

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to our newsletter. I hope that you have had a good week and enjoyed the VE celebrations last weekend.

The Future – A Potential Partial Return for Years 10 and 12

Following Boris Johnson's announcement last Sunday, the government have indicated what they currently request of secondary schools like ours sometime in Term 6:

"We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups." The full guidance is available here should you wish to read further:



GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Based on this guidance we are preparing plans for Years 10 and 12 to return for some 'face-to-face' time with their teachers. As per the government's request this plan will provide some time in school to supplement the work Years 10 and 12 are doing at home. We are currently working on plans to make this happen and ensure that our return is both safe and productive. I will be writing to Year 10 and 12 students, parents and carers once we have finalised our proposals.

Our younger students, along with their parents and carers, will have noticed that there is currently no suggestion of when they will return to school. I realise that this uncertainty is not helpful but I am afraid I do not know any more than you. We will continue to provide home learning and support students in these year groups until a return date is set.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

All events are postponed until schools reopen.
Further information will be sent out in due course.

I would remind parents and carers that should they be keyworkers or their children classed as vulnerable they should get in touch with school to discuss our childcare provision. The dedicated email address is keyworker@furzeplatt.net.



Hall Crowdfunding Campaign

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER

This week my video message tries to offer you a little more than just me talking. You will also get a look inside our new Hall. This new facility should be available for us this autumn with over 400 tiered seats, along with state of the art sound and lighting systems. It promises to be a fantastic new resource for FPSS.

I chose to film my bulletin piece in the Hall as this week I received the fantastic news that we had reached our £34k crowdfunding target. I want to thank all of our community,

Cont. on page 2

staff, students, parents and carers, who have worked so hard to reach this goal. It will make a significant difference to what we can offer our students.

Year 6 Transition

As we remain in lockdown, we are very conscious that our future students, those currently in Year 6, have been unable yet to finish primary school and may be concerned about starting at FPSS this September. Various initiatives are afoot to welcome Year 6 students, parents and carers to the school so if you do have a child joining us please do look out for the welcome video and other information being sent your way.

Help and Support

With the uncertainty over this week's announcements and us continuing to stay at home, I know that some members of our community may be struggling. None of us are perfect and cannot hope to do everything and be everything to all people. While I know I am repeating myself, please do access the support services listed on our website should you, a friend or relative need them.

Take care and keep safe.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Headteacher



HOME LEARNING – WEEKLY TIMETABLE PLANNER

We encourage students to print out the home learning timetable planner (or they can download a Word version) to help them organise their work for the following week.

TIMETABLE PLANNER

MESSAGE FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Dear FPSS Students,

Over in English we have started an online chat where you can share a poem or an excerpt from a favourite story with us via video on Microsoft Teams - follow the link below.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT VIDEO PLATFORM

We have a brand new post from Anya Idrizi, Year 12 sharing her favourite poem and thoughts as well as Mrs Byrne, who has already uploaded a video to introduce you to the forum and to share with you one of her favourite poems. Do use the platform to comment and share any thoughts or questions you may have after listening to this reading. And, if you choose to upload your own video, be sure to nominate a friend to go next.

We hope you enjoy this platform to 'Tell Your Tale' and enjoy the tales being told by your peers and teachers at Furze Platt Senior School.

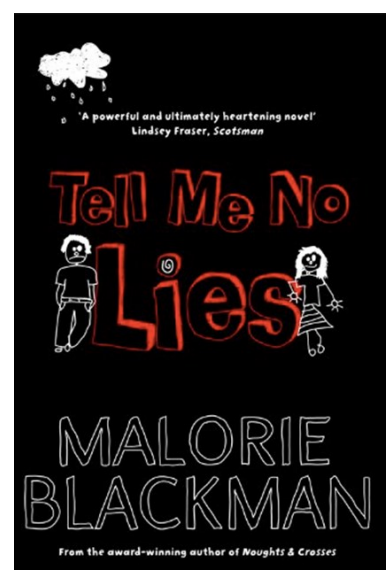
Best wishes, and stay safe!

NIAMH MCCALLION, YEAR 9, RECOMMENDS...

Tell Me No Lies

I loved this book because it had pulled me in from the start. The language and the storyline were just so interesting, and I wanted to know why Gemma kept scrapbooks of mothers. And then I wanted to know why Mike's mum was in prison. There was always something new I wanted to find while reading this which is what made it such a good book.

I hope there's a sequel to this book because I have so many questions. Does Mike ever visit his mum in prison?



Cont. on page 3

Does Gemma's brother start a new life with his girlfriend? Does Gemma ever meet her mother? But most of all I hope Malorie Blackman continues to write because her writing is just so gripping!

I would recommend this book to people because her books are so captivating and inspiring it's so hard to put it down and you would be lying if you said you didn't like this book. This book reminded me that not everyone has a simple life, people have complex problems that can't be solved which is why you should read this book.



LEARNING AND FITNESS RESOURCES

Home learning can be found here:

FAMILY LEARNING RESOURCES

Including links to Mr Djaelani's Multiple Phase Workout Booklet for an all round fitness programme and a list of Counselling and Support Services Resources.



ENGLISH MINI-SAGA WINNERS

This week our winning English Mini Saga is from Scarlett Phillips in Year 10 and the teacher's entry is from Miss Brookling:

'Go Fetch Yourself' by Scarlett Phillips

The dogs are planning a rebellion. Sick of their humans using walking them as an excuse to leave the house yet again, they will fight back. Expect hidden leads, endless hunts for keys and toes to be bitten off of shoes. They are sick of our boredom.



'Guardian' by Miss Brookling

The cat sits rigidly, guarding the top of the stairs. She possesses the look of having gorged herself on ripe lemons. The devil dances in her eyes as Dad approaches. He's allowed to pass, but the Jack Russell whimpers, trapped downstairs until the cat is safely removed from her post.



HISTORY IN LOCKDOWN

As a department, we are keen to see students (and their families!) engaging with history in a variety of different ways, and it has been excellent to see students stepping up to the plate and engaging in the different challenges that we have offered over the last term. We have had an overwhelming response to the Easter and VE challenges and hope that you have enjoyed taking part in them as much as we have enjoyed seeing your entries. We look forward to seeing some of this creativity in the classroom again in the future!



VE DAY:

The planned VE day celebrations were cancelled. You have all been staying home. It could have been very easy to let the current pandemic ruin the festivities. But you didn't, and what a celebration you had! We've seen cakes, bunting, flags, afternoon teas, family garden parties – the works!



Hopefully you've been inspired to talk to your family about their experiences too – and if you haven't we strongly recommend it. Personal experience helps the past come alive! Thank you for all of your photographs of the day – Churchill would be proud.



Easter Challenge:

Over the Easter Holidays we challenged you to enter two competitions. Year 7 students had the opportunity to become medieval architects and create their own castle, whilst Year 8 and 9 students were challenged to create a hard-boiled historical figure. It was incredibly difficult to choose winners for these competitions, they were egg-cellent! You can view all of the entries on the link below:

ALL ENTRIES

The following students are this years' champions.

Year 7 Castle Competition:

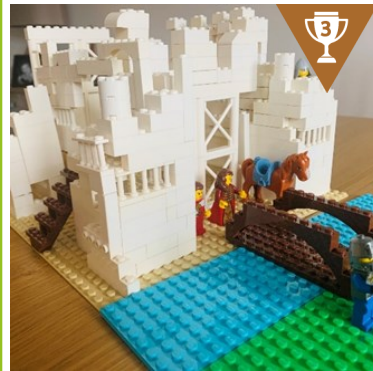
Charlotte Soden



Luca Dance

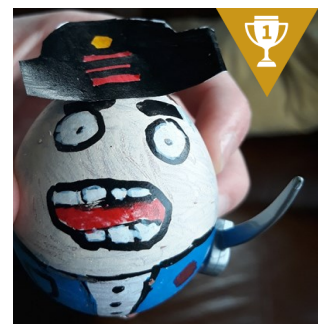


Lucas Stevenson



Year 8 and 9 hard boiled historical figures:

Napoleon by Patrick Clarke (Y8)



Elizabeth I by Fatima Habbouli (Y8)



Elizabeth I by Will Lonsdale (Y9)





Ghost Busters by Asim Malik (Bray House)



Lady and the Tramp by Charlotte Soden (Marlow House)



TASKMASTER HOUSE CHALLENGE

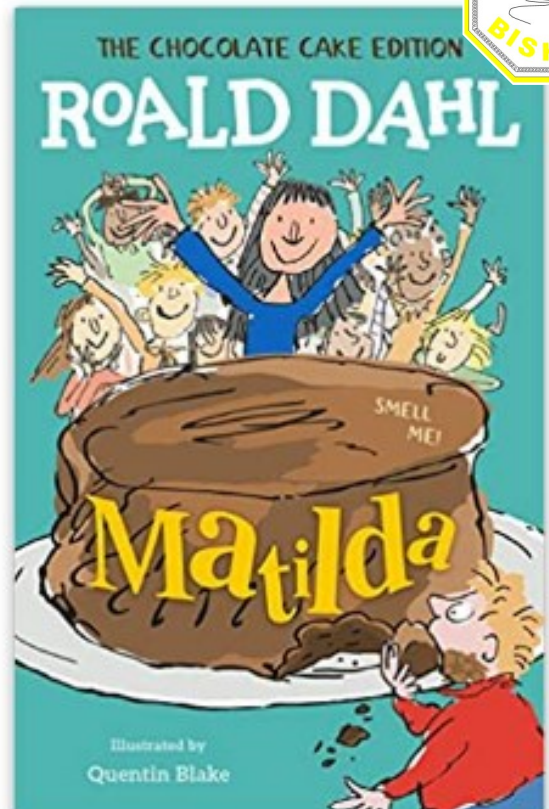


Week 3 of the TaskMaster House Challenge saw students recreating famous scenes from films. Bonus points were awarded if we were able to guess the film. We were so impressed with the variety of the entries and the creativity shown. We had lego, family pets and giant dinosaur outfits brought to life. Harry Potter and Jurassic Park were big favourites with 3 recreations each! The winner of this round was Sam Cranch for recreating the whole of Jurassic Park in a 3 minute video that featured his whole family, some brilliant sound effects and excellent camera angles. As the film featured younger children we are unfortunately unable to share it with you but trust us, it was fantastic and a worthy winner! A handful of this week's entries are shown here. The win by Sam also gave Bisham House the push they needed to overtake Dorney House and lead the way into Week 4 where students are being challenged to make a giant version of something that is usually very small.

Aladdin by Sophie MacLachlan (Dorney House)



Matilda by Bethan Coulter (Bisham House)





KEY STAGE 3 DRAMA SET DESIGNS

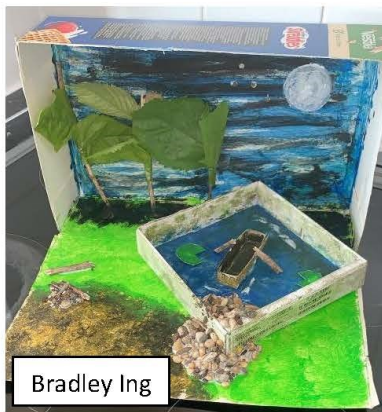


Last half term, students in Years 7 and 8 have been designing their own sets for *The Wind in the Willows*.

As part of their work, they needed to create a 3D model of their design using recycled items from around their houses.

The work they have produced has been outstanding, and the Drama Department wants to celebrate the efforts they have made. Well done everyone!

Here's a few examples of our students' work.



Bradley Ing



Heidi Grant



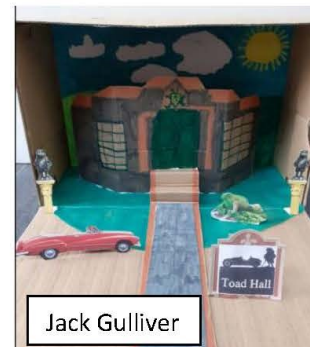
Mustafa Amin



Jamie Metcalf



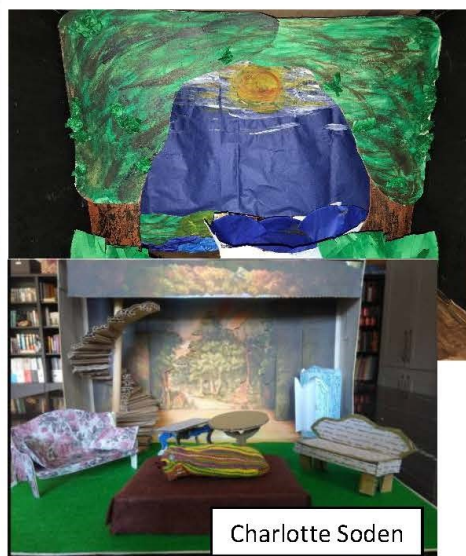
Nathan Hedges



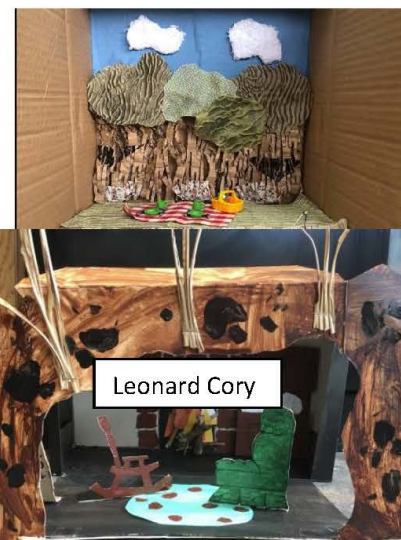
Jack Gulliver



Ella Oliver



Charlotte Soden



Leonard Cory

FRENCH

YEAR 7

Leo Ing
Elenia Reina
Alistair Bailey
Evie Napier
Phoebe Matthews
Namfon Avellano
Alfie Wiggins
Olive Owen
Manuel Mizik
Harry Sandhu
Alfie Hawkins
Jon Sanchez Ansuategui
Bailey Clarke
Jessica Hulme
Bradley Ing

YEAR 8

Jack Gulliver

YEAR 10

Amelie Owen
Bella Powell
Anyia Clayton

GERMAN

YEAR 7

Andrei Alexandrescu
William Couling
Holly Bennett
Jon Sanchez Ansuategui
Jessica Hulme

YEAR 9

Jessica Bristow
Harvey Bond
Balraj Kaur
Hadi Anabtawi

YEAR 8

Eleanor Foster
Nathan Macey

YEAR 10

Lara Torok
Nick Habib

SPANISH

YEAR 7

Charlotte Soden

YEAR 9

Lola Ogden
Ollie Stone

YEAR 8

Asim Malik
Lewis Rennie

YEAR 10

Abbie Taylor
Saif Hussain
Kensa Horner

ANDY MURRAY BY DYLAN SHERRY (YEAR 10)

Andy Murray is an inspiration to all sportsmen, even to people who don't play tennis. He has worked hard to get to the top and this shows that he was ambitious, versatile, enduring and excellent, four of our school values.

When he was young he won an under 10 tournament at Dunblane Sports Club. This victory would be a sign of things to come. In 2005 he won his first ATP title and in 2012 he became the US Open champion. He would later go on to become the first British winner of Wimbledon in 77 years. But this wasn't the only time he won Wimbledon, he went on to win it again just 3 years later.

Andy Murray isn't just an inspiration because he is a winner but also because he isn't a bad loser either. Even after he loses he doesn't cause any trouble and he just goes and tries again. This again shows the school value of endurance.

When most people think of tennis they think of Andy Murray and it isn't hard to see why. He is one of the greatest tennis players of all time and he is the greatest British tennis player of all time.



LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

BY YOUCEF AIT-KACI (YEAR 9)

During this lockdown, many people have decided to take advantage of their spare time and learn something new. For example, a new skill. After all, this is the perfect time for this, as well as keeping up on schoolwork, and revising for future exams. A few people have learned certain skills that may benefit them in the future, or may just help pass the time. Either way, it's helping the government and saving lives, so who can complain!

One person who has spent their spare time to learn a new skill is a student in Year 9 called Luke Cairns. Luke has taken his time to learn how to sing and to tap dance, as he believes that this is a form of exercise which he can do in his house, and will also benefit his physical health, whilst doing his part to overcome this pandemic.

Another student in Year 9 called Charlie McLintock has decided to learn to cook. This new skill has benefited Charlie and his family, as well as their overall health, as it can help them stay in shape during the lockdown as all the gyms are closed, and outdoor exercise may put Charlie at risk. He is very happy that he has found a way around this issue, and plans on learning a new skill in the near future!



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for Glass Saucepans for our Food and Nutrition students, as it really helps when they can see into the pan, and what science is happening in the pan.

If you are clearing out, and finally reach the back of the cupboards, we would be very pleased to take them off your hands! Please email sarah.crisford@furzeplatt.net.

Thank you.

FURZE PLATT'S NEWEST FAMILY MEMBER



Some lovely news from Mr Harris who many of you may have watched online with his maths videos for students.

Many congratulations to him and his wife on the birth of their daughter Isabella-Rose (8lb 1oz) last Thursday, 7th May.

We wish them all the best.



REMINDERS:

MESSAGES FROM MISS SATTERTHWAITE:

CAN YOU HELP?

YEAR 11 / YEAR 13

I appreciate that the end of the year has not occurred as any of us would have expected it to. However, before discarding any revision or textbooks you may have bought, please could I ask that you consider donating them to the school, so that we can continue to make use out of them. Likewise, before throwing away uniform ie ties, good condition blazers and PE kit, trainers etc for the lower school, and/or Sixth Form suit jackets (female), suits (male), blouses/shirts, lanyards (no badges) please could you consider saving them for us if no longer needed? Hopefully, I am not too late in writing this and there haven't been any bonfires of work or any fashion overhauls of uniform.

If you are interested in helping, we would gratefully welcome any donations as soon as non-essential travel is allowed again. We will keep you updated.

Thank you,

FURZE PLATT STUDENT WINNER IN SUN COMPETITION

SUNFLOWER DRAWING COMPETITION WINNERS



Congratulations to Fred Fletcher (Year 7) whose artistic winning entry in the Sun's Sunflower competition wins him a £50 National Garden gift token. Fred, a member of the Eco Committee, enjoys Spanish, Art, Music and Computing and is interested in a career in architecture or design.

TEN DAYS OF HAPPINESS

A 10-day free online coaching programme to boost your wellbeing; 'designed for challenging times, based on the latest research from positive psychology, neuroscience, and behavioural science.'

10 DAYS OF HAPPINESS

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The most topical word of 2020 appears to be 'unprecedented', we are all learning that there still can be a first for anything. I can appreciate that right now we are all in uncharted territory and due to Covid-19 your status of employment may have unexpectedly changed. Whilst I appreciate this may be an incredibly difficult time for you all, I wanted you to know there is potential government funding to support your child. You can use the link below to check if you are eligible or please do email if you have any queries.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK

If you are eligible, you will receive £15 per week per child via the government's national voucher scheme. Please do however be aware that the response may not be immediate as the Borough are trying to cope with an increase of demands.

Take care and stay safe.

EMAIL: FSM@FURZEPLATT.NET



MAIDENHEAD FOOD SHARE

As members of our community will be aware, Maidenhead Food Share supports local families struggling with some of the basics. Indeed, each Tuesday during lockdown food parcels are being dropped at Furze Platt Senior School so

that they can be collected by families close to the school. While we appreciate that many families are struggling, should you feel able to support the Food Bank your donations would be appreciated.

Thank you.

MAIDENHEAD FOOD SHARE WEBSITE



Year 11 Lockdown-busting Prep Activities

YEAR
11

Year 11 are still being set weekly tasks over a complete range of subjects, which are all designed to help students prepare best for their future studies in Sixth Form. Students have so far experienced a variety of fascinating TED talks, compelling podcasts and lectures, stimulating articles, remarkable radio programmes, not to mention a whole host of free online courses to whet their academic appetites.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next instalment of Lockdown-busting Prep Activities...coming direct to your Show My Homework accounts every Monday morning!

YEAR
11

INFORMATION FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS PLANNING TO GO TO COLLEGE IN SEPTEMBER

Year 11 students planning to go to college in September should keep checking the college websites for updates and transition resources. Here is

the latest information:

Henley College has work on its website, under 'Work for Sixth Form' it includes activities for students starting both A Level and vocational courses.

HENLEY COLLEGE - WORK FOR SIXTH FORM

Henley College is holding a virtual open day on Saturday 6th June, for further information and to register go to:

HENLEY COLLEGE - VIRTUAL OPEN DAY TICKETS

Reading College will be putting work on the website soon, so keep checking. They are holding a virtual open day on Saturday 6th June, for further information and to register go to:

READING COLLEGE - VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

Langley and Windsor Colleges have transition work on their website for all courses, go to:

LANGLEY & WINDSOR COLLEGES - TRANSITION WORK

Langley College is holding a virtual open day on Thursday 21st May, for further information and to register, go to:

LANGLEY COLLEGE - VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

BCA is planning to have research activities on the website after half term, so look out for that. BCA also reminds students to keep an eye out on the website for enrolment instructions. The college is planning to hold an open day on Saturday 1st August, for further details go to:

BCA - OPEN DAY & RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

TAPLOW CHOIRS



Taplow Choirs is recruiting for new members in September. Conductor, Gillian Dibden is collecting expressions of interest at the moment and will contact you with more information as lockdown eases.

There is a mixed youth choir for boys at any age with changing voices and girls from Year 11 upwards. There is also a girls' choir Year 5 to Year 10, Both meet only fortnightly.

Call Gillian on 07799 413746 or email gillian.dibden@gmail.com

AND FINALLY...



Well done to Amadou Diame, Year 8, for this fantastic 'layers of the earth' work.



TEACH MAIDENHEAD



Interested in training to teach?

Teach Maidenhead are continuing our recruitment campaign for September 2020 in many subjects.

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then why not consider a career in teaching?

Imagine how you could develop their knowledge of the fascinating worlds of science, arts, technology, languages or humanities when you become an inspiring teacher.

Our introduction of remote interviewing allows us to provide a safe way to meet you and see your potential.

Information on the courses available can be found at:
www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

[Find further advice for prospective applicants here on the Get into Teaching website.](#)

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



@TeachMaidenhead

FIND FURTHER ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICATIONS HERE ON THE 'GET INTO TEACHING' WEBSITE