

WELCOME TO
FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL
A specialist mathematics and computing school



PROSPECTUS
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2012 - 2013

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

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

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Introducing Year 7

Dear Parents

Thank you for visiting our school. We are very proud of the education it provides for young people. This year we again achieved outstanding examination results at GCSE and A level and you can be confident that your son or daughter will do very well here.

Our students participate in an impressive range of extended curriculum activities. They are friendly, confident and well equipped with the skills they will need when they leave school.

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.

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 home learning 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



Ms T White
Headteacher

Our Vision Statement

Furze Platt Senior School

A Specialist School for Mathematics and Computing

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
- Have broad horizons
- Participate and contribute
- Be resourceful, independent and resilient
- Be active citizens
- Take responsibility



Learning Together

Examination Results

GCSE 2011

Results achieved by Year 11

5A* - C	96% (School Record)
5A* - C with English and Maths	65%

Subject	Number of Students	A* - C	A* - G
English	189	71%	99%
English Literature	136	74%	99%
Mathematics	189	77%	99%
Biology	114	87%	100%
Chemistry	114	90%	100%
Physics	114	88%	100%
Science BTEC Certificate	71	99%	99%
Science BTEC Diploma	47	100%	100%
ICT	189	99%	99%
Religious Education	184	70%	97%
French	24	71%	100%
German	43	67%	100%
Spanish	39	38%	100%
Geography	84	61%	100%
History	99	69%	98%
Sociology	29	45%	100%
Art & Design BTEC Certificate	25	100%	100%
Art & Design BTEC Diploma	14	96%	96%
D&T Food Technology	39	54%	95%
D&T Graphic Products	14	43%	93%
D&T Resistant Materials	30	43%	93%
Physical Education	38	71%	100%
Sport Studies BTEC Diploma	9	100%	100%
Business Studies	73	55%	99%
Drama	39	77%	100%
Music	21	100%	100%
Media Studies	49	51%	100%
Child Development	25	36%	100%
Motor Vehicle Study BTEC Certificate	6	100%	100%
Construction BTEC Certificate	5	100%	100%
Public Services BTEC Diploma	5	100%	100%
Hairdressing BTEC Diploma	3	100%	100%

Examination Results

A Level 2011 Results achieved by Year 13

Grades at A* – E	97%
Grades at A* – C	62%
Average point score per entry	207
Average point score per candidate	770

Subject	Number of Students	A* - C	A* - E
Applied Business	19	84%	100%
Art & Design	10	90%	100%
Art and Design Textiles	3	100%	100%
Biology	9	22%	89%
Business Studies	9	78%	100%
Chemistry	12	92%	100%
Computing	7	43%	100%
D&T Product Design	4	75%	100%
Drama	7	86%	100%
Economics	7	86%	100%
English Language & Literature	10	100 %	100%
English Literature	6	67%	100%
EPQ	9	78%	100%
French	3	67%	100%
Further Maths	3	100%	100%
Geography	22	82%	100%
German	1	100%	100%
History	25	80%	96%
Human Biology	9	44%	100%
ICT OCR Nationals L3	11	36%	100%
Maths	29	62%	93%
Media Studies	11	27%	100%
Music	2	100%	100%
Physical Education	10	20%	90%
Physics	7	86%	100%
Politics	17	76%	100%
Psychology	6	0%	66%
Sociology	7	43%	100%

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)
Core	In Years 7 and 8 this course combines elements of PSHE, RE and Learning Skills

Currently, 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, core Physical Education, Religious Education, Citizenship/Personal, Social and Health Education, English, Maths and Science. **Option subjects** offered in 2011 – 2012 include Business Studies, Drama, Art, Textiles, Music, French, Spanish, German, History, Geography, Food Technology, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Dance, Work Skills and Physical Education. Animal Care, Public Services, Motor Vehicle Studies, Hairdressing, 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 of courses are being made available.

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 very 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.

Home Learning

In general, all subjects will set home learning each week. There may be exceptions for some practical subjects. The combined amount of home learning set each day will be approximately 40 - 60 minutes in Year 7. Hardback home learning diary or record book is issued to each student in which he or she writes a brief note of home learning tasks. Parents can check the home learning set by looking at this diary, which is also regularly inspected by form tutors to monitor each student's recording of home learning. Home learning tasks are available on our website.

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. 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.

Pastoral System

On joining Furze Platt, all students are allocated to one of eight houses. Each House is led by a Head of House, and a team of 7 tutors. Each house, and indeed each form, includes students from all year groups, creating a smaller community within the school, which is a focus for academic and pastoral guidance and mentoring, as well as across school competition. This arrangement means each Head of House is responsible for a comparatively small group of students, and also creates leadership opportunities for older students. Younger students benefit from the guidance and advice of older students, knowing that they are 'looking out' for them, particularly in the first few weeks as they settle into school.

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. Seventeen 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 mathematics.

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 2010, over 500 parents had selected our school as a preference. To ensure you stand the best possible chance of gaining a place, it is essential to put Furze Platt Senior School as first choice.

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 ground floor buildings. We have three disabled toilets at either end of the site.

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).

Yearly pattern of reports to parents: Summary of parental contacts

Year 7

PTFA Welcome Evening	September
Heads of House Evening	October
Parents' Evening	April
Progress Reports	November, March, July

Year 8

Parents' Evening	May
Progress Reports	November, March, July

Year 9

Parents' Evening	February
Progress Reports	November, January, July

Year 10

Parents' Evening	January
Progress Reports	November, March, July

Year 11

Parents' Evening	October
Progress Reports	November, March

Other evenings are arranged as required.

Times of school sessions

The school day runs from 8.40 am – 3.15 pm with two 30 minute breaks.

School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2012/2013

Autumn 2012

Term 1

Term starts on: Tuesday 4th September 2012*

Term ends on: Friday 26th October 2012

October Holiday: Monday 29th October 2012 to Friday 2nd November 2012

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 5th November 2012

Term ends on: Friday 21st December 2012

Christmas Holiday: Monday 24th December 2012 to Friday 4th January 2013

Spring 2013

Term 3

Term starts on: Monday 7th January 2013

Term ends on: Friday 15th February 2013

February Holiday: Monday 18th February 2013 to Friday 22nd February 2013

Term 4

Term starts on: Monday 25th February 2013

Term ends on: Thursday 28th March 2013

Spring Holiday: Friday 29th 2013 to Friday 12th April 2013
Good Friday – 29th March 2013; Easter Monday – 1st April 2013

Summer 2013

Term 5

Term starts on: Monday 15th April 2013

Term ends on: Friday 24th May 2013

May Holiday: Monday 27th May 2013 to Friday 31st May 2013

Term 6

Term starts on: Monday 3rd June 2013

Term ends on: Wednesday 24th July 2013

Uniform

We think it is important for all students to keep up a high standard of appearance so that the school's excellent reputation is maintained in the local community. Students must wear school uniform at all times while on school premises and travelling to and from school. They may also be required to do so when on school trips.

Please help us to keep to our high standard of dress by ensuring that you buy the correct uniform for your child and that s/he wears it to school every day. Please also make sure that everything is clearly named so in the case of lost property it can be returned to its owner. We reserve the right to confiscate items that do not form part of the school uniform and students may be sent home to change if their uniform is unacceptable.

We have worked hard with our suppliers to ensure that our school uniform is practical, affordable and of a good quality, and we ask parents to support us in maintaining high standards of uniform. We hope the guidance below is clear enough so parents do not purchase inappropriate items; if you have any queries please get in contact before you make any purchases.

GIRLS' UNIFORM – School Wear

Compulsory	
White shirt	May be purchased anywhere, but must have top button that can be done up. Must be worn tucked in to skirt or trousers.
School tie*	In House colour, lower school (Year 7-9) £3, upper school (Year 10-11) £4.
School blazer*	Blue with school crest: available from the school uniform shop - £32.
School skirt*	Must be purchased from the school uniform shop; this is the only style that is permitted. Must reach to just above the knee.
Trousers	Trousers may be worn as an alternative to the school skirt. They should be plain black, straight leg and smartly tailored. Denim, cotton jean style, skinny leg or boot cut/flared trousers are not permitted.
Socks	White (Plain black may be worn under trousers).
Tights	Black or natural only.
Shoes	Black only: low heels, no canvas shoes, no boots, no backless shoes, no trainers.
Optional	
School sweater*	£12. Optional, but the only sweater permitted. Must be the v-neck style. Tie must be visible beneath the collar.
School coat*	£20. If the school coat is not worn, the only style of coat that is permitted is either plain black or navy. No logos of any sort (except the FPSS logo) are permitted. Hoodies of any sort are not permitted.
Scarf	Plain black or navy only. For students who wish to wear a headscarf as part of religious dress, it also should be plain black or navy.
Hats	Plain black or navy only. Hats should not be worn inside the school buildings at any times. Baseball style caps are not permitted.

GIRLS' UNIFORM – Sports Wear

Compulsory	
Polo shirt*	Light blue with Furze Platt crest £8.
Shorts or Skort*	Plain navy blue shorts £4 or plain navy blue skort £13.
Trainers	White with non-marking soles.
Sports socks	White only.
Hockey or football boots	
Sweatshirt*	Zipped sweatshirt with Furze Platt crest (must not be worn as a school sweater) £15.
Optional	
Tracksuit*	Available to order through the school – top £25, bottoms £15.
Further requirements	
Jewellery	Jewellery is inappropriate for school. A wristwatch and single pair of studs in the earlobe is permitted. Any other kind of jewellery will be confiscated. Any other piercings are not permitted and must be removed for school.
Hair and make-up	Make-up should not be worn to school; nor should nail varnish (except clear). Nail extensions/false nails are not appropriate for the school environment and indeed are dangerous in certain situations e.g. PE lessons. Hair styles should be sensible and appropriate to the working environment. Unnatural hair colours are not permitted.

BOYS' UNIFORM – School Wear

Compulsory	
White shirt	May be purchased anywhere, but must have top button that can be done up. Must be worn tucked into trousers.
School tie*	In House colour, lower school (Year 7-9) £3, upper school (Year 10-11) £4.
School blazer*	£32.
Trousers	Plain black, smartly tailored trousers. Denim or cotton jean style trousers are not permitted.
Socks	Black or dark grey only.
Shoes	Plain black only , smart style shoes. No logos. Trainers, trainer style or canvas shoes are not permitted.
Optional	
School sweater*	Optional, but the only sweater permitted. Must be the v-neck style. Tie must be visible beneath the collar. £12.
School coat*	£20. If the school coat is not worn, the only style of coat that is permitted is either plain black or navy. No logos of any sort (except the FPSS logo) are permitted. Hoodies of any sort are not permitted.
Scarf	Plain black or navy only.
Hats	Plain black or navy only. Hats should not be worn inside the school buildings at any times. Baseball style caps are not permitted.

BOYS' UNIFORM – Sports Wear

Compulsory - Indoor		Compulsory - Outdoor	
White shorts*	£4.	Rugby shirt*	Reversible blue and amber £12.
Trainers	White with non-marking soles.	Black shorts*	£4.
Polo shirt*	White with Furze Platt crest. £8.	Football boots	
Sports socks	White only.	Football socks*	Blue with amber ring £3.
Optional			
Tracksuit*	Available to order through the school – top £25, bottoms £15.		
Sweatshirt*	Zipped sweatshirt with Furze Platt crest (must not be worn as school sweater) £15.		
Further requirements			
Jewellery	A wristwatch and single stud in the earlobe is the only jewellery permitted.		
Hairstyles	Should be appropriate to the working environment. Shaved heads or shaved patterns in hair are not permitted. Unnatural hair colours are not permitted.		

*Available from the school uniform shop

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 a member of the Senior Leadership team. Unauthorised holidays could mean the issue of a fixed penalty fine by the local authority.

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.

Student Destinations 2011			
Abraham	Jonathan	University of Portsmouth	Accounting and Business
Ait-Kaci	Maya	University of Hertfordshire	Accounting with French
Allnutt	Jordan	University College Falmouth	Digital Animation
Attenborough	Jack	Buckinghamshire New University	Business Management
Barrett	David	Writtle College	Animal Management
Belsten	Rosie	University of the West of England, Bristol	History and Politics
Berry	Alice	University of Portsmouth	Mathematics for Finance and Management
Brett	Nicholas	University of the West of England, Bristol	Business Studies with Marketing
Bridge	Helen	University of Bristol	Chemistry with Industrial Experience
Brincat	Alex	Buckinghamshire New University	Film and TV Production
Brown	Lee	Buckinghamshire New University	Accounting and Finance
Clark	Alexander	Keele University	Geography
Cooper	Emily	St Marys University, Twickenham	Primary Education (ITT)
Cruse	Harry	Oxford University	Mathematics and Computer Science
Davies	Jessica	London School of Economics	Management
Dean	Jack	Bath Spa University	Business & Management
Earl	Matthew	University of Warwick	Chemistry
Eaton	James	University of Greenwich	History
El Ghomari	Shirin	University of Bristol	Geology and Biology
Falconer	Duncan	University of Nottingham	Chemistry
Gibbins	Samantha	University of Bristol	Chemistry
Gray	Jack	University of Lincoln	Politics
Green	Charles	University of Sussex	American Studies and History
Grundy	David	Buckinghamshire New University	Digital Games Design
Harris	Gordon	University of Bedfordshire	Sport and Community Leadership
Hart	Thomas	University of Portsmouth	Journalism and English Literature
Hine	Tom	Brunel University	Business Studies and Sport Sciences
Hodge	Joel	University of Hertfordshire	Biochemistry
Hunt	Micha	Aston University, Birmingham	Business and Management
Jakubiec	Luke	University of Portsmouth	Environmental Geography
James	Michael	University of Sussex	Business and Management Studies
Jones	Ryan	University of Sussex	Economics
Jones	Tanith	University of Sussex	Law
Key	Abigail	Buckinghamshire New University	Animal Behaviour & Welfare
Koster	Miranda	Manchester Metropolitan University	Film and Media Studies
Lacey	Mark	Oxford Brookes University	Law/Politics
Lapham-Flores	Camille	University of the West of England, Bristol	Graphic Design
McCormack	Daniel	Kingston University	Chemistry (with industrial placement)
McGuire	Alexander	University of the West of England, Bristol	Geography
Midgley	Peter	London Southbank University	Business Studies
Mitchell	Callum	Cardiff University	Music

Student Destinations 2011			
Moodley	Kim	Royal Holloway, University of London	Geography, Politics and International Relations
Moore	Gerald	University of Sussex	Physics with Astrophysics
Nagiel	Jake	University of the West of England, Bristol	Politics
Oxtoby	Caroline	University of Reading	Business and Management
Palmer	Andrew	Loughborough University	Financial Mathematics
Parfitt	Kerri	University of Leeds	Fashion Design
Peppiatt	Ben	University of the West of England, Bristol	International Relations and Politics
Phiri	Nikita	Plymouth University	Theatre & Performance
Price	Louise	University of the West of England, Bristol	Biomedical Sciences
Robinson	Elizabeth	University of Southampton	English
Sale	Michael	University of East Anglia	Politics
Scrace	Benjamin	Oxford University	History
Shaikh	Saadon	University of Westminster	Biomedical Sciences
Sims	Peter	University of Surrey	Electronic Engineering (5 years)
Trillow	Molly Ann	Buckinghamshire New University	Psychology
White	Samuel	University of the West of England, Bristol	Business Management
Wilcock	Chloe	Plymouth University	Education Studies
Withers	Christopher	Keele University	Economics and Finance
Woodhams	James	Buckinghamshire New University	Business Management
Young	Heather	Oxford University	Music