

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

SCHOOL
WEBSITE

CALENDAR &
SPORTS FIXTURES

AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS

ONLINE PAYMENTS

APPLY FOR FREE
SCHOOL MEALS

TWITTER

PTFA FACEBOOK
PAGE

NEXT WEEK (Week 2)

Monday 27th February	Parents' Community Group Meeting (6pm - 7pm) Debate Club (5.15pm - 8pm)
Thursday 2nd March	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening - Exam Preparation & Revision (7 - 8pm)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 7th March	PTFA AGM (7.30pm - 9.30pm)
Thursday 9th March	Year 13 Trip to Rothermere American Institute Year 10 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening (4.15pm - 7.15pm)
Sunday 12th March	PTFA Table Top Sale (sellers 7am start, buyers 9am - 12pm)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REMINDER

PARENTS' COMMUNITY GROUP - MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

6pm - 7pm in the School Library

The Parents' Community Group is an open forum hosted by the Headteacher. Meetings have one main topic and there is also time for parents to raise other questions and provide feedback/suggestions within the meeting.

The main focus of the meeting on Monday will be to seek parents' views on what should be reflected in the school's new mission statement (this is a request from governors).

All parents are very welcome.



GCSE OPTIONS

DEADLINE FRIDAY 3RD MARCH 2017



A reminder to all Year 8 students and their parents that Options forms must be returned by Friday 3rd March at the very latest. A copy of the Options booklet and Options form can be found in the links below.

[Year 8 Options Presentation](#)

[Year 8 Options Booklet](#)

[Year 8 Options Form](#)

CAN YOU HELP?

Food and Nutrition – Containers

As a new rotation begins for some Year 7 and Year 8 students in food, please could parents ensure that students have suitable, and named, containers to take food home in. For most things a lunchbox sized container, 'Celebration' sized plastic sweet tubs or clean plastic takeaway tubs are all ideal.

If parents have spare sweet or chocolate tubs (empty) or a cupboard full of plastic takeaway tubs, please bring them to reception, this would help on the odd occasion that people forget their container.

Our Art Department need newspaper and magazines, please either deliver to reception or students can bring them straight to the Art Department.

Our Science Department need toilet roll tubes, please can students bring to S8 or the Science Prep Room.

Thank you.



AFTER SCHOOL ENGINEERING COMPETITION



TUESDAY 14TH MARCH, 3.15PM – 5.30PM

We have an exciting opportunity on offer for students in Years 9 and 10. We are delighted to welcome Isabel Mostyn, CEng MICE, who is currently Major Works Project Manager for Frimley Health NHS Trust.

Please see letter below for more information.

Dr M Scott (Head of Science)

[Engineering Competition Letter](#)



PRE-PUBLIC EXAMS



The Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) will take place from Thursday 9th to Friday 17th March. They take place during the normal school day. Unlike in Years 10 and 11, where PPEs run as formal exams in the Sports Hall, Year 9 PPEs will take place in their normal classrooms during normal lesson times. (Art is an exception to this as students studying Art will be given specific instructions by their teacher). The purpose of these exams is to start to familiarise students with the rigours of busy exam programmes and the structures of exam papers. The PPEs will also provide an initial assessment of where students are after the first 6 months of their GCSE studies.

Details of timings can be found below. Your son/daughter's teachers will be providing them with specific information about what is going to be assessed in each of their exams.

Mr J Sheppard (Assistant Headteacher)

[Year 9 Pre-Public Exams Letter](#)



SCHOOL NEWS

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ

We recently began our work with the Holocaust Educational Trust through the Lessons from Auschwitz project. This scheme allows two students from participating schools to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau with the trust and then use what they have learnt through the visit and the two accompanying seminars to produce a next steps project that aims to educate others about the events of the Holocaust and the lessons we can learn from it.



The first stage of the Lessons from Auschwitz was the orientation seminar where we met our group that we would be with during the visit. We learnt about the Jewish communities across Europe that were displaced by the Holocaust, about their rich histories and cultures that were sadly lost during the Holocaust. Possibly most importantly, we heard a testimony from Renee Salt, who was only 13 when she was sent to Auschwitz. Her testimony stuck in our brains and as we stood in the same place that she and others like her had stood over 70 years ago we were reminded of her words about how every day was a struggle to survive and, while we can never truly understand what it was like to be a prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau, it helped us to better grasp the horrific nature of what they experienced in those grounds.

Then, the following week, instead of getting up for a normal day at school, we got ready to fly to Krakow in Poland for a day to visit the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp at which 1.1 million lives were lost during the Holocaust. Although we had both written long application

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ - CONTINUED



letters explaining why we wanted to go, neither of us truly appreciated the value of such a visit until we were able to experience it for ourselves. It is impossible to prepare yourself for the reality of going to a site of mass genocide, standing where so many suffered, walking the paths so few returned from and be able to leave freely.

We started in the town of Oświęcim, the Polish name for the town Auschwitz was based in. Although this is very rarely visited by tourists seeking to know more about the Holocaust, it is vital in gaining an understanding of how big and lasting the impact of the Holocaust is. Before the war, the town's population was 58% Jewish, living in harmony within the community, but since 1999 there has not been a single Jewish person living there. Hearing about the devastating effect that the actions of the Nazis and their collaborators had on this society helped us to gain a greater insight into the devastating reality of what the Holocaust did to communities.

From there we went to Auschwitz itself where we were guided through the blocks each containing an exhibition. These exhibits brought home the reality of the Holocaust in a way that can't properly be described. Seeing the enormous piles of shoes, pots and pans, combs, glasses and even human hair, all of which had been taken from those who were taken to Auschwitz, brought to life the statistics we hear so often giving them new meaning and giving us an appreciation of the person behind every number and every fact. This is the real value of visiting a place like Auschwitz – it humanises the people involved, not just the victims but also the perpetrators, showing what the human race is capable of and what we can endure. As we stood between the gas chamber and the entrance to the home of the Nazi commander in charge of Auschwitz where he lived with his family, facing the place where he was hung at the end of the war, we simultaneously gained a deeper understanding and felt utter confusion.

For example, it was -11C in Birkenau when we visited and while we felt freezing our minds were focused on trying to comprehend how the prisoners at Auschwitz survived in

the exact temperatures we were barely coping in with our thick and plentiful layers of clothing. It gave us a strong admiration for those who found the will to keep going when suffering in the harsh environment with little more than rags as protection.

Not only this, but having visited Auschwitz we have benefitted academically in terms of gaining a lot of knowledge and understanding of a historical event, something which we will never forget, but also learnt some valuable lessons. It is impossible for us to even begin to understand how someone could survive the freezing temperatures, lack of food and sanitary conditions whilst being worked 10 hours a day, yet people did.

After having some time to process what we had seen, something we are both still trying to do, we attended a follow-up seminar where we learnt more about the lasting impact of the Holocaust on today's society. For this reason we feel it is vital that we take as much as we can from survivors' testimonies to ensure that we learn from history and prevent it from ever coming close to repeating itself. Right now it seems we are under constant threat from extreme views and after visiting Auschwitz we truly believe that one of the ways to combat this is to learn about the past so we can at least attempt to understand what is at stake if we don't speak up.



We will be using all of this unique insight we have gained in our next steps project in the coming weeks from which we hope those involved gain a greater understanding of these horrific events and the incredible strength shown by the people who went through it that they can hopefully take something from.

It's impossible to understand what the people at Auschwitz-Birkenau thought, victims and perpetrators alike, as they experienced the atrocities of the Holocaust - yet visiting sites like Auschwitz-Birkenau allows to at least understand what their environment was like.

By Olivia Flood and Polly Batstone (Year 12)



Hello, my name is Hannah Turner and I will be taking part in the Biology/Ecology expedition to Indonesia in the summer of 2018. I am currently in Year 12 studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and AS Psychology, with the idea of studying Biochemistry at university and pursuing a career in research.

This aspiration is partly why I was drawn towards applying for the expedition, along with a certain curiosity as to how much diversity there can possibly be within a small area of rainforest where we will be carrying out our studies. I have also heard some fascinating stories from previous trips the school have carried out with Operation Wallacea and am excited to create memories of my own in such a beautiful area of the world. Personally, I am looking forward to working with professionals and other groups of people outside the Furze Platt team.

During our first week on the island we will be living and working in the cloud rainforests of Sulawesi, collecting data on bats, butterflies and frogs using various methods including mist netting, and will also be surveying the trees themselves both from the forest floor and the canopy.

For the second week, we will be staying much closer to the coast in order to gain a real understanding for coral reef ecology along with lectures and open water dive training around the reef.

I really hope that from the trip I am able to gain some valuable experience understanding how we can protect areas such as the rainforests in order to preserve the planet for later generations. In addition, I would love to be able to say that I can work in conditions outside both my comfort zone and the confined space of a classroom, as I am a particularly active learner. I hope that I will be able to appreciate the depth and breadth of knowledge from those we will be working with, as well as gain some great points for both my CV and potential interviews.

As a team over the last 3-4 weeks, we have begun our journey cycling the combined distance to Indonesia, and I am proud to say that we have already cycled 700 miles, enough to take us to Venice, Italy.

If you would like to sponsor us towards our cycle or donate to the team, you can donate either anonymously or with your name to our 'Just Giving' page - <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.

**Football**

Year 9 Boys' team beat Brakenhale 3-0

Year 9 Girls' team lost to Cox Green

Hockey

Year 8 (U13) Hockey team (pictured below) competed in the Schools County Hockey tournament, with 3 matches unbeaten they got through to the Plate competition, finishing 5th.

**Netball**

Year 10 Netball team took part in Borough Tournament – results to follow

NEXT WEEK

NO YEAR 7 BOYS' FOOTBALL TRAINING THIS WEEK - SORRY

Monday

Girls' Football training all years

Tuesday

Year 7 Boys' Football match v LVS home

Years 8 and 9 Girls' Hockey away at Charters School

Year 8 Boys' Football training

Wednesday

Year 9 Girls' Netball tournament

Year 8b v Year 9b Boys' Football

Thursday

Year 7 Boys' Football home vs Altwood School

VISIT TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Four Furze Platt Sixth Formers visited Oxford University this week to attend some 'informative and thought provoking' lectures on American Politics.

The first talk, given by Jeffrey Weinberg (Washington Campus; Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President of the United States) discussed 'The Trump Presidency: How is he using the legislative 'tools'?'

The second talk centred around a range of experts debating 'A Post-Mortem of the 2016 U.S. Election' and included questions such as 'What is on the agenda? How is he going to achieve his policy commitments? What challenges is he likely to face?'

The talks were attended by Furze Platt Year 12 students Sterling O'Donohue, Louisa Snape, Polly Batstone and Ben Townsend. Mr Towill (Deputy Headteacher) who arranged the visit, described the lectures as 'informative and thought provoking'.

The students also toured Queen's College and met PPE undergraduates from Brasenose College, who discussed their PPE course and the admission process.

Thank you to everyone involved and to Dr Joe Organ and students from Oxford University.

**THIS HOUSE THEATRE TRIP**

27 Politics students attended a showing of 'This House' at the Garrick Theatre, London. The play, set in 1974, is described as 'dazzlingly intelligent, scrupulously well-researched and funny and moving', and deals with the Whips in government whose job is to try and influence MPs.

Miss L Lewis (PSHE/Citizenship Teacher)





2017 PTFA MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 7th March (AGM)

Tues 13th June

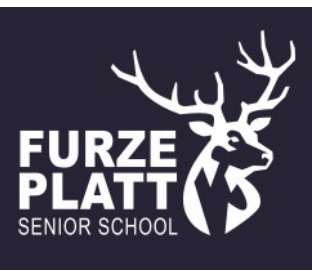
Each starts 7.30pm in the library, all welcome.

Can you help?

- Treasurer required (approx. one hour per week)
- Two more volunteers required for our Indoor Car Boot 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)

Upcoming events:

- AGM meeting, Tuesday 7th March, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- PTFA Table Top Sale, Sunday 12th March, 9am - 12pm, in the Main Hall.
- 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.
- For further details on any PTFA related queries please email: jeff@iifa.co.uk



CURRENT VACANCIES

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

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



EASTER COURSES



Self-Protection LIMITED

WORKSHOPS



REMINDERS



PARENTS' AND STUDENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING THURSDAY 9TH MARCH



On Thursday 9th March, there will be a subject consultation evening for Year 10 parents.

We are using our online booking system for our parents' evenings which as you know has proven to simplify the whole process and put parents firmly in control of their own appointments. Parents who book up first will have the most flexibility.

Due to the volume of students that the Science staff teach, parents will only be able to book with one teacher who will have full information about all the Science subjects.

If you do not have easy access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

Please follow the Parents' Evening Bookings link under News and Events on the school website, or click on the link below.

Mr G Bown (Deputy Headteacher)

[Home](#) > [News & Events](#) > [Parents' Evening Bookings](#)



SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE REMINDER



We are extremely proud of our Sixth Formers, they are excellent ambassadors for the school and role models to young students.

However, whilst the majority of our young people look very smart, in recent weeks we have noticed that a small number are not adhering to the Sixth Form Dress Code and in particular, are not always wearing blazers or smart jackets.

Dress Code

Male: smart shoes, smart trousers, shirt, tie and jacket.

Female: smart shoes, smart trousers or skirt, blouse and jacket. Skirts should not be too short and tops not too low.

Items not permitted:

- hoodies of any kind (even if worn under smart jackets)
- trainers or stiletto high heels
- leggings or jeggings
- jeans/denim trousers
- short skirts, jersey stretch style skirts shorts of any kind
- see through tops/chiffon blouses if worn without a top underneath
- crop tops/anything with thin straps that exposes the shoulder
- low cut tops
- slouchy big knits (that do not fit under a jacket)

May I also highlight the expectation that all Sixth Form students must wear their student ID lanyards at all times throughout the school day, without exception.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter which will assist in upholding the standards of the school.

Mr J Dollery (Head of Sixth Form)



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](#)



FEBRUARY PROGRESS REPORTS AVAILABLE



[Home](#) > [Parents](#) > [Reports](#)

Year 13 reports were issued before half term and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools.

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)

LATE STARTS TO THE SCHOOL DAY

On Friday 17th and Friday 24th March school **will start for students at 9.10am**. They will miss registration and assembly and go straight to Lesson 2.

This adjustment is in recognition of the fact that we have doubled the number of parents' evenings that teachers need to attend for students in Year 7 and 8. Parents' Evenings are so well attended that parents told us they were struggling to make appointments with all the teachers they wished to see. We hope this arrangement will allow every parent to meet all their child's teachers.

Ms T White (Headteacher)



INDOOR TABLE TOP SALE



Furze Platt Senior School Main Hall

**Sunday 12th
March 2017**

Time: 9am-12pm
(sellers from 7.30pm, buyers from 9am)
Entry: Adults (over 16) 50p per person
Children go free

**Table spaces can be booked for £10 per table by
contacting jeff@iifa.co.uk**

- Bring, buy and sell your unwanted gifts, clothes, toys, books, DVDs and general jumble.
- It's like a car boot sale, but indoors without the bad weather!
- All entry and table hire money goes to the Furze Platt PTFA.



Department
for Education

TEACH
MAIDENHEAD

The best schools - The best pupils - The best teacher training

**TEACH MAIDENHEAD WILL BE
AT THIS EVENT!**

Go home each day knowing
you've made a difference.
Teach.

Find out how at our
Train to Teach roadshow



T E A C H I N G
YOUR FUTURE | THEIR FUTURE

Our free Train to Teach events are the perfect opportunity to find out more about teacher training and receive advice from experts and training providers. They'll tell you everything you need to know about funding, the different training courses, how to submit a successful application and what a career in teaching is really like.

Register for your free place today. Visit: www.education.gov.uk/traintoteach