

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Newsletter. I hope that you have had a good week and are looking forward to a Bank Holiday weekend and half term.

**VIDEO MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER****A Return for our Year 10 and 12 students**

My week has been dominated by planning how we can meet the government's desire that we "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." Conversations have ranged from organising a timetable to the details of clothing, food and cleaning toilets. I am sure that many parents and carers will have had similar conversations in their workplace. As you will appreciate there is much to consider and, as I write this, still some uncertainty. While we are aware of much of the safety advice, government guidance for secondary schools is still yet to be published and we hear that a final decision will be made on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

I have written separately to students, parents and carers in Year 10 and 12 today indicating plans and timescales as to how we may manage a return in the first few weeks of Term 6. The government announcement has also led to some queries about whether the new arrangements open up the possibility of more online work for younger years. This is in discussion and I am hopeful we can also make something happen in Term 6.

**YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12 - PLANS AND TIMESCALES****Mental Health Awareness Week**

I comment more on the resources Miss Stirling sent out this

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

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

week in my video newsletter. If you have not yet looked at these materials, please do so. There are many comments from familiar staff faces that students will not have seen for a while. I know some staff were quite emotional seeing their colleagues again after some time and would encourage students to look. Please also remember that if you need support to talk to our staff or use the agencies listed on our website.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK - STAFF MESSAGES****COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES****Goodbye Mr Lawless**

Sadly, Sam Lawless leaves us this half term having contributed hugely to our Modern Foreign Languages department. Mr Lawless' departure was timed so that he saw GCSE and A Level classes through to the final exam. Unfortunately, circumstances mean that this is not the case, but I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing him every success in his new post.

**A Kind and Unexpected Gift**

I would like to express my appreciation to Prince Philip Trust Fund and The Royal Albert Institute Fund, two local RBWM charities, who between them have donated money to support with laptops and tablets for our students. Their kind donation was unexpected but will support several families during at this difficult time.

**Half Term**

Half Term remains half term. Please do encourage students to have a break no matter where they are up to in their home learning. See you in Term 6!

Cont. on page 2

## And Finally... Thank You!

It has become a new feature of lockdown that every Friday I send our staff an update on school matters. Each week I thank them for their efforts and share with them anonymised notes of thanks I have received from parents, carers and students. Every week I have had several thank you notes to share, which is a great testament to all of you who have taken the trouble to write over the last few months. I would like finish my newsletter piece this week by thanking all of you who have been so generous with your appreciation of the efforts of our staff.

Take care and keep safe.

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Communication from governors has been deliberately quiet recently as the school rightly focuses on operational issues during this difficult time. We recognise that everyone within our community has been impacted by Covid 19 with some of you losing loved ones and others their businesses and livelihoods, it is vital therefore that we support each other as much as possible.



Governors have been impressed with the School's response to its forced physical closure for almost all students and how well it has been engaging with students to ensure progress in their studies. (We have remained open for children of our keyworker parents and those who are vulnerable.)

Adapting from a formal classroom environment to a virtual one is a huge challenge for everyone and full credit goes to; Teachers, Staff, Parents and Carers, Dr Morrison and his Senior leadership team and of course Students themselves for their perseverance and commitment.

Being in Lockdown with the same family members for weeks on end can undoubtedly be lively, entertaining and difficult but at least we have now been given the hope of returning to some form of normality sooner rather than later.

Whilst Years 11 and 13 have been deprived of the opportunity to prove their abilities by exams alone this summer this might suit some but is undoubtedly unfair on others. However, the school has responded as effectively as possible ensuring robust systems are in place to give our students the fairest and best possible results they can.

Whilst it is disappointing that a full school return is far from imminent the government announcement that some form of return for years 10 and 12 in June is welcome news. The key to making this work whilst ensuring the safety of staff and students alike will be in the planning, preparation and co-operation of all parties. Nobody is going to be asked to take any unnecessary risks and it is vital for the well-being of our community physically/mentally and financially that appropriate steps are taken to re-introduce face to face education.

In my attempt to return to normality please see our featured 'Meet a Governor' (page 3) starring Hugh Boulter an FPSS 'Old Boy' and dedicated Vice Chair who works tirelessly for the school.

It would also be remiss of me not to pay tribute to all our fabulous NHS and other keyworker parents who have been doing such an amazing job, thank you.

Finally and most importantly we hope that you and your families have managed to and will remain safe and well and are looking forward to more positive times.

Gavin Tisshaw

Chair of Governors

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## MEET A GOVERNOR

### Hugh Boulter - Vice Chair of Governors

I was thrilled to be invited to join the Furze Platt School Governing Body at the time when the school was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I was a student at the School during its first year of opening and very much enjoyed my time here.

It is great to put something back into the school in my role as Vice Chair of the Governing Body and Chair of the Governance Committee.



I worked in British Airways for years in senior posts in Network and Operational Planning, since retiring I have been involved in part time consultancy roles within the aviation sector. Hobbies and interests are extensive, sport and travel being top of the list, gardening is currently the main pastime however during lockdown.

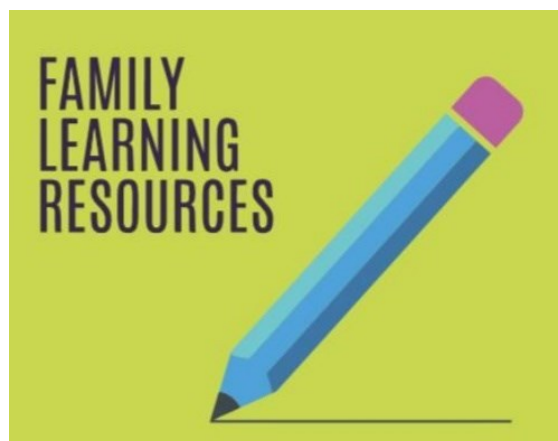
Being a season ticket holder at Fulham Football Club frequently delivers a mixed set of emotions over every 90 minute period the team are performing, I await with some eagerness the chance to watch live sport once again. As my fellow governors will confirm I am away overseas for a number of weeks over the year, my wife and I are trying to visit places we have not been to before, such as New Zealand, Brazil, Jordan and Israel. We managed to have a wonderful month in Australia getting back just before lockdown. So far these personal objectives have been met without impacting my Governor duties, managing the diary carefully has therefore been a critical component in making sure everything can be accomplished.

I have really enjoyed working with all members of the Furze Platt family, it has been a very important and valuable part of my semi retired life.

## HALF TERM - NO NEW WORK SET

There will be no new work set next Monday or Tuesday.

Pieces set this Monday and Tuesday may have a completion date set of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This work was intended to be done this week not in half term which for most students beyond examination classes should be a rest. However, as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June are the next Monday or Tuesday when students are attending these are set as completion dates.



## WEEKLY TIMETABLE PLANNERS

Mrs Feather has created some helpful 'Planning your week during lockdown' presentations which you can find on our website.

Students should still check emails/SMHW after half term in case there are changes made.

**FAMILY LEARNING RESOURCES**

**EDITABLE TIMETABLE PLANNERS**

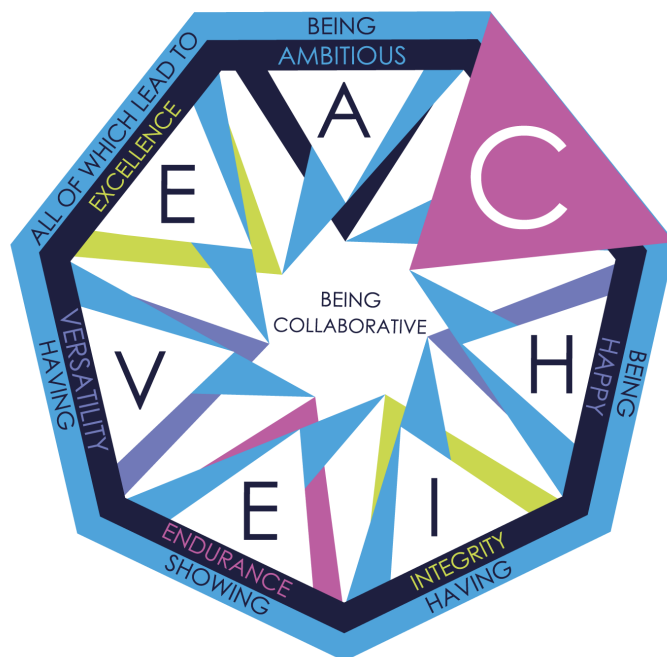
## YEAR 11 HOODIES

We have had a few enquiries from parents about the collection of Year 11 hoodies.

At present, we are taking the government's advice and encouraging parents and students to remain home as much as possible.

Please be assured that as soon as restrictions have been further relaxed by the government we will look at arranging a safe way for these to be collected.

YEAR  
11







## DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FURZE PLATT PARENT KEYWORKER

Dr Françoise Ticehurst, Emergency Medicine Consultant

I always wanted to be a doctor since I was very young, and feel very proud to be able to make such a difference to my patients' lives, especially at a time like this.

I work as an Emergency Medicine consultant, which many of you may know better as A&E. Some of you may even have had to visit an Emergency Department.



I don't really have a 'normal' week as I work shift work, sometimes starting early in the morning and sometimes working late into the evening. I usually start my shift by leading a handover with all the emergency medicine doctors who are on shift with me, where we catch up about all the important things that are currently happening in the emergency department. The rest of my shift will be very varied between looking after very sick patients in resus, seeing children in the paediatric emergency department and making initial assessments of those patients who arrive in the department by ambulance. What I enjoy most about my job is the variety that each day holds and that you really do save lives, which is an amazing privilege.

I went to Wycombe High School where I had an amazing time, worked really hard and made some super friends whom I'm still friends with today. I got thoroughly stuck into school life and got involved in choirs, orchestras and sports. I stayed on into the Sixth Form for one year and then moved to a college in Oxford to complete my A-levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths. I went to medical school at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London where I studied for five years to become a doctor. I also undertook an additional year of learning to gain a BSc in Infection. I

qualified in 2000 and it took me ten years to progress through all the training I needed to do to become an emergency medicine consultant, with a lot of exams taken along the way.

I have now been a consultant for ten years and in that time I was the Lead consultant for the ED for several years and am currently the Training Programme Director for the emergency medicine training or higher specialist trainees in the Thames Valley region. The current pandemic has certainly been challenging and there have been some very hard times. The PPE that you have heard a lot about in the news is very important to protect us but is also challenging to work in as you get very hot and it's much harder to hear what your colleagues are saying to you. Whilst there have been difficult times in recent weeks, it has really pulled us together as a team, both doctors and nurses who are working so closely alongside each other and supporting each other every day.





## FUN AT FURZE PLATT (1)

On Wednesday, students and staff who are currently in school had such fun basking in the sunshine! We created TikTok dances, story snakes and made Jelly Fish out of string. In addition, as the sun grew stronger ... so did the inevitable pull for an afternoon game of socially-distanced football. It was really lovely to see the students and staff working so creatively together.



## MATCH REPORTS

Well done to the following students for their Murray / Djokovic match reports:

Junaid Shabir  
Oscar Tisshaw  
Rosita Papoff  
Will Howarth  
Zara Webb

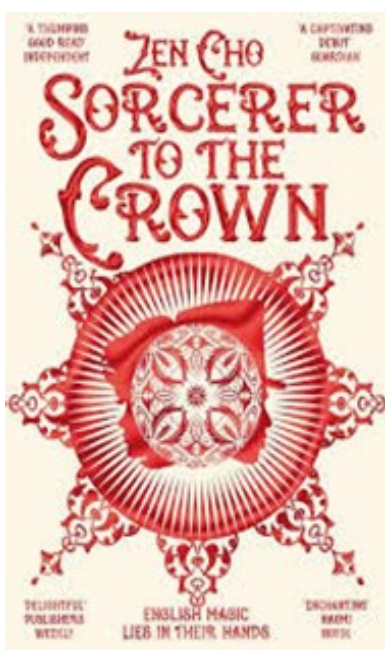
## BOOK REVIEW BY ANNA GAMBRILL (YEAR 10)

### Sorcerer to the Crown

By Zen Cho

Set in England, this book explores a world where magic exists alongside the normal world, although the magical community is dwindling. This story follows Prunella and Zacharias as they try to solve the problem of England's lack of magic.

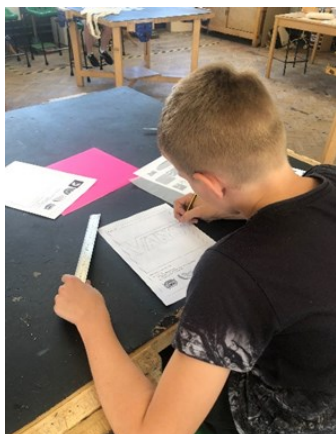
A brilliant read - especially for those who like books about magical worlds. I would recommend this to anyone looking for their next book!





## FUN AT FURZE PLATT (2)

Some of our students made bags this week, drawing out their logos and tracing them on to heat transfer vinyl to build up their designs in layers using the heat press onto calico bags. We were all very impressed with the results!



## MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE CENTRE

### FREE LOCKDOWN LECTURE

Maidenhead Heritage Centre is presenting its first lockdown lecture on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**, 80 years to the day since **Operation Dynamo** was launched. The lecture will tell the story of the **Dunkirk Little Ships**, which assisted in getting so many troops to safety. Many of these brave little craft came from the River Thames.

Please email [info@maidenheadheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@maidenheadheritage.org.uk)



## YEAR 7 SCONE PIZZA

A number of students enjoyed making scone pizzas this week by following the recipe sent out by Mrs Crisford, well done to everyone who made them and we hope they tasted as delicious as they looked.

Holly Cannon

Amy Barker



Will Couling

A special mention to Connor Fitzgibbon also for his fantastic Food Log.



## SCONE PIZZA RECIPE

## FREE ONLINE FOOD ALLERGY COURSE

Our Year 8 students have been working towards their Food Allergy Online Training certificate – well done to all those who have achieved these. To take the course, please visit:

[HTTPS://ALLERGYTRAINING.FOOD.GOV.UK/ENGLISH/](https://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/english/)







### IN MEMORY OF KATIE JOHNSTON

Former Coldstream Guards officer, Major Andrew Johnston, who has been dependent on a wheelchair for over 25 years, has less than 10 miles to wheel on his MajorAndysMarathon lockdown challenge. Inspired by Captain Tom Moore, the 61 year-old who was medically discharged in 1996 after 20 years' service, having contracted Multiple Sclerosis, has been wheeling the 26 miles 385 yards of the marathon distance in his 10 yard-long kitchen/family room using his NHS provided wheelchair. Major Johnston is the father of our former Head of Music, Katie Johnston, until her death from Secondary Breast Cancer in May 2018. The family are determined to help the school build on Katie's legacy by providing more creative and performance opportunities for musicians and non-musicians alike, including SEN students, both in the school and, ultimately, in the wider community once things return to something resembling normal. Please support them in this endeavour.

You can follow his progress at:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MAJORANDYSMARATHON](https://www.facebook.com/MAJORANDYSMARATHON)

and on his Just Giving team page:

[WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/TEAM/MAJORANDYSMARATHON](http://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/TEAM/MAJORANDYSMARATHON)

which has links to each of the fundraising page for his chosen charities or go straight to his La Folia page at:

[WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/FUNDRAISING/MAJORANDYSMARATHON03](http://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/FUNDRAISING/MAJORANDYSMARATHON03)

### 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.

EMAIL: [FSM@FURZEPLATT.NET](mailto:FSM@FURZEPLATT.NET)

## Calling All Year 7 and Year 8 Students



- How did you feel when you first joined Furze Platt Senior School?
- How did you feel in the summer holidays?
- How did you feel throughout the first term?
- How do you feel now? What advice would you give a current Year 6 student?



Unleash your creativity! We would like you to reflect on how you felt when you first joined Furze Platt Senior School in Year 7. We would like you to be honest and share any tips with current Year 6 students who may be feeling apprehensive about starting with us in Year 7. Send your responses to Mrs Crisford ([sarah.crisford@furzeplatt.net](mailto:sarah.crisford@furzeplatt.net)) by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

How you present your reflections and advice to our soon-to-be new Year 7s is entirely up to you! You could create a poster, write a letter or poem ... perhaps you could even record a vlog - the choice is yours!

**AND FINALLY...** We hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and half term!

## Graduate Cover Supervisor – To start September 2020

Fixed Term for One Year. Part time, 31.25 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 3.15pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only. Actual salary £15,000 - £16,200pa depending on experience

We have an exciting opportunity for a graduate who is keen to gain some experience working in a school prior to considering teacher training with Teach Maidenhead. You would be supervising classes during the short-term absence of the assigned teacher giving you opportunities to gain experience working in a classroom environment alongside students at Key Staff 3 and 4. Your main responsibility would be to instruct students about the work set by the teacher and assisting them to stay on task and complete the work set to the best of their ability. The provision of cover will be varied. For example, you might introduce the work by talking through a Power Point, showing video clips or reading through texts with students. You may be asked to lead a class discussion, organise group work or supervise PE and Drama activities. An important aspect of the role will also involve learning about school policies and how they are implemented including the school's behaviour policy and Ready2Learn rules, and have the chance to improve subject knowledge in all areas including your specialist subject in readiness for an application to train to teach.

In addition to this, you will have the opportunity to spend time in some of the other departments in the school responsible for supporting our students. For example, in our Raising Achievement Department. This team work hard to ensure progress and development of students at all Key Stages including Sixth Form by offering them high quality academic mentoring using intervention and support programmes, one-to-one and small groups support and help with building their confidence and self-esteem. Also in our specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder Unit with specially trained teachers and Learning Support Assistants who support students with ASD enabling them to flourish in a classroom environment wherever possible, with additional support in subjects or other areas of the curriculum which they find challenging. You may also spend some time with our Alternative Curriculum Manager whose main objective is to source and oversee the provision of alternative curriculum for those students in school who will benefit and help to enhance their education and career opportunities when they leave school. Throughout the school there is a team of Learning Support Assistants who support a wide range of students with Special Educational Needs and there would also be opportunities to work alongside them as well.

If you a team player, with plenty of initiative and an interest in a career working with young people in education we would be delighted to receive your application.

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff application form** please refer to our school website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com). Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. For further information about Teach Maidenhead please refer to [www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk](http://www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk)

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.]



**Closing date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Interviews will take place week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**APPLY TODAY**





## 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](http://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