

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #73.2



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Junior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to all those students involved in the Maths Challenge this week. It is great to see our more able Year 7 and 8 mathematicians rising to the challenge and showing their fantastic skills. I look forward to hearing about the many successes in the weeks to come.



### Examinations

We continue to see many practical examinations around FPSS, not least Art, Textiles, and Language exams this week. There are now less than two weeks before the first written exams on 9<sup>th</sup> May so please do be supportive of our Year 11 and 13, encouraging and motivating them to continue their hard work and revision.

### Mobile Phones and Headphones

Since Easter and our messages to students and their families, there has been a noticeable decrease in phones and headphones being seen or heard at FPSS. As we reinforce expectations there have been several phones and headphones confiscated. A reminder that should a student repeatedly have their phone and headphones confiscated, parents will be asked to collect.

### Year 7 Parent and Student Consultation Evening

Next Thursday we look forward to welcoming Year 7 parents and carers to meet their child's subject teachers. Given that it is the first such evening for our Year 7s, a reminder that we encourage you to bring your Year 7 child along with you. The conversation is often more powerful when teacher, parent/carer and student focus together on current successes and areas for improvement.

Take care,

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 5 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

THU 2 MAY	Early finish - school will close at 2.45pm for all students	2.45pm finish
	Year 7 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
FRI 3 MAY	Late Start	9.15am
MON 6 MAY	<b>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY</b>	
WED 8 MAY	Year 6 Parents' Induction Evening	6pm - 7.30pm
FRI 24 MAY	<b>END OF TERM (TERM 5)</b>	3.15pm finish
MON 27 - FRI 31 MAY	<b>MAY HOLIDAY</b>	
MON 3 JUNE	<b>START OF TERM 6 (Week 1)</b>	

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

## CHANGES TO SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS NEXT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - School will finish at 2.45pm for all students\*

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 7 Parents Evening 3.45-7.45PM

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - 9.15am start time for all students. (Students should arrive on school site by 9.10am at the latest)

\*On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, students will be attending Period 1 at 8:45 am instead of their usual form time. All students should be on school site by 8.40am. The schedule for the day will proceed with the five regular lessons, concluding at 2:45 pm.



Cont. on page 2

This alteration is to facilitate preparations for the upcoming Year 7 Parents' Evening. Details on how to book this event have been sent out to Year 7 parents and carers via Parentmail.

- Period 1 8.45-9.45am
- Period 2 9.45-10.45am
- Break 1 10.45-11.15am
- Period 3 11.15-12.15pm
- Period 4 12.15-13.15pm
- Break 2 13.15-13.45pm
- Period 5 13.45-14.45pm

have a 9.00am exam or 9.10am if they are going to normal lessons or a revision session. When students have an afternoon exam they will be permitted to leave the school site as soon as the exam finishes.

### 23.5.24 – 19.6.24: Exam Phase 2

From Thursday 23rd May Exam Phase 2 starts. During this phase students will attend their exams and the associated revision sessions. When they are not in an exam or a revision session they will have Home Study, where they will be expected to be working at home preparing for their next exam.

### YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE ACCESS



Students have access to their upcoming exam timetables through an online portal, which has been successfully used for their PPEs during the school year.

In case any student has misplaced this information, full details of how this can be accessed has been sent out to parents via Parentmail.

If you have any queries or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We greatly appreciate your support as we navigate through this busy exam period.

Mrs S Hemsley, Student Services and Exams Manager

### YEAR 11 EXAM REVISION

#### Revision Packs

Revision resources for each subject are on FP-Cloud under Raising Achievement and Year 11. Within this site there are links to subject-specific revision websites, revision guides, how to revise tutorials, and past papers with their associated mark schemes, examiners' reports etc.

#### w/c 22.4.24: Exam Timetables

Personalised exam timetables have been given out. It is important that students check these thoroughly so they know when their exams are. Making a copy of this timetable is often a good idea. Students will also receive the official JCQ exam regulations information with their timetables. We recommend that you discuss these with your son/daughter to ensure that they are absolutely clear about expectations of how they conduct themselves during exams.

#### 9.5.24 – 22.5.23: Exam Phase 1

The main body of exams starts in full on Thursday 9th May. During Exam Phase 1, students will either be in an exam, a revision session for that exam or in their normal lessons. However, students will not be expected to attend tutor time and will thus not be required in school until 8.45am if they

### YEAR 11 - PREPARING FOR THE EXAM SEASON



With 2 weeks until the exams start, this is a timely reminder of the huge benefits of using GCSE POD for revision.

Here are some of the reasons why:-

- 1000s of 'pods' either on computer/laptop or app on mobile
- Nearly every GCSE subject covered
- Each video less than 5 minutes
- Questions to check understanding
- Boost playlists – created around weaknesses
- **Regular use will improve grades**
- Pre-learn or consolidate knowledge

STUDENT PRESENTATION

LOGGING IN TO GCSE POD

**gcsepod**  
education on demand

**EXAM STRESS – USEFUL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS**

We are aware that exams have the potential to exacerbate feelings of anxiety and stress amongst young people. That is why it's important that whilst pupils should be encouraged to work hard, this should not be at the expense of their wellbeing.

There is a range of advice and guidance for students and parents to help alleviate or lessen the anxiety they have about sitting exams, including:

NHS HELP YOUR CHILD BEAT EXAM STRESS

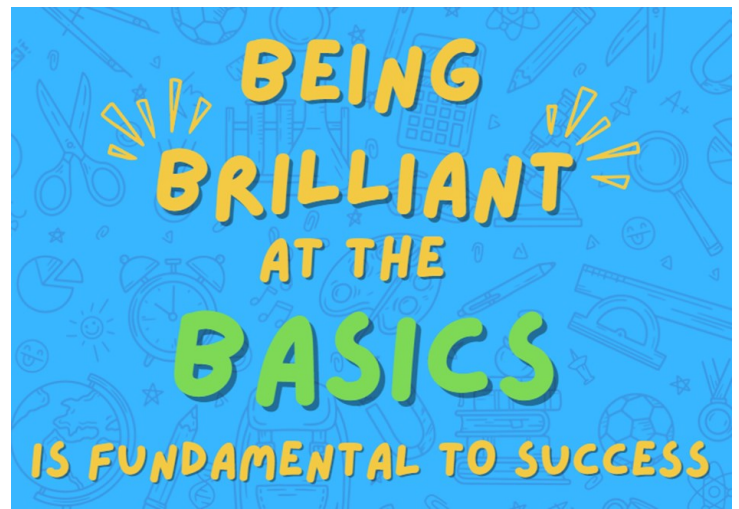
ANNA FREUD: HOW TO IDENTIFY THE SIGNS OF ACADEMIC STRESS, AND WAYS TO HELP

STUDENT MINDS – RESOURCES, TIPS AND BLOGS ABOUT EXAM STRESS

OFQUAL: COPING WITH EXAM PRESSURE – A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

I will be doing an assembly on dealing with exam stress next Monday and will follow up by sending these links to Year 11 students directly next week.

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher



**BRILLIANT AT THE BASICS**

At Furze Platt Senior School, we believe that being 'brilliant at the basics' is fundamental to success in all areas of life.

To support your child in achieving brilliance, we kindly request your assistance in ensuring they adhere to our school's guidelines.

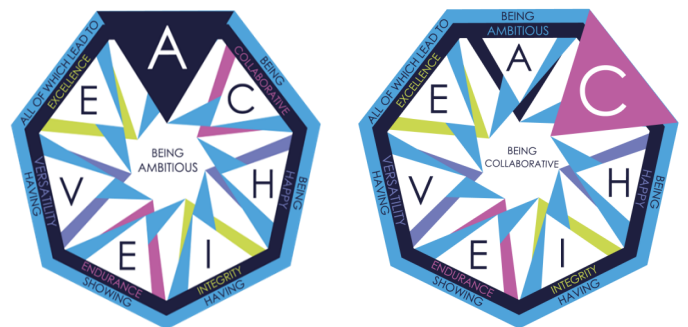
Firstly, punctuality is key. Arriving on school site by 8.40 am at the latest sets the tone for a productive day of learning. Additionally, wearing the full school uniform, including the blazer, fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our school community at Furze Platt.

Equally vital is being prepared for learning. A fully charged laptop and a well-stocked pencil case are indispensable tools. Unfortunately, we have observed that some students have been lacking in essential equipment this week, which can hinder their learning progress. Therefore, we kindly ask you to take a moment to ensure your child's pencil case contains pens, pencils, a ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, and a scientific calculator and re-stock it if necessary ready for next week.

Your ongoing support in reinforcing these basics is invaluable.

Thank you for your cooperation.

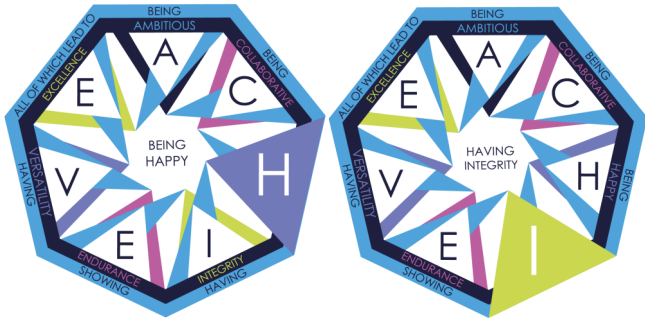
Miss Rebecca Lake, Deputy Headteacher



## YEAR 11 AND 13 PHOTOGRAPHS

We are pleased to let you know the year group photo for Year 11 and Year 13 students have been released for parents and carers to view and order.

Access codes have been sent out via Parentmail; please note the deadline for free postage is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.



world.

The purpose of inclusive RSE at FPSS is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on love and respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships in later life. The unit will equip students with the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices; to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter; to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed.

We hope that students will have the opportunity to have a session run by the youth team from DASH (Domestic Abuse Stops Here), who support families in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The team will explore what makes healthy relationships, informed consent and where to receive support should it be required.

## YEAR 10 PSHE

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of your child's education at Furze Platt Senior School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health, Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy and productive lives.

I am writing to let you know that starting from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, your child's class will be taking part in three trial lessons which will focus on sexual consent and the law in collaboration with the College of Policing. By doing so this brings a wealth of expertise in areas like crime prevention and conflict resolution which are valuable topics for students to learn about. It helps in delivering more informed and effective education on important societal issues, promoting safer communities and responsible citizenship.

This then leads the relationships and sex education (RSE) areas of the PSHE programme which will formally commence at the beginning of June. RSE at Furze Platt will follow the Department for Education's statutory guidance that came into effect September 2020. RSE lessons in Year 10 will include teaching about: healthy and unhealthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; keeping safe and consent; contraception options; pregnancy choices; and STIs. Students will have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by staff and governors at Furze Platt Senior School. Please visit the school's website:

### PSHE CURRICULUM

for more detail about our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE takes place in a safe, inclusive learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

Please do take a moment to read through the letter provided by the College of Policing which provides more information on the reasons behind the trial. If you would like more information about Furze Platt Senior School's relationship and sex education policy, it can be found on our website:

### RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

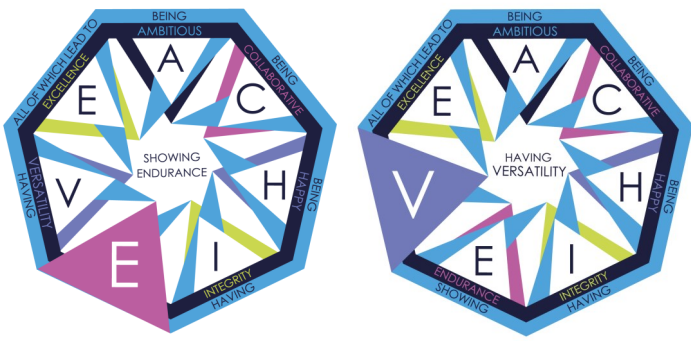
As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Miss H Brookling, Head of PSHE

[Hannah.brookling@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Hannah.brookling@furzeplatt.net)

### PARENT INFORMATION LETTER



## SKI TRIP 2025 - LA THUILE

**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

Arrangements for the FPSS 2025 Ski Trip are now confirmed!

We will depart on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April and return on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. After the success of previous year's trips we will again be travelling with Interski. For 2025 we are visiting La Thuile, Aosta Valley, Italy. Full of 33 blue runs, 32 red runs and 15 black runs.

Students will receive ski/snowboarding tuition for 5 days, with a teacher supervised lunch hour. Instruction will be provided by the Interski BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) qualified instructors.



We recognise that skiing and snowboarding is an expensive pastime, and sadly costs have risen significantly. The destination is a high altitude resort due to the time of year which also impacts the price but helps to create the best possible conditions for snow sports.

The cost of the 2025 holiday is £1495 for both Skiers and Snowboarders, and includes:

- Travel to and from the resort on a luxury coach
- An extensive 5 day lift pass that covers the full La Thuile resort
- Five nights' accommodation at Hotel – Residence Planibel, only a short walk from the ski lift system
- Full board accommodation (half board in the hotel/hot lunch provided on the mountain)
- Five hours of instruction per day with plus a teacher

supervised lunch hour

- An exciting après ski programme each evening outside of the hotel in the wider resort
- A fully comprehensive winter sports insurance package
- A full week's ski equipment hires (including skis and ski poles or snowboard, boots, and helmet). (Please note - not included is the hire or purchase of any ski clothing.)



The trip is open to all current Year 7-12 students who will still be at the school in April 2025. All who wish to come on the trip should pay a deposit of £150 (for skiers and snowboarders). Please could all deposits be paid by 12 noon on Friday 10th May.

Please note that if the trip is over-subscribed names will be drawn from a hat.

Please pay your deposit via your ParentMail account (Ski Trip 2025 deposit will be found in the Shop in the payments tab). This deposit is non-refundable if your child secures a place on the trip.

If the trip is over-subscribed, unsuccessful applicants will have the choice of remaining on a waiting list or having their deposit refunded. (All deposits for anyone who does not secure a place on the trip will ultimately be refunded).

Should a student wish to withdraw from the trip after having secured a place, a refund of the deposit (subject to an admin fee) may only be available in the event of a replacement being found. Current Year 11 students who plan to stay at FPSS for 6th Form will not be required to pay any further instalments (beyond the deposit) until their place in Year 12 is confirmed.

You will be contacted week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May, confirming whether or not your child has a place on the trip, and when the remaining payment instalments will be due. Final payment will be due in December 2024.

Please note that, due to decreasing uptake, Interski has warned us that snowboarding groups may not run with students being asked to switch to skiing if numbers are not high enough. This is not specific to Furze Platt and Interski has always merged snowboard groups with other schools in the resort wherever possible. There are simply, increasingly few student opting to snowboard across all school groups.

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Your child must have their own passport. Under current rules, any non-EU citizens must have at least 3 months to run from the date of our expected return (expiry date of at least 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025), while EU citizens merely need to be valid until the date of return (Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025). If your child requires a new passport, please allow plenty of time for their application to be processed and notify us well in advance of our date of departure. Please be aware that no refunds can be made if your child is unable to travel due to an irregularity with their passport.

If your child holds a non-EU passport, they may also require a visa:

### UK VISAS AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

Your son/daughter will **also require a Global/European Health Insurance Card (GHIC or EHIC)**. This can be obtained by calling 0300 330 1350 or via the website below.

### UK GHIC OR UK EHIC APPLICATION

**Please Note** - The school reserves the right to remove a pupil from the trip at any point for unacceptable behaviour or with suitable reasoning up to the trip departing. In this case it may not be possible to refund all of the money that has been paid.

Yours sincerely

Nicolas Jones (2025 Ski Trip Co-Ordinator)

[Nicolas.jones@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Nicolas.jones@furzeplatt.net)



### MUSIC AT FURZE PLATT

Here at Furze Platt Senior School, we are lucky enough to have a number of music providers for our students to learn singing, instrument and playing either solo or as part of a group.



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2023 - 2024

### INSTRUMENTAL TUITION REQUEST FORM



Do you want to be in the next number one pop band, a performer in the best classical orchestra in the world or you just want to be a better hairbrush singer?

The Music Department are giving you the opportunity to let your dreams come a reality!

At Furze Platt Senior School we offer a huge range of lessons through our specialist instrumental teachers. From violin and flute to electric guitar and drums we have it all available to every Furze Platt student.

To find out more about lessons please see Mr Forster or drop him an email [stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net](mailto:stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net)

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER SHOWCASE!



## STARS OF THE WEEK



We are excited to highlight our exceptional students in this week's edition of the Parents' Newsletter. Meet our Stars of the Week, who not only achieved the highest scores in their respective year groups but also exemplify the spirit of 'Zero Heroes'. These outstanding individuals have shown remarkable progress in their learning journey and have made positive contributions to life here at Furze Platt.

Throughout the week, these students have been recognised for their hard work by the staff here at Furze Platt. What makes them stand out even more is their impressive record of receiving no negative points, earning them the esteemed title of 'Zero Heroes'.

Miss Rebecca Lake, Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 9

### Stars of the Week

 Stephanie G 9AND	 Matthew C 9CED	 Tim B 9CHG	 Salvatore P R 9ONS
 Aleks K 9LDC	 Frayne P 9LED	 Denis S 9MIG	
 Alfie W 9SVJ	 Henry C 9SVR	 <b>Mr Jones</b> Head of Progress	

YEAR 7

### Stars of the Week

 Harsha S 7EED	 Dominic T 7KEB	 Thomas C-T 7JNS	 Jack G 7AJK
 Emily G-T 7GCD	 Riley C-H 7DAB	 Gabby I 7HAA	
 Alfie R 7JHL	 <b>Mr Harrison</b> Head of Progress		

YEAR 10

### Stars of the Week

 Milen 10CRR	 Aliyan M 10DAT	 Sarah W 10DEN	 Jahel N 10ELD
 Pablo C-D 10GM	 Anum M 10JAS	 Julia C 10NOY	
 Adam W 10PEB	 Willow S 10ROA	 <b>Mr Djaelani</b> Head of Progress	

YEAR 8

### Stars of the Week

 Abby F-G 8CHP	 Warren H 8JAH	 Jude R 8KAH	 Charley S 8MEE
 Chloe H 8OSB	 Mustapha Z 8RJW	 Jiana C 8SH	
 Nor-Aldeen H 8TAS	 Eleanor S 8TJC	 <b>Miss Towell</b> Head of Progress	

YEAR 11

### Stars of the Week

 Bethan C 11AMH	 Namfon A 11BLC	 Tasab A 11LMS	 Jack T 11MAR
 Amber H 11NIC	 Jacob H 11RHT	 Summer R 11SAM	
 Ria H 11VOJ	 <b>Mrs Ridgley</b> Head of Progress		



## TERM 5 CLUBS 2024

Parents and carers have been sent the clubs and academic support clinics for next term (April to May).

Please note:

- \* once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- \* please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- \* students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter



### SCHOOL CLUB LIST

## UPDATE FROM GARDENING CLUB

It was all about plant propagation/cloning in Furze Platt's nature garden this week. Our students learnt about how plants can change their cell function - for example from stem cells into root cells - and put this into practice by taking cuttings from our catnip, lemon balm and sage.

Gardening Club runs every Tuesday after school. We qualify as Duke of Edinburgh volunteering! All welcome.



## ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

### FACEBOOK

Please see the link below for useful tips on how to get the best from Facebook. These resources are appropriate to be shared with students and we would encourage them to take a look.

### FACEBOOK

'Teachers' subject knowledge is particularly strong.'

Ofsted 2021





Contact us Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

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

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

#### News from your PTFA.

Thank you to all those who attended our meeting yesterday to discuss future plans and to review the bids from school for funding for those 'nice to have' extras.

A list of what we have funded will be appearing in due course.

Now we need your help to carry on and make even more of a difference! Here's a short video that explains how you can help:

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help run the 200 Club - one of our main fundraisers and really important to keep the funds flowing but does not take very much time at all

Become a Uniform Coordinator and help manage our supplies of donated second hand uniform - makes us a lot of money but also provides a vital service to the school and parents

Join the 200 Club to donate £5 a month (literally less than the cost of a hot chocolate!) and be in with the chance of winning £200 at the next draw - sign up here [Furze Platt Senior School PTFA 200 Club - Monthly Donation | Furze Platt Senior School PTFA \(Powered by Donorbox\)](#)

### 200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION

Please drop us a line under the Facebook video, or email [ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net) if you would like to find out more.

We look forward to hearing from you!

### Learning Support Assistant in Shine

EDV/2024/FPSS/59367

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join our Shine team, providing targeted support to our students with an autistic spectrum condition diagnosis in the ASC Resource Base.

📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

💷 £7,260.00 Annually (Actual)

Part-time, 12 hours per week over two days, Tuesday and Thursday. Term-time only plus two INSET days.



Apply Now

### Peripatetic Guitar Teacher

EDV/2024/FPSS/06796

Furze Platt Senior School is looking to appoint a peripatetic guitar teacher to join their expanding music department.

📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ

🕒 Casual Contract | N/A

💷 £35.00 Annually (Actual)



Apply Now

### Assistant Exams Officer

EDV/2024/FPSS/66499

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to work within the student services team supporting our Exams and Student Services Manager with the efficient and effective running of all internal and...

📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

💷 £18,436.00 - £19,715.00 Annually (Actual)

Based on 30 hours per week, Term-time only plus 7 days



Apply Now



LEISURE  FOCUS



TIME TO FOCUS  
FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE

JOIN US TODAY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.leisurefocus.org.uk](http://www.leisurefocus.org.uk)



or

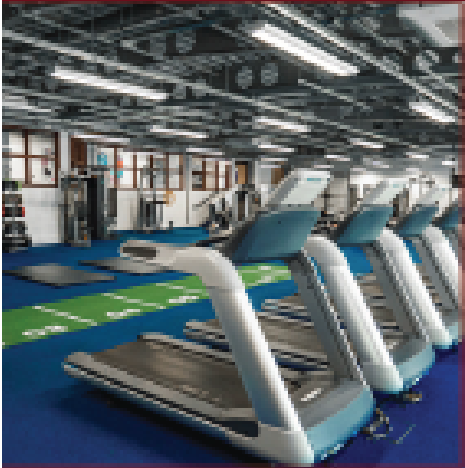
CLICK HERE



Make a commitment to yourself in 2024.  
Our Single Site membership comes with  
brand-new perks to help you make the  
most of your fitness membership.

# LEISURE FOCUS

## FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE



## YOUR FITNESS GOALS ARE JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Full access to over 50 station gym
- Unlimited studio classes
- NEW for 2024 - A wide range of fitness equipment
- Inductions and training programmes
- Free Parking
- Priority online booking, 7 days in advance.

### NEW FOR 2024

- 2 FREE Swims per month at Braywick Leisure Centre
- 1 FREE Badminton court per week at Furze Platt Leisure Centre

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.leisurefocus.org.uk](http://www.leisurefocus.org.uk) 

OR

**CLICK HERE** 



TIME TO FOCUS

### A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: [info@skipssed.com](mailto:info@skipssed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

