

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #58. 8



GATE CLOSURES FROM 1ST JULY



BY INFANT/JUNIOR SCHOOL AND CRANBROOK DRIVE

I would like parents and students to be aware that the two gates at the bottom of our school field – those that go to the Infant/Junior schools, and to the Cranbrook Drive estate (the gate known as the Ostler Gate), will be locked from 1st July. This is to ensure the safety and security of everyone on the three school sites. The gates will be open at the beginning and end of the school days, as follows:

Opening Times:

7.45am-9.15am

2.45pm-6pm

Outside of these times, students can only enter the school via the front gates.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Mr E Towill, Associate Assistant Headteacher

YEAR 11 GRADUATION



Many congratulations to all our Year 11 students who had their Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday.

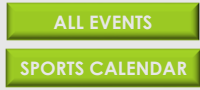
The majority have applied to our Sixth Form and we look forward to welcoming them back in Year 12. Good luck also to those who are entering the world of employment, travelling, or taking an apprenticeship.



Photograph: with thanks to L Mace.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Next Week (Week 2)

JUNE	Food and Nutrition trip to Ramsbury Estate, Marlborough	Depart 8.45am - all day
JUNE	English trip to Stratford On Avon	Depart 9am - all day

Forthcoming Events

MON 1 JULY	Year 5 Open Morning	9am - 12.30pm
	Parents' Community Group Meeting	6pm - 7pm
TUE 2 JULY	Year 6 Taster Day plus Second Hand Uniform Sale	
WED 3 - THU 4 JULY	Year 12 Taster Days	

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018/19 AND 2019/20

Thank you to Mr Tisshaw, Chair of Governors, who presented students with their certificates; our Heads of House for their inspiring speeches; to everyone who helped set up the event; and especially to Miss Satterthwaite who oversaw the Graduation and made it such a success.

YEAR 11 PROM



Students looked absolutely stunning in their formal attire for the Year 11 Prom which was held this year at the Royal Windsor Racecourse, a beautiful location. They enjoyed a disco, with photographs throughout the evening taken by an award winning photographer, plus access to a photobooth as well (kindly paid for by our PTFA), to give them as many special memories as possible from their years at Furze Platt. Once the official photographs are ready for circulation details of how to access them will be made available via the newsletter.

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Special thanks to Miss Lewis for overseeing the event and behind the scenes organisation.



text message on their phones which simply says "RIOT. THE ROAD. 7pm TONIGHT." ‘

For the past 6 weeks, Year 9 Drama students have been rehearsing after school for our production of ‘The Accordion Shop’. It is set on ‘The Road’, a typical street in an unnamed town where we meet the boys and girls, wholly likeable teenagers, who welcome you to the show’s setting in our story. To the local residents, The Road is perhaps what West Drive is to school. A place to hang out, a place where most things happen and most importantly – somewhere we all know.



The Road, in our performance, is where the story takes place. It is left in utter disarray after groups of teenagers swarmed down the road in such a frenzy all because they received a text...this ended in disaster though as it reflected a riot.

Our play shows local residents processing what this riot meant, both for the community and the structure of our society overall. Who was to blame? Who caused this mess? Most importantly, was blame the right response, to a devastation, caused by mass confusion?

Please be warned that strobe lighting will be used during the performance.

Tickets on sale via Wise pay for £3, the play is appropriate for Year 9+.

Written by Lara Torok (Year 9)

Note: Cush Jumbo, who has recently starred in The Good Wife and The Good Fight (both can be seen on Amazon), wrote the Accordion Shop as part of National Theatre’s Connections, their annual festival of new plays for youth theatres and schools.

THE ACCORDION SHOP

TUESDAY 27TH JUNE AT 7PM AND 8.15PM

‘Mister Ellody has quietly kept his accordion shop going on his local high street for generations.

One day, he steps out of his door and witnesses an extraordinary incident: hundreds of young people are surging onto the street, and they’ve all received the same



BUY TICKETS - 7PM PERFORMANCE

BUY TICKETS - 8.15PM PERFORMANCE



YEAR 12 PRODUCT DESIGN VISIT TO LONDON

Our Year 12 Product Design students visited London this week to see the Design Museum, home of a number of very valuable and iconic items.



They went to gather research for their Year 13 projects, to look at different forms, materials and processes.

They explored lots of ideas to help with their future studies.

Miss A Pound, Art and Design Teacher



FURZE PLATT STUDENTS COMPETE AT READING UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CHALLENGE 2019

A team of Furze Platt's finest went off to Reading University to compete against the cream of schools from the South East on Friday. FPSS had made their debut under the fine tutelage of Mr. Molin in 2008 and had enjoyed winning the competition a few years ago.



An open invitation encouraged keen scientists and mathematicians to show interest and a shortlist of sixteen had been compiled which needed to be whittled down to eight members to form the two teams. The 'squad' did a great peer selection job, with the only stipulation from me being that the public face of FPSS at Reading were 'mixed' teams. We ended up with two balanced squads. Team 'Castor' was led by Patrick Kelly and supported by Connor Soden, Bella Powell and Ellie Gavin. Team 'Pollux' was led by Ashrath Kumar and supported by Felix Earl, Maddison Menelaus and Katie Pettigrew.

The competition is based on the long running and very popular TV quiz - 'University Challenge'. The twelve teams on the day would complete a 'round-robin' with the four highest scoring teams at the end of the morning session going through to the semi-finals. We arrived in good time

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and got stuck in. Both teams enjoyed success during the course of the morning but narrowly missed the top four places. The published results showing Castor missing a semi-final berth by just five points!

Nevertheless, a hugely enjoyable day and one that we will certainly look forward to next year, we took eight supporters and the STEM team at Reading commended us for our sportsmanship and behaviour during the competition.

Mr G Melville, Teacher of Biology

'Thank you for your inspiring speech and sharing your story personally with us. The most inspiring part for me was when you mentioned everyone deserving a second chance as I feel that in today's society, everyone is expected to be perfect, but you reminded me that it's ok to make mistakes. Overall getting the experience to meet you was incredible. Thank you.'

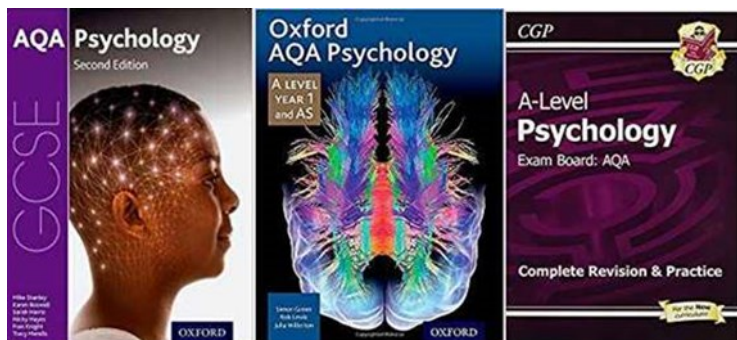


'Your talk was very interesting and inspiring, what you did at such a young age was insanely interesting. It was inspiring to hear how you had changed from that type of lifestyle into becoming an FBI Agent, and I absolutely love that your past doesn't affect your life now, for example how your children don't care about your past and love you for the person you are. Even though you don't like your past, it was pretty cool! But that's not the point, you have saved millions of dollars from fraudsters. Thank you for the talk it has really opened my eyes; you are inspirational for people of all ages.'

'Thank you for your interesting speech, it was very informative and emotional at points. It really was an eye opener. You coming to our school was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was an honour to meet you and to be able to ask you questions and find out more about your life story.'

REQUEST FROM PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology Department would welcome old textbooks and revision guides once the exams are over.



Every year we struggle with class textbooks being damaged or taken by students who never return them, so if your son/daughter do not need their GCSE or A-Level Psychology textbooks any more, we would greatly appreciate such donations.

Thank you.

THANK YOU TO FRANK ABAGNALE

Last week's special guest visitor, Mr Frank Abagnale (subject of the film 'Catch Me If You Can' starring Leonardo DiCaprio), inspired some lovely thank you letters from students:

'Thank you for your speech, I really enjoyed it. You have really inspired me to be a better person, especially when you spoke about being nice to your parents and holding on to them and spending time with them. As soon as I got home from school, I gave my mum a big hug and told her how much I love her. Thank you for reminding me how important my parents are.'

'Hearing the real story of your life from your perspective was fascinating and how you have become the great man you are today. You cannot change the past; it is what you do in the future that counts.'



'Thank you for the assembly, I enjoyed listening to your experiences and learning if you do wrong there is always a way to make it right, I also liked the fact that at the end of everything there was a lesson to be learnt. Your speech made me feel if you have a good mind-set you can achieve anything.'

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'Thank you for coming to our school and doing the assembly. I think it's amazing that you were supposed to be in the FBI for 12 years but you have stayed for over four decades.'

'Thank you for the assembly it was completely amazing and very interesting. I wish I knew more about your FBI days and why you stayed in the FBI after the 12 years. You said prison was horrible and that has really stayed in my head.'



'Thank you for your visit and for the assembly, I enjoyed you talking about your life especially the part when you worked as a pilot and a doctor.'

'Thank you for coming to our school. I enjoyed your talk especially the end when you talk about your life being long and that was really inspirational to me. I liked the part when you told us about people leaving bank deposits with you; I thought that was really smart. Your life story is really interesting.'



'I really enjoyed the assembly you did. You are very inspirational, your life story was amazing and it was very action packed. I like how what happened to you has ended up with you doing something great. To work with the FBI must be such an honour. You are an amazing man.'

'My utmost thanks for coming to Furze Platt Senior School. I was really moved by your speech and found it inspirational. Hearing your life story directly was very special. I think we can all learn life lessons from your experiences. Thank you so much from all of us at Furze Platt Senior School, we are very thankful for your visit and learning about your life.'

'Thank you for telling us about your life, it was very interesting and also to find out what was real in the movie 'Catch me if you can' and what wasn't. It was amazing what you did at the age of 16 and what you are now doing for the FBI. Our school was really excited about your visit. Thank you for the talk.'



MESSAGE FROM WAYNE DIXON

CHRISTIAN CONNECTION IN SCHOOLS

Thank you for the memories!

Over the past 31 years I've had the opportunity to visit schools including Furze Platt Senior School. This has been for assemblies or lessons as I've contributed in the life of R.E. on some of what Jesus said and did as recorded in the Bible. I've loved it! One of the reasons has been in recent days. This has caused me to pause and reflect. I want to say a HUGE 'thank you' to all those currently at Furze Platt and maybe parents / carers who have been there in the past 30 years. It happened again this week as I was about to sign out and chatting with some staff a parent came in and mentioned she too was at Furze Platt years back and now is mum of a child due to start soon!

I've been into a number of our senior schools to wish pupils well for their respective GCSE and A-level exams and then last week I met several teachers in some of our primary schools who came and said 'hello' as ex pupils in some of the schools I currently visit. This has prompted me to think as we usually have Q & A session and a variety of



questions are asked by pupils and staff. Finally, thank you very much for the welcome you give both in schools and increasing out of school when former pupils come and chat. I'm grateful and glad to have had the chance to share a little when you were a pupil. I was hoping to pop into the year 13 Prom next week and year 11 tomorrow, but we are at a family wedding in France so thought I'd send this now before we leave. Current and ex Furze Platt Senior pupils - thanks for the memories and hope to continue to see some of you in town or at school in the coming days and weeks.



PHOTOGRAPHY AT FURZE PLATT

We are always interested to receive photographs from parents or students of school life or student achievements. Lizzie Sneller, Year 12 student and the editor of the Student Magazine 'Insight', photographed our recent musical evening beautifully; and a parent kindly sent in the Graduation photo in the piece above. If you would like to submit any photos please send to Catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net (please note under GDPR regulations we must have written consent of any student pictured). Thank you.



REMINDERS

TRIPS AND VISITS INFORMATION

All letters with information on our numerous trips and visits can be found here:

FPSS TRIPS AND VISITS INFORMATION

These include trips to Rome, Washington DC, Box Hill, the Globe Theatre, Natural History Museum, Spain, Ski trip (2020) and many more.



PTFA NEWS

If you wish to donate good quality uniform or PE kit you can now do so by leaving it in Main Reception. All donations will support the school. Kit from any age and/or year group - in good clean condition - is acceptable, including clean football boots and trainers. The PTFA intend to sell these pieces on Tues 2nd July from the library and on other days/times which are yet to be arranged. If you have any queries please call PTFA Chair Lorraine Hughes on 07944 538519 or you can email her direct: lphughes@aol.com



YEAR 11 STUDENT LEAVERS

As your son/daughter approaches the end of their time in school we would like to remind you to plan your top-ups and spending so the balance on their catering account is at a minimum by the time they leave school.

Innovate will not refund account balances less than £5. Instead the total value of all account balances less than £5 (school leavers only) will be donated to the school.

If your account balance is over £5 you may either request a refund, have the money transferred to a younger sibling, or donate the balance to the school.

ASPIRING MOTIVATED CONFIDENT CONSIDERATE

Open Morning
Monday 1st July 2019
For Year 5 Parents*

Open Evening
Thursday 3rd Oct 2019
All Welcome

School Tours Available
Sept and Oct 2019
All Welcome*

01628 625308 | office@furzeplatt.com | www.furzeplatt.com

*Tours must be booked in advance, please contact Main Reception.

Furze Platt Senior School offers:

- ▶ A broad, stimulating and rewarding education for girls and boys
- ▶ Outstanding academic, sporting and Arts facilities
- ▶ Supportive transition activities for all our Year 7 students
- ▶ A wealth of extra-curricular interests, trips and visits

'An increased number of pupils achieved top grades at key stage 4 [and] made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects. The most able make similar or greater progress than other pupils nationally.'

- Ofsted

How to find us:

'Pupils achieve highly at this school'

- Ofsted 2016

Furze Platt Senior School, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7NQ