

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Welcome Back

### Our Reopening (Week 2)

Thank you for your ongoing support and listening to our messages. The front of school is less chaotic at the start and end of the school day. More students have acquired washable face coverings that limit our need to give out disposable ones. I appreciate the efforts of all parents and carers in keeping our community safe.

I hope that you got a glimpse of what FPSS looks like during the day on ITV Meridian this week and if you missed it the link is below:



[ITV VIDEO LINK](#)

As ever I do feel the need to sound a cautionary note. While term has started positively, as we are seeing locally and nationally there is the possibility that one of our community may test positive. If this were the case, we would be following the procedures laid out by Public Health England and sharing their advice as soon as possible.

### Burst Water Main

I was incredibly frustrated to have to close the school to some year groups on Friday. After all the time we have been away from school, this is something none of us wanted. However, you will appreciate we cannot accommodate our usual numbers with a limited water supply. I appreciate that this will have caused disruption and once again apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Trying to find a silver lining, our partial closure did allow us to trial some of the procedures that we will undertake should we need to either rotate year groups due to a local lockdown or one of our year group bubbles needs to self-isolate. I

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## UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 1

[ALL EVENTS](#)

[SPORTS CALENDAR](#)

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

<b>TUE 15</b> SEPTEMBER	<b>*POSTPONED*</b> DofE Open Group Bronze Expedition Parents' Meeting	
<b>TUE 22</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 11	
<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	
<b>THU 8 - FRI 9</b> OCTOBER	DofE Year 10 Closed Group Expedition - Hurley	All Day
<b>FRI 9</b> OCTOBER	<b>INSET Day</b> Year 10 Progress Reports Published Year 7 Progress Reports (A2L only) Published	All Day
<b>TUE 13</b> OCTOBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 9 Preparing to Succeed in Year 10	
<b>THU 15</b> OCTOBER	Year 7 Head of House/Parents' Consultation	
<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	
<b>FR 23</b> OCTOBER	Year 12 Progress Reports Published (A2L Only) End of Term 1	All Day



know that following a timetable at home was a shock for several of our students. They also realised they needed to know their school email.

However, it was also a learning experience for staff at FPSS both in how we deliver lessons but also some of the practical things we need to address such as IT access and Free School Meals. Please do talk to us if there are particular elements you think we can improve.

## 2021 Examinations

This week I have shared the current position on examinations with our Year 11 and 13 students. There is still much to be confirmed by the examination boards and government. However, I have emphasised four key points:

While there is talk about delaying exams, currently the first examination remains scheduled for mid-May (14/5 to be precise). Students should therefore be preparing for a regular start date. If anything were to change, we will make you aware.

There have been changes to several examination syllabi as a result of Covid. For example, there is no GCSE Geography fieldwork and our students no longer need study the Cold War unit in GCSE History. Our students need to be aware of these and asking their teachers if they are unsure.

Some students seem to be hoping for teacher grading in 2021. Given the events of this year a repeat is highly unlikely to occur. Examinations offer grading bodies the chance to rank and justify grades. Students are therefore very likely to sit examinations.

PPEs/Mocks are vital both in preparing for the real exams in 2021 but also in case we need to justify students' grades next summer. The most disappointed students this year were those who had 'coasted' through their courses on the assumption they would intensively revise and produce an examination that exceed their class grades.

## Evening Events

Thank you to all staff, parents and carers who have read the materials and/or participated in our virtual Prepare to Succeed Evenings for Year 7, 12 and 13. We are needing to do things differently this year and further details will follow on upcoming events. For example, we are currently looking at virtual Parent Evening systems and details of our virtual Open Evening will be shared soon.

Take care and keep safe.

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

## YEAR 7 INFORMATION

### Welcome to Year 7 Webpage

Our webpage for Year 7 Parents and Carers has a range of useful information including our Year 7 Preparing to Succeed Presentation, our Parents' Guide, IT help and much more.

### WELCOME TO YEAR 7 WEBPAGE

### Preparing to Succeed in Year 7

We will be running a second session on Monday for parents who were unable to access last night's Zoom meeting. Full details have been sent out today.

You can see the presentation here:

### YEAR 7 - PREPARING TO SUCCEED

### IT Help and Useful Information

If students need help with IT access etc please do let them know about the links below.

### GETTING STARTED WITH COMPUTERS AT FPSS

Please click on the link above for some very helpful information - here are specific slide guides:

- Slide 4 – How to access FP Online
- Slide 5 – Using your email account
- Slide 6 – Using Google Classroom
- Slide 7 – How to access Show My Homework/SatchelOne

### Show My Homework

The school uses an online system called Show My Homework to assign homework to students and track progress. Full details can also be found on the link below.

### SHOW MY HOMEWORK GUIDE

### Times of the Day at Furze Platt

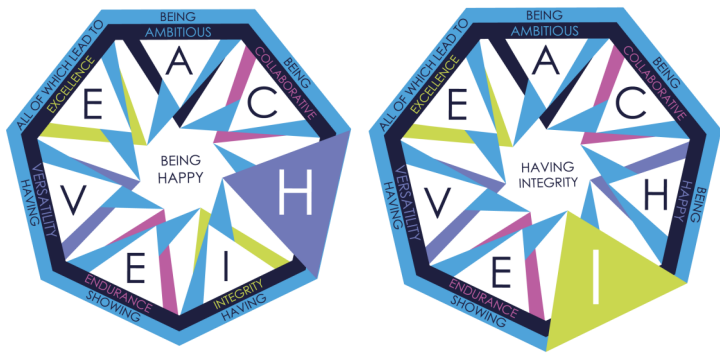
Year 7 and 9 students start at 8.45am and end at 2.45pm. All other year groups start at 9.15 and end at 3.15pm.

Years 7 and 9	
Start	8.45
Lesson 1	8.45-9.45
Break	9.45-10.15
Lesson 2	10.15-11.15
Lesson 3	11.15-12.15
Break	12.15-12.45
Lesson 4	12.45-1.45
Lesson 5	1.45-2.45
End	2.45

Years 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13	
Start	9.15
Lesson 1	9.15-10.15
Lesson 2	10.15-11.15
Break	11.15-11.45
Lesson 3	11.45-12.45
Lesson 4	12.45-1.45
Break	1.45-2.15
Lesson 5	2.15-3.15
End	3.15

If you have any queries please email [office@furzeplatt.com](mailto:office@furzeplatt.com).

Mrs S Crisford, Transition Co-ordinator



## VACCINATIONS – YEARS 7 AND 9

### MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Students in Years 7 and 9 will be having vaccinations on Monday (Year 7 are having a nasal flu vaccination and Year 9 are having their HPV injection).

## POSTPONED

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD MEETING

### TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Due to recent government guidelines this meeting has had to be postponed. We will update this information as soon as we are able.

Mr D Randall, Outdoor Education and Enrichment Leader

## GCSEPOD UPDATE



### Year 11 Students

The Raising Achievement Team have been into every Year 11 PSHE lesson over the past week to spend time with students showing them how to log onto GCSEPod and to give them an opportunity to tour around and get to know it better.

More than ever, GCSEPod will prove to be an invaluable

tool to help students catch up/fill the gaps as well as being used throughout the whole of Year 11 (and) by teachers setting them tasks and assignments as part of their homework.

It is also a great website to use for revision – for example, Year 11 students have an English PPE on Macbeth on Monday 14th September and a Maths PPE on Thursday 17th September – so a great place to start!

## GCSEPOD UPDATE

### All other year groups

There are plenty of webinars taking place delivered by the experts at GCSEPod for parents to register onto to find out more about GCSEPod and how you can help your child. If you are unable to attend, there are recordings that you are able to watch. See link below for dates/details.

### GCSEPOD WEBINARS

**HOT OFF THE PRESS** – GCSEPod is now available as an App from your phone. You need to log onto GCSEPod from a computer selecting the Office 365 option and this will then enable you to log on once you've downloaded the app.

The Raising Achievement Department will repeat the process of going into Year 10 PSHE classes to get them set up in the next few weeks.

## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



At Furze Platt Senior School, we know and appreciate that our growing teenagers need to fuel their body and mind to get through the school day, especially whilst we adjust to being back to school. We are also aware of the cost this will have on parents. If this is a struggle for you, it may be worth seeing if you are eligible for free school meals.

If you are now in a position where the below applies to you, please keep reading because your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

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- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

You may find it easier to see if you are eligible via the link below:

#### HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

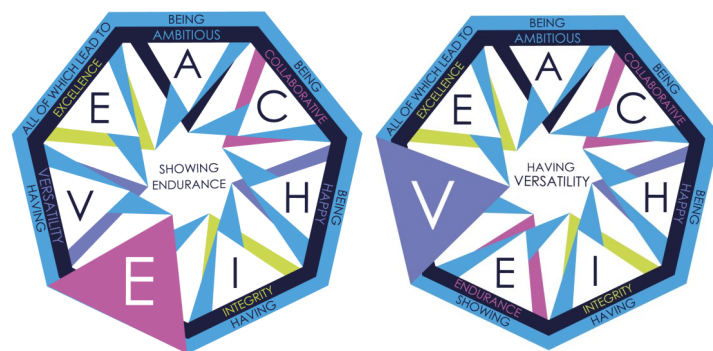
#### My child already gets free school meals.

##### How does it work?

If your child is already in receipt of free school meals and is new to the school, you may be wondering how it works. Your son/daughter will get £2.30 a day, this will not appear on their Wise Pay account, but will appear on the checkout till at the café. They must spend this on the day because it doesn't roll over. This is enough money for your son/daughter to get a hot meal and a pudding, this is what we recommend as it is the best value for money. If your son/daughter wishes to get a panini or baguette, the money won't stretch as far because this doesn't come with a pudding.

We advise you discourage purchasing drinks due to the fact that this won't leave much money for food, instead they should bring a large water bottle with them. When restrictions ease, they will be able to fill these up at various locations around the school.

Any queries can be directed to our [fsm@furzeplatt.net](mailto:fsm@furzeplatt.net) email address.



#### COVID WON'T STOP US LEARNING!

YEAR  
11



Covid meant that we had to introduce certain restrictions on what and how we teach, but this doesn't mean that we cannot still have fun whilst learning. Every year Child Development students have a chance to do some practical activities, such as trying baby foods, preparing bottle meals or changing nappies. It may be a bit more difficult to arrange those this year, but we still aim at delivering the best experience to our students. The picture below is from last Friday's lesson in Year 11. All items were disposable and prepared with the necessary protective equipment to ensure safety.

Miss R Paradowska, Head of Psychology and Child Development

#### FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST FPSS NEWS AND UPDATES



TWITTER - @FURZE\_PLATT

FACEBOOK - @FURZEPLATTSSENIOR

## YEAR 11 CONSTRUCTION

Pictured are our Year 11 Construction group, learning to solder during our first lesson of the year.

Farhaan Kahn pictured with Kevin Coean, SATRO tutor

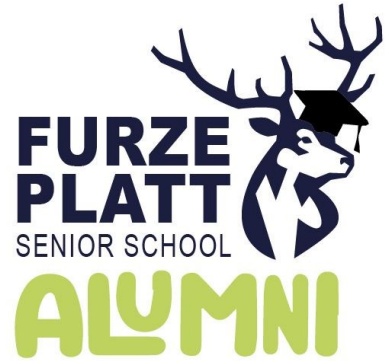


Josh Dean

Tommy Grant



## ALUMNI NEWS



Well done to Taylor Barry who left Year 11 in July, and who has secured a fantastic bricklaying apprenticeship. Above is his first solo piece of work. Well done to him!



### SECOND HAND UNIFORM

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).





## Outreach Team Worker – October 2020

Part time, 30 Hours a week, start time 8.45am, finish time 3.15pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only. Actual salary £15,910 - £17,240 pa depending on experience

Furze Platt Senior School is proud to host the Shine Department, which helps young people with autism thrive and succeed in a mainstream school environment. We have an exciting opportunity for someone to work with the outreach team and provide support and training to schools within the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing a caseload of students with a diagnosis of autism in mainstream education settings. This will involve working collaboratively with school staff to provide strategies and skills and enable them to improve their understanding of autism to allow them to support ASD students with their progress and attainment. You would also deliver targeted programmes to students either on a one to one basis or in groups, observe and record your observations and attend multi-agency meetings to provide advice and support in relation to students' needs within their school.

If you are a Learning Support Assistant or have experience of working with students with ASD we would welcome your application. Specialist training will be provided to the successful candidate. Use of a car is essential for this role as it requires visiting other schools in the Windsor & Maidenhead area.

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](mailto: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: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Interviews will take place week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

CURRENT VACANCIES