

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.1



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2021! I hope that you had a good break and, despite everything, had the opportunity for some rest and relaxation over the break.



The Spring Term has not begun exactly as planned and I thank you all for your adaptability and patience as events have unfolded this week. We are now in a new National Lockdown with the vast majority of students learning online until February Half Term. I would like to thank you for all the positive and constructive comments we have had from parents and carers this week, as well as your support in ensuring our young people make the most of the online experience.

In the spirit of the first lockdown, I have again begun weekly video newsletters should you wish to hear some of our news and see our 'testing centre'. Please click on the link to do so.

Unlike the first lockdown, we have launched into the online lessons and already have answers to many of the questions. However, should you have any queries about things like Free School Meals, IT access, our support for Keyworker and Vulnerable students please do read the letter sent last Tuesday or access the resources on our website.

One area for which we do not yet have answers, is examinations. I have written to Year 11 and 13 students, parents and carers sharing what we know so far. We are now going to have a period of uncertainty as consultation occurs. We will, of course, share any news as soon as possible and are committed to helping our young people gain the best possible grades.

We started the week planning to test all students prior to their return to FPSS. This may still happen after half term, but in the meantime we have been able to train staff and set up our testing centre. We will be offering testing to all the keyworker and vulnerable students, as well as staff, onsite next week. As those of you who have had the test will know it is not the most pleasant experience but will likely be important in keeping FPSS as safe as possible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

Some dates for our upcoming events may change due to the current situation.

Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

TERM 3 EVENTS

THU 4 FEBRUARY	Year 9F Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
THU 11 FEBRUARY	Year 9P Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 12 FEBRUARY	Year 9 Virtual GCSE Options	
	END OF TERM (TERM 3)	
MON 15 - FRI 19 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
MON 24 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 2)	

Welcomes

At the start of term, we welcomed some new staff to FPSS. Angel Cruz and Chris Jones have joined us as Spanish and PE teachers. Benvenuta di Bartolomeo is our new Parental Support Advisor and Nick Hemsley joins our Raising Achievement Team. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a successful career at FPSS.

Take care and keep safe.

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

HEADTEACHER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

YEAR
7

RECORD BREAKING APPLICATIONS

We have received the list of current Year 6 students who have expressed a preference to join us in Year 7 in September. With just 253 places available, we have had 720 applicants expressing a preference for Furze Platt – a record number.



SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS – CLOSING NEXT WEEK

DEADLINE FRIDAY 15th JANUARY



GCSE DANCE

Message to students: are you interested in taking GCSE Dance at Furze Platt? A Dance GCSE taster session will be running online on Wednesday 13th January 15:30-16:00. Dance is not explicitly taught at KS3 at Furze Platt however we offer Dance at GCSE. Although we recommend having some Dance experience for this course we have had students this year who have taken the course without this experience. The Dance course is tailored to develop students' knowledge and skill practically as well as dance appreciation through analysing professional dance works. If you think your son or daughter would be interested in this Dance taster session, please complete the form via the link below.



DANCE TASTER SESSION FORM

PARENTMAIL

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE REGISTERED

ParentMail



During remote learning it is vital that as many families as possible have connected to ParentMail. If you have not received your registration link or have any issues registering your details please contact the school.

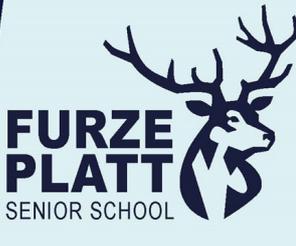
ParentMail App - If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for 'ParentMail' in your App store.



APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR OUR SIXTH FORM

APPLY NOW!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 15th JANUARY 2021



For full details on how to apply:
www.furzeplatt.com
and visit our Sixth Form section

Wide range of A levels / vocational qualifications

- ▶ New this year:
 - Fashion & Textiles
 - ▶ Level 3 Diploma in Food Science

See our website for our Sixth Form Prospectus, Course Guide, Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening & much more!

Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead SL6 7NQ Tel: 01628 625308

SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING 2020

YEAR 8 IMMUNISATIONS

Please only bring your Year 8 child to school for their vaccination if you have received a text message from the School Immunisation Team with an appointment time.

Our letter to Year 8 parents dated 8th January has full details.

Apologies for any confusion.



ACCESSING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON GAMES CONSOLES

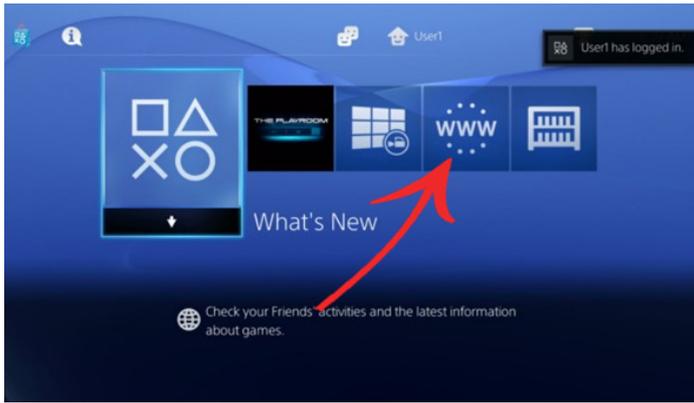
We understand that it is tricky for so many with several children all needing to be online at the same time. Thanks to Dr Baldwin, Royal Holloway and the Higher Education Outreach Network (and brother of our Head of Performing Arts Mrs Bradley), we wanted to share with you some ways to access teams on games consoles. This way your son/daughter will still be able to be online with your teacher and work on paper / in their books if needed (if this is the case, please do keep all work produced in a safe place to return when we are back at school). Please see the following page for the guides:



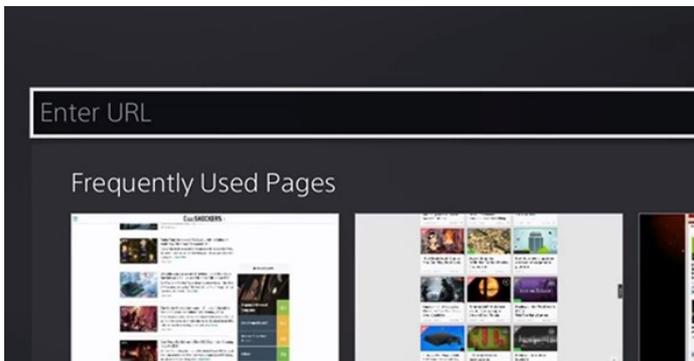


Accessing Microsoft Teams on PlayStation

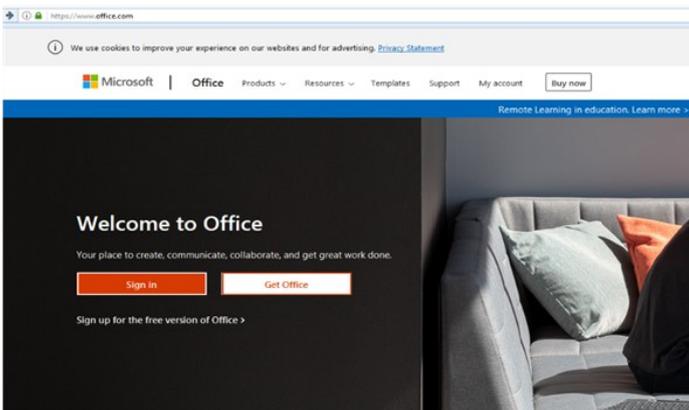
1) Go to 'www' on your homepage or in applications



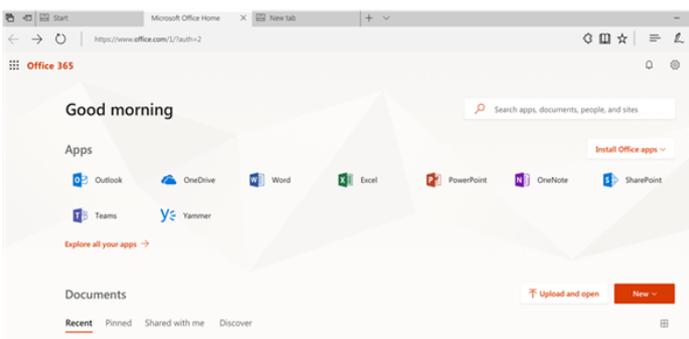
2) Type 'office.com' into the URL bar



3) Sign in to Office 365 with your own school email address

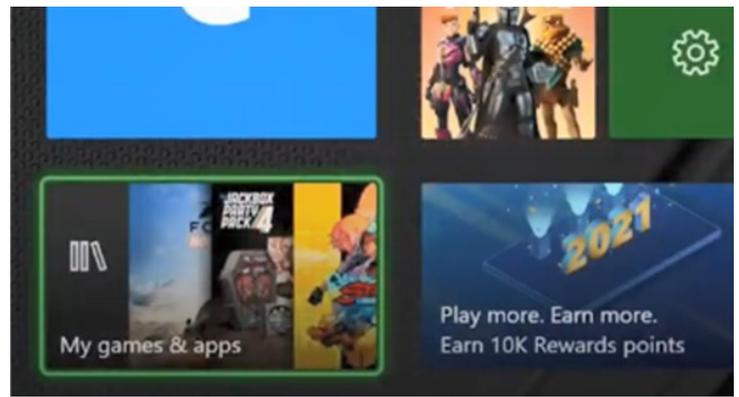


4) From your homepage you can access your Microsoft programmes

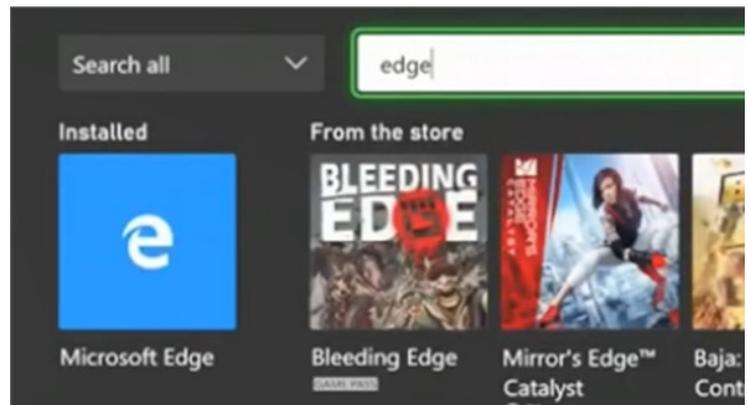


Accessing Microsoft Teams on Xbox

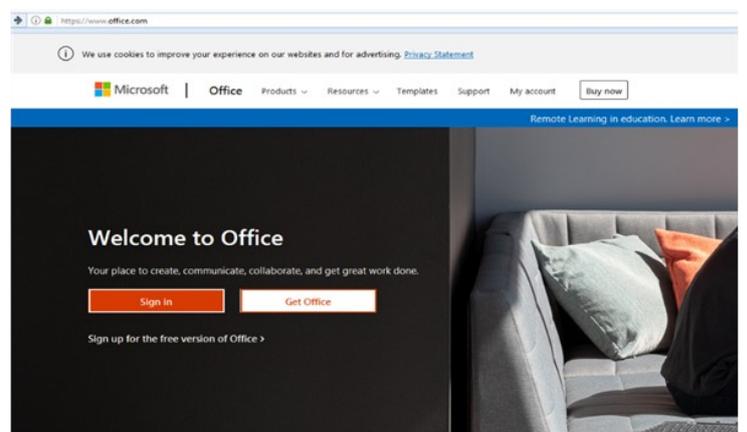
1) Go to 'My games & apps'



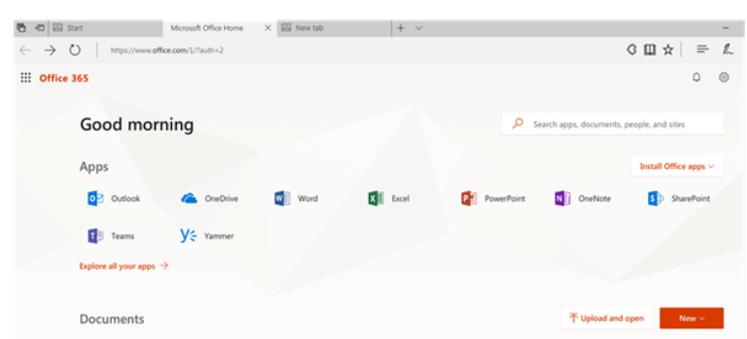
2) Search for 'Edge'



3) Sign in to Office 365 (you may have to search for it in Google) with your own school email address



4) From your homepage you can access your Microsoft programmes



STRUGGLING WITH THE HIGH DEMAND OF STABLE INTERNET CONNECTIONS?



As we are now spending so much time at home, with an increased demand to be online for most of the day, this will increase the demand for stable internet coverage. If any of the following applies to your household, the school may be able to apply for you to get more data with your phone contract.

As a school we can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Who can get help

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage. Please be aware that each network have different lengths of time to wait while they process the requests.

If you are interested and the above applies to you, please contact fsm@furzeplatt.net with the following information (please be aware that we may need to check you are eligible for this):

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Once a network provider has processed a data increase, they'll send a text message to the account holder.



YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 LATIN CLUBS

YEAR 7
YEAR 8

The English department will soon be establishing some Latin clubs, one for Year 7 and one for Year 8. At this stage we would welcome any initial expressions of interest to gauge the potential level of participation.

If this sounds like something that might be of interest to your child, please contact Mr Clarke at joshua.clarke@furzeplatt.net

More comprehensive information will be published to parents and carers in due course.

MESSAGE FROM OUR ART DEPARTMENT



Stuck for creative resources? No Excuse!

No plain paper?

Back / inside of A4 envelope
Back of old letters / receipts – get permission
Inside cereal packet
Wrapping paper
Brown paper
Cardboard
Whiteboard



Mobile phone drawing apps
The plain side of an old birthday / Christmas card
Packaging paper
Newspaper
Baking paper – alternative tracing paper



No paint ?

Tea
Coffee
Gravy browning
Jell
Turmeric
Beetroot
Red onion skin
Soya sauce



No brushes?



AND FINALLY... FITNESS AT FURZE PLATT



Click the link below to see our inspirational PE team testing out Year 11 Core PE fitness challenges.

Why don't you challenge yourself...?

FPSS STAFF VS YEAR 11 FITNESS CHALLENGES



200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

200 CLUB

Winning numbers for Draw 12

on Tuesday 1st December 2020



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

Quiz date TBC and PTFA Meeting Tuesday 26th January 2021

APPLYING TO AN INFANT OR JUNIOR SCHOOL?

DEADLINE FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY

Don't forget applications need to be in by next Friday.



PTFA

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

Please click on the logos below to register and raise money for our school:

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk)



APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN
FOR OUR SIXTH FORM

APPLY NOW!

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 15TH
JANUARY 2021**

**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL



For full details on how to
apply:

www.furzeplatt.com

and visit our
Sixth Form section

Wide range of A levels / vocational qualifications

- ▶ New this year:
 - Fashion & Textiles
 - ▶ ○ Level 3 Diploma in Food Science

**See our website for our Sixth Form Prospectus, Course Guide,
Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening & much more!**

Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead SL6 7NQ Tel: 01628 625308