calm and be empathetic to candidate's needs whilst remaining compliant with regulations
- Have good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills
- Are reliable, punctual with the ability to work as part of a team or independently as required

Full training will be provided, and staff will be contacted prior to the exam period to discuss the invigilation schedule in relation to their own availability.

Please visit our website www.furzeplatt.com for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net for further information. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. All applications need to be submitted to kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Closing date: Ongoing
Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply

CURRENT VACANCIES

Cover Supervisor- To start as soon as possible

Usually, 32.5 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 3.30pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only plus two INSET days
Part time/Job Share/Flexible Working considered for the right candidates,
Permanent or fixed term contract
Actual salary (32.5 hours) £19,600 - £21,000 pa depending on experience, pro rata would apply for any hours that differ from the above

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. At Furze Platt, 1400 students of all abilities develop the skills and qualities to enable them to excel in the future. We are a highly ambitious, high-achieving and fully inclusive school in which our students are challenged and supported to achieve excellence.

We offer a friendly and harmonious campus, and we support the physical and mental wellbeing of all our staff. Discounted membership is available for the use of a fully equipped and well-maintained gym on-site. All staff have access to an employee advice programme which offers information, resources, and a counselling service. We reward long service and encourage community spirit through various social events including a Christmas party, sports after school and various House competitions. Parking is free, as are tea, coffee, and edible treats to help you through the week! Our Senior Leadership team recognises the value of our support staff attending whole school training, job specific training and opportunities to learn about students they may be supporting, hence our commitment to their attendance on our September INSET day and one other INSET day during the academic year. A free lunch is also provided giving staff the chance to welcome new members of staff and share news and ideas.

We are looking for Cover Supervisors to join our support staff team. You would be supervising classes during the short-term absence of the assigned teacher working in a classroom environment alongside students at Key Stage 3 and 4. Your main responsibility would be to instruct students about the work set by the teacher and assisting them to stay on task and complete the work set to the best of their ability. The provision of cover will be varied: you might introduce the work by talking through a Power Point, showing video clips, or reading through texts with students. You may be asked to lead a class discussion, organise group work or supervise PE and Drama activities. You would also learn about school policies and how they are implemented including the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Previous experience of working with or interacting with children or young people is required for this role as well as good communication skills, an ability to work with minimum of supervision and to manage students in a classroom setting. Confidence using a laptop as well as good organisational skills are important for this role.

In addition, if you are a graduate with an interest in a career working with young people in education and you would like this opportunity to gain some experience working in a classroom environment before considering teacher training, we would be delighted to receive your application. For further information about teacher training please refer to www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

For further information about this role and to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website www.furzeplatt.com. Application forms should be returned to hr@furzeplatt.net. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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Closing date: Ongoing
Interviews will take place: as soon as is practicable

CURRENT VACANCIES

Attend a Get Into Teaching event.



What?

Whether you're ready to start your career in teaching or just curious, we can answer your questions.

When?

29 February 2024, 5pm - 8pm.

Where?

The Great Hall, University of Reading.

Register now.

Limited places available.



Teaching ☒

My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGI8](https://bit.ly/3PzCGI8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wk](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wk)

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...



TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?



WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?



CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK

Routes into STEM Virtual Experience 2023/24

Routes into STEM virtual experience provides an exciting opportunity to explore the various routes you can take towards your STEM career. This course is designed to enable young people to work through activities and projects at their own pace, tour a variety of institutions virtually and also have access to live career sessions and mentor panels with STEM employers.

Who is it for?

- Students in **Year 9 or 10 / S3 or S4 / equivalent** who are interested in exploring a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- All you need is an interest in STEM and curiosity about the future. The course is open to all academic abilities

What's involved?

- Approximately 20 hours of study virtually at a pace that suits you
- Exploring different Routes into a STEM career including College Courses, University Courses, and Apprenticeships and learning from industry what is involved in a STEM career as well as enhancing your skills
- Live interactive sessions over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school, allowing you to listen and ask questions to STEM students and professionals
- Getting to work on a project set by a STEM company to look further at a career area that interests you

What do you get out of it?

- Find out about different Routes into a STEM career from industry experts, college and university leaders, as well as young people who are currently on that path
- Engage in projects and activities that will enhance your problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and innovation skills and inspire you to find career motivation. Projects include a Biopharm challenge from GSK, a Design challenge from Balfour Beatty, an RSC Chemistry challenge and many more exciting challenges in all areas of STEM.
- Create your own personalised action plan to see your own Route into STEM
- Learn about your career skills and how you could write about this in your CV/ Personal Statement or Application form
- Receive an Industrial Cadets Bronze Award showing all that you have achieved on the course



www.etrust.org.uk

When is it?

This experience runs from 2 October 2023 until 2 August 2024 **with live sessions running throughout the duration, over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school**

Cost

£75
If cost is a barrier, fully funded places are available, please indicate your interest on the application form

How to apply?

To apply, please visit our website [here](#) or **scan the QR code!**



What previous students have said

"This experience has shown me just how varied STEM is. I know that I can have a career that suits me, no matter my academic merit or personal qualities. I've also heard a lot from people who study and work in STEM, and it has been inspiring and encouraging to hear about their positive experiences and ambitions for the future. Industrial Cadets has also taught me key skills such as problem-solving and communication, which I am eager to apply to my future education and career."

"I've always loved STEM things but I always worried about not being able to make it, but now getting a STEM career seems more achievable."

"Before, I was fixed on a regular plan to go into 6th form, go to you university, and move forward without looking for any non-linear pathway. Routes into STEM has shown me that many of those who end up in STEM careers have not pursued that linear pathway, and this has made me more open to options such as apprenticeships, which I had never considered previously"

94%

of students felt confident about making future career choices following their course

99%

of students felt they know more about the STEM careers opportunities available to them



www.etrust.org.uk



Elevate Education's Spring Term

Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

23rd January 6:00pm

How You Can Make Technology an Ally

6th February 6:00pm

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams

5th March 6:00pm

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

19th March 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

Parent and Carer guide to starting a DofE Award

A virtual session designed to help you understand how to best support a young person through their DofE journey

The session includes:

- What the DofE is
- How to get started
- What to expect
- What to do to achieve an award
- Where to find help
- Q&A

To attend a session please follow this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Session last between 30mins – 60mins depending on Q&A

If you are joining us from a smart phone, you will be required to download the Microsoft Teams App



Dates and times:

Wednesday 17th January
5.30pm

Tuesday 30th January
6pm

Thursday 15th February
5pm

Wednesday 28th February
5:30pm

Monday 11th March
4:30pm

No need to book!

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP



Fun and Inclusive!

Learn New Skills!

Build Confidence!

Led by Teachers!

We are a small and
friendly holiday
camp for children
aged 8-13.

Fun and inclusive
sessions, led by
Qualified PE
Teachers.



 Rock Climbing

 Football

 Dodgeball

 Basketball

 Cricket

 VR Game Room

And more!

February Half-Term

12.02.24 - 16.02.24

08:00 - 17:00

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!
BOOK ONLINE



BCA
Your College

Location: Berkshire College of Agriculture
Hall Place, Burchetts Green Rd, Burchett's Green,
Maidenhead SL6 6QR



Email: info@empowerandelevate.co.uk

Phone: 0118 227 4950



FREE SEND INFORMATION SESSIONS

with the Information, Advice & Support (IAS) Service

Preparing for adulthood with the PFA team

22nd February 9.30-11.30am

If your child or young person has an EHCP, what is the process for preparing for adulthood, what can you expect, what is the timeline, what is parental responsibility? what is LA responsibility, when do plans cease?

Reflections on Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) with Educational Psychology service

29th february 9.30-11.30am

A session with the ERSA Educational Psychologists as an informal session to talk about ERSA and an opportunity to ask questions.

Drop in Coffee morning - Farewell to Christine Doyle, IAS Adviser who is retiring

14th March 9.30-11.30am

IAS Adviser Christine Doyle is retiring. Please come along to celebrate Christines' extensive career within the SEND sector and have a cup of tea with us and other parents. No need to book - just turn up.

CAMHS Learning Disability Team

18th April 9.30-11.30am

Come and learn about the CAMHS Learning Disability team, what do they do? How can they help? What services can they offer?

**Book your free place via :
www.ias-rbwm.info/events**

All sessions take place at Friends House, 14 West Street,
Maidenhead SL6 1RL