

Weekly Update: Monday 1st February - Friday 5th February 2016

SCHOOL WEBSITE	CALENDAR	SPORTS FIXTURES	ONLINE PAYMENTS	APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS	TWITTER	PFTA FACEBOOK PAGE
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NEXT WEEK

Mon 1 st - Fri 12 th February	Year 8 GCSE Taster Lesson Fortnight
Mon 8 th February	Year 11 Photos
Mon 8 th - Thurs 11 th February	Upper School Musical: Seussical (7.30pm - 9.30pm)
Fri 12 th February	UCAS Progress Sixth Form Applications Deadline (before 6pm) End of Term 3 (3.15pm finish)
Mon 15 th - Fri 19 th February	Half Term Holiday
Mon 22 nd February	Start of Term 4 (Week 2)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tues 23 rd February	Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.15pm - 7.15pm)
Wed 24 th February	Ski Trip Information Evening (Drama Studio from 6pm - 7pm)
Thurs 25 th February	U13 Berkshire Schools' Hockey Tournament
Fri 26 th February	Year 11 Pre-Public Exam: English AQA



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



TABLE TOP SALE - SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Furze Platt Senior School Main Hall 9am –12pm (Sellers from 7.30am)

Entry: Adults(16+) 50p per person, free entry for children.

Table spaces can be booked for £10 per table. Please contact jeff@iifa.co.uk.

SIXTH FORM TOURS 2016



Application Deadline: Friday 12th February at 6pm

Please book tours through our Main Reception on 01628 625308. All tours are scheduled for 9.10am until 10.10am on the following dates:

- Tuesday 9th February 2016
- Tuesday 23rd February 2016
- Tuesday 1st March 2016
- Tuesday 8th March 2016
- Tuesday 15th March 2016
- Tuesday 22nd March 2016

[Sixth Form Prospectus and Course Guide 2016](#)



GCSE OPTIONS



Thank you to all who attended the Year 9 Options Evening. If you were unable to attend please click below for more information.

[Year 9 GCSE Options Booklet](#)



OFFICE 365 ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS



Office 365 Education is available for free to students who are currently attending Furze Platt Senior School. Services include Office Online (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote), 1TB of OneDrive storage, Yammer, and SharePoint sites.

Students can install the full Office applications on up to 5 PCs or Macs for free. To take advantage of this additional benefit, you'll see the Install Office button on your Office 365 home page after you complete sign-up.

[Click here](#) to sign up, usernames and passwords have been sent to every student via their school e-mail.

For further information and FAQs please [click here](#).



Thursday 3rd March

Important: Year 8 to choose GCSE Options this year. Year 8 GCSE Options Evening to take place on Thursday 3rd March in the Main Hall.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to ensuring that students have a broad curriculum, enjoy their studies, and do extremely well in their examinations. After a great deal of discussion and research, we have decided that Year 8 will choose their GCSE options this year, and start their GCSE studies in Year 9. Provided below is more information about what this means, why we have decided to make this change, and what happens next, including the dates of various important parent information events.

What this means

Key Stage 4, as the GCSE stage is known, will now be three years long, and will begin in Year 9. All students will study English Language and Literature, Maths and either Double or Triple Science. They will take GCSEs in these subjects at the end of Year 11. They will study PSHE, which will not be examined. All students will also study PE and RE, and will choose whether to take GCSEs in these subjects. Students will choose 4 GCSE options, from a very wide range of subjects. They will make these choices later in Year 8. They will then start their GCSEs in Year 9, and complete them in Year 11.

Why we have decided to do this

There are three major benefits to this:

1. Motivation: since students will be studying subjects they have chosen, alongside other students who have chosen the same subjects, they will work harder and achieve better.
2. Pace: students will have longer to complete their GCSEs, allowing more time to master tricky concepts, more time to consolidate their learning, and more time to practise examination skills. This is especially important because the new GCSEs are harder than GCSEs were in the past.
3. Choice: By starting GCSEs in Year 9, students will be able to choose 4 options, rather than 3. This is particularly important because the government would like all students to take 'English Baccalaureate' qualifications, including one language, and either History or Geography. By starting GCSEs in Year 9, students can achieve the English Baccalaureate, and take two other GCSE subjects.

What happens next

The Year 8 Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 23rd February from 4.15pm -7.15pm. It is vital you attend this with your son/daughter.

The Year 8 Options' Evening will be on Thursday 3rd March from 6-9pm. During this evening you will receive full information on all the options available, and will be able to meet teachers from all the option subjects. It is vital you attend this with your son/daughter.

Students will hand back their Options Forms to school by Friday 11th March.

Mr Towill (Deputy Headteacher)

NEWS FLASH

Students of all abilities make better progress at Furze Platt than similar students nationally.

Yr13

Yr12

YEAR 12 AND 13 PPE RESULTS AND PROGRESS

Yr12

Yr13

Please be advised that the Year 12 and 13 PPE Results and Progress Reports for your children are now available via our new online reporting service. The new 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. Instructions for logging on are attached for your convenience. Passwords for the new service are generated by Go 4 Schools directly and sent to you by email. If you have not received your password, please check your junk/spam mail in the first instance.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net

For any questions regarding your son or daughter's progress please contact Mr Dollery, Assistant Head.

Mrs Watford (M.I.S. Manager)



Furze Platt Senior
School
Term Dates
2016 - 2017

Yr11

PHOTOGRAPHS

Yr11

Year 11 photos will take place on Monday 8th February period 6 in the Sports Hall; these will be individual, whole Year 11 and friendship groups (maximum of 6 students). Students must be in full, correct uniform in order to be in the photographs.



SCHOOL NEWS



SPORTS RESULTS



Fantastic play from our Year 9 girls' netball team, who beat Cox Green 11-7 last night. Player of the match was Orla Brennan.

Following our Year 7 team's unlucky defeat to Desborough 4-3, we then had a resounding victory for our Year 9 boys' football team, who won 5-0 in the 1st round of the cup away v Park House School, Newbury.

Well done to Hollie O'Neill (Year 9) who has been selected to represent Berkshire U14 Football in the Semi Final of the National Championship at Thatcham Town FC next Wednesday, 10th February.

Seussical

Monday 8th - Thursday 11th Feb, 7.30pm DS1

Tickets available from sick bay at Break 1 and Break 2 - last chance to see the show!

[Click here for a preview clip.](#)



MATHS CHALLENGE



Well done to our Year 9, 10 and 11 students who participated in this week's Maths Challenge.



SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers which will go towards sports equipment. Please bring vouchers into reception, thank you.



CURRENT VACANCIES



Language Assistant (German)

Teacher of MFL, French with German or Spanish



A series of 'mini-conferences' for 8-12 year olds exploring LIFE SKILLS:

Lotus Life Coaching
for Children and Young People



REMINDERS

Yr11

LEAVERS EVENTS 2016

Yr11

As your son/daughter reaches the end of their GCSE courses and the end of compulsory education, a number of traditions to mark this time have evolved in recent years.

Please see [click here](#) to view the letter with full details.

Miss Lewis (Key Stage 4-5 Transition Coordinator)

Yr9

PROGRESS REPORTS

Yr9

Please be advised that the Year 9 January Progress Reports for your children are now available via our new online reporting service. The new 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. Instructions for logging on can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Passwords for the new service are generated by Go 4 Schools directly and sent to you by email. If you have not received your password, please check your junk/spam mail in the first instance.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

For any questions regarding your son or daughter's progress please contact Mr Sheppard, Assistant Head.

Mrs Watford (M.I.S. Manager)

SAFETY NOTICE

Please make your son / daughter aware of the importance of keeping safe to and from school. Our advice is to walk with friends and stick to well lit areas, especially at this time of year. Cyclists should be clearly visible to other road users.

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL SIXTH FORM TOURS

Missed our Sixth Form Open Evening?
Call us to book
a tour!



Tours are scheduled for
9.10am–10.10am every
Tuesday from 19 January
to 22 March 2016.

► **Call 01628 625308 to book.**

Furze Platt Senior School, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead SL6 7NQ
Tel: 01628 625308 • www.furzeplatt.com





TABLE TOP
SALE

Indoor Table Top Sale

Furze Platt Senior School Main Hall

Time: 9am-12pm (Sellers from 7.30am, Buyers from 9am)

**Entry: Adults (over 16) 50p per person,
Children 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.
- This is the time to do a full spring clean.
- It's like a car boot sale, but indoors!
And without the bad weather!
- All entry and table hire money to the Furze Platt PTFA

Sunday
28th
February



CHARITY RACE NIGHT

Thursday 11th February
7:00 PM School Hall Furze Platt Senior School

Proceeds in aid of Operation Wallacea



Tickets now only £10!

Includes food,
provided by The Spicy Chef
(vegetarian option available)



Bar available on
the night

Please contact Elliot Gay at
gaye002@furzeplatt.com
Or Dr. Scott at
michele.scott@furzeplatt.net



Return to teaching
and inspire young
people again

with a tailored
support programme
by Upton Court
Grammar School.



If you want to get back to making a real difference every day, Upton Court Grammar School is offering a free* support programme that is tailored to your needs. It will help you refresh your teaching skills and become classroom-ready and could include: face-to-face or online training, coaching, subject knowledge/curriculum training, lesson observation, classroom practice and mentoring.

Call 01753 522892 or email office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk to find out more.

TEACHING
YOUR FUTURE | THEIR FUTURE

Interested in a career in teaching?



COME TO OUR TRAIN TO TEACH EVENING

9th March 2016, 4:30 –7:30pm

This information evening is for anyone who is thinking of returning to teach-ings, or who is considering training to teach, including teaching assistants, career changers, teachers trained overseas, and those graduating in summer 2016.

If you are interested in finding out more about getting into primary or sec-ondary teaching, come along to meet representatives of the NCTL, Universi-ties, School Direct lead Schools and SCITTs. You will also be able to talk to recent, locally trained, beginning and newly qualified teachers our specialist school mentors and a specialist adviser.

The event will be mainly informal with some short presentations and the opportunity for Q&A.

Please confirm your intention to attend by registering at

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

The information evening will be hosted by one of Reading's lead schools.

Geoffrey Field Junior School
Exbourne Road, Reading, RG2 8RH
admin@geoffreyfield-jun.reading.sch.uk
0118 9375475
www.geoffreyfieldjuniorschool.co.uk/



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Exhibitors already registered for the event include :

- Basingstoke Alliance SCITT
- Bracknell Forest Secondary School Part-nership (Garth Hill College)
- Weydon School / Teach@Weydon
- Bohunt School / TESLA TSA
- The Willink School
- Teach Maidenhead
- The Berkshire Teaching Alliance
- West Berkshire Training Partnership
- Fareham & Gosport Primary SCITT & Harrison Primary School
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Winchester
- The Cherwell OTSA SCITT
- ASTRA SCITT
- Wildern Partnership
- University of Oxford
- Surrey South Farnham SCITT
- University of Reading



Department for Education



Our successful school is a happy, safe and caring learning community where achievement is promoted, potential realised and young people flourish.

Learning together our students will:

- Be prepared for the future
- Achieve
- Aspire
- Be curious
- Be creative
- Enjoy and value their learning
- Understand and respect others
- Be kind and courteous
- Be confident
- Be resourceful, independent and resilient
- Have broad horizons
- Participate and contribute
- Be active citizens
- Take responsibility

