

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #73.3



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Examination Season

After months of preparation and anticipation, next Thursday marks the start of the external examination season. On behalf of all our community I would like to wish all our students good luck as they sit their examinations.



Students have been working hard and I am sure their results will reflect the effort they have made with their studies and revision.

### Year 7 Parents Evening

It was great to have parents, carers, students and staff meeting on Thursday to discuss our Year 7 students and their progress at FPSS. As ever, there was much to celebrate, as well as areas to improve in and I am sure moving forwards we will work together to help your children realise these goals.

### Year 6 Parents Induction Evening

We look forward to welcoming many parents and carers to FPSS next Wednesday as we share information ready to welcome our new Year 7s to FPSS firstly for transition days this summer and then permanently in September. I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I hope that you all have a wonderful May Day Bank Holiday.

Take care,

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 5 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

MON 6 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY	
WED 8 MAY	Year 6 Parents' Induction Evening	6pm - 7.30pm
FRI 24 MAY	END OF TERM (TERM 5)	3.15pm finish
MON 27 - FRI 31 MAY	MAY HOLIDAY	
MON 3 JUNE	START OF TERM 6 (Week 1)	

## SCHOOL TERM DATES



## YEAR 11 EXAM REVISION

### Summer Revision Programme

Please find this year's summer GCSE summer revision programme below for your information and reference. All revision sessions during exam phase 1 are compulsory; revision sessions during exam phase 2 are not. However, I strongly recommend that your child attend all revision sessions.

Year 11 students have also been emailed this information.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself, Mrs Feather, Mrs Ridgley or Miss Barney.

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

## SUMMER REVISION PROGRAMME 2024



## MATHS AND ENGLISH GCSE REVISION

Please see the revision advice below for students which was sent out to Year 11 parents and carers this week.

### Mathematics:

1. Use [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) to review any topics you are unclear about.
2. Use topic sheets on [www.mathsgenie.co.uk](http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk) for graded topic exam questions.
3. Use <https://sparxmaths.com/> to revise key topics and practise questions alongside some video tutorials.

### English Language:

1. Read the advice from EDUQAS on how to answer the English Language questions here <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/articles/exam-tips-gcse-english-language/>
2. Use your previous PPE papers to remind yourself of your feedback.
3. Practise writing letters, speeches, articles, reviews and reports on a range of different topics.
4. Practise writing about the author's intentions and effects on the reader by using any fiction or non-fiction text that you find at home.

### English Literature:

1. Create a range of essay plans for the possible themes from the texts.
2. Make flashcards for short quotations, sorted by character/theme/poem.
3. Make five minute mind-maps for characters and themes in which time you write down as much as you can remember.
4. Use GCSEPod to take quizzes about characters and themes
5. Explain aloud (to yourself or to somebody else) how the writers present characters and themes in the texts.

Ms Searle and Mrs Bull (Joint Heads of Mathematics)

Mr Clarke (Head of English and Media)

## YEAR 11 STUDENTS – ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Ahead of the start of GCSEs next week, I am writing to help you all with some last minute help and advice.

**Exam timetables** are available on-line for each student via [www.schoolworkspace.com](http://www.schoolworkspace.com). If your child would like a printed version of this, please ask them to come to Raising Achievement and we will print a copy off for them.

As I am sure you are all aware, the exam period is a stressful time for all (none more so than for you!), so to help minimise this, please take into account the following:-

Please ensure your child is in school in plenty of time prior to the start time of their exam – **8.45 am** for a morning exam and **1.15 pm** for the afternoon exams. This applies to exam phase 2 (after May half-term) when students come in just for exams (unless agreed otherwise with myself or Miss Ridgley).

A comprehensive **revision programme** has been put in place during the exams (link below). If they would like a printed version, please ask your child to come to Raising Achievement and pick one up or if you would like to email me direct, then contact me and I am happy to send you a copy electronically.

### YEAR 11 GCSE SUMMER REVISION PROGRAMME

**Stationery** – please make sure your child has plenty of black pens at their disposal during the next few weeks as well as the other stationery such as pencils, protractor, calculator (Maths and all Science exams), ruler, rubber, compass and highlighters. Students must put all of their stationery in a clear pencil case.

**Water** – students are allowed to take a drink of plain water in a clear plastic bottle with the label removed into the exam room.

**Uniform** – please ensure that your child arrives to their exam in full school uniform, which will include a blazer, tie and school shoes and NOT a hoody and trainers! Students who are not wearing the proper school uniform run the risk of not being able to sit their exam.

The Raising Achievement Department have all the **resources** that Year 11 students need during the exam period, so please make sure they know they are all welcome to pop in get anything/advice they need to help them.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of Year 11 success in the coming weeks, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help.

Mrs D Feather, Raising Achievement Manager

# YEAR 11 EXAM PHASES

## 9.5.24 – 22.5.23: Exam Phase 1

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 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.

### Top Revision Tips

Don't let the stress of revision overwhelm you. Stay in control with these top tips.

access GCSEPod

- START EARLY**  
Cramming at the last minute is stressful and has limited success.
- MAKE A PLAN**  
Work out how much time you have and how long you can spend on each subject.
- STUDY SPACE**  
Find a quiet spot away from distractions and keep everything all in one place.
- MIX IT UP**  
Use a mixture of revision techniques for best results.
- TAKE BREAKS**  
It is possible to work too hard, make sure you take regular breaks.
- GET TOGETHER**  
Meet with friends to chat through what you have learnt.
- USE PAST PAPERS**  
These are a great way to get used to exam format and seeing what you have learnt.
- EAT HEALTHY**  
Certain foods boost your brainpower and will help you remember more.

ELEVATE EDUCATION  
SPRING TERM  
WEBINARS



### Upcoming Webinars:

**Tuesday 14th May at 6pm:** Help Improve your child's memory

**Tuesday 18th June at 6pm:** How to help your child alleviate stress

**Tuesday 2nd July at 6pm:** How to get (and keep!) your child motivated

11,519 parents from over 250 schools have signed up for Elevate's webinars so far.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THESE WEBINARS](#)

### Exam Checklist

Follow this checklist to ensure you are prepared for an exam.

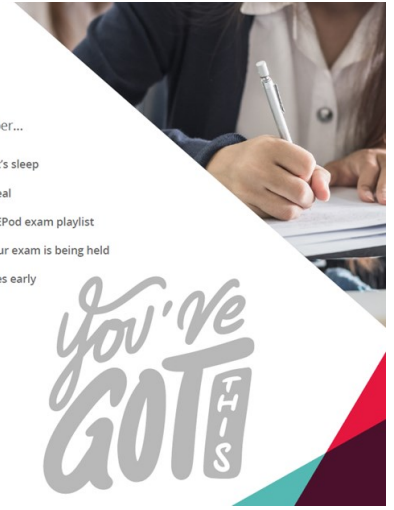
#### Do you have...

- 2 pens (black)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Angle measure or protractor
- Calculator
- Highlighters
- Bottle of water
- Clear pencil case

#### Things to remember...

- Get a good night's sleep
- Eat a healthy meal
- Review the GCSEPod exam playlist
- Check where your exam is being held
- Arrive 15 minutes early

accessGCSEPod | gcsepod.com



## 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](#)

Students have been sent these links also.

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher



**YEAR 13 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD  
PRIZE WINNERS**

Congratulations to Daniel Del Campo, Kate Lee, Sabrina Lee (all pictured) and Sathya Sathananthalingam on their success this year in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad competition.

Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for Year 13 students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Young chemists develop their critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

This year's problems included questions on the chemistry of bacteria that can produce molecules with the same energy density as rocket fuels.; contrast agents used in MRI scanners; amino acid complexes; vaping and vitamin E acetate; and cheese manufacturing and the production of holes in Swiss cheese.

The RSC Olympiad runs every year for Chemistry students in Year 13 and current Year 12 students will be able to sign up in the coming Autumn term.

Mr R Frankis, Head of Chemistry

**NEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM**

The Sixth Form now has its separate newsletter, which you should be receiving if your child is currently studying there. However, we still wanted to regularly share some updates with parents and carers.



This week, for instance, we are celebrating the fact that eight of our Year 12 students have been accepted onto Eton's Summer University Preparation Courses. This was a selective and competitive process with over 840 applications and only 552 student places, so we are delighted for our successful students who will be attending subject specific lessons, seminars on applying to university – including Oxbridge, and workshops on writing UCAS personal statements.

Year 12 Work experience takes place from 15th - 19th July. Students have been working hard since January to secure a placement, but some still haven't secured one. If there are any parents who work for an organisation or have a company of their own and might be able to offer our Year 12 students a placement, please do contact our Assistant Head of Sixth Form (Year 12) on [kate.kalinowski@furzeplatt.net](mailto:kate.kalinowski@furzeplatt.net)



'Younger pupils welcome the support offered by Sixth Form students for their welfare and well-being.'

Ofsted 2021



## POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS



Here are the winning entries for the poetry competition that ran in March, following the Year 9 trip to the Imperial War Museum. Well done to Matthew and our other winner (who has chosen to remain anonymous) for their evocative poems:

### By Matthew Chew, Year 9

'Stories, recounts of the past  
Deserve to be heard and learnt.  
What has been done stays frozen -  
As our own time flies fast,  
What we gather from it will not be burnt.

The Holocaust, the bombings and the Wars,  
Anything like the brutality of the before,  
Should never repeat again.'

### The Frontline

'I never want to be back here again,  
The stench of rotting meat,  
The sound of shells exploding,  
Men collapsing,  
Gunshots ring inside my ears,  
I never want to be back here again,  
Screams coming from German trenches,  
Young boys dying of wounds,  
Family at home discover the news, Dev-  
astated,  
Traumatized, it ruins their lives,  
I never want to be back here again,  
Lives are lost,  
Hearts are shattered,  
Continuous yelling,  
Endless noise.'

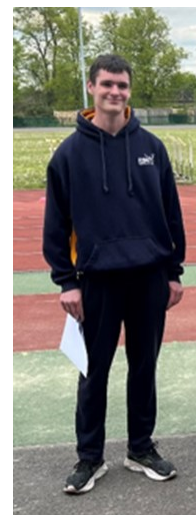
## BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS COMBINED EVENTS



Last Friday, Connor Fitzgibbon (Year 11) participated in the Berkshire Schools Combined Event where he competed in High Jump, Shotput, 100m Hurdles, Long Jump and 1500m.

Connor won the high jump and achieved a 1.76m PB beating his closest competitor by 15cm.

He finished the event 4th overall out of 18 – a great achievement.



## WINNERS FORTNIGHT 1

### Endurance Points



### Individuals

**Whole School** - £10 Amazon Voucher

Riley Clements-Phillips (7DAB)

**Year Groups** – All to get chocolate bar

Year 8 – Eliza Cannon (8TAS)

Year 9 – Patryk Romasz (9DLC)

Year 10 – Adriano Cilia (10GM)

Year 11 – Emma Astrup-McGuinness (11SAM)

Sixth Form – Luka Wilson (6LAH)

### Tutor Groups

**Whole School** – Biscuits and front of queue pass

7KEB

**Year Groups** – All to get biscuits

8TAS

9LDC

10JAS

11LMS

6MNV





## INTERHOUSE



### HOUSE CHALLENGE!

Our upcoming House Challenge is based on House T-shirts!

Students will be able to purchase their own House T-shirts; more details coming soon...



## WE ARE HIRING

### VACANCIES

#### 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

#### 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



## SKI TRIP TO 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.

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 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.

Please could all deposits be paid by 12 noon on Friday 10th May.

Mr N 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!





Gardening Club runs every Tuesday after school. We qualify as Duke of Edinburgh volunteering and all year groups are welcome.

### TERM 5 CLUBS 2024

Parents and carers have been sent the clubs and academic support clinics for this term.

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



Gardening club made sustainable newspaper pots and planted runner beans from seed saved from last year's harvest. We are also delighted to be taking part in the RHS Big Seed Sow and planted some of our free seeds (California poppy, fennel and love-lies-bleeding). This year the focus is on resilience to climate change/drought/saving water. We will be monitoring how the plants manage and reporting back to the RHS.

We also pricked out our tomatoes and parsley!





# LEISURE FOCUS

FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE  
Bank Holiday Opening Hours

Saturday  
4th May

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday  
5th May

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

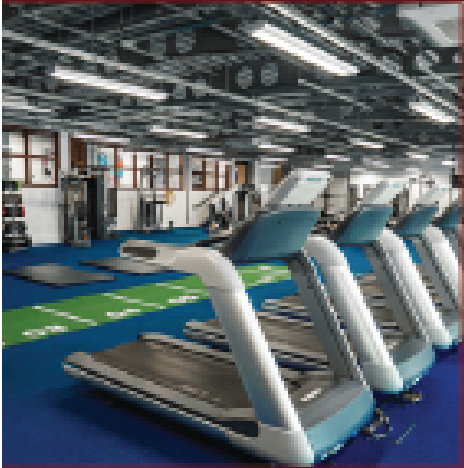
Monday  
6th May

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



# 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

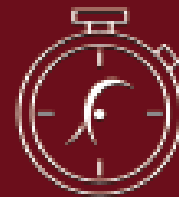
- 2 FREE Swims per month at Braywick Leisure Centre
- 1 FREE Badminton court per week at Furze Platt Leisure Centre

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

OR

**CLICK HERE** 



TIME TO FOCUS

# **EAGLES U13 TRIALS FOR 2024/2025 SEASON**



**Eagles are always welcome  
to new players wishing to  
progress their netball. Next  
year is an exciting year ahead  
for the squad to develop and  
compete.**

**Please get in touch  
[marianetball@gmail.com](mailto:marianetball@gmail.com)**

**Coming soon!**

**Register your interest now**

## CROSSROADS CARE DAY SUPPORT HUB

Caring for  
Slough

### *Your Choices Matter...*

Are you looking for somewhere to meet new friends, catch up with old friends, learn a new skill and participate in fun activities?

If so, a warm welcome to our Day Support Hub. This Hub caters for people of all ages who are living in social isolation, those with care needs or those who just need a bit of extra help and support to take part in activities.

If you are able to and enjoy being in groups, join us in a safe, secure environment for lunch or a cup of tea, indoor & outdoor games & activities aimed at promoting independence, new hobbies and shared interests.

Qualified staff and kind volunteers are always at hand to provide support and encouragement.

Location:  
Wexham Parish Council  
Norway Drive, SLOUGH, SL2 5QP

Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am - 2pm weekly

*Please contact us to find out about availability, cost or for any other information you may need.*

CQC Registered to provide Regulated Activity  
Crossroads Care Slough  
The Corner House, 254a Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4XE  
01753 525796 [info@sloughcrossroads.org.uk](mailto:info@sloughcrossroads.org.uk)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1093472

**How we can help you**

If you think that we may be able to help you, a friend or a family member, please contact us for a free informal chat. We can also visit you at home and, together with the person you care for, design a programme that best meets your needs.

**How you can help us**

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about any of the ways you could help us:

- Display or distribute our leaflets
- Join us as a Trustee or Volunteer
- Join as a Scheme Member
- Make a donation
- Introduce us to somebody you know
- Remember us in your Will
- Help us with fundraising

**How to get in touch**

Crossroads Care Slough  
The Corner House  
254a Farnham Road  
Slough, Berkshire SL1 4XE

T 01753 525796  
F 01753 691201

E [info@sloughcrossroads.org.uk](mailto:info@sloughcrossroads.org.uk)  
[www.sloughcrossroads.org.uk](http://www.sloughcrossroads.org.uk)



*Caring for Slough*



Charity registration No. 1093472  
Slough Crossroads Caring for Carers is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 04465478. Registered office: The Corner House, 254a Farnham Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4XE. The Crossroads Care trade mark is a collective mark.

*Caring for Slough*

# Caring for Slough's carers

**Crossroads Care Slough is a charity which provides care and care-related services to Slough's carers and the people they care for.**

We have been in Slough for 20 years and understand the diverse needs of our local community. As part of Britain's leading provider of support for carers and the people they care for, we are supported by a wealth of experience and expertise.

**Your choice, your independence, your peace of mind**

If you have care needs, or are a carer, we can help. We offer a choice of services for all age groups, disabilities and health conditions, which can be tailored to your particular needs. Our services include:

- Accompanied visits and trips, including appointments, classes and shopping
- Activities and clubs for children, young people with a disability and young carers
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- Emergency care planning and a 24 hour emergency respite service
- Free time. We provide care so that the usual carer can have some 'time off'
- Healthcare needs, medication prompts and prescription collection
- Help around the home, including meal preparation, assistance with mobility, sleeping and disturbed night care, social visits and companionship
- Personal care such as washing, dressing and incontinence care

**Why choose us?**

Our highly committed and well-trained team deliver caring to Slough every day – and have done so for the past 20 years. It is their enthusiasm and hard work that have led to our reputation for professionalism, quality of care and reliability.

Above all, we never forget that the needs of our clients always come first.



Out and about



In the home



Fun and Games

