

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #62.1



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Welcome Back

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to FPSS this week. I have enjoyed many conversations students keen to share their lockdown experiences and get back to some sense of 'normality'.



I have been delighted to see staff and students quickly adapt to the new routines and get back to learning. Touring lessons there has been a purposefulness that will stand students in good stead as we recap on work they should have done during lockdown and support them to catch-up where required. It is apparent that many students have missed school and cannot wait to get started!

The vast majority of students have quickly adjusted to the idea of year group bubbles and the new school day timings. I have been surprised that some students, parents and carers have not read the letters sent in July and August. I would appreciate your support in reminding students of our expectations and thank all parents and carers who have already done so.

[RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST LETTER](#)

[RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY LETTER](#)

[UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND SCHOOL RE-OPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2020 WEBPAGE](#)

### Our New Year 7 and 12 Students

I offer a special welcome to those Year 7 and 12 students who joined us this week. It has been odd to welcome them

Cont. on page 2



## UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 1

[ALL EVENTS](#)

[SPORTS CALENDAR](#)

Some of our upcoming events may look differently in the current situation (e.g. social distancing etc.). Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

<b>MON 7</b> SEPTEMBER	DofE Year 10 & 11 Closed Group Bronze Expedition Parents' Meeting	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>TUE 8</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 12 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
	Preparing to Succeed in Year 13 Evening	7.30pm - 8.30pm
<b>THU 10</b> SEPTEMBER	Year 7, 10 & 12 Photographs	All Day
	Preparing to Succeed in Year 7 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>TUE 15</b> SEPTEMBER	DofE Open Group Bronze Expedition Parents' Meeting	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>TUE 22</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 11 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>THU 24 - FRI 25</b> SEPTEMBER	DofE Year 11 Closed Group Bronze Expedition - Longridge	All Day
<b>TUE 29</b> SEPTEMBER	DofE Open Group Expedition Parents' Meeting	7.00pm - 8.00pm
<b>THU 8</b> OCTOBER	School Open Evening	6.00pm - 9.00pm
<b>THU 8 - FRI 9</b> OCTOBER	DofE Year 10 Closed Group Expedition - Hurley	All Day
<b>FRI 9</b> OCTOBER	INSET Day	All Day
	Year 10 Progress Reports Published	All Day
	Year 7 Progress Reports (A2L only) Published	7.00pm - 8.00pm
<b>TUE 13</b> OCTOBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 9 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
	Preparing to Succeed in Year 10 Evening	7.30pm - 8.30pm
<b>THU 15</b> OCTOBER	Year 7 Head of House/Parents' Consultation Evening	4.30pm - 7.00pm
<b>FRI 16</b> OCTOBER	Years 8,9 & 11 Progress Reports Published	All Day
<b>MON 19</b> OCTOBER	Year 13 Progress Reports Published	All Day
<b>THU 22</b> OCTOBER	Year 11 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
<b>FR 23</b> OCTOBER	Year 12 Progress Reports Published (A2L Only)	All Day
	End of Term 1	

while wearing a mask and without our normal assemblies. However, they have been really enthusiastic and already added an extra dimension to the school. I know that while many Year 7 students in particular were nervous on their first day, many Year 7 parents and carers were as, if not more, anxious. I trust that your children have shared their experiences with you so that you hear how well they have started.

**Face Coverings/Masks**

One of our Covid procedures is that all students should be wearing masks when moving around site. Please can you ensure that your child is equipped with a face covering for school. Otherwise we need to provide them. With no additional money being provided by the government for this, money for any masks we buy will mean that we cannot provide other more educational resources. If you believe your child is exempt from wearing a mask, please contact your child’s Head of House.

**Start and End of the Day**

Yesterday, parents and carers were sent a letter by James Sheppard, our Deputy Headteacher, about arrangements for coming to and from school. Please could you follow this guidance as we aim to keep our site as safe as possible.

**KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE WHILE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

**New FPSS Faces**

Finally, at the start of every school year we welcome new colleagues to FPSS. With our expanding student numbers (Year 7 is now our biggest year) we have a considerable number of new staff. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming them to our community and wish them every success in their FPSS careers. A list of new colleagues is included in this newsletter.

- Mr Gurjeet Bahra - Teacher of Art
- Miss Rhiannon Bailey – Teacher of Music
- Mr Josh Beavis - Teacher of English
- Mr Joshua Clarke – 2<sup>nd</sup> i/c English
- Miss Nara Clapperton – Teacher of Music
- Miss Nicola Cochrane –Graduate PE Assistant
- Mr Ben Corbett - Teacher of PE
- Mr Charli Denny – Teacher of English
- Miss Leah Dowell – Teacher of PR/PSHE
- Mr Paul Gale – Site Manager

- Miss Ezzy Goddard – Head of Science
- Mr Chris Harding- Graduate Learning Mentor
- Miss Gemma Higley – LSA
- Miss Tamara Hine - Teacher of Design and Technology
- Ms Flavia Hodel – Teacher of Science
- Mrs Victoria Hope – Support SEN administrator
- Mr Alistair Lindsay - Teacher of Maths
- Mr Zaheer Mahadik – Teacher of Science
- Mrs Karen Martin – English Intervention Teacher
- Mrs Daniela Maxim - Teacher of MFL
- Mrs Nikki Oliver – Cleaner
- Miss Antonia Stanley –Graduate Cover Supervisor
- Miss Alice Spence – 2nd i/c Modern Foreign Languages
- Miss Annie Towell – Head of House
- Miss Lia Weger – Teacher of History



**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

Our Facebook and Twitter pages are regularly updated with information, please do follow us.



**TWITTER - @FURZE\_PLATT**

**FACEBOOK – @FURZEPLATTSENIOR**

You can also find a range of useful information on our website here under our website tabs >Parents >Useful Information.

**FPSS WEBSITE >PARENTS >USEFUL INFORMATION**



### STUDENT LOCKERS

- Lockers will be available to purchase in September for all year groups. Due to the current circumstances students have not been able to empty out their existing lockers so we will be allocating lockers slightly later than usual.
- Students who currently have lockers should remove their lock and any items within by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. After this date locks will be cut off and items removed.
- Our new Year 7 students will, as usual, have the first opportunity to purchase lockers between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Following this we will open up the purchasing of lockers to all year groups.
- Locker hire is £5 and will be available to purchase on Wisepay from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September for Year 7.

### KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE WHILE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

In order to keep students, as well as all parents and staff, as safe and keep any risks of Covid transmission to an absolute minimum, we are asking that where possible all students walk or cycle the short distance to and from school at the start and end of the day. This will reduce the number of people at the school gates and also help ease congestion and protect the environment. The front of school can get incredibly busy at the end of the school day.

Where parents need to collect your sons and daughters from the front of school, please can we ask that you all follow these guidelines for the safety and wellbeing of all:

- please avoid stopping on the double yellow lines at any time

- please pull into one of the designated parking lanes if you are waiting
- if the parking spaces are full, please keep looping round (failing to do so can cause a blockage that results in a dangerous tailback out on to the road); please turn your engines off while waiting in order to preserve air quality
- please stay in your cars when parked
- if you need to get out of your car, we request that you wear a face covering
- when traffic is built up at the traffic lights at the Furze Platt Road and Switchback junction, please consider turning left and travelling via Pinkneys Road

Please can we also ask that parents refrain from entering the school gates when dropping off or collecting your children, unless meeting a member of staff. It is important to keep routes as clear as possible for our students to exit in an orderly manner.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents that entering / exiting over our playing fields via the Furze Platt Junior School gates (onto Oaken Grove) or the Ostler Gate (to the Cranbrook estate) is a good option for students who live in the Belmont / Pinkneys areas.

Mr J Sheppard, Deputy Headteacher

### GCSE AND A LEVEL TEXTBOOKS

If you have any GCSE or A level textbooks or revision guides your child no longer needs please can you return to Main Reception. Donated books are very much welcomed also. Thank you.

### GCSE POD



If your child has not yet logged on, please encourage them to do so using the guide below.

### LOGGING IN TO GCSE POD

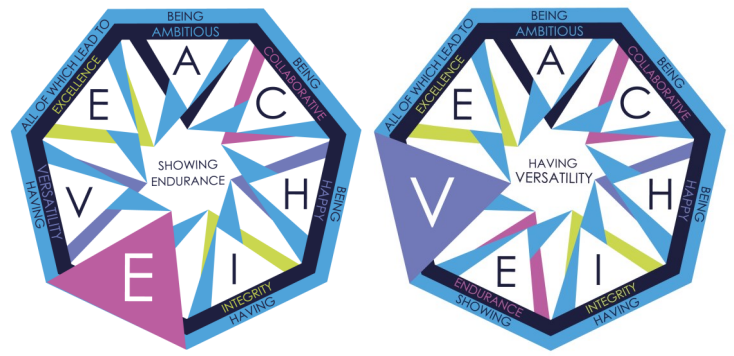
Cont. on page 4

Video links and useful information are available on here:

**LINK TO GCSE POD ON FPSS WEBSITE**

Including a video link which gives students a tour of GCSEPoD and covers the following:

- setting your home page and selecting the subjects they are studying
- adding favourite videos
- creating playlists (like Spotify)
- check & challenge - test your knowledge and get instant feedback/guidance
- how to find assignments (work set by teachers) – students receive detailed feedback on how they performed, reviewing their learning, as well as then being guided to other videos to help with any gaps



**SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR YEARS 7, 10 AND 12**

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Students in Years 7, 10, 12 and anyone who has joined the school since last October will be having their photograph taken on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD**

Great work by Maddie Bird (Year 11) who as part of her volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award has been sewing scrub bags for the NHS. A fantastic effort.



**MAKE A WISH AT FPSS**

The English Department were full of magic and wonder on their first day back. Students were invited to share their dreams and wishes for the future as they returned to school on a wonderful wall of wishes. The colourful display showcases the sheer enthusiasm of teachers and students alike for a positive beginning to the new school year. Many students, as you might expect, wished their family and others good health whilst many focused on their futures and careers. The teachers, optimistically waving wands, described this special moment as magical and a brilliant reminder to how remarkable our students truly are.



**FACE MASKS IN TESCO STORES**

We have been informed that some of our FPSS students are not wearing facemasks in Tesco, could parents please reinforce this. Thank you.



## CATERING ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Catering Assistant required for the Furze Platt cafe

Term time only

25 hrs per week

9.30am -2.30pm

Monday to Friday

Nat min wage.

Please email Debbie If you are interested:

[Furzeplatt@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:Furzeplatt@impactfood.co.uk)



## UPDATE ON NEW CANTEEN AND DINING FACILITIES



Students will have noticed considerable changes in our canteen and dining facilities, a result of significant building work that took place over the summer holidays. We now have two serveries – an upper servery focusing on hot meals, and a lower servery which will serve cold food. There is now far more space for students to eat inside, sitting at tables, and students are able to eat their hot food from plates with metal cutlery.



Students should pay for food using the money in their Wisepay account. Parents can top this up online (there is a link on the home page of our website), or can bring cash into the school reception which will then be uploaded to Wisepay. Students may, of course, bring packed lunches in.

Innovate have produced a short welcome video which you can see here:

[WELCOME VIDEO FROM INNOVATE](#)

### COVID-19 Catering Precautions

Please see a link to a video below made by John Hamill, IFG CEO, which sets out the precautions that Innovate have taken to ensure that their operation is COVID-19 safe.

[SAFELY OPENING - IMPACT FOOD GROUP](#)

### New Menus

[CAFE - MENU 2020 SEPTEMBER](#)

[CAFE - HOT DELI MENU 2020](#)

[CAFE COLD DELI MENU 2020](#)



Our PTFA have a range of good quality second hand uniforms for sale. Please email Lorraine for assistance at [PTFA@furzeplatt.net](mailto:PTFA@furzeplatt.net) with your requirements (including size).



Photograph of our new Theatre seating being set up.

