

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Upcoming Christmas Period

As we approach Christmas, this week I was heartened to hear some of the ideas coming from our student leaders. Amongst many initiatives they are going to be writing Christmas cards to care home residents and collecting donations for Maidenhead Food Share.



In addition, we will be encouraging all students to wear Christmas jumpers on the following two Fridays with a voluntary collection for local charities.

Please note normal uniform should be worn simply with the jumper replacing the blazer.

Student Awards for Staff

Please do keep encouraging your children to nominate staff for awards. The link has been sent to your child's email account.

Take care and keep safe.

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

INSET DAY

Monday 7th December

Please note there is an INSET Day on Monday, 7th December. School will be closed for all year groups.




UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)
[SPORTS CALENDAR](#)

Some of our upcoming events may change due to the current situation (eg virtual or adjusted events). Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

NEXT WEEK (WEEK 2)

MON 7 DECEMBER	INSET DAY	All Day
THURS 10 DECEMBER	Year 12 Parents' and Students' Consultation - online	
FRI 11 DECEMBER	Years 9, 11 & 13 Progress Reports Published	All Day
	Christmas Jumper Day (1)	

TERM TWO

WEDS 16 DECEMBER	Years 7 & 8 Progress Reports Published	All Day
FRI 18 DECEMBER	End of term 2 Years 7 & 8: 12:15pm Years 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13: 12:45pm	
	Christmas Jumper Day (2)	

YEARS 10 AND 12 REPORTS

The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools.

The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com and selecting Parents.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

Please see here for our Guidance to Grading document:

[GUIDANCE TO GRADING](#)
[VIEW REPORTS](#)

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager



Thank you to the 92% of parents who have now registered for ParentMail. WisePay balances have transferred over to ParentMail and topups can now be made.

If you have not received your registration link please contact the school.

We would encourage you to download the ParentMail App. It allows you to receive automatic notifications of school communications and also lets you top up lunch money without logging in each time.

Here is a link to Frequently Asked Questions about ParentMail.

PARENTMAIL FAQ



YEAR 12 PARENTS AND STUDENTS' CONSULTATION

On Thursday 10th December there will be a consultation evening for Year 12 parents. Due to the current social distancing measures in place this event will be held virtually.

This parents' evening will be a very important one as teachers will be able to give you a clear insight into how students have started their Sixth Form studies and how they can be making the best progress going forward. Appointment slots are now available to book - please be aware that appointment slots will very quickly fill up. Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7.15pm. To book appointments and for full instructions, either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website.

BOOK APPOINTMENTS

Guidance on how to use our virtual parents evening system can be found below. If you are unable to attend the consultation via video call, please let us know in the booking system comments section and we will arrange a time to contact you by phone about your child's progress. We would advise using a desktop or laptop for your appointment and to use Wi-Fi rather than mobile phone data. Please be aware that unfortunately the system does not allow for parents to use multiple devices at the same time to access the video call.

VIDEO APPOINTMENTS: PARENTS - HOW TO ATTEND APPOINTMENTS OVER VIDEO CALL

If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Mr P Ging, Head of Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

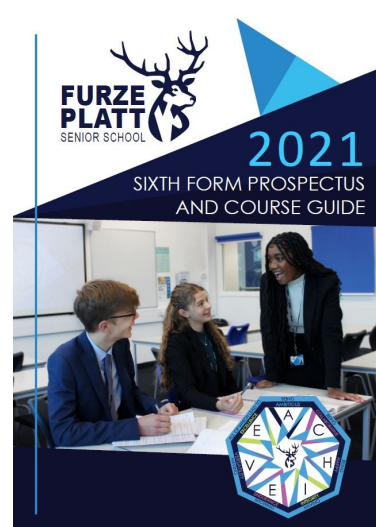
Now online and available for applications.



SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL
OPEN EVENING 2020

SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS & COURSES

APPLYING TO SIXTH
FORM





YEAR 10 - COLLABORATIVE ENGLISH WORK



Well done to Miss Jayne's Year 10 English class, working online they produced the following poem inspired by Owen Shear's poem, Mametz Wood.



Treasure trove of hurt long been forgotten
Blanket of dirt and bones untouched
Land has long since trembled -
it lays silent after wounds.
A shattered skull, a souvenir of the murdering
explosion
A fractured femur from a fatal fall
The thread of clothes torn by the deadly thorn
A lake of the dead, darkening the lost forest
Gun spat out with bullets of fury,
Metal shards roared across the silver sky,
Mortal soldiers crawl slowly over the wasteland -
dropping violently as they collide onto the forgotten
bank.
The earth is like a cemetery,
souls of loved ones abandoned on the floor
These are the consequences of the bloody war.



Cont. on page 4

NAMING AND COLLECTING UNIFORM / PE KITS

Please can we ask you to ensure ALL items your child brings to school are named.

If you have received an email saying there are items to be collected or you recognise any of the items below, please remind your son/daughter they need to collect from the Portacabin at breaktimes or after school. All the bags hold either PE kits or in some cases, entire uniforms including blazer and shoes.

- Adidas black and white bag
- Sway black and white bag
- Nike green and blue bag
- Urban outfitters shoulder bag
- Nike drawstring bag
- Plain black drawstring bag
- M&S green carrier bag
- Blue Lee Cooper sports bag
- JD Sports carrier bag
- FPSS sports bag initials SS, AM or JC



VIRTUAL
SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING

SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING 2020



Piles and piles of bones from broken buried men,
 Million and millions of fragments laying littered
 amongst them -
 each empty artillery shell a reminder of their living hell.

Bodies left abandoned with no one around,
 only their clothes as company –
 their static image frozen in the mess of the earth.
 As the time passes, soldiers lose their voice
 It no longer mattered which side you were on,
 Both friend and foe were now united in death
 All finally left to rest, trapped beneath the rich earth of
 the forgotten battle.



You can read the original poem and notes here:

READ 'MAMETZ WOOD' & NOTES

POEMS ON SOCIAL DISTANCING

The following poems were also written by Year 10 students. They were inspired by social distancing and learning from home.

POEM 1 By Catherine Barker, Year 10

Down the rungs, to the last one
 Press the ladder against my door

Slink away to my hiding place
 Feet feel the shouts through the floor
 The dreams can take me once more
 Computer open to the tenth tab
 But when the day is over still
 Blankets over shoulders over my back
 I climb up my ladder, to my bed until

Kept inside against my will

The farther away I am from the ground,
 The less I do my work today,

The less I hear my phone ring sound,
 My friends move farther and farther away

The ladder leans against my wall,
 Of course of course there's nothing there,
 I climb and climb to reach the top,
 The days goes on and on again.



POEM 2 By Declan Pinto, Year 10

We have to stay far,
 But we are still close,
 A phone call away,
 Nevertheless, I miss you

But I only do it for you,

Cont. on page 5

And you do it for me,

Sanitizing my hands so I can touch,

Wearing masks so I can breathe,

Social Distancing so I can meet you,

However, the day never comes,

And I await you,

Climbing obstacles,

So we can finally meet again...



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS



Congratulations to the students below who have recently gained their Certificate of Achievement:

Bronze

Shay East
Usman Mahmood
Ellie Ovens

Silver

James Huband
Francesca Dale
Nick Holdsworth



CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE LOG



Swiss Roll

3 eggs

75g caster sugar

55g self raising flour

20g (1 heaped tbs) cocoa powder

Icing and Decoration

100g soft (tub) marg or butter

200g icing sugar

½ teasp vanilla essence

1 tbs cocoa powder

Cake board or log board

Christmas decorations



Method

- 1) Grease and line a small swiss roll tin. Light oven Gas 6 or 200 C
- 2) Whisk eggs and sugar until a thick foam is formed which will show the trail of the whisk and can write your initials in!
- 3) Sieve flour and cocoa mixture all over the top and gently fold in with a palette knife.
- 4) Pour into swiss roll tin and gently allow mixture to flow into corners.
- 5) Bake for 10 – 15 mins until 'springy' to touch.
- 6) Turn out onto a sheet of greaseproof paper sprinkled with caster sugar.
- 7) Quickly trim off edges and roll up into a swiss roll (you can place a sheet of greaseproof paper inside if you wish)
- 8) Allow cake to cool.
- 9) Make butter icing. (decide if you want the inside of the swiss roll in vanilla or choc butter icing)
- 10) Unroll the swiss roll and spread with butter icing. Reroll.
- 11) Colour butter icing with cocoa powder (if not already done)
- 12) Spread butter icing evenly all over log.
- 13) Fork round or 'pull' with palette knife to resemble a log (remember the ends of a log are round)
- 14) Carefully transfer to cake board.
- 15) Add decorations and a light sprinkling of icing sugar to resemble snow.



AND FINALLY...



FURZE PLATT YEAR 7 STUDENT SETS UP BUSINESS



If you are looking to add a bit more fun to your gifts, why not try some personalised stickers made by Louis Bryan, Year 7? Louis says, "I have done it because first, I wanted to earn a bit of money and I LOVE art and designing things because I'm quite creative with anything I see e.g. a cardboard box could be made into a car. Also, it's just fun!"

He says his stickers are great for "bedrooms, playrooms, tech cases, books, art folders, cereal boxes, phones, tv remotes, the last biscuit or anything else that requires 'personalising'!"



Louis' stickers, described as 'professional quality', 'stocking filler' and with 'happiness guaranteed' can be ordered via his website here:

WWW.LOGOS4KIDZ.COM

With a money back, risk free guarantee, why don't you order some for Christmas?



We have an INSET Day on Monday

No need to set an alarm for school!

We will see all students back to school on Tuesday

NO SCHOOL MONDAY

Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS TREES

Thank you to Stubbings Nursery for our fantastic Christmas trees!

We have three amazing trees this year, one in our Reception area, one in the Main Hall and one for the Sixth Form, all beautifully decorated by our artistic staff and students.



You can find their tree buying and tree care guide on page 10 of this newsletter.



Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net | Facebook: [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Charity Number 287878

Thank you to the 6 participants who joined our AGM Meeting on Tuesday evening - we appreciate your comments and intend to action your points asap. Please keep in touch by email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or on Messenger: [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

7 NEW SUPPORTERS ON SMILE AND EASYFUND-RAISING - MORE REQUIRED!!!!

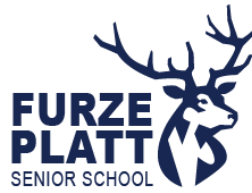
You know it makes sense, right? If 100 of us bought £10 worth of eligible products, then the PTFA would earn £5 from Amazon·Smile! Just think of the earning potential if we spent £50 each! Easy money! Please, please, register *Furze Platt Senior School PTFA* as your Charitable Organisation with the following companies - And add the 'Browser Reminders' so you don't miss an opportunity!

[smile.amazon.co.uk, https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/287878-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/287878-0)

[easyfundraising.co.uk, https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/furzeplattsenior/](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/furzeplattsenior/)

26 NEW MEMBERS OF THE 200 CLUB - ROOM FOR MORE!!!

Congratulations to our Winners drawn on Tuesday!



200 CLUB

**Winning numbers for Draw 12
on Tuesday 1st December 2020**



Question: Can you repurpose your coffee or commuting expenses and join our Club? If all our parents/carers joined paying just £5 per month then the School could earn £6000+ per year. The PTFA may be able to claim Gift Aid as well so please ensure you tick the box. Hence, we need you to click here now to join:

200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

**HOT TOPIC - Games kit - has it gone awol?
MEGA DEAL - boys tops from £2 each**



Special Offer

Cont. on page 8

Due to generous donations of BOYS POLO SHIRTS AND RUGBY SHIRTS we are selling them @ £2 each for a limited period. Usual prices £20 and £23 respectively. Grab yours now by emailing or messaging us your sizes and we'll get your order bagged up, ready for collection:

E: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or [Facebook.com/fpsptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa)

WHAT'S COMING UP SOON - STAY TUNED...

Quiz date TBC and PTFA Meeting Tuesday 26th January 2021.



COPAS DONATION CASHBACK SCHEME

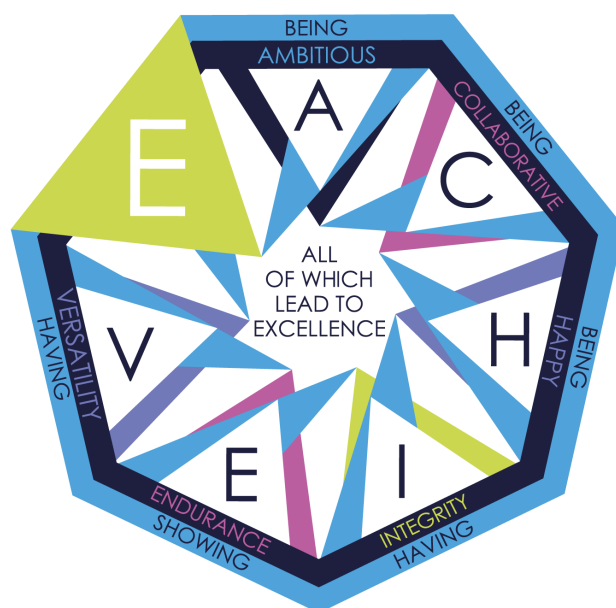
Thanks again to our local independent farm, CO-PAS for their generous offer. Please add our "PTA TURKEY CASHBACK" product to your basket when ordering:

<https://www.copasturkeys.co.uk/our-shop/>

Steps to follow:

1. Add a Turkey product to your basket first
2. Scroll through the product list or search "PTA" for the "PTA Turkey Cashback" item
3. Select Furze Platt Senior School from the dropdown list & add to basket.

Navigate to checkout & complete your order.



Learning Mentor – to Start January 2021

Part time, 31.25 Hours a week. Monday to Friday, term time only.
Fixed Term Contract until end August 2021.

Actual salary £17,000 - £17,700 pa depending on experience

Would you like to join the support staff team of an extremely popular and expanding secondary school?

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join our Raising Achievement team and support the progress and development of our students through high quality academic mentoring. This will involve the provision of personalised support either one-to-one or in small groups to targeted students who are preparing for their GCSEs during and possibly after the school day on occasions (to be discussed at interview).

You will:

- Work with the Raising Achievement Manager and subject teachers to devise and deliver appropriate support packages for students to help them with revision or subject specific catch up work
- Provide students with strategies to help them with confidence building and improvement of organisational, revision and time management skills.
- Be a listening ear for individual students and help them resolve any issues that are creating barriers to learning.

We are looking for a team player, with a willingness to acquire an understanding of the educational objectives and ethos of the school, who enjoys working with and is able to communicate sensitively and confidently with staff and students. This role might suit someone who is interested in training to teach in the longer term as it provides the opportunity to work in a school environment with young people who are eager to learn and succeed.


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. Application forms should be returned to Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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: Wednesday 9th December at 9am

Interviews will take place: Week commencing 7th December

CHRISTMAS TREE BUYING GUIDE

For each tree sold, we'll plant one in the Amazon with our chosen charity...  ONETREEPLANTED

- SUSTAINABLY SOURCED
- UK GROWN
- CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



Nordman Fir

- A lovely rich green colour.
- Our most popular choice, due to its long soft needles and excellent needle retention.
- The 'Stubbings' Nordman is usually very bushy so not always ideal to fit in tight spaces.



Noble Fir

- Blue/green colour.
- Long soft needles and excellent needle retention.
- Generally narrower and more layered in style than the popular Nordman, providing plenty of space for baubles, tinsel and other decorations.



Fraser Fir

- A lovely green colour with silver sheen under needle with fantastic balsam aromas.
- Shorter, rounder needles and excellent to good needle retention.
- Bushier than Noble, but narrower than the other Fir varieties, a very popular choice for the modern home.



Lodgepole Pine

- Dark green colour.
- Long needles in a classic pine shape with good needle retention.
- Bushy and generally wider than Firs.

The largest range of cut and pot grown Christmas trees



Blue Spruce

- Blue/green colour.
- Medium thin (and sharp) needles, so gloves are required, with medium needle retention.
- A stunning Christmas tree, most beautiful when the needles are bluish in colour.



Norway Spruce

- Green colour
- Medium sized thin needles and medium needle retention.
- The traditional Christmas tree but less popular now due to its less favourable needle retaining qualities, but generally more cost effective than Fir varieties.

Pot Grown Trees

- Many varieties that can be planted in the garden after the festive season.
- Will need some TLC after being in a warm home.
- Please do consider where you plant the tree as they can get very big.

CHRISTMAS TREE CARE

PREPARATION - Make sure you unwrap your tree outside and bang firmly on the ground to remove any debris and loose needles before bringing into your home.

A FRESH CUT - Make sure you take a fresh cut off the base of the trunk (at least 1 inch) before bringing the tree indoors. We can cut this for you if required.

WATER, WATER, WATER - Your tree stand should have a water reservoir. You'll be amazed how much a tree will drink in the first weeks indoors. Keep watering but note that the tree will drink less and less as the season progresses.

STANDS - Alongside the ability to provide sufficient water, you should also check your stand is suitable for the size of tree you wish to buy. Ensuring you have a solid stand is especially important if you have young children or pets.

NEEDLE DROP - As a fresh product, grown outdoors, trees will inevitably drop needles, the extent of which will depend on many factors.

AVOID TOO MUCH HEAT - Don't forget that Christmas Trees are grown outside. Radiators are their worst enemy so if possible turn off (or down) any radiators in close proximity to your tree.

Bring your tree back to Stubbings in early January for recycling by our local Council.



www.stubbingsnursery.co.uk | tel: 01628 825454 | email: info@stubbingsnursery.co.uk

❄️ FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES AND DECORATIONS ❄️ CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE ❄️ FESTIVE TREATS IN THE CAFÉ ❄️

Holiday Hunger Project

December 2020



We would be grateful for the following donations

Tinned Macaroni
Tinned Ravioli
Tin/Jar Hot Dogs
Crisps
Cereal Bars
Small pots of Jelly
Small pots of Rice pudding
Packets of biscuits
Multipacks Penguins/kitkats/clubs
Small cheeses
Cheese strings
Dairy Lee Packs Ham/cheese
Yoghurt Tubes (easier for us to store)
Chocolates & Sweets
Dried fruit
Small boxes of Raisins
Small cartons of juice
Packets of fairy cakes (longer life)
Swiss rolls
Small fruit-filled pies
Cartons of custard
Crackers

**Thank you to
Grocer on the Green &
The White Oak in Cookham
for your donation of fresh fruit .**



For large or company
donations please contact
Debbie on 07782 345 935

Merry Christmas!

Foodshare will be extending
the Holiday Hunger Project
throughout the month of
December. This will give
every family the opportunity
of having a wonderful &
festive end to the year!



FOODSHARE
MAIDENHEAD





FOODSHARE

MAIDENHEAD

Holiday Hunger & Christmas Food Donation Official Drop Off Locations

Foodshare, Unit 65 (Old Tesco Store),
Nicholson's Centre, SL6 1LL

Drop Off Times: Wednesday 4:45 – 6pm
Saturday: 9:30am – 11:30am

Cox Green

Sam Chalk
72, Wessex Way
Cox Green

SL6 3DH **07817 008 543**

Holyport

Adi Stephen
Pygmalion
Holyport Rod
SL6 2HA **07702 432 926**

Pinkneys Area

Debbie Gee
16 Harefield Road
Maidenhead
SL6 5EA. **07782 345 935**

Furze Platt Area

Louise Ferriman
3 The Chase Canon Court Road,
Furze Platt
SL67QW **07506 147 773**

Cookham Dean Village Hall

Cookham Dean, Cookham,
Maidenhead SL6 9PY

Drop off in the porch

