



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Remote Learning and School Day Changes

Since Lockdown 3 began we have been collating and sampling opinion from our staff, students, parents and carers on our remote learning provision. As regular readers of the newsletter will be aware, we have had much praise for our online lessons as well as concerns raised over the need for screen and exercise breaks, as well as opportunity to get outside during the hours of daylight. While we cannot meet everyone's request, we will be refining how we deliver remote learning from Monday, notably moving to a single school day. Parents, carers and students will have had correspondence from me on this today.

Please see my video newsletter for further details.



### HEADTEACHER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

### Year 9 Option Choices

Next Thursday sees the first of two parents' evenings for our Year 9 students who will shortly be asked to select their Key Stage 4 subjects. As usual, students will all study the core of Maths, English and Science but will need to make choices as to which other subjects. Given the last year, our students may be less sure of their subjects than in previous years so I would encourage students, parents and carers to attend the appointments over the next fortnight and find out more about their progress and possible courses.

### Our Governing Body

Our governors work very hard to support FPSS strategically guiding the school and overseeing developments. They are also members of our community, many with children at FPSS. As you will see from the piece below from our Chair



## UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

**Some information for our upcoming events may change due to the current situation. Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.**

### TERM 3 EVENTS

THU 4 FEBRUARY	Year 9F Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 5 FEBRUARY	PTFA Virtual Quiz Night	7.45pm - 9pm
THU 11 FEBRUARY	Year 9P Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 12 FEBRUARY	Year 9 Virtual GCSE Options	
END OF TERM (TERM 3)		
FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS		
MON 24 FEBRUARY		
START OF TERM 4 (Week 2)		

of Governors, Gavin Tisshaw, they understand what our community are experiencing and are keen to thank parents, carers, students and staff for all the work being undertaken at home and in school.

Take care and keep safe.

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



The family all in different rooms, one teaching, one being taught and I'm juggling between Zoom and telephone calls. The new "norm" as it is being referred to is certainly strange and not a world I am entirely comfortable with.

However, it is far better than the alternative and at least the vaccine is being rolled out so we can see light at the end of the tunnel. I remain hopeful that the majority of our community



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(and their loved ones) here at FPSS remain safe and well and you are all coping as well as you can.

Today in particular I want to pay tribute to and thank our teaching and learning support assistants. They are doing an amazing and vital job by supervising in school our key worker and more vulnerable students. This enables and frees up our Teachers to continue delivering great lessons online without the inherent distractions they would otherwise have trying to operate in the physical school environment. I should also make mention of our site and cleaning personnel who are also working hard to keep things operating safely and smoothly.

FPSS is really about a whole community effort and everyone playing their part. There have and continue to be many positive words said about the quality of teaching that is being delivered and the care that is being taken to help our students. It is an inherent part of the School's ethos and one of the reasons that school places here are in such demand.

This month we continue the 'Meet a Governor' theme and I would like to introduce you to Laraine Holdsworth in this newsletter.

In the meantime Zoom meetings continue but I can't wait to get back to old fashioned face to face ones!!

Gavin Tisshaw

Chair of Governors



## YEAR 9 PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February (9F) and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February (9P) there will be a consultation evening for Year 9 parents. Due to the current social distancing measures in place this event will be held virtually.

To identify if your child is in F or P band please look at their timetable either in their planner or on Go4Schools [Year 7 students will be in F, P or S.]. You will notice underneath the subject and teacher name is a code, ie 9P/En3. This indicates the student is in Year 9, Band P.

Appointment slots will be available to book from 6:00pm this evening for 9F and from 6.00pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February for 9P. We advise you to book as soon as possible as appointment are likely to book up quickly. Please note that one teacher will cover the three sciences (and will appear under Biology).

Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7.15pm. To book (and for full instructions) either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website.

## PARENTS' EVENING BOOKINGS

Guidance on how to use our virtual parents evening system can be found below. If you are unable to attend the consultation via video call, please let us know in the booking system comments section and we will arrange a time to contact you by phone about your child's progress. We would advise using a desktop or laptop for your appointment and to use Wi-Fi rather than mobile phone data. This guidance includes information on how parents/carers can join from two different locations if required, please note in order to do this the parent booking the appointments is the only person who has the ability to invite another parent to the appointment.

## VIDEO APPOINTMENTS: PARENTS - HOW TO ATTEND APPOINTMENTS OVER VIDEO CALL

If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Miss L Lewis, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)

## YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS

As you may be aware, this term Year 9 students will be choosing the subjects they wish to study for their GCSEs in Years 10 and 11. Due to the current situation, the process this year will be quite different to previous years.

Over the next four weeks, teachers will be delivering a taster lesson in their subjects remotely. This will give students a good idea what that subject is like when taken as a GCSE.

The parents' evenings on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February are fantastic opportunities to discuss GCSE courses your child may be considering with their teachers following the taster lessons as well as their progress in those subjects.

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In a normal year there would be a subject information evening with a presentation to parents and students explaining the options process and each subject running information stands.

Instead this year, after the parents' evenings, the GCSE subject information guide will be released on the school website along with video presentations for each options subject and a video introduction to the options process. This will explain how the options process works in detail and I would appreciate you taking the time to watch the information and subject videos with your child.

If you do have specific questions on either the process or about specific subjects please email your child's Head of House. (Please note, if your child is in Eton House Miss Towell is maternity cover contact in Mrs Sharp's absence.) You can find their contact details here:

**STAFF CONTACT LIST**



**PE – SPORT ENGLAND QUESTIONNAIRE**

Some of our class groups will have received a letter via ParentMail about their participation in a Sport England survey. Full details are included in the letter including how to opt out. Classes were chosen at random and we look forward to hearing the results.



**YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODIES**

Full details of how to purchase these will be in next week's newsletter.

**YEARS 10 AND 11 CAMBRIDGE ITECHNICALS**



If you have received a Cambridge iTechnical Declaration by ParentMail, please fill this in with your son / daughter as these are mandatory declarations for the exam board.

Thank you.

**MEET A GOVERNOR**



**Laraine Holdsworth**

I graduated from Aston University with a Pharmacy degree and initially pursued a career in NHS Pharmacy. I then moved into the pharmaceutical industry where I have worked in a wide range of roles including market research, marketing and communications. I have two sons, one at FPSS and the other at Birmingham University (previously at FPSS). As a parent I have been very impressed by the school, especially the support and opportunities provided to its students. Hence when a governor vacancy was advertised I was keen to get more involved in the school through this role providing support, challenge and advice. I am now in my third term and have been a governor for 8 years. In my spare time I enjoy walking, yoga, pilates, reading and spending family time on our river boat.



**SUPER COOKING FROM OUR YEAR 11 STUDENTS!**



Well done to all our Food and Nutrition students in Year 11 who have completed some amazing cooking for their NEA.



Abbie Taylor



Charlie Myall



Kate Lindley



Matthew Truman



Ellis Ovens



Anya Clayton



Charlie Stinton



Jack Staunton



Kiera Connell



along with everyone else's recordings, be mixed and produced into a final pop song accompanied by a pop-video created from the workshops allowing everyone to see and hear their amazing efforts as a full virtual choir!

You can select sessions from the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> – 10am -10.50am (ages 6-11yrs), 11.10am -12pm (ages 12-16) OR 4.30pm -5.20pm (ages 6-11yrs), 6pm -6.50pm (ages 12-16)
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> – 10am -10.50am (ages 6-11yrs), 11.10am -12pm (ages 12-16) OR 4.30pm -5.20pm (ages 6-11yrs), 6pm -6.50pm (ages 12-16)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> - Age groups combine to rehearse at 10am -10.50am OR 4.30pm -5.20pm

Tickets will be £25pp with an additional sibling rate of £1500pp also available. This price includes three 50-minute teacher-led Zoom sessions, all learning resources, plus the video and audio recording afterwards. \*\*An early bird rate of £20pp will be provided on purchases made before midday on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January- be sure not to miss out on this offer!\*\*

This exciting experience is aimed at all children and teens, so please do forward this email on to

Workshop places are limited and tickets can be purchased by clicking on the following link:

### WORKSHOP PLACES AND TICKETS

Please be aware that the shop will close at 12pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February for Scotland and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February for England and Wales.

For any questions, please contact us at [rockstars@rockchoir.com](mailto:rockstars@rockchoir.com)

### FLOOD WARNINGS



We have been asked to pass on the following information:

#### Flood Alerts are in place for:

[River Thames from Hurley to Cookham](#); [River Thames from Maidenhead to Windsor and Eton](#); [The Cut](#); [River Thames from Datchet to Shepperton Green](#); [Colne Brook at Iver and Colnbrook](#)

If you are not already signed up to the free flood warnings from the Environment Agency you can do so [here](#).



## Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) | Facebook: [facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta)

Charity Number 287878

*Firstly, thank you to all the parents/carers who joined us on Tuesday evening for our Meeting.*

*We heard from Lynne Moore, Head of Operations & Business Development, that school are looking for two major projects to be funded this year – A **NEW CYCLE SHELTER** near the Astro field and A **NEW CANOPY** near the new English block, along with Books for the English Dept and I pads for Learning Support Dept.*

*Plus, we discussed and agreed quite a few points which will be actioned in the coming weeks, for instance, effective communication by ParentMail, a termly News Bulletin, a fresh approach to creating and simplifying the Direct Donation option, developing the 200 Club membership and brand new ideas were proposed for celebratory events.*

*Secondly, we thank the parents/carers who are already members of the 200 Club and the School Development Fund, especially during this time of uncertainty.*

*Like other Charities, your PTFA are struggling with funds due to the lack of physical events, however, we are arranging virtual activities such as the Family Quiz next Friday <https://bit.ly/3qlaPx6> and other ideas are being worked on.*

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We appreciate your feedback and input greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email

[ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) or through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

**NEXT FRIDAY!!! BE PREPARED TO BE ENTERTAINED AND USE YOUR GREY MATTER...**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 8PM**

**VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ**

**£10 PER HOUSEHOLD**

PLEASE ENTER NOW: <https://bit.ly/3qlaPx6>

50 ENTRANTS REQUIRED – ONLY **16** SO FAR!

**VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT**

**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL PTFA**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**8PM TO 9PM, JOIN FROM 7.45PM**

**Entry £10 per household**

Buy now: <https://donorbox.org/ptfa-family-quiz-furze-platt-senior-school>

VIA ZOOM (LINK SUPPLIED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Back in the hot seat for 2021 is the legendary Quizmaster Jeff Lloyd!!!  
Please join us on screen for an hour of fun and fundraising!  
6 rounds featuring pictures, music and an interactive round for the whole family.  
Line up your snacks and drinks and be ready for 8 o' clock.  
The Zoom link will be advised after purchase so PLEASE ensure our email address: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) is on your clean list.

Follow us on Facebook.com/fpssptfa  
Email us: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

**ENTER NOW**

## IS THERE A FUNDRAISING OPTION YOU COULD SUPPORT?

Can you repurpose your coffee or commuting expenses?

### THE 200 CLUB – 1 NEW MEMBER THIS WEEK

This is our Number One Fundraiser and we actively invite you to join in. Presently we have 85 individual members and 100 numbered balls in play (some members purchase more than one ball). If all our parents/carers joined paying just £5 per month (£1 a week) then the School could earn £6000+ per year. There is no contract (like your mobile or energy supplier) so you are in full control. Please click here now to join:

**200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)**

**200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)**

### DIRECT DONATION – £1 or £2 PER MONTH OR AN AD-HOC SUM

Without joining the 200 Club or purchasing lots of Second-hand Uniform, we would be exceptionally grateful to receive an electronic payment(s). We will then claim Gift Aid from HMRC and earn extra pounds, PLUS there is a personal tax advantage for every tax payer, every year. There is no contract or regular debit unless you specify otherwise. Bank details available by emailing us: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

### MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

Perhaps your employer is listed here? Either yes or no, please make enquiries regarding their charitable scheme. BIDDING STARTS NOW! There is a tax advantage for businesses to award Charities before 5<sup>th</sup> April

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Can you help us access fundraising from your employer with **MATCH FUNDING** schemes?

smile.amazon.co.uk

RAISE MONEY FOR FPSS THROUGH SMILE AMAZON

AMAZON.SMILE – £0 raised in last 3 months



Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/287878-0>

2021. We were awarded £14,000 between Sept 2019 and Aug 2020 from various companies. Our Registered Charity name, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA and Number 287878 will be required, plus our bank details, so please email us: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)



EASYFUNDRAISING – £32.37 raised in the last 30 days

You could raise up to £270.75 for Furze Platt Senior School, Maidenhead when you use Easyfundraising to save money on your household bills including car and home insurance, energy, phone contract or broadband. Uswitch, GoCompare, Confused.com and many more will donate to us for FREE!

Visit: <https://bit.ly/393NF8R+>



JOIN EASY FUNDRAISING



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Click for more information



## Train to Teach Slough virtual event

**4 February 2021 at 17.00—19.00**

 **Slough and Maidenhead**

This event, for anyone interested in training to teach in Slough and the local area including Maidenhead, will give you the chance to ask experts about your teacher training options and what it's like to teach

## **Interested in training to teach?**

**Teach Maidenhead is participating in the Train to Teach event on 4th February .**

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then talk to us on the 4th February.

**Register**

**Click to register for the event**

In partnership with the  
Institute of Education



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