

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Thank You

I would like to record my thanks to students, parents and carers for their responses to both our water mains bursting and Covid 19 news last week.

I received several emails last weekend thanking FPSS for the online lessons we provided for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 last Friday. While there were issues as we attempted this mix of in school and at home learning for the first time, the consensus seems to be that it is a good way to manage home learning if students were not able to be in school should a bubble need to isolate.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers who were so supportive when we learned our Covid positive news. Having made many of the calls to parents and carers of students who needed to self-isolate I am appreciative of the way in which the Public Health England advice was received and you ensured your sons and daughters self-isolated.

I think it is testament to the confidence that parents and carers have in the school and our procedures that attendance has been so high this week.

Lastly, I would like to thank our staff who are needing to react when situations arise and quickly adapt to new ways of working.



Balls

One of the delights of reopening in the way we have has been the amount of space available for students to be active at breaktimes. It is lovely to see Year 7 playing football, Year 9 playing basketball and so forth. I would encourage students to bring in footballs, basketballs etc. and take advantage of our spaces. I am yet to see any of our Year 7

Cont. on page 2



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.

TUE 22 SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 11 - Information will be uploaded to our website	
THU 24 - FRI 25 SEPTEMBER	DofE Year 11 Closed Group Bronze Expedition - Longridge	All Day
TUE 29 SEPTEMBER	DofE Open Group Expedition Parents' Meeting	7.00pm - 8.00pm
THU 8 OCTOBER	School Open Evening Information will be uploaded to our website	
THU 8 - FRI 9 OCTOBER	DofE Year 10 Closed Group Expedition - Hurley	All Day
FRI 9 OCTOBER	INSET Day Year 10 Progress Reports Published	All Day
TUE 13 OCTOBER	Year 7 Progress Reports (A2L only) Published Preparing to Succeed in Year 9 Information will be uploaded to our website Preparing to Succeed in Year 10 Information will be uploaded to our website	
THU 15 OCTOBER	Year 7 Head of House/Parents' Consultation	
FRI 16 OCTOBER	Years 8, 9 & 11 Progress Reports Published	All Day
MON 19 OCTOBER	Year 13 Progress Reports Published	All Day
THU 22 OCTOBER	Year 11 Parents' and Students' Consultation	
FR 23 OCTOBER	Year 12 Progress Reports Published (A2L Only) End of Term 1	All Day



and 8s playing table tennis and hope to be able to challenge some to a game in the near future.



Face Coverings

Our students have now got into the habit of wearing face coverings when moving around site and our exemptions have been provided with badges so staff know to not keep challenging them. However, we are still giving out anywhere between 50-100 disposable masks per day. This is terrible for the environment and is money we can better spend on education resources. Please can you ensure that your child brings a face covering (preferably washable) to school.

Take care and keep safe.

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

YEAR 7 AND 10 PHOTOS

RETURN ORDERS BY FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Please note the closing date for ordering photos for Year 7 and Year 10 is Friday 25th September.

If your son / daughter has not brought a photo home, they can be collected from our Administration Office in our Main Reception area.

STUDENTS WITH APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

We recognise that occasionally students may need to leave site during the school day to attend appointments. Ideally appointments would be at the start or end of the school day to minimise learning missed. Where possible make any appointments after 1.45pm. When a student in Years 7-11 has an appointment we request that parents please email Attendanceofficers@furzeplatt.net to notify our attendance

team. Students in those years must sign in and out at Main Reception when leaving for/returning from appointments; Sixth Formers must do the same at Sixth Form Reception and emails should go to our Sixth Form Manager, Mrs Pasa at mary.pasa@furzeplatt.net.

PGL

PGL REFUND UPDATE

Thank you all for your patience awaiting further news on the refund for the cancelled PGL trip. This process took a lot longer than usual due to the sheer number of claims being made with the insurance company as a result of Covid-19 and Government Guidance but we are pleased to confirm we were successful in our claim. As per the letter you received on Wednesday 9th September, our finance team have been busy issuing refunds over the last two weeks. The money has been returned to the card used to make the initial payments and can take 3-4 working days to show. If you have not yet received your refund or have any questions, please email me on danielle.boseley@furzeplatt.net.

Miss D Boseley, PGL Leader 2020-21

YEAR 6 TOURS

For full details of our upcoming Year 6 tours please click the link below. Please do share this with any interested parties. Thank you.

YEAR 6 FPSS TOUR DETAILS

MFL VIRTUAL BAKE OFF AND POSTER COMPETITION

LANGUAGES WEEK MONDAY 21ST – FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



Celebrate Languages Week (21st-25th September) by taking part in our Virtual Bake Off and the Routes into Languages Poster Competition!

Saturday 26th September is European Day of Languages, at Furze Platt we celebrate all languages and cultures in

Cont. on page 3

our school community and beyond throughout the whole week.

Virtual Bake Off – have you ever made churros, a tarte tatin or even a Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte? Or are you a creative cake decorator? The MFL Department challenges you to bake a cake from a different culture or to decorate a cake with an international theme! Please remember to take a photo before enjoying your tasty treats and send it to Miss Spence (alice.spence@furzeplatt.net) ready to present to the judging panel.

Routes into Languages Poster Competition – take part in a national competition to celebrate European Day of Languages and spread the message of the importance of learning languages, promoting intercultural awareness and design a poster about another European country you would like to visit or have visited before. The poster should tell us which country it is and some facts about it e.g. language spoken, food, music, famous landmarks etc. – the more the better! Each poster should be no larger than a sheet of A4 paper and must be completed by hand but any form of materials can be used – felt tips, paint, fabric etc. Hand your poster in with your name, age and year group to Miss Spence in ML5 by Friday 1st October.

All students at Furze Platt have the opportunity to learn either French, German or Spanish. Across our school community, we know that students speak other languages and we are keen to showcase their ability through a 'Speak My Language' video which we will be creating throughout the week. If any students are interested in participating, speak to your languages teacher.

We are also hosting our annual staff linguist competition, make you sure you check SMHW to vote for which member of staff (outside the MFL department) has impressed you with their language use during the week!



DIVERSITY READING LIST – REQUEST FOR HELP

Do you have any of the books on the attached list you do not need any more and would be happy to donate to us?

Our PTFA have kindly agreed to provide funding towards



purchasing some of these, but to try and obtain as many as we can, any donations would be most appreciated.

Please bring any unwanted books into Main Reception - thank you.

BOOK LIST



YEAR 13 CRIMINOLOGY

Who was Timothy?



Meet Timothy – that's the name Year 13 students gave to our cranial model, which we use in Criminology. This week students have been discussing the role of forensic scientists in criminal investigation; we looked specifically at the work

Cont. on page 4

of anthropologists examining bones. One of the tasks set for students was to reconstruct Timothy's face using the sketch technique, where students had to understand how different layers of tissue must be added to the bone model in order to fully recreate facial features. Timothy could even have been an unknown victim of Dennis Nielsen discovered after many years. Techniques, such as facial reconstruction, help forensic scientists to establish the identity of a murdered person.



Pictured: Isabella Carco and Max Levenhagen

Thank you to our PTFA for generously funding our new resources. As well as Timothy, we also purchased 12 brain models that students will soon be using in their Psychology classes.

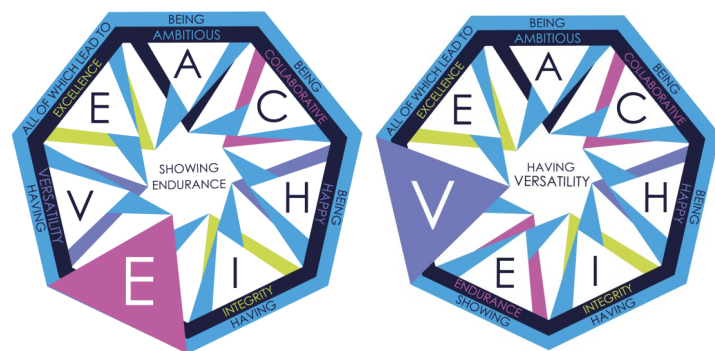
Miss R Paradowska

Head of Psychology, Criminology and Child Development

MAKING A FACE MASK

If students would like to make their own masks, here is guidance from Public Health England (PHE):

MAKE YOUR OWN MASK



REMINDERS

YEAR 7 – USEFUL INFORMATION

Most queries can be answered by reading our Year 7 Parents' Guide:

YEAR 7 PARENTS' GUIDE

IT HELP

If students need help with IT access etc. please do let them know about the links shown. Further useful information for our Year 7 parents and carers can be found on our 'Welcome to Year 7' page:

WELCOME TO YEAR 7 WEBPAGE

Getting started with IT at FPSS

GETTING STARTED WITH THE COMPUTERS AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

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

Slide 4 – How to access FP Online

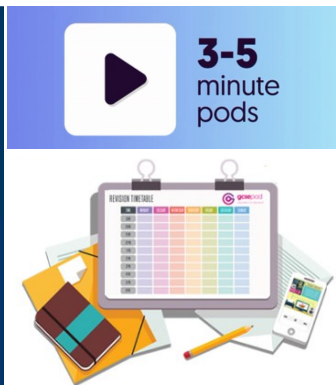
Slide 5 – Using your email account

Slide 6 – Using Google Classroom

Slide 7 – How to access Show My Homework/SatchelOne

If you are having any problems logging in or have any further questions please contact transition@furzeplatt.net.

Mrs S Crisford, Transition Co-ordinator



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 1999
- 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

Cont. on page 6

GCSEPOD UPDATE

Year 11 Students

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 and revision.

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.

GCSE POD 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 be going into Year 10 PSHE classes to help get them set up in the next few weeks.



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 email address.

AND FINALLY



Well done to Will Tarbit, Year 10, winner of Maidenhead Waterways' Competition U19 category. He won £100 for this wonderful photo described "as well as being a good wildlife shot, it expertly captured the atmosphere of the landscape with some dramatic lighting and reflections". Judges included Theresa May MP and experienced photographers from the Waterways group and the Maidenhead Advertiser. In his interview with the Maidenhead Advertiser, Will said "I'm doing art as one of my GCSE choices and I think that it really helps me spot good compositions". Well done to him!



MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS' WEBSITE



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. 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: Monday 28th September 2020
Interviews will take place week commencing 28th September 2020

CURRENT VACANCIES

COVID-19

Information for Young People



www.rbwm.gov.uk



It is really important that you continue to limit the number of people you meet, even though this may feel difficult. The more people you meet, the greater chances there are of spreading the virus to others.



To protect you, your family, your friends and community, you should practise social distancing. This means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres (or 3 steps or 3 big steps for younger children) between yourself and anyone who is not from your household or support bubble – indoors and outdoors.

Only staying overnight away from your home with your own household or support bubble.

You may also stay overnight with members of one other household, but you should maintain social distancing by keeping at least 2 metres away from anyone that is from outside your household – or support bubble.



If you are under 18 and usually live across 2 families, because your parents or guardians live separately, you are allowed to move between both homes as you would normally do. If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, speak to your parents or guardians about staying in one home until you recover but both families should follow the isolation guidance for 14 days.



Always remember these points



Always wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds (or singing the 'Happy Birthday' song in your head twice). Especially if you've been outside.



Follow social distancing rules - these are in place for a reason, to help limit the spread of coronavirus.



Follow your school or colleges' guidelines on face coverings and other safety measures to help protect you.



Respect your bubbles – don't socialise or get close to anyone outside of your bubble.



You may not be affected but your loved ones might be and particularly older relatives who are more at risk and could be hospitalised.