

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.8



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Reopening!

We are nearly there. My week started by finalising arrangements for our return and has finished welcoming Year 10-13 students back to FPSS.

It has been great to see so many familiar (albeit masked) faces returning to school in such large numbers for testing.

Thank you for ensuring your children arrive at FPSS at the correct time and with the consent form completed. The systems we have implemented are working well and I would like to thank the many testing centre staff who have stepped away from their regular roles to help students return to school. Please remember queuing is outside so your children need to be dressed for the weather.

I look forward to welcoming the rest of our students back next week and having all our students learning in classrooms by Wednesday.



Keyworker Club

As we approach a return to school I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Keyworker Club students and the staff who have been in school when everyone else has been working from home.

GCSE Pod

I was delighted to see that FPSS came second in the November to February Regional Pod Games which qualifies us for the Grand Finals and a chance to win £1000. Most importantly our students and staff are clearly finding this resource incredibly helpful. If your child is not using GCSE Pod please encourage them to do so.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Some information 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 4 EVENTS

MON 8 MARCH	BACK TO SCHOOL (PLEASE SEE PARENTMAIL FOR SPECIFIC YEAR GROUP DETAILS)	
THU 11 MARCH	Year 8P Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening (Virtual event)	4.15pm - 7.15pm
WED 24 MARCH	Year 10 Progress Reports Published	
FRI 26 MARCH	Year 12 Progress Reports Published	
WED 31 MARCH	Years 7 & 8 Progress Reports Published	
THU 1 APRIL	END OF TERM (TERM 4)	
THU 1 - FRI 16 APRIL	Spring Holiday	
MON 19 APRIL	START OF TERM 5 (Week 2)	

Keeping Our Community Safe

Finally, as I said in my letter of last week nobody wants FPSS to reopen only for us to need to ask students to isolate due to Covid cases. If your child has symptoms please keep them at home and get them tested.

Take care and keep safe.

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





Calling all parents/carers

Find out how to further support your child's GCSE learning journey in this free webinar from GCSEPod

Join us for this very special parent webinar where GCSEPod will give you lots of hints, tips and advice on how you can use GCSEPod to support your child during their GCSE journey. This webinar is free for all parents and your child already has access to award-winning GCSEPod.

Wednesday 10th March @ 5pm

- To secure your place visit: www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-parent-webinars/



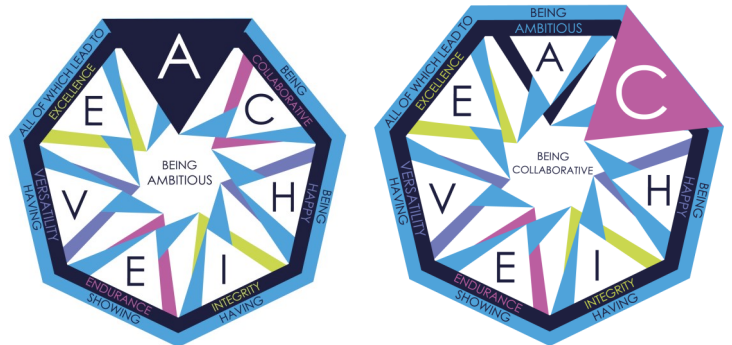
We came 2nd place in the November to February Regional Pod Games for the South Middleweight league! This means staff and students have watched lots and lots of Pods.



THIS NOW MEANS WE ARE IN THE GRAND FINALS AND COULD WIN £1,000 FOR FURZE PLATT!

As we came in the top three in our regional league, we have been automatically entered into the Grand Finals competition. This competition runs between 1st March and 30th June 2021 and this time we will compete against schools all around the world for glory and our very own trophy.

We need you to watch as many pods as possible to help us win!



SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Dear Year 12,

I hope you've had a productive week and are looking forward to coming back to school next week. We're really looking forward to seeing you all!

A FEW REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

- Watch the fab video from Mr Ging (on Miss Stirling's email update)
- The **school day** will revert to your normal times of 9:15-3:15.
- If you are poorly or off for any reason you **MUST** have a parent or carer phone the **Sixth Form absence line**, before 8:30am, on 01628 625308 ext 650

FUTURES UPDATES:

And in first place we have...Cookham/Marlow7, well done



to Miss Inwood and her tutor group! Second place goes to Bray/Henley7 – brilliant work Mrs Wilson and her group. Third to Henley6 – yes Mrs Hawkins and Hy6! Brilliant work Year 12 - this indicates that students in these 3 tutor groups are the furthest along with their engagement of unifrog as a whole.



If you haven't logged in to Unifrog and updated your activities and competencies you need to do this. If you haven't begun using the researching tools, again, these are excellent and worth dedicating some time to.

Will Cm/Mw7 and Miss Inwood stay in the lead? Will Br/

Hy7 and Mrs Wilson knock them off the top spot? Could the ever-competitive Miss Tomlin and Bm6 come out of nowhere and win the trophy? Who knows?! Any tutor group could be in for the win.



EMAIL FROM MISS INWOOD

YEAR
12

It is vital that if any of the following applies to you that you fill in the form:

- Applying to Oxford or Cambridge University (even if you're not 100% sure)
- Applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science
- Applying for an American University
- Applying for top universities, (for example, Russell Group universities or courses which have high grade requirements, e.g. AAA)

The **deadline is today** (Friday 5th March) and it will take you 5 minutes to complete.

[FORM \(5 MINUTES TO COMPLETE\)](#)



SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS
VIRTUAL TALKS

YEAR
12

As always please log this on Unifrog under 'activities'

- **Monday 8th March 5-6pm** – Carol Cooper, Head of Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and BME Expert Mental Health Forum. Carol will be sharing her insights into nursing and answering questions.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

- **Tuesday 9th March 5-6pm** – Martin Prendergast, Founder, Martin Prendergast Communications and Public Affairs consultant & Interim director of development, RADA. Martin studied English and Theatre at Warwick University and is a committed campaigner for LGBT+ equality.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

- **Wednesday 10th March 5-6pm** – Elaine Tyler, Founder, Venatrix in conversation with Nadine Myers, Senior Sales development representative at Citizen and Elliott Parris, Manager of Eurpouse and Co-Founder of Embrace at Elsevier.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

Cont. on page 4

- **Thursday 11th March – 5-6pm** – David Purdue, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals at Doncaster and Bassetlaw teaching hospitals NHS foundation trust.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
(CORPUS CHRISTI) SUBJECT
MASTERCLASSES

YEAR
12

YEAR
13

(open to everyone, regardless of where they intend to study):

[MASTERCLASSES](#)



WORK EXPERIENCE

YEAR
12

Take a look at the attachments to Miss Stirling's email for more information.

- **'Virtual Work placements' email** – some brilliant placements available and really worth a look.
- **'Green skills week email'** – this is the same company as above but they are explicitly to do with Green industries. Again a brilliant opportunity for those interested.
- **PwC Work Experience** – this is Paid Work Experience this summer. Take a look at the attachment to see if this is applicable to you.



DIGITAL RESOURCES

YEAR
12

YEAR
13

To explore subjects in different ways (virtual museum tours, computing challenges, keeping up to date with what academics are doing in your chosen field, etc)

[DIGITAL RESOURCES](#)



VIRTUAL FAIR UK UNIVERSITY
AND APPRENTICESHIP SEARCH
17TH MARCH

YEAR
12

There will be over 100 exhibitors at this virtual fair.

You will need to register for this, if you are interested please email Miss Stirling and Mr Ging if you are looking to attend this event. The January event saw over 28,000 students registered! It will include Universities and National Apprenticeships. A great opportunity Year 12!



OXBRIDGE/MEDICINE/DENTISTRY
UPDATE (KEEP AN EYE ON EMAILS
FROM MISS INWOOD)

YEAR
12

- **Oxbridge Conference 15-16th March:**

[OXBRIDGE CONFERENCE](#)

- **Medicine/Dentistry Online Courses:** The programmes are made up of a series of events designed to support students with their applications to medical and dental school, as well as provide extracurricular opportunities to enhance their understanding of careers in the fields of medicine and dentistry. Events and activities include a three-day Spring School in April, followed-up by workshops on personal statements, UCAT, and interviews over the summer:

[MEDIVIEW APPLICATION](#)

- **Current competitions:**

[ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES](#)

[MINDS UNDERGROUND](#)

- **UNIQ virtual course applications now open.** This programme helps you explore subjects that interest you and to prepare for University. UNIQ will introduce you to students and academics from the University of Oxford. Eligibility applies.

[UNIQ 2021](#)

- Gives some suggestions about **alternative experiences in COVID world** for those seeking medicine/dentistry course

[COVID-19 WORK EXPERIENCE ALTERNATIVES](#)

- **Virtual classrooms for English and History** (a bit like Isaac Physics, but for Humanities-based subjects, where you can analyse texts not on your curriculum and engage in discussions with other students):

[ENGLISH VIRTUAL CLASSROOM](#)

[HISTORY VIRTUAL CLASSROOM](#)

- **Competitions for Humanities subjects:**

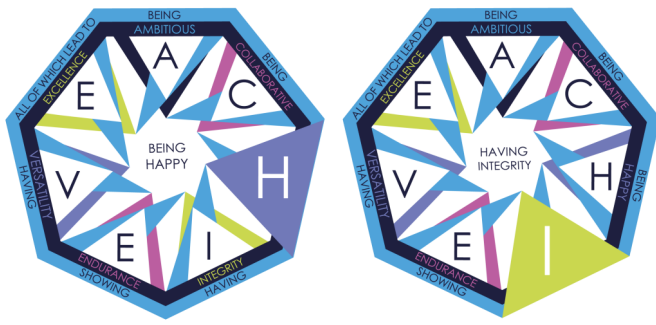
[LINGUISTICS COMPETITION](#)

[PHILOSOPHY COMPETITION](#)

[POLITICS COMPETITION](#)

[LAW COMPETITION](#)

If you need any clarification about anything please get in contact with your tutor, Miss Stirling or Mrs Pasa.



PE FITNESS



In the last virtual fitness club of this time away from school the students continued their format of warm up (to the Police classic 'Roxanne'), mobilise, prime, and main workout.

This week's workout consisted of some interval training and saw the students working hard for 5 minutes before getting a 2 minute rest.

3 rounds of:

- 5 minutes of work, 2 minutes rest
- 10 x ground to overhead
- 7 x burpees over your weight
- 20 x ground to overhead
- 7 x burpees over your weight
- 30 x ground to overhead
- 7 x burpees over your weight
- 40 x ground to overhead
- 7 x burpees over your weight
- 50 x ground to overhead
- 7 x burpees over your weight



Each time they restarted the round they would restart from scratch and try and reach the same score as a target. I have been so pleased and proud of all the students getting themselves ready for morning fitness club and hitting these hard sessions at home by themselves.

Mr C Djaelani, Head of Dorney House

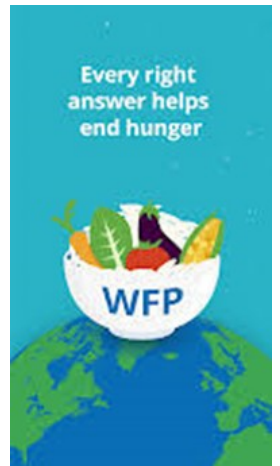
Charlotte Soden in Year 8 has been visiting a website run by the World Food Programme, where they have a Free Rice programme set up for anyone to use. The user has to answer vocabulary questions in order for the 'free rice' to then be donated.

In Year 8 Geography we are currently looking at the topic of Development, and for Charlotte to bring this forward I thought showed great ambition. Charlotte has also suggested we use this within our curriculum not only to help others in need, but to improve our vocabulary as well. As a department we are going to be looking to get our year 8 classes to spend some time having a go at improving our students' vocabulary, but more importantly helping those in need.

This is what Charlotte had to say about the scheme:

"I found this website when I was scrolling through Pinterest. A video of a person using and promoting free rice as a free, simple way to help those in need. So, I decided to try and use it and discovered it was very easy and good.

I think this is a good project because it is a simple way to help poorer countries who can't afford food, at the same time it is improving our vocabulary skills to help us in school. It is putting countries on the right path and hopefully pushing them closer to development. I thought it was good to highlight, so we could use it in lesson because we are learning about country development right now. People should be aware of this as many people are constantly looking for ways to help improve the world, and this is one of them. It's simple, free and easy, the perfect way to save a world. World food programme(WFP) set up this website. It helps by giving poorer, in need families and countries rice to eat. It works by, for every question you get right, sponsors donate cash equivalent to 5 grains of rice."



WWW.FREERICE.COM

The web-link is above and can be accessed by anybody looking to help those in need and also to improve their

Cont. on page 6

own vocabulary.

I am very proud of Charlotte for bringing this forward as it shows that our students are thinking about what we are learning during lessons in their own time and exploring geography outside the classroom, and in this excellent example wanting to be part of the change to help others around the world.

Mr N Jones, Teacher of Geography



BOARD GAME BRILLIANCE

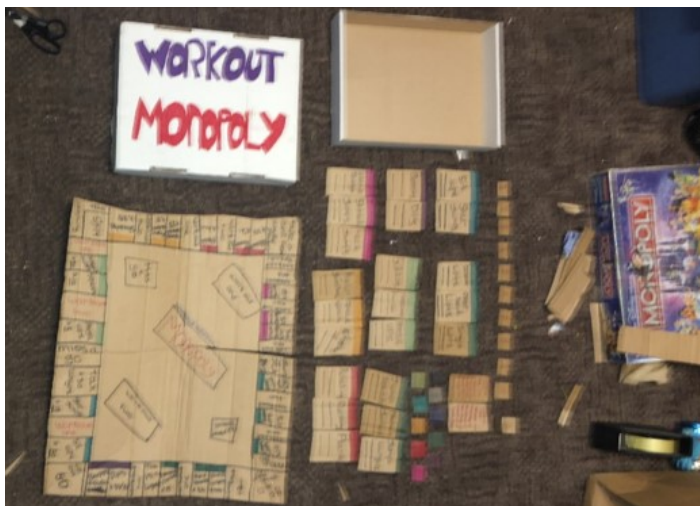


Well done to Courtney Harris, Year 8, for an outstanding piece of work.

Students were asked to make their own board game which was focused around physical activity. The majority of students did this on a Word document and emailed it to us. Courtney went a number of steps further by physically making the game, pieces, cards and box!

This is a really superb effort – well done Courtney!

Mrs C Ridgley, Head of Windsor House



LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY MESSAGE FROM RBWM



The library service is currently going through a consultation.

We have undertaken a review of the service and have put

forward proposals to reshape on the good work already done.



To view these proposals, as well as how to have your say, please click on the link below to visit our website.

[Library consultations | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)



PHILOSOPHER OF THE FORTNIGHT

Congratulations to:

- Ruby Kielty – Year 7
- Edward Longvill – Year 8
- Musa Ali – Year 9
- Amber-Jane Batchelor – Year 10

They have all received an email and the following:



AND FINALLY...



FURZE PLATT ALUMN INVITED BACK TO PRESENT BBC RADIO 1

Further to a very successful stint co-hosting Radio 1 over the Christmas period, Furze Platt alumn Sam MacGregor has been invited back to present the Friday Early Breakfast 4 - 6:30 am, warming up for Greg James which Sam describes as a "true dream gig". Sam, who presents with his co-host Danni Diston, will be presenting four more live shows during June.

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Sam, pictured bottom right in the line up below, said, "I am absolutely thrilled to be returning and [this is] yet another surreal opportunity!"

Eight new presenters get BBC Radio 1 opportunity – RadioToday



Eight of the presenters given a one-off show over the 2020 festive period at Radio 1 are returning to host a month of Early Friday Breakfast shows. (Link to full article below) where you can read more:

[READ MORE...RADIO TODAY ARTICLE](#)

[YOU CAN READ MORE FROM OUR ALUMNI HERE](#)

and you can read more about Sam's success here:

(From Newsletter #62.14 dated 11.12.20)

FORMER FURZE PLATT PUPIL TO PRESENT ON BBC RADIO 1 OVER CHRISTMAS

"A former Furze Platt pupil who won at the National Student Radio Awards last year has been given a chance to present on BBC Radio 1 over Christmas.

Starting Boxing Day and through to New Years Day, Radio 1 is 'being taken over' by Christmas presenters.

Applications opened back in September and from



thousands of entries, 33 new presenters were picked to go on air, including Sam MacGregor (pictured right).

Last November, Sam won best male presenter at the

National Student Radio Awards at the Indigo O2 in London. Now he and his best friend and co-host Danni Diston have been selected as part of BBC Radio 1's Christmas Presenter Search.

They will be presenting Life Hacks and The Official Chart: First Look, sitting in for Vick Hope and Katie Thistleton.

"It's a pleasure to be sitting in for them," said Sam. "We want to take the fun we had together as mates at uni and share that with everyone over Christmas," said Sam.

"It's an absolute dream of mine that I get to fulfil, not only alongside my best mate but along with the nation."

The 22-year old works as a social media manager for a tech start-up, while his friend Danni from Cornwall teaches at a special educational needs school.

This is Sam's second crack at entering the Christmas Presenter Search since it launched last year. He and his co-host got a call from the head of Radio 1, letting them know they were successful.

"We're beyond ecstatic. I listened to Radio 1 for years, it's one of the very first stations I listened to. It was my inspiration to get into radio. It sounds like you're in the pub with your mates – I thought, if I could do this as a career, it would be the most fun ever," he added.

The show will be live on Sunday, December 27, from 4pm-7pm."

Written by Adrian Williams, Maidenhead Advertiser

[MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER ARTICLE](#)



In our Alumni newsletter earlier this year we featured Sam winning his award (pictured) for Best Male Presenter at the Student Radio Awards.

Well done to them both!

All photos courtesy of Sam MacGregor



PTFA

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

THANK YOU FOR COMING ON WEDNESDAY TO THE PTFA MEETING & 200 CLUB DRAW. YOUR PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK IS ALWAYS VALUABLE & VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



We discussed second-hand uniform, the existing and new Bike Sheds, a new Canopy, the School Development Fund savings account, the Diversity Book Library and much more... Let us know if you have any thoughts on how to achieve funds of c£75k+ for short term and long term projects. Strategies are in process!

200 CLUB

200 CLUB

Winning numbers for Draw 13

on Wednesday 3rd March 2021



CONGRATULATIONS!!! £200 cash prize is on the way to each of the three lucky winners! Three balls were pulled

out of the bag at random on Wednesday evening and here are the winning numbers. This Club is our number one fundraiser, so, if you're willing to donate, then why not win £200 as well? Thing is, you gotta to be in it, to win it...

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

ANNUAL PAYMENT

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM LOOKING FOR A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THIS FUNDRAISER – due to



your phenomenal support in donations and purchases, it's become too much for one person!

Offer: flexible hours, no experience necessary, home or school based and an ethical role within our PTFA, school and community.

Tasks: to receive goods regularly, quality check, logically record stock, communicate with buyers, pick & pack orders.

Email or PM through Facebook ASAP!

We appreciate your feedback greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email ptfa@furzeplatt.net or through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta)



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[Click for more information](#)



Train to Teach Reading virtual event

9 March 2021 at 17.00—19.00

 Reading

This event, for anyone interested in training to teach in Reading and the local area including Maidenhead, will give you the chance to ask experts about your teacher training options and what it's like to teach

Interested in training to teach?

Teach Maidenhead is participating in the Train to Teach event on 9th March .

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then talk to us on the 4th February.

[Register](#)

[Click to register for the event](#)

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



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