

# WELCOME TO



**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL**  
*A specialist mathematics and computing school*

## PROSPECTUS

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
**2008 - 2009**

**Headteacher:**  
**Ms. T. White, B.A. (Hons)**

**Chairman of Governors:**  
**Mrs. S. Le Page, MA (Oxon), ACA**

## Index

Introducing Year 7 .....	3
Our Values and Vision .....	4
Curriculum .....	5
Learning Support .....	6
Homework .....	6
Sport .....	6
School Voice .....	7
Charity fund raising .....	7
Uniform .....	7
Charging Policy .....	8
Admission arrangements .....	9
School term and holidays 2009 – 2010 .....	10
Times of Sessions .....	10
Holidays in term time .....	11
Yearly pattern of reports to parents .....	11
Student destinations .....	12
Examination results .....	14
Students with disabilities .....	17

## Introducing Year 7

Dear Parents

Thank you for visiting our school. We are very proud of the education it provides for young people.

We understand that transferring from a small primary school to Furze Platt may seem formidable to both students and parents, so we try to make the transition smooth, reassuring and enjoyable.

All students and parents will have had at least two opportunities to visit our school before the transfer to familiarise them with staff and accommodation.

In order to keep you well informed Year 7 parents have two parents' evenings, the first to receive a direct report from Heads of House, the second to meet all the subject teachers.

We design a programme of personal and social education to help Year 7 students to become familiar with their new secondary school, as well as providing information about road safety, growing-up, the dangers of smoking, and advice on homework and study skills.

The school is fortunate in its close contacts with primary schools and it shares a large site with an infant and junior school. We are, therefore, very aware of the progression of students from ages 5 to 18.

This prospectus will provide you with detailed information about our school. However, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you require further information or advice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Ms T White  
Headteacher

## Values and Vision

Furze Platt Senior School is a successful 11 – 18 comprehensive school with a strong tradition of working in partnership with the local community. We are an outward looking school, constantly striving to embrace practice and partnerships which will promote our values and vision. The staff and governors of the school are committed to providing a high quality education and to creating the local and global citizens of the future.

<p><b>Our Values</b>  <b>At Furze Platt we believe in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Striving for excellence and having high expectations of every child</li> <li>▪ Celebrating achievement</li> <li>▪ Developing students' belief in themselves and their social, moral and spiritual awareness</li> <li>▪ Valuing every member of the school community</li> <li>▪ Working in partnership with parents and the local community</li> <li>▪ The value of learning and its importance in preparing students for their future</li> <li>▪ Promoting respect and tolerance</li> </ul> <p><b>These values permeate every aspect of the school and its work</b></p>	<p><b>Our Vision</b>  <b>Furze Platt will be a school where:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students have a sense of belonging and take pride in their school</li> <li>▪ Everyone has high expectations of all and potential is realised</li> <li>▪ Standards are high and achievement is promoted and celebrated</li> <li>▪ The curriculum is broad, engaging and flexible to changing needs</li> <li>▪ Students' views matter and they take increasing responsibility for their school</li> <li>▪ Parents feel part of the school</li> <li>▪ The school is at the heart of the local community</li> <li>▪ We are recognised for excellence in mathematics and ICT</li> <li>▪ Links with local primary schools and other community partners are strong</li> </ul>
---	--

## Curriculum

In Years 7, 8 and 9 all girls and boys study the full range of subjects covered by the National Curriculum:

English	Technology (inc Food, Resistant Materials, Graphics)
Mathematics	Religious Education
Science	Physical Education
History	Art with Textiles
Geography	Music
French or Spanish	Drama
	Citizenship/Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

At the end of Year 8 those students who are doing well in French or Spanish will take German as a second foreign language. In Year 9, as part of careers education, students are prepared for the routes through education and vocational training which will qualify them for further and higher education and training. Careers advice, lessons, the library, work experience, individual counselling and many visiting speakers add to the knowledge young people need throughout the school up to university entrance.

At the end of Year 9 students make choices for their courses of study at Key Stage 4. All students study Information Communication Technology, Physical Education, Religious Education, Citizenship/Personal, Social and Health Education, English, Maths and Science. Option subjects include Business Studies, Drama, Art, Textiles, Music, French, Spanish, German, History, Geography, Food Technology, Graphics and Resistant Materials. Health and Social Care, Public Services, Construction and Motor Vehicle Studies are also offered to KS4 students through Berkshire College of Agriculture.

In the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), those wishing to gain a qualification leading to university entrance, and professional training courses select three to five subjects and study them to 'AS' and 'A2' Level. Thorough preparation for further education is given, including individual tuition for Oxbridge entry. New and relevant courses are constantly being developed across the curriculum. An increasing number are selecting vocational courses or a mixture of 'AS', vocational and additional GCSE subjects. This year students in Year 12 are able to follow OCR National courses in ICT and Business Studies.

All students receive Sex Education, Religious Education and participate in acts of Collective Worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children. However, our approach in all these subjects has so far proved sufficiently broad for there to have been few withdrawals.

The school maintains a huge body of information, exam syllabi, official documents, department syllabi, and schemes of work. These are available on request.

## **Learning Support**

The Learning Support Department offers help to students experiencing difficulties with their work. In all subjects we make every effort to ensure that these students follow the full curriculum in mainstream lessons, whilst receiving extra specialist and special needs help. Nineteen Teaching Assistants (TA) assist students in and out of lessons. Students with special needs therefore have the benefit of extra individual attention without falling behind in the National Curriculum. In addition, there are additional specialist teacher led programmes in place to support students who have difficulties with Literacy and with maths.

## **Homework**

Students are set homework daily. It is given in each of the academic subjects once or twice each week. The amount given and the nature of the work varies according to the age and ability of the student. A homework task for Year 7 students may be 20 minutes; for a Year 10 student it may be 40 minutes. The total time devoted to homework by a Year 7 student is approximately one hour per night, and up to three hours per night by a student in Year 11. A hardback homework diary or record book is issued to each student in which he or she writes a brief note of homework tasks. Parents can check the homework set by looking at this diary, which is also regularly inspected by form tutors to monitor each student's recording of homework. Homework tasks are available on our website for students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

## **Sport**

In addition to the skills that are learnt through the National Curriculum Physical Education programme, students have the opportunity to play competitive sport in team games. Dance is also very popular.

The main sports for girls are hockey, netball, basketball, badminton, football, athletics and tennis. Boys play rugby, football, cricket and athletics. Boys and girls compete against other schools in most of these sports.

The skills for these games are learnt in the curriculum time, but the team practices takes place after school. The games themselves are mostly played after school or occasionally on Saturday mornings. The school is fortunate in having the support of parents and staff dedicated to helping students learn from team games and competitions. Many students progress from school sports to play for local sporting clubs. We also encourage students to compete on a national basis through District and County competitions in all sports.

## **Student Voice**

The views of students are taken very seriously at Furze Platt. Students have many opportunities to play an important part in the making of whole school decisions. Students are represented by House Captains or the School Council and can be elected to House Councils. Students are consulted on many issues and act as representatives to outside visitors.

## **Charity Fund Raising**

The school has an excellent record of fund-raising for charities and every year thousands of pounds are raised by sponsored events involving large numbers of children. The Sixth Form is particularly active in this respect, and we are also delighted that they organize activities for younger students.

## **Uniform**

To maintain high standards of dress amongst students we have a standard school dress or uniform for boys and girls. Year 7 boys and girls wear a blazer, white shirt, school tie, optional school sweater, and black trousers/skirt. The cost of the school uniform, excluding footwear and including the school blazer is approximately £35.

We also like such smartness to be reflected on the games field. Parents are therefore asked to provide PE kit for boys and girls to a standard form. The cost, excluding footwear, of boys' PE kit is approximately £40, and for girls £30.

## Uniform List Girls

### Compulsory

White shirt  
\* School tie  
\* School blazer  
Black medium length skirt or black full length trousers (smart tailored and plain material)  
White socks  
Black shoes with sensible heels (not trainers or backless shoes)

### Optional

\* School sweater

### Sports Wear

\* Light blue polo shirt with Furze Platt crest  
\* Plain navy blue shorts  
White trainers  
Short white socks  
\* School sports socks (blue with amber ring)  
Hockey or football boots  
\* Furze Platt Sweatshirt (navy with Furze Platt crest)  
*Optional Extra*  
\* Furze Platt waterproof fleece jacket

## Boys

### Compulsory

White shirt  
\* School tie  
\* School blazer  
Black formal trousers  
Black or dark grey socks  
Black shoes (not trainers)

### Optional

\* School sweater

### Sports Wear

#### Indoor

\* White shorts  
White trainers  
\* White polo shirt with Furze Platt crest  
White sports socks

#### Outdoor

\* Rugby shirt (reversible blue and amber)  
\* Black shorts  
Football boots  
\* Football socks (blue with amber ring)  
*Optional Extra*  
\* Furze Platt waterproof fleece jacket

\* These items can be purchased from the school uniform shop.

School shirts should be tucked in and ties worn in the correct manner. The only permitted jewellery is a wristwatch and a small pair of ear studs. Hair should be neat and tidy, without extremes of style or colour.

## Charging Policy

Many activities take place outside the school day and some are not possible unless we ask parents to cover the costs. Others occur during the school day and in these cases we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution to the cost of providing the activity. The school is sympathetic toward those parents who are in receipt of Income Support benefit. We do everything in our power to ensure that all our students can take advantage of the opportunities offered at Furze Platt.

## **Admission Arrangements**

Arrangements are as in the publications sent by the local authority to parents. The application process is the same whatever local authority your child lives in.

The planned admission number is 190. By the end of November 2007, over 467 parents had selected our school as a preference. To guarantee a place, it is essential to put Furze Platt Senior School as first choice. Our school is a locally managed community school, handling its own budget and receiving finance through the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

## School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2009/2010

(before addition of INSET days)

### Autumn 2009

Term 1

Term starts on: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009\*  
Term ends on: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
October Holiday: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Term ends on: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Holiday: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

### Spring 2010

Term 3

Term starts on: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Term ends on: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
February Holiday: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Term 4

Term starts on: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Term ends on: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Spring Holiday: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
**Good Friday** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
**Easter Monday** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer 2010

Term 5

Term starts on: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Term ends on: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
May Holiday: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Term 6

Term starts on: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Term ends on: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

\* Inset Day. Other INSET Days to be arranged

### Times of Sessions

The school day runs from 8.40 am – 3.15 pm with a 40 minute lunch break. This provides 27 hours 10 minutes tuition per week, including 4 assembly/tutorial sessions and 25½ hours of timetabled lessons.

## Holidays In Term Time

There is a very clear link between attendance rates and high achievement. Therefore, the school actively discourages the authorisation of holidays during term time. Requests for holidays are unlikely to be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any family making such a request will be required to arrange an interview with the Headteacher.

## Yearly pattern of reports to parents: Summary of parental contacts

### Year 7

PTFA Welcome Evening	September
Heads of House Evening	October
Parents' Evening	May
Progress Reports	December, April, July

### Year 8

Parents' Evening	May
Progress Reports	December, April, July

### Year 9

Parents' Evening	January
Progress Reports	December, April, July

### Year 10

Parents' Evening	January
Progress Reports	December, April, July

### Year 11

Parents' Evening	October
Progress Reports	December, April

Other evenings are arranged as required.

## Student Destinations

A very high proportion of our Sixth Formers move on to university and higher education. We are very proud that 3 students have gained places at Oxford this year.

Austin, Rebecca	American Studies	Nottingham University
Balmer, Samuel	Law (Trying the Army first)	Exeter University (2009)
Barratt, Andrew	Mathematics (After Gap Year: Youth work – St Peter's Church)	Exeter University (2009)
Barry, Hannah	Employment	
Bell, Elizabeth	English and Film Studies	Aberystwyth University
Brown-Findlay, Katherine		Gap Year
Bunce, Laura	Philosophy and Psychology	St John's College, Oxford
Burrow-Newton, Paul	Accounting and Finance	Kent University
Cadle, Lauren	Working for a Photography firm, London	
Charles, Gwiylm	Digital Film Production	Gloucestershire University
Colborne, Sophie	Fashion	Fashion Retail Academy
Courtier, Mark	Mechanical Engineering	Bristol University
Courtney, Toby	Product Design	Sheffield Hallam University
Crawley, Peter	Product Design	Portsmouth University
Dawes, Laura	Art Foundation	Bucks New University
Delaney, Holly	Criminology and Global Politics	Canterbury Christ Church University
Diegan, Katie	Fashion Technology	De Montfort University
Dutton, Joseph	Art Foundation	Thames Valley, Reading
Edwards, Peter	Work experience in medical fields; reapplying for Medicine, 2009	
Gledhill, Robert	Engineering	Hertford College, Oxford
Grouse, Nikki	Biology	Southampton University
Harding, Charles	History & International Relations	Leicester University
Harper, Daniel	Employment: application for the Police	
Hendry, Nicholas	International Relations (After Gap year in China)	Plymouth University (2009)
Howard, Abigail	Primary Teaching / Science	Winchester University
Howells, Samuel	Pharmacology	Bristol University
Hunt, Sophie	Fashion Marketing	London Fashion/Retail Academy
Hunter, Christopher	Computer Systems	Brunel University
Jakubiec, Daniel	Computer Science	Northumbria University
Johns, Christopher	Gap Year in Africa	
Johnson, Sarah	History and Politics	Manchester University
Jones, Georgia	English and Media	Plymouth University
Jones, Helena	Biological Sciences	Edinburgh University
Kirk, James	Film Studies	Kent University
Knight, Joshua	Economics	Birmingham University
Kujinga, Tinevimbo	Business Management	Kent University
Lebens, Naomi	History	Christ Church, Oxford
Lotay, Navneet	Law	Hertfordshire University
Loveday, Allister	Gap Year - Ski Instructor	
Mack, Laura	English and Youth Studies	Winchester University
MacColl, Alex	On line business	
May, Alexander	Employment	
McHugh, Jack	Ancient and Modern History	Nottingham University
Mettler, Rebecca	Employment	
Miller, Wayne	Law	Swansea University
Mills, Gregory	Politics/International Relations	Royal Holloway, London
Milson, Oliver	Foundation Electronic Engineering	Kent University
Moore, Robert	Employment	
Moorhouse, Philip	Contemporary History	Leicester University

## Student Destinations – continued

Pearse, Matthew	Army: Winchester/Birmingham Medical training	
Peat, Louise	Architecture	University of Creative Arts, Canterbury
Piggott, Charlotte	Sports Psychology & Coaching	Bournemouth University
Quy, Alex	Art Foundation	Bucks New University
Radford, Nicola	Fashion Design	Southampton Solent University
Ranshaw, Hannah	Management	Royal Holloway, London
Ratsatatika, David	Gap Year	
Rhodes, Samuel	Foundation Motor Sports Eng.	Oxford Brookes University
Rowland, Samantha	Psychology	Coventry University
Saundh, Tarnjeet	Business Management	Kingston University
Shorter, Megan	Art Foundation	Bucks New University
Stephens, Roald	Aeronautical Engineering	Southampton University
Stevenson, Matthew	Physiotherapy	Brunel University
Summer, Victor	Chemistry	Sussex University
Varatharajah, Alex	Gap Year – work experience in business management	
Vines, Charles	Food Science and Nutrition	Surrey University
Wade, Stephanie	Drama	Brunel University
Wallis, Katie	Art Foundation	Thames Valley, Reading
Warburton, Kate	Drama, Film and Television	Brunel University
Withers, Andrew	English and Creative Writing	Birmingham University

# Examination Results 2008

## Key Stage 3: SATs Results

### Summary of Achievement

School Results	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead average
<b>English</b>	
Students achieving Level 5+ 81%	82%
Students achieving Level 6+ 37%	38%
<b>Maths</b>	
Students achieving Level 5+ 89%	83%
Students achieving Level 6+ 73%	65%
<b>Science</b>	
Students achieving Level 5+ 84%	79%
Students achieving Level 6+ 56%	49%

## GCSE Results achieved by Year 11 - 2008

### Summary of Achievement

Students achieving 5 grades A* - C ( <b>school record</b> )	68%
Students achieving 5 grades A* - C including English and Maths ( <b>school record</b> )	58%
Students achieving 5 A* - G grades including English and Maths	95%
Students achieving 1 A* - G grade	98%

Subject	%age A* - C	%age A* - G
English Language	67	98
English Literature	83	98
Mathematics	68	98
Biology	100	100
Chemistry	100	100
Physics	100	100
Science Double Award	43	99
Science Single Award	45	99
Art & Design	56	93
Art and Design Textiles	100	100
Business Studies	65	96
D&T Electronic Products	53	95
D&T Food Technology	55	100
D&T Resistant Materials	43	100
Drama	64	96
Expressive Arts	100	100
Child Development	22	91
French	63	100
Geography	77	98
German	100	100
Health and Social Care	25	100
History	63	96
Information Technology (Full)	90	90
Media	33	98
Music	90	100
PE	88	100
Religious Studies (Full)	82	100
Spanish	57	98
Public Services	100	100

## A Level Results 2008

### Summary of Achievement

Students achieving grades A - E	94%
Students achieving grades A – C ( <b>school record</b> )	60%
Average point score per entry	82
Average point score per candidate	314

Subject	%A to E	%A to C
Art & Design	100	100
Art and Design Textiles	100	88
Business (Vocational)	90	47
Business Studies	100	75
Biology	100	75
Chemistry	91	64
Computer Studies/Computing	100	83
D&T Product Design	100	80
Economics	100	75
English Language & Literature	100	88
English Literature	100	50
French	100	100
General Studies	80	30
Geography	100	56
History	95	74
Information Technology	83	0
Mathematics	96	68
Media Film and TV Studies	100	79
Music	100	100
Physics	100	100
Politics	80	40
Psychology	81	50
Spanish	100	100
Sport/PE Studies	100	75
Music Technology	50	0
Dance	100	100

## **Arrangements for the admission of students with disabilities**

1. All admissions are managed by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
2. The school operates an Equal Opportunities Policy which contains a clear commitment to ensuring all individuals in the organisation receive equal treatment and that all students can access the full range of educational opportunities. Improving access is taking place as finances allow.
3. The school has a mixture of buildings of varying ages. We have developed ramps to enable wheelchair users to access most ground floor buildings. We have three disabled toilets at either end of the site.
4. The school has a Special Needs Policy which is monitored by the Governing Body. The Policy is available on request from the school. A copy is also available on the school website ([www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com)).