

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #60.2



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents/Carers

Max's Funeral

This afternoon over around 120 students, staff, parents and carers have attended Max Simmons' funeral service. It has been wonderful to see the Furze Platt Senior School community come together to remember Max. I would like to thank everyone for supporting each other at this difficult time.



I will be presenting our commemorative book to Max's family containing many memories that our students and staff have written about Max. I hope family and friends find solace in our memories of such a bright and engaging member of Furze Platt Senior School and know how much our thoughts are with them at this time.

Remembering Oliver

On Thursday we held an event in the Hall to remember Oliver Darlington. It was incredibly moving to hear and read students' recollections of Oliver. He will be remembered for his lively and fun personality, his love of scooters, bikes and football and the way he made people laugh.

I would like to commend the staff and students who led this occasion. It is incredibly hard to stand up and speak about a friend and student who has sadly passed away and I am really grateful to all those involved.

Year 8 Parents Evening

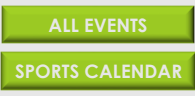
Thank you to all parents who attended on Thursday evening. It was good to catch-up and work together to support our young people. I look forward to seeing Year 8 parents from the other half of the year next Thursday.

UCAS Applications

It has been a busy week in Sixth Form with the final deadline for university applications. We have approaching 100 students who have chosen this route this year. Good luck to all our students with their interviews and offers over the next few months.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Next Week (Week 2)

MON 20 - FRI 24 JANUARY	Year 13 Pre-Public Examinations	
WED 22 JANUARY	PTFA Meeting	7pm - 8pm
THURS 23 JANUARY	Year 8P Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events

WED 29 JANUARY	Year 11 Photos	
FRI 31 JANUARY	Years 11 and 12 Progress Reports	

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/20 & 2020/21



WE OFFER

OVER 90

SCHOOL

CLUBS

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THEM ON OUR WEBSITE

Year 13 PPEs

Finally, good luck to all our Year 13 students who sit their Pre Public Exams (mocks) next week. I hope all their hard work pays off.

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

EXPANSION NEWS

You may have seen we are currently advertising for a number of teaching staff. We are delighted to inform you that due to the expansion of our school, we are currently looking for even more fantastic teachers to add to our staff list. Further details can be found on our website:

CURRENT VACANCIES



CAREERS EDUCATION NEWS

1) University Talk for Year 11

On Thursday 24th January Dr Joe Organ from Brasenose College, University of Oxford, will be coming to our school to talk to any interested Year 11 students. The session will take place immediately after school and will last for no more than an hour. Joe will talk about going to university; he will talk about universities in general and about Russell Group universities in particular, including Oxford and Cambridge. He will explain what students should be doing now to maximise their chances of going to a top university in the future and so it will be very useful for any students who are aiming high. The talk will be held in 6.4, in the Sixth Form block.

2) Careers Programme

We have recently updated the careers programme section of the school website. This section shows the opportunities we provide for students to think about their future pathways and to find out about the world of work. We welcome parents'/carers' feedback about the careers programme so please do have a look at it and if you have any comments or questions, please email judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net

FPSS CAREERS WEBPAGE

3) Enterprise Adviser

Part of the government's career education strategy is to link every school with an Enterprise Adviser, a senior person from industry who can work with the school to help form links with employers and enhance the school's careers programme. I am very pleased to be able to announce that Furze Platt has recently been given our own Enterprise Adviser; she is Catherine Grey, Resourcing Partner at Balfour Beatty. I am delighted that the school is now linked with such a prestigious company and look forward to working with Catherine.

4) Labour Market Information for Berkshire

Berkshire is a great place to work. In Berkshire, a higher percentage of graduates return to their home county than for any other county, due to excellent employment opportunities. Every year the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

(Local Enterprise Partnership) carries out research into labour market information for Berkshire. This includes information about Berkshire's largest employers, the sort of jobs likely to be available, employability skills needed, particular skills shortages, qualifications needed, etc. The LEP sends this information to schools for us to share with students in career education lessons to help inform them about possible future prospects. This is the latest version; it may also be of interest to parents and carers.

CAREERS IN BERKSHIRE: LOCAL LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

MUFTI DAY IN AID OF SPORTSABLE FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2020



We will be holding a non uniform Day in aid of the charity Sportsable on Friday 7th February. Students will be asked to contribute £2 via their tutor in registration during week commencing 3rd February (as Friday 7th February is also a late start for students, who will go straight to their P2 lesson). Tickets will also be on sale for activities that students can participate in on the day. While students will be wearing their own clothes, please be aware that we do expect them to dress appropriately.

Thank you.



HOUSE CHALLENGE

Our new House Challenge this term will be for each House to collect as much for Food Share as possible. Maidenhead Foodbank provide food, including fresh food and fruit & vegetables, to individuals and families who are unable to afford a proper meal every day for themselves or their children. Their primary focus is on providing nutritious food.

These are the items they currently most need:

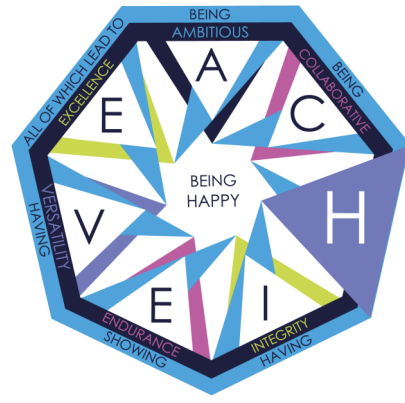
- Tinned meat
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables (except sweetcorn)
- Cooking sauces
- Biscuits
- Apple Juice

Cont. on page 3

Further information about the charity can be found <http://foodshare.today/>

We will let you know when we will be asking students to bring this in to school.

Thank you.



URINETOWN ON TOUR

By Lara Torok, Year 10

'With performance week looming just under a month away, some cast members from our upcoming school musical, Urinetown, embarked on a pursuit to publicise the approaching show, and connect with some of the primary schools in our area.

First stop: Furze Platt Junior, where we performed a few numbers from Urinetown, and led a short acting workshop for the students, based on the extract of our show they had just been shown. The experience was fantastic: our audience was engaged as we sang, and later eager to know more about the mechanics of having to 'pay to pee' (although, with the plot of Urinetown centred around, well, Urine... I think this reaction from a group of nine-year-olds is quite expected).

One standout product of the workshops, for us, was when the Year five students re-created a scene where they were desperate for the toilet, or devising a plan to kidnap a main character. The children loved Officer Lockstock, the daunting narrator of Urinetown, and thought that Ms. Pennywise – the keeper of a public amenity in the Urinetown dystopia - was terrifying. The atmosphere was exciting and inquisitive – our favourite received question about the show was 'well, how much does it cost for a number two?'

We really look forward to our next stop...which Primary school will be next I wonder?'



YEAR 12 MATHS & COMPUTER SCIENCE BLETCHLEY PARK TRIP

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2020

If you would like your son or daughter to participate on this trip, please pay via your son/daughter's account on WisePay by Monday 20th January 2020.

BLETCHLEY PARK LETTER

YEAR 12 A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY RESIDENTIAL FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY 12TH - WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2020

I am writing to let you know about the Year 12 field trip to The Field Studies Centre, Nettlecombe Court, Somerset, (www.field-studies-council.org/centres/nettlecombecourt.aspx). This field trip will be challenging, informative, sometimes messy but also fun. It will allow students to explore issues and questions in a real-world context that frequently produces uncertain or 'grey' outcomes that encourages them to question their own findings and nurtures analytical and critical thinking as well as building resilience. It is designed to cover key parts of the specification that cannot easily be covered in the classroom.

This year the trip will run from Sunday 12th July 2020. We will be travelling to and from the location by mini bus. More precise timings and programme details will be provided nearer the time. The total cost of the field course will be **£325** including travel to and from the centre, activities and all meals excluding those on the journeys to and from the centre. We will require this to be paid in full by Wednesday 1st April. However, we need a **£125 non-refundable deposit to secure your place by Monday 3rd February**. Payments for the trip can be made via your WisePay account. Below is the payment schedule:

- Deposit £125, due by 3rd February on signing up for the trip (you can also pay the full amount)
- Final Instalment £200 due by Wednesday 1st April.

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If there are any circumstances where payment may not be possible by the specified date, please inform me and we will look into alternative arrangements. If you have any queries, please email me (ed.fraser@furzeplatt.net)

Mr E Fraser
Head of Geography

NETTLECOMBE TRIP LETTER



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - SILVER AWARD

By Francesca Dale, Year 10

'I have just completed the skills section for my Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. I did cooking and it has taught me to become more independent, which I believe is a key life skill. It also has progressed my journey into becoming more resilient because I learnt from the difficulties at the start and I feel that my skills have improved. My favourite dishes to cook were pizza and cakes and it's a skill I would recommend to anyone doing DofE.'

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL



On Wednesday 15th January the Year 8 Boys played the first match of the football season. The boys played against Charters School, where there was a valiant team effort. They tried incredibly hard during play, with numerous chances to score for Furze Platt. Unfortunately luck was not on our side however, it was a very close game, as we lost 2 -1. Special mentions go to Frankie King and Oli Basford, as

they made an excellent debut. Congratulations goes to Jack Britton for scoring the goal for Furze Platt. After the game, the team's man of the match went to Luke Maddox, who put an extremely high effort into his performance.



NEW YEAR BOOT CAMP

A special well done to Louis Mormech, Callum Lloyd, and Connor Webb, all Year 8, pictured battling through morning Boot Camp with Mr Djaelani in the first session back after Christmas.



ECOBRIKKS

Learning Support have been busy over the last few weeks filling empty plastic drink bottles with Single Use Plastic and turning them into ECOBRICKS. All of us have learnt in the news in recent months of the trauma, and even death, that Single Use Plastic can have on our wildlife and sealife. Single Use Plastic accounts for around 95% of the plastic used in today's world and is not currently recyclable.

In only a few weeks we have filled over 30 bottles. These will be given to a charity who regularly send them overseas to Third World Countries, where the people use them to build sturdy homes and buildings. Some people in



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this country are using them to make buildings and even outdoor furniture themselves. Whatever they are used for, it's keeping Single Use Plastic out of the oceans and landfill.

More can be found out by visiting www.ecotricity.co.uk
If you feel inspired, students can start making one at home and bring it into Learning Support and we will pass it on. Let's all join together to do our bit for the environment and the beautiful world we live in.

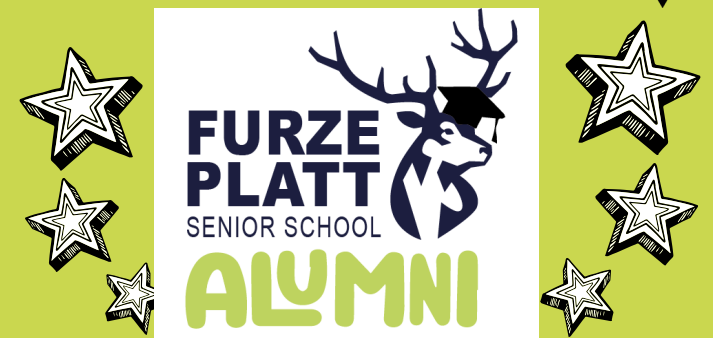


OUR CAFÉ THIS WEEK

This week staff and students were able to choose a delicious meal of baked fish with cous cous as part of the menu on offer.



FURZE PLATT ALUMNI



We are very keen to reconnect with as many of our Alumni community as possible and will be sending out the first edition of our brand new Alumni newsletter in the next few weeks. We have an Alumni page on our website featuring previous Headteachers & famous Alumni as well as news about the school.

FPSS ALUMNI PAGE

If you were a student, member of staff or the PTFA, a governor or a friend of the school please join us here:

JOIN OUR ALUMNI

Please share this link with anyone else who you know attended our school in any capacity.

Thank you.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS WITH A PASSION FOR COOKING

Do you have a passion for food and cooking? Are you brilliant at coming up with cool designs and ideas? Are you charming and good with people? Are you in School Year 7, 8 or 9? Lion Television are casting a restaurant competition format for a well known broadcaster featuring a famous maître d' and a celebrity chef. Under their expert guidance, contestants will discover how difficult and how rewarding it can be to run their own restaurant with the star performers from this series being crowned Maître D' and Head Chef for 2020. If you think you are up to the task and you want to apply you need to get permission from a parent/guardian and fill out an application form. Applications can be submitted by your parent/guardian by email by Friday 7th Feb 2020: kidsrestaurantshow@liontv.co.uk Or by post to: by Friday 7th Feb 2020: Kids' Restaurant Show Production Team, Lion Television, Lion House, 26 Paddenswick Road.





INCREASE IN CAFÉ SPENDING LIMITS

At Innovate we are continually looking to make improvements to the catering service available to students and parents.

We open from 8am until after school every day and to ensure students can take advantage of the extended hours and food choices offered, we are increasing the cashless daily spend limit to £6 per day.

From 13th January the new spend limit will be put in place. Should you wish to amend your child's spend limit to £6 per day please complete the form found on page 7 of this newsletter and return it to the Innovate Restaurant.



CALLING ALL PARENTS!

Do you like competing? Are you taking part or planning to take part in a fun run, a marathon, skydiving or something else extraordinary? Do you have any personal challenges you could be sponsored for? You could help us raise funds for our New Hall Theatre campaign. For more details please visit <https://donatemyschool.com/projects>, all donations are instantly credited to the campaign. If you'd like to donate without being sponsored, you can do so via the link below.

Thank you.



[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION](#)



SECRETARY NEEDED!

To apply and be part of our friendly team, please email PTFA@furzeplatt.net. Look out for details of the next PTFA Quiz night and second hand sale date. We do need uniform / PE kit donations so please bring them into Main Reception. Thank you.

MRS TINA RAY, ALL SAINTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

This week we heard the sad news that Mrs Tina Ray, a colleague from All Saints Junior School passed away last weekend. Mr Rhodes, All Saints' Headteacher, has asked us to share the news with parents and carers as he is aware that some of our students attended the school. Mr Rhodes also asked us to inform you that there is a Book of Remembrance at All Saints should you wish to contribute and entry.



DO YOU NEED...

- A YOUTH VOICE**
- YOUTH INTERVIEW PANELS**
- YOUNG OPINIONS**

If the answer is YES, the RBWM Youth Ambassadors are at your service throughout the borough. We are here to help you, our community and local businesses.

For further information, please contact us on
E: RBWMYouthAmbassadors@achievingforchildren.org.uk
T: 01628 685856





Dear Parent/Carer,

At Innovate we are continually looking to make improvements to the catering service available to students and parents.

The menus available to students include daily hot plated meals, a well-stocked salad bar, Grab & Go hot snacks, sandwiches, baguettes, fruit bags, home bakes, cold and hot drinks and more.

We operate opening hours from before school until after school, so as well as break and lunchtime, students can visit us for breakfast and pick something up after school. We open from 8am until after school every day.

We would love for parents and students to take advantage of the extended opening hours and be able to take advantage of the breakfast and afterschool offer. Due to these changes we are increasing the cashless daily spend limit to £6 per day.

From 13th January the new spend limit will be put in place. Should you wish to amend your child's spend limit to £6 per day please complete the below form and return to the Innovate Restaurant.

Kind Regards

Bryan Lygate
Operations Director
Innovate Services Ltd

Please tear off and return to school restaurant

Change to Daily Spending Limit Form

Name of Pupil: _____

Year: _____

Form: _____

Daily Spending Limit: _____

Name of guardian or parent: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Train to Teach
events. Reserve
your place today.

TEACH
MAIDENHEAD

We will be at:
Copthorne Slough
Tuesday 21 Jan 2020
4.30pm - 8pm

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

Teaching
Every Lesson Shapes a Life.


Department
for Education

Search: Get Into Teaching