

Weekly Update: Monday 20th March - Friday 24th March 2017

[SCHOOL
WEBSITE](#)

[PARENTS'
CALENDAR](#)

[SPORTS
CALENDAR](#)

[AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS](#)

[ONLINE
PAYMENTS](#)

[APPLY FOR FREE
SCHOOL MEALS](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[PTFA FACEBOOK
PAGE](#)

NEXT WEEK (WEEK 2)

Wednesday 29 th March	Year 13 Economics Trip to Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre (8.30am - 5.30pm)
Friday 31 st March	End of Term 4 (12.30pm finish)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 1 st April - Sunday 9 th April	Ski Trip 2017
Monday 3 rd April - Monday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April - Wednesday 12 th April	Geography Trip to Iceland
Tuesday 18 th April	Start of Term 5



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Yr12

**REPORTS OUT THIS
WEEK**

Yr13

Please be advised that the Year 12 and 13 Progress Reports for your children are now available via our online reporting service.

The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com. Please click [here](#) for instructions to log on. Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

Mrs S Watford (M.I.S. Manager)

Yr12

**ACCESS TO PROGRESS
REPORTS**

Yr13

Please be aware that the information in the letter below has been supplied to the Students in Year 12 and 13 to be able to access their own progress reports.

I confirm that this is an additional service and the progress reports will still be available for parents and carers to access via signing in through the "Parents" icon.

Mr J Dollery (Head of Sixth Form)

[ACCESS TO REPORTS LETTER TO STUDENTS](#)

Yr11

**GCSE REVISION EVENING PRESENTATION
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE**

Yr11

[GCSE REVISION EVENING PRESENTATION](#)

AEROSOL DEODORANT SPRAYS

Please be aware that students should not bring aerosol deodorant sprays into school. They can cause breathing difficulties for some students when used in confined spaces.

Thank you for your co-operation.

LOST PROPERTY COLLECTION

3.15 - 4PM WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

If you think your child has lost or mislaid anything, you are welcome to come along to the Learning Resource Centre (Library) on Wednesday 29th March from 3.15-4pm to have a look through the numerous items we have.

Lost property is kept for a period of six weeks, after which it is disposed of. Please remember to clearly mark your child's uniform, PE kit and belongings so that lost property may be quickly returned to its owner.

[CLICK TO APPLY HERE](#)

**'The Sixth Form is a strength
of the school'**

– Ofsted 2016



READING UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CHALLENGE 2017



Furze Platt's finest Year 9 Scientists were whisked off to Reading University to compete against the cream of Berkshire Schools in this annual event.

We have enjoyed great success in the competition over the years, winning the competition in 2012.

The competition is based on the long running and very popular TV quiz - 'University Challenge'. The eight teams on the day (2 from Furze Platt) compete in a 'round-robin' with the 4 highest scoring teams making up the semi-finalists. We arrived in good time, got ourselves settled, and ready for the early rounds.

Both our teams got off to cracking starts and after the morning's heats we had battled through to the semi-finals but we narrowly missed a top two finish.

Nevertheless, a hugely enjoyable day and one that we will certainly look forward to next year,

Mr Melville (Teacher of Science)

Our team: Amber Hemsley, Elise Brammer, Freddie Grant, Kyle McDonald, Rajveer Notay, Freya Allen, Adam Gibbons, Kyna McCall, Alex De Castro, Joseph Tyne, Peter Somerville, Jamie Alexander, Harry Twite, Bethan Terry and Macey Collins.



YOUTH CHOICE YOUTH VOICE AWARDS WINNING PROJECT



Held at the Guildhall in Windsor, Furze Platt students talked about the projects with Maidenhead Cycle Hub and were presented with a cheque from the Youth Ambassadors.

Thank you again for your votes, this will make a huge difference to our students.

Miss D Carty (Alternative Curriculum Worker)



ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Well done to Numan Ashraf, Year 8, who wins this month's Artist of the Month with his 'Day of the Dead' mask.



FURZE PLATT ARE COUNTY CUP HOCKEY RUNNERS UP

Congratulations to the team for an excellent result.

In the first stages Furze Platt were placed in a pool with LVS, St Mary's (Ascot) and Downe House. We beat LVS 2-1, drew with St Mary's 2-2 and drew with Downe House 1-1. Due to the fact that we were undefeated, we won our pool which took us through to the Cup. This is an excellent achievement as we have never got through to this stage of the competition before. We won the Plate last year which is the lower end of the tournament.

After a brilliant start beating the Marist School, it was between us and Downe House who were left to fight it out for winners and runners up. We finished runners up after an amazing game, the girls played incredibly well. A great day and a great result.

Mrs C Ridgley

OUR TEAM

Lucy Thornton
Emily Bristow
Hannah Atkins
Orla Brennan
Hollie O'Neill
Molly Sammes
Caitlin Brayne
Daisy Rawlings
Georgia Mead
Lydia Rickard
Millie Stibbs



Team Indonesia

Hello, my name is Tia Elstow and I am one of sixteen students in Team Indonesia. I am currently in Year 11 studying for my GCSE's, which will take place in May. As well as my core subjects, I am studying Food and Nutrition, Business Studies and German. For my A-levels, I am hoping to study Chemistry, Business Studies, Psychology and Maths AS.

As soon as I heard about this expedition, I knew straight away that I had to go on it. Not only is this a once in a lifetime opportunity, it also gives school students the chance to help our planet with the conservation of wildlife. Going on this trip will help demonstrate an example of working well as a team. This may be useful when having potential job interviews.

The first week we will spend camping in a forest carrying out different surveys about butterflies, birds, bats and mammals. We will also be collecting data about the forest like the height of the canopy and its density. For the second week, we will learn to scuba dive on the coast and collect information about different marine life as well as completing a reef ecology course. Our reason for this expedition is to help widen the knowledge of the conservation and collect data that will have a direct impact on protecting the indigenous wildlife.

In order to help fund our trip we have organised several fundraising ideas. For example, so far, we have sold raffle tickets, given by Operation Wallacea, at parents' evenings, we have also been selling tea and coffee in the PTFA table-top sales and washing parents' cars. This week, we also sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts in school, which raised about £140. In addition to this, we are aiming to cycle, as a team, the distance from Maidenhead to Sulawesi Indonesia (7620 miles). So far, we have approximately cycled 966 miles. We would really appreciate if you helped us raise even more money by buying raffle tickets, letting us wash your car in later events at the school or donating money to our Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/FPSSIndonesia2018>

We would love to hear from anyone with any possible ideas about how the team could continue to raise funds for the expedition. If so, please contact either

Mr. Molin andrew.molin@furzeplatt.net

Dr. Scott michele.scott@furzeplatt.net

If you would like to make a donation you can either do so online into account sort code 309536, account 59194168 or by writing a cheque to Furze Platt Senior School and delivering it to School Reception. In both cases please ensure that you give the reference IND18.

Thank you.



Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

2017 PTFA MEETING DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 13th June

Starts 7.30pm in the library, all welcome.

Upcoming events:

- Big Quiz (No.4) on Friday 21st April (food, bar and raffle available). Tickets £15 a head.
- 200 Club – only £5 per month, cash prizes available.

Can you help?

- Two more volunteers required for our Indoor Table top sale. (Any parent who has a stall at the event and is willing to assist in the set up and set down will receive 50% off their stall fee)
- Does your company offer Match Funding? We are keen to hear from parents whose companies offer this. If you have any other ideas that may support our PTFA please do get in touch.
- For further details on any PTFA related queries please email: jeff@iifa.co.uk



TEACHING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR



REMINDERS

AFTER-SCHOOL SUPERVISED STUDY

There are a limited number of places available every day for students who wish to complete work after school. These 'Supervised Study' sessions run from 3.30 - 4.30pm in IT4. Students will need to work silently and independently. In order for students to attend, parents must complete the form in the link below and return it to Reception, marked for the attention of Mrs Diane Flood. Students may come for any number of days, but need to commit to coming the same days each week.

Mr E Towill (Deputy Headteacher)

[SUPERVISED STUDIES LETTER](#)



CURRENT VACANCIES

If you would be interested in working at Furze Platt Senior School please visit our website and follow the links to our Vacancies page.

[Home](#) > [Vacancies](#) > [Current Vacancies](#)



KATIE TOMLIN HORSE

Many congratulations to Miss Tomlin (PE Teacher) who, along with her pony Wills, has qualified for the British Riding Clubs Festival of the Horse Championships.

Miss Tomlin finished individual 1st in the Area 6 Combined Training qualifier (dressage followed by show jumping) held at Rosehill Equestrian Centre. We wish her the best of luck for the Championships.

READING HALF MARATHON

Well done to all staff who took part in the Reading Half Marathon at the weekend.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION STARTING IN YEAR 10



Please find the letter below from the local authority regarding opportunities for education starting in Year 10. It is a statutory requirement that this letter is distributed to all parents/carers with children in Year 9.

[YEAR 10 OPPORTUNITIES LETTER](#)



CAREERS WEEK AND WORK EXPERIENCE JULY 2017



In the week beginning Monday 10th July 2017 we have our annual Work Experience Week. On the following Monday, 17th July, we will hold a Careers Day, where we will run workshops, mock interviews, lifestyle and finance talks. For the rest of the week we encourage all our Year 12 students to take part in work experience in order to enhance their education and prepare them for the world of work.

Please see the letter below for full details and reply slip.

Mr J Dollery (Head of Sixth Form)

[YEAR 12 CAREERS WEEK AND WORK EXPERIENCE LETTER](#)

A VERY SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE NEW GCSE GRADES

Starting in 2017 with English and maths, new GCSEs in England will be graded from 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A SIMPLE GUIDE](#)

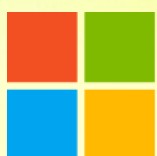
MICROSOFT APPRENTICE OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

Microsoft are holding an Open Evening at their Reading campus on Wednesday 29th March from 4 - 7pm.

Microsoft offer Level 3 Apprenticeships and Level 4 Degree Apprenticeships for both business and technical streams and the evening will be an opportunity to find out more about the scheme, meet current apprentices and hiring managers and have a tour of the campus.

The event is particularly suitable for Sixth Form students who are not planning to go to university.

If interested you will need to register in advance, please [click here](#) for details.



Microsoft

SAFE PARKING / DROP OFF ZONE

Please be aware that cars can park on the left and right hand sides of the slip road outside school to drop off students in the morning and after school. This would help students safe from vehicles driving through the main gates into school as well as keeping traffic moving outside school.

Thank you for your consideration.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND

You may have seen in the news recently that schools are about to experience the first real time cuts in education costs. At Furze Platt we are always looking for ways to ensure our students have access to facilities that will further their learning and socialising here. The standard budget does not include extras that we believe are extremely important to facilitate your child's future education. Please see the letter and form for further information.

Ms T White (Headteacher)

[SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND LETTER](#)

[SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND FORM](#)



SUPPORT, REVISION & EXAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017



As you will appreciate, this is a very significant time for Year 11. As their examinations approach, the end is in sight, and students realise the importance of working hard in order to achieve the grades of which they are capable. Parents and carers are providing a great deal of support and motivation at home. Please find in the link below a letter that details the extra support and revision we are providing in school, and to explain what will be happening in the weeks running up to and during the exam phase.

Please do get in touch with me (james.sheppard@furzeplatt.net) if you have any questions.

Mr J Sheppard (Assistant Headteacher)

[SUPPORT, REVISION & EXAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017](#)



REPORTS OUT LAST WEEK



Please be advised that the Year 7 Progress Reports for your children are now available via our online reporting service.

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Ms S Watford (M.I.S. Manager)

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S YEAR 7 REPORT

This report gives valuable information on your child's progress and on their attitude to learning.

Progress

We have high expectations for students in Year 7. We look at how they have done in the past including in their Year 6 SATs exams to work out what they are capable of in every subject. We therefore have different baselines or benchmarks for each student. Students do a number of assessments in each subject. We then award the following progress descriptions:

Excellent progress: at present, your child is doing better than expected.

Good progress: at present, your child is doing as expected.

Just behind: at present, your child is doing slightly less well than expected.

Cause for concern: at present, your child is doing less well than expected.

Attitude to Learning

We want students to focus well in school and at home. We award the following attitude to learning descriptions:

Outstanding: Consistently displays an attitude that promotes rapid and sustained learning.

Good: Consistently displays an attitude that enables them to make good progress.

Requires Improvement: Does not consistently display an attitude that enables them, or others, to make good progress.

Cause for Concern: Consistently displays an attitude that hinders them, or others, from making progress.

Frequently asked questions

1. Why don't you give grades to students?

Two reasons. Firstly, if you give a student a grade, they automatically ignore any feedback that is given about how to improve. And it is feedback that leads to progress, not grades. Secondly, there are no national tests or assessments for Key Stage 3 (Year 7 or Year 8), so any grades would be meaningless. Students will be given GCSE grades from Year 9 onwards.

2. My child has better attitude to learning than progress. How is this possible?

Progress information is based on how your child has done in school assessments. If you are concerned about your child's progress, then talk to their teacher and find out exactly what let them down in their assessment. Be aware that students are given feedback at the mid points of their assessments. The better students are at acting on their feedback, the better their progress will be.

3. My child got very high SATs results in Year 6 and is doing really well in Year 7, but his progress is only coming out as good rather than excellent. How is this possible?

Our expectations are based on how students did in the past. We have very high expectations of those with high SATs grades. Sometimes our expectations are so high that students struggle to exceed them so their progress comes out as good rather than excellent. If your child continues to make good progress, they are likely to get the very highest grades at GCSE.

Mr E Towill (Deputy Headteacher)