

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS
AND COURSE GUIDE

2017

The Furze Platt Sixth Form: The Right Choice

Furze Platt Senior School's Sixth Form is one of the most popular and successful in the Windsor and Maidenhead area. As a result of our focus, passion and commitment, combined with excellent teaching and positive learning culture, our young women and men emerge highly qualified and well-rounded, ready to thrive at university or to excel in their chosen career.

The success of the Furze Platt Sixth Form is built on four key foundations:

- 1) A first-class curriculum combined with outstanding teaching.
- 2) A real focus on students as individuals, with academic, pastoral, university and careers support.
- 3) A wide range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities.
- 4) Outstanding facilities throughout the school.



“ The Sixth Form is a strength of the school. Students achieve well and are good role models for younger pupils. ”
- OFSTED 2016



Welcome

The Sixth Form experience provides greater freedom, combined with the studying of subjects that students really enjoy, in smaller classes and with more adult relationships – all of which make for an exceptionally fulfilling and hugely rewarding time. To have the opportunity to do all this at a place as lively and as aspirational as Furze Platt Senior School is to make that experience unforgettable.

The Sixth Form years are very much a gateway to university and beyond – a time too for individuals to equip themselves with those vital life skills, balancing independence and responsibility alongside the need to prioritise effectively to meet deadlines and other expectations. The vibrant nature of Furze Platt Senior School means that as well as academic opportunities, we can also offer a whole range of other exciting and enriching interests including sport, music, the arts, drama, tours, trips and visits or societies and clubs organised by Sixth Formers themselves.

At this stage of their education students also value the high level of pastoral and academic support available in the Furze Platt Sixth Form. Whether by ensuring the smoothness of the transition from Year 11 to the Sixth Form, in managing the shift towards a more independent style of working, or in making use of the extensive university and careers advice available, the school provides an environment in which Sixth Formers feel supported and empowered to reach their full potential.

So, welcome to the Furze Platt Senior School Sixth Form Prospectus and Course Guide. I hope that you are able to discover a little more about what makes the Sixth Form here so unique. Within the pages ahead you will find more information about life in these transformational two years, about the courses that we offer and a little more about the advice and support that will enable you to achieve your highest ambitions whatever those next steps may be.

If you have any further questions, then please feel free to speak to me or any of the Sixth Form team.

James Dollery
Head of Sixth Form





Three Pathway Model: Furze Platt Key Stage 5 Curriculum 2017-2018

1: Determine which of the 3 Pathways applies to you.

Applied Pathway

3 Level 3 Applied courses
 Maths / English GCSE retake as necessary
 Work Experience as appropriate
 2 year course commitment
Entry Requirement: Average of C- across best 8 subjects including English and Maths
Available Qualifications: Any from Applied Pathway Qualifications list below.

Academic Pathway

3 linear A-Level qualifications
 No AS-Levels
 2 year course commitment
Entry Requirement: Average of B- across best 8 subjects including English and Maths, with B in chosen subjects
Available Qualifications: Any from Applied Pathway and Academic Pathway Qualifications list below.

Extended Pathway

3 A-Level qualifications (4 in exceptional circumstances)
 Extended Project Qualification or one AS-Level, to be completed in Year 12
Entry Requirement: Average of A- across best 8 subjects including English and Maths.
Available Qualifications: Any from the Applied Pathway, Academic Pathway and Extended Pathway Qualifications list below.

2: See which qualifications are available from your pathway. Check your predicted grades meet individual subject entry requirements before applying.

Curriculum & Teaching

Furze Platt offers an exceptional range of A-Level subjects and Level 3 applied courses. These are divided into three pathways – Applied, Academic, and Extended. These are all taught in small classes by subject experts. Examination results are excellent and put the school in the top 25% of schools nationally.

Entry Requirements

The school bases its entry requirements on the government's 'attainment 8' measure. In general, this is an average of a student's highest 8 GCSE grades, with a higher weighting given to English and Maths. The minimum requirement to enter the Sixth Form is an average of a C- in a student's 'attainment 8' subjects. This is broadly equivalent to 4 C grades and 4 D grades. This will enable students to join the Applied Pathway and to study three applied subjects.

In order to access the Academic Pathway, students will need to achieve an average of a B- across their 'attainment 8' subjects. This is broadly equivalent to 4 B grades and 4 C grades, and will enable students to study three linear A-Level qualifications, or any subjects from the Applied Pathway.

Entry to the Extended Pathway requires students to achieve an average of A- across their 'attainment 8' subjects. This is broadly equivalent to 4 A grades and 4 B grades at GCSE. This entitles students to choose three linear A-Level qualifications as well as the opportunity to take an additional 4th qualification such as a standalone AS-Level, or the Extended Project Qualification.

There may be some students who wish to study 4 A-Levels. This will be possible where students gain A* grades in all, or almost all, their GCSE subjects.

“ The 16 to 19 study programme offers students the opportunity to choose from a wide choice of academic and vocational courses. ”

- OFSTED 2016



Applied Pathway Qualifications

These qualifications are also available to the Academic Pathway & Extended Pathway.

Art & Design A-Level
 Business BTEC
 Creative Media - Cambridge
 Technical Extended Certificate
 IT - Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate
 Music Technology A-Level
 Photography A-Level
 Product Design A-Level
 Sport BTEC Level 3 National
 Extended Certificate
 Sport BTEC Level 3 National
 Diploma
 Sociology A-Level

Academic Pathway Qualifications

These qualifications are all A-Levels and are also available to the Extended Pathway.

Biology
 Business
 Chemistry
 Computer Science
 Drama
 Economics
 English Language and Literature
 English Literature
 French
 Further Maths
 German
 Geography
 History
 Maths
 Music
 Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
 Physics
 Politics
 Psychology
 Spanish

Extended Pathway Qualifications

Chosen in addition to 3 A-Levels from the Applied/Academic Pathway/s

Extended Project Qualification
 Further Maths AS-Level
 Maths AS-Level
 Psychology AS-Level

Please note:

- a number of subjects have additional entry requirements, please refer to additional entry requirements sheet
- some subjects may be taught at another Maidenhead Consortium School
- subjects can be withdrawn if there are insufficient numbers wanting to take the course

A Rough Guide to Sensible Subject Combinations

This rough guide is for general advice only and does not replace specific research and/or consultation with the universities for the courses in which you are interested. It is also essential that you choose subjects which you enjoy and which interest you.

University Course or Career	Suggested subject combination at A-Level	Notes
Accountancy	Maths, Business Studies or Economics with one other, but any combination is permitted	Accountancy degree course provides exemption from "foundation" accountancy exams, but is not necessary to enter the profession.
Administration, the Civil Service etc	Almost any combination but subjects include English, History, Economics, Geography, Government and Politics and a Foreign Language, or two languages for EU work and some diplomatic work, but Sciences for Scientific Branch careers.	Good class of degree needed to enter Diplomatic Service, which has a very competitive entry.
Agriculture, Agricultural Research, Land Surveyor	Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics, Geography.	
Architecture	Art usually recommended, though not always vital, but drawing experience and skills necessary. Maths very useful. English or Modern Languages and Physics all valuable. Also Design, History and Business Studies	Must have GCSE Maths, Compilation of a portfolio is essential for entrance to most Architecture courses.
Banking, Finance, Insurance	Business Studies or Economics. Maths and a Language is very useful.	Finance and Banking degree courses available, but not mandatory for careers in this area.
Biochemistry, Zoology, Botany, Marine Biology, Micro-Biology, Biology	Chemistry, Maths and Biology desirable. Some courses emphasise Biology, some Chemistry. The most competitive demand strong mathematics.	Some of the most competitive courses welcome Mathematics at A-Level. For most Maths AS is sufficient but for Oxbridge A-Level is advantageous
Business Studies	GCSE Maths is essential and A-Level Maths would be an advantage. Languages strongly recommended	More and more universities are offering combined courses in Business Studies and Languages; in some cases a language at A-Level is a condition of entry.
Chartered Surveyor	Geography, Maths, Economics, Art and Design	
Chemistry	Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Biology	Oxbridge applicants should have Maths at A-Level
Computer Science, Statistics, Numerical Analysis	Maths, Physics and a science / computer science as a third subject	Good A-Level grades required for entry to popular degree course.
Design	Design Technology, plus Maths, Physics (engineering side) or Maths, Business Studies (commercial management side). Art if committed to a career in "artistic" Design	Drawing skills should be developed in the Sixth Form, especially if considering graphic/fashion/ interior design
Economics	Maths, Economics or Business Studies, indeed any combination of Art or science subjects. It is not always essential to have A-Level Economics (many universities now offer introductory courses). Most demand A-Level Maths, or perhaps Maths AS-Level, others require evidence of a strong GCSE performance	For Oxbridge and other leading Economics courses, Maths at A-Level is needed and for PPE course at Oxford Maths AS or A-Level can be advantageous.
Engineering	Physics and Maths essential for the vast majority of universities. Design is useful, so is Economics, Electronics, Business Studies and a Language.	Maths or Further Maths A-Level is expected for Oxbridge entry
English, Drama, English and Drama	English and a Foreign or Classical Language or Classical Civilisation or History	Single Honours English is always more competitive for entry to university than English combined with one or more other subjects. Drama or English and Drama can be very competitive.
Fine Art	Art, English or any combination.	Completion of Foundation Course needed as precondition of entry to degree course.
Geography (art emphasis)	Geography, History Economics, Business Studies, English, Languages, Art, one Science.	Slightly higher entry standards for Geography BA than for Geography BSc degree courses
Geography (science emphasis)	Geography, Maths or Physics, Biology or Chemistry.	A wide variety of careers available with a Geography degree.

University Course or Career	Suggested subject combination at A-Level	Notes
Geology	Two sciences and/or Maths	
History	History, Languages, English or Economics.	An A-Level Language is not essential to read History but is helpful, especially for Oxford. A wide variety of careers is available with a History degree.
History of Art	Art, History, English; a modern and/or classical language	
Journalism	English and a Foreign language, but any combination of subjects will do.	There are degree courses in Journalism, but entry to them is very competitive and work experience is almost a precondition of admission.
Law	Any combination, though History, Maths, English, Government and Politics and/or Economics are useful. For Patent Law add a Science. (Art is not recognised as an entry qualification for Law School).	At Cambridge, Law (part 2) via Modern Languages or Classics (part 1) is popular. Law graduates need one year postgraduate study; non-law graduates, two years.
Leisure Industry, Sports Studies, Sports Science	Business Studies or Economics and either Chemistry or Biology or both.	Competitive entry to university. Record of commitment and success in sport very important
Management Studies, Management Science	Maths, Economics or Business Studies	Courses at university may overlap greatly in content with Business Studies courses.
Materials Science, Metallurgy	Chemistry, Physics and Maths. Design is useful.	
Maths, Maths with Physics, Theoretical Physics	Maths, Physics and a third.	Maths at A-Level or Further Maths, especially for Oxbridge.
Media and Communication Studies	English, a modern language	Successful entry into the very competitive job market of journalism and broadcasting cannot be guaranteed with this qualification. Work experience in this area absolutely essential.
Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology. Some medical schools like a non-science subject at A-Level. A good level of Maths is also important.	The minimum standard entry for Medicine depends on the university but is usually AAA* points or more; the same for Dentistry. For Veterinary Science work experience is essential. Interview most important!
Modern Languages (degree) not including Oriental Language	French, German, Spanish (any two) and English, History, Geography, Business, Art.	One Modern Language may be enough for a language degree and a single language is often combined with other subjects at university. Business Studies with a language is one of the fastest growing courses at universities. But two languages at A-Level widens the choice.
Music	Music A-Level and /or practical music skills (grade 8 on more than one instruments)	Practical music through Academies; Musicology at universities. Many combined courses, e.g. Music with German available.
Natural Sciences	Maths and two of Chemistry, Physics and Biology	Maths or Further Maths A-Level is expected for Oxbridge entry. Physics and Chemistry routes applicants must also study Maths A-Level. For the Biological route, Maths AS may suffice, but A-Level is recommended.
Pharmacy	Chemistry, another Science.	Pharmacists must have a degree in Pharmacy from an approved School of Pharmacy.
Physics, Applied Physics, Mathematical Physics	Physics and Maths plus one other (Economics, Business Studies, Chemistry, Biology, Further Maths).	
Politics and International Relations	Any combination of social science, humanities or science subjects. Politics at A-Level not a requirement	Universities often offer joint honours courses including Politics (such as Politics & Law or Politics & Sociology) that sometimes have a slightly lower grade requirement.
Psychology	No particular subjects required though the inclusion of a science subject or Maths is advantageous	Approved Psychology degree recognised by BPS necessary, if wanting a career in Psychology. Competitive entry. Work experience very useful.
Teaching	English, a science, Maths i.e. a National Curriculum subject if interested in primary school teaching).	For Secondary teaching a degree the same as or at least containing the teaching subject is necessary, i.e. choose a degree at least some of the content of which is directly relevant to secondary education.
Theology and Religious Studies	(Philosophy & Ethics) Preferably an Arts course including English or History or both.	

Outstanding Facilities

In addition to specialist teaching rooms, Sixth Form students benefit from a dedicated Sixth Form area, housing the common room, teaching rooms and study rooms. There is a plentiful supply of desktop computers, and laptop computers are available to loan. The school has recently invested heavily in many areas of the school, and boasts a professional drama theatre, its own recording studio, and state of the art Maths block. The school benefits from enviable sporting facilities, including floodlit tennis/netball/basketball courts, a new 60-station gym and a professional, floodlit all weather pitch.



“ The personal development of Sixth Formers is outstanding. ”

Extra-Curricular & Leadership Opportunities

Furze Platt Sixth Form students are active and involved both across the school and the wider community. Students undertake a range of leadership roles including subject prefects, and through the House system, where Sixth Formers organise and run the paired reading, paired maths, and peer mentoring schemes. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to personal development and extra-curricular activities, with students choosing from a programme that includes all manner of sport as well as practical and cultural activities. Every other year an international expedition takes place – in 2018 this will be to Indonesia. Sixth Form students organise a significant number of fundraising events, and have strong links with the local Rotary Club. Students’ understanding of moral and ethical issues is enhanced through the weekly debate assembly, which focuses on areas of current affairs and topical concern.

Academic & Pastoral Support

Sixth Form students are extremely well nurtured and cared for at Furze Platt. Each student is placed in a small, friendly Sixth Form tutor group where their academic and personal development is overseen and supported. The Sixth Form benefits from a team of academic mentors, who provide further intervention where required. A comprehensive programme of advice and guidance exists both for university entry and for career progression, including the school’s own Careers and Higher Education Fair, the Careers Week for Sixth Formers, our Work Experience programme, individual interviews with our Careers Advisor, and support with the UCAS university application process, provided by form tutors and by the Head of Sixth Form.



“ Sixth Form has allowed me to flourish and develop as an individual. ”

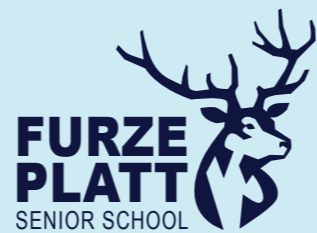


Progression from Furze Platt Sixth Form

Furze Platt Sixth Formers gain excellent qualifications that act as the gateway to higher education and career success. Approximately 85% of students progress to university, including several each year to Oxbridge and nearly 40% to the Russell Group of universities. Equal support is given to those choosing to begin their career straight from school, with a significant number taking up apprenticeships in highly sought-after fields.

SIXTH FORM DESTINATIONS

2016



47 Different Universities
63 Different Courses
133 Students

80% University/College
 8% Gap Year
 6% Apprenticeship
 5% Employment



Gap Year

- Sophie Bonhomme
- Erin Cartwright
- Naman Chaturvedi
- Harry Frith
- Cameron Green
- Charlie Gregory
- Rachel Haddon
- Rosie Hart
- Lawrence Mound
- Shahrukh Saeed
- Jasmine Sandhu

Apprenticeships

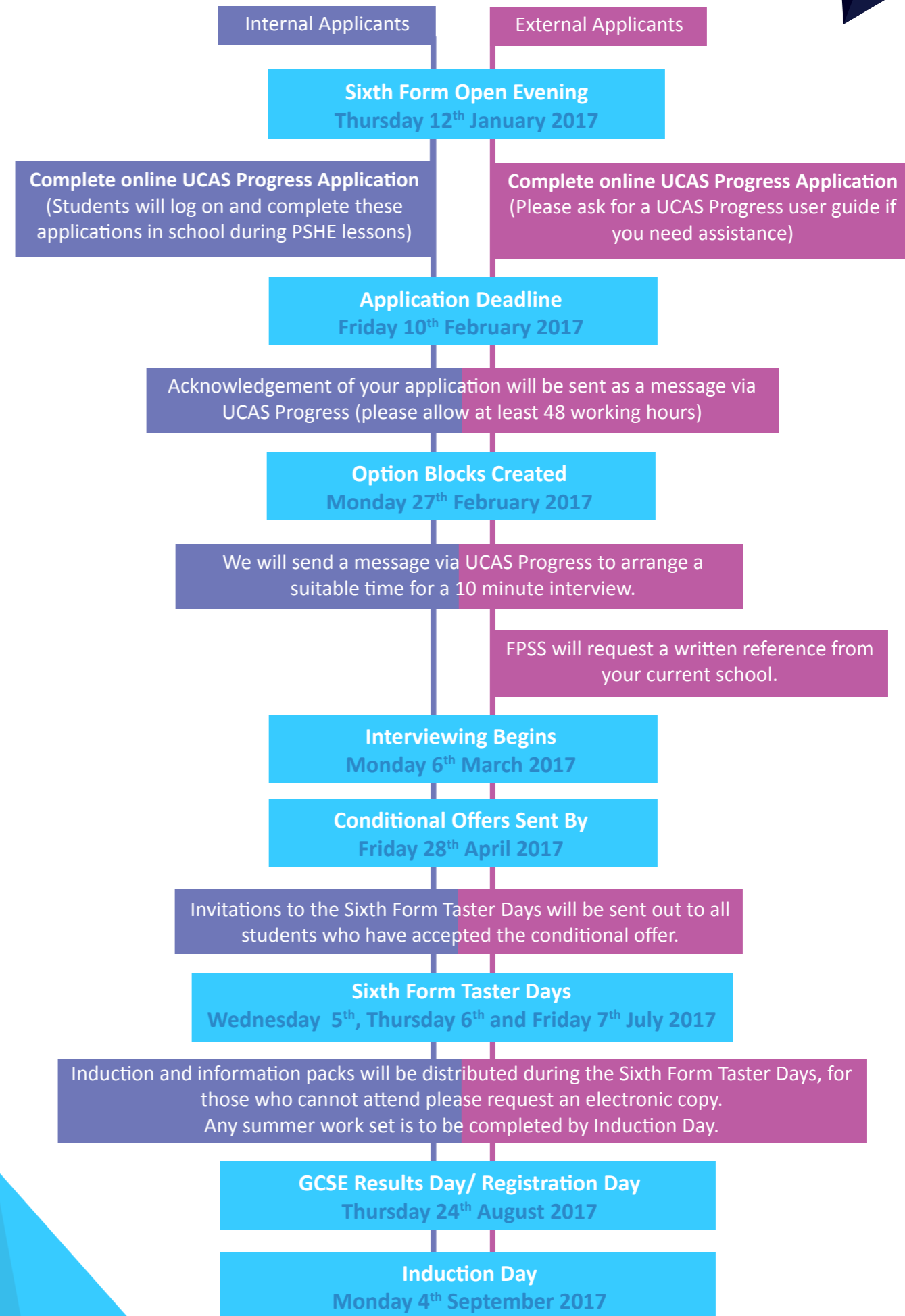
- Thomas Billingham - Personal Trainer
- Peter Brancato - Aerospace Engineering
- Rebecca Brant - Graphic Design, Totally Pharmacy
- Mathew Bucket
- Daniel Cabral - ICT, Sofcat Ltd
- Libby Parsons - Deloitte UK
- John Marlow
- Kate Roberts - Applying Sept 2017, International Relations

Employment

- Kimberley Coulson - Dancer
- Harry Difford - Casual work, travelling
- Benjamin Foreshew
- Joel Gormally - Royal Marines
- Warrick Heath - Royal Marines
- Hayden Kyle-Davidson - Navy, Dartmouth Naval College
- Daniel Lawrence - Royal Marines



Application Process & Key Dates



Contacts & further information

Full course information is available at:
www.ucas.com/progress

For further assistance please contact:

Mrs Kim Bristow

Sixth Form Administrator

Email: kim.bristow@furzeplatt.net

Telephone: **01628 625308 ext.146**

Furze Platt Sixth Form

Furze Platt Senior School

Furze Platt Road

Maidenhead

Berkshire

SL6 7NQ

www.furzeplatt.com



**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL

