

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #73.5



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,



Take Every Opportunity

On Thursday morning I arrived in school around 7.30am to find over twenty students coming onto site for cricket practice. Later that day more students were off for their practice Duke of Edinburgh walk. The previous evening, I met staff planning our Wales, Greece and Ski Trips. All this in such close proximity reminded me how much there is on offer at FPSS for our young people. It reminds me to thank our staff for all they do, as well as once again encourage our young people to get involved and take all those opportunities we have on offer.

Examination Season

Alongside the ongoing GCSE examinations for our Year 11, our Year 13 began their exams on Thursday. We have been incredibly impressed by the dedication and focus of students thus far. Please keep them going at home. We have one more week of exams before students get a week over half term to consolidate their revision before they go again.

Good luck to our Athletes

Finally, I would like to wish our current Year 13 student Demari Gumbs every success as he competes this weekend in the Loughborough International. Also in the same meet, one of our alumni, Orla Brennan, will be pulling on her first Senior England vest for the 400m Hurdles and the 4x4 relay (also in the relay squad is a certain Katarina Johnson Thompson).

Take care,

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



UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 5 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

FRI 24 MAY	END OF TERM (TERM 5)	3.15pm finish
MON 27 - FRI 31 MAY	MAY HOLIDAY	
MON 3 JUNE	START OF TERM 6 (Week 1)	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

INSET DAYS AND TERM DATES



Please note there are two INSET days next term; Friday 14th June and Tuesday 9th July. School will be closed for all year groups on those dates unless students have an exam or a pre-arranged meeting for an upcoming event.

Term dates for the next academic year can be found on our website via the link below:

INSET DAYS AND TERM DATES





YEAR 11 AND 13 PHOTOS

Year 11 and Year 13 individual and year group photos have now arrived at school.

If you have ordered photos, Year 13 students have been emailed by Mrs Pasa (Sixth Form Manager) with details of collection; Year 11 students can collect theirs from the Portacabin from Monday 20th May.



YEAR 11 GRADUATION: WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE

Please can Year 11 parents and carers book their free tickets for Graduation via ParentMail by Friday 24th May. We also request any outstanding learning resources (e.g. textbooks) are returned then.



YEAR 11 SUMMER REVISION & EXAMS

Summer Revision Programme

Please find this year's summer GCSE summer revision programme attached for your information and reference. All revision sessions during exam phase 1 are compulsory; revision sessions during exam phase 2 are not. However, I strongly recommend that your child attend all revision sessions.

Year 11 students have also been emailed this information.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself, Mrs Feather, Mrs Ridgley or Miss Barney.

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

GCSE REVISION PROGRAMME MAY/JUNE 2024



YEAR 11 EXAM INFORMATION

Revision Packs

Revision resources for each subject are on FP-Cloud under Raising Achievement and Year 11. Within this site there are links to subject-specific revision websites, revision guides, how to revise tutorials, and past papers with their associated mark schemes, examiners' reports etc.

Exam Timetables

It is important that students check their personalised exam timetables thoroughly so they know when their exams are. Making a copy of this timetable is often a good idea. Students will also receive the official JCQ exam regulations information with their timetables. We recommend that you discuss these with your son/daughter to ensure that they are absolutely clear about expectations of how they conduct themselves during exams.

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Spaced Practice

Revise, rest, repeat...space out your revision for best results

Spaced practice is the theory that short, sharp bursts of learning are more effective than cramming just before the exam.

HOW IT WORKS

Combine spaced revision with retrieval practice for best results. Self-test during a number of revision sessions until you can accurately recall the target information from memory.

MIND MAPPING - AFTER CLASS

Write down everything you know about a topic straight after class or after watching one of our pods.

REVIEW YOUR MAPS - A FEW HOURS LATER

Cover your mind maps and see how much you can remember. Highlight any info you couldn't remember and revise it again.

MEMORY CARDS - NEXT REVISION SESSION

Create memory cards with answers on the back and test your knowledge. Repeat every few sessions.

ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

To determine where to focus your time, look at each element of the course and rank them according to your level of confidence.

- I need help with this (Speak to your teacher)
- I need to learn this as I don't remember it all
- I remember doing this but I need to revise it
- I know the content of this but I need exam practice
- I am exam ready

HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Test your understanding by completing a GCSEPod assignment. Your answers will provide a boost playlist to clarify any gaps in your knowledge. Watch the boost playlist and take the assignment again until you get it all right. Watching the same pod again and again over a period of time ensures what you have learned has stuck in your mind.

Helped by William Shakespeare - *Macbeth*

Created by GCSEPod

access GCSEPod | gcsepod.com

9.5.24 – 22.5.23: Exam Phase 1

During Exam Phase 1, students will either be in an exam, a revision session for that exam or in their normal lessons. However, students will not be expected to attend tutor time and will thus not be required in school until 8.45am if they have a 9.00am exam or 9.10am if they are going to normal lessons or a revision session. When students have an afternoon exam they will be permitted to leave the school site as soon as the exam finishes.

23.5.24 – 19.6.24: Exam Phase 2

From Thursday 23rd May Exam Phase 2 starts. During this phase students will attend their exams and the associated revision sessions. When they are not in an exam or a revision session they will have Home Study, where they will be expected to be working at home preparing for their next exam.

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PARENTS:

Boost learning

with this simple trick,

Turn on

the Subtitles

when your child is revising

Turning on the Subtitles research shows that the mere presence of words at the bottom of the screen will encourage students to read them, automatically improving word recognition, content comprehension and code-related literacy skills.



their mental health, fundraising for 'Wear it Green' Day on Thursday and participating in movement workshops during break times.

We have shared guidance with students on where they can go if they would like support with their mental health, both internally and with the below external providers.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 13-19 MAY 2024

'MOVEMENT MATTERS'



This week is Mental Health Awareness week and this year the theme is 'Movement Matters'.

Students have been taking part in a series of assemblies and tutorials on this theme across the week.

Staff have also been involved by sharing how they support



CAN YOU HELP?

We are trying to resource our Learning Support department with some STEM type resources.

If you can help with a donation of any of the below, we would be very grateful if you could ask your son/daughter to take them to Learning Support.

SNAP CIRCUITS



HOTWIRES

LEGO / LEGO TECHNIC



DUPLO

KNEX



GEOMAG

Thank you.

HOUSE T-SHIRT WINNER



The results are in! Miss Hawkins and the Year 12 Fashion students have decided, and the overall rankings for the Sports Day T-shirt competition are as follows:

- 1st Place - Falcon - 1000 points
- 2nd Place - Eagle - 800 points
- 3rd Place - Osprey - 600 points
- 4th Place - Hawk - 200 points

Well done everyone!! Head to Parentmail to purchase a t-shirt for £10 for your son/daughter to wear on sports day or see more details on page 9 of this newsletter.



AT FURZE PLATT THIS WEEK

It's not just been about exams...read on to find out what exciting things we have been up to!



YEAR 10 GCSE ENGINEERING

Our Year 10 GCSE Engineering students have done an amazing job on their copper lamp projects! We're so proud of their creativity and craftsmanship. Check out these fantastic designs:



Cont. on page 5



How to make:

Side	85mm
5mm gap	
Side	85mm
5mm gap	
Base	130mm
5mm gap	
Upright	145mm
5mm gap	
Cross	106mm
5mm gap	
S Roof	105mm
5mm gap	
L Roof	117mm
Excess	

1) Use your ruler to measure where your lines need to go – then use the tri-square to make sure they go across the MDF at a right angle

Mrs Owen Side ✓

2) Use masking tape to label EACH piece with your FULL NAME and the name of the piece.
Your teacher will tick when checked

Start by measuring out the pieces



YEAR 7 CRICKET

Great to see our Year 7 cricket team in action earlier this week...



YEAR 8 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Our Year 8 DT students are gearing up to design and build bug houses. This project will teach them about biodiversity and design. Stay tuned for updates on their amazing creations!



YEAR 9 FOOD AND NUTRITION

...and back inside, fantastic burgers from Year 9 made in their Food and Nutrition session on Wednesday!



YEAR 8 CONSTRUCTION

Excellent work by Issac Payne (Year 8) who completed a drinks tray in his KS3 Construction session with SATRO today.



Gold DofE Award at Buckingham Palace

A very special invitation for Michael Lee-Thorp, Rafael Orford (both Year 13) and alumna Anya Clayton, who successfully achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and were invited to attend the Gold DofE ceremony held at Buckingham Palace this week.

They had a wonderful day out which was the culmination of many months' hard work. Well done to them all (pictured, Michael and Anya).



CALLING ALL BUDDING JOURNALISTS....

The Young Reporter Scheme is a schools programme giving students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 an opportunity to write for a real live online newspaper. The programme runs for eight months during the school term, with various opportunities offered along the way. At the end of the scheme students are judged on the articles they have submitted throughout the year and an awards ceremony is held for the winners.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[REGISTER/SIGN UP](#)

Cont. on page 7



FURZE PLATT STUDENTS ACHIEVE GOLD

Gold Medals at Berkshire Athletics Championships

Congratulations to Demari Gumbs (Year 13) who won Gold in both the 400m and the 400m hurdles at the Berkshire Athletics Track & Field Championship 2024, held at Reading last weekend.

In addition to winning Gold in both events, he also achieved his own PB – great work Demari.

They also offer various apprenticeships including:

- a 36-month apprenticeship consisting of the 18-month Level 5 apprenticeship, followed by the two-year Level 7, resulting in a permanent role at the Newsquest title they've been working at.
- a four-year degree apprenticeship option which allows them to get the university experience with full backing from Newsquest Media Group who will cover all university fees.

Any students already in The Young Reporter Scheme in Year 10 can be fast-tracked onto the apprenticeship scheme in Year 11 and students joining the scheme in Year 11 can start straightaway, if this is a career that they wish to consider.

YOUNG REPORTER APPRENTICESHIP

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of medical and dental appointments being taken during the school day.

It is an expectation that medical and dental appointments are taken out of school time. However, the school recognises that it is not always possible. Parents/Carers are asked to make every effort not to arrange appointments during the school day except in emergencies.

When a student must attend a medical appointment during school time, parents/carers must notify the school in advance and provide evidence of the appointment.

Please record all medical and dental appointments under 'Report Absence' 'in Class Charts.

For further details please see website for Furze Platt attendance information.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Attendance Team

'The curriculum is broad and personalised. It is designed well to meet the needs of all pupils.'

Ofsted 2021



TERM 5 CLUBS 2024

Clubs for next term will be sent out next Friday (24th May).

Please note:

* once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm

* please do not duplicate club bookings per session

* students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter

SCHOOL CLUB LIST

SCIENCE CLUB

TUESDAYS

15:20 - 16:20

S10 | YR 7-9

SCIENCE CLUB

Our Science Club buzzed with excitement this week as we built Bee Houses! Special thanks to Mr Randall, Mr Barrett, and Mrs Hawkins for this fantastic opportunity.



ROUNDERS AND SOFTBALL CLUBS



What a perfect week for rounders and softball at the club before the rain! Big shout out to the Furze Platt PE Team for organising the fun.



WORKSHOP CLUB



Our students were ready and raring to go at our Workshop Club this week, kicking off our sweet dispenser project after wrapping up the coasters project. Thank you to Mrs Barnes and Mr Harrison for their support.



GARDENING CLUB



Gardening Club worked hard in the nature garden this week. We planted a rosemary hedge and ornamental grasses, weeded the path, planted a rose, litter picked and clipped the grass around our lavender border. We run every Tuesday after school, attending counts towards the Duke of Edinburgh award volunteering section. Everyone welcome!





INTERHOUSE - HOUSE T-SHIRTS

DEADLINE TO ORDER - WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE

You can now purchase your child's House t-shirt for them to wear proudly on Sports Day and support their House!

To ensure they arrive in time for Sports Day in July, the purchase deadline for t-shirts is Wednesday 5th June.



Sizes range from S to XXL, are available in the four House colours and logos and cost just £10 each. If we order enough and can take advantage of bulk discount options, any profit will go towards our Thames Hospice Charity Fundraiser. House t-shirts can be purchased via Parentmail (Payments – Shop).



Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: [click here to access](#)

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

News from your PTFA.

Did you know? We've recently donated around £4,500 to the school to spend supporting Gardening Club, Chess Club and our Duke of Edinburgh Awards team for kit; plus funding towards a sensory garden and a new initiative for Sports Award prizes. These will all greatly enhance your children's learning experience at the school, and we and the school staff are really grateful to everybody who has put in time and money to make this possible.

Now we need your help to carry on and make even more of a difference! Here's a short video that explains how you can help

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Help run the 200 Club - one of our main fundraisers and really important to keep the funds flowing but does not take very much time at all

Become a Uniform Coordinator and help manage our supplies of donated second hand uniform - makes us a lot of money but also provides a vital service to the school and parents

Join the 200 Club to donate £5 a month (literally less than the cost of a hot chocolate!) and be in with the chance of winning £200 at the next draw - sign up here [Furze Platt Senior School PTFA 200 Club - Monthly Donation | Furze Platt Senior School PTFA \(Powered by Donorbox\)](#)

200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION

Please drop us a line under the Facebook video, or email ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net if you would like to find out more.

We look forward to hearing from you!



CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT VACANCIES



WE ARE HIRING

Join Our Talent Pool

Let us know you are interested in working with us by joining our Talent Pool.

[FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL TALENT POOL](#)



SATURDAY & SUNDAY FOOTBALL PLAYERS NEEDED!

After a very successful season Bourne End Juniors are looking for new players for in all positions to expand their under 14's team for next season for both teams.



The team will be coached by Mark who owns / has set up his own Academy called AMA. Mark has a wealth of experience having previously worked with Fulham FC and was their academy coach between 2017-2021 before setting up his own business. He has his UEFA C, FA Level 2 and FUTSAL Level 1 Badges.

If your child is looking for a new challenge and would like to join a well-established and well run football club, then we'd love to hear from you!

We will be playing in Division 2/3 of the EAST BERKSHIRE League on Saturdays and the Sunday Team will be in Division 2 of the Wycombe League.

We currently train at Wooburn Park (Bourne End) and matches are on SATURDAY/SUNDAY mornings.

Open trials begin in the coming weeks at Wooburn Park.

So, if you are interested in playing for either team and your child will be going into school year 9 next year then please contact Ges Dale on Bourneendjets@gmx.co.uk



Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th May 2024 @ Break 1 &2 in GEN3 & H1!

Cake sale for MacMillan Cancer Charity!

**Cupcakes
Brownies
Cookies
Lemon Drizzle
And Much More!**

Cash Only

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU**



SW Safer Schools Team

13/05/2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Open Water Dangers

As the hotter days approach, please communicate to your children the dangers of swimming in local rivers and other bodies of open water. Sadly we have seen children and adults lose their life in recent years in local rivers, some of which have been strong swimmers.

There are a number of dangers to consider, below is just a few:

- The shock of cold water can make swimming difficult and increase the difficulty in getting out of the water
- Lack of safety equipment and increased difficulty for rescue
- The height of the fall or jump if tombstoning
- The depth of the water – this changes and is unpredictable
- Underwater objects and hazards may not be visible
- Obstacles or other people in the water
- Strong currents can rapidly sweep people away
- Uneven banks and river beds
- Water quality, e.g. toxic algal blooms and industrial/agricultural pollution

The best advice is to stick to swimming areas with trained lifesaving staff present such as local authority swimming pools.

For more information please have a look at the Royal Life Saving Society website:

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/open-water-safety-tips>

Kind regards,

Inspector Graham Norman
SW police Safer Schools Team
Graham.norman2@met.police.uk



MAIDENHEAD BIKEATHON

SUN 7 JULY 2024 FROM 8.00AM
Maidenhead Office Park, Westacott Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead SL6 3QN

3 ROUTES

24

— km —
15 MILES

Family Route

50

— km —
35 MILES

Mid Route

100

— km —
62 MILES

Long Route



Ample car parking for
cyclists & supporters



Commemorative
medal for all finishers



Raise money for your
own charitable causes

Register now: maidenheadbikeathon.co.uk

Your opinion matters

Achieving for Children is committed to providing the highest standards of care. We welcome your views on the services we provide.

If you would like to give informal feedback, a compliment, complaint or provide any suggestion please email Rachael Park-Davies on:

rachael.park-davies@achievingforchildren.org.uk

If you wish to make a formal complaint, please email:

complaintsandcompliments@rbwm.gov.uk

Accessing our service

Parents or carers and young people can request advice via email or by leaving a message on our telephone line.

All professionals are requested to refer via the Early Help request form on the RBWM Safeguarding Partnership website: <https://rbwmsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk>

Contact us

By Post: School Nursing Team, Achieving for Children Riverside Family Hub, West Dean, off Ray Mill Road West Maidenhead SL6 7JB, Berkshire

To request support and advice please contact:

T: 0300 365 6523 (please leave a message and we will return your call either on the day or the next working day)

E: school.nursing@achievingforchildren.org.uk

W: [AfC School Nursing Team \(click on the link\)](#)

Information about how the Achieving for Children School Nursing Team collect and use information can be found at www.achievingforchildren.org.uk/privacy-notice.

Our school nurses look after the health and wellbeing of children attending a maintained, academy or free school in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM).

We are here to offer confidential advice and support to children, young people and their families.

The School Nursing Team consists of specialist practitioners, staff nurses and school health screeners.

What we do

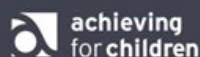
We:

- take over from the health visitor on your child's fifth birthday
- provide training to school staff on managing children's medical conditions in school
- support healthcare planning for children with medical needs
- inform children and young people who have additional health needs about healthcare services that are available to them and refer them to services if needed
- offer schools advice and support on all health matters
- run clinics to support families to manage night-time bedwetting.



School Nursing Team

Supporting children and young people locally



Primary schools

In primary schools, we:

- weigh and measure children at school entry and in Year 6 as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. We can support and advise children and families on weight management
- perform vision screening at school entry
- offer hearing checks if there are concerns
- offer advice and support to children and their parents or carers on a wide range of health-related topics
- promote good health and wellbeing for school children
- offer targeted health promotion to meet public health needs

Secondary schools

In secondary schools, we:

- offer one-to-one confidential advice, to which young people can self-refer. We can advise on diet, exercise, sleep, smoking, their emotional health, healthy relationships and sexual health
- offer targeted health promotion to meet public health needs
- work alongside other agencies to help them understand the health needs of your child

Keeping children and young people safe

Our school nurses play an active role in keeping children and young people safe. We work in accordance with the RBWM Safeguarding Partnership. Information on our safeguarding policies and details on how to make a referral may be obtained from visiting the website:

<https://rbwmsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk>



Marlow Rowing Club

Rowing taster sessions

Sat and Sun, 1st and 2nd June

Free of charge

No rowing experience necessary

Applicants should ideally be over 170cm (f) or 180cm (m)

For info or to apply, email ben.reed@britishrowing.org





Players wanted!



Join our Sunday Cookham Dean U15s team for the 2024/25 season. All games recorded. UEFA C Coaching.

Limited places available.

Contact: antonrussell@gmail.com